



NO HARD FEELINGS

Actor Rashmika Mandana says she has only love for them who have been spewing hate on her for not watching *Kantara*

LEISURE P2



PUTIN CRITIC JAILED

Russian opposition figure Ilya Yashin gets jail for "spreading fake information" about the Russian army

INTERNATIONAL P10



CROATIA STUN BRAZIL

Goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic's heroics help Croatia beat Brazil and seal a semifinal berth at FIFA World Cup 2022

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Plaint lodged over Prez picture in ad

Baripada: A lawyer lodged a complaint at Karanjia police station Friday seeking prompt action against the alleged use of President Droupadi Murmu's picture in commercial advertisements. The police have received the complaint and started an investigation into the issue, Karanjia IIC Ranjan Kumar Sethi said. "Murmu's picture was used by a company manufacturing mustard oil," claimed the complainant Jharana Prusty, an advocate based at Karanjia in Mayurbhanj district. P5

US passes Bill on same-sex marriage

Washington: The US Congress approved a bill on same-sex marriage and sent it to the White House. The House of Representatives passed the Respect for Marriage Act in a 258-169-1 vote Thursday, a week after it went through the Senate. President Joe Biden called the approval "a critical step to ensure that Americans have the right to marry the person they love". "The bipartisan passage of the Respect for Marriage Act will give peace of mind to millions of LGBTQI+ and interracial couples who are now guaranteed the rights and protections to which they and their children are entitled," Biden said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He is very disappointed with the election results. He is a resort owner

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	62181.67	↓ 389.01
NIFTY	18496.60	↓ 112.75
DOLLAR	82.37	↑ ₹0.07
EURO	86.74	↓ ₹0.10
GOLD	₹54,375	↑ ₹324
SILVER	₹67,614	↑ ₹580

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	27.3°C	26.0°C
MAX	27.3°C	26.0°C
MIN	14.2°C	13.6°C
Humidity	63%	61%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	



UNCONDITIONAL LOVE: A Belgian Malinois in a playful mood with its handler during a national-level dog show organised by Odisha Kennel Club at Unit VI playground in Bhubaneswar, Friday (Also see Page 4) PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

Kangaroo court in City: Boy attempts suicide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: A 14-year-old boy tried to die by suicide and is fighting for his life after a kangaroo court in Capital city allegedly made him do sit-ups along with his father and two others, police said Friday.

The incident happened Thursday in Baramunda area under Khandagiri police station, they said.

A meeting was held in the village after two boys passed lewd remarks at a girl. Their fathers were also called to the meeting and all of them were allegedly made to do sit-ups as a 'punishment', according to the police complaint.

In a purported video of the incident, the villagers can be heard threatening that they would socially boycott the families of the two boys. Soon after the incident, one of the two boys tried to kill himself by consuming pesticides. He was rushed to the Capital Hospital in critical condition, police said.

The family of the boy claimed it was a false allegation that they made lewd remarks at the girl.

"A case has been registered and investigation is on. Action will be taken against all those involved in the unlawful act," said a police officer, adding they have detained two people in connection with the incident.

8 lakh Indians gave up citizenship in 7 years

The number of people renouncing Indian citizenship stands at 1,83,741 this year as against 1,33,049 in 2017

PNN/AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 9: The Indian economy is currently confronting a brain drain with the sharpest increase in number of people migrating overseas which is evident from the data revealed in the Lok Sabha Friday. The number of Indians renouncing citizenship has gone up significantly in the last few years, except for 2021.

The number of Indians who renounced their citizenship was 1,33,049 in 2017, and five years later till October 31, this year a total of 1,83,741 gave up their citizenship.

As per the information provided by the Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs V Muraleedharan

BRAIN DRAIN WOES

Years	Citizenships lost
2015	1,31,489
2016	1,41,603
2017	1,33,049
2018	1,34,561
2019	1,44,017
2020	85,256
2021	1,63,370

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha Friday, the number of Indians who renounced their Indian citizenship was 1,31,489 in 2015; 1,41,603 in 2016; 1,33,049 in 2017; 1,34,561 in 2018; 1,44,017 in 2019; 85,256 in 2020 and 1,63,370 in 2021.

The written reply also informed about the number of foreign nationals except those from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who took Indian citizenship in the last few years.

"As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of for-



foreign nationals except those from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who took Indian citizenship was 93 (in 2015), 153 (in 2016), 175 (in 2017), 129 (in 2018), 113 (in 2019), 27 (in 2020), 42 (in 2021) and 60 (in 2022)," the reply said.

Mostly entrepreneurs and professionals are shifting to foreign countries as they are looking for opportunities abroad." He also said that certain people want to expand

No proposal from state for HC benches: Rijiju

High Court benches are established in accordance with recommendations made by Jaswant Singh Commission and Supreme Court's judgements

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: Odisha government has not yet submitted a detailed proposal for establishment of benches of Orissa High Court including its location in consultation with the HC.

This was informed by Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju in a written reply to a question posed by Koraput MP (Congress) Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka in Lok Sabha Friday.

Rijiju said requests for establishment of High Court benches in places other than the principal seat of HCs have been received from various organisations from time to time including the government of Odisha.

The Odisha government has requested for setting up of High Court bench in western and southern region of the state, he said.

"The Central government has requested the state government of Odisha to work out details of proposed benches including its location in consultation with the High Court of Orissa. However, no re-



sponse has been received yet," said the Law Minister.

At present, no complete proposal from the Odisha government regarding setting up of a bench of the HC is pending with the Centre, he clarified.

Informing about the criteria for establishment of HC benches, Rijiju said the benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgement pronounced by the Supreme Court in W.P.(C) No. 379 of 2000.

The state government which has to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural facilities needs to submit a complete proposal in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned which is required to look after the day-to-day administration of the High Court.

Further, the complete proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned state, he added.

Child artiste slated to play Balaram in Dhanu Yatra dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Dec 9: Ahead of the world famous Bargarh Dhanu Yatra, local residents were shell-shocked to know that the child artiste, who was supposed to essay the role of Lord Balaram in the world's largest open-air theatre, was found dead on the roof of his house, Friday.

The deceased was identified as Shreyas Pujari, 12, the only son of Mahendra Pujari and Jayanti Pujari. According to reports, Shreyas had been regularly taking part in rehearsal being held on the premises of Parbati Giri High School premises. Thursday, he had gone to take part in temple installation ceremony of Goddess Samaleswari at Sarsara. On his way back home, he was feeling tired. He did not go to school Friday and was on the roof of the house.



File photo of Shreyas Pujari

As he did not come down even after several hours, his family members went up and were shocked to find Shreyas entangled in a bundle of rope in an unconscious state.

His family members rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Shreyas was studying in Class VII at Saraswati Sishu Mandir, Bargarh.

He was selected to play the role of Lord Balaram, the elder brother of Lord Krishna, in the Dhanu Yatra scheduled to commence December 27 this year.

According to family sources, Shreyas used to do rehearsal for the yatra. He was happy for his debut in the mega festival. Police have registered a case of unnatural death in this regard.

Youth blames YouTube ads for failure; fined by SC

It is one of the most atrocious petitions filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, the bench observes, while imposing a cost of ₹25,000 on the youth from MP

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Dec 9: The Supreme Court Friday dismissed a petition and imposed cost on the petitioner for filing a 'frivolous' petition seeking compensation from YouTube for displaying sexually explicit advertisements which distracted him.

The apex court slapped a cost of ₹25,000 on a petitioner who had

sought compensation of ₹75 lakh from Google India for the advertisements shown on YouTube which allegedly had explicit content.

While dismissing the plea, the top court termed as "atrocious" the petition filed by a Madhya Pradesh resident who claimed that due to the advertisements, his attention was diverted, and he could not clear a competitive examination.

Google-owned firm, YouTube, is a video hosting platform.

"You want damages because you saw advertisements on internet, and you say because of that your attention was diverted, and you could not clear the exam?" a bench of Justices SK Kaul and AS Oka asked the petitioner, who was appearing in person.

"It is one of the most atrocious

PLEA BACKFIRES

The petitioner claimed that due to the advertisements on YouTube, his attention was diverted, and he could not clear a competitive examination

"If you don't like an advertisement, don't watch it," the bench said, adding, why he chose to watch the advertisements is his prerogative

The petitioner had also sought a ban on nudity on social media platforms



petitions filed under Article 32 (of the Constitution)," the bench observed. "These kinds of petitions are utter wastage of judicial time," it said. The petitioner had also sought a ban on nudity on social media platforms.

The bench observed that the petitioner has claimed that he was preparing for an examination and sub-

scribed to YouTube, where he saw advertisements containing alleged sexual content.

"If you don't like an advertisement, don't watch it," the bench said, adding, "Why he chose to watch the advertisements is his prerogative."

Initially, the bench imposed a cost of ₹1 lakh on the petitioner while dismissing the plea. Later, the petitioner, who argued in Hindi, urged the top court to forgive him and remove the cost imposed.

The petitioner, however, apologized to the court and sought to withdraw the petition. The bench said he can't come just to the court and file such petitions only for publicity.

"Make it ₹25,000," the bench said, while reducing the cost from ₹1 lakh.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You will be in a tight fix as the day starts. However, that's exactly the kind of situation in which your skills are tested. In the evening you will draw a lot of praise for your excellent performance. If Ganesh chooses to shower his blessings on you, you will sign new deals.

TAURUS

This day is meant for taking some time out from your busy schedule, and seeking some fun and relaxation. So says Ganesh. It is possible that you will be getting together with your friends and family members for a fun filled evening followed by a great dinner and a late night movie.

GEMINI

You are likely to be in a romantic mood today. You may just end up falling in love today. A difficult situation will bring out the competitive streak in you and spur you on to physical and mental excellence. Your capacity and intelligence will be testified to by your work, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You will focus on financial matters and plan accordingly. Compared to expenses, you will save more. A beneficial day for cashiers, money lenders and petty traders. Ganesh counsels hard work to achieve success.

LEO

You will be unable to express the feelings that rise up inside you in spite of wanting to. However, keep them close to your heart. You will be very serious about your work today. There is a possibility of some delay in your schedule today due to unforeseen problems, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

You will remain engrossed in personal matters at the cost of professionalism. Solve your problems today by taking them head-on. Ganesh warns you not to let your emotions suppress your enterprising spirit, especially in the evening.

LIBRA

Ganesh advises you not to take stress about small issues or matters. To avoid tension and to gain mental peace it is advised you perform yoga or meditation. There will be pressure put on you regarding certain matters at the forefront. You should take decisions regarding critical matters only after carefully weighing the pros and cons.

SCORPIO

Thank Ganesh that you have the grace to handle pressure at work, because today, you are going to be bogged down with a lot of work pressure. By the end of the day, try some stress bursting activities like yoga, meditation or listening to soft music.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesh predicts a day full of romantic developments today. Mushy talks and whispering sweet nothings in your beloved's ears may give you little joys of life. However, brace yourselves as there are times when relationships do not work out, and you may experience this soon.

CAPRICORN

Your lover is in for many pleasant surprises today. You'll be in a completely romantic mood, making every wish of your sweetheart your command. Both of you will go shopping, and have fun. Extravagant expenditures will keep you charged up for the day. You will achieve what you had wanted, that is the happiness of your sweetheart. Towards the end of the day, however, you will regret for letting yourself burn a hole in your pocket, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS

Travelling is on the cards for you today. Ganesh advises you to travel alone, because if you take people with different tastes along with you, their preferences may dampen your mood and spoil the trips. But, once put in such a situation, you will try to adjust yourself and find enjoyment in that, too. Your biggest plus point is the ability to convert your shortcoming into strength.

PISCES

Your planetary configuration not being favorable, you are advised not to start any new projects today. The benefits accrued by any project you take up today might not justify the risks associated with it. Businessmen need to be extra careful in all their dealings. Personal life should be peaceful with Ganesh's blessings.



WICKED MOVIES: YEOH TO PLAY MADAME MORRILLE

Everything Everywhere All At Once star Michelle Yeoh has joined the ensemble cast of filmmaker Jon M Chu's *Wicked* movies. According to the reports, Yeoh will essay the role of Madame Morrible, the headmistress of Crag Hall at Shiz University.

GUADAGNINO CASTS DANIEL CRAIG IN NOVEL QUEER'S FEATURE ADAPTATION

Filmmaker Luca Guadagnino has roped in *Knives Out* star Daniel Craig to headline his feature film adaptation of William S Burroughs' novel *Queer*. According to the reports, the Oscar nominated director is currently in the process of raising financing for the project.



Minnal Murali director bags top honour at AACAS

SINGAPORE: Malayalam filmmaker Basil Joseph has won the Best Director trophy at the Asian Academy Creative Awards (AACAS) 2022 for his Netflix superhero movie *Minnal Murali*.

The 32-year-old director said he feels proud to be a part of the Malayalam film industry and to represent India on an international stage. "I feel overwhelmed and honoured to be declared as the Best Director among 16 countries at the Asian Academy Awards 2022. Today, I feel prouder than ever to be a part of the Malayalam movie industry and to represent India on this stage," Joseph posted on Twitter following his win last night.

Minnal Murali premiered on Netflix December 24, 2021, in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Hindi and English.

The film revolves around a tailor, who gains special power after being struck by lightning. But to become the superhero of his hometown, he must take down an unexpected foe. It opened to positive reviews



Shraddha opens up on wealth creation

MUMBAI: Shraddha Kapoor recently won the emerging investor of the year award. While she is an actress by profession, she keeps a good tab in managing her finances. Growing up, her parents taught her the same thing and now that she knows how to manage finances unlike any, she bags the Investor of the Year award from a leading business publication at an event recently.



Babil will create his own fan base: Tripti

MUMBAI: Babil Khan made his film debut last week with the Netflix release *Qala*. The film, which also stars Tripti Dimri and Swastika Mukherjee, sees Babil in the role of a prodigiously talented singer who makes the protagonist threatened.

After watching the film, many fans praised Babil's performance and some even compared him to his late father, Irrfan Khan. However, Babil's co-star Tripti has termed any such comparisons wrong and unfair. Irrfan Khan, who died after a long illness in 2020, is widely regarded as one of the finest actors in Indian cinema history. He was also well known in Hollywood, having worked in several English films. Babil is his elder son.



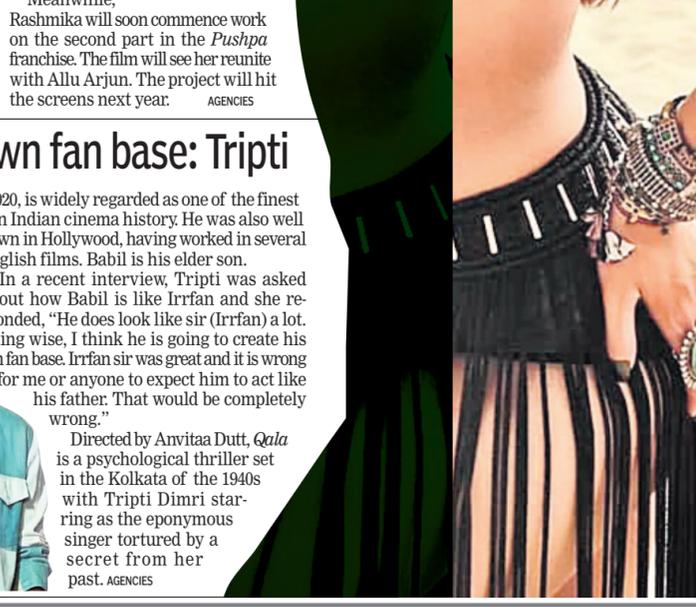
Rashmika has only love for her critics

MUMBAI: Actor Rashmika Mandanna, who was recently seen in Vikas Bahl's *Goodbye*, has finally responded to trolls who've been spewing hate on her for not watching *Kantara*. Earlier the *Pushpa* actor said that she had not watched *Kantara* and hopes to catch it soon, she attended an event in Hyderabad Thursday where she said that she had finally watched the film and also congratulated the team. Rashmika went on to add she only has love for those people who mercilessly trolled her.

Last month, Rashmika posted a note on her Instagram page explaining the hate she's been receiving from many people for various reasons.

Rashmika responded to all the hate she's been getting from trolls these last couple of months. Talking to reporters after the event, she said: "I just have love for them. I don't know what else I'm supposed to say about it. It's left to them."

She added that more than what people speak of her personal life, it's what's being spoken about her professional life that matters the most. Meanwhile, Rashmika will soon commence work on the second part in the *Pushpa* franchise. The film will see her reunite with Allu Arjun. The project will hit the screens next year.



PEANUTS



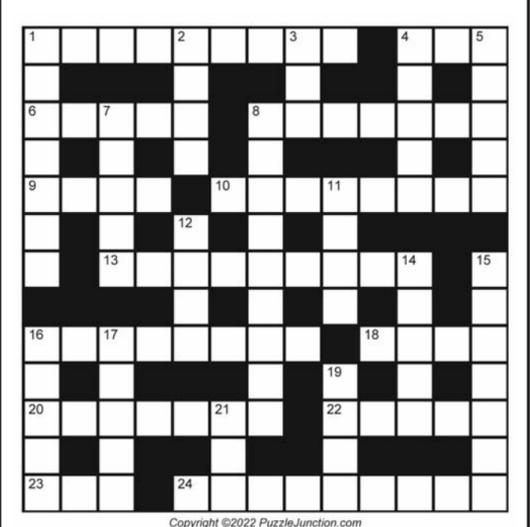
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



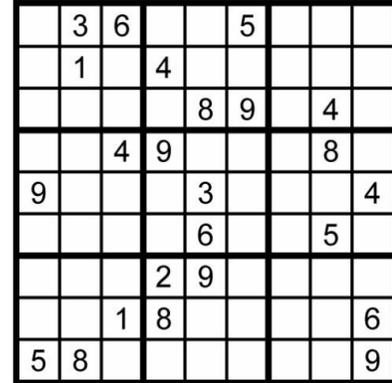
FUN post CROSSWORD



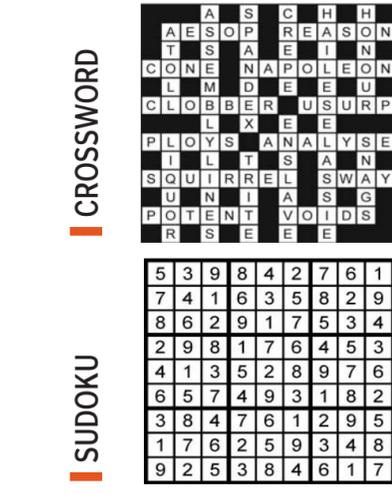
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Unerasable
 - 4 Winery sight
 - 6 Blasé
 - 8 Down payment
 - 9 Tall woody perennial grass
 - 10 Ballpark figure
 - 13 Leading man (5,4)
 - 16 Extremely pleasing
 - 18 Monster
 - 20 Submerge
 - 22 It comes from the heart
 - 23 Cow chow
 - 24 Combine
 - Down**
 - 1 Hurt
 - 2 Lord's mate
 - 3 Falsehood
 - 4 Scene
 - 5 Form of address
 - 7 Woolgather
 - 8 Low esteem
 - 11 Greek letter
 - 12 Egg-shaped
 - 14 "I read you"
 - 15 Small explosive
 - 16 Religious belief
 - 17 Like some roads
 - 19 Narthex
 - 19 neighbor
 - 21 Slump

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



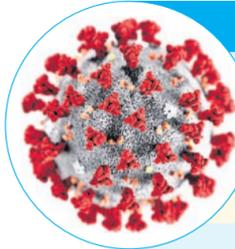
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



BOOK FAIR

Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Aswini Patra during the inaugural occasion of 4th State Book Fair at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	65,24,60,074	62,83,13,594	66,54,923
India	4,46,74,439	4,41,39,558	5,30,653
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

35K e-challans issued in Nov against road rule violators

Additional Transport Commissioner (Enforcement and Road Safety) Lalmohan Sethi appeals to road users to follow traffic rules and take care of their safety

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: The State Transport Authority (STA) has issued as many as 35,144 e-challans, confiscated 5,868 DLs for suspension and seized 1,275 vehicles for violating road rules in November this year, an official said Friday.

The STA has launched a two-month long special enforcement drive beginning November this year to promote safety and reduce accidents throughout the state. The enforcement drive was focused on driving without helmet and seat belt, drunken driving, over speeding, use of mobile phone while driving, driving by juveniles, checking of road worthiness of the vehicle, wrong side driving, driving without registration mark and dangerous parking, it was learnt.

According to STA sources, 9,416 challans were issued for overspeeding, while 15,661 were issued for driving two-wheelers without helmets. Around 622 challans were issued for triple riding and 225 for wrong side driving. At least 38 challans were issued for underage driving.

The vehicles plying with overload were also detained and the excess load was offloaded after compounding of challan. Around 510 challans were issued for over-



The STA has launched a two-month long special enforcement drive beginning November this year to promote safety and reduce accidents throughout the state

719 people were fined for using mobile phones while driving

366 vehicles engaged in transporting school students have been penalised for flouting road safety rules

loading. In some cases, the loaded material was not covered properly in accordance with the direction of the Supreme Court and Motor Vehicle (MV) rules, said the transport authority official.

Similarly, fitness certificates of 528 vehicles have been cancelled for violation of MV Act. A total of 1,452 people were found driving without seatbelt and challans were issued against them.

A total of 1,423 people have been detected driving under the influence of alcohol and were penalised as per the rule.

STA sources said that around 719 people were fined for using mobile phones while driving. So far,

around 366 vehicles engaged in transporting school students in the state have been penalised for flouting road safety rules.

Additional Transport Commissioner (Enforcement and Road Safety) Lalmohan Sethi said that the period between November and February, a holiday season, usually witnesses a rise in road mishaps and subsequent fatalities.

"The main aim of this drive is to create a sense of responsibility among the road users for prevention of mishaps and fatalities in the winter season," said Sethi, appealing to the road users to follow the traffic rules and take care of their safety while driving.



MAIDEN MEET POST VICTORY: Newly-elected Padampur MLA Barsha Singh Bariha, along with other BJD leaders, met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneswar, Friday

Guv for promotion of handloom products

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: Governor Ganeshi Lal Friday called upon the corporate sector to come forward to promote state's handloom products.

Speaking at the fashion show organised by World Trade Centre (WTC), Bhubaneswar, the Governor said handloom which is the pride of Odisha is reflected in the state's tradition, lifestyle, livelihood and character.

He said planning should have been done at different stages to further strengthen this and to promote Odisha's handloom products at international level.

Kala Bhoomi in Bhubaneswar acquired a lively affair when models walked the ramp showcasing a dazzling range of attires made by local weavers.

As part of a Fashion show organized by World Trade Centre (WTC) Bhubaneswar, models wearing weave clothes not only look beautiful but also look elegant and stunning. Different sections of society walk the ramp and for the cause.

Free to opt out of PMFBY: Tomar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: The state government is free to opt out of the central crop insurance scheme, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar told the Rajya Sabha Friday.

Replying to an unstarred question of BJD Rajya Sabha member Sasmit Patra, Tomar pointed out that some states like Bihar, Telangana, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Gujarat have opted out of the scheme after implementing it for some seasons due to their own reasons such as risk perception and financial constraints.

Later, due to the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Andhra Pradesh re-joined the scheme from the 2022 Kharif season, he said.

"The PMFBY is available for all states/UTs and is voluntary for them. States/UTs are free to subscribe under the scheme keeping in view their risk perception and financial considerations etc.," Tomar said in his written statement.

The scheme is also voluntary for the farmers to enroll themselves as per their risk perception, he added.

Since the inception of the scheme in Kharif 2016, 27 states/union territories have implemented the PMFBY in one or more seasons.

When asked about reasons behind the delay in release of crop insurance claims in some states, the minister cited several reasons like delayed transmission of yield data by the state governments; late release of state's share in premium subsidy; yield related disputes between insurance companies and states, non-receipt of account details of some farmers for transfer of claims to the bank account of eligible farmers, National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) related issues, erroneous/incomplete entry of individual farmer's data on National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP), and delay in remittance of farmers

BJD for inclusion of 3 tribal languages in 8th Schedule

NEW DELHI: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra Friday urged the Centre to take steps to include three tribal languages — Ho, Mundari and Bhumij — in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

The BJD MP, while speaking in the Rajya Sabha, said that there is a need to include these three tribal languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had also written on the issue to the Union Home Minister, he said.

Patra informed the House that Ho

language is spoken by nearly 10 lakh people living in Odisha and Jharkhand.

"After Santhali, which is already been included in the 8th Schedule, Ho is the second most spoken tribal language in Odisha. Mundari is spoken by more than six lakh people belonging to Munda and Mundari tribes in Odisha. Bhumij is spoken by more than three lakh people. Odisha government has initiated several steps for giving recognition to the tribal languages. However, there are several tribal languages which highly deserve to be included in the 8th Schedule," Sasmit said.



ODISHA IN PARLIAMENT

'Family of Patriots' tag for freedom fighters' families

New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Bhartruhari Mahtab Friday requested the Centre to felicitate the freedom fighters and start an exercise to identify the families of freedom fighters as 'Family of Patriots'.

While speaking during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, the BJD MP said that around 10 lakh people participated in the freedom struggle. In 1972, when the country was celebrating the silver jubilee of Independence, the then government gave a copper plaque to the freedom fighters.

As the country is celebrating the Amrit Kaal of Independence, Mahtab requested the government to identify the families of freedom fighters and give them 'Family of Patriots' identity cards.



VOICING GRIEVANCES: Anganwadi workers staged a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Friday, to press for fulfillment of their demands

HC raps Infocity cop for not filing FIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Dec 9: In a significant ruling, the Orissa High Court has slammed a senior police officer for 'refusing to register an FIR' in a death case, and directed him to undergo fresh training for one month at the Biju Patnaik Police Academy in Bhubaneswar.

The inspector in-charge (IIC) of Infocity police station was also banned from any field posting for one year by the High Court, which, in an order December 6, stated that the inaction shown by him is highly deplorable.

The single bench of Justice SK

Panigrahi, in the order made available to the mediahouses Thursday, also observed that institutional lethargy has crept into the system.

The case pertains to the murder of one Anand Toppo (33). Hockey player Birendra Lakra, a childhood friend of Toppo, is an accused in the case.

According to Toppo's father, Lakra had February 28 informed him over the phone that his son was found lying unconscious at his Bhubaneswar flat.

The hockey player also said that he was taking Toppo to the hospital.

Toppo's father Bandhana later al-

leged that he was told a day later, on reaching Bhubaneswar from Rourkela, his son has died by suicide.

Bandhana, in his plea, said there was no suicide note and Toppo's body bore injury marks.

Suspecting foul play, he claimed that Lakra had something to do with his son's death.

The father also said that the police, despite his repeated requests, refused to register an FIR in the case, prompting him to approach the high court in October.

He also claimed that attempts were being made to shield Lakra, who had once served as a deputy

superintendent of police in Odisha.

Notably, the Infocity police station acknowledged Bandhana's written complaint, a month after he moved the court, and registered an FIR November 24.

Maintaining that such inaction by the police is an attempt to protect the accused, the single bench, in its December 6 order, directed the deputy commissioner of police in Bhubaneswar to personally monitor the investigation, keeping all influences at bay.

Justice Panigrahi also sought a final report in the case within three months.

Let the lava flow! Iceland's volcano show a big hit

THE LAVA SHOW, ICELAND'S LATEST TOURIST ATTRACTION, THAT USES REHEATED LAVA FROM A REAL ERUPTION OF THE ISLAND'S KATLA VOLCANO MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO

In a dark auditorium in Reykjavik, bubbling orange lava flows down a slide to within inches of awe-struck visitors. The flow, contained on both sides by black sand, lights up the room

like a sunrise. This is the Lava Show, Iceland's latest tourist attraction, that uses reheated lava from a real eruption of the island's Katla volcano more than 100 years ago.

The heat emanating from the molten rock is tangible, so much so that some of the spectators shuffle in their seats to remove their coats.

"This is the show where you get to experience real molten lava flowing inside of a building, intentionally," the Lava Show's Scottish host Iain MacKinnon joked.

The molten liquid sizzled as it hit blocks of ice, crackling like the sound of breaking glass as it cooled.

"It was really beautiful," Jasmine Luong, a 28-year-old Australian tourist from Melbourne told AFP.

"I can see why a lot of people would be drawn to (an eruption),



but obviously you wouldn't be able to go near it in a normal natural setting," she added.

"This is a lot safer."

'Wow effect'
There is the same "wow effect"

that people get at an eruption site, MacKinnon said.

Hundreds of thousands of curious onlookers have flocked to watch the hypnotising jets of lava at Iceland's Mount Fagradalsfjall

after two eruptions over the last year just 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Reykjavik.

But not all Icelandic eruptions are safe.

While the lava used in the show retains a hint of sulphur, the dangerous toxic gases that normally emanate from an eruption have been dissipated, since the rock has been reheated and melted down so many times.

More than 600 kilos (1,320 pounds) of tephra -- the rocks ejected from Katla, one of Iceland's most dangerous volcanoes, when it last erupted in 1918 -- are used in the Lava Show.

"We heat that up to its melting point, which is around 1,100 degrees Celsius (2,000 Fahrenheit) and then we pour it into the room," said the show's founder Julius Jonsson.

In an adjoining room, a large fur-

nace has been modified to suit the show's needs.

Jonsson's company has run a version of the production in the seafloor village of Vik in south Iceland since 2018, but the Reykjavik show only opened last month.

He came up with the idea of a lava show when he was standing atop a glacier watching lava flow from Fimmvorduhals, a small eruption that preceded the massive Eyjafjallajokull one in 2010, whose ash cloud disrupted air traffic and stranded more than 10 million travellers.

Known as the land of fire and ice, Iceland has 33 volcanic systems currently considered active, the highest number in Europe. It has an eruption every five years on average.

"We thought it would be wonderful for Iceland if lava would always be flowing," Jonsson said. AFP

Innovation Conclave for budding entrepreneurs

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: Captains of successful start-ups, entrepreneurs, senior government officials and academic leaders converged Friday at the KIIT Technology Business Incubator (TBI) organised 'Start-up Innovation Conclave 1.0' as part of the Varsity's silver jubilee celebrations. They highlighted the need to develop a vibrant ecosystem to promote and encourage budding talents to set up enterprises in the east and north-eastern part of India.



Among others who took part in the event were Gautam Kumar, co-founder and COO of 'FarEye', Union Secretary, Ministry of the Development of North Eastern Region, (DoNER) Lok Ranjan, Secretary, Technology Development Board (TDB), Rajesh Kumar Pathak, KIIT and KISS Founder Dr Achyuta Samanta and Vice-Chancellor of KIIT (Deemed to be University) Sasmita Samanta.

Man gets 23-year RI for raping daughter



The court directed the District Legal Services Authority to pay ₹4 lakh compensation to the victim, special public prosecutor Pranab Panda said

AGENCIES

Balasure, Dec 9: A POCSO court here Friday sentenced a man to 23 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) after holding him guilty of raping his minor daughter in 2020. The court also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convict, a resident under Berhampur police limits in Balasure, for committing the heinous crime April 19, 2020. Failure to pay the penalty would entail an

additional two years of jail term, the court ordered.

According to the case details, the incident came to the fore after the victim's mother lodged a complaint with the police in this regard.

The victim's mother was out of home for some work when the convict forced himself on the minor girl. The victim later narrated the ordeal to her mother when she returned home. When the woman asked about the incident to her husband, he admitted the offence and assured to give medicine to the victim to ward off the fear of pregnancy, it was learnt.

The police after investigating the matter arrested the accused. He was booked under Section 376(2)(b) and 506 of the IPC and 6 of the POCSO Act. The court after examining 15 witnesses and 15 documents pronounced the judgment.

The judge sentenced the man under different sections which included 23 years of RI and ₹10,000 penalty.

The court further directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay ₹4 lakh compensation to the victim, special public prosecutor Pranab Panda said.



JOB SECURITY IN MIND: Members of State PH Engineering Workers Association held a protest near the PMG Square demanding regularisation of jobs in Bhubaneswar, Friday

'Urmī' to change lives of deprived women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: Women in rural Odisha face lot of hardships due to lack of infrastructure, communication and information. As a result they fail to get benefits from various government schemes.

To bridge this gap between the government and the deprived women, an initiative titled 'Urmī' was launched Friday by several civil society groups of the state including 'Odisha Shramajeebe Manchha', 'Mahila Shramajeebe Manchha', Odisha and the 'Atmashakti Trust'.

Under this initiative, 28 women from 15 blocks in nine districts have been selected for training through a rigorous process. They will be trained on legal matters, policy aspects of women and their skills will be developed and sharpened by the civil society organisations that are a part of 'Urmī'.

After completion of training,



these women change-makers will work as a bridge between community and the government to ensure representation of rural women in women-centric policies, gender budgeting, women's rights and entitlements said Hena Rani Nayak, senior programme manager of 'Atmashakti Trust'.

The policy makers need to be updated on real time basis from the beneficiaries. A solid accountability has to be demanded from grassroots people themselves. For this nothing better than trained enthusiastic women from differ-

28 women from 15 blocks of nine districts will be trained on legal matters and public policy

ent walks of life coming together to make the change happen, said an official.

'Urmī' leaders will work as a collective voice to provide women an equitable place in the society and undertake advocacy and networking with other like-minded outfits to pluralise support for the cause of women

in rural areas, informed Hena.

The women selected for training have faced many hardships in lives. So once training is completed, they can be the faces that inspire changes in women, said Shanti Lata Bhoi, president of 'Mahila Shramajeebe Mancha Odisha'.

Advisor of 'Mission Shakti', Gitanjali Bastia who launched the initiative praised the efforts for making a change-makers group of rural women. She hoped this will help lakhs of rural women in Odisha to voice their important concerns.

Among others, who were present on the occasion of the launch, were former National Women Commission (NCW) member Snehanjali Mohanty, senior director of Human Rights Law Network, Sarita Badapanda, gender budgeting specialist Upali Mohanty, social activists Meera Parida, Sujata Mohapatra and Dr Shrivani Das.

BJEM hosts regional science exhibition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: The CBSE Regional Science Exhibition-2022 was inaugurated Friday at the Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium (BJEM) School in City. The two-day exhibition will conclude November 10.

In this exhibition, 114 exhibits from around 69 schools of the state are being displayed. The theme has been decided as Technology and Toys. Out of all participants, seven each in junior (Class VI to VIII) and senior section (Class IX to XI) will be selected for the national level competition.

During the exhibition, students displayed models on different subjects that caught the attention of



judges are such as those on Aquaponics, a farming system that couples aquaculture (raising aquatic animals such as fish, crayfish, snails or prawns in tanks) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water) whereby the nutrient-rich aquaculture water is fed to hydroponically grown plants.

Among some other notable projects the participants displayed were a multi-utility paddling machine for housewives which when padded

can perform multiple tasks such as washing clothes and cleaning floors, smart safety helmet for workers safety which alerts them of objects that can hurt them, and Technimall road to ensure safe passage of wild animals on road.

CBSE deputy secretary Akhilesh Kumar and IIT Bhubaneswar associate professor (school of earth, ocean & climate sciences) Debadatta Swain inaugurated the exhibition as chief guests.

Speaking on the occasion, BJEM School principal Sandhya Jena said, "The science exhibition covers three main ideologies of innovation, low cost and practicality. This science exhibition will inculcate a scientific and creative attitude in the teenagers' minds."



ON PATH OF PROGRESS: An excavator deployed by BDA pulls down illegally built structures along the Sailashree Vihar-Damana road in Bhubaneswar, Friday

National-level dog show starts in Capital City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: After more than two years, the Orissa Kennel Club (OKC) inaugurated Friday its 61st & 62nd national-level 'All Breeds Championship Dog Shows' at the Unit VI Government Boys' High School's football ground. The three-day dog show will continue till December 11, 2022. The show had been suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

More than 30 different breeds of dogs including German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers and Beagles, are participating in the show. This year more than 400 dog owners from various parts of India are participating in the event.

On the first day of the show, there was a special event for German Shepherds, said Subrat



Prusti president of OKC. It was judged by Louis Donald from Australia. More than 80 dogs participated in the event. Louis has been involved in handling German Shepherds (also known as Alsatians) for more than 50 years. On the second day, there will be special events for Labrador

Retrievers and Beagles separately and on the last day it will be an all-breeds show.

Prusti stated that since the dog show is taking place after two years, it has created a lot of excitement among the canine lovers. The last time the show took place here was December 2019.

"For over three decades, we have been organising the Annual National Level Dog Show," Prusti said. "It is approved by the Kennel Club of India," he added.

Prusti said that for the first time since the inception of OKC, an adopted street dog, registered under mixed breed as per the Kennel Club of India regulations will take part in the 'Obedience Trials'. He informed that OKC has also planned an added attraction for canine lovers. During

the programme Donald's book, 'The Definitive German Shepherd Dog' will be unveiled Saturday. It is one of the most comprehensive books ever written on the subject, said Prusti.

To create awareness about canine breeding, rearing, training, and socialisation, OKC has conducted successful campaigns and initiatives in the past like 'Save the Dogs Ears', 'Handle Your Own Dog', 'Anti Rabies Camps' and 'K-9 Good Citizen Programme'.

OKC is also planning to build a dog/pet park and an electric crematorium for dogs. It will also undertake micro-chipping of the animals and also conduct 'K-9 Adarsh Nagarik' programmes across all towns in Odisha to establish a model code of conduct for all canine owners.

Biodiversity conservation should start from your plate

Reducing the biodiversity footprint of food consumption requires immediate and wide-spread action.

The food on our plates has a footprint. Every bite of food we consume represents the environmental impact of all the resources used to produce that food. Land is foremost among those resources.

As food is transported from farm to fork, the land used to grow the food is 'virtually transported' along with it. Depending on what you're eating, one bite might have a pot-pourri of virtually embedded land supporting a wide diversity of wild plants and animals.

That wild biodiversity is under threat from the production and consumption of global food systems. Expanding agricultural land is pushing biodiversity past a safe limit. Some species may already be 'walking dead', doomed to extinction because they no longer have

a habitat large enough to avoid a population crash.

In collaboration with NASA, researchers from universities across the United States are undertaking complex geospatial statistics to closely examine these future biodiversity impacts. Similar efforts around the world are leading some governments, including the United States, to set priorities to protect land within their borders.

But more ambitious conservation efforts are urgently needed. Latest estimates show 64 per cent of land in North America would need to be conserved to safeguard biodiversity, primarily because of the ecologically intact areas of Canada and the United States. By contrast, at least 33.1 per cent of Europe's land area requires conservation.

The most threatened land is concentrated in developing countries where mining and farming are economic mainstays. More than half of



the most at-risk habitat is in Africa.

To preserve biodiversity we must not only work on protecting natural habitats but also on reducing the food system's demand for land. If we're expected, as predicted, to feed 10 billion people by 2050, all that extra food would require clearing at least 1.5 billion acres of forests, savannas and wetlands, an area nearly twice the size of India.

But all is not lost. There are two key ways governments and individuals can reduce the land de-

mand pressure from the food system: eating a smart plant-based diet and reducing food waste.

First, consider your diet. Animal products need large amounts of land to grow feed and pasture livestock. This includes not only meat but also dairy, eggs, and even fish, which are increasingly sourced from aquaculture farms that use land-grown feed.

A smart plant-based diet is a major way to reduce land demand and biodiversity impact relative

Every bite of food we consume represents the environmental impact of all the resources used to produce that food, land being foremost among them

Expanding agricultural land is pushing biodiversity past a safe limit. Some species may already be 'walking dead', doomed to extinction because they no longer have a habitat large enough to avoid a population crash

our favourite foods like avocados, chocolate, cashews, and other tropical fruits. The international food trade of products like these spreads local biodiversity impacts around the globe.

If that sounds too hard, then here's the good news. Reducing pre-consumer and consumer food waste by 50 per cent - which might be an easier change than a radical diet overhaul - has almost as much positive impact on reducing land demand in high-biodiversity areas as changing diets does. In the United States, cutting food waste in half has the potential to reduce biodiversity impacts by 18 per cent.

It's important to keep in mind that both diet changes and food waste reduction are not only individual choices. Governments could implement policies that more aggressively target food waste on the farm, in the supermarket, and in the home.

Inspection at 35 schools

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: In a bid to assess provision of quality education to students at government schools in state, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, School and Mass Education (S&ME) department along with eight monitoring teams, constituted by the department, visited more than 35 elementary and high schools of Jagatsinghpur district and took stock of the projects executed by state government.

Emphasising the need to assess the condition of schools to ensure the process of improvement in state-run schools, the monitoring teams covered eight blocks in two days and interacted with the school administrations for effective implementation of projects taken up by the department.

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WINTER CHILL: People were seen huddling around a bonfire, Friday as Daringbadi in Kandhamal district shivered with a dip in mercury below 10 degree Celsius

Keonjhar-Badampahar rail link in the offing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Dec 9: Railway connectivity between Keonjhar and Badampahar in Mayurbhanj district will be a reality. The Railway Ministry has written to the General Manager of the South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata, for final location survey of four railway projects including this one. In a letter, it was stated that the Railway Ministry has sanctioned ₹2 crore for survey of 80-km long new railway line. Besides, ₹1.29 crore was sanctioned for the survey of 64.66 km-long Rourkela-Bamara fourth line; ₹1.55 crore for 62 km-long Bangiriposi-Gorumahisani railway line and ₹22 lakh for doubling of the 11 km-long Talgoria-Mahuda railway line. A total of ₹5.06 crore has been allocated for survey of total 217.66 km length for the four railway projects.

PIPED WATER SUPPLY TO 22 BLOCKS AND 2 NACs IN GANJAM

Mega drinking water project cost up ₹166cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Dec 9: The state government has set a target to provide piped water to all households by December, 2024. As per decision, Bhanjanagar RWSS division will provide piped water supply to 11 blocks and two NACs in Ganjam. This will be done by setting up a mega drinking water project to draw water from Mahanadi under Gania block in Nayagarh district. In May, 2022, the state government sanctioned ₹1,807.04 crore for piped water supply to the 11 blocks. Buguda and Belaguntha NACs had been exempted from this project. Later, these two NACs and some parts of Kabisuryanagar block were brought under the mega drinking water project. This has escalated the project cost to ₹1,973.08 crore.

Meanwhile, the RWSS authorities have floated a tender for ₹1,677.68 crore while the remaining amount will be spent towards land acquisition. After the tender process, a contractor will be chosen to build and look after the project for five years. As per a survey, there are 3,28,572 households in 703 villages under 11 blocks. Currently, 1,60,529 households are getting piped water supply. Notably, all households in Bhanjanagar, Belaguntha, Kabisuryanagar, Polsara, Purushottampur, Dharakote, Aska, Buguda, Jagannathprasad,



■ DUE TO PRESENCE OF CROCODILES, A NEW SPOT IN MAHANADI HAD TO BE HUNTED, WHICH TOOK TIME ■ THIS LED TO DELAY IN TENDER FLOATING. ULTIMATELY, THE DELAY IN WORKS LED TO COST ESCALATION

Sorada and Beguniapada will be covered under the mega drinking water project.

As per decision, water supply will be done with solar energy in the areas where electricity is not available.

In the two NACs, pipe-laying work has been completed. They will get water through the mega drinking water project as proper water sources could not be found to draw water for supply to the two civic bodies.

Several rounds of meetings of the top officials have been held on expediting the project. It was learnt that the place identified in Mahanadi under Gania block to draw water for the mega drinking water project is inhabited by crocodiles.

There is possibility of the crocodiles being threatened by construction work and cases being filed at the

NGT. Keeping this in view, a new spot had to be hunted, which took time. This led to delay in tender floating. Ultimately the delay in works led to cost escalation.

Reports said that the RWSS department has earmarked ₹314.31 crore for construction of main pump house at Gania and staff quarters, while ₹17.06 crore has been allocated for a tower treatment plant; ₹956.12 crore for pipe-laying work; ₹128.47 crore for water tanks; ₹398.20 crore for electricity; ₹104.56 crore for maintenance for five years and ₹13.27 crore for solar power plants.

Superintending engineer of Bhanjanagar RWSS division Saroj Kumar Kar said that all possible steps are being taken to ensure water supply at the doorsteps of the people.

Seized 14 yrs ago, sandalwood worth ₹2 crore left to rot in Balasore

Jaleswar: Sandalwood logs worth ₹2 crore seized 14 years ago have been left to rot on the premises of Jaleswar forest range office in Balasore district. People from many quarters have wondered why the Forest department is not selling off such valuable logs to raise revenue. As per reports, some unknown persons had informed Forest officials of a pick-up van smuggling 247 logs of sandalwood from Odisha to West Bengal on NH-60. Forest officials had carried out a raid at Jaleswar toll gate and seized 61 quintals of sandalwood. The seized sandalwood was dumped in the storehouse of the range office. When asked about the problem faced in selling off the sandalwood, ranger Jayshree Murmu said that a case related to seizure of the sandalwood is subjudice. "Until the case is finalised, the seized timbers can't be auctioned," she said.

Glaring streetlights bane for farmers in Umerkote



POST NEWS NETWORK

Umerkote, Dec 9: Believe it or not, streetlights installed in this town under Umerkote Municipality limits of Nabarangpur district are allegedly hindering proper germination of paddy seeds on farmlands in the civic body areas. This has resulted in crop loss on over 10 acre of farmlands. Many pointed out that even though modern inventions have made life easy, sometimes they are also detrimental. The civic body authorities have installed around 150 streetlights on a 2-km stretch from this town to Nuanguda. Approximately 90% of the poles used for the lights have been installed near farmlands. It has been noticed that in patches where the light hits directly, paddy shoots do not germinate. On

the other hand, areas that are covered in darkness, the germination has been normal. Farmers whose lands are under the glare of streetlights are now in distress. They alleged that they had borrowed heavily for the crops but their cultivation suffered because of streetlights. They are now at a loss regarding repayment of their loans. The affected farmers have demanded compensation from the government for their losses. Contacted, district agriculture officer Bijay Kumar Patnaik confirmed the development. He said that the paddy cultivation is done in a short period of time. "The paddy shoots will never germinate if they remain under the glare of bright lights round the clock. So for the paddy to grow, the streetlights need to be turned off," he added.

Plaint over use of Prez's picture in ad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Dec 9: A police complaint was lodged by a lawyer at Karanja town Friday seeking prompt action against the alleged use of President Droupadi Murmu's picture in commercial advertisements.

The police have accepted the complaint and an investigation is on to verify it, Karanja police station in-charge Ranjan Kumar Sethi said. "Murmu's picture has been used by a company manufacturing mustard oil," Jharana Prusty, a woman advocate based at Karanja in Mayurbhanj district, claimed in her complaint.

Prusty also submitted a picture of the alleged advertisement as an evidence of her complaint. "It is absolutely unacceptable that advertisements for certain goods are made



using pictures of the country's President," she said after lodging the police complaint.

The post of the country's President has dignity and it is unbearable to see a hoarding carrying her picture put up near a dustbin at Manika Chhak in Karanja town. "The advertisement with the President's picture sends a wrong signal to the society," she said. Similar hoardings are also seen in other

parts of Karanja town, Prusty said and sought to know whether the Notified Area Council (NAC) there has given its permission to the oil company to use the President's picture in the advertisements.

Murmu hails from Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district. Sources there said many small time traders use her picture in their banners and hoardings to cash in on her popularity.

Indian Overseas Bank (A Govt. of India Undertaking) REGIONAL OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Vijaya Bhawan, Engineering School Road, De-Paul School Campus, Berhampur-760010 JEWEL AUCTION SALE NOTICE This is informed to the following borrowers, legal heirs and public in general that the following borrowers availed loans against pledge of gold ornaments. In spite of several notices issued by bank they have not repaid their bank dues. Hence it is hereby informed by this notice once again to repay their entire dues along with further interest and incidental expenses thereon on or before the auction date fixed as below otherwise their pledged jewel ornaments will be sold by public auction and the bank will not be held responsible for any consequential loss, claim, inconvenience made thereon and the remaining balance if any shall also be recovered from them under due course of law.

Continuous lighting has resulted in crop loss on over 10 acre of farmlands

ଜିଲ୍ଲା ସଂସ୍କୃତି ପରିଷଦ, ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ପାରମ୍ପରିକ ଯାନ୍ତ୍ରଣା, ପର୍ବପର୍ବାଣି ମଧ୍ୟରେ 'ମଣ୍ଡେଇ' ହେଉଛି ଏକ ଗଣପର୍ବ । ଏହି 'ମଣ୍ଡେଇ' କେବଳ ପୂଜା ଉପାସନାର ପର୍ବ ନୁହେଁ, ପରନ୍ତୁ ଏହା ସାମାଜିକ ବନ୍ଧୁତା, ଉତ୍ସାହ ଓ ଭାବ ଆଦାନ ପ୍ରଦାନର ଏକ ମାନ୍ୟତାପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ମହୋତ୍ସବ । ଜିଲ୍ଲାପ୍ରଧାନ ଲୋକ ମହୋତ୍ସବ ମଣ୍ଡେଇ ହେଉଛି ଜିଲ୍ଲାବାସୀଙ୍କ ଭାବର ପ୍ରତୀକ । ସମ୍ପ୍ରତି ଏହି ମହୋତ୍ସବ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧି ଲାଭ କରି ରାଜ୍ୟ ତଥା ଜାତୀୟସ୍ତରରେ ଆଦୃତ ହୋଇପାରିଛି । ଏ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଲୁଚାଯିତ ପ୍ରତିଭାର ଅବେଷଣ ଓ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ପ୍ରଦାନ ତଥା ରାଜ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ଦେଶର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରାନ୍ତରୁ ଆସୁଥିବା କଳାକାରମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ଭାବଧାରାର ମିଳନ ଓ ଭାବ ବିନିମୟ ହିଁ 'ମଣ୍ଡେଇ' ଉତ୍ସବର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ । ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଗଠନର ତିନି ଦଶନ୍ଧି ମଧ୍ୟରେ ପ୍ରଶାସନ ତରଫରୁ ଏ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଶିକ୍ଷା, ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ, କୃଷି, ଜଳସେଚନ, ରାସ୍ତାଘାଟ, ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ପ୍ରଭୃତି କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ବିକାଶର ପ୍ରୟାସ ଜାରି ରହିଛି । କଳା ଓ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ମହାଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ 'ମଣ୍ଡେଇ-୨୦୨୨', ୧୯ ବର୍ଷରେ ପଦାର୍ପଣ ପୂର୍ବକ ଭିତ୍ତିରେ ୧୦ରୁ ୧୪ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ନୂତନ ମଣ୍ଡେଇ ପଡ଼ିଆରେ ମହାସମାରୋହରେ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଉଛି । ଏହି ମହୋତ୍ସବରେ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ସହିତ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ତଥା ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ତରର ସହଯୋଗ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କୃଷିଭିତ୍ତିକ, ହସ୍ତଶିଳ୍ପ, ଚେରାକୋଟା, କାଷ୍ଠଶିଳ୍ପ, ଲାଖଣ୍ଡିଆ ଆଦି ଉତ୍ପାଦନର ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ବଜାର ତିଆରି କରିବା ପ୍ରଦେଶରେ ପଲିଶ୍ରୀ ମେଳା-୨୦୨୨ ତା.୧୦.୧୨.୨୦୨୨ରୁ ୧୪.୧୨.୨୦୨୨ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହେବ । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ପୁନଃ ନବରଙ୍ଗପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲା, ପାର୍ଶ୍ୱବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଜିଲ୍ଲାବାସୀଙ୍କୁ 'ମଣ୍ଡେଇ-୨୦୨୨'ର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜ୍ଞାପନ କରିବା ସହ ଏହି ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ମହୋତ୍ସବରେ ବହୁ ସଂଖ୍ୟାରେ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ସାହାଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ମାନ ଉପଭୋଗ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ୱାଗତ କରୁଛି ।

CSIR - INSTITUTE OF MINERALS AND MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY ACHARYA VIHAR, BHUBANESWAR-751013 Advertisement No. - PME/P61/2022 Date:09.12.2022 CSIR – Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology, Bhubaneswar invites applications from bonafide Indian citizens for the following project positions purely on temporary basis and co-terminus with the duration of the project.

FOCUS ASSEMBLY POLLS

MIXED VERDICTS



Within less than a decade of its existence, AAP has emerged as a force to reckon with in north Indian politics in general and Delhi in particular

Recently-held elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), and state Assemblies of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat and byelections to Assemblies in UP, Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan along with by-election to the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat in UP, have thrown mixed results. Aam Adami Party (AAP) managed to win elections to MCD while Congress has won in Himachal Pradesh and the BJP in Gujarat for the seventh consecutive time. In the Assembly bypolls, the BJP has managed to win one seat in Bihar and one seat in UP, while Samajwadi Party has won Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat by an impressive margin and the RJD, an ally of the SP has wrested an assembly seat in UP from the BJP whereas the BJD has won the by-election in Padampur, Odisha.

has followed a tradition of change of regime after every five years and the recent verdict is in consonance with that tradition. Undoubtedly, the BJP was very hopeful of retaining power in the state in defiance of the so-called tradition and it also pulled all stops to retain power with the help of a horde of senior BJP leaders and Central ministers engaged in electioneering for the party.

and admirable in many respects. Its uniqueness lies in enabling the BJP to retain power for the seventh consecutive term with a landslide victory with unprecedented 156 seats in a house of 182 along with over 52% of votes polled. The thumping BJP victory has broken all previous records. Larger than life image of the personality cult of Prime Minister Modi, the BJP's well-concerted strategy of election management at the micro level, money power, official machinery, and other immense resources at its disposal have proved instrumental in overshadowing local issues like the Morbi tragedy, price rise, unemployment.

The Congress which has been the main political rival of the BJP in Gujarat could manage to save its grace by securing 17 seats relative to 77 seats won by it in 2017. Experts attribute many factors responsible for the poor electoral performance of Congress. In the first instance, it is argued that the party's top brass failed to take Gujarat polls seriously and their casual approach has cost the party dearly. Secondly, Congress repeated the mistake it had committed in Punjab by overemphasising on OBCs, SCs/STs and minorities along with failing to understand the rival's manoeuvres of projecting it as a pro-Muslim party.

The BJP leadership cleverly used its time-tested strategy of communal divide by raking up the Godhra issue and claiming

that the state has been riot-free for over two decades and stern lessons were taught to the offenders under the BJP rule. AAP has been able to secure five seats and a share of over 10% of votes and it has entitled to claim the status of a national party.

Some analysts have opined that the outcomes of Assembly elections in Himachal and Gujarat have different prospects and lessons for the main contending parties – the AAP, the BJP and the Congress – with the AAP becoming more enthusiastic to expand its sphere of political activity in states where Congress and BJP are major contenders for power and try to replace Congress in Opposition space gradually. While conceding brighter prospects for AAP, some analysts also argue that the party cannot be an alternative to Congress because the alternative to Congress is Congress itself.

Besides, the resounding victory of the BJP in Gujarat has undeniably bolstered the morale and image of the party which has successfully experimented with the Gujarat Electoral Model, unlike its previous emphasis on the so-called Gujarat Model. In this new model, the larger-than-life personality cult of its leader is capable of eclipsing and overshadowing the local issues and the possibility of the BJP encroaching on this model in forthcoming Assembly elections in 2023 cannot be ruled out.

While delivering on its promises in Himachal without brooking any delay, Congress needs to ponder over seriously its electoral strategy, organisational strength, and an alternative programme in response to BJP's policy of hatred and communal divide. Undoubtedly, Bharat Jodo Yatra being undertaken by Rahul Gandhi is a good step in connecting with the people; nevertheless, there is a need for the local and provincial Congress workers to keep that connect with the people alive in the areas already covered and to be covered in near future. An organisationally well-knit Congress with its rule in some states can be the rallying point for Opposition unity.

The writer is Executive Editor, India Ahead news channel. Views are personal.

Babu in Crossfire

The ongoing power tussle between Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan is inevitably affecting the babus. The Vijayan cabinet recently expressed displeasure at the manner in which a senior babu of the state pointed out certain flaws in the draft bill that seeks to remove the Governor as the chancellor of universities in the state.

Agriculture secretary B Ashok apparently pointed out that the file containing the draft did not mention the reason for the withdrawal of the Governor's power as chancellor in the introduction. Sources have informed DKB that the peeved government has asked state Chief Secretary VP Joy to convey its displeasure to Ashok. Hopefully, the matter will rest here, though it is surprising that Vijayan took offence at a babu's helpful intervention.

With the Vijayan and Khan feud showing no signs of letting up, no doubt many IAS and IPS officers will get stuck between the two. The current round of jousting is around Vijayan's allegation about nepotism in the Raj Bhavan over appointments to posts in the universities. Meanwhile, in a related development, the Kerala High Court dismissed a petition which sought the court's intervention to ensure that the Governor signs bills without delay. Babus, meanwhile, are walking a tightrope trying to ensure that they are not seen in either 'camp'.

Centre tightens empanelment process

The Modi sarkar is noted for unusual and disruptive interventions in administrative matters. Normally, the government never publishes the list of officers who are denied empanelment. However, when the list of IPS officers from the 2003 batch who were appointed to inspector general or equivalent posts was published recently, it also included a separate list of IPS officers who did not make the cut. Babu observers have informed DKB that this is surely the first time that the list of officers whose names have not been approved for empanelment has been made public.

The list contains the names of 45 IPS officers of various cadres who have been empanelled and 18 officers who were not. The list includes two officers each from AGMUT, Assam, Nagaland and Rajasthan cadres and one each from some other cadres.

Babus are unsure about the intent and objective of the Centre in releasing this list of names, but obviously, there are implications. One could be that the government wants to send a signal to officers that they will have to make serious efforts to attain eligibility for empanelment. Beyond this, if there are other objectives these will become clearer over the weeks and months to come.

Meghalaya seeks separate cadre for IAS, IPS officers

Recent incidents of firing on the Assam-Meghalaya border have highlighted the five-decade-old border issue between the two northeastern states. But it has also revived the demand for a separate cadre for Meghalaya. In a recent visit to Delhi, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma pressed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for bifurcation of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre for IAS and IPS officers.

Sources have informed DKB that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) does not favour creating a separate cadre for Meghalaya; therefore, the Centre is unlikely to concede to the state's demand. The strength of officers in Meghalaya is not enough to sustain a separate cadre. Officially, of course, it has been made known that Modi and Shah have assured Sangma that the state's demand for separate cadres will be considered seriously.

However, as tempers run high between Meghalaya and Assam governments over the contentious border issue, the longer the Centre avoids dealing squarely with the conflict the more complex the situation will become, which does not bode well for the troubled northeast region of the country. Administrative convenience usually fails to cut the ice when pitted against ethnic faultlines and sentiments of the affected people.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. **LAO TZU**
- Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold. **LEO TOLSTOY**
- Nature is the source of all true knowledge. She has her own logic, her own laws, she has no effect without cause nor invention without necessity. **LEONARDO DA VINCI**

WORDSWORTH

Dint

Dint belongs to another of those sets of words whose members are linked by shifts in an internal vowel. In this case, dint belongs with dent and dunt. Dint is by far the oldest of the three, being recorded from the ninth century in Old English. The original meaning was of a blow, especially one with a weapon during warfare. The other spellings appeared in Middle English, largely as a result of dialectal or regional pronunciations; dunt was probably in part created by imitation of the dull sound of such a blow. Dint and dent are both still around as alternatives, while dunt is now restricted to Scotland and retains its sense of a blow. In more recent centuries, the main sense of the other two has been of a depression in a surface, perhaps one caused by a mishap. This is a natural enough shift in sense through the word coming to mean the result of a blow rather than the blow itself. Another factor was the arrival in English of the verb indent. This is a quite separate word, from the Latin verb dentare, to furnish with teeth. The first sense of indent in English was to make a serrated tooth-like series of incisions. This led to indenture, whose name came from the practice of producing two copies of an agreement on a single sheet of parchment or paper and separating them by cutting along a jagged path; this made it obvious that the two halves were part of a single document (people would talk of a pair of indentures). Under the influence of indent, the dint spelling progressively lost out to dent. In addition, the senses of dent and indent began to influence each other. One result has been that the verb indent is a doublet, one member being from the Latin verb, the other from dent with the prefix in- attached. Because both involve making changes to the shape of something, the two verbs have become mixed up in people's minds and are frequently thought of as different senses of the same verb. This is especially true of their compound indentation, which can mean tooth-shaped notches, recesses (as in a coastline or paragraphs of prose) and dents (or dints) in a surface. Back to by dint of. In the medieval times, dint came to mean not just a single blow but an attack or assault. As a result, Englishmen spoke of overcoming an enemy by dint of sword, that is, by force of arms. This eventually led to the phrase by dint of, meaning "by force of". Over time this has weakened to mean little more than "by means of", but it still often has associations with vigour or perseverance.



Anil Singh

AN ORGANISATIONALLY WELL-KNIT CONGRESS WITH ITS RULE IN SOME STATES CAN BE THE RALLYING POINT FOR OPPOSITION UNITY



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

SPECTRUM PEACEKEEPING

Hard-won benefits of soft diplomacy

The world seems like a calmer place after the G20 meeting in Bali in mid-November. The question is why. We know that US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a three-hour in-person meeting that went well, despite their many policy differences and their countries' growing antagonism. It was also helpful that Russian President Vladimir Putin didn't show up, and that Russia's war in Ukraine didn't overshadow the Sino-American discussions. In fact, the G20 issued a statement declaring that, "Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Xi also had a relatively successful meeting in Bali. The two leaders smiled and shook hands, which was a significant improvement from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in September, when they could barely make eye contact.

So, the conditions in Bali were amenable to serious diplomacy, which was more than most observers had hoped for. But how did this atmosphere come about, and does it portend positive results and agreements? The first question is relatively easy to answer: Indonesia, the host, worked steadfastly – both visibly and behind the scenes – to ensure that the summit would not fail.

Culture matters for diplomacy, and Indonesian President Joko Widodo embodies the "soft" and sophisticated elements of Indonesia's dominant Javanese culture, which prizes musyawarah and mufakat (consultation and consensus). To prevent the Ukraine war from derailing the summit, he visited both Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in their capitals. In the event, this show of respect paid off: by not turning up in Bali, Putin demonstrated a willingness not to make life more difficult for Jokowi.

Western diplomats, too, often fail to grasp or appreciate this intangible side of diplomacy, reflecting a strong tendency toward black-or-white judgements. Zelenskyy is virtuous, Putin is evil, and all other considerations must follow from those premises. At a time when the West is shunning and isolating Putin, Jokowi gave him the respect that he so clearly craves. Likewise, while Western diplomats tend to draw clear lines between political systems (democracies are

virtuous, and autocracies are wicked), Jokowi treated Biden and Xi with equal respect.

Does this softer Javanese approach hold broader lessons for international affairs? The answer depends on our judgements about the world order that appears to be emerging. Since the "End of History" in 1989, the West has assumed that global developments generally flow in only one direction: toward Western-style democracy with Western-style market economies. In fact, we are entering an era that will be multi-polar, multi-civilisational, and thus multilateral.

In such a complex world, black-or-white descriptions will almost always prove to be too simplistic. India, for example, is an important ally of the West, even though Modi will never be seen in a Western business suit and complains about the "slave mentality" surrounding use of the English language in India.

It is telling that Javanese shadow plays (which borrow from Hindu mythology) feature a wide range of characters who do not fit neatly into categories like good and evil. One major advantage of this worldview is that it creates more opportunities for rival sides to seek

peace or find common ground.

As matters stand, it is politically inconceivable that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken would visit Tehran or Pyongyang to talk directly with Iranian or North Korean leaders, and Europeans are becoming equally allergic to the idea of visiting Moscow. Yet that is precisely the kind of flexibility we need if we are going to maintain relative peace and stability in the twenty-first century.

By and large, the principles of musyawarah and mufakat have prevailed. While one can easily imagine Indonesia treating Timor-Leste as a kind of "Kosovo" – a national territory that has been "lost" – instead champions that country's application for ASEAN membership. Such magnanimity is in short supply in our deeply fractured international community. We could all benefit from learning a lesson or two from Javanese culture and heritage. Doing so would help soothe a troubled world, just as Jokowi did in Bali.

The writer is a distinguished fellow at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Kishore Mahbubani

WE ARE ENTERING AN ERA THAT WILL BE MULTI-POLAR, MULTI-CIVILISATIONAL, AND THUS MULTILATERAL

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Only winning matters

Sir, This refers to "Cong wrests HP; BJP 7.0 in Gujarat," Orissa POST, Dec 9. Narendra Modi is the BJP's biggest mascot in Gujarat and the credit for the victory would go to him. BJP's historic and humongous victory in Gujarat has come with Modi's high-energy campaign, visiting the state week after week, during which he kept presenting industrial projects, development schemes, talked up global recognition of various kinds, and gave big ticket ideas for the future, convinced voters that despite six successive victories, BJP's "double engine" government still has much more to offer. In contrast, Congress and AAP could promise just tired welfarism and freebies, which BJP neutralised by appealing to Gujarati pride. But, Himachal Pradesh stayed true to its track record of ousting incumbents. The Himachal success should tell Congress that only winning, not a yatra, matters. Rahul Gandhi's marches won't help the grand old party build an organisation capable of fighting a determined BJP.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

A giant stride

Sir, The United Nations, at the behest of India, declared 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'. This was adopted by a UN General Assembly resolution for which India took the lead and was supported by 72 countries. India is really honoured at this declaration. No doubt benefits of millets are manifold. Millets have been an integral part of our diet for years; they are good for the environment with low water requirement. The aim of the UN behind this is to create awareness and increase production of millets across the globe. Till recently, this food grain used to be the staple food of people in tribal areas and in other backward regions in Odisha and several parts of the country. Millets' coming from the food plates of the poor to the global center-stage is a giant stride for the food grain itself.

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

Cong revival

Sir, In nearly four decades, Himachal Pradesh has not returned an incumbent government to power. And, for Congress, the victory in Himachal is critical to its revival, as the party has suffered a string of electoral defeats in recent years. The Congress wrested Himachal Pradesh from the BJP, winning 40 seats in the 68-member Assembly. The immediate challenge for the Congress is to select a chief ministerial face capable of binding the party.

Vijay Kumar HK, RAICHUR

national

of the day quote

The Uttar Pradesh government is organising a Global Investors Summit in Lucknow from February 10 to 12 next year. With the aim of increasing the per capita income in the state, it is our endeavour that the country and the world can benefit from the immense business opportunities available in the state

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Civil service is the path to serving the nation. It is a principle-based career in which character plays a significant role. You must always carry with you the academy's motto which says character is the highest virtue. You are going to play a vital role in the country's policy-making process over the next 25 years. If you are sensitive to the needs of the deprived sections you will achieve your goal. Real development comes about only when all stakeholders are taken along. Setting the country on the path of progress is both your Constitutional responsibility and moral duty

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

Police will take strict action against people from neighbouring states who commit crimes in Rajasthan

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM



Kashmiri Pandits have suffered a lot during the past three decades and there should be an amendment in the J&K reorganisation commission

SUSHIL KUMAR MODI | BJP MP

LUMPY SKIN DISEASE KILLED OVER 1.55L CATTLE

Over 1.55 lakh cattle have died in the country this year so far due to lumpy skin disease (LSD), the government informed the Rajya Sabha



5 killed, 49 hurt in cylinder blast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jodhpur, Dec 9: Five people were killed and 49 injured after a cooking gas cylinder exploded in a house in Rajasthan's Jodhpur where guests had gathered for a wedding, police said Friday.

A portion of the house in Shergarh sub-division's Bhungra village also collapsed due to the impact of the blast that occurred on Thursday afternoon, they said. Some of the injured sustained 80 to 100 per cent burns, according to officials.

Guests had gathered at the house of bridegroom Surendra Singh and food was being prepared for them. A cooking gas cylinder kept in the store room of the house caught fire following a leak and exploded, said Jodhpur (Rural) Superintendent of Police (SP) Anil Kayal. Other guests and villagers rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation.

Two children, Ratan Singh (5) and Khushboo (4), died on the spot. All the injured were rushed to the MG Hospital, Kayal said. District Collector Himanshu Gupta said 54 people were injured in the blast and five of them died.

Superintendent of MG Hospital Raj Shree Behra said over a dozen injured brought to the hospital have sustained 80-100 per cent burns and are in serious condition. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, and Union minister and Jodhpur MP Gajendra Singh Shekhawat expressed their condolences over the loss of lives in the incident. They directed officials to provide the best possible treatment to the injured.

Collegium discussions can't be put out in public domain through RTI: SC

The top court said a decision is termed as final only after a resolution has been drawn and signed by the members of the Collegium following due deliberation and until then, it remains a 'tentative decision'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: The Supreme Court said Friday unless a final decision is taken and a resolution to that effect signed by all members of the apex court Collegium, it cannot be disclosed either in the public domain or under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The top court said a decision is termed as final only after a resolution has been drawn and signed by the members of the Collegium following due deliberation and until then, it remains a "tentative decision".

A bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar said the Collegium is a multi-member body whose decision is embodied in the resolution that may be formally drawn up and signed.

"...it is observed that after due deliberation and discussion and after completing the consultative process, when a final decision is taken and thereafter the resolution is drawn and signed by the members of the Collegium, it can be said to be a final decision and till then it remains the tentative decision," the bench said.

The top court passed the verdict on a petition by RTI activist Anjali Bhardwaj against a Delhi High Court

order dismissing her plea seeking the agenda of the Supreme Court Collegium's meeting held on December 12, 2018 when certain decisions were purportedly taken on the elevation of some judges to the apex court. The bench said it is required to be noted that the petitioner asked for the information on the decision(s) taken by the Collegium in its meeting held on December 12, 2018 and reliance is placed upon the resolution dated October 3, 2017 by which it was resolved to upload the resolution of the Collegium on the Supreme Court's website.

It said relying upon some article published in the media and the interview given by one of the members, who was part of the Collegium meeting held on December 12, 2018, it is asserted by the petitioner that in fact some decision(s) were taken by the Collegium on the elevation of two Chief Justices of the High Courts to the Supreme Court.

The bench said, however, from the subsequent resolution passed by the Collegium on January 10, 2019 it appears that no final decision was taken on their elevation to the Supreme Court in the December 12, 2018 meeting.

It said, "Some discussions might have taken place. But unless and until a final decision is taken after due consultation and on the basis of such a final decision a final resolution is drawn, whatever discussions had taken place cannot be said to be a final decision of the Collegium".

₹801.85 crore seized during Gujarat polls

As per the Election Commission, this is a significant jump of 2,846.89 per cent in Gujarat and of 533.88 per cent in Himachal Pradesh as compared with the previous Assembly polls in the year 2017

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 9: Enforcement agencies made a seizure of worth ₹801.85 crore and ₹57.24 crore, respectively, from Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh during the election process in the two states.

As per the Election Commission, this is a significant jump of 2,846.89 per cent in Gujarat and of 533.88 per cent in Himachal Pradesh as compared with the previous assembly polls in the year 2017. Total seizure in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in the 2017 polls was worth ₹27.21 crore and worth ₹9.03 crore, respectively. In the border

district of Kachchh in Gujarat, heavy seizures of freebies were reported from Mundra port where DRI seized freebies worth more than ₹160 crore. Due to news of huge seizure of drugs in coastal areas of Gujarat prior to announcement of election in Gujarat, the Commission directed Coast Guard, NCB and ATS to keep a close watch on drug seizure. Officials said that the results were encouraging as ATS seized massive haul of drugs by busting illegal units in Vadodara which led to seizures of drugs amounting to ₹Rs 478 crore.

What is significant is the tightening has continued after polling as well.

As reported by Police Nodal, on December 7, further searches by ATS at Gorwa, Vadodara has led to further seizure of 24 kg of Mephedrone drug worth ₹121 crore.

Similarly tightening of borders in Himachal Pradesh led to record hauls of liquor (5.04 lakh litre) in Kangra district which borders Hoshiarpur district of Punjab and Sirmour district (2.51 lakh litre) which borders state of Haryana and Uttarakhand.



Houses swept away by the sea waves due to cyclonic storm 'Mandous', in Pondicherry

PTI PHOTO

Bhupendra resigns, BJP to elect new leader today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Dec 9: A meeting of the newly-elected Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs in Gujarat will be held Saturday in Gandhinagar to pick a new leader, who will take over as the next chief minister, said the ruling party Friday as incumbent Bhupendra Patel appears set to return for a second straight term in office.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Patel tendered his resignation along with his entire cabinet to pave the way for formation of a new government in the state after the ruling BJP won a landslide victory in the just concluded Assembly elections. Senior BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, B S Yediyurappa and Arjun Munda will be observers for the legislative party meeting in the state capital. The party has already announced that the swearing-in ceremony of the new government will take place on December 12, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will be present along with chief ministers of BJP-ruled states. The BJP registered a historic victory in Gujarat by clinching 156 seats in the 182-member House on Thursday, much higher than its tally of 99 seats in 2017.

High salinity in Sunderbans forces people to buy water, leave farming

The salinity of the underground water they get from tube wells is 5 PSU (Practical Salinity Unit) while the ideal should be zero PSU, marine scientist Prof Abhijit Mitra said



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hasnabad (WB), Dec 9: Bibhas Mondal, a farmer of West Bengal's Hasnabad gram panchayat, stopped agricultural work two years ago as Cyclone Aamphan of 2020 inundated the area in the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve with saline water making land unfit for cultivation.

Shikha Mondal, another resident of Khapukur village, purchases drinking water from a local treatment plant as tube wells only lift saline water for the same reason. The salinity of the underground water they get from tube wells is 5 PSU (Practical Salinity Unit) while the ideal should be zero PSU, marine scientist Prof Abhijit Mitra

said. Many people like Bibhas Mondal and Shikha Mondal who are facing the problems have raised these issues with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee when she visited their village in North 24 Parganas district last week.

Banerjee directed the district authorities to address their problems. Her government also has plans to create a new district, Sundarbans, and the affected area will be included in it.

"We have no drinking water. There is also no (proper) water to cultivate our land. All land has been damaged by the saline water following Cyclone Aamphan in 2020. We want Mamata Banerjee to solve these problems... We do not want anything else," Shikha Mondal said. The cyclone barrelled through the

coastal districts of the state on May 21 two years ago, killing at least 12 people, uprooting thousands of trees, blowing up shanties and swamping low-lying areas. The villagers also have to buy 20 litres of water for ₹10 from the treatment plant and a family has to shell out around ₹1,500 a month for drinking water.

"The amount is high for us... It is not affordable. We want the administration to address this issue," Sikha Mondal said. Some people in the village are forced to drink saline water. Consumption of such water for a long time is likely to bring a number of health issues.

As the land has become unfit for agriculture in Hasnabad, Bhowanipur and Barunhat blocks under Basirhat sub-division, many people are now trying their hand at shrimp farming for a living. "We have no work now. The land has been spoiled by the saline water and we are now trying to earn by shrimp cultivation," Bibhas Mondal said. Villagers stated that they have informed the matter to the local MLA, but there has been no help.

Mihir Adhikary, a local leader of the ruling Trinamool Congress, also talked about these problems faced by the people. "We have been requesting the leaders to give us some respite, but there has been no response from anybody. The district administration has been doing nothing. Now, we have told Mamata Banerjee, and she has assured us of help," Bibhas Mondal said.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, CUTTACK
e-mail: eeolic_ctc@yahoo.in
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 14/OLIC (CTC)/Dt.07.12.2022
No. CAD-4041: The Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Cuttack, At: Pratap Nagari, P.O.: Telengapentha, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN - 754001 invites Percentage Rate bids in online mode for "Installation of New & Revival Lift Irrigation Projects" along with engirisation on Turnkey basis from reputed contractors/firms having valid PWD licence of required class and valid HT licence issued by E.L.B.O., Odisha. Contractors can also participate in the e-Tender with Registered Joint Venture. Proof of registrations, experience from appropriate authorities are to be uploaded along with the bid/bids. The GST @ 5% on tender paper will be paid by GST No. 21AAACO5986G1ZF on reverse charge basis.

1. Numbers of Package	23 Nos.
2. Estimated Cost	As per DTCN
3. Cost of Tender Paper	Rs.6000/- (in online mode) + 5% GST as reverse charge basis vide Challan No. 21AAACO5986G1ZF of OLIC
4. Date & time of publication	Dt. 12.12.2022 from 10.00 A.M.
5. Date & time of closing	Dt.21.12.2022 at 5.00 P.M.
6. Date & time of opening of Bid	Dt.22.12.2022 at 10.00 A.M.
7. The bidders have to participate in Online bidding only.	

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender if any, can be seen in the said website.
OIPR-32238/11/0017/2223 **Sd./- Executive Engineer**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER LOWER SUKTEL R.R.C&B DIVISION, BOLANGIR
e-mail: lsrrcbdbgr@gmail.com
'e' procurement Notice
Bid Identification NO.-LSRRC&BD-BGR-16/2022-23
No.A-839: The Superintending Engineer, Lower Suktel R.R.C&B Division Bolangir on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender to be received in online mode only for the work as detailed below.

Work-1	
1	Name of the Work: Renovation of existing primary school building to convert as market complex in RR Colony of LSIP at Larkipali & Sadeipali, Bolangir.
2	Estimated Cost: Rs.12,25,479.00
3	Cost of Tender Paper: Rs. 6,000.00
4	Class of Contractor: 'C' and 'D' Class
5	Period Of Completion: 4 (Four) Months
6	Date and Time of Bid availability in The Portal: From Dt. 12.12.2022 at 10:00 AM. To Dt. 22.12.2022 up to 5:00 PM.
7	Last date and time of receipt of Bid in the Portal: Dt. 22.12.2022 up to 5:00 PM.
8	Date and time of opening of Bid in the portal: Dt. 23.12.2022 at 11:00 AM
9	Name and address of the officer inviting the Bid: Superintending Engineer, Lower Suktel R.R.C & B Division, Bolangir, At-Lalkira, P.O.-R. College, Dist-Bolangir-767002.
10	Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the Govt. website only.
11	Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal-www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Lower Suktel R.R.C&B Division, Bolangir
OIPR-32182/11/0020/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-1399
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DEOGARH
E-mail Id - eerw_deogarh@yahoo.co.in
E-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. EEDGG-online- 13/2022-23

- Name of road work :- (01 No.)
- Estimated cost:- Rs. 19.19 Lakhs
- Mode of submission of tender:- Tender shall be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Availability of tender for online bidding:-12.12.2022, 11.00 A.M to 21.12.2022 up to 5.00 P.M
- Date and time of opening of tender: -22.12.2022, 11.00 A.M
- Other details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Corrigendum / Addendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W.Division, Deogarh
OIPR-25087/11/0018/2223

यूको बैंक UCO BANK
SURYA NAGAR BRANCH, Plot No.: 112(B), Surya Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751003, Ph.: 0674-2397787
PUBLIC NOTICE
We have taken Physical Possession of the Land & Building of Mr. Sadananda Behera, S/o.: Late Ramachandra Behera mortgaged in the NPA loan account of M/s. Jogeswar Fabrication, Prop.: Sri Dillip Kumar Sahoo, S/o: Guruban Sahoo situated at Mouza: Lingipur, SRO: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 759/289, Plot No.: 683/2225, Area: Ac.0.046 Dec., Bounded by East: Road, West: Plot No.: 27 of Sub Plot No.: 683, North: Plot No.: 26 of Sub Plot No.: 683, South: Road on 16.04.2022 under SARFEASI ACT after obtaining order from DM, Khurda and with assistance of Dhauuli Police. We have found some unused furniture & goods are lying in the above mentioned Land & Building and informed the related parties for taken back of their goods however the furniture and goods has not been taken back by the related parties or their representatives till date. We finally give notice to the related persons of the above mentioned property to claim their belongings from the undersigned within 7 days from the date of Publication, failing which Bank will consider no claim and Bank will take appropriate action to dispose the goods as per extant norms.
Authorised Officer

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, ATHMALLIK FOREST DIVISION
AT/P.O.: ATHMALLIK, DIST.: ANGUL - 759125
E-mail: dfoathmallik@gmail.com, Tel.: 9437004236
Tender Notice No. 7562/1F/2022 Date: 06.12.2022
No. MM-333: Short Tender Notice for Construction of Wire Mesh Check Dam of around 17000 Cubic Meter in Two different Nalas of Northern Reserve Forest in approximate 250 locations of Bamur and Handapa Range.
Sealed tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Odisha, invites Tender for following works from the eligible contractor as detail below.

- Name of the work: Construction of Wire Mesh Check Dam of around 17000 Cubic Meter in Two different Nalas of Northern Reserve Forest in approximate 250 locations of Bamur and Handapa Range.
- Place of Work: Athmallik Forest Division
- Period of Completion: 90 Days
- Commencement of download RFP document on website: www.odishaforest.in Dt.07.12.2022, Time: 11.00 A.M.
- Last date of bid submission (by Messenger/Courier/Post): Dt.22.12.2022 01.00 P.M. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, P.O./P.S.: Athmallik, PIN - 759125, Dist.: Angul.
- Date of General & Technical and Financial Bid Opening: Dt.22.12.2022, Time: 05.00 P.M. Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, P.O./P.S.: Athmallik, PIN - 759125, Dist.: Angul.
- RFP document Cost (Non-refundable): Rs.1,000/- by DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, Payable at Athmallik.
- Address for Bid Submission: Office of DFO, Athmallik.
- EMD (Refundable): Rs.20,000/- by DD issued by Nationalized Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division, Payable at Athmallik.
- Bid validity period: Till the End of current financial year.
- Latest tender document and addendum/corrigendum, if any, will be published at the websites: www.odishaforest.in.
- Disclaimer: Notwithstanding anything else contained to the contrary in this tender document, DFO, Athmallik reserves the right to cancel/withdraw/modify fully or partially the "Invitation of Bids" or to reject one or more of the bids without assigning any reason and shall bear no liability whatsoever consequent upon such a decision.
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division
OIPR-08125/11/0014/2223

BJP suffers setback in 3 LS constituencies

THE CONGRESS WRESTED HIMACHAL PRADESH FROM THE BJP, WINNING 40 SEATS IN THE 68-MEMBER ASSEMBLY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Dec 9: The BJP, which won 25 seats in the Himachal Pradesh elections, suffered a setback in the assembly segments falling under Shimla, Hamirpur and Kangra parliamentary constituencies in the hill state.

However, the party put up a good show in Mandi Lok Sabha constituency.

The Congress wrested Himachal Pradesh from the BJP, winning 40 seats in the 68-member Assembly. The results of the November 12 assembly elections were declared Thursday.

The promise of restoration of the old pension scheme proved to be a shot in the arm for the Congress, while the issues of apple growers marred the BJP's prospects in about 20 seats.

The voters were upset over the rising unemployment and inflation and there was a strong anti-incumbency against the government, political observers said.

"Restoration of the old pension scheme is the major demand of employees. Besides, people are feeling the pinch of rising prices of commodities," said a political science professor of Himachal Pradesh University who did not wish to be named.

The popularity of Chief Minister



Jai Ram Thakur helped the BJP sail through assembly segments in Mandi constituency. The Congress, which won the Mandi Lok Sabha seat last year, was in for a jolt here and could secure only five out of the 17 seats.

The 17 assembly segments under Mandi parliamentary constituency are Rampur (SC), Kinnaur (ST), Lahaul and Spiti (ST), Bharmore (ST), Manali, Kullu, Banjar, Anni (SC), Karsog (SC), Sundernagar, Nachan, (SC), Seraj, Drang, Jogindernagar, Mandi, Balh (SC) and Sarkaghat.

Unemployment, inflation, poor governance, and train service to Hamirpur from Una were the major issues in Hamirpur parliamentary constituency.

who constitute 20-21 per cent of the voters in the region, in ticket allocation did not go well with the voters.

With 17 assembly seats, Kangra is the deciding factor in Himachal elections and the people were angry as development work was centred in Mandi district. The Congress and the BJP got 11 and six seats respectively in this parliamentary segment.

Kangra Lok Sabha constituency comprises Churah (SC), Chamba, Dalhousie, Bhattiyat, Nurpur, Indora (SC), Fatehpur, Jwali, Jaswan-Pragpur, Jaisingpur, Sulah, Nagrota, Kangra, Shahpur, Dharamsala, Palampur and Baijnath (SC) assembly segments.

The BJP was virtually washed out in Shimla parliamentary constituency and could win only three seats while the Congress registered victory in 13 seats and an Independent won in one seat.

The constituency comprises Arki, Nalagarh, Doon, Solan (SC), Kasauli (SC), Pachhad (SC), Nahan, Sri Renukaji (SC), Paonta, Shillai, Chopal, Theog, Kusumpti, Shimla (Urban), Shimla (Rural), Jubbal-Kotkhai and Rohroo (SC) assembly seats where 100 per cent import duty on apple and increase in production cost with 18 per cent GST on packaging material were major poll issues.



THUMPING WIN: Himachal Pradesh Congress president Pratibha Singh being congratulated by supporters after the party's victory in the state Assembly elections, in Shimla, Friday. PTI PHOTO

Panchayat system cannot replace elected govt: PDP



The PDP as well as the National Conference had boycotted the local body polls, seeking a guarantee from the Centre over the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Dec 9: Though the 2018 local body elections in Jammu and Kashmir were a success, the panchayat system cannot replace an elected government, the Peoples Democratic Party has said.

The former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti-led party made these remarks in its monthly newsletter 'Speak Up', amidst demands by the mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir for conducting assembly polls in the union territory.

"The Supreme Court recently reserved its judgment on delimitation and GOI's justification for early delimitation was that they wanted to give Kashmiris 'immediate democracy'. The panchayat elections were a success but a panchayat cannot replace an elected government. Democracy can never be instant or immediate because it is a process that goes beyond polling day," the party said.

The PDP as well as the National Conference had boycotted the local body polls, seeking a guarantee from the Centre over the protection of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution. However, the government revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and divided the erstwhile state into two union territories on August 5, 2019.

Both the parties have since asserted that boycotting the polls was a huge mistake as they ceded space to the BJP and other parties. The newsletter claimed that since the abrogation of Article 370, the "atrocities" on Kashmiris have

crossed all limits.

"Since the abrogation (of Article 370), Kashmiris have seen but strife. In some ways, the constant lockdowns and never-ending communication blackouts inoculated us to the Covid lockdowns that came next. While people elsewhere were complaining about boredom and loneliness, Kashmiris were for the most part silent," it said.

However hard the circumstances are, Kashmiris have learnt to make do, the newsletter said.

"The dystopian nightmare of these past few years has devastated us, but it has also made us anti-fragile. Since ancient times, people have been fortifying themselves with small doses of toxins to achieve hormesis. It really makes you wonder if we've undergone a societal hormesis of some kind that enabled J-K to survive the worst circumstances that would have brought any other state to its knees," it said.

Although adversity in small doses can be beneficial to achieve robustness, "it doesn't change the fact that we are being poisoned, slowly and steadily, one deadly measure at a time, be it our economy, industry, press, education or our civil society," the PDP said. "So many of our mainstream politicians, press, activists and other prominent civil society members have been jailed or exiled as terrorist sympathisers. Our young men are being butchered for being hybrid militants without any due diligence to prove these charges," it said. After National Investigation Agency and Enforcement Directorate, the newsletter alleged, Kashmiri businessmen are now facing the onslaught of raids by the Income Tax department.

"It's interesting to note that when our horticulture industry needed intervention, GOI couldn't be bothered to rouse from their slumber. But the opportunity to harass Kashmiri entrepreneurs has invoked a feverish enthusiasm, bringing together the security apparatus and government agencies, working in unison like a well-oiled machine with a voracious appetite for destruction," it said.

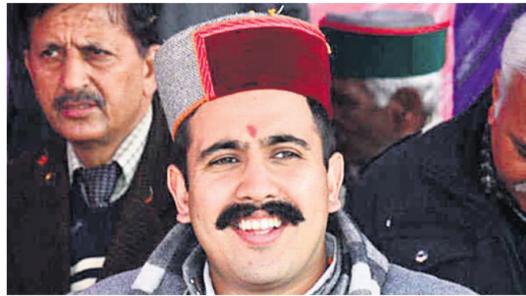
'Royals' losing their charm in Himachal

Only two erstwhile royals won in the state polls this time while two others lost

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla/New Delhi, Dec 9: The erstwhile royals of Himachal Pradesh who once commanded their own space in politics are losing their charm as only two of them won in the state polls this time while two others lost at the hustings.

Vikramaditya Singh, the son of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh and the scion of erstwhile royal family of Rampur Bushahr, won by a margin of 13,890 votes from Shimla rural, while Anirudh Singh of the erstwhile royal family of Koti, won from Kasumpti seat. Virbhadra Singh had dominated the state politics for over four decades and served as the chief minister several times. His wife Pratibha Singh, who hails from the erstwhile royal family of Keonthal, is currently the state Congress chief and is among one of the frontrunners for the chief minister's post.



Vikramaditya Singh

While Vikramaditya Singh defeated BJP's Ravi Mehta, Anirudh Singh defeated outgoing Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj by a margin of 8,865 votes. Bhardwaj had changed his seat from Shimla Urban to Kasumpti. On the other hand, Congress' Asha Kumari from the erstwhile royal family of Chamba lost from Dalhousie, a seat she had won six times in a row, by a margin of 9,918 votes. Erstwhile royal of Kullu Hiteshwar Singh, who ran as an independent, also lost Banjar

assembly seat to BJP's Surender Shourie. Hiteshwar Singh polled 14,932 votes, Shourie 24,241 votes and Congress' Khimi Ram 19,963.

Another erstwhile royal Maheshwar Singh, who is Hiteshwar's father, was also in the fray this election but had withdrawn in favour of the BJP.

He was initially nominated by the BJP as its official candidate but was denied the ticket after his son filed his nomination as an independent candidate from Banjar constituency.

No migration of Pandits, says MHA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 9: The Home Ministry has said that a total of 14 people belonging to minority communities including three Kashmiri Pandits have been killed in terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir this year till November 30. There was, however, no migration of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley in the last five years.

The information was shared by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in the Rajya Sabha.

In a written reply to a question, the Minister also said that there were certain media reports of Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti that expressed concern over the safety of the Kashmiri Pandits.

"The government has a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and the security situation has improved significantly in Jammu and Kashmir. There has been substantial decline in terrorist attacks from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021," the reply said.

Rai also said that a number of measures have been undertaken to



protect the lives of the minorities. Some of the steps include area domination, cordon and search operation, etc.

Besides, the Minister said, a robust security and intelligence grid is active to foil any attempts of terror attacks.

He further said that under the Prime Minister's Development Package, a total of 3,000 employment opportunities were generated for the Kashmiri migrants, adding 2,369 of them have already been provided jobs in the last five years.

Revival of traditional medicine in J&K

FOR LONG, J&K'S MEDICINAL AND HERBAL PLANTS HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT SOURCES OF INCOME FOR THE LOCALS. THE HIGH ALTITUDE OF THE REGION CREATES THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR GROWING SOME OF THE WORLD'S RARE VARIETIES OF HERBS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Dec 9: Kashmir has been the gateway to spiritual ascension for many saints and seers. They say the land has healing energy because the veil between God's abode and Kashmir is the thinnest here. Perhaps this is the reason the best variety of herbs and medicinal plants grow wildly under His protection here.

For a long, J&K's medicinal and herbal plants have been important sources of income for the locals. The high altitude of the region creates the right conditions for growing some of the world's rare varieties of herbs.

J&K is finally tapping the unexplored potential of Agri-tech Startups. The hopes are high after the success of the Purple Revolution of the Lavender herb. The youth that had earlier left Kashmir for greener pastures and high-paying jobs in metropolitan cities of the country are running back to tend to their ancestral fields. People are making fortunes selling local medicinal herbs and aromatic plants which have a high export value.

Non-timber forest produce (NTFP) is the new gold in J&K.

In a pine forest at Viji Top having an altitude of 1900 meters a herbal park, which was set up three years ago, is bearing fruits of abundance. Thousands of plants are scattered over 18 hectares of land waiting to be distributed to enterprising youth, schools, colleges, and other institutions.

Many such parks are coming up across J&K for conservation, commercial, and tourism purposes. Due to urbanisation, modern medicine, and political turmoil in the valley for the past three decades, countless species have almost vanished in the region. It was pertinent for Forest Department and the administration to make a repository of these species which were mentioned in the Rajatarangini.

The advantages of cultivating herbal plants in J&K are multi-fold: i) incredible diversity of medicinal plants since ancient times; ii) diverse agro-geo climate conditions; iii) potential of high altitude medicinal plants of high commercial value; iv) access to critical utilities at no cost; v) lowest power



tariffs regime; vi) government offers zonal relaxation to investors; vii) government and NGO support to institutes developing conservation technologies.

Decades of terrorism bore a huge impact on the flora of the region which was left in neglect. Many herbs are extinct today and some individuals from prominent universities have taken it upon themselves to dig deeper and find ways to obtain these species from another place to be propagated once again in the valley. The Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, SKUAST-Kashmir, is the frontrunner in the initiative.

The time has come to reclaim the natural ethnobotany of the region. Scholars from the University of Kashmir (KU) among other universities are reviving the trusted age-old ethnobotanical practices in J&K. For centuries mankind has used plants to alleviate all suf-

fering, only excluding death. They are researching medicinal plants, investigating their uses, and gauging the profitability of their commercial plantation. 24 lesser-known medicinal plants are already in process of becoming commercial successes. By the end of next year, these parks will be open for tourism to educate people on the uses of traditional medicine in the times we need it the most.

Propagation of these plants in such parks will also uplift the local economy. Villagers have started taking a keen interest in herbs because the union government has many policies and attractive zero-cost start-up avenues in place to help anyone in the Agri-preneurship sector. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across the Union Territory conduct free seminars and training sessions for anyone interested in the field. They provide zero-interest loans and free saplings even to

people who start as small as a kitchen garden.

Gujjars and Bakerwals are being roped in for research works. Though they make up the most vulnerable and financially lower strata of society, they are in many ways the healthiest because of the medicinal and nutritional knowledge passed onto them for generations.

To further popularise the usage, a 100-crore project 'The Institute of High Altitude Medicinal Plants' has been established at Baderwah in the Doda district.

The Post-Harvest Management Centre for Medicinal Plants at Baderwah has drying facilities, sorting, processing, certification, packaging, and scientific storage of herbal raw materials to secure farmers a better price. It will link with the local Agriculture University to provide Research and Development backup in cultivation, post-harvest management, and marketing including e-market support to farmers.

The institute is the first of its kind in the Indian subcontinent. Farmers in the area are being imparted education on herbal plants generating employment avenues. The Ministry has also developed Seed Germplasm centers to provide quality seeds to farmers and institutes, micro processing units, mandis, and storage godowns for the seeds. As planned, J&K is soon going to secure the title of the world's largest herbal sanctuary.

of the day quote

Passport services in the country have improved by 500 per cent ever since the Modi government came to power in 2014

V MURALEEDHARAN | UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mass Transport and Metro Rail are the only traffic and pollution-free systems in the world. There is a need to expand this in Hyderabad also. Whether the Central government cooperates or not, we will create better connectivity in the city

K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CM

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Indian National Congress upon winning a majority in the assembly elections for Himachal Pradesh

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

SHORT TAKES

Jumbo electrocuted

Raigarh: A male elephant calf died of electrocution on a sugarcane field in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district on Friday, a forest official said. The carcass of a one-year-old elephant was found with a live wire in its mouth in Puslada village under Gharghoda tehsil, said Stylo Mandavi, the divisional forest officer (DFO) Raigarh division. The forest personnel rushed to the spot and post-mortem was conducted by a team of veterinarians, she said. Preliminary investigations have revealed that a herd of 19 elephants had wandered into the village on Thursday night and the calf from the group came in contact with an electric wire in the sugarcane field and died, the official said.

Cop ends life

Mumbai: A 57-year-old police constable allegedly hanged himself to death at his native village in Dhule district of north Maharashtra, an official said Friday. The incident took place on Thursday evening at Pohbara in Sakri taluka and the deceased constable was identified as Kaluram Chaitram Ahire, he said. "Ahire was posted at the Mantralaya, the state secretariat, in Mumbai for security. He had been at his native place since the last few days," he said.

Man arrested

Mumbai: A 43-year-old man has been arrested here for allegedly killing his 74-year-old mother over property dispute in suburban Juhu and disposing of the body near the hill station of Matheran, city police said Thursday. Juhu Police on Wednesday recovered the body of the deceased, Beena Kapoor, from a gorge along the Neral-Matheran Road, an official said. Sachin Kapoor, her son, allegedly killed her by hitting her with a baseball bat with the help of his domestic help on Tuesday morning, he said. Police arrested both the accused.

Body found

Bareilly: The body of a missing 10-year-old boy was found hanging from a tree in the Dohra area here on Friday morning, police said. Divyanshu, who lived with his grandparents, had gone missing on Tuesday while playing outside his house, Superintendent of Police (city) Rahul Bhatti said. Police said the family members claimed that the minor was abducted and later killed. The body has been sent for post-mortem and further action will be taken after the report comes, the SP said.



The Central government should put pressure on the Sri Lankan government for providing compensation to the families of the fishermen who were shot dead by the Lankan navy

VAIKO | MDMK LEADER

PM GREETES SONIA ON BIRTHDAY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday greeted former Congress president Sonia Gandhi on her 76th birthday. Modi tweeted, "Birthday greetings to Smt. Sonia Gandhi Ji. Praying for her long and healthy life"



Conduct inquiry into madrasas admitting non-Muslim kids: NCPCR

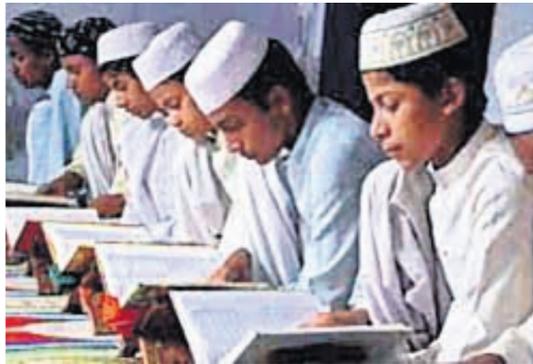
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: Apex child rights body NCPCR has asked all states and Union Territories to conduct an inquiry into all government-funded and recognised madrasas that are admitting non-Muslim children.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Chairperson Priyank Kanoongo, in a letter to all chief secretaries, noted that children belonging to non-Muslim communities are attending government-funded or recognised madrasas. "It is also learnt by the commission that some States and Union Territories are providing them with scholarships too."

"It is a clear-cut violation and contravention of Article 28(3) of the Constitution of India that prohibits educational institutions from obligating the children to take part in any religious instruction, without the consent of the parent," the letter stated.

Madrasas, as institutions, are primarily responsible for imparting religious education to children, the commission said, adding it is learnt that those madrasas funded or recognised by the government are imparting both religious and to some extent formal education to children. "In view of the above facts, the



NCPCR chairperson Priyank Kanoongo, in a letter to all chief secretaries, noted that children belonging to non-Muslim communities are attending government-funded or recognised madrasas

The commission also asked the states and Union Territories to map all unmapped madrasas in your states and Union Territories and admit any or all children into schools for availing formal education with immediate effect

commission, in exercising its powers recommends a detailed inquiry of all government-funded/recognised madrasas who are admitting non-Muslim children in your states and Union Territories.

"The inquiry should include physical verification of children attending such madrasas. Subsequent to the inquiry, admit

all such children in schools for availing formal education," the NCPCR letter stated.

The commission also asked the states and Union Territories "to map all unmapped madrasas in your states and Union Territories and admit any or all children into schools for availing formal education with immediate effect".

Delhi Congress VP, 2 councillors join AAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: In a jolt to the Congress days after being drubbed in the MCD polls, the party's Delhi unit vice president Ali Mehdi and two newly-elected councillors joined the Aam Aadmi Party on Friday.

The two Congress councillors - Sabila Begum and Nazia Khatoon - along with Mehdi, joined the AAP, taking its tally in the MCD to 136.

The anti-defection law does not apply to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi polls.

AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said the Congress leaders decided to join his party after seeing the work done by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"We have invited the BJP and the Congress to work for the betterment of Delhi. I am very happy to announce that Delhi Congress vice-president Ali Mehdi and the party's two newly elected councillors Sabila Begum and Nazia Khatoon are joining the AAP," Pathak said at a press conference.

He said Nehru Vihar block president Aleem Ansari, Delhi Congress executive member Haji Khushnood, Mustafabad block president Javed Chowdhary and Shiv Vihar block president Ashok Baghel are also joining the AAP.

"I heartily welcome everyone to the AAP. We will work more strongly and effectively in the MCD with their cooperation," said Pathak.

UCC Bill introduced in RS amid ruckus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: A controversial private member's Bill that seeks to provide for a panel to prepare a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) was introduced in the Rajya Sabha Friday.

"The Uniform Civil Code in India Bill, 2020" was introduced in the Upper House amid protests from opposition parties. BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena moved for leave to introduce the Bill to provide for the constitution of the national inspection and investigation committee for preparation of a Uniform Civil Code and its implementation throughout India and for matters connected therewith during the private member's business.

However, opposition members from Trinamool Congress (TMC), Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Samajwadi Party (SP), Communist Party of India (CPI), CPI (Marxist), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Congress protested against the introduction of the Bill saying, if passed, it will "destroy" the social fabric and unity in diversity that is prevalent in the country.

With the Opposition members seeking withdrawal of the Bill, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar called for division and the motion for introduction of the Bill was passed with 63 votes in favour and 23 against it. In the past, although the Bill

was listed for introduction, it was not moved in the Upper House. The Bill envisages a collection of laws to protect the personal rights of all citizens without considering religion.

"We have a private members' Bill that is totally unconstitutional, unethical, anti-secular. It is being introduced as a private member's Bill by an indulgent government to test the waters in a very dangerous game. This is brinkmanship," Jawhar Sircar of the Trinamool Congress said.

MDMK MP Vaiko accused the ruling dispensation of "implementing one after another agenda of the RSS and BJP" and said, "They have finished Kashmir. Now they have come to common civil code."

Similarly, Abdul Wahab of Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) said the Bill has been attempted to be introduced many times in the past and "this is a sort of provocation deliberately the BJP" and asserted that the uniform civil code cannot be implemented in India.

Leader of the House, Piyush Goyal objected to the allegations of the Opposition members. "It is a legitimate right of a member to raise an issue, which is a directive principle of the Constitution...Let this subject be debated in the House. At this stage to cast aspersion on the government, to use the names of the very members of the constituent assembly to try to criticise at the introduction stage is uncalled for," he retorted.

Shraddha's father seeks death penalty for Aaftab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 9: Vikas Walkar, father of Shraddha Walkar who was murdered allegedly by her live-in partner Aaftab Poonawala in Delhi, Friday demanded that the accused be hanged to death for "brutally killing" his daughter.

Blaming the Vasai police in Maharashtra, he said his daughter would have been alive had they acted on her complaint against Poonawala in 2020. He also demanded that an inquiry be conducted against the family members of the accused and they be given strictest possible punishment. Poonawala allegedly strangled



Shraddha and cut her body into 35 pieces which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence in Mehrauli in south Delhi in May this year, before dumping them across the city over several days. He was arrested in Delhi in November.

"Aaftab Poonawala killed my daughter brutally, he should get a strict punishment. He should be hanged to death for killing my daughter...There should be a stern action against whosoever is involved in the case," Walkar told reporters here after meeting

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis along with Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kirit Somaiya.

He was addressing a press conference for the first time after his daughter's sensational murder came to light in November. "There should be an inquiry against Poonawala's family members, including his parents and brother, and they should be given maximum punishment. Whoever is involved in this conspiracy of killing should also be punished," he said.

"Due to the death of my daughter, my family members and I are sad and cannot forget the incident. Due to stress, I am also feeling unwell. Whatever happened to her is very saddening and should not be happen with anybody else," he said.

Walkar said Delhi and Vasai police were conducting a joint probe into the case, which was now going on properly. "But I was annoyed by the non-cooperation of Tulinj and Manikpur police in Vasai (town in Palghar district)...Had they acted swiftly, my daughter would have been alive now or there would have been much help in collecting evidence," he added.

He said he has full faith in law and judiciary. Walkar said his daughter and Poonawala first met on a dating app.

"Due to some mobile apps, people are facing problems and there should be some control on it. There should be a rethink or a debate on the freedom that a person enjoys after completing 18 years of age. They should be counselled and there should be control on them," he said. There should be religious awareness as well, he said without elaborating further. He said he had told his daughter that he was against her relationship with Poonawala.



Washermen dry clothes at Hathi Ghat behind the Taj Mahal, in Agra

PTI PHOTO

Shortage of 1.35L personnel in 3 services

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: The three services are reeling under a shortage of 1.35 lakh personnel with the maximum number of vacancies of 1.18 lakh in the Army, according to details provided by the government in Lok Sabha Friday.

The total shortage in the Indian Navy (sailors) was estimated at 11,587 till September 30, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said in reply to a question. He said the number of vacant posts in the

Indian Air Force (Airmen and Non-Combatant) as on November 1, 2022, was 5,819.

The number in the Army was till July 1 and it included junior commissioned officers and other ranks. "A total of 4000 vacancies have been advertised for JCOs/OR in the Indian Army. A total of 3,000 vacancies have been advertised for Agniveers in the year 2022 in the Indian Navy. 3,000 vacancies have been advertised in the Indian Air Force as Agniveer-vayu in the year 2022," Bhatt said.

Noting that on average, 60,000 vacancies occur in all three services every year, out of which approximately 50,000 vacancies are for the Army, the minister said due to the suspension of recruitment rallies in the last two years because of the COVID-19 situation, there was a shortfall of 1,08,685 jawans in the Indian Army at present.

With the improvement in the COVID-19 situation and the start of the recruitment, these vacancies are expected to come down in coming

years, he added. To a separate question, he said approximately 45,906 acres of defence land under the management of different services and organisations of the defence ministry is presently lying vacant.

In response to another question, Bhatt said the government has undertaken the modernisation of the defence airfield infrastructure in two phases. The budgetary allocation made for modernising airfields under phase-I was Rs 1,215.35 crore and phase II is Rs 1,187.17 crore, he said.

Air quality in Mumbai getting worse than Delhi

EXPERTS SAY RAPID CONSTRUCTION, ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND INCREASING POLLUTION FROM VEHICLE EMISSIONS ARE SOME OF THE FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETERIORATING AIR QUALITY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Dec 9: India's financial capital Mumbai has been witnessing "very poor" air quality in recent days.

It is usually the national capital, Delhi, that makes headlines for having dangerous levels of air pollution during the winter months.

But Mumbai, which has a vast coastline and is considered to have better air quality, overtook Delhi pollution levels several times this week, the BBC reported. Mumbai has joined a growing list of Indian cities that have bad air.

Experts say rapid construction, adverse weather conditions and



increasing pollution from vehicle emissions are some of the factors

responsible for the deteriorating air quality. The level of PM 2.5 - fine

particulate matter that can clog lungs and cause a host of diseases - was 308 in the city on Friday morning at 8.30 a.m., compared to Delhi's reading of 259, according to government data, the BBC reported.

Levels between 200 and 300 are considered poor and any reading between 300 to 400 is categorised as very poor. Many Indian cities, including Delhi, Kolkata, Kanpur and Patna, often report PM 2.5 levels well above the safe limit.

A figure between zero and 50 is considered "good", and between 51 and 100 is "satisfactory", according to the air quality index

or AQI. Meanwhile, local hospitals in Mumbai have reported an increase in the number of people coming in with breathing difficulties and other ailments related to the poor air quality, the BBC reported.

Doctors have advised people to wear masks and avoid going out when not necessary. Mumbai's civic officials say they were taking urgent steps to improve the air quality.

Bad air quality in Indian cities was causing serious health issues to people. A Lancet study reported that pollution led to more than 2.3 million premature deaths in India in 2019, the BBC reported.

international



SAARC Charter
Day today is a reminder of the vast untapped potential of regional development, connectivity and cooperation among countries of South Asia
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAK PRIME MINISTER

POLLUTION WOES: SL SHUTS SCHOOLS

Schools across Sri Lanka were closed Friday as health and environment officials said the air quality in most parts of the island nation was unhealthy partly due to extreme weather conditions. Polluted air from neighbouring India was aggravating the problem, authorities said



of the day quote

A society could not prosper until it was run under the principle of justice
IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PAK PM



In eastern Congo last week, M23 rebels killed at least 131 civilians, including 17 women and 12 children
STEPHANE DUARRIC | CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR ANTONIO GUTERRES



As it gets cold, the risks are simply much, much greater and the situation worsens even more today, literally speaking, when Sweden's largest nuclear power reactor Oskarshamn 3 is shut down
ULF KRISTERSSON | SWEDEN PM



Kremlin critic jailed for denouncing Ukraine war



Moscow, Dec 9: A prominent Russian opposition figure was Friday sentenced to 8 1/2 years in prison after being convicted on charges stemming from his criticism of the Kremlin's action in Ukraine.

The sentence handed to Ilya Yashin, one of the few Kremlin critics to have stayed in Russia, offered the latest indication of an intensified crackdown on dissent by Russian authorities. "With that hysterical sentence, the authorities want to scare us all but it effectively shows their weakness," Yashin said in a statement through his lawyers after the judge passed the sentence. "Only the weak want to shut everyone's mouth and eradicate any dissent." Yashin was charged with spreading false information about

Putin: More prisoner exchanges possible

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin says more US-Russian prisoner exchanges are possible. Putin spoke Friday, a day after Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout was swapped for WNBA star and two-time Olympian Brittney Griner. Asked whether other prisoners could be swapped, Putin replied that "everything is possible," noting that "compromises have been found" to clear Thursday's exchange of Griner for Bout. "We aren't refusing to continue this work in the future," he added.

the military — a new offence added to the country's criminal law after Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine.

Speaking Monday just before sentencing, Yashin addressed Putin directly urging him to "immediately stop this madness, recognise that the policy on Ukraine was wrong, pull back troops from its territory and switch to a diplomatic settlement of the conflict."



Royal Mail workers gather in Parliament Square, as they hold a protest over pay and jobs, in London. The Communications Workers Union (CWU) has planned six days of strike over pay

SHORT TAKES

10 miners killed in coal mine explosion

Jakarta: Ten miners died in a coal mine explosion in Indonesia's West Sumatra province Friday and four others were rescued, officials said. "The last victim was found after a search in a 240-metre (800-foot) -long tunnel. Most of the victims suffered burns. All of the survivors experienced shortness of breath and were evacuated for further treatment," said Octaviano, a spokesperson for the local search and rescue agency, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

SL to resume flights from Chennai to Jaffna

Colombo: Sri Lanka is set to resume flights from the northern Jaffna peninsula to Chennai from Monday, three years after the island nation discontinued the services due to Covid, a spokesman from the Sri Lankan Airport Authority said Friday. "The commercial flight operations from Chennai International airport to Jaffna International airport will be back effective 12th December 2022," SLAA spokesperson Sumith de Silva told PTI.

SK truckers end 16-day strike

Seoul: Thousands of South Korean truckers are returning to work after voting Friday to end their 16-day walkout that disrupted construction and other domestic industries. Thousands of truckers seeking financial protections as fuel prices rise went on strike November 24. The government took aggressive steps to minimise interruptions such as by widening back-to-work orders on truckers and mobilising military vehicles to ease delays in industrial shipments.

China struggles with Covid cases after controls eased



AGENCIES

Beijing, Dec 9: A rash of Covid-19 cases in schools and businesses were reported by social media users Friday in areas across China after the ruling Communist Party loosened anti-virus rules as it tries to reverse a deepening economic slump.

Official data showed a fall in new cases, but those no longer cover big parts of the population after the government Wednesday ended mandatory testing for many people. That was part of dramatic changes aimed at gradually emerging from "zero-Covid" restrictions that have confined millions of people to their homes and sparked protests and demands for President Xi Jinping to resign.

Social media users in Beijing and other cities said coworkers or classmates were ill and some businesses closed due to lack of staff. It wasn't clear from those accounts, many of which couldn't be independently confirmed, how far above the official figure the total case numbers might be.

Xi's government began to loosen controls November 11 after prom-

The reports echo the experience of the United States, Europe and other economies that have struggled with outbreaks while trying to restore business activity

But they are a jarring change for China, where "zero Covid," which aims to isolate every case, disrupted daily life and depressed economic activity but kept infection rates low

ising to reduce their cost and disruption. Imports tumbled 10.9 per cent from a year ago in November in a sign of weak demand. Auto sales fell 26.5 per cent in October.

"Relaxing Covid controls will lead to greater outbreaks," said Neil Thomas and Laura Gloudeman of Eurasia Group in a report, "but Beijing is unlikely to return to the extended blanket lockdowns that crashed the economy earlier this year."

The changes suggest the ruling party is easing off its goal of preventing virus transmission, the basis of "zero Covid," but officials said that strategy still is in effect.

Restrictions probably must stay

in place at least through mid-2023, public health experts and economists say. They say millions of elderly people need to be vaccinated, which will take months, and hospitals strengthened to cope with a surge in cases. Officials announced a vaccination campaign last week.

On Friday, the government reported 16,797 new cases, including 13,160 without symptoms. That was down about one-fifth from the previous day and less than half of last week's daily peak above 40,000.

More changes announced Wednesday allow people with mild Covid-19 cases to isolate at home instead of going to a quarantine centre that some complained were crowded and unsanitary. That addressed a major irritant for the public.

A requirement for subway riders, supermarket shoppers and others to show negative virus tests also was dropped, though they still are needed for schools and hospitals.

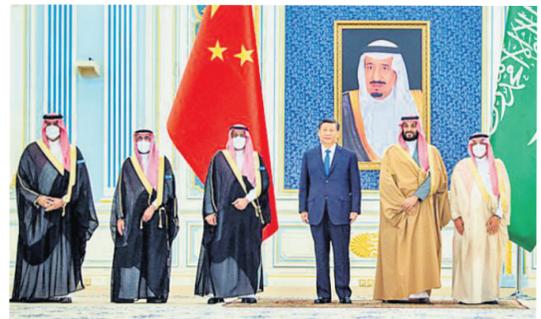
The requirement for hundreds of millions of people to be tested as often as once a day in some areas over the past two years helped the government spot infections with no symptoms. Ending that approach reduces the cost of monitoring employees and customers at offices, shops and other businesses. But it increases the risk they might spread the virus.

This week's changes follow protests that erupted November 25 in Shanghai, Beijing and other cities against the human cost of "zero Covid." It isn't clear whether any of the changes were a response to protests, which died out following a security crackdown.

The ruling party's Politburo on Wednesday declared stabilizing weak economic growth its priority, though leaders have said local officials still are expected to protect the public.

Xi meets Arab leaders

Oil giant Saudi Arabia is a top supplier to China and the joint statement reaffirmed the importance of global market stability and energy collaboration, while striving to boost non-oil trade and enhance cooperation in peaceful nuclear power



REUTERS

Riyadh, Dec 9: Chinese President Xi Jinping met Gulf Arab leaders in Riyadh Friday in the first of two "milestone" Arab summits showcasing Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as an aspiring leader of the Middle East and key partner for global powers.

Xi, who has been welcomed in Saudi Arabia with pomp and ceremony, signed a strategic partnership pact with the world's top oil exporter a day before Friday's meeting with the energy-rich, six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council. He was due to hold wider talks later with leaders of Arab League states spanning the Gulf, Levant and Africa.

The United States is warily watching the growing influence of economic rival Beijing in the region, where China has vested interest as the world's biggest energy consumer and Chinese firms are expanding into technology and other infrastructure.

Xi's visit also comes at a time when Riyadh's long-standing alliance with Washington has been

strained over human rights issues, energy policy and Russia, as well as Gulf doubts about the commitment of main security guarantor America to the region.

At the start of the China-GCC summit, Prince Mohammed heralded a "historic new phase of relations with China".

He earlier pledged that Gulf states would remain "a safe and reliable source to supply the world with its energy needs", underlining that oil and gas would continue to be important energy sources for decades.

In a lengthy joint statement, Beijing and Riyadh committed to enhance cooperation and stressed principles of sovereignty and "non-interference", while affirming the importance of a peaceful solution to the Ukraine conflict.

Saudi Arabia and Gulf allies have defied US pressure to break with fellow OPEC+ oil producer Russia over its invasion of Ukraine and to limit dealings with China, as they try to navigate a polarised world order with an eye on national economic and security interests.

Sushmita Shukla named First VP of Federal Reserve Bank of NY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Dec 9: The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has appointed Indian-origin insurance veteran Sushmita Shukla as First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

As First Vice President, Shukla, 54, will be the institution's second ranking officer.

Her appointment was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the New York Fed said in a statement Thursday.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to work for a mission-driven organisation like the New York Fed," Shukla said in a statement. "I look forward to applying all that I've learned in my career, including my technology, operations, and risk-focused experiences, to furthering the key activities and supporting the dedicated leadership of this critical institution," she



added. Together with the Bank's President and Chief Executive Officer, Shukla will establish, communicate, and execute the strategic direction of the organisation. She will also serve as an alternate voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee.

"Sushmita is a dynamic, inspiring, and highly effective leader who brings extensive experience leading large-scale enterprises and transformation initiatives to the Bank," said John C Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York Fed. Shukla has served in leadership roles in the insurance industry for nearly 20 years, primarily leading operations, technology, and enterprise-wide transformation efforts.

CLIMATE CHANGE WOES

AGENCIES

Melbourne, Dec 9: With the scrutiny on climate change, the collapse of Australian ecosystems has received scant attention. But saving them is entirely possible.

Australia's iconic koala, listed as endangered in the Australian regions of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory in 2022, is unfortunately far from alone. Since European colonisation of Australia, roughly 230 years ago, at least 39 native mammal species have been driven to extinction. The Australian continent, with its extraordinary and largely unique (endemic) plants and animals, now has more than 1,900 threatened species and ecological communities.

Then in 2019 an intergovernmental body confirmed what many had been pointing out: we are in the midst of Earth's sixth mass ex-

THE KOALA IN THE COAL MINE



inction event. Using the fossil record as a reference for "normal" rates of extinction, we are now seeing rates of extinction tens, hundreds or thousands of times higher than expected. It's a crisis no less catastrophic than climate change, but

one that garners far less attention.

Far too few recognise the need to combat climate change, environmental destruction, and extinction in an integrated way. Addressing climate change has rightly received considerable global

Ecosystems from the tropics to Antarctica, including the Great Barrier Reef, are showing signs of collapse

Ecologists and conservation biologists have been documenting and warning of the widespread demise of nature for decades

attention. But climate change is one dimension — albeit a big one — of the environmental and extinction crisis we face. Without a substantial increase in investment in conservation, habitat destruction and modification, invasive species, pollution, and disease will continue to be key threats.

If we hope to turn things around, we need stronger, not weaker environmental legislation. And ultimately, if environmental decline is to stop, we will need to confront the main driver of these issues: consumption and living unus-

tainably. Climate change, extinction, and environmental health are inextricably linked.

Protecting forests, either on land or underwater, helps to capture and store carbon thereby helping to fight climate change. It also provides homes for countless species. Restoring whale populations can increase the productivity of oceans, as what whales leave behind after their meals helps to fertilise microscopic phytoplankton, which themselves capture carbon and drive food chains. Restoring or protecting nature via returning species to landscapes, often known as 'rewilding', is seen as a key ingredient in fighting climate change and extinction. Everything is linked, and needs to be managed as though it is. Another key ingredient for change is investment. The more countries invest in conservation, the better their conservation outcomes will be.

Sen. Kyrsten leaves Democratic Party

AGENCIES

Washington, Dec 9: Democratic Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona announced Friday that she now has registered as an independent, but she does not plan to caucus with Republicans, ensuring Democrats will retain their narrow voting majority in the Senate.

Sinema has modeled her political approach on the renegade style of the late Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, and has frustrated Democratic colleagues at times with her overtures to Republicans and opposition to Democratic priorities.

Rather than assailing the Democratic Party in her statement, she said she was "declaring my independence from the broken partisan system in Washington."

At the White House, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre praised Sinema as a "key partner" in passing some of President Joe Biden's



Sinema to register as independent
She says she will not caucus with Republicans

priorities and said the switch "does not change the new Democratic majority control of the Senate. ... We have every reason to expect that we will continue to work successfully with her."

While unusual for a sitting senator to switch party affiliation, the move does appear to hold more impact on Sinema's own political brand than the operations of the Senate.

of the day quote

Government aims to complete the first tranche of proceeds from Hindustan Zinc Limited. This would help the Centre meet its disinvestment target of Rs 65,000 crore for the current fiscal

Trade in goods, including passenger vehicles, is one of the areas under negotiations based on overall package of gains and give-aways, which takes into consideration the ambitions and sensitivities of both the sides (India-UK)

Twitter will soon start freeing the name space of 1.5 billion accounts. These are obvious account deletions with no tweets and no login for years

Nov thermal coal imports plummet

Paytm to consider share buyback

BharatPe moves against Grover

67 entries under PLI for specialty steel

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TECH STOCKS ROUT

Snapdeal defers ₹1,250cr IPO

THE CHANGE OF SNAPDEAL'S AMBITIOUS PLANS COMES AS TECH STOCKS IN INDIA THAT WERE LISTED IN RECENT YEARS FACE INVESTORS' WRATH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: SoftBank-backed e-commerce marketplace Snapdeal has deferred its Rs 1,250 crore IPO, joining the list of startups that have decided to shelve their initial public offering (IPO) plans this year.

Snapdeal filed its initial public offering (IPO) regulatory papers for approval in December 2021, a year that saw many stock market debuts and record fund raising by Indian startups. But many are delaying IPOs amid a stock market rout that has raised concerns over frothy tech valuations.

It filed a request this week with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to withdraw its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) amid a sell-off in tech stocks worldwide. "Considering the prevailing market conditions, the company has decided to withdraw the DRHP. The company may reconsider an IPO in the future, depending on its need for growth capital and market conditions," a Snapdeal spokesperson said.

The company has not decided on any fresh timeline for the IPO. "There is no appetite for tech stocks right now," said the source.

Snapdeal filed the IPO papers with Sebi last December, following the public listing of several tech companies like Zomato, Paytm, Nykaa and Nazara Technologies. Sebi was yet to approve Snapdeal's proposed IPO.



Snapdeal, which competes with larger rivals Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart in India's booming e-commerce space has joined the likes of Boat, PharmEasy and Droom, who have shelved their IPO plans

Founded by Kunal Bahl and Rohit Bansal in 2010, Snapdeal had planned to use the bulk of the IPO proceeds to fund organic growth. In its draft public offering, Snapdeal was aiming for a primary issuance of shares worth Rs 1,250 crore. The company was also looking for an offer-for-sale (OFS) from existing investors of up to 3.07 crore shares.

Snapdeal's largest shareholder SoftBank, which owns a 35.67 per cent stake via its affiliate Starfish Pte Ltd, was expected to sell up to 2.4 crore shares, while another shareholder chip maker Foxconn's affiliate Wonderful Stars Pte Ltd had planned to sell up to 29.7 lakh shares

India is one of the fastest growing economy in the world and there are a lot of opportunities available in India. We will be the number one manufacturing automobile hub in the world

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

BSNL 5G IN 5-7 MONTHS

State-owned BSNL's 4G technology will be upgraded to 5G in 5-7 months and rolled out across 1.35 lakh telecom towers the company has in the country, Union telecom and railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. He added the government has plans to increase the telecom technology development fund from Rs 500 crore per annum to Rs 4,000 crore to encourage the indigenous innovation



Govt seeks Parl nod for add'l spending of ₹3.25L-cr this fiscal

This additional spending is over and above the proposed amount in Budget 2022-23

REUTERS

New Delhi, Dec 9: Indian government has sought parliamentary approval Friday for net additional spending of Rs 3.25 lakh crore for the current financial year, spurred by a jump in expenditures on fertiliser and food subsidies amid the Ukraine war.

The government sought approval for gross additional spending of Rs 4.36 lakh crore, it told parliament, after earlier pegging total expenditure for the year at Rs 39.45 lakh crore in budget estimates.

India was seeking to spend an additional Rs 1.09 lakh crore on fertiliser subsidies, according to the document submitted in the parliament. This will take the total spending for such subsidies to Rs 2.14 lakh crore in 2022/23.

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

Approval also was sought to spend an additional Rs 601.1 billion on food subsidies, the document showed.

The total amount to be spent on food subsidies would rise to Rs 2.67 lakh crore in 2022/23, compared to a budget estimate of Rs 2.07 lakh crore. The government also wants to spend an additional Rs 164 billion for a rural employment guarantee scheme in 2022/23. This would take the total spending on the job guarantee scheme to Rs 894 billion.

To increase its spending on a rural affordable housing scheme, the Indian government sought an additional Rs 284.22 billion.



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

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To increase its spending on a rural affordable housing scheme, the Indian government sought an additional Rs 284.22 billion.

POSITIVE SENTIMENT

Inflows via mutual fund SIPs skyrocket

THIS WAS ALSO THE 21ST STRAIGHT MONTH OF INFLOWS INTO EQUITY SCHEMES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: Flows in the mutual fund industry through systematic investment plans or SIPs route rose to an all-time high of Rs 13,306 crore in November, reflecting the growing maturity and confidence of investors.

However, inflows in equity mutual fund schemes plunged 76 per cent to Rs 2,258 crore in November from Rs 9,390 crore in the preceding month, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed on Friday.

As per the data, flows through SIP was Rs 13,306 crore in November, surpassing the previous high of Rs 13,041 crore in October.

The inflows through SIPs have been above the Rs 12,000-crore mark since May. It was Rs 12,976 crore in September, Rs 12,693 crore in August, Rs 12,140 crore in July, Rs 12,276 crore in June and Rs 12,286 crore in May. Before that, it stood at Rs 11,863 crore in April.

With this, the total inflow has reached Rs 87,275 crore in the first eight months of the current fiscal. This came following an inflow of over Rs 1.24 lakh crore in the 2021-22 financial year.



about 6.04 crore. Apart from equity, debt-oriented mutual fund schemes witnessed a net infusion of Rs 3,668 crore during the period under review after withdrawing Rs 2,818 crore in the preceding month.

Other schemes - index funds, gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs), other ETFs and Fund of funds investing overseas - saw an inflow of Rs 10,394 crore. This was mainly driven by index funds, which contributed Rs 8,602 crore alone.

The Assets Under Management (AUM) of the 43-player industry rose to a record high of Rs 40.37 lakh crore at the end of November from Rs 39.5 lakh crore at the end of October.

Mutual fund folios, which have been touching all-time highs since the last three months, reached a fresh high at 13.97 lakh crore, besides, retail mutual folios too reached a record high at 11.17 lakh crore.

India, China trade deficit at \$51.5bn during April-Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: The trade deficit, difference between import and exports, between India and China has touched \$51.5 billion during April-October this fiscal, Parliament was informed Friday.

The deficit during 2021-22 had jumped to \$73.31 billion as compared to \$44.03 billion in 2020-21, according to the data provided by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

According to the data, imports during April-October this fiscal stood at \$60.27 billion, while exports aggregated at \$8.77 billion.

He said that the merchandise exports from India to China have increased from \$11.93 billion in 2014-15 to \$21.26 billion in 2021-22, showing an increase of 78.2 per cent over the last six years.

Imports from China, on the other hand, have increased from \$60.41 billion in 2014-15 to \$94.57 billion in 2021-22.

Forex kitty hits 3-month high

Foreign exchange reserves have declined from \$632.7 billion at the beginning of this year, as the RBI has sold a portion of the reserves to ease volatility in the currency markets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 9: India's foreign exchange reserves soared by \$11.02 billion to reach \$561.162 billion, over three-month high, for the week ended December 2, Reserve Bank data showed Friday.

This is the fourth consecutive week of rise in the reserves. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had grown by \$2.9 billion

to \$550.14 billion. For the week ended November 11, the forex kitty had jumped by \$14.72 billion in its second fastest weekly acceleration ever.

In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global de-



velopments. Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by \$9.694 billion to \$496.984 billion during the week to December 2, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the FCA include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves increased by \$1.086 billion to \$41.025 billion. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$164 million to \$18.04 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was also down by \$75 million to \$5.108 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

FESTIVE DEMAND

Auto retail sales at new peak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: Automobile retail sales in India clocked best-ever performance last month aided by robust registrations across segments including passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and commercial vehicles, automobile dealer body FADA said Friday.

The overall automobile retail sales rose by 26 per cent to 23,80,465 units last month, as compared with 18,93,647 units in November 2021.

"November 2022 has clocked highest retails in the history of Indian automobile Industry with March '20 as an exception when retails were higher due to BS IV to BS VI transition," Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said.

The sales momentum continued even after the end of the festive period with the start of the wedding season, he added. PV retail sales rose by 21 per cent year on year last month to cross three lakh unit mark in November aided by better availability of models, new launches and increase in demand in rural areas. The overall PV retail sales last month rose to 3,00,922 units, as compared with 2,48,052 units in November 2021.

Apple most valuable firm globally; RIL in India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Dec 9: Apple, worth \$2.4 trillion, is the most valuable company, followed by Microsoft, with a value of \$1.8 trillion, the 2022 Hurun Global 500 report released by Hurun Research Institute said Friday.

Twenty Indian companies, up eight from last year, are among the 500 most-valuable ones in the world, the report added. With a valuation of \$202 billion, Reliance Industries was the most valuable Indian company on the list. Globally, it was the 34th biggest company.

Tata Consultancy Services, valued at \$139 billion, was the second most valuable Indian company on the list. Four companies of the Gautam Adani-led Adani Group featured in the top 500. These were Adani



Transmission, Adani Green, Adani Green Energy and Adani Total Gas. At \$63 billion, Adani Enterprises was the most valued among these.

Other companies featured in the top 10 globally included names like Alphabet, Amazon, Tesla, Berkshire Hathaway, Johnson and Johnson

This year the Hurun Global 500 lost \$11 trillion of value, losing all the value created last year but still \$7 billion ahead of where the Hurun Global 500 were two years ago

RUPERT HOEGWERF | CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF RESEARCHER, HURUN INDIA

and Exxon Mobil. The financial services sector was the biggest contributor to the list, with 104 companies from the sector on the list. United Health Group and Visa were the two financial services companies in the top 10.

While at \$2.4 trillion, the media and enterprises sector lost the most money in 2021. Meta Platforms faced a wipeout of \$618 billion last year; its valuation now stands at \$349 billion.

Saudi Aramco was the world's most valuable listed state-controlled company, with a total value of \$2.03 trillion. State Bank of India (SBI), at \$62 billion, and the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), at \$45 billion, were the two biggest state-owned Indian companies.

"Global markets have had a bad year, with the exception of India, where the benchmark Sensex was up 12 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng and Russia's MOEX were both down by half. Korea's KOSPI was down 31 per cent, Shenzhen Component Index was down 29 per cent, Nasdaq was down 21 per cent, Shanghai Composite Index was down 16 per cent, South Germany's DAX down 15 per cent and the UK's FTSE was flat," Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and chief researcher at Hurun India said.

Reliance Capital had received 4 binding bids at the company level and the other three are Oaktree, Hinduja, and Torrent Group. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had November 29 last year superseded the board of RCL in view of payment defaults and serious governance issues.

Reliance Capital is the third large NBFC against which the central bank has initiated bankruptcy proceedings under the IBC.

Reliance Cap e-auction to kick off Dec 19; base bid at ₹5,300 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 9: Lenders of debt-ridden Reliance Capital Ltd are believed to have finalised the process and rules for conducting an e-auction for the bidders.

According to sources, the e-auction will begin December 19, and it will follow ascending auction process.

The bid price of Rs 5,300 crore quoted by the Cosmea-Piramal consortium will be the base price for the planned auction, and in the round one, the bidders will have to bid more than the base value, sources said.

This is the first time that an e-auction of this scale and magnitude will take place for a resolution of an NBFC (non-banking finance company) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had November 29 last year superseded the board of RCL in view of payment defaults and serious governance issues.

Reliance Capital is the third large NBFC against which the central bank has initiated bankruptcy proceedings under the IBC.

The other two were Srei Group NBFC and Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL). The RBI subsequently filed an application for initiation of CIRP against the company at the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal.

CROATS DENY BRAZIL A JIG

GOALKEEPER LIVAKOVIC COMES TO THE RESCUE AGAIN AS LAST EDITION'S RUNNERS-UP CROATIA REACH FIFA WORLD CUP 2022 SEMIFINALS KNOCKING OUT TITLE FAVOURITES BRAZIL ON PENALTIES



TRUE CUSTODIAN: Croatia goalie Dominik Livakovic leads his team's celebration after their victory over Brazil in the quarterfinal, Friday

Al Rayyan, Dec 9: Croatia knocked Brazil out of the FIFA World Cup Friday, beating the five-time champions 4-2 in a penalty shootout to reach the semifinals for the second straight time. Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic saved a penalty attempt by Rodrygo and

Marquinhos later hit the post. The match had finished 1-1 after extra time, with both goals coming in the additional 30 minutes. Neymar scored late in the first half of extra time to give Brazil the lead, but Croatia equalized when Bruno Petkovic scored in the 117th. Neymar's goal moved him into a tie with Pelé as Brazil's all-time

leading scorer with 77 goals. That's according to FIFA, anyway, who have Neymar drawing alongside the legendary Brazilian on 77 goals for Brazil. However, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) records say otherwise. They state that Pelé actually scored 95 goals for his country in 113 games - not the 77 in 92 ap-

pearances that FIFA have on record. The disparity comes as a result of what the two organisations constitute to be an international match, with FIFA counting fixtures between two countries, while Brazil consider friendlies played against club sides - which they would do in the 20th century - as official games. And in those fixtures, against



Vinicius Junior consoles Neymar after their loss to Croatia, Friday

the likes of Inter Milan, Atletico Madrid and Atletico Mineiro, Pelé is said to have scored 18 goals in 22 appearances. So, according to CBF records, Neymar still has to score another 18 goals before he draws level with Pelé.

Croatia will next face either Argentina or the Netherlands to try to return to the World Cup final four years after losing the title to France.

Five of Croatia's last six matches at World Cups have gone to extra time, including in its penalty shootout win over Japan in the round of 16 in Qatar. The team has been successful in eight of its last 10 knockout matches at the tournament.

Brazil were trying to return to the semifinals for the first time since 2014. The team hadn't made it to the last four since hosting the tournament eight years ago, when the Selecao was embarrassed by Germany 7-1.

Brazil were trying to defeat a European opponent in the knockout stage of the World Cup for the first time since the 2002 final against Germany, when the team won for the last time.

Mooney guides Australia past India eyes in 1st T20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Navi Mumbai, Dec 9: Opener Beth Mooney made short work of a 173-run target with a belligerent 57-ball 89 (16x4) to power the Australian women's team to a convincing nine-wicket victory over India in the first T20I here Friday.

Mooney was helped by Tahlia McGrath's unbeaten 29-ball 40 (4x4, 1x6) and skipper Alyssa Healy's 23-ball 37 (4x4, 2x6). Australia thus took a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Earlier, the experienced Deepti Sharma blazed away to an unbeaten 15-ball 36 (8x4) to power India to 172/5. Richa Ghosh (36, 20b, 5x4, 2x6) and the returning Devika Vaidya (25) added 56 runs for the fifth wicket.

Chasing a stiff target, the formidable Australian opening pair of skipper Healy and Mooney gave Australia the start it needed, adding 73 runs in just under nine overs. Making matters worse was a dropped catch by Radha Yadav at backward point off Renuka Singh, giving Mooney a life when the batter was on 4.

Vaidya, playing her first T20I since her debut in 2014, effected the first breakthrough when she had Healy caught by Harmanpreet. The loss of the skipper failed to disturb

Australia's momentum as Mooney found an able ally in McGrath.

Earlier, India were off to a flying start with the teenaged Shafali Verma smashing Megan Schutt for a four and a six over long-on in the first over, which yielded 12 runs.

The seasoned Smriti Mandhana (28) cut debutant Kim Garth for a four, before Shafali slashed Ellyse Perry on the off-side for her second maximum, a ball after an inside edge went past the keeper for a boundary.

However, Perry had her revenge when she cramped Shafali for room on the leg side and the batter ended up giving a catch to skipper Perry. India reached 48/2, with Jemimah Rodrigues also back in the hut, at the end of the powerplay.

Sutherland had the well-set Mandhana caught by Mooney at point in a rather soft dismissal. Garth had the prized scalp of Harmanpreet - her first for Australia after representing Ireland for a decade - when the Indian captain played away from her body and hit it straight to fielder at cover. The duo of Ghosh and Vaidya then took over.

BRIEF SCORES

India 172/5 (Deepti Sharma 36 n o, Richa Ghosh 36; Ellyse Perry 2/10) lost to Australia 173/1 (Beth Mooney 89 n o, Tahlia McGrath 40 n o, Alyssa Healy 37) by 9 wickets.



Beth Mooney

BWF WORLD TOUR FINALS

Prannoy stuns Axelsen to end campaign on high



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, Dec 9: Already out of reckoning, top Indian shuttler HS Prannoy stunned world number one and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in three games to end his BWF World Tour Finals campaign with a memorable win here Friday.

The tie was already inconsequential for Prannoy, seeded third in the tournament, as he had lost his earlier two Group A matches but the Indian pulled off a shock 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 win over the top seed Dane in 51 minutes to at least end his campaign on a high.

This was Prannoy's second career win over Axelsen, whom he had beaten during the Indonesia Masters last year. The career head-to-head record is, however, in favour of Axelsen at 5-2.

Thursday, Prannoy had lost to China's Lu Guang Zu in his second Group A match to bow out of the semi-final race. The 30-year-old from Kerala had lost 21-23, 21-17, 19-21 in a gruelling 84-minute contest.

The top two players in each group will make it to the knockout stage. Prannoy was the lone Indian competing in the season-ending tournament.

Pride at stake for Men In Blue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chattogram, Dec 9: A struggling Indian team, severely depleted by a spate of on-field injuries and fitness-related problems, will be determined to avoid the ignominy of a clean sweep against Bangladesh in the final ODI of the three-match series here Saturday.

Bangladesh, riding on two contrasting yet brilliant knocks from Mehidy Hasan Miraz, have already sealed the series after winning the first two matches but if Litton Das' men can blank the 'Men in Blue' 3-0, it will be a historic first in the country's cricket.

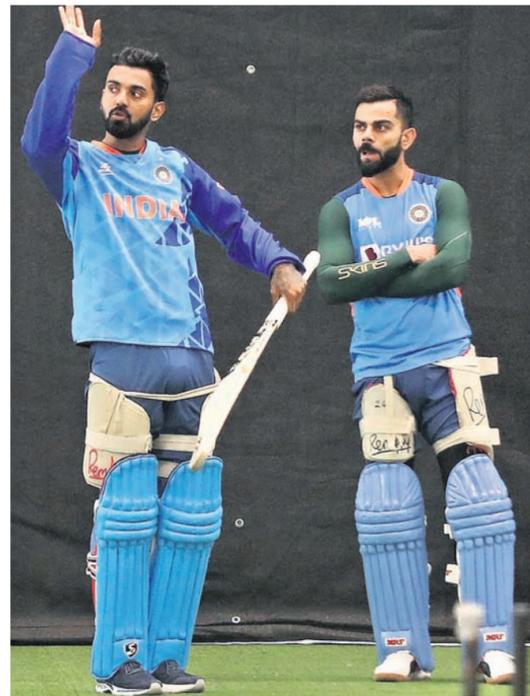
Not only will it be an icing on the cake for the hosts but also significantly dent the visiting team's confidence ahead of the Test series, starting at this very venue in less than a week's time (December 14).

For India, there were 20 cricketers originally available for this series since there was a very short turnaround time between the first ODI in Bangladesh and the last game in New Zealand as some players in both squads were common.

But call it a cruel twist of fate as within a week things have gone from bad to worse and they only have 14 fit and available players to choose from for the final game.

Such has been the plight that Kuldeep Yadav has been flown into Chattogram on SOS basis as the Indian bowling attack looks thin on experience. The left-arm wrist-spinner with 118 wickets from 72 ODIs will be the most experienced bowler in the line-up.

Regular skipper Rohit Sharma sustained a left thumb dislocation and has flown back home. Up and



Stand-in skipper KL Rahul (L) and Virat Kohli, along with Shikhar Dhawan (not in pic), would look to fill the gap of injured Rohit Sharma in the third ODI

coming pacer Kuldeep Sen suffered a back injury after playing his first international game. Seamer Deepak Chahar continued his saga of breaking down in almost all the series he has played since his comeback from a long lay-off.

Add to this, Axar Patel suffered a hit in the ribs and missed the

first game while Rishabh Pant, who flew all the way from New Zealand, reportedly had a niggle and had to be rested for excessive workload prior to this series. In fact, there will be two forced changes in the playing eleven with Rohit and Chahar already unavailable.

It is there to be seen whether

Poor show leads to drop in jersey prices in Qatar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

India bring in Ishan Kishan into the playing XI as an opener or stand-in skipper KL Rahul, who is now a designated middle-order batter-keeper in this format, decides to promote himself just like during the tour of South Africa.

The other option is continuing with Virat Kohli-Shikhar Dhawan combination and get someone like Rahul Tripathi, who can also bowl some cutters at mid 120 clicks, in the playing XI. If the team management goes for a pure batter rather than a utility player, then the stylish Rajat Patidar could get his first game for India.

In case of Chahar's replacement, there isn't a back-up pacer available and the team might not have an option but to fall back to all-rounder Shabbaz Ahmed, who could be the sixth bowling option.

India's five-pronged bowling attack will be Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umran Malik, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel. With no Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja, the Indian bowling unit's performance at the back-end has been far from impressive.

In the first match, it was plain and simple poor bowling when only one wicket to get and 51 runs still required, while in the second game, Bangladesh scored 200-plus runs after being six down for 69.

In the second game, Chahar's breakdown with another hamstring injury prompted skipper Rohit Sharma to make a terse statement about how one needs to get to the bottom of the issue to find out why so many players (fast bowlers especially) are getting injured in recent times.

Doha, Dec 9: The jersey prices of Germany and Belgium have dropped by a big margin in Doha following their poor performances at the 2022 Qatar World Cup.

The World Cup is not just a competition among the 32 squads but also a crucial market for the jersey sponsors. For some favourites who remain in Qatar, their jerseys have been sold out, but in stark contrast, for some other sides that have already left, their kits are unsalable.

In a shopping mall located in Doha, the jerseys of England, Argentina and Portugal who moved into the quarterfinals, are the most sought after, but those of Germany and Belgium that failed to live up to the expectations have to be sold at a discount, reports Xinhua.

Four-star Germany suffered a shock elimination at the group stage, the price of their authentic jersey plummeted from 670 Qatari riyal (about 184 U.S. dollars) to 329 Qatari riyal (about 90.3 U.S. dollars), a Belgium jersey originally priced at 430 Qatari riyal also dropped nearly 50 per cent. Besides, the jerseys of Spain and Japan also fell in price by different degrees.

A customer who purchased a basket of discount merchandise told Xinhua that he was not a die-hard fan for these teams but just thought the price was nice for a jersey collection.

"We have prepared a large number of top favourite jerseys for the fans, but their unexpected eliminations make it difficult for us to destock, so we have to give a discount," a salesman said.

Aussies on top against Windies in second Test

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adelaide, Dec 9: Travis Head (175, 219b, 20x4) and Marnus Labuschagne (163, 306b, 14x4) posted big hundreds in a 297-run partnership to set Australia on course for a declaration in the second cricket Test Friday before Michael Nesar took two wickets (2/20) under lights to consolidate the home team's dominance in the day-night match against West Indies.

Head and Labuschagne helped Australia to 511/7 before stand-in skipper Steve Smith declared the innings just before the second interval on Day 2.

Opener Tagenarine Chanderpaul (47 batting, 98b, 3x4, 1x6) resisted the Australian bowling attack as West

Indies struggled to 102/4 at stumps. Paceman Nesar had West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite (19) and No.3 Shamarr Brooks (8) caught behind and Nathan Lyon took a return catch to dismiss Jermaine Blackwood (3) and become the leading all-time wicket-taker at the Adelaide Oval, surpassing the great Shane Warne's career haul of 56.

All-rounder Cameron Green chimed in late with the wicket of Devon Thomas (19) before Chanderpaul, in his second Test, and night-watchman Anderson Phillip (1) navigated the final four overs to stumps, with the West Indies still trailing by 409 runs.

Off-spinner Lyon moved to 57 wickets at the Adelaide Oval in his 12th test and is expected to play

a greater role as the pitch deteriorates this week.

Labuschagne also had a milestone moment earlier Friday when he surpassed 3,000 career Test runs in his 51st innings, a rate second only to Australian legend Donald Bradman.

He was on 120 overnight and Head was 114 when Australia resumed Day 2 at 330/3. After the dismissal of the duo, as well as Green, Alex Carey (41 n o, 54b, 6x4) guided Australia past 500.

Brief scores: Australia 511/7d (Travis Head 175, Marnus Labuschagne 163, Alex Carey 41 n o; Devon Thomas 2/53); West Indies 102/4 (Tagenarine Chanderpaul 47 batting; Michael Nesar 2/20). Match to continue.



Michael Nesar (2nd from L) was mobbed by teammates after he dismissed a West Indies batter, Friday

BIG WINS FOR ECOR, ODISHA FC; PRATIMA PROPS SPORTS ODISHA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 9: East Coast Railway (ECOR) and Odisha FC crushed their opponents mercilessly, while Sports Odisha edged past Odisha Police, courtesy a late goal by Pratima Nayak, in their respective Odisha Women's League (OWL) football tournament matches here, Friday.

At the Kalinga Stadium, skipper Manisha Nayak helped Sports Odisha to gain a two-goal advantage inside 20 minutes - 12th and 19th minutes. However, Eva Panna's 51st minute goal and a 74th minute spot-kick by Soni Behera put Odisha Police on level terms. But Pratima's 85th minute

strike gave Sports Odisha a well-deserved victory.

At the 7th Battalion ground, ECOR demolished OGP Club 10-0, thanks to skipper Supriya Routray (9th, 54th, 67th & 88th minutes) and Yumnam Kamala Devi (18th, 21st, 28th & 61st) as both scored four goals each. Tara Khatoon (45th) and Laharee Mangaraj (71st) scored the other two goals.

Meanwhile, Jasoda Munda's hat-trick helped Odisha FC blank Rising Student Club (RSC) 6-0 at the Capital Ground, with all the goals coming in the second half. Arifa Zaheer, Munica Minz and Pyari Xaxa, who came in as substitute, struck one goal each to complete the scoresheet.