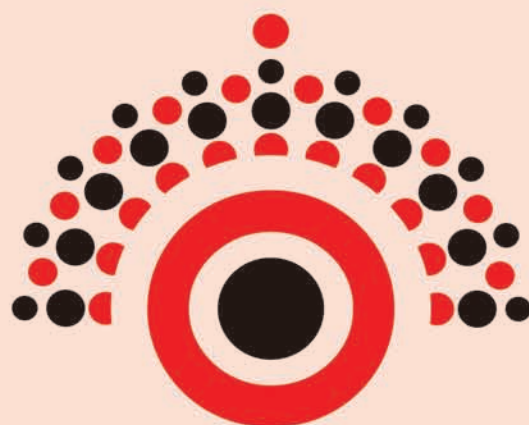


DSPL - 332



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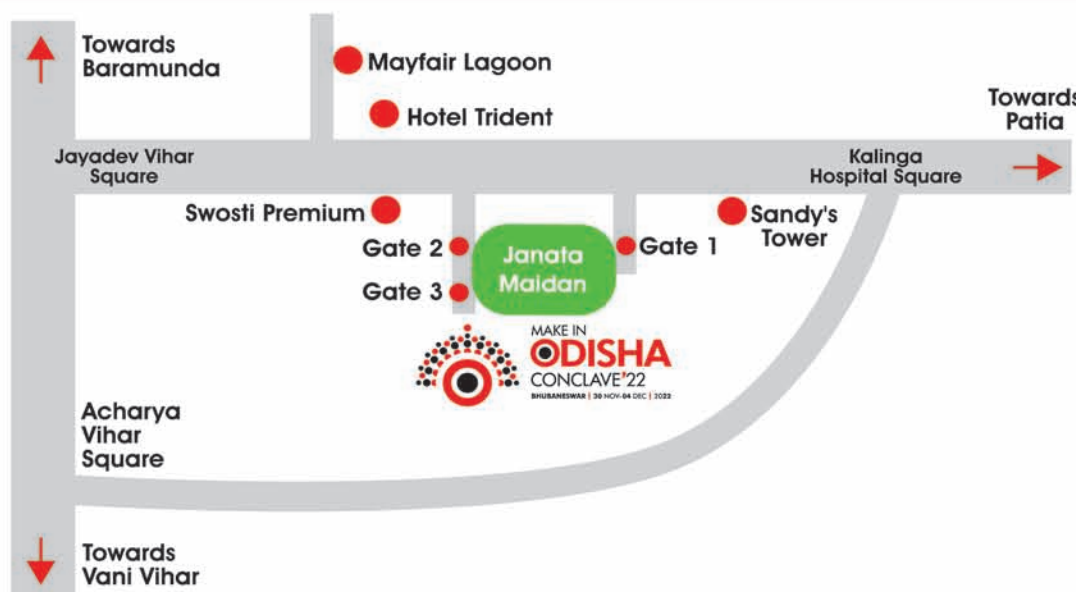
Germany



Japan



Norway



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today you will go overboard trying to spruce up your looks. You attempt to imbibe new looks. A very desirable date will raise high expectations in you and will keep you on the edge of your seat. Ganesha advises you to take it easy as real relationships are not measured by outward expressions.

TAURUS

Ganesha is happy to say that you will acquit yourself well in whatever you do or undertake today. You will show outstanding caliber in handling the responsibilities given to you. If you are participating in a competition, you are likely to be way ahead of others. Those engaged in business can look forward to an exceptionally profitable day.

GEMINI

You will think about the issues faced by other people as well as about increasing your social standing and elevating your social esteem. It is an extremely profitable day for those in the retail business and hence make the most of it, says Ganesha.

CANCER

There may not be many opportunities visible on the horizon today. And, chances are that you may end up getting embroiled in some complicated situations, without even a fault of yours. Relax! Given your people skills and lively spirits, you will be able to sail through. Also, the fact that you may have dealt with similar situations in the past too will make it even easier for you.

LEO

You have to let go of your stubborn and obstinate streak. You will need to compromise according to the situation. If you do not have such an attitude, arguments and confrontations with your business partners, friends and family members are possible. You do not like delays, however you will be forced to postpone important events, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

The artist in you will set the floor ablaze today. You have the remarkable abilities of a showman and comedian, and people will feel thrilled at your treasure of jokes in the evening, says Ganesha. However, you will do well to conserve some energy for other urgent matters and duties as well.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will be able to show your love and appreciation for your beloved. Small issues will crop up and keep you tensed and uncomfortable today. Just remember good days and old memories and life will seem good again. It is essential to have confidence in yourself if you want to go ahead in life and be happy.

SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, it's a good day for long term and real estate investments. It may lead to benefits and profits in long run. Sit back, relax and enjoy the pleasures of life before you miss out on them. Welcome all the opportunities with open arms.

SAGITTARIUS

The wheel of fortune turns towards you today, says Ganesha. Make a wish and it's bound to come true. However don't be over-confident when it comes to decision-making. In case of disappointments, 'this too shall pass' would be the best remedy.

CAPRICORN

You comparatively less experienced than others in the office, but the boss will choose you with a hope to get the company out of the existing troubles. Trusting your intelligence, skills, and potential, you will assigned some crucial matters. It is a great deal to live up to such high expectations, but you will be able to do so and win the hearts of many, predicts Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You will be on a spending spree today. But, make sure that your desire to enjoy life doesn't burn a hole in your pocket. Watch your words and steps, as people are observing your every move.

PISCES

You will feel very emotional about those who are close to your heart. Those people who know you will endear you because of this quality of yours. But Ganesha adds a word of caution; take care of those people whom you hold close to your heart because in your sentiments for them you might not notice their bad qualities or forgive their mistakes.



DE NIRO TO STAR IN NETFLIX POLITICAL THRILLER ZERO DAY

Hollywood star Robert De Niro is set to star in the limited series *Zero Day* currently in the works at Netflix. Exact plot details are being kept under wraps, but sources say the show would be a political thriller in which De Niro would play a former US President.

THE ROLLING STONES HONOURED WITH 60TH ANNIVERSARY COIN

The Royal Mint, the official makers of British coins, has launched a new collectable coin celebrating 60 years of *The Rolling Stones*. The unique £5 coin design captures the rock band in their element mid-performance and features its name in their classic 1973 font.



Nepotism is a reality: Saiee

Mumbai: Mahesh Manjrekar's daughter, Saiee Manjrekar, recently opened up about the much-talked about nepotism debate in Hindi film industry. The actress stated that she is very aware of the fact that she is privileged.

In an interview with a news portal, Saiee said that if someone says nasty things like 'You have an advantage', she would probably agree with them. According to her, she is not someone who would ignore the privilege. In fact, the actress added that she would accept and acknowledge it, and still do something about it.

Saiee further added that nepotism is indeed a reality. The actress also admitted that she probably got the opportunity to be in the movies a little easier than many people would have expected, and she is grateful

for that. Someone else will be working ten times harder to get where she is now, so she will have to work even harder to stay there, Saiee concluded.

AGENCIES



Rakul finally gets to headline a film

Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh talks about her upcoming film *Chhatriwali*, which focuses on male contraceptives and safe sex.

Rakul says: "For me, every film of mine has been special but *Chhatriwali* is extra special for many reasons. After so many years in the industry, I am finally getting to headline a film and what better than an entertaining film with a thought-provoking social message."

Rakul plays the role of quality control head in a condom factory. It is shown in the film that though initially, Rakul was somewhere shy about her job, she slowly realised its importance. She understands the relevance of sex education and takes the responsibility of spreading awareness.

As Thursday was World AIDS Day, which is observed to spread awareness about HIV among people, the actress asserts that it is an important day to announce this film as the subject deals with the issues of safe sex.

Produced by Ronnie Screwvala and directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar, *Chhatriwali* features Rakul Preet Singh and Sumeet Vyas. It will be released soon on ZEE5.

IAN5

Don't want to play it safe: Alaya

Mumbai: Actress Alaya F, who currently awaits the release of her upcoming film *Freddy*, feels that it is a whole new journey for her and says that she has consistently tried to avoid 'playing it safe'.

"The last three years for me have been just about working on projects and wrapping them up. And now that they have been shot, I am really excited for the audiences to see them. I feel like a whole new journey for me is beginning and it feels so fresh, I'm full of nerves and full of excitement. I feel the same way I felt before my first film was released," she said.

Alaya added: "I want to jump at every opportunity and I feel like I have so much to prove. I just want to do really good, honest work. I'll always experiment with genres and projects so I hope I just get wonderful opportunities that can further my journey. I hope people take note of how different *Freddy* is from my first and how I've consistently tried to avoid 'playing it safe'."

She said: "I'm just grateful I get to act my way into people's lives through films again and I'm even more grateful that it's through a special film like *Freddy*."

Produced by Balaji Telefilms Ltd, NH Studioz and Northern Lights Films, directed by Shashanka Ghosh and starring Kartik, the film will release today on Disney+ Hotstar.

IAN5



A file photo of the event

Auditions for Nanhipari Little Miss India Dec 3

Bhubaneswar: The regional auditions for the much-awaited KIIT Nanhipari Little Miss India competition will be held here Saturday on the premises of Campus 7 of the varsity. Nanhipari is a national level talent hunt competition amongst young girls in the age group of 15-17 years.

The goal, as set by the organisers, is to maintain the distinctness of this competition in the forthcoming years. They take the competition to such heights that the reigning Nanhi Pari can find herself on a pedestal to approach global fame and recognition, said the organisers.

A host of attractive prizes have been introduced in the 20th edition of the competition this year. The prize money for the winner is Rs. 21 lakh - Rs. 3 lakh cash prize and 100% academic fee waiver subject to a maximum of Rs. 18 lakh for studying in any discipline in KIIT Deemed to be University. The 1st runners up would win Rs.10 lakh - Rs. 1 lakh cash prize and a maximum of Rs. 9 lakh for studying any discipline in the university. Similarly, the 2nd runners up would get Rs. 9.5 lakh - Rs. 50,000/- cash prize and a maximum of Rs. 9 lakh for studying any discipline.

There are various categories for the participants such as Miss Rapunzel - girl with the most beautiful hair, Miss Photogenic - girl with the best pose in the photo-shoot round, Miss Selfie - maximum likes on Facebook page; Miss Fashion girl with the best costume in both rounds; Miss Whizkid girl with highest marks in quiz round; Miss Cinderella having a graceful walk & pose and a positive attitude; Miss Urvashi with best talent, Miss Personality girl with sharp intelligence, confidence and communication skills; Miss Monalisa most beautiful girl with a most beautiful smile and Miss Active the most active girl in sports round.

PNN

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

MOOCHED	PACES
I S A R	R H T
FATFREE	ALIBI
F I V A	W C R
STARE	RANCOUR
	S Y R E
HEARTH	OBEYED
I N A R	
DETAINS	USUAL
A E S S	S N E
LINKS	ENQUIRE
G R A T	U T R
ORATE	SCENERY

SUDOKU

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

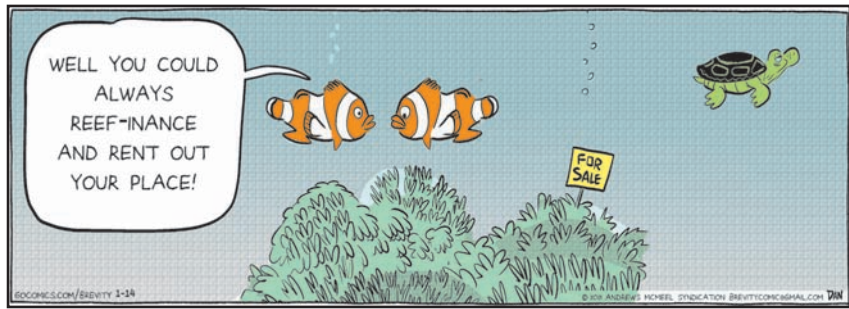
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7			8		
9			10		
11	12			13	
			14		
15		16		17	18
			19		
20				21	22
23				24	

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Across

- 7 Medication amount
8 Figure out
9 Picker-upper
10 Cause to go bananas (5,3)
11 Magazine VIPs
13 Stiff-upper-lip type
15 Paroxysm

- 17 Humdrum
20 Roaming about
21 Sugar portion
23 Zoo equines
24 Set straight

Down

- 1 Kind of bean
2 Riata
3 Auto parts

- 4 Go off script (2-3)
5 Most curious
6 Special time
12 Took leave
14 Grow and flourish
16 Expedition to the Kalahari
18 Chicanery
19 Wash cycle
22 Talus, e.g.

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



BEING CANDID

Actor Saiee Manjrekar, daughter of director Mahesh Manjrekar, admits that nepotism in film industry is a reality

LEISURE



RELAXATION OF CURBS

China is set to ease Covid-19 quarantine protocols and a reduction in mass testing due to protests in many cities

INTERNATIONAL

P8



ARGENTINA STAY ALIVE

Argentina sail into the last 16 stage of the FIFA World Cup beating Poland 2-0 in their last group match

SPORTS

BACK PAGE

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BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 | 2022

P1

SHORT TAKES

DIGIYATRA LAUNCHED FOR PAPERLESS TRAVEL

New Delhi: Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia unveiled 'DigiYatra' at the airport here Thursday. It is a programme that allows air travellers to enter the airport using facial recognition technology (FRT). Other than the national capital, the facility was also launched at the Bangalore and Varanasi airports. In the first phase a total of seven airports will be brought under the programme and it will be used for domestic passengers only. For availing of the service, a passenger has to register details on the 'DigiYatra' app using Aadhaar-based validation and a self-image capture. In the next step, the boarding pass has to be scanned and the credentials are shared with the airport.

JOLT FOR CONGRESS AS BHOI JOINS BJP

Bargarh: Ahead of the Padampur Assembly bypoll, former Congress MP Sanjay Bhoi joined the BJP here Thursday. He informed that he has already sent his resignation letter to Congress president via email. The former parliamentarian joined the saffron party in presence of Odisha BJP president Sameer Mohanty, Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari and Union Minister Bishweswar Tudu. Speaking to reporters, Bhoi said he did not get the opportunity in Congress to serve people. The former Congress leader was first elected an MP in 2014 from the Bargarh Lok Sabha constituency. However in 2019, he lost to BJD's Prabhas Kumar Singh.

991 PLAYERS SIGN UP FOR IPL 2023 AUCTION

New Delhi: A total of 991 cricketers including 714 Indians have registered for the IPL 2023 Players' Auction to be held December 23 in Kochi. Among the 14 overseas countries, Australia with 57 players have the most in the auction pool, followed by South Africa (52), West Indies (33), England (31), New Zealand (27) and Sri Lanka (23). The players' list has 185 capped, 786 uncapped and 20 players from Associate Nations. The capped players include 19 from India. "If every franchise were to have a maximum of 25 players in their squad, 87 players are available to be bought in the auction (of which up to 30 players can be overseas players)," said the statement issued by BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



All our leaders are feeling bored. Please announce some election somewhere so that they can return to campaigning

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX	VARIATION	
SENSEX	63284.19	184.54
NIFTY	18812.50	54.15
DOLLAR	81.64	₹0.03
EURO	85.41	₹0.75
GOLD	₹53,099	₹619
SILVER	₹63,558	₹1318

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	31.8°C	31.2°C
MAX	31.8°C	31.2°C
MIN	19.4°C	19.0°C
Humidity	74%	75%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

Odisha will soon become a trillion-dollar economy: CM



FOR A BETTER FUTURE: CM Naveen Patnaik and other dignitaries unveil the Industrial Policy Resolution-2022 during the Make in Odisha Conclave, Thursday

Patnaik tells investors that Odisha is the right place to invest due to its citizen-centric governance model

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Odisha is destined to become a trillion-dollar economy in the near future and will emerge as the gateway to East and South East Asia, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said here Thursday. He made the observation while addressing a galaxy of industrialists from both India and abroad at the 'Make in Odisha Conclave' here. "Odisha is a progressive state with clear focus on transformation in all sectors. Stable governance is the cornerstone of peace, prosperity and progress," Patnaik said. "We have an unprecedented mandate from the electorate due to our continued performance over the last two decades. Our citizen-

centric governance model has set global benchmarks. Initiatives like 'Mo Sarkar' and '5T Charter' give dignity and respect to our people," the Odisha CM said. Patnaik informed that the Odisha government's inclusive development agenda emphasises on education, health, skill development, agriculture, women's empowerment, tribal development and so on. The state has been able to reduce poverty by 50 per cent while doubling the farmers' incomes over the last two decades," he added. The fiscal prudence and economic management has also been appreciated across India. Odisha is one of the few states with adequate revenues to undertake large scale infrastructure projects. "Our in-

INTENTS WORTH ₹7.26L-CR RECEIVED

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has received 145 investment intents worth ₹7.26 lakh crore in various sectors, Industries Secretary Hemant Sharma said Thursday evening. Briefing mediapersons, Sharma said the state has received 145 formal investment intends worth ₹7,26,128.45 crore, which would provide employment for 3,20,741 persons. A total of 46 investment intent forms worth ₹5.85 lakh crore have been received from the investors at the 'Make in Odisha Conclave', informed Sharma. Similarly, 78 industrialists, who have shown interest to invest in Odisha during roadshows organised at various locations prior to the conclave, have submitted Thursday their formal proposal to the state government. The total investment amount of this category stands at ₹1.40 lakh crore, Sharma informed. The government has also signed three MoUs with leading Central PSUs for an investment of ₹51,000 crore in the renewable energy sector, Minister of Energy, Industries and MSME Pratap Keshari Dev said.

MORE P2

vestor-friendly initiatives and transformationary governance has put us on a journey of progress and prosperity," Patnaik stated. "I invite each one of you to come join us on this journey. I assure you that our government will run the extra mile to make you comfortable in our state," Patnaik in-

formed the industrialists. Patnaik asserted that Odisha is a major force in mining and mineral-based industries. "The state has attracted major investments in steel and aluminum projects and will emerge as the global hub in these sectors by the turn of this decade," he added.

Continued on P2

4 dead in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Dec 1: Four persons were killed in a tragic road mishap on National Highway-16 near Badapokharria under Jankia police limits in this district early Thursday morning. Among the deceased were two women.

The incident occurred while the four were coming from Andhra Pradesh by a car towards the Odisha capital. The speeding vehicle rammed into a stationary truck after the driver lost control over the wheels. Police later informed that all the four victims were killed on the spot. While no exact reason for the accident was known immediately, locals said it may be due to the dense fog in the morning. Both the car and the truck have Andhra Pradesh number plates. Hence even though the identities of the deceased are yet to be ascertained, police suspect them to be from the neighbouring state. All the four were in the age group of 25-35 years, said sources. However, till the time of filing the report, no



one has claimed the bodies that have been sent for post-mortem to the Khurda DHH. Police have seized two mobile phones from the spot and launched a probe.

LABOURER KILLED IN WALL COLLAPSE

Bhubaneswar: A woman labourer died Thursday evening in Bharatpur locality after the boundary wall of an apartment collapsed burying two persons. The deceased, identified as A Kamala Reddy, 33, was a resident of Jashipur locality in Mayurbhanj district. She was staying at GGP colony in Rasulgargh area. The other victim, also a woman, identified as Shibani Reddy 27, sustained serious injuries. She is undergoing treatment at a private medical college here.

Mamita murder case: Two held for threatening witness

■ Mamita was killed as she had threatened to expose the main accused Gobinda Sahu over his extra-marital affair

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Dec 1: Kantabanji police in Bolangir district Thursday arrested two persons including the principal and an assistant school teacher of Kalahandi district on charges of influencing and threatening a key witness in the sensational murder case of lady teacher Mamita Meher. She was murdered October 8, last year allegedly strangled by the accused Gobinda Sahu.

The accused were identified as Ranjit Sahu, principal of Mahaling Plus-II College and Krutibas Chandan, an assistant teacher of Karlapada Primary School in Kalahandi district. The two were de-



tained by Kantabanji police Wednesday night and arrested Thursday after interrogation. Later, they were produced in court which remanded them to judicial custody after their bail pleas got rejected.

Sources said that Sahu and Chandan were allegedly influencing and threatening a person who is a witness in the murder case. They tried to lure him with various offers and when those failed, they even threatened him, according to the complaint filed

with the police. Moreover, the complainant has said that prime accused Gobinda talked to him over phone and tried to persuade him to withdraw his statement.

The revelation that Gobinda had called the witness has shocked many. Gobinda is currently lodged in prison and a probe has been ordered as to how he managed to call the witness while in judicial custody. Mamita, a resident of Jharni village under Turekela block in Bolangir district, was working as the principal at the Sunshine English Medium School at Mahaling in Kalahandi district. The 24-year-old teacher was killed following her abduction allegedly by Gobinda in October last year. The accused was the managing committee president of the educational institution. Currently, Gobinda and his aide Radheshyam Chandi are in prison. The trial is going on at Kantabanji court.

India takes over Presidency of G20

The G20 comprises 20 nations and accounts for over 80% of the global GDP and 75% of international trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: As India began its G-20 presidency from Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it will work to further promote oneness, inspired by the theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' and listed terror, climate change and pandemic as the greatest challenges that can be best fought together.

India's G20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the global South, whose voice often goes unheard, Modi informed. India's G20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive, he added.

"Let us join together to make India's G20 Presidency a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope. Let us work together to shape a new paradigm - of human-centric globalisation," Modi said in an article. Meanwhile President Droupadi Murmu extended her best wishes to 'Team India' for a successful G20 presidency under the theme *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*.

"India assumes the Presidency of #G20 today. On this occasion, I extend my best wishes to #TeamIndia for a successful Presidency under the theme *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. In the time-honoured tradition of *Atithi Devo Bhava*, I welcome all the delegates to India," Murmu tweeted. *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* means 'the world is one family'.

The G20 or is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major economies. It comprises of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).

Big push to green energy at MiO Conclave

State releases Odisha Renewable Energy Policy-2022 that envisages generation of 10,000-MW renewable energy at an investment of ₹51,000 crore

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Energy, Industries and MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Dev Thursday released the Odisha Renewable Energy Policy (OREP)-2022 that envisages addition of 10,000-mega watt (MW) renewable energy capacity in the state. The policy was released during the 3rd edition of Make in Odisha (MiO) Conclave being held at Janata Maidan here.

The Energy department organised a business leadership talk on the theme 'Towards Greener Energy'. Deb, in his keynote address, said that OREP-2022 provides multiple incentives for development of renewable energy projects in the state.

Department's principal secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal welcomed the distinguished speakers and delegates of the session which was followed by insightful discussions led by CMD of NTPC, CMD of SJVNL, CEO & MD of TATA Power and MD of



RAINING INVESTMENTS

First MoU was signed between GRIDCO and NTPC Green Energy for generation of 3,000-MW green energy with an investment of ₹17,000 crore

Third MoU was signed between GRIDCO and Neyveli Lignite Corporation for generation of 600-MW solar capacity and 5 million tonne green hydrogen, initially, with an investment of ₹4,000 crore

Hindalco and the former Director General of International Solar Alliance Upendra Tripathy.

The department executed three MoUs with leading central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) for an investment of ₹51,000 crore in state. The first MoU was executed between GRIDCO and NTPC Green Energy for development of large scale on-ground solar, floating solar and pumped storage projects in the state. In the first phase, 1000-MW pumped storage hydro

Second MoU was inked between GRIDCO and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd for building capacity to generate 4,000-MW renewable energy with an investment of ₹30,000 crore

and 2000-MW solar projects will be developed with an investment of ₹17,000 crore.

The second pact was executed between GRIDCO and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited for development of 2000-MW pumped storage hydro project and 2000-MW ground based and floating solar projects with cumulative investment of ₹30,000 crore.

Similarly, the third MoU was executed with Neyveli Lignite

Vedanta Aluminium Park at Jharsuguda

BHUBANESWAR: Vedanta Limited, India's largest producer of aluminium, Thursday announced the foundation stone laying of the Vedanta Aluminium Park, at Jharsuguda, Odisha. The Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik officially unveiled the stone at the on-going Make in Odisha conclave in the presence of Anil Agarwal, Chairman - Vedanta. The Park is a joint venture between Vedanta Aluminium and the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO). During the ceremony, Rahul Sharma, CEO - Vedanta Aluminium was also present.

The Vedanta Aluminium Park will be a world-class industrial facility where companies can set up their manufacturing units and draw hot metal (molten aluminium) from Vedanta's smelter at



Jharsuguda to manufacture their products. Vedanta's aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda is one of the world's largest aluminium smelters, with a capacity of 1.75 million tonnes per annum.

Spread over 253 acres, the Vedanta Aluminium Park will be one of India's largest metal parks. With its strategic location and features and a plethora of amenities, the Park will provide aluminium-based businesses unmatched advantage to exponentially grow their business.

erated by partner and leader PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) India and MD, GRIDCO Surya Mishra proposed vote of thanks.

Invested ₹75K cr in 5 years: Narendran

BHUBANESWAR: The Tata group of companies, and more specifically Tata Steel, has invested over ₹75,000 crore in Odisha during the last five years. "We will continue to invest in Odisha to support its growth," said T V Narendran, CEO & MD, Tata Steel Limited (TSL) at the first day of MiO Conclave-2022 while attending the session titled 'Mineral Abundance Opportunities for Industry and State', Thursday. Over the last few years, Tata Steel has not just built the Kalinganagar plant, which continues to expand, but has also acquired the erstwhile Bhushan Steel Plant and more recently the Neelachal Ispat plant. "Today, we are already producing about 9 million tonne steel in Odisha that makes us the largest steel producer in the state. We plan to double this over the next few years as we expand in all our locations in Odisha," he added.

CM lays stone for India's first stainless steel park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday laid the foundation stone for India's first stainless steel park to be built by Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) in the company's Jajpur unit in Odisha at an estimated investment of ₹1,500 crore.

The park will be constructed in two phases over a period of next six years. It will create a robust ecosystem for the stainless steel industry and promote over 100 downstream and ancillary manufacturers, JSL said in a statement.

"To be built as an extension of JSL's Jajpur unit, the park is strategically connected with prominent highways. The first-ever stainless steel industrial park in India is expected to boost the metal's production and demand in east India. Planned in two phases, it has an investment potential of more than ₹1,500 crore," it said.

JSL MD Abhyuday Jindal said



the project will come up over 271 acres and aims to generate employment opportunities for nearly 19,000 people. The park will enable seamless flow from raw material to finished goods through the network of well connected highways. Moreover, it will be backed by utility services like renewal power, water, and skilled manpower.

The industrial park will help increase the company's presence in several consumer segments such as automotive, architectural, building & construction, pipes and tubes, industrial goods, consumer goods, lifestyle, kitchenware, and urban furniture.

State aims to become leading startup hub: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The first day of MiO conclave witnessed a session hosted by Startup Odisha with the theme 'Startups' Paradigm Shift and the Road Ahead' that showcased Odisha's growing startup ecosystem, trends and emerging opportunities in the startup world.

The session touched upon the entrepreneurial culture, economic and business transformation and building of a sustainable and scalable startup ecosystem.

At the session, MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Deb said, "Over the years, Odisha has been pioneering pathbreaking policies that have attracted significant innovations and investments in various industry sectors. Our aim is to emerge as the leading startup hub in the country through strategic part-

nerships, conducive investment and favourable policies. Odisha has been recognised as 'Top Performer' state in the startup ranking 2021 and this is largely due to the inclusive approach and a conducive startup ecosystem."

MSME department principal secretary Saswat Mishra said, "Make in Odisha Conclave 2022 is a unique opportunity to understand Odisha's policy and regulatory environment, wherein a platform is provided for investors and potential manufacturers. The government is open to policy changes, even a complete overhaul of the existing startup policy, if required, based upon the suggestions and requirements given by the startup ecosystem."

Startups can play a big role in creating job opportunities and in solving day-to-day problems of the society, he stated.

JSW to invest ₹1L-cr, plans mega steel plant



BHUBANESWAR: The JSW Group Thursday announced to invest ₹1 lakh crore in various sectors including a mega greenfield steel plant at Paradip. The announcement was made by JSW chairman Sajjan Jindal at Make in Odisha Conclave here. Jindal said,

"Before Covid, we had committed to invest ₹60,000 crore in Odisha, of which ₹30,000 crore has already been invested and projects worth another ₹30,000 crore are in progress. Today, we make a commitment to invest another ₹1 lakh crore in the state in various sectors."

The company will invest the money in building a mega greenfield steel plant at Paradip - a silicon plant which will be used for making solar panels, renewable energy and many other areas, he said. Jindal suggested the state government to improve the infrastructure as the government can only invest in it. "The more we create infrastructure, the more investors will come," he added.



Karan Adani

The JSW head also said Odisha is going to be a trillion-dollar economy state in near future.

On the other hand, the Adani Group said its capital investment will exceed ₹60,000 crore over the next 10 years.

Karan Adani, Chief Executive Officer of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd said, "Our investments in the

state of Odisha will continue to accelerate - and, over the last five years, the Adani Group has already put in ₹7,600 crore as we have gone about developing LNG terminals, the Dhamra port and our mining activities."

The company's planned capital investment will exceed ₹60,000 crore over the next 10 years, he said. Notably, the third edition of the MiO Conclave started here November 30 and will continue till December 4.

Adani Group said its capital investment will exceed ₹60,000 crore over the next 10 years

Odisha will soon...

Continued from P1

"However, we are ambitious to develop Odisha in other sectors too. We are making a huge capital investment in improving our transport infrastructure - expressways, railways, airports, sea ports," the Chief Minister said.

"Odisha is a pioneer in electricity reforms and has successfully created the framework and investment towards providing quality affordable energy. We are offering better than the best and so we would like you to join in the growth process," Patnaik said while inviting investors. Later in the day, Patnaik laid the foundation stone of India's first stainless steel park to be built by Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) at an estimated investment of ₹1,500 crore. The industrial park will help increase the company's presence in several consumer segments such as automotive, architectural, building & construction, pipes and tubes, industrial goods, consumer goods, lifestyle, kitchenware, and urban furniture.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Lachhmin Kisku spouse of No. JC-562675L, Rank Nb/Sub Jagannath Hembram resident of Vill.: Pandupal, P.O.: Sanputuka, P.S.: Suliapada, Dist.: Mayurbhanj, State: Odisha changed my name from Lachhmin Hembram to Lachhmin Kisku vide affidavit No. VL20 Sl. No.10, Dt.28.11.2022 before Notary Public, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha.

PMAY scam: Lokayukta issues notice to ex-BDOs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The Odisha Lokayukta has issued notice to five persons including two former block development officers (BDOs) seeking their response on the probe report by Director of Inquiry that exposed irregularities in allotment of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The ombudsman issued the notice while hearing a petition filed by the sarpanch of Danagram panchayat in Keonjhar district December 13, 2021.

Notice has also been issued to the secretary of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water department along with a copy of inquiry report for submitting his views on the matter by January 13, 2023 - the next date of hearing.

The complainant, Hisi Hembram, alleged that financial assistance had been given to several ineligible



persons for construction of houses under PMAY in the GP. She had also submitted a written complaint to the Keonjhar Collector in this regard December 17, 2021, but to no avail.

The Lokayukta after going through the complaint and reply of Hatadihi BDO instructed its investigation wing to launch a probe into the allegations June 9, 2022.

The Director of Inquiry who submitted the report October 29, 2022

found irregularities in the sanctioning of financial assistance under the scheme in one case illegally benefiting three ineligible persons.

"The report also states that these wrongful allotments were made by the then two BDOs of Hatadihi - Jayadev Das and Ananda Chandra Sethi - who are now posted as District Sub-Registrar Bhadrak and Deputy Collector, office of the Collectorate, Balasore respectively," reads the Lokayukta order.

Eco Retreat returns for 2022-23

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The Eco Retreat, Konark, one of the flagship properties of the Odisha Tourism, was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday at various locations and are now open for tourists for a period of three months while promising travellers ample opportunities to create memories. Eco Retreat Konark is an initiative by the state's Tourism department.

There will be seven properties that will be operated this season. Konark, Satkosia, Bhitarkanika, Daringbadi, Sonapur, Putsil and Hirakud with a total inventory of about 220 luxury tents, offering an unparalleled glamping experience, visitors will be treated to cultural performances, guided tours to nearby destinations of nature, culture, historic and architectural importance, and other recreational activities including adrenaline-inducing water sports, ATV rides, beach volleyball, archery, and much more.



"Eco Retreat, a luxury tourism product, will set new benchmark in the arena of eco-tourism that will offer tourist best of glamping experience at seven exotic locations blessed with treasure trove of picturesque natural destination. It will act as a gateway for tourist to explore the best of tourism and hospitality landscape. Odisha is now on the spotlight as a leading responsible tourism destination of India," said the Chief Minister.

The scale and size of this unique endeavour has been increasing with each year and it is noteworthy to see Odisha spearheading in promoting sustainable ecotourism through Eco Retreats. This format will allow for exotic, hard to find locales to get the spotlight for a short while that brings about interest and curiosity.

SHORT TAKES

Archana Nag moves sessions court for bail

Bhubaneswar: Accused in alleged extortion case Archana Nag has moved the district and sessions court here seeking bail after the rejection of her bail plea by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) here Wednesday. She has sought the bail in a case registered at Nayapalli police station on the basis of a complaint lodged by noted movie producer Akshaya Parija. Parija has alleged that Archana, in connivance with her associate Shradhanjali Behera, demanded ₹3 crore from him threatening to make public some of his obscene photos. On the other hand, the additional district judge court Thursday rejected the bail plea of the lady blackmailer's husband, Jagabandhu Chand. He was accused of blackmailing Shradhanjali into honey-trapping influential persons and seeking huge money as extortion from the victims. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths investigating the money laundering angle in the honey-trap case Thursday grilled Siba Prasad Das, a hotelier.



Curtain raiser for Int'l Year of Millets unveiled

Bhubaneswar: R Balakrishnan, Chief adviser to Chief Minister, unveiled the curtain raiser for International Year of Millet- 2023 at Make in Odisha Conclave here Thursday. Balakrishnan released a video and coffee table book on Odisha Millets Mission. He said, "2023 will be a turnaround year when millet consumption shall become aspirational for all segments of society and economical for our farmers and sustainable for our planet." Odisha Millets Mission has done remarkable work in terms of promoting millets. One of the key reasons for the success of Odisha Millets Mission is its roots in culture of consumption of millets and its focus on engaging with women SHGs.



State to appoint 274 Asst Profs in medical colleges

Bhubaneswar: The state government Thursday sent a requisition to Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) to conduct recruitment for filling up additional 274 Assistant Professors in 22 broad-specialty disciplines in different Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals of the state. During the current year, on the recommendations of OPSC, the state government has given appointments to 249 Assistant Professors in 23 broad-specialty disciplines in different Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals of the state.

ECoR GM inspects devpt work

Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway General Manager Roop Narayan Sunkar during his visit to Paradip, Thursday, inspected the development work of the Railways under Cuttack-Paradip railway section and took stock of various developmental activities of Indian Railways in connection with traffic facilities and hassle-free train operations. Divisional Railway Manager of Khurda Road Railway Division Rinkesh Roy and other principal heads of the departments of ECoR were present on the occasion. Sunkar also discussed various issues with the officials of various stakeholders and visited various railway sidings for loading and unloading issues. He also assured the stakeholders to provide all kinds of support in the field of transportation and traffic facilities and advised the officials for early completion of ongoing projects and increase transport facilities and revenue.



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Padampur bypoll: Tribal votes to decide outcome



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Dec 1: With over 27 per cent of the total voters in Padampur Assembly segment being tribals, their votes will play a decisive role in the outcome of the bypoll. Hence, all the three major political parties – BJD, BJP and Congress – have set their eyes on these votes that can tilt the scale of political fortune of candidates.

Reports said that local problems have always remained in focus in the bypoll for Padampur Assembly segment which is scheduled for December 5. However, all the three main parties contesting this election are eyeing the votes of tribal communities to win from this seat.

The BJD has nominated Barsha Singh Bariha, the daughter of late MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha as its party candidate. The BJP has announced the name former MLA Pradip Purohit as its official candidate while the Congress has nominated Satya Bhushan Sahu as its party pick.

For all the three main parties, the votes of the tribal community residing in the constituency will be a key factor. All the three parties are leaving no stone unturned to win the confidence of the tribal community and pocket their votes to win this election. The seriousness of the parties to win the tribal votes is well reflected in their campaigning.

Padampur Assembly segment

constitutes of Rajborasambar, Paikamal and Jharbandh blocks as well as the Padampur NAC. The constituency has around 2,57,474 voters. Among them, 1,27,965 are women, 1,29,497 are men and the rest 12 belong to the other gender. What is noteworthy is that, out of the total voters 71,365 voters belong to tribal community. Their number is 27.82 per cent of the total voters.

The tribal people can be mostly found in Bilashpur, Dabha, Bhainshadarha, Kandadanga, Gothaguda, Laudidharha under Jharbandh block, Jamseth, Jharbandh, Baratunda, Mandosil, Jhitiki and Temri under Paikamal block and in Jamartala, Buden, Dahita, Khaliapali, Kansar villages under Rajborasambar block. The maximum numbers of kendu leaf pluckers are from this community. Political analysts claimed that though all communities will vote in this election, the votes of tribal community will decide the outcome of the polls.

In this election, all the principal political parties have engaged 40 star campaigners to manage their campaigning. Every party has appointed some tribal leaders in the list of star campaigners as they know that they cannot ignore the tribal leaders if they want to get the tribal votes and win this election.

MP Ramesh Chandra Majhi, MLA Manohar Randhari, former MP Pradip Majhi, state tribal welfare minister Jagannath Sarka and

Rajya Sabha member Niranjan Bisi are campaigning for the ruling BJD.

Similarly, BJP has engaged Union Minister Bishweswar Tudu, Arjun Munda, Giridhar Gamango and former Union Minister Jual Oram for canvassing in favour of Purohit.

The grand old party Congress has also engaged Bhujabal Majhi and women leader Sushila Tiria in its list of star campaigners. Some more names are there in the list of star campaigners of Congress party but they are yet to reach Padampur and campaign for the party candidate.

No party can rule out the importance of the tribal voters, if we take a close look at the general elections held in the past. It is claimed that the tribal votes are the vote bank of former MLA late Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha.

The BJD decided to give party ticket to Bariha's daughter after the members of the Binjhal tribe met the Chief Minister. The tribals have also taken a pledge to vote in favour of Barsha, the official party candidate of BJD.

On the other hand, the saffron party is leaving no stone unturned to grab the tribal votes and win this election. In the 2014 general election, BJP's Pradip Purohit had defeated his nearest rival BJD's Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha by 4,513 votes and won the election from this Assembly segment.

However, then a known tribal leader Gobardhan Bhoie contested as an independent and managed to get 5,456 votes. Later, Bhoie joined BJP and is now campaigning for the party candidate Pradip Purohit. Only time can tell how far Bhoie's joining the BJP and campaigning for Purohit will benefit him and the saffron party.

On the other hand, Congress has claimed that the tribal and scheduled caste votes are its traditional votes. The claim is not fully unfounded as Congress managed to get satisfactory votes of 49,847 in 2009; 31,179 in 2014 and 32,787 votes in 2019 general elections. In this situation, it remains to be seen which way the tribal votes will swing and that will be known only after publication of the results.

Tusker dies; Gajasathi killed in jumbo attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Dec 1: An injured elephant that was undergoing treatment in Keonjhar succumbed Thursday. Reports said that the tusker, aged 40, was roaming in a forest November 29. One of its front legs had wounds, believably due to inter-herd fights.

In a separate incident, a youth appointed as Gajasathi was trampled to death by a tusker at Mirigishinga forest under Champua forest section in the district, Wednesday.

The deceased Gajasathi was identified as Sanjay Munda, 20. A herd of 10 elephants strayed into Mirigishinga area and destroyed crops and properties for last several days. The Gajasathis were driving the elephants away when Munda came face to face with a tusker that trampled him, leaving him critically injured.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



HIV cases down but not out in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Dec 1: Ganjam district continues to maintain the top position in terms of HIV-positive cases in the state, at 17,448 cases detected during the last 12 years as people all over the globe observed World AIDS Day, Thursday. The numbers represent the cases from 2000 to October, 2022.

However, there has been an improvement in the situation over the years. The National AIDS Control Society (NACO) has taken a number of measures to combat the disease while the Odisha State AIDS Control Society (OSACS) has been providing treatment facilities to the patients and providing them free medicines.

Similarly, more than 436 persons have been identified as HIV positive by October this year. The figure was 1,447 in 2011, 1,255 in 2012, 1,044 in 2013, 1,008 in 2014, 849 in 2015, 810 in 2016, 659 in 2017, 671 in 2018, 677 in 2019, 398 in 2020, 431 in 2021 and 436 by 2022 October.

Reports said that thousands of people from Ganjam migrate to



cities outside of the state like Surat, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai every year in search of livelihood. There they get infected and return home with the disease. The reason behind contracting the disease remains unprotected sexual activities with multiple female partners, the health officials said.

The Health department is spreading awareness messages through advertisements, hoardings and mass media to sensitise people on the ways and means to combat the disease. As a result, the situation which previously existed in Ganjam

has improved a lot. Over 17,32,341 persons have been given counseling from 2000 to 2022. Among them, 15,72,990 have undergone HIV test out of which the blood samples of 17,448 were found carrying HIV virus, district project manager Hemant Kumar Dash said.

The district AIDS cell has undertaken large-scale awareness programme.

As many as 3,756 patients have died of AIDS from 2000 to 2022 October in the state. Among them, 531 are from Ganjam district. Palsara block has the highest num-

AIDS alarm in Angul

ANGUL: Despite widespread campaigns on precautions against AIDS, the killer disease has been spreading fast in Angul district. If no effective step is taken in time, it may acquire the proportion of a bigger crisis. According to reports, the rate at which the killer disease is spreading is quite worrisome. In the last seven months, number of HIV cases has crossed 100. Since 2003, 2,318 people – 1,426 males and 726 females – have tested HIV positive in the district. In the last 19 years, 166 children and 235 pregnant women have tested positive for HIV in the district.

ber of 1,282 HIV patients.

There are two ART centres established at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur and Bhanjanagar Hospital for the treatment of the patients while there are three link ART centres at Aska, Palsara and Khallikote. Due to regular awareness programmes, AIDS cases have seen a steady decline in Ganjam district.



ANNUAL SPORTS MEET: Girls participated in a game of musical chairs at the annual sports meet of Nabarangpur College, Thursday

Chhatrapur dairy farmers hit hard by lumpy virus

So far 19 bovines have tested positive for the disease

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Dec 1: Cattle population in Ganjam district has come under serious threat following the outbreak of lumpy virus disease, officials said Tuesday. The disease is spreading fast and has sparked concern among the dairy farmers. The matter came to the fore after the Animal Husbandry department confirmed the spread of the disease among the cattle population in Chhatrapur block. The lumpy skin disease is a viral ailment caused by 'capripox' virus transmitted mostly by blood-sucking insects, which includes certain species of flies and mosquitoes, or ticks. It affects the cattle population and is extremely contagious. It triggers fever and lumps on the skin of the animals. According to a report by the Centre, the country has reported more than 55 thousand cattle fatalities nationwide and over 15 lakh infections as of September 14. Officials of the Animal Husbandry department said that several cattle in Duanpalli, Ganapallama, Karatali, Badamadhapur,

Many cattle are affected with the disease in Duanpalli, Ganapallama, Karatali, Badamadhapur

Potalampur, Tanganapalli, Chikalkhandi panchayats and in Chhatrapur NAC areas have been afflicted with the disease. A total of 19 out of 3010 cattle in these eight areas have been detected with disease Dr Patitapaban Rath, a veterinarian of Chhatrapur said. He said that if any cattle is suffering from the disease, their owners should immediately inform their nearest veterinary hospital. He informed that the Animal Husbandry department is also organising camps in various areas and sensitising the dairy farmers and cattle owners about the disease. Rath said the disease spreads if a healthy cow comes in contact with another cow afflicted with lumpy virus. He advised the farmers and cattle owners to keep the affected cattle in isolation and provide them treatment.

Man cheated of ₹65K online

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Dec 1: A man was duped of ₹65,000 while calling the customer care for repairing of a television set in this town, police said Thursday.

Reports said, Pratap Pattanaik, a resident of Dwarka Nagar in Nabarangpur town, called the customer care of a TV company on its phone number after his television set developed snags. A person on the other side asked him to talk to the manager about his problem. Later, Pattanaik received a call from another number identified himself as a senior manager of the company. Pattanaik urged him to send a technician home. The caller asked Pattanaik to send ₹2 on PhonePe while sending him a one-time password (OTP). He also asked to download an app 'Annie Desk' to facilitate the payment. Pattanaik downloaded the app and transferred ₹2 to the caller with the OTP.

As soon as he transferred the money, Pattanaik received a message informing him that ₹65,000 has been deducted from his bank account. Later, he lodged a complaint about the fraud at the police station.

Woman killed in road mishap

Jeyapore: A woman was killed Tuesday in road mishap near this town in Koraput district. The deceased was identified as P Umarani of Mill Sahi locality in this town. She died on the spot after the car she was travelling in was hit by a tractor near Patraput on Jeyapore-Boipariguda road. Police handed over the body to her family members after conducting a post-mortem.

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The spiritual path is one of falling on your face, getting up, brushing yourself off, turning and looking sheepishly at God and then taking the next step.

SRI AUROBINDO



World Cup Syndrome

As the world’s most popular sport, football (“soccer” to Americans) is often a pillar of national identity and a source of collective pride. That is why the FIFA World Cup can trigger intense emotions in a way that no other sporting mega-event can. This year’s tournament in Qatar is no different.

The 1998 World Cup, which took place in France, is instructive. A 2012 study identified a significant decline in France’s suicide rate during the month-long tournament and a dramatic 19.9 per cent decrease in the days following the French team’s matches. France ultimately won that cup, but one’s team does not need to win to provoke an emotional response. A 2015 study found a substantial shift in the ratio of male-to-female births nine months after the 2010 games in South Africa, which the researchers suggested was the result of an increase in sexual activity during the tournament. And in Brazil, heart attacks spiked during the 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010 World Cups, particularly on days when the Brazilian team played.

Similarly, several studies have found that international football tournaments can significantly affect markets. A 2016 study found that the Italian team’s performance has influenced domestic stock-market returns. National-level sporting victories, the authors concluded, can produce a sense of euphoria among investors. Losses, on the other hand, tend to depress investors, particularly non-institutional retail investors. Another study showed that losses tend to have a bigger negative impact on stock markets in countries with relatively more successful national teams, such as Spain and the United Kingdom. In countries with moderately successful teams, like Chile and Turkey, traders’ appetite for risk increased after a win.

Expectations may have something to do with this. It is possible, the latter study’s authors concluded, that losses had a greater effect on Spain and the UK because local football fans had grown accustomed to their national teams winning. In other words, the more you expect your team to lose, the more it will cheer you up when they win, and vice versa. Judging by their wild celebrations, Saudis were clearly cheered by their team’s stunning victory over Argentina.

Football can also have a positive effect on economic perceptions. A 2006 study, based on telephone surveys conducted the day after every match played by Germany’s national team during that year’s World Cup, found that the team’s better-than-expected performance boosted confidence among Germans. According to the authors, these findings confirm that psychological factors drive much economic activity. The primary proponent of this view was British economist John Maynard Keynes, who famously anticipated the market effect of mob behaviour, noting that “it may often profit the wisest to anticipate mob psychology rather than the real trend of events, and to ape unreason.”

Keynes’ observation that savvy financial speculators could profit from market irrationality driven by mob psychology is supported by a 2010 study that examined the effect of the World Cup on the US stock market. While no one can predict the outcome of every football match, the authors identified a consistent trend that savvy investors could exploit: because a large proportion of investors in any given country hold US stocks, the negative effect on that market is more pronounced. The average US market return during the World Cup, they found, declined by 2.6 per cent, compared to an average 1.2 per cent increase in comparable periods. As the number of losing countries increases, the aggregate effect on the US stock market grows larger, resulting in a market slowdown.

Given this trend, shrewd investors may want to decrease their US equity exposure during the FIFA World Cup period. But if many investors adopt this strategy and reduce their exposure to US stocks simultaneously, a market decline could become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Another possibility is to short stocks just before the games start, but that would only aggravate price drops and may even precipitate earlier declines.

World-Cup-induced market irrationality is unlikely to disappear anytime soon. The reason is that football fans are infamously impervious to the indisputable fact that whatever teams you support, and no matter how successful they are, they will all inevitably lose in the long run.

But when your team does pull off the impossible, as Japan did when it defeated Germany and Saudi Arabia did when it beat Argentina in this year’s tournament, the subsequent euphoria makes all those previous decades of humiliation worth it. It is this hope for a miracle in the face of long odds that drives sports fans, investors, voters, and those planning to have children or getting engaged to be married. None of it is rational. But it is part of what makes life as beautiful as the “beautiful game.”



Raj Persaud

In Brazil, heart attacks spiked during the 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010 World Cups, particularly on days when the Brazilian team played

The writer is a psychiatrist.

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WISDOM CORNER

“

If you plan on being anything less than you are capable of being, you will probably be unhappy all the days of your life.

ABRAHAM MASLOW

“

Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.

PABLO PICASSO

“

Some people bear three kinds of trouble - the ones they've had, the ones they have, and the ones they expect to have.

HG WELLS

WORDSWORTH

■ Dauncy

It might seem to be American, but it’s actually from the British side of the Atlantic. It was formerly common as a Scottish and Northern English word in several senses, though much less so now. In Britain, the spelling was more often donsie or donsey, as it can also be sometimes in the US. It derives from Gaelic donas, bad luck, harm or ill will. The main sense was of somebody who was unfortunate, luckless, sickly or feeble. It turns up in a poem by Robert Burns addressed to an old mare. An example that’s more easily understandable is in John Galt’s The Ayrshire Legatees of 1821, “I promised that donsie body, Willy Shackle ... that when I got my legacy, he should get a guinea”. It could also sometimes mean a person who was affectedly or fastidiously neat or trim, with a sense of self-importance attached. The American sense, in either spelling, has always been rather a regional term, and these days is rare. The usual meaning is of a person who is feeling sick, weak, lacking in vitality, or not completely well.

■ Deadhead

Back in the early part of the nineteenth century the term dead head (at first two words) was a theatrical term for a person who had been admitted without charge, perhaps because they had performed some service such as putting up a poster advertising the event. It was an obvious enough formation, as they were a dead weight, not contributing to the expenses of the production. It’s just conceivable it could have been a translation of a well-known Latin tag, caput mortuum, literally “death’s head” or skull. This was used by alchemists as their name for the residue in a flask after distillation was complete. Later it was used for any worthless residue.

FOCUS NATION

CULTURE FOR DIPLOMACY



DK Giri

THE CULTURAL AFFINITY BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES CREATES A CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE, TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING

On my visit last week to Jakarta, Indonesia, I accompanied the international delegation to sight-seeing in the capital city of Jakarta. About 20 of us from 14 countries were taken to the old town where we were exposed to a puppet show. To my utter delight as well as surprise, the show was about Ramayana. In a Muslim-majority country in the capital city, not in Bali, where people of Indian origin populate, a Hindu epic embraced in cultural events like puppet show was indeed amazing. There are similar Indian spiritual-cultural influences on other South-East Asian countries, indeed in many other parts of the world where Indians have migrated to in the past and are a sizeable population now.

Another anecdote, I was told by a diplomat friend that an old lady in Tanzania walked some four kilometres to watch a video on an Indian feature film. Mumbai-produced feature films are quite popular across the world. On one of my visits to Kabul, I met youngsters who knew about Sanjay Dutt and Shahrukh Khan more than about anyone else in India. Both these experiences signify the soft power that India possesses, which emanate from India’s culture. Is India using this soft power effectively or engaging in cultural diplomacy?

Obviously, the dividends from cultural diplomacy are many. Yet, foreign policies of many countries focus more on trade and security issues than cultural aspects. The cultural affinity between two countries creates a climate of confidence, trust and understanding. Why is culture then underplayed in diplomatic negotiations! This is perhaps due to uncertainty on the part of leadership, which culture, or particular aspects of a culture should be projected.

Cultural diplomacy is a way of presenting a country to the world, using the cultural riches of that country. Following from the above premise, what are the cultural as-



The dividends from cultural diplomacy are many. Yet, foreign policies of many countries focus more on trade and security issues than cultural aspects

sets? Different countries have specific cultural riches and, in some cases, similar ones, if they had a shared history. In the Indian case, it is the co-existence of several identities creating diversity and harnessing the power of that diversity.

The politics of identity, however, is a pejorative concept. Alarming, people have been divided into various segments based on religion, race, gender and nationality. The right-wing populists are exploiting these divisions to gain political support. Aggravated by pandemic, financial crises, and wars, insecurity among majority of population fuels nationalism and extremism.

Enzo Traverso, Italian scholar of European intellectual history, described this trend as an attempt to destroy democracy. He suggested that the rise of the far-right also underscores the increasing importance of identity politics in the early 21st century. Meant as a form of collective action, identity politics seeks to articulate the needs and demands that arise from the shared experiences of certain social groups. In the West, immigration has caused the consolidation of majoritarianism as a

reaction to globalisation and to the multicultural world that it is creating. As national economies integrate through trade and direct foreign investments, profound demographic changes are taking place as migrants move to the West to either study or work. This is causing considerable anxiety among the white majorities who are fearful that growing religious and ethnic diversity may overshadow their own established identity.

In Asia, where India has considerable cultural influence, diversity has long been a hallmark of their cultures. Asia has given birth to five major religions and has hundreds of ethnic groups scattered across 48 countries and 11 different time zones. Despite their obvious differences, most ethnic and religious groups have lived in harmony with one another, enriching the arts, traditions and culture of the region.

Sadly, in recent years, various conservative and populist parties have come to power by weaponising identity. In India, the concern exists in some quarters that the majority is threatening the country’s cultural and religious minorities and upending the multi-cultural

structure of the society. Malaysia has recently experienced polarisation. Indonesia has been experiencing ethnic and religious pluralism insulating identity-based conflicts and politics.

Progressives across the world have stayed away from identity politics. That is precisely the issue and challenge that India can address. Also, this is where India can contribute to the world politics with its culture of pluralism and synthesis. Multiple identities are the essence of diversity, which in turn, sustains democracy. Identities need not conflict and can easily co-exist as they are always contextual. An individual can embody multiple identities on the basis of language, ethnicity, race, gender, region, profession, religion and in Indian case, caste.

There are two kinds of identities – ascribed, which people are born into, the other, acquired, which can change. However, identities can be transcended into newer and higher forms depending on the context. For instance, your language identity can operate in the same language group, but you need to shed it and acquire another language while communicating with a person outside your language group.

Indian culture, composed of religions and traditions, is inherently diverse containing multiple identities. It has survived for centuries using the practice of co-existence as well as synthesis. India can use the unique traits of harmony, pluralism and synthesis in its culture and harness it in cultural diplomacy. This will enhance India’s chance of emerging as a global power, a super power. Trade and security issues are led by US and China at present. What is missing in the world, which is divided and polarised, is a new political culture discussed here. Will India fill the void?

The writer is Professor of International Relations, JIMMC.

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SPECTRUM BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

Trauma continues to haunt



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS ON, BHOPAL STILL STRUGGLES TO BREATHE OUT OF THIS VICIOUS GAS CLOUD WITH SURVIVORS NARRATING THEIR HORROR STORIES WITH AWE AND AGONY

In the worst-ever industrial accident to date, a highly poisonous gas named Methyl isocyanate (MIC) leaked out from a chemical plant of a US-owned company in Bhopal on the night of December 2, 1984, that left around 25,000 people dead with nearly 2,500 people dying instantly. Many animals including cattle, sheep and birds also fell victim.

In the sixties, with an aim to increase foreign investments in the country for boosting the economy, the government liberalised the terms for entry of foreign companies into India. Accordingly, US-based Union Carbide Corporation established a pesticide manufacturing plant in Bhopal in 1969 over 15 acres of land under the name Union Carbide of India Limited. Being a centrally located place having well-established road and rail connectivity, Bhopal was the perfect location for the plant. The plant also gave employment to hundreds of people leading to the flourishing of the local economy.

The plant was using two chemical gases – MIC and Phosgene to produce an intermediate product called Methylamine. These two gases were, of course, highly toxic in nature. Methylamine was then reacted with another chemical called 1- Naphthol to produce the

final product named Carbaryl which was then marketed as a pesticide under the name Sevin. The company was producing nearly 5000 tonnes of the pesticide annually.

Subsequently, as the demand for the product increased, the company later established its own MIC manufacturing unit in the same factory in 1979. The factory had three underground storage tanks placed side by side for storing MIC. The factory proved to be a boon for the local community as it was the only source of their livelihood. However, in the late seventies and early eighties, the demand for the product fell due to drought and low agricultural output of the country and also due to proven ineffectiveness of the pesticide. This resulted in the cutting down of investment by the company. This led to poor maintenance of safety systems of the factory including valves and gas pipes. Even, in 1981, a labourer died in the factory while on duty due to accidental exposure to Phosgene. Subsequently, a journalist Rajkumar Keswani, who happened to be a friend of the deceased worker, visited the site to find the dilapidated state of the factory and apprehended a catastrophe sooner. He reported that Bhopal was sitting over an exploding volcano which, of course, nobody paid

any heed to at that time.

On the evening of 2nd December 1984, water accidentally entered one of these storage tanks of MIC while the employees were trying to clean a choked pipe attached to the tank. As it is well-known in Chemistry, the chemical reaction between MIC and water is highly explosive resulting in the production of a large quantity of heat. This resulted in the building of gas pressure inside the tank that reached a value as high as 50 PSI from 2 PSI in a matter of only 4 to 5 hours which was far beyond the safety limit. The old and poorly maintained tank was not able to withstand this high pressure with its concrete walls caving in with cracks resulting in the release of the gas into the open atmosphere.

Three safety systems of the factory designed to slow down the effects of gas leak were, unfortunately, non-functional at that time. The plume of gases bellowed from the tanks in an uncontrollable manner and got mixed into the air in no time. MIC, being heavier than air, settled to the ground level and did not disperse quickly given the slow surface wind conditions of the winter night. This resulted in far higher exposure to the gas in the local population. Gripped with panic, people started running here

and there on the roads without knowing what exactly caused the disaster and how to manage it. In the morning, the nearby road was found to be littered with thousands of bodies of humans, animals and birds. Most of the hospitals of the city were overwhelmed with victims far beyond their capacities and doctors were totally unaware of a gas called MIC and, hence, had no antidote against it. Truckers carrying relief materials were reluctant to enter the affected area fearing a fresh gas exposure. The entire emergency system of a small city like Bhopal collapsed.

Thirty-eight years on, Bhopal still struggles to breathe out of this vicious gas cloud with many survivors narrating their horror stories with awe and agony. Even today, babies are born disabled or mentally retarded with soil and groundwater getting contaminated. The company and the government had tried to provide some mitigation measures to victims. However, the deep scar left in the minds of people who had lost their near and dear ones is never going to be erased by material help of any kind in days to come.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

Major milestone

Sir, In a major milestone for the country’s COVID vaccination programme, which was rolled out in January last year, decks have been cleared for the launch of the world’s first intranasal vaccine, iNCOVACC. The breakthrough has also raised India’s stature as a hub of coronavirus vaccines. According to Bharat Biotech, iNCOVACC has been designed for easy and pain-free administration. Also, the vaccine manufacturer has rightly initiated the development of variant-specific vaccines for future preparedness. Though COVID has subsided considerably in India, there is no room for complacency. The role of vaccination in controlling the virus is crucial. A patchy inoculation drive is one of the key reasons why China is witnessing a COVID resurgence, with Chinese vaccines not proving to be as effective as those manufactured in India or the West. What was worrying for India is the public hesitancy about taking the booster or precaution dose. Will the intranasal vaccine encourage people to shed indifference? Factors such as iNCOVACC’s efficacy, safety, pricing and availability will determine the response. The fact that the vaccine has shown successful results in Phases I, II and III of clinical trials should suffice to dispel apprehensions. Nevertheless, the health authorities need to conduct the vaccine awareness campaign with renewed vigour. It’s foolhardy to assume that the pandemic is over. We must remember that vaccines have largely averted severe infections in the past year and a half and will continue to do so in future.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Collegium conundrum

Sir, Appointment of judges has run into rough weather: The Supreme Court has sensed that the delay in considering the recommendations for the appointment of judges may be linked to the Centre’s unhappiness over the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) failing to pass muster in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has asserted “once the name is reiterated, that’s the end of the matter of the law as it stands. When recommendation is made, you cannot hold back the name without stating the reason.” This is really the problem in many government departments and offices when the officers sit on files without stating any reason. Courts have to work in full swing. For that no vacancy should be left without being filled for long time. Expedient disposal of cases is of paramount importance. It is literally true “justice delayed is justice denied.”

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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of the day quote

Bribe was rampant in issuing various kinds of licenses that was called 'BJP fees.' We will rationalise the license fees that are very high and people themselves will discard the 'BJP fee' this time in the MCD polls. The municipal corporations under the BJP, deliberately declared numerous markets in the city as illegal. The markets are there but they do not exist on paper. There are at least 70 municipal wards where there is not a single market that is legal. Go to any ward, either there are one or two legal markets or there are none at all. We will legalise such illegal markets

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

No proposal to open colleges for Muslim women

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

The government's callous attitude towards healthcare is the reason why they are neither recruiting medical staff at present nor there is a policy to meet the shortage of doctors in the future. This is the reason why the government has imposed a bond policy of seven years and Rs 40 lakh on the students doing MBBS from Haryana

BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | FORMER HARYANA CM

SHORT TAKES

Jawan released

New Delhi: A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan who accidentally crossed the International Border in Punjab's Abohar sector was apprehended and later released by the Pakistan Rangers. He crossed the border during a search operation due to dense fog, the BSF said. According to information, at around 6.30 in the morning, a team of 8 BSF personnel was sent for patrolling on the other side of the fencing.

Tenure extended

New Delhi: The tenure of India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, has been extended for a year till January 31, 2024. Earlier, he was due to retire in January 2023. A notification published in the Gazette of India on November 28 states, "The President of India is pleased to re-employ Taranjit Singh Sandhu (IFS:1988), an officer of Grade 1 of IFS, as Ambassador of India to the United States of America, for a period of 01 year with effect from 01.02.2023 to 31.01.2024 or until further orders."

Equalise to end AIDS epidemic: WHO

In the South-East Asia Region, an estimated 3.8 million people are living with HIV, accounting for around 10 per cent of the global burden



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The World Health Organisation Thursday highlighted the urgent need to provide every-one equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment and care to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.

Globally, an estimated 38.4 million people are living with HIV. In 2021, an estimated 1.5 million people acquired HIV and around 6,50,000 people died from AIDS-related causes, said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia. In the South-East Asia Region, an estimated 3.8 million

PM hits back at 'Ravana' remark

Addressing a poll rally at Kalol town in Panchmahal district of Gujarat, Modi said such abusive words used for him were an insult of Gujarat and its people because he was raised by the people of this land

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Dec 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said there is a competition among Congress leaders as to who will use the most abusive words against him, referring to the opposition party president Mallikarjun Kharge's 'Ravan' jibe at him.

Before Kharge, another Congress leader had said the party will show Modi his 'aukat' (place), the PM said, apparently referring to Madhusudan Mistry's remark last month.

Addressing a poll rally at Kalol town in Panchmahal district of Gujarat, Modi said such abusive words used for him were an insult of Gujarat and its people because he was raised by the people of this land. He asked people to teach the Congress leaders a lesson by voting for the 'lotus' (BJP's symbol) in the state elections.

Kharge Monday night addressed a rally in Behrampura area of Ahmedabad city where he said the Prime Minister asks people to vote "looking at his face" in all elections. "Are you 100-headed like Ravan," he had said.

On Thursday, Modi said, "I respect Khargeji but he has to follow orders of the party high command. He was compelled to say that Modi has 100 heads like (demon king) Ravan."

"But, the Congress did not realise that Gujarat is the land of Ram Bhakts. Those who never believed in the existence of Lord Ram, have now brought in Ravan from Ramayana just to abuse me," the PM said. "And, I am surprised they never expressed repentance, forget about tendering an apology, after using such cuss words for

Mallikarjun Kharge Monday night addressed a rally in Behrampura area of Ahmedabad city where he said the Prime Minister asks people to vote 'looking at his face' in all elections. 'Are you 100-headed like Ravan,' he had said

In an apparent jibe at the Gandhi family, Modi said Congress leaders are abusing him because their allegiance is towards a family, not India's democracy

me. Congress leaders think it is their right to use abusive language for Modi and insult the country's prime minister," he said.

In an apparent jibe at the Gandhi family, Modi said Congress leaders are abusing him because their allegiance is towards a family, not India's democracy. "For them, that family is everything. They will do anything to make the family happy. There is a competition among Congress leaders as to who will use the most abusive and most toxic slurs for Modi," he said.

One leader even used such words during his (leader's) Pakistan visit, the PM said. He said the opposition leaders have used all kinds of slurs for him, like "he will die a dog's death, he will die Hitler's death and one even said he will kill Modi if he gets a chance".

Modi said such abusive words used for him were an insult of Gujarat and its people because he was raised by the people of this land. "There is only one way to teach them a lesson. Vote for the BJP on December 5 by pushing a button (on EVM) near lotus. And I want to tell the Congressmen that our lotus will bloom more every time you indulge in mud-slinging," he said.



People attend the final procession of elephant Lakshmi of Manukula Vinayagar temple in Pondicherry

PTI PHOTO

Chaos in Mumbai airport

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Dec 1: Chaos prevailed for nearly two hours at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMA) after a computer systems failure hit check-ins and other operations for all airlines, here Thursday, sources said.

The 'culprit' is allegedly said to be the ongoing infrastructure digging works of the Mumbai Metro line in the CSMA vicinity that reportedly snapped a main cable of a major utility company, the sources said.

Late on Thursday evening, an official spokesperson for Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) attributed the glitch to "a temporary network interruption outside the airport due to ongoing development work in the city".

"Our teams are present on ground



and manual processing has been initiated to facilitate all passengers. They are requested to allocate additional time for check-in and also to connect with their respective airlines," the spokesperson said.

In a subsequent update, the MIAL said that "there was a network interruption resulting from a cable

cut" during some construction work in the city. "This interrupted the various ticketing systems. All systems are now restored and working," said the spokesperson.

Meanwhile, manual operations were taken up to clear the passenger rush, though no flight operations were affected, the sources said.

The abrupt breakdown in the computer systems led to massive crowds of passengers who could be seen sitting or moving around with their luggage in the Terminal T2 for around two hours.

Many of the harried passengers took to social media to vent their ire and frustration over the unexpected delays, posted pictures of the overcrowding inside the terminal or queues of passengers building up outside.

Two held for harassing Korean woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 1: Mumbai police Thursday arrested two men who harassed a South Korean YouTuber while she was live streaming in a Mumbai street.

A local court remanded the duo, arrested under IPC section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) to a day's police custody.

The men were arrested hours after a video surfaced on social media on Wednesday showing the woman being sexually harassed in Khar area of Mumbai.

The video showed a young man coming close to her and trying to pull her by holding her hand even when she protested.

As the woman began to walk away from the spot, the man again appeared on a motorbike with a friend, offering her a lift while she told him

that she did not want it. The police took notice of the incident after receiving the video on their Twitter handle and registered an FIR and also started a probe into the incident, an official said.

After establishing the identity of the two accused, aged 19 and 21, the police nabbed them from Patel Nagar in suburban Bandra, the official said. Police had contacted the YouTuber, but she did not come to the police station saying she will come later, the official added.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/E-Tender/120 Dt. 28.11.2022
(1) Tender No. etender-South-KUR-331-2022, Dtd. 16.11.2022
DESCRIPTION : OUTSOURCING OF QUANTIFIED USFD WORK IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 324.25 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 3,12,100.00, Completion Period : 24 (Twenty Four) Months.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 14.12.2022
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-763/N/22-23, Khurda Road

NOTICE
The Partnership firm bearing Regd. No.4795/2014 dated 31.12.2014 which was previously in the name and style M/S. JBS Estates & Developers, situated at Maa Barabhuja Mall, Khandagiri Square, Bhubaneswar, Odisha is dissolved w.e.f. 29.11.2022 the date of execution of dissolution deed.
1) Dr. Sanjay Kamat (Managing Director)
2) Sumangala S.Kamat (Partner)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
HARABHANGI IRRIGATION DIVISION,
ADAVA, Dist: GAJAPATI, ODISHA
e mail - eeharabhangi@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No.- SE- HID-ADV-04/2022-23
No.A-797: Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
1. Type of the work : System Improvement Works.
2. No. of work : 11 Nos.
3. Class of contractor : "D" & "C" Class
4. Bid identification No. : SE-HID-ADV-04(1)/2022-23 to SE-HID-ADV-04(11)/2022-23
5. Estimated cost : Rs. 4.79 Lakh to 25.78 Lakh.
6. Period of completion : 03(Three) calendar Months for each Work.
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal : From 03.12.2022, 10.00 AM to 12.12.2022 upto 5.30 P.M.
8. Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal : 12.12.2022 upto 5.30 P.M.
9. Name of the officer inviting bid. : Superintending Engineer, Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Dist.-Gajapati, Odisha.
Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Date of opening of the Bid:- 13.12.2022 at 11.00 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Dist-Gajapati
OIPR-32474/11/0003/2223

GOVT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NAYAGARH
At/P.O.- Nabaghanpur, Dist.- Nayagarh, Ph.- 06753-252049, E-mail: nayagarhrw2006@yahoo.in
No.- Tender - Online- Nayagarh Divn.-08/2022-23 Date: 19.11.2022
e-Procurement Notice
1. Name of the work: Road work. 2. Total No. of projects : 01 (One) No. of project. 3. Class of contractor: (a) Estimated cost above Rs.20.00 lakhs & upto Rs.3.00 Crore - B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licencing authorities. (b) Estimated cost upto Rs.40.00 lakhs - C Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licencing authorities. (c) Estimated cost upto Rs.20.00 lakhs - D Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licencing authorities. 4. Estimated cost: Rs.58.82 Lakh. 5. Time for completion : 02 (Two) calendar months. 6. Other details:
Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of tender online for bidding Date & time of opening of tender
From To Technical bid Financial bid
1 2 3 4 5 6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nayagarh No.: Tender-Online- Divn. NAYAGARH- 08/2022-23 09.12.2022 at 10.00 A.M. 23.12.2022 upto 5.00 P.M. 26.12.2022 at 11.00 A.M. To be intimated later on
Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Divn., Nayagarh
OIPR-25106/11/0016/2223

Yogi govt steps up surveillance in jails

A ROUND-THE-CLOCK VIDEO VIGIL HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED ACROSS ALL 72 JAILS AND SUB-JAILS IN THE STATE



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Dec 1: As videos of jailed Delhi minister Satyendra Jain in Tihar jail tumble out at a regular frequency, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to intensify surveillance of VVIP prisoners lodged in the state jails.

According to official sources, a round-the-clock video vigil has been stepped up across all 72 jails and sub-jails in the state.

These include Naini Central Jail, Lucknow jail, Gautam Buddha Nagar jail and other jails where notorious criminals, terror suspects, a former minister and other VVIPs are lodged.

Prison officials have been asked not to allow anything inside jails apart from items prescribed in the Jail Manual.

Officials at prison administration and reform services headquarters stated that directions have been issued for intensifying monitoring in prisons across the state.

The government spokesman said, "Prison officials have been asked to maintain a list of politicians, bureaucrats, mafias, dreaded gangsters and terror suspects lodged in their jails and intensify vigil on their activities to ensure that no special facility is provided to them."

UP jails have been known for notorious activities of inmates in the past.

The murder of jailed gangster Munna Bajrangi by another gangster Sunil Rath in July 2018 and the killing of three gangsters during a shootout in Chitrakoot jail May 2021 are examples of criminals continuing their activities inside the jails.

A businessman was kidnapped by Atiq Ahmad's henchmen and taken to the Deoria jail, where he was tortured in April 2019.

Besides, videos of inmates partying, consuming liquor and making extortion calls from inside jails have also gone viral in the past.

Jailor Rajendra Singh said that in Lucknow jail, several VVIPs, including former cabinet minister Gayatri Prajapati, gangster-

Vijayan slams Vizhinjam port protest, terms it as 'planned'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 1: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Thursday broke his silence and slammed the violent protests that took place at the upcoming Adani Vizhinjam Port site last week, adding that they were planned.

The Latin Catholic church appears to be backing the local protesters who are against the building of the port and in the rampage unleashed by the protesters Saturday and Sunday, the authorities estimated a loss of Rs 85 crore and around 35 police officials and several protesters were injured.

Consequent to the rampage, the police registered cases against 3,000 people which included the Latin Church bishop, priests among others and there was widespread criticism from several quarters on the long standing silence of Vijayan, despite him always speaking about development.

But Thursday Vijayan while addressing the passing out parade of women police officials said that what happened at Vizhinjam in the past few days was a well planned one.

What happened at Vizhinjam is the outcome of a well planned out conspiracy and one with a motive, which the police have by now identified. The police will deal with



“What happened at Vizhinjam is the outcome of a well planned out conspiracy and one with a motive, which the police have by now identified. The police will deal with the case very sternly

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | CM, KERALA

the case very sternly, said Vijayan.

An attempt to create communal issues and riots was planned. The role of the police in doing their best has to be appreciated as they have done a good job, added Vijayan.

State Police chief Anil Kant said a detailed probe has begun and each and every aspect will be probed and strict action would be taken against those who have indulged in violence.

State Ports Minister Ahamed Devarkovil said this port has been a long standing dream of Kerala.

This port will definitely become a reality and the first ship will call at this port in September next year and it will be an Onam gift for Kerala. Once operational this port

will be hugely beneficial for Kerala and the country. As today big mother vessels come only to Colombo or Dubai and from there it is trans-shipped to here. With this new port, all big mother vessels will dock here, so nothing will be able to stop this project from being stalled, said Devarkovil.

Since Monday, though there were no untoward incidents in and around the port site as there are over a thousand police officials on alert.

On Wednesday, NIA officials arrived at the Vizhinjam Police station, which was ransacked by the protesters against this project on Sunday, and held detailed talks with the Kerala Police officials.



Boatmen protest by stopping the operation of their boats against the new rules by the Varanasi District Administration, in Varanasi, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Garbage dumps to become selfie points in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Dec 1: Even as garbage mounds in Delhi lead to a political warfare, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is working to develop these mounds as selfie points.

The garbage dumps, which are an eyesore and emanate terrible stink, attract insects and strays and pose sanitation hazards, are now poised for a dramatic makeover all over the state. A cleanliness drive under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission (urban)' has been kicked off across the state,



covering 750 civic bodies in 75 districts for 75 hours from Thursday.

Under this mega sanitation drive, there is a plan to convert 'garbage vulnerable points' (GVPs) and 'sensitive sites' in terms of garbage collection in about 750 civic bodies of the state, into clean places and

develop them as selfie points after beautification, as per the government spokesman.

All the GVPs will be beautified and turned into either selfie points with space for senior citizens or will be allotted to street vendors, said the spokesman.

Instructions have been issued to all the municipal commissioners to fulfil the campaign objective within the time limit and the best performing bodies in the 'Pratibaddh 75 Districts 75 Hours 750 Civic Bodies' campaign will be rewarded at the state level.

Universities in Kerala are soft targets: Khan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 1: After a lull, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan again Thursday attacked Pinarayi Vijayan-led Kerala government, saying that universities in Kerala are soft targets.

"What a shame, universities in Kerala are soft targets, where appointments of relatives and party cadres are being done. Just look at Kannur vice-chancellor (Gopinath Raveendran), in the past six months the Kerala High Court on three occasions have ruled against him. He looks like a habitual offender, as instructions go from the Chief Minister's office," said Khan.

The relations between Governor Khan and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan have gone from bad to worse in last few months.

The two have been at logger-

heads ever since Khan objected to the manoeuvres of Vijayan and his office over appointments to various posts in universities in Kerala.

"Just look, the state government spent Rs 45 lakh to get a legal opinion and what did they do with the opinion. A state like Kerala which is in huge debt is spending so much," added Khan.

On the future plans, Khan said his job is to bring back respectability of universities in Kerala and to see that students from the state need not have to go out to study.

"As soon as the Kerala High Court disposes of the petition with regards to the Vice-chancellors, steps would begin to appoint the new VCs. My job is that of only a supervisory role and the VCs will be running the show with no interference from the executive," added Khan.



Kerala HC unhappy about night curfew for female students

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Dec 1: The Kerala High Court expressed its displeasure on imposing curfew in the women's hostel of Kozhikode Medical College by asking all the students to return by 9.30pm.

The court made these observations after a plea was moved by five female MBBS students and office-bearers of the College Union of the Medical College Kozhikode. The plea also pointed out that there was no restriction for the male students.

Expressing its displeasure, the court pointed out that such restrictions under the guise of protection were nothing but patriarchy.

It also pointed out that all forms of patriarchy, even those offered under the guise of protection on the basis of gender, must be frowned upon.

BJP, SP sharpen attacks as bypolls draw closer in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Dec 1: With just two days left for campaigning before the bypolls to two Assembly and one Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP and Samajwadi Party are sharpening their attacks on each other.

Slamming the previous SP rule, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that in the Akhilesh government, farmers could not visit their land as their tubewell connections were snapped, machines were stolen and their throats slit.

Girls could not go to school and women to markets because of safety concerns. People were forced to migrate from places like Kairana and Kandala. People can never forget the cruelty meted out to Sachin and Gaurav (two brothers killed during Muzaffarnagar riots) during the SP rule, he said.

He urged the people not to allow professional criminals of Samajwadi Party to enter the realms of power. Kaval ka bawal (Muzaffarnagar) is a curse of SP, he stated.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya, meanwhile, accused SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and his uncle Shivpal Yadav of being driven by a feudalistic mindset.

Maurya said that it was due to this feudalistic thinking, the rule of uncle and nephew prevailed in

both the government and the organisation of the Samajwadi Party.

This family cannot see backward and downtrodden moving forward, he said.

He slammed Shivpal for using derogatory words for BJP candidate Raghuraj Singh Shakya and said that people would answer Shivpal and his nephew by puncturing SP's cycle and ensuring victory of Shakya in Mainpuri.

Describing Akhilesh as anti-backward, Maurya said that he and his family are not socialists but opponents of backward people.

He said not only Akhilesh but his uncles Shivpal, Ram Gopal and the whole family have only one thing in their mind and that is how to maintain their fear and terror among the common people on the basis of corruption, hooliganism and anarchy while remaining in power.

Shivpal Yadav, on the other hand, said that the BJP was getting increasingly jittery after seeing the unity in the Samajwadi Party and the Yadav family.

They were hoping to cash in on the division but now their hopes have been dashed. This by-election is going to be the beginning of the end for the BJP, he said.

The polling will be held December 5 and votes will be counted December 8.



Covid blues over as domestic tourists throng Kerala

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Dec 1: Kerala saw a record-setting surge in domestic tourist arrivals in the first three quarters of the current year as compared to the corresponding period a year ago, reflecting a comeback from the pandemic-triggered downturn, said a state minister.

Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas said that Kerala's crucial travel and hospitality sector is poised to surpass pre-pandemic levels.

"The state received a total of 1,33,80,000 domestic tourists in nine months till September, notching a 1.49 per cent increase as compared to the same period before Covid-19 struck the world," said Riyas.

The January-September period this year saw a 600 per cent stride in foreign tourist arrivals to Kerala, and the state is expected to host more overseas travellers as the world is opening up overcoming the pandemic-induced restrictions.

"Overall, Kerala Tourism grew by 120 per cent amid a 12.07 per cent surge in state Gross Domestic



Product in 2021-22, which is above the national average, as cited by the Department of Economics and Statistics," added the Minister.

Kerala's caravan tourism, Karavans Kerala, launched during the pandemic period, will be further developed as it has tremendous scope to attract foreign tourists. As part of this, plans are afoot to develop caravan parks in Bolgatty and Kumarakom, the Minister said.

In July, Time magazine fea-

In July, Time magazine featured Kerala among world's 50 extraordinary destinations to be explored in 2022

extraordinary destinations to be explored in 2022.

The third quarter of 2022 saw Ernakulam district ranking first in domestic tourism with 28,93,961 the tourist visits, followed by Thiruvananthapuram (21,46,969),

Idukki (17,85,276), Thrissur (15,07,511), and Wayanad (10,93,175).

The Tourism Department is making all efforts to improve domestic tourism. Besides wooing tourists from other states, the department also focuses on giving an added momentum to local tourism within Kerala. Travel lovers are also encouraged to explore the destinations within their districts.

In state-wise breakup of visitors in nine months, Tamil Nadu topped clocking 11,60,336 tourists followed by Karnataka (7,67,262), Maharashtra (3,82,957), Andhra Pradesh (1,95,594), and Delhi (1,40,471).

More than 100 new tourism destinations will be added to the state's tourism map by 2023, as part of the Destination Challenge Project, being carried out in collaboration with local self-government institutions.

"The implementation of a set of meticulously-crafted steps will help in future trajectory of travel and hospitality industry in the state," added Riyas who is the son-in-law of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

of the day quote

We must not end up hating those who are afflicted while trying to drive away the affliction. It is essential for the young generation, especially pregnant women, to give up lajja (shame) and bhay (fear) while undergoing an HIV test

TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

Because of Modi's policies of economic disparity, social hostility and political dictatorship, the country is going to break in future and the Bharat Jodo Yatra being taken out by Rahul Gandhi will ensure that it will not happen

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

The Centre has spared no effort in the development of Rajasthan whereas the Congress government led by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has put the brakes on it

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Body found

Lucknow: A decomposed body of a newborn baby was found dumped under garbage slit adjacent to a drain behind the boundary wall of Sahara Club in Jankipuram area of Lucknow. The incident came to the fore when a security guard at Sahara Club sensed foul smell in the area and removed the silt with a stick only to find a body packed in a poly bag under it. According to the police, it was not clear if the baby died after being dumped at the spot or was stillborn. However, the body appeared to be three to five days old but had decomposed to the level that its gender could not be ascertained.

Three killed

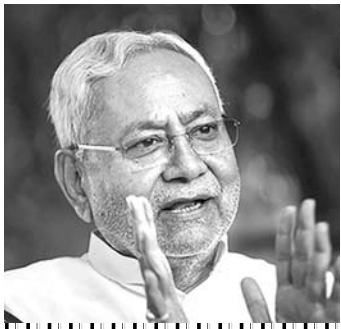
Jammu: Three members of a family were killed and two others injured in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district. Police said a private vehicle went out of the driver's control in the Bani area of Kathua district late Wednesday evening. "The vehicle dropped into a 300-ft deep gorge. Three members of a family were killed on the spot. "Two injured persons were rescued and they have been shifted to the government medical college hospital in Kathua town," police said.

Girl found dead

Thane: A 9-year-old girl was found dead with her throat slit in Kalyan area of Maharashtra's Thane district on Thursday morning, following which a teenage boy was detained on the charge of murdering her, a police official said. The body was found in the premises of a housing complex near Kalyan railway station, although she was not a resident there, the Mahatma Phule police station official said."The residents of the society alerted the police and her body was sent for post-mortem. We have registered a case of murder and other offences under Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act provisions," he said.

Six suspended for ragging

Nagpur: Six MBBS interns of a government medical college in Nagpur have been suspended for allegedly ragging a junior student, an official said. The action was taken after the junior student, who is in the first year of the MBBS course at the Government Medical College and Hospital here in Maharashtra, sent a video of the alleged ragging to the Central Anti-Ragging Committee, the college official said.



All states are actively participating in the inclusive growth of the country. I have said several times in the past that there should be a 'one nation, one power tariff' policy. Why are some states purchasing power at higher rates from the generation units of the central government? A uniform electricity rate across the country should be there

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

Govt plans to introduce 16 new bills

The National Dental Commission Bill, which seeks to set up a National Dental Commission and to repeal the Dentists Act, 1948, is in the tentative session agenda of the government

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The government has planned to introduce 16 new bills, including the one which seeks to increase accountability and reform electoral process in multi-state cooperative societies, in the Winter Session of Parliament beginning December 7.

The National Dental Commission Bill, which seeks to set up a National Dental Commission and to repeal the Dentists Act, 1948, is also in the tentative session agenda of the government. The National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, another measure the Health Ministry plans to introduce, seeks to set up a National Nursing and Midwifery Commission (NNMC) and to repeal the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.



According to a Lok Sabha bulletin issued on Thursday, the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, is being introduced with an objective of strengthening governance, enhancing transparency, increasing accountability and reforming electoral process in the multi-state cooperative societies by supplementing existing legislation and incorporating the provisions of 97th Constitution amendment.

It also aims to improve monitoring mechanism and ensuring ease of doing business for multi-state cooperative societies. The

Cantonment Bill, 2022, is another draft law the government proposes to bring in the session which will conclude on December 29.

The cantonment bill relates to the administration of cantonments with a view to impart greater democratisation, modernisation and efficiency. It also seeks to achieve greater developmental objectives in alignment with municipalities across the country. The Bill also intends to facilitate ease of living in cantonments.

Another bill in the list is the Old Grant (Regulation) Bill, 2022. The purpose of the bill is to regulate land

given under Governor General Orders of 1836, 1827, 1838, 1849 and 1851, including their transfer, subdivision and change of purpose. It also seeks to delegate powers for better management of such land.

The bill aims to enhance ease of living while ensuring effective protection of government rights over the land. The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It also envisages to remove ambiguity in the applicability of the provisions of the Act, promote plantation in non-forest areas and conserve the forests.

The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which the government proposes to bring seeks to revise the provisions of the principal Act to reduce the regulatory compliance burden to the stakeholders without diluting the core principles of environment protection in coastal areas.

It also proposes to decriminalise "the offence(s)" under the Act and to expand the scope of the law to bring all coastal aquaculture activities under its ambit.

It also aims to remove difficulties and regulatory gaps in the Act for effective implementation, and to facilitate ease of doing business.

TOUGH STAND

The Centre has cautioned FM radio channels against playing songs or broadcasting content glorifying alcohol, drugs, weaponry, gangster/gun culture



Trouble mounts for Shashi Tharoor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The Delhi police moved the Delhi High Court Thursday against the discharge of Congress leader Shashi Tharoor in the case of his wife Sunanda Pushkar's death, more than 15 months after a city court let him off, and sought condonation of delay in filing the revision petition.

The high court sought Tharoor's response to the plea by the Delhi police for condoning the delay, and listed the matter for hearing on February 7, 2023.

The Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram was discharged of all offences like cruelty and abetment to suicide in August 2021, more than seven years after his businesswoman wife Pushkar was found dead in a luxury hotel in the national capital.

Pushkar was found dead in a suite of a luxury hotel on the night of January 17, 2014.

The couple had been staying in the hotel as Tharoor's official bungalow was being renovated at the time.

After Tharoor's counsel referred to the protracted delay, Justice D K Sharma issued a notice to the Congress leader and sought his reply to the police's application for condonation of delay.



The high court sought Tharoor's response to the plea by the Delhi police and listed the matter for hearing on February 7, 2023

"First we will decide the condonation of delay application," the judge said.

The high court also asked the counsel for police to supply a copy of its petition to Tharoor's lawyer. The police, through additional standing counsel Rupali Bandhopadhy, filed the revision petition seeking setting aside of the trial court's 2021 order and for direction to frame charges against Tharoor under section 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) and 306 (abetment to suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

DELHI LIQUOR SCAM CASE

Ready to face inquiry: KCR's daughter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Dec 1: TRS MLC K Kavitha Thursday said she and her party leaders who are currently under the radar of the central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate are ready to face any inquiry.

She was reacting to reports that her name figured in a remand report by the Enforcement Directorate on one of the accused-Amit Arora in the Delhi liquor scam case."We will face any kind of inquiry. If the agencies come and ask us questions we will certainly answer. But tarnishing leaders' images by giving selective leaks to the media, people will refute it," Kavitha told reporters here.

Alleging that BJP has toppled eight democratically elected state



governments and snatched power through backdoor politics, she dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to put her and other leaders behind the bars.

"I request Modi that this attitude has to change. It is not possible to win elections by using the ED and CBI. It is very difficult with people of Telangana who are cleverer. If you say that you will keep us in jail, do it. What will happen? There is nothing to be scared of. Will you

I request Modi that this attitude has to change. It is not possible to win elections by using the ED and CBI. It is very difficult with people of Telangana who are cleverer. If you say that you will keep us in jail, do it. What will happen? There is nothing to be scared of. Will you hang us? At the most you will keep us in jail. That's all," she said.

K KAVITHA | TRS MLC

Kavitha claimed that it has become a regular practice to send agencies such as ED and CBI to poll-bound states. Telangana is slated to go for Assembly polls

NRI forgets jewellery in cab, gets it in 4 hrs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Greater Noida, Dec 1: An NRI accidentally left a bag with jewellery worth Rs 1 crore in a cab that he travelled in with his family in Greater Noida. The BISRakh police station, on receiving information about the incident, took immediate action and retrieved the bag in 4 hours.

According to information received, on November 30 com-

plainant Nikhilesh Kumar Sinha of Samridhi Grand Avenue, Greater Noida West, informed the police that he and his family lived in London and were in India for his daughter's marriage.

He said they reached Gaurs Sarovar Portico Hotel and realised that they had left behind one of their bags containing wedding jewellery etc. in the Uber taxi car.

On the basis of the information, the police checked the registration

number of the vehicle and traced its live location by visiting the Gurugram office of Uber.

The vehicle and the driver were found in Lal Kuan district of Ghaziabad. The driver said that he had no idea about the bag kept in the car's trunk.

The bag along with the driver was taken to the police station, where all the ornaments were found intact in the locked bag, which was handed over to Sinha later.

Govt launches DigiYatra for passengers at 3 airports

DigiYatra will be launched at four more airports -- Hyderabad, Pune, Vijayawada and Kolkata -- by March next year. Later, DigiYatra will be rapidly rolled out across all other airports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The government Thursday launched DigiYatra which will provide a seamless entry and embarkation process for air passengers at the airports in the national capital, Bangalore and Varanasi.

After launching DigiYatra, which is based on facial recognition technology, at the airport in Delhi, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said data shared by the passengers will be stored in an encrypted format and in a decentralised manner.

DigiYatra will be launched at four more airports -- Hyderabad,



Pune, Vijayawada and Kolkata -- by March next year. Later, DigiYatra will be rapidly rolled out across all other airports, Scindia said at a briefing here.

The airlines that operate in these three airports -- Delhi, Bangalore and Varanasi -- are fundamentally onboard, he said with respect to DigiYatra. It will be available for passengers taking domestic flights.

DigiYatra app is available on Android and iOS platforms. Currently at the Delhi airport, DigiYatra will be available for passengers taking domestic flights from Terminal 3 (T3). Amid con-

cerns in certain quarters about data theft and privacy issues, Scindia said the data shared for DigiYatra will be stored in an encrypted format in a decentralised manner.

"First, we thought of a centralised system that would house all the data but then issues of privacy, data theft, rightfully came up. So, we moved to a decentralised system which would house the passenger information. On the mobile phones of every single passenger," the minister said.

The secured, encrypted information on a passenger's phone can

be provided to the airport from which he or she is flying out, 24 hours before the journey. "We have moved to a decentralised system and your data is going to be in an encrypted format and it is going to be residing only in your (passenger) mobile phone... 24 hours after your travel, that data is mandatorily going to be purged from the servers at that airport. The data you upload gets completely wiped out in 24 hours even though it is protected by blockchain technology," the minister said.

For availing the service, a passenger has to register their details on DigiYatra app using Aadhaar-based validation and a self image capture. In the next step, the boarding pass has to be scanned and the credentials are shared with the airport.

At the airport e-gate, the passenger has to first scan the bar coded boarding pass and the facial recognition system installed at the e-gate will validate the passenger's identity and travel document. Once this process is done, the passenger can enter the airport through the e-gate. The pas-

senger will have to follow the normal procedure to clear the security and board the aircraft.

Talking about the benefits of facial recognition technology being used at airports, the minister said it is helping save time for passengers at various international airports, including at Dubai, Singapore, Atlanta, Narita (Japan).

At Atlanta airport, the time taken is around "9 minutes per aircraft boarding", he added.

Scindia said DigiYatra provides a seamless process from the entry point until the embarkation point on planes, and no identification or boarding pass has to be shown by the passengers.

While noting that DigiYatra is being adopted on a piece meal basis in the country, he said the Indian system is a tad more efficient than other systems across the world.

"We are also working with IATA to ensure that new advancements are adopted at a very very early stage in India," the minister said.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is a global grouping of airlines.

Aaftab's narco test successful



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Shraddha Walkar murder accused Aaftab Amin Poonawala underwent a narco analysis test for almost two hours at a hospital in Rohini on Thursday as part of the ongoing investigation in the case, officials said.

They said Poonawala's narco test was completely successful and his health condition was absolutely fine. Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda said the process of the narco test was complete.

The officials said Poonawala reached Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital in Rohini at 8.40 am and the narco test started around 10 am. After the test, he was kept under observation. Poonawala is likely to be taken to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) here on Friday. According to FSL sources, the answers he gave during his polygraph and narco tests will be analysed. He will be informed about the replies he gave.

Before the narco test, Poonawala underwent a general check-up for blood pressure, pulse rate, body temperature and heart beat, a senior official said. A consent form with complete details of Poonawala and the team conducting his narco test was read out to him as part of the procedure.

international

of the day quote

We disable energy facilities (in Ukraine) that allow you (the West) to pump lethal weapons into Ukraine to kill Russians. So don't say that the US and NATO are not participants in this war - you are directly participating

SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

Solving the Ukrainian crisis through political means is in the best interest of Europe and the common interest of all countries in Eurasia

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

We look forward to supporting India's G20 presidency next year on a range of issues, including addressing current food and energy security challenges while continuing our efforts to build a resilient global economy

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE | PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE

SHORT TAKES

Biden hosts Macron

Washington: Presidents Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron are celebrating the longstanding US-French relationship – but these are friends with differences. The French president is using his visit to Washington to sharply criticize aspects of the US president's signature climate law as a bad deal for Europe. The two leaders will sit down in the Oval Office for morning talks that officials from both sides said were expected to largely center on the leaders' efforts to stay united in their response to Russia's war in Ukraine and to coordinate their approach to an increasingly assertive China.

Covid hits France

Paris: The BQ.1.1 subvariant of Covid-19 is currently taking precedence over the BA.5 strain in France, a top health expert told the local media. Brigitte Autran, president of the Committee for Monitoring and Anticipating Health Risks (COVARS), told the news channel BFMTV Wednesday that the latest Covid resurgence is the "beginning of a wave", even though the increase in the number of cases is "not significant yet", reports Xinhua news agency. "The trend is not good, it is up" because of the subvariant of the virus, she said.

Malnutrition in SL

Colombo: Sri Lanka has reported a surge in the cases of malnutrition among children, according to the cash-strapped country's health ministry. Dr Chitramali de Silva, the bureau director of the health ministry's family health bureau said, "Sri Lanka, hit by its worst-ever economic crisis, is experiencing evidently increased malnutrition among children. The severe acute malnutrition among children had increased to 1.4 per cent this year up from 1.1 per cent."

'Royal race row' risks cloaking William, Kate's US tour

The trip is the royal couple's first one overseas since the 40-year-old William became heir to the throne in September, when his father succeeded queen Elizabeth II to become King Charles III

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Boston, Dec 1: Prince William and wife Kate began their first visit to America in eight years Wednesday under the cloud of a fresh racism row after his godmother quit the royal household for repeatedly asking a Black British woman where she was "really" from.

The Prince and Princess of Wales met Boston mayor Michelle Wu and governor-elect Maura Healey at the city hall and then sat courtside at a Boston Celtics versus Miami Heat NBA game as they kick-started their three-day trip



focused on climate change.

The beginning of the visit – which comes after racism claims from William's brother Harry and mixed-race sister-in-law, Meghan – was however overshadowed by the

resignation and apology of 83-year-old Susan Hussey, one of William's six godmothers.

"Racism has no place in our society," a spokesman for the royal couple told reporters in Boston. "These comments were unacceptable, and it's right that the individual has stepped aside with immediate effect." William was not involved in the decision but "believes it's the right course of action to be taken", the spokesman added.

The royal couple last visited the United States in 2014 when they went to New York and Washington, in a trip that included a reception at the White House with the then-

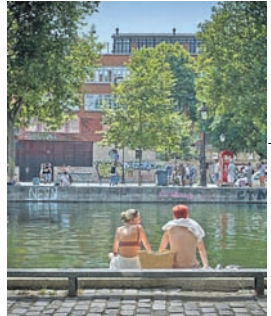


I want to correct the record. First of all, the fall of East Pakistan was not a military but a political failure

BILAWAL BHUTTO-ZARDARI | FOREIGN MINISTER, PAKISTAN

2022 FRANCE'S HOTTEST YEAR

2022 is on pace to be the hottest year in France since records began, the French national meteorological service Meteo France has said. It said that the average temperature for the year as a whole would exceed 14.2 degrees Celsius. The heatwaves that baked France this summer caused an additional 2,816 deaths compared with the records of the past five years



SCIENTISTS REVIVE 48,500-YEAR-OLD 'ZOMBIE VIRUS'

■ *The scientists feel that the danger is real as these viruses could potentially revive and become active once again due to the rising global warming*

AGENCIES

Washington, Dec 1: The thawing of ancient permafrost due to climate change is likely to pose a new threat to humans, according to scientists who revived nearly two dozen viruses - including one frozen under a lake more than 48,500 years ago.

European researchers examined ancient samples collected from permafrost in the Siberia

region of Russia. They revived and characterized 13 new pathogens, what they termed "zombie viruses," and found that they remained infectious despite spending many millennia trapped in the frozen ground.

Scientists have long warned that the decline of ancient glaciers due to global warming will worsen climate change by freeing previously trapped greenhouse gases like methane. But its effect on dormant pathogens is less well understood.

The team of researchers from Russia, Germany, and France said the biological risk of reanimat-

The ice currently trapping them can melt, releasing these infectious viruses into the atmosphere. This is a public health concern

JEAN-MARIE ALEMPIC | LEAD RESEARCHER, SCIENCE ALERT



ing the viruses they studied was "totally negligible" due to the strains they targeted, mainly those

capable of infecting amoeba microbes. The potential revival of a virus that could infect animals or humans is much more problematic, they said, warning that their work can be extrapolated to show the danger is real.

"It is thus likely that ancient

permafrost will release these unknown viruses upon thawing," they wrote in an article posted to the preprint repository bioRxiv that hasn't yet been peer-reviewed. "How long these viruses could remain infectious once exposed to outdoor conditions, and how likely they will be to encounter and infect a suitable host in the interval, is yet impossible to estimate."

"But the risk is bound to increase in the context of global warming when permafrost thawing will keep accelerating, and more people will be populating the Arctic in the wake of industrial ventures," they said.

Researchers warned that some of these "zombie viruses" could potentially be dangerous to humans. As seen previously, thawing per-

What is Zombie Virus?

Zombie virus is the term given to a virus that is frozen in ice and therefore dormant. It does not mean that it is a virus that will turn you into a zombie, like those in horror movies and shows. However, in sync with the analogy, these viruses are 'undead' like the fictional zombie, and can come back alive and active under certain circumstances.

mafroast can claim human lives. In 2016, an anthrax outbreak in Siberia led to the death of a child and dozens of people were also hospitalized. As per the officials, the outbreak possibly started after a heat wave thawed the permafrost and unearthed a reindeer carcass that was infected with anthrax decades ago.

Xi bows down to historic protests

THE VIOLENT ANTI-COVID LOCKDOWN PROTESTS THAT MARK SOME OF THE STRONGEST DISSENT CHINA HAS SEEN FOR OVER 30 YEARS HAVE FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO LIFT SOME RESTRICTIONS

AGENCIES

Beijing, Dec 1: China is set to announce in coming days an easing of its Covid-19 quarantine protocols and a reduction in mass testing, sources told Reuters, a marked shift in policy after anger over the world's toughest curbs fuelled widespread protests.

Cases nationwide remain near record highs but the changes come as some cities have been lifting their lockdowns in recent days, and a top official said the ability of the virus to cause disease was weakening.

Health authorities announcing the easing in their areas have not mentioned the protests - the biggest show of civil disobedience in China for years which ranged from candle-lit vigils in Beijing to street clashes with police in Guangzhou.

The measures due to be unveiled include a reduction in mass testing and regular nucleic acid tests and moves to allow positive cases and close contacts to isolate at home under certain conditions, the sources familiar with the matter said.



That is a far cry from earlier protocols that led to public frustrations as entire communities were locked down, sometimes for weeks, after even just one positive case. The frustration boiled over last week in demonstrations of public defiance unprecedented in mainland China since President Xi Jinping took power in 2012, and come as the economy is set to enter a new era of much slower growth than seen in decades.

- China to allow home quarantine, cut mass testing
- Covid cases nationwide remain near record highs
- Top official says severity of virus weakening
- Shift comes after string of demonstrations
- Biggest show of public defiance in a decade

CHANGING RULES

Less than 24 hours after violent protests in Guangzhou Tuesday, authorities in at least seven districts of the sprawling manufacturing hub, said they were lifting temporary lockdowns. One district said it would allow schools, restaurants and businesses including cinemas to reopen. Cities including Chongqing and Zhengzhou also announced easings.

In the capital, Beijing, some communities have begun preparing for changes.

RE-OPENING NEXT YEAR?

Expectations have grown around the world that China, while still trying to contain infections, could look to re-open its borders at some point next year once it achieves better vaccination rates among its hesitant elderly.

Chinese stocks and markets around the world dipped initially after the weekend protests in Shanghai, Beijing and other cities, but later recovered on hopes that public pressure could lead to a new approach by authorities.

PUNISHMENT FOR 'LIKING' POSTS

Internet users in China will soon be held liable for liking posts deemed illegal or harmful, sparking fears that the world's second largest economy plans to control social media like never before, according to a media report. The regulation is an updated version of one previously published in 2017. For the first time, it states that "likes" of public posts must be regulated, along with other types of comments.

STREETS TURNED TO WARZONES

Protesters screamed as they threw glass bottles at scores of cowering hazmat-clad riot police in China, as demonstrators continue to defy zero-Covid policies. Hundreds of riot police, seen wearing hazmat suits for the first time, advanced towards the protesters and were seen dragging the screaming protesters away to unknown locations in dystopian scenes.

UN MAKES RECORD AID APPEAL AMID DISASTERS, WAR



Funds are needed to help 339mn people in 69 nations, an increase of 65mn people compared with the same time last year, the UN body noted

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Dec 1: The United Nations said Thursday that it is asking member states for a record \$51.5 billion in aid funding for next year; as disasters and the ongoing war in Ukraine drive up humanitarian needs worldwide.

The global body's humanitarian office said the funds are needed to help 339 million people in 69 countries, an increase of 65 million people compared with the same time last year. The appeal is a 25 per cent increase on that made for 2022, it said.

"Humanitarian needs are shockingly high, as this year's extreme events are spilling into 2023," said the UN's emergency relief coordinator, Martin Griffiths.

He cited droughts in the Horn of Africa, floods in Pakistan and the conflict in Ukraine, which have pushed the number of displaced people worldwide above 100 million.

"All of this on top of the devastation left by the pandemic among the world's poorest," said Griffiths.

"For people on the brink, this appeal is a lifeline. For the international community, it is a strategy to make good on the pledge to leave no one behind."

The UN's annual Global Humanitarian Overview combines funding required by the global body and numerous nongovernmental organisations.

Current funding provided by member states is less than half of what's needed, forcing aid groups and agencies "to decide who to target with the funds available," the UN humanitarian office said.



FESTIVE FERVOUR: Divers perform during an event to promote upcoming Christmas festival at the Coex Aquarium in Seoul, South Korea. Christmas is one of the biggest holidays celebrated in South Korea

PTI PHOTO

VOICING ATTACKS COUNTRYWIDE TTP calls off truce with Pak govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Dec 1: The Pakistan government is reviewing its strategy in relation to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) after the dreaded militant group called off the ceasefire agreement with it and resumed attacks on security forces, a media report said Thursday.

The ceasefire deal signed in June this year as part of a deal brokered by the Afghan Taliban was called off earlier this week by the group fighting to establish the rule of Sharia across the country. The will be a "review" of Pakistan's strategy following the TTP announcement earlier this week and a spike in terrorist attacks, an official source told The Express Tribune newspaper.

The source said that a meeting of the National Security Committee



(NSC), the highest forum to discuss issues of national security and defence, will likely be convened to discuss the possible new strategy.

The talks were brokered by the Afghan Taliban regime, which had been resisting pressure from Pakistan to take action against the TTP and its affiliates operating out of the neighbouring country. The source however said the government will now discuss all options to deal with militancy after the change of command and resurgence of the TTP.

of the day quote

China will adopt necessary measures to safeguard the legitimate rights of domestic firms

SHU JUEYING | COMMERCE MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

We have already invested ₹150 crore in plant and machinery. We are looking at investing around ₹160 crore in the next three years. We are looking at growing at least five times in the next five years

VARUN BERRY | VC AND MD, BRITANNIA

The strong recovery in overall hiring activity post-festive season reaffirms the resilience of the Indian job market which is now multi-sectoral and hence balanced as well as mature

PAWAN GOYAL | CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER, NAUKRI.COM

SHORT TAKES

Moscow dismisses Pak's oil price ask

Islamabad: A Pakistani delegation holding talks with their Russian counterparts has asked for a 30-40 per cent discount on crude oil, a demand turned down by Moscow which said it could not offer anything right now as all volumes were committed, according to a media report Thursday. The delegation – comprising State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik, Secretary Petroleum Cap (retd) Muhammad Mahmood, joint secretary and officials of the Pakistan Embassy in Moscow – asked for a discount during talks in Moscow Wednesday, The News reported.

CIL production up 17% in Apr-Nov

New Delhi: State-owned CIL Thursday said it produced 412.6 million tonne of coal in the April-November period of the current fiscal and expressed confidence that it will surpass the output target set for the current financial year. The PSU had produced 353.4 MT in the April-November period of the last financial year. Coal India Ltd (CIL) which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output is eyeing a production of 700 million tonne (MT) in the current financial year.

Power consumption grows 14% in Nov

New Delhi: India's power consumption logged a double-digit growth of 13.6 per cent to 112.81 billion units in November 2022 compared to the year-ago period, according to the government data. The robust growth of power consumption in the month mainly indicates an increase in economic activities as generally it remains subdued in November. Experts say power consumption and demand will further increase in the coming months due to use of heating appliances, especially in the northern part of the country, and further improvement in economic activities on account of the beginning of the new rabi crop season.

4th tranche of Bharat Bond ETF from today

New Delhi: The government will launch the fourth tranche of Bharat Bond ETF, India's first corporate bond exchange traded fund, from Friday. The new fund offer of the ETF will open on December 2 and close for subscription December 8, Edelweiss Mutual Fund, which manages the fund, said in a statement Thursday. The funds raised would be utilised for undertaking capital expenditures by central public sector enterprises (CPSEs).

GST mop up grows 11% in Nov

This is the ninth month in a row that the revenues have remained above the ₹1.4 lakh crore mark. However, the collection in November was the lowest since August

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The collections from Goods and Services Tax (GST) grew by 11 per cent to about ₹1.46 lakh crore in November on increased consumer spending and better compliance.

This is the ninth month in a row that the revenues have remained above the ₹1.4 lakh crore mark. However, the collection in November was the lowest since August. In October, GST collections had touched the second-highest level of ₹1.52 lakh crore on festive spending.

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of November 2022 is ₹1,45,867 crore of which Central GST is ₹25,681 crore, State GST is ₹32,651 crore, Integrated GST is ₹77,103 crore (including ₹38,635 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹10,433 crore (including ₹817 crore collected on import of goods).

"The revenues for the month of November 2022 are 11 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year, which it-

NSE, Odisha govt sign MoU to facilitate fund raising for SMEs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: India's leading stock exchange, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Government of Odisha have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to spread awareness amongst MSMEs of the state regarding fund raising by IPO mechanism using NSE SME Platform - Emerge.

The MoU was exchanged between Government of Odisha and National Stock Exchange, Mumbai, Thursday at Bhubaneswar. As part of the understanding, NSE with the support of government will conduct awareness drive through seminars, MSME camps, knowledge sessions, road shows, workshops to guide corporates across the state for fund raising on NSE Emerge platform and handhold the companies in the listing process.

Satya Priya Rath, Director, Budget & Nodal Officer, MIO, Finance Department, Government of Odisha, said: "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Government of Odisha is committed to support the MSME sector of its state. Today at Make in Odisha conclave 2022, we have signed a MoU with the National Stock Exchange to support the MSMEs and enable them to pursue the capital market for growth opportunities. MSMEs of the state would be able to present their business to a wider set of investors through NSE Emerge and attract capital investments."

As of today, NSE's SME Emerge platform, currently has 283 companies from various sectors, listed. Total funds raised on the platform till date is over ₹4,670 crore.

CAR SALES IN FAST LANE

THIS IS THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH THAT THE INDUSTRY HAS SEEN THREE LAKH-PLUS SALES IN WHOLESALES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Carmakers have logged the best-ever November sales as demand for personal transport continued to remain strong even after the end of the high-selling festive season, driving towards record sales in 2022.

Leading automakers Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai, Tata Motors and Mahindra saw double-digit growth in dispatches to dealers last month, making it the best-ever November for the passenger vehi-



Twitter will have to implement transparent user policies, significantly reinforce content moderation and protect freedom of speech, tackle disinformation with resolve, and limit targeted advertising

THIERRY BRETON | COMMISSIONER FOR DIGITAL POLICY, EU

ROBUST COLLECTIONS

November GST collections stood at ₹1.46 lakh crore



self was ₹1,31,526 crore," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

NA Shah Associates, Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said the major factors for the increase in collections are the festive and wedding seasons. There has also been a major increase in sales for real estate and vehicle markets. Overall, there is substantial spending by consumers. Further, the authorities have been cracking down on tax evaders, de-

faulters, fake invoice instances etc," Mehta said.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said GST collections for the month of October 2022 are encouraging and now it seems to be stabilizing around 1.5 lakh crore.

During November, revenues from the import of goods were 20 per cent higher and the revenues from the domestic transactions are 8 per

Essar to invest ₹52K-cr in Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Essar Capital will make an investment of about ₹52,000 crore in Odisha to set up various projects which include a 14MT pellet plant and a 7.5MT crude to petrochemical unit, the company's Director Prashant Ruia said Thursday.

"Essar plans to set up several projects in Odisha. A 14 MTPA pelletizing complex at an investment of ₹12,000 crore, comprising an iron ore fines beneficiation plant, a pellet plant and 250 km slurry pipeline. Also proposes a 7.5 MTPA crude to petrochemical



complex (CTC) involving about ₹40,000 crore investment," Ruia said at 'Make in Odisha Conclave 2022' in Bhubaneswar.

The company looks to set up the CTC in partnership with an international player, he said. The industrialist further said Odisha is

RALLY FOR 8TH DAY

POSITIVE PMI DATA AND BUYING IN IT COUNTERS ADDED TO THE BULL-RUN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 1: Benchmark indices rallied for the eighth day running Thursday, ending at fresh record closing highs, amid firm global market trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 184.54 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 63,284.19, its fresh record closing high. During the day, it rallied 483.42 points or 0.76 per cent to 63,583.07, its lifetime intra-day peak. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 54.15 points or 0.29 per cent to end at 18,812.50, its new record closing high. Sensex settled above 63,000 level for the first time ever Wednesday. Among the Sensex pack,

UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Infosys, HCL Technologies, and Larsen & Toubro were the major winners. ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the laggards.

According to a monthly survey released Thursday, the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 55.7 in November, up from 55.3 in October, signalling the strongest improvement in operating conditions in three months.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.63 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.62 per cent. Among sectoral indices, IT jumped 2.03 per cent, realty (1.94 per cent), tech (1.58 per cent), commodities (1.24 per cent) and industrials (0.74 per cent). Power, oil & gas, energy and FMCG

States' collection up 1%

New Delhi: The Union ministry of Finance informed that there was a one percent increase in the GST revenue collection in the state of Odisha in November 2022 as compared to same month in 2021. In November 2022, the GST revenue collection in the state of Odisha was ₹4,162 crore, which was one percent higher than ₹4,136 crore collected in November 2021.

cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

TIOL Knowledge Foundation, Chairman Shailendra Kumar said a very good sign is the sustained growth in IGST collections from imports, including services. This will cushion future growth in the economy.

Tax Connect Advisory Partner Vivek Jalan said the Budgeted GST Revenue for the Government of India for 2022-23 was ₹7.8 lakh crores out of which Central GST was ₹6.6 lakh crore and compensation cess was ₹1.2 lakh crore. It means that the budgeted GST collection is ₹14.4 lakh crore approx. Till the month of November, ₹11.91 lakh crore has already been done.

"Hence even if one takes a conservative estimate of ₹5 lakh crore in the next 4 months, then the fiscal year would end with an uptick of ₹2.5 lakh crore approx which is a 17 per cent growth over budget," Jalan added.

witnessing double digit growth and an impressive industrial and social development, and his company is making significant investments in Odisha in the sectors of metals and mining and energy.

Essar Capital Limited (Essar Capital) is the investment manager of Essar Global Fund Limited (EGFL), which owns a number of assets across the core sectors of energy.

The investors summit was inaugurated by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. It was attended by various industry leaders and senior government officials.

NEURALINK'S BRAIN CHIP BY MUSK SOON

Elon Musk said he expects a wireless brain chip developed by his company Neuralink to begin human clinical trials in six months, after the company missed earlier timelines set by him. "We want to be extremely careful and certain that it will work well before putting a device into a human," Musk said



Retail digital rupee launched in Bhub, three other cities

The use of digital rupee is expected to reduce the operational costs related to management of physical currency as well as increase financial inclusion in the economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday launched the first pilot project for retail digital rupee in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bangalore and Bhubaneswar.

The retail digital rupee project has started in a closed user group with the participation of four lenders – State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank – as well as customers and merchants.

The launch comes a month after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) started a pilot in the digital rupee - wholesale November 1. In the second phase of retail digital rupee project, nine more cities and four more banks will be included.

The digital rupee is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender and would offer "features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality", according to the RBI.

"As in the case of cash, it will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks," the central bank said while announcing the pilot project November 29.

In a release Thursday, Yes Bank said it rolled out the RBI's CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) for its closed user group, comprising its retail customers and merchants.

During the pilot phase, access to the Yes Bank Digital Rupee app will be given to the bank's select retail customers who will be part of the closed user group, it added.

CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central



Customers will be able to place the request for digital rupee through the digital wallet in their mobile app provided by the banks

Users will be able to transact with digital rupee through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and stored on mobile phones

Transactions can be both Person to Person and Person to Merchant

bank. While most central banks across the globe are exploring the issuance of CBDC, the key motivations for its issuance are specific to each country's unique requirements.

Based on the requirements placed by banks, digital rupee will be created by the RBI using latest technology and digitally issued to the banks in a secure manner.

Eight banks have been identified for phase-wise participation in the pilot project. After State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank, four more banks – Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank – will join the pilot project.

The other nine cities to which the pilot will be later extended are Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla.

The scope of the pilot project may be expanded gradually to include more banks, users and locations as needed, as per the RBI. Last month, the RBI said digital rupee - wholesale will help in reducing transaction costs by preempting the need for settlement guarantee infrastructure or for collateral to mitigate settlement risk.

Markets on record-making spree



were among the laggards.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher. Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly in the green in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended significantly higher Wednesday.

The rupee appreciated by 4 paise to close at 81.26 against the US dol-

lar. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.08 and touched an intra-day high of 80.98 and a low of 81.32 against the greenback. The local unit finally settled at 81.26, registering a rise of 4 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee closed at 81.30 against the US dollar

Mcap of BSE-listed firms at lifetime peak; investors wealth climbs

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached a fresh all-time high of ₹289.88 lakh crore Thursday following an ongoing rally in equities. Analysts have attributed the rally in the markets to foreign fund inflows and the latest comments from the Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell on the pace of interest rate hikes. At the end of trade, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms was at ₹2,89,88,217.01 crore. In eight days, investors wealth has climbed ₹8,96,963.87 crore.

Brent crude was trading 0.40 per cent higher at \$87.32 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned net sellers as they offloaded shares worth ₹1,565.93 crore Thursday.

Automakers register best-ever November sales

cle industry.

Kia India, Honda Cars, Skoda and MG Motor also witnessed strong sales momentum last month.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Nissan however reported a decline in domestic wholesales as compared to November 2021.

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India said its domestic wholesales rose 18 per cent to 1,39,306 units as against 1,17,791 units in November 2021.

Sales of mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, increased to 18,251 units as compared with 17,473 in the same month last year.

The company's utility vehicle sales, comprising Brezza, Ertiga and Grand Viatera, rose to 32,563 units as compared with 24,574 vehicles in the year-ago month, MSI said.

Commenting on the sales, Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales)



Shashank Srivastava said the industry's wholesales grew by 31 per cent to 3,22,860 units last month as compared with 2,45,636 units in November last year.

"This is the highest ever November sales for the industry-beating the previous best of 2.86 lakh in November 2020," Srivastava stated. Elaborating further, Srivastava said

that in the January-November period this year the sales have crossed the 35 lakh mark for the industry.

"This is the first time because the previous highest was in 2018 at 33.8 lakh units. Last year in this period January to November, the figure was 28 lakh units. So there is a growth of about 25 per cent over last year as far as the calendar

year is concerned," he added.

Now, the projected calendar year sales number, including December, is 38 lakh units, he said.

Rival Hyundai Motor India reported a 30 per cent increase in wholesales last month to 48,003 units as against 37,001 units in November last year.

Hyundai Motor India Director (Sales, Marketing & Service) Tarun Garg said the company is well poised to achieve its highest-ever domestic sales in 2022.

Tata Motors reported a 55 per cent increase in total passenger vehicle dispatches at 46,037 units last month as against 29,778 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, Mahindra & Mahindra posted a 56 per cent rise in domestic passenger vehicle sales at 30,392 units in November.

M&M President, Automotive Division Veejay Nakra said the

growth in November sales was on the back of robust demand across the company's product portfolio.

Kia India reported a 69 per cent rise in total sales at 24,025 units in November this year.

Honda Cars reported a 29 per cent increase in wholesales to 7,051 units last month as compared to the same month last year.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) however reported a 10 per cent dip in wholesales to 11,765 units in November 2022. Nissan also witnessed a drop in domestic sales with 2,400 units last month, as against 2,651 units in November 2021.

In the two-wheeler segment, reported a 4 per cent dip in the total domestic market at 1,52,716 units. TVS Motor Company said its domestic two-wheeler sales registered a growth of 9 per cent to 1,91,730 units last month as against 1,75,940 units the previous year.

ARGENTINA BEAT POLAND 2-0 IN THEIR LAST GROUP MATCH TO SET UP A ROUND OF 16 MATCH AGAINST AUSTRALIA, WHILE THE POLES ALSO THROUGH AS THEY MEET FRANCE FOR A PLACE IN THE QUARTERFINALS AT THE FIFA WORLD CUP

Argentina, Messi advance



IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY: Argentina players celebrate a goal against Poland in their FIFA World Cup Group C match at the Stadium 974, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Dec 1: Rest easy, soccer fans. Lionel Messi will grace the World Cup stage at least one more time. The Argentina great had a penalty saved but his team still beat Poland 2-0 Wednesday after second-half goals from Alexis Mac Allister and Julian Alvarez and advanced to the last 16.

After opening the World Cup with a shocking 1-2 loss to Saudi Arabia in one of biggest upsets in the tournament's history, Argentina wound up finishing in first place in Group C and will next play Australia—a surprise qualifier for the knockout stage.

Messi rolls into Saturday's game suddenly in a strong position in likely his final World Cup. "Now another World Cup begins," Messi said, "and hopefully we can continue to do what we did today."

As for Poland, it was ultimately

a happy night, too, because the team went through as the group's second-place team — on goal difference ahead of Mexico — and will next play defending champions France.

Messi ended up relieved after failing to score a penalty for the second straight World Cup. It was awarded after he was hit in the face by the flailing hand of Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, who made amends by diving to his left to block Messi's kick in the 39th minute.

A largely pro-Argentina crowd, waving flags and scarfs and beating drums behind both goals, had been sweeping Messi and his team along at the 44,000-seat Stadium 974 and they didn't stop after the penalty. Within seconds, a chant of "MESSI! MESSI!" immediately reverberated around the venue in a bid to keep their idol's head high.

And the roars were even louder

at the start of the second half, first after Mac Allister's goal — a scruffy finish from Nahuel Molina's cut-back from the right — in the first minute and soon after as news filtered through that Mexico had

taken the lead against Saudi Arabia, which started the day in third place.

Playing an Argentine-record 22nd World Cup game, Messi never stopped surging forward and he was a menace all game to Poland



NARROW ESCAPE: Poland players celebrate their knockout qualification, courtesy Saudi Arabia, after their loss to Argentina

Morocco enter last 16, Croats oust Belgians



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Morocco players celebrate a goal against Canada

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Dec 1: Group F of the FIFA World Cup Thursday witnessed a stunning result after the final group stage matches as Morocco topped the group ahead of last edition's runners-up Croatia, while last edition's semifinalists Belgium were knocked out along with Canada.

Morocco advanced to the last 16 at the World Cup for just the second time after clinging on for a 2-1 win over Canada. Morocco's only other trip past the group stage came in 1986.

Hakim Ziyech scored for Morocco in the fourth minute after a bad error by Canada goalkeeper Milan Borjan left the winger to shoot the ball into an empty goal. Youssef En-Nesyri added a second in the 23rd. Nayef Aguerd's own-goal just before half-time made it 1-2.

A draw would also have been enough for Morocco to advance. Canada, who will co-host the next World Cup in 2026 with the United States and Mexico, ultimately lost all three of their games in Qatar; matching its three defeats at their only other World Cup appearance in 1986.

Croatia, on the other hand, advanced to the last 16 after a 0-0 draw against Belgium, whose group-stage exit will likely usher in the breakup of their talented but underachieving generation of players.



Kevin de Bruyne looks dejected after their match against Croatia

The Belgians have reached at least the semifinals on each of the two times they have reached the knockout stage. They failed to live up to their status as the second-ranked team and one of the tournament favorites.

Needing a win to be sure of advancing, Belgium produced their best performance of the WC and wasted two clear chances that fell to Romelu Lukaku. The halftime substitute struck a shot against the post and failed to control a ball that bounced off his chest.

What has long been called Belgium's "Golden Generation" — now featuring six players with more than 100 appearances — is set to split up with a WC semifinal appearance in 2018 as their peak.

Mexico fall short despite victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lusail, Dec 1: For a long time after the final whistle, Luis Chavez crouched on the field in anguish. He had just scored in Mexico's furious attempt to stay alive at the World Cup, but the 2-1 victory Wednesday over Saudi Arabia wasn't enough.

Because of Argentina's 2-0 victory over Poland in a simultaneous match, Mexico failed to advance out of their group for the first time since 1978.

Mexico had reached the knockout round at the last seven World Cups, second only to Brazil, which has gone through to the round of 16 since 1986.

El Tri went into the match at Lusail Stadium needing both a victory and help from Poland playing across town against Argentina to advance in Group C. Argentina's victory meant goal difference came into play — and Mexico didn't have enough of them.

Henry Martin scored in the 48th minute to give El Tri hope, and the team's chances got even better with Chavez's goal on a free-kick four minutes later. Mexico tried desperately in the final 20 minutes to get another goal — including an effort by Uriel Antuna in the 87th minute that was ruled offside — but came up short.

Salem Aldawsari scored in second-half stoppage time for Saudi Arabia, who were eliminated along with Mexico despite beating Argentina in their opening match.

Martin's goal ended Mexico's 431-minute scoring drought at the World Cup, dating back to their second group match at the 2018 tournament in Russia. It was the team's longest ever stretch without a goal at the tournament.

Mexico opened the tournament in Qatar with a 0-0 draw against Poland and but fell 2-0 to Lionel Messi and Argentina. Mexico hadn't been eliminated from the group stage since the World Cup in Argentina 44 years ago. El Tri didn't qualify for the 1982 World Cup in Spain, and was banned from the 1990 event in Italy for using overage players at an under-20 tournament.



EXPRESSIONS SAY IT ALL: Mexican players wear gloomy look due to their elimination after their match against Saudi Arabia, Wednesday

name.

Mexico advanced to the round of 16 in their last seven appearances — but no further. El Tri came to Qatar looking to play in an elusive "quinto partido" — a fifth game — for the first time since Mexico hosted the tournament in 1986.

Saudi Arabia had one of the tournament's biggest ever upsets ever when they beat Argentina 2-1. But the Green Falcons couldn't pull off another surprise in its second match, a 2-0 loss to Poland. The Saudis reached the round of 16 back in 1994, the team's World Cup debut, but haven't made it past the group stage since.

VIRUS-HIT ENGLAND PLUNDER WORLD RECORD 506/4 ON DAY 1 OF THE FIRST TEST AGAINST PAKISTAN

'Bazball' wreaks havoc at Rawalpindi

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rawalpindi, Dec 1: Virus-hit England stamped their aggressive brand of cricket — the 'Bazball' — on their first Test in Pakistan in 17 years by amassing a world record 506/4 with four batters smashing hundreds Thursday.

Zak Crawley hit 122 (111b, 21x4) and Ben Duckett made 107 (110b, 15x4) in a blistering opening stand of 233. Ollie Pope (108, 104b, 14x4) and Harry Brook (101 n o, 81b, 14x4, 2x6) blazed hundreds in the last session in an astonishing display of power-hitting against an inexperienced Pakistan bowling attack. And the Test almost didn't start.

England confirmed it had a fit 11 and the match could go ahead only two hours before the toss. Then it destroyed a host of records in only 75 overs before play ended prematurely because of bad light.

The 506/4 total was the highest on the first day of any Test, surpassing Australia's 494/6 in 1910 against South Africa in Sydney. England also became the fastest team to score 500 runs.

Pope, who will keep wickets after Ben Foakes couldn't recover from a viral infection that hit the England camp, cemented coach Brendon McCullum's aggressive approach.

Brook struck six fours in one over by debutant Saud Shakeel in



MEMORABLE DAY: Harry Brook, Zak Crawley (left-up inset), Ben Duckett (left-down inset) and Ollie Pope (R inset) celebrate their centuries, Thursday

the final session to reach 101 not out. Captain Ben Stokes, who won the toss and elected to bat after recovering in time from the virus, was

not out on 34 off 15 balls (6x4, 1x6). England batters smashed 73 boundaries and three sixes in a white-ball fireworks display with the red ball.

Pakistan team to get visas for WT20 for Blind

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Pakistan cricket team for the visually impaired will soon be granted visa to come to India for the third T20 World Cup (WT20) for the Blind, December 5-17.

Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) President Mahantesh GK confirmed the development Thursday.

India and Pakistan are set to square off at the Siri Fort Ground December 7. "We all know it is a challenge to get visas for Pakistan cricketers. The MEA is working on it and we are confident that by the end of the day, they will get their visas," Mahantesh GK told PTI during a media interaction.



JORGE BURRUCHAGA

Well done Lionel Scaloni. Credit must go to the coach for the remarkable win against Poland. Argentina again proved that they are the great team that qualified for the World Cup and one of the favourites to win this tournament.

After the shocker against Saudi Arabia, his experiment in two matches was a complete success. Not only that, the victory in the last

match of the group showed that Argentina's reserve bench is also very strong.

From the beginning Argentina was the clear dominator of the game against Poland. Poland played a defensive game to manage just one point from the match. That was a great mistake. Scaloni is a type of coach, who makes strong decisions and makes the team improve game by game and makes changes correctly considering the circumstances.

Argentina created lots of scoring opportunities during the first half, but most of them were stopped by Wojciech Szczesny, who played brilliantly, saving Lionel Messi's penalty after 37 minutes. But he couldn't resist the pressure of Argentina and conceded the goal in the second half.

At the beginning of the second half, Argentina manage to score the

first goal through Mac Allister and relief comes. Then Julian Alvarez scores the second and Argentina manage to seal the victory.

Argentina dominated the whole game and could score more goals. But Messi and his team were comfortable after two goals and the Poles were disoriented.

I can remember the 1986 World Cup and my experience says from the first game to the end Argentina were never favourite. Winning the first game, drawing with Italy and beating Bulgaria and being top in the group, was a great motivation for the team.

That led us to play against Uruguay, a rival we knew. We won comfortably, and we went to the quarterfinals with England, the game every Argentine still remembers. As you win, in a short tournament of 7 games, you gain

confidence until you reach the final and be the champion.

In this WC, Argentina reached Qatar as one of the favourites with a strong team led by Messi. Strong reserve bench most importantly all were physically fit. But confidence becomes low after a defeat in the opening game. But now players recovered slowly and almost reached their best level. Now, Argentine people feel that it is possible to win the WC.

Don't want to give advice. It's the experience they have. The great team they have, who will have to prove it now, in the difficulty and above all, in the leadership of Messi. Knowing how to handle calm and knowing that, in football, anything can happen. And they can come out champions.

CHIVSCH SPORTS

KARTHIKA HAT-TRICK FASHIONS OFC VICTORY; RSC, ECOR SEAL WINS TOO



Karthika Angamuthu strikes past Odisha Police goalie during their OWL match, Thursday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Karthika Angamuthu scored a brilliant hat-trick to help Odisha FC rout Odisha Police 5-0 in their Odisha Women's League (OWL) football tournament match at the 7th Battalion ground

here, Thursday.

Rising Student Club (RSC) rode on a second-half brace by Niketa Bishi (47th & 75th minutes), who scored her second goal from the penalty spot, to beat OGP Club 2-0 at the Capital Ground.

Skipper Supriya Routray struck twice in the second half (60th & 82nd) East Coast Railway's (ECOR) 3-0 victory over Sports Odisha at the Capital Ground. Yumnam Kamala Devi had opened the scoring for ECOR in the 32nd minute.

At the 7th Battalion ground, Deepa Nayak opened the scoring in the seventh minute before Karthika doubled the advantage four minutes later. Karthika completed her hat-trick, scoring twice inside three minutes (69th & 71st), before Pyari Xaxa wrapped up the things two minutes later.