

NEW PEAK

Urvashi Rautela's music video *Versace Baby*, a collab with Arabic superstar Ramadan, has hit 20mn views on YouTube

LEISURE P2

BRITNEY FREED

A Los Angeles judge terminates the guardianship that has controlled Britney Spears' life for the past 13 years

INTERNATIONAL P10

WT20 FINAL TODAY

ICC Men's T20 World Cup is all set to see a new trophy holder as Australia take on New Zealand in the final

SPORTS P12

Gangadhar Meher project by Sept 2023

Bhubaneswar: Gangadhar Meher Lift Irrigation Project in Bargarh district will be completed by September 2023, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while addressing a gathering at Bijepur in Bargarh district, Saturday. Launching distribution of smart health cards among the beneficiaries of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) at Bijepur, Naveen said various developmental projects worth ₹2,500 crore, including the Gangadhar Meher Lift Irrigation Project of ₹2,090 crore, is under implementation in the district. The irrigation project will be completed by September 2023 and farmers can draw water from it, he said. Naveen had announced the project in October 2017 before the Bijepur byelection.

MORE P3

Pramod Bhagat feted with Khel Ratna

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind Saturday conferred Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna on Tokyo Paralympics Gold Medalist Pramod Bhagat along with other 11 athletes during a special ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan here. Neeraj Chopra, who earned the historic track-and-field gold medal with a staggering throw of 87.58m in the javelin throw finals, was also conferred with Khel Ratna award by the President. Olympic silver-winning wrestler Ravi Dahiya, bronze-winning pugilist Lovlina Borgohain, cricketer Mithali Raj, footballer Sunil Chhetri hockey players PR Sreejesh and Manpreet Singh also received the prestigious award.

MORE P12

Col among 7 killed in Manipur ambush

The militants attacked the convoy when the Colonel of the 46 Battalion of Assam Rifles along with his family was going to supervise a civic action programme in Churachandpur

AGENCIES

Imphal, Nov 13: In one of the deadliest extremist attacks in recent times in northeast, militants gunned down an Assam Rifles Colonel, his family members and four jawans in Manipur's Churachandpur district along Myanmar border Saturday, police said.

The incident took place at around 11am near Sehkan village, as the heavily armed suspected People's Liberation Army (PLA) militants fired upon the convoy of Assam Rifles Colonel Viplav Tripathi, killing



Colonel Viplav Tripathi with his wife

2 OUTFITS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY

Two proscribed militant organisations claimed responsibility for the ambush. In a joint statement, the PLA and the Manipur Naga People's Front claimed that they have carried out the attack.

around 400 km unfenced border with Manipur. For the first time, the militants in the northeast killed the family members of a security force official.

The Army, Assam Rifles and police forces led by senior police and para-military officials have launched a massive combing operation in the area to nab the militants.

Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh, who had last week appealed to the militants to come to the negotiation table to sort out their demands, if any, said in a tweet: "Strongly condemn the cowardly attack on a convoy of 46

AR which has reportedly killed few personnel including the CO & his family at CCpur today. The State forces & Para military are already on their job to track down the militants. The perpetrators will be brought to justice."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, "The cowardly attack on an Assam Rifles convoy in Churachandpur, Manipur is extremely painful and condemnable. The nation has lost 5 brave soldiers including CO 46 AR and two family members. My condolences to the bereaved families. The perpetrators will be brought to justice soon."

Tripathi was a native of Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said, "One Chhattisgarh officer martyred in Manipur attack. His sacrifice will not go in vain. I extend my condolences to the family." Manipur has over 40 outlawed

Strongly condemn the attack on the Assam Rifles convoy in Manipur. I pay homage to those soldiers and family members who have been martyred today. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of sadness

NARENDRA MODI | PM

Strongly condemn the dastardly attack on Assam Rifles convoy in Manipur. My condolences for the bereaved families of the bravehearts and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured

NAVEEN PATNAIK | ODISHA CM

insurgent groups, a large majority of them lying low following their signing of separate suspension of operation agreements with the government.

26 MAOISTS GUNNED DOWN IN GADCHIROLI

The operation is billed as the biggest success recorded for the security forces, who effected a huge toll on the ultras

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nagpur, Nov 13: At least 26 Maoists were killed during a fierce encounter with Maharashtra Police in the deep forests near Dhanora in Gadchiroli district, Gadchiroli SP Ankit Goyal said.

"Around 26 Naxals have been eliminated in the encounter at multiple locations by several security forces in the region. Three security personnel have also been injured in the cross-firing. They have been airlifted by helicopter to Nagpur and admitted for treatment at a local hospital," Goyal said.

The gun-battle which started in the early hours of Saturday in the

dense forest of Kolgut-Dandat was continuing till evening with at least 26 fatalities notched among the Maoists, while three security personnel were also hurt, Goyal said.

As per initial reports, the encounter was with a Dalm of the banned CPI(Maoist) and commands of the crack C-60 unit of the Anti Naxal Operations. A combing operation was also underway to detect more bodies of the slain extremists.

Though the exact identity of the Maoists killed in Saturday's operations is yet to be established, there is a speculation that a prominent leader of an outlawed organisation is among the slain. Goyal, however, declined to comment.

The latest operation is the biggest success recorded for the security forces who effected a huge toll on the Maoists, the highest in the past 3-4 years.

It has become fashion to bash farmers, SC tells Delhi govt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: The Supreme Court Saturday told the Delhi government to stop blaming farmers for the severe air pollution in the Capital city, while asking a series of questions on how it is dealing with pollution caused due to firecrackers, dust, industries and vehicles.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana and also comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant queried senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing the Delhi government, as to what happened to the smog tower, and whether it was still functioning.

In his response, Mehra said the tower is working and pointed out that on September 30 the Air Quality Index (AQI) was 84 or 'satisfactory', adding that after over a month it was 471 (severe), while the PM2.5 and PM10 were also at critical levels. "Probably, it is due to stubble burning," he said.

Justice Kant said, "It has now become a fashion to blame the farmers. What happened to the firecracker ban? What is the Delhi Police doing?" The bench added that it is an emergency situation and emergency measures will have to be taken, whether it is prohibition on

AIR POLLUTION



vehicles or emission control. The Chief Justice told Mehra, "Why don't you think of some emergency steps... Find a way to stop vehicles on some days."

Justice Chandrachud told Mehra that the Delhi government opened schools and there is a threat to lungs of children due to air pollution, adding that "this is not the Centre, but your jurisdiction. What is happening on that front?"

The Chief Justice said stubble burning may be part of the problem, but not the only issue behind severe air pollution in the capital.

Mehra, in response, said, "We realise that this situation of pollution in Delhi is like smoking 20 cigarettes a day." Concluding the hearing, the Chief Justice told Mehra: "We are listing it on Monday. Tell us about emergency steps taken."

SCHOOLS SHUT FOR A WEEK

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday announced various emergency measures, including closure of schools for a week, ban on construction activities and work from home for government employees, to deal with the pollution crisis faced by the city. The Chief Minister, after an emergency meeting, told reporters that his government will also present a proposal for lockdown before the Supreme Court. Termining the rise in air pollution in Delhi-NCR an "emergency" situation, the Supreme Court asked the Centre and the Delhi government on Saturday to take immediate measures to improve the air quality and suggested steps such as stopping vehicles and clamping a lockdown in the national capital. Kejriwal said the schools will remain closed for one week from Monday in view of high air pollution levels. Work from home will be implemented concerning government offices and a separate advisory on it will be issued for private offices, he said. Construction activities will be prohibited in Delhi from November 14 to 17.

Centre releases ₹461.76cr health grant to Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 13: The Union government has released ₹461.76 crore to Odisha as health sector grant to strengthen primary health care system in local bodies.

The amount released by the Centre would be utilised for construction of buildings for the sub centres, primary health centres (PHCs) and community health centres (CHCs) that are lacking such physical infrastructure in rural areas. It also aims at providing diagnostic infrastructure to the primary healthcare facilities in rural and urban areas.

The central funding will also be utilised for conversion of rural PHCs and sub centres into health and wellness centres.

Significantly, the Department of Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance has released ₹8,453.92 crore as health sector grant for rural and urban local bodies of 19 states including Odisha. The grant has been released as per the recommendations of the



Fifteenth Finance Commission (FC-XV). The Ministry of Finance informed that the Fifteenth Finance Commission in its report for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 has recommended a total grant of ₹4,27,911 crore to local governments. "The grants recommended by the Commission inter alia include health grant of ₹70,051 crore. Out of this, ₹43,928 crore has been recommended for rural local bodies and ₹26,123 crore for urban local bodies," the ministry said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You mean, like numerous others, he spent 9 years in jail just to get a bheek from the British?!

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	25.6°C	26.0°C
TEMP MIN	22.8°C	22.0°C
Humidity	98%	96%
Rainfall	5.6mm	3mm
Forecast	Generally cloudy sky	

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24TH NOVEMBER BHUBANESWAR

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KYLIE MINOGUE'S NEW ALBUM DISCO: GUEST-LIST EDITION OUT

Pop star Kylie Minogue has released Disco: Guest-List Edition, via BMG. This is Kylie's eighth UK No. 1 album, which saw her make chart history once more as the first female artiste to have a UK No. 1 album in five consecutive decades.

JENNIFER GARNER BOARDS SERIES THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME

Hollywood star Jennifer Garner is set to headline the upcoming drama series *The Last Thing He Told Me*. Garner takes over the role from Julia Roberts, who reportedly pulled out due to a scheduling issue. The series is based on the book of the same name by Laura Dave.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today is payback time. Just look around you and count the marvellous blessings that the almighty has showered on you, both on the personal and professional fronts. You will thus want to arrange a small thanksgiving meeting with those close to you. Ganesha approves of the idea.

TAURUS

Today, you are likely to face it difficult to impress or influence others. If you have set your mind on acquiring something, you may face initial setbacks but eventually you will succeed in getting hold of it. Everything you engage in will work out fine. Be friendly and outgoing to all, more so during the latter half of the day.

GEMINI

Religious, cultural and intellectual pursuits will keep you busy throughout the day. You will need to compulsorily attend some social function. You will encounter expenses in charitable or philanthropic work. It is a good time for conducting business deals, says Ganesha.

CANCER

Setting aside house, family and personal matters, you will focus your attention on career or business. You will get a lot of cooperation and praise from your seniors and higher-ups. Your friends and kin will also appreciate you in ample measure. You will spend memorable moments in the evening with your beloved.

LEO

Businessmen and traders need to be wary of their competitors. They will be jealous of your progress and will hatch nefarious schemes to pull you down, warns Ganesha.

VIRGO

Ganesha advises you not to lose your temper, or else it may rupture close associations. You can avoid legal problems by settling vexed issues out of the court. You may spend freely in the evening and indulge in all the activities that give you pleasure.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you need to enhance your knowledge and ability. To attain your final goal you will take the path of enhancing your personality. Toward noon there may be some issues that may trouble you but Ganesha says that these are petty things that happen in life and one should not focus too much on them.

SCORPIO

Once in a while, it's okay to enjoy the luxuries of life and pamper yourself. And if accompanied by your spouse, it adds a romantic touch to the entire experience. When it comes to work, people look up to you as an asset to the company. At times, even unknown people lend you a helping hand and contribute to your progress; appreciate them, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

While most of them try hard not to mix business or work with pleasure, you enjoy doing that! And you soon realise that it is working well. Today, according to Ganesha, your actions speak louder than words. All in all, a constructive day in store for you.

CAPRICORN

Uncertainties - the only certainty of life, will not bog you down. You are ready to take risks and try your luck out. Start a business or project today, and there are fair chances of your succeeding at that, predicts Ganesha. Appreciation and acknowledgement of your sincerity will brighten up your day.

AQUARIUS

Friends - the pillars of your life are going to be your constant companions for the day. Ganesha suggests you come out of your shell and tread new paths. Bring the vibrant side of your personality to the fore and see the difference you make in every one's life.

PISCES

You will be at your wit's end today, grappling with financial issues. You will decide to multiply your savings and increase your income by whatever means possible. The good news being you will find it easy to implement your new plans and schemes. Your friends could have some vital insights to share with you about your finances, says Ganesha.

URVASHI'S Versace Baby scales new peak

Her collaboration with Arabian Superstar Ramadan has created a huge fan base in Middle East countries like the UAE, Egypt, Lebanon, Oman and Qatar, claims the 'Kaabil' actress

Mumbai: Model-turned-actress Urvashi Rautela, whose recent *Versace Baby* music video with Arabic superstar Mohamed Ramadan has notched up 20 million (and counting!) views on YouTube, is happy to see her popularity in the Middle East has only grown with time.

She adds that the wide reach of her music videos will help her to be a little experimental with her choice of films in the future, although she has three in the pipeline at this moment.

Urvashi said: "I think with time and the number of music videos I have appeared in, people in the Middle East started knowing me and I have gained a huge fan base in the Arab world. Whenever I go to, say, Dubai, Egypt, Lebanon, Oman or Qatar, people identify with me and our Bollywood music because of these videos. It is a great feeling."

Talking about her *Versace Baby* collaboration with Ramadan, she said: "It is special because it is one of the most expensive music videos that has been produced in recent times and because Ramadan is a multi-talented man. He's an actor, musician and producer from Egypt. This is the beginning of a great time when I have interesting film projects line up as well as international collaborations." IANS



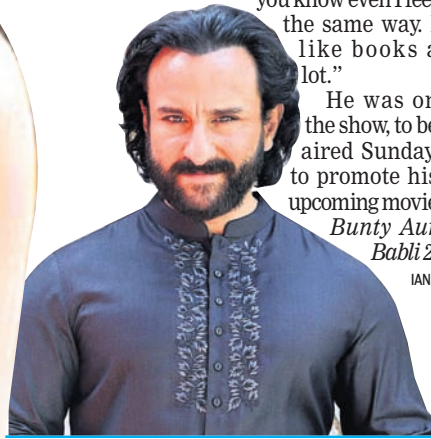
Tiger inculcated reading habit in Saif

Mumbai: Actor Saif Ali Khan revealed how his late father, the legendary cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, known as Tiger, inspired him to read books, on *The Kapil Sharma Show*.

Saif shared that his father had played an important role in inculcating a number of good habits in him and one of them is reading books.

During the show, Saif recalled: "One day my father was alone at home and everyone was out shooting. As no one was there at home I called him up and asked him if he is okay, are you feeling lonely? He said I am not lonely; I have my books with me. So, I liked that sentiment a lot and you know even I feel the same way. I like books a lot."

He was on the show, to be aired Sunday, to promote his upcoming movie *Bunty Aur Babli 2*. IANS



Bhoka to hit big screens Nov end

The film, made on the backdrop of food scarcity during the pandemic, highlights the struggle of an Odia migrant worker from Surat

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Audio release event of *Bhoka*, an Odia film made on the plight of a Surat-based migrant labourer from Odisha, was held here at Pantha Niwas, Friday.

Among others, Odia Language, Literature and Culture department director Ranjan Kumar Das and department's project coordinator Basudev Mal Biso were present on the occasion.

Featuring Kuna Tripathy, Kabya, Ankit, Puspanda, Chiranjibi, Subodh Acharya, Abani Mishra and Debasish Padhi in key roles, the

Rajiv Mohanty directorial is slated to release in the last week of November. Made under the banner of Jyoti Productions, the film's dialogues have been written by Ranjan Kumar Das while Bikash Das scores the music. Siba Rath, Sasank Sekhar and late Tapu Mishra have lent voice to the songs.

Director Mohanty says, "Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has increased across the globe. The film has been made on the backdrop of food scarcity highlighting the struggle of Kartik, an Odia migrant worker of Surat, for food."

Animated X-Men, Spider-Man, Marvel Zombies series announced

The three new series, along with Season 2 of 'What If?' and the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' spin-off 'I Am Groot', mark the first wave of animated shows from Marvel Studios.

Marvel Studios announced that the company is expanding its slate of animated series for Disney Plus with three new shows: *X-Men '97*, *Spider-Man: Freshman Year*, and *Marvel Zombies*.

After Disney purchased 20th Century Fox in 2019, and the X-Men movie franchise was on its last legs with the poorly received *Dark Phoenix* and *The New Mutants*, many observers expected Marvel Studios to reboot the X-Men and reintegrate the characters back into the Marvel Cinematic Universe, reports *variety.com*.

Instead, for its first swing at the team of powerful mutant superheroes, the company is reaching back to its own origin story: *X-Men '97* will be a continuation of the beloved 1990s X-Men animated series that ran for five seasons on the Fox network from 1992 through 1997.

The show, which debuted in prime-time before moving to Saturday mornings, was such a sensation that it's widely credited for convincing 20th Century Fox to make the live-action X-Men movie, which launched the modern era of superhero cinema when it premiered in 2000.



One of the associate producers on that film was current Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige. Effectively, without the X-Men animated series, Marvel Studios probably wouldn't exist.

Beau DeMayo, who wrote Netflix's animated *The Witcher* spin-off *Nightmare of the Wolf*, will serve as head writer on *X-Men '97*. The show is set to premiere in 2023.

Spider-Man: Freshman Year, meanwhile, will be tied to the MCU while also evoking Marvel's deeper history, with an aesthetic approach that, according to a press release, "celebrates the character's early comic book roots".

This show will follow Peter Parker on his journey to becoming Spider-Man within the MCU, suggesting the show might dramatise this Peter's origin story, something the live-action movies with Tom Holland bypassed entirely.

As for *Marvel Zombies*, it also connects to Marvel comics, specifically a limited series written by Robert Kirkman with art by Sean Phillips that launched in late 2005 in which pretty much all the Avengers become, well, zombies.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

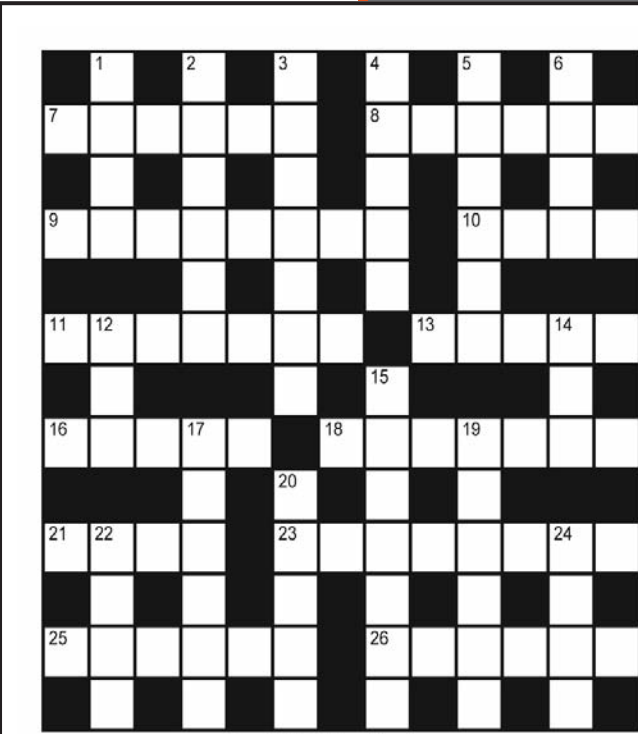


BREVITY



FUN post

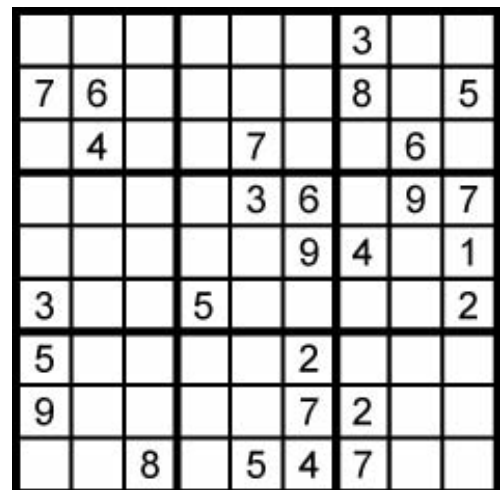
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Wild sheep
 - 8 Stickers
 - 9 Kind of device (4-4)
 - 10 Makes a scene?
 - 11 Trick
 - 13 School assignment
 - 16 Mall binge
 - 18 Terrier type
 - 21 Barber's supply
 - 23 Genre
 - 25 Black Forest cake
 - 26 Slacks off (4,2)
- Down
- 1 "Tosca" tune
 - 2 Kind of fin
 - 3 Motorcycle extra
 - 4 Hit the books
 - 5 Swamp
 - 6 Picnic pest
 - 12 Little devil
 - 14 French pal
 - 15 In a shrewd manner
 - 17 Outperform
 - 19 Leotards
 - 20 Prepare for surgery
 - 22 Not fully closed
 - 24 Defeat decisively

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

TELA VIV ROILS
I O E I E S U
G O G E T T E R S L A B
H E E T I E J
T I B E R C O N D O N E
E A A A F C
C A H A N D C R E A M T
A A A A A A
H A V E A G O S E N N A
I I N T
E G O G O L D M E D A L
V U E A K I A
E R R O R D O N K E Y S

SUDOKU

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

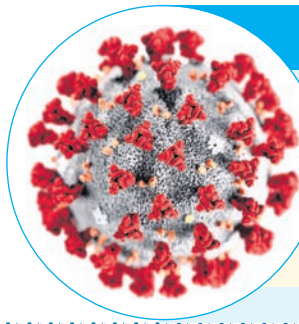
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



CREATING AWARENESS

A voter awareness programme underway at Sanatan Harichandan Higher Secondary School at Madanpur on the outskirts of the Capital city, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	25,34,06,203	22,91,87,000	51,08,118
India	3,44,26,036	3,38,26,483	4,63,245
Odisha	10,45,209	10,33,991	8,375

Gangadhar Meher LI project to be completed by Sept 2023

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Gangadhar Meher Lift Irrigation Project in Bargarh district will be completed by September 2023, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while addressing a gathering at Bijepur in Bargarh, Saturday.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik hands over a BSKY smart health card to a beneficiary at Bijepur in Bargarh, Saturday

While launching distribution of the smart health cards among the beneficiaries of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) at Bijepur, Naveen said various developmental projects worth ₹2,500 crore, including the Gangadhar Meher Lift Irrigation Project of ₹2090 crore, is under implementation in the district. The irrigation project will be completed by September 2023 and farmers can draw water from it, he said.

Naveen had announced the project in October 2017 before the Bijepur byelection. This irrigation project is an ambitious project of the state government that aims to provide assured irrigation to around 25,600 hectares of chronically drought-hit areas.

Bijepur, Sohela and Barpali blocks of Bargarh district and Durguripalli block of Subarnapur district would get irrigation facilities from the project, sources said. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for various projects worth ₹300 crore and dedicated 71 high schools transformed under the 5T initiative of the state government.

Launching the smart health card distribution, the Chief Minister said around 3.64 lakh people of the district will benefit from the smart health card programme. So far, 11 districts of Odisha have been covered under the programme. He further said that Bargarh is

Naveen said various developmental projects worth ₹2,500 crore, including the Gangadhar Meher Lift Irrigation Project of ₹2090 crore, is under implementation in the district. This irrigation project is an ambitious project of the state government that aims to provide assured irrigation to around 25,600 hectares of chronically drought-hit areas. Prior to the CM's visit, the police picked up several BJP and Congress leaders of the district as preventive measure anticipating protest over Mamita Meher murder case. Several Opposition leaders including BJP youth wing president of Odisha, Irisas Acharya, BJP district Krishak Morcha president Srikanth Mishra and Congress party's district president Nihar Mahananda were detained by the police. Bargarh MP (BJP) Suresh Pujari boycotted the government programme protesting the government's refusal to act against Minister DS Mishra for his alleged involvement in the Mamita murder case. Meanwhile, the Opposition activists continued their egg attack on BJD leaders' vehicles. They hurled eggs on the carriages of the minister Jagannath Saraka and BJD MLA Snehangini Churia while they were on their way to distribute smart health cards in Bargarh district.

the sacred land of Goddess Lakshmi and rice pot of Odisha. Praising the weavers of Bargarh, he said that they, like the farmers, had given the world the gift of Sambalpur sarees. He saluted the skills of the farmers and weavers of Bargarh.

Prior to the CM's visit, the police picked up several BJP and Congress leaders of the district as preventive measure anticipating protest over Mamita Meher murder case. Several Opposition leaders including BJP youth wing president of Odisha, Irisas Acharya, BJP district Krishak Morcha president Srikanth Mishra and Congress party's district president Nihar Mahananda were detained by the police. Bargarh MP (BJP) Suresh Pujari boycotted the government programme protesting the government's refusal to act against Minister DS Mishra for his alleged involvement in the Mamita murder case. Meanwhile, the Opposition activists continued their egg attack on BJD leaders' vehicles. They hurled eggs on the carriages of the minister Jagannath Saraka and BJD MLA Snehangini Churia while they were on their way to distribute smart health cards in Bargarh district.

Depression to trigger heavy rain next week

FARMERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO SHIFT THEIR HARVESTED PADDY TO SAFE PLACES AND KEEP IT PROPERLY STACKED UNDER SUITABLE COVER

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: A fresh low pressure area formed over south Andaman Sea and adjoining Thailand coast Saturday morning is likely to move west-northwestwards and concentrate into a depression over north Andaman Sea and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal by November 15, the Met office said.

Meteorological centre weather scientist Umassankar Das said, the system is likely to continue to move west-northwestwards, intensify further and reach near Andhra Pradesh coast around November 18. Under its impact, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in Ganjam and Gajapati districts November 17, Das said.

Squally wind with speed 55-65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph is likely to prevail over the west-central area adjoining east Bay of Bengal during November 16 to 18 and commence along & off Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts from November 17, Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar said in a bulletin. The IMD's regional centre has advised fishermen not to venture into deep sea of west-central Bay



Rain triggered by a low pressure area affects normal life in Bhubaneswar OP PHOTO

of Bengal during November 16 to 18 and along and off south Odisha coasts November 17 and 18.

Meanwhile, a trough now runs from the cyclonic circulation over north interior Tamil Nadu to Gangetic West Bengal across Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and extends upto 0.9 km above mean sea level. Under its impact, heavy rainfall is occurring in coastal and adjoining areas of Odisha, it said.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall would occur in some parts of Khurda, Puri, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Gajapati, Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur on Saturday and Sunday.

At least eight places in Odisha received more than 100 mm rainfall in the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena has asked the district Collectors to remain prepared to meet waterlogging issues.

A trough now runs from the cyclonic circulation over north interior Tamil Nadu to Gangetic West Bengal across Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and extends up to 0.9 km above mean sea level

Under its impact, heavy rainfall is occurring in coastal and adjoining areas of Odisha, it said

Heavy to very heavy rainfall would occur in some parts of Khurda, Puri, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Gajapati, Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur Saturday and Sunday

The Collectors were told to ensure functioning of the control room round the clock and strictly implement the advice for fishermen.

As cold conditions are likely to prevail, the SRC has also instructed the officials to keep shelters/school buildings open at night for homeless/ needy people.

The farmers have been advised to shift their harvested paddy, if any, to safe places and keep it properly stacked under suitable cover so as to avoid any loss/ damage due to the rain.

GUANGZHOU AWARD FOR URBAN INNOVATION

State wins Online Popular City Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Odisha has won the Online Popular City Award at the 5th Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation 2021 receiving more than 4.6 lakh votes from across the world.

People across the globe selected the Urban Wage Employment Initiative (UWEI), now known as MUKTA programme of Odisha government, from among 15 other international programmes and cities.

The state also received Medals of Honour for two of its key initiatives - Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan (MUKTA) and Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) - for their outstanding contribution to local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.



The two programmes were globally recognised from among 273 initiatives from 175 cities and local governments in 60 countries including Australia, China, South Africa, USA, Brazil and Denmark. While the UWEI was selected for reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience of the urban poor, FSSM in Berhampur was

shortlisted for promoting sustainable environment conservation and women empowerment through. The award's technical committee consisting of distinguished members from across the world assessed each submission using the main criteria of -innovativeness, effectiveness, context, replicability /scalability and significance. The Committee appreciated the UWEI programme as an excellent example of state government providing a safety net to the vulnerable population during the Covid-19 pandemic and building resilience through public works. The FSSM programme in Berhampur was lauded for enhancing incomes of women, ensuring community participation and ownership for sustainable FSSM and promoting women empowerment. Both the initiatives were recognised for their contribution

and relevance to the SDGs. The Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation aims at recognising innovation in improving social, economic and environment sustainability in cities and regions. The two initiatives of the Odisha government competed rigorously with their international competitors over a period of one year to reach the final stage. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department for this international award. "Congratulations H&UD Dept as #Odisha has been awarded 5th #Guangzhou Award which recognises innovation in improving social, economic and environmental sustainability in cities and regions. #Odisha has been awarded for its urban wage employment initiatives," twittered Patnaik.

Odisha Research Conclave begins at Utkal University

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The Odisha Research Conclave-2021 organised by the Utkal University in association with Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) and Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha, began Saturday.

Governor of Odisha and the Chancellor of Utkal University Prof. Ganeshi Lal inaugurated the two-day conclave. Several research scholars presented their models in the POSTER format on this occasion.

The aim of the poster format was to decrease number and length of lectures and increase the exposure of the researchers with interdisciplinary studies. Addressing the audience, Prof Ganeshi Lal emphasised on manifestation of ideas by the researchers in order to create a space for infinite possibilities. He essentially encouraged the researchers to excel in their respective fields and reach new heights. Quoting William Wordsworth he shed light on "the bliss of solitude" and highlighted the significance of working in silence. The keynote speaker of the event, Professor Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), applauded



the Higher Education department for organising this dynamic conclave. He stated that research and innovations are the primary imperatives for India. Mohanty also expressed that research institutes in our country should have an open-ended schemes to allow researchers to patent their research, products and technology as an method incentivization. In his address, Professor Ashok Kumar Das, Vice Chairperson, OSHEC, talked about the various schemes introduced by the state government to establish equilibrium between research ecosystem and research output. He spoke in detail about the Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivisation Plan (OURIIP). Towards the end of the first half of the conclave, Chancellor Prof. Ganeshi Lal went around seeing the posters and interacted with the researchers and presenters.

Air pollution harms heart cells in kidney patients: Experts

While air pollution has a direct impact on kidney via pollutants entering blood circulation leading to oxidative stress and kidney damage, there are indirect impacts too through exacerbation of underlying diseases such as cardiovascular, hypertension and diabetes



Even Ghaziabad's Air Quality Index (AQI), which has been reeling under 'severe' category since Diwali, continued to remain at the same level i.e. at 488 Friday. According to Manju Aggarwal, Chief of Medical Services and Chairperson of Nephrology department at Artemis Hospital, Gurugram, chronic kidney disease patients usually have underlying cardiovascular disease. "Risk of developing cardiovascular disease is as high as 20 times in kidney patients. Air pollution adds to these problems by causing hypertension and leads to worsen-

ing hypertension, frequent heart attacks and strokes," Aggarwal said. Amit K Devra, Director of Urology & Kidney Transplantation at Jaypee Hospital, said that epidemiological studies have suggested that PM2.5, made of fine particles present in the air, is directly linked with a decline in glomerular filtration rate (GFR) - a test used to check how well the kidneys are working and further progression of chronic kidney disease. A recent study led by researchers at Case Western Reserve University in the US, found that air pollution exposure in patients with

A recent study, led by researchers at Case Western Reserve University in the US, found that air pollution exposure in patients with chronic kidney disease was linked with increased levels of Galectin 3 - a marker of myocardial fibrosis and remodeling associated with air pollution exposure in hypertensive patients. Previous studies have also shown that exposure to bad air is associated with an increased CKD-related morbidity and mortality. Exposure to PM2.5, even at relatively low concentrations, is a risk factor for a lower kidney function and a faster decline in kidney function.

chronic kidney disease was linked with increased levels of Galectin 3 - a marker of myocardial fibrosis and remodeling associated with air pollution exposure in hypertensive patients. Cardiac fibrosis is a scarring event in the cardiac muscle. Previous studies have also shown that exposure to bad air is associated with an increased CKD-related morbidity and mortality. Exposure to PM2.5, even at relatively low concentrations, is a risk factor

for a lower kidney function and a faster decline in kidney function. While air pollution has a direct impact on the kidney via pollutants entering blood circulation leading to oxidative stress and kidney damage, there are indirect impacts also via exacerbation of underlying diseases such as cardiovascular, hypertension and diabetes. Besides affecting the kidneys, rising PM levels are also a strong determinant to poor cardiovascular health. This is in particular for people suffering from heart problems, or those who have suffered from a previous cardiac ailment or stroke, and face inflammatory risks. Rising pollutants can worsen heart health further, the experts said. "It has been found that PM2.5 and PM 10 levels can lead to high levels of plaque build-up and clogged arteries, meaning that any individual can face a bigger risk of heart attacks," said Shubendu Mohanty, HOD -Cardiologist at Sharda Hospital, Greater Noida.

Thus, people with prior respiratory or chest complications and even those who have recently recovered from Covid, must watch out for symptoms, go for frequent steam inhalation and use a good quality mask when stepping out, Mohanty suggested.

Partial lunar eclipse to be visible from Odisha Nov 19

The maximum partial eclipse will be visible at 2.34 pm as 97 per cent of the moon will be covered by the Earth's shadow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: The longest partial lunar eclipse in 580 years will occur November 19 and will be visible from parts of Northeast India, an astrophysicist said Saturday.

The rare phenomenon will be visible from a few areas in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, Director of Research and Academic at MP Birla Planetarium Debiprasad Duari said. The duration of the eclipse will be 3 hours 28 minutes and 24 seconds, making it the longest in 580 years, Duari said. "A few areas in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam will experience the last fleeting moments of the partial eclipse just after the moonrise, very close to the eastern horizon," he explained. The last time a partial lunar eclipse of such length occurred was February 18, 1440, and the next time a similar phenomenon can be witnessed will be February 8, 2669, he said. The maximum partial eclipse will be visible at 2.34 pm as 97 per

cent of the moon will be covered by the Earth's shadow. The moon is likely to appear blood-red in colour, which happens when the red beams of the sunlight pass through the Earth's atmosphere and get least deflected and fall on the moon. The partial lunar eclipse will be visible from North America, South America, eastern Asia, Australia and the Pacific region. The penumbral eclipse, which occurs when the sun, earth, and the moon are imperfectly aligned, will begin at 11.32 am and end at 5.33 pm, Duari said. The penumbral eclipse will be visible from UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha but it can be seen only briefly from these places, he said. A penumbral eclipse is not as spectacular and dramatic as the partial eclipse and sometimes does not even get noticed, he said. The last lunar eclipse was July 27, 2018. The next lunar eclipse will be May 16, 2022, but it will not be visible from India, Duari said. The next lunar eclipse to be visible from India will be November 8, 2022.

national



India's National Education Policy addresses the needs and realities of the fourth industrial revolution as well as the emerging post-pandemic scenarios
HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA | INDIA'S FOREIGN SECRETARY

NO JAB, NO BUS TRAVEL

Those people who have not received even one shot of anti-COVID 19 vaccines will not be allowed to travel in the buses operated by the Thane Municipal Corporation, city Mayor Naresh Mhaske said Saturday



of the day quote

Mr (Narendra) Modi first said that we must become a cashless economy! Within days he realized it was an absurd goal. He modified the goal to a less-cash economy! At the time of demonetisation, cash in circulation was about 18 lakh crore. Today, it is 28.5 lakh crore!



P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the celebrations to mark 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' on November 15 in Bhopal as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



ARJUN MUNDA | UNION TRIBAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

The government is committed to fulfilling the needs of the defence industry



RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Naxals kill two villagers
Balaghat (MP): A group of Naxals allegedly shot dead two villagers on suspicion that they were working as police informers in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, an official said Saturday. The incident took place at Malikhedi village under Baihar police station in the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, the official said. As per initial information, the Naxals shot dead villagers Santosh (48) and Jagdish Yadav (45), said Aditya Pratap Mishra, Baihar's sub divisional officer of police (SDOP).

UP man gets death sentence
Lalitpur (UP): A special court here has sentenced a 35-year-old man to death for killing his three daughters three years ago and also imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh. Assistant government counsel Rakesh Tiwari on Saturday said Special Judge Nirbhay Prakash sentenced Chhidami alias Chhiddu to death in connection with the murder of his daughters Anjani (11), Raddo (7) and Putto (4) at their residence in Veer village under Banpur police station limits on the night of November 13, 2018. The court on Friday also imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh on Chhidami. Tiwari said on the fateful night, Chhidami returned to his house in an inebriated state and hit his daughters, who were sleeping, with a hammer. Later, he set his house afire using LPG and the girls sustained burn injuries.

Farmer ends life
Dholpur: A farmer allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of his house in a village here, police said Saturday. Rakesh (50), who was allegedly being harassed by moneylenders, was found hanging in his room in Jatauli village that falls under the Sadar police station area on Saturday, they said. In a suicide note recovered from his room, Rakesh accused two persons of capturing his land and getting it transferred in their names fraudulently.

Delhi man held
New Delhi: A 21-year-old man was arrested for allegedly harassing the wife of his cousin on social media over a personal dispute, the Delhi Police said Saturday. The accused has been identified as Hiten, a resident of Jagat Pur Pusta, they said. A complaint was received from a woman alleging that she was being stalked by someone for the last six to eight months through her Instagram account and using her photographs downloaded from social media, a police officer said.

Kangana plays defiant card

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Under attack for describing India's Independence as "bheek", a combative Kangana Ranaut Saturday asked which war took place in 1947 and said she would return her Padma Shri and apologise too if anyone could answer her question.

The actor, known for her provocative and often inflammatory statements, came under more pressure to withdraw her comments with Maharashtra's ruling Shiv Sena saying she should be stripped of all national awards and the Delhi Mahila Congress writing to the police commissioner to say she should be booked for sedition among other things.

But Ranaut maintained a defiant stance. She posted a series of questions on Instagram, also bringing in partition as well as Mahatma Gandhi and alleging that he let Bhagat Singh die and did not support Subhas Chandra Bose.



Padma Shri and apologise also... please help me with this (sic)," the 34-year-old actor wrote in a lengthy post in English in her Instagram Stories.

The actor, whose Twitter account has been suspended, shared a passage from a book quoting freedom fighters, including Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Aurobindo Ghosh and Bipin Chandra Pal, and said she knew about the "collective fight for freedom" of 1857 but nothing about a war in 1947.

"Just to set the records (sic) straight... 1857 first collective fight for freedom along with sacrifice of greats like Subhash Chandra Bose, Rani Laxmibai and Veer Savarkar ji..."

On Saturday, she kept up the discussion. Referring to her 2019 period movie "Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi", in which she played the role of Rani Laxmibai, the actor said she had done extensive research on the 1857 struggle.

No Bitcoin scam, says BJP

Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged in a press conference in Delhi Saturday that the size of the scam could be much bigger because just on two days on December 1, 2020 and April 14, 2021 illegal transactions worth ₹5,240 crore took place

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 13: The Bharatiya Janata Party Saturday dismissed the Congress party's allegations on the Bitcoin issue cover-up, saying there was no scam.

The Bengaluru police too refuted the charges of foul play in the investigation and cover-up exercises. "There has been absolutely no scam of whatsoever nature or dimension it could be. Therefore any question of having any actors in this scam is a perverted imagination.

However, new actors have emerged making mountain out of a mole, and making baseless allegations, based on distorted facts of the case," BJP's Karnataka unit spokesperson Ganesh Karnik said in a statement.

He was reacting to Congress allegations that 'influential politicians' are involved in the scam after officials seized Bitcoins worth ₹9 crore from a city based hacker, Srikrishna alias Sriki, who is also accused of hacking into government portals, sourcing drugs through the dark net and paying for it through cryptocurrency.



While the Bengaluru police issued a statement to clear the air and said that the investigation was conducted by the Central Crime Branch "in a fair and professional manner." "It is emphatically stated that such misleading versions are being floated based on incomplete/distorted facts. All such versions are vehemently denied," the police said.

Based on the credible information on November 4, 2020 on a drug consignment procured through the darknet, CCB Police secured one accused and seized 500 grams of Hydro Ganja.

Faleiro nominated to RS by TMC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 13: With an eye on the 2022 Goa Assembly polls, the TMC Saturday named Luizinho Faleiro as its candidate for the upcoming bypoll to a Rajya Sabha seat from West Bengal.

Faleiro, the former chief minister of Goa, ended his decades-long association with the Congress and joined the TMC in September. He was appointed as the party's national vice president last month.

"We are extremely pleased to nominate @luizinhofaleiro to the Upper House of the Parliament. We are confident that his efforts towards serving the nation shall be appreciated widely by our people!" the TMC said on Twitter.

The November 29 bypoll to the RS seat was necessitated following the resignation of TMC MP Arpita Ghosh from the Upper House. The Trinamool Congress, after a stunning victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections earlier this year, is trying to expand its footprint in BJP-ruled Goa and Tripura.

Apart from Faleiro, the party has also roped in tennis legend Leander Paes and many other dignitaries. Elections to the 40-member Goa Assembly are likely to be held early next year.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had visited Goa last month to strengthen the party's organisation in the coastal state. The party had on October 5 released a "chargesheet" against the incumbent BJP government in the western state and its predecessors.

The TMC "charge sheet" claimed Goa was the eighth worst among all states in India in terms of unemployment, and its economy was in such a precarious condition that the average citizen can't buy a house in the state.

ROWING TO SAFETY



Nagercoil Municipal Corporation personnel rescue Nagercoil Railway Colony residents after a flood in the area, in Kanyakumari district

KERALA ON HIGH ALERT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 13: State health minister Veena George has called upon the people of Kerala to be on high alert after norovirus was reported in the state.

The rare norovirus was reported among 13 students of a veterinary college in Pookode in Wayanad district of the state two weeks ago. After the health department reported that the virus could be dangerous among children and the elderly, health minister Veena George on Friday had chaired a meeting of doctors and health department officials and called upon the people to be vigilant.

Doctors warned that the elderly and pregnant women should take extra precautions against the disease and wash hands thoroughly before eating. The norovirus which is also known as the 'winter vomiting bug' is highly infectious and spreads easily among people leading to diarrhoea, vomiting, and stomach ache.

Health department doctors said that the disease is transmitted by direct contact with an infected person, contaminated food or touching a contaminated surface, and putting unwashed hands in the mouth.

The most common symptoms of the disease according to doctors are diarrhoea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain. In certain cases there is fever, headache and body ache. The signs and symptoms are seen 12 to 48 hours after the person is exposed to norovirus and it lasts for three to four days. Fresh fruits consumed without proper washing, green vegetables including lettuce and oysters are common carriers of norovirus.

The state health ministry in its guidelines said that fruits and vegetables must be washed thoroughly before consumption.

Crabs and oysters should be cooked well as they could act as carriers of norovirus. The Kerala health ministry in its guidelines said that those who interact with animals should pay special attention and must use chlorinated water for drinking.

The health department has directed people to stay at home if found infected with norovirus. Doctors said that lots of water should be consumed to prevent dehydration and patients must take rest at home.

HINDUTVA ISSUE

BJP continues with its attack on Cong



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Keeping up its attack on the Congress over the opposition party's criticism of Hindutva, the BJP claimed Saturday that India was partially a "Muslim nation" when it was in power as Sharia provisions were then part of the legal system and measures were taken to give them primacy even over Supreme Court judgment.

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi alleged that the violence in Maharashtra over the "false" news of mosques being targeted in Tripura, disinformation campaign in social media and Congress leaders' comments attacking Hindutva were part of a larger conspiracy against Hindutva.

Attacking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he wondered if the opposition leader was training his party workers in Maharashtra in defaming Hindutva and driving an organised campaign to stoke communal discord and violence.

It was during his speech via video conferencing to Congress workers at a training camp in the state that Rahul Gandhi had sought to draw a distinction between Hinduism and Hindutva, and had attacked the latter. The BJP has been on the offensive after Congress leader Salman Khurshid compared Hindutva, a term associated with

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the Congress symbolises politics of appeasement and spreads hate against Hinduism and causes riots

the RSS-BJP ideology, with terrorist Islamist organisations.

Trivedi said the Congress symbolises politics of appeasement and spreads hate against Hinduism and causes riots. Noting that Shivaji's rule was also associated with Hinduism, Trivedi said leaders like Rahul Gandhi cannot comprehend the concept and asked him to read up his own party stalwarts like Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Jawaharlal Nehru.

Nehru, he added, had written that the word 'Hindu' can be understood in the broader context of Indian identity and should not be seen narrowly. "Under the Congress rule India was partially a Muslim nation. I am saying so because Sharia provisions were part of the constitutional system," the BJP leader said, referring to the practice like instant talaq, now barred, and grant of Hajs subsidy since discontinued.

1 in 12 Indians is diabetic, second highest in world: Report

The report added that another 40 million adults in India have impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), placing them at high risk of developing Type-2 diabetes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 13: One in 12 adults or more than 74 million people living in India are diabetes patients, according to a new report from the International Diabetes Federation (IDF).

The figure is the second highest in the world after China, which has 141 million people living with diabetes. The findings are from the 10th edition of the IDF Diabetes Atlas to be published on December 6.

The report added that another 40 million adults in India have impaired glucose tolerance (IGT), placing them at high risk of de-

veloping Type-2 diabetes, while more than half (53.1 per cent) of people living with diabetes in India are also undiagnosed.

"The increasing number of people living with diabetes and at risk of developing the condition in India confirms diabetes as a significant challenge to the health and well-being of individuals and families in the country," said Professor Shashank Joshi, Chair, IDF South-East Asia Region, in a statement.

Moreover, the report showed that worldwide, 537 million adults are now living with diabetes, a rise of 16 per cent (74 million) since the previous IDF estimates in 2019.



Globally, 90 per cent of people with diabetes have Type-2 diabetes.

The total number of diabetes is predicted to rise to 643 million (11.3 per cent) by 2030 and to 783 million (12.2 per cent) by 2045.

Currently, one in ten (10.5 per cent) adults around the world are liv-

ing with diabetes.

Diabetes was also responsible for an estimated \$966 billion in global health expenditure in 2021. This represents a 316 per cent increase over 15 years. Excluding the mortality risks associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, approximately 6.7 million adults are estimated to have died as a result of diabetes, or its complications, in 2021.

This is more than one in ten (12.2 per cent) of global deaths from all causes. The South-East Asia Region accounts for 11 per cent (747,000) of total diabetes-related deaths, according to the report.

The rise in the number of people with Type-2 diabetes is driven by a complex interplay of socio-economic, demographic, environmental and genetic factors. Key contributors include urbanisation, an ageing population, decreasing levels of physical activity and increasing levels of people being overweight and developing obesity.

"We must do more to provide affordable and uninterrupted access to diabetes care for all in India, and around the world. Policy makers and health decision-makers must turn words into action to improve the lives of people with diabetes and prevent the condition in those at high risk of developing it," Joshi said.

Mega tribal outreach event seeks to rebuild BJP poll base

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 13: A mega event to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas November 15 is part of the ruling BJP's plan to bring back tribals of Madhya Pradesh into its fold, especially after a cold shoulder from the segment in 2018 saw it lose power in the state after 15 years of uninterrupted rule.

As per the 2011 Census, tribals account for 1.53 crore, or 21.08 per cent, of the state's 7.26 crore population, and 47 Assembly seats in the 230-member House are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

Political observers said tribals account for at least 50,000 votes each in 35 other Assembly seats, and the segment could once again make the difference for the ruling BJP in the 2023 state polls.

The Congress had managed to trump the BJP in 2018 and attain power in the state after winning 31 of the 47 ST seats, with the rest going to the latter.

In 2003, the BJP had managed to unseat the Congress government of Digvijaya Singh by winning 37 of 41 ST seats.

The catalyst for this ride to power of the BJP, observers said, was a massive 'Hindu Conference' held in Jabua in 2002 in which over two lakh tribals took part.

In the 2008 Assembly polls, when the delimitation exercise increased ST seats to 47, the BJP continued



Cutouts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, tribal leader Birsa Munda and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for Tribal Pride Day celebration ahead of PM Modi's visit at Jamboree ground, in Bhopal, Saturday. PFI PHOTO

to hold sway in the segment by winning 41 of them.

In 2013, the BJP returned to power in MP, with the party pocketing 31 of the 47 ST seats.

The BJP, which came back to power in early 2020 after several Congress MLAs loyal to Jyotiraditya

Scindia switched sides, is sparing no efforts to ensure it manages to keep the tribal electorate in the state firmly on its side.

The plan is to draw over 2.50 lakh tribals to the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas event at Jamboree Maidan here Monday, coinciding with the

birth anniversary of legendary tribal icon Birsa Munda.

With the PM, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Governor Mangu Bhai Patel, himself a tribal, and state party chief VD Sharma scheduled to attend wearing traditional tribal headgear, party

FOCUS ON TRIBAL VOTES

The plan is to draw over 2.50 lakh tribals to the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas event at Jamboree Maidan in Bhopal Monday, coinciding with the birth anniversary of legendary tribal icon Birsa Munda

As per the 2011 Census, tribals account for 1.53 crore, or 21.08 per cent, of the state's 7.26 crore population, and 47 Assembly seats in the 230-member House are reserved for Scheduled Tribes

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sources said over 5,000 buses will be deployed to bring people to the venue from across MP.

Arrangements have also been made for their food and accommodation here, these sources added.

The BJP's efforts to make the event a grand success, however, attracted a jibe from senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh who claimed the MP government was spending over ₹12 crore to bring crowds to Monday's event.

Bhopal's Habibganj station renamed after Gond queen

Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to dedicate to the country the railway station which has been redeveloped and provided with airport-like amenities November 15



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

People of Madhya Pradesh are thankful to the Prime Minister for renaming the Habibganj railway station after Rani Kamalapati, the Gond queen of Bhopal

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN I CM

Bhopal, Nov 13: The Habibganj railway station in Bhopal has been renamed after Gond queen Rani Kamalapati, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced Saturday while thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the decision.

The state government also issued a gazette notification stating that the changed name will be spelt as "Rani Kamalapati Railway Station." Chouhan hailed Rani Kamalapati as pride of the Gond community and "the last Hindu queen of Bhopal." Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to dedicate to the country the railway station which has been redeveloped and provided with airport-like amenities November 15. Modi will be visiting the Madhya Pradesh capital to address a tribal convention to mark 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' in remembrance of the tribal icon and freedom fighter Birsa Munda.

"People of Madhya Pradesh are thankful to the Prime Minister for renaming the Habibganj railway station after Rani Kamalapati, the Gond queen of Bhopal," Chouhan said in a statement. The prime minister enhanced the glory of tribals by renaming this "most-modern railway station of the country" after the Gond queen, he said.

"Rani Kamalapati is the pride of the Gond community and last Hindu queen of Bhopal. Her kingdom was usurped by Afghan commander Dost Mohammed by deceit through a conspiracy. When she saw that victory was not possible, she committed 'Jal Jauhar' (ritual suicide) to save her honour," Chouhan said. Her son Naval Shah was killed at Lalghati, a part of

today's Bhopal, he noted.

Friday, the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh had written to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, seeking renaming of the redeveloped Habibganj railway station after Rani Kamalapati, stating that it will honour the legacy and bravery of the widow of the Gond ruler Nizam Shah. Chouhan, in a tweet Saturday, reiterated that she was "the last Hindu queen of Bhopal." "Habibganj railway station has been named 'Rani Kamalapati' after her. It is a matter of great satisfaction and joy for me. Prime Minister Narendra Modi I thank you from my heart," the chief minister added. The gazette notification said the "Government of India has no objection to changing the name of Habibganj Railway Station as Rani Kamalapati Railway Station."

The work of changing old name boards at the railway station, located in the new Bhopal area, also started. Congress MLA from Bhopal Central Arif Masood said the land on which the railway station stands was donated by Habibullah Khan, therefore it was named after him. "It would have been better if they had paid attention to development than engaging in the politics of name change. A lot of money is spent on name change. Instead, this money should be given to the families of pandemic victims and for providing free ration," he said.

Sanatan Dharma inclusive, BJP antithesis to it: Mufti

INDO-ASIAN NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, Nov 13: Former Chief Minister and president of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Mehbooba Mufti said Saturday said that Sanatan Dharma teaches inclusivity and the BJP is an antithesis to that.

Speaking to reporters here, she said what BJP and RSS are propagating is not Sanatan Dharma.

"Sanatan Dharma doesn't teach us communalism, it is about RSS, BJP and Jan Sangh who want to make people fight in the name of communalism. They have hijacked Hinduism and Hindutva. They feel Hindutva and Hinduism are the BJP and RSS, but it is not so," Mufti said.

She asked if they are violent and lynch people in the name of religion, how are they different from others who kill in the name



of religion.

"Communal parties can be compared with IS (Islamic State). Those that make Hindus and Muslims fight in the name of religion. They can be compared with the IS or any other party, because both of them kill people in the name of religion."

Security forces 'identify' 38 active Pak terrorists in J&K

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: The security forces have identified 38 Pakistani terrorists active in the Kashmir Valley and a coordinated operation will be launched soon to neutralise them, sources in the intelligence grid have said.

The sources said Friday that out of 38 ultras, 27 belong to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and 11 are from Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and they are on the radar of the security forces.

They also said that the locations of these ultras have been traced, which have been spread in Srinagar, Pulwama, Baramulla and Kulgam and other parts of the Valley while some of them might be hiding in the forest areas too.

The 'Special Group', constituted after the spate of the civilian killings



in the Jammu and Kashmir Valley in October this year, has been trying to find the exact locations for pinpointed operations, the officials in the security grid said, adding that they have been provided help from the overground workers.

They also said that the identifications become possible because of the specialised group of central police agencies which have now

synergy with other stakeholders such as the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operation Group (SOG).

The newly constituted Terror Monitor Group (TMG) has been very effective in neutralising terrorists in the valley with coordination with other central agencies, connecting all terror links together.

Cong to set up outfit for 16-20 age group; BJP mocks move



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Nov 13: The Madhya Pradesh Congress is set to form a new 'non-political' outfit called the Bal Congress whose members will be in the 16-20 age group, a party functionary said Saturday.

The outfit will be formed Sunday to coincide with the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, celebrated nationwide as Children's Day or Bal Diwas.

"The party has outfits like NSUI for people above the age of 21. Bal Congress will be for those in the 16-20 age group. It will be set up to mark Bal Diwas. State unit chief Kamal Nath will formally launch the new organisation," MP Congress spokesperson Bhupendra Gupta told PFI.

"Bal Congress will not be a political outfit. Young people associated with this organisation will be taught the history of the Congress as well as that of the freedom struggle. It will spread the message of patriotism and nation-building," he added.

These adolescents will be taught

This is ridiculous. I think most Congress leaders are behaving in a childish manner, so senior leaders like Rahul Gandhi should also be made members of this outfit

PANKAJ CHATURVEDI | BJP SPOKESPERSON

about subjects like art of speech, personality development and communication skills, and kin of freedom fighters will also be contacted, he said, adding that former minister and Congress MLA Bala Bachchan has been made in charge of this new outfit.

Mocking the move, MP BJP spokesperson Pankaj Chaturvedi said, "This is ridiculous. I think most Congress leaders are behaving in a childish manner, so senior leaders like Rahul Gandhi should also be made members of this outfit."

27 held so far in NIA crackdown on terror conspiracy

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Nov 13: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Friday arrested two more people in connection with its ongoing probe into a terrorism conspiracy case in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The fresh arrests took to 27 the number of people arrested from different parts of Kashmir in connection with the case in the past one month. Rashid Muzaffar Ganaie and Nasir Mir, both residents of Sopore township of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, were arrested during raids conducted by the NIA in the Valley Friday, a spokesperson of the agency said.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that the arrested accused



persons are terror associates/Over Ground Workers of various proscribed terrorist organisations and have been providing logistical and material support to terrorists," the NIA said.

The NIA registered the case October 10 with regard to a con-

spiracy to undertake violent terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir and other major cities by cadres of terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al Badr and their affiliates such as the Resistance Front (TRF) and

the People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF). The spokesperson said the case relates to conspiracy both physically and in cyberspace for undertaking violent terrorist acts and the agency arrested 27 people in the case till now.

"These terrorists and cadres have effected several terrorist acts including killings of numerous innocent civilians and security personnel, unleashing a reign of terror in the valley of Kashmir, thereby challenging the writ of the state," the NIA said. Three days after the registration of the case, the NIA carried out searches at 18 locations in Kashmir Valley and arrested nine terror associates. Four more arrests were made during searches at 11 locations October 20.

Vaccination 'must' for beneficiaries at fair price shops in MP



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Nov 13: The Madhya Pradesh government is using different methods to achieve 100 per cent Covid-19 vaccination in the state by end of the year.

In a latest move, the state's Food and Civil Supplies Department has announced that the subsidised or free food grains at all government-run fair price shops will be given only to those who have taken both doses of the vaccines. However, those who are not vaccinated, will be given rations only if they would agree to get vaccinated from the nearest vaccination centre.

The department has also asked its employees at fair price shops to enquire the vaccination status of each beneficiary visiting the shops. They have been asked to note down names and contact number of visitors along with date of their vaccination. "The process will have us a collective data of a particular ward or villages that who have received their first or both dose and who have not taken even single dose. It would help the health workers to reach their homes to give vaccine doses," said an official associated with Food and Civil Supplies Department.

The Shivraj government has set a deadline of December 31 to vaccinate all eligible persons. Meanwhile, the government has asked all its departments to ensure that employees and their families have taken both the doses of Covid vaccines.

PARADISE ON EARTH



A man rows his boat amid dense fog at Dal Lake in Srinagar, Saturday

UNI PHOTO

national

of the day quote

CM Arvind Kejriwal, the sale at petrol pumps in Delhi has gone down by 70 per cent. Please reduce the VAT on fuel prices and start paying attention to Delhi's problems. You had promised that petrol and diesel will be cheaper in Delhi than (the other) NCR cities but anyway, you keep breaking promises

MANOJ TIWARI | DELHI BJP MP

India's future is very bright, presently our automobile industry's turnover is Rs 7.5 lakh crore. Within five years it will be more than 15 lakh crore and this is the industry which is generating the highest number of jobs, exports and revenue to state and central governments

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

The Shiv Sena will have to think differently for itself even as it remains part of and steers the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA LEADER

SHORT TAKES

2 dead, 12 hurt

Banihal/Jammu: Two persons were killed and 12 others seriously injured on Saturday, when a passenger vehicle fell into an over 600-feet gorge along Jammu-Srinagar national highway, a government official here said. The accident took place near Digdole in Ramban district around 10 am, when the driver of an SUV, on its way from Jammu to Banihal, lost control while negotiating a blind curve, they said. A rescue team comprising police, Army, and local volunteers immediately swung into action after the incident, they said. After hectic efforts, the team rescued 14 seriously injured, including two women, and four children aged between two and eight years.

Five injured

Thane: Five labourers working on the Metro Rail line in Bhiwandi of Maharashtra's Thane district were injured Saturday when iron rods erected at the construction site fell on them, an official said. The incident occurred around 3 pm when iron rods forming a pillar post fell at the construction site at the Anjur junction, said Santosh Kadam, chief of the regional disaster management cell of the Thane Municipal Corporation.

Two booked

New Delhi: Two persons have been booked for beating a street dog to death in Shahdara's Rohtash Nagar area, police on Saturday said. A CCTV footage of the incident, which took place on Tuesday at 11.56 am, was circulated on social media. The footage showed a person hitting the dog three to four times in a street. The dog, limping, tries to run away but then is hit by another person on head, after which it falls unconscious.

Waze's police custody extended

Mumbai: A local court Saturday extended the police custody of dismissed assistant police inspector Sachin Waze till November 15 in connection with an extortion case registered against him at suburban Goregaon police station. The Mumbai police's crime branch had taken Waze's custody on November 1 in the case, based on the complaint lodged by builder-cum-hoteller Bimal Agrawal, in which former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh is also an accused. Waze was produced before a magistrate court Saturday at the end of his earlier remand.



The top BJP leaders are feeling uneasy over the party's sure defeat in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh assembly polls and that is why they are rushing to the state repeatedly

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

SRINAGAR RECORDS COLDEST NIGHT

As the mercury continued to dip, Srinagar recorded the coldest night of the season so far at 0.1 degree Celsius, as Ladakh's Drass town remained frozen at minus 12.7 degrees, the Met Department said Saturday.



Curfew in Amravati as fresh violence erupts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amravati, Nov 13: Internet services were shut down and curfew was imposed Saturday in Maharashtra's Amravati city which witnessed fresh violence during a Bandh, a senior police official said.

A mob hurled stones at shops during the Bandh (shut-down) allegedly organised by local BJP workers in protest against the rallies organised by Muslim organizations the day before to condemn the recent violence in Tripura, police said.

Internet services in the city will remain suspended for three days so as to prevent the spread of rumours that fuel violence, said city Commissioner of Police Arti Singh.

Saturday morning, hundreds of people, many of them holding saffron flags in their hands and raising slogans, came out on streets in Rajkamal Chowk area of the eastern Maharashtra city, located around 670 km from Mumbai.

Some members of the mob hurled stones at shops in Rajkamal Chowk and other places, the police official said, adding that the police lathi-charged the protesters to bring the situation under control. Against the backdrop of back-to-back incidents of stone-pelting on Friday and Saturday, additional police commissioner Sandip Patil issued orders imposing curfew in the city limits of Amravati under sections 144(1), (2), (3) of the CrPc



PTI PHOTO

to avoid any untoward incidents.

Except for medical emergencies, people are not allowed to come out of houses. A gathering of more than five people is not allowed, as per the order. Friday, stone-pelting was reported during rallies taken out by Muslim organisations to protest against incidents in Tripura at Amravati, Nanded, Malegaon, Washim and Yavatmal. Police have so far arrested 20 people and detained four others by registering 20 FIRs under various charges, including rioting, in connection with

Internet services in the city will remain suspended for three days so as to prevent the spread of rumours that fuel violence, said city Commissioner of Police Arti Singh

Except for medical emergencies, people are not allowed to come out of houses. A gathering of more than five people is not allowed, as per the order

Friday's incidents.

In Amravati, over 8,000 people had gathered outside the district collector's office on Friday to submit a memorandum demanding that atrocities against the minority community in Tripura be stopped. When people were leaving after submitting the memorandum, stone-pelting took place at three places between Chitra Chowk and Cotton Market under the limits of the Kotwali police station. Meanwhile, launching a veiled attack on opposition BJP, Shiv Sena

Fake news circulating on social media: MHA

New Delhi: The Union Home Ministry Saturday said news circulating on social media about damage and vandalism of a mosque in Tripura is fake and complete misrepresentation of facts. It also said that there is no report of simple or grievous injury or rape or death of any person in any such incidents in Tripura as alleged in some social media posts. In a strongly worded statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said there is no reported case of damage of the structure of any mosque in Tripura in the recent past and that people should maintain calm and should not be misguided by such fake reports.

MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday said the violence in Amravati and other places was aimed at destabilising the MVA government.

Speaking to reporters in Aurangabad, Raut said the state government is firm in the saddle and real faces of the perpetrators of violence will be exposed soon. "Raising the bogey of violence, they (Opposition) will meet the state governor and write letters to the Union home ministry claiming that the (law and order) situation in Maharashtra is deteriorating. This will happen in the future too. But the state government is firm in the saddle," Raut said.

Shah attacks Akhilesh over Jinnah remarks

Akhilesh has drawn flak for his statement in which he equated Jinnah with Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru, saying they helped India get freedom



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday targeted the Samajwadi Party, alleging it stands for "Jinnah, Azam Khan and Mukhtar (Ansari)", and asserted that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has rid the Purvanchal region of "mosquitoes and mafia". "Modiji brought 'JAM' - Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar cards and a mobile phone to every person - for a corruption-free system, but the SP people say they have also brought 'JAM' - Jinnah, Azam Khan and Mukhtar (don-turned politician Mukhtar Ansari)," Shah said addressing a rally in Azamgarh, an SP bastion represented by party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lok Sabha, in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh.

"You should tell me whether you want BJP's JAM or SP's JAM. These

people can never work for the welfare of Uttar Pradesh. They indulge in dividing people on the basis of caste, causing riots, appeasement and vote-bank politics," Shah said.

As the election season is approaching, Akhilesh Yadav is seeking greatness in Jinnah, he said, referring to the Pakistan founder. "There are so many people from the minority community here. Is there anyone here who sees greatness in Jinnah," Shah said.

Akhilesh Yadav has drawn flak for his statement in which he equated Jinnah with Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru, saying they helped India get freedom.

Shah said Chief Minister Adityanath has ensured the migration of mafias from Azamgarh and other parts of Uttar Pradesh.

Girl tonsured, paraded in village

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patan (Gujarat), Nov 13: A group of villagers allegedly tonsured a 14-year-old girl, blackened her face and paraded her as a punishment for eloping with a man at a village in Gujarat's Patan district, police said Saturday.

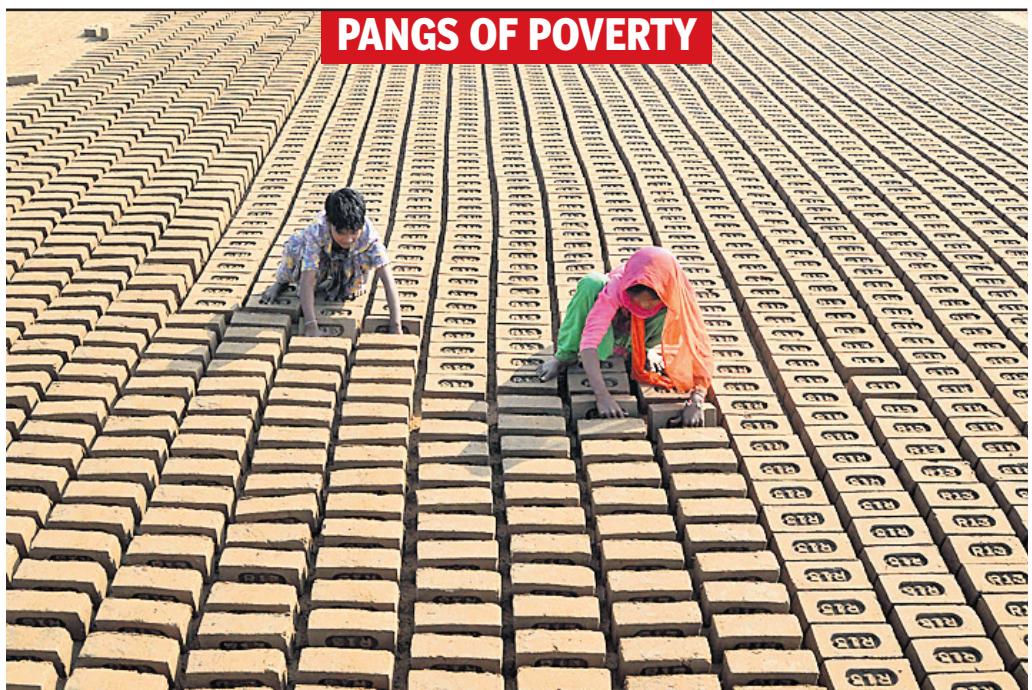
At least 22 people have been arrested so far for the alleged incident that took place in Harij village on November 10, an official said. Villagers belonging to the Vadi tribal community punished the girl by tonsuring her and blackening her face for eloping with her lover, which they claimed brought a bad name to the tribe, the official said.

A video of the incident posted on social media shows the girl crying as men tonsured her and blackened her face to carry out a ritual to "purify" her. Villagers also paraded the girl and her lover in the village as a punishment.

Soon after, the girl's family members also forced her to marry another man from the same community, the police said. "We have lodged an FIR against 35 villagers in this connection and so far, 22 have been arrested," Superintendent of Police (Patan), Akshayraj Makwana said.

The man with whom the minor eloped was also booked for rape under the IPC and relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, among other charges, he said.

As per the FIR registered on Friday, 35 accused were booked under sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 509 (insulting modesty of woman) of the IPC, and provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, it was stated.



Children prepare bricks at a village in Jalandhar, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

GIRL DUMPS HER BABY IN TOILET, HELD

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Uttara Kannada, Nov 13: The Karnataka police has arrested a college student for dumping her new-born baby, which died later, in a public toilet in Karwar city, police said Saturday.

During investigation, it came to light that the girl and the boy studied in the same college and were in a relationship, according to police

A boy, identified as Mohammad Makbool Ammad (19), has been arrested for impregnating the girl. The body was recovered from the public toilet of Karwar bus stop last week. The city police, who took up the investigation, cracked the case after verifying CCTV footage. The police tracked a minor girl who took the baby inside the public toilet and abandoned it, police said.

During investigation, it came to light that the minor girl and the boy studied in the same college and were in a relationship, according to police.

After her delivery, the minor girl had abandoned the baby in the public toilet.

The police are investigating the cause of the baby's death. The police have booked the accused under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and sent him to judicial custody. The minor girl has been sent to observation home.

Meals may be back on short-duration flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Serving food on flights with a duration of less than two hours can be resumed, the Union health ministry is learnt to have informed the civil aviation ministry after the latter sought inputs from it for amending the existing regulations.

The health ministry has also said the crew members on a flight need not wear coveralls but should continue to wear gloves, masks and face shields, according to sources. Under the existing guidelines, airlines are not allowed to serve meals in flights that have a duration of less than



two hours. The ban came into effect from April 15.

When the scheduled domestic flight services were resumed on

May 25 last year after the lockdown imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus, the ministry had allowed the airlines to serve in-flight meals under certain conditions.

"The civil aviation ministry is reviewing the on-board meal services in domestic flights in view of a decline in the number of daily COVID-19 cases and has sought inputs from the health ministry for amending the existing guidelines.

"The health ministry has now informed that serving food on flights of less than two hours can be resumed and that the crew members need not wear cover-

alls but should continue to wear gloves, masks and face shields," a source said.

With 11,850 fresh cases, India's COVID-19 tally has shot up to 3,44,26,036, while the number of active cases of the infection has declined to 1,36,308, the lowest in 274 days, according to the health ministry's data updated at 8 am on Saturday.

The death toll due to the viral disease has climbed to 4,63,245 with 555 more fatalities. The number of fresh COVID-19 cases has been below 20,000 for 36 straight days and less than 50,000 fresh cases have been reported for 139 consecutive days.

AIR POLLUTION IN DELHI

Measures announced by Kejriwal 'band-aid' solution: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Terming the emergency measures announced by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to deal with the air pollution in the national capital as "band-aid solution", environment experts called for a long-term resolution to the recurring problem.

Kejriwal Saturday announced various emergency measures, including the closure of schools for a week, a ban on construction activities and work from home for government employees, to deal with the pollution crisis faced by the city.

After an emergency meeting, he said that his government will also present a proposal for lockdown before the Supreme Court.

Jyoti Pande Lavakare, the co-founder of Care For Air which is committed to clean air in India, said, "These are just band-aid measures. Every year, the entire Indo-Gangetic plains face this issue. At least, the Delhi government is doing something but it is too little, too late." "The problem needs a concerted, collaborative effort by all the five states. What will Delhi do if the crop fires are happening in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana? Even the odd-even rule won't help since between Diwali and stubble burning, the AQI levels have reached dangerous levels," she said.

Lavakare questioned the government on the smog towers set up in Delhi and "had cost so much of public money". "They should be sucking the pollution of Delhi and making it air breathable. The



prime minister should lead the way in tackling the issue. "This is having a long-term impact on the health of the people. The problem should be solved at the off-peak time and not at the on-peak time.

The judiciary is trying but this is a colossal failure of the governments - be it at the Central or state levels," Pande added.

Environmentalist Vimlendu Jha, said the measures announced by

Kejriwal are only emergency solutions but the need of the hour "These are band-aid solutions and not a long-term cure for the pollution problem. The governments - centre and state - have unfortu-

nately failed to address the problem. They do not take up the issue the rest of the year but only wake up in October and November when there is a rise in pollution levels. These measures are emergency measures but they are the need of the hour."

He also said that these measures were introduced only after the Supreme Court asked the Centre and Delhi government to take immediate measures to tackle the situation.

Terming the rise in air pollution in Delhi-NCR an "emergency" situation, the Supreme Court on Saturday suggested clamping a lockdown in the national capital as it asked the Centre and the Delhi government to take immediate measures to improve the air quality.

international



Every day, there are six times more boosters administered globally than primary doses in low-income countries. This is a scandal that must stop now
TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WHO

SNOOPY IN SPACE

US space agency NASA has announced that Snoopy will ride on the Artemis I mission, slated for 2022, as the zero gravity indicator. Snoopy is an anthropomorphic beagle in the comic strip Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz



of the day quote

Difficult weeks lie ahead of us, and you can see that I am very worried. I urgently ask everyone who has not yet been vaccinated: please reconsider
ANGELA MERKEL | GERMAN CHANCELLOR

Secretary Blinken stated that US commitment to defending Japan, including the application of Article 5 of the Japan-US Security Treaty for the Senkaku islands, was unwavering
YOSHIMASA HAYASHI | FOREIGN MINISTER, JAPAN

Let me again say how grateful we are for your leadership, your support on Afghanistan, but also to note that our partnership is much broader than that. Qatar is a crucial partner in promoting regional stability
ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

SHORT TAKES

Bimal Patel elected to ILC for 5-yr term

United Nations: Professor Bimal Patel, Vice-Chancellor, Rashtriya Raksha University and Member of National Security Advisory Board of India, has been elected to the International Law Commission for a five-year term starting January 1, 2023 in a hard-fought election at the United Nations. "Hearty felicitations to Prof Bimal Patel @RakshaUni for election to International Law Commission by topping the group," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti tweeted.

Duterte's daughter to run for VP in '22

Manila: Sara Duterte-Carpio, the daughter of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, Saturday filed her candidacy for Vice President in the May 2022 elections. Carpio, 43, sent a representative to the Commission on Elections to file her candidacy as substitute vice presidential candidate under the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD) that she joined earlier this week.

US court upholds stay on vax mandate

Washington: A US appeals court has upheld its stay on President Joe Biden's vaccine-or-test mandate for companies with at least 100 employees. A three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in New Orleans issued the ruling and barred the Occupational Safety and Health Administration from enforcing the mandate, scheduled to take effect January 4, 2022.

20 Indian fishermen freed from Pak jail

Karachi: Twenty Indian fishermen, who were released recently after languishing in Pakistan's Landhij jail, will be transported to the Wagah border Sunday to be handed over to the Indian authorities so that they can return home, a senior official said Saturday.

Russia's Covid-19 cases exceed 9mln

Moscow: Russia confirmed 39,256 Covid-19 infections over the past 24 hours, taking the nationwide tally to 9,031,851, the official monitoring and response centre said Saturday. It took less than a month for Russia's caseload to jump from eight million to nine million as the country has been struggling with a fourth and the highest wave of coronavirus infections since mid-September.

Britney finally freed: Judge dissolves conservatorship

Friday's hearing capped a 13-year-long campaign by Spears and her legion of global fans to end a conservatorship that began after her highly public 2007 breakdown, when the star attacked a paparazzo's car at a gas station

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Los Angeles, Nov 13: A Los Angeles judge Friday terminated the controversial guardianship that has controlled pop star Britney Spears' life for the past 13 years, handing back her freedom along with control of a multi-million-dollar estate.

The ruling, greeted with raucous cheers and showers of pink confetti by Spears' fans outside the downtown courthouse, ends a conservatorship long overseen by her father, and which the Toxic singer has described as abusive.



"Best day ever... praise the Lord... can I get an Amen," wrote Spears on Instagram, using the hashtag #FreedBritney.

Outline of carbon markets deal emerges

AGENCIES

Glasgow, Nov 13: Negotiators began to close in on a deal to settle rules for carbon markets Saturday, as talks extended into overtime at the COP26 UN climate summit.

New draft documents released early Saturday on implementing Article 6 of the 2015 Paris Agreement suggest progress around all three of the key sticking points that have skuppered a deal on the issue at the past two UN climate conferences. Article 6 would set the rules allowing countries to partially meet their climate targets by buying offset credits representing emissions cuts by others.

Companies as well as countries with vast forest cover are keen for a robust deal on government-led carbon markets in Glasgow, in hopes



also of legitimising the fast-growing global voluntary offset markets.

But balancing those interests against worries that offsetting will go too far in allowing countries to continue emitting climate-warming gases has made some wary of

a hasty deal. **TAXING TRADES** On the issue of whether certain carbon trades should be taxed to fund climate adaptation in poorer nations, the latest proposals offer a two-track approach. Bilateral trades of offsets between countries would not face the tax. That suggests capitulation to rich nations including the United States, which had objected to poor countries' demands for the levy.

In a separate centralised system for issuing offsets, 5% of proceeds from offsets will be collected to go toward an adaptation fund for developing countries. Also in that system, 2% of the offset credits will be cancelled. That aims to increase overall emissions cuts by stopping other countries using those credits as offsets to reach their climate targets.

OLD CREDITS Another stubborn roadblock

had been whether carbon credits created under the old Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement's predecessor, should be included in the new offset market system. Negotiators had been wrangling over a compromise that would set a cut-off date, with credits issued before that date not being carried forward.

The latest text would carry over any offsets registered since 2013. That would allow 320 million offsets, each representing a tonne of CO2, to enter the new market, according to an analysis by the NewClimate Institute and Oko-Institut non-profits.

DOUBLE COUNTING One of the most contentious points had been on the question of whether credits could be claimed by both the country selling them, and the country buying. A proposal by Japan may have resolved the issue, and appears to have backing from both Brazil and the United States. Brazil's past insistence on allowing double counting had torpedoed an Article 6 deal in the past. Under the new proposal, the country that generates a credit would decide whether to authorise it for sale to other nations to count towards their climate targets. If authorised and sold, the seller country would add an emission unit to its national tally and the buyer country would deduct one, to ensure the emissions cut was counted only once between countries.

UK DRAFTS PLAN FOR CLIMATE FINANCE

GLASGOW: The British hosts of the COP26 UN climate talks published a proposal Saturday to make sure rich countries deliver climate finance to the world's poorest nations in future years, after past promises remain unfulfilled. Finance has proved one of the toughest issues to solve at the meeting in Glasgow, Scotland. The draft proposal, one of many drawn up by Britain to be published at the end of COP26, asks a UN committee to report next year on progress towards delivering the \$100 billion, and proposes government ministers meet in 2022, 2024 and 2026 to discuss climate finance. The regular check-ins would attempt to keep up pressure on rich countries to fulfill promises to mobilise the cash. The British proposal also asks countries to increase their contributions to deliver the \$100 billion. The draft needs approval from the nearly 200 countries represented at the summit.

Af girls at risk of child marriage, says Unicef

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kabul, Nov 13: Unicef Executive Director Henrietta Fore has voiced deep concern about Afghan girls increasingly at risk of child marriage in the war-torn country.

Even before the latest political instability, Unicef's partners registered 183 child marriages and 10 cases of selling of children over 2018 and 2019 in Herat and Badghis provinces alone, reports Xinhua news agency. The children were between six months and 17 years of age, she said.

The UN agency estimates that 28 per cent of Afghan women aged 15-49 years were married before the age of 18. "As most teenage girls are still not allowed to go back to school, the risk of child marriage

We have received credible reports of families offering daughters as young as 20 days old up for future marriage in return for a dowry
HENRIETTA FORE | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNICEF

is now even higher," said Fore. "Unicef is working with partners to raise communities' awareness of the risks for girls if they are married early. Child marriage can lead to a lifetime of suffering. Girls who marry before they turn 18 are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence, discrimination, abuse and poor mental health. They are also more vulnerable to complications in pregnancy and childbirth," she said.



French President Emmanuel Macron pays tribute to the flag draped coffins in the crypt of the French resistance memorial of the Mont Valerien during a ceremony for Hubert Germain, a WWII veteran and the last Companion of the Liberation, in Suresnes, Paris

More than 8K Sikh pilgrims to visit Pak

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: Pakistan Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry said Saturday that more than 8,000 Sikh pilgrims from all over the world will visit Pakistan to celebrate the birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak, Express Tribune reported.

The minister took to his official Twitter handle to make the announcement and to welcome the pilgrims to "the land of Gurus, Sufis and Yogis".

The Pakistan High Commission has issued about 3,000 visas to Indian Sikh pilgrims to enable them to participate in the 552nd birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak in Pakistan from Nov 17-26, the Dawn reported.

CLIMATE IMPACT

Amazon birds becoming smaller, longer-winged: Study

The birds which fly more and are exposed to heat for longer, had the most pronounced changes due to an adaptation to energy pressures and thermal stress

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Nov 13: Even the wildest parts of the Amazon untouched by humanity are being impacted by climate change, according to new research. The changes are thought to be a response to nutritional and physiological challenges, especially during the June to November dry season.

Hotter, drier conditions over the past four decades are decreasing the body size of the rainforest's birds while increasing their wingspans, a study published in the journal Science Advances said.

Vitek Jirinec, an ecologist at the Integral Ecology Research Center and colleagues analyzed data collected on 15,000 birds that were caught, measured, weighed, and tagged over the course of 40 years of field work. They found that nearly all the birds had become lighter since the 1980s. Most species lost an average of two percent of body weight every



The data was not tied to a specific decade, meaning a bird species that would have weighed 30 grams in the 1980s would now average 27.6 grams. The data was not tied to a specific site but rather collected from a large range of the rainforest, meaning the phenomenon is ubiquitous. More efficient flight In all, the scientists investigated

77 species whose habitats ranged from the cool, dark forest floor to the sunlit and warmer mid-story - the forest's middle layer of vegetation. "There's good theoretical reasoning why a smaller size is beneficial under climate warming - you can cool yourself better - but the larger wings are more difficult to explain," said Jirinec. "That's why we proposed the 'wing loading' hypothesis," he added. Longer wings, and a reduced mass-to-wing ratio, produce more efficient flight - similar to how a glider plane with a slim body and long wings can soar with less energy. A higher mass-to-wing ratio requires birds to flap faster to stay aloft, using more energy and pro-

ducing more metabolic heat. The Amazon birds "are fairly fine-tuned, so when everyone in the population is a couple of grams smaller, it's significant," added co-author Philip Stouffer of Louisiana State University, in a statement. The team behind Friday's paper last month published a study showing a dramatic decline in sensitive bird species in the Amazon owing to a warming climate - particularly those that dwell on forest floor where they forage for insects. The authors believe other species across the world are likely to be facing similar pressures that have not yet been documented. "This is undoubtedly happening all over and probably not just with birds," Stouffer said.

business

of the day quote

Value of a stressed asset declines every passing day. It has also been observed in some cases that the resolution value was almost close to the liquidation value

NAVRANG SAINI | ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF IBBI

SWSL will immensely benefit from Reliance Group's integrated new energy vision which will further strengthen our position as a leading EPC and O&M player globally

AMIT JAIN | GLOBAL CEO, SWSL

Our growth momentum in transaction volumes and throughput continues to be strong. Consumer behaviour towards convenience banking is gaining impetus

RISHI GUPTA | CEO & MANAGING DIRECTOR, FINO PAYMENTS BANK

SHORT TAKES

IREDA logs highest profit of ₹299 crore

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has posted an all-time high net profit of ₹299.90 crore in the first half of this fiscal (April-September 2021), the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy said Saturday. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), today announced audited financial results for Half-year-1 and Quarter-2 FY2021-22 ending September 30, 2021, the ministry said in a statement. According to the statement, the company has posted a total income from operations of ₹684.80 crore and profit after tax (PAT) of ₹110.27 crore for Q2 FY22.

Over 3L Indian footfall in Dubai

New Delhi: The India Pavilion at the ongoing Dubai Expo has witnessed three lakh footfalls in 43 days November 12, emerging as one of the most-visited pavilions. Cheering the "huge buzz" about India at the Expo, Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted that it "reflects global curiosity to explore the tremendous potential of New India". Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai and Deputy Commissioner General of India at EXPO2020, said the huge interest of visitors in India pavilion is a sign of confidence on India's resilience and opportunities, besides the vibrant culture of the country, which is in full display in different state weeks being held in the pavilion.

SpiceJet's Q2FY22 net loss at ₹561.7cr

Mumbai: Airline major SpiceJet's Q2FY22 standalone net loss narrowed to ₹561.7 crore on a sequential basis. The airline had reported a net loss of ₹729 crore in the first quarter of FY22. However, on a year-on-year basis the net loss widened. The airline had reported a net loss of ₹112.59 crore during the second quarter of FY21. "We have made excellent progress in our recovery and I expect this trend to continue forward in the coming quarters. With the nationwide vaccination drive growing at an unprecedented pace across geographies, there is a significant jump in travel demand and we are very excited about the demand recovery," said Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet. According to Singh, the return of the 737 MAX comes at a time when passenger traffic is picking-up and the government has allowed airlines to operate at full capacity.

PM chairs high-level meet on crypto

THE NEED TO STOP THE ATTEMPTS TO MISLEAD THE YOUTH THROUGH "OVER-PROMISING AND NON-TRANSPARENT ADVERTISING" WAS ALSO TOUCHED UPON AT THE MEET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Amid concerns over misleading claims of huge returns on cryptocurrency investment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday chaired a meeting on the way forward on the issue, with government sources asserting that such unregulated markets cannot be allowed to become avenues for money laundering and terror financing.

It was strongly felt in the meeting that attempts to mislead the youth through "over-promising and non-transparent advertising should be stopped, the sources said, signalling that strong regulatory steps are in the offing.

"The government is cognizant of the fact that this is an evolving technology, it will keep a close watch and take proactive steps. There was consensus also that the steps taken in this field by the government will be progressive and forward looking," a source said.

The meeting on the way forward for cryptocurrency and related issues was a very comprehensive



The government will continue to proactively engage with experts and other stakeholders, sources added, noting that since the issue cuts across geographical borders, it was felt that it will also require global partnerships and collective strategies

The RBI has repeatedly reiterated its strong views against cryptocurrencies saying they pose serious threats to the macroeconomic and financial stability of the country and also doubted the number of investors trading on them as well their claimed market value

one. "It was also an outcome of a consultative process as RBI, Finance Ministry, Home Ministry had done an elaborate exercise on it as well as consulted experts from across the country and the world. Global examples and best practices were

also looked at," the source said. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Wednesday had reiterated his views against allowing cryptocurrencies saying they are a serious threat to any financial system since they are unregulated by central banks. His comments come ahead of the

There is no denying the fact that the move to electric is inevitable for two-wheelers. I don't think there is any convincing required to the consumer to switch to electric

VARUN DUBEY | CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER, OLA ELECTRIC

MUSK SELLS TESLA STOCK WORTH \$6.9BN

Tech billionaire Elon Musk has sold roughly \$6.9 billion worth of Tesla stocks this week in one of the largest-ever stock disposals by a chief executive over a several-day period. According to a regulatory filing made public on late Friday, the Tesla CEO reported selling 1.2 million shares Friday, worth more than \$1.2 billion



Coal crunch, power blackouts ease on seasonal decline

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 13: The country's coal shortage and electricity blackouts have eased in recent weeks as the seasonal decline in power demand has enabled generators to rebuild depleted coal stocks and the grid to operate with greater stability.

The grid's ability to meet power demand was stretched to breaking point last month by a combination of strong underlying growth in demand, the seasonal peak, and fuel shortages, which forced many generators offline.

But the seasonal decline in power demand as temperatures have cooled since then has allowed generators to rebuild stocks and helped improve the grid's margin of spare capacity. Coal stocks at power stations have climbed to 13.7 million tonne, up from just 8.1 million at the end of September, though still far below the level two years ago of 21.2 million.

Power generators' stocks are now sufficient for around 8 days of cur-



Power generators' stocks are now sufficient for around 8 days of current consumption

rent consumption, up from just 4 days at the end of September, according to the Central Electricity Authority. Stocks are still rated critically low at 63 out of a total of 135 plants, but the number is down from 116 in mid-October, and those plants account for 75 Gigawatts of capacity, down from 142 GW last month.

As temperatures have fallen, air conditioning loads have declined, reducing the extreme strain on the generation and transmission system, which resulted in rolling blackouts in some areas.

Power distribution network enhanced

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: In a bid to strengthen its power distribution network in Kendrapada area, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and Government of Odisha, has recently undertaken a slew of initiatives to upgrade the existing infrastructure. The company has installed over 1800 poles, straightened tilted poles and replaced small heighted, old and faulty poles among others to ensure continuous and reliable power supply in the area.

The company also took up strengthening of mass scale power network in 49 nos. of 11KV Feeders and 35 Double Pole Structures to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the area. About 67 small heighted poles were replaced along with cantilever arrangement under Kendrapada Municipality area to increase horizontal clearance in residential zones and ensure public safety. These initiatives will serve more than 2.26 lakh consumers with reliable power supply. Under the ODSSP scheme two 33/11 KV substations at Ayatan and Rajkanika has been commissioned to cater to the growing demand of the residential and agriculture consumers in the area.

RIGHTS ISSUE

RIL makes final call for payment

Reliance had made a Rights Issue of 42.26 crore equity shares at ₹1,257 each. The final call of 50 per cent of the amount - ₹628.50 per share - has now become due

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has a second and final payment from those who were issued 42.26 crore company shares in a rights issue. And to assist shareholders, it has re-activated WhatsApp Chatbot 797111111.

In a regulatory filing, the company said a notice for payment of Second and Final Call on 42,26,26,894 partly paid-up equity shares of the face value of ₹10 each issued and allotted on rights basis May 15, 2020, has been issued.

Reliance's rights issue at a total size of ₹53,125 crore was the largest ever rights issue in India. This was the world's largest rights issue by a non-financial company in the last 10 years. The existing shareholders of the company were offered new shares of the company in a 1:15 ratio.

November 10, 2021, was the record date to decide holders of the Reliance Partly Paid-up shares, who need to pay the



Second and Final Call.

On payment of the Second and Final Call amount, the partly paid-up shares will transition into fully paid-up shares of Reliance Industries, which are traded under symbol RELIANCE on both NSE and BSE.

The AI-enabled easy-to-use Chatbot is developed by Jio's group company Haptik and was previously used at the time of Rights Issue in May 2020, and the First call in May 2021.

Reliance in the notice said the Second and Final Call can be paid through online ASBA, Physical

ASBA, 3-in-1 account, R-WAP facility (enabled for Net-banking, UPI, NEFT and RTGS payments) and payments through cheque/demand draft.

Payment of the Second and Final Call can be made from November 15 to November 29, 2021 (both days inclusive).

The credit of the fully paid-up equity shares on payment of the Second and Final Call is expected to take place within two weeks from the last date for payment mentioned in the Final Call Notice i.e. within two weeks from November 29, 2021.

Metaverse warns FB of 'existential threat'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, Nov 13: Meta (formerly Facebook) is aware that virtual reality can be a toxic environment especially for women and minorities, and Metaverse would be an existential threat to Facebook if it turned off mainstream customers from the medium entirely, the media reported.

According to a report in Financial Times citing an inter-



nal memo by Meta CTO Andrew Bosworth, Facebook aims its virtual worlds to have almost Disney levels of safety.

However, Bosworth acknowl-

edged that moderating how users speak and behave "at any meaningful scale is practically impossible," the FT report said Friday. Bosworth later posted a blog post, saying that technology that opens up new possibilities can also be used to cause harm, and we must be mindful of that as "we design, iterate, and bring products to market."

Meta has pledged \$50 million for research into practical and ethical issues around its metaverse.

ANDREW BOSWORTH | CTO, META

Covid vax Astra to start making profits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Nov 13: UK vaccine maker AstraZeneca has said that it will cease to provide its Covid vaccine, co-developed with Oxford University, on a not-for-profit basis to countries that can afford it, the media reported.

The drugs giant has signed a series of for-profit agreements for next year, and expects to make a modest income from the vaccine, the BBC reported. Previously, the

company had said it would only start to make money from the vaccine when Covid-19 was no longer a pandemic as its top priority was to protect global health. "But now the disease is becoming endemic," Pascal Soriot, chief executive was quoted as saying. However, the job will continue to be supplied on a not-for-profit basis to poorer countries.

The virus is becoming endemic which means we have to learn to live with it said Soriot.

SUPPLY CHALLENGES

Smartphone shipment to decline in Q4: IDC

THE SMARTPHONE MARKET REGISTERED A YEAR-ON-YEAR DECLINE OF 12 PER CENT IN THE SEPTEMBER 2021 QUARTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Smartphone shipment in India is expected to see a decline in the December quarter due to supply challenges, resulting in annual shipments below 160 million in 2021, according to research firm IDC.

Smartphone shipment registered a year-on-year decline of 12 per cent in the September 2021 quarter, shipping 48 million units after four consecutive quarters of growth, IDC said.

"The first nine months of the year (January-September 2021) already shipped 120 million units, with H1 2021 clocking 42 per cent y-o-y growth. Due to supply challenges, Q4 2021 is expected to see a decline, resulting in annual ship-

ments below 160 million in 2021," IDC India Research Director (Client Devices and IPDS) Navkendar Singh said.

The first half of 2022 will remain challenging, with some easing out expected in the latter half of 2022, he added.

"Vendors channels will keep an eye on the over-stocking situation in case demand stays limited due to the price hikes by the suppliers and vendors," Singh said.

IDC said much of this can be attributed to component shortages as well as an unusually high third quarter 2020 comparison base (whereas this year's post-lockdown demand was addressed by July). Compared to the third quarter of 2019, September 2021 quarter grew by 3 per cent as



channels stocked up for the Diwali quarter amid the supply shortages, it added.

India was the third-largest 5G smartphone market globally with 7 per cent of worldwide 5G ship-

ments, shipping 10 million units at an ASP (average selling price) of USD 401 in the September 2021 quarter. From January-September 2021, 17 million 5G smartphones were shipped to India and are ex-

Xiaomi led the smartphone tally with 23.4 per cent, followed by Samsung (16.9 per cent), Vivo (16.4 per cent), Realme (15.7 per cent) and Oppo (10.7 per cent) in the September 2021 quarter

The OnePlus Nord CE, iPhone 12, and Galaxy A22 were the most popular 5G models in the quarter under review

Online channels clocked a record high 52 per cent share, although with a 5 per cent YOY shipment volume decline, it said adding that offline channels registered an 18 per cent YOY shipment decline

pected to be under 30 million for 2021, IDC added.

Overall ASPs peaked at USD 196, driven by price hikes and a greater 5G contribution, IDC said. The sub-USD 200 segment dropped by 24 per cent, while USD 200-plus smartphones grew by 56 per cent, signaling a shift to higher price buckets, driven primarily by supply, it added.

"IDC believes that a growing dependency on smartphones triggered by remote work and learning, as well as a subsequent requirement for better quality hardware is pushing consumers to spend more. With continued chip shortages and logistics costs, brands are also compelled to expand upwards in terms of price points across channels," IDC India Research Manager, Client Devices Upasana Joshi said.

