

Chakh Le Millet ASSI Seeks Support of KIIT-KIMS to Offer Spine Treatment in Tribal Areas

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Principal Secretary Agriculture & Famer's Empowerment, Arabinda Kumar Padhee is on a Mission to popularize Millet. Millet, a Super Food is gaining wide



acceptance, thanks to sincere efforts of Dr.Padhee, who is wholeheartedly working for acceptance of Millet among the various sections of the society.

While Odisha is hosting a Global Event, FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023, Team Millet led by Dr.Padhee is working relentlessly to popularize the Super Food.

Winter session of Odisha Assembly from Nov 24

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The winter ses-



sion of Odisha Legislative Assembly will begin from November 24. The session having 33 working and five 'no meeting' days will continue till December 31. As per a notification by the Parliamentary Affairs department, the first supplementary statement of expenditure for 2022-23 will be presented on the

Imran Khan blames Pak PM, ISI chief over assassination bid

Pakistan (KCN): Former Pakistan Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

chief Imran Khan made his first national address after he was injured at a shooting incident in Wazirabad on Thursday.

Khan alleged that Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Major general Faisal Naseer who heads Pakistan's



intelligence agency, the ISI, were to blame for the assassination attempt on him.

The 70-year-old said, he was "aware of the plot to kill" him a day before and was asked not to venture out.

"I was hit by four bullets. I started falling down after the bullets had hit my leg. There

were two assailants and I wouldn't have been saved had they been sync-

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Ukraine's President accuses Russia of 'energy terrorism'

KYIV(KCN): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused Russia of engaging in "energy terrorism" after Russian strikes on Ukraine's energy network left millions of residents without power. About 4.5



million people were without electricity across the country, Zelenskyy said in his nightly address Thursday.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said 450,000 apartments in the capital alone did not have electricity on Friday. "I appeal to all residents of the capital: save electricity as much as

possible because the situation remains difficult!" the mayor wrote on Telegram. State-owned grid operator Ukrenergo reported on Friday that emergency blackouts would take place across Kyiv.

Russia has repeatedly carried out missile and



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has decided to promote Millet by organizing Millet Day on 10 November across the State. Accordingly Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment is engaged in promotion of Millet in a big way. Dr.Padhee presented Millet Products with the Team Hockey India and it was appreciated by the Members.

Dilip Tirkey, Chief of Hockey India appreciated the efforts and echoing the Clarion Call of Chief Minister, he is also spearheading the awareness campaign of Millet.

Secretary Sports & Youth Services, R Vineel Krishna, who is passionate about sports promotion has also joined hands for promotion of Millet. Team Efforts in this regard will contribute in a big way in promoting Millet among various sections of the people and popularize the Super Food to a great extent, officials say. Director Agriculture and Food Production, Prem Chandra Chaudhury has extended his support for popularization of Millet across the State.

Bhubaneswar(KCN):The Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI) has expressed its willingness to tie up with the KIIT-KIMS and offer spine-related critical care and treat-



ment to the tribal population across Odisha. The novel intent was made during the inaugural ceremony of Instructional Course Spine 2022 here, which is being attended by leading spine surgeons from across India.

President of the ASSI Dr Shankar Acharya said the association is focused on creating a new group of spine surgeons among other areas including providing critical training for ensuring the best treatment.

He also stressed creating awareness on the prevention of road accidents and taking proper care of the elderly population, efforts that can go a long way in better management of spine-related ailments.

The Chief Guest at the function was the Founder of the KIIT Group of Institutions Dr Achyuta Samanta. Addressing the gathering, ASSI Secretary Dr. Gautam Zaveri enlisted the help of Dr Samanta and his organization to hold camps, examine patients and perform surgeries in tribal areas of Odisha.

"We would like to associate with your orga-

OHPC, CMC now covered under e-Office application

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC), Cuttack Mu-



nicipal Corporation (CMC) and Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University (SJSU) are now

nization and see whether we can take it further to the tribal areas of Odisha and set up camps. Our surgeons will go down there and perform operations. We have done this extensively in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and it will be a great opportunity to tie up with you and start a similar initiative," he said. Dr Samanta extended his support to the ini-



tiative and said that KIMS is also operating healthcare centres in remote and far-flung areas for the benefit of the poor and tribal population. He also invited the participants at the conference to visit the KISS campus which offers education and boarding free to the tribal students.

The event which will end on November 6 is being organized by the Odisha Orthopedic Association. The theme of the event is 'cervical spine'.

Director RMRC, Bhubaneswar Sanghamitra Pati, the guest of honour, sought greater synergy between the researchers and the doctors for better spine care. Organising Chairman Dr Madan Mohan Sahoo and Dr Jitendra Kumar Rout spoke on the occasion.

covered under e-Office, a digital workplace solution. Launching the system from Lokseba

Bhawan on Thursday, chief secretary Suresh Mahapatra said, "e-Office system makes the governance future ready and the IT application has made the conduct of government business more quick, accurate and responsive."

He said the Centre for Modernising Government Initiative (CMGI), an administrative reforms programme, has

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leave the city of Kherson — a claim that Ukrainian officials greeted with some scepticism.

The Kremlin-installed regional administration already has moved tens of thousands of civilians out of the city, citing the threat of increased shelling as Ukraine's army pursues a counteroffensive to reclaim the region. Authorities removed the Russian flag from the Kherson administration building on Thursday, a week after the regional government moved out.

Ukraine's southern military spokeswoman, Natalia Humeniuk, said the flag's removal could be a ruse "and we should not hurry to rejoice." She told Ukrainian television that some Russian military personnel are disguising themselves as civilians. Neither side's claims could be independently verified.

Elsewhere, Ukrainian officials reported shooting down drones launched by Russian forces. Dnipropetrovsk

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Disket Angma from Ladakh turns Winner of National Science Seminar 2022

Kolkata (KCN): Since 1982, National Science Seminar is organised every year by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)

Disket Angma from Govt. Higher Secondary School, Saspol Village, Ladakh was declared winner of the National Science Seminar 2022 organised by the National Council of Science Museums, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in Science City, Kolkata. This is the first time when Ladakh participated in the event after becoming a Union Territory. Yesterday, winners from 32 States and Union Territories participated in the National Science Seminar and deliberated on the topic "Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development: Challenges & Prospects" at Science City Kolkata. This is also the first time that Science City, Kolkata hosted this prestigious and popular National Science Seminar.

A panel of five distinguished scientists, from different zones, namely Dr. Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, Former Dy. Director (Sr. Principal Scientist), CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Ministry of S & T, Govt. of India, Prof. Gopal Das, Dean Research & Development, Dept. of Chemistry, IIT Guwahati, Shri. Hoysala N Chanakya, Chief Scientist, Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Prof. B. N. Jagatap, Professor, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Prof. Sugopa Sengupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University, Kolkata adjudged the following participants as the winner and runner ups-

Kumar and a special address by Shri. A. D Choudhury. Director General, NCSM. Speaking on the occasion Shri A. D. Choudhury said - "The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) has been organizing National Science Seminar (NSS) for School Students since 1982. This is an annual event where students from all parts of the country deliberate on a topic that is announced at the beginning of the academic year. Educating the younger generation on the concepts of sustainable development is a significant step towards bringing about change and building a new world that could support the needs of the present and future generations. I take this opportunity to thank the education departments of all the state governments/UTs for collaborating in this Science Seminar and encouraging students to participate."

Shri Anurag Kumar, Director Science City, Kolkata said-, "It gives me immense pleasure to share that Science City, Kolkata hosted this prestigious seminar for the first time and the first time participant of National Science Seminar, Ladakh was adjudged winner of the Seminar. I hope more and more students will be inspired by the success of these students who come from remote areas and do miracles if they get opportunities"

The Chief Guest of the inaugural function, Prof. Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay congratulated all the participants for making it to the National Science Seminar after completing their district-state level competitions and mentioned how the topic of this year's seminar will generate interest among students all

Sl.	Name	State	Result
1.	Disket Angmo (IX)	Govt. Higher Secondary School Saspol Village UT Leh-Ladakh	Winner
2.	KM. Bombii Kato (X)	Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Girls School, Arunachal Pradesh	Runner Up
3.	Kairavi Manjitsinh Chauhan (X)	Children's Academy, Ashok Nagar, Kandivali, Maharashtra	Runner Up
4.	Adrish Pati (X)	Mount Litera Zee School, Contai, East Midnapur, West Bengal	Runner Up
5.	Shiva Vinayak (IX)	St. Francis School, Deoghar, Jharkhand	Runner Up
6.	Divyanshu Soni (IX)	Maharshi Vidya Mandir, Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh	Runner Up
7.	Lakshya Jain (IX)	Jayshree Periwal High School, Rajasthan	Runner Up
8.	Chirantan K. Hegde (X)	Ave Maria High School, Sirsi, Karnataka	Runner Up
9.	Tsupongla Shillen (X)	Ministers' Hill Baptist H.S. school, Kohima, Nagaland	Runner Up
10.	Priyal Ratwan (IX)	DAV Public School Ghumarwin Himachal Pradesh	Runner Up

The winner received a Winner Trophy, a Certificate and a Scholarship of Rs. 48,000/-. The other nine runner-ups got a Runner-Up trophy, Certificate and scholarship of Rs. 24,000/- each. The other 22 participants will get a Certificate and a Scholarship of Rs. 12000/- each. A total amount of Rs. 5,28,000/- will be given as a scholarship.

The Seminar was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp and an inaugural address by the Director of Science City, Shri Anurag

Regulation of trains due to developmental works in Nagpur division

Kolkata(KCN): In view of Non Interlocking work for Electronic Interlocking work in Nagpur Division, the following train services will be regulated as under, stated the South Eastern Railway (SER) authority:

Diversion of Trains :

- The 12262 Howrah-Mumbai CSMT Duranto Express leaving Howrah from November 7 to November 9, 2022 will run o-n diverted route via Katni South-Jabalpur-Itarsi-Khandwa-Bhusaval
- The 12261 Mumbai CSMT-Howrah Duranto Express leaving Mumbai CSMT from November 6 to November 8, 2022

over the country. At the same time, Prof. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Director, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and Chief Guest of the valedictory session shared about the prestigious Indian Statistical Institute and encouraged students to develop an interest in Mathematics.

The programme ended with a Vote of Thanks by Shri Basudev Mandal, Curator, Science City, Kolkata and National Coordinator of this seminar.

will run o-n a diverted route via Bhusaval-Khandwa- Itarsi-Jabalpur-Katni South.

- The 12221 Pune-Howrah Duranto Express leaving Pune o-n November 7, 2022 will run o-n a diverted route via Bhusaval-Khandwa-Itarsi-Jabalpur-Katni South.
- The 18030 Shalimar-LTT Express leaving Shalimar from November 6 to November 8, 2022 will run o-n diverted route via Katni South-Jabalpur-Itarsi-Khandwa-Bhusaval
- The 18029 LTT-Shalimar Express leaving LTT from November 6 to November 8, 2022 will run o-n a diverted route via Bhusaval-Khandwa-Itarsi-Jabalpur-Katni South.

SER to continue weekly festival special trains between Santragachi and Puri

Kolkata(KCN): Keeping in view the extra rush of passengers, it has been decided to continue the running of Weekly Festival Special trains between Santragachi-Puri-Santragachi till December, 2022.

The 02837 Santragachi-Puri Special will leave Santragachi every Friday during the period from today to December 30, 2022. The train leaving Santragachi at 8.35 pm at night during the above period will reach Puri at 4.30 am, the next day.

In the return direction, the 02838 Puri-

Santragachi Special will leave Puri every Saturday during the period from November 5, 2022 to December 31, 2022. The train leaving Puri at 7.20 pm in the evening during the above period will reach Santragachi at 4.00 am, the next day.

The train with o-ne AC 2 Tier, two AC 3 Tier, 10 Sleeper Class and two General Second Class coaches will have stoppages at Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road between Santragachi and Puri.

Secure Fishing App Launched

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Government and United Nations World Food Program (WFP) in India today launched a mobile application, "Secure Fishing App" in the State Capital. Department of Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (DoFARD) with the support of WFP have taken up this initiative empower the fisher folks by providing real-time information, insights, and analytics that directly contribute to their livelihood thus contributing to the state government's vision. Ranendra Pratap Swain, Minister, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Ani-

mented as a pilot in Paradeep and will subsequently be extended to the marine fishers in the State. The context-specific functionality of the application will help the fisherfolk save their life and assets and improve their livelihoods," said Mr. Vashishth, Secretary, Fisheries & ARD.

Secure Fishing is a dynamic application for the fishing community and a web-based dashboard for use by Government officials to track fishery sector activities. It intends to meet through informed decisions and the holistic needs of marine fishers, said



Himanshu Sekhar Bal, WFP State Representative Odisha

The app provides fishers with access to critical and near real-time tailored climate and ocean state information services.

This reduces fishers' vulnerabilities, increases their income and helps to achieve their food security. Fisheries and aquaculture play a major role in multiplying farmers' incomes, enhancing livelihoods, creating gainful employment, providing nutritional security and contributing to export earnings in Odisha, said Mr. Bal.

The government of Odisha has kept a high priority on the fisheries sector and placed the fisheries & aquaculture sector as one of the growth propellers for over 15.89 Lakh fishermen including farmers, women SHGs, youths and entrepreneurs. During the launch Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, Director, Fisheries, Yedula Vijaya, Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Odisha, officials from the Department, Directorates, the District Fisheries Officers, and officials from WFP were also present.

"Secure Fishing" application is being imple-

State on Trauma Care

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In order to decrease the cases of fatality due to road traffic accidents, and in pursuance to the observations of Hon'ble Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, Government in Department of Health & Family Welfare (DoHFW) have strengthened the Trauma Care Facilities (TCF) in

are Level I type, 4 are level II type and rest 26 are level III type.

To strengthen more, and to provide cashless treatment in 1st 48 hours of trauma, a scheme Free Treatment for Trauma Fund has been rolled out in 2019. As on today 11 private level I type trauma facilities have been empanelled.

For support to these TCFs, schemes have been made like "New Casualty and Trauma Care" and "Free Treatment for Trauma Fund".

For further strengthening and to reduce the fatality due to Road Traffic Accidents, 7 more private hospitals with trauma care facility of level I type have been approved.

A standard operating procedure has been formulated. The MoU with the new facilities shall be signed soon. The scheme is supervised by Additional DMET Odisha as State Nodal Officer.



the state.

Secretary Health & Family Welfare, Shalini Pandit has reviewed the TCF arrangement in the State with senior officials of the DOHFW.

To start with by the support of Government of India few Trauma Care Facilities were strengthened during the 11th Finance Year Plan and 12th Finance Year Plan. Such TCF are SCB MCH Cuttack, MKCG MCH Brahmapur, VIMSAR Burla, DHS Khurda, Bhadrak, Balasore and RGH Rourkela. Subsequently 33 TCFs are notified out of which 3

The Trauma Facilities where free treatment can be available under the scheme are Ashwini Trauma Centre, Cuttack, AMRI Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, KIMS, Bhubaneswar, Hi-Tech Medical college & Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Kalinga Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Utkal Institute of Medical Science, Bhubaneswar, Medicover Hospital, Vishakhapatnam, Rama Krishna Care Hospital, Raipur, JP Hospital, Rourkela, IMS & SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar, SUM Ultimate, Bhubaneswar, Sunshine Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Care Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Blue Wheel Hospital, Bhubaneswar, Padmini Care, DRIEMS, Tangi, Cuttack, SashiBhusan Memorial Hospital, Cuttack, Sun Hospital, Cuttack, Trisha Hospital, Cuttack.

As all the hospitals have Level I trauma Care facility, this will be of immense help to the trauma victims according to H&FW department.

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WATCH 'Manikarnika' trailer: This Kangana Ranaut-starrer looks like bits from a Bhansali product



MUMBAI(KCN): Finally it comes. The trailer of the beleaguered historical "Manikarnika - The Queen Of Jhansi" brings to us a furious, ferocious and feral Kangana Ranaut, who tells the 'gora log', "We both want Jhansi. But you want to rule. I want to serve." Well, precisely. The Rani Of Jhansi was passionately dedicated to her

kingdom. I don't see much of that dedication in the trailer. Much of it is devoted to displaying its leading lady's skills on horses and with swords. The trailer gives us an epic primer on 'Kangana Rides The Horse', 'Kangana Swats The Enemy', 'Kangana Bays For Blood', so on and so forth. There is so much of the talented ac-

triss' efforts to appear queenly, the trailer barely offers a glimpse of the impressive supporting cast, namely Danny Denzongpa, Atul Kulkarni, Suresh Oberoi and others who flit by in this steamroller view of a woman warrior's day-out binge. Threadbare thunder in a fancy teacup. Alarmingly and annoyingly, the film

wears a thick and heavy Sanjay Leela Bhansali hangover. In the way the camera zooms in and pans the long stretches of the battle scenes, I was taken back to Bhansali's "Bajirao Mastani". In fact one of Kangana's derring-do in a battle sequence here, she gambols over her army to strike was a move identical to Ranveer Singh's in

"Bajirao Mastani". ALSO READ: Ready to do a good movie down south, says actress Kangana Ranau So is Kangana's Jhansi Ki Rani, Bajirao or Mastani or both? It's a highly derivative world created by people who seem to have the resources but not the vision. We could do with a lot more chutzpah when recre-

ating such an important chapter from Indian history. It's not all a wash-out, though. Kangana seems to convey sufficient fire and elasticity. Her accent is a downer, though. This is the way the trailer moves: uplifting one moment down to being a disappointment the next. Let's hope the film is not as uneven in tone.

When Julia Roberts realised she was famous

LOS ANGELES (KCN): Actress Julia Roberts, 51, revealed that the first time she realised she was famous was when she was in a bathroom stall at age 21 and a fan asked her for an autograph. The actress had just starred in the 1988 film "Mystic Pizza" at the time of her bathroom encounter.

The Oscar-winner told the story during an appearance on an episode of a podcast, reports dailymail.co.uk. ALSO READ: 'Ben Is Back' film review She had her fame awakening after returning home to Georgia to visit her mother and younger sister. The three caught a movie and

Roberts stopped by the bathroom afterward. "It was after the movie was over and I was in the bathroom and there was a woman in the bathroom who said, 'Hey, girl in stall number one, were you in 'Mystic Pizza'?" she said. The pushy fan proceeded to slip something under the stall and asked the "Mystic Pizza" star to sign it.

Hansika in Mohanlal's next Tamannaah Bhatia and Shruti Hassan are the new gal pals

It seems Mohanlal-B to @Hansika for her While Rockline



Unnikrishnan team's untitled film is getting bigger and bigger. After Vishal and Srikanth, another popular south star Hansika Motwani will be making her Mollywood debut through the film. The update was announced by the director himself on his official Facebook page. "I wish great luck

new release Bogan. She will have a very special appearance in my Mohanlal film produced by Mr Rockline Venkatesh," posted Unnikrishnan. According to the director, who had last teamed up with Mohanlal for Mr Fraud, VFX and special effects will have a lot of importance in the the big budget project.

Venkatesh, who has made films like Bajranghi Bhaijaan and Linga, is the producer, the project also boasts of an excellent crew. Manoj Paramahansa, who has cranked camera for films including Vinnaitaandi Varuvaaya and Nanpan, is the cinematographer. 4 Musics, the band behind the hit songs of Oppam, will be scoring the music.

Tamannaah Bhatia has been bonding with her contemporary Shruti Hassan.

talk everyday due to their busy schedules, but they always make sure to make time on

for Shruti. Tamannaah says, "Shruti is a sweetheart and a dear



for a while now. Tamannaah chose to take some time out last week to meet her new BFF Shruti Hassan to celebrate her birthday. According to a source close to Tamannaah says. "Tamannaah and Shruti share a special bond, the two actresses may not be able to

each other's birthdays. Shruti Hassan, who celebrated her birthday couple of days ago with close friends, had Tamannaah as one of her special guests. It is said that Tamannaah makes it a point to not miss her friend's special day at any cost. She had also brought a special gift

friend. Since we both have tight schedules, we don't get much time to spend with each other the rest of the year, so I needed to be at her birthday party so that I could be with her. I have been attending her birthday since the last three years and making sure to be with her on her special day."

Politics of Gimmicks in the hindutva corridor

The Congress in India has consistently been making a claim that the country should be beholden to the party as it had developed India into a Secular Democratic Republic. Probably, a political view about India in its



journey as a country in the post-independence period would not legitimately deny this claim of the Congress. An excavation of the historic evidence and a reasonable assessment would reveal the fact that the party which had emerged as the harbinger of hope in India during the British colonialism could not manage to stay on the same track, energising the diversity of India with unprejudiced acceptance for different religious faiths. The era began with the saffron rise in India has further complicated the importance of Congress, practically weakening the essence that the party desired to project it as; a secular political establishment with no lopsided approach to any religion and the only party with a capability to protect the quintessential -the secular India.

Things changed terribly and the India of Nehruvian socialism leaned for the religiosity of a party that remained untouchable in the Indian parliament with two members a few decades ago. Never did anyone think the leap that the saffron party made was ever possible. A momentous and tactful beginning from the Ayodhya movement began to bring prospects to the saffron camp and the momentum it gained since 2014 was almost a volcanic eruption. National and local parties equally faced catastrophic collapse. Some parties could manage to survive with little relevance but for someone else, their disintegration was complete. The rout of the Congress from the national frame of Indian power politics puts it in the second

Letter to Editor

Adopt PGSIT in the country

The Aedes aegypti mosquito species, which is responsible for transmitting a variety of diseases such as dengue fever, chikungunya, and Zika, is altered by the new precision-guided sterile insect technique (PGSIT), which modifies genes linked to male fertility and results in sterile offspring and female flight. PGSIT is a brand-new, scalable genetic control method that creates deployable, population-suppressing mosquitoes using cutting-edge technology. Male mosquitoes don't spread diseases, thus the plan is to release an increasing number of sterile males in order to control the population without using dangerous pesticides and chemicals. Many industrialised nations have adopted this technology, but in India we don't know anything about it, and even the national government hasn't spread the word about it as of yet. PGSIT, according to the researchers, is the first technology that is suitable for release in the real world and is effective in reducing mosquito populations. In the future, PGSIT may offer an effective, secure, scalable, and environmentally benign next-generation technology alternative for controlling mosquito populations in the wild, leading to the widespread prevention of human disease transmission cost effectively. Therefore, our central government should investigate this and put it into effect as quickly as feasible throughout our nation.

VijayKumar H K Raichur

category - a crumpled existence of an octogenarian. What was relevant in this collapse was the visible impact of a political indoctrination that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was successful in fielding its cadre with. A total assimilation of politics into religious mannerisms was its plan, evidently trying to address the forgotten ethnicities of the majority while sumptuously reviving the cultural symbols and centers gaining humongous acceptance.

Parties other than the BJP could not, in real terms, speculate dividends from such an amalgam of politics fabulously coated in the Hindutva sentiments. Almost all the parties failed to see the silent and suppressed aspirations of the politically scattered majority which remained a divided tribe with warlords of casteism battling for political relevance and personal gains. Entry of Narendra Modi into the national politics had overturned the fortunes of many in Indian politics and his chain of victories proved his mettle. Addressing the spiritual requirement of the Hindus and reviving Hindu symbols of national significance, the Modi model of governance earned acceptance and respect. Hackneyed and worn out and thrown aloof due to its endless political paranoia and outlandish political approach to Hinduism, the Congress had failed to sustain its pan India appeal. And guess what! The void that its absence created in the political space in India is slowly getting filled by new entrants like Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and some local satraps. The sequence of events that the saffron turf Gujarat witnessed these days is indicative to this vacuum filling. If not second to BJP, the Aam Aadmi Party appears to have managed to emerge as a third party with more damage to the Congress than the BJP.

M. R. LALU

Aravind Kejriwal in Narendra Modi's shoes! Does this imagery astonish you? The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has conveniently shed its secular skin and its new saffron makeover, would not only baffle you but put you in a woozy nauseating ordeal. Slipping into the garbs and style and momentum of Narendra Modi, the new Hindutva avatar of Arvind Kejriwal, the erstwhile crusader of 'India against Corruption' has given us a subject for Chai Pe Charcha.

The latest arrow that he shot from his quiver was a demand that he made with unapologetic intentions and unprecedented shrewdness. Currencies in India must have the images of Laxmi and Ganesh was his brusque clamour. The Hindu hardliners in the Modi camp must have had whirlwinds in their heads and perspiration. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) the alma mater of the BJP's hard-line Hindutva University must have gone dizzy at the eventuality of the fuss that the AAP version of the hard-nosed Hindutva would cause. It is impossible to speculate on the extent into which the AAP can strike a hole in the BJP's political dominance among the Hindus. In the run up to the 2013 Delhi assembly elections, the AAP had successfully painted an image depicting it as a clean political entrant intended to bring honest political manoeuvres in Indian politics. Its present somersaults to counter the pole-vaults of the Modi government does not necessarily make it a strong contender, but its energy, ability and shrewd makeovers from state to state would help it capture the political space. Kejriwal is no more a 'sneaky little fellow', a sobriquet that Captain Amarinder Singh must have repented soon after his rout in the Punjab elections.

With his mild caress on the Hindutva sentiments by chanting Hanuman Chalisa and visiting temples and his latest howling for currencies with the images of gods and goddesses, the Hanuman Bhakt in Kejriwal understands the strategy that he should keep handy in a state like Gujarat. Kejriwal was thoroughly rattled by the rant of his minister Rajendra Pal Gautam against Hinduism in a Buddhist ceremony wherein hundreds of Hindus got converted to Buddhism. Without any delay he got the minister out of his party and his Hindutva currency was an unscrupulous tale, an attempt of damage control played out well before the Gujarat elections got the heat of political rivalry. After lessons learned from Delhi and Punjab, the BJP would not dare to count him as a sneaky little fellow. Slowly but the self styled politician in Kejriwal is gaining more space in Indian politics. Born as a secular party, AAP's steady shift towards its newly discovered Hindutva identity would be put to test in Gujarat. The warmth the party is slowly greeted with in the home turf of Narendra Modi is not expected to become a wild fire of acceptance with sweeping electoral victories. With his saffronised gimmicks, if Kejriwal manages to stretch his wings further in Gujarat, the BJP would have a serious reason to worry about. Agencies investigating the corruption charges against his party may not be able to douse the fire this sneaky man would set. The BJP would require the entire saffron parivar to fire-fight the AAP's new version of Hindutva. Would the Sangh be happy doing it? Does Rahul Gandhi's political expedition from Kanyakumari to Kashmir have the potentiality to teach him the gist of the new political hysterics that Kejriwal has begun his war preparations in Gujarat?

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Can corruption be eradicated?

Pratap chandra sahu

poor economic infrastructure lead to endemic corruption in public life. It is highly inflationary economy, low salaries of govt. employees compel them to resort to road to corruption. Complex laws and procedures alienating common people to ask for any help from govt.. Big industrialists fund, politicians to meet the high cost of election. Bribery to politicians buys influence and bribery by politicians buys votes. The foremost reason of flourishing of corruption is the virtual change in thinking of the people. A total disregard to the moral and ethical values and feelings of attaining the things by any means whether wrong or right has encouraged most of the generation to adopt the means of corruption. There are varieties of corruptions like conventional corruption,un conventional corruption,petty corruption,grand corruption ,political corruption ,public corruption and system corruption. Eradication of corruption can be possible if people understand and start to believe the values of ethics and morality in their life. To eradicate corruption from our society the fool proof laws should be made so that there is no room for discretion of politicians and bureau-

crats. The role of politicians should be minimised. Application of evolved policies should be left in the hands of independent commission or authority in each area of public interest. Decision of the commission should be challengable only in the courts. One of the common causes which enables corruption by public servants is to demand and obtain illigation gratification which is commonly known as speed money. To remove this in the administrative procedure. State govt. should implement the act so that no govt. gets scope to extract speed money. Jan lok pal bill was passed which aims to effectively determine corruption ,compensate citizen grievances and protect whistle Blowers. Cooperation of people needs to be obtained for successful eradication of corruption. People should have a right to recall the elected representatives if they see them becoming indifferent to the electorate. Electoral reforms are crucial to eradicate political corruption. The govt. has stressed on accountability now and india can be positive for future as making everything digital to reduce corruption to a greater extent. It can be eradicated with systematic and right efforts.

Nabarangapur

Germany's environment panel visits Bhitarkanika

KENDRAPARA: A team comprising 18 members of the Parliamentary Committee for Environment of Germany visited Bhitarkanika National Park to get first-hand information on successful conservation of mangroves and saltwater crocodiles. The team visited the boat library, wildlife interpretation centre, mangrove nursery and crocodile hatchery and later interacted with

support implementation of livelihood-oriented conservation and restoration activities and training of community members in alternative sustainable livelihoods. Ecosystem-based sustainable livelihood measures such as mangrove restoration, sustainable fishery, handicraft-based activities and science-led horticulture would be implemented at Bhitarkanika.



some residents of Julusnagar village, said in-charge divisional forest officer (DFO) of Bhitarkanika Adhir Behera.

The German government agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is conserving the mangroves and bio-diversity of Bhitarkanika and providing livelihood to villagers around the park under Indo-German Biodiversity Programme since last year under the 'Green recovery measures in Bhitarkanika' project. The primary objective of the project is to

"We have organised skill and capacity development training for local communities in alternative and sustainable livelihoods which includes training on pond management, nursery raising, sustainable fisheries, horticulture-based livelihood, skill upgradation for artisans and skill development for eco-tourism guides with help of some local organisations, panchayat body members and SHGs," said Behera. Germany's ambassador to India Walter J Lindner had visited the park last year.

Orissa HC tells state govt told to explore option of non-motorised boats in Chilika lake

CUTTACK: The Orissa High Court on Thursday asked the state government to explore the possibility of operating solar/battery powered or sail boats in Mangaljodi area of Chilika Lake instead of motor boats which cause both noise and air pollution. The division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice Murahari Sri Raman said, "An affidavit in this regard to be filed by the state government before the next date (December 19)."

The court was hearing the petition filed by Debakar Behera, a resident of the area alleging that the operation of the motorised fishing boats was posing a threat to the safe haven for migratory birds at Mangaljodi. It issued the order taking into consideration an affidavit filed by Director of Fisheries Smruti Ranjan Pradhan in reply to the petition. The Director of Fisheries had opposed the ban on operating motorised fishing boats in the channels and sub-channels of Mangaljodi, claiming that their movement does not affect the population of the migratory birds to the spot. He claimed in the affidavit that the number of migratory birds coming to Mangaljodi had increased from 1,05,462 in 2018 to 2,25,500 in 2022. Such increase in numbers is due to

reduced poaching and involvement of local community who are traditional fishermen. "Any restriction on movement of motorised boats would adversely affect the livelihood of traditional fishermen, not only of the



Mangaljodi area but also adjoining area. Besides, there is need for co-existence of traditional fishermen for their livelihood and conservation of migratory birds in Chilika lake. The locals, who are involved in conservation of the migratory birds and its ecosystems also belong to the fishermen households," Pradhan further stated.

According to the affidavit, fishermen of the Mangaljodi area use both motorised and non-motorised traditional fishing boats for fishing. Such traditional fishing boats are being duly registered since the enactment of the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation (OMFR) Act in 1981. About 189 motorised and 128 non-motorised fishing boats are registered under the Act are operating in the area.

The politics behind Imran blaming Pakistan government and military for his shooting

Pakistan (KCN): Imran Khan is not the first politician to be shot at in Pakistan. Nor will he be the last. The nation's political history is filled with stories of bloodbath, chaos, and loss of lives of prominent political figures in terror attacks, through judicial pronouncement or regime changes imposed through military takeovers. Every time such an incident occurs, one party becomes the beneficiary and another gets to play the victim card. Unfortunately, Pakistani politics has been like this by and large. It is one of the prime reasons the country has not been privileged enough to have even one premier who could complete their five years in office as Prime

mileage from it by issuing a video message from the hospital bed, asking people to come out onto the streets for a 'tabdili march' (march for a change). It played a substantial part in propelling Imran Khan to the country's premiership.

In the latest incident in Gujranwala, an assassination attempt was made on Imran while he was leading another anti-government long march from Lahore to Islamabad. The chain of events before and after the incident certainly hints at another attempt to capitalise on the incident. It could help him metamorphose from a mere political opponent or establishment pariah into an absolute hero without competition.

Soon after Imran got shot in the foot, he ensured that his close aide Asad Umar released a statement accusing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister of Interior Rana Sanaullah, and senior intelligence officers and Director General of Rangers Sindh

Major-General Faisal Naseer as the ones responsible for the assassination attempt on him. There was a demand to immediately remove all three men from their positions. Imran also threatened continued countrywide protests by his political party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), until the demand is met.

This seems another flashback of past instances when the country's politicians played games of optics and, more often than not, were successful in coming into power thanks to their narratives.

Even though the assassination attempt directly questions the efficacy of security arrangements by the Punjab provincial government under Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi -- he became CM after becoming Imran's candidate -- the latter 'shielded' him and pointed fingers at the federal government's top leadership and the military establishment. The only reason for this is that Imran seeks 'national' opponents, like the federal government and the military. He has repeatedly slammed the military establishment for allegedly colluding with political parties opposed to him and who, according to him, became part of the conspiracy of the US-led regime-change maneuver to oust his government.

Since his ouster, Imran Khan has pursued his anti-US and anti-establishment narrative,

which has been well-received by the masses and the public. His public speeches are full of name-calling, taunting, and accusations against the military establishment for backing the current coalition government of political parties, who he says are slaves of the west and, specifically, the United States. This anti-establishment, anti-US and regime-change narrative is not new to the country.

lic protest cannot be heard and felt if it is peaceful and a movement cannot trigger major reactions from the corridors of power until blood is spilled. This is backed by the belief that a political leader cannot become successful in the country until he has the support of a powerful military establishment. Imran Khan has triggered unprecedented landmark changes in Pakistani politics through



Minister of Pakistan.

One way or the other, strings have been stretched or cut to replace them and deem them unfit to run the country.

All of this has made Pakistan a fertile ground for accusations and counter-accusations.

Terror group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for assassinating Pakistan's first woman prime minister Benazir Bhutto in 2007. But still, Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) accused then-President Pervez Musharraf of being involved in the assassination. The PPP narrative caught the people's imagination, bringing the party back to power. Eventually, Benazir's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, even became the president of Pakistan.

Imran himself has led his share of crusades built around narratives he wished to be woven.

In 2014, the cricketing hero turned politician led a 126-day-long march as part of his anti-government political campaign. He was by far the most popular leader of the time and was challenging the political might of Pakistan Muslim League -- Nawaz (PML-N) and the PPP -- with his strong show of power.

Curiously, in a smaller protest march in Lahore in 2013, Imran fell off the container he was standing on and got injured. Though that was an accident, he derived political



Before Imran, his rivals also peddled the same narrative and mocked his government for being "selected" by the establishment. However, such political narratives have always been coupled with a bloody incident, either in the form of a terror attack, assassination, or, as in the current scenario, an assassination attempt on a popular political leader. Soon after the latest assassination attempt, PTI's supporters came out onto the streets of Pakistan and protested angrily. And like any other political narrative building under the pillars of bloodshed, the protests were aimed at slamming the federal government and, more importantly, the military leadership, with people openly lashing out with abuses and angry slogans against the military for threatening to push the country towards civil war. The purely strategic message of their political messiah Imran Khan was enough for them to act in this manner.

Political campaigners in Pakistan have often deliberately opted for the notion that a pub-

widespread public polarisation. His is a politics of absolute hate against his opponents to the extent that they are openly called traitors. The military establishment is slammed openly for not intervening and coming to his support for his political reinstatement. He has used the latest opportunity to convince the military that the tide might turn in his favour. He possibly thinks the assassination attempt may create a sympathy wave that can catapult him out of his current political mess and signal the military to take him seriously.

It again underlines how politics in Pakistan is being run on populist narratives and not on the strength of genuine people's support. It is also unfortunate that the success of the political exercise to come to power through the prevalent democratic set-up is entirely dependent on the intervention, inclination, and support of the military establishment. As a result, the political leaders will leave no stone unturned to convince the establishment that they are candidates worthy of power.

Plea for Kotia Resolve

Bhubaneswar: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has written a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for conveying an all party meeting to resolve border dispute with Andhra Pradesh.

He sought personal intervention of the Chief Minister in addressing emerging issues in the border villages in South Odisha, namely Kotia

residents of these border villages.

"Being far away from the district headquarter, people may find the Andhra Pradesh administration more accessible. The neighbouring state may use the same to alienate these citizens from Odisha, and thereby sever their age-old socio-cultural umbilical cord with their motherland," the Union Minister said.

Andhra Pradesh is strategically trying to sway these border villagers by offering ration cards, healthcare, education and other facilities, he observed.

To counter this, Mr. Pradhan said, Odisha should take the local population and organization into confidence and address multiple developmental issues by ensuring people staying in bordering villages are not lured by

Andhra Pradesh Government facilities and, expediting the swift implementation of developmental activities of the Odisha Government.

Such administrative face-offs and disputes will not only create a disharmonious environment for the people of these areas but also hinder the development of these villages, he said.

It will also derail the ongoing development process which goes against the socio-political objectives of both States, and sow seeds for anti-establishment sentiments to take root in this region.

Despite his best attempt over the years, these issues have remained the same as earlier, the BJP leader said.

Irrespective of party lines, all political parties agree unanimously on the development and protection of Odia interests in these border villages.

Therefore, he requested the CM to convene an all-party meeting over these issues and review the progress made by the inter-state committee and briefing on developmental activities taken up in border villages.



Gram Group of villages in Pottangi Block in Koraput District and Manikapatna in Gangabada GP of Rayagada Block in Gajapati District.

"As you would be aware, administrative outreach by Andhra Pradesh Government in these villages has been reported in the past few days. This illegitimate and unfortunate outreach by Andhra Pradesh Government is now not only confined to Kotia but is also gradually spreading to other villages in South Odisha," Mr. Pradhan said.

Reportedly, 21 such villages have been included in the newly carved Parvatipuram Manyam district, with changed nomenclature, with its headquarters just 40 km away from various villages of Kotia, he said.

Union Minister said that Andhra Pradesh has been proactively implementing different schemes and developmental activities in these villages luring these residents to be a part of Andhra Pradesh.

He said the State Government needs to be proactive on the ground, thereby bringing the Government and administration closer to the

2.10 CR job demand

Bhubaneswar: The demand for employment in Odisha is expected to increase from 175 lakh in the year 2011-12 to 2.10 crore during 2026-27, with incremental demand of 35.8 lakh by 2026-27. This was projected by a study conducted by National Institute of Labour Economic Research and Development (NILERD), an autonomous institute under NITI Aayog, Government of India.

After conducting the study, the institute has submitted its report to the State Government with recommendations.

The study uses both primary survey information of the institutions, establishments and households and secondary data from various ministries, and uses

lakh in 2011-12 to 19.4 lakh in 2026-27).

Within the service sector, the demand is expected to be highest in sectors like trade, hotel and restaurants, transport, storage and communication, other services (education, health etc.), and banking and insurance. Under the optimistic scenario, the manpower demand may touch 215.5 lakh by 2026-27 from 175.0 lakh in 2011-12 with an incremental demand of 40.6 lakh by 2026-27.

In contrast, manpower demand is expected to remain low under a pessimistic scenario from 175.0 lakh in 2011-12 to 206.7 lakh in 2026-27 with an incremental demand of 31.8 lakh till 2026-27, the study report says.

The study found that roughly 0.45 million people join the labour force every year in the State of Odisha. While the demand for skilled jobs in the State may touch 13 million by the end of 2026-27, the supply of skilled labour force is lagging behind, leading to the shortage of a whopping 11 million skilled labour force by then.

For the age group 15-59, the supply of manpower is expected to touch 198.1 lakh in 2026-27 from around 176.3 lakh in 2016-17. Therefore, the demand-supply gap of manpower may increase from 4.1 lakh in 2011-12 to 6.3 lakh in 2016-17 and further to 6.5 lakh in 2026-27.

The study also says that the demand for skilled jobs for all age groups may increase to 93.7 lakh in 2016-17 to 131.3 lakh in 2026-27. Across sectors, highest demand for skilled jobs is expected to come from industry (40.7 lakh in 2016-17 to 61.5 lakh in 2026-27) followed by services sector (34.0 lakh in 2016-17 to 46.0 lakh in 2026-27).

The skill gap in all three sectors such as agriculture sector, industry and services is expected to increase over the years. Services sector, driven largely by travel and tourism, retail services, ICT, infrastructure, banking and insurance and other services (education and health) are expected to face higher skill gaps due to more demand for skilled personnel in the future. "The skill gap for the potential sectors such as metal based industries, food processing, textile, travel and tourism, retail sector and ICT are found as 0.92, 0.42, 0.22, 5.61, 3.04, 3.82 lakh respectively by 2026-27," it said. The study has suggested actionable policy plans at the sectoral level to improve the supply situation of skilled manpower and at the same time to create more domestic demand to absorb the skilled labour force.



suitable econometric tools for projections of manpower over the said period to develop a skill development eco-system in the State.

Under the baseline scenario, the demand for employment in the State may reach 2.10 crore by 2026-27. Out of which, demand for employment in the agriculture sector would decline from 95.5 lakh in 2011-12 to 89.6 lakh in 2026-27. On the other hand, the demand for employment is expected to increase both in industry and services from 41.7 and 37.8 lakh in 2011-12 to 69.3 and 51.8 lakh in 2026-27, respectively. The manpower demand for the disaggregated sector shows that within industry, higher demand is expected to come from the construction sector (21 lakh in 2011-12 to 43.7 lakh in 2026-27) followed by manufacturing (17.1

64% polling in Dhamnagar, middling turnout keeps everyone guessing

BHUBANESWAR/BHADRAK(KCN): With Biju Janata Dal and BJP locked in a fierce contest, Dhamnagar bypoll recorded 66.63 percent voters' turnout on Thursday. Polling was by and large

predicted," said a local political leader. The polling was held amid tight security. Besides, measures have been beefed up to ensure the safety of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and smooth counting of



peaceful barring stray incidents of alleged booth rigging and violence. The final voters' turnout is expected to be higher and may breach 70 percent though it is not considered heavy polling in a by-election.

Chief electoral officer (CEO) SK Lohani said the voting percentage available was tentative as a large number of voters were in queue at many booths when polling came to a close at 6 pm. "All those present at the polling stations will be allowed to cast their votes. The final polling percentage is likely to be much higher," he told mediapersons. Historically, heavy polling is witnessed at Dhamnagar. In the 2019 assembly election, 72.64 per cent voters cast their votes, while turnout was 73.46 per cent in 2014.

While the two rival parties eyeballing each other at Dhamnagar made the bypoll a matter of prestige, the voting numbers have left everyone guessing. "In a by-poll, polling should have been more than 70 per cent. Going by the voting trend, nothing can be

votes on November 6, the CEO said.

Despite the strict vigil, there were reports of clashes between BJD and BJP workers at two booths in Rameswarpur while voting was underway. Two persons were injured in the incident. The BJP alleged rigging by BJD workers at two polling booths at Khalagadia. Voting was disrupted at some polling stations including booth no. 75 at Kanpada and booth no. 15 at Mangalpur primary school reportedly due to technical glitches in the EVMs.

The total voters' number in Dhamnagar constituency stands at 2,38,417 including 1.23 lakh male and 1.15 lakh female voters. Five candidates, Abanti Das (BJD), Suryabanshi Suraj (BJP), Baba Harekrushna Sethi (Congress), Rajendra Kumar Das (Independent) and Pabitra Mohan Das (Independent) are in the fray. It is BJD rebel Rajendra Das who has made the election interesting. Around 1,000 police personnel and four companies of central paramilitary forces were deployed for the by-election. The entry and exit points of the constituency were sealed.



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SC upholds validity of Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme of 2014, quashes Rs 15,000 salary limit

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the validity of the Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme of 2014 but quashed the threshold limit of Rs 15,000 monthly salary for joining the pension fund. The 2014 amendment had capped the maximum pensionable salary (basic pay plus dearness allowance) at Rs 15,000 per month. Prior to the amendment, the



maximum pensionable salary was capped at Rs 6,500 a month. A bench of Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia, however, read down certain

provisions of the scheme. Employees who have not exercised the option to join the pension scheme must do so within six months, the bench said.

It added that eligible employees who could not join the scheme by the cut-off date should be given an additional chance as there was a lack of clarity on the issue in view of judgments passed by the high courts of Kerala, Rajasthan and Delhi.

The bench further held as invalid the condition in the 2014 scheme that required employees to make a further contribution at 1.16 per cent on salary exceeding Rs 15,000.

It held that the condition to make additional contribution on the salary exceeding the threshold limit to be ultra vires but added that this part of the judgment would be kept in suspension for six months to enable the authorities to generate funds.

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation and the Centre challenged the verdicts of the high courts of Kerala, Rajasthan and Delhi, which had quashed the 2014

Infra Khan blames Pak PM, ISI chief over assassination bid

Continued from page-1
hronised with the attempt," said the PTI chief. "Four people plotted to kill me. I made a video and named those people and have stashed it abroad," he said.

Khan made the address in a hospital gown with a cast around his leg and a drip attached to his arm.

The attack on the Khan convoy happened in the Wazirabad district in the eastern Punjab province where the former cricket star turned Islamist politician was travelling in a large convoy of trucks and cars heading towards the capital, Islamabad. The convoy is part of his campaign aimed at forcing the government to hold early elections.

OHPC, CMC now covered under e-Office application

Continued from page-1
progressed a lot in the implementation of e-Office in more than 836 government offices. Development commissioner Pradeep Jena said e-Office is an integrated suit addressing all issues of handling government files from initiation to approval and communication of results/orders. It makes government servants more responsible and accountable in disposal of files.

Executive director, CMGI, Satya Priya Rath said efforts are on to implement e-office in 100 more offices shortly. The acceptance of e-Offices in government departments and corporations was quite encouraging. As digitization of files for bringing all offices into Odisha secretariat workflow automation system (OSWAS) fold will take long time, the state government decided to implement e-Office in joint collaboration between National Informatics Centre (NIC) and CMGI. The objective was to implement e-Office in all autonomous bodies, public sector undertakings and universities. The system is user-friendly and accessible through standard internet browser. The chief secretary asked CMGI and NIC to work out a definite time frame for implementation of e-Office in all the offices that are not included in OSWAS network.

Ukraine's President accuses Russia of 'energy terrorism'

Continued from page-1
Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said eight drones were shot down in the Nikopol area, which was also subjected to artillery shelling. Another drone was shot down over the western Lviv region, Gov. Maksym Kozlytskiy said. The commander of Ukraine's armed forces, Valeriy Zaluzhny, said Thursday night that Russian forces had "tripled the intensity of hostilities on certain areas of the front" and were carrying out "up to 80 attacks every day."

Zelenskyy's office said Friday that at least nine civilians were killed and 16 wounded in Ukraine over the past 24 hours. The Russian army attacked four cities close to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant with drones and heavy artillery. Governor of the Dnipropetrovsk province Valentyn Reznichenko said Friday that houses, cars and a gas pipeline had been damaged overnight in Chervonohryhorivka and that the town was without electricity.

READ | Ukrainians face nuclear threat with grit and dark humor

Rescuers, left, work at a site of a damaged apartment building after shelling by Ukrainian forces in Makiivka, Donetsk People's Republic, eastern Ukraine, Nov. 4, 2022. (Photo | AP)

In the eastern Donetsk province, the town of Pokrovsk was the hardest hit, with rocket attacks damaging a school and at least 22 residential buildings, killing one civilian and wounding another six. Donetsk province governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said 12 towns and villages were shelled, including Bakhmut and Avdiivka, which have been particularly hard hit in recent weeks.

In occupied Kherson province, the Ukrainian army shelled Russian bases and logistics facilities, destroying two ammunition warehouses, Ukrainian army officials said. Russia illegally annexed the Kherson, Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine in late September and subsequently martial law in the four provinces. The Russian military said it struck the rocket engine manufacturing facilities of a factory in the Dnipropetrovsk province city of Pavlohrad, as well as a factory producing Russian families bemoan Ukraine military draft 'chaos'

The Ukrainian Armed Forces also said that the grain corridors in the Black sea were "functioning according to plan." Russia agreed Wednesday to rejoin a wartime agreement brokered by the United Nations and Turkey allowing Ukrainian grain and other commodities to be shipped to world markets. Moscow had suspended its participation in the grain deal over the weekend, citing an alleged drone attack against its Black Sea fleet in Crimea.

As one condition for returning to the deal, Russia demanded the grain be sent to poorer countries, arguing that most of it were currently ending up in richer nations. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday he had discussed the issue of prioritizing less developed countries for grain shipments during a call with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Erdogan said he also discussed the possibility of sending the grain to nations facing famine for free, during a recent call with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Erdogan said Putin proposed sending free grain to countries such as Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan. The two leaders planned to hold further talks on the topic at a Group of 20 meeting in Bali later this month, Erdogan said. "Should we send this grain and fertilizer to developed countries, or to underdeveloped, poor countries?" Erdogan said during a Friday speech to a business group. "Let's give this support to less developed, down and out countries."

Employees sue Elon Musk's Twitter over mass lay-offs

Twitter faces a class action lawsuit by its employees after media reports emerged that half of Twitter's 7,500 workers appeared set to lose their jobs.

According to a report by Bloomberg, Twitter

in advance of planned job cuts The New York Times, citing a company-wide email, reported that Musk will "begin laying off Twitter employees on Friday," exactly a week after he completed the USD 44 billion



is facing a class action lawsuit from its employees for an alleged violation of labour laws. Twitter employees said the company's mass lay-offs without prior notice violated US Federal and California law, as reported by Bloomberg.

The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act require large companies such as Twitter to notify workers two months

acquisition of the social media company and ousted CEO Parag Agrawal, legal executive Vijaya Gadde, Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal and General Counsel Sean Edgett. The NYT report added that "Twitter employees were notified in the email that the layoffs were set to begin" and "workers were instructed to go home and not return to the offices on Friday as the cuts proceeded.

IndiGo Q2 loss widens to Rs 1,583.34 crore on forex loss

NEW DELHI: InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo, on

international markets. With an industry challenged by global supply chain disruptions,



Friday posted widening of loss to Rs 1,583.34 crore for the September quarter as higher fuel costs and exchange rates impacted the bottom line. It reported a loss of Rs 381.8 crore, excluding the foreign exchange loss of Rs 1,201.5 crore, in the latest quarter under review.

The airline had a loss of Rs 1,435.66 crore in the year-ago period.

However, total income of the company rose to Rs 12,852.29 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal from Rs 5,798.73 crore in the same period a year ago, according to a release.

In the latest September quarter, total expenses jumped to Rs 14,435.57 crore.

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said that September quarter was the second consecutive quarter wherein it operated at higher than pre-Covid capacity.

"In spite of a seasonally weak quarter, we witnessed relatively good yields with strong demand across the network. However, fuel prices and exchange rates have adversely impacted our financial performance. We are on a steady path to recovery, benefiting from enormous opportunity both in domestic and

we are working on various counter measures to accommodate this strong demand," he said. In the September quarter, the airline said its capacity increased by 75 per cent and the passenger numbers rose by 75.9 per cent to 1.97 crore.

Yield improved by 21 per cent to Rs 5.07 while the load factor rose to 79.2 per cent, as per the release.

"For the quarter, our passenger ticket revenues were Rs 1,11,104 million, an increase of 135.6 per cent and ancillary revenues were Rs 12,872 million, an increase of 57.4 per cent compared to the same period last year," it said.

The airline's fleet stood at 279 aircraft, including 26 A320 CEOs, 149 A320 NEOs, 68 A321 NEOs, 35 ATRs and one A321 freighter at the end of September.

Elbers also said the airline has an unparalleled network presence enabling air travel to 74 domestic and 26 international destinations and would continue to accelerate and build on it. As on September 30, the airline had a total cash balance of Rs 19,660.6 crore, comprising Rs 8,244.2 crore of free cash and Rs 11,416.4 crore of restricted cash.

Approachable 'King Kohli' is making everyone smile

MELBOURNE: Everything looks the same but something still seems to have changed. Virat Kohli is back in his element and has again become the tormentor of the bowlers that he used to be three summers ago. But Kohli the public person seems to have undergone a sea-change. He is still the 'King Kohli' surrounded by people and his distinct swagger remains very much part of his personality but at the same time, he looks a completely different human being and very approachable. Even if you are not a manic cricket fan, you would still like to break a barricade to go near him and may be just say 'hi'. There is every possibility that you will get a smile back in return and that would seem very sincere, deep and genuine. Your day will be

made and you will go home a happy man. Cricket is a 'performing art' and as an artist, it is not just his achievements but the connect that he is slowly creating with his fans will contribute immensely to his rich legacy. It is not just about eulogizing the alpha-male who you see on TV screens every night as you savour your dinner. Now the relationship seems far more organic where the adulation from fans and the reciprocation from their hero has become a two-way street. Success teaches you a lot but failure most certainly is the biggest teacher. It makes you perhaps explore your inner vulnerabilities and you start relating more with the common public. In these 14 days across different Australian cities, watching Kohli connect with his fans, give autographs,

selfies, stand for a group picture or a share a moment or two with familiar faces from the media would make one feel that he no longer wants to alienate people. Noted actor Will Smith after the Oscar-gate had referred to what colleague Denzel Washington had told him, "At your highest moment, be careful, that's when the devil comes for you." It is not that he did not stop by for selfies, autographs or a chat earlier but the same Kohli in Australia 2015, England 2017 or 2019 looked like a man from another planet. During his peak, if one looks at some of the selfies that Kohli gave, it seemed like another mandatory exercise. Perhaps the three years of unconditional support as he battled a lean patch made him realize the need to carry people along. In Melbourne, in

Sydney, in Perth and in Adelaide, this correspondent met at least 10-15 different people who showed their selfies with Kohli while a few others showed autographs on caps.

Canberra, who had come to watch a game in Adelaide, said: "We saw him at the coffee shop with some of the support staff. We were a bit apprehensive if we should approach him

well-being. He smiled at a journalist turned Youtuber and also spoke to him for a minute while walking back from the practice. The journalists and YouTubers (there are

he had written. He saw the journalist and asked him to join for a photograph. The videos will garner these YouTubers thousands of hits and some of them will laugh their

bet his last shirt that even if another dip comes, rest assured, a few million pure fans will also join his bandwagon of 'Viratians'. Will India's playing XI see any change? The Indian team management might be wary of changing the playing eleven for the all-important final group league game against Zimbabwe. While Axar Patel (total of 6 overs of bowling and 9 balls of batting) seem grossly under-utilized but dropping him isn't an option because Yuzvendra Chahal doesn't have the batting prowess. However, there is a possibility that India will meet England in the semi-final in Adelaide (it will be clear on Saturday) and Chahal has a better record than any Indian spinner against Jos Buttler's side. But throwing him directly in a semi-final might be unfair on him and hence it remains to be seen if he gets a game against Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe also have multiple left-handers in the top order



A few also met him at a mall and some caught hold of him by the coffee shop. One Indian from

but he called us and posed with us." A junior women's club hockey team in Melbourne got to pose with the former India captain in the middle. If he now sees familiar faces in the media, he would greet them with a smile and check on their

way too may) surrounded him. "Aap sab aoo, (you all come)," he called all of them including photo and video journalists and posed with them. He was very livid with a travelling freelancer in New Zealand back in 2020 for an article that

way to the bank. Kohli is the reason for that smile. He is happy and that is reflecting in his game. The effortlessness is back with that smile. As he celebrates his 34th birthday on Saturday, he has hit his second peak and one can

FIFA urges World Cup teams to focus on soccer over politics

ZURICH: Soccer's top officials have urged the 32 teams preparing for the most political World Cup in the modern era to focus on the game in Qatar and avoid handing out lessons in morality. A letter urging teams to "let football take centre stage" was sent by FIFA president Gianni Infantino and secretary general Fatma Samoura ahead

low-paid migrant workers needed to build projects costing tens of billions of dollars and its laws criminalizing same-sex relationships. Eight European teams have committed to their captains wearing heart-shaped armbands — in breach of FIFA rules — to support an anti-discrimination campaign. Several coaches and

Iranian fan groups want the federation suspended for discriminating against women, and Ukraine soccer officials asked FIFA to remove Iran from the World Cup for human rights violations and for supplying the Russian military with weapons. "We know football does not live in a vacuum and we are equally aware that

inclusion means anything, it means having respect for that diversity. Infantino and Samoura added: "No one people or culture or nation is 'better' than any other. This principle is the very foundation stone of mutual respect and non-discrimination. And this is also one of the core values of football. They repeated long-



of intense media focus on coaches and players when World Cup squads are announced next week. "Please, let's now focus on the football!" Infantino and Samoura wrote, asking the 32 soccer federations to "not allow football to be dragged into every ideological or political battle that exists." Qatar being picked in 2010 as World Cup host sparked scrutiny on its treatment of

federations have backed calls to create a compensation fund for migrant workers' families. Denmark's squad is taking a black team jersey as a sign of "mourning" for those who died in Qatar. Iran has also faced calls to be removed before it plays England in the second game of the World Cup on November 21 in a group that also includes the United States.

there are many challenges and difficulties of a political nature all around the world," the FIFA leaders wrote in their letter Thursday that did not address or identify any specific issue. "At FIFA, we try to respect all opinions and beliefs, without handing out moral lessons to the rest of the world. One of the great strengths of the world is indeed its very diversity, and if

standing promises made by Qatar, including by its Emir at the United Nations general assembly in New York in September, that all visitors to Qatar will be welcome "regardless of origin, background, religion, gender, sexual orientation or nationality." About 1.2 million international visitors are expected in Qatar during the November 20-December 18 tournaments.

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