



MORE IN STORE

Despite diverse roles in movies over years, actor Rakul Preet says her zest for exploring genres hasn't stopped

LEISURE P2



TOUGH WINTER AHEAD

Evacuations on at Ukraine's Kherson fearing damage to infra too severe for people to bear winter

INTERNATIONAL P10



NEW WORLD RECORD

TN batter Narayan Jagadeesan shatters the world record for highest- ever individual score in men's List A cricket

SPORTS P12

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12 PAGES | ₹5.00

3 WOMEN KILLED; 7 INJURED INCLUDING CHILD WHO SURVIVED MIRACULOUSLY TRAIN RAMS INTO STATION



- 8 derailed wagons climbed the foot-over-bridge, fell on waiting hall, ticket counter
- ECoR cancels 19 trains, short-terminates 6 and diverts 20 others
- Naveen, Vaishnav announce ex-gratia; Min Pramilla Malik visits spot



PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, Nov 21: A goods train derailed at Korai railway station in Jajpur district Monday morning, with wagons ploughing into waiting passengers, killing at least three of them, all women, and injuring seven others, including a two-and-half-year-old child, officials said.

East Coast Railway (ECoR) officials said that the accident took place at 6.44am when some people were waiting at the platform and the waiting hall for a passenger train.

Station staffers said that the loco pilot of the empty goods train moving from Dongoaposi to Chhatrapur applied sudden brakes, causing eight wagons to derail and plough into the passengers on the platform and the waiting hall.

Jajpur Additional District Magistrate Akshay Kumar Mallick said that some derailed wagons climbed the foot-over-bridge and fell on the waiting hall and ticket counter. All the wagons were later removed from the tracks and nobody is likely to be trapped underneath the debris, a senior police officer said.

Of the seven injured, the condition of one is serious but stable while six others were discharged after being administered first aid. Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Shibashis Maharana said three women have died in the incident, including a mother-daughter duo. **Continued on P4**

At least 162 die after quake hits Indonesia



AGENCIES

Cianjur, Nov 21: A powerful earthquake killed more than 162 people in Indonesia's West Java province Monday, with rescuers searching for survivors trapped under the rubble amid a series of aftershocks.

The epicentre of the 5.6 magnitude quake was near the town of Cianjur in mountainous West Java, about 75 km southeast of the capital, Jakarta. The region is home to over 2.5 million people.

West Java governor Ridwan Kamil said on Instagram that 162 people had been killed and 326 were injured.

Indonesia's disaster mitigation

agency (BNPB) still placed the death toll at 62 and rescuers were searching for 25 believed to be trapped under rubble and its spokesperson said the search would continue through the night.

Ridwan told reporters that given many buildings have collapsed, the death toll could rise.

There are residents trapped in isolated places ... so we are under the assumption that the number of injured and deaths will rise with time.

Indonesia straddles the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, a highly seismically active zone, where different plates on the Earth's crust meet and create a large number of earthquakes and volcanoes. **More P10**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It was good but the one I used to get in jail was much better

MARKET WATCH

| INDEX | VALUE | VARIATION |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| SENSEX | 61144.84 | ↓ 518.64 |
| NIFTY | 18159.95 | ↓ 147.70 |
| DOLLAR | 81.58 | ↑ ₹0.24 |
| EURO | 83.74 | ↓ ₹0.51 |
| GOLD | ₹52,411 | ↓ ₹177 |
| SILVER | ₹60,639 | ↓ ₹236 |

WEATHER

| | BHUB | CTK |
|----------|------------------|--------|
| MAX | 30.6°C | 30.2°C |
| MIN | 19.9°C | 19.5°C |
| Humidity | 67% | 65% |
| Rainfall | Nil | Nil |
| Forecast | Clear sky mostly | |

KHALLIKOTE RAGGING

9 students suspended

AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 21: The authorities of the state-run Khallikote Junior College here Monday put restriction on the entry of nine Plus-II students to the campus following allegation of ragging against them.

The nine students will remain away from the campus until further order as they were suspected to be involved in ragging of a girl student and create disturbance on the college premises, an official said.

A Plus II (first year) girl student Saturday complained to the principal about ragging by some senior students in the campus and creating disturbance in the classes by bursting crackers and passing comments. She said the girl students were not feeling safe in the campus.

While the complaint of the girl was under investigation by the anti-ragging committee, the college authorities took action against these students as a precautionary measure.

In the month of September, six of these students had also been suspended for a week-period from the campus as they were found involved in ragging to the junior students. "We have suspended these students as they allegedly created disturbance on the campus," said principal Radha Kant Nayak, adding that the anti-ragging committee is to ensure absence of these students on the campus.

He said the names of these students have already been communicated to the SP (Berhampur) and local police station as per the recommendation of the anti-ragging committee for their indiscipline activities on the campus October 29.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Monday directed the principal secretary of higher education department to take appropriate actions within eight weeks on alleged suffering of the students due to ragging in college campuses in Berhampur.

SHORT TAKES

10 HOPEFULS IN FRAY

Bhubaneswar: A total 10 contestants are in the fray for the December 5 bypoll in Padampur Assembly constituency after one aspirant withdrew his nomination paper, state chief electoral officer SK Lohani said. He said a total 13 persons including BJD's Barsha Singh Bariha, BJP's Pradip Purohit and Congress candidate Satyabhusan Sahu, filed their nomination on the last day November 17. "Of them, the papers of two persons were rejected during scrutiny," he said. The bypoll is being held post MLA Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha's death.

ENORMOUS TRAGEDY: SC

New Delhi: Terming as an "enormous tragedy" the Morbi bridge collapse that claimed 141 lives, the Supreme Court Monday asked the Gujarat High Court to periodically monitor the probe and other aspects including rehabilitation and award of "dignified" compensation to the victims. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli also turned down the submissions that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to ensure that incidents like the Morbi collapse do not happen again. **P9**

PADAMPUR BYPOLL

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MORBI MISHAP

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Humans may live on Moon soon: NASA

AGENCIES

London, Nov 21: Not just SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, the US space agency also thinks that humans could stay on the Moon for a longer period in this decade.

Howard Hu, who leads the Orion lunar spacecraft programme for NASA, told the BBC that the Artemis missions enable us to have a sustainable platform and transportation system that allows us to learn how to operate in that deep space environment.

"We're going to be sending people down to the surface and they're going to be living on that surface and doing science," Hu was quoted as saying in the report that came out Sunday.

"It's really going to be very



It's the first step we're taking to long-term deep space exploration, for not just the United States but for the world

HOWARD HU | ORION PROGRAMME MANAGER

important for us to learn a little bit beyond our Earth's orbit and then take a big step when we go to Mars," he added.

Five days into the 25.5-day Artemis I mission, Orion continues on its trajectory toward the Moon.

By Sunday, the uncrewed

Orion had traveled 232,683 miles from Earth and was 39,501 miles from the Moon, cruising at 371 miles per hour.

"It's the first step we're taking to long-term deep space exploration, for not just the United States but for the world," said Hu.

"I mean, we are going back to the Moon, we're working towards a sustainable programme and this is the vehicle that will carry the people that will land us back on the Moon again," the NASA official noted.

The US space agency last week sent its next-generation rocket into space as part of its ambitious, uncrewed Artemis I Moon mission which faced two failed attempts amid years of delays and billions of dollars spent.

The Space Launch System (SLS) rocket took off from Cape Canaveral in Florida and sent the Orion spacecraft on its way to Moon's orbit.

The Orion will continue onward to the Moon, which it will orbit for several days before its likely return to the Earth December 11.

WE CAN'T RECYCLE WASTED TIME

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TAYLOR SWIFT REIGNS OVER AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS

Singer Taylor Swift won maximum honours at the American Music Awards 2022 taking home six awards, including Artist of the Year. Other winners of the night included Beyonce, Harry Styles, BTS, Morgan Wallen, Tems, Wizkid and Kendrick Lamar each took two awards.

POWER RANGERS STAR JASON FRANK PASSES AWAY AT 49

Jason David Frank, who played the Green Power Ranger Tommy Oliver on the 1990s children's series *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*, is no more. He was 49. Justine Hunt, Frank's manager, informed this in a statement Sunday



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, a romantic link-up is about to be delivered at your doorstep, all wrapped in silver and tinsel! So, Ganesh hopes you are prepared. Don your best attire, check your breath and practice some sweet-talking.

TAURUS
This opt a good day for being too firm or demanding. Ganesh advises you to steer clear of conflicts, arguments disputes. If you cannot avoid confrontation be sure you are the one who will have to step back. Loss of face and self esteem may be unavoidable. You need to face the fact that this is not your day. Don't meddle in extraneous issues.

GEMINI
You will lend your innovative and imaginative spark to your initiatives, which will be quite a few, says Ganesh. Love will bring you immense satisfaction. And you will develop a special bond with your spouse or beloved. You, however, are likely to be dragged into a conflict and will be forced to pick a side.

CANCER
Today, every word coming out of your sweetheart's lips will be music to your ears. Your relationship with your relatives will be harmonious. You may steer clear of your troubles, if you learn to restrain.

LEO
The oath of friendship that you once took as a bunch of raggedy misfits still holds true, and your best buddies are the ones who will stand by your side through hell or high water. Ganesh sees in you the desire to cherish such friends and prove your appreciation by treating them with graceful munificence.

VIRGO
Today, you shall balance business and entertainment equally well. The day will be like an endless party, says Ganesh. The emptying of pockets will be proportional to the amount of time you spend doing nothing. But spend prudently, advises Ganesh, and let it not worry you.

LIBRA
Connect and Express – these are the two things you must aim for at work today. You tend to do both things supremely well, be it in a business dialogue on phone, in writing, or in meetings. Getting across to people is not an issue today. But all this work aside, the lingering feeling of wanting to chill out with your sweetheart may become more substantial towards the evening.

SCORPIO
Try adding an entirely new dimension to the way you approach relationships today, advises Ganesh. Being tractable will help iron out the creases in relationships with closed ones. But be wary of complete subjugation, warns Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Confidence-building measures will need to be taken up. Be the herald, and usher in new vigour and confidence in people around you. Your business is set to skyrocket and a fair share of profits are in the offing, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Memories of the bygone days will flash through your mind, creating a wave of nostalgia and compelling you to get in touch with old pals. On the other hand, there may be a feeling that your loved ones are demanding more than you can give, says Ganesh. But enjoying some light moments with your beloved in the evening will unburden you and charge you up for the next day.

AQUARIUS
Today will be about pleasure and pain! Plumbing, cleaning, grocery shopping, cooking... you can expect anything to weigh you down. Later, you can relax in a hot soak by candlelight, or unwind with a soothing aromatic massage.

PISCES
While you may have a wide circle of acquaintances, it is only a select few who you bless with your munificence. And that is precisely what you will be busy with, as a day filled with socialising and leisure-filled activities beckons, says Ganesh.

Kriti Sanon exudes 'Bond Girl' vibes



Mumbai: Since her stunning performance in the film *Mimi*, Kriti Sanon has welcomed a plethora of new fans into her fold.

The *Bachchan Paandey* actress knows a thing or two about the chemistry of bling, from stunning gold saree full of glitter and glamour to mini dress in deep red adorned with glitter to getting party ready in a head-to-toe shimmer silver blazer dress.

Kriti is preparing for *Bhediya*, her eagerly

awaited movie in which she will appear alongside Varun Dhawan. She has been spotted in a variety of eye-catching OOTDs during the promotional rounds of the same, and her most recent look is stealing hearts.

The James Bond franchise is known for its attractive 'Bond Girls' in addition to its glitzy gadgets and fast automobiles. Kriti Sanon channelled her inner Bond girl during the *Bhediya* promotions. Kriti chose a copper dress from Alamour the Label's racks. Her outfit, with its structured bust, thigh grazing slit, and figure-hugging silhouette, demonstrates a keen awareness of the feminine form. The ruched draping from the waist to the hips was designed to extend and flatter, accentuating all of the greatest features. Made from a thick satin fabric in an orange hue, this gown was made to stand out. Kriti's dress is worth Rs.27,600.

Kriti captioned her post as, "Kindly Copperate! ????????Bond Girl vibe!"

Bhediya is set to hit the cinemas November 25. She also has *Adipurush* with Prabhas, Saif Ali Khan and Sunny Singh.

AGENCIES



Ranveer wins hearts with his humility

Mumbai: Hindi film industry has a fraternity that has grown by leaps and bounds in the last couple of decades. It's fans are now not only limited to India and the Indian diaspora overseas, but includes anyone and everyone who love something different and fun.

However, at the end of the day, all of us are humans and are not expected to remember personal details of whoever we have met or heard about in life. At the recent Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, actor Ranveer Singh had an interesting interaction with former racing driver and journalist Martin Brundle when the latter admitted to 'momentarily' forgetting the actor.

It so happened that Martin, realising that he might not remember many details about Ranveer, asked him to introduce himself. Without batting an eyelid and with the widest grin on his face, the Bajirao Mastani actor said, "I am a Bollywood actor and I hail from Mumbai, India. I am an entertainer".

Ranveer's honest response has been winning hearts all across and is a great example on humility. Earlier, Ranveer was seen at the event chilling with sports personalities like Ben Stokes, Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt among others.

Ranveer Singh will soon be seen in a double role in Rohit Shetty's *Cirkus* later this year.

AGENCIES

Salman's stylist Rebello conducts workshop in City



Rebello (2nd from left) at a presser in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: Renowned fashion designer and actor Salman Khan's stylist Ashley Rebello visited Inter National Institute of Fashion Design (INIFD) here to conduct an 'Exclusive Design Workshop' with its students.

Rebello was impressed with the talent of the designing students at INIFD, Rebello said, "I am delighted to see that the INIFD students have been making a mark on global platforms. May it be New York Fashion Week or London Fashion Week or Lakme Fashion Week x FDCI, these students are shining

bright with their creative talent and making it big in the design world. I am sure that they would benefit a lot from today's session for the ongoing preparations in designing their collection for the international and national fashion weeks."

He has recently designed for the ongoing reality show *Bigg Boss 16* for Salman Khan.

On the work front, Rebello is currently working on Salman's projects such as *Tiger Zinda Hai 3* with Katrina Kaif, *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan* with Pooja Hegde, *Kick 2* and more. PNN

Rakul Preet's zest for exploring more genres



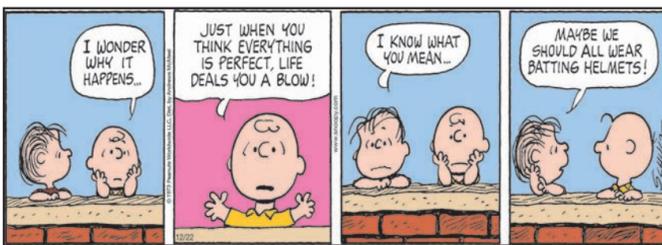
Mumbai: With her last releases like *Cuttputli*, *Doctor G*, and *Thank God*, Rakul Preet Singh was seen exploring different genres in her films. Her zest for exploring more genres as an actress does not stop here. During a recent media event, Rakul was seen speaking about the kind of films she wants to do, which includes, many of them ranging from out-and-out comedy to love stories.

While speaking at the event about her interest in trying her hands at different genres, she said "Truly, I haven't done an out-and-out comedy, yet. I would love to do an out-and-out comedy because in real life I believe I have a good sense of humour that no one has explored yet. I would also love to do a love story. That is something, I am really looking forward to. I haven't done a heartfelt Aashiqui kind of love story that still wrenches my heart. That is something I really hope happens."

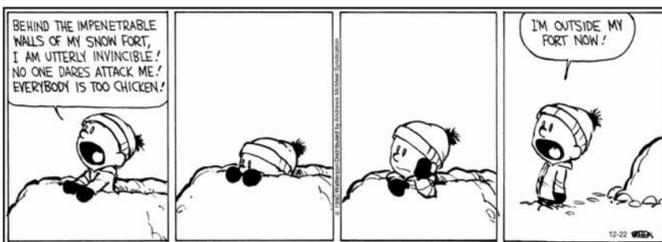
The actress is all set to continue her dream run and has an exciting slate of films ahead including *Chhatrivali* and the Kamal Haasan, Kajal Aggarwal starrer *Indian 2*, amongst other unannounced projects. AGENCIES

FUN post

PEANUTS



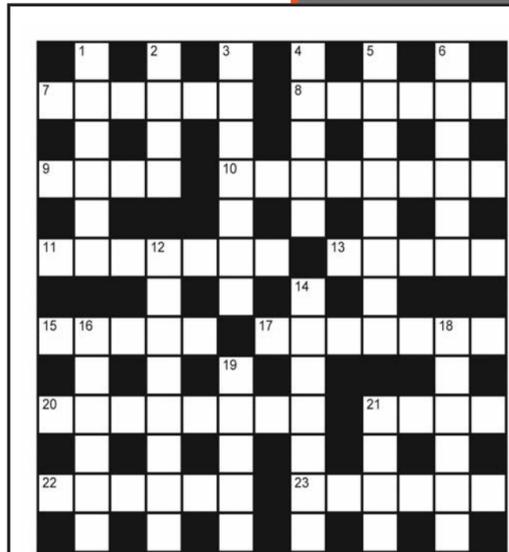
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



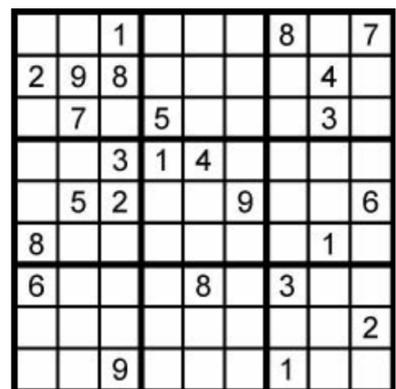
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Way across
 - 8 Motto
 - 9 Shoe dweller
 - 10 Instructing
 - 11 Swaggering show of courage
 - 13 Comical
 - 15 Appropriate
 - 17 Drawing effects
 - 20 Confidential or secret meeting
 - 21 Twosome
 - 22 Landlocked principality in the Himalayas
 - 23 Distributes
 - Down**
 - 1 Plant
 - 2 Redact
 - 3 Ocean feature (3,4)
 - 4 Common
 - 5 Hunting dog
 - 6 Artillery gun
 - 12 Truthfulness
 - 14 Farewell
 - 16 Comfort
 - 18 Formal written statement of relinquishment
 - 19 Chess pieces
 - 21 Yesteryear

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

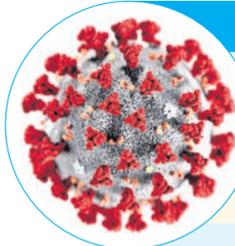


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



IN MEMORIAM

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik pays tribute to former CM Harekrushna Mahtab on his birth anniversary in Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World | 64,32,15,399 | 62,24,37,418 | 66,26,455 |
| India | 4,46,69,421 | 4,41,32,433 | 5,30,586 |
| Odisha | 13,36,304 | 13,26,915 | 9,204 |

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MUTUAL FUNDS

Sahi Hai



ANNUAL DAY: Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy addresses the 49th anniversary celebration of the premier Odia daily on the office premises in Rasulgurh area of Bhubaneswar, Monday. The publication's Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and Odisha Sahitya Akademi President Hrusikesh Mallick on the dais

Rejuvenating waterbodies across the nation

After restoring 39 lakes and 48 ponds in seven south states, Indian environmentalist Arun Krishnamurthy is set to take the fight against pollution to remaining states of the country and beyond. As an expert panelist, the founder of Environmentalist Foundation of India will be at 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2022 on Climate Change: The Power of Youth' to be held in Bhubaneswar and sharing his thoughts with the nature lovers

At a time when the number and size of waterbodies are shrinking faster than ever due to rampant urbanisation, astonishingly 39 lakes and 48 ponds in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Puducherry and Gujarat have been restored to their previous state. The man who has made this miracle a reality in just over a decade is 36-year-old Arun Krishnamurthy, a former Google employee.

Taking a community-based collaborative effort, focusing on the revival of freshwater bodies, the conservation group has its presence in 16 states including Odisha.

Waste. "We're at a really critical juncture now," Krishnamurthy says. "How do we sustain India's development, and make sure all our fellow human beings are taken care of, with minimal damage to nature?" he asks.



The founder of Chennai-based Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI), a committed activist to the cause of conservation of lakes and other waterbodies across India, has found a mention in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat in March.

Just a year after launching EFI, in May 2008, Arun embarked upon his first project - cleaning up of Gurunadham Cheruvu lake of Andhra Pradesh. Over 60 volunteers showed up through word of mouth; the corporation sent garbage trucks, the city's Commissioner came himself, and with eight weeks of systematic cleaning they made a big difference to the lake which was on the brink of disappearance.

By 2025, Krishnamurthy wants EFI to be working in all of India's and to launch nature-restoration projects in Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

Talking about recognition for this Indian environmentalist, Arun was honoured with the Rolex Awards for Enterprise in 2012 for his lake restoration efforts in Chennai and British Council International Climate Champion Excellence Award two years prior to that. Prestigious Time Magazine also named Arun in 2022 as one of its 'Next Generation Leader', a series elevating young people from across fields and around the globe who are working to build a better world.



Report sought on pregnancy of minors

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the state government on incidents of sexual exploitation of minor girls, especially those belonging to SC and ST communities, in the state.

While hearing a plea filed by rights activist and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the apex rights body asked the state's Chief Secretary to file the report within eight weeks.



Highlighting the recent incident wherein a schoolgirl of Gajapati district was sexually abused, rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy informed the commission that Odisha has been witnessing frequent incidents of sexual exploitation of minor girls.

A Class IX girl of Padagaon village under Adaba police limits in Gajapati district was reportedly sexually exploited and impregnated by the local sarpanch's husband

Even some of them were found to have been impregnated in SC/ST residential schools in the state. The rights activist alleged that precautionary and corrective measures with punitive actions and rehabilitation of victims as per the Nirbhaya Act were not being satisfactorily implemented in Odisha.

Tripathy urged the commission to direct the state government for ensuring stringent legal action against the perpetrators and heavy compensation with rehabilitation measures for the victims.

The state government through a network of 1,670 residential schools and 6,000 hostels provides free education, food, clothing and accommodation to around 6 lakh students between 5 and 18 years of whom 60 per cent are girls, according to Odisha government data.

Court orders attachment of Sarala Realcon assets

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The designated court under Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Act has finally confirmed ad-interim orders regarding the attachment of movable and immovable assets owned by Sarala Realcon Pvt. Ltd. and its managing director Gayadhar Jena and other directors in connection with a multi-crore real estate fraud.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police through a press release Monday informed about the confirmation by the OPID court October 14, 2022.

EOW registered a case March 15, 2015 against Jena and other directors of Sarala Realcon for duping several depositors of crores on the pretext of providing them homestead land and plots at prime locations in the state capital and nearby areas. "The accused persons duped 238 investors/intending buyers to the tune of Rs 17 crore (approx.) on the pretext of providing land/plots. After completion of investigation, charge-sheet has been filed U/s 467/468/471/420/120-B IPC r.w. Section 6 of OPID Act, 2011 against M/s Sarala Realcon Pvt. Ltd. and its MD Gayadhar Jena and five others," said the EOW sources. The accused fabricated the documents and registered fake sale deeds to cheat the prospective buyers.

During the investigation, the sleuths learnt that the accused persons had acquired huge movable and immovable assets using the money earned through fraud. Subsequently, EOW proposed the state Finance department to attach the ill-gotten properties July 2, 2016.

The finance department later issued an ad-interim order for attachment of properties on October 19, 2016.

The ADM, Cuttack has been asked for 'equitable distribution' of the money among the victims.

As Covid ebbs, House to function sans restrictions

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The Winter Session of the Assembly, which is set to begin November 24, will have no Covid-19 restrictions, Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha said, Monday.

Speaking to media here after an all-party meeting for smooth conduct of businesses of the House during the Winter Session, Arukha said, "The restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 period have been lifted. Like pre-Covid times, all the members can occupy their respective seats. The press gallery will also be opened for mediapersons," he said.

The Speaker also informed that electronic media will be allowed into



The Assembly will function from 10.30am to 1pm and 4pm to 7pm on all days except for the first day when it will begin at 11am

the House to cover the Question Hour. The MLAs, who are not-well, can attend the Assembly through video conferencing (VC) with prior written approval.

The Assembly will function from 10.30am to 1pm and 4pm to 7pm. The House will begin at 11am on the first day, he added.

Leader of Opposition (BJP)

Jayanarayan Mishra said his party has opposed the move to allow MLAs to attend the Assembly via VC. He alleged that the VC option for MLAs is being allowed to facilitate virtual attendance for Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik from his residence.

"Covid cases have declined in the country. Therefore, there is no

₹36CR FOR LOKANATH, ALARNATH TEMPLES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday approved master plans for integrated development and beautification of Lokanath temple in Puri and Alarnath shrine in Brahmagiri at an expenditure of Rs 36 crore.

While Rs 28 crore will be spent for the development and beautification of Lokanath temple, Rs 8 crore is proposed to be allocated for Alarnath temple.

The redevelopment projects for both the temples will be completed within a year, said a release from

the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). Meanwhile, the state government would soon prepare a master plan for the development of Maa Bhagabati temple in Banapur and Maa Ugratara temple in Tangi block of Khurda.

Following instruction of the CM, ST Secretary VK Pandian visited the two shakti shrines in Khurda district early Monday morning.

He directed the Khurda Collector to prepare a master plan for comprehensive development of both the sites after consultation with the stakeholders. The plan will be placed before the CM for approval.

AIIMS doc plays a Samaritan

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: A doctor in AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, has earned appreciation from different quarters recently for voluntarily donating blood to a needy patient in the medical facility here.

Debashish Mishra of the Department of Transfusion Medicine of the hospital donated one unit of B-negative blood, in the department, to a pregnant lady in serious condition.

The incident happened November 3, and the woman was discharged from the hospital November 19.

The doctor on duty on that day had come to know of an urgent blood requirement for a pregnant woman.

Since there were no relatives who could donate the required blood group, the doctor volunteered to donate his blood to save her life.

The hospital, in a statement Monday, said then the B-negative

A golden heart

- Debashish Mishra of the Department of Transfusion Medicine of the hospital donated one unit of B-negative blood, in the department, to a pregnant lady in serious condition
- As there were no relatives who could donate the required blood group, the doctor volunteered to donate his blood to save her life, said AIIMS-Bhubaneswar in a statement
- The incident happened November 3, and the woman was discharged from the hospital November 19

Lauding Mishra's gesture, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas said the doctor has a golden heart to extend help to the needy

blood was not available in the blood bank. "If the patient would not have received the required blood, then she could have died," the doctor who treated the woman said.

After a few days of treatment in the Gynecology Department, the lady was discharged and doing well. AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas lauded Mishra's gesture.

The doctor not only treats patients but also has a golden heart to extend help to the needy, he said.

He has set an example for others, Biswas added.



ON WARPATH: Members of All Odisha Anganwadi Association staged a demonstration in PMG area of Bhubaneswar, Monday, to press for fulfilment of their demands

Project entrusted to ORIDL: Vaishnaw

BARGARH-NUAPADA NEW RAIL LINE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Monday said Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Limited (ORIDL) has been entrusted with the responsibility of the Bargarh-Nuapada new rail line via Padampur in Odisha.

Sunday the BJD government raked up the 'shelved' railway project connecting Bargarh and Nuapada, accusing the Centre of neglecting the people's demand for improving the connectivity there.

While replying to a letter from Odisha's Commerce and Transport minister Tukuni Sahu, the Railway Minister said the Centre had accorded in-principle approval to the project and ORIDL, a joint venture of the state government was informed about the same December 31, 2021.

Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Limited is a joint venture company of the state government and the Ministry of Railways

"To take the project forward, ORIDL has to conduct a survey, prepare a blueprint and acquire land for the purpose. Therefore, I would request the state government to expedite the survey and land acquisition process," Vaishnaw said in the letter to Sahu written in Odia language.

ORIDL is a joint venture company of the Odisha government with the state government holding 51 per cent stake and the Ministry of Railways 49 per cent.

Sunday, Sahu had written a letter to Vaishnaw and requested him to reconsider the 142 km new broad-gauge rail line from Bargarh Road to Nuapada Road via Padampur, which was announced in 2018. The project was "shelved" by the Centre in 2019 for not being financially viable, Sahu wrote in the letter.

Sahu in the letter to Vaishnaw had urged him to sanction the Bargarh-Nuapada new railway line as it would boost economic activities in the region.

Meanwhile, reacting to Vaishnaw's letter to Sahu, BJD spokesperson and MP Sasmit Patra in a statement said: "The letter from Minister Railways proves that the Bargarh-Nuapada via Padampur railway line was not sanctioned in 2018 as 'misinformed' by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan."

Now after the state has given consent to give all land free and Rs 300 crore extra funds, Railways has asked a state agency to do further survey instead of doing the work, Patra said.

"This is unacceptable as it seems Railways is washing its hands from doing any project in Odisha. ORIDL is a company and it can do projects by raising money from banks. Which bank will give money after seeing the letter from Railways in 2019 that this project is unviable and shouldn't be done. Banks provide funds for commercial ventures only when the return on investment is viable", Patra said,



A DAY FOR AQUATIC LIFE: Dignitaries present at an event to celebrate the World Fisheries Day organised at the District Fishery Office conference room in Cuttack, Monday

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas celebration concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The week-long celebration of "Janjatiya Gaurav Divas-2022" at SCSTRTI ended Monday. It provided a platform for sharing of the great valour and courage of the tribal freedom fighters and figure out a way to protect, preserve and promote the culture and heritage of the tribal communities.

75 tribal achievers were felicitated November 15 from across the state for their valuable contribution to the society. Besides, three colourful and vibrant dances of Paroja, Kutia Kondh and Santhal were performed. Tribal artisans did a live demonstration of tribal art and crafts like sabai craft, lac, tribal painting, paddy craft, bamboo and handloom.

Screening of audio-visual films on tribal freedom fighters of Odisha was a part of the celebration. SCSTRTI campus was illuminated for the entire week for the programme.



In the closing ceremony Monday, SCSTRTI director Indramani Tripathy felicitated 29 sanitization workers with cash, shawl and citation. Besides, 25 tribal artisans were also felicitated. Former director Sumita Das, joint director Kalpana Patnaik, deputy director Manas Mohapatra and Arati Malla and other officials of the institute were present on the occasion.

KIIT to get ₹2 cr for bio-technology CoE



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The science and technology department of the state government will provide Rs. 2 crore to establish bio-technology Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar. Research and Development facilities, infrastructure development and technical competency will be enhanced with such establishment.

Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister, Science and Technology said the state has attached more importance on the growth of science and technology eco-system in Odisha. Previously, state government had provided Rs. 2 crore to Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) for establishment of incubation centre, training facilities for startups and relevant development. We have also decided to establish 500 regional innovation science hubs for ideation in various schools including Scheduled Tribe schools in a phased manner. It is proposed to set up 50 such units in the year 2022-23, Panda said.

Panda also said that Bharat Biotech was provided land by the state government earlier for vaccine production unit. After completion of its construction works, manufacturing of vaccines will commence. Odisha is in a unique position to

ODISHA HAS SOME UNIQUE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES TO SUPPORT INVESTMENTS IN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY SECTOR

THE STATE HAS A LONG COASTLINE, MANY LAKES, RICH BIODIVERSITY, AND HIGH INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

support investments in biotechnology sector considering some of its unique competitive advantages. The state has been blessed with rich bio-diversity. The state has a long coastline covering 480 Kilometres. Chilka lake- the largest brackish water lake in Asia has a unique ecosystem. Koraput district of southern Odisha has been identified by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of UN as global agricultural heritage site which is among only other three sites in the world.

The state also boasts of high intellectual capital and resources required for establishment and growth of knowledge-based industries in the state. The Capital city Bhubaneswar has many premier academic and research institutions such as AIIMS, IIT, ILS, NISER, etc. The highly skilled manpower coming out of these institutions can be harnessed to establish biotechnology industries in the state.

Train rams into ...

Continued from P1

The deceased have been identified as Parbati Bindhani, her daughter Kandhei and Absum Bibi. A two-and-half-year-old child, who was with the Bindhanis, miraculously survived the accident.

Kandhu Bindhani, who was not present at the spot, said his mother and sister were waiting for a local train to Cuttack, where they were going for treatment.

Kandhei's husband said he was with the mother-son duo and had gone outside the railway station when the accident took place.

Families of the deceased have demanded Rs 50 lakh as compensation or a permanent job in the Railways for a member. In videos that have gone viral on social media, derailed wagons were seen strewn across both platforms with axles lying on the railway tracks. Some wagons were seen damaging one entrance of the foot-over-bridge, while others tearing apart overhead power wires and demolishing buildings of the railway station.

Locals were seen giving a hand to rescue teams in clearing the debris and looking for bodies and injured persons beneath it.

Train services were affected on the Howrah-Chennai route as both lines were blocked due to the accident. Railway officials said that it will take at least 12 hours to resume the train services. All the eight derailed wagons have been removed from the tracks.

Food and water was provided to passengers stranded at the railway station. Some were transported to national highways, from where they could go to their destinations. Apart from Railways, Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), Fire Services and locals are engaged in the rescue operations, an official said.

Meanwhile, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced Rs 5 lakh ex-gratia for the next of kin of the deceased, Rs 1 lakh for the seriously injured and Rs 25,000 for those sustaining minor injuries.

Don't use parking space for other purposes: BMC

Bhubaneswar: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a notice to all owners/developers/builders of residential apartments, commercial buildings and other establishments to use their designated parking space for parking only and not for other purposes. Action will be taken against the violators.

New Startup Policy likely during MiO Conclave '22

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The state government is mulling to declare its revised Startup Policy during the Make-in Odisha (MiO) Conclave to be held here from November 30 to December 4. This was revealed during a special Hall of Fame 2.0, a joint endeavour of TIE Bhubaneswar and Startup Odisha, inaugurated Monday.

In this programme 25 startups from across the state showcased their products and ideas at an exhibition during Hall of Fame 2.0. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Startup Odisha executive chairman Omkar Rai said, "The startup ecosystem in the state has attained critical mass. During the current year, the startup ecosystem in Odisha has received around Rs 100 crore funding in various startups of the state and the total funding from angel investors and venture capitalists has reached Rs 359 crore."

"We have been receiving very encouraging response from the startups on the ground. The recently concluded Odisha Startup Growth Fund - Fund of Funds -

has attracted a commitment of over Rs 1,000 crore, which will be made available to startups and will be invested in another five years. I am sure that at the conclusion of Hall of Fame 2.0 the chosen 25 startups will bring in more investment into our ecosystem," he said

"Odisha today has a large pool of mentors and world-class incubators, with a best-in-class startup policy. We are in the process of revising the Startup Policy, and an enhanced policy will be announced at the forthcoming Make in Odisha Conclave 2022," Rai said

In his address, Electronics and Information Technology secretary Manoj Mishra said, "The IT space in Odisha has been changing rapidly for the better and startups have had a large role to play. The exhibition by the 25 startups for Hall of Fame 2.0 is very impressive with a wide variety of products, both IT and non-IT that represent the whole startup ecosystem in the state. My advice to startups is not to stop self-growth."

TIE Bhubaneswar president Debashish Patnaik and its vice president Sunil Taneja were also present on the occasion.

MRI shows significant brain abnormalities post-Covid: Study

Using a special type of MRI, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi have uncovered brain changes in patients up to six months after they recovered from Covid-19. Studies have shown that about one in five adults go on to develop long-term effects from Covid-19.

Neurological symptoms associated with long Covid include difficulty thinking or concentrating, headache, sleep problems, light-headedness, pins-and-needles sensation, change in smell or taste, and depression or anxiety.

However, studies have found that Covid-19 may be associated with changes to the heart, lungs or other organs even in asymptomatic patients. The latest study, being presented next week at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), used susceptibility-weighted imaging to analyse the effects that Covid-19 has on the brain.

Magnetic susceptibility denotes how much certain materials, such as blood, iron and calcium will be

come magnetised in an applied magnetic field. This ability aids in the detection and monitoring of a host of neurologic conditions including micro bleeds, vascular malformations, brain tumours and stroke. "Group-level studies have not previously focused on Covid-19 changes in magnetic susceptibility of the brain despite several case reports signaling such abnormalities," said study co-author Sapna S Mishra, a Ph.D. Candidate at IIT Delhi. "Our study highlights this new aspect of the neurological effects of Covid-19 and reports significant abnormalities in Covid survivors," Mishra said in a statement. The researchers analysed the susceptibility-weighted imaging data of 46 Covid-recovered patients and 30 healthy controls. Imaging was done within six months of recovery.

Among patients with long Covid, the most commonly reported symptoms were fatigue, trouble sleeping, lack of attention and memory issues, the study found. "Changes in susceptibility values of brain re-



Among patients with long Covid, the most commonly reported symptoms were fatigue, trouble sleeping, lack of attention and memory issues, the study found

MRI results showed that patients who recovered from Covid-19 had significantly higher susceptibility values in the frontal lobe and brain stem compared to healthy controls

The researchers also found a significant difference in the right ventral diencephalon region of the brain stem which is associated with many crucial bodily functions, including coordinating with the endocrine system to release hormones, relaying sensory and motor signals to the cerebral cortex and regulating the sleep-wake cycle

of paramagnetic compounds, whereas lower susceptibility could be caused by abnormalities like calcification or lack of paramagnetic molecules containing iron," she added.

MRI results showed that patients who recovered from Covid-19 had significantly higher susceptibility values in the frontal lobe and brain stem compared to healthy controls, the researchers said. The clusters obtained in the frontal lobe primarily show differences in the white matter, they said. "These brain regions are linked with fatigue, insomnia, anxiety, depression, headaches and cognitive problems," Mishra said.

Portions of the left orbital-inferior frontal gyrus and right orbital-inferior frontal gyrus, and the adjacent white matter areas made up the frontal lobe clusters.

Left orbital-inferior frontal gyrus is a key region for language comprehension and production, and right orbital-inferior frontal gyrus is associated with various cognitive functions including attention,

motor inhibition and imagery, as well as social cognitive processes.

The researchers also found a significant difference in the right ventral diencephalon region of the brain stem.

This region is associated with many crucial bodily functions, including coordinating with the endocrine system to release hormones, relaying sensory and motor signals to the cerebral cortex and regulating the sleep-wake cycle.

"This study points to serious long-term complications that may be caused by the coronavirus, even months after recovery from the infection," Mishra said.

"The present findings are from the small temporal window. However, the longitudinal time points across a couple of years will elucidate if there exists any permanent change," he added.

The researchers are conducting a longitudinal study on the same patient group to determine whether these brain abnormalities persist over a longer time frame.

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RERA norms thrown to the winds in Rayagada



Rayagada, Nov 21: Construction of multi-storey apartments is on the rise in this town with the increase in population. However, unavailability of land is affecting construction work and so developers are resorting to various means to acquire plots. Over 30 multi-storey apartments have been constructed in the town to cater to the demands of the people. More, apartments are also on the anvil in this town's outskirts and nearby areas. However, sources said that in most cases government rules are being violated and safety norms being overlooked during the construction.

It has been alleged that not a single apartment being constructed in the town are abiding by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) norms. Hence people buying such apartments may face legal hassles in future, the source added. Executive officer of Rayagada Municipality Yashir Bilal Ahmed feigned ignorance when contacted. He said he has no information about RERA norms being violated by the builders. He promised action if he found developers are violating the rules. However, he also said that he does not have any information about builders who have not followed rules during construction.

tion, but added that a verification process would be carried out soon. Denizens and senior citizens alleged that many apartments are being constructed in complete violation of RERA norms. They added that the builders are completely overlooking the safety aspects of the flat during construction. Sources informed that the most brazen violations are taking place during construction in localities where police or paramilitary camps have been set up. The builders are digging deep bore-wells to meet the drinking water needs of the apartments without taking permission from the concerned authorities. This has led to the depreciation of ground water level alarmingly, the sources said and added that water level below the soil has gone down to 1.94 metres in the town. The Odisha government has issued a set of guidelines for construction of apartments as per RERA Rules-2017. As per the rules, the builders will have to take the permission of Town Planning Authority and the local civic body before construction of multi-storey apartments. It has also been alleged that most of the constructed apartments or those under construction do not have any fire safety norms, provisions for uninterrupted drinking water supply and drainage facilities.



UTP 'kills self' in Bhanjanagar jail



BHANJANAGAR: An under-trial prisoner (UTP) lodged in Bhanjanagar sub-jail in Ganjam district has allegedly died by suicide by hanging himself, Monday. The deceased was identified as Tofan Naik, 30, a native of Dumkumpha under Bhanjanagar police limits. Acting on a complaint lodged by Tofan's family members, Bhanjanagar police registered a case, sent the body for post-mortem and started an investigation. Tofan took his breakfast and committed suicide by hanging himself from the window railing of the bathroom. Bhanjanagar police said, "Tofan's body was found in the bathroom of the sub-jail. He was rushed to the sub-divisional hospital where doctors pronounced him dead." Police said he had been arrested in connection with murder bid on one of his friends. While jail authorities are tight-lipped over the issue, the deceased's family members have held them responsible for Tofan's death. However, the actual reason behind why he took the extreme step is yet to be ascertained.

CHARM & GRACE: Participants dressed in ethnic Sambalpur attire walk the ramp at a fashion show organised on the sidelines of Sambalpur Mahotsav at Birsa Maidan in Ainthapalli of Sambalpur, Monday. OP PHOTO

Demand for water cess sparks furore



Kendrapara, Nov 21: No canals have been built to provide water to the farmlands in Dobandha, Sobala villages under Kendrapara tehsil as well as in Chandanpur, Nilakanthapur, Tamalasan, Arua, Keshpur villages under Pattamundai tehsil of Kendrapara district. However, scores of farmers have been asked to pay water cess and the issue has triggered a controversy. The dispute arose after the Revenue department officials demanded clearance of the outstanding water cess of the villagers when some of them approached the local tehsil office to get caste and other certificates for their children. The villagers termed the move as illegal. The forcible demand for water cess by Revenue officials has sparked resentment among the villagers. They have said that either water cess has to be abolished or canals built to provide irrigation facilities to their farmlands. Villagers Ranjan Kumar Sahu, Pareshwar Samal, Chhatish Kumar Parida and Prafulla Kumar Parida warned of stern action if a probe is not ordered for the irregular imposition of water cess. They alleged that the Revenue department has levied water cess on their farmlands since a long time. They also said that they had protested against the move and had written a letter to the district collector. Later, the Revenue department in a letter (No 33284, dated July 22, 1997) directed the district collector to conduct a probe in this regard. On receipt of the order, the then Collector in a letter (No 9354, dated August 4, 1997) directed the Paattamundai tehsildar to conduct a probe and submit a report. However, the tehsildar did not do so and in 1998 farmers filed a case at the consumer forum. The forum heard the matter and directed the Revenue department to not collect water cess until provisions are made to provide irrigation facilities to the farmlands. Since then the villagers are only paying land revenue and not water cess. When contacted, sub-collector Niranjan Behera said he will take stock of the matter and direct the Revenue officials to conduct a proper probe. He added that steps will be taken to provide irrigation facilities in the areas where there are no canals.

Keonjhar, Nov 21: At least three labourers sustained injuries after two beams of an under-construction bridge on Kusei river collapsed at Belabahali under Ghashipura police limits in this district, Monday. The identity of the injured is yet to be ascertained. The concrete beams were being lifted atop the under-construction bridge when they fell down from a height of 30 feet. The beams broke the pillar and pillar cap of the bridge along Panikoilli-Rimuli NH-20. It is alleged that the mishap took place due to lack of proper supervision and sub-standard work by the consultancy agency engaged in the execution of the project. Local Zilla Parishad member Ashima Mishra demanded a high-level inquiry into the incident. The incident occurred at 10am when two beams were being lifted with cranes. It is learnt that the construction of the bridge is going on for the last two years. As many as 30/40 labourers are working there daily. It was alleged that the beams were made of sub-standard materials for which the incident occurred. Sources said, contractual workers have fled the scene to evade arrest. On being informed, Ghashipura police reached the spot and started an investigation. Keonjhar sub-collector also reached the spot and took stock of the situation, sources said. When contacted, Ghashipura IIC Shyamagana Behera said three persons have been injured but no written complaint has been filed so far. Action will be taken after a complaint is filed in this regard, he said. Nihar Das, an official of ARSS, which is undertaking the work, ruled out any wrongdoing in the bridge work and said that the project will be completed very soon.

Three hurt during Kusei bridge work

TRAFFIC WOES: Traffic on State Highway-57 connecting Jaleswar with Chandaneswar in Balasore district was disrupted for over eight hours after local villagers staged a road blockade at Dariha Square in protest against shifting of a public sector bank from the area, Monday. OP PHOTO



TRAFIC WOES: Traffic on State Highway-57 connecting Jaleswar with Chandaneswar in Balasore district was disrupted for over eight hours after local villagers staged a road blockade at Dariha Square in protest against shifting of a public sector bank from the area, Monday. OP PHOTO

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Olive Ridley turtles sighted in Gahirmatha coast

Kendrapara, Nov 21: Olive Ridley sea turtles have begun emerging on the sea waters off Gahirmatha along the Odisha coast, marking the commencement of the annual mass nesting of these endangered marine species. Gahirmatha in Kendrapara district, 150 km from the Capital city of Bhubaneswar, is the world's largest rookery for Olive Ridley sea turtles. Forest personnel on patrolling drives have sighted pairs of mating turtles. For undisturbed breeding of the aquatic animals, prohibition on sea fishing continues to remain in force in the marine sanctuary, said forest officials. Apart from Gahirmatha, these threatened aquatic animals turn up at Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district and the Devi river mouth in Puri district for mass nesting. On the serene surface of sea waters, the turtle surveying teams spotted hundreds of mating pairs along the Gahirmatha coast. After the end of the mating season, most of the male turtles usually return leaving behind the female turtles to lay their eggs, Gahirmatha



forest range officer, Manas Das, said. The female turtles virtually invade the nesting beaches usually in the dead of the night for laying eggs, the phenomenon otherwise described as 'arribada'. The turtles then leave the nesting ground to stride into the deep seawater. Hatchlings emerge from these eggs after 45-60 days. It is a rare natural phenomenon where the babies grow without their mother, the forest officer added. An estimated eight lakh female turtles had turned up to dig pits and

lay millions of eggs on the nesting beaches in Odisha in February-March this year, he said. The ban on fishing remains in force throughout the year in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary as the seawater here is the most conducive habitat for these delicate marine species. A rise in the mortality rate of mating turtles along the coastal water surface led to the clamping of prohibition as the gill nets used by the trawls prove to be messengers of death for breeding turtles. The Olive Ridley sea turtles, accorded a Schedule-I animal category under the Wildlife (Protection) Act for their highly threatened status, get entangled in the nets for prolonged periods and die of asphyxiation. The turtles also perish in large numbers after getting hit by the fast-moving propeller of the fishing trawlers, forest personnel said. The rate of mortality of these endangered species is quite high. An Olive Ridley sea turtle usually lays about 120 to 150 eggs from which hatchlings emerge after about 45 to 60 days. But not all eggs remain intact as predators devour them. Besides, eggs are also washed away by waves during high tide.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
E-Procurement Notice
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
SONEPUR (R&B) DIVISION, SONEPUR
E-mail - eepwdsnpr@gmail.com, Phone -06654-221081
BID IDENTIFICATION No. SE/R&B/SNPR/20/2022-23
No.4682, Dt.16.11.2022

No.B-850:1.The Superintending Engineer, Sonapur (R&B) Division, Sonapur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover System in Online Mode for construction of Road & Buildings works detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.

- No. of work : 08 (Eight)
- Tender Cost : Rs.6,000/- for Serial No.1 to 8
- Class of Contractor : 'B' Class Contractor for Serial No.1
- Class of Contractor : 'C' & 'B' Class Contractor for Serial No.2 to 6
- Class of Contractor : 'D' & 'C' Class Contractor for Serial No.7 & 8

5. Date and time Available in Website & receipt of Bids: From 10.00 A.M. of 23.11.2022 to 5.00 P.M. of 05.12.2022.
6. Date of Opening of Tender: 06.12.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
7. The Bidders have to participate in Online bidding only further details can be seen from the Website.
8. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.

Sd./Superintending Engineer
Sonapur (R&B) Division, Sonapur
OIPR-34081/11/0013/2223

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: DEOGARH
Email: deogarhmunicipality@gmail.com
Website: deogarhmunicipality.com
Office No. 06641-226231

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PREPARATION OF STORM WATER DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN & DPR OF DEOGARH MUNICIPALITY

No.C-1611:Deogarh Municipality proposes to undertake Preparation of storm water drainage master plan & DPR for Deogarh Municipality area. Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverables from engineering consultants/Consulting registered architectural firms that have requisite experience in preparation of drainage/Pipeline/Sewerage network plan. Details of the bid document can be obtained from the office of Deogarh Municipality by paying the Bid processing fees Rs. 10,000 (Rupees Ten thousand) only non-refundable during office hour on or before Dt. 29.11.22 or www.deogarh.nic.in. The completed applications, as per instructions in the EOJ document should reach the following address by hand/registered post /speed post/ Courier latest by 3 PM on Dt. 30.11.22. Deogarh Municipality reserves the sole right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd./ Executive Officer, Deogarh Municipality
OIPR-13088/11/0011/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-1300
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PHULBANI
Phone-06842-253708, E-mail: rw_phulbani@yahoo.co.in
No.....5099.....RWDP, Dated the 11.11.2022

Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/11/SERWDP PHULBANI/ 2022-23

- Name of the work : Road Works (1 No.)
- Estimated cost : Rs. 16.80 Lakhs
- Period of Completion : 3 (Three) Calendar months
- Date & Time of availability of : From 23.11.2022. 10.00 AM
- Bid documents in the Portal : To 05.12.2022 Up to 5.00 PM
- Last Date/Time for receipt of : 05.12.2022 upto 5.00 PM

Bids in the Portal

- Name and address of the : Superintending Engineer, Officer Inviting Bid Rural Works Division, Phulbani

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd./ Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division, Phulbani
OIPR-25077/11/0012/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
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e-mail Id:isrrcddbgr@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.-LSRRC&B BGR-12/2022-23

No.A-744:The Superintending Engineer Lower Suktel RRC&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 LSSIP 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. 23.11.2022 at 10:00 AM. To Dt. 02.12.2022 up to 5:00 PM. |
| 7 | Last date and time of receipt of Bid in the Portal : Dt. 02.12.2022 up to 5:00 PM. |
| 8 | Date and time of opening of Bid in the portal : Dt. 03.12.2022 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-Lalitkura, 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-32182/11/0015/2223

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
SARB, Bhubaneswar
CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the "E-auction Sale Notice" Published in the "Orissa Post" on 20.11.2022, the Property Owners name mentioned at Sl. No. 1 (ii) in "Property Details & Name of the owner of the property" column of Borrower: M/s. Ganapati Cashew Industries should be read as 'Late P. Gopal Rao' instead of 'P. Gopal Rao' and the sentence of the Note "Keeping in the view of totals dues of ₹ 1,38,67,274/- as on date, we propose for auction as above" is erroneously printed and requested to ignore the sentence. All other facts will remain unchanged.

Dt.: 21.11.2022 / Authorised Officer

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. eT-CRW-MCS-EL-4-2022

NAME OF WORK : ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR POH MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE OF LHB RMPU WITH CONTROL PANELS FITTED IN AC COACHES (LHB TYPE) AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR OF EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR 24 MONTHS.

Advertised Value (₹) : ₹ 1,11,36,868.98, EMD (₹) : 2,05,700/-, Completion Period of the work : 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date : 23.11.2022.

Date and time of closing of tender : 1500 hrs of 07.12.2022.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete details including e-tender documents are available at <http://www.irfps.gov.in>.

By, Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop, Mancheswar
PR-723/N/22-23



Evolution of consciousness is the central motive of terrestrial existence.

SRI AUROBINDO



Climate Breakthrough

The COP27 climate summit in Egypt has shown signs of hope amid frustration among scientists that the developed countries are not really serious about efforts to bring down the level of carbon emissions and the temperature. A happy development is the breakthrough agreement to provide "loss and damage" funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by climate disasters. "The outcome moves us forward," said Simon Stiell, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary. Creating a specific fund for loss and damage marks an important point of progress as the issue is now included in the official agenda. Governments took the ground-breaking decision to formalise the funding arrangements to assist developing countries in responding to loss and damage. The underdeveloped countries have all along been at the receiving end of the greenhouse gas effects threatening the planet. The UN climate agency at the COP27 first brought out a draft that was to be the overarching agreement from the summit. But it was trashed by many environmentalists as a way for "climate hell." The document repeated the goal from last year's Glasgow climate pact "to accelerate measures towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and phase out and rationalise inefficient fossil fuel subsidies."

The final document stresses the importance of making efforts at all levels to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goal of limiting the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5 degree C above pre-industrial levels.

The question is whether the main polluters emitting the carbon gas are at all willing to check the rise of temperature. The issue has been flagged by 1,000 scientists from about 50 countries who signed an open letter in late October casting doubts about whether the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degree C is at all being taken seriously. The thought has been troubling the scientific community. The letter's authors call on the community to 'tell it like it is' and declare that it is no longer defensible to publicly say that such a goal is still alive. Developing countries, especially small island nations, have continually repeated that this objective is a matter of life and death.

Scientists have rightly expressed great concern about a possible backtracking on these promises. Some large emerging countries like China, India and certain oil-producing countries are showing tell-tale signs that they would stick to the less ambitious goal set by the Paris Agreement. Greenpeace International's COP27 head of delegation, Yeb Saño, reflected the general frustration when he said: "The draft text is an abdication of responsibility to capture the urgency expressed by many countries to see all oil and gas added to coal for at least a phase down. It is time to end the denial, the fossil fuel age must be brought to a rapid end."

However, there are encouraging developments that may spur environmentalists to make emitters of greenhouse gases accountable. Brazil's President-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva told cheering crowds at the COP27 conference that he would crack down on illegal deforestation in the Amazon, reinitiate relationships with countries that finance forest protection efforts and push to host an upcoming world climate summit in the rainforest. He unveiled a vision for management of the world's largest rainforest. This is critical to fighting climate change. Lula's position is in stark contrast to that of the outgoing President Jair Bolsonaro, whose administration witnessed some of the most rapid cutting of forests in decades. "There will be no climate security if the Amazon is not protected," Lula asserted.

Bolsonaro, during his tenure, pushed development in his pro-business rhetoric and policies and made several moves that weakened protections to the Amazon forests. He appointed forest managers from the agribusiness sector, which opposes the creation of protected areas and clamours for legalisation of land grabbing. Lula has won the election in a dramatic way on an agenda that gives primacy to the preservation and protection of the rainforests.

An uphill task is ahead in tackling climate change. The voice of leaders such as Lula and the promise of collaborative work in this direction by the US President Joe Biden and China's leader Xi Jinping may help the cause of the planet.



Jagdish Rattanani

THINK OF A WEAPONS STORE BEING DEPRIVED OF ITS LOCKS AND CONTROLS, LEAVING THE FIREPOWER OPEN TO LOOT AND MISUSE

In the world of business, one of the less discussed issues is the sharp contrast between the ideals of free enterprise on the outside and the almost totalitarian way in which the enterprises so built are run on the inside. The ask is freedom for business to operate sans controls. The result is the crushing of freedom for workers and managers and many other players in the system.

Elon Musk, with Twitter under his belt, is the most spectacular example of this paradox – using supposed free enterprise to deliver purported free speech on a platform run by teams that are anything but free. Twitter employees now must live with diktats and commands, or face the inevitable from their new boss – "off with their heads!"

Musk has bought Twitter for USD 44 billion, and it may well be argued that this is his company and his personal money to build or destroy. Equally though, he has put his personal wealth on the line to make the case for free speech absolutism that immediately delivered what one report by the independent US-based National Contagion Research Institute said was a 500% rise in use of the N-word within 12 hours of his taking over.

To quote another report by Montclair State University, New Jersey: "The character of what Twitter will look like with Musk as the head remains speculative, despite his stated intentions. What is not speculative, however, is the extent to which his date of formal acquisition was celebrated by racist and extremist users on the platform."

It can thus be argued that Elon Musk's personal wealth is put to use in a manner that has increased hate speech, raising a host of questions on the rights, duties and responsibilities of the ultra-rich and mega corporations. This has come amid a very tumultuous takeover, beginning with a host of firings across the line and such a wild kind of crowning that questions have been raised on the very viability of Twitter as a platform. It has brought huge concerns from regulators in the US, warnings

FOCUS SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER TANTRUMS



It can be argued that Elon Musk's personal wealth is put to use in a manner that has increased hate speech, raising a host of questions on the rights, duties and responsibilities of the ultra-rich and mega corporations

from the EU watchdogs and worries that have led many employees, advertisers and users to rethink the value of being with and on Twitter. The firings have dismantled the carefully built set of content moderation teams that have over the years built some protocols and ways of working that, however imperfect, were at least geared to stop Twitter from descending into a Wild West of sorts. Think of a weapons store being deprived of its locks and controls, leaving the firepower open to loot and misuse.

The stomping of Elon Musk all across the nascent ethos of Twitter also serves to highlight the hold of shareholder primacy and privilege that is at the heart of a lot that is wrong with the capitalistic model and the way it has played out over the years. It points to the classic Friedmanite presentation on freedom and business. In the words of Milton Friedman: "In a free enterprise, private-property system, a corporate executive is an employee of the owners of the business. He has direct responsibility to his employers. That responsibility is to conduct the business in accordance with their desires, which generally will be to make as much money as possi-

ble..." The words are from Friedman's famous (and later widely debunked) New York Times Magazine article of Sept 13, 1970, which was headlined: "The social responsibility of business is to increase its profits."

While once popular in boardrooms, Friedman has long since been rejected as businesses extol the virtues of meeting wider stakeholder expectations rather than shareholder demands to the exclusion of all else. Musk appears to be a fan of the late economist though. Last year, he quoted the exact words of Friedman in condemning the "build back better" spending plan of the US President Joe Biden. The tweet said: "Nothing is more permanent than a 'temporary' government program."

Yet, many of the advocates of free speech and unhindered competition and zero controls fail to see that the enterprises themselves are anything but places where free speech is tolerated, let alone encouraged. In many ways, corporations work like control freaks; they readily seek socialist-style subsidies and concessions, often doing everything they can to kill competition, legislate wage control, fight against cheaper imports in

the single-minded endeavour of maximising profits.

Can Twitter employees come together, challenge the owner, raise their voice or even freely discuss the damage that the new approach might do to the organisation that, after all, they built? If the answer is "no", then free speech is for the moneyed to buy up those who do not have the money, to impose their personal views, to amplify them and to put them to use on a personal agenda that may not work in favour of the communities these organisations say they serve. This is giving voice and control to the billionaires, not the community of ordinary citizens. Business would have served its interests to the exclusion of everything else.

Is it not a question of freedom of speech when workers of the acclaimed Musk enterprise, Tesla, are made to sign-off on silencing clauses in separation contracts, or when whistleblowers are sought to be silenced? How can a self-declared "free speech absolutist" like Musk, who is supposedly passionate about not stopping any voice from being heard, as is being claimed, stop employees from raising concerns, questioning policy and pointing to issues on safety, quality and waste? All of this is on the record in the case of Tesla, and cannot inspire confidence in Musk.

There are many Musk-kind phony pro-freedom ideologues around in business – what he does with aplomb and flamboyance and his care-a-damn approach is little different from what many large corporations and their leaders tend to do without the accompanying vaudeville – that is to speak about "doing good" but doing everything else to rake in the profits.

This is not without its consequences for business. It contributes to eroding wider public trust in big business, which serves to undermine business and raises new demands for more controls and more regulation – the exact reverse of what Musk and his ilk claim to stand for.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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WISDOM CORNER

There are some people who live in a dream world, and there are some who face reality; and then there are those who turn one into the other. **DESIDERIUS ERASMUS**

Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it. **BLAISE PASCAL**

Every day we should hear at least one little song, read one good poem, see one exquisite picture, and, if possible, speak a few sensible words. **JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE**

WORDSWORTH

■ Crimping

We all think we know what crimping means, but the usual idea of compressing something into small folds has nothing to do with this process – or at least so far as we know, since it is of uncertain origin. This crimping means impressing men into the army, navy or merchant marine. It was like press-ganging, but done on a freelance basis by men acting as agents or go-betweens. That reflects the relevant sense of crimp for a man who crimped. It's recorded from around the middle of the eighteenth century, for example in John Blake's A Plan For Regulating the Marine System of Great Britain of 1758: "When a master of a ship hath lost any of his hands, he applies to a crimp who makes it his business to seduce the men belonging to some other ship." It also appears in a better known work, Frederick Marryat's Mr Midshipman Easy of 1836: "Offering three guineas ahead to the crimps for every good able seaman." Writers in the later eighteenth century had fun comparing crimps with pimps but there's no etymological connection. The impressed men were often temporarily imprisoned in a crimping house before being handed over. In 1794, a man attempted to escape via a skylight from one near Charing Cross in London that was run on behalf of the East India Company but fell to his death. This led to riots in which several such houses were destroyed by the mob. Another word for the process was trepanning, which probably has no linguistic link with the medical technique of cutting a hole in the skull. We know little about where it's from; the Oxford English Dictionary says that it is "a word of obscure and low origin, probably originally a term of thieves' or rogues' slang." To trepan someone (stress on the second syllable) was to entrap, inveigle, ensnare or lure them into some situation not to their benefit. It was of wider application than just press-ganging and some contemporary writers made a distinction between the two methods.

LOL

I AM GOING TO SHOP

"Cash, check or charge?" the salesman asked after folding items the woman wished to purchase.

As the woman fumbled for her wallet the salesman noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse.

"Do you always carry your television remote?" he asked.



"No," the woman replied.

"But my husband

refused to come shopping with me, so I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him," she added.

SPECTRUM RIGHTS

The World Cup's education goal



Gordon Brown & Yasmine Sherif

THE CASE FOR REVERSING THE SCHOOL BAN BECOMES EVEN STRONGER WHEN ONE RECALLS THAT AFGHANISTAN ITSELF HAS ENJOYED LONG PERIODS WHEN GIRLS' EDUCATION FLOURISHED

All who are travelling to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and harbour concerns about human rights should come together to protest one especially urgent and heinous recent abuse: the Taliban regime's prohibition barring Afghan girls from attending school. Anger about the ban is strongly felt in Qatar, other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, and other Middle Eastern and predominantly Muslim countries that wield influence over the Taliban. The entire global development community therefore can unite around the shared objective of asking the Taliban to honour its earlier promise to respect girls' right to education.

Unity on this issue is possible, because the Muslim world outside Afghanistan supports mainstream Islamic teaching that welcomes and encourages girls' education. "Iqra," meaning to read, is the first word of the Koran. "The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim," states Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 74, one of the six canonical teachings in Sunni Islam. This deep commitment to learning – by men and women – explains why the United Arab Emirates has been so outspoken in support of girls' education at the United Nations, and

why Qatar's leaders have been recognised internationally for making the case for education as intermediaries between the West and the Taliban.

Moreover, every country has committed to the fourth UN Sustainable Development Goal: that every child be ensured access to "inclusive and equitable quality education" by the end of this decade. Owing to its own strong commitment to provide education to all girls, women's university enrollment in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country, has increased from 2% in 1970 to 39% in 2018. And in Saudi Arabia, half of university-age women attend university – a higher female enrollment rate than in Mexico, China, Brazil, and India.

The case for reversing the school ban becomes even stronger when one recalls that Afghanistan itself has enjoyed long periods when girls' education flourished. Before the Taliban's 1996 takeover, 60% of Kabul University teachers (and half its students) were women, and Afghan women constituted 70% of the country's schoolteachers, 50% of civilian government workers (and 70% of the 130,000 civil servants in Kabul), and 40% of doctors. In

this century alone – up until a year ago – the number of Afghan girls enrolled in school increased from just 100,000 in 2000 to more than 3.5 million, and female literacy doubled.

The UN's Education Cannot Wait fund has invested more than \$58 million in education in Afghanistan since 2017, initially through emergency provisions for displaced students, and more recently (until last year) through a multiyear resilience programme that was launched in 2019. Owing to the dedicated work of our partners – led by UNICEF and various NGOs – this funding ultimately reached 51% of Afghanistan's young female students.

That is why the international community must now plead in unison with the Taliban spiritual leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, to amend his rulings, which have extended beyond the ban on girls' school attendance to prohibit them from public spaces such as parks, gyms, and the country's popular public fairs. The regime has also stepped up sanctions against women travelling without a male relative. And thousands of female government workers have been told to stay at home, and have therefore lost their jobs.

Protests against this inexcusable denial of girls' rights continue to

come from the whole UN system, and the foreign ministers of the G7 countries and Norway, together with the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, have issued a statement calling "on the Taliban to urgently reverse this decision, which will have consequences far beyond its harm to Afghan girls." But it is the GCC, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and large Muslim countries such as Pakistan and Indonesia that can exercise the greatest influence on the Taliban.

We must call on Muslim scholars to use their religious knowledge to show that the edicts banning girls from secondary school are contrary to the teachings of Islam. And we must ask the OIC and the GCC to use all diplomatic tools at their disposal to end this burning injustice. If there is one goal that all of us attending the World Cup can root for together, this is it. We have a chance to change millions of young lives for the better.

Gordon Brown is a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Yasmine Sherif is Director of Education Cannot Wait.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Redistributive justice

Sir, This refers to the article "Pandora's box open," Orissa POST, Nov 21. While it is ambiguous that the marginal sections of the society need to be uplifted, reservations to the privileged families purely based on caste – undermining the present financial status amounts to injustice. The basic purpose of reservation is to reduce inequality and help out disadvantaged groups. The EWS quota also has a key role to play in pulling people out of poverty, even as there will undoubtedly be fewer opportunities now for general-category candidates who don't belong to EWS. The onus is on the lawmakers to extend the economic criterion to reservation in SC/ST/OBC categories. It's lamentable that families which are no longer economically backward continue to enjoy the fruits of reservation, generation after generation. It is imperative to review quotas from time to time to assess whether they are actually benefiting the needy or not. Uplifting the underprivileged calls for a multi-pronged strategy: the importance of short-term and long-term welfare schemes cannot be overestimated. Putting all the eggs in the reservation basket should not be the way forward. However, the Supreme Court's split verdict on EWS quota has laid bare lack of unanimity among the Bench's judges on the contentious issue. Justice S Ravindra Bhat has observed: "Reservation on economic criterion is per se not violative (but) by excluding the poor among SC/ST/OBC on economically backward classes, the amendment practises constitutionally prohibited forms of discrimination."

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

The power of TV

Sir, It is well established that one of the most effective media for communicating and disseminating information is television. The UN recognised television as an essential medium for informing, guiding, and influencing public opinion as well as a representation of communication and globalisation in the modern world. There are approximately 610 million television viewers worldwide. The development of television was seen as a significant boom in the media and communication sector. Television played a major role in the globalisation of social and economic issues as well as the remedies to them. Our lives have been greatly impacted by television. World Television Day is celebrated annually November 21 to honour the day in 1936 when the World Television Forum was established. Television will continue to be the main source of news and information, despite the fact that it is constantly changing.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

of the day quote

Vanvasi means you can live only in jungles, not in cities, you can't become doctor and engineer and can't travel by plane. When we come to power, we will strengthen these laws and frame new legislations for your welfare

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Congress only delivered speeches. It gave the slogan of eliminating poverty, but instead worked to eliminate the poor. It exploited tribals by garnering their votes. Despite 70 years of independence, not a single tribal brother or sister became the President of the country

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Northeast India is rich and its richness must reach the world in order to make people aware of our rich heritage and resources

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Nursery admissions to begin from Dec 1

New Delhi: The admission process for entry level classes in over 1,800 private schools here for the 2023-24 academic session will begin from December 1, the Directorate of Education (DoE) announced Monday. While the last date for application is December 23, the first list of shortlisted candidates will be declared January 20. "The admission process for pre-school, pre-primary and class 1 will commence from December 1 for open seats in private unaided recognised schools of Delhi for the session 2023-24," the DoE said in a notification.

Three killed as bus rams into tractor

Hyderabad: Three persons were killed when a bus rams into a tractor on Hyderabad-Bangalore highway in Telangana's Wanaparthy district, early Monday. Garuda bus of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), which was on its way from Hyderabad to Bangalore, collided with a sugarcane-laden tractor from the rear side near Mummalaipalli in Kottakota mandal. Two persons died on the spot while one succumbed to his injuries at the government hospital at Wanaparthy. According to police, the bus driver, cleaner and a passenger were killed while 15 others were injured.

Priest, wife injured in petrol bomb attack

Jaipur: An elderly priest and his wife suffered burn injuries when a mob allegedly hurled a petrol bomb at him in Rajasthan's Rajasamand district, officials said Monday. As it came to light after the attack that the priest had lodged complaints in the past as he was facing threats but the local police did not act on it, the inspector general of Udaipur suspended an SHO and a chowky in-charge for negligence, they said.

Goel takes over as EC

New Delhi: Former bureaucrat Arun Goel Monday assumed charge of his new responsibility as an Election Commissioner. The poll panel said Goel assumed charge this morning. A 1985-batch IAS officer of the Punjab cadre, Goel took voluntary retirement November 18. He was Saturday appointed as an Election Commissioner. He was to retire December 31, 2022 after completing 60 years of age. He has joined Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey on the poll panel.



The country is moving towards dictatorship. There is a need to throw out people who are greedy for power. I am willing to join hands with those who want to protect freedom

UDDHAV THACKERAY | FORMER MAHARASHTRA CM

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN TO BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC

Rashtrapati Bhavan will be open for public viewing for five days a week from December 1, an official statement said Monday. People can pay a visit Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, except on gazetted holidays, in five time slots of one hour each, from 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm, it said



RELEASE OF RAJIV CONVICTS

Cong to file review petition in SC

The Centre, too, had Friday filed a petition in the Supreme Court asking it to review the order, after the six people, including a woman, were released from prison in Tamil Nadu

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 21: Ten days after their release, Congress has said it will file a fresh review application challenging the freeing of convicts of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The grand old party had earlier termed the release of the killers as "unfortunate" and "unacceptable".

The Centre, too, had Friday filed a petition in the Supreme Court asking it to review the order, after the six people, including a woman, were released from prison in Tamil Nadu.

"We are yet to decide on the modalities - whether we will intervene in the Central government's review application or intervene otherwise," senior party leader and lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi told news agency PTI.



The BJP-ruled Centre and the Congress are on the same side in this emotive political issue.

The Centre contended that the release of the convicts was cleared without it being given an adequate hearing which has led to an "admitted and glaring breach of principles of natural

justice and has, in fact, resulted into miscarriage of justice".

Former Congress President Sonia Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi's widow, had supported the death sentence of four convicts being commuted. Their daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had also met one of the accused and for-

given her. However, the party leadership has disagreed with the Gandhis and reacted strongly. "The decision of the Supreme Court to free the remaining killers of former PM Rajiv Gandhi is totally unacceptable and completely erroneous," the party had said.

Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a suicide bomber while campaigning for an election on behalf of the Congress party in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur in May 1991. Seven people were sentenced to life in the case.

The court had said its decision was based on the prisoners' good behaviour and the release in May of AG Perarivalan, another person convicted in the case, saying that he was 19 years old at the time of arrest and had been jailed for more than 30 years, with 29 of those in solitary confinement.

MEHRAULI KILLING

Police recover human jaw, seek dentist's help

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: Delhi Police has recovered a human jaw during searches for the remains of Shradha Walkar and approached a dentist here in a bid to ascertain whether it is of the 27-year-old murder victim.

The dentist, who did not wish to be named, said he wanted more information to arrive at a conclusion.

"The police came today. They had a picture of the jaw which they recovered during investigation. I asked them to get an X-ray from the Mumbai-based doctor who treated the woman, for a root canal treatment or so. Without X-ray, it is very difficult to identify," he said. Walkar moved from Mumbai to Delhi with Aaftab Amin Poonawala (28) earlier this year



and they were staying at a flat in South Delhi's Mehrauli.

At the flat, Poonawala allegedly strangled Walkar and saved her body into 35 pieces which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks before dumping them across the city over several days.

Police had Sunday found parts of a skull and some bones in a nearby forest area. As part of their search operation to recover more remains, a pond in South Delhi's Maidangarhi is also being drained.

Delhi LG approves review plea against apex court order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has approved the filing of a review petition in the Supreme Court challenging its decision to acquit three convicts in the 2012 Chhawla rape-and-murder case who were awarded the death sentence by a lower court, officials said Monday.

CHHAWLA RAPE, MURDER CASE

Saxena has also approved engaging Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to represent the Delhi government in the case, a senior official said. The father of the victim welcomed Saxena's decision and hoped that the three men will be hanged to death. "I have rested all my hopes on the Solicitor General of India now. I am sure he will convince the Supreme Court and get all the three rapists and murderers hanged to death," the victim's father told PTI after the LG gave the go-ahead to file the review petition.

He said the family was yet to come to terms with the November 7 apex court judgment acquitting them. "If not they who inflicted brutality on my daughter and murdered her? Isn't it the duty of the police and judicial system of the country to get us justice? I will fight till my last breath to get justice," the father said.

Three men were awarded the death sentence by a trial court which was upheld by the Delhi High Court for the gruesome rape and murder of a 19-year-old woman February 9, 2012 at Chhawla in Delhi's Dwarka. The SC's acquittal prompted the parents of the victim to seek police protection out of fear, the officials said. The acquittal of the accused had led to massive outrage with women's rights activists criticising the decision saying it will embolden the accused.



A shepherd carrying a lamb on his back while keeping watch on his flock of sheep, on the outskirts of Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

GYANVAPI ROW: NEXT HEARING NOV 30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, Nov 21: The Allahabad High Court Monday fixed November 30 for hearing a revision petition challenging the Varanasi district judge's order by which the lower court had refused the demand of carbon dating of a 'Shivling' claimed to have been found in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

Justice J J Munir passed the order on the revision plea filed by Laxmi Devi and others. On October 14, Varanasi District Judge A K Vishvesh had turned down the plea seeking scientific investigation and carbon dating of the 'Shivling',



citing Supreme Court directives for its safe keeping so that no tampering can be done.

When the matter was taken up in the high court Monday, counsel for Archaeological Survey of India submitted that an application has

been moved for extension of time for the survey.

However, the court commented that there should be no damage to the 'Shivling'. Then the ASI's counsel said that there are more ways to determine the age and no damages could be caused.

On behalf of the Anjuman Intezamia Committee which manages the Gyanvapi mosque, it was said that a 'vakalatnama' has to be filed in the meantime. 'Vakalatnama' is a written document signed by a client to allow his advocate to plead a case in a court on behalf of him.

Four of the five Hindu parties had sought carbon dating of the 'Shivling' found during a court-

mandated videography survey of the mosque premises close to the "wazookhana", a small reservoir used by Muslim devotees to perform ritual ablutions before offering Namaz.

The revision petition has sought appropriate survey or excavation to find out the nature of construction beneath the 'Shivling' discovered May 16, 2022.

The Hindu parties have also sought scientific investigation by carbon dating to determine the age, nature and other constituents of the 'Shivling' in accordance with the provisions of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

'Minimum progress on mitigation, climate finance at COP27'

When compared to COP26, the summit this year has brought in stronger language on renewables and included the just transition principles while bringing up energy transition, experts said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: Experts say COP27 in Egypt did the bare minimum to address the causes of global warming, particularly the issue of fossil fuels, though it delivered better-than-expected results to deal with loss and damage caused by climate change-induced disasters.

UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres summed it up in a tweet: "A fund for loss and damage is essential - but it's not an answer if the climate crisis washes a small island state off the map - or turns an entire African country to desert. The world still needs a giant leap on climate ambition."

Many hoped that the agreement would include a "phase-down of all fossil fuels" and not just coal, as

proposed by India and backed by many developed and developing countries, including the EU nations and the US, but the final agreement did not essentially build on what was agreed upon in COP26 in Scotland.

A number of developed countries rued the agreement leaving out the call for peaking of emissions before 2025 and the weakening of language on the transition to green energy, but chose not to intervene Sunday as it would have risked the loss and damage deal that poor and vulnerable nations had wanted for long.

Alden Meyer, senior associate, climate change think tank E3G (Third Generation Environmentalism), said, "While a big step forward was achieved at COP27 in addressing loss and damage, progress



was minimal on raising mitigation ambition and scaling up climate finance."

"We leave Sharm El-Sheikh having done way too little to shrink the huge gap in ambition between countries' 2030 emissions targets and what's needed to keep 1.5 degrees Celsius alive," he said.

In an analysis, the think tank said, "The world recognised the need for transformation of the financial system in order to finance the transition and resilience needs

of developing countries. However, there was little new money on the table."

"Global climate finance for 2019-20 was noted as currently only 31-32 per cent of the annual investment required, and parties requested Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) action a substantial list of reforms. The role of the private sector in financial system reform was noted, along with the importance of private sector accountability for net zero pledges and de-

livery," it said.

However, when compared to COP26, the summit this year has brought in stronger language on renewables and included the just transition principles while bringing up energy transition, experts said.

Another sharp message from COP27 is to reform multilateral development banks to provide more climate finance without forcing developing countries deeper into debt, said Ulka Kelkar, Director, Climate Program, World Resources Institute.

COP27 also creates a new just transition work programme which is relevant for countries like India that have large workforces in fossil fuel-dependent sectors, she said.

Just transition means transition to a low-carbon development strategy over a time scale that ensures food and energy security, growth and employment, leaving no one behind in the process.

"Just as the G20 communiqué made a strong statement against war, the final decision from COP27 could have made a powerful com-

mitment in the current energy crisis to phase out all fossil fuels. Instead, it only called for a diversified energy mix, implicitly accepting the continued expansion of gas," Kelkar said.

According to negotiators from developing countries, rich nations demanded intensification of climate plans to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and made efforts for the inclusion of emerging economies, such as China and India, among donors for climate finance, disregarding the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC).

In climate parlance, equity means that each country's share of carbon dioxide emissions is equal to its share of the global population.

The CBDR-RC principle recognises that each country is responsible for addressing climate change but developed countries should bear primary responsibilities as they account for most of the historical and current greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

MANGALORE BLAST: HIGH ALERT IN TN

The Central agencies have also commenced a probe into the antecedents of the accused Mohammed Shariq and his contacts in Tamil Nadu



Coimbatore Police have tightened the security at all the check posts bordering Kerala and a heavy police posse is deployed at all the 11 check posts in Kerala, Tamil Nadu border in the Coimbatore area.

The Central agencies have also commenced a probe into the antecedents of the accused Mohammed Shariq and his contacts in Tamil Nadu.

Chennai, Nov 21: Tamil Nadu Police and Central agencies are on high alert after the Mangalore auto-rickshaw blast accused Mohammed Shariq revealed his Coimbatore connection. Shariq had stayed in Coimbatore for a few months and had procured a SIM card using the Aadhar details of Surendran, a private school teacher, and his roommate.

During interrogation, Surendran (a resident of Udhagamandalam), who is in police custody, revealed that he did not know much about Mohammed Shariq other than he had shared his dormitory during the latter's stay in Coimbatore.

Agency (NIA) has been conducting searches across Tamil Nadu to flush out terror operatives and their contacts.

Agencies are also verifying whether the Mangalore blast accused Mohammed Shariq had any links with the Coimbatore blast accused Jameesha Mubin as well as the six other accused in the case who are in judicial custody.

Mohammed Talka, one of the jailed Islamic operatives in the Coimbatore car blast case is the nephew of SA Basha, the dreaded Islamist who floated the terror organisation, Al-Umma, which was instrumental in the February 14, 1998 blasts of Coimbatore in which 56 people died and over 200 injured.

Sources in the Tamil Nadu police told IANS that the connection Mohammed Shariq is alleged to have had with some Popular Front of India operatives in Tamil Nadu is being probed. The Islamist organisation Popular Front of India (PFI) is now banned by the Government of India.

AIADMK likely to part ways with BJP

THE AIADMK IS TRYING TO ROPE IN CONGRESS FROM THE DMK ALLIANCE AND CONTEST THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN ALLIANCE WITH THE GRAND-OLD PARTY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 21: The Opposition AIADMK which is in political crossroads after the drubbing in the 2019 Lok Sabha and 2021 Assembly polls is now working out strategies to stay relevant in Tamil Nadu politics.

In a recent statement, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, former Chief Minister and interim general secretary of AIADMK, has said that there was no need for him to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah when he was on a private visit to the state. However, he had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Tamil Nadu visit in the capacity of Opposition leader.

The statement of Palaniswami is considered as a major political statement by the AIADMK which is peeved at the reported comments of Amit Shah during his recent visit to Chennai. At a meeting with the party office-bearers, Shah had said that the AIADMK was in deep crisis and the DMK had turned into a dynastic party and that BJP has all the possibilities in getting a major foothold in the state.

Taking an exception to the re-



A senior leader also said that the AIADMK is now a monolithic unit and that Palaniswami is the sole leader in charge of the party. He also said that the deposed leader O. Panneerselvam does not have any role to play in the AIADMK affairs

ported comments, the AIADMK leadership spoke tough about its alliance partner.

A senior leader of the AIADMK told IANS, "We are not considering 2024 Lok Sabha elections se-

riously and we are open to all alliances. The BJP should understand that we are out of power and we don't have any compulsions. Our timing is perfect and we are more interested in the 2026

Assembly elections."

He also said that of late BJP has been trying to sideline AIADMK and to occupy the space of the Opposition and added that the AIADMK cadres are in a mood to disown the saffron party.

The AIADMK leader also said that the party does not wilt under threat when asked whether the BJP could use some agencies to bring AIADMK in line with the saffron party.

It is reliably learnt that the AIADMK is trying to rope in Congress from the DMK alliance and to contest the 2024 general elections in alliance with the grand-old party. The AIADMK leaders also said that with the party losing 38 out of the 39 seats from Tamil Nadu in the 2019 general elections, it is not focusing much on the 2024 general elections and its main aim is to garner power in Tamil Nadu in 2026.

A senior leader also said that the AIADMK is now a monolithic unit and that Palaniswami is the sole leader in charge of the party. He also said that the deposed leader O. Panneerselvam does not have any role to play in the AIADMK affairs.

Drugs worth ₹50cr seized in Assam



AGENCIES

Guwahati, Nov 21: In two separate incidents, Assam Police have seized narcotic substances worth several crores from Cachar and Karbi Anglong districts, officials said Monday. Five persons, who were allegedly involved in drug peddling, were apprehended by the police.

In Cachar, three people were arrested with 1.80 lakh tablets used for intoxication on Sunday in the Lakhimpur area in the district. Police informed that the international market value of seized tablets is around Rs 50 crore.

The accused were identified as Abdul Saeed, Ibazur Rahman and Sameer Alam, all residents of the Cachar district.

Cachar Superintendent of Police Numal Mahato said, "These three

were smuggling tablets in a lorry. The drugs were being smuggled in a secret chamber built in the vehicle's carrier. Based on a specific information, three people were arrested after searching the vehicle and tablets were seized."

The police officer further informed that as per the initial investigation, Abdul Saeed had brought the tablets from the Churachandpur district of neighbouring Manipur state. The purpose was to smuggle them to foreign countries. Further investigation is underway in the case.

In another incident, police and CRPF in a joint operation intercepted a truck and seized four quintals of ganja hidden in a modified secret chamber in Karbi Anglong district Sunday. Two accused were also apprehended.

Rumblings surface in TN Cong

AGENCIES

Chennai, Nov 21: After a prolonged silence, rumblings against the state leadership surfaced in the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee with few office bearers overtly expressing their resentment.

What took everyone by surprise was the chaos and a sudden scuffle between the supporters of two MLAs on the premises of Sathyamurthy Bhavan - the TNCC headquarters - November 15.

Though TNCC chief KS Alagiri, later, dismissed this as the party's internal affair, which would be sorted out, the incident nevertheless brought to the fore the bickering within the party.

Party's Thoothukudi north district Congress president R Kamaraj resigned from party post protesting against the alleged handling of the incidents. TNCC treasurer and Nanguneri legislator Ruby R Manoharan, whose supporters created ruckus leading to a minor scuffle, said he has been served a show-cause notice by the party leadership and he would make his submission before the disciplinary committee November 24. His supporters had protested against the election results of the block presidents for Kalakkad and Nanguneri. The supporters of Tirunelveli east district Congress committee president KPK Jayakumar entered into



What took everyone by surprise was the chaos and a sudden scuffle between the supporters of two MLAs on the premises of TNCC headquarters November 15

an argument with them leading to a scuffle between the two groups.

"The party posts were filled without consulting the district presidents. The arbitrary action against Manoharan is unacceptable. The party cadres were attacked by goondas inside the Congress state headquarters. What action has the state president taken against the goondas?" Kamaraj asked.

Also, he alleged that the TNCC

did not pass a resolution condemning the release of the convicts in the former Prime Minister and Congress leader Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Dismissing it as an internal issue, Alagiri claimed that "dissatisfaction against leadership is natural in any political party."

The appointments were made as per the procedure laid down by the state election commission, he said. About 62 district leaders signed a petition seeking disciplinary action against the Nanguneri MLA.

"We are trying to resolve the issue in a democratic manner. Alagiri's car was waylaid by a group of persons," claimed former Union Minister Dhanushkodi Athithan. Posters demanding action against Manoharan in Tirunelveli district and few posters in Chidambaram flaying Alagiri, took the party by surprise.

Quality of life important, not just economic index: Stalin

AGENCIES

Chennai, Nov 21: Development should not be determined on economic indicators alone, but it should hinge on the quality of life and happiness index, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin opined Monday.

The state government has been striving with the noble objective of development for all and development in all sectors, the Chief Minister said.

"We believe that development should not be determined only by economic indicators, but, it should be measured also in terms of factors like Human Development Index and Happiness Index," he said while chairing the second review meeting of the state-level District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) in Chennai. The state government's intent is being fulfilled as it is progressing towards its objective without change, Stalin opined.

"The most important of these is rural development. I have said that the problems in rural areas should be addressed at the micro level and macro level benefits should be given to them," the Chief Minister said.

The present review meeting is being conducted with a special focus on providing better livelihood and infrastructure in the



Our mission is to reach all the people through the projects... I am very confident that your activities (DISHA) will create sustainable development, social justice, equity and inclusive growth both in rural and urban areas

M K STALIN | CHIEF MINISTER

rural people, he stressed.

Also, Stalin pointed out that every project is important in its own way and thus contribute to overall development. "Our mission is to reach all the people through the projects... I am very confident that your activities (DISHA) will create sustainable development, social justice, equity and inclusive growth both in rural and urban areas," the Chief Minister said.

SPREAD ACROSS 6 NATIONS

Illegal trade in rhino horns at alarming levels

ASSAM IS HOME TO 71 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S ONE-HORNED RHINO POPULATION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Nov 21: Involving six countries, the illegal trade in rhino horns has assumed alarming proportions to meet the strong demand for carved rhino horn products, contrary to the popular belief that the main market for rhino horns is driven by its medicinal values, experts said.

With a series of steps including stepped up vigil, rhino poaching has been drastically curtailed since 2017 in Assam, which is home to 71 per cent of the world's one-horn rhino population.

Quoting a report released during the ongoing CITES convention in Panama City (November 14-25), bio-diversity expert Bibhab Kumar Talukdar said the Vietnamese wanted the rhino horn for use in health tonics and hangover cures.

Referring to the report, Talukdar pointed out that more than 7.5 tonnes of rhino horns were seized globally during the decade.

Although more than 50 countries and territories were implicated in rhino horn trafficking over the decade, six countries - South Africa, Mozambique, Malaysia, Hong Kong SAR, Vietnam and China - have dominated the supply chain as source, transit and destination locations, the report stated.

The report was submitted by the UK on behalf of the Wildlife Justice Commission and the World Wide Fund for Nature in relation to agenda item 75 in the current CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora.

Talukdar, who is a member of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group and Secretary General and CEO of biodiversity conservation organisation 'Aaranyak', told IANS that most of the rhino horns entering Asian markets are of two species of African rhinos.

He feels that as the user markets of rhino horns are in Asia and as the population of three species of Asian rhinos is smaller than that of two species of African rhinos, the Asian rhino range countries need to be more vigilant to protect the small population.

Though Vietnam is known to be a primary destination for rhino horns, a substantial portion of rhino horns entering Vietnam is sold to Chinese buyers and smuggled overland to China, where rhino horn products are used as jewellery and decorative artefacts, the report said.

Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR), India's seventh Unesco world heritage site, is home to more than 2,600 Indian rhinos.



The park, which is spread across five districts of Assam - Golaghat, Nagaon, Sonitpur, Biswanath and Karbi Anglong - is not just the home of one-horned rhinos, but also of Royal Bengal Tigers, Asian elephants, wild buffaloes and many more animal species. It is also the habitat of thousands of birds from over 125 species.

According to Assam's Forest and Wildlife officials rhino poaching in Assam was the highest in 2013 and 2014, with 27 rhinos poached each year.

In 2015 poachers killed 17 one-horned rhinos and 18 rhinos were killed in 2016 in the state's national

parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

The numbers have decreased since 2017 and according to the state government data, only one rhino was killed by poachers in Kaziranga National Park last year.

After an over a month long elaborate process of reconciliation of horns stored in seven treasuries in different parts of Assam, on the occasion of World Rhino Day September 22 last year, the state government burnt 2,479 rhino horns at a public function to destroy the world's largest stockpile of rhino horns in order to bust the myth that they have amazing medicinal value.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said: "One-horned rhino is not only integral to our civilisation, but also a symbol of our prized heritage and identity. We are preserving 94 rhino horns for display at a museum to be set up at the Kaziranga National Park. The use of rhino horns for medicinal purposes is a myth."

According to forest and wildlife officials, among the reconciled rhino horns, the heaviest horn weighed 3.05 kg, while the average weight of the horns was 560 gm. They said that of these horns, the longest one was 57 cm, with an average standing height of 13.77 cm.

Prior to selecting the horns, the process of reconciliation of the horns stored in seven treasuries had been carried out by a committee chaired by Assam's Chief Wildlife Warden and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Mahendra Kumar Yadav, with the help of a technical committee and seven zonal committees.

The officials said that the entire process was carried out in accordance with the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, while a public hearing on the rhino horn burning had been held August 29 last year.

'ULFA-I has lost its influence at grassroots level'

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Nov 21: Indian Army's Eastern Command chief Lt General Rana Pratap Kalita has appealed to the banned United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) chief Paresh Baruah to come to the table for talks.

He said that the influence of ULFA-I has declined drastically at the grassroots level in Assam. It has some hold only in four districts of the state, and now peace and harmony are reigning in the region, Kalita added.

The Eastern Command chief also said that India has progressed very well in terms of military capability, economics, and foreign affairs. "We assure that the army is completely prepared to meet any emergency and any sort of challenge. At all costs, we will safeguard the territorial integrity of the country."

Reacting to scrapping Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from the region, he said that the law has been repealed from most of the areas of the northeastern states.

"Meghalaya and Tripura are now peaceful states. Mizoram has been progressing in that path too. AFSPA has been removed from several districts of Nagaland and Manipur. Depending on the situation, the Central government may in the future repeal AFSPA fully from this region," he added.

Lt General Kalita was attending the Purvottar Swabhiman Utsav organised by his Command.



Do not vote for those who want to stop the development and welfare work in Delhi
ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

LIVE BOMBS FOUND ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Three live crude bombs were seized from the premises of a primary school in Chinsurah in West Bengal's Hooghly district Monday. Locals spotted the bombs in the premises of Naldanga Narayanpur Primary School before the school hours and informed the police, who seized the bombs from there, a senior police officer said



of the day quote

Modi should understand that power comes and goes. Indira Gandhi too, was removed. People used to say that she will not be removed. Someday you will also go away but do not create so much chaos that things cannot be improved



SATYA PAL MALIK | FORMER GOVERNOR OF MEGHALAYA

Nehru jailed my father, while Gandhi dismissed my government. But I have a lot of respect for them because of their contribution to the country



FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Another Kashmiri accused of being a hybrid militant is killed in police custody. The same story is repeated where an alleged militant is taken to a hideout & subsequently shot at under mysterious circumstances. No accountability whatsoever



MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

4 kids, among 6 of family, dead

Udaipur: A couple and their four children were found dead at their residence in Rajasthan's Udaipur district Monday, police said. Prima facie it appears that the family head, Prakash alias Pappu Gameti, strangled his wife and their children before dying by suicide at their home in Jhadoli village, said Superintendent of Police, Udaipur, Vikas Sharma. The incident came to light Monday morning when Prakash's brother went to his house. He informed the family's neighbours and the police were called in, officials said.

Farmer killed in elephant attack

Idukki (Kerala): A farmer in his sixties was killed Monday morning in a wild elephant attack while working in his cardamom plantation in this high range district of Kerala. A senior forest officer said the incident occurred at around 10 AM when the farmer along with some of his labourers were working in the plantation in Santhanpara village in Idukki district.

Pvt firm employees robbed at gunpoint

Gwalior: Two motorcycle-borne men robbed employees of a private firm at gunpoint and decamped with cash to the tune of ₹1.2 crore in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior Monday, police said. The incident occurred in Jayendraganj area of the city around 12 pm, when two employees of a private firm were heading to a bank to deposit ₹1.2 crore, city superintendent of police (CSP) Rishikesh Meena said.

366 drug smugglers held in one week

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police arrested 366 drug smugglers after registering 258 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act across the state last week, a senior police official said Monday. Inspector General of Police (headquarters) Sukhchain Singh Gill said the police have seized 8.44 kg heroin, 7.75 kg opium, 17.64 kg cannabis, 19 quintals of poppy husk, and 59,000 tablets, capsules, injections and vials of pharma opioids, besides ₹1.22 crore from their possession. He further said 15 proclaimed offenders and absconders in NDPS cases were arrested last week as part of a special drive started July 5.

Man shoots daughter dead, mother helps in disposing body



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mathura (UP), Nov 21: A 21-year-old Delhi woman, whose body was found stuffed in a travel bag here three days ago, was shot dead allegedly by her father as the family was not happy since she got married without their approval, police said Monday.

The woman's mother knew about the killing and had helped the father in disposing of their daughter's body along the Yamuna Expressway here in the early hours November 18, they said.

Both the parents have been arrested and sent to jail, while the weapon used in the crime has also been recovered, the police told reporters here as it cracked the suspected honour killing case.

"Ayushi had a fight with her father November 17. She had got married to a man of her choice because of which her family was unhappy. Enraged over this, her father had shot her twice November 17 after the argument," acting Senior Superintendent of Police Martand Prakash Singh said. Ayushi had a brother who also knew about the act. After Ayushi died, her mother Brajbala Yadav had helped her father Nitesh Yadav stuff the daughter's body in a trolley bag and accompanied him to dump the body on a service road in Raya near the Vrindavan cut along the Expressway, some 150 km away from their Badapur home. "The parents had kept the body in their house (at Modband village in Badapur, Delhi) during the night and left home around 3 am in their own car. They had stuffed the body in a red-coloured trolley bag, dumped it here and fled back," Singh told reporters.

Protests in Maha for ouster of Governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune/Nagpur, Nov 21: Amid a row over Maharashtra governor B S Koshiyari's remarks about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, NCP's Supriya Sule Monday wondered how could Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis "defend" the "insult" to the warrior king even as protests were held in Mumbai and other cities for the ouster of the governor.

The protesters, belonging to Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, and NCP also slammed BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi for "insulting" Chhatrapati Shivaji during a television debate.

Sule said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has no moral right to take the name of the Maratha king. As Koshiyari's remarks that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was an icon of "olden days" caused a huge furore, Fadnis Sunday appeared to defend the beleaguered governor.

After an FIR was lodged, 14 police teams were pushed into investigating the case and they began tracing phones, checked CCTV footage, used social media and also put up posters in Delhi to identify the woman, he said. Concrete information about Ayushi, however, was received from an unidentified caller Sunday morning, and later, her mother and brother identified her through photographs.

They also arrived at the mortuary here and confirmed it was Ayushi's body, the police said. The family is a native of Baluni in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur and migrated to the national capital after Nitesh Yadav found a job there.

Morbi an enormous tragedy: SC

THE BRITISH-ERA BRIDGE ON THE MACHCHHU RIVER IN MORBI IN GUJARAT COLLAPSED OCTOBER 30 LEAVING 141 PEOPLE DEAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: Terming as an "enormous tragedy" the Morbi bridge collapse that claimed 141 lives, the Supreme Court Monday asked the Gujarat High Court to periodically monitor the probe and other aspects including rehabilitation and award of "dignified" compensation to the victims.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli also turned down the submissions that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to ensure that incidents like the Morbi collapse do not happen again. "Sometimes, the Commission would just put the issue to the back burner. Sometimes, it is good for the judges to take charge of the proceedings. We would have done it ourselves but now the High Court Chief Justice is dealing

with it," it said. "It is an enormous tragedy and this will require a weekly monitoring to see award of contract, credentials of party awarded the contract, attribution of responsibility for those guilty. The High Court has taken charge else we would have issued notice," the bench orally observed during a hearing. The bench also said it would request the High Court to hold periodical hearings. The top court refused to entertain the pleas including a PIL seeking an independent probe into the incident, saying the division bench headed by the Gujarat High Court Chief Justice has already taken a suo motu (on its own) note of the tragedy and has passed several orders.

It, however, permitted the PIL petitioner, Vishal Tiwari and another litigant Chavada Dilipbhai, who lost his brother and the sister-in-



law in the incident, to move the high court with their pleas seeking an independent probe and award of dignified compensation to those who lost their family members.

The top court also said the petitioners may approach it later.

"As many as 141 persons including 47 children are reported to have perished in the Morbi bridge collapse. Several aspects of the matter would require obtaining periodical responses from the officials of the state and 'Nagarpalika' in order that the court is apprised of the antecedent facts leading up to the collapse of the bridge as well

as the subsequent developments bearing on relief and rehabilitation and compensation," it said.

The bench, in its order, said the high court would "undoubtedly" ensure that a "proper regulatory mechanism" is put in place so that such incidents do not recur. "Since the division bench presided over by the Gujarat High Court Chief Justice has already entertained the suo motu proceedings, we are of the view that it would be appropriate that the conduct of the proceedings continue to remain with that division bench of the High Court."

Rahul hits Guj campaign trail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahuva (Gujarat), Nov 21: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Monday said he felt the pain of farmers, youth and tribals after meeting them during his Bharat Jodo Yatra and accused the BJP of drawing up plans to displace adivasis by handing over forests to industrialists as he hit the campaign trail in Gujarat 10 days ahead of the first phase of Assembly polls.

Addressing his first rally in Gujarat after the announcement of the Assembly poll schedule, Gandhi asserted tribals are the first owners of the country, but the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was working to take away their jungles and keep their children away from modern education. The Congress MP took



a break from his Bharat Jodo Yatra, currently passing through Maharashtra, and travelled to Gujarat, where he addressed a gathering of tribals at Mahuva in Surat district in support of his party, which is seeking to end its nearly three-decade stint in the opposition in the BJP-ruled state in the next month's Assembly polls.

Gandhi said his 3,570-km yatra, which started from Tamil Nadu September 7, was for the unity of the country and during the cross-country foot-march he felt the pain

of farmers, youth and people from the tribal community after listening to their problems. Sharing his experience of the yatra so far, the Congress leader said he felt sad while talking to farmers, youth, and tribals. Farmers shared their experience of not getting proper rate of their produce, crop insurance money or their loans not getting waived, while youth talked about remaining unemployed and failing to realize their dreams.

"They (BJP) call you 'vanvasi' (forest dwellers). They do not say you are the first owners of India, but that you live in the jungles. Do you see the difference? It means they do not want you to live in cities, see your children becoming engineers, doctors, learn to fly planes, speak English," he said.



ASHA, Mid-Day Meal, Anganwadi and other workers under the banner of All-India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICTTU), stage a protest against low salary, precarity of employment and gender discrimination at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi



BJP BATTLING A STORM OF PROTESTS

The BJP has been battling a storm of protests after Congress turncoats were preferred and old time loyalists who had slogged decades for saffron causes were left out.

Already suffering from anxiety pangs as the High Court hauls the BJP ruled Gujarat government over the coils on the Morbi bridge collapse with searching questions on culpability, Home Minister Amit Shah finds himself in the role of chief firefighter to quell the raging dissent over ticket distribution in the state.

But for all the fire-fighting capabilities of Shah and his team of stalwarts working round-the-clock to calm ruffled feathers some creases refuse to be ironed out. BJP sitting legislator from Waghodia in Vadodra district Madhu Shrivastava, denied a ticket has sailed forth as an independent. He courted controversy recently with his statement that if any of his supporter if collared will face a retaliatory bullet. Rajendrasinh

Jadeja, BJP candidate from Mandvi in Kutch left to fend for himself has switched sides to the Congress and is back in the fray. Dhavalnsinh Jhala who defected from the Congress to the BJP along with OBC leader Alpesh Thakore and contested again had both lost. Alpesh has been given a ticket from Gandhinagar while Dhavalnsinh left out is contesting as an independent from Bayad in north Gujarat.

In Dhanera, Banaskantha district Mavji Desai who lost in 2017 and was denied a ticket the BJP is contesting as an independent. In Panchmahal, former BJP MP, Prabhatsinh Chauhan quit and is now the Congress candidate from Kalol as is Khatu Paggi from Shehra seat with Lunawada having two BJP rebels SM Khant and JP Patel as independents.

The first list of the BJP saw 38 legislators getting the axe. State unit president CR Patil termed it a generational shift as more tickets have been given to young and aspiring party leaders. The second list has



also seen two sitting MLAs, both women being left out.

However, those who were dropped did not feel as enthused. There are at least 25 seats where protests have erupted. These have been heightened by the fact that turncoats from the Congress have found favour at the cost of loyal cadres who have done duty for decades. State level leaders including party chief Patil and even Home Minister Harsh Sanghvi, initially drafted to mollify those left out failed miserably. Subsequently, former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Union Minister Parshottam Rupala, Mansukh Mandaviya and Pradipsinh were drafted to deal with the tense sit-

uation. Finally, Shah rushed to Gujarat under directions from the Prime Minister to take charge and diffuse the situation. He has been camping here. The all-pervasive dissent particularly in seats where Congress turncoats have been preferred to party loyalists has led to saffron workers becoming inactive. Such has been the pressure that the BJP candidate allotted the party ticket from Wadhawan in Surendranagar district expressed her unwillingness to contest though she did not give any reason for her decision. There is similar resentment against Patidar stir leaders Hardik Patel and Alpesh Thakore who quit the Congress to join the BJP and were given mandate from Viramgam and Gandhinagar.

Supporters of Jhankhana Patel, the party legislator from Choryasi in Surat who had bagged her seat with the second highest margin of over a lakh votes in 2017, next only to Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel, took to the streets protesting

against the logic of dropping a high-achieving winner.

There have been reports of protests from Wankaner, Talala, Botad, Mahuva, Kalawad in Saurashtra region as well as Becharaji, Visnagar, Deesa, Dhanera, Mehsana, Himmatnagar and Vijapur in North Gujarat. By last count at least 19 Congress legislators who had switched sides from the Congress over the years have been rewarded. "This time winnability is the sole criteria," says a party insider.

However, many other Congress turncoats were not as lucky. Birjesh Merja, the Morbi legislator who had switched from the Congress to the BJP and was a minister in the Bhupendra Patel government and became a victim of the bridge collapse has been denied a ticket. He has been replaced by BJP old timer and 5-time MLA Kantilal Amrutiyaya who was involved in a murder case and later absolved and whom he had defeated. Similarly the current Vidhan Sabha speaker

Nimaben Acharya has been dropped as has been Dharmendrasinh Jadeja from Jannagar (north) and has been replaced by Revaba Jadeja, wife of cricketer Ravindra Jadeja.

Experience has it that the turncoats have more often than not fallen victim to the use and throw strategy of the ruling party.

There is Somabhai Patel, a three term MP of the Congress from Surendranagar who quit as Congress MLA in 2020 to join the BJP. Neither was he given the BJP mandate in the by-election created by his own resignation nor this time.

Congress legislators Pravin Maru from Gadhada and Mangal Gavit elected from Dangs seat in 2017 have both been denied a ticket.

Meanwhile, the BJP has speeded up campaigning to galvanise sulking party workers into work mode. Top national leaders descended on Gujarat November 18 to address rallies in all 89 constituencies which go to polls December 1.

international

of the day quote

In response to the recent action of three European countries and the United States in the adoption of a resolution against Iran, some initial measures have been decided by the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran

NASSER KANANI | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, IRAN

Looking around the world when the United States and (its) President (Joe) Biden look for partners that can truly help carry the load, truly helped move forward a global agenda, India and Prime Minister Modi are very high on that list

JON FINER | PRINCIPAL DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, US

I am satisfied as this negotiation was on the need to form a stable government that's inclusive. I am still very optimistic that we will be able to form a government

ANWAR IBRAHIM | OPPOSITION LEADER, MALAYSIA

SHORT TAKES

Netanyahu wins defamation case

Tel Aviv: Israel's prime-minister designate Benjamin Netanyahu won his lawsuit against ex-premier Ehud Olmert Monday, with a Tel Aviv judge ruling Olmert defamed the Netanyahu family by branding them mentally ill. Olmert became prime minister in 2006 but stepped down in 2009 as he faced corruption allegations. He was replaced by Netanyahu that year and the acrimony between them has deepened since. In an interview in April last year, Olmert alleged that Netanyahu, his wife Sara, and son Yair all suffered from "mental illness".

Kishida sacks 3rd min in a month

Tokyo: The internal affairs minister in Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government was forced into resigning over funding problems Sunday, in a blow to the scandal-prone Cabinet that has already lost two ministers in one month. Minoru Terada has been under fire over several accounting and funding irregularities. In one, he acknowledged that one of his support groups submitted accounting records carrying a dead person's signature.

Trump snubs Twitter

Washington: Donald Trump Saturday said he had no interest in returning to Twitter even as a slim majority voted in favor of reinstating the former US president, who was banned from the social media service for inciting violence, in a poll organized by new owner Elon Musk. "The people have spoken. Trump will be reinstated," Musk tweeted. But the former president said via video when asked whether he planned to return to Twitter, "I don't see any reason for it".

China's SCS dominance

Manila: China's coast guard forcibly seized apparent Chinese rocket debris that was being towed by the Philippine navy, in the latest confrontation in the disputed South China Sea, a Philippine military commander said Monday. The Chinese vessel twice blocked the Philippine naval boat before seizing the debris it was towing Sunday off Philippine-occupied Thitu island. China denied there was a forcible seizure and said the debris, which it confirmed was from a Chinese rocket launch, was handed over by Philippine forces after a "friendly consultation."



BLOOD, DEBRIS Indonesia quake kills 162

INDONESIA STRADDLES THE SO-CALLED "PACIFIC RING OF FIRE", A HIGHLY SEISMICALLY ACTIVE ZONE, WHERE DIFFERENT PLATES ON THE EARTH'S CRUST MEET AND CREATE A LARGE NUMBER OF EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cianjur, Nov 21: A powerful earthquake killed at least 162 people and injured hundreds on Indonesia's main island Monday. Terrified residents fled into the street, some covered in blood and debris.

Many of the dead were public-school students who had finished their classes for the day and were taking extra lessons at several Islamic schools when they collapsed. West Java Governor Ridwan Kamil said he announced the new death toll in the remote, rural area.

The toll is expected to rise further, but no estimates were immediately available because of the area's far-flung, rural population. Roughly 175,000 people live in the town of Cianjur, part of a mountainous district of the same name with more than 2.5 million people.

Known for their piety, the people of Cianjur live mostly in towns of one- and two-story buildings and in smaller homes in the surrounding countryside.

Kamil said that more than 13,000 people whose homes were heavily

- Death toll at 162 as of Monday evening and counting
- Many of the dead were public-school students
- Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency recorded at least 25 aftershocks

The vehicles on the road stopped because the quake was very strong. I felt it shook three times, but the first one was the strongest one for around 10 seconds. The roof of the shop next to the store I work in had collapsed, and people said two had been hit

DEWI RISMA | Shopkeeper, Java (Indonesia)

damaged were taken to evacuation centers.

Emergency workers treated the injured on stretchers and blankets outside hospitals, on terraces and in parking lots in the Cianjur region, about three hours drive from the capital, Java.



Explosions occurred at the site of this major nuclear power plant, which is completely unacceptable. Whoever is behind this, it must stop immediately. As I have said many times before, you're playing with fire

RAFAEL GROSSI | HEAD, IAEA

TESLA BURSTS INTO FLAMES IN US

A Tesla car was burnt beyond recognition in the United States after a large chunk of debris lodged underneath the vehicle. Taking to Facebook, the Morris Township Volunteer Fire Department said it took them approximately 12,000 gallons of water and nearly two hours to control the blaze and smoke



Ukraine readies for worst winter ever

Authorities have started evacuating civilians from the recently-liberated areas as the infrastructure is too weak to endure upcoming harsh winter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kyiv, Nov 21: Ukrainian authorities have started evacuating civilians from the recently-liberated areas of the Kherson region and the neighbouring province of Mykolaiv, fearing that damage to the infrastructure is too severe for people to endure the upcoming winter, officials said Monday.

Residents of the two southern regions, regularly shelled in the past months by Russian forces, have been advised to move to safer areas in the central and western parts of the country, said Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk. The government will provide "transportation, accommodation, medical care," she said.

The evacuations come more than a week after Ukraine retook the city of Kherson and areas around it. The liberation of the area marked a major battlefield gain, while the evacuations now highlight the difficulties the country is facing following heavy Russian shelling of its power infrastructure as winter weather sets in.

Russian-installed authorities in the Kherson region Monday also reiterated their call to people to evacuate an area on the eastern bank of the Dnieper River, which Moscow now controls. Officials cited a "high level of military threat" in the Kakhovskiy district as they asked residents to go to evacuation points.

Russia has set up defence lines along the eastern bank of the Dnieper River, fearing that Ukrainian forces would push deeper into the region.

Since Ukraine retook the Kherson city just over a week ago, Russia has stepped up pounding

AFGHANS SHARE THE SAME FATE

Kabul: More Afghans will be struggling for survival as living conditions deteriorate in the year ahead, a top official of the International Committee of the Red Cross said in an interview, as the country braces for its second winter under Taliban rule. The religious group's seizure of power in August 2021 sent the economy into a tailspin and fundamentally transformed Afghanistan, driving millions into poverty and hunger as foreign aid stopped almost overnight. Sanctions on Taliban rulers, a halt on bank transfers and frozen billions in Afghanistan's currency reserves have already restricted access to global institutions and the outside money that supported the country's aid-dependent economy before the withdrawal of US and NATO forces. The onset of winter will compound the acute humanitarian needs that half the country is already facing.

Ukraine's power grid and other infrastructure from the air, causing widespread blackouts and leaving millions of Ukrainians without heat, power or water as frigid cold and snow blankets the capital, Kyiv, and other cities.

On Sunday, powerful explosions from shelling shook Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, the site of Europe's largest nuclear power plant. The IAEA, the global nuclear watchdog, called for "urgent measures to help prevent a nuclear accident" in the Russian-occupied facility. Kyiv and Moscow blamed each other for the shelling that came after weeks of relative calm in the area.



The injured, including children, were given oxygen masks and IV lines. Some were resuscitated.

"I fainted. It was very strong," said Hasan, a construction worker who, like many Indonesians, uses one name. "I saw my friends running to escape from the building. But it was too late to get out and I was hit by the wall."

Residents, some crying and holding their children, fled damaged homes after the magnitude 5.6 quake shook the region in West Java province in the late afternoon, at a depth of 10 kilometers.

It also caused panic in the greater Jakarta area, where high-rises swayed and some people evacuated. Several landslides closed roads around the Cianjur district. Among the dozens of buildings

that were damaged was a hospital, the agency said. Power outages were also reported.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency recorded at least 25 aftershocks.

"The quake felt so strong. My colleagues and I decided to get out of our office on the ninth floor using the emergency stairs," said Vidi Primadhandia, a worker in the capital, where many residents ran into the streets and others hid under desks.

The country of more than 270 million people is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

OLD EARTHQUAKE WOUNDS

In February, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake killed at least 25 people and injured more than 460 in West Sumatra province. In January 2021, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake killed more than 100 people and injured nearly 6,500 in West Sulawesi province. A powerful Indian Ocean quake and tsunami in 2004 killed nearly 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia.



In 15 Ukrainian regions, four-hour or longer power outages were expected Monday

Over 40% of the energy facilities were damaged by Russian missile strikes in recent weeks



KAMALA GO BACK: Protesters hold a rally as they tried to march near Malacanang Palace against the visit of US Vice President Kamala Harris in Manila Monday

China Covid cases mount; entry rules tightened

China recorded two deaths in Beijing, up from one Saturday, which was its first since late May

REUTERS

Beijing, Nov 21: China's capital warned Monday that it was facing its most severe test of the Covid-19 pandemic, shutting businesses and schools in hard-hit districts and tightening rules for entering the city as infections ticked higher in Beijing and nationally.

China is fighting numerous Covid-19 flare-ups, from Zhengzhou in central Henan province to



Chongqing in the southwest. It reported 26,824 new local cases for Sunday, nearing the country's daily infection peak in April. Guangzhou, a southern city of nearly 19 million people that is battling the largest of China's recent outbreaks, ordered a five-day lockdown for Baiyun, its most populous district. It also suspended

dine-in services and shut night clubs and theatres in the city's main business district.

The latest wave is testing China's resolve to stick to adjustments it has made to its zero-Covid policy, which calls for cities to be more targeted in their clampdown measures and steer away from widespread lockdowns and testing that has strangled the economy and frustrated residents.

Beijing reported 962 new infections Sunday, up from 621 a day earlier, and a further 316 cases for the first 15 hours of Monday. City authorities said people arriving in the capital from elsewhere in China would need to undergo three days of Covid testing before they are permitted to leave their homes or accommodation.

NZ to decide on lowering voting age from 18 to 16

New Zealand's voting age was previously lowered from 21 to 20 in 1969, and then to 18 in 1974

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wellington, Nov 20: New Zealand lawmakers will take a vote on whether to lower the national voting age from 18 to 16, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Monday.

Her announcement came hours after the country's Supreme Court ruled that not allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote amounted to age discrimination. But while Ardern said she personally favours lowering the age, such a change would require a 75 per cent supermajority of lawmakers to agree. And even proponents acknowledge they don't currently have the numbers.

A number of nations are debating whether to lower their vot-

I personally support a decrease in the voting age but it is not a matter simply for me or even the government, any change in electoral law of this nature requires 75% of parliamentarian support

JACINDA ARDERN | PM, NZ

ing age. Some that allow people to vote at 16 include Austria, Malta, Brazil, Cuba and Ecuador.

Sanat Singh, co-director of New Zealand's Make It 16 campaign, said he was absolutely thrilled with the court's decision. "It's a huge day," he said. "This is historic not only for our campaign, but for the country."

Japan's unusual way to help suicidal youth

SUICIDE IS A LONGSTANDING PROBLEM IN JAPAN, AND LIKE MANY PLACES, THE COUNTRY SAW A SPIKE IN DEATHS BY SUICIDE DURING PARTS OF THE PANDEMIC

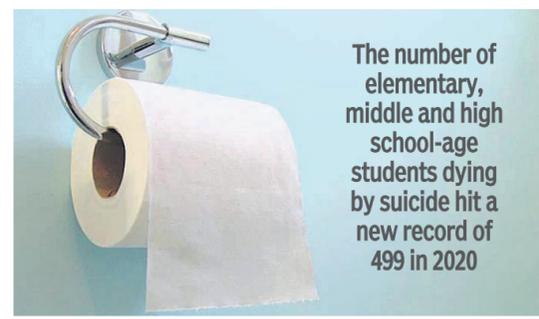
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tokyo, Nov 21: Authorities in central Japan are trying an unusual new approach to tackle the country's longstanding suicide problem: printing messages of support on toilet paper.

"Dear you, who might want to end it all," reads the toilet paper being used in an unusual new initiative to reach out to suicidal young people in the country.

Suicide is a longstanding problem in Japan, and like many places, the country saw a spike in deaths by suicide during parts of the pandemic.

The number of elementary, middle and high school-age students dying by suicide hit a new record



The number of elementary, middle and high school-age students dying by suicide hit a new record of 499 in 2020

of 499 in 2020, according to the health ministry.

Officials in Yamanashi thought printing reassuring messages and suicide-prevention hotline

numbers on sheets of toilet papers might be an effective and discreet way to help distressed young people. "You're alone in the toilet. We felt that it's at moments like

this when you might be more prone to thoughts of anguish", Yamanashi official Kenichi Miyazawa told AFP.

The campaign involves 6,000 rolls printed with messages and phone numbers, which were distributed to 12 regional universities last month.

Interspersed between illustrations such as a curled-up cat and an umbrella-holding woman looking up into the sky are messages crafted by a mental health professional that are intended to allay loneliness.

"Dear you, spending painful days pretending to be okay for someone else", reads one message written in blue on the white paper. "You don't need to tell us everything... but how about just a little of it?"

of the day quote

It has taken if not months then years for our industry to be able to firmly plant its footprint internationally. (On) steel product, the duty has been removed completely from Friday evening enabling a new era for the steel industry to grow

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

The commitment that I made to the board is in the first 36 months of operation, in the first three years, there'll be 120 stores (in India)

NAVIN GURNANEY | CEO, TIM HORTONS

We are witnessing a modest price increase in the primary housing market. This is mainly because of the sharp rise in prices of key raw materials like cement and steel

VIKAS WADHANAN | CFO, REA INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Airtel hikes min recharge plan

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel has increased the price of its minimum recharge for 28 days mobilephone service plan by about 57 per cent to Rs 155 in Haryana and Odisha, according to the company's website and analysts. The company has stopped its minimum recharge plan of Rs 99, under which it offered 200 megabyte of data and calls at the rate of Rs 2.5 paise per second. In Haryana and Odisha, Airtel has now started offering the Rs 155-plan with unlimited calling, 1 GB data and 300 SMSes. According to sources closely engaged with the development, the company has started trial of the new plan and is likely to roll out the same across India based on the result.

Adani's NDTV offer to start from today

New Delhi: Adani group's open offer to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake in the media firm New Delhi Television (NDTV) from the market would start from Tuesday. The offer, for which a price band of Rs 294 per share has been fixed, will open November 22 and closes December 5, said a notice by JM Financial, the firm managing the offer on behalf of Adani Group firms. Markets regulator Sebi November 7 granted its approval to the proposed Rs 492.81 crore-open offer.

Matter unveils geared e-bike

New Delhi: Electric vehicle and energy storage technology startup Matter Monday unveiled a geared electric motorcycle with plans to commence sales next year. The Ahmedabad-based company plans to commence booking for the model soon and start deliveries from April next year. The startup aims to have 200 dealerships across major cities over the next 12 months. It is also eyeing exports to various markets including Asia, Africa and Latin America in the next two years.

Rasna founder Areez no more

New Delhi: The Rasna Group Monday said its founder and Chairman Areez Pirojshaw Khambatta has passed away. Khambatta, 85, who was also the Chairman of Areez Khambatta Benevolent Trust and Rasna Foundation, passed away on Saturday, a statement from the group said. He was also the former Chairman of WAPIZ (World Alliance of Parsi Irani Zarthostis) and past President of Ahmedabad Parsi Panchayat, Vice President of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India.



Hiding lack of data is not an excuse because the key point is that we have got to start somewhere and we are at an inflexion point on climate risk. There is no reason why our financial system cannot collaborate together on climate risk and measuring financed emissions

DEEPAK PAREKH | CHAIRMAN, HDFC

KOO MAKING WAVES IN BRAZIL

Homegrown microblogging platform Koo App Monday said it has received a strong response from users in Brazil, logging over 1 million downloads within 48 hours of launch in that market. Twitter-rival Koo aims to further cement its position globally by making the app available to more countries and launching in multiple global languages



New norms to curb fake online reviews

The standards will be applicable to any organisation which publishes consumer reviews online, including suppliers of products and services that collect reviews from their own customers, a third party contracted by the supplier or an independent third party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: E-commerce players like Amazon and Flipkart will have to voluntarily disclose all paid consumer reviews of products and services offered on their platforms, with the government bringing in new norms to curb fake reviews and help buyers make informed decisions.

However, the government has barred publication of reviews that "have been purchased and/or written by individuals employed for that purpose by the supplier or third party concerned".

The BIS standards, prepared after extensive stakeholder consultations and to be effective from November 25, will be voluntary but the government will consider making them mandatory in case the menace of fake reviews continue on the online platforms.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh Monday said the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated a new standard 'IS 19000:2022 for Online Consumer Reviews -- Principles and Requirement for their Collection, Moderation and Publication'.

Singh said the BIS will come out with a certification process within the next 15 days to check whether an organisation is complying with these standards. E-commerce players can apply for the certification of this standard with the BIS.

While noting that online reviews play a vital role in making purchase decisions on e-commerce platforms, Singh said the three prominent sectors where reviews -- be it in text, video or audio form -- plays a significant role are -- tour and travel; restaurants and eateries; and consumer durables.

The BIS has defined reviews as solicited and unsolicited. The person responsible for handling the review in any organisation will be called the review administrator.



New BIS will come out with a certification process within the next 15 days to check whether an organisation is complying with these standards

E-commerce players can apply for the certification of this standard with the BIS

The BIS has defined reviews as solicited and unsolicited. The person responsible for handling the review in any organisation will be called the review administrator

We are probably the first country in the world to formulate standard for online reviews. We don't want to bulldoze the industry. We want to take the standard route. We will first see the voluntary compliance and then, if the menace continues to grow, we will, may be, make it mandatory in the future

ROHIT KUMAR SINGH | CONSUMER AFFAIRS SECRETARY

Solicited review refers to consumers' reviews of products or services as requested by the supplier or review administrator.

The secretary said that reviews should be legitimate, accurate and not misleading. Identity of those who are reviewing should not be disclosed without permission and the organisations should ensure that disclosure of information are transparent. The collection of reviews should be unbiased, he added.

"If a review is purchased or you are rewarding the person for writing the review, then that has to be clearly marked that as a purchased review," he said.

The BIS has also listed out the steps for verification of a review author: "The verification of the review author is important... There are websites in countries like Turkey, Moldova where there is a business of fake reviews. So these companies pay money and get reviews. If this is happening, that cannot take place," Singh said.

Since e-commerce involves a virtual shopping experience without any opportunity to physically view or examine the product, consumers heavily rely on reviews posted on platforms to see the opinion and experiences of users who have already purchased the goods or services. Firms like Zomato, Swiggy, Reliance Retail, Tata Sons, Amazon, Flipkart, Google, Meta, Mesho, Blinkit and Zepto were part of the consultation process and have assured compliance with these standards.

HDFC, Canara allowed to open vostro account for ₹ trade with Russia

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 21: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monday allowed HDFC Bank Ltd and Canara Bank Ltd to open a special "vostro account" for trade in Rupees with Russia, according to media reports.

Vostro accounts are accounts a bank holds on behalf of another, often foreign bank, and this forms a key part of correspondent banking. The move to open the special vostro accounts clears the deck for settlement of payments in Rupee for India-Russia trade, enabling cross-border transactions in the Indian currency.

Earlier, the government had opened nine special vostro accounts with two Indian banks after permission from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to facilitate overseas trade in Indian Rupee. Sberbank and VTB Bank the largest and second-largest banks of Russia respectively were the first foreign lenders to receive approval after the RBI announced the guidelines for overseas trade in the Rupee in July.

Another Russian bank Gazprom, which does not have its bank in India, has also opened this account with Kolkata-based UCO Bank.

"Nine accounts have been opened. One in UCO Bank, one in Sber, one in VTB and six with IndusInd Bank. These six are different Russian banks," commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal had said while releasing trade data.

The RBI has allowed these special vostro accounts to invest the surplus balance in Indian government securities to help popularise the new arrangement.



IN BEAR GRIP FOR 3RD DAY

Sensex, Nifty decline nearly 1% amid weak trend in global equities

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CONSUMER DURABLES WERE THE ONLY WINNERS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 21: Market benchmarks fell for the third day running Monday and ended nearly 1 per cent lower amid weak trend in global equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 518.64 points or 0.84 per cent to settle at 61,144.84. During the day, it tumbled 604.15 points or 0.97 per cent to 61,059.33. The broader NSE Nifty fell 147.70 points or 0.81 per cent to end at 18,159.95.

From the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries, HDFC, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Wipro and Tata Steel were the major laggards.

Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, Hindustan Unilever and Power Grid were among the winners. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower, while Tokyo settled higher.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading in the negative territory in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended higher Friday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.91 per cent lower at \$86.82 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth Rs

Rupee falls 5 paise to close at 81.79 against US dollar

1,593.83 crore on Monday, as per exchange data.

"The sharp decline in crude prices is a huge positive for the domestic economy. However, the market did not respond favourably due to stronger headwinds from the global market. The prospect of a prolonged tightening cycle by the US Federal Reserve and the Chinese Covid restrictions affected the world market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Nifty continued its down move for the third consecutive day. Investors globally fretted about the economic fallout from fresh Covid-19 restrictions in China...," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.15 per cent and smallcap index climbed marginally by 0.01 per cent. Among sectoral indices, IT fell 1.46 per cent, power 1.42 per cent, utilities 1.41 per cent, realty 1.38 per cent, teck 1.04 per cent, and metal 0.89 per cent.

Central Bank ED's maiden visit to City

BHUBANESWAR: Alok Srivastava, Executive Director, Central Bank of India visited Bhubaneswar November 21.



During his visit, a Customer Meet Cum Mega Credit Camp was organised at Banquet Hall, Hotel Swosti Grand, Bhubaneswar, in which the bank distributed sanction letters to different customers of Bhubaneswar Region, aggregating to an amount of 125 crore. He highlighted the bank's performance in the last quarter and informed that the bank exited from PCA and now is in a very strong position to cater to the needs of the customer as the bank is having adequate capital and the lowest ROI in the banking industry. Srivastava interacted with the customers & assured them to provide best services. He also interacted with the branch heads & advised them to reach every needy customer. The programme was held in presence of Ajay Kumar Singh, Zonal Head, Kolkata & Anadi Biswas, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region, along with other senior bank officials.

Asset monetisation of ₹33,422cr in FY23 so far

According to latest estimate, there is likely to be a shortfall of ₹38,243 crore in realising the overall asset monetisation target of ₹1,62,422 crore in 2022-23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: The government has monetised assets worth Rs 33,422 crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in 2022-23 so far, with the Coal Ministry leading the list by raising Rs 17,000 crore, and the Ports and Shipping Ministry surpassing its overall fiscal target, according to sources.

In 2021-22, the government surpassed the programme's first-year

target of Rs 88,000 crore by completing transactions worth Rs 1 lakh crore.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a meeting with Niti Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer on November 14 reviewed the progress of NMP implementation.

Sources told PTI that according to the government's latest estimate, there is likely to be a shortfall of Rs 38,243 crore in realising the overall asset monetisation target of Rs 1,62,422 crore in 2022-23.

"Likely realisation from asset monetisation under NMP in the current fiscal has been now estimated at Rs 1,24,179 crore," they said.

According to sources, while the Ministry of Coal, the Ministry of Mines, and the Ministry of Ports and Shipping are likely to surpass the

COAL MINISTRY LEADS



asset monetisation target, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, is on track to achieve the target.

The Ministry of Power, the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Ministry of Oil and Gas are likely to miss the target.

While the Ministry of Coal has so far achieved a monetisation value of Rs 17,000 crore, against an over-

all monetisation target of Rs 30,000 crore in 2022-23, the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways has achieved a monetisation of Rs 4,100 crore against the overall target of Rs 32,855 crore in the current fiscal.

Sources said that the government is considering linking the budgetary support to ministries to monetisation. Ministries have also been asked to achieve targets by identifying additional asset classes.

Sources said Gujarat Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have been identified as focus states with a monetisation base. In these states, state highways and expressways, transmission networks, urban terminals and state warehouses are identified as potential assets.

Europe rushes to fill up on Russian diesel before ban begins

REUTERS

London, Nov 21: European traders are rushing to fill tanks in the region with Russian diesel before an EU ban begins in February, as alternative sources remain limited.

The European Union will ban Russian oil product imports, on which it relies heavily for its diesel, by February 5. That will follow a ban on Russian crude taking effect in December.

Russian diesel loadings destined for the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp (ARA) storage region rose to 215,000 bpd from November 1 to November 12, up by 126% from October, Pamela Munger, senior market analyst at energy analytics firm Vortexa, said.

With few immediate cost-effective alternatives, diesel from Russia has made up 44% of Europe's total imports of the road fuel so far in November, compared with 39% in October, Refinitiv data shows.

Although Europe's reliance on the Russian fuel has fallen from

EUROPEAN UNION WILL BAN RUSSIAN OIL PRODUCT IMPORTS, ON WHICH IT RELIES HEAVILY FOR ITS DIESEL, BY FEBRUARY 5. THAT WILL FOLLOW A BAN ON RUSSIAN CRUDE TAKING EFFECT IN DECEMBER

STUCK IN DILEMMA

Diesel from Russia has made up 44% of Europe's total imports of the road fuel so far in November, compared with 39% in October

Although Europe's reliance on the Russian fuel has fallen from more than 50% before Moscow's February invasion of Ukraine

Russia is still Europe's largest diesel supplier



more than 50% before Moscow's February invasion of Ukraine, Russia is still the continent's largest diesel supplier.

The Russian gasoil heading into ARA tanks is likely to be used or sold quickly as a result of back-wardation in Ice gasoil futures, where the current value is higher

than it will be in later months, Lars van Wageningen, at Dutch consultancy Insights Global, said.

Part of the influx comes as ICE Futures Europe bans low-sulphur gasoil of Russian origin ahead of EU sanctions.

From November 30, traders must prove to ICE that no Russian product has entered any tanks in the

The EU will have to secure around 500-600 kb/d of diesel to replace the Russian volumes, replacements will come from the US as well as east of Suez, primarily the Middle East and India

EUGENE LINDELL | REFINING AND PRODUCTS MARKET ANALYST, FGE

the impact from the ICE move given low storage levels in the ARA for both Russian and non-Russian gasoil as well as declining delivered volumes.

"Volumes delivered upon expiry are actually pretty small... it just adds an extra layer of logistical challenge," Neil Crosby, senior analyst at oil analytics firm OilX, said.

In January 2022, 70,000 tonnes of gasoil were delivered through the Ice gasoil futures exchange's website shows.

Nayara exports over 80% of fuel to Asia, Africa; none to EU

NEW DELHI: Nayara Energy, India's second-largest private oil refinery, exported over 80 per cent of all its fuel exports to Asia, the Middle East and Africa during the first seven months of the current fiscal, with only minuscule volumes going to the United Kingdom and none to the European Union (EU), a company official said. Nayara, which operates a 20 million tonne a year oil refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat, exported 4.46 million tonne of petroleum products including diesel, jet fuel and gasoline from April 2022 to October 2022, a company spokesperson said. "The diesel exported by Nayara does not fit the winter-specific diesel requirement of the EU hence we do not export to this market," the spokesperson said.

Roaring start for Three Lions

ENGLAND SCORE HALF-A-DOZEN AGAINST IRAN TO BEGIN THEIR WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN ON A BRIGHT NOTE



POWERFUL STRIKE: Bukayo Saka (in white jersey) fires the ball past two Iranian defenders to score England's second goal at Doha, Monday

AGENCIES

Doha, Nov 21: England's wonderkids Jude Bellingham and Bukayo Saka, tournament veteran Raheem Sterling, Marcus Rashford and Jack Grealish scored as the Three Lions began their World Cup campaign on a rousing note here Monday, thrashing Iran 6-2.

Bellingham, the Birmingham-born Borussia Dortmund wonder kid, 19, sent thousands of fans in the stadium wild – and millions at home – as he rose to nod the ball home from a cross from Luke Shaw. Bellingham made history as he became the second teenager in history to score in a World Cup for England,

after Michael Owen in 1998.

And minutes later Saka, 21, smashed home a left foot shot off the crossbar. Then in added on time Sterling blasted in a volley following a cross from captain Harry Kane, effectively winning the game before half time for England.

In the second half Saka then grabbed a fourth goal – his second – with an hour on the clock, hitting the back of the net after a mazy run.

However, Gareth Southgate's side were denied a clean sheet as Iran striker Mehdi Taremi hit back with a fierce strike past Pickford. But Rashford scored and restored a four-goal advantage to make it 5-1. Grealish then made it 6-1 with a

minute to go. Immediately after the goal he did 'the worm' as a celebration after a promise to a 11-year-old Manchester City fan with cerebral palsy.

The Three Lions could have scored at least eight goals. They were denied a clear penalty just three minutes into the game, when Harry Maguire was clearly dragged down in the box. Maguire then headed against the crossbar.

Thousands England supporters were in the Khalifa Stadium here including the WAGs of the players and David Beckham. In the last minute of added on time Taremi again scored for Iran.

The game started on a politi-

BRAVING ODDS TO WATCH SOCCER

Doha: To 27-year-old Mariam, the World Cup match ticket was a precious gift. A sports fanatic, she travelled to the World Cup in Qatar from Tehran to catch Iran's opening game Monday against England, her first live soccer match. Women are banned from attending men's matches in Iran. "I've never attended a football match in my life so I had to take this chance," said Mariam, a student of international relations. She declined to give her last name for fear of government reprisals. Iran is competing in the World Cup as a major women's protest movement is roiling the country. Security forces have violently cracked down on demonstrations, killing at least 419 people.

cally charged note as England took the knee as they started their first World Cup campaign against Iran. Prior to the game there was a row over wearing a rainbow captain's armband for Kane, which was dropped after pressure from FIFA.

Kane looked serious as he led the team on to the pitch. The England captain did not wear the 'OneLove' rainbow armband after the threat of a yellow card proved too much of a risk for the FA.

Kane was wearing the official FIFA 'No Discrimination' armband, having removed his England jacket following the national anthems. Loud whistles greeted the Iranian anthem, with the whole Iran team opting not to sing.

Records fall like ninepins as TN hammer Arunachal

Tamil Nadu's Jagadeesan creates new world record with highest-ever List A individual score

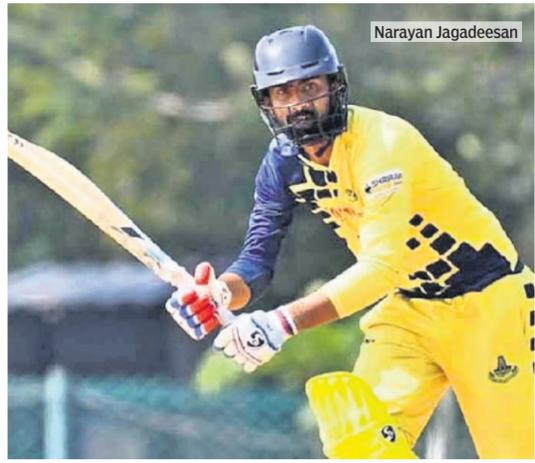
AGENCIES

Bangalore, Nov 21: Tamil Nadu batter Narayan Jagadeesan shattered Monday the world record for the highest ever individual score in men's List A cricket by hammering 277 (141b, 25x4, 15x6) against Arunachal Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy game here. In the process, Tamil Nadu won the Group C match by 435 runs, making it the biggest victory margin in a List A match. The previous record was Somerset's 346-run win over Devon in 1990.

The 26-year-old Jagadeesan bettered the record of Alistair Brown's previous high of 268 for Surrey against Glamorgan in 2002. The Indian record for the highest List A score of 264 by Rohit Sharma in an ODI against Sri Lanka was also obliterated in the process.

Tamil Nadu's 506 for two in the match is also the highest team total in men's List A cricket, bettering the previous best of 498 for four by England against the Netherlands earlier this year. The previous highest List A total in India was 457 for four by Mumbai against Pondicherry in Jaipur in 2021.

Veteran India cricketer and Jagadeesan's TN teammate Dinesh Karthik congratulated him and said in a tweet: "WORLD RECORD alert. What an amazing effort by @Jagadeesan_200 Couldn't be happier for him. Big things await. Sai Sudarshan what an amazing tournament so far. This opening combo



ODISHA LOSE AGAIN

Mumbai: Odisha suffered their fourth defeat in five games of the Vijay Hazare Trophy as they were beaten by five wickets by Punjab at the DY Patil Stadium here Monday. After being put in Odisha scored 251 for seven in 50 overs with Kartik Biswal (107 n.o., 112b, 10x4, 1x6) getting his maiden List A ton. However, Mandeep Singh (91 n.o., 98b, 10x4) and Ramandeep Singh (36 n.o., 43b, 4x4) put on an unbeaten 84 runs for the sixth wicket to take their side over the line.

Medium pacer Prayash Singh (4/51) bowled well for Odisha, but had no one to support him.

is killing it. Well done boys (sic)." It rained records as Jagadeesan went on the rampage against the hapless Arunachal bowling attack. By reaching 200 in 114 balls, he made the joint fastest-ever double ton in List A history. Travis Head had taken 114 balls to score his double century for South Australia against Queensland last year.

Jagadeesan's 15 sixes made it the highest by a batter in an innings in Vijay Hazare Trophy, improving on the 12 by Yashasvi Jaiswal during his knock of 203 in the 2019-20 season. The right-handed batter also made a new mark by scoring his fifth consecutive List A century.

SHORT TAKES

Mixed fortunes for Indian boxers

New Delhi: India's Devika Ghorpade and Preeti Dahiya posted emphatic victories Monday to enter the quarterfinals of IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships in La Nucia, Spain. The Pune-based Devika made light work of Ireland's Margaret Lambe in the 52kg bout. Her impressive attacking display forced the referees to stop the contest in the third round and declare the Indian winner. Preeti also put up an equally dominant show in the 57kg bout to outclass Benedicta Maekinen of Finland by an unanimous decision. However, it was heartbreak for Mahak Sharma (66kg), Sahil Chauhan (71kg) and Bharat Joon (92kg) who lost their respective bouts.

Ronaldo unfazed

Doha: Cristiano Ronaldo is unfazed by the drama created by his explosive pre-World Cup interview on British TV and maintained Monday the atmosphere in Portugal's squad is 'excellent' heading into the tournament. The Manchester United striker gave an impromptu news conference at Portugal's training base here and attempted to quell any concerns his tell-all interview with Piers Morgan published last week had affected squad morale. "The timing for me is my timing," Ronaldo said. "I don't have to worry about what others think. I am totally convinced this won't have any influence on the national team. Every player, manager, president and kit man, they all know who I am, what I think." The 37-year-old Ronaldo also said that he is always under pressure to do well. "It will always be there," he said.

Pragga finishes 5th

San Francisco: Teenaged Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated compatriot Arjun Erigaisi 2.5-0.5 in the seventh and final round to finish fifth in the Meltwater Champions Tour Finals here Monday. Praggnanandhaa won the first game with black pieces in 49 moves. After the second game ended in a draw, Erigaisi hit back and won the third in just 18 moves to level the match. However, Praggnanandhaa won the fourth game in 56 moves to seal victory. Erigaisi like Praggnanandhaa ended on nine points and was placed sixth. Magnus Carlsen, who was assured of the title before the final round, continued his superb run, demolishing Polish GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda 3-1. He finished with 20 points.

India eye series victory against depleted Kiwis

NOT TOO MANY CHANGES EXPECTED IN COMBINATION

AGENCIES

Napier, Nov 21: A drastic change in approach is need of the hour for India but question remains if the likes of Umran Malik and Sanju Samson will be tested in third and final T20 against New Zealand here Tuesday.

The Kiwis on the other hand, are already on the back-foot with skipper Kane Williamson ruled out of the game due to a 'medical appointment'. Mark Chapman has been named as Williamson's replacement in the squad while senior pacer Tim Southee will lead the Kiwis in his absence.

New Zealand made it very clear Monday that they will have special plans for Suryakumar Yadav who got a century in the earlier game. "Suryakumar played an incredible innings out there. Everyone watched in amazement, some of the shots he played. We had a few discussions already and we will have few more tomorrow before the game on how to combat him," said New Zealand head coach Gary Stead.

However, it is the thought process of the Indian think tank which has become a matter of conjecture. India were expected to try out a bunch of players after another World Cup debacle but if the team combination for the second



Team India players share a light moment in Napier

T20 was any indication, they seemed reluctant to start with a clean slate.

Going by skipper Hardik Pandya's post-match comments, the management is unlikely to make too many changes for the third T20. India lead the series 1-0 with the series opener washed out.

Pandya is keen on having more batters who can bowl in the playing XI and Deepak Hooda has given him one option. However, the biggest disappointment was the non-inclusion of Umran Malik in the first game. It has been proved that there is a pressing need for an out and out fast bowler in T20 cricket and the New Zealand series is crucial to the development of the Jammu and Kashmir-based tearaway pacer.

In Jasprit Bumrah's absence, Malik, who played three T20s earlier this year, should be exposed to the pressure of playing a top team and given a long run.

DJOKO SIGNS OFF IN STYLE

SERB SUBDUES RUUD TO WIN YEAR-END ATP TOUR FINALS TITLE

AGENCIES

Turin, Nov 21: Novak Djokovic said winning a record-equalling sixth ATP Tour Finals title Sunday was a 'deeply satisfying' ending to his troubled and truncated year. The Serb beat Norwegian Casper Ruud 7-5, 6-3 to match Roger Federer's record of six titles in the year-ending tournament for the top-ranked players. The 35-year-old Serb, the oldest player to win the Finals, ended in style after a season in which he missed two majors because of his vaccine status.

"It feels deeply satisfying and, at the same time, a huge relief because of the circumstances that I have been through this year; situations earlier this year, of course, with Australia," Djokovic said after the match. "We don't need to go back. We know what happened," he added.

Djokovic was initially barred from returning to Australia before 2025 but earlier in the week the new government in Canberra said the nine-time Australian Open champion would be free to compete in January's tournament. "I don't know what the future holds but I know that what I hold in

my mind is a huge hunger still to win trophies," said Djokovic.

The win in Turin, which also brings a cheque for \$4.7 million, came seven years after his last ATP



MOMENT TO CHERISH: Novak Djokovic poses with the winner's trophy at Turin, Sunday

Finals victory and will lift him from eighth to fifth in Monday's new rankings at the end of a season.

Djokovic and his wife brought his eight-year-old son and five-year-old daughter here. "Extremely special for me," he said. "I don't get to have these moments on the tour with them so much."

For the 23-year-old Ruud it was a third near-miss of the year. He also lost the finals of the French and US Opens. "In the end it's been disappointing to end up losing these big finals," Ruud said.

Ruud has never taken a set from either Djokovic or his French Open final conqueror Rafael Nadal. "They have this sort of ability in them to step up when they really have to that I don't have," Ruud said. "They always seem to win the close points, the close sets," the Norwegian added.

Dutch overcome resilient Senegal

AGENCIES

Doha, Nov 21: The Netherlands began their World Cup campaign on a scrappy note beating African champions 2-0 at the Al Thumama Stadium here Monday. After a barren first half during which both the sides played destructive football, the Dutch rode on late goals by Coody Gakpo and Davy Klassen to earn full points from the encounter.

However, Gakpo's goal was due to poor goalkeeping by Eduard Mendy of Senegal. He left his line to punch out a floater and missed the ball completely. Gakpo lying unmarked nodded home the ball, much to the relief of his teammates. The second goal for the Dutch came against the run of play in the last few seconds of added on time. With Senegal going all out for the equaliser, Klassen picked up a loose ball and ran down the centre to beat Mendy hands down.

The Dutch opened the scoring in the 85th minute after a stubborn Senegal defence had denied them a chance of having a clear shot at goal. In the first half as both sides struggled to find a foothold in the match, Frankie de Jong had a chance, but it was well-saved by Mendy. The rest of the time play was confined to the midfield only.

The performance of the Dutch team however, will leave their supporters worried. They were playing against Senegal who did not have their star player Sadio Mane. In spite of that Holland struggled against Senegal.

Midfield worries for Deschamps

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS FRANCE START CAMPAIGN AGAINST AUSTRALIA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Nov 21: Even without the injured Karim Benzema, defending World Cup champion France have plenty of attacking power. Most teams would love to have either Kylian Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann or Olivier Giroud in their forward line, let alone all three. They have 119 international goals between them, plus an abundance of speed, craft, experience and skill.

But France do not have the same assurances in midfield, and that is where Australia could trouble Les Bleus when the two sides face each other Tuesday in their opening Group D match.

France struggled to beat Australia 2-1 when the teams met in their World Cup opener four years ago, and that was with a full-strength midfield.

France coach Didier Deschamps is missing the injured N'Golo Kante and Paul Pogba – his dynamic engine room from 2018. While Pogba's form has been up and down since then, Kante's consistency rarely ever dropped and he's arguably an even bigger loss.

So Deschamps faces Australia with a revamped midfield where the



TWO TO TANGO: Marcus Thuram (L) and Kylian Mbappe share a light moment during training Monday

most experienced player is Adrien Rabiot with 29 appearances. The 27-year-old Rabiot finally feels ready to emerge as France's new midfield leader.

"When I played in the French youth teams, I was often more experienced than my teammates. Now I find myself in a similar position," Rabiot said after training Monday. "I feel that I'm able to help others, to lead by example. I like being in this position," he added.

That's some turnaround for

Rabiot, who four years ago actually asked to be taken off the list of reserve players for the 2018 World Cup. He was dropped for more than two years by Deschamps, who called his decision 'a huge mistake'.

Now Rabiot will likely line up on the left of a midfield three with 22-year-old Aurelien Tchouameni in the centre, and either Eduardo Camavinga or 23-year-old Matteo Guendouzi on the right. "It's a great responsibility that I'm ready to take up," Rabiot asserted.

MESSI SET FOR LAST HURRAH

AGENCIES

Doha, Nov 21: Lionel Messi begins his legacy-defining World Cup with a game against likely the weakest opponent the Argentina star will face in Qatar: On a 36-match unbeaten run, Argentina open the group stage Tuesday against Saudi Arabia – the second lowest-ranked team at the tournament.

It seems like an ideal chance for Messi to push his international goals tally toward a century – he currently has 91 – in what's surely a forlorn attempt to catch the leading men's mark of 117, owned by great rival Cristiano Ronaldo.

How Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni treats Messi for this game Tuesday in particular, being staged in the 80,000-seat Lusail Iconic Stadium, might be instructive given the captain's fitness has been managed heading into the World Cup.

Messi trained individually Friday and Saturday because of what the Argentina soccer federation described as 'muscle overload'. That raises doubts over whether Messi will play the full 90 minutes against Saudi Arabia. Not that he should be needed that long.

Tirkey wants specialised training for youngsters

HI keen to develop talent pool of goalies, drag-flickers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 21: In a bid to create a pool of specialist drag-flickers and goalkeepers, Hockey India (HI) president Dilip Tirkey has asked member units to start programmes focusing on talent scouting and coaching towards these two key areas of the game. The former India skipper highlighted the need to develop a talent pool of young athletes specialised in these two skills.

"The drag-flick technique has become one of the most thrilling aspects of modern hockey. The joy of a well-coordinated penalty corner with the ball being dragged at the speed of a bullet going past the wall of defenders always emerges as one of the most exciting aspects of the sport," Tirkey said in his correspondence to members units.

"Similarly, there is a growing

importance of having a well-trained and agile goalkeepers. India's recent success in major international tournaments can be attributed to PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia who have played their roles with utmost professionalism.

"Drag-flickers and goalkeepers at the junior level still need vast improvement in their game skills. Hence, there is a growing need for specialised coaching across these disciplines at the academies," Tirkey added.

HI has already initiated a process of scouting talent from a young age and with the support of the hockey academies and sports hostels, the federation has decided to support training and selection of these athletes for the national programmes.

The coaches engaged for this initiative will train zonal teams selected during inter-zonal tournaments.

Junior drag-flickers and goalkeepers still need to learn a lot and should get specialised coaching

DILIP TIRKEY