

## India-China border clash: China says situation 'generally stable', stays mum on Tawang clash

Beijing: China on Tuesday said the situation was "generally stable" along its border with India, days after the troops of the two countries clashed in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh, resulting in minor injuries to some soldiers on both sides. At a media briefing here, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the two sides have maintained smooth communication on border-related issues through diplomatic and military channels. Wang, however, declined to provide details of the December 9 clash



between Indian and Chinese soldiers at the Yangtse area of Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang sector. Earlier in the day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a statement in Parliament in New Delhi on the incident in the Tawang sector.

"The Indian Army bravely prevented the PLA from encroaching on our territory, and forced them to

withdraw to their posts. Some soldiers from both sides were injured in the skirmish," he said in his statement in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Singh further said the Army thwarted an attempt by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) to "unilaterally" change the status quo in the Yangtse area of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9.

## HC fumes at Odisha Govt over Similipal Elephant Poaching

**Cuttack (KCN):** Orissa High Court expressed displeasure over the state government's inaction in elephant poaching incident at Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary. Hitting out at the PCCF and Joint Task Force (JTF) in this matter, the High Court bench comprised of Chief Justice S. Muralidhar today asked the government whether any measure has been taken to prevent elephant poaching in the state and why FIR has not been registered against the officials who have been suspended in Similipal elephant poaching case. Appearing before

the court, the PCCF confessed that the forest officials had killed the tusker, removed ivory and burnt the body, informed senior advocate Asish Mishra.

"When asked about the steps taken to protect the elephants in the state, the PCCF said that we have done the mapping of elephant corridors in the state that will be submitted in the court soon," the petitioner's counsel.

The next hearing in the case has been fixed for December 22.

According to reports, poachers killed an elephant for ivory and abandoned



the body at Similipal forest. The forest officials allegedly burnt the carcass on December 8 to destroy the evidence.

The matter came to fore following allegations by the locals after which the government suspended three forest officials — Jenabil range forester-in-charge Shiba Shankar Samal,

forester of Gurandia section Chandrabhanu and forest guard of Special Tiger Protection Force Binod Kumar Das — and ordered a high-level probe into the incident.

Sources said that around 50 forest officials had visited Jenabil forest range last week where the tusker's body was set on fire. The team

identified the site where the incident had taken place and seized remnant. They sent the remnant to the OUAT for medical examination.

"The fact will be revealed after receiving the report from the OUAT," said Similipal Tiger Project's Deputy Director Samrat Goud, adding that further action will be taken after end of the investigation.

Worth mentioning that in view of growing number of elephant deaths across the state, the High Court in August had directed the state government to form a JTF to prevent poaching of elephants.

Rajesh Mohanty and Mushtaq Beg from Odisha in IPL 2023 auction list

**Cuttack (KCN):** Odisha cricketers Rajesh Mohanty and Mushtaq Beg have been included in the final Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 auction list which was announced on Tuesday. While Rajesh is a right-arm fast bowler, Mushtaq is a right-arm leg spinner.

Odisha skipper and aggressive right-hand batsman Subhranshu Senapati was drafted into the Chennai Super Kings team in the last edition of the mega event.

## Archana Nag arrested by ED in money laundering case

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today arrested blackmailer Archana Nag in a money laundering case.

The central investigative agency arrested Archana under section 19 of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, after completion of her seven-day remand. The ED deposed the accused before the court here seeking to take her on remand for another seven days for further questioning in the money laundering



case. Meanwhile, the ED also produced Archana's husband Jagabandhu Chand at the court and prayed to take him on 15-day remand for interrogation.

The ED is probing the money laundering

case filed against Archana, her husband Jagabandhu Chand, their business associates Khageswar Patra and Shradhanjali Behera to trace the source of the money received by Chand couple.

Recently, the central agency had grilled many key personalities including Ollywood producer Akshay Parija, filmmaker Pramod Swain, businessman Amiyakant Das, BJD MLA Sudhir Samal's brother Gangadhar Samal, property dealer Prabhat Ranjan Pati, hotelier Siba Prasad Das and architect Ranjit Behera.

Earlier, Archana was arrested by the Commissionerate Police in a sextortion case following allegation by Parija.

## DRM, Waltair receives warm welcome at Jagadapur



**Jagadapur:** DRM of Waltair Division of ECo Rly, Anup satpathy was given a hero's welcome at Jagadapur in the traditional tribal customs by the local citizens and the Rly staff on 13th Dec when he reached there with his team of Officers from Visakhapatnam to inspect the various ongoing Rly projects in Bastar region. Later, the Drm met public representatives, the District Collector, union leaders and had wide ranging discussions with all concerned.

He had a detailed inspection of the Jagadapur colony, running room, Rly station, goodshed, Rpf Barracks etc. A lot of instant decisions were taken by him during the course of this important

inspection trip. He inspected the long standing encroachments into Railway land and took a tough stand on the issue. He was assured by the State govt authorities including the Collector that all help would be provided to the Rly administration in removing these illegal structures which have come up over the years.

During the day, he was also called upon by the senior officers of NMDC and the Nagarnar steel plant. His meetings and inspections continued till late evening and spilled over to the next morning. Early on 14th he led a Swatchata rally from his Rest House to the Jagadapur Station. Large number of Rly staff, local public, media men and scouts & Guides

volunteers participated in this rally. Then Sri Satpathy interacted with passengers and the media persons of Jagadapur and Jeypore on Board the Vistadom coaches of the kirandul passenger train up to korapat. The DRM also heard the grievances and suggestions of Rail users, Passenger associations and local public at the Jagadapur, Jeypore, kotpad and korapat rly stations.

This step is seen as a great path breaking initiative towards promotion of tourism in the most scenic areas of Bastar, Koraput and Andhra Pradesh.

The overall gesture of the DRM has been widely appreciated in the local press and among the rail users.

## Odisha, Two Other States Seek Caste Census

**New Delhi (KCN):** The State of Odisha and two other states- Bihar, Maharashtra and a few organisations have requested to collect caste details in the forthcoming census.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that central government has not enumerated caste-wise population other than SCs and STs in census since independence.

"Three state governments, namely, Bihar, Maharashtra and Odisha and a few organisations have requested to collect caste details in the forthcoming census," he said in a written reply to a question.

Rai said in census, the castes and tribes which are specifically notified as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) according to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and

the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, are enumerated.

He said the intent of the government for conducting Census 2021 was notified in Gazette of India on March 28, 2019. However, due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the conduct of Census 2021 and the related field activities have been postponed until further orders.

## FIVB Signs MoU with KISS For Volleyball Promotion in India & South Asia

MoU Seeks to Develop KISS As Knowledge Hub for Volleyball & creation of 20 Volleyball Courts on The Campus

**New Delhi:** The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) has signed an MoU with the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) for the growth and development of youth volleyball in India and South Asia. The MoU was signed between FIVB President Dr Ary S. Graça F and KISS Founder Prof (Dr) Achyuta Samanta at the FIVB Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland on Monday. This is the first time that FIVB has forged ties with an educational institute to promote and popularise the game.

The MoU will see KISS, the largest university for indigenous students in the world, develop into



a knowledge hub for volleyball training and other educational opportunities related to the sport, in addition to further promoting volleyball in India. KISS will also act as a training hub for youth volleyball national teams while providing training and general education programmes for those athletes.

Over 20 volleyball courts will be developed on the KISS campus with the FIVB supporting KISS with materials and equipment. Academic scholarships and free tuition will also be available to former volleyball athletes.

"The FIVB is delighted to join forces with KISS to further promote volleyball and

beach volleyball in India and South Asia. Our sport brings different communities together through shared values and I look forward to seeing the positive impact of our programmes for children in the region," said the FIVB president in his comments.

Dr Samanta, on the other hand, expressed

his immense gratitude to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the promotion of sports in the State. "We are promoting various sport activities as we are inspired by our Chief Minister who is passionate about sports. At KISS, we are happy to work with the FIVB and bring volleyball and beach volleyball to our campus with 30,000 residential students and 10,000 studying in satellite campuses. We believe that sport is the perfect tool to help the development of tens of thousands of children every year in India and South Asia. We will popularize the sport more and more among the girl students" he said.



## Honourable Shri Nishikant Dubey MP Flagged off of Godda - Rajendranagar

Kolkata(KCN): Shri Nishikant Dubey, Hon'ble Member of Parliament flagged off inaugural journey of Godda – Rajendranagar special train at Godda Station today (10.12.2022) in presence of Shri Amit Kumar Mandal, Hon'ble MLA, Shri Vikas



Chaube, Divisional Railway Manager/Malda and other Senior Officers of the Division. In his speech, Shri Nishikant Dubey, Hon'ble MP thanked Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Railways for introduction of this new train which will fulfill long cherished demand of local traders & artisans as they will get direct access to bigger markets. Shri Dubey, Hon'ble M P, said that, Godda – Rajendranagar - Godda Weekly Express train will direct link Godda District of Jharkhand with Bihar. Shri Amit Kumar Mandal, Hon'ble MLA/Jharkhand also spoke on the occasion and said that the new train will foster socio-economic development of

## CJI inaugurates digitisation hubs in 10 districts of Odisha

CUTTACK(KCN): Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud on Monday virtually inaugurated District Court Digitisation Hubs (DCDH) in 10 districts of Odisha. The hubs at Angul,

of the nearby districts would also be taken up at the DCDH concerned. The CJI said digitisation work undertaken by Orissa High Court has emerged as a role model for all high

Jharkhand.

Regular run of this 13230/13229 Rajendranagar-Godda-Rajendranagar Weekly Express train will commence from Rajendranagar on 16.12.2022. 13230 Rajendranagar – Godda Weekly Express train will leave Rajendranagar on every Friday w.e.f. 16.12.2022 at 22:15 hrs. to reach Godda at 06:25 hrs. on the next day and



13229 Godda – Rajendranagar Weekly Express train will leave Godda at 07:25 hrs. on every Saturday w.e.f. 17.12.2022 to reach Rajendranagar at 16:05 on the same day. The train will consist of air-conditioned & sleeper class coaches. Booking for 13229 Godda – Rajendranagar Weekly Express have been made available from 10.12.2022 through PRS & internet. The train will stop at Poreyhat, Hansdiha, Mandar Hill, Barahat, Dhauni, Bhagalpur, Sultanganj, Bariarpur, Jamalpur, Abhaipur, Kiul, Hathidah & Bakhtiyarpur stations enroute in both directions.

be accompanied by e-filing otherwise it would be difficult to go on digitising everything that is filed in physical form in the long run. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice S Muralidhar of Orissa

provide touch screen laptops to every judicial officer of the state to ensure paperless work. The Chief Justice said the facility of e-filing is now available to a lawyer or a litigant in even remote



Bhadrak, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Sonepur, will take care of digitisation work of all 30 districts of the state. Each DCDH would be assigned the digitisation work of districts nearby. The objective of the hubs would be to digitise the disposed case records of the parent as well as nearby assigned districts. Scanning work for the paperless courts

courts in the country. He said digitisation is the most important step towards ensuring modernisation of judiciary especially trial courts. He said digitisation makes it easier for authorised persons to access records and also ensures organised information keeping, security of the documents and records and reduction in time taken to search documents. The CJI also emphasised that digitisation needs to

High Court underscored the need for harnessing technology as an effective tool for imparting quality justice. Establishment of e-facilitation centres in all the districts and regular training of all the stake holders has helped a lot in reaping the benefits of the information and communication technology (ICT) initiatives like e-filing, e-payment of court fees, virtual hearing, etc, he said. The high court has decided to

corners of the state. Digitisation of records was taken up both in the Orissa High Court and district courts. Initially, four District Court Digitization Centres (DCDC) were set up on a pilot basis in Cuttack, Ganjam, Sambalpur and Balasore districts on April 30, 2021. After receiving encouraging results from the four DCDCs, the Orissa High Court had decided to upgrade the centres into DCDHs.

## Odisha elephant poaching case: Protection staff attempts suicide; JTF begins probe



BHUBANESWAR/BARIPADA(KCN): Even as the joint task force (JTF) formed by the State Government for protection of wildlife on Monday began probe into the suspected elephant poaching and its cover up by the forest staff of Similipal Tiger Reserve, one of the protection assistants of the protected area on Monday allegedly attempted suicide in apprehension of punitive measures. The protection staff Turam Prusty told mediapersons he was asked by his superiors not to disclose about the elephant poaching incident and subsequent destruction of evidence. Once the matter came out in open, Prusty said he consumed poison fearing action. He was apparently part of the staff that burnt the elephant carcass but his statement was unclear due to his poor health. Prusty was initially admitted to Jahsiapur hospital and later shifted to Karanjia Sub-Divisional Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was moved to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack in the evening. Mean-

while, a two member team of the JTF headed by Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Manoj V Nair reached Similipal to probe the incident. Three forest staff including the in-charge range officer have already been placed under suspension. Forest and Environment Minister Pradip Kumar Amat said stern action will be taken against those involved. "Whosoever is found involved will face action, notwithstanding how senior or junior he/she is," the Minister asserted. PCCF (Wildlife) SK Popli said the team will carry out a detailed inquiry and immediate action will be taken based on the JTF probe. "Disciplinary action has already been taken and once evidences confirm, the accused will be booked under Wildlife Protection Act and criminal proceedings will be initiated against them," Popli said. The PCCF Wildlife said bone examination report from the Centre for Wildlife Health (CWH) at OUAT is being awaited for a confirmation in the case.

## Stray bull attack in various places at Barbil causes panic among people

Barbil(KCN):. With ward 07 under Barbil to local Municipal these cattle were a u t h o r i t i e s Municipality of authorities and recovered from a



concerned yet to come up with a concrete action plan to tackle stray cattle menace, wild bull attacked in various places created fear among people. In the latest incident, four person in KhajurTalab area of

Keonjhar district of Odisha sustained serious injuries after a stray bull attacked them when they were passing through the locality. They all were taken to Barbil hospital for treatment. People have taken the matter

forest department as well, but no action was taken so far, they alleged. It is too seen that hundreds of stray cattle gathered in various places from OMC chowk to Station road area endanger public life. As per information,

cattle smuggling van from Keonjhar and handed over to local "Gosala" at Barbil. It is believed that these cattle might have escaped from this. However, people urges for immediate action to avoid further menace.



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# Cast Kajol in 'Salaam Venky' as the character needed somebody who is a mother: Revathy

MUMBAI: Revathy says while she is naturally drawn to stories about women, her work as an actor and a filmmaker always have a common factor: emotions. In all her feature-length directorial movies

after an 18-year hiatus, said. Based on the book titled The Last Hurrah, Salaam Venky is inspired by the true story of the young chess player Kolavennu Venkatesh, who had Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). He died in 2004.



DMD is a genetic disorder which causes skeletal and heart muscle weakness that gets worse with time. Venkatesh's death sparked a debate about euthanasia, commonly known as mercy killing, in India.

of Sujata, said the director. Revathy had lent her voice for the actor in the 1997 Tamil film Minsara Kanavu (Sapnay in Hindi).

"I felt this character needed somebody who is a mother," she said.

Aamir Khan features in a cameo appearance and Revathy said she is grateful to the Bollywood superstar for trusting her vision. "He was convinced with the story. He trusted me as a director," the filmmaker said.

She said there is no set process that she follows with her actors to "induce" emotions. "Sometimes we do a lot of rehearsals and sometimes we just go for one take. When things do not work out, then we go more but not again too much because I feel actors are exhausted. So, it all depends on film-to-film and scene-to-scene," she added.

As a filmmaker, Revathy said it is a conscious decision to not feature in the films she directs.

The actor, who predominantly acts in Tamil and Malayalam movies, has not starred in any of her directorials barring Phir Milenge.

"I will never share the responsibility of acting when I am directing because it is difficult. Those are important roles to play. I love both. The only difference is the director starts the journey from the seed of the thought an actor has a slightly easier journey," she said.

Salaam Venky also stars Rahul Bose, Rajeev Khandelwal, Prakash Raj, Kamal Sadanah, and Aahana Kumra in pivotal roles.

The film, which hit the screens last week, is presented by Connekt Media and produced by Suuraj Singh, Shraddha Agrawal, and Varsha Kukreja.

such as the 2002 National Award-winning Mitr and Phir Milenge (2004), she has presented women who realise their strength as they navigate an emotionally rich-narrative. Her latest release Salaam Venky follows a mother, played by Kajol, who fights for her dying son's (Vishal Jethwa) right to dignity. "I just connect with women characters and roles because I know I can get their deepest emotions. It is but natural that I get drawn to such characters. Human stories, emotions, and relationships interest me. All my films as a director and an actor have had these. Somewhere I felt I have lagged behind in the way films are being made or stories are being told. But then whatever it is, human emotion is the same no matter how modern we become. That is my strength," Revathy, who returned to helming a full-fledged Hindi film

The 56-year-old director, who had read the book back in 2007, said she felt the story needed to be told for the big screen.

She had even penned two-three versions of the adaptation, but things didn't materialise then.

Revathy, however, believes she was meant to narrate this story, penned by Sammeer Arora and Kausar Munir.

"The most important thing is the spirit to live life to the fullest and that is what attracted me. And that is what the story is even today. I had a different take on it. The movie has certain fictional elements. Overall, the soul of the film is the same but the structure was different," she added.

'Salaam Venky' movie review: Emotional tale let down by syrupy melodrama  
Kajol was the first choice to play the role

## Sidharth Malhotra's 'Mission Majnu' to release on Netflix

Sidharth Malhotra-starrer spy thriller Mission Majnu will stream directly on Netflix from January 20, 2023.

Directed by Shantanu Bagchi, Mission Majnu is set in the 1970s and depicts India's

film, Sidharth said, "I'm quite excited about Mission Majnu since it will be my first time playing a spy. It shows India's most thrilling covert mission, which transformed the politics between

growing prowess and place in the global standing of nations as a superpower, both as the fastest growing nation in the world and the biggest democracy - and stories like these show how we laid



mission to derail Pakistan's nuclear programme.

The film stars Sidharth as a RAW agent alongside Rashmika Mandanna, Kumud Mishra, Parmeet Sethi, Sharib Hashmi, Mir Sarwar and Zakir Hussain. It was earlier expected to release theatrically but will now arrive on Netflix. Speaking about the

India and its neighbouring nation in the 1970s. With Netflix on board, I am confident that this incredible narrative will resonate with people all around the world." Producer Ronnie Screwvala also spoke about the film and his collaboration with Netflix. He said, "Mission Majnu is the story of India's

the cornerstone for our standing. It's a story best suited for the audiences on Netflix with their global reach. Sidharth Malhotra and Rashmika Mandana make this story come to life and RSVP is really proud to present this." Sidharth also has the action film Yodha and the web series Indian Police Force.

## 'Freddy' Movie Review | Despite Kartik, fried by Freddy

Eons ago moviegoers lapped up the comedy dished out by the duo Laurel and Hardy. We have one Hardy again. This time he is a pet tortoise, a computer-generated one. His Laurel is Freddy, the subject of our story. Together they are leading a happy life until Freddy falls in love with one Kainaz who is already married. So, in order to marry her, Freddy decides to bump off her husband. Freddy now hopes to unite with his Kainaz but instead receives the shock of his life that she is hand in glove with Raymond and dumps Freddy for him. This utterly predictable story and screenplay by Parveez Shaikh may come across as repetitive for audiences who have already seen all this and ilk in 'n' number of movies. But all filmmakers still want to give it "their touch" and so did director Shashanka Ghosh. Kartik Aryan plays the title character and he is the only saving grace of the insipid drama termed as

they encounter a Mumbai which surprisingly wears a vintage look and is never crowded, BGM by Clinton Crejo which alerts them to the thrills and chill on the screen, and two passable songs composed by Pritam.

It's towards the climax that this saga picks up pace but it's too late to invest in it by then. The scenes intended to be thrilling are ridiculous and the ones supposed to be light are pathetic. Picture this: Freddy asks one of his young patients: Who is Agarbatti's mom? Or Freddy breaking into Kainaz's house, spiking her face wash, hacking into her and Raymond's phone, cops giving ample time to murder suspects (Kainaz and Raymond) to come over to the police station, et al. Also, after decades you will find the ever-obedient and affable Ramu Kaka as a servant again. The story is replete with pot-hole-sized loopholes. It can appeal only to those wet behind their ears or



a revenge thriller.

Freddy is a complex character and Kartik does play it with elan. After 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2, indeed he has become a bankable star and 'Freddy' just drives home that point further. Freddy is a bundle of contradictions. He is a simpleton and scheming at the same time. He is slow and a tech guru rolled into one. He is a dentist who is desperate to get married and hence falls prey to the plot hatched by Kainaz (a convincing Alaya F). However, hell breaks loose when he realizes that he has been taken for a ride. Being a dentist, he believes in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Unfortunately, viewers too have to embark upon a childish and illogical journey of over two hours. En route,

die-hard fans of Kartik Aryan. Hindi cinema is known for stereotyping communities and Parsis are no exception. However, 'Freddy' must be one of those rare movies in which a Parsi is not shown in a positive light. Be it Freddy, Kainaz, or her husband or boyfriend, all characters have negative shades.

The weakest link here is the story and characterization which are amateurish to the hilt. Everything happens too easily here. Despite an impressive performance by Kartik Aryan, you end up being fried.

If you do not wish to escape from this movie by the skin of your teeth, 'Freddy' is streaming on Disney + Hotstar.



## Can the Governor be removed as Chancellor?



The Telangana government seems to be taking initiatives to designate the Chief Minister KCR as the Chancellor for State Universities. Currently, by de facto, the Governor is the Chancellor of the State Universities.

The Telangana state governor, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, has no direct intervention in the affairs of the state universities. However, to settle its scores with the central government, the state government seems reluctant to have control of the state universities. State universities are already on the verge of multiple issues of varied dimensions. They need to be rectified, and there are criticisms that higher education is being taken away from the people by adopting dictatorial policies.

The governments of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have recently appointed the chief ministers of those states as chancellors of the universities. The students' and employees'

unions oppose the initiation of a similar effort in Telangana. Removing the Governor as the Chancellor of the universities requires a draft bill to be prepared and brought before the Council of Ministers, and then this bill has to be introduced in the Assembly and the Council and approved. For the state government, this problem is not that difficult. In the future, the posts of assistant professors will be filled in all the universities, and the students and faculty associations are questioning the point of transferring the reins of the universities completely to the hands of the government.

### A futile attempt

West Bengal: On June 15, the West Bengal Assembly passed a bill appointing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as Chancellor of the Veterinary University in place of Governor Jagdeep Dhankar, days after the Senate passed the West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill 2022 to replace the Governor as the Chancellor of all universities in the state. However, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar sent the bill back without passage in July. Similarly, in the wake of clashes between state governments and governors, Tamil Nadu

and Maharashtra have also taken steps to reduce governors' oversight of universities as chancellors.

Tamil Nadu: In April 2022, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed two bills to transfer the power to appoint the Vice-Chancellor (in public universities) from the Governor to the state government. But so far, these bills have not received the consent of the Governor.

Maharashtra: In 2021, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra government revised the process of appointing vice-chancellors of state public universities. The Cabinet meeting in December 2021 approved an amendment in the Act on the appointment of Vice-Chancellors. As per this amendment, Vice-Chancellors are not directly appointed by the Governor and can only approve names recommended by the State Government.

However, in September this year, the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government decided to withdraw a bill introduced by the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government that curtailed the Governor's powers in appointing vice-chancellors in state universities. The state

### Dr. Estari Mamidala

cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde also decided to withdraw the bill amending the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016. In Kerala: As the Supreme Court quashed the appointment of the vice-chancellor of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological

of 14 Kerala Universities. The attempt to remove the governors who are the government's hegemony over the universities! **What is the point of trying to remove the Governor as Chancellor?** In Telangana, for a few years, without appointing vice-

vice-chancellors of all the universities had to be appointed within the last year and a half.

In the appointment of vice-chancellors, the state government has ignored UGC regulations. It has once again shown its influence on the universities by giving the prestigious post of vice-chancellor to their party's political

universities as well.

Cases have been filed in the State High Court that there have been irregularities in the appointment of Vice-Chancellors in almost all the universities in the state, similar to the Kerala state. In the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor of the state's second most prestigious university, a professor without ten years of experience with political clout has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor, ignoring UGC norms. In the filed case, the arguments are completed and reserved for judgment. There are widespread doubts as the judgment has not come out even after four months.

If the judgment comes out, the Governor of Telangana may ask for the resignation of the vice-chancellors appointed against the UGC regulations, like in the state of Kerala. In this background, criticism is coming that the government has started an attempt to remove the state governor from the post of Chancellor.

It is not worthy that in the last year, the student, faculty and non-faculty associations have taken up various forms of agitation against the rule of vice-chancellors in all the universities. The decision to remove the Governor as Chancellor

before forgetting that he has issued a request on the rule of vice-chancellors who have taken anti-student decisions and are dishonouring centuries-old universities is shocking. There are already criticisms that a scheme is being prepared to transfer hundreds of acres of university land to private parties. Even though the student unions have been protesting in all the universities that there is a conspiracy to increase the fees unimaginably and deprive the poor and weaker sections of the rural areas of higher education forever, there has been no result. The fear of how the universities will be governed in the future with direct political interference haunts the students. At this juncture, the intellectuals think that as part of the conspiracy to control the universities, the Governor should not be removed from the post of Chancellor and the chief minister should be avoided and should stand by the students.

**General Secretary, Association of Kakatiya University Teachers & Associate Professor of Kakatiya University Ph: 9848309231**



University in Kerala, Governor Arif Mohammad Khan has demanded the resignation of all the vice-chancellors of 11 other universities. Due to this, the Kerala government passed an ordinance on the 8th of last month removing Governor Arif Mohammad Khan as the Chancellor of the universities while the state government violated the authority of the Governor over the universities. It has decided to remove the Governor as Chancellor

chancellors to the universities, by encouraging the establishment of private universities to destabilize the university education system, the government, which was engaged in educational instability by messing with the lives of the students of the backward and weaker sections, seems to have lost ground with the cases filed by some university professors in the Supreme Court. Finally, with the instructions of the Supreme Court, the

supporters and those with no academic and administrative experience. Given the current developments, it can be understood that a grand plan has been prepared to change this political landscape in a big way. There is no doubt that by taking the appointment of teaching and non-teaching posts in the universities, passing the bill in the Cabinet, and setting up a common recruitment board against the UGC regulations, they are trying to damage the autonomy of the

### Editor To Letter

Dear Editor

India is a nation with vast biogeographical region and is rich with various agro-climatic regions from north to south giving rise to unique ecosystems. The nation is rich with mineral and forests rich with biodiversity and abundant wildlife. This ecological and environmental wealth of the nation is specific to the region is unique with several rare, vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered and endemic species of flora and fauna that needs from proper survey, official documentation and recording. This is a very important initiative of auditing the natural resources of the country since independence in 1947; and warranties careful monitoring and surveillance by the government, non-government agencies working at the ground level as well international agencies funding such important projects. Vast sections of the country needs detailed survey to estimate and document forests, wildlife, biodiversity, minerals, soil types, changes in vegetation pattern, populations, evolution and establishment of various industries and infrastructure. Only with such proper scientific documentation it will be possible to make important choices about further economic development of the country.

Natural resources contribute towards the building the basic socio-economic framework of the nation. Unless the nation is actually aware of the true estimate of these valuable resources; if not possible to take judicious decisions in deciding what resources could be used in the future economic development of the country. It is also important to know which resources are limited or are not easily available or accessible. Then it is easier to make proper long term planning to conserve and protect those natural resources appropriately. Modern advanced and industrially developed western nations have invested extensively at one point of time in the detailed survey of the nations using a viable technology. These has paid back to them significantly in terms of adequate knowledge of their natural resources. This in turn has helped them to design their future exploitation and conservation of available resources based purely on modern scientific investigations and data collected. These very fundamental approaches has played a very significant role in helping these nations to develop economically and technologically on a sustainable stepwise manner. India needs to adopt this model for future socio-economic as well as ecological growth if the nation. I sincerely believe that India has the capacity and the capability to monitor these projects successfully to establish an even better economically and ecologically sustainable nation that can serve as a global model and inspiration for many developing and under developed countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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## Pramukh Swami Maharaj- Inspirer And Instiller Of Philosophy In Our Life



As part of the birth centenary celebrations of BAPS Brahmawarup Pramukh Swami Maharaj, a birth centenary festival is being celebrated in Ahmedabad from December to January. It is estimated that lakhs of devotees from across the world will gather at the site of 'Pramukh Swami Nagar'. Thousands of volunteers have been working for the past one year to set up the Pramukh Swami Maharaj Nagar. The town's layout, which was designed by Swaminarayan and includes various cultural attractions .Pramukh Swami Maharaj was Bhagwan Swaminarayan's fifth spiritual successor. He led by example; his humility, faith in Bhagwan Swaminarayan, and compassion inspired millions of devotees and over 1000 sadhus to maintain moral and spiritual lifestyles. His secular and spiritual greatness was on an extremely high level, yet he was able to relate to each and every individual he met according to their status and circumstance.

He used to say that "To think is great, to live is greater and to inspire is the greatest part of philosophy, for: the life of philosophy is philosophy in life." Today, under the guidance and leadership of His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, BAPS aspires to build a community that is free of additions as well as morally,

ethically, and spiritually pure.

In 1985 Pramukh Swami Maharaj was honoured in a grand, festive celebration at the Queens Park Rangers Stadium in London by 20,000 devotees and wellwishers. A giant weighing scale was arranged on stage and Swamishri and Thakorji were weighed with packets of sugar crystals. He was the inspiration for followers of the Swaminarayan faith to live a pure lifestyle focused on devotion to God and service to others. He followed eight-fold celibacy and lived a simple life free of ego, attachment, anger, and materialistic pleasure. He was a true sadhu. He has promulgated the eternal Vedic philosophy as propounded by Bhagwan Swaminarayan to establish peace and happiness in the hearts of many. He was known for his "untiring efforts in uplifting the tribals, liberating thousands from vices and addictions, providing relief and rehabilitation to innumerable people in times of calamity and catastrophe, and inspiring character and faith in hundreds of thousands of children and youths were some of his many outstanding services to society.

Despite Swami's Maharaj's travellings in India and abroad, he had never compromised in the observance of the moral and spiritual commands prescribed by Bhagwan Swaminarayan. He breathed and lived the spiritual wisdom of the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita and Vachanamrut. Brahmawarup Pramukh Swami Maharaj was an inspiration to millions worldwide. He renounced the

### Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

world after finishing his studies at 18 and was initiated by Shastriji Maharaj in 1940. Through his humility, his noble service, his saintliness, and his selfless desire to help everyone, he won everyone's love.

He led an austere life of complete celibacy, without any personal wealth or comfort. He was a living guru who specialized in inspiring and instilling spirituality, and became a limitless source of peace and tranquility to hundreds of thousands of



people throughout the world. A rare soul who always lived for others and at the same time remained totally absorbed in God. During one month celebration, five immersive shows - 'Sahajanand', 'Muktanand', 'Nityanand', 'Bharatanand' and 'Paramanand' - comprising of films and live performances - themed on relevant topics taught and promoted by Pramukh Swami Maharaj, such anti-addiction, family harmony, pride for India and community service, will be aired

successor in Bhagwan Swaminarayan's succession of Gunatit gurus. The guru was an ocean of goodness, of purity and humility, a summary of spirituality. He was also known for his social concerns as he actively participated in rescue and relief operations during the times of floods and famines, earthquakes and other natural disasters. His teachings are immortal. He will always be remembered for his humility and vision for humanity.

He was probably the tallest Hindu spiritual leader in recent living memory who took Hinduism to the western world. He has overseen the construction of over 1,000 temples including some grand ones like Akshardham in Gandhinagar and Delhi and had initiated over 800 youths to monkhood during his life time. A man of few words has enhanced the grace, beauty and respectability of Hindu faith in modern time through his Akshardham temples across the world. The Akshardham Temples stand out as the flag bearer monuments of Hindu excellence in sculpture and architecture in the world today.

His message of compassion and service will remain an inspiration. He was quiet and his undisturbed love for God rose beyond all borders of nation, race and religion. With lakhs of followers across the world and temples all over the US, the UK, South Africa and Kenya, the sect has a strong global presence. Former President Dr. APJ Kalam had written a book on his "spiritual experiences with

Pramukh Swami Maharaj became the fifth spiritual guru of BAPS in 1971 and spent much of his time travelling to Hindu communities around the world, promoting the organisation's spiritual and social agenda and working for interfaith dialogue. PramukhSwamiji was a great soul. His compassion for humanity, universal wisdom and striking simplicity touched many around the world. His service to society will always be remembered. His impeccable commitment to the community and profound devotion to faith earned him the respect and reverence of countless worldwide.

His thoughtful and meaningful words are a distillation of his profound experience, bringing peace to even the most disturbed. Regardless of caste or creed, his borderless love has touched the lives of many, young or old, literate or illiterate. His words remove impurities, bring joy, inspire greatness, lift the gloom, give direction, remove ego and imbue the bliss of God. There is no doubt that Pramukh Swami Maharaj was a highly revered saint whose contribution to Hinduism remains unmatched and will remain a benchmark for generations to come.

Pramukh Swami Maharaj was an exceptional guru whose words convey the wisdom of eternal truth and carry the power to liberate all of humanity. His simple, humble and direct words are a reflection of the Supreme Divinity within him. Pramukh Swami Maharaj was not merely a master builder of stone structures, but also a maker of mandirs within the hearts of people. He is the Guinness World Record holder for building the

most Temples worldwide. One may wonder why so many temples were built? Pramukh Swami Maharaj built temples to help people eradicate their vices, transform and strengthen their minds, and offer devotion to God. The temples he built are vibrant hubs from where activities that benefit individuals, families and society are performed. Today Bhagwan Swaminarayan temples have helped thousands of people eliminate their vices, like drug and alcohol addiction, gambling, smoking and others. Temples have really played a vital role in stabilizing people's minds and giving them the inner strength to overcome the challenges of daily life. The architectural style is an imitation of the Akshardham Temple in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The main monument at the Akshardham Temple in Delhi is about 141- foot high and houses a lovely statue of Lord Swaminarayan. Today, one would find that all the Swaminarayan temples offer a welcoming and spiritual space for thousands of families, as well as worship, fellowship, communal meals, education, and activities for young and old, creating a true home for the faithful.

He was truly a servant leader. Though he was a guru to millions, he believed himself to be a mere servant of God, a servant of the people. Not only did he believe that he actually lived according to his beliefs. Wherever he went, he was determined to serve individuals, communities, and all of humanity.

**B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra Satellite Ahmedabad**



## India blames China of trying to alter 'status quo', Beijing downplays Arunachal border clash

The tumultuous Sino-India border has witnessed a new border clash between the Indian Army and China's People's Liberation Army. The Indian army on Monday revealed that both troops clashed near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) along the Arunachal Pradesh border in the Tawang sector, leaving at least six Indian soldiers injured.

The tussle arose, on Dec. 09, 2022, after Chinese troops converged near the LAC prompting Indian troops to contest the action in a "resolute" manner. Indian media reports quoted unnamed sources as saying that the incident involved around 300 members of China's People's Liberation Army and that China suffered a greater number of injuries.

**WATCH:** The latest border tussle comes at a time when the bilateral ties between the nuclear giants are at rock bottom in the aftermath of the Galwan Valley clash, in June 2020, leaving at least 20 Indian soldiers



and four PLA troops killed.

China and India fought a full-scale war in 1962 over control of Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims in its entirety and considers part of Tibet.

**What does India say?**

India has accused China of trying to "unilaterally change the status quo" on their disputed Himalayan border last week when clashes left troops on both sides injured.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh informed the parliament that Indian and Chinese troops engaged in the fresh confrontation on December 9 in Arunachal Pradesh. "On 09 December 2022, PLA troops attempted to unilaterally change the status quo by encroaching on the Line of Actual Control, in the Yangtse area of the Tawang sector," Singh said, referring to China's People's Liberation Army and the de-facto border.

The face-off, which followed recent joint US-India military exercises near the border that angered Beijing, led to "injuries to soldiers on both sides," Singh added.

"A scuffle ensued in this face-off. The Indian Army bravely prevented the PLA from encroaching on our territory and forced them to withdraw to their posts. Some soldiers from both sides were injured in the skirmish."

**What does China say?**

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that he believed the situation was now calm but gave no details of what happened or whether Chinese troops were injured.

"As far as we understand, the China-India border

situation is stable overall," Wang said, adding the two sides "maintained unobstructed dialogue on the border issue through diplomatic and military channels."

He added: "It is hoped that the Indian side will advance in the same direction as China, earnestly implement the important consensus reached by both leaders, strictly abide by the spirit of the agreements and accords signed by both sides, (and) together uphold the peace and tranquillity of the China-India border region."

**US-India exercises**

Since the deadly hand-to-hand battle in 2020, both sides have sent thousands of troops to bolster the border. Multiple rounds of talks have failed to substantially ease tensions. The army source said there was another "face-off" between Indian and Chinese troops in the last week of November in the Demchok region of Ladakh, further to the north.

It was unclear if there were any injuries resulting from that incident, which was the first since September 2020. The army source said that there has been increased activity in Ladakh by the Chinese military, as well as a "possible" airspace violation by the Chinese air force in the same area.

This follows joint military exercises which irked Beijing last month between India and the United States in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, which borders China. The Chinese soldiers also displayed a banner objecting to the Indo-US military exercises, the source said.

**Undefined border**

China and India fought a war in 1962 over their long and disputed border. The exact path of the border, some of which is more than 4,000 metres (13,100 feet) above sea level, has never been demarcated.

Winter temperatures can plunge below minus 30 Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit), cracking gun barrels and seizing up machinery.

Even before the June 2020 clash, India was moving strategically closer to the West, deepening security cooperation with the United States, Japan and Australia in the Asia-Pacific region.

United by their concern about China's increasing influence in the region, together they make up the so-called Quad alliance.

India has also embarked on a \$130-billion modernisation of its armed forces -- including ordering attack helicopters from the United States and a missile defence system from Russia.

In the aftermath of the 2020 clash, India banned hundreds of mobile applications of Chinese origin, including the popular social media platform TikTok. Chinese firms operating in India, including cellphone makers Xiaomi and Huawei, have been raided by the tax authorities.

Bilateral trade remains brisk, however, at around \$100 billion per year, but India imports from China far more than it exports there.

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This follows joint military exercises which irked Beijing last month between India and the

## Hacker planted evidence on Stan Swamy's computer: report

The United States-based digital forensics firm, Arsenal Consulting has revealed that a hacker planted evidence on a device owned by tribal rights activist

victims who had evidence planted in their device by a hacker. The revelation relating to Surendra Gadling came a day after the death of Stan Swamy

multiple times. Eventually, his health condition deteriorated and he died in a hospital, while in judicial custody, on July 5, 2021.

According to The Washington Post, Massachusetts-based firm Arsenal Consulting has released the latest analysis on Stan Swamy.

Arsenal Consulting said that Swamy had been targeted by an extensive malware campaign for nearly five years till his device was seized by the police in June 2019. In that duration, the hacker had complete control over the activist's computer, and placed dozens of files in a hidden

folder without his knowledge, according to The Washington Post.

It may be recalled that a day after the activist Father Stan Swamy's death on July 5, 2021, Arsenal Consulting claimed that evidence was planted on the computer of Surendra Gadling. The firm claimed that the malware that targeted Gadling's computer via emails also had several other Bhima-Koregaon accused, including Swamy and Sudha Bhardwaj copied on the mails. Stan Swamy and others were arrested in the Bhima Koregaon case under UAPA for alleged links with banned Maoists.



Stan Swamy who died while under judicial custody, several months after his arrest in the Bhima-Koregaon case. Last year, the firm revealed that two others arrested in connection with the case, Surendra Gadling and Rona Wilson were also

on July 5, 2021, while the report on Rona Wilson came several months prior to that. The 84-year-old Jesuit priest Stan Swamy was suffering from Parkinson's disease. His requests for bail on medical grounds was rejected mul-

## Ukraine needs extra gas and weapons, Zelensky tells G7

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky urged G7 nations on Monday to provide extra gas and weapons to help Ukraine survive a brutal winter that threatens to bring further suffering to millions in the war-torn country.

With snow on the ground and Ukraine's energy grid battered by Russian strikes, many are facing freezing temperatures without power or heating.

During a video conference with the G7 club of wealthy nations on Monday, Zelensky said Ukraine needs "about two billion cubic metres" of additional gas to get through the winter.

He also urged the G7 to send more arms to Ukraine, including "modern tanks" as well as "rocket artillery and more long-range missiles".

Western-supplied weapons have helped turn the tide in the war, and a senior US military official said Monday that Russia is likely turning to older, less reliable artillery and rocket ammunition as its newer stocks run low.

But Zelensky said "Russia still has the advantage in artillery and missiles."

"This is a fact," he told the G7. "These capabilities of the occupying army are the ones to fuel the Kremlin's arrogance".

**We will survive**

Meanwhile, in the strategic Ukrainian port of Ochakiv, officials are hoping the Black Sea naval base can serve to consolidate Kyiv's gains in the southern Kherson region.

After failing to seize the port, Russian troops have been pummeling Ochakiv from the nearby Kinburn peninsula.

In the fog at the local market, 62-year-old Oleg Klyutshko said: "I am not afraid of winter... but I would like the strikes to stop. We will survive anything else."

Kyiv says 40 per cent of Ukraine's critical energy infrastructure has been damaged, with wave after wave of targeted Russian attacks.

The Ukrainian energy ministry said in a statement that Russian missiles had hit all of the country's thermal power plants, while 44 overhead high-voltage power lines had also been affected.

Power company YASNO said supply limitations in Kyiv were "significant" with some 40 per cent of supplies diverted to critical infrastructure.

Oil and gas company DTEK said its specialists were "constantly looking for equipment to restore the energy infrastructure destroyed by Russia" and had agreed on contracts with European suppliers ABB and Siemens.

According to a readout issued by his office, Zelensky told the G7 "the terror against our power plants forced us to use more gas than expected".

"This is why we need additional support over this

particular winter," he said.

The G7 groups Britain, Canada, France, Germany -- which currently holds the club's presidency -- Italy, Japan and the United States.

G7 leaders agreed on key elements of a platform to coordinate financial support for Ukraine, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said, before a summit in Paris on post-war reconstruction.

Zelensky also proposed a special summit, which he called the Global Peace Formula Summit, "to determine how and when we can implement the points of the Ukrainian Peace Formula," which would secure Ukraine's security and territorial integrity. He invited the G7 industrialised nations "as well as other conscientious countries" to "show your leadership".

**ALSO READ | Ukraine war and its long road to the finish line**

The Ukrainian leader also urged Russia "to take a concrete and meaningful step towards a diplomatic settlement".

Zelensky called on "the occupier" Moscow to leave Ukrainian territory by Christmas.

"The one who brought the war upon us has to take it away."



**Rethink' nuclear security**

An international conference hosted by France will kick off in Paris on Tuesday.

The gathering of politicians, blue-chip companies and aid agencies will focus on how Ukraine's Western allies can provide immediate support to keep its civil infrastructure afloat amid incessant bombing by Russia.

**Ukraine: Odesa without water, electricity; port not operating after Russia strike: Report**

Speaking to AFP ahead of Tuesday's meeting, Ukraine's energy minister German Galushchenko said in an interview that the war with Russia "completely changes our understanding of nuclear security".

He pointed to Russia's seizure of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant -- Europe's largest atomic facility -- which has raised alarm among Western allies as shelling has continued in the area throughout the nearly 10-month conflict.

"This situation absolutely pushes us to rethink what we should do from the point of view of (nuclear) safety," Galushchenko said. "That's a question, too, to all the countries of the world."

## Rajya Sabha members support bill to include Gonds in UP in Scheduled Tribes list

NEW DELHI: Cutting across party lines, Rajya Sabha members on Tuesday largely supported a bill for recognising the Gond community hailing from four districts of Uttar Pradesh as a Scheduled Tribe after excluding them from the Scheduled Castes list. The four districts are Chandauli, Kushinagar, Sant Kabir Nagar and Sant Ravidas Nagar.

Some opposition members also demanded a similar review of more communities for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes list and a caste-based census in the country during the debate on the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Bill was moved by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.

Lok Sabha has already passed the bill which amends the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1967 to exclude the Gond community as a Scheduled Caste and amends the ST order to recognise it as a Scheduled Tribe in the four districts. During the debate, Manoj Kumar Jha of the RJD said the government should go for a caste-based census and in the meanwhile also implement 52 per cent reservation for the backward communities. CPI Member Santhosh Kumar P said there is a need to take up the welfare of the tribals and the backward communities seriously.

While supporting a caste-based census, he also asked the government to look into the welfare of denotified tribes. Samir Oraon (BJP) said that due to the efforts of the present government, the backward classes were moving ahead.

He alleged that the previous governments never cared for them and it is only the BJP government that is working for the welfare of such communities. L Hanumanthaiah of the Congress Party said

he supports the bill and the government should look into the status of some more communities from the Scheduled Castes list across the country.

He also said there is a need to provide more protection to the people from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Citing some recent cases of violence against members of the Scheduled Castes community in Uttar Pradesh, he said: "Unless they take some measures, just passing a law will not solve the problem."

Hanumanthaiah also demanded a caste-based census in the country.

According to Hanumanthaiah, the reported crimes against Scheduled Tribes were 8,272 in 2020 and increased to 8,802 in 2021, and he asked the government to look into it.

"If you do not protect them, strengthen them by the budgetary allocation, then what is the point in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes then only this law would have some meaning," he said.

Fauzia Khan of the NCP supported the bill and demanded the Dhankhad community from Maharashtra be added to the Scheduled Tribes list. Jayant Chaudhary demanded that the Kol community from UP be accorded the Schedules Caste status.

He also supported a caste-based census. G K Vasan from TMC (M) supported the bill and asked the government to add the Narikuravar community from Tamil Nadu to the Scheduled Tribes list.

BJP members - Jugalsinh Lokhandwala, Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara, Brijljal, Sakal Deep Rajbhar, Vinay Dinu Tendulkar and Biplab Kumar Deb - also supported the bill. The Minister would reply to the bill on Wednesday.



# Spike In Excise Detection IAF jets scrambled on 2-3 occasions past week to prevent air violations by China



Cuttack: With hyperactive Top Cop Ashish Kumar Singh handling State Excise, Team Excise has been able to detect 145 Percent more number of cases.

In a special drive against illicit trafficking of Duplicate Liquor, Ganja and Heroin fixed from December 6 to December 12 by Mr. Singh, Excise Commissioner, Odisha, record number of 222 cases have been detected with the arrest of 230 persons.

In the special drive 2197 Grams of Heroin, 786.64 KGs of Ganja, 70 Litres of Cough Syrup, 31 Litres of Spirit, 1861 Litres of Duplicate Foreign Liquor, 80 Litres of Duplicate Country Liquor, 311 Litres of Adulterated Foreign Liquor and 241 Litres

of Non-Duty Paid Foreign Liquor were seized. 32 numbers of vehicle were also seized. The approximate value of the seized articles is 3.57 Crores. It is pertinent to mention here that till the month of November 2022 (Eight months), 1141 number of cases have been filed under NDPS Act with the arrest of 1304 persons and seizure of 27471 KGs Ganja, 22149 Grams Heroin and 633 Litres of Cough Syrup with approximate value of 49.7 Crores. Last year till the month of November, 2021 (Eight months), 466 number cases were detected with the arrest of 548 persons and seizure of 18264 KGs Ganja, 9484 Grams Heroin and 518 Litres of Cough Syrup with approximate value of 27.84 Crores.

## BCI suspends all members of Sambalpur Bar till next orders

BHUBANESWAR/ SAMBALPUR: Taking strong action against the ongoing agitation over establishment of Orissa High Court bench at Sambalpur, the Bar Council of India (BCI) on Monday suspended practice licenses of 29 advocates for 18 months besides suspending

decision will be taken after getting report of the Ld Registrar as well as the State Bar Council. The BCI also instructed the State Bar Council to furnish the details of the members of the Sambalpur district bar association and circulate the list to all the courts, fo-

the premises of Sambalpur district court as a scuffle broke out between police and agitators observing Satyagraha against the alleged anti-lawyer stand of the BCI and State Bar Council. The Satyagraha was being observed following a state-wide call by the Odisha

Sambalpur district bar association (SDBA) Sureswar Mishra condemned the incident and said it was an outcome of the lack of farsightedness of the district police. "The district bar association has been on a peaceful dharna demanding high court bench in Sambalpur since December 7. But since the All Odisha Lawyers Association had given a state-wide Satyagraha call, we also resorted to the same on Monday. Subsequently, locals who are in favour of the demand for establishment of a high court bench came to support. But police failed to manage the situation when they turned hostile," he said.



all members of district bar association till further orders. On a day, when the Supreme Court directed the state government and director general of police to take stringent action against those indulging in vandalism, the BCI said licenses of 29 advocates named in the November 30 FIR registered with Sambalpur Town police will be suspended for 18 months with immediate effect. A press release issued by secretary BCI, Srimanto Sen stated that none of the members of the district bar shall be allowed to practice and enter the court premises. A final de-

rum, commissions and tribunals of the country so that the advocates may not appear during their period of suspension. "The State Bar Council in its report to BCI has only stated about involvement of members of Sambalpur Bar Association. It is made clear that if the police or the State Bar Council informs about continuance of strike/boycott by any other bar association of the state, the BCI will take similar action against them also," the press release said quoting the order. Earlier in the day, tension ran high on

Lawyers Association and several social organisations and citizen group came forward to extend their support. BCI suspends all members of Sambalpur Bar till further orders. When the agitators learnt that the judges and other judicial officers were functioning, they barged into the court complex after jostling with police and ransacked the court besides the chamber of the district judge. The agitators continued vandalising the court until police and lawyers made the way for the judicial officers to exit from court premises. President of

New Delhi: Before the recent clash between India and China in the Yangtse area near Tawang, Chinese drones had moved very aggressively towards the Indian positions on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh forcing the Indian Air Force to scramble its fighter aircrafts deployed in the region. The Chinese military has been behaving aggressively over issues in the Yangtse in the vicinity of the Holydip and Parikrama area on the LAC where the Chinese side has been opposing Indian positions.

"In the last few weeks, there have been two to three occasions where our fighter jets had to be scrambled to tackle the Chinese drones moving towards our positions on the LAC. The Su-30MKI jets had to be scrambled to tackle the air violation threat," defence sources told ANI. The Indian Air Force

keeps a close watch on Chinese drone activities along the LAC in the northeast.

has a strong presence in the northeast with squadrons of Su-30 fighter jets deployed

area. The Chinese and Indian side recently



The actions have to be taken as the drones or any aircraft can not be allowed to violate the airspace, they said. The sources said if the drones fly parallel to the LAC, the Indian side does not have any issues with it but if the aircrafts or drones are picked up by radars flying towards Indian territory, necessary actions have to be taken to prevent any violation, they said. The Indian Air Force

at multiple locations including Tezpur and Chhabua in Assam. The Rafale combat jets have also been deployed very close at Hashimara in West Bengal. The Indian Air Force has also strengthened its air defence coverage in the area with the operationalisation of the S-400 air defence system in the Assam sector only. The system can take care of any aerial threat over almost the entire

agreed on multiple measures to prevent any aerial escalation after the violation of air space by Chinese in Ladakh sector earlier this year. After the provocations by the Chinese in the area, the Indian side strongly took up the issue at military talks and it was decided that the fighter aircraft of both sides would remain much behind their perceived Line of Actual Control in the area.



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# India, UK trade ministers review progress of free trade agreement talks

NEW DELHI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his UK counterpart Kemi Badenoch on Tuesday reviewed the progress of talks for the proposed free trade agreement between the nations, an official said. The UK Trade Secretary is here to kickstart

24), but the deadline was missed due to political developments in the UK. There are 26 chapters in the agreement, which include goods, services, investments and intellectual property rights. Reduction or elimination of customs duty under the pact would help Indian labour-



the sixth round of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations and hold bilateral talks with Goyal.

The negotiations are happening after a brief gap due to recent political developments in the UK. The last round of talks was held on July 29. Negotiations for the FTA started on January 13 this year.

"Both the ministers held bilateral talks and also met industry representatives of both sides. The Indian side has stated that they are committed to making the FTA happen in the spirit of accommodation of each other's sensitivities," the official said.

The meeting of the ministers assumes significance as it was the first major deliberation on the proposed pact between the countries after the Rishi Sunak government took office in the UK in October.

India aims to conclude UK FTA by March '23. In a free trade agreement, two countries either significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them.

The UK side is demanding a cut in import duty for different sectors including automobile and Scotch whisky, besides easing of Indian intellectual property regime.

India and Britain launched negotiations with the aim to conclude talks by Diwali (October

intensive sectors like textiles, leather, gems and jewellery to boost exports in the UK market.

Three-four chapters remain unfinished in UK-India FTA

The bilateral trade between the two countries increased to USD 17.5 billion in 2021-22 compared to USD 13.2 billion in 2020-21.

India's exports stood at USD 10.5 billion in 2021-22, while imports were USD 7 billion. India's main exports to the UK include ready-made garments and textiles, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, petroleum and petrochemical products, transport equipment and parts, spices, metal products, machinery and instruments, pharma and marine items.

Major imports include precious and semi-precious stones, ores and metal scraps, engineering goods, professional instruments, non-ferrous metals, chemicals and machinery.

The UK is also a key investor in India. New Delhi attracted foreign direct investment of USD 1.64 billion in 2021-22. The figure was about USD 32 billion between April 2000 and March 2022.

In the services sector, the UK is one of the largest markets in Europe for Indian IT services.

# Reliance is India's most-visible company: Wizikey newsmakers report

NEW DELHI: Reliance Industries Ltd, India's largest corporate by revenues, profits, and market value, topped the 2022 Wizikey newsmakers report as India's most-visible corporate in the media.

State Bank of India, ICICI Bank Limited, Bharti Airtel Limited, and One 97 Communications Limited, which owns Paytm, are the other firms in the top five

This latest report by Wizikey recognizes the "hottest companies and Newsmakers of 2022, that have been visible for various reasons from investments, acquisitions, partnerships, and more", the statement said.

For Reliance, it said from various acquisitions of brands like Mandarin Oriental, Addverb Technologies, Campa Cola, & more to announcing Rs 3.5 lakh crore investments,

and much more contributed to the firm being number one position for consecutive three years.

State Bank of India also made various investments in companies - from various partnerships and signing MoUs related to writing loans off



rankings, Wizikey said in a statement.

The rankings are based on Wizikey's News Score which measures news visibility for brands & individuals by analyzing the volume of news, headlines presence, and the reach of publications.

Wizikey's AI and ML technology gathers media intelligence from over 50 million news articles across 400,000-plus online publications.

The report considered over 1000 Indian corporates for analysis.

For its No.1 position Reliance has a news score of 92.56 for 2022, becoming the first Indian company ever to cross the threshold of 90. Reliance improved its news score from 84.9 in 2021.

Wizikey's news score is the world's first standardised metric to measure news visibility for brands and individuals using artificial intelligence, big data, machine learning and media intelligence.

The news score takes into account various key criteria like the volume of news, headline presence, the reach of publications, and readership.

The score ranges from 0 to 100 and is based on monitoring over 400,000 publications. It represents the media presence of a brand in publications that matter.

The news score calculations for Reliance exclude standalone headline mentions of the group's other most visible consumer brands like Jio, Mumbai Indians, Network18, Moneycontrol and Hamleys.

This was the third year in a row when Reliance topped Wizikey's Newsmakers rankings among all Indian corporates.

and raising Rs 10,000 crores through infrastructure bonds contributed to reaching the second position.

From acquiring stakes in multiple companies such as Gift City Clearing Corp, Verve Financial Services and NARCL, to allotting lakhs of equity shares under ESOS, profit surges made ICICI Bank Limited the third most visible corporate.

Bharti Airtel Limited made quite a buzz during the launch of 5G and crossed the 1 million user mark, to various features, plans and product launch across Airtel. Airtel payments bank, Airtel XStream contributed highly in taking over the fourth position.

One 97 Communications, which was listed a year back, ranked fifth in the list with news from stock price fall to buyback of shares, to launching various services such as BSNL for train ticket booking via IRCTC, various hiring and changes in top-level positions contributed to making it the fifth most visible company.

Commenting on this year's report, Aakriti Bhargava, co-founder, and CEO of Wizikey said, "2022 saw both lows and highs on the Sensex, with companies navigating economic pressures amidst the war and rising crude oil prices."

Infosys (No 6), Tata Consultancy Services Limited (7), Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (8), Maruti Suzuki India (9), Tata Motors (10), and HDFC Bank (11) were the others on the list.

Recently listed startup Zomato was ranked at spot 12th, ahead of Wipro (13), Axis Bank (14), NTPC (15), Tata Steel (16), ITC (17) and Larsen & Toubro (18).

# Retail inflation dips below 6% in Nov.

New Delhi: India's consumer retail inflation, which is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased sharply to an 11-month low of 5.88 per cent in November, down from 6.77 per cent in October, while the country's industrial output contracted by 4 per cent in October on an annual basis, two separate government data showed on Monday.

This is the first time in calendar year 2022 that the retail inflation has fallen within the RBI's tolerance band. The Reserve Bank of India has been asked by the government to keep inflation within the 2-4 per cent range, with a margin of 2 per cent on each side.

The fall in inflation was mainly on account of a slower rise in food prices and a higher base effect, strengthening the

case for smaller rate increases by the central

The data showed that food inflation, which

the CPI basket, came in at 4.67 per cent in

7.01 per cent in the preceding month. Last

Shaktikanta Das had said that worst of this

"is behind us" but warned there was no

"The MPC was of the view that further calibrated monetary policy action was warranted to keep inflation expectations anchored, break core inflation persistence and contain second round effects," Das had said. Meanwhile, the factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), contracted 4 per cent in October. The IIP had grown 4.2 per cent in October 2021 and by 3.1 per cent in September 2022, a separate data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation showed.

The previous low was 7.1 per cent contraction in August 2020. The manufacturing sector output fell by 5.6 per cent in October 2022 as against a growth of 3.3 per cent recorded in October 2021.



bank going ahead.

accounts for nearly half

November as against

week, RBI governor

year's inflationary spike

room for complacency.



# Multan win shows how versatile our bowling line-up is - Stokes

**New Delhi:** Ben Stokes lauded England's 'special achievement' after he led his team to only their third Test series win in Pakistan with a tense 26-run victory in the second game in Multan. Stokes also observed that the win was a part of England's 'bigger picture' - to play a positive brand of cricket. The significance of England's series victory can be further capsulised by the point that before the series, they had won only two Tests in Pakistan. "Coming to the subcontinent, it's always a tough place to come and win [games of] cricket," Stokes told Sky Sports. "We know what we've achieved this week. We know that it's something that's not unheard of, but very rare to do, especially as an English team. We'll take it all in. We do understand how special an achievement this is

this week, but as we keep saying, these series victories and these wins are part of a much bigger picture in what we're trying to achieve at the moment. "When I first got the job, I just wanted to come in and just try and change a few things up and get things going in a different direction. We were never focusing too much on results when I came into the job, and obviously the bigger picture and stuff like that, but sheesh, it's been an amazing nine games to start off with. I just feel very honoured and very privileged to be a part of something like this and having everyone - not just the players but the backroom staff and everyone that works alongside us - being on the same path. It's really, really good." One of the salient features of England's second Test win was how

they adapted to the conditions in Multan. On a wicket that assisted the spinners, the pace bowlers pounded the ball on a couple of cracks that had developed on Day 3 and 4 and ended up taking 12 of the 20 wickets to fall. The spinners also chipped in by taking crucial scalps. Meanwhile, among the batters, Harry Brook showcased his skills against spin by cracking a hundred in the second dig. "We were happy with the way we applied ourselves this whole week with the bat, with the ball and especially in the field. We've got a few lads under the weather again so to be out here and grafting out in the field, it's been a great team collective yet again and the lads really deserve everything they got this week. This was another challenge presented to us, with the wicket being more in the



slower bowlers' favour than last week, but the way in which our batters went out and applied themselves in tricky conditions was fantastic and we kept the scoreboard ticking over in the way in which we want to, even though there were wickets falling. "It showed yet again how versatile our bowling line-up is. Bowlers can bowl well in England with favourable conditions, but to come here and do what our

team has done over the first two matches is seriously impressive on slow, docile wickets." Stokes also hoped that England's ultra-attacking approach would play a part in reversing the decline of Test cricket and also attract more fans. "I knew how much enjoyment the public would get out of seeing England play Pakistan in a Test match in Pakistan. I don't feel like we're playing away, if that

makes sense. The way in which the crowd come and watch cricket, they just want to see good cricket and even though we've won the first two games, we walk off to people just enjoying what they've watched. That's what we want to do." "Wherever we go in the world, we want people to enjoy cricket, and the more we can do that - I keep saying it - the more Test cricket stops getting spoken about like it's the losing form of

cricket, because it's definitely not. Days like this - and last week as well - is what you live for, and you feel very honoured to be part of stuff like that. We understand the opportunities that are out there for people [in franchise cricket]. "We're not naive in that. All we can do is try to create something where we want people to be a part of the long format going forward as well. A huge part is the culture, what we have going on in the dressing room, and the style in which you want to go out and play and just taking the pressure off people." Meanwhile, Pakistan captain Babar reckoned that Saud Shakeel shouldn't have been given out by the third umpire Joel Wilson, and that played a major role in the home team's defeat. At that crucial

conjunction, the southpaw was batting on 94, with Pakistan needing 64 more runs for victory. Just before the Lunch break, Shakeel had edged a short ball from Mark Wood to the wicketkeeper Ollie Pope. The on-field umpire Aleem Dar then referred the decision to the third umpire to check whether it was a clean catch or not, with the soft signal being given as 'out'. On his part, Wilson checked several camera angles and decided to stick with the initial soft signal. "The Shakeel dismissal cost us. It looked to us as if the ball had touched the ground. As a professional, you have to respect the umpire's decision, but we felt the ball had been grounded. "I think it's for the umpires to decide [if the soft signal should be done away with]. Like I said, we felt the ball was grounded," he noted.

## Taskin implores patience from bowling unit on Chattogram's batting paradise

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh pace bowler Taskin Ahmed said on Monday (December 12) that the team's bowling will need to exercise patience against India on the flat wicket at Chattogram as trying to force the issue would lead them nowhere. The Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium will host the first of the two-match series from November 14 and the venue will be present a stern test of home team's bowling attack given they will be against one of the best Test batting units. "Chattogram is a batting paradise in Bangladesh. It has never been easy for fast bowlers here," Taskin said. "We are improving but we are yet to get favourable wickets. It is usually a batting track. "If we try to force the issue, it won't work in our favour. We will leak runs. They are good



players, so we have to get the new ball to swing a bit. Maybe get reverse swing with the old ball. We have to try to break their patience. We have to bowl patiently and wait for their mistakes. It won't be right to say that we want to blow them away. "Test cricket is always challenging. We have won Tests by taking it to the fifth day, so here too, we have to take the game into the fifth day," he said. Taskin clarified that Bangladesh will not make any excuses about the pitch and are instead

focused on becoming a skilful unit that can thrive anywhere. "Fast bowlers ideally want to bowl on green tops. Conditions are not in our hands. We have got slow and flat tracks in South Africa and New Zealand," said Taskin. "We have to make ourselves so skilful that we can bowl well on all types of wickets. Great bowlers are also getting five-fors on flat tracks. We have to focus on our self-improvement rather than [look at] conditions. As a pace bowling group, we are hungry for improvement. We are all

in it together. Work ethic has improved. This is all we have in our hands. The management is with us, so if our desire remains, we can do better," he said. Taskin added that he is not sure whether he is available for the opening Test as he is still rehabilitating from a back injury that forced him to be rested from the opening two ODIs before he returned for the last game of that series. "The team management is concerned about my workload build-up. I have just returned from an injury, so I am working on increasing workload build-up, fitness and bowling load," Taskin said. "If I can fulfill the load before this game, they may think of playing me. If not, then I might not play this Test. I might be playing the second Test in that case. I have spoken to them about it. I am following my workload plan," he said.

## Chetan Sharma-led selection panel to watch first round Ranji games

**New Delhi:** The old guard is not done yet. Even as the new season of the Ranji Trophy starts on Tuesday, the members of the outgoing selection committee will be very much in action. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has given the Ranji assignment to the Chetan Sharma-led Committee. According to sources in the BCCI and various state associations, chairman Chetan Sharma will be in Mohali for Punjab's game against Chandigarh while Sunil Joshi will be in Pune for the



Maharashtra versus Delhi game. Harvinder Singh will be in Hyderabad for the

home team's clash against Tamil Nadu and Debasis Mohanty, the selector from East

Zone, will be in Kolkata for the Bengal-Uttar Pradesh game. The roster was done, understandably, on the advice of the BCCI, which is yet to finalise the new selection committee. As of Monday (December 12) evening, the interviews for the new selection committee have not been scheduled. The thinking is that a new selection committee could be formed before the second round of Ranji games which start on December 20.



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