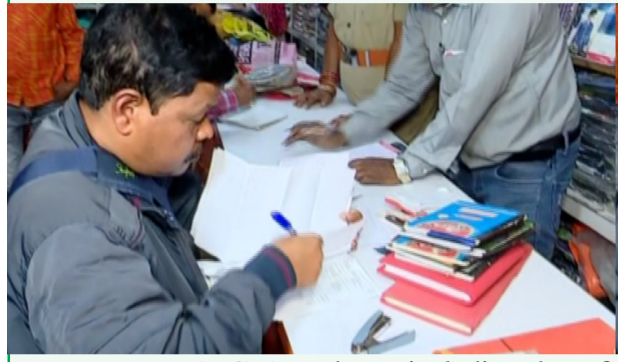


## IT raids by day, GST raids by night in bypoll-bound Padampur



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Padampur Assembly segment in Bargarh district of Odisha today witnessed separate raids by the Income Tax and GST sleuths ahead of the December 5 by-election. While multiple teams of Income Tax department today raided the houses of three businessmen, who are known supporters of BJD, in the morning, the GST officials raided several

shops, including that of Padampur town BJP president, in the evening. According to sources, GST officials raided at least seven shops at Padampur, Bargarh, Paikamal and Jharbandh simultaneously. They raided Jagadamba cloth store, Meenakshi Jewellery and Uddipak Indane at Padampur, Nrusingh petrol pump and Nrusinghath Medical Store at

Paikamal, and Bikash Hardware at Jharbandh. Padampur Town BJP president Sunil Agrawal is the owner of Jagadamba cloth store, sources said. "The GST raids are politically motivated," said Agarwal's father, a former chairperson of Padampur NAC. Earlier, IT sleuths raided the houses of businessmen Mohammed Sajid of Bahidarpada, Manabhanjana Sahoo of Sahoopada and Gaju Agrawal of Badapada. All of them are supporters of BJD, sources said. Mohammed Sajid was an associate of deceased Padampur MLA Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha, whose demise necessitated the bypoll.

## Ruckus In House

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Opposition BJP and Congress created a ruckus in the State Assembly on Monday over various demands of teachers, who are protesting here at Mahatma Gandhi Marg. As soon as the House assembled for the day at 10.30 AM, both the Congress and BJP members rushed to the podium of the Speaker and stalled the Question Hour over the primary school teachers' stir. The Speaker appealed to the opposition to go back to their seats and allow the Question Hour to continue. He said the Opposition could raise the issue during the Zero Hour. However, the



proceedings justifying the teachers demands. The Speaker convened an all-party meeting adjourning the House till 11.45 AM. Later, normally returned to the House. Thousands of primary school teachers have resorted to an agitational path occupying the entire Mahatma Gandhi Marg in-front of the state Assembly since Sunday

the proceedings justifying the teachers demands. The Speaker convened an all-party meeting adjourning the House till 11.45 AM. Later, normally returned to the House. Thousands of primary school teachers have resorted to an agitational path occupying the entire Mahatma Gandhi Marg in-front of the state Assembly since Sunday

in support of their three-point charter of demands which included abolition of contractual system, resume old pension system and increase in grade pay while counting their six years of teaching experience. The agitating teachers have threatened not to leave the Mahatma Gandhi Marg till their demands were met by the government. Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly, BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said, "The Chief Minister has recently announced that the contractual appointment system has been abolished. If it is true, then why are the teachers' are in the protest path? Their

demands are genuine." When nearly 2 lakh primary teachers are protesting, where is the School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash?, he asked. Similarly, senior Congress leader Taraprasad Bahinipati has also justified the demands of the teachers and threatened to paralyse the Assembly over the teachers' issues. Bahinipati also questioned the absence of Minister Dash and other Ministers. "No Minister is here to listen to the plight of teachers. The State Government has adopted an anti-teacher policy. We are strongly opposing it," he said.

## Youth attacks Berhampur SDJM with knife on court premises

**Berhampur, KCN):** Berhampur Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) Pragyan Paramita Pratihari had a narrow escape after she was attacked by a youth on the court premises in Ganjam district of Odisha here today. The accused, identified as Bhagaban Sahu of Old Berhampur has been detained at Baidyanathpur police station. As per reports, a court hearing was underway at around 3 pm in the afternoon when the accused suddenly made an attack bid. He reportedly climbed up the dais in an agitated state and charged towards the SDJM with a knife. However, his bid was foiled as one of the sanitation staff Shankar Rao, who was engaged in the court, rushed to the judge's rescue just in time and halted him. Meanwhile, the SDJM managed to jump from the dais and leave the place with help from one of the lawyers Mrutanjay Maharana and a female court staff. Other court employees gathered by then and handed the accused to the police. On getting information, Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M and SDPO reached the spot immediately to take stock of the situation. While the accused is currently detained by the police at Baidyanathpur station and is being interrogated, the reason behind the attack is yet to be ascertained. The incident has shockwaves in the area while raising serious questions on the security arrangements on the court premises.

## 400th Birth Anniversary of Bir Lachit Barphukan Celebrated



**Kolkata, (KCN):** Bir Lachit Barphukan's Quadracentennial (400th) birth Anniversary was celebrated by Bharatiya Itihas Sankalan Samiti Assam in collaboration with 400th Birth Anniversary Celebration Committee ( West Bengal Chapter) on the 27th of November 2022 in Kolkata. Pabitra Margherita, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Political Secretary to the Chief Minister of

Assam, inaugurated the programme with his speech wherein he spoke of the military strategy and dedication of Bir Lachit Barphukan. He

recalled the need to rediscover other unsung heroes like Prithu etc. Major General Ananta Bhuyan vividly narrated the military strategy and tactics which were used by Lachit Borphukan. Dr Balmukund Pandey, Organising Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Itihas Sankalan Yojana in his keynote address, narrated the glory and valour of Lachit Barphukan which needs to be brought into the main stream not only in Bharat but also the entire world. Finally he urged everyone to put every effort in bringing to the forefront such glory of Lachit, Prithu and other unsung heroes so that they are highlighted as an important part in the

history of Bharat. Chorus, solo and group dances, poem recitation and dance drama were performed by the group of ladies from Kolkata. President Commander RZ Borah welcomed all the dignitaries in his welcome address and Shri Giren Roy Secretary of the celebration committee, conveyed his heartfelt gratitude and thanked all the dignitaries and guests who were present on the occasion, many of whom had travelled across the country to be a part. Mr Roy addressed all the team members of the organising committee as an individual "Lachit" for their graceful sacrifice and support to make the event a grand success.



## "Must Know Consequences": Supreme Court On False EVM Malfunction Complaints

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court today observed a person making a "false statement" "must know the consequence" as it leads to stalling the electoral process. It was hearing a plea against an election rule relating to the malfunctioning of an EVM which the petitioner claimed was unconstitutional. A bench headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi told the petitioner to file a written note explaining why the provision was problematic and observed, at this stage, it was not in agreement with his stand. "We tell you very frankly, we don't find any reason to consider your request for Rule 49MA. What is wrong in the provision according to you? Bring your written note (on) why this is provision to be succumbed," the court said and asked the case to be listed for hearing after vacation. "If somebody makes a false statement, then he must know the



consequence. The whole further electoral proceeding is stalled. You are informing the election officer then he is taking the call, this and that," the bench, also comprising Justice Bela M Trivedi, said. "If we find that some riders, strict riders have to be there - who is making the complaint and who has to take a call (it would be considered). Otherwise the system will not work," it added. The court was hearing a petition by Sunil Ahya alleging that Rule 49MA of 'The Conduct of Elections Rules' was unconstitutional as it criminalises reporting of malfunctioning of Electronic Voting Machines and Voter

Verified Paper Audit Trails. Rule 49MA reads: Where printer for paper trail is used, if an elector after having recorded his vote under rule 49M alleges that the paper slip generated by the printer has shown the name or symbol of a candidate other than the one he voted for, the presiding officer shall obtain a written declaration from the elector as to the allegation, after warning the elector about the consequence of making a false declaration. The plea has alleged that putting the onus on the elector in cases of arbitrary deviant behaviour of machines used in election process infringes upon a citizen's right to freedom of expression under the Constitution.

## 28,021 women including 14,291 minor girls raped in 10 years

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** About 28,021 women including 14,291 minor girls were raped in last 10 years in Odisha, informed Minister of State (MoS) Home Tusharkanti Behera today. The MoS Behera said this in the House of Legislative Assembly during its Winter Session while replying to a query by senior Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja. The Kantabanji

legislator sought a reply from Chief Minister as to how many rape cases of both women and minor girls were registered in the State every year starting from 2010 till date and furnish the district-wise details thereof. "Out of the total number of woman and minor girl rape cases registered, how many are there from the scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST) communities in



the State and how many wrongdoers have been charge-sheeted so far. Moreover, the CM may please inform as to how many rape accused have been convicted during the same period

and provide district-wise details thereof along with the case numbers," the Congress MLA Saluja further queried. "About 28,021 women including 14,291 minor

girls were raped in last 10 years in Odisha," Tusharkanti Behera stated in the written reply. Saluja also wanted to know what steps the State government has taken so far on harassment allegations pertaining to a case with Balangir police framed against the chief supply officer (CSO) of the district by a woman colleague in the office. In reply to this, the MoS Behera said that as per

the available data starting from 2010 up to the end of September 2022, a detailed district-wise list (Annexure-A) of woman and minor girl rape cases registered during the aforesaid period has been attached for information. Details of the district-wise number of the SC and ST rape survivors are being collected from r e s p e c t i v e

Superintendents of Police (SPs) in the State along with conviction data, the MoS Home clarified. It is pertinent to mention, the woman employee named Pushpalata Das had leveled charges of physical and mental harassment against the CSO Mir Raja Ali. Taking the matter seriously, the district Collector Chanchal Rana had ordered for a probe of the allegations.

# JSW Steel, Barbil endeavour to provide health services in it's operational area

Barbil(KCN): In continuation of its human endeavour and to bring about wellness to the people in the region, JSW and Mumbai based Jagannath Cancer Aid Foundation (JCAF) organized two-day Free Mega Health Camp here in the mining areas. Two health camps, initiated by JSW Foundation, was held on Saturday and Sunday at Nuagaon and Jajang respectively and touched many. More than 550 patients from 27 villages attended the health camp and enjoyed the benefits of free health care services. The mega health camp was organized with the aim of promoting health awareness among the public and offering them easy access to quality healthcare. The camp offered specialist consultations, medicines, laboratory investigations, diabetes test, services at free of cost. This health camp helped the public addressing various health problems faced by people, along with early detection and prevention of diseases. JSW also added the cancer detection service at the camp in association with Jagannath Cancer Aid Foundation, Mumbai. The cancer specialist Dr Dilip Kumar Kar attended patients and conducted diagnosis. Dr Kar is a cancer and Endocrine surgeon and currently offering his service at Utkal

Hospital in Bhubaneswar. A team of doctors including three general physicians, one gynaecologist and one orthopaedic specialist offered health services and consultations to patients. Dr Kar said, "Such free health camp will surely help the needy who are unable to access specialists doctors outside this region. The camp was



helpful in raising awareness on lifestyle-diseases and promotion of health awareness." JSW Foundation has been organizing similar Mega Health and Cancer diagnosis camps across its business locations across the state since early this year in partnership with JCAF and plans to conduct more follow-up camps in coming days. JSW officials, dignitaries and village level coordinators were present at the two-day free health camp.

# Sadguru Medical's fund raiser for cancer awareness

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Sadguru Medical and Research Centre Pvt Ltd in association with Vivanta, Bhubaneswar

about the current scenario of cancer in the state and the country with a statistical report on behalf of the hospital. During the



organised a fundraising dinner on Saturday to create awareness of cancer and support patients. Sadguru director Rahul Pratyush Mohanty said the objective of the dinner, organised at a hotel here was to donate the amount collected through the event to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for creating awareness of cancer and financial support for patients suffering from the disease.

event, four cancer survivors who fought the disease and defeated it were felicitated by Sadguru Hospital and the guests. The story of their struggle was displayed during the programme. Dr Krupasindhu Panda, Dr Surendranath Senapati, Dr Diptirani Samanta, Dr Sagarika Samantaray, Dr Niharika Panda, Dr Sanjukta Padhi and Dr Lucy Pattnayak



"Around 75 couples and over 71 individuals were part of the fundraising dinner, which also included a few programmes for their entertainment," said Mohanty. While every couple was charged Rs 6,490 for the dinner, each individual paid Rs 4,130. Delegates at the fundraising event Sadguru Medical chief oncologist Dr Soumya Ranjan Mishra explained in detail

were also felicitated for providing cancer treatment in the state. ADG, Special Armed Police RP Koche, Drugs Controller Subodh Kumar Nayak, National Human Rights and Social Justice Commission secretary Abhijit Dixit and Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer Director Dr Lalatendu Sarangi were present.

# Handloom expo open I-T sleuths conduct raids on three BJD leaders ahead of Padampur bypoll in Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): State Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee inaugurated the Special Handloom Expo-2022 at Ekamra Haat here on Sunday. Shri Padhee has been at the fore front in promoting handloom products in the State in a



big way. The Special Handloom Expo-2022 is organised by Sambalpuri Bastralaya under the Odisha Government's POHI-2022-23 scheme to boost up the sales and provide regular employment to the weaver members of the PWCS/SHGs. A total of 34 stalls have been opened in which women SHG/PWCS of Baragr, Cuttack, Sonapur, Athagarh, Baripada, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput and Boudh Zone including Sambalpuri Bastralaya are showcasing and selling their products. The Expo will remain open to the public till December 14.

## CMC in eye of storm over mosquito oil purchase

CUTTACK(KCN): Even as the gross failure of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) in tackling the mosquito menace has been exposed, the civic body has landed in a controversy over large scale irregularities in purchase of mosquito larvicide (ML). A ML provider company has levelled serious allegations of misdoings in the tender process. As per the allegation, the CMC has given indent to a L-2 bidder for procurement of Temephos, an organophosphate larvicide widely used in standing water where mosquitoes breed. The civic body allegedly ignored the L-1 bidder in gross violation of the tender evaluation process. In a letter to CMC commissioner, Bhubaneswar-based NM Management Services alleged that the civic body had floated a tender on August 29 for procurement of anti-larva agent to control mosquito menace in the city. The tender was opened on September 21.

BARGARH(KCN): Amid the political slugfest over use of government machinery



and money for Padampur bypoll to woo voters, Income Tax officials on Monday conducted raids on the premises of three big

businessmen of Bargarh district. The ongoing face-off between Biju Janata Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party has seemingly exploded into a full-blown confrontation after these raids. The businessmen who are also local senior leaders of BJD are Md Sajid of Hanumanpada, Manabhanjan Sahu of Sahupada and Gajanan Agarwal of Sashtri Chhack. Sources informed that the three leaders also had close connection with late BJD leader and MLA of Padampur Bijay

Ranjan Singh Bariha. While the raid is being conducted in the presence of CRPF jawans, no police force have been deployed at the locations. Padampur SDPO BB Bhoi said, "We were only informed about the raids being conducted at the three locations. However, none of our force were called by the IT team." The incident has left the members of ruling BJD infuriated. The party leaders called it a cheap trick of the BJP to tarnish the image and growing popularity of BJD. Bargarh MLA, Debesh Acharya said, "The BJP is getting insecure about the byelection and are apprehending their defeat for which they are making futile attempts to tarnish the image of our party for their political gain."

# Odisha CM disburses Rs 43 crore assistance paid to kendu leaf pluckers, workers

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday disbursed assistance of Rs



43 crore to kendu leaf pluckers, binders and seasonal employees. He also demanded complete withdrawal of GST on collection of the kendu leaf. The assistance was distributed by the chief minister at a function as per

a special package announced by him for eight lakh kendu leaf pluckers and other seasonal staff associated with the activity four days back. While Rs 1,000 was given to each kendu leaf plucker, Rs 1,500 was paid to each seasonal staff and binder in the first phase as an interim measure. The assistance was transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through DBT. The chief minister said beneficiaries of Bargarh district will get the assistance after the model code of conduct which is in force for the Padampur by-poll is lifted. Describing kendu leaf as the major source of livelihood for the poor, the chief minister reiterated his demand for complete withdrawal of 18 per cent GST by the Centre on kendu leaf business. "Happiness of the poor gives me joy. I have always been with the poor and will continue to endeavour for their welfare," Naveen said.

# Keep Naba Das away from Padampur, demands Odisha BJP

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The BJP on Sunday urged the chief electoral officer (CEO) to keep Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das away from poll-bound Padampur for allegedly engineering attacks on party workers by goons from outside the area. The party also demanded deployment of central forces in the area for the safety of its workers. A delegation of BJP leaders led by Opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi submitted a memorandum at the office of the CEO here and alleged besides Das, several other BJD ministers and leaders are threatening BJP workers during campaigning to win the bypoll by any means. Alleging that the Health minister has created a reign of terror in the bypoll bound constituency by bringing in miscreants from Jharsuguda, Majhi said three BJP workers sustained grievous injuries in an attack by the hired goons in Dhenkimunda area of

Pakikmal at Das' instruction. Majhi further alleged 15 ministers are now camping in different parts of Padampur and their followers are attacking BJP workers. Though an FIR was lodged, police has not taken any action against the culprits, he said, adding law and order situation has deteriorated in the area due to activities of the BJD leaders. The saffron party leader said the party will raise the issue in the ongoing Assembly session if the CEO does not take any action against the ministers allegedly involved in violation of model code of conduct. He said BJD legislator Manohar Randhari is openly distributing blankets among voters in violation of poll code, but no action has been taken in this regard despite a complaint lodged by BJP. Alleging that two other ministers, Rohit Pujari and Rajendra Dholkia had violated the model code of conduct earlier, Majhi said the CEO is yet to take action against them.

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# Bruce Lee's Birthday Celebrated for 14th in Consecutive Year by Bollywood Martial Arts Expert Chitah Yajnes Shetty

**Mumbai(KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj):** The birthday of the world's famous Bruce Lee i.e. 27th November is celebrated with great fanfare by people all over the country and abroad. Chitah Yajnes Shetty, the chairman of "Chitah Jeet Kune Do Global Sports Federation" (CJKD) and well-known martial arts expert of films also celebrated Bruce Lee's birthday with

placards were made by children and released in the sky with balloons. It's great to see the happiness on children's faces said Cheeta Yajnes Shetty by doing a bit, Cheeta urged every youth and martial artist to do a bit to society. On this occasion, Chitah Yajnes Shetty, Shravan Shetty, Amarjit Kaur Shetty and others were present and made the program suc-

Bruce Lee, due to whom martial arts spread and get inspired by everyone in the country and abroad." Yajnes Shetty organizes programs every year on topics related to society, environment, health, women empowerment, save forest, covid safety etc. and creates a sense of public interest among people. Chitah Yajnes thanks



great fanfare for the 14th consecutive year with the underprivileged children at 'Sawan Dance Academy Hall', Andheri (West), Mumbai. On this occasion, the cake was cut by children. Notebooks, snacks and school related materials were distributed to all the children. After that, 'Bruce Lee' birthday

successful. On this occasion, Chitah Yajnes Shetty thanked everyone and Yajnes said, "Martial arts give discipline, dedication, respect for others, etc. Through this people can be successful in keeping their body & mind healthy. It is not the art of fighting, but for self-defense. For this, we all should thank

to Sanjeev Agarwal, Chitah CJKD's Delhi Chairman Sageer Hydrose, Vice Chairman Seema Aneja, Zeshaan Gazi Khan, supported by Kuberan House, Ninjoor Pictures, Kuasmedia, Pickupbiz Software Pvt. Ltd. etc. Also thanked the media which supported them for the last 14 years to spread awareness on the well being of the man kind.

## WHEN COMPASSION BECOMES A MYTH

The epic Mahabharata gave a detailed version of male atrocity on a woman who was dragged to the court of the Kauravas while all her five husbands stood mute and lifeless. Pandavas, the husbands of young Draupadi were compelled to remain silent when she was molested at the royal court and an emasculated audience watched the event with insensitive servitude. The parents of the Kauravas could not witness the brutality directly as one was blind by birth and the other chose to embrace blindness as an indication of respect for her blind husband.

The epic presents contrasts in conspicuous details. The unbelievable devotion that Gandhari the mother of Kauravas had for her husband and the molestation of Draupadi in the court of Kauravas is one of the examples. Blindfolding herself she chose to stay away from the incredible beauty of the world which her husband was deprived of. There could not be a better depiction possible than the blindfolding of Gandhari's eyes to live in tune with the blindness of her husband and the greatness that the

epic attached to a male-female relationship. But the ruthless sarcasm that the courtiers had a reason to giggle on and the numbness that veterans like Bhishma stooped in when Draupadi's molestation took place, illustrate the skill with which the narrator describes the hypocrisy of a patriarchy.

Situation has not changed even today. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women came this year with same dullness and repudiation as it had been in the previous years. That anything with regard to the suppression and violence against women at home and society remained the same with not more than few media debates and columns making ruckus in restricted platforms. The contrast that the great epic decoratively portrayed still remains a prophecy that the generations that come would seriously fail to learn lessons from the accuracy and approach with which the human double standards work. And the intelligence of literary magnets, the writers, profoundly revealed the truth that a society is supposed to function and the values they propounded were

indicative of a disaster that the human minds would probably drag the entire humanity to.

To be precise, the silence with which we usually register our anger on the violence against women in a celebrated civilized society such as India is a result of the societal emasculation that we propose to push our life through. Except candle light marches nothing solid seems to be emerging zealously stormy, capable of putting efforts to stop the brutality. Deep and dark in our minds we break open the windows of violence and unleash the power of horror degrading everything that we considered as humane.

What motivated a young man to be too ruthless to slice a human body into thirty five pieces and refrigerate them for a convenient disposal on a day-to-day basis? Aftab Poonawala had easily chopped off his live-in girlfriend's body without even the slightest of humanitarian sentiments.

To imagine the level of atrocity a young man would dare to commit, needs an animalistic hard-heartedness and medieval savagery. Marinated in unparalleled barbarity,

### ■ M.R.LALU

there would be many young minds getting ready to give us a jolt of horror. As usual, dialogues and symposiums would make conclusions, mostly pinning blame on Netflix episodes of investigative horror shows that depict brutal human behaviour in decent fashion and well crafted intonation. That being one of the reasons rampantly influencing the emotional intelligence of young minds, the contribution that distorted family atmosphere and the radicalised religious beliefs help young minds gravitate towards ferocity cannot be undermined.

Children becoming scapegraces at a young age cannot be justified without the whole society being brought to hold the responsibility. Undeniable invasions by social media into the young minds and unjustifiable ethos thrown into the mental framework of children by different religious literatures effectively disseminate and harvest brutality aplenty. No murder or outrage on a woman, for that matter, should be toned down as a mere act of situational violence. This could also be a well thought out plan or at least an

accumulation of behavioural stimuli gathered from the existing ill-gotten sentiments of a family or society. What if a child grows seeing violence being carried out on his mother or any other female member in his family? The sentiments he is nurtured with and progress through would definitely hold a tremendous impact on his mental build up. He can, without any legitimate reason be irrevocably indignant and unpardonably brutal on anybody he disagrees with.

Statistics revealing the quantum of aggression on women across societies is a decisive interpretation on the skyrocketing trend of violence. This also shows and meticulously reveals the hypocritical element of religions which had successfully established this notion of male hegemony substantiating the same with religious legitimacy. The outrage and ruckus in the Iranian streets should also be counted as a reaction to the impact of the hysteria that the male dominance has been hammering human sentiments with. A tendency to capture and rule the feminine in the society works harder and

resentment of any kind against such a move would be overthrown as an attempt to denigrate the already glorified male authority. Be it in the family or in society, the dominant narrative is mainly focused on rewarding the male supremacy and for some societies it is an act of decency and a sign of distinctive social upbringing.

All such vitriolic strategies are based on an idea that religions could successfully preach and teach; that a woman being a creation sprung from the rib of a powerful man is supposed to be submissive to his muscularity. From her very young age, as a girl to her adulthood, she is frequently made to believe that she needs to take orders from the male population in the family. This gives an advantage to men who tap all the possibilities to unleash his unruly self on the girl who he chooses to live with. Shradha's case and many other such incidents bring intuitions amounting to be a serious lapse from the side of both the families. While boys are blessed with autonomy to live their lives in freedom, girls normally are destined to remain in

the family's confines. To make a choice is what the mistake that Shradha did but the price she had to pay was her life.

While analysing this gut-wrenching horror, the subconscious feel it gives is not less than an insight that the families in our country are mostly entwined in a baseless and duplicitous familial bonhomie; that the effect of deceitful interactions and mannerisms make many families silent cauldrons. Extremely privileged to have access to education and health, the present generation is more informed and intellectually settled than the past generations. Life-giving values being dispelled by the arrogance of modern intelligentsia, the new generation is seen to be distanced and the estrangement inside the families forcefully pushes young minds towards the predatory intentions and monstrous motivations of unknown individuals. But we should not allow compassion to become a myth.

**Freelance Journalist  
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### Editor To Letter

Respected Sir,

## AI becoming a boon in cardiology

Researchers found that clinicians who most frequently followed an Artificial intelligence (AI) tool's recommendations were twice as likely to diagnose low ejection fraction (EF) perfectly, a sign that the heart is not functioning as well as it should. AI is poised to revolutionise medicine. AI can fill in any gaps in prior clinical experience. Promoting early detection, timely treatment, and proper referral procedures in primary care can be greatly aided by this. It is evident that those that are able to employ AI effectively can increase their diagnostic precision and deliver superior patient care. Since AI is still in its infancy, the tools developed will undoubtedly advance in the coming years to assist physicians in determining whether a patient has a cardiac condition or a problem with their heart's function. Most patients approach the doctor when they have symptoms like heaviness in the chest or difficulty in breathing – AI will diagnose heart conditions before the symptoms start prompting early treatment as per study. AI Technology will help doctors diagnose patients way before symptoms start and this will help in future according to research. With recent developments, the widespread use of electronic health records, and the capacity to apply machine learning to this large data store, it is now conceivable to employ AI to enhance the precision of diagnoses and fine-tune treatment regimens. AI systems will be easy for busy caregivers to use.

**Vijaykumar H K  
Raichur**

## Parable of a Young Creative Film Editor of Bengal

Srijata Saha Sahoo



Film editing is a painstaking process that involves three film versions: the rough cut, the director's cut, and the final cut that goes to theatres. The film editor and the film director piece the movie together from thousands of feet of film, working frame by frame to ensure quality and continuity. And that aptitude has been easily mastered by Korak Mishra of Kolkata, one of the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow', the creative category created in International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to prove the mettle of 75 youngsters between the age-group of 18 years and 35 years.

Korak got selected in the list for the film 'An Old Man and his Passion'.

The '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' have been selected after a rigorous process by an

eminent jury comprising Lifetime Awardees and winners of National Film Awards, Grammy and Oscars. The grand jury comprised: Prasoon Joshi, Resul Pookutty, R Balki, Rickey Kej, Mala Dey Banthia, Gautami Tadimalla, Ballu Saluja, Munjal Shroff, Narendra Rahurikar and Ravi K Chandran.

After completing his degrees in Comparative Literature from Jadavpur University,

Korak plunged into making films and from March, 2022, he started devoting full-fledged into film and video-editing, as a self taught editor with unmatched passion towards Cinema. He has already edited several documentaries, short films and fiction films. During the lockdown period due to Covid, the short film edited by him 'Undivided Solitude' won the best film award in PSBT (Prasar

Bharati) Film Challenge-2020-21. The sound was also designed by him in this film. This particular film was screened in a number of international film festivals like Habitat International Film Festival & LIHS Urban Lens Film Festival.

Korak, recently has edited a full length feature film and presently the work of sound is going on. He has also completed a

documentary series on Kolkata which will be released on line in January or February, next year. He has also started working on a documentary on musicians of Kolkata, besides making an ad-film.

It is to be noted also that the short film edited by him got the best film award in the Anandalok Short-cut Short Film Competition.

Korak loves to make not only advertisements, but also music videos and corporate films. And he is a very passionate poetry-lover also as all his works depict some kind of poetry.

Korak believes in the thought that 'There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in'. And what he believes, he tries to magnify in his works.

Kudos to him and his works.

**Media &  
Communication  
Officer, PIB, Kolkata**

## BBC journalist arrested, beaten while covering anti-lockdown protest in China

LONDON: BBC said one of its journalists was arrested and beaten while covering Covid protests in Shanghai, the latest incident to test relations between the countries.

Ed Lawrence, working in China as an accredited journalist, was detained for several hours, during which he was assaulted and kicked by police, according to the UK broadcaster. After his release, Lawrence tweeted on Monday to thank his followers, adding he believed "at least one local national was arrested after trying to stop the police from beating me". British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly

**Hundreds of people took to the streets in China's major cities on Sunday in a rare outpouring of public anger against the state over its zero-Covid policy.**

the UK remind us of the urgent need to defend our own freedoms," he said, after reports emerged of China operating undeclared police outposts in foreign countries including Britain.

Hundreds of people took to the streets in China's major cities on Sunday in a rare outpouring of public anger against the state over its zero-Covid policy.

Why are anti-government protests erupting in China

The BBC said it was "extremely concerned", after Lawrence was filmed being hauled away at one of the protests in Shanghai.



called the incident "deeply disturbing". "Media freedom and freedom to protest must be respected. No country is exempt," he tweeted.

"Journalists must be able to do their job without intimidation."

China affirms zero-COVID stance, eases rules after protests

The arrest came as new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak prepared to deliver his first major speech on foreign policy later on Monday, in which he will argue the need to counter UK competitors "not with grand rhetoric but with robust pragmatism".

Some critics took that to mean a softer line on countries such as China, whose diplomats in Manchester earned a relatively mild UK government rebuke after they recently attacked a Hong Kong democracy protester. Security minister Tom Tugendhat said Lawrence's arrest was "an echo of the repression the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) is attempting elsewhere".

"China's attempts at state repression here in

"We have had no official explanation or apology from the Chinese authorities, beyond a claim by the officials who later released him that they had arrested him for his own good in case he caught Covid from the crowd," it said. "We do not consider this a credible explanation."

China's foreign ministry said on Monday that Lawrence had not identified himself as a journalist.

"Based on what we learned from relevant Shanghai authorities, he did not identify himself as a journalist and didn't voluntarily present his press credentials," foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said.

He told international media to "follow Chinese laws and regulations while in China". But the campaign group Reporters Sans Frontieres (Reporters Without Borders) also condemned Lawrence's arrest and alleged assault. "RSF stands with all those practising fact-based journalism in China & calls on regime to respect their right to report on protests," it tweeted.

## Congress sacrificed two prime ministers in terror fight: Kharge counters PM Modi

AHMEDABAD: A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused Congress of playing vote bank politics over terrorism, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said his party had sacrificed two prime ministers in the fight against terrorism.

Kharge questioned whether any leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had fought for the freedom of the country. "We have done the work to fight against terrorists. To maintain peace in the country, we have sacrificed our leaders. Indira Gandhi sacrificed her life to keep the country united. Rajiv Gandhi was martyred for the unity of the country. Is there a

leader in the BJP who at least fought for the freedom of the country?" Kharge asked. Addressing a rally in Kheda in poll-bound Gujarat on Sunday, the prime minister had said Congress views terrorism from the prism of the vote bank".

He also said, "terrorism was not over yet and the politics of the Congress has also not changed".

"Here (in Congress), we have lost our two famous and world-respected prime ministers to strengthen and unite the country. This is an election of the state Assembly and not of Parliament. We are here before you with the issues affecting the state. It is better if he (Modi) talks about the successes and failures of

the state," Kharge said. On the BJP's poll promise of implementing the Uniform Civil Code in Gujarat,



Kharge said it was an attempt to divide society and create controversy for votes.

"They (BJP) are provoking Congress and other leaders to speak

up and get angry. Their aim is to provoke us and divide society, but we are not going to fall into their trap," he said.

Gujarat suffered a lot because of sins of the Congress: PM Modi Slamming Modi for seeking votes in his name and claiming only he contributed to the

## Both leaders assets to Congress, says Rahul Gandhi on Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot

INDORE: Amid the power tussle between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday said both the leaders are assets to the party.

Addressing a press conference near Indore, Gandhi, the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad in Kerala, also said the decision to contest again from Amethi would be taken after one or one-and-a-half years.

"At present, my focus is on the Bharat Jodo Yatra," he said.

Union minister Smriti Irani had defeated Rahul Gandhi in his family's bastion Amethi in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

To a query on different statements being given

former deputy who said such "mud-slinging" would not help.

Some reporters also asked Gandhi whether he would like to contest again from Amethi if given an opportunity, as the road to power in Delhi goes via Uttar Pradesh and Prime

**Gehlot on Thursday told NDTV that Pilot is a 'gaddar' (traitor) who cannot replace him as he had revolted against Congress in 2020 and tried to topple the state government.**

Minister Narendra Modi also contested from Varanasi in UP.

To this, Gandhi said, "I don't want to give any headline to the media as at present my focus is on the Bharat Jodo Yatra. See, once again these are all attempts to

To a query on plans for solving the unemployment problem in the country, Gandhi said the main problem at present is that the entire wealth of the nation is confined in the hands of three-four industrialists.

The Congress will fo-

cus on creating small scale enterprises to generate more employment opportunities in the country, he said.

"I want the government to participate in education and health care and pump in more money in these sectors," Gandhi



by Rajasthan leaders Gehlot and Pilot amid their power tussle, he said, "It will not affect the yatra and both the leaders are assets to the Congress party."

Gehlot on Thursday told NDTV that Pilot is a 'gaddar' (traitor) who cannot replace him as he had revolted against Congress in 2020 and tried to topple the state government, drawing a sharp response from his

distract from the main idea. You want newspapers to say tomorrow whether I will contest from Amethi or not," Gandhi said.

"I want the newspapers to write about the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the ideas and philosophy behind the yatra," he said.

"The answer to your question will come may be in a year or year-and-a-half," he said.

the BJP and the RSS," he said.

The government should sense the voice of the people, he added. Fighting Narendra Modi and RSS, but don't harbor hate for them in my heart: Rahul Gandhi

Gandhi also said his ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra, a mass contact initiative, was raising the voice of the nation.

He claimed the Bharatiya Janata Party

the BJP and the RSS," he said. On the issue of Uniform Civil Code, he said, "Our direction is clear and their (BJP) direction is clear, and we are doing our work."

Gandhi also said he had made a detailed planning of the yatra earlier. But it did not materialise due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons, he added.

Gujarat suffered a lot because of sins of the Congress: PM Modi Slamming Modi for seeking votes in his name and claiming only he contributed to the

progress of Gujarat as if there were no leaders before him, Kharge said the prime minister keeps talking about the Con-

gress has done nothing in the past 70-odd years.

"If any party built the country in 70 years, it was Congress," Kharge said, adding, unlike

minister.

Attacking the BJP's 'Gujarat model' of development, the Congress president said there were five lakh vacancies in government

departments, including that of 28,000 teachers. "The state's debt is rising sharply. When we went out of power, we left a debt of Rs 10,000 crore. Today it has swelled to Rs 3.40 lakh crore, and is going to increase further to Rs 4.60 lakh crore during the current fiscal," Kharge said.

"The so-called 'Gujarat model' is about 4 lakh COVID-19 deaths. They changed three chief ministers in six years. If you change three CMs, it means that you did nothing here. Otherwise, there was no reason to change them," Kharge said.

Congress gave you MGNREGA, scholarships; BJP took away your land: Rahul to tribals in Gujarat

He expressed confidence in Congress winning the Gujarat elections.

"The BJP has understood the people of Gujarat are deciding in favour of Congress. Despite being in power for 27 years, it has become necessary for the BJP to bring in the prime minister, Union home minister, four to five chief ministers to make inflammatory speeches to mislead people," he claimed.

Gujarat will see two-phase Assembly polls on December 1 and 5, and the counting of votes will take place on December 8.

In the 2017 Assembly polls, the Congress had won 77 seats in the 182-member Assembly restricting BJP to 99.

## Centre shifting responsibility in delay in payment of crop insurance, says BJD

BHUBANESWAR: The BJD came out with strong response to the statements of Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Narendra Singh Tomar over railway connectivity to Padampur and delay in payment of crop insurance for farmers accusing the Centre of shifting its responsibility. "Everyone knows that the responsibility for establishing new railway lines is with the Centre and not the state," senior BJD vice-president Prasanna Acharya said reacting to

Railway Minister Vaishnaw's statement on Bargarh-Nuapada rail line via Padampur. Referring to



Vaishnaw's challenge to the state government to provide land for the project, the BJD leader said BJP is creating confusion over the issue. "Let the Centre show us one paper where they have asked

Odisha government for land for Padampur railway line. The Centre cannot show any proof because it has

tre, but the Railway Ministry in 2019 stated that the project was not viable. "Which one of the two is the truth", he asked advising the BJP not to mislead people of Padampur.

On Tomar's statement, Acharya said Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a central scheme and responsibility lies with the Centre to pay crop insurance to farmers. "The BJP is creating confusion among people by blaming the state government over the issue," he said.

not asked for land in the last four years," he said.

Acharya said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had announced in 2018 that Padampur rail line has been sanctioned by the Cen-

## An initiative by Soundarya Central School to arouse interest in reading at the young age



Bangalore(KCN): A reputed school in Bangalore, Soundarya Central School conducts the event BOOK WORM 2022, with a noble cause of sowing the seeds of reading habits for the young and creative minds. This is the second anniversary

of such a book event organised by Soundarya Central School. A new library "Granthakuti" is set for children of age 3 to 8 considering their age appropriateness. The well equipped library with child friendly furnitures creates an



reading. The junior library was inaugurated by Sri. Soundarya P Manjappa, chairman, Soundarya Group of Institutions. The programme was so unique and well organised to encourage parents and children to venture the world of books and

reading. The art of storytelling was presented by dramatisation, puppet show, story sequencing and fun activities. The book donation campaign for underprivileged children added value to the programme. Book sellers had displayed age appropriate books.

## BJD rejects ministers claim

Padampur: Prasanna Acharya, Vice President Biju Janata Dal

Everyone knows that the responsibility for establishing new

them and announced that the project be shelved".

He said today Mr. Vaishnaw says that Odisha Government should provide land and then Centre will lay the railway line.

"It seems the BJP is not clear as to what and when they are saying," Mr. Acharya said asking the Centre to show the people one paper where they have asked Odisha Government for land for this Padampur railway line.

BJD candidate Barsha Singh Bariha also countered Union Minister Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar's allegation saying that the farmers got crop insurance due to repeated pressure mounted by the Chief Minister.

"If they (Centre) were so prompt to release funds under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, what

for they waited for the by-poll?," she asked.

Barsha alleged that the framers got crop insurance due to the by-poll which was necessitated after her father's death.

"Had there been no by-poll, the farmers would not have received the crop insurance", Barsha said.

She along with senior party leaders held road shows and road side meetings in Padampur Notified Area Council (NAC) area on Sunday. BJD has the stronghold in Urban Zones of Padampur.

Barsha was welcomed mostly by women and youths. "Barsha is our Bui (daughter). She is the daughter of the soil. Her father had served the people for decades and she can perform duties better than anyone else," said Sundari Bariha, a local resident.

## Special appreciation certificate for Odisha pavilion



BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha pavilion bagged the 'special appreciation certificate for excellence in display' at the 41st edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF), 2022 held at Pragati Maidan, New

Delhi. Director of I&PR department Indramani Tripathy and director of Odisha pavilion at IITF Subash Nial received the award from CMD of India Trade Promotion Organisation Pradeep Singh Kharola on Sun-

day. Odisha pavilion showcased numerous products manufactured locally by rural women artisans and entrepreneurs under the theme 'Vocal for local, local to global' in line with Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik's vision to empower women and rural entrepreneurs of the state. The pavilion promoted rich cultural heritage, handicrafts and handlooms of Odisha. It highlighted various initiatives of the state government.

## Utkal University now a global brand: AIIMS Executive Director

BHUBANESWAR: Utkal University is a global brand and its distinguished alumni can be found serving in every part of the world today," said executive director of All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) - Bhubaneswar and alumni of the university Prof Ashutosh Biswas.

Attending the 80th foundation day celebration of the university here on Sunday, Biswas lauded the authorities for bringing about a paradigm shift in teaching-learning on the campus. He said students now have access to e-library and smart classrooms which were never thought of during his stint as a student 45 years back. Congratulating the university for operating a centre of incubation and innovation, he said AIIMS-Bhubaneswar will be happy to collaborate with Utkal University to conduct research in areas of medicine and healthcare.

Inaugurating the foundation day celebration, vice-chancellor Sabita Acharya said Utkal University is

taking a number of measures to strengthen its position among the top higher education institutions of the country. She said the university has set up additional 30 smart classrooms in different departments, an e-library with access to e-resources and a high-end virtual tutorial lab for developing the e-resources.

The vice chancellor said in order to augment research infrastructure, the university had decided to establish a central instrumentation facility the foundation stone of which was laid by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in April, 2017.

"On the occasion, the chief minister had announced to provide the university a grant of Rs 15 crore to buy sophisticated equipment for research. However, the university is yet to get the funds," she said. Acharya further said the facility has recently become operational with some basic infrastructure and equipment.



(BJD) has rejected the allegation of Union Minister Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw on Rail Project front. He said: "Let the BJP stop misleading and misguiding the people of Padampur.

railway lines is with the Centre and not with the State. In 2019, Railway Ministry said that this (Bargarh Road-Nuapada Road Via Padampur line was not viable after survey conducted by

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## India requires 170 billion dollars per year to fulfill sustainable development goals: AVPN CEO

NEW DELHI: India alone requires 170 billion dollars per year from 2015-2030 to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as per an estimation carried out by Nationally Determined Contributions, a body set up after Paris Agreement, 2015, to monitor the efforts of signatory countries

India has progressed towards meeting sustainable development goals but there is considerable ground to be covered, particularly across domains like health and education. Initiatives like successful mass vaccination taken during the peak of the pandemic, and the resultant buoyancy in the



towards reducing national emissions and adapting to climate change, the chief of Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN), a Singapore-based funders' network for impact investing, told The New Indian Express. India can play a leading role in efforts to bridge the gap in funding for achieving UN SDGs, Naina Subberwal Batra, CEO of AVPN said. "There is currently, a serious gap in funding for development work in developing countries. According to data from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), at the current rate of progress, Asia is likely to achieve the SDGs in 2065, 35 years after the 2030 target. This translates to about a USD 15 trillion estimated annual investment gap in the APAC alone," Batra stated.

"India can leverage the G20 presidency to explore further blended financing opportunities with the member states to work towards bridging development finance gaps. The G20 presidency and the related commitments made by India should also provide an impetus to social entrepreneurship," Batra said.

India and SDGs: Hues of red, green, yellow and orange

Indian economy have raised experts' hopes of India leading broad-based recovery.

"India's commitment to the SDGs is reflected in its convergence with the national development agenda as reflected in the motto of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas. Based on the evidence from the SDG India Index, which measures progress at the subnational level, the country has developed a robust SDG localization model centred on adoption, implementation and monitoring at the State and district levels," Batra further added.

But India continues to face challenges on the road to sustainable development. Last year, India slipped two places to rank 117 among all nations in addressing SDGs. The country has considerable ground to cover on infant and maternal mortality, livelihood creation and preservation and greening the economy. As the Indian and global economy battle the long tail of the pandemic and the stresses it has induced, budgets remain stretched, according to Batra. "The government can explore blended financing mechanisms and integrate market-based approaches to give more choices to citizens and reduce out of pocket expenditures towards social development," Batra said.

## Civil Aviation Minister Scindia flags off first flight from Itanagar's Donyi Polo Airport



NEW DELHI: Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday flagged off IndiGo's flight from Itanagar to Mumbai via Kolkata. This is the first flight from Donyi Polo Airport at Hollongi, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh. Scindia virtually flagged off the flight

from New Delhi. The flight will operate from Itanagar to Mumbai via Kolkata. Among others, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju attended the event virtually. At the event here, IndiGo Principal Adviser RK Singh said Itanagar is the airline's 75th domestic

destination. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the airport on November 19. It is the fourth operational airport in the state. 'Donyi' means the sun and 'Polo' means the moon. The airport, also the first greenfield

airport in Arunachal Pradesh, has been developed in an area of over 690 acres at a cost of more than Rs 640 crore. The airport is suitable for all weather day operations, and the runway is 2,300 metres long. Now, the northeast region has 16 airports.

## Enhancing air connectivity, flights soon from two Northeastern states to Myanmar, Bangladesh



NEW DELHI: Flights will soon be started from two Northeastern states to Myanmar and Bangladesh as the government is working on enhancing air connectivity in the region. On Monday, the first flight from the new airport at Arunachal Pradesh's Itanagar was flagged off by Civil Aviation

Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. The flight from Hollongi airport to Mumbai via Kolkata is being operated by IndiGo, which will also be increasing its services from the region. Scindia said that air connectivity in the North East (NE) has been enhanced and more flights will be operated connecting

the region with other places. Flights from Imphal to Mandalay and from Agartala to Chittagong will be started soon as part of enhancing international air connectivity in the region, Scindia said on Monday. Imphal is in Manipur Mandalay in Myanmar, Agartala in Tripura and Chittagong in

Bangladesh. Now, there are 16 airports in the North East compared to 9 in 2013-14, he added. The minister also said the efforts are on to make the Northeastern states the growth engine. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Donyi Polo Airport in Hollongi, Itanagar, on November 19.

## Govt's paddy procurement up 9 per cent at 306 lakh tonnes so far this year

NEW DELHI: The government's paddy procurement for the central pool rose over nine per cent to 306.06 lakh tonnes so far in the ongoing 2022-23 Kharif

actual procurement stood at a record 759.32 lakh tonnes till November 27 of the 2022-23 Kharif marketing season. According to the official data, the total paddy purchase has

paddy procurement has already reached 16.88 lakh tonnes so far this year, while it had not started in the same period corresponding year, the data showed.

minimum support price directly from the farmers and is utilised for meeting the demand under several welfare schemes. Paddy is grown in



marketing season, according to the food ministry data. Higher quantities of paddy were purchased from Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Telangana. Normally, paddy procurement begins immediately after the withdrawal of the Southwest monsoon from October onwards. However in southern states, especially in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, it begins in September. The government aims to procure 775.72 lakh tonnes of paddy in the 2022-23 Kharif marketing season (October-September). The

increased to 306.06 lakh tonnes till November 27 of the 2022-23 Kharif marketing season from 280.51 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period. While the paddy procurement in Punjab showed a decline of 2.76 per cent to 181.62 lakh tonnes so far this marketing year from 186.79 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, the buying of the grain in neighbouring Haryana remained higher by 8.18 per cent at 58.96 lakh tonnes as against 54.50 lakh tonnes during the comparable period. In Chhattisgarh, the

In Telangana, the paddy procurement remained higher at 16.18 lakh tonnes so far this year as against 10.94 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period. Foolproof system for paddy procurement: Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Similarly in Uttar Pradesh, procurement rose to 10.28 lakh tonnes of paddy from 9.20 lakh tonnes in the said period. The paddy procurement is undertaken by both the state-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) and private agencies. The paddy is procured at the

both Kharif (summer) and Rabi (winter) seasons. But 80 per cent of the country's total paddy production comes from the Kharif season. Over 84,000 tonne paddy to be procured in Kendrapara According to the first estimate of the agriculture ministry, the country's paddy production is estimated to decline 6 per cent to 104.99 million tonnes in the 2022-23 Kharif season due to a decrease in paddy acreage in the wake of poor rains in key producing states, especially in Jharkhand.

# I'm not looking so far ahead: Shubman Gill UAE to host Afghanistan's home fixtures for next five years

New Delhi: Shubman Gill, the Indian opener, is looking forward to play the third One-Day International at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch, a venue where he has had good memories. But there is a rider, coming with multiple mentions of 'frustration'. "Hopefully it doesn't rain there," he says as the final words of his post match press conference on Sunday.

The chat with the reporters, replete with mentions of 'frustration' and 'irritation' came only a few minutes after the second ODI in Hamilton, between New Zealand and India, was abandoned due to rain, with only 12.5 overs of play possible. It was the third of the five matches on the ongoing tour to be impacted by rain - two of which didn't even yield a result.

"It's slightly frustrating," Gill said. "When the overs were getting reduced, it got quite irritating to be constantly going in and



out of the field, unsure how many overs would we get to play. It made our planning difficult." The result has ensured that India (despite having no consequence) continue to remain at the top of the Super League points table, and New Zealand have jumped to the third spot. With the contest not having much consequence for the world cup qualification, the rain interruptions aren't playing a big part. However, only a few weeks ago, it was evident

in Australia when the washed out games proved quite a game changer - none more impactful than for South Africa.

All the money riding on these games notwithstanding, Gill explained that the frequency of these rain impacted games is proving to be a point of frustration for him - both as a player and as a viewer, backing the idea of having rooftops in cricket stadiums, if not playing indoors as an

option.

"It is one decision that has to be taken by the boards," he said, before adding. "As a player and as fans, it's very irritating to go in and out, and having so many games getting affected by rain. I don't know how I can make a difference or take a stand for it, it's a big decision. Playing indoors would be a bit difficult, but having closed roofs would be good."

One of the evident losses for Gill is the missed opportunity of

making an impact as he tries to look for a place in India's best XI. Playing as a backup opener in the absence of Rohit Sharma, he has already scored 4 half-centuries and a ton in 14 innings - averaging 61.27 in the 50-over format. Even on Sunday, he was going strong at a 42-ball 45 when rain ended play.

However, he claims he isn't looking too far ahead, and only trying to make the most of the available opportunity by playing long innings.

"I'm not looking so far ahead, I'm trying to make the most of the opportunity I get, score big and make some big contributions for the team." Even in the last game, the way I was playing, the intention was to play a long innings. Even in the team meetings, the talk was about batting long, about the set batter ensuring that he finishes the innings.



New Delhi: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will now be the home of Afghanistan cricket for the next five years. On Sunday (November 27), the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) and the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) announced the signing of a five-year agreement which will allow the ACB to host its bilateral fixtures in the desert kingdom. Afghanistan, a full member of the International Cricket Council (ICC), has been a no-go zone for

international teams because of internal disturbances in the country. The latest arrangement will benefit Rashid Khan & Co, who will now have access to the world class venues like Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

Naseeb Khan, the CEO of the ACB, expressed confidence that the agreement will benefit both teams. For a long time, UAE was the venue of Pakistan's bilateral games as the international teams refused to travel to

Pakistan for security reasons.

As part of the pact, there will also be yearly bilateral exchange between the Afghanistan and UAE teams.

"The ACB will also play a series of three T20I matches each year with the UAE national team. In return, the ECB will provide valuable logistic support to the Afghanistan Board, including visa assistance and office space," the ECB said in a release.

## FIFA World Cup 2022: Germany keep slim HOPES of progress alive with 1-1 draw against Spain



New Delhi: Only a win for Germany in the final group game will give the four-time World Cup champions a chance to avoid a second straight early elimination. At least they're improving. Substitute Niclas Füllkrug scored in the 83rd minute Sunday to give Germany a 1-1 draw against Spain at Al Bayt Stadium in one of the most anticipated matches of this FIFA World Cup

2022. A loss would not have eliminated Germany, but it would have left the team in a much more difficult position. "It was important that we got this point," Füllkrug said. "We definitely have a chance to get through to the next round now. We can now go into the last game with a good feeling and hope that everything goes well." Germany's fate will be

decided on Thursday against Costa Rica, which defeated Japan 1-0 earlier on Sunday. Even a win may not be enough for the Germans, who lost to Japan in their opener and are in last place in Group E. They need the other result to go their way. If both Germany and Spain win, both will advance. If there is a draw in the Japan-Spain match, Germany will

need to overcome a goal-difference deficit against the Japanese. If Japan is victorious, then the Germans will have to top Spain — which beat Costa Rica 7-0 — on goal difference to get through.

"I hope this will give us a boost," Germany coach Hansi Flick said, adding that he was satisfied with the result and his team's attitude. "We know that this was the first step and we want to see against Costa Rica if we can craft the conditions to go through to the round of 16."

Spain coach Luis Enrique said the draw wasn't a bad result for Spain. "We are still leaders of the group of death," Luis Enrique said. "We still depend on ourselves and a draw will be enough against Japan, but we will try to go and win that match."

## BCCI claims Guinness World Records for hosting largest attendance in T20 match ever

New Delhi: On Sunday, the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) was presented with a certificate from Guinness World Records for hosting the largest T20 match ever, which took place at Ahmedabad's brand-new Narendra Modi Stadium during the IPL final this year. The state-of-the-art stadium in Gujarat's capital city held 1,01,566 spectators for the IPL 2022 final between the Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals, breaking the previous record for a T20 game. The announcement was made on the BCCI's official Twitter account



with the caption, "A proud moment for everyone as India creates the Guinness World Record. This one is for all our fans for their unmatched passion and unwavering support.

Congratulations to @GCAMotera and @IPL." Earlier known as Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) Stadium, Motera the stadium has a capacity

of 1,10,000 which is nearly 10,000 more than Melbourne Cricket Ground with an official capacity of 1,00,024. The same was also shared by Jay Shah, the BCCI Secretary, who wrote a letter of gratitude to fans, "Extremely delighted & proud to receive the Guinness World Record for the largest attendance at a T20 match when 101,566 people witnessed the epic @IPL final at @GCAMotera's magnificent Narendra Modi Stadium on 29 May 2022. A big thanks to our fans for making this possible! @BCCI."



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