



IN BIG LEAGUE

Actor-dancer Nora Fatehi will be lending her voice for the official song of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, *Light the Sky*

LEISURE P2



HEAVY CASUALTIES

Top US General Mark Milley says that both Russia and Ukraine have lost 1,00,000 soldiers each since the war began

INTERNATIONAL P10



HUMILIATING EXIT

India bow out of the T20 World Cup after suffering a 10-wicket loss against England in the semifinal at Adelaide

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Elephant kills man in Balasore district

BALASORE: Elephant-human conflict continued unabated in Odisha with a man being trampled to death by a tusker at Sohala Bhauni Dam under Fatepur panchayat in Oupada block of Balasore district late Wednesday night. The deceased has been identified as 45-year-old Tapu Banra of Tolagadia under Sharata police limits of Mayurbhanj district. He had visited Kaspia market in Oupada block for some business purpose. Banra was returning home when he was attacked by the pachyderm. The animal came out from the dark and suddenly attacked Banra. Later police and Forest department officials rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem.

Cricketer Jadeja's wife Rivaba in electoral fray

AHMEDABAD: Rivaba Jadeja, the wife of Indian cricketer Ravindra Jadeja will be contesting in the upcoming Assembly elections in Gujarat from the Jamnagar North constituency on a BJP ticket. Incidentally this is the first time that the wife of an Indian cricketer has taken the electoral plunge. Rivaba joined the BJP in 2019 and since then has been actively working for the party. Rivaba and Ravindra have been known for their charity work. Last year, they opened Sukanya Samridhi bank accounts for 101 baby girls on the occasion of their daughter's fifth birthday. Their efforts were praised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Activist Navlakha gets relief from SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court allowed Thursday jailed activist Gautam Navlakha's request for house arrest. It said prima facie there is no reason to reject his medical report. A bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said the house arrest order should be implemented within 48 hours. The bench also directed Navlakha to deposit ₹2.4 lakh, an estimated amount which the NIA claims as expenses for making available police personnel. It also said that Navlakha will not be allowed to use a computer and internet during his month-long house arrest.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



My biggest worry is if we keep playing like this, no political party will give ticket to our wives



MEETING YOUNG MINDS: School kids greet President Droupadi Murmu as she walks towards Srimandir on Grand Road in Puri, Thursday (Report P3)

OP PHOTO

ED detains 1 after raiding places of Archana, associates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out simultaneous raids at different places related to alleged blackmailer Archana Nag and her associates. Raids were conducted in seven places in the presence of local police and CRPF personnel at seven places including the Odisha capital, Cuttack, Kalahandi and Balasore.

Sources informed that Khageswar Patra, an associate of Archana was detained after the raids. He owns an automobile showroom in Mancheswar locality here. It has been alleged that the showroom was opened in partnership with Archana.

Among the other places raided was the house of Patra at his native place Gangeswar in Cuttack district. Archana's paternal house at Kesinga in Kalahandi district, her in-law's residence at Jaleswar and the house of another former associate at Banki.

Sources said that the raids were conducted to estimate the actual wealth of Archana and her husband Jagabandhu Chand. The ED is also trying to find out whether Archana and Chand were involved in any other illegal financial dealings and to evaluate the amount invested by Archana in Patra's automobile showroom.

ED officials informed that they have found documents for which a number of persons will be summoned for questioning. However, they did not divulge names. It should be stated that Archana had allegedly accumulated wealth and assets over ₹30 crore in a span of four years.

ASI to open new circle office in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has announced to set up of a new circle office in Puri, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan informed Thursday. The Union Education minister who hails from Odisha welcomed the decision of the ASI to establish a new circle office in Puri.

"@ASIGoI's decision to establish a new Circle headquartered at Puri for better protection and conservation of centrally protected monuments and heritage sites is a welcome one," Pradhan tweeted. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy for the decision.

This is a great step to protect and preserve Odisha's pride, culture and heritage, Pradhan said. "Odisha is a treasure trove of heritage, culture and magnificent architectural marvels. Hon PM @narendramodi is making dedicated efforts to immortalise our rich cultural heritage and restore our civilisational glory," Pradhan said in another tweet.

It should be stated here that the ASI is actively involved in the maintenance and renovation of the Srimandir in Puri.

Courts criticise ED over pick-and-choose arrests

The observations were made by courts in Mumbai and Delhi while hearing the bail pleas of MP Sanjay Raut and actor Jacqueline Fernandez

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 10: A Delhi court rapped Friday the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for adopting a pick-and-choose policy, and asked why the agency had not arrested actor Jacqueline Fernandez despite issuing a lookout circular (LoC) against her in the ₹200 crore money laundering case involving conman Suresh Chandrashekar.

Special Judge Shailendra Malik, who had earlier granted Fernandez interim bail September 26, reserved order for Friday on the bail plea of the actor after hearing arguments from the lawyers appearing for Fernandez as well as the ED.

On the ED's submission that Fernandez can escape from India easily as she is not short of money, the court questioned why the actor



Actor Jacqueline Fernandez at a court in Delhi, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

was not arrested so far.

"Why haven't you (ED) arrested Jacqueline yet during the investigation despite issuing an LOC? Other accused are in jail. Why adopt a pick-and-choose policy," the court asked the probe agency.

This is the second time in two days that the Central probe agency has faced criticism for the way it had been arresting suspects. Earlier Wednesday, a special court in Mumbai had also slammed the ED

over the way Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut had been arrested and had to spend 101 days in prison.

It was an 'astounding admitted fact that main accused Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan of HDIL, who had not only generated over ₹1,000 crore, but also allegedly placed, layered and integrated the same, were never arrested by the ED', the court had said while granting bail to Sanjay Raut and Pravin Raut.

Continued on P4

Aadhaar rules amended: Update every 10 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: The government has amended Aadhaar regulations, specifying that supporting documents need to be updated 'at least once' by card holders on completion of 10 years from enrolment date.

The update would ensure 'continued accuracy' of Aadhaar-related information in the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR), according to a gazette notification issued by Ministry of Electronics and IT.

"Aadhaar number holders may, on completion of every 10 years from the date of enrolment, update their supporting documents at least once, by submitting proof of identity (POI) and proof of address (POA) documents. This is to ensure continued accuracy of their information in the CIDR, in such manner as may be specified by the authority from time to time," the notification said.

The changes have been made by tweaking the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations.

Last month, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) - the government agency that issues Aadhaar numbers - had urged people to update identification and residence proof documents



There are currently 134 crore card holders in India
Updates will help in availing government benefits

if they were issued the unique ID more than 10 years back but had not updated their details since then.

Accordingly, to provide facility to Aadhaar card holders in this regard, the UIDAI has developed a new feature of 'update document'. This feature can be accessed online through the 'myAadhaar' portal, and 'myAadhaar' app or residents can visit any Aadhaar enrolment centre to avail of the facility.

While 134 crore Aadhaar numbers have been issued till date, just how many card holders will have to update their information after UIDAI's latest move, is not known immediately. Last year, about 16 crore updates of various kinds took place.

Young activists slam 'adults' over climate inaction

PROTESTERS CRITICISE LEADERS AND EXPERTS FOR FAILING TO PUT IN PLACE A PLANNED PROCESS TO PREVENT GLOBAL WARMING

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 10: Young climate change activists are saying officials are talking too much, listening too little and acting even less. And they are fed up. "Instead of talking about how to solve the climate crisis, they negotiate about how to continue polluting," said Mitzy Violeta, a 23-year old indigenous activist from Mexico. "Youth movements are realising the solution isn't going to be in international gatherings like the one

taking place in Egypt," she added. Mitzy was among the 250-odd climate activists who had gathered Wednesday in New York to protest against what they termed 'climate inaction' by adults and experts.

With decades of warmer and extreme weather ahead of them, young climate activists envision a future that makes them frustrated and anxious. Most of them said they think their strikes and protests are effective, but lamented the lack of efforts by leaders. During the protest, 14-year-old



Truly Hort said she was scared about the future: "I've always had all these dreams, and now I'm like

God, I can't do that". The trouble is that leaders and experts talk about what they hope to do, but it's not

a lot of people taking action."

Also mentioning her anxiety at the same protest, 16-year-old Lucia Dec-Prat said. "It is one thing to worry about the future and it's another to get out there and do something about it. I honestly feel that adults aren't listening to what we are trying to say."

Many of these youngsters feel that governments and international organisations are advancing too slowly to fight climate change. A vast majority of activists asked agreed with Greta Thunberg's characterisation of climate negotiations as all talk and no action, or 'blah blah blah', as the Swedish activist put it in a speech last year: "I feel rather than just talking

about ways and means to protect the climate, some action is needed. We are protesting to get some action," said 25-year-old Jevanic Henry.

"Money doesn't matter because we're not going to have anywhere to live in and enjoy the riches," said protester Aniva Clarke, a 17-year old activist from Samoa. "And that's probably the biggest issue that a lot of world leaders aren't really focusing on."

Speaking at a London cultural event recently, Thunberg had said annual climate conferences like the one in Egypt can easily be called 'scam'. "People should realise these scam shows are failing us and something meaningful needs to be done," Thunberg had asserted.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	60613.70	↓ 419.85
NIFTY	18028.20	↓ 128.80
DOLLAR	81.61	↑ ₹0.06
EURO	82.14	↑ ₹0.71
GOLD	₹51,599	↑ ₹93
SILVER	₹61,495	↓ ₹66

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	32.0°C	31.0°C
TEMP. MIN	19.0°C	19.0°C
Humidity	90%	87%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

The question should be what should the leaders do? What should governments do? Because this whole time I've done activism, I have realised the youth have done everything

VANESSA NAKATE | ACTIVIST

leisure



LETITIA TALKS ON HER TRAUMATIC BLACK PANTHER 2 SET ACCIDENT

Actress Letitia Wright said that she is still in therapy processing the 'traumatic' accident that happened to her on the set of *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. The actor was injured in late August 2021 after a set accident involving a motorcycle.

SNOOP DOGG TO PRODUCE, ROLL OUT BIOPIC ON HIS LIFE

American rapper Snoop Dogg's biopic is set to hit the silver screen with blunt force. The 51-year-old rap legend has joined forces with Universal Pictures, director Allen Hughes and writer Joe Robert Cole to make the upcoming biopic, reports *Female First*, the UK.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
If your work has anything to do with money, today you will be busy counting your riches! If you've applied for a loan, it may get sanctioned today. Look for variety, says Ganesh, and you may find your day filled with smiles and what not.

TAURUS
You are likely to be mentally alert and watchful today, says Ganesh. Creativity will run through your veins no matter what you attempt. You may dabble in performing arts, designing, graphics or special effects. Your charm will play Pied Piper to the opposite gender today.

GEMINI
Your physical appearance and personal attitude will see a marked improvement today, predicts Ganesh. A well-groomed you will climb up the popularity chart among peers, friends and members of the opposite sex. You will keep people under your spell with your wit and wisdom both at the workplace and at social gatherings.

CANCER
You will be firing all cylinders in the creativity department, says Ganesh. Even your colleagues may pitch in, and will give you new ideas to make your work better. Those looking for a new job will ace the interview and clear the selection process as easily as clearing the fog from their glasses.

LEO
Karmic balance dictates an equitable distribution of joy and sorrow, says Ganesh. So if your day seems drab and depressing today, rest assured, your evening shall be all the more refreshing and exciting. Surround yourself with family and friends, as you will receive royal treatment from them.

VIRGO
Play dodge ball with prejudice today. Do not let intolerance find shelter in you today, advises Ganesh. Instead, chances are you will seek to find love, affection and goodwill among those around you. Stay away from negativity as it may bog you down.

LIBRA
Lights, camera, and action! Be prepared as the limelight is focused on you on this very motivating and inspiring day, enabling you to attract excellent public praise. Today is an encouraging day to set in motion innovative projects, especially for those who desire to be their own masters and embark upon fulfilling self-financed ideas.

SCORPIO
You are most likely to resent the dominating and over-bearing nature of your partner today. Patience will probably go to the dumps in this case then. But Ganesh advises you to sit together and resolve all personality clashes and quarrels in view of the larger scheme of things.

SAGITTARIUS
Expect a call to late-night revelry and a chance to binge. But you don't seem to be in the mood to let your hair loose and party, says Ganesh. However tempting it may be, your serious side will take over and you shall deny the offer.

CAPRICORN
You will start the day with verve and vigour, and will appear a completely different person at work. There will be a discernible change in your way of working, especially in terms of the level of energy and concentration you will put in. The switch to the new strategy will better your performance considerably and will make you feel that it was a good change after all.

AQUARIUS
A productive day, as you will receive unrestrained support from your bosses and colleagues. Your creativity will reach its zenith and the resulting work will augment your reputation. The day will seem complete when you spend quality time with your family in the evening, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Happiness shared is double the joy; sorrows shared are half the burden. Your family is the foundation of your success, and it is to them you will turn in times of failure as well.

Gangubai aims gold at BAFTA Awards



Mumbai: Sanjay Leela Bhansali's hit Hindi crime drama *Gangubai Kathiawadi* is going for gold, officially launching a campaign in all categories at next February's BAFTA Film Awards.

According to reports in *Deadline*, the Alia Bhatt starrer will officially launch a campaign in all categories at the next BAFTA Awards. This Sanjay Leela Bhansali film adds to the number of foreign-language movies aiming to cross over into mainstream races. Apart from *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, another Alia Bhatt starrer *RRR* is making a similar push at the Oscars. Indeed it is a piece of great news for the actress and the entire team and sure does make for another reason to celebrate.

Starring Alia Bhatt, *Gangubai Kathiawadi* is being submitted across Best Film, Director, Adapted Screenplay, Leading Actress, and Film Not in the English Language, among others.

Bhansali's *Devdas* was previously nominated at the 56th BAFTA Awards in the non-English language race.

AGENCIES



Nora to lend voice for FIFA anthem

Mumbai: Actress-dancer Nora Fatehi will be lending her voice along with International rapper Nicki Minaj for the official football anthem - *Light the Sky* - for FIFA World Cup 2022.

Joining the leagues of Jennifer Lopez and Shakira, the global sensation had earlier featured in the official Qatar World Cup anthem, which premiered on YouTube October 7.

Representing India at one of the most prestigious football tournaments globally is a big feat in itself.

Nora will also be performing live at the FIFA World Cup this month which makes her the only actor to represent India at the event.

The actress is expected to sing in Hindi at the marquee event.

Known for her belly dance, Nora gained popularity by doing item numbers in many films such as *Dilbar* from *Satyaamev Jayate*, *O Saki Saki* from *Batla House*, *Garmi* from *Street Dancer 3D*, *Kamariya* from *Street*.

Meanwhile, she was last seen in the song *Manike*, from Sidharth Malhotra's film *Thank God* with Ajay Devgn and Rakul Preet Singh.

IANS

Janhvi on sisterhood goals

Mumbai: Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi have set sisterhood goals with their posts on social media. Just like any other sibling, the *Mili* actress says she is the needy, irritating sister, who would fight with Khushi when she isn't spending time with her.

In a recent conversation, she spoke about sisterhood and her evolved equation with Khushi, who she says at one time did not like the way the Dhadak actress dressed.

Janhvi said: "We had our phase where borrowing clothes was a big taboo. We'd act like there's a big war going on but honestly now we are not even the same size so I can't take a lot of her clothes. But now she is okay with how I am dressing but I think a couple of months ago she hated the way I was dressing." However,

Janhvi is very close to her sister Khushi, who is all set to make her acting debut with *Zoya*

Aktar's adaptation of the comic *The Archies*.

"I love her. I am the crazy one in the equation. I think I am very needy. Like I need her to till I fall asleep I am like Khushi please sit in my room till I fall asleep or like when I wake up I snuggle into bed with her and I am like that needy irritating sister who would fight with her when she isn't spending time with me," added Janhvi.

AGENCIES



Yami's Lost to premiere at IFFI

Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam's upcoming film *Lost* will be having its premiere at the coveted International Film Festival of India (IFFI) for an Asian Premiere Gala.

Helmed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, *Lost* is a gripping investigative drama thriller

that depicts a higher quest, a search for lost values of empathy and integrity.

Director Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury shares, "I feel happy that the film opened to such a tremendous reception at the different film festivals, and I am honoured for the film's

grand premiere now at a prestigious platform like IFFI."

Inspired by true events, *Lost* is a story of an enthusiastic young woman crime reporter in her relentless search for the truth behind the sudden disappearance of a young theatre activist.

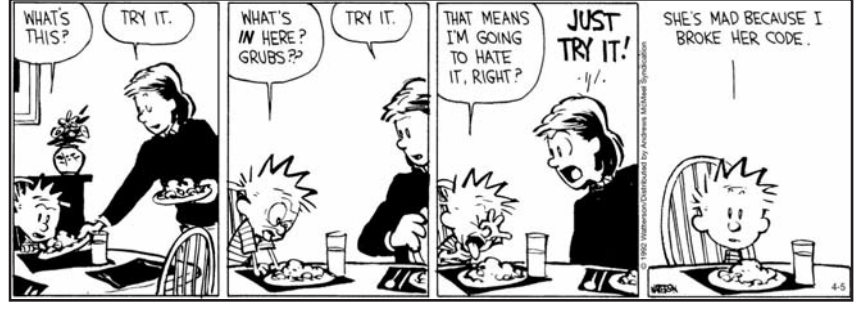
The intriguing drama boasts a powerful cast - Along with Yami, the film will feature Pankaj Kapur, Rahul Khanna, and an ensemble of younger talent, including Neil Bhoopalam, Pia Bajpiee, and Tushar Pandey, in prominent roles.

IANS

PEANUTS



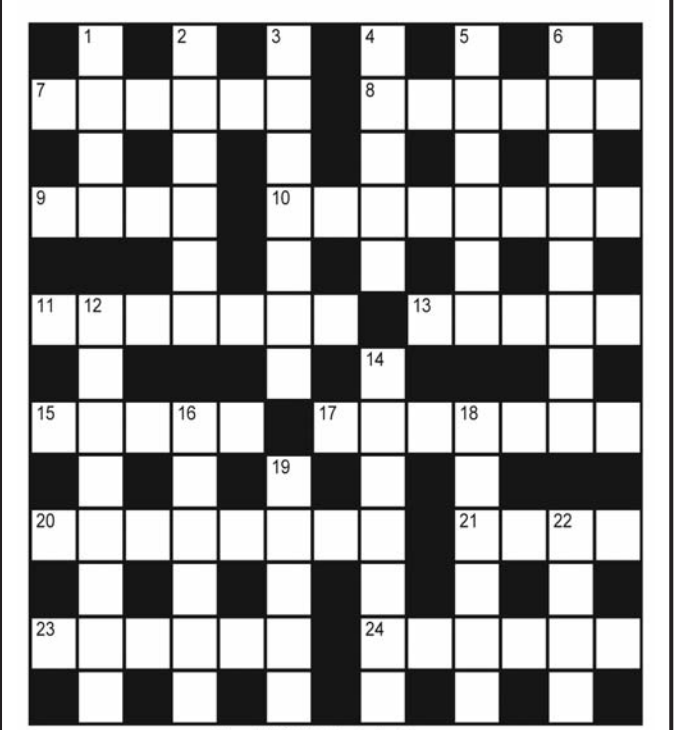
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



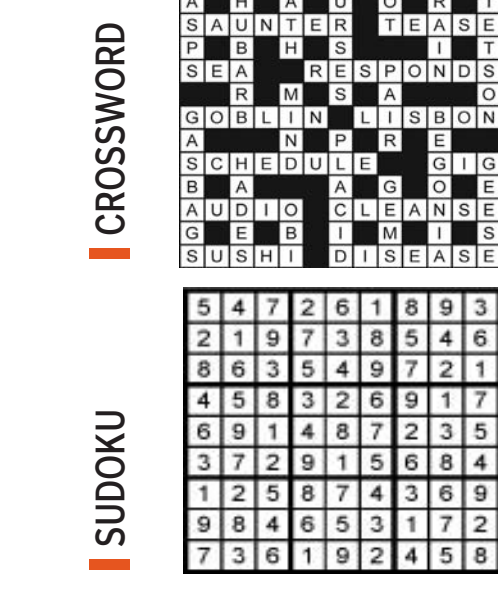
- Across**
- 7 Sleep
 - 8 Talisman
 - 9 Vivacity
 - 10 Small, old star (3,5)
 - 11 Cheese dish
 - 13 Squirrel away
 - 15 "Likewise"
 - 17 Light fluffy egg dish
 - 20 Not an island
 - 21 Diversify
 - 23 Washer setting
 - 24 Chewy candy
 - 5 Win with brain power
 - 6 Retaliation
 - 12 Stirs
 - 14 Escape artist of note
 - 16 Beliefs
 - 18 Prefer
 - 19 Procrastinator's word
 - 22 Harvest
- Down**
- 1 Have on
 - 2 Prairie wolf
 - 3 Ground characteristics
 - 4 Riyadh resident

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



FOOD SAFETY FIRST

Officials of CMC food safety squad Thursday raided a food stall at Baliyatra Lower Ground in Cuttack and seized stale food

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,90,23,177	61,87,09,498	66,10,754
India	4,46,63,968	4,41,20,267	5,30,514
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

Wish prosperity drive starts from Odisha: Prez

Odisha can become a developed state by harnessing its natural resources properly, says President Droupadi Murmu



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik presents a memento to the President at Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: President of India Droupadi Murmu, who arrived here Thursday on a two-day visit to the state, said she wished that the campaign to make India more prosperous starts from Odisha.

"As a daughter of Odisha, I dream of a developed, peaceful and prosperous Odisha. I wish that the campaign to make India more prosperous starts from Odisha," Murmu said while addressing at the civic reception programme at Raj Bhawan here, Thursday.

The President recalled the glorious past of Odisha and reposed immense faith in the people of Odisha to realise their true potential to make a bright future.

grance of her motherland and soil is unique. The attraction and beauty of this region is unique, she pointed out. Stating that Odisha has a special place in the history and geography of India, Murmu said, historians have described this state as a bridge between North and South India.

"As we all know, the first voice of non-violence was heard from the soil of Odisha. Transformation of Chandashoka to Dharmashoka took place on the bank of Daya River near Bhubaneswar," she stated.

She said India is known for its cultural richness in the world. "Our country is the home of diverse dance, music and folk arts. The contribution of Odisha in the art is immense. Odissi is one of the eight classical dance forms of India and Odia is one of the six classical languages of our country," she added. She further stated that the contribution of Odia people in the field of literature, music, art, sports, social service and IT is commendable.

The President said that India has many forms of folk dances which include Odisha's Chhau, Sambalpuri, Gotipua, Ranapa, Chadheya-Chadheyani.

Odisha is home to many tribal communities too. Their dance and music have enhanced the culture of Odisha and cultural identity of India. As the land of innumerable temples, stupas, viharas and caves, Odisha has contributed to Indian sculpture immensely, Murmu said.

The President further said that Odisha has contributed significantly

to the Indian freedom struggle.

India is celebrating 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and after 25 years, the country will celebrate the 100th year of independence. Similarly, after 14 years, Odisha will celebrate the centenary of statehood.

"This is a very important phase for India as well as Odisha. To make India a developed country, collective efforts of all are needed. With the commitment and hard work of the youth of our country, India can be a leading nation in the world," she hoped.

"Outlook of the world towards India has changed. The success achieved by India in the field of vaccination during Covid-19 pandemic has impressed the world. India's initiative in the field of environmental protection is being appreciated all over the world," she said.

The President stressed that the benefits of development must reach all sections of the society. "If the living standard of the marginalised is not improved, a country or society cannot be said to be truly developed. That is why the philosophy of 'Antyodaya' is very important which aims to bring the fruits of development to the economically, socially and educationally backward people," said Murmu. She said that she was overwhelmed by the love and respect she received from the people of the state. She thanked Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and the state government for organising such a grand event.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



High drama near PS over unsolved murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: High drama unfolded before the Chandrasekharpur police station here Thursday when the family members of a youth whose body was recovered near Panda Park slum in June this year, staged a sit-in protest in front of the station alleging police of torture. Traffic on the road halted for few hours because of the road blockade by the protesting family, including the pregnant sister of the deceased youth.

Judhisthira Nayak, the victim's father said that when they were staying at Ward No- 14 of Sector 5

in Niladri Vihar area, some miscreants murdered his son and threw his body in a gunny bag near the Panda Park slum. "The police are yet to take any action against the accused, whose names we had mentioned in our complaint. We are living under constant fear since that day and recently some of the accused assaulted us. However, they later filed a case against us and with utmost alacrity the police arrested my elder son and wife four days back while it is yet to find out my son's killers," told Nayak to media.

"This morning, while I was going to my work, some police personnel dragged me into a PCR van with-

out telling me my fault. They assaulted me and tore my clothes," added Nayak.

Interestingly, the police officials present at the spot seemed confused about the reason for picking up Nayak. Meanwhile, the police also found it difficult to forcefully evict the family as many people were recording the episode as it unfolded. "We received some intelligence inputs that Nayak was trying to create disturbances during the visit of the President, to demand justice for his son's mysterious death and arrest of his family members. So we picked him up," told a senior police official.

Millets Mission succeeded in drawing world attention: CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Odisha Millets Mission has succeeded in attracting the attention of the entire world, and even the United Nations has also praised the programme, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday, when Odisha celebrated the first ever Mandia Divas or Millets Day.

Odisha has become a model for other states for its Millets Mission, Patnaik said while adding that the state government has decided to implement the programme in all the districts of the state.

In his speech on the occasion of Mandia Divas (which is being celebrated on the first day of Margashira month), the Chief Minister said, "Prosperity is associated with nutrition. The state government is celebrating this day as Mandia Divas and it has been decided to celebrate the 10th of November every year as Millets Day".

Mandia or raggi is a treasure of nutrition and it provides nourishment to all age groups starting from small children to the elderly, the Chief Minister said.

The small farmers, poor tribal farmers cultivate mandia. In order



to improve the condition and providing nutrition to the people, Odisha Millets Mission was launched and ₹2,800 crore will be spent for this in five years, Patnaik said.

Currently, 2 lakh farmers, 82 farmer producer organisations (FPOs) and 1,200 Mission Shakti Groups have been part of this programme. More farmers and Mission Shakti Groups will soon be included in this programme, he added.

The Chief Minister also called upon all to promote mandia as a popular food. Earlier, taking to Twitter, Naveen has called for including the nutritious and climate resilient millets in our food and move forward towards building a sustainable planet, a healthy society and the work towards the welfare of farmers by giving them a special place in the food system.

State's indebtedness may stay at 30%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 10: Indebtedness of the states including Odisha will stay elevated at 30-31 per cent of their gross domestic products this fiscal as they have been borrowing from the markets much beyond their means amid modest revenue growth, a report said Thursday.

The aggregate indebtedness of states, as measured by debt to gross state domestic product (GSDP), is expected to remain elevated at 30-31 per cent this fiscal, almost similar to 31.5 per cent seen in fiscal 2021-22, Crisil said in a report.

States' indebtedness had risen to a decadal high of 34 per cent in Covid-hit fiscal 2020-21, after remaining range-bound between 25 and 30 per cent during fiscals 2016-20 before cooling a tad to 31.5 per cent in fiscal 2022, the agency said.

Sticky revenue expenditure and the need for higher capital outlays along with modest revenue growth will keep borrowings up this fiscal, it added, but pointed out that states may get some respite from the Centre's decision to provide ₹1 lakh crore special assistance to them for capital spending on infrastructure and discom reforms.

Crisil said the assessment is



₹1 lakh-crore central assistance in the form of 50-year interest-free loans to states will help partially meet capital outlay targets of the states

based on its study of the top 18 states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana, Bihar, Punjab, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Goa), which account for 90 per cent of the aggregate GSDP.

The study shows that states borrow mainly to fund their revenue deficits and for capital outlays.

In fact, these states had a small surplus on the revenue account in fiscal 2022, owing to a healthy revenue growth of 25 per cent buoyed

by healthy GST collections, strong devolutions from the Centre, sales tax recovery from fuels and support from the Centre through GST compensation loans.

According to Anuj Sethi, a senior director with the agency, the overall revenue of states is expected to rise 7.9 per cent this fiscal driven by strong GST collections, and healthy central tax devolutions will be the major drivers, like last year. But flat sales tax mop-up from fuels, modest growth in central grants and discontinuation of GST compensation, after June 2022, will moder-

ate their revenue growth.

On the other hand, similar to last fiscal, revenue expenditure, which account for 85-90 per cent of total revenue spends, is set to rise by 11-12 per cent, driven by higher committed expenditure by way of salaries, pensions and debt servicing, essential developmental expenditure such as grants-in-aid, medical and labour welfare expenses, and rising subsidies to the power sector.

Consequently, the revenue account will see a marginal weakening and will collectively see a deficit of ₹0.8 lakh crore (0.3 per cent of GSDP) this fiscal. In addition, states will need to borrow to fund roads, irrigation, rural development etc.

States have budgeted an ambitious 40 per cent capital outlay growth to ₹6.4 lakh crore this fiscal, but the agency sees capital outlays rising by only 15-17 per cent, given their past track record. Nevertheless, the ₹1 lakh-crore central assistance in the form of 50-year interest-free loans to states will help partially meet capital outlay targets. Also, this loan is not counted towards the borrowing limit of 3.5 per cent this year.

BALIYATRA FEVER HC gate replica, hockey enclosure major attractions



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Nov 10: A replica of the imposing High Court gate and a hockey enclosure to focus on the state's growth in prominence as a global hub of the game are high points of the famous Baliyatra this year.

Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar inaugurated the replica of the High Court gate Wednesday and the state Sports Minister T K Behera the hockey enclosure.

Baliyatra, one of the major cultural events of Odisha, is being held after a gap of two years of the Covid pandemic and was inaugurated Tuesday by Information and Public Relations Minister Pradip Kumar Amat.

The hockey enclosure has been set up by the Sports department and Hockey India

The nine-day annual festival commemorates the rich and glorious maritime trade of ancient Kalinga kingdom. It got off to a colourful start at the Gadagadia ghat of Mahanadi river here adjacent to the famous Barabati fort.

The hockey enclosure has been set up by the Sports department and Hockey India and was inaugurated in the presence of players and fans of the game.

The enclosure showcases Odisha's growth in prominence as a global hub of hockey. The state will host the Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 from January 13.

The enclosure has visual memoirs and other hockey memorabilia. Other attractions include a fan zone, photobooth and an opportunity to pose with the World Cup trophy replica. Nearly 2,000 small and large stalls have been set up over the 20 acre area. At least 50 fire aid posts manned by 280 firemen have been set up at the fair grounds to avert any incident, officials said.

Elaborate arrangements have been made by the police to man the traffic, take care of the law and order situations and safety and security of the revelers, they added.

CBC holds 3-day expo on voter registration

CBC's outreach activities and folk performances are extremely powerful means of communication, says Chief Election Commissioner

PNN/ AGENCIES

Pune, Nov 10: A multimedia exhibition on the theme 'Voter Registration - The First Step of Democracy' highlighting the significance of participating in the electoral process as a voter and showcasing the grandeur of Indian elections was inaugurated by the Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey at Savitribai Phule Pune University in Maharashtra Wednesday.

The three-day exhibition organised by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in association with the District Election Officer, Pune, is a voter awareness building exercise being undertaken on the occasion of nationwide launch of Special Summary Revision 2023 Wednesday.

The DEO, Pune has also set up special registration camps to enrol young voter at the exhibition venue. The topic of Indian Elections and Voters Registration have been highlighted through CBC's virtual reality kiosks displaying polling stations, Flip book on Indian Election, an Augmented Reality touch wall, Digital display of SSR 2023 forms and sound show on election stories, apart from a separate section on ECI new initiatives, display of SVEEP scopes and a wall on Indian Democracy.

Also, the song and drama artistes of CBC put up colourful performances on ECI theme of 'No Voter To Be Left Behind'.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEC praised CBC for the colourful exhibition mounted up by them. He stated that even in this age of social media, CBC outreach activities are extremely powerful means of com-



munication. He said that the country's rich cultural heritage of folk music is so varied and wide that it will take years to go through them all. "These cultural tools keep the country united like a binding force," he added.

The CEC also stated that CBC exhibitions and folk performances can always be useful for EC in their voter awareness campaigns.

In his message to the youth of the country, the CEC urged them to become voters as it is critical for a democracy. "Look at the demography of this country. Look at this huge country in which we believe in accommodation, we believe in discussion, we believe in resolv-

ing all our issues through participative elections. And that is possible only when we vote," he said.

Election Commissioner Pandey said that Pune is a cultural centre of India and Pune University has a rich history associated with names of luminaries like Gopal Krishna Gokhale. Hence, the ECI has decided to start the voter awareness campaign on the launch of SSR 2023 from Pune.

He stated that India is the biggest democracy having a demography which is bigger than the whole of Europe, North and South America. He added that a democracy is strengthened when all eligible voters are registered, voters can ex-



ercise their franchise fearlessly and elections are conducted in a free and fair manner. He stated that at the time of independence there was only around 16 per cent literacy in the country, yet people went to vote. "Our first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad had said that the country's people know to exercise their democratic rights," he added. He further added that India is the strongest democracy having universal adult suffrage, where women outnumber men in casting votes at many places. Stating that India has a high percentage of young population, he said, this democracy can be strengthened only with higher number of young eligible voters registration. Hence, the Commissions

All slums to be converted into model colonies: CM

IN A MOVE TO MAKE ODISHA SLUM-FREE BY THE END OF 2023, A LAND SURVEY WAS LAUNCHED TO FACILITATE A PROCESS TO PROVIDE LAND DEEDS TO SLUM-DWELLERS IN 5 MUNICIPAL AREAS ACROSS THE STATE



vide technical support for the purpose, Patnaik said.

Expressing happiness over the slum-free status of Hinjili, the CM's constituency, and Digapahandi, Patnaik said the slum-dwellers are being provided land rights for their houses in 'Biju Adarsh Colonies' which are being built across the state.

The CM claimed that the Odisha's 'Jaga Mission' programme has got global recognition and applause from the Centre.

Over 1.70 lakh families of slum areas in 105 cities and towns have so far been given land rights under the programme, Patnaik said.

Patnaik said the project will bring transformation in the lives of poor people.

The state government had launched the 'Jaga Mission' in 2017, and the slum development associations have been assigned to manage the 'Biju Adarsh Colonies', and a provision has been made to allocate 25 per cent of the municipal budget to these bodies for the development of infrastructure.

Patnaik said the 'Jaga Mission' also provides social and economic justice to the poor as they have an equal right to the benefits of development and growth. This will continue to play an important role in bringing happiness to the lives of 17 lakh slum-dwellers of the state.

Tata Steel Foundation will provide technical support for the purpose, Patnaik said.

Tata Steel Foundation will provide technical support for the purpose, Patnaik said.

towns in Gajman district as "slum free" and dedicated 707 'Biju Adarsh Colonies' in 33 urban areas.

"All the slums in the state will be converted into model colonies and Odisha will be made slum-free by December 2023," he said. Patnaik also stated that land rights will be given to 2.5 lakh slum families of the state by the next year.

For the land survey using drones, the authorities of 'Jaga Mission' also signed a MoU with Tata Steel Foundation to identify slum dwellers and areas under the jurisdiction of the five municipal corporations.

Tata Steel Foundation will provide technical support for the purpose, Patnaik said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday said his government is aiming at making Odisha slum-free by the end of 2023.

He launched a survey using drones to facilitate a process to provide land deeds to slum-dwellers in five municipal areas across the state.

The land survey was taken in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Rourkela and Sambalpur civic body areas under the state government's 'Jaga Mission' programme.

During an event here, Patnaik declared Hinjili and Digapahandi

Sahoo appointed as director of ICAR-CIFA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Pramoda Kumar Sahoo is appointed as Director, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Kausalyaganga Thursday.

Sahoo was earlier working as principal scientist at the same institute. He has also been bestowed with the prestigious ICAR national



professor award by ICAR, New Delhi early this year. Sahoo has been working in the area of fish health management for the past three decades. He is in the list of Stanford University's top two per cent scientists for the year 2020 and 2021.

Development of disease resistant fish, immune modulation and disease surveillance across the country are among his focus of research. Through his research he is trying to find solutions for the Argulosis, which is one of the most challenging issues in aquaculture across the globe causing severe economic loss.

Sahoo has successfully completed 19 projects including 9 institutional and 10 externally funded projects as project leader. He is also involved in several inter-institutional collaborative and interdisciplinary projects.

₹150 crore state funding for medical cyclotron unit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Taking a step towards availability of quality cancer care in the state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday approved the proposal for establishment of a state-of-the-art medical cyclotron unit in the Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital (TMCH) being established in the NISER campus at Jatni.

The state government would supply funds up to Rs 150cr for this facility. The cyclotron unit is expected to make Odisha a leading research and applications hub in nuclear medicine in the subcontinent and in the South East Asia region.

Replying to media queries about the unit, Health and Family Welfare secretary Shalini Pandit said, "Medical cyclotron unit will produce radioactive isotopes needed for critical imaging procedures such as PET scan for treatment of cancer and other critical ailments. Presently, Odisha obtains the isotopes on a daily basis from

Hyderabad, Mumbai or Kolkata and it's a problem that the isotopes remain effective only for a few hours. The time needed for transportation also keeps their availability limited to few centres."

Pandit added that the proposed state-of-the-art medical cyclotron facility would be unique not only in the country but in the entire South East Asia region. It would be operated by NISER in close collaboration with TMC, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata, Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology, Department of Atomic Energy and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, she informed.

This world class facility, other than producing medically useful radioisotopes, will also serve as a national facility for research and development in basic sciences. It would also facilitate skill development for applied science courses and training of under-graduate and post-graduate students.



DISCUSSING BUSINESS: Officers attending the Treasury Officers Conference -2022 at Madhusudan Das Regional Academy of Financial Management organised by Principal Accountant General (A&E) and Finance Department in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

KIMS to co-host ISOCON from today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), a part of the KIIT Group of Institutions, is all set to co-host the first-ever Annual National Conference of Indian Society of Otolaryngology, ISOCON 2022, from November 11 to 13. About 800 to 1,000 otologists (experts in ear surgery) are going to attend the event in the Capital City.

This event will also include live demonstration of surgical procedures and treatment processes by experts from countries including UK, Brazil, and several European



nations.

Kabikanta Samantray eminent otolaryngologist, who is also the head of the department of Otolaryngology (ENT) and additional medical superintendent of KIMS, said, "The conference will try to create awareness among doctors about new frontiers in Otolaryngology and among the government functionaries and general public as there has been a sea-change in the

perceptions and developments in various ENT disciplines. However, this conference will be specifically dealing with subjects and topics on the advancement of Otolaryngology."

Samantray added that ISOCON 2022 will have a special focus on "paediatric otology" as the hearing deficiencies in infants, if detected and treated early, could lead to better cure and management.

State Health and Family Welfare minister Nabakishore Das will attend the inaugural session as the chief guest. Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS Achyuta Samanta will attend the conference as the chief patron.

Organising secretary and professor of Otolaryngology (ENT) at KIMS Bhubaneswar Khageswar Rout said, "The issues related to vertigo, tinnitus and neonatal hearing defects, which have achieved advancement in otology, would get a proper forum in presence of pan-Indian and international faculties."

Modern otology has achieved distinct advancement and situations like pre-natal interventions through surgeries are now a possibility. The conference, a first-of-its-kind in the state, would definitely help the Otolaryngologists, especially Otolologists, to a great extent, he said.

Contractor held over ₹18L fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The Police Thursday arrested one fraudster for duping a person of Rs 18 lakhs on the pretext of constructing home on his plot at Kalinganagar on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. The accused was identified as Debashis Sethi, 31, from Cuttack road in Laxmisagar police limits here.

Sources said that the complainant, Tapan Kumar Mallick of Sundargarh, came into contact with the accused Sethi few years ago. The accused assured Mallick that he would construct a room for the latter at his plot in the city.

Subsequently, Mallick gave Sethi Rs 18 lakhs for the construction as per an agreement signed by both the parties around six months ago. However, Sethi neither started construction work nor returned the money to Mallick. On the basis of a complaint lodged by Mallick, Police Thursday arrested Sethi registering a case (394/22) in this regard.

AM/NS India's stall at Kalinga Baliyatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradeep, Nov 10: At the famous Kalinga Baliyatra Mahotsav which is being held at Biju Maidan, Paradeep, the stall set up by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) was inaugurated by Parul Patwari, Collector Jagatsinghpur. The dignitaries who graced the occasion were Sambit Routray, MLA, Paradeep, Suresha G, Executive Director, Odisha Operation, AM/NS India among others.

In its endeavour to empower and strengthen women of the local community, the CSR wing of AM/NS India has taken this unique initiative of displaying products in the stall prepared by the different SHG groups in Paradeep. The stall received appreciation for its design and display and was thronged



by the people to purchase hand-made garments, mushroom, dry food and terracotta pots and toys. Gopaljew SHG from Nuagarh, Adishakti SHG from Balidia, Maa Sarala SHG from Nuagarh and Baba Loknath SHG from Paradeepgarh are participating in the stall of AM/NS India.

The guests, Sambit Routray and Parul Patwari were highly appreciative of the CSR initiatives of AM/NS India for creating a platform to make women self-reliant and for helping to strengthen the SHG groups.

Courts criticise ED...

Continued from P1

"At the same time, Sanjay Raut and Pravin Raut were arrested. This clearly indicates disparity, and ED's pick-and-choose attitude," Judge MG Deshpande had said in his observations. He had also stated that the ED's action against the Shiv Sena MP can easily be termed a "witch hunt" and added that both Sanjay and Pravin had been 'arrested illegally'.

Fernandez, who was summoned by the ED several times in connection with the investigation, has been named as an accused for the first time in the supplementary charge sheet. The ED's earlier charge sheet and a supplementary charge sheet did not mention her as an accused.

The ED's main arguments in court Thursday against the actor getting bail were that she tried to flee the country, that she didn't cooperate with the investigators and that she faced serious allegations.

JSP Foundation to provide housing to 500+ families

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Pursuing its vision of inclusive development, JSP Foundation, the CSR arm of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP), Thursday launched 'Project Aashiana' to provide financial assistance to poor and homeless people in building houses for their families. In the first phase, 529 needy people have been identified for support under this project.

Launching the project in a hybrid programme held across Angul, Raigarh, Barbil, Tensa, Bhubaneswar and New Delhi, JSP Foundation's chairperson Shallu Jindal said, "A house is a dream for every family. But poor financial conditions deprive some people to build their own houses. Therefore, JSP Foundation, in its constant endeavour to improve the quality of people's life, is supporting more than 500 families from financially

weaker sections to build their dream home."

A total of 529 families from 13 Indian states have been selected for financial assistance under this project. They were given confirmation letters for financial grants during the event. Under 'Project Aashiana', the selected families will be given financial assistance up to Rs 2,50,000 for construction of their house and basic amenities like toilets, drinking water and electrification, based on the assessment by the Foundation.

The financial assistance will be released in installments depending upon the progress of the construction work. JSP Foundation will consider releasing more financial assistance to deserving cases, depending upon the timely progress of the construction of the house.



NOT FAIR: Candidates staging a sit-in protest in front of Odisha Public Service Commission Office in Cuttack alleging irregularities in ASO examination, Thursday

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Bideshi Mallick, S/o. Baidhar Mallick, At-Gopinathpur, PS-Badamba, Dist.-Cuttack, have changed key name to Digbijaya Singh vide affidavit C.F. No.-48, Dated 04.11.2022. Henceforth, I shall be known as Digbijaya Singh for all purposes.

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High IMR threatens Bonda population



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 10: Bonda tribals, one of the most primitive tribal communities living in Malkangiri district, are facing an extinction threat due to high infant mortality rate (IMR) in their community.

This has taken a toll on the Bonda population as it is shrinking alarmingly putting their identity at stake.

Bondas are one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) residing in Malkangiri district since ancient times. However, their population is much less in comparison to other tribal communities of the state. The reasons are many, with high death rate among infants being the most concerning.

Continuous efforts are being made to increase their population with the involvement of various voluntary outfits and government agencies but the members of this community are yet to reap the benefits of various welfare schemes.

It is alleged that tangible development still eludes the tribe, though the government claims that huge sums of money have been spent for the socio-economic uplift of the community. The state government is consistently working for the development of the community. However, such initiatives are yet to see progress in the region.

Bonda tribals reside in Mudulipada, Andrahal, and

BONDA SOCIETY IS MOSTLY Matriarchal as they are the primary workers and providers of food for the community

They often fail to take care of the newborns or feed them properly which affects the children adversely

Absence of gap between child births adversely affects the children as they suffer from various illnesses which finally result in their deaths

care of the newborn or feed them properly which affects the children adversely.

Moreover, the women become pregnant and give birth again within one or one and half years of their first delivery. Absence of gap between child births adversely affects the children as they suffer from various illnesses which finally result in their deaths.

This has led to high infant mortality eventually resulting in a decline in their population. The state government has over the years tried to bring the Bondas into mainstream and set up the Bonda Development Society (BDS) in 1996 with this aim. To reverse the decline in population, there is an urgent need of availability of proper healthcare services and scope of education.

The government has established schools in the Bonda hills to educate the community but many of them are not inclined to read and learn. Despite initiatives, only six per cent of the Bonda children have received education.

A primary health centre (PHC) has also been set up at Mudulipada to provide them healthcare services. It has also engaged ASHA and Anganwadi workers in various villages to take care of the pregnancy and delivery needs of Bonda women. Efforts have been made for implementation of family planning programme among Bonda women but they are staying away from it due to lack of awareness.

Anganwadi and ASHA workers are regularly conducting health examinations and providing them with nutritious cooked food and satru. They are also admitting the Bonda children to Anganwadi centres and providing them education. These efforts have resulted in some development but there is a need to sensitise them to fully assimilate them with the mainstream and revive their declining population.

Badadurai panchayats under Khairapat block of the district which is at an altitude of 5,000 feet above the sea level. Their population amounts to only 6,700 people living in 245 houses spread over 32 villages under the block.

A Bonda woman gives birth to around five to six children during her lifetime. However, they are not aware of the complications regarding child birth and upbringing.

This is because Bonda society is mostly matriarchal as they are the primary workers and providers of food for their families. They leave their newborns unattended back home and go out to work to earn and collect food for the family. Many also carry their babies with them to their workplace. As a result, they often fail to take



LOST LABOUR: Farmers set their paddy crops, destroyed in pest attack, on fire at Banshapal village under Nilagiri block in Balasore district, Thursday. The Nilagiri area committee of Communist Party of India (CPI) submitted a memorandum to the Nilagiri Sub-Collector demanding declaration of Nilagiri as drought affected area

BSF organises Civic Action programme

Koraput: The BSF Thursday organised a Civic Action programme, Health Camp and Dog Show at its camp at Porhapadar under Narayanpatna block in Koraput district. The programme was organised with an aim to connect with the marginalised section of society. The BSF distributed clothing, stationeries, and utensils to the villagers of Majhiamba, Borigunda, Bachanapat and Porhapadar. Health check-up of around 250 villagers and students were conducted at the camp. IG, Frontier BSF Odisha, Dhanshwar Kr Sharma DIG, Sector Koraput BSF Madan Lal, and Commandant 155 Bn BSF Antaryami Kumar were present during the programme.

10 MORE KIDNEY CASES DETECTED IN RANIPATHAR



POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Nov 10: Kidney disease has acquired alarming proportions at Ranipathar village under Khajuripada block in Kandhamal district. However, the health authorities are failing to detect the exact reason for growing cases of kidney disease in the village. 11 fresh cases have been diagnosed from the blood samples which were collected by the health officials in October.

In the last week of October, Orissa Post had carried a report on the death of 10 people owing to kidney disease and over 150 being affected by the disease.

Following the media report, the Collector had directed the Health department to stake stock of the situation in the village and look into the causes of the kidney disease.

On October 27, a team of health officials from the district head-

Health officials are still clueless. Blood samples to be collected from all above 30 years of age

quarters hospital (DHH) and the Khajuripada CHC had collected 21 blood samples from suspected kidney-affected patients and their family members and neighbours.

Of the 21 blood samples, 11 have confirmed kidney cases. It has been decided that health officials will collect blood samples from people aged above 30 from all the families.

Chief district medical officer (CDMO) Manoj Kumar Upadhyay said that blood sample reports pinpointed 11 kidney ailment cases while three patients are under treatment at the district headquarters hospital.

He also said that the disease could have a lot to do with the drinking water and the RWSS authorities have been asked to collect water samples for laboratory test.

With kidney disease on the rise and 10 lives lost already, people of Ranipathar village have been living in apprehension of being affected by the disease.

Locals alleged that the administration is least concerned about such steady rise of the kidney disease in Nuasahi, Bangalasaahi, Rugudisahi and Khandikutisahi of the panchayat. "If anyone is down with fever, all people are panicked about possibility of kidney disease," they said.

Champeswar Sahu, a resident of Bangalasaahi was down with fever seven years ago. He was admitted to the district headquarters hospital. But the fever did not subside and he was referred to VIMSAR in Sambalpur where doctors diagnosed that he was hit by kidney problem.

For last eight months, another villager Tukuna Behera has been confined to his house after being affected by kidney disease. One Pramod Kumar Behera is suffering from the same disease with his hemoglobin count falling by the day.

Many other people such as Barun Kahanr, Indrajit Dip, Sukanta Behera, Damodar Behera, Gokula Behera and Ratna Behera are affected by the disease. People suspect that the water of some tube wells causes the rise of kidney cases.

Sore tribals seek pollution remedy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 10: Growing water and air pollution by a plant of Patnaik Steel Pvt Ltd near Purunapani village under Bamebari police limits in Keonjhar has enraged the local tribal residents who have submitted a written complaint in this regard at the grievance cell of the Collector.

People of Koshal, Santhal, Bhuyan and Kisan communities alleged that the water of Baitarani river is getting polluted due to discharge of effluents from the plant.

"As we have to depend on the river water, we are at the receiving end of the problem. People are getting affected by multiple diseases due to polluted water. Smoke and dust particles are polluting the air and settling down on houses, trees and waterbodies. Moreover, the company is not doing anything to create scope of employment for locals or socio-economic development of the people in peripheral areas," they observed. They demanded immediate step to contain the plant-induced pollution in the area.

Mason held for rape in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purushottampur, Nov 10: Police Thursday arrested a mason here in Ganjam district on charge of raping a woman labourer and threatening to make her obscene photos viral.

The accused was identified as Anath Swain, 35, a native of Bhatikumurada village under this police limit. IIC Priyaranjan Chhotray said. Both the accused and the survivor were medically examined. Statement of the victim was recorded in the court, IO Priyanka Behera said.

Police said that the survivor, a casual labourer, used to accompany the accused to various construction sites. The accused, despite being married, developed relationship with her and raped her several times in the last three months.

He even clicked obscene photographs and video of the woman while establishing relationship with her. Meanwhile, she got her marriage fixed at a separate place.

This infuriated the accused who warned the woman against marrying another person.

Gajapati miners make hay by selling sand to Andhra traders

FOR SHORTAGE OF SAND, DEVELOPMENT WORKS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN STALEMATE IN SEVERAL BLOCKS OF THE DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Nov 10: Leaseholders of sand mines on the Vamsadhara river have allegedly been transporting sand to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh on a regular basis. This has created shortage of sand for development works in four blocks of Gajapati district. Sources said that due to lack of sand, development work at a number of places has stopped. They alleged that the administration is not doing anything to prevent illegal sand transportation.

Sources said that sand is in high demand in many parts of Andhra Pradesh where contractors and real estate owners are paying lucrative prices for it.

Leaseholders here are raking in the moolah by sending truckloads



of sand to the neighbouring state on a daily basis.

Acute shortage of sand has been reported from Kashinagar, Gumma, Paralakhemundi and Gosani blocks. All official and private construction and infrastructure works in these blocks have been severely affected due to the non-availability of sand.

It has also been alleged that the leaseholders are tampering with 'Y' forms by furnishing wrong information. 'Y' forms have to be filled up by leaseholders before transportation of sand. Among the details that have to be furnished is the quantity of sand being transported, timings of transportation

and dates on which it is loaded on trucks. The 'Y' forms have to be furnished to tehsildars for revenue assessment.

Locals said that due to the rampant misuse of 'Y' forms, the government is incurring huge revenue losses. A number of local bodies have demanded an investigation into such irregularities and action against the errant lease holders.

Tractor owners and workers' union has pointed out loopholes in the process of the sand mining and transportation from Vamsadhara. It had also informed the district administration about the irregularities.



PEOPLE'S PROTEST: Members of Akhil Bharat Kishan Mazdoor Sabha staging an agitation demanding withdrawal of Forest Conservation Rules-2022 at Muniguda in Rayagada district, Thursday

Rajnagar villages face erosion risk



A MAJOR STRETCH OF BRAHMANI RIVER BANK FROM DAKSHINABHEDA TO LOKANATHPRASAD IS GETTING ERODED BY THE RIVER YEAR AFTER YEAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, Nov 10: Brahmani river has been eroding its banks in Rajnagar area of Kendrapara district at a faster rate than usual, engulfing one village after another over years. Now, some other villages situated on its banks are facing the same threat.

Reports said, in the absence of stone-packed embankments, the river has been advancing into riparian villages at a rate faster than before. This has caused grave con-

cern for people living in these villages. Some villages which have already lost their existence to the river are Jeula, Nuagaon, Matia, Lahuni, Bedhuankolha and Uasadhia.

A major stretch of the river's banks from Dakshinabheda to Lokanathprasad is getting eroded increasingly year after year. Though stone packed embankments and spurs have been made at some places, it is not effective against the erosion, locals lamented.

Scores of locals from a number of villages united under Baragaon Banchoa Manch held a meeting on the premises of Maa Mangala Shakti Peetha here.

The locals deliberated on the bank erosion and called for an urgent need for stone-packing of embankments along with a series of spurs from Dakshinabheda to Lokanathprasad. They pointed out that during floods, the area failed to drain out floodwater, leading to waterlogging on the road near Matia Mangala Chhak.

Couple attacked over suspicion of sorcery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purushottampur, Nov 10: Amid increasing cases of violence related to superstition in Ganjam district, a couple was attacked by people on the suspicion of hexing at Bedhali village under Purushottampur police limits, Wednesday night. The village has been tense after the incident. A police complaint was lodged by the couple in this regard.

According to sources, a group of people stormed into the house of one Raju Das Wednesday night and started attacking him and his wife Banita Das. They suspected the couple of practicing witchcraft and tried to force-feed them with excrete.

However, the couple managed to escape from the attackers and reached the police station. After their complaint, SDPO Rajanikant Samal and IIC Priyaranjan Chhotray rushed to the spot and tried to convince the villagers who were brought to the police station later.

However, Raju Das said that he and his wife worship Kothishal Goddess. During the recent Thakurani Yatra, Mamata Das, wife of Bajari Das, was allegedly possessed by 'divine spirits', for which she babbled and behaved unusually. Following this, Bajari Das, his brother Muna Das and their supporters suspected the couple of practicing sorcery which was used on Mamata. They all attacked the couple and tried to break the latter's teeth to feed them with excreta.

FOCUS CLIMATE CHANGE

DREAD OR HOPE AT COP27?



Global leaders gathering at the UN Climate Change Conference should neither wring their hands in despair nor cheerfully declare that victory is around the corner. The data show that both perspectives are needed, because progress in combating global warming, though significant and promising, is still woefully insufficient

leadership and supportive policies. In the space of just two years, from 2019 to 2021, solar generation grew by 47% globally, and wind power grew by 31%, dramatically outpacing analysts' predictions. And between 2013 and 2021, the global share of carbon-free bus sales increased from 2% to 44% – a 20-fold increase in under a decade.

Moreover, we know that some systems can be pushed toward positive tipping points – such as price parity between incumbent fossil-fuel sources and renewables – after which change becomes unstoppable. We must do everything we can to reach these tipping points as soon as possible. Given how little of humanity's carbon budget remains, we no longer have the luxury of pursuing only the least-cost options. We need systems change across all domains of human activity – from how we grow our food and power our homes to how we build our cities and transport ourselves and our goods.

Accelerating the transition to a net-zero economy will require a change in incentives, new regulations and laws, shifts in behaviour, innovation, and unwavering leadership. We are about to begin the fourth year of the decisive decade for averting catastrophic climate change. We must move mountains, whatever the upfront costs.

Global leaders gathering at COP27 this month should neither wring their hands in despair nor cheerfully declare that victory is around the corner. Rather, they should thoughtfully examine what needs to be transformed and what it will take to cross the essential tipping points. This is the moment when we need to create the conditions that will make more positive changes both irresistible and unstoppable. That would make all those carbon-emitting flights to Sharm El-Sheikh well worth it.

Andrew Steer is President and CEO of the Bezos Earth Fund. Kelly Levin is Chief of Science, Data, and Systems Change at the Bezos Earth Fund.
PROJECT SYNDICATE

Ask two different climate experts at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt (COP27) to characterise their feelings about the future, and you may get quite different answers. "We are seeing more progress than we ever imagined," says one, while the other laments that we are heading full-tilt like lemmings over the cliff. They can't both be right, can they?



Andrew Steer & Kelly Levin

In fact, both have ample evidence on their side, and only by balancing the two perspectives will we muster the sense of urgency that the climate crisis requires.

To inspire hope, the first expert might point out that the cost of solar energy has fallen by 99% since President Jimmy Carter put panels on the White House roof in 1979, and that 2022 is shaping up to be a record year for renewables. Sales of electric vehicles are growing so fast that the internal combustion engine is already in permanent decline. In Indonesia, the rate of primary forest loss has fallen for five years in a row, owing to an innovative partnership between the government, business, civil society, and technology experts.

Moreover, nearly 100 countries – representing over 75% of global emissions – have committed to achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century. And the United States just made a massive down payment on its green future with the Inflation Reduction Act, which could mobilise an estimated \$800 billion or more in climate-related investments.

But lest we come to think that we are almost out of the woods, our gloomy expert would point out that with just 1.1° Celsius of warming, climate change is already generating unprecedented costs. Disastrous flooding across Pakistan this summer left one-third of the country underwater, and southwestern North America is suffering its worst drought in 1,200 years. In China, drought has crippled hydroelectric power production and forced factories to shut down. The Great Barrier Reef has now suffered six mass bleaching events since 1998. And in East

Antarctica, where temperatures one day this year were a whopping 38.5°C above normal, a massive ice shelf has just collapsed – the first such event in at least half a century.

Making matters worse, Russia's war in Ukraine has triggered a scramble for fossil fuels, and corporations, banks, and governments are finding it harder than expected to deliver on their climate promises. We are heading toward temperature increases well above the Paris climate agreement's 2°C threshold. A planet that hot would be scarcely recognisable to us today.

An important new report from the Systems Change Lab – an initiative organised by the World Resources Institute, the Bezos Earth Fund, and its partners – sheds light on both these realities, and points toward a new way of thinking about change. On the

side of pessimism, the report shows that none of the 40 sectoral transformations required for addressing the climate crisis this decade is yet on track.

For example, the phase-out of coal needs to be accelerated sixfold – the equivalent of retiring 925 average-size coal plants each year. Similarly, annual deforestation rates need to be falling 2.5 times faster, and recent growth in crop yields needs to accelerate by nearly sevenfold this decade to feed a growing population without encroaching into forested areas. All these transformations depend on global climate finance, which itself must increase eightfold from its current levels.

But the report also explains that change is rarely linear, and that exponential progress – a sudden "hockey stick" acceleration – is possible when nurtured by bold

The Resource Crisis

The West's dependence on China for so-called critical minerals once worried only a handful of experts and policy wonks. Now, the anxiety has gone mainstream, capturing headlines and becoming the subject of a BBC documentary series. But we have yet to answer adequately the most important question: What should we do about it?

There is no denying the risks that lie ahead. As Europe has learned over the last several months, it is not prudent to rely on a hostile state to deliver essential commodities. But the solution to today's energy crisis – to accelerate the transition to renewable sources – threatens to replicate the current situation in a different guise, because it increases our dependence on minerals like cobalt, nickel, graphite, lithium, and copper.

From electric batteries to wind turbines and expanded electricity grids, such minerals are essential to the clean-energy transition. The World Bank has estimated that their production may need to increase by some 500 per cent by 2050 to support global climate goals.

Just as Russia is a major source of fossil fuels, China dominates the processing of many of these critical minerals. It refines some 60-70 per cent of the world's lithium, nickel, and cobalt. And it has made major investments in the world's richest deposits of these resources, from cobalt in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to nickel in Indonesia, meaning that it controls a growing share of the mines from which they are sourced.

Western governments are now rushing to develop strategies for advancing the energy transition without becoming overly dependent on China for critical minerals. In the United States, the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act includes big incentives for electric-vehicle manufacturers to source critical minerals from reliable partners. The United Kingdom has unveiled a "critical minerals strategy," which includes efforts to expand its domestic capabilities in the sector. The European Union and Australia are pushing ahead with similar initiatives.

All of these governments regard increased recycling of metals as part of the answer. But they also recognise that it can contribute only so much for the time being. So, their strategies all include a focus on swiftly developing more mines and processing facilities for critical minerals, either domestically or in "friendly" countries.

But these strategies fail to acknowledge fully a major barrier: the fraught local politics of opening new mines and industrial facilities. In rich countries, "not in my backyard" activism, opposition by indigenous and environmental groups, and complex planning processes mean that just getting permission to develop large-scale new mines can take decades, if it comes at all.

In lower-income countries, mine development also often faces fierce local opposition, which is compounded by widespread suspicion of large Western-owned mining firms. In rich and poor countries alike, countless proposed new mines for critical minerals – for example, in the US, Peru, Portugal, and Serbia – have recently been blocked or delayed as a result of such resistance.

To be sure, this activism reflects well on the vibrancy of local democracy in Western-aligned countries. But the risk remains that if the West cannot access the raw materials the energy transition demands from friendly countries at a reasonable price, it will end up, yet again, at the mercy of a hostile regime. Concerns that China could "weaponise" its dominance over these minerals, as Russia has with natural gas, are now widespread in policy circles.

Unless the problem is tackled soon, Western governments could end up having to take emergency measures that run roughshod over local concerns – for example, opening up domestic mines and facilities as a matter of national security. They would also likely find themselves trying to straggle developing countries into expanding production, again disregarding local sentiment. This has been the sad pattern of energy and resource geopolitics for a century or more.

Avoiding this outcome will require rapid progress toward a new "grand bargain" between mine operators and local stakeholders. To this end, an ambitious programme focused on resetting relations between the two sides must urgently be launched, spanning all mineral-rich, Western-aligned countries.

Mining companies, supported by Western governments, need to ensure that new operations bring greater local economic benefits and are more sensitive to local needs. They also need to implement more credible, visible controls on the environmental and health risks that mines can create. In developing countries, mining companies must demonstrate that they perform far better than Chinese firms on these fronts. Western miners are already involved in numerous good-practice environmental and social initiatives, but these need to be ramped up as a strategic priority.

In exchange for these efforts, local regulators must streamline and accelerate permitting processes, and local communities and activists must accept the need to support well-designed projects. Green-minded campaigners will surely recognise the importance of heading off a major threat to the energy transition; but old habits die hard, and resistance to large companies pursuing major projects like mines is, for some, ingrained. Governments can help here, stepping in to mediate disputes between companies and communities.

Some might argue that this is a painful remedy for a problem that has yet to appear. But the dangers posed by dependence on China for critical mineral supplies are now all too obvious. Unlocking swifter mine development closer to home offers the best way forward – and it will require some radical new approaches.

The writer is Managing Director of Critical Resource.
PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment. RALPH WALDO EMERSON
- The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance. ALAN WATTS
- There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self. ALDOUS HUXLEY

WORDSWORTH

Convivium

Though English has convivial, which is based on the Latin convivium for a feast or banquet (or, more broadly, a living together, from con + vivo), the latter word has not itself been in the language until recently. It started to appear in Britain and other parts of the English-speaking world in the late 1990s to refer to local groups or chapters – usually named in the plural as convivium – set up by the Slow Food movement. This was formed in 1989, as a result of an Italian initiative, as a reaction against increasing globalisation and standardisation of food, especially fast food (hence its name). One of its aims is the preservation, encouragement, and promotion of local specialities, for example in cheeses, traditional ales, breeds of animals, and varieties of fruits and vegetables. A key theme is to link together those who enjoy good food with the environmentalists who want to preserve and support local, small-scale producers, especially those using organic farming methods. Its emblem is the snail, seen as a symbol both of gastronomic delight and of "slowness."

SPECTRUM ODISHA

Water policy should consider ecosystems



Ranjan Panda

EVEN THOUGH ODISHA SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND OF HAVING ABOUT 36% YOUNG PEOPLE, A LOT OF THEM RISK BECOMING CLIMATE MIGRANTS

The state government of Odisha has initiated the process of formulating a new water policy. A water policy tells us the way a state treats its water commons, in relation to the existing and future needs of the people and other species. It also reflects about the economic development pathways the state is committed to. At a time, when both development and climate change impacts are being seriously felt on the water commons, and the communities and biodiversity directly dependent on them, it is important that the consultations include views and experiences of almost all sections of the society. Most importantly those who can speak for our rivers, wetlands and other water bodies and their dependent species, need to be part of this exercise.

In an era of devastating climate change impacts, when the entire world is struggling to find out ways for living at peace with nature, because there is no other survival route available, water should not be debated as a stand-alone subject. It has to be looked

into in totality and in an ecosystem based approach. The ecosystem approach, according to the Convention of Biological Diversity, is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It recognises that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems. In the conventional approach, however, we feel that water is a commodity to be used by humans for their economic growth and wellbeing. This has to change.

But then the challenge is at the implementation level. The principles that drive a policy may recognise such an approach but the government machinery – at the helm of implementation of plans – needs to internalise it. Further, the communities need to work towards building a coherent relationship with water, Mother Nature. Experience says many local and indigenous communities, that protect local natural resources such as forests, have already been living such a life in

our state. But that's not a universal scene. With more people getting driven out of their villages and such resources, their relationship with nature is changing – in some cases to an irreparable extent.

Climate change is inducing more people to migrate out of their traditional habitations and professions as the same nature that provided them succour during disasters is increasingly failing to help them adapt to the growing impacts of climate catastrophe. The latest of the world's most robust and trusted scientific reports – by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – has warned that while adaptation to climate change is still possible, the window is fast closing as limits to adaptation is being reached in more areas than ever before.

Youth, a section that to me is one of the most vulnerable to all these changes, need to be consulted in the policy formulation process. Our experience working with youth suggests that they are standing at a typical crossroad of

their lives. Especially the majority of youth, who belong to the villages and who – or whose parents – are still dependent on farming and other professions that are directly dependent on water, are the first ones to move out when local nature-based occupations fail. So, even though Odisha seems to be enjoying the demographic dividend of having about 36 per cent young people, a lot of them risk becoming climate migrants.

Youth are the most aspirational people. Climate change impacts are catching up with most of them even before they can make any aspirational moves. While sea level rise is making young fisher folks refugees in their own lands, drought is putting the farm and forest dependent youth on the move always. These youth need to come on board in policymaking. Let's listen to them and chart out their water future along with them.

Popularly known as the Water Man of Odisha, the writer is a known climate and water expert of the nation.

Alarming pollution

Sir, Last year almost around the same time the Supreme Court had anxiously asked the Delhi government and the Centre – "How to live in Delhi?" The same cycle seems to repeat in Delhi and NCR with no real remedial measures in sight. Post Diwali, worsening of the pollution levels in Delhi was expected, but the AQI in the region has alarmingly shot up to be categorised as "severe." Every year people suffer from the deadly cocktail – stubble burning, dust, crackers, vehicles and industry. Almost all leading cities of the country are struggling to keep their air clean and clear. The particle pollution or the particulate matter pollution (PM) is a cause for great worry. Roadside dust is also a massive source of air pollution, and experts have to chip in. Apart from transport, industry and energy, household pollution and agricultural pollution are indeed grave to be ignored. Generally, governments resort to knee jerk reactions during exigencies; these cannot be long term solutions. Since everything boils down to vehicular pollution and dust pollution, different state governments should address these throughout the year.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Reprieve for Advani

Sir, Former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani and 32 others earned a reprieve with the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court dismissing a criminal appeal filed by two Ayodhya residents challenging the acquittal in the Babri demolition case. The bench said that the two appellants could not be treated as victims; therefore, they have no locus standi to maintain the instant appeal. The disputed structure was razed by a mob of kar sevaks in Ayodhya December 6, 1992, triggering riots that left hundreds dead across the country.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

EWS quota

Sir, The Supreme Court has held that the 10% EWS quota to "poorest of poor" among forward castes did not pose any danger to the Basic Structure of the Constitution. It is indeed a right step in the right direction. A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in a 3:2 majority decision, upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment which provides 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to the economically weaker sections of the society but excludes the 'poorest of poor' among SC, ST, SEBC and OBC from its scope. The dissenting judges consider exclusion of SCs, STs and OBCs from quota violates the right to equal opportunity.

MR Jayanthi, MUMBAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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national

of the day quote

India does not believe in a world order where a few countries are considered superior to others

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

The NITI Aayog has stated there are 1.10 lakh unemployed youth in Goa. The figure is not correct. Some 80,000 are already employed but have not cancelled their names in the employment exchange because they are waiting for a government job

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

India has played the role of a "troubleshooter" during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war with an aim to ensure health and prosperity for all

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Dera follower shot dead

Faridkot: A Dera Sacha Sauda follower, who was an accused in the 2015 sacrilege cases, was shot dead Thursday by six unidentified assailants in Punjab's Faridkot district, police said. Pardeep Singh (37) was shot in his dairy shop at around 7:15 am in Kotkapura in Faridkot, they said, adding that his security man and another person sustained bullet injuries in the incident. Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar claimed responsibility for the murder in a purported social media post.

Clashes in JNU

New Delhi: Two groups of students in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Thursday evening clashed near Narmada Hostel over a personal issue, said an official. Police said that they are enquiring the matter. Some students also sustained injuries in the incident. Police have also received medico-legal certificates (MLCs), however, no complaint has been filed by any group.

Ex-Andaman chief secretary arrested

Port Blair: The police Thursday arrested former Andaman and Nicobar chief secretary Jitendra Narain in a gang rape case. The victim's lawyer, Phatick Chandra Das, said Narain was arrested after his anticipatory bail application was rejected by a local court. Soon after the verdict, a team of policemen reached a private resort where Narain is staying and took him to the Police Line amid heavy security. After his arrest, the police took the senior IAS officer from there to a hospital for a check-up.

G-20 summit: PM to visit Indonesia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Indonesian city of Bali from November 14 to 16 to attend the G-20 summit, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Thursday.

On the sidelines of the summit, Modi will hold bilateral meetings with some of his counterparts. The summit is likely to be attended by US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, among others.

The leaders are expected to deliberate on the Ukraine conflict, its implications on food and energy security and other pressing global issues such as climate change. Modi is attending the summit at the invitation of Indonesian President Joko Widodo. Indonesia is the current chair of G-20.

"During the Bali summit, G20



leaders will deliberate extensively upon key issues of global concern under the summit theme of 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'. Three working sessions will be held as part of the G20 summit agenda - food and energy security, health and digital transformation." MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

He said President Widodo will symbolically hand over the G20 presidency to Prime Minister Modi at the closing session of the summit. India will formally assume the G20 presidency from December 1.

"On the sidelines of the summit, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with some of his counterparts. The prime minister will also address and interact with the Indian community in Bali," Bagchi said. The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).

The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation representing around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. India is currently part of the G20 Troika (current, previous and incoming G20 presidencies) comprising Indonesia, Italy and India. On Tuesday, Modi unveiled the logo, theme and the website of India's G20 presidency.

SC allows 'house arrest' for Navlakha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, Nov 10: In a relief to jailed activist Gautam Navlakha, the Supreme Court on Thursday allowed his plea to be placed under house arrest owing to his deteriorating health, saying prima facie there is no reason to reject the septuagenarian's medical report.

Directing that Navlakha, who is lodged in Talaja prison in Navi Mumbai in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case, be shifted out within 48 hours for a month, the court also set several conditions including CCTV surveillance and telephone curbs.

Noting that Navlakha, 70, has been in custody since April 14, 2020, the top court said he does not have any criminal background at all except this case and even the Government of India had even appointed him as interlocutor to hold talks with Maoists.

The case relates to alleged inflammatory speeches made by Navlakha and others at the Elgar Parishad conclave in Pune on December 31, 2017, which the police claim triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial on the outskirts of the western Maharashtra city.

Setting a Rs 2.4 lakh deposit towards expenses of the activist's security as one of the conditions, a bench of Justices K M Joseph

ELGAR PARISHAD CASE



SETTING A ₹2.4 LAKH DEPOSIT TOWARDS EXPENSES OF THE ACTIVIST'S SECURITY AS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS, A BENCH OF JUSTICES K M JOSEPH AND HRISHIKESH ROY ALLOWED THE MAHARASHTRA POLICE TO SEARCH AND INSPECT THE RESIDENCE WHERE NAVLAKHA WILL BE PUT UP

THE CASE RELATES TO ALLEGED INFLAMMATORY SPEECHES MADE BY NAVLAKHA AND OTHERS AT THE ELGAR PARISHAD CONCLAVE IN PUNE ON DECEMBER 31, 2017, WHICH THE POLICE CLAIM TRIGGERED VIOLENCE THE NEXT DAY NEAR THE KOREGAON-BHIMA WAR MEMORIAL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE WESTERN MAHARASHTRA

and Hrishikesh Roy allowed the Maharashtra Police to search and inspect the residence where Navlakha will be put up. Navlakha's partner Sahba Husain expressed happiness over the Supreme Court order.

"We are happy even if it is for a month. The order says he will have

to be in Mumbai. We have seen certain places... But we are yet to zero in on. We have to make arrangements now," Sahba told PTI in Mumbai. Navlakha was not released from prison till late in the evening as formalities could not be completed. He is expected to be shifted out of the jail on Friday

Row between Kerala govt & Guv intensifies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 10: The LDF government Thursday amended the rules of Kerala Kalamandalam deemed university to remove the Governor as its Chancellor, a position which would now be filled with an eminent person from the field of Art and Culture.

Suiting action to its words that it no longer wants Governor Arif Mohammed Khan at the helm of universities in the state, the Pinarayi Vijayan-headed dispensation issued an order amending the rules and regulations of the deemed university of Art and Culture.

Khan is presently Chancellor of the Kerala Kalamandalam according to its website. The move comes amidst the government's ongoing tussle with Khan over functioning of universities, including appointment of Vice Chancellors in the state and its announcement that it will come out with an ordinance to replace him with eminent academicians at the helm of varsities in Kerala.

The Kerala government on

Wednesday decided to come out with an ordinance to replace the Governor as Chancellor of universities and appoint eminent academicians to that post, a move which has been opposed both by the Congress and BJP.

However, as everyone was awaiting the ordinance and speculating whether Khan would promulgate it, the government came out with the order amending the rules and regulations of the deemed university. The move is also a clear indication that the ruling Left has no intention of backing away from its attempt to remove the Governor from the helm of universities in the state.



COURT JUNKS AZAM'S PLEA

The MP/MLA court in Rampur has rejected Samajwadi Party leader Mohd Azam Khan's plea for stay on his conviction in a hate speech case. The refusal of the court to stay his conviction now means that his disqualification from the state Assembly will continue



Recruitment scam: CBI arrests seven

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: The CBI has arrested seven more people, including some CRPF and police personnel, in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam in Jammu and Kashmir Police, officials said Thursday.

They said the agency had questioned them in Jammu before taking them into custody. Those arrested were CRPF Head Constable Pawan Kumar, CRPF Constables Atul Kumar, Amit Kumar Sharma and Sunil Sharma, Jammu and Kashmir Police Assistant Sub-Inspector Jaisuriya Sharma, and private individuals Tarsem Lal and Asheesh Yadav, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had conducted searches on Tuesday at seven locations in Jammu, Pathankot, Rewari and Karnal in connection with the recruitment scam.

The CBI took over the investigation into the case on August 3 on a reference from the Jammu and Kashmir government.

It had arrested 13 persons in connection with the case earlier. Out of 13 accused arrested earlier, nine are in judicial custody and four in police custody.

The case pertains to the leak of the question paper for the examination through which 1,200 posts of sub-inspectors were to be filled by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.



Police personnel at the site after an explosion at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Madurai district. At least 5 workers were killed in the accident

US visa processing time may fall by mid-2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: The waiting period for issuance of American visas is expected to see a significant fall by summer of 2023 and the number of visa applications is projected to reach around 1.2 million, a senior official of the US embassy said Thursday.

"India is number one priority for Washington (for issuance of visas). Our aim is to bring the situation to the pre-Covid-19 level by the middle of next year," the official said. India has been one of the very few countries where applications for US visas saw a major up-



swing after coronavirus-related travel restrictions were lifted.

Considering the long wait time for grant of visas, the US is also rolling out a series of initiatives including hiring of more personnel and increasing the "drop box" facilities, the official said. The plan is to issue around one lakh visas

every month.

The official said the US has already identified H (H1B) and L category visas for Indians as its priority and nearly 1,00,000 slots were released recently for those wanting to renew the visas. The wait time for certain categories has already been brought down to around nine months from earlier 450 days.

The official said the wait time for B1, B2 (business and tourism) visas is also being brought down from around 9 months. The official also said that India is expected to move to the number two place from current number three in terms of the number of visas being issued by the US.

Lucknow less prone to quakes due to Ganga

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 10: Lucknow is less prone to earthquake damages as it lies in the Ganga Plain that acts as a shock absorber to reduce the impact of tremors.

However, experts said, the activeness of Himalayan Frontal Fault, which separates Himalayas from the Ganga Plain, has become more active in the past three decades, resulting in the increase of the frequency of earthquakes in this region.

Dhruvsen Singh, a professor of Geology in Lucknow University, who has done extensive research on this subject, explained that as the Indian sub-continent plate is moving towards Eurasian plate in the north direction, this at times, results in tectonic activity, which causes earthquakes in the Himalayas.



There are five major seismic or earthquake zones in India classified based on risk of damages. Each zone indicates the effects of an earthquake at a place based on the observations of the affected areas. Zone 1 has no or the least risk, while zone 5 has the highest.

"Lucknow is at moderate risk because it is located on the Ganga plains that comes under seismic zone 3. The Ganga plain is made up of loose unconsolidated sand, silt and clay known as alluvium. The loose alluvium acts as a shock absorber that reduces the intensity

of the earthquakes. The surface manifestations of all those tectonic features -- ridge and fault lines which cause earthquakes -- are absent in Ganga plain," he explained.

He also said that due to the activeness of Himalayan Frontal Fault, the rate of earthquakes in Himalayan belt has increased in the past three decades. However, most of the earthquakes have been of smaller magnitudes.

"Occurrence of smaller earthquakes is safer because they release energy generated due to movement of tectonic plates from time to time, thus preventing a major earthquake, which can cause more damage," he added.

Hydrogeologist R.S. Sinha pointed out another area of concern. "Our preliminary studies show that the shocks felt in Lucknow following moderate

earthquakes in the past few years have been more in comparison to similar situations about 20 years ago," he said.

"A reason behind this could be the relentless extraction of groundwater. The groundwater naturally binds the soil layers beneath the earth surface and creates high elasticity, which in turn acts as a shock absorber. This elasticity has declined significantly because about 100 metres strata below the ground in Lucknow have dried up. We found the same thing in the 2014 earthquake and informed authorities."

Other geologists said that rapid groundwater depletion is a matter of concern and immediate preventive steps should be taken, but more studies are required to substantiate whether groundwater can check intensity of earthquake shocks.

India insists on new global climate finance target by 2024

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: At the ongoing UN climate summit, India has asserted that developing countries require a "substantive enhancement" in climate finance from rich countries by 2024 as the previously-set goal of USD 100 billion per year by 2020 was minuscule given the scale of their needs, an official said Thursday.

At COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, developed countries had committed to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to help developing countries tackle the effects of climate change. Rich countries, however, have repeatedly failed in delivering this finance.

Developing countries, including India, are pushing rich countries to agree to a new global climate finance target -- also known as the new collective quantified goal on

climate finance (NCQG) -- which they say should be in trillions as the costs of addressing and adapting to climate change have grown.

Rich countries say the issues of numbers are political and should be under political discussions and not part of technical discussions. At a high-level ministerial dialogue on NCQG at COP27 on Wednesday, India, on behalf of like-minded developing countries, highlighted that climate actions to meet the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets require financial, technological, and capacity-building support from developed countries, people aware of the developments said.

Citing the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), India said rich countries are the major contributors to the carbon stock in the atmosphere.

COIMBATORE BLAST

NIA searches multiple locations in Tamil Nadu



AGENCIES

Coimbatore, Nov 10: The National Investigation Agency (NIA), probing the bomb blast in front of a temple here recently, conducted searches at more than 40 places in eight districts of Tamil Nadu, officials said Thursday.

According to the NIA spokesperson, the searches were conducted in Chennai, Coimbatore, Thiruvallur, Tiruppur, Nilgiris, Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and one location in Palakkad district of neighbouring Kerala.

The blast in a car laden with explosives in front of Kottai Eswaran Temple took place October 23, on the eve of Diwali.

According to preliminary investigation, the accused, Jamesha Mubeen, owing allegiance to the ISIS terrorist group, was planning to carry out a suicide attack and cause extensive damage to symbols and monuments of a particular religious faith and with the intention to strike terror among a particular section of community.

The case was initially registered at Ukkadam police station in Coimbatore and re-registered by the NIA October 27 following directions from the Union Home Ministry.

During the searches conducted Thursday, digital devices and in-

criminating documents, were seized from the houses of the suspects.

Six accused persons have been arrested in this case so far. The accused persons had conspired with the deceased, Jamesha Mubeen, to procure different chemicals and other ingredients for fabrication of Improvised Explosive Devices, including an Vehicle borne IED, from online shopping platforms to commit sensational terrorist acts.

Further investigation in the case are in progress, the spokesperson said.

The case was handed over to the NIA after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin recommended an investigation by the central agency saying there was involvement of factors "extraneous to the state" and "possible international links."

On the day of the blast, 75 kg of explosives, including potassium nitrate, were seized from the residence of 29-year old Mubeen who was killed after a gas cylinder exploded in a car he was travelling in. It is suspected that explosives were also put in the car when it exploded.

Mubeen is suspected to have played a key role in a conspiracy bid to carry out sabotage activities here.

The explosion happened while he was moving past a temple in the car and he had tried to evade a police check post.

Despite snow, Himachal voters gung-ho over voting

The polling booths in the district, a cold desert dotted by tiny helmets spread over the Himalayan peaks, adjoining Tibet, are scattered over rugged and inhospitable terrain where poll officials have to trek hours to reach there



The polling booths in the district, a cold desert dotted by tiny helmets spread over the Himalayan peaks, adjoining Tibet, are scattered over rugged and inhospitable terrain where poll officials have to trek hours to reach there. "The polling material has already reached all polling stations across the state, including the remotest stations," Neeraj Kumar, officer on special duty with the state election department, told IANS in Shimla.

He said the election staff at the far-off polling booths would reach by Friday, a day ahead of the election. "Our election staff are highly motivated. So are the electorate. This time we will see a record polling of over 80 per cent," he added. In the 2017 Assembly polls, a record 75.57 per cent polling, highest in four decades, was experienced.

At that time too the Congress and the BJP were locked in a straight contest.

Shimla/Manali, Nov 10: Widespread snow and extreme cold climatic conditions in the higher reaches of Himachal Pradesh Thursday have not impacted arrangements for the Assembly polls Saturday, say election officials.

Even the voters are gung-ho over their participation in record despite extreme climatic conditions.

Officials told IANS that at a majority of 92 polling stations for a population of 31,538 in Lahaul-Spiti district -- out of the state's 7,881 booths -- there was widespread overnight snowfall.

DMK urges Prez to recall TN Guv

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 10: Tamil Nadu's ruling party DMK has said that it had submitted a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu for the recall of Governor RN Ravi.

According to a statement by the DMK, the memorandum has been signed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members of the party as well as those from its alliance partners in the Secular Progressive Alliance.

"We must place on record our dissatisfaction that the work being done by the Tamil Nadu government and the Legislature is being obstructed by the office of the Governor by openly contradicting its policy in public and unduly delaying assent to bills," reads the memorandum.



The memorandum has listed a total of 20 bills that were unduly delayed by the Office of the Governor. The bills, according to DMK statement, include The Tamil Nadu Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill 2022 which gives power to the

state government to appoint Vice Chancellors to state Universities, a power hitherto enjoyed by the Governor in the position of Chancellor of the University.

The DMK pointed out in the memorandum that the Governor was delaying the TN Cooperative Societies Bill for 10 months.

"RN Ravi has developed an unfortunate propensity to publicly profess his lack of faith in the secular ideals of this country and frequently engages in divisive rhetoric. This is an embarrassment to our government which has the utmost commitment to the secular ethos of this nation," adds the memorandum.

The Tamil Nadu government and Governor RN Ravi have been engaged in a confrontation for the past few months.

Falling apple prices, support to tourism key poll issues in Kullu

Horticulturists say rising input costs due to higher prices of fertiliser, pesticides and reduced government support have made apple farming a loss-making venture

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kullu, Nov 10: Falling market prices of apple, demand for a medical college, and support to tourism have emerged as key election issues in the Kullu region which sends four legislators to the 68-member Himachal Pradesh assembly.

Horticulturists say rising input costs due to higher prices of fertiliser, pesticides and reduced government support have made apple farming a loss-making venture.

The Kullu region, the economy of which is dependent on tourism and horticulture, has four assembly seats of Manali, Kullu Sadar, Banjar and Anni.

"Apple growers are unhappy here as rates have fallen to the level of 2012 and 2013. Adani Ambanis are also manipulating the rates. This issue is going to impact elections in all the four seats in this apple belt," Naresh Chaudhary, an apple grower in Manali, said.

Apple growers here are also not happy with the ruling BJP over the hike in GST on the packaging and other input materials.

"Carton rates were increased just ahead of the apple marketing season which hit our income," Chaudhary said.

Another apple grower Durga Singh from Kullu said the ruling government had promised to open cold storage facilities in this region but did not fulfil it. "I think issues over apple rates and falling income and GST on packaging material will impact the prospects of the BJP in the four seats here," Singh said.

The demand for a medical college and upgradation of health facilities at the local hospital have also emerged as key election issues in the region. The economy of the Kullu region is mainly dependent on tourism and horticulture.

Sameer Singh, a local businessman, said that the local hospital at Kullu serves nearly 10 constituencies but there is lack of

health facilities and expert doctors here.

"People here protested for 45 days this year for better facilities but the demands have not been met even as there are three MLAs from the BJP including a state minister," Singh said.

Tourism-related facilities have not been developed in the region which is known for the famous tourist spots of Manali and Rohtang, a hotelier said.

"Hoteliers are also upset over the neglect of the industry by the state government during the Covid period. No financial help was given to the hospitality industry during the pandemic. Certainly, we will not vote for the ruling party," says Sanjeev Gandhi, who is the state co-ordinator of fora of hotel and restaurants associations in Himachal Pradesh.

Sanjana Gupta, a private teacher at a local school, is annoyed at the government for not filling vacancies in government schools.

"I am 42. I had been waiting for the recruitment for various posts by the government for the last five years. There are many like me who are waiting for government recruitment," Gupta said.

While Gupta is displeased with the ruling state government, she says, "I like (Prime Minister) Modiji. Why can't we have leaders like him in the state?"

The BJP is facing an uphill task in all four seats due to dissidents. For Manali seat, the party has nominated MLA Govind Singh Thakur while Congress has given the ticket to Bhuvneshwar Gaur, son of former minister Rajkrishan Gaur.

BJP rebel Mahender Singh Thakur, who has the support of Four-lane Sangharsh Samiti, a group of locals fighting for better land compensation, is also in the fray as an independent candidate.

The BJP is facing the heat from dissident Ram Singh in Kullu Sadar seat where the ticket has been given to Narottam Singh Thakur.

TN warns medical, dental colleges against overcharging students

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 10: The Tamil Nadu government Thursday warned the self-financing medical and dental colleges in the state of stringent action if the students are charged above the prescribed fee.

More than 50 students approached the state health department and medical education department of the government with a complaint that colleges were asking for fee higher than the prescribed rates.

State health secretary, Senthil Kumar called upon the self-financing medical and dental colleges not to overcharge or else face stringent action, including cancellation of their licenses.

Based on the complaint, the health secretary sent a two-page caution note to the self-financing medical colleges affiliated to the TN Dr. MGR Medical University.

It may be noted that during the present academic year, the fee for MBBS/BDS has increased by Rs 1



lakh. With the new fee structure, the students admitted to self-financing medical colleges under government colleges have to pay fees between Rs 4.35 lakh and Rs 4.50 lakh.

The fee for MBBS seats in the management quota is Rs 13.5 lakh per year and in the NRI quota admission, it will be Rs 24.5 lakh. The fee includes tuition fee, admission fee, special laboratory fee.

It also includes charges for internet usage, sports fee, etc.

The fee does not include hostel or mess charges. In addition to this, the colleges can collect an amount of Rs 40,000 per head as a development fee.



POLL PREP: Polling officials with EVMs and other election equipment leave for their respective polling stations ahead of Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections, in Mandi, Thursday.

Cong trusts old warhorses, BJP reposes faith in youth

BOTH TRADITIONAL ARCHRIVALS -- THE BJP AND THE CONGRESS -- HAVE BEEN CONTESTING ON ALL 68 ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES, WHILE THE AAP, IN ITS MAIDEN FRAY TO THE ASSEMBLY POLLS, HAS FIELDIED 67 CANDIDATES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Nov 10: The grand old party Congress is trusting its old warhorses to leave behind greenhorns to win the November 12 electoral race in Himachal Pradesh.

In comparison, the state ruling BJP has largely discarded its veterans and reposed faith in comparatively younger faces with the slogan 'rijaj badlega' (electoral traditions will change), meaning to buck the trend to sweep the polls alternatively as both arch rivals ruled the state from 1985.

Out of 412 candidates in the fray, 24 are female and 388 male candidates. A total of 55,92,828 voters will elect their representatives. Of them, 193,106 are first-time voters

in the age of 18-19 years. There are 121,409 voters above 80 years, while 56,501 voters with disabilities.

Among the eldest candidates, the Congress has fielded Col. Dhani Ram Shandil (82) from Solan; Chandra Kumar (78) from Jawali; Kaul Singh Thakur (76) from Drang; Thakur Singh Bharmouri (75) from Bharmour; Kishori Lal (75) from Bajinath and Khimi Ram (73) from Banjar. The youngest candidate is Piyush Kanga (26), who is in fray from Bilaspur as an Independent. The others are Chaitanya Sharma (28) of the Congress from Gagret; Jabna Kumari (29) of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) from Nachan; Puja (29) of the Himachal Jan Kranti Party from Bharmour; Manisha Kumari (30) of AAP from Nurpur;



Kishori Lal (31) of the CPI(M) from Karsog; Vikramaditya Singh (33) of the Congress from Shimla (Rural); and Deep Raj (34) of the BJP from Karsog. The BJP has denied the party ticket to 11 sitting legislators, shifting seats of two ministers, denying nomination to one minister, whose son has been fielded from that constituency, and swapping seats of two veterans owing to infighting.

The grand old party, which is trying to build up its ground on



slogan 'Himachal ka Sankalp, Congress hi Vikalp' (For Himachal's resolve, the Congress is the only alternative), has retained all its 20 outgoing lawmakers.

Its two legislators -- Pawan Kajal from Kangra and Lakhwinder Singh Rana from Nalagarh -- in the 68-member House had joined the BJP and in the fray again from their respective seats.

Both traditional archrivals -- the BJP and the Congress -- have been contesting on all 68 Assembly con-

stituencies, while the AAP, in its maiden fray to the Assembly polls, has fielded 67 candidates.

The BSP is in fray on 53 seats, the Rashtriya Devbhoomi Party in 29, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 11, the Himachal Jan Kranti Party in six, the Hindu Samaj Party and the Swabhiman Party in three seats each and one seat each by the Himachal Janata Party, the Bhartiya Veer Dal, the Sainik Samaj Party, the Rashtriya Lok Niti Party and the Communist Party of India.

A total of 99 Independent candidates are also in the fray.

Political observers told IANS the rebels are more vocal in the BJP compared to the Congress, though both parties have been gripped with infighting, besides the ruling party facing anti-incumbency. Political observers told IANS the BJP is facing strong dissent after the allocation of tickets in Dharampur, Karsog, Jogindernagar and Darang constituencies in Mandi district, which may upset BJP's appercart.



of the day quote

This is the time for a renewal of the government. When one engine goes down, Himalachal goes down... If a good gardener is not chosen, the garden will be ruined

It has been decided to dedicate the budget of the upcoming financial year 2023-24 to the youth. Your suggestions are important to us in budget creation. For the last budget also, about 45,000 suggestions were received. All your suggestions are invited. Suggestions can be sent till December 31

Firearms are being smuggled from Bihar and across international borders to separate north Bengal from the state

SHORT TAKES

Five die in Bihar

Patna: Five members of a family died after they consumed poison in Bihar's Nawada district in a suicide pact, police said Thursday. Another member is battling for her life in a hospital.

Cop robbed

Chikkaballapur: In a shocking incident, a gang of five robbers barged into the house of an assistant police sub-inspector (ASI), shot his son and looted gold jewellery and cash in the Paresandra village of Chikkaballapur district.

Woman raped

New Delhi: A 24-year old woman was allegedly raped multiple times and physically assaulted by an auto-rickshaw driver in South Delhi's Tigr area, police said Thursday.

Rape accused evades police

Noida: A rape accused in Noida's Sector 120 Amrapali Zodiac Society hit a security guard with his car in order to escape from the police who had come to pick him up for questioning in the case.

Teen held for rape

New Delhi: Delhi Police said that it arrested a 19-year-old teen from Uttar Pradesh for the alleged rape and kidnap of a minor in the national capital's Greater Kailash 1 area.

GUJARAT POLLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 10: A number of former Congress MLAs in Gujarat, who joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after resigning as legislators in the last five years, have been given an opportunity by the ruling party to fight the upcoming state Assembly polls.

Separate from former Congress working president and prominent Patidar leader Hardik Patel, who quit the opposition party in May this year, several former Congress MLAs who joined the BJP, have been given tickets from the seats from where they had won by-elections.

The BJP Thursday released its first list of 160 candidates for the two-phase elections to the 182-member Gujarat Assembly, fielding Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel from his constituency

Delhi excise policy case: ED arrests 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Two private company executives were arrested on Thursday by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a case related to alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy in which Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is accused.

The two arrested were Benoy Babu, general manager of liquor company Pernod Ricard, and P Sarath Chandra Reddy, whole time director and promoter of Aurobindo Pharma. Initially, the Hyderabad-based Aurobindo Pharma Ltd. said in its filing to the BSE that it was "in the process of ascertaining further details and will do further disclosures as appropriate."

Later, in a separate filing, the company informed the BSE that the arrest of Reddy, is "not in any way connected with the operations of Aurobindo Pharma Limited or its subsidiaries". The share prices of the company fell about 12 per cent in the BSE after news of the arrest came.

Besides these two, the ED had arrested Sameer Mahandru, managing director of liquor manufacturing company Indospirit, in September. Officials claimed they were "evasive" during the questioning.

The two were allegedly involved in the formulation of the Delhi excise policy along with government officials and also had a role in the "cartelisation" of the entire network, the officials said. The ED claimed to have recovered a draft of the policy from one of the executives when the premises were searched earlier.

The agency also claimed to have found that investments worth Rs 200 crore in the retail liquor business were made by an entity in violation of the policy directives, they alleged.

The ED has conducted multiple raids in this case so far. The agency early this month raided the premises of a PA of Delhi Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and later questioned him at its office in Delhi.

The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR that had named Sisodia as an accused among others.

The CBI had raided the premises of the deputy chief minister and some Delhi government bureaucrats after filing the case.

Rising air pollution can affect unborn babies: Experts

Air pollution is a silent killer and the monstrous toxicity levels in the air of Delhi-NCR are increasing risks for pregnant women. It is affecting everyone with both long-term and short-term side effects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: As the air quality deteriorates in Delhi-NCR, health experts are of the view that air pollution can negatively affect pregnancy, possibly leading to preterm birth, a low birth weight, stillbirth, or congenital abnormalities.

The AQI is constantly dipping into a very poor and severe category in the capital region, with doctors advising expecting mothers to stay



We have now more unicorns than in China. Our youngsters are doing miracles. All of this has taken place because there has been a transformation in policy ecosystem. All efforts are being made to ensure that everyone should be able to exploit his or her talent to the optimum level

JAGDEEP THANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

LALU'S DAUGHTER TO DONATE KIDNEY TO HIM

Lalu Prasad's second daughter Rohini Acharya will donate a kidney to her ailing father who is battling several health complications. She resides in Singapore along with her husband and children



Several Cong turncoat MLAs get BJP ticket



Ghatlodia and dropping a large number of sitting MLAs.

The Congress had won 77 seats in the 2017 Assembly elections. Of these 77 legislators, as many as 20 resigned during the past five years, with three quitting in the last two days alone. A majority of these 20 MLAs had won the byelections necessitated by their resignation and most of

them have been given another chance by the BJP to contest the elections to be held on December 1 and 5.

The BJP has given ticket to Rajendrasinh Rathva, son of Congress's senior-most former MLA and tribal leader Mohan Rathva, who had resigned two days before the ruling party announced its list. Patel will con-

test from Viramgam seat.

Apart from Rathva, the MLAs who resigned this year, including Bhagvan Barad, Harshad Ribadiya, and Ashvin Kotwal, have also been given a chance to contest from their respective seats Talala, Visavadar, and Khedbrahma, as BJP candidates.

The party is yet to decide the fate of Bhavesh Katara, the latest to resign from the Congress, as it has not yet declared the name of candidate on the Jhalod seat which he represented.

Also, the BJP is yet to decide whether prominent OBC leader Alpesh Thakor, who had quit the Congress from the Radhanpur seat in 2019 and lost the byelection, will get a chance to contest the upcoming election on its ticket or not as the ruling party is yet to declare the name of candidate from this seat.

Among the MLAs who had quit the Congress (in the last five years) and won the bypolls on the BJP ticket are Kunwarji Bavaliya (Jasdan seat), Jawahar Chavda (Manavadar), Jitu Chaudhary (Kaprada), Akshay Patel (Karjan), J V Kakadiya (Dhari), and Pradyumnasinh Jadeja (Abdasa).

Bavaliya had resigned in July 2018 and became the first Congress MLA to quit after the 2017 elections. The prominent Koli leader went on to win from his stronghold Jasdan and was made a cabinet minister.

Jitu Chaudhary, an MLA from Scheduled Tribe-reserved seat of Kaprada, who was made the Minister of State for Fisheries and Kalspar after winning the by-election, is among the Congress turncoat MLAs who have been repeated by the BJP.

Dimple to contest Mainpuri LS seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 10: Samajwadi Party Thursday announced the name of Dimple Yadav as its candidate for Mainpuri parliamentary seat, which fell vacant after the death of party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav.



The bypoll on the seat will be held on December 5 and result will be declared on December 8. "The party declares Dimple Yadav as candidate for Mainpuri bypoll," Samajwadi Party said on its official Twitter handle.

Dimple Yadav, wife of the SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, had represented Kannauj seat in 2012 and 2014. Name of the Mulayam's grandson Tej Pratap Yadav, former MP from Mainpuri, was doing the rounds in the political circles as the probable SP candidate from the seat, but the choice ultimately fell on Dimple Yadav.

Dimple Yadav's candidature from the seat is seen as the SP's efforts to carry forward the legacy of her father-in-law on the seat, considered a stronghold of Samajwadi Party since 1996. Her selection is also seen as an attempt to unite party cadres ahead of the by-poll.

Akhilesh's Karhal assembly seat is part of Mainpuri Lok Sabha constituency. The declaration of Dimple's candidature would put a tough challenge to the BJP on the seat.

There was no immediate reaction from Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) of Shivpal Yadav on Dimple's candidature. The role of Shivpal Yadav, Mulayam's younger brother, in the Mainpuri by-poll is hotly debated in the political circles.

Dimple Yadav had lost the Lok Sabha by-election from Firozabad in 2009 against Raj Babbar.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra

PTI PHOTO

SC to set up bench Militant module busted, 6 held

GYANVAPI-KASHI VISHWANATH CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Supreme Court agreed to set up a bench Friday to hear the Gyanvapi-Kashi Vishwanath case in which the Hindu side has sought extension of an order by which protection of an area where a 'Shivling' was found in Gyanvapi premises was ordered.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Thursday took note of the submissions of advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, appearing for some Hindu devotees, that the May 17 order of the apex court granting protection was expiring on November 12 and it

needed to be extended. "We will constitute a bench at 3 pm tomorrow," the CJI said.

While mentioning the plea for urgent hearing, Jain said the order of protecting the area would be expiring. On being inquired about the fate of the plea of mosque committee challenging the maintainability of petition of Hindu devotees, the lawyer said the trial court had rejected it and an appeal is pending in the Allahabad High Court.

May 17, the top court had passed an interim order directing the district magistrate of Varanasi to ensure protection of the area inside the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex where a 'Shivling' was said to be found in the survey.

The apex court had also allowed Muslims to offer namaz in the Gyanvapi mosque. On November 8, fast track court at Varanasi postponed till November 14 its judgement on a separate plea seeking permission to allow worship of the 'Shivling' claimed to have been found in the mosque complex.

Srinagar, Nov 10: A terror funding and recruitment module was busted in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir by arresting six accused, police said Thursday.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference in north Kashmir's Kupwara - about 90 kms from here, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kupwara, Yougal Manhas described the arrest of six accused as a major success against the perpetrators of terrorism in the valley.

"Kupwara Police along with Army's 21 RR and 47 RR busted a deep-rooted terror funding and recruitment module running in north Kashmir," the SSP said.

He said after receiving multiple inputs regarding an individual Bilal Ahmed Dar, hailing from Cheerkote area of the district, a joint operation was launched by the Army and police to nab him from the general area Nutnussa and he was arrested.

After thorough interrogation, Dar revealed that he along with five other people from different parts of north Kashmir were running a



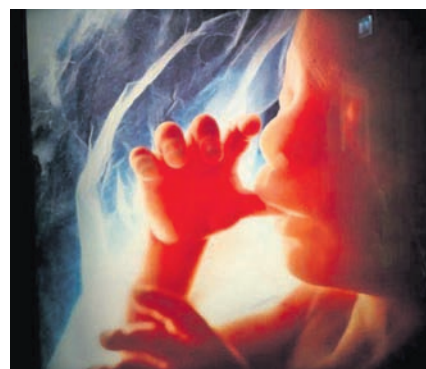
The module was being coordinated by Pakistan based handlers to aid the operations of "Tehreek-e-ul Mujahideen Jammu and Kashmir" (TuMJK) in north Kashmir, the SSP said

terror funding racket under the garb of a fake NGO called "Islahi Falahi Relief Trust" (IFRT) which claimed to provide monetary assistance to poor and needy families, Manhas said.

"He (Dar) was actively involved in coordinating the funding for terror activities and aiding recruitment by organizing secret meetings in different villages where they would try and lure

young people into terror activities," Manhas said.

The SSP said on Dar's disclosure five other persons were arrested. He identified them as Wahid Ahmed Bhat, resident of Langate, Javed Ahmed Najar, resident of Singhpura, Baramulla, Mushtaq Ahmed Najar, resident of Sopore, Bashir Ahmed Mir, resident of Mundji area of Sopore, and Zubair Ahmed Dar, resident of Cheerkote.



There are also chances of stillbirth as the air inhaled by the mother very much forms the surviving environment of the baby

There is research stating that expecting mothers are at risk of experiencing preterm labour and with it, comes the risk of low birth weight, underdeveloped lungs, and many other fatal conditions in the baby, he said.

There are also chances of stillbirth as the air inhaled by the mother very much forms the surviving environment of the baby. Ensure that in such a situation an expecting mother stays away from pollution and is provided with ample nutrition and hydration, he added.

Air pollution is a silent killer and the monstrous toxicity levels in the air of Delhi-NCR are increasing risks for pregnant women. It is affecting everyone with both long-term and short-term side effects. Even unborn babies are not

left unaffected.

"Air pollution can affect the health of the pregnant woman and the developing baby. Pollutants in the air can cross the placenta, affecting the placenta's health, and disrupting the baby's development. Toxic air can also increase the risk of miscarriage," said Dr Akta Bajaj, Senior Consultant and Head-Obstetrics Gynaecology, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals.

"The effect of air pollution on unborn babies depends on several factors, such as how long the exposure lasts, and what the level of air quality is, among others. Pregnancy complications such as pre-eclampsia or high blood pressure, have higher chances to be found in pregnant women who are exposed to air pollution," she said.

international



Russia wants to turn Kherson into a 'city of death'. The Russian military mines everything they can: apartments, sewers. Artillery on the left bank plans to turn the city into ruins

PRAYER BOOKS ISSUED TO SIKHS IN UK FORCES

Daily Sikh prayer books, called the Nitnem Gutka, have been issued to Sikh military personnel in the UK for the first time in 100 years, a report said.



of the day quote

I think that Elon Musk's cooperation and/or technical relationships with other countries is worthy of being looked at. Whether or not he is doing anything inappropriate, I'm not suggesting that...

The China of 1970 is not the China of today. China is an increasingly disruptive, global power. It seeks to shape the global environment into one that is more permissive for interests and values that increasingly depart from ours

I always imagined that, because the Army is so powerful and organised, when I would try to bring rule of law in the country, they would play an important part

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

'1L Russian soldiers killed, hurt'

The scale of the casualties could convince both Moscow and Kyiv of the need to negotiate over the coming winter months, when fighting may slow due to freezing conditions



Ukrainian side," the BBC quoted General Milley as saying. "There has been a tremendous amount of suffering, human suffering," he said.

Moscow claimed in Sept that just 5,937 troops had been killed since the start of the war

The American General also noted that between 15 and 30 million refugees have been created since Russia launched its invasion.

Ukraine skeptical of Kherson pullout

Kyiv: Russia's military said Wednesday it will withdraw from the only Ukrainian regional capital it captured, but Kyiv was sceptical and an analyst warned this could be a ruse to lure the country's forces into a deadly trap.

Washington, Nov 10: America's top general estimated Wednesday that Russia's military had seen more than 100,000 of its soldiers killed and wounded in Ukraine, and added Kyiv's armed forces "probably" suffered a similar level of casualties in the war.

8 Indians among 10 killed in blaze at Male garage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male, Nov 10: Eight Indians were among 10 people who were confirmed dead early on Thursday, when a fire broke out in the garage below a cramped living quarters that housed foreign workers here in the Maldivian capital, an Indian High Commission official said.

The fire broke out in the M. Nirufehi area near the Maaveyo Mosque around 1230 am, according to news portal SunOnline international.

Ten people were confirmed dead, of which eight were Indian nationals. We are yet to ascertain the nationalities of the two other victims, Ramdhir Singh, Welfare Officer, working in the Indian High Commission here told PTI.

In a tweet earlier, the Indian High Commission said, We are deeply saddened by the tragic fire incident in Malé which has caused loss of lives, including reportedly of Indian nationals. We are in close contact with the Maldivian authorities.

The garage is located on the ground floor, while the first-floor housed migrant workers. The living quarters had only a single window, the report said.

Seven of them were found dead, while two were taken to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital with severe burns, it said.



PAIN & TEARS: A protester carries a mock dead body representing the victim of October 1 soccer stampede, during a rally commemorating 40 days since the tragedy, in Malang, East Java, Indonesia.

ATROCITIES CONTINUE Taliban ban women from gyms, parks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kabul, Nov 10: The Taliban is banning women from using gyms in Afghanistan, an official said Thursday; the religious group's latest edict cracking down on women's rights and freedoms since they took power more than a year ago.

ordered them to wear head-to-toe clothing in public. A spokesman from the Ministry of Virtue and Vice said the ban was being introduced because people were ignoring gender segregation orders and that women were not wearing the required hijab, or head covering.



for male and female access or imposing gender segregation. "But, unfortunately, the orders were not obeyed and the parks were violated, and we had to close parks and gyms for women," said Mahjer.

In most cases, we have seen both men and women together in parks and, unfortunately, the hijab was not observed. So we had to come up with another decision and for now we ordered all parks and gyms to be closed for women.

Mohammed Akef Mohajer | Spokesman for the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, Taliban

in the Taliban-led administration, which struggles to govern and remains internationally isolated. An economic downturn has driven millions more Afghans into poverty and hunger as the flow of foreign aid has slowed to a trickle.

SHORT TAKES

Britain freezes Russian assets

London: The British government said Thursday that it had frozen assets together worth 18 billion pounds held by Russian oligarchs, other individuals and entities sanctioned for Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Putin to skip G20 summit in person

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia next week, avoiding a possible confrontation with the United States and its allies over his war in Ukraine, an Indonesian government official said Thursday.

Khan to resume stalled march

Lahore: Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party is poised to resume its stalled long march Thursday from Wazirabad in Punjab province, where an assassination attempt was made on the former premier last week.

Japan, US hold joint arms drills

Tokyo: Japan and the United States began a major joint military exercise Thursday in southern Japan as the allies aim to step up readiness in the face of China's increasing assertiveness and North Korea's intensifying missile launches.

Midterms full of firsts for female, Black, LGBTQ candidates

Across US, women, LGBTQ and Black candidates broke barriers as part of a new generation of politicians elected to governor's offices and seats in Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 10: A Massachusetts Democrat is the country's first openly lesbian candidate to be elected to the office of governor. In Maryland, voters elected the state's first Black governor. Vermont will finally send a woman to Congress, after being the only state never to have had female representation in the House.

fourth of the country's states will be run by women. The party majority for female governors is still not clear.

One of the winners, Maura Healey, is the first woman to be elected to Massachusetts' top post and also makes history by becoming the country's first openly lesbian candidate to be elected governor.



Both the Republicans and the Democrats were at 48 seats each in the 100 member-US Senate, while in House of Representatives, the GOP (Republican Party) was ahead with 207 seats against 183 of the Democratic Party



He is only the third Black candidate in the country to be elected governor. In Maryland, voters chose Democrat Wes Moore, who will be the state's first Black governor.



Healed in making history as a lesbian candidate elected governor. He is only the third Black candidate in the country to be elected governor.

Hogan is term limited. Florida, meanwhile, is sending the first member of Gen Z to Congress, with the comfortable victory of Democrat Maxwell Frost, a 25-year-old Black man with Cuban heritage.

Frost said that Gen Zers, those born from 1997 to 2012, are voting at higher levels, even though roughly half of the generation isn't yet old enough. In an Associated Press interview, he praised President Biden's focus on climate change and student debt cancellation.

Also marking a first, Vermont, which elected its first female governor in the 1980s, had been the only state that had never sent a woman to Congress.

business

of the day quote

We had meetings with fund managers. They are all very keen to invest in India. They were excited about the cooperation prospects. India is a sought-after destination



INJETI SRINIVAS | CHAIRMAN, IFSCA

Women travelling solo has been a trend across the world for years and we want to support this by doing our bit as more and more women in India choose to travel solo. We are excited to partner with Adventure Women India and support them in their inspiring mission



KAVIKRUTI | CHIEF GROWTH OFFICER, OYO

With the introduction of E-GMP to India, we will be able to provide customers with advanced battery electric vehicles, derived from a platform that is modular, scalable and versatile



UNSOO KIM | MD & CEO, HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Emirates half-year profit breaks record

Dubai: The group owning long-haul carrier Emirates saw record-breaking half-year profits of \$1.2 billion this year, the company announced Thursday, as global travel resumes after the lockdowns of the coronavirus pandemic. The results from the Emirates Group represent a major turnaround after posting a \$1.6 billion loss in the same period last year. Emirates Group, which includes the airline, its dnata airport services firm and other companies, had revenues of \$15.3 billion, compared to \$6.7 billion last year at the same time.

Musk rolls back 'Official' label

New Delhi: Elon Musk, the owner of Twitter, said he has "killed" the new 'Official' label for certain verified Twitter accounts just hours after the feature was visible on multiple handles of governments, politicians, officials and media houses. Just hours after the feature went live, he hinted that it simply didn't work. "I just killed it," he said in a tweet replying to a web video producer Marques Brownlee's tweet of the 'Official' label vanishing after a brief appearance.

PFC logs highest quarterly profit

New Delhi: Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Thursday posted its highest ever quarterly profit after tax of ₹5,229.33 crore for September quarter 2022-23 mainly due to higher revenues. The consolidated profit is 4 per cent higher as compared to the year-ago period when it logged a profit of ₹5,023.42 crore, it said in a BSE filing. Total income rose to ₹19,344.39 crore from ₹19,282.60 crore in the same period a year ago.

US-India CEO Forum officially launched

Washington: US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal have officially launched the US-India CEO Forum to bring together top-level business executives and discuss ways to strengthen economic and commercial ties between the two countries. They were joined by Forum's Private Sector Co-Chairs James Taitel (Chairman, President, and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation) and Natarajan Chandrasekaran (Chairman, Tata Sons), as well as other members of the US and Indian CEO sections.



DEFUNC ENTERS INDIA MARKET
Swedish audio brand DEFUNC has made a foray into the Indian market with a strategic alliance with Delhi-based Salora International for marketing and distribution. The products of the brand, known for its customised printed speaker fronts, will be available in India from next year, and it is aiming sales of \$3 million (around ₹25 crore) in 2023, said DEFUNC CEO and Founder Johan Wahlbäck



Flipkart burns over \$3.7bn cash in about a year

It is the biggest cash burn in a year by any new-age company in the country, according to industry estimates

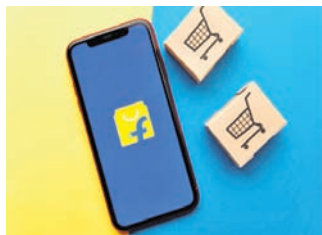
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: E-commerce major Flipkart has burnt cash of \$3.7 billion (about ₹30,000 crore) in about a year ending September 2022, according to regulatory filings. Flipkart had \$1 billion in cash in July 2021, which came down to \$900 million by September 2022. The company, in July 2021, raised \$3.6 billion (about ₹29,000 crore),

which has been completely exhausted, according to regulatory filings of Flipkart and Walmart.

A Walmart regulatory filing shows that the company had approximately \$1.1 billion as of July 31, 2022. "As of July 31, 2022, and January 31, 2022, cash and cash equivalents of \$3.5 billion and \$4.3 billion, respectively, may not be freely transferable to the US due to local laws or other restrictions."

"Of the \$3.5 billion on July 31, 2022, approximately \$1.1 billion can only be accessed through dividends or intercompany financing arrangements subject to the approval of the Flipkart minority shareholders; however, this cash is expected to be utilised by Flipkart," the filing said.



When contacted, a Flipkart spokesperson said, "It is important to understand the numbers in the right context, especially given the many investments that Flipkart has made in the last year." In July 2021, Flipkart announced raising \$3.6 billion. In August 2021, the firm invested \$1.42 billion in various arms just ahead of the festive season.

Binance backs out of deal to buy FTX, cryptos at new low

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 10: World's largest crypto exchange Binance Thursday took a U-turn on acquiring its rival FTX, saying it was backing out of the deal after reviewing the company's finances, leading to further fall in major cryptocurrencies.

Binance Tuesday signed a non-binding, letter of intent to purchase FTX for an undisclosed sum.

In a tweet, the company said that as a result of corporate due diligence, "as well as the latest news reports regarding mishandled customer funds and alleged US agency investigations, we have decided that we will not pursue the potential acquisition of FTX".

"Every time a major player in an industry fails, retail consumers will suffer," Binance said.

"We have seen over the last several years that the crypto ecosystem is becoming more resilient and we believe in time that outliers that misuse user funds will be weeded out by the free market," it added.

Q2 ROUNDUP

Indian cos get festive push

Apparel retailers, restaurants, banks, construction companies all saw a rise in sales and orders, as the country geared up for the first pandemic-free festive season in two years

REUTERS

Bangalore, Nov 10: Almost two-thirds of the near 200 Indian companies with market capitalization of \$100 million and more have reported a rise in profit for the September quarter, data tracked by Reuters showed.

Of the 191 companies tracked, 118 reported a rise in profit, Refinitiv data showed, with almost 90% of those logging in a rise in quarterly revenue.



"There is definitely a festive boost which cannot be denied and which is reflected in earnings performance," said Vivek Kumar, economist at Mumbai-based QuantEco Research.

Retail sales in India peaks during Diwali, the festival of lights, when Indians usually splurge on apparel, accessories, consumer goods and automobiles. This year's Diwali fell October 24.

Maruti Suzuki, India's top carmaker, reported a four-fold jump in quarterly profit, while construction bellwether Larsen & Toubro Ltd saw a spike in order inflows on a

There was also some comfort on input prices moderating in the quarter, and a boost from pent-up demand. All these factors came together to help

VIVEK KUMAR | ECONOMIST, QUANTECO RESEARCH

peak of 2014 led by strong momentum in festive demand and robust performance in the first three quarters.

Restaurant revenues rose more than 90% over last year, followed by apparel and accessories, power, construction, chemicals, banks and autos, Refinitiv data showed.

State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, reported record quarterly profit and forecast credit growth to remain in double-digits.

Even those companies, including Adani Wilmar, owner of the Fortune cooking oil brand, whose demand in rural India has been tepid, have said sales are rebounding on the back of easing prices of a few essentials and late revival in monsoon rains.

India's retail inflation accelerated in September to a five-month high of 7.41% as food prices surged, but analysts said most of the impact has been baked into estimates by markets, as well as customers.

RECORD HIGH

SIP contribution crosses ₹13k-cr

INFLOWS THROUGH SIPs HAVE BEEN ABOVE THE ₹12,000-CRORE MARK SINCE MAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Investors are betting big on systematic investment plans or SIPs to generate long-term wealth, with monthly flows in the mutual fund industry through the route rising to an all-time high of ₹13,040 crore in October.

This surpassed the ₹12,976 crore inflow seen in September, data with Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed Thursday.

The inflows through SIPs have been above the ₹12,000-crore mark since May. It was at ₹12,140 crore in July, ₹12,276 crore in June and ₹12,286 crore in May. Prior to that, it was at ₹11,863 crore in April.

With this, total inflow has reached over ₹87,000 crore in the first seven months of the current fiscal. This came following an inflow of over ₹1.24 lakh crore in the 2021-22 financial year.

Also, mutual funds added 9.52 lakh SIP accounts during the month under review, taking the total to about 5.93 crore.



SIP is an investment methodology offered by mutual funds wherein an individual can invest a fixed amount in a chosen scheme periodically at fixed intervals, say once a month, instead of making a lump sum investment. The SIP installment amount can be as small as ₹500 per month. The 43-player mutual fund industry mainly depends on SIPs for inflows, with equity mutual funds attracting ₹9,390 crore in the month of October. This also marks the 20th straight month of inflows into equity mutual funds.

In comparison, equity funds attracted ₹14,100 crore in September.

Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021. Before this, these schemes had witnessed outflows for eight months from July 2020 to February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore.

In addition, gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) saw an inflow of ₹147 crore in October as against ₹330 crore in the preceding month.

On the other hand, debt mutual funds witnessed an outflow of ₹2,818 crore last month as compared to a withdrawal of ₹65,372 crore in September.

Overall, the mutual fund industry registered net inflows of ₹14,047 crore in the month under review compared to a pull out of ₹41,404 crore in September.

The inflow pushed the Assets Under Management (AUM) of the industry to ₹39.5 lakh crore at the end of October, from ₹38.4 lakh crore at the end of September.

Mutual fund folios, which have been touching all-time highs since the last two months, reached a fresh high of 13.91 crore in October.

SBI observes Vigilance Awareness Week

Bhubaneswar: State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle has observed Vigilance Awareness Week from October 31 to November 6. The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week held this year was "Corruption free India for a Developed Nation." All staff members took a tri-lingual integrity pledge October 31 across the state. At local head office Bhubaneswar, integrity pledge was administered by Uttam Kumar Hazra Chowdhury, General Manager (NW-II). A sand sculpture featuring the theme was inaugurated by Chowdhury in front of LHO office. SBI CGM Chander Sekhar Sharma along with MLA SN Pradhan and other local dignitaries attended the Gram Sabha organised by Khurda region at Batisahi Gram Panchayat, Nayagarh November 4. Also Pranabindu Acharya (IPS), Spl DG of Police-cum-Director Investigation, Orissa Human Rights Commission attended a special meeting at LHO office on the same day and shared his thoughts on eradicating corruption.



On the occasion of the famous Balyatra festival, a stall of Arundhati Jewellers, Odisha's leading jewellery brand, was inaugurated by CMC Mayor Subhash Chandra Singh at Cuttack Balyatra ground, Thursday

50% of rated Indian firms getting boost from falling ₹: S&P

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FIRMS, LIKE WIPRO, INFOSYS, AND HCL TECHNOLOGIES THAT EXPORT SERVICES DENOMINATED IN DOLLARS, BUT WHOSE COSTS ARE LARGELY IN RUPEE, ARE CLEAR WINNERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: S&P Global Ratings Thursday said about half of the Indian companies that it rates are getting a boost in their core profitability from rupee depreciation.

"Much of our rated India corporate portfolio has sizable US-dollar linked revenue and, therefore, is not exposed to rupee depreciation. This encompasses entities in the IT, metals, and chemicals sectors. About half of the firms we rate

are getting an EBITDA boost from currency weakening," the US-based rating agency said in a report.

EBITDA or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization is a measure of a company's operating profitability.

S&P said domestically-driven sectors, such as telecom, are also well placed to withstand the rupee depreciation due to their hedging policies.

"Bharti Airtel has swapped half the principal of outstanding dollar debt—and all its interest expense—



on this debt over at least the next 12 months," S&P said.

"Local metals firms such as Vedanta Resources are also getting an earnings gain. The company has guided that annual EBITDA will rise by about \$50 million every time the Indian rupee (INR) drops

Re 1 against the dollar," S&P said.

It said infrastructure entities are most exposed to currency risk among Indian corporates and renewable players in particular have high capex spending and a heavy reliance on dollar debt.

To tame inflation, the Reserve

Still supportive onshore funding environment has also helped Indian companies manage the weaker offshore funding markets. Key onshore benchmark rates have risen about 200 basis points in the year to date, less than that seen in many offshore markets. This has made local markets an attractive alternate source of capital. This will give rated issuers a funding option to repay offshore bonds coming due through 2024

S&P GLOBAL RATINGS | US

Bank has hiked key policy rates by 190 basis points since May, taking interest rates to a three-year high of 5.90 per cent.

In the report titled 'Asia-Pacific's Strong-Dollar Problem: Inconvenience Today, Headache Tomorrow', S&P said Asia-Pacific is in the middle of a set of rapid interest rate hikes coming out of the US.

"We expect the macro pressures to build on regional foreign-ex-

change rates, as apparent in widening current account deficits emerging in many countries. Firms that have difficulty passing on their higher input costs, including currency impact, to their customers, are more vulnerable," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Simon Wong. "On the other hand, firms that proactively hedge their currency mismatch and those with material US dollar revenue and local costs are more resilient."

HUMBLED, HUMILIATED



EXPRESSIONS SAY IT ALL: Jos Buttler (L) and Alex Hales are in blissful mood after sealing the final berth, Thursday



UTTER DISAPPOINTMENT: Indian players walk off the field after the match wearing gloomy looks at Adelaide

England stamp complete authority in the semifinal as they remind India of their Dubai nightmare with a 10-wicket win to set up an ICC T20 World Cup title clash with Pakistan



MAKING OPPORTUNITY COUNT: Hardik Pandya goes for a full monty during his innings against England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Nov 10: A thoroughly professional England annihilated an out-of-sync India by 10 wickets to sail into the World Cup final as Alex Hales and Jos Buttler's relentless hitting mortified Rohit Sharma's clueless attack here Thursday.

170-run partnership between Buttler & Hales

The highest opening stand in the history of men's T20 World Cup, surpassing the previous best of 152 by Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam, also against India at Dubai, in 2021 edition

The highest partnership for any wicket at any men's T20 World Cup, surpassing the previous best of 168 by Quinton de Kock and Rilee Rossouw against Bangladesh earlier in this tournament

Second highest for England in men's T20is after Dawid Malan and Eoin Morgan's 182 against New Zealand at Napier in 2019

This result reminded Indian fans of their worst nightmare at the T20 World Cup so far - a 10-wicket defeat against Pakistan in Dubai last year. England seemed to have saved their best for the grand stage as they reduced the semifinal to a lopsided affair, courtesy a splendid bowling effort which they complemented with some breathtaking stroke-making.

It was Hardik Pandya (68, 33b, 4x4, 5x6), whose fearless hitting took India to 168/6 but it was just about a par-score at the Adelaide Oval. England captain Buttler (80 n o, 49b, 9x4, 3x6) set the tone with three boundaries off Bhuvneshwar Kumar's opening over but it was Hales (86 n o, 47b, 4x4, 7x6) who butchered the Indian attack into submission with India badly missing a leg-spinner in its line-up. England prevented an India-Pakistan final by achieving the target in just 16 overs.

The England opening duo gave India's star-studded line-up a lesson in how to build a T20 innings:

that there is only one way, the defensive way.

It was one match that was decided in Powerplay as India managed only 38 runs in six overs as the archaic style of safety-first approach hurt them terribly. In complete contrast, England's top order which looked shaky throughout the league stage, smashed 63 in their six overs. The match was won and lost then and there.

Hales' approach showed that there were no demons in the track. He deployed the old-fashioned 'Sanath Jayasuriya school' of hitting in the first six overs. When Virat Kohli (50, 40b, 4x4, 1x6) and Rohit Sharma (27) were batting, they were looking to hit through the line unlike Hales and Buttler.

Against lesser opposition like Bangladesh, they could make it up with a total of 168 but it was never enough for a side like England which has reinvented the grammar of T20 batting.

Bhuvneshwar and Arshdeep Singh didn't get enough swing up

front and team management's fascination to play Axar Patel (0/30) and Ravichandran Ashwin (0/27) ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal backfired badly. The success England spinner Adil Rashid (1/20) on the same track added insult to the injury.

By the time, Buttler hit Mohammed Shami (0/39) down the ground for one of his three sixes, the Adelaide Oval stands wore a desolate half-empty look. And the over-throws and the dropped catch by Suryakumar Yadav typified a day when everything that could go wrong went wrong for India.

This Indian team never had all their bases covered and paid the price. But even in this defeat, the T20 captain-in-waiting Pandya revelled in the role of a finisher with a sensational knock that gave India a chance to fight.

Kohli occasionally displayed his regal array of strokes but it was the flamboyant Baroda man whose unbelievable end-over pyrotechnics took India to a fighting total, which had looked distinctly impossible after the first 10 overs. In the last four overs, India scored 58 runs.

BRIEF SCORES
India 168/6 (Hardik Pandya 63, Virat Kohli 50; Chris Jordan 3/43) lost to England 170/0 (Alex Hales 86 n o, Jos Buttler 80 n o) by 10 wickets.



WHAT THEY SAY...

ROHIT SHARMA: Pretty disappointed how it turned out today. We batted well at the back end to get that score. We were not up to the mark with the ball. It was definitely not a wicket where a team can come and chase it down in 16 overs. With the ball we couldn't turn up today. When it comes to knockout stages, it's all about handling the pressure. Depends on the individual as well. You can't teach anyone to handle pressure. When these guys play the playoffs in the IPL and all that, those are high-pressure games, and they're able to handle it. The way we started with the ball was not ideal. We were a little nervy

JOS BUTTLER: The character we have shown since then (England's loss against Ireland), it has been amazing. We came here very excited, there was a very good feeling. Everyone from 1 to 11 stood up today. We always want to start fast and aggressive. Rashid was batting at 11, that's incredible to know that we have such depth

ALEX HALES: It will be right up there for sure (referring to a perfect innings). Huge occasion, India in a semifinal of a World Cup, really happy with the way I played and it is as special as it gets. I never thought I would play in a World Cup again, so to get the chance is a very special feeling, in a country (Australia) that I love and spend a lot of time in, tonight is one of the best nights of my career

RAHUL DRAVID: Probably would have certainly liked to go a couple of steps further. But just outplayed, outclassed today. They were the better team in all departments really. The scoreline showed that. Runs on the board was something (needed) in a semifinal. It's just, maybe when the game started, the boys were saying it was a little bit tacky, it was a little bit slower. Having said that, they bowled really well. I thought they were really good up front. They didn't really let us get away. (Then) we had 168. They brought that run-rate down to six-and-a-half I think by the time the sixth over was finished, or seven runs an over, and then on a small ground like that, they were always in control, so they were going to control that game

EXPERTS' TAKES

SUNIL GAVASKAR: Having won the IPL on his first assignment as captain, they would have marked Hardik out as the next captain. He will definitely take over the team in the future and there will be some retirements, you never know. I just think India seem to freeze in these knockout games... particularly with the batting and it is the batting which has been the strength of the Indian team. In the semifinals, the batting has not been as good as it should be. Batting really hasn't got the runs that the bowlers can defend

SHANE WATSON: India were too timid with the bat. Unfortunately, Rohit and KL have not been able to take the game on in the first six overs. They have got the firepower but you have to take the game on in T20 cricket. India did not have a wrist-spinner and England had two. In hindsight they certainly missed Chahal. He can control his pace like Rashid did tonight

NASSER HUSSAIN: India were timid upfront and England have taken them down. When you see England in the first six overs there is a glaring error (from India). Hales and Buttler are playing the way they are and India are still playing old-fashioned powerplay cricket. The game was won and lost at the start of each powerplay. India basically let England's bowlers settle - and you can argue it's good bowling or cautious batting - but when England came out they did not let them settle. It was a huge contrast between the two teams

WASIM AKRAM: Their start was slow and they could not recover from that. 190 probably would have been a good total on this wicket. They accelerated late, if it wasn't for Hardik Pandya, India would not have even got a respectable total. Their captain (Rohit) looked out of touch and then of course Virat got his fifty but he took 40 balls to do that. That was the difference.

SARANDEEP SINGH: Unfortunately for India, Rahul and Rohit could not find form in the big games, putting pressure on Virat and Suryakumar, who both can't perform game after game. One of the team's biggest mistakes was to not play Yuzvendra Chahal in the entire tournament especially today. Not playing Rishabh Pant in the league stage (he played only one game) also baffled me. I don't see at least half of the team members playing the next T20 World Cup including Rohit, Virat, Ashwin, Shami and Bhuvu. The selectors need to take a call on that

Coco, Caty pair helps USA pass Poland test



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glasgow, Nov 10: Coco Gauff and Caty McNally beat the Polish pair of Magda Linette and Alicja Rosolska 6-1, 6-2 to give the United States a 2-1 win at the Billie Jean King Cup team event.
Earlier Linette beat Madison Keys 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 in singles on Wednesday to force the deciding doubles after Danielle Collins gave the Americans a 1-0 lead in the opening singles against Magdalena French with a 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(7-2) win.
The Americans had rested their top player, Gauff, for the singles after she played at the WTA Finals in Fort Worth, Texas last week.

Collins' match began about two later than scheduled after some long matches earlier in the day, and the decisive doubles match finished after 12:30 am Thursday.
Spain, Switzerland and Slovakia all earned victories earlier. Paula Badosa gave Spain an unassailable 2-0 lead against Kazakhstan by beating Elena Rybakina 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in her debut at the event.
Switzerland swept Italy 3-0 with Jil Teichmann and Belinda Bencic both winning their singles matches before teaming up to take the doubles match as well. Viktorija Kuzmova and Anna Karolina Schmedlova had singles wins for Slovakia, which beat Belgium 2-1.

City beat Blues; Arsenal, Spurs ousted



Manchester City players celebrate after a goal against Chelsea, Wednesday

AGENCIES

London, Nov 10: Manchester City increased pressure on Graham Potter with a 2-0 win over Chelsea to progress to the last 16 of the League Cup Wednesday as Arsenal and Tottenham crashed out.
The Gunners were beaten 3-1 at home by Brighton, while Spurs laboured to a 2-0 defeat at Nottingham Forest despite starting Harry Kane. Holders Liverpool also survived a scare as they needed penalties to see off League One Derby after a 0-0 draw at Anfield.

City won the battle of two much-changed sides at the Etihad as two goals in five second-half minutes from Riyad Mahrez and Julian Alvarez put Pep Guardiola's men through to the next round.
Mahrez curled in a brilliant free-kick from the edge of the box to break the deadlock after a tight first 45 minutes against the Blues. Alvarez then made the most of another chance to start ahead of Erling Haaland by tapping in his third goal in as many games at the back post after Mahrez had been denied.
Arsenal are keeping City off the

top of the Premier League, but will not be adding their first League Cup since 1993 after Brighton continued their impressive turnaround under Roberto De Zerbi.
Eddie Nketiah's fine finish put the hosts ahead at the Emirates but a slip from goalkeeper Karl Hein on his Arsenal debut gave Danny Welbeck the chance to level from the penalty spot against his old club. Kaoru Mitoma's powerful finish turned the tie around before Tariq Lamptey slotted home 19 minutes from time.
England manager Gareth Southgate may have been dismayed by the sight of Kane starting at the City Ground the night before he names his World Cup squad. The England captain did finally get a rest for the final half-hour, but only as Antonio Conte seemingly threw in the towel with his side 0-2 down.
Renan Lodi cut inside on to his weaker right foot to fire in a brilliant opener early in the second half before Jesse Lingard headed in his first goal for Forest.
Caoimhin Kelleher was Liverpool's hero as he was for much of last season's competition as the Reds' stand-in goalkeeper saved three Derby penalties. Jurgen Klopp made 11 changes and it showed as a youthful side struggled to make their possession count.

Thapa continues quest for gold, 4 bags bronze



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Six-time medalist Shiva Thapa was the only Indian male boxer to advance to the finals as four others bowed out with bronze medals at the Asian Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan Thursday.
Thapa (63.5 kg) out-punched Bakhodur Usmonov of Tajikistan via a 4-1 split verdict in the semifinal to be assured of at least a silver. Thapa will face Uzbekistan's Abdullaev Ruslan in the final.
Two-time Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Mohammad Hussamuddin's (57kg) came to an abrupt end as he couldn't contest the semifinal due to a cut above his right eye he sustained during his last-eight bout earlier this week. The 28-year-old ended his cam-

paign with a bronze medal as did Thailand Open champions Sumit (75kg) and Govind Kumar Sahani (48kg) and Narender (92+kg).
Govind (48kg) was up against Kazakhstan's Sanzhar Tashkenbay, who inflicted a 0-4 defeat on the boxer from Gorakhpur.
Sumit (75kg), against the reigning Asian champion Jafarov Saidjamsid of Uzbekistan, suffered a 0-5 defeat by unanimous decision. Narender suffered a 0-5 defeat against Mullojonov Lazizbek of Uzbekistan.
Five Indian women pugilists, including Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) and Parveen (63kg), will be fighting for gold in the final of the tournament. The other women boxers competing for the gold will be Alfiya Pathan (81+kg), Saweety (81kg), and Minakshi (52kg).