



CLIMATE CONCERN

Actor Esha Gupta says she feels responsible to raise her voice and pitch in to initiate conversation about climate change

LEISURE P2



IRAN'S 'BLOODY FRIDAY'

Iranians protest in Sistan-Baluchistan province to mark Sept 30 crackdown by security forces known as 'Bloody Friday'

INTERNATIONAL P10



LOVLINA SECURES GOLD

Lovlina Borgohain strikes gold at Asian Boxing Championship in her maiden appearance in the middleweight division

SPORTS P12

SC frees 6 Rajiv assassins



From L-R: Sriharan alias Murugan, Nalini Sriharan and Santhan, convicts of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNFOLDING OF EVENTS

MAY 21, 1991: Ex-PM Rajiv Gandhi assassinated at a poll rally in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur
MAY 24, 1991: Probe handed over to SIT of CBI
JUNE 11, 1991: CBI arrests A G Perarivalan (19), books him under TADA
JAN 28, 1998: TADA court sentences 26 accused, including Perarivalan, to death
MAY 11, 1999: SC upholds Perarivalan's conviction and sentence
APRIL 2000: TN Gov commutes death sentence of Nalini on state govt's recommendation (see P4)

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court Friday directed the premature release of six convicts, including Nalini Sriharan and RP Ravichandran, serving life sentence in the assassination case of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna said the judgement of the top court in the case of AG Perarivalan, one of the convicts in the case, is equally applicable in their matter. "In so far as the applicants before us are concerned, their death sentences were commuted to life on account of delay...We direct that all the appellants are deemed to have served their sentence...The applicants are thus directed to be released unless required in any other case," the bench said. Nalini and Ravichandran had

moved the top court seeking premature release. Both of them had challenged a June 17 order of the Madras High Court, which rejected their pleas for early release, and cited the apex court judgement ordering the release of co-convict Perarivalan. **Continued on P4**



PAYING HOMAGE: French President Emmanuel Macron stands as flame rises at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe, as part of the commemorations marking the 104th anniversary of the Armistice, ending World War I, in Paris, Friday

SIX SUICIDES IN 7 DAYS STUN CAPITAL CITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The Capital city is witnessing a rise in suicide cases as one more girl Friday ended her life by hanging herself at a ladies' hostel in Khandagiri area here Thursday evening, taking the total number of such cases to six in the last seven days.

Preetimayee Pani, 22, a resident of Tiripadagarh under Gop block in Puri district, hanged herself in her hostel room at Baramunda under Khandagiri police limits. Pani was working at a shop in a local market complex under Khandagiri police station. She along with her two friends was staying in a ladies' hostel at Mahima

Mishra Lane in Baramunda area for the last couple of years. Thursday evening, Pani returned to hostel early when her friends had gone outside for some marketing. She later hanged herself with a towel from the ceiling fan of her hostel room. Pani's roommates spotted her hanging from the ceiling fan when they came back from market at

around 10pm Thursday. "We found a 'suicide note' near the spot. It is written in the note that she was committing suicide as she could no longer take the pain. She was under medication for some kind of neurological disorder. The body has been handed over to the family after post-mortem," said a senior police officer.

Appointment of 7k teachers gets nod

Bhubaneswar: CM Naveen Patnaik Friday approved recruitment of 7,540 teachers for government-run secondary schools and asked the authorities to fill the vacant posts as soon as possible. The Odisha Staff Selection Commission has been asked to start the process for the recruitment as soon as possible. Once the recruitments are done, the vacant teaching posts in all 4,848 government high schools will be completed.

Adyasha OJS topper

Cuttack: Adyasha Mishra has topped the Odisha Judicial Service (OJS) Examination-2021 the results of which were announced Friday, an official said, adding that the top three positions have been bagged by women. Out of the 50 candidates who came out with flying colours, 28 were females and 22 males, according to Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) which conducts the examination. While Chetna Patnaik stood second, A Geetanjali Naidu ranked third in the judicial service examination, it said. An elated Adyasha, who hails from Angul and stays in City, dedicated her success to her parents, teachers and the Almighty. She has cleared the examination in the first attempt.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



This is dictatorship! 30 mins of national-interest news daily? How'd it gel with our 24x7 hate news?

SC pulls up Centre for judges' posting delay

The method of keeping names on hold is becoming 'some sort of a device' to compel the persons to withdraw their consent, says the court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court Friday expressed its displeasure over the Centre keeping pending the names recommended for appointment as judges in the higher judiciary, including those reiterated by the apex court Collegium, saying it was "not acceptable".

The top court observed that the method of keeping names on hold is becoming "some sort of a device" to compel the persons, whose names have been recommended for appointment as judges in the higher judiciary, to withdraw their consent.

"Just keeping the names pending is something not acceptable," a bench of Justices SK Kaul and AS Oka said.

The bench issued notice to the incumbent Secretary (Justice) of the Union Law Ministry seeking response on a plea alleging "wilful disobedience" of time frame laid down to facilitate timely appointment in the apex court's April 20 last year order.

The plea filed by the Advocates' Association Bengaluru, through lawyer Pai Amit, has raised the issue of "extraordinary delays" in the appointment of judges to the high courts as well as the segregation of the names, which is "detrimental to the cher-

ished principle of the independence of the judiciary".

It has referred to 11 names which were recommended and later, reiterated also.

The top court noted that the critical position of vacancies in the high courts and delay in appointment of judges had constrained a three-judge bench of the apex court to pass the April 20 last year order seeking to lay down broad timelines within which appointment process be completed.

"If we look at the position of pending cases for consideration, there are 11 cases pending with the government which were cleared by the Collegium and yet are awaiting appointment," the bench observed.

It said the delay in clearing the recommended names, including those which have been reiterated by the Collegium, has led persons withdrawing consent and the system lost the opportunity of having an eminent person on the bench.

The apex court noted that counsel for the petitioner has said that one of the persons, whose name was pending after being reiterated, has even passed away.

"Needless to say that unless the bench is adorned by competent lawyers, the very concept of rule of law and justice suffers in this elaborate procedure..." the bench observed.

Continued on P4

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	61795.04 ↑ 1181.34
NIFTY	18349.70 ↑ 321.50
DOLLAR	81.37 ↓ ₹0.24
EURO	82.84 ↑ ₹0.54
GOLD	₹52,339 ↑ ₹230
SILVER	₹61,823 ↓ ₹88

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.2°C	30.6°C
TEMP MIN	20.0°C	20.0°C
Humidity	67%	68%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather likely	

Against the sanctioned strength of 1,080 judges in high courts, 416 posts are lying vacant



Satellite-based system to track emissions

The system developed by the UN will use the satellite data to identify major emission events, notify relevant stakeholders, and support mitigation progress



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt), Nov 11: As part of global efforts to slow climate change by tackling methane, the UN Friday announced a new satellite-based system to detect emissions of the climate warming gas and allow governments and businesses to respond.

The Methane Alert and Response System (MARS), launched at the 27th UN Climate Change Conference, is a data-to-action platform set up as part of the UNEP International Methane Emissions

Observatory (IMEO) strategy to get policy-relevant data into the right hands for emissions mitigation. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, contributing at least a quarter of today's climate warming.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, methane emissions must be cut at least 30 per cent by 2030 -- the goal of the Global Methane Pledge -- to keep the 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature limit within reach.

Developed in the framework of the

Global Methane Pledge Energy Pathway -- with initial funding from the European Commission, the US government, Global Methane Hub, and the Bezos Earth Fund -- MARS will allow UNEP to corroborate emissions reported by companies and characterize changes over time.

MARS will be implemented with partners, including the International Energy Agency, and the UNEP-hosted Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

"As UNEP's Emissions Gap Report showed before this climate summit, the world is far off track on efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.

In addition to supporting MARS, the Global Methane Hub and the Bezos Earth Fund are providing funding for other UNEP IMEO activities.

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CHRIS EVANS IS 'SECRETLY DATING' PORTUGUESE ACTRESS BAPTISTA

Hollywood star Chris Evans has been reportedly secretly dating Alba Baptista, 25, for more than a year and the romance is 'serious.' "They are in love and Chris has never been happier," a source told the *aceshowbiz.com*

MOMOA SAYS HE DOESN'T LIKE WEARING CLOTHES ANYMORE

Actor Jason Momoa during his appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* stripped down to nothing but his traditional Hawaiian malo. "I actually don't even like wearing clothes anymore," Momoa told the host, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

The day may start with a dilemma, but that's exactly how your skills will come into play. As evening approaches, you will be applauded for your outstanding performance. If Ganesha is particularly generous today, you may sign new agreements.

TAURUS

Priorities and money matters will line up impatiently to knock on your door (and desk). Your financial constraints will get an outburst today. People may be taken by surprise with the way you get poignant. You will also enjoy the higher accountability reposed on you, predicts Ganesha.

GEMINI

Today, you will get an opportunity to rejuvenate yourself with seamless energy. How? Ganesha's guess is that you will find — or at least you will believe that you have found — your purpose in life. It will keep you excited throughout the day, and maybe even for days to come.

CANCER

Ganesha believes that today you may have to take certain financial decisions at home as well as at work. If you are in-charge of a certain project, you will trust the judgement of those working on it, mostly because they have been hand-picked by you.

LEO

You are blessed with a visionary's creative streak. Perhaps, that's why, you see things differently from others. Today, thanks to the stars, your creative side will surge forth with renewed vigour. You will generate ideas effortlessly and continuously as you reach your creative peak.

VIRGO

Take a little break today, and spend some time looking within. At your office there may be some bitter confrontations, so Ganesha advises you to be very careful and try to prevent things from getting too difficult. In matters of love, a new romance may develop.

LIBRA

There are many kinds of worries that you must equip yourself to deal with. To do this, you may have to learn and follow the basic steps of problem-analysing techniques. The steps involve obtaining facts, analysing them and then arriving at a decision based upon your observations.

SCORPIO

Ganesha feels a taxing and demanding day may be at hand today. Things might baffle you so much that you might lose your ability to think clearly. The battle is not lost because your power of resilience will be the silver lining. Address one problem at a time and take the slow and steady path, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

You will discover a flair for flirting as you puppet words to your romantic will with ease and grace. Most of today will be spent in the company of a loved one, perhaps a picnic for two, or a day-long romantic date. Stay prepared for the worst as this may not necessarily blossom into a long-lasting relationship, warns Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

The work load may take away all your vigour, leaving you lethargic and dull, but you will come out of the sluggish phase before it can do any harm to your reputation, says Ganesha. Being observant and attentive while in meetings will help you in the long run, and in more ways than you can imagine.

AQUARIUS

Good news from across the seven seas brings cheer! If you're seeking a visa, you may get one today. Everything looks positive and it reflects in your mood. Share your happiness with your family, says Ganesha, and you will find it multiplies manifold.

PISCES

Conflicts galore will come your way at the workplace today. Keep a calm head over your shoulders and do keep tabs on your tongue. Differences only crop up if there are substantial thought processes involved, and keeping this in mind ought to give you the perspective needed to get ahead, says Ganesha.

Never did surgeries to look younger : Radhika

Mumbai: Actor Radhika Apte has opened up about her recent statement on losing out roles to 'younger actresses.'

Earlier this year, Radhika said, "What I'm really struggling with is (people unable) to combat age, especially in the industry with people going through surgeries. I know so many of my colleagues who have gone through so many surgeries to change their faces and bodies."

Referring to her statement, Radhika recently said, "There's truth to this, but it becomes sensationalised and it changes its tonality: Age is a factor and you cannot deny the fact that people want younger actresses in a bigger commercial films; it's just a fact, a younger or conventional image that they want. There have been days where you are told that 'yeah you don't have xyz' and we need xyz. You can see the amount of surgeries people do. There is an image that we are chasing and not just in India, across the globe, which a lot of women are fighting against it."



Esha fumes over Delhi's air crisis

New Delhi: Actress Esha Gupta is appalled at the plunging air quality in Delhi-NCR.

"The issue of air pollution and smog is not just restricted to Delhi, but it is the whole north India pollution issue. The air quality is as such," says Gupta.

She says, "There is an alternative to stubble burning, which is called - Bio Enzyme-PUSA. The Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) has come up with a solution for stubble burning called PUSA. With the process, we can spray the enzyme on the crops, and this enzyme decomposes the stubble in 20-25 days, turning it into manure. This can be provided by the government to every farmer for free."

Mallika enjoys being natural

Mumbai: Actress Mallika Sherawat might not be physically present in the country most of the time, but she makes sure to keep her fans updated on her day to day life.

One of controversy's favourite child, Mallika, known for her bold avatar and outgoing personality has often been at the receiving end of criticism, whether it is for her choice of movies or the statements she gives out. However, the 46-year-old seems to be unperturbed and continues to live life on her own terms.

Mallika, who is known for her svelte figure swears by holistic living and a healthy lifestyle. Recently, taking to her IG handle, Mallika shared a couple of breezy pics and stated that she enjoys her natural looks, without botox and fillers. She wrote, "NO Botox, NO fillers ! I enjoy being as natural as GOD made me :) #positiveaffirmations #healthymind #innerstrength #trustyourjourney #healthymindset #positive-mind #happythoughts".

AGENCIES

'Being lonely is a boon and a curse'

Mumbai: Actress Aahana Kumra has made a name for herself with some amazing performances in *Avrodh* and many more. She is all set to be seen in Madhur Bhandarkar's anthology film *India Lockdown* and is quite excited for it.

The story is set in the backdrop of COVID induced lockdown in India and coincidentally she even shot for it during the lockdown itself.

"I play a pilot in the film who has a high-flying, luxurious life on her own but she gets very lonely during the lockdown as she realises what she has surrounded herself with is not something permanent", she informs, adding that her character is a very happy-go-lucky person but the loneliness of the lockdown makes her realise some-

thing new about herself. "I saw many people go through that same thing in real life too during Covid. So, I think it will be a very relatable character", says the actress.

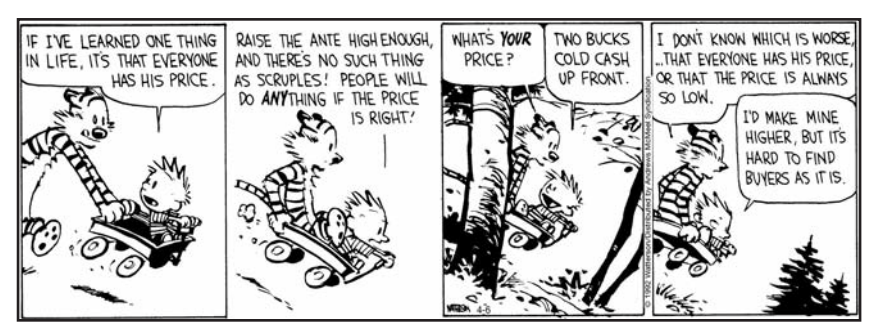
"A lot in this film is about internalizing the emotions of the theme and thankfully, we have all been in the lockdown and experienced it, loneliness being a big part of it. Being lonely is a boon and a curse, which I experienced during the lockdown as well as the shoot of the film", she concluded.



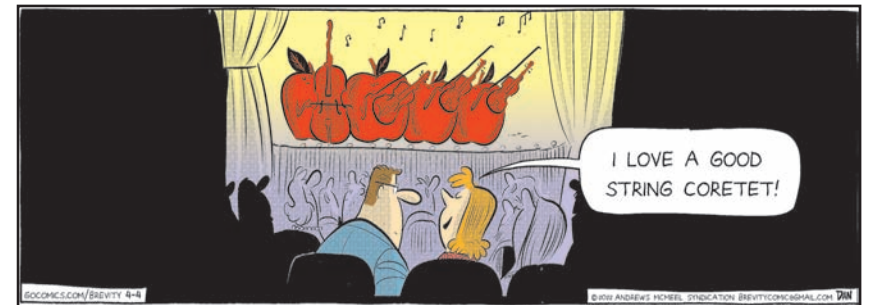
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

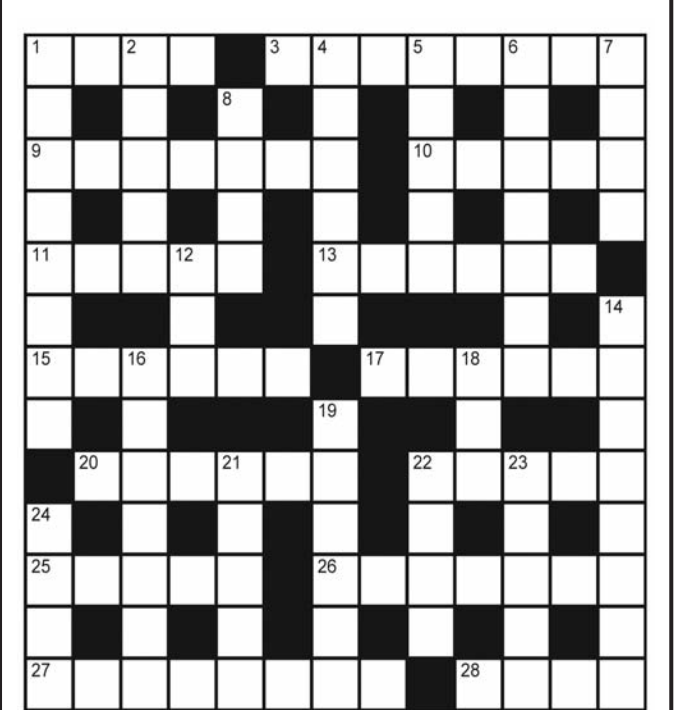


BREVITY



FUN post

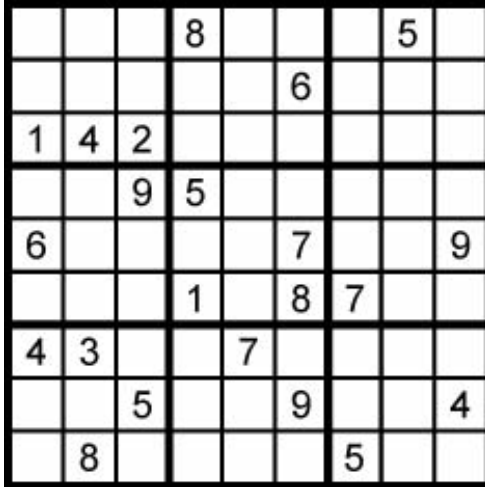
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Church alcove
 - 3 Cause of a sleepness night
 - 9 Mixer
 - 10 Choppers, so to speak
 - 11 Hostile force
 - 13 Soothsayer
 - 15 Twosome
 - 17 Plaster of Paris
 - 20 Hard to find
 - 22 Flower feature
 - 25 Expensive
 - 26 Check out
 - 27 Delirium
 - 28 Airport postings
 - Down**
 - 1 Atmosphere
 - 2 Public spat
 - 4 Constrictive
 - 5 Old Roman port
 - 6 Pokes fun at
 - 7 Massage target
 - 8 Nervous
 - 12 Tourist's aid
 - 14 Copies
 - 16 Sand dollars
 - 18 Pizza order
 - 19 Sign of the twins
 - 21 Verse
 - 22 Tower site
 - 23 Canary's call
 - 24 Moonfish

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.



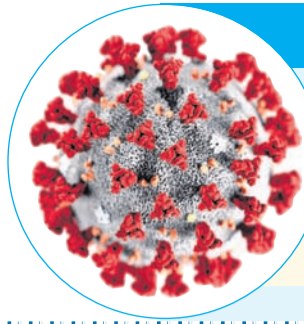
SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

CONCLUDING DAY

Officials during the concluding day of Treasury Officers' Conference-2022 at Madhusudan Das Regional Academy of Financial Management in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,95,32,693	61,90,51,921	66,12,327
India	4,46,64,810	4,41,21,538	5,30,520
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

Grandma was my role model: Prez

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: President Droupadi Murmu Friday said that her grandmother was her role model.

Murmu, on the second day of her Odisha tour, started the day by visiting the Tapoban High School in Khandagiri area of the City. Recalling her school days, Murmu said, "I started my schooling at my Uparbeda village. There was no school building, but a thatched house where we used to study."

Describing the children of the present day as 'fortunate', the President said, "We used to sweep classrooms, clean the school premises with cow dung. The students in our time studied with a free mind. I appeal to you to work hard and concentrate on your studies."

During an interaction with girl students, Murmu said, "In our time, there were no such facilities like internet, television and other provisions to know the world outside us. As such I do not have any role models from outside. My grandmother was my role model. I have seen how she used to help people, particularly women in our area. My grandmother was mentally very strong and I learnt a lot from her life."

As Murmu reached her alma mater where she studied from Class VIII to XI, the schoolchildren greeted her. She entered the school premises by waving at the people who were eagerly waiting outside the campus to have a glimpse of her since morning.

She also visited the Kuntala Kumari Sabat Hostel, where she stayed during her studies at the state-run school.

The President turned emotional as she sat on the cot on which she used to sleep during her student days in 1970s at Unit-II Government Girls' High School in the City here.



President Droupadi Murmu at Unit-II Government Girls' High School in Bhubaneswar, Friday

It was a nostalgic moment today when I visited my alma mater Government Girls' High School and Kuntala Kumari Sabat Adivasi Girls' Hostel in Bhubaneswar. The visit brought back many fond memories of my student life

It was a special moment for us as the President of India invited us to meet her. We cannot express the feeling and we are so happy after meeting the country's first citizen, who was our classmate during school days

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CHINMAYEE MOHANTY | PRESIDENT'S CLASSMATE & A RETIRED COLLEGE TEACHER

"When we showed the President her room and the cot on which she used to sleep during her student days, she turned emotional and sat on the same bed for a while," said a woman teacher. The President also planted a sapling on the premises of the Kuntala Kumari Sabat Hostel where she stayed for four years—1970 to 1974. Later, she also

met 13 of her classmates, who were invited to the school, and expressed her happiness for being in midst of her classmates, students of her school and teachers.

"It was a special moment for us as the President of India invited us to meet her. We cannot express the feeling and we are so happy after meeting the country's first citizen,

who was our classmate during school days," said Chinmayee Mohanty, a retired college teacher and Murmu's classmate. Murmu enquired about her other hostel roommates and asked, "Where is Chuni?" Incidentally, Murmu's friend Chuni was absent on the occasion.

"We are really proud for having such a great friend. However, we could not talk much even as the President came close to us. She clicked photograph with us," Mohanty said. Taking to Twitter, the President of India said, "It was a nostalgic moment today when I visited my alma mater Government Girls' High School and Kuntala Kumari Sabat Adivasi Girls' Hostel in Bhubaneswar. The visit brought back many fond memories of my student life."

Murmu also expressed pleasure after finding a sand art of her created on her school premises.

'Learning in regional language makes education accessible to all'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: President Droupadi Murmu Friday said that learning in regional and local languages makes education accessible to all.

Murmu, who launched various projects of the Ministry of Education during her two-day tour to the state, said that education is a tool for empowerment and there is no doubt that the use of the mother tongue helps in the intellectual development of students.

Learning in the mother tongue develops the creative thinking and analytical skills among students besides providing equal opportunities to urban and rural students, the President said.

"We must ensure that each and every child in our country has access to education at every level. We have to do our best to make education available to all without any discrimination. Language should be an enabling factor and not a hindrance for educating the students," she said.

Murmu said it has been observed that many students face difficulty in understanding technical education in English. This is the reason why the government has taken steps to provide technical education in regional languages under the National Education Policy 2020.

Earlier technical education in regional languages used to face hurdles due to the non-availability of textbooks in vernacular languages and the introduction of learning in regional and local languages will go a long way towards building a well-educated, aware and vibrant society, Murmu said.

Launching the education projects, she said, "These are commendable steps in the direction of making ed-



Dignitaries, including President Droupadi Murmu, Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, at the event in Bhubaneswar, Friday

ucation accessible to all."

The projects launched by her included engineering books of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in Odia language, a glossary of technical terms in Odia developed by the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) and e-KUMBH (Knowledge Unleashed in Multiple Bharatiya Languages) portal.

Odia is an ancient language with a distinct literary tradition and rich vocabulary. Therefore there will be no difficulty in getting technical education in the language, Murmu, who hails from Odisha, said.

The engineering books released in Odia language were for the first year - nine for degree and 11 for diploma students. The books have been translated by the technical education department in collaboration with the Institute of Odia Studies and Research (IOSR).

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said introduction of Odia language as a medium of instruction in technical education has to be comple-

mented with the availability of books and other study materials.

"Now, the initiative of AICTE in this regard is highly appreciated. I am happy to know that AICTE has made the Odia translated version of the original books available for first year studies of both B.Tech and Diploma in engineering courses. I hope books for the rest of the courses will also be prepared soon," he said.

Patnaik further said that the state government has added Odia language as a medium of examination of Odisha Civil Services to enable the students to appear the exams in their mother tongue.

Besides, his government has instituted special scholarships for students both at school and college levels for outstanding performance in Odia language, said the CM. The Odisha government will provide all support to AICTE and CSTT in their future endeavour, he assured.

Among others, Governor Ganeshi Lal and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended the programme.

CM nod to recruitment of 7k teachers in state schools



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: In a major boost for the youth of Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved recruitment of 7,540 teachers for government secondary schools and has asked the authorities to fill up the vacant posts as soon as possible. The Odisha Staff Selection Commission has been asked to start the process for the re-

ruitment as soon as possible. Once the recruitments are done, the vacant teaching posts in all 4,848 government high schools in Odisha will be completed.

The selection process to fill the posts of TGT (Arts), TGT (PCM & CBZ), Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Telugu, and Physical Education teachers is expected to begin very soon.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the two selection processes

conducted in 2021 and 2022, more than 13,000 teachers were recruited in various government schools. In December 2021, the state government appointed 6,131 teachers for secondary schools and again in August 2022, 6,891 teachers were recruited. The thrust of the Odisha government has been to transform the education sector through improvement in infrastructure, resources, manpower and other necessary interventions.

Notably, while the Odisha government has undertaken various programmes under the 5T initiative, emphasis has been laid on the transformation and modernisation of schools. From computers, internet to e-libraries, advanced play equipment, playgrounds, and other facilities are being developed. The recruitment programme has been also expedited under the 5T initiative.



Baliyatra in Cuttack witnesses a huge footfall, Friday. (R) Fair hoppers enjoy a joyride



OP PHOTOS

High BP linked to 22% greater risk of Cov

From early on in the pandemic it was apparent that older adults and those with underlying health problems were more likely to get very sick from a Covid infection compared with younger, healthier people.

High blood pressure (BP), or hypertension, is one of the most common conditions in the general population, particularly in those who are middle aged and older. It also seemed to be one of the most common conditions among Covid patients, especially those who were hospitalised or died.

In a new study, researchers Holly Pavey, Carmel McEniery and Ian Wilkinson of University of Cambridge have found that people with high blood pressure have a 22 per cent higher risk of being hospitalised or dying from the virus compared to people without high blood pressure.

Although from early on in the pandemic there appeared to be a link between high blood pressure and Covid, it wasn't clear whether high blood pressure itself led to a higher risk of being hospitalised or dying from Covid.

The link could have been confounded by age and other factors known to influence both high blood



pressure and Covid risk, including socioeconomic status, sex, ethnicity and body-mass index (BMI).

This study included more than 16,000 of people who had tested positive for Covid. Using statistical models, the researchers analysed the effect of having high blood pressure on the risk of severe Covid, adjusting for potential confounding factors (including age, BMI, ethnicity socioeconomic status, smoking status and diabetes status).

One limitation of the study is that the UK Biobank volunteer population is generally healthier than the UK population as a whole and has relatively few participants from ethnic minority groups. This means researchers need to be cautious about making generalisations.

So, why might having high blood

pressure increase the risk from a Covid infection?

An intriguing hypothesis involves the way in which SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) enters our cells. It does so via a receptor called angiotensin converting enzyme-2 or ACE2. ACE2 is a key component of what's known as the renin-angiotensin system, which is a major regulator of blood pressure.

It may be that the angiotensin system provides the link between Covid severity and high blood pressure. But at this stage researchers can only speculate. Researchers will need further research to understand the precise mechanism.

When a person has hypertension, if it's not severe it can be controlled by lifestyle interventions in the first instance. But if this doesn't work, blood pressure medications will generally be considered.

In another part of our analysis, researchers looked at all participants with hypertension who were taking medications to lower their blood pressure. Sometimes, for a variety of possible reasons, even though someone is being treated with medication, their blood pressure remains above

certain targets.

Researchers used blood pressure measurements from participants' GP records to determine whether or not their blood pressure was controlled. For people with poorly controlled blood pressure, researchers found the risk of severe Covid was almost double than among those who had a diagnosis of hypertension but whose blood pressure was under control.

Researchers also showed that the type of blood pressure medication people were taking did not appear to modify the risk of severe Covid. This is worth noting because during the pandemic there has been a lot of uncertainty about which blood pressure medications should be prescribed.

In particular, there was concern that a type of medication called ACE inhibitors may alter the expression of ACE2 receptors, which could in theory make people taking this medication more susceptible to severe Covid.

But researchers didn't find any association between blood pressure medication type and the risk of severe Covid. What matters is whether or not blood pressure is being successfully controlled.

THE CONVERSATION, PTI

EOW arrests man from UP for cheating Joda bizman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has arrested a man from Etah in Uttar Pradesh (UP) for his alleged involvement in cheating case of Rs 2.35 crore, an official said Friday.

The accused, Bijay Bharadwaj, was produced before a local court in UP before being brought to Bhubaneswar on the strength of five days transit remand. He will be produced before the JMFC at Barbil Saturday, the police official said.

According to the EOW, Bijay and others cheated Pramod Kumar Rout, a Joda-based businessman, to tune of Rs 2.35 crore on the pretext of paying him Rs 3 crore from the government of India under Pradhan Mantri Rahat Kosh Yojana (PMRKY) against his insurance policy using the forged and manipulated documents.

Rout, who was holding a policy in Max New York Life insurance company since March 2012, had received a call in October 2019 from a person who identified himself



as AK Walia, fund releasing head, Ministry of Finance and informed him that his insurance policy has been selected under PMRKY and he will get Rs 3 crore in his account. After receiving several calls, the complainant had transferred around Rs 2.35 crore in phases during between November 19, 2019 and February 4, 2021. However, no amount was received by the complainant even after the lapse of the expected time, the police official informed.

Later, the businessman found all the mobile numbers (from which he had received calls) to have been switched off.

During the investigation, the EOW found that all documents and letters allegedly issued by the Ministry of Finance, RBI, Income Tax department and images of two bank demand drafts (DDs) in favour of the complainant were fake and forged. And, there is no such person like Walia in the said offices.

Out of the fraud amount of Rs 2.35 crore, about Rs 79 lakh has been remitted to the account of the present accused Bijay Bharadwaj.

Earlier, one accused namely Himanshu Bhandari has been arrested and forwarded in the case, it was learnt.

Hearing on lawyers' strike plea Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court Friday orally said that the district bar associations of Odisha, Bar Council of Orissa and Bar Council of India shall appear before it November 14 on an application filed by the Registrar General of Orissa High Court against the abstention of work by advocates in the state.



A two-judge bench of Justices SK Kaul and Abhay S Oka asked the Orissa High Court counsel to intimate the BCI, BCO and bar associations while hearing a case pertaining to delay in the appointment of judges recommended by the Supreme Court collegium in higher judiciary. During the hearing, advocate Sibo Sankar Mishra apprised the court about the abstention of work by bar associations in Odisha and also submitted that the matter is coming up for hearing Monday.

of Orissa HC stated that members of the bar associations not only of Western Odisha but also of other districts in the state have on different occasions not participated in regular court proceedings. It was stated that the reasons for the demand for establishment of a permanent bench of Orissa HC in western Odisha and establishment of courts. "It may be appropriate to mention here that the members of bar association of the district of Sambalpur have attended only urgent work September 26, 27 and 30 and observed September 28 as protest day. The members of Ganjam Bar Association are observing 'Satyagrah/Dharna' during the last four days of every month, while those of the Bar Association at Jeyapore in Koraput district are not participating in proceedings on the last two working days of every month. Similarly members of Bhubaneswar Bar Association are observing cease work on the last Friday of every month," the petition said.

It has been alleged that more than 2 lakh judicial working hours have been lost due to abstention, strikes

The Registrar submitted that such abstention by the members of the bar associations has seriously hampered judicial work in all the subordinate courts of Odisha. "To be precise, the statistics for the period from January 1 to September 30 show that the loss of cumulative judicial working hours in the subordinate courts is 2,14,176 hours (46 (days) X 6 (working hours) X 776 (average working strength of Judicial Officers). The loss of such working hours in the subordinate courts amounts to clear breach of the Supreme Court order," the petition stated.

It has been also submitted that the Bhubaneswar Bar Association took a decision October 11 to boycott the Court of the District and Sessions Judge, Khurda in Bhubaneswar from October 12 till the issues with the district judge is resolved with a request not to pass any adverse order in any civil/criminal case in absence of the advocates and not to entertain the parties in any manner till the boycott continues.

Literature conclave to inspire budding authors

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: A literature conclave titled 'Literaria Darpan' was organised by DAV Public School, Unit-VIII here. The conclave brought together eminent guests from the fields of education, media, literature and performing arts. Sanatan Panda, OES, Joint Director, Higher Secondary Education, Odisha was present at the conclave as chief guest. In his speech he motivated the students and budding authors about the significance of literature in the lives of people. He also asked those present to develop the habit of reading extensively.

A panel discussion was held on the topic 'Literature: The Mirror of Society'. Those who took part in the discussion were Dr Itirani Samanta, Secretary and Editor of 'Kadambini', Satyananda Sarangi, Under Secretary, Finance department, Govt of Odisha, Dr GM Khan, HoD, Hindi department, BJB College, Dr Madhumita Das, assistant professor of English, Sri Sri University and Dr Arati Kar a former teacher of the school. The discussion focused on the literary journey of the panelists, the impact of literature on society and how to initiate and inculcate the art of writing.

The budding authors provided a glimpse of their published works and their enthusiasm to pursue literature. A second panel discussion was also held among students on the topic: 'If I can, You can too'. It dwelt on how students can be attracted towards literature. It was followed by a story-telling session by Jhanja Das. The event featured a classical concert by renowned Odissi dancer Saswat Joshi and his daughter. The event was also marked by a book launch event by the authors consisting of students, parents and teachers of the school. Ipsita Das, the principal of the school applauded the achievements of the budding authors.



IN MEMORY OF THE PEOPLE'S POET: Students and academicians attended the Ganakabi Baishnab Pani Symposium organised by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Odia Department at Ravenshaw University in Cuttack, Friday

Continued from P1

SC frees 6 Rajiv assassins



UNFOLDING

AUG 12, 2011: Perarivalan files mercy plea before President which was rejected. He files writ petition in Madras HC which transfers it to SC

FEB 18, 2014: SC commutes Perarivalan's death sentence to life

DEC 30, 2015: Perarivalan files petition under Article 161 of the Constitution for remission of his sentence

SEPT 9, 2018: TN cabinet passes resolution recommending Perarivalan's release, sends it to Governor

JAN 25, 2021: TN Governor forwards petition filed by Perarivalan to President

MARCH 9, 2022: SC releases Perarivalan on bail, taking into account that he had spent more than 31 years in jail

MAY 18, 2022: SC orders Perarivalan's release, invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142

AUGUST 12, 2022: Nalini Sriharan and Ravichandran move SC seeking premature release

SEPT 26, 2022: Apex court issues notices to Centre, TN govt on plea of Nalini Sriharan and Ravichandran seeking premature release

NOV 11, 2022: SC directs premature release of the six remaining convicts in the case, including Nalini and Ravichandran, noting that the Tamil Nadu govt has recommended remission of sentence to them

Nalini, Ravichandran, Santhan, Murugan, Perarivalan, Robert Payas and Jayakumar were sentenced to life terms in the case. Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court had May 18 ordered the release of Perarivalan, who had served over 30 years in jail. Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally. In its May 1999 order, the top court had upheld the death sentence of four convicts Perarivalan, Murugan, Santhan and Sriharan. However, in 2014, it commuted the death sentence of Perarivalan to life imprisonment along with those of Santhan and Murugan on grounds of delay in deciding their mercy petitions. Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 2001 on the consideration that she has a daughter. The Tamil Nadu government had earlier favoured the premature release of Nalini and Ravichandran, saying its 2018 advice for remission of their life sentence is binding upon the governor.

SC pulls up Centre for judges' posting delay

It also noted that senior advocate Vikas Singh, who is the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), has submitted before it that even the recommendation made for appointment in the Supreme Court more than five weeks is pending appointment.

"We are really unable to understand or appreciate this," the bench said, adding that it is issuing "simple notice" to the current Secretary (Justice) and Secretary (Administration and Appointment) for the time being. The bench posted the matter for hearing to November 28.

The plea said the failure to implement the binding decision of the Collegium headed by the Chief Justice of India, even upon reiteration, would amount to a wilful disobedience of the orders of the apex court.

In its April last year order, the apex court had said the Centre should appoint judges within three-four weeks if the Collegium reiterates its recommendations unanimously. Coming out with timelines to facilitate the process, it had said the Centre should proceed to make appointment immediately after the apex court Collegium recommends the names and if the government has any reservations on the "suitability or in public interest", it may send it back to the Collegium with the specific reasons for reservation recorded. "If the Supreme Court collegium after consideration of the aforesaid inputs still reiterates the recommendation(s) unanimously (Cl. 24.1), such appointment should be processed and appointment should be made within three to four weeks," it had said.

The SC had said it would be "advisable" to follow the timelines, in addition to those mentioned in the Memorandum of Procedure as finalised by the Collegium on March 10, 2017 where certain time frames have been stated for appointment of judges to the high courts. "The Intelligence Bureau (IB) should submit its report/inputs within four to six weeks from the date of recommendation of the high court Collegium, to the Central Government," it had said. The top court had said it would be desirable that the Centre forward the files/recommendations to the apex court within eight to 12 weeks from the date of receipt of views from the state government and the report/input from the IB. The SC had noted in its order that the then Attorney General had placed before it the appointment position in the high courts to contend that against the sanctioned strength of 1,080 judges, 664 judges have been appointed with vacancies of 416 judges.

BJP set to pick Purohit for Padampur bypoll

Bhubaneswar: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is all set to nominate senior party leader and ex-MLA Pradiip Purohit as its candidate for the byelection to Padampur Assembly constituency in Bargarh district, party MLA Kusum Tete told the media here, Friday. According to Tete, Purohit will file his nomination for the bypoll November 14. Purohit, who is the state president of farmers' wing of BJP, has a strong organisation in the constituency. However, a formal announcement from the BJP is yet to be made. "We'll fight the bypoll with full strength like Dhannagar. We will prepare our strategy to defeat the BJD," Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra said. Purohit had won the seat in 2014. However, he lost to BJD's Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha with 5,734 votes in the 2019 election. So, the party has again picked Purohit for the bypoll. However, ruling BJD and opposition Congress are yet to pick their fighters for the election. The BJD, after losing the Dhannagar seat to BJP, is leaving no room to lose the Padampur seat, which it had won in 2019. Sources said BJD president and CM Naveen Patnaik himself held a closed door meeting with senior party functionaries about the preparedness for the bypoll. Senior leaders Prasanna Acharya and Debi Prasad Mishra have been given the overall responsibility for the election while many senior leaders of the party will be appointed in each Panchayat of Padampur constituency. The ruling party is very likely to adopt the same strategy it had applied to win the byelection to Bijepur in Bargarh district. The bypoll, which will be held December 5, has been necessitated after the demise of sitting BJD MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha last month.

Rules out for reward on sex determination info

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: As a step towards balancing the sex ratio of the state and to safeguard the 'right to life' of female fetuses, the state government Friday issued guidelines for wider implementation of the 'Informers' Incentive Scheme'. Speaking about the scheme, Health and Family Welfare secretary Shalini Pandit said, "Determining sex of the fetus and sex selection amounts to misuse of technology, and is one of the important reasons for declining sex ratio". Information from the people themselves will be very helpful in preventing this malice, she added. With the role of the public in view, the government has issued simplified guidelines to district collectors and enforcement authorities to intensify the implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC and PNDDT) throughout the state. As per the guidelines, a person



- An informer on illegal sex determination would be rewarded with a cash amount of ₹25,000 in three installments
- ₹10,000 will be given after giving confirmed information and another ₹10,000 after filing of prosecution report
- Remaining ₹5,000 will be provided on conviction of the accused in the court of law

with information on illegal sex determination would be rewarded with a cash amount of Rs 25,000 in three installments, Rs 10,000 after giving confirmed information; Rs 10,000 after framing of charges against the accused and filing of prosecution report; and, Rs 5,000 on conviction of the accused in the court of law. Pandit also informed that the districts were asked to build aware-



FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY: Dignitaries releasing a booklet at the National Safety Conclave organised by the Institute of Quality Control and Environment Management Services at a City hotel in Bhubaneswar, Friday

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Old age pension of dead beneficiaries embezzled

POST NEWS NETWORK
Korukunda, Nov 11: Large-scale irregularities are allegedly scuttling the objectives of social security scheme in Korukunda block of Malkangiri district. Pensions of dead beneficiaries worth lakhs are being misappropriated while many ineligible people have been enrolled as beneficiaries of pension scheme.
Such facts have come to the fore during the public hearing and social audit on the scheme recently in the presence of Sub-Collector Akshay Khemundu, Vigilance official Sushant Biswal, BDO Anshuman Mohapatra and block social auditor Rakesh Das.
The public hearing was held on old age and widow pension implementation in 12 panchayats under the block.
Surprisingly, funds of the social security scheme worth lakhs of rupees have been misappropriated by showing dead beneficiar-

ies alive in official records. It was learnt that 42 people, who died long ago, are still being paid pension.
Four beneficiaries have died in Kamwad panchayat, but their old age pension is being embezzled for months.
In Puruna Chimitapalli panchayat, old age pension amounts of five dead beneficiaries were misappropriated. People were shocked to know that pension of one in Chitapari panchayat and seven dead beneficiaries in Korukunda panchayat were being embezzled.
Same is the case with three dead beneficiaries in Tumsapalli panchayat; five in Dudameta, two each in Somnathpur and Tarlota; three each in Mariward and Nakamamudi panchayats.
Locals have demanded disciplinary action against the officials who have misappropriated the money. On the other hand, scores of poor people eligible for pension have been deprived of their entitlements in the remote pockets.



ODISSI CHARM: Artistes presented a spectacular Odissi performance at Kalinga Baliyatra Mahotsav at Paradip, Friday

OP PHOTO

KEONJHAR FETED FOR PROMOTING MILLETS MISSION

POST NEWS NETWORK
Keonjhar, Nov 11: The Keonjhar district administration has received the award for 'Best Performing District on Innovative Initiatives Category' for the promotion of Odisha Millets Mission funded under District Mineral Foundation (DMF).
District Collector Ashish Thakare received the award from Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain on the occasion of 'Mandia Dibasa' in Bhubaneswar.
Keonjhar district administration has been promoting cultivation and consumption of millets by taking up several initiatives such as the first millets processing unit, first exclusive Millet Shakti Cafe, inclusion of 'Ragi Ladoo' in Anganwadi centres (AWCs) under ICDS and more recently, in SSD hostels of the district.
Millets cultivation was initiated in the district as an extension of the Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) in December 2018. It was a five-year programme funded by the DMF of Keonjhar covering mining-affected villages of 7 blocks like Banspal, Champua, Joda, Jhumpura, Hatadihi, Harichandanpur and Sadar.
The extension and expansion of OMM for next 5 years from 2022-23 to 2026-27 was approved by the government.
It was also decided that four new blocks like Telkoi, Patna, Saharpada and Ghatagaon will be included under the Millets Mission.

Truck-bus collision kills one; 15 injured

POST NEWS NETWORK
Sambalpur/Jharsuguda, Nov 11: A person died and 15 others were injured after a speeding truck hit a passenger bus from the rear near Khinda chowk on the Biju Expressway under Thelkolo police limits in Jharsuguda district in the wee hours of Friday.
As per reports, the bus was on its way from Jharsuguda to Sambalpur when the accident occurred. On getting information, police reached the spot and rescued all the passengers. The injured were admitted to Jharsuguda district headquarters hospital. Condition of some of the injured people was stated to be critical.
The deceased was identified as Surendra Singh, 58. Meanwhile, police have initiated a probe into the matter.

JSW donates mortuary van to Seva Group



POST NEWS NETWORK
Barbil, Nov 11: As part of community service, JSW donated a mortuary van to Barbil-based community center Seva Group, Thursday. The launching ceremony was graced by eminent social activist Padma Shri Tulasi Munda.
She praised the company for donating the van and suggested to lend such assistances to the local community.
The van will be a great help for the locals. It is attached with freezer box in which the body can be kept for a couple of days without decomposing.
Other dignitaries like social worker Pranav Kumar Das, MATOA president Vikash Sarangi, JSW officials and Seva Group president Binod Bhawsinka and other members were present at the event. The participating guests admired the company for its support.

Kalinganagar NMIZ remains non-starter

POST NEWS NETWORK
Jajpur, Nov 11: It has already been over three years since the Centre granted special status to Kalinganagar Industrial Complex as National Manufacturing Investment Zone (NMIZ) in 2019 but the project has been a non-starter.
The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry granted the special status to Kalinganagar on the recommendation of the state government. It is one of the 17 identified NMIZs of the country spread over a whopping 165.25 sq km area.
The Centre had granted the status tag with the hope that it will be a mega industrial zone having a world-class township to cater to the needs of the investors.
IDCO, the nodal agency of the state government, had also prepared a detailed project report in this regard that covered railway, road, water and air infrastruc-



ture development including sewerage and effluent treatment and solid waste management.
Meanwhile, three years have passed since the announcement but the project is yet to be implemented. As a result, the execution of the proposed activities under the project is yet to be commenced.
The matter came to the fore

after PL Kandoi, president of Kalinganagar Industries Association, an outfit of industrial firms, wrote a letter to the Chief Secretary seeking his intervention.
While the state government is inviting industrial firms to invest in the state through 'Make in Odisha' conclave, the firms in Kalinganagar Industrial Complex, which has received the status of NMIZ, are passing through hard times, it was alleged.
The IDCO has assigned the task of preparing world class infrastructure to WAPCOS that covered railway, road, water and air infrastructure development, solid waste management, drainage facility for discharge of effluent and its treatment for reuse.
Even funds worth ₹10,000 crore were sanctioned for the project. The letter mentions that over the last two decades many industries like Tata, JSL, JSW, TSMIL, VISA, Maithan, BRPL, Sagar Cement, Yazdani, Nu Vista and KJ Ispat have established their units in Kalinganagar.
However, these firms are unfortunately facing lots of problems in their management and expansion due to lack of proper infrastructure in the industrial complex.
Notably, the region gets as

much as 550 mm of rainfall annually. The topography of Kalinganagar is hilly and uneven, due to which rainwater flows down from the hilltop to the industries situated at a lower altitude and further to inland areas as a natural phenomenon.
The Tata plant is situated at an elevation of 57 metre, Jindal at 49 metre, TSMIL (Rohit) 55 metre, KJ Ispat at 47 metre and VISA Steel at 35 metre above sea level. As a result, the rainwater flows down the hilltop and passes through Kacherigaon, Arasahi and Ganda nullah. The plants have come up with necessary equipment for pollution control. However, the downward flow of rainwater is so intense that there is dire need to construct drains for effective discharge of the rainwater.
When contacted, Kalinganagar ADM Santosh Kumar Mishra said that the administration is taking steps to implement the NMIZ project.

ADMIN IN SLUMBER

Villagers construct 6-km long ghat road

POST NEWS NETWORK
Dasmantpur, Nov 11: Villagers took it upon themselves and constructed a ghat road of six kilometre length on a hilly route after the administration failed to attend to their pleas despite repeated requests.
The incident has been reported from Putamari, a remote village under Dasmantpur block in Koraput district. The villagers took the stupendous task of cutting hills to construct a road for them. People of as many as 10 villages depend on this ghat road for communication and transport.
The administration had constructed a temporary road to the village 15 years ago. With the passage of time, there was no sign of a proper road at all, making it difficult for the villagers of Putamari and nine other nearby hamlets to get out of their respective villages. The road was the only means to visit the Podaghar weekly market which is about 10



km away as well as the office of the local LAMPS, mandi or the Koraput district headquarters hospital. Later, they had to take a 30 to 40 km-long detour and spend more from their pockets after the road went out of shape. They were facing immense difficulties while shifting serious patients and pregnant women to hospital.
They had taken up the issue with the administration on several occasions but to no avail. With no option left, the villagers joined hands and rolled their sleeves up to construct a road for them. The next moment, even women were out with spades and baskets and the road was constructed.

Youth falls while taking selfie near waterfall, missing

Nabarangpur: A youth went missing after he slipped while taking selfie and fell into the waterfall at Ghumareswar shrine in Nabarangpur district Thursday, police said Friday. Haribandhu Goud, 18, son of Prafulla Goud of Koraput district, had come to visit the temple along with his two friends, Thursday. After visiting the temple, the youth was moving about near the waterfall. He accidentally slipped and fell into the waterfall while taking a selfie. On getting information, fire services personnel from Tentulikhunti reached the spot and launched a search operation. However, they were not able to trace him. The search was called off in the evening.

2 Maoists gunned down in Koraput

Koraput: At least two Maoists were killed in an exchange of fire between the Red rebels and security personnel in Koraput district, a senior police officer said Friday. The gun battle took place on the intervening night of November 10 and 11 at a place under Baipariguda police station limit of Koraput district. "We have found bodies of 2 unidentified male Maoists along with certain materials," DIG Rajesh Punidit told reporters here. Several other Maoists might have suffered injuries in the gun battle, he said. Police recovered three country-made guns, two Maoist uniforms, five detonators, mobile chargers, empty bullet cases and other items.

Anganwadi centre goes up in flames; kids safe

Mahanga: Around 20 children had a close shave as an LPG cylinder exploded in an Anganwadi centre at Lalitgiri in Mahanga block of Cuttack district, Friday. The kitchen of the Anganwadi centre went up in flames. The incident took place when an Anganwadi assistant was peeling boiled eggs outside the kitchen. All items stored in the kitchen were charred in the mishap. However, no casualty or injury was reported due to the incident. All students present in the centre were safe, sources said. The local Block Development Officer (BDO) and Child Development Project Officer rushed to the spot and ordered an inquiry into the mishap.

'Gajaraksha, Janasuraksha' to curb man-animal conflict

10 VILLAGES UNDER MAHABIROD, HINDOL AND SADAR RANGES IDENTIFIED FOR THE PROJECT

POST NEWS NETWORK
Dhenkanal, Nov 11: Man-animal conflict has been raging in parts of the state as forest cover and natural habitats of the wild animals are shrinking. Despite various remedial measures, there is no let up in casualties of elephants and humans due to such conflicts.
In order to mitigate such strife, the Forest department will start a new initiative titled as 'Gajaraksha, Janasuraksha' programme in Dhenkanal district. In the initial phase, the department will implement the programme in 10 villages, which are frequented by elephants. Notably, the district is said to

be leading in cases of elephant poaching and deaths, and human casualties due to elephants. It has left always left the Forest department worried. Earlier, nearly half a dozen schemes had been executed to curb man-elephant conflict, but most of them have failed to yield desired results in the district. Hence the new programme will be launched in December with hopes of achieving fruition.
In December, when paddy harvesting starts, many forested parts of the district usually see elephants going on a damaging spree. The animals damage crops on a large scale, houses and properties on a regular basis. Upset farmers and locals have to fight it out and sometimes many of them have to face the fury of the animals.
The Forest department hopes that this new programme will be effective against the elephant mayhem. Under this programme,



solar fencing will be raised on the outskirts of the 10 villages under Mahabirod, Hindol and Sadar ranges.
About 90 per cent of the cost for the solar fencing will be borne by the state government while the remaining 10 percent will be collected from the villagers who are going to get protection from the animals.
At first, the project will be initi-

ated near Khalpal village under Mahabirod range while the department has started the tender process for the project.
Contacted, DFO Prakashchand Gogineni said, "Gajaraksha, Janasuraksha" will be launched soon in the district. Initially, 10 villages have been identified. Solar fencing will be done according to measurements of the periphery of the villages. This will ward off man-animal conflict."
Notably, in this district, man-elephant conflict has acquired alarming proportions. Both sides have suffered heavy casualties in the last five years. For various reasons, 80 elephants have died while 124 people have lost their lives due to elephant attacks.
Various protective and preventive measures have been taken for the elephants. Solar fencing, siren warnings, bee boxes along NH-55 and railway tracks have been put in place.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. MCSW-ECA/Est-22-23-14
Name of work: SURFACE DEFECT DETECTION BY EDDY CURRENT ARRAY (ECA) TESTING TECHNIQUE ON LHB WHEEL SETS AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF 12 (TWELVE) MONTHS.
Advised Value: ₹ 38,72,064/-, EMD: ₹ 77,400/-, Period of completion: 12 months.
Bidding start date: 15.11.2022, Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 29.11.2022.
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Complete details & tender documents will be available at website www.ireps.gov.in
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The post of Director carries emoluments as that of the Vice Chancellor of a Central University. The application should be filled online for which the last date is 30.11.2022. Further details are available on the UGC website www.ugc.ac.in/jobs.
CBC-21205/12/0022/2223 Secretary, UGC

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-807

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

WORKS DEPARTMENT

Bid Identification No. S.E. CBT (R&B) 17/2022-23
charbatiaidivision1@gmail.com
i) Name of the work : Building works - 01 No.
Estimated Cost : Rs.20,75,117/-
Period of Completion : 01 Month (30 days)
ii) Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal : From 10.00 A.M. of 14.11.2022 to 5.00 P.M. of 23.11.2022 for 'Online' Bidding
iii) Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the portal : 5.00 P.M. of 23.11.2022
iv) Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Charbatia (R&B) Division, Choudwar
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer
Charbatia (R&B) Division, Choudwar
OIPR-34092/11/0015/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-725

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

U.K. Head Works Division, Kolabnagar(K), PIN - 764011
e-Procurement Notice - SE-UKHWD-04/2022-23
Dated: 10.11.2022 (Online)
1. No. of Work : 16 (Sixteen) Nos.
2. Type of Work : Civil Works
3. Value of Work : Rs.4.15 lakhs to 11.53 lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : Registered & licensed contractors of 'C' & 'D' Class
5. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months
6. Daet & time of availability of bid documents online : 15.11.2022 at 11.00 hours to 24.11.2022 upto 17.30 hours
7. Date & place of opening of Bid Online : 25.11.2022 (11.30 hours) at Office of the Superintending Engineer, UKHWD, Kolab Nagar
8. Name of the Officer Inviting Bids : Superintending Engineer, UKHWD, Kolabnagar
Further details can be seen in the Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Website: <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer
Upper Kolab Head Works Division
Kolabnagar (Koraput)
OIPR-32015/11/0010/2223



"There is no greater pride and glory than to be a perfect instrument of the Master."

SRI AUROBINDO



Bitter Bureaucrats

Last month, this column reported that the withdrawal of multiple incentives and allowances given to IAS and IPS officers posted in the northeast region had left these babus resentful. Since then, the Centre reviewed its order, but the officers are reportedly still unhappy. The Centre has decided to withdraw the benefits of retention of government accommodation at the last station of posting for Group A officers, including All India Service (AIS) officers. No fresh retention will be granted to these officers in the NE states, including Sikkim. However, the government has allowed such retention to officers serving in J&K, Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep. Apparently, sources say, this new policy is merely a trigger for other long-pending grievances of babus serving in the northeast states. The resentment clearly reached a point where it had to spill out.

Besides, residential accommodation the babus are upset at the Centre for discontinuing the additional monetary allowance introduced in 2009 for AIS officers comprising the IAS, IPS and IFOs of the Assam-Meghalaya joint cadre, Sikkim, Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur cadres. Also, the incentive of reimbursement of payable income tax to tribal AIS officers of the northeast cadres while on central deputation has been withdrawn. So, despite the Centre showing signs of reviewing its decision, the babus remain unhappy, terming the DoPT order as "insensitive" and "abrupt". Time for negotiations, perhaps.

EC orders Gujarat IPS transfers

With the Gujarat assembly elections announced for next month, the Election Commission has ordered the Bhupendrabhai Patel government to transfer six police officers, five of whom are serving in Ahmedabad. The officers to be transferred are Mukesh Patel SP Ahmedabad City (Zone-4), Bhakti Thakar DCP Traffic (Admin), Ashwin Chauhan Additional CP (Traffic), Dr Harshad Patel DCP (Control Room), Premvir Singh Additional CP (Crime Branch).

Curiously, in the transfer of Ashwin Chauhan, the state Home Department has reportedly made a mistake. He was earlier serving as DIG Western Railway in CID Crime at Police Bhavan Gandhinagar. His government had transferred him as Additional CP (Traffic) of Ahmedabad city on Diwali day. But since he served as DCP traffic in Ahmedabad in the last assembly election, he cannot be kept on the post of SEIM in this election, so he will be transferred again.

Earlier, the Gujarat government had ordered the transfer of 12 IPS officers in the state, barely hours before the announcement of assembly elections and imposition of the code of conduct.

Rejig continues in J&K

Administration in the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has been in ferment after the J&K cadre was abolished and the two UTs were made part of the AGMUT cadre.

While last month, an IAS officer proceeded on Central deputation to the prestigious Economic Affairs Department, sources have informed DKB that another senior IAS officer of the J&K cadre in the rank of principal secretary is also preparing to leave for Delhi on deputation. Apparently, all formalities have been completed and the officer is awaiting the final nod from the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Another IAS officer too has applied for Central deputation.

Both UTs are short of IAS and IPS officers due to various reasons but this has been gradually overcome by posting AGMUT cadre and other IAS and IPS officers. The Home Ministry has been posting several AGMUT cadre IAS, IPS and other All India Services officers in the two union territories. Besides, some officers from the Centre and other states have also been posted in the two Union Territories on inter-cadre deputation.

In recent months, several AGMUT cadre officers have been deputed to J&K and Ladakh. Further, the officers of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) and Jammu and Kashmir Police Services (JKPS) have also been posted on deputation to the Union Territory of Ladakh given the shortage of officers there.

However, we are assured that the Home Ministry and DoPT hold regular reviews of the babu situation in J&K and steps are being taken to ensure a sufficient number of babus in J&K are in place. The DoPT had earlier allocated 65 senior duty posts of AGMUT to Jammu and Kashmir in Indian Administrative Services, 70 in Indian Police Services and 58 in Indian Forest Services.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

Where can we go to find God if we cannot see Him in our own hearts and in every living being.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

There can be no wise politics without thought beforehand.

ANNIE BESANT

WORDSWORTH

Watershed


It first turns up in English near the beginning of the nineteenth century. It was then purely a scientific term for an imaginary line that separates two river systems. Think of it as the ridge of a roof: which river system rainwater flows into is determined by the side of the line the rain is deposited on. This is the same idea as the German Wasserscheide from which English borrowed the word (what linguists call a calque or loan translation). In English, the noun shed is the English equivalent of the German scheide, both of which have come down to us from the same Old German root. The English noun derives from the verb to shed. It's an old word for a division, split or separation — a shed could be a hair parting, for example, and could also be used for a ridge of land separating two areas of lower country, a divide. (These days a shed is usually a simple building for shelter or storage; this is an altered form of shade, and so has no link to this other sense of the word.) In North America, the word watershed often means not the dividing line, but the river catchment areas on either side of the ridge, the whole land area that drains into a particular river. How the sense shifted isn't clear. It came into use only around the 1870s, and may have been a misunderstanding. The difference in sense explains why Americans don't use the figurative sense of the word as much as the rest of us do. This figurative usage only makes sense if you use watershed in its original meaning of a dividing line.

Amperkine


The hottest research topic in biotechnology is that of smart drugs, which will enhance memory and concentration, either to counter the effects of ageing or to give younger people a competitive advantage. (These drugs are also called cognitive enhancers or nootropics, from the Greek no-os, "mind" and tropos, "a turning"). Though many such drugs already on the market work through a placebo effect, a new class called amperkines show promise of a genuine pharmacological effect. They work by enhancing the action of a neurotransmitter chemical in the brain called AMPA (which is short for alpha-amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole-propionic acid) which handles virtually all routine transmissions of electrical impulses across synapses. The word is formed from the abbreviation AMPA, plus the Greek word kinein, "to move", and is a trademark of the University of California at Irvine, where the initial research was carried out.

FOCUS CLIMATE CRISIS

DECARBONISE ENERGY SYSTEMS



The world cannot achieve net-zero emissions without first ensuring universal electricity access. That will require annual investments of at least \$30 billion – two-thirds of which will need to go to Sub-Saharan Africa – between now and 2030



Damilola Ogunbiyi and Kate Brandt

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES SUCH AS NAURU, PALAU AND THE BAHAMAS ALL HAVE ELECTRICITY GRIDS THAT DEPEND HEAVILY ON INEFFICIENT, CARBON-INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS DIESEL GENERATORS

stakeholders are all part of the solution. That is why the UN, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), Google, and a diverse group of signatories launched the 24/7 CFE Compact in 2021. The compact represents a growing global community of stakeholders that are committed to providing the support, tools, and partnerships needed to make 24/7 CFE a reality everywhere.

Among the most recent to join the 24/7 CFE Compact is the Scottish government. "Scotland was the first country in the United Kingdom to declare a climate emergency, and indeed among the first in the world to recognize the importance of taking immediate and bold action," notes Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. "Governments must hold themselves to account in limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. We are committed to putting accountability at the center of all that we do. Our position is clear that unlimited extraction of fossil fuels is not consistent with our climate obligations."

Similarly, just last month, Google and C40, a network of almost 100 cities, launched a first-of-its-kind 24/7 CFE program focusing on regional electricity grids. With urban areas accounting for over half the world's population and more than 70% of global carbon dioxide emissions, cities have a critical role to play in driving the changes needed to tackle the climate crisis.

Developing and emerging economies will need more energy to bridge energy-access gaps, and to support economic growth and development. But as capacity expands, it must be clean. A 24/7 CFE approach can serve both purposes, providing both greater access and cleaner energy. We, therefore, must move faster to make 24/7 CFE cheaper and more accessible globally. According to the latest IEA data, the number of people living without electricity will rise by almost 20 million in 2022, reaching nearly 775 million. Most of that increase will be in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the size of the cohort lacking access has nearly returned to its 2013 peak.

Damilola Ogunbiyi is the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and Kate Brandt is Chief Sustainability Officer at Google.

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SPECTRUM INDO-RUSSIAN TIES

Restating strategic autonomy!

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is in Moscow visiting his counterparts – the Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Deputy Sergei Ryabkov. This is EAM's first visit to Moscow after the dreadful war in Ukraine started nine months ago. The speculation in national and international media was that the EAM may try to broker a ceasefire between the two warring countries. While the visit is certainly the reiteration of India's strategic autonomy in her international politics, it is a matter of reading the deliberations, if EAM will openly or discreetly nudge Russia to end the war.



DK Giri

GOING BY THE PAST EXPERIENCE OF WORLD POWER EQUATIONS, WE WERE WARY ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY OF MULTI-POLARITY, THE STRATEGIC AUTONOMY IN AN INTER-DEPENDENT WORLD

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

uation, and briefed EAM on the special military operations to accomplish the goals set by his President. We do not know what the goals are. There were other usual bilateral discussions on trade and technical cooperation etc.

Arguably, the war is unlikely to end soon. Much will depend upon the western powers, especially America supporting Ukraine. The cost of the war is too heavy. It is estimated that some 3 billion USD is needed every month by Ukraine to hold off Russia. European countries are getting tired, their economies are hit by a lack of gas, food grains, fertilizers etc. At the time of writing, there are elections in America for the Congress which are considered to be the mid-term elections. The outcome of the elections will somewhat influence American policy towards Ukraine.

The war will end only when Russia and the western allies supporting Ukraine agree to call it a day; when they realise, which they are beginning to, that it is not helping either of them. Americans are wary of not being able to bleed Russia white, the sanctions they imposed have not bitten hard, and the retaliation by Ukraine is not strong enough to break the back of the Russian military.

At the same time, Russians have found to their surprise that they could not cow down Ukrainians who have dragged the war for nine months and more. However, there are signs of despair and defeatism on all sides, as it happens in a pro-

longed war. President Zelenskyy has come down from his earlier position that they will not negotiate with Putin, the "war criminal". He is now putting conditions for dialogue; Russia should withdraw from all occupied areas including perhaps Crimea; Russians must pay reparations etc. Although fatigue and frustration are setting in, who will take the first step? Who would broker an agreement?

The world is desperately devoid of such international personalities who could bring the parties to the table. The United Nations falls far short of embracing such peace-building tasks. It has the institutions and legal protocols in place. But it has failed to locate personalities in countries, nor produce mechanisms to build peace. It was expected that India, with its history and culture, and the present position of neutrality could perhaps do it.

Revisiting India's position on Ukraine, New Delhi has so far been seen to be pro-Russia. Her diplomatic utterances and abstentions in the UN were seemingly in Russian support. Some of us were critical of such positions by maintaining that India should stand for territorial integrity, the UN charter and the established international laws. But looking at the postures and practices of other fairly strong countries that put primacy on their economic interests, one is compelled to revise the opinion on our own government's stand. I have Germany in mind.

Germany is the strongest economy in Europe, by far the main driver of the European Union. It is one of the first countries to alert the democratic world about the systematic threat posed by China. Yet, in order to protect its industries and economy, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visits China immediately after Xi Jinping was reconfirmed by the Community Party Congress as the supreme leader. Germany protests the violation of human rights in China but openly does business as usual.

Similarly, India has not been able to decouple its economy from China despite ongoing border skirmishes.

Can we blame India for doing the similar between USA and Russia? India's partnership with the former is growing, whereas the latter has been a time-tested, long-standing friend. Going by the past experience of world power equations, we were wary about the feasibility of multi-polarity, the strategic autonomy in an inter-dependent world. We have friends, and we have adversaries. That is the reality of life. But if Germany and India and other like-minded countries can work towards a multipolar world, retaining and respecting the autonomies of the countries, this is a commendable and a welcome development. So be it.

The author is a Professor in International Relations, JIMMC
INFA

Time for introspection

Sir, India's crushing defeat at the hands of England in the semi-finals of the T20 Cricket World Cup has raised many questions and now is the time to give serious thought to the future of the Indian team. It is also true to a large extent that England performed much better in Adelaide. Undoubtedly, this was a historic victory for them and obviously will inspire their players for years. And on the contrary, Team India has no other choice but to take the lesson from this bitter experience. In the past, New Zealand defeated India by a margin of 200 runs in an ODI, but the same team led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni, exactly a year later, managed to bag the ODI World Cup. So, the current loss can pave the way for a better tomorrow. But, this is time to look beyond Rohit Sharma. He is undoubtedly a good player but certainly not an indispensable one. He should remember that Virat Kohli too had to lose his captaincy because of India's miserable performance. Meanwhile, England should cash in on the form of Jos Buttler and Alex Hales to take on a rejuvenated Pakistan in the final.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Education with charity

Sir, In a significant judgment, the apex court October 19, 2022, ruled that an educational charitable institution, society or trust can claim income tax exemption only if it is solely concerned with education or education-related activities and it should not engage in any commercial or profit-making activities. It further stressed that the Indian Constitution equates education with charity and any entity or institution involved in any trade or commerce under the guise of "general public utility" will cease to be a 'charitable institution'. Education is the key that unlocks the golden door to freedom. Imparting education through schools, colleges and other such institutions would be per se charity. This apart, activities such as providing textbooks, bus facilities to transport children, and summer camps for special educational courses like computer education are also part of charity. However, when the institutions give their premises on rent for organising workshops or seminars to outsiders, the income generated from such activity can't be considered as a part of imparting education. This judgment could have wide-ranging ramifications since charitable institutions involved in any trade or commerce in the name of the said provision could come under its radar.

Bhagaban Nayak, BERHAMPUR

of the day quote

India's relationship with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Would the 'Har Ghar Nai' scheme be implemented in Himachal Pradesh? Would Congress be able to give free vaccines and free rations during Covid?... When the Congress could not do all this and neither take care of your health nor give good institutes of learning or set up AIIMS or IIT here... Why waste votes on Congress

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

The ruling BJP is in a very comfortable position and is set to retain power in Himachal Pradesh

JAIRAM THAKUR | HIMACHAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Minor relief for Jacqueline

New Delhi: A Delhi court Friday adjourns to November 15 its order on actor Jacqueline Fernandez's bail application in a Rs 200 crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar. The court also extended Fernandez's interim protection till Tuesday. Special Judge Shailendra Malik, who had earlier granted Fernandez interim bail, said the order was not ready. The court on Thursday reserved order after hearing arguments from the lawyers appearing for the actress as well as the Enforcement Directorate. During the arguments, on ED's submission that Fernandez can escape the country easily as she is not short of money, the court had questioned why the actor was not arrested so far.

Delhi HC junks PIL against CJ

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Friday refused to entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the appointment of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud. Hearing the matter, a division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma observed that the PIL is "publicity oriented" and dismissed it after imposing a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the petitioner. "The present petition has been filed only to gain publicity without there being any material," the bench, also comprising Justice Subramonium Prasad, observed.

Three held for assaulting teacher

Malappuram: Three youngsters have been arrested for allegedly assaulting a madrasa teacher here for scolding one of his girl students for spending too much time on the phone during night, police said. One among the arrested includes a friend of the girl. The trio told police that they attacked the teacher as he allegedly took a class against relationships. "The complaint was lodged by the teacher on November 9 and the accused were arrested on the same day itself," police said.

Shooters arrested

Chandigarh/New Delhi: Three suspected shooters were nabbed in Punjab's Patiala district early on Friday in connection with the killing of a Dera Sacha Sauda follower a day ago, police said. The special cell of the Delhi Police raided the Bakshiwal area, about 30 km from Patiala city, around 3 am following intelligence inputs, it said.



BJP has used every opportunity to target opposition leaders

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

COMPLETE ROUND 2 BY NOV 16: SC TO STATES

The Supreme Court directed all the states and union territories to conclude by November 16 the second round of counselling for admissions in post-graduate medical courses



Unacceptable: Cong on SC order to free Rajiv's killers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Congress Friday termed "totally unacceptable and completely erroneous" the Supreme Court order directing the premature release of the six remaining convicts serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, and said the apex court has not acted in consonance with the spirit of India.

The Congress also said it disagreed with its former chief Sonia Gandhi, whose appeal helped in the commutation of death sentence of convict Nalini Sriharan, asserting that she was entitled to her personal views but the party's stand had been consistent on this over the years.

The party said it intended to take "all available remedies, be it review or any other form of legal redress". Several Congress office-bearers attacked the Modi government over the issue with Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala asking whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government support the release of terrorists and will they get the court verdict reviewed.

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the premature release of six convicts, including Nalini Sriharan and R P Ravichandran, serving life sentence in the case. A bench of Justices B R Gawai and B V Nagarathna said the judgement of the top court in the case of A G Perarivalan, one of the convicts



in the case, is equally applicable to their matter.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the Supreme Court's decision ordering the release of six of the convicts has shocked the nation's conscience and has invited serious concern and criticism from all sides of the political spectrum.

Asked about the statements of forgiveness by Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi in the past, Singhvi said the party's stance has been the same despite the statements of the Gandhi family as it considers this an "institutional matter".

"It is a matter for example where my views are same as that of the central government. So this is not politics. Certainly Mrs Sonia Gandhi above all is entitled to her personal views but with greatest respect the party does not agree with

The Congress said it disagreed with its former chief Sonia Gandhi, whose appeal helped in the commutation of death sentence of convict Nalini Sriharan

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the Supreme Court's decision ordering the release of six of the convicts has shocked the nation's conscience

that view, has never agreed with that view and has made its view consistently clear and we stand by that view because according to us the sovereignty, integrity and identity of the nation is involved in a prime minister's assassination, sitting or former," he said.

"Continuity is involved and that is why the central government never agreed with the state government in this regard, previous central governments and this central government," he added. Asked whether the party also disagreed with its ally DMK, which rules Tamil Nadu, Singhvi said if the party is disagreeing with its own former chief Sonia Gandhi, will it agree with an ally. "We intend to take all remedies available to us, be it review or any other form of legal redress, because we believe we owe it to the people of this country, to the Supreme Court and to the legacy which it has built," he said.

Vikram-S set for Nov 15 launch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: India's first privately developed rocket - Vikram-S - is set for a November 15 launch on a sub-orbital mission with three payloads, Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace announced on Tuesday.

The maiden mission of Skyroot Aerospace, named 'Prarambh' (the beginning), will carry payloads of two Indian and one foreign customers and is set for launch from the Indian Space Research Organisation's launchpad at Sriharikota. "Heartbeats quicken. All gazes are up to the sky. The earth is listening. It all points to 15 Nov 2022 for launch," Skyspace Aerospace said on Friday. The launch is scheduled for 11:30 am, Skyroot Aerospace CEO and co-founder Pawan Kumar Chandana had said.

Spacekidz, a Chennai-based aerospace startup, will fly 'Fun-Sat', a 2.5 kg payload developed by students from India, the US, Singapore and Indonesia on the sub-orbital flight on board Vikram-S.

With this mission, Skyroot is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket into space, heralding a new era for the space sector which was opened up in 2020 to facilitate private sector participation. Skyroot's launch vehicles are named 'Vikram' as a tribute to the founder of the Indian



space programme and renowned scientist Vikram Sarabhai. Based in Hyderabad, Skyroot was the first startup to sign a memorandum of understanding with ISRO for launching its rockets.

It aims to disrupt entry barriers to cost-efficient satellite launch services and space-flight by advancing its mission to make spaceflights affordable, reliable and regular for all, the statement said.

Set up in 2018, Skyroot has successfully built and tested India's first privately developed cryogenic, hypergolic-liquid, and solid fuel-based rocket engines using advanced composite and 3D-printing technologies.

Apex court extends order to protect 'Shivling' at Gyanvapi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court Friday extended till further orders the protection of the area where a 'Shivling' was stated to be found at the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex premises in Varanasi.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices Surya Kant and PS Narasimha allowed the Hindu parties to move an application before the Varanasi district judge for consolidation of all the lawsuits filed on the Gyanvapi row.

It also directed the Hindu parties to file their replies within three weeks on the appeal filed by the management committee of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid challenging the Allahabad High Court order on the appointment of a survey commissioner.

At the outset, senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, appearing for Hindu plaintiffs, said the appeal filed by the mosque management committee has become infructuous as they had challenged the appointment of advocate commissioner done by the trial court.

"They (mosque committee) have been participating in proceedings before the appointment commissioner, whose appointment they have challenged. Their application of Order 7 Rule 11 (maintainability of the suit) has been decided by the district judge, Varanasi on September 12," he said.



He said that on May 17, this 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 the 'Shivling' was stated to be found in the survey. "On May 20, the court had said that the May 17, interim order shall remain in operation till the maintainability of the suit is decided by the district judge and thereafter, for eight weeks to allow the aggrieved parties to approach a higher court," Kumar said, adding that now that period of eight weeks is getting over and protection needs to be extended.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the mosque committee, said that the interlocutory application was served upon him late and they need to file a rebuttal to that as not all facts are correct.

"I need to rebut the statements made in the application filed by the other side and can't just make the offhand remarks. I have challenged the appointment of advocate commissioner and the appeal is before this court. If I succeed in the appeal, entire things fall apart. I have made this submission earlier also," Ahmadi said.

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, appearing for Hindu parties who have filed the suit before the district judge seeking right to worship in the Gyanvapi complex said that an application has been filed for consolidation of all the suits.

The bench then asked Jain to withdraw the application and granted him liberty to move an application before the district judge of Varanasi for consolidation of all the lawsuits filed in Gyanvapi row.

Saurashtra holds key to power in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 11: Gujarat's Saurashtra region, which accounts for 48 out of the total 182 Assembly seats in the state with a sizable Patidar and Other Backward Class (OBC) population, has the potential to tilt the power game in favour of or against the ruling BJP or opposition Congress in the next month's elections.

In the 2017 Assembly polls, the Congress had bagged 28 seats in this region, improving its previous election's tally of 15 and helping it restrict the Bharatiya Janata Party's victory count to 99.

Political observers attributed the grand old party's impressive show in the region to the 2015 Patidar community's quota agita-



tion that targeted the BJP government.

But improving the numbers or at least keeping them intact in the next month's Assembly polls would be a challenge for the Congress as unlike the reservation stir, there is no issue that would serve as an "emotional ground to unite" this time. Besides, the Arvind Kejriwal-



led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) can also pose a hurdle in the way, the observers feel.

The ruling BJP, which could win just 19 seats in the region in the 2017 elections as against 30 in 2012, is also making concerted efforts to regain its lost ground by poaching Congress MLAs. There are 11 districts in this region - Surendranagar,

Morbi, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Junagadh, Gir Somnath, Amreli, Bhavnagar and Botad. In the 2017 Assembly, BJP had failed to open an account in three of these districts - Morbi, Gir Somnath and Amreli.

For the Congress, which has been out of power in Gujarat for more than two decades, it is important that it sustains its 2017 performance in Saurashtra in order to regain the lost ground in the state.

But this is not going to be easy for it given the fact that the 2015 Patidar quota agitation that united Patidars against the ruling BJP is missing this time, the political observers said.

Furthermore, Hardik Patel, the most prominent Patidar agitation

leader who had joined the Congress in 2019 and was appointed its working president, snapped ties with the party earlier this year and joined the BJP which has even fielded him from Viramgam seat this time.

The AAP, which is for the first time contesting on all 182 seats in Gujarat, can play spoilsport for the Congress as the younger generation of the Patidar community is seen supporting the Arvind Kejriwal-led outfit, experts said.

At the same time, the BJP is seen compensating for any lack of support from the Patidar community with the OBC, another major community in the region, which is mainly spread along the coastal belt and accounts for nearly 40 per cent of seats, they said.

ATTACK ON OWAISI: SC QUASHES BAIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court on Friday quashed an Allahabad High Court order granting bail to two men accused of firing at AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi's vehicle in Uttar Pradesh in February and gave them one week to surrender.

The top court said the seriousness of the alleged offence has not been considered by the high court. A bench of justices MR Shah and MM Sundresh said the high court did not accord any reason while giving bail.

The apex court remanded the matter back to the high court for fresh consideration and directed Sachin Sharma and Shubham Gurjar to surrender before the police within a week. The top court also directed the high court to decide the bail applications of the two accused within four weeks from the date of surrender.

"Having gone through the impugned judgement of the high court, it can be seen that there are no reasons given at all by the high court while releasing the accused on bail.

"It has also not given any prima facie opinion on material collected during the course of the investigation which is now forming the part of charge sheet. Even the seriousness of the offence alleged has not been considered by the high court. In that view of the matter, the impugned judgement of the high court needs to be quashed and set aside," the bench said.

In his petition before the apex court, Owaisi challenged the bail granted to them, saying this was a classic example of a disproportionate amount of prejudice and hate-related crimes leading to the incident of an attempt to murder and the target was a known MP.



Aaditya takes part in Bharat Jodo Yatra



AGENCIES

Hingoli, Nov 11: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray joined the Congress 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' at Kalamnuri in Hingoli, where the march arrived during the day from neighbouring Nanded district, and walked along Rahul Gandhi.

Aaditya Thackeray was joined by party colleagues Ambadas Danve, who is the leader of the opposition in the state Legislative Council, and former MLA Sachin Ahir.

They walked along Gandhi, who is leading the cross-country foot-march which has entered the 65th day. The Congress MP from Kerala and Aaditya Thackeray waved to people assembled along the route.

Flowers were showered on the participants in Seni village in Nanded's Ardhapur taluka, with the march entering Hingoli dis-

to take part in the march during its Maharashtra leg.

Rahul Gandhi has slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying his Demonetisation and hasty implementation of GST destroyed the economy and led to massive joblessness in the country.

Addressing a huge rally during the Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) in Maharashtra's Nanded Thursday, Gandhi criticised Modi for the disastrous decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes six years ago and implementation of GST with five tax slabs which broke the back of the Indian economy and finished off unemployment opportunities.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference, Kanhaiya Kumar, who has been part of the foot march from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu since September 7, said there is a difference between a political yatra and an electoral one, adding that "everything in politics is not for electoral gains".

"The objective of this yatra is to unite people emotionally in this diverse land. We have to be united not only geographically but emotionally. Our hopes, aspirations should also be united. If there is an emotional impact of this yatra on the people, electoral impact will also be seen," Kumar said.

"This is a padyatra (foot march) for the country organised by the Congress. People should join it by walking on their own for issues close to their heart. In the current political discourse, non-issues are being given priority, while important ones are sidelined. We wish to highlight those (important issues)," Kumar added.

Slamming the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he said the ruling party claims the country is already united and that the Congress divided it 75 years ago.

AAP launches 'jhadu chalao' campaign in UP

The campaign is looking to target three issues -- sanitation, corruption and the BJP -- with AAP pitching itself through its election symbol 'broom' as the only one which can clean up the state

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Nov 11: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has launched a new campaign called 'Gandagi Hatao, Jhadu Chalao' in a run-up to the municipal polls in Uttar Pradesh.

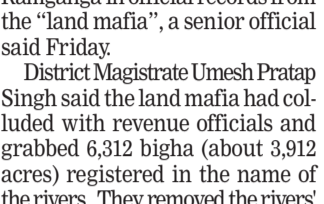
Interestingly, a similar campaign is being run by the party in the national capital, where Municipal

Nearly 3,900 acres freed from land grabbers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shahjahanpur, Nov 11: The district administration has freed land worth Rs 300 crore registered in the names of the Ganga and the Ramganga in official records from the "land mafia", a senior official said Friday.

District Magistrate Umesh Pratap Singh said the land mafia had colluded with revenue officials and grabbed 6,312 bigha (about 3,912 acres) registered in the name of the rivers. They removed the rivers' names from official records and used the land for agriculture, he said. A probe by Additional District Magistrate (Judicial) Rashid Ali revealed that the flow of the Ganga covered 3,912 acres in Jalalabad and Kalan tehsils. The land was reg-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

istered in the names of the Ganga and the Ramganga in 1952.

The land grabbers changed the registration in collusion with the revenue department officials, Ali found in his probe.

The district magistrate said the land had become fertile after the Ganga's course changed and added that agriculture had reduced the breadth of the Ganga.

The land grabbers also obtained bank loans for it, he added. The district magistrate said no action

Bomb-like device sparks fear

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 11: Hours after an explosive-like device was found under a bridge on the Mumbai-Goa highway in Maharashtra's Raigad district, the local police neutralised it early Friday with the help of the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS), an official said.

The apparatus was not connected to any detonator and no explosive was found in it, Raigad Superintendent of Police Somnath Garge said.

Two bunches of six gelatin sticks each, attached to an electric circuit and a watch were found in the Bhogavati river under a bridge near Pen around 6 pm on Thursday, triggering panic among local residents. Senior officials of the Raigad Police, state Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and a BDDS team from Navi Mumbai had reached the spot on being alerted about the recovery of the device, he said.

"In the early hours of Friday, the BDDS team took a device at an isolated location and neutralised it by separating its electric circuit



AGENCIES

and gelatin sticks connected to it," another official said. The operation was over by 2 am, he said.

"We are sending the recovered device to a forensic science lab for a detailed investigation," Garge said. The Raigad Police have launched a probe in connection with the incident and are conducting a search in one kilometre area surrounding the spot to ascertain who were behind it, he said, adding so far FIR was not registered.

was initiated despite 'chakbandi' (verification and demarcation) of the land. 'Chakbandi' is the exercise of amalgamating and redistributing fragmented land holdings.

Ali, who conducted the probe, said 40 land grabbers had registered the 6,312 bigha in the name of 500 people in official records. However, the possession was with them. The land has now been "restored" to the rivers, he said. The officials, including those who have retired, responsible for colluding with the land mafia to change the registration have been identified and strict action will be initiated against them, the district magistrate said.

The flow of the Ganga covers 15 km in Shahjahanpur while the Ramganga covers nearly 40 km, the officials said.

Maha: Pune civic body urges cat owners to get pets registered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 11: The civic authorities in Maharashtra's Pune city have appealed to cat owners to get their pets registered with them, an official said Friday.

Till now, only dog owners were supposed to get their pets registered with the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC).

"Like dogs owners, people owning cats will have to get their pets registered with the PMC. They have to follow norms regarding vaccination and birth control of their pets," said Dr Ashish Bharti, the health chief of the PMC.

Earlier, people had to approach ward offices to get their pets registered, but now the civic body has provided the facility on its website and the registration can be done at Rs 50 per pet, he said.

Pets have to be vaccinated before registration, he said. "At least 5,500 dogs have been registered with the PMC, which is very low and we appeal to pet owners to get their pets, be it dog or cat to get registered with PMC," he said.

UP: Cong not to contest bypolls



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Lucknow, Nov 11: The Congress in Uttar Pradesh will not contest the upcoming by-elections in Mainpuri and Khatauli but will focus on forthcoming elections to urban local bodies in Uttar Pradesh.

According to UPCC president Brijlal Khabri, "We do not have time to contest the by-elections. We have urban local bodies elections ahead."

The by-election to Mainpuri Lok Sabha and Khatauli Assembly seats is scheduled for December 5.

The Mainpuri by-election has been necessitated by the death of Samajwadi Party (SP) patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav October 10.

The Khatauli seat fell vacant after BJP MLA Vikram Saini was disqualified following his conviction in the Muzaffarnagar riots case.

Khabri said, "We suffered a lot

Water sports along the Ganga to boost tourism

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 11: An annual Ganga Rally and other water sports are being planned to develop water tourism in a big way along the Ganga River in Uttar Pradesh.

Tourist places along the banks of the Ganga will also be developed through water transport.

Two survey teams from Atal Ghat of Kanpur to Prayagraj by boat and road routes will study the modalities and look for locations which can be developed for specific water sports.

Besides, the survey will also take into account the availability of mobile network coverage on the entire route as well as the distance at which nearest medical, emergency and police facilities were available.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

One survey team will take the river route while the other will take the road route.

Neeraj Srivastava, the coordinator of development work related to Kanpur and secretary of Kanpur

Tourist places along the banks of the Ganga will also be developed through water transport

Two survey teams from Atal Ghat of Kanpur to Prayagraj by boat and road routes will study the modalities and look for locations which can be developed for specific water sports

Boat Club, said that 'Ganga Water Rally' will have about 50 players, participants and about 30 other team managers.

"For the rally, the first stop will be Buxar in Unnao, second in

Dalmou in Rae Bareilly, third at Kalakankar in Pratapgarh, fourth at Shringverpur in Prayagraj and the fifth and last at Prayagraj Boat Club in Prayagraj. The survey of the river route before organizing a five-day Ganga rally is necessary," he said.

"The route of the Ganga stream through the river, the water flow, the depth of the water and the places of short rest in between each section will also be identified," he said.

Kanpur divisional commissioner Raj Shekhar said that the district magistrates of 'Madhya Margiya' districts, including Unnao, Rae Bareilly, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj have been instructed to rope in sub-divisional magistrates and police officers of their respective districts.

Examinees to get stitched answer sheets in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj, Nov 11: For the first time, nearly 58 lakh students registered to appear in the Uttar Pradesh Board high school and intermediate examinations 2023 across the state will get stitched answer sheets.

The move of the Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UPMSP), is aimed at preventing the

copy mafia from deliberately changing answer sheets of meritorious students at different exam centres as witnessed in the previous years, said state secondary education department officials.

According to the official spokesman, the decision has been taken after the board's experiment to provide stitched answer sheets to 10 sensitive districts, where such practices were feared in 2020, yielded desired results.

A total of 58,67,329 students, in-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

cluding 31,16,458 of high school and 27,50,871 of intermediate, will be appearing for the 2023 exams.

The step is also aimed at further making examinations free

of unfair means.

In the earlier examinations, the copying mafia used to take out the cover page of the usual stapled answer sheets of meritorious students at the centres and put it on the copies of the weaker students in lieu of cash, after the examination was over.

In many such cases, the Board has acted against centre managers and teachers besides debarring the guilty schools from the examination over such incidents.

To prevent this, it had started providing stitched answer sheets to select districts where such practices were reported in 2020.

These districts include Mathura, Prayagraj, Muzaffarnagar, Hardoi, Ballia, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Aligarh, Ghazipur and Kaushambhi.

The spokesman said that this year, the Board has requested officers of the Government Press that only sewed copies be supplied to all 75 districts.

of the day quote

Road projects worth around Rs 3 lakh crore to be completed in Northeast by 2024

The objective of this yatra is to unite people emotionally in this diverse land. We have to be united not only geographically but emotionally.

The Left dispensation is attempting to 'demean' and 'denigrate' the constitutional post of the Governor and creating 'Constitutional anarchy' in Kerala

SHORT TAKES

Four terrorist associates held

Srinagar: Four terrorist associates, linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT, were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday...

Labourer found dead with injuries

Gurugram: The body of a labourer with severe head injuries was found at a bus stop in Gurugram's Sector-29 area, police said Friday.

JNU clashes: Two FIRs registered

New Delhi: The Delhi Police have registered two FIRs in connection with the clashes that took place between two groups on the JNU campus...

Man arrested for molestation

New Delhi: A man has been arrested for allegedly molesting a 10-year-old minor inside a mosque in Delhi's Maujpur area...

Three die

Kanpur: Three labourers died after inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning a septic tank near a tannery here.



The current regime represents an unholy alliance of big corporate houses and fascist, communal forces represented by the BJP-RSS

CHANCE TO LEARN CHESS

During the 'No Bag Day' on the third Saturday of every month in all schools across Rajasthan, students will be provided with an opportunity to play chess



Record cash, liquor seized as HP, Gujarat go to polls: EC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Record seizures of cash, liquor and freebies have been made ahead of the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls...

While polling will be held in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday, Gujarat will have voting on December 1 and 5. The counting of votes will be taken up December 8.

The poll panel said its comprehensive planning, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, ahead of the polls has given "encouraging" results in terms of seizures.

Gujarat witnessed seizures of ₹71.88 crore in just a few days after the announcement of the election, which surpassed the seizures made during the entire duration of the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct during the 2017 Assembly polls.

Similarly, the seizures in Himachal Pradesh are also significant, amounting to ₹50.28 crore as compared to ₹9.03 crore five years ago, marking more than a five-fold increase, the EC said.



WHILE POLLING WILL BE HELD IN HIMACHAL PRADESH SATURDAY, GUJARAT WILL HAVE VOTING ON DECEMBER 1 AND 5. THE COUNTING OF VOTES WILL BE TAKEN UP DECEMBER 8

GUJARAT WITNESSED SEIZURES OF ₹71.88 CRORE IN JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION, WHICH SURPASSED THE SEIZURES MADE DURING THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT DURING THE 2017 ASSEMBLY POLLS, WHICH AMOUNTED TO ₹27.21 CRORE

fold increase, the EC said. It added that the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence also reported "massive seizures" amounting to ₹64 crore of toys and accessories that were being smuggled by way of "mis-declaration and resorting to concealment in the import cargo" at the Mundra port.

Two persons, including the mastermind, have been arrested in the case and further investigation is under progress, the poll watchdog said. Giving details, it said ₹17.18 crore in cash, liquor worth ₹17.5 crore, drugs worth Rs 1.2 crore and freebies worth 41 lakh were seized in Himachal Pradesh till November 10.

Similarly, ₹66 lakh in cash, liquor worth ₹3.86 crore, drugs worth ₹94 lakh and freebies worth ₹64.56 crore were seized in Gujarat till Thursday. The poll panel pointed out that even during the bypolls held recently in seven Assembly constituencies in Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, "significant seizures" of ₹9.35 crore were made.

Record seizures were made in the "highly expenditure sensitive" Munugode Assembly constituency of Telangana, where a significant amount of cash amounting to ₹6.6 crore, along with thousands of litres of liquor and ₹1.78 crore worth precious metals, was seized.

NCP leader held for violence in multiplex

The ruckus broke out at a multiplex in the Viviana Mall Monday night when Awhad, along with some 100 supporters, allegedly roughed up a few persons at the venue of the film screening

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thane, Nov 11: Thane Police have arrested senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Jitendra Awhad for indulging in violence at a city mall during the screening of the Marathi film 'Har Har Mahadev' earlier this week, officials said here Friday

The ruckus broke out at a multiplex in the Viviana Mall on Monday night when Awhad, along with some 100 supporters, allegedly roughed up a few persons at the venue of the film screening.

The Vartaknagar police station, which had filed a case in the matter on Tuesday and issued show-cause notices, has arrested Awhad while more arrests are likely to be made soon, said an official.

Late on Monday, the ex-NCP minister and other activists had thronged the multiplex to interrupt the film screening - which was later stopped - alleging his-



toric distortions pertaining to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, allegedly made by the filmmakers.

Soon after his arrest under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Mumbai Police Act, Awhad tweeted that he would not plead guilty but will continue to fight against wrong portrayal of historic events.

He also charged the police of following orders from "some higher-ups" in a bid to frame him. Incidentally, Thane is the hometown of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Playing Awhad's arrest, senior NCP MP Supriya Sule said there 'British Raj' in Maharashtra, while hundreds of party workers staged protests outside the police station.

Vir Das invited to Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: TMC MP Derek O'Brien has invited stand-up comedian Vir Das to Kolkata, a day after his show in Bengaluru was cancelled at the last minute following protests by Hindu right-wing groups.

The protesting groups alleged that the show, scheduled to be held on Thursday, would hurt Hindu religious sentiments. "Hello @thevirdas Come to #Kolkata. We would love to have you here this winter. DM me please. Let's get this going," the TMC's leader of the House in Rajya Sabha said in a tweet.

Das later uploaded a video on Twitter to deter any assumptions made on his content. In the video Das can be seen asking his audience if anything he said during the show defamed India or hurt any sentiment. The crowd is seen answering in the negative.

"I made this video after one of my shows, Just in Case. I have no interest in media spectacles or being used for headlines. I'm an artist. I shouldn't be on the news. Many assumptions are made about my content. I trust my art and my audience to speak for me. #TrustTheAudience," Das tweeted.

Das' monologue "I come from two Indias" had stirred a row a year ago when he was criticised for allegedly defaming the country. Referred to as India's Silicon Valley, Bengaluru is home to people from across the country, especially those in the Information Technology sector.

JeM terrorist killed in J&K encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 11: Security forces Friday shot dead a foreign terrorist of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in an encounter in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

A police spokesman said the security forces, acting on specific information generated by police regarding the presence of terrorist in the Kapren area of Shopian, launched a joint cordon and search operation.

"To avoid any civilian casualty or injury, the joint team of forces evacuated teachers and students from a nearby madrasa to safer places," he said.

The spokesman said as the search party approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter.

"In the ensuing encounter, one foreign terrorist, identified as Kamran Bhai @Hanees, linked with proscribed terror outfit JeM was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter," he said.

According to police records, the killed terrorist was categorised ultra and involved in several terror crime cases, including attacks on police and civilians.

"It is pertinent to mention here that the killed terrorist was active in Kulgam-Shopian area and was trying to revive the terror folds of JeM terror outfit by recruiting & motivating the gullible youth to join terror folds, besides planning to execute terror attacks," the spokesman said.



Youngsters play at the flooded Marina Beach following incessant rains in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

Relief for Hardik as HC lifts entry ban in Mehsana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 11: The Gujarat High Court Friday granted relief to a large extent on two questions - will new variants with unexpected characteristics arise, and how long will vaccine or infection-triggered immune protection last.

"While the outlook seems good, I think caution is advisable," Rath, professor emeritus at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, said. Earlier this week, on Tuesday, India recorded its lowest single-day rise of 625 fresh COVID-19 cases since April 9, 2020 and reported no death in a

who had filed the bail modification petition on November 7 on the ground that he wanted to offer prayers at the temple of his "kuldevi" (local deity).

The bail condition that he will not enter his home district Mehsana has been removed for a year, Patel's lawyer Rafik Lokhandwala said. Patel was on Thursday declared as the BJP's candidate for Viramgam seat in Ahmedabad district.

A Gujarat court had, in July



2018, sentenced Patel and his aides Lalji Patel and AK Patel to two

The bail condition that he will not enter his home district Mehsana has been removed for a year, Hardik Patel's lawyer Rafik Lokhandwala said

Hardik Patel was Thursday declared as the BJP's candidate for Viramgam seat in Ahmedabad district

years in jail for rioting and arson that took place on July 23, 2015 in

Visnagar town during the Patidar reservation agitation.

On that day, a mob had torched a car and vandalised the office of Visnagar BJP MLA Rishikesh Patel. The Gujarat High Court had, in August 2018, suspended the lower court's order and granted him bail. The HC barred him from entering Mehsana as a bail condition and this continued even as his appeal against conviction remains pending before the court.

Steady decline in Covid, but virus here to stay: Experts

GOING FORWARD, THE SCIENTISTS SAID COVID WILL MOST CERTAINLY BECOME ENDEMIC IN THE COUNTRY AND NOT DISAPPEAR ALTOGETHER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Hybrid immunity has led to the steady decline of Covid in India but the virus is destined to stay long-term, becoming endemic rather than getting eliminated, say scientists as masks rapidly become a thing of yesterday and pandemic memories begin to fade.

Though Covid deaths have virtually ceased and case numbers are sliding, it would be a mistake to drop caution, they said, pointing to the impact of long Covid and the need to continue testing.

According to immunologist Satyajit Rath, the future trajectory of the Covid pandemic depends to a large extent on two questions - will new variants with unexpected characteristics arise, and how long will vaccine or infection-triggered immune protection last.

"While the outlook seems good, I think caution is advisable," Rath, professor emeritus at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, said. Earlier this week, on Tuesday, India recorded its lowest single-day rise of 625 fresh COVID-19 cases since April 9, 2020 and reported no death in a



24-hour span, the first time since March 2020. On Friday, the health ministry reported 842 new coronavirus infections and six fatalities, including five reconciled by Kerala and one in Rajasthan.

It's a far cry from the summer of 2021. The daily number of cases in the country peaked at 4,14,188 (over 4.1 lakh) on May 7, 2021.

The following month, on June 10, 2021, the number of deaths peaked at 6,148.

"It appears that the hybrid immunity that the Indian population enjoys is substantially protective," said Gautam Menon, professor, Departments of Physics and Biology, Ashoka University, who has been tracking Covid numbers

in India since the start of the pandemic

Epidemiologist Ramanan Laxminarayan agreed. He noted that Covid is waning due to a combination of vaccination and the fact that many people were already infected during 2020 and 2021.

"There seems to be sufficient cross-protection between vaccination, especially those who have received a booster, and the new strains so we should be protected for a while," Laxminarayan, director of the Washington-based One Health Trust, formerly known as the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy, said.

Many variants of concern have emerged for SARS-CoV-2, with the latest Omicron strain mutating into multiple sub variants. Going forward, the scientists said Covid will most certainly become endemic in the country and not dis-

appear altogether. A disease is called endemic when it is always present in a population but it spreads at predictable rates that can be managed by communities. Menon added that Covid is destined to stay over the long term like influenza.

"There's a precedent for this - another coronavirus causes cold-like symptoms and has been around for some decades now," he explained, referring to the influenza virus. Both COVID-19 and influenza (flu) are infectious respiratory diseases, and they share some similar symptoms.

"It is unlikely that Covid will disappear. It has already become endemic," Laxminarayan concurred. "From current appearances and past experience, the most likely outcome will be endemicity rather than elimination I think," Rath said.

international

of the day quote

Extremely delighted to be in Cambodia with you all. Indeed a special occasion as India and Cambodia commemorate 70 years of diplomatic relations. This year is also the 30th anniversary of India-ASEAN relations with India-ASEAN friendship year

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

We haven't been capable as a state to solve the lag in terms of poverty. We haven't found a path that's lasted to find peace

GABRIEL BORIC | CHILE'S PRESIDENT

Peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region is directly related to our survival and prosperity

YOON SUK-YEOL | SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Tsunami advisory lifted in Tonga

Wellington: A powerful, shallow underwater earthquake struck Friday near Tonga in the southern Pacific, prompting authorities to issue and then lift a tsunami advisory. The US Geological Survey said the magnitude 7.3 quake was centered 211 kilometers (132 miles) east-southeast of Neiafu, Tonga, at a depth of 24.8 kilometers (15 miles). It predicted strong shaking but said the probability of serious damage or casualties was small. The US Tsunami Warning System issued and later lifted a tsunami advisory, which is one step below a tsunami warning.

PIO gets jail in Singapore

Singapore: An Indian-origin man was sentenced to five weeks' jail Friday for stealing cash chips from other punters on 34 occasions at a casino in Singapore. Chinmasamy Muniraj, 26, who is a construction worker, went gambling at Marina Bay Sands Casino, and stole cash chips worth \$5845 on 34 occasions between July 10 and 14, Channel News Asia reported. He pleaded guilty to one count each of stealing and fraudulently obtaining cash chips worth \$5175 (US\$126) as winnings for himself when the winning bet belonged to another gambler.

Thousands protest for higher salaries

Sofia (Bulgaria): Thousands of Bulgarians took to the streets Friday to demand higher salaries to compensate for surging inflation that has hit the European Union's poorest member. The demonstration was organized by the country's two largest trade unions. Protesters gathered in front of the parliament building holding banners and chanting requests for decent pay as winter nears. The unions handed to parliament a joint declaration which calls for a speedy adoption of next year's budget to avoid the risk of freezing the minimum wage at its current level despite inflation.

Istanbul mayor could face political ban

Istanbul: A prosecutor Friday repeated a demand for Istanbul's mayor to be convicted on charges of insulting members of Turkey's Supreme Electoral Council, during the third hearing of a trial critics allege is an attempt to remove a key opponent of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from the political scene. Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, a member of the opposition Republican People's Party, faces up to four years in prison if found guilty of the charge and could also be barred from holding office.



I have been impressed by RPP president (Lingden) who has been voicing against corruption and I call upon people to vote for his party

MANISHA KOIRALA | BOLLYWOOD ACTOR

SHOCKING REVELATION

A joint study by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Unity Studies and SeroTracker and colleagues suggests that based on seroprevalence, global Covid-19 infection rates are likely to be higher than previously reported



Chinese incursions into India strategically planned: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 11: Chinese incursions across India's west and central borders are not independent, random incidents that happen by mistake but are part of a strategically planned and coordinated effort to gain permanent control of the disputed border areas, according to a study by a team of international experts.

The study 'Rising tension in the Himalayas: A Geospatial Analysis of Chinese Border Incursions into India' by Northwestern University,

Technical University of Delft in the Netherlands and the Netherlands Defence Academy presented a geospatial analysis of the incursions, using an original dataset that covers the past 15 years.

"We find that the conflict can be separated into two independent conflicts, west and east, centered around the major contested areas of Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh. Building on insights from game theory, we conclude that the Chinese incursions in the west are strategically planned and aim for a permanent



control, or at least a clearer status quo of the contested areas," the

study released Thursday said. For the study, the team defined

an 'incursion' as any movement of Chinese troops across the border — by foot or in vehicles — into areas that are internationally accepted as India's territory. Then, they plotted each location on a map, identifying 13 hotspots where incursions happen most frequently. In the 15-year dataset, the researchers noted an average of 7.8 incursions per year even though the Indian government's estimates are much higher.

According to Indian government data in 2019, the Chinese Army transgressed into Indian territory

1,025 times between 2016 and 2018. Then Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik told the Lok Sabha in November 2019 that the number of transgressions by the Chinese Army in 2016 was 273 which rose to 426 in 2017. The number of such cases reported in 2018 was 326.

A press release from Northwestern said that the authors assembled a new dataset, compiling information about Chinese incursions into India from 2006 to 2020 and used game theory and statistical methods to analyse the data.

G20 SUMMIT

Xi to discuss 'right way forward' for US, China



The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. The two, however, had held several virtual summits. Xi's meeting with Biden will be the first in-person summit after he got elected as the US President in 2021.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 11: On his first visit abroad after his unprecedented third term win, Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the G20 leaders' summit next week in Bali where he will meet his US counterpart Joe Biden and discuss the "right way forward" to manage the differences between the two countries and avoid "miscalculation", the Foreign Ministry here said Friday.

Xi will also attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bangkok, Thailand from November 17 to 19, foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said. This will be Xi's first visit abroad after his election last month for an unprecedented third five-year term as the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) at its once-in-a-five-year Congress. He is the first leader after party founder Mao Zedong to continue in power after completing a 10-year tenure.

According to Hua, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in the Indonesian city of Bali and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Xi will hold bilateral talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, US President Biden, Senegalese President Macky Sall, Argentine President Alberto Fernandez, among others, upon request.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also attending the G20 summit. It is significant for India as it will assume the Presidency of the powerful grouping from the current chair Indonesia December 1.

For Biden, the meeting is taking place amid fairly good results in the midterm polls for the Democrats

who largely managed to hold their seats in both in the Senate and the US House of Representatives belying forecasts of the opposition Republican party wave, which observers say will strengthen his position in his crucial talks with Xi.

Biden already said he would discuss America's "red lines" over Taiwan among other issues during an expected meeting with Xi.

"Look, I'm not willing to make any fundamental concessions," Biden said during a post-election press conference at the White House, when asked if he would tell Xi whether the US would defend the self-ruled island from a Chinese attack. "What I want to do with him when we talk is lay out what each of our red lines are, understand what he believes to be in the critical national interests of China, what I know to be in the critical interests in the United States, and to determine whether or not they conflict with one another," he said. "And if they do, how to resolve it and how to work it out."

From his side, Xi will discuss establishing the "right way forward", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here Friday.

"China views and grows its relations with the US in accordance with the three principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation as proposed by President Xi, and calls for establishing the right way forward for bilateral relations," Zhao said when asked what Chinese side highlights at the talks.

The steady growth of China-US relations serves the interests of both sides and meets the expectations of the world, he said.

Iranians mark 'Bloody Friday'

REUTERS

Dubai, Nov 11: Iranians protested in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan province Friday to mark a September 30 crackdown by security forces known as "Bloody Friday", as nationwide demonstrations calling for the end of clerical rule persisted.

Amnesty International said security forces unlawfully killed at least 66 people, including children, in the incident after firing live ammunition, metal pellets and teargas at protesters in the provincial capital Zahedan, a flashpoint in the unrest gripping Iran.

Anti-government demonstrations erupted in September after the death of a Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini, who had been detained by morality police for allegedly flouting the Islamic Republic's strict dress code imposed on women.



The protests quickly turned into a popular revolt, with people ranging from students to doctors to lawyers to workers to athletes taking part.

The government, which has blamed Amini's death on pre-existing medical problems, sees the protests as fomented by Iran's foreign enemies including the United States, and has vowed to reestablish order. It accuses armed separatists of perpetrating violence and seeking to destabilise the

Islamic Republic. Some of the worst unrest has been in areas home to minority ethnic groups with long-standing grievances against the state, including Sistan-Baluchistan and Kurdish regions.

Zahedan, close to Iran's south-eastern border with Pakistan and Afghanistan, is home to a Baluch minority estimated to number up to 2 million people who have faced discrimination and repression for decades, according to human rights groups.

'Netanyahu to form new govt'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Nov 11: Benjamin Netanyahu is set to become Israel's prime minister for a record sixth time after President Isaac Herzog on Friday announced that he will invite the veteran Likud Party leader to form the next government, a move likely to end the political impasse in the country.

Israelis voted November 1 for an unprecedented fifth time in four years to break the political impasse that has paralysed the Jewish nation. Herzog will officially issue



the mandate to Netanyahu on Sunday. The leaders of the right-wing religious bloc, which includes the ultra-Orthodox Shas and United Torah Judaism parties along with the far-right Religious Zionism

party, have already said that they would be recommending Netanyahu's name for premier-ship. Herzog held discussions with the political parties since Wednesday after he received the final poll results from the Chairman of the Central Elections Committee.

Netanyahu will have to form the government in 28 days from the day he is handed over the mandate by the President. If an extension is required, the President has the legal authority to grant an extension of up to fourteen additional days.

Ukrainian troops met with joy in Kherson

Video footage circulating on the internet showed dozens of Ukrainians cheering and chanting victory slogans in Kherson's central square, where the apparent first Ukrainian troops to arrive snapped selfies in the crowd

REUTERS

Blahodatne, Ukraine, Nov 11: Ukrainian troops were greeted by joyous residents in the centre of Kherson Friday after Russia abandoned the only regional capital it had captured since its invasion in February.

Russia said it had completed the pullout across the Dnipro River without losing a single soldier; but Ukrainians painted a picture of a chaotic retreat, with Russian troops ditching their uniforms or drowning while trying to escape.

Two men lifted a female soldier on their shoulders and tossed her into the air. Some residents wrapped themselves in Ukrainian flags. One man was weeping with joy.

Ukraine's defence intelligence agency said Kherson was returning to Ukrainian control and ordered any remaining Russian troops to surrender to Ukrainian forces entering the city.

As Ukrainian forces surged forward during one of the most rapid and humiliating Russian retreats of the war, villagers came out of hiding to describe months under occupation of Russian troops they said had killed residents and looted homes. At the newly recaptured village of Blahodatne, 20 km (12 miles) north of Kherson, Ukrainian soldiers were taking over positions dug by the Russians. At the entrance of the village, Ukrainian troops looked over a large stockpile of 120 mm mortar shells abandoned by the Russians in a dilapidated warehouse.



A large number of Russian soldiers had drowned in the river trying to escape and others had changed into civilian clothing, he said, advising residents not to leave their homes while searches for remaining Russian troops took place.

Natalia Humeniuk, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian military's southern command, said Russian troops "have been changing into civilian clothes for two weeks."

Earlier, the Russian defence ministry said it had finished its withdrawal from the western bank of the Dnipro river, where Kherson city lies, just two days after Moscow

announced the retreat.

Pro-Russian war bloggers had reported late on Thursday that Russian forces crossing the river were coming under heavy fire from Ukrainian forces. The Russian ministry said Ukrainian forces had struck Dnipro River crossings five times overnight with U.S.-supplied HIMARS rocket systems.

Ukraine's Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov had told Reuters Thursday it would take at least a week for Russia to pull out of Kherson. He estimated Russia still had 40,000 troops in the region, and said intelligence showed its forces remained in and around the city.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an overnight address that Ukrainian forces had recaptured 41 settlements as they advanced through the south, indicating one of the swiftest and most dramatic shifts of control in almost nine months of war.

38 Indians working as bonded labourers in Nepal rescued: Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 11: At least 38 Indian nationals, including women and children, working as bonded labourers in a brick factory have been rescued by the Nepalese authorities from the country's Rautahat area, police said Friday.

The rescue operation was conducted on Wednesday after police officers in the district were informed about a group of Indians - 20 men and 18 children and women - hailing from Uttar Pradesh being made to work without their consent in the Aman brick factory located in Paroha Municipality of the district. Accordingly a police team was deployed from the area police office to rescue all of them.

"A total of 38 Indians working as bonded labourers in the brick factory have been rescued. They all hail from Uttar Pradesh," a spokesperson of Deputy Superintendent of Police at Rautahat said. He said that the rescued Indians were handed over to the Sashastra Seema Bal at Bairganiya in Bihar's Sitamarhi district after the required legal and administrative paperwork.

of the day quote

Indian currency-denominated exports will reach \$8-10 billion soon. Russia requires everything under the sun from India. Exporters were waiting for the government to allow benefits under Rupee and banks to commence the process of transactions

AJAY SAHAI | DIRECTOR GENERAL & CEO, FIEO

Garuda Aerospace is an asset-light, recession proof, and market agnostic company that is backed by its consumers. At a time when other unicorn startups are downsizing, Garuda is hiring because growth is based on profitability, sustainability and revenues

AGNISHWAR JAYAPRAKASH | FOUNDER & CEO, GARUDA AEROSPACE

We should be careful not to allow the Chinese to dump into India just because their economy is in trouble

SATISH PAI | MD, HINDALCO INDUSTRIES

SHORT TAKES

Twitter Blue to cost ₹719 for Indians

New Delhi: Micro-blogging social media network Twitter has reportedly started rolling out its 'Blue' service in India. The service which costs \$8 in the US, is likely to be more expensive in India and will cost ₹719 a month. Some users in India tweeted that they received a prompt asking them to subscribe to Twitter Blue. The update though is currently available only on iPhones. The service is expected to be available for all in the coming days. Those who subscribe to the 'Blue' service of the social media site will get a 'blue tick' without any verification.

LIC Q2 net profit soars to ₹15,952cr

Mumbai: State-owned insurer LIC Friday reported a multi-fold jump in net profit to ₹15,952 crore in the September quarter, boosted by profits from its investments. The insurer had a net profit of ₹1,434 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing. Its total premium income rose to ₹1,32,631.72 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal from ₹1,04,913.92 crore in the same period a year ago. LIC's total income increased to ₹22,29,488.5 crore in the latest September quarter compared to ₹18,72,043.6 crore in the year-ago period.

ED freezes Binance's 150.22 Bitcoins

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday raided a wallet in Binance crypto exchange and froze 150.22 bitcoins amounting to ₹22.82 crore under the money laundering act. The probe agency's raid was linked to the gaming app 'E-nuggets' case, with the search operation part of the ongoing probe into the app, said the ED in a tweet. The E-nuggets app allegedly used crypto exchanges for money laundering.

M&M Q2 profit up 44% at ₹2,773cr

New Delhi: Homegrown diversified group Mahindra & Mahindra Friday reported 44 per cent increase in consolidated profit at ₹2,773 crore for September quarter, boosted by robust sales across business verticals. The group had logged a net profit of ₹1,929 crore in July-September last fiscal year, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) said in a regulatory filing.



For too long, countries around the world have been overly dependent on risky countries or a single source for critical inputs. We are proactively deepening economic integration with trusted trading partners like India

JANET YELLEN | TREASURY SECRETARY, US

RELIANCE CAPITAL SWINGS TO BLACK

Reliance Capital (RCap), which is undergoing insolvency process, Friday swung back to the black and posted a consolidated net profit of ₹215.23 crore for the quarter ended September 2022. The non-banking finance firm had posted a consolidated net loss of ₹1,115.56 crore in the year ago quarter ended September 2021



INFLATION HANGS ON

EU rings recession alarm in Europe

Natural gas and electricity prices have soared as Russia has slashed gas supplies to Europe used for heating, electricity and industrial processes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frankfurt, Nov 11: The European Union's executive commission slashed its forecast for economic growth next year, saying the 19 countries that use the euro currency will slide into recession over the winter as peak inflation hangs on for longer than expected and high fuel and heating costs erode consumer purchasing power. The European Commission's autumn forecast released Friday predicts falling economic output in the last three months of this year and the first months of 2023.

The commission says high energy prices, a rising cost of living, higher interest rates and slowing global trade "are expected to tip the EU, the euro area and most member states into recession in the last quarter of the year."

Going forward, the growth forecast for all of 2023 was lowered to 0.3% from 1.4% expected in the previous forecast from July.

The worst performer next year is likely to be Germany, Europe's largest economy and one of the most dependent on Russian natural gas before the war in Ukraine. Germany was expected to see output shrink by 0.6% over the next year. European officials have accused



Growth forecast for all of 2023 was lowered to 0.3% from 1.4% expected earlier

Inflation will peak later than expected, near the end of the year

The worst performer next year is likely to be Germany, Europe's largest economy

The EU economy is at a turning point. After a surprisingly strong first half of the year, the EU economy lost momentum in the third quarter and recent survey data point to a contraction for the winter. The outlook for next year has weakened significantly

PAOLO GENTILONI | EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER, ECONOMY

Russia of energy warfare to punish EU countries for supporting Ukraine, while state-owned supplier Gazprom has cited technical reasons and a refusal by some customers to pay for gas in rubles.

In response, EU countries have rolled out cash support for consumers facing rising bills and lined up new supplies of natural gas by pipeline from Norway and Azerbaijan and in liquefied form that comes by ship from the US and Qatar. While gas storage is full

for now, an exceptionally cold winter and the loss of remaining Russian gas could easily extend the gas crunch until winter 2023-24.

In the meantime, consumers are businesses are facing sharply higher utility bills that have led to some companies simply shutting down unprofitable production in energy intensive areas such as fertilizer and steel.

Inflation will peak later than expected, near the end of the year, and will lift the average rate to

Forex kitty drops by \$1.09 bn; back on losing trend

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 11: India's foreign exchange reserves dropped by \$1.087 billion to stand at \$529.994 billion for the week ended November 4 on a sharp decline in the gold reserves, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the reserves had swelled by \$6.561 billion to reach \$531.081 billion, making it the biggest weekly jump in a year. In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused by global developments.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, decreased by \$120 million to \$470.727 billion during the week to November 4, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves dropped by \$705 million to \$37.057 billion, it said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$235 million to \$17.39 billion. The country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also dipped by \$27 million to \$4.82 billion in the reporting week.

PV wholesales rise 29% in Oct: SIAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Passenger vehicle wholesales in India rose 29 per cent to 291,113 units in October aided by robust demand in the festive season, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said Friday.

Total passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers were 2,26,353 units in October 2021. Total two-wheeler dispatches last month increased 2 per cent to 15,77,694 units as compared to October 2021.

"Good market sentiments coupled with festive boost, resulted in higher sales in October, especially for passenger vehicles," SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal said.

Higher inflation and rising interest rates have impacted the rural market more, thereby returning

IIP regains momentum, grows 3.1%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: India's industrial production expanded by 3.1 per cent in September, boosted by manufacturing, mining and power sectors, according to official data released Friday.

Factory output had contracted by 0.7 per cent in the preceding month (August 2022). It grew by 2.2 per cent in July this year.

Factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), had expanded by 4.4 per cent in September 2021.

The manufacturing sector grew by 1.8 per cent in September 2022, compared to 4.3 per cent growth recorded in the year-ago period, as per the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and



Programme Implementation.

The power sector showed a growth of 11.6 per cent against a 0.9 per cent rise a year ago. The mining sector also witnessed a growth of 4.6 per cent in September 2022 compared to 8.6 per cent in the year-ago month.

During April-September this year, IIP rose 7 per cent against 23.8 per cent expansion in the same

BIZ BUZZ

Union Bank, Sambalpur holds Vigilance Awareness Week

Sambalpur: Union bank of India, Regional Office, Sambalpur has conducted Vigilance Awareness week. On the first day of the week, all the officials and staffs took oath to follow sincerity at workplace and follow the vigilance guidelines in every sphere of life. A blood donation camp was organised in which RO and branch staffs donated blood. Following the blood donation camp, a walkathon was also organised. Pankaj Kumar Kapsime, Regional Head; Harendra Kumar Jena, Deputy Regional Head; Saroj kumar Nayak, Vigilance officer and other staff members attended the walkathon. After the programme, flower plantation was also done at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sambalpur by all staffs of Union Bank and students and teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya. Apart from these main events all 66 branches under Regional office conducted three programmes each, which are Gram Sabha, SHG Mela and school competitions for increasing awareness among public regarding vigilance.



Direct tax mop up surges 31%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: The gross direct tax collections have risen 31 per cent to ₹10.54 lakh crore so far this fiscal, driven by personal income tax mop-up, the finance ministry said Friday.

The net collection of direct taxes, which include personal and corporate taxes, after adjusting for refunds stood at ₹8.71 lakh crore. This is 61.31 per cent of the Budget target for the full fiscal.



Refunds worth ₹1.83 lakh crore have been issued between April 1- November 10.

"Direct Tax collections up to 10th November, 2022 show that gross collections are at ₹10.54 lakh crore which is 30.69 per cent

higher than the gross collections for the corresponding period of last year," the ministry said in a statement. Gross corporate tax and Personal Income Tax (PIT) collections grew 22.03 per cent and 40.64 per cent, respectively.

BIG BLOW TO CRYPTO WORLD

FTX to file for US bankruptcy protection, CEO quits

THE MOVE ALSO FANS CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE CRYPTO INDUSTRY, WHICH FACES AN UPHILL TASK OF REGAINING FAVOUR AMONG RETAIL INVESTORS AFTER SEVERAL BLOWUPS THIS YEAR

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Nov 11: Embattled cryptocurrency exchange FTX,



short billions of dollars, is seeking bankruptcy protection following its collapse this week.

FTX and its CEO and founder Sam Bankman-Fried are under investigation by the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission to determine

whether any criminal activity or securities offenses were committed.

The investigation is centering on the possibility that the firm may have used customers' deposits to fund bets at Bankman-Fried's hedge fund, Alameda Research. In traditional markets,

brokers are expected to separate client funds from other company assets. Violations can be punished by regulators.

The move comes days after larger rival Binance walked away from a proposed acquisition and left it scrambling to raise about \$9.4 billion from investors and rivals. The embattled company was seeking a lifeline after a liquidity crunch due to customers withdrawing funds at a frenetic pace.

The crypto world had hoped that Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange, might be able to rescue FTX and its depositors. However, after Binance had a chance to look at the books of FTX, it became clear that the smaller exchange's problems were too big to solve.

Vaughan takes a dig at India

'FAN GYAN' APLENTY IN SOCIAL MEDIA AFTER LOSS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 11: India has achieved absolutely "nothing" since winning the World Cup on home soil in 2011 and has been the most under-performing white-ball team in the history, former England skipper Michael Vaughan said Friday. Vaughan blamed team's dated approach in white ball games for lack of performance following team's ouster from the T20 World Cup.

"India are the most under-performing white-ball team in history," Vaughan wrote in his column for 'The Telegraph'. "Every player in the world who goes to the Indian Premier League says how it improves their game but what have India ever delivered?" "Since winning the 50 over World Cup on home soil in 2011 what have they done? Nothing. India are playing a white-ball game that is dated and have done for years."

Despite having the prodigiously talented Rishabh Pant in the squad, India opted to go with veteran Dinesh Karthik in the first four Super 12 matches. They include the dashing left-hander in the last group match against Zimbabwe and then the semifinal.

But even in those two matches, Pant was under utilised as he came in to bat at No.5 and No.6 respectively with hardly any overs left. Vaughan said he is baffled by India's approach in the shortest format.

"How they have not maximised someone like Rishabh Pant is incredible. In this era, put him up the top to launch it," he wrote. "I'm just staggered by how they play T20 cricket for the talent they have. They have the players, but just do not have the right process in place. They have to go for it."

In the absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, the Indian bowlers cut a sorry figure while defending 169 against England as Alex Hales and Jos Buttler amassed 63 for 0 in the powerplay before achieving the target with four overs to spare.



"None of the batsmen bowl so the captain has only got five options. Their (India) bowling options are too few; they do not bat deep enough and lack spin tricks."

The team management's decision to not play leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal throughout the tournament also cost India dear. "We know in T20 cricket the stats tell you a team needs a spinner who can turn it both ways. India have plenty of leg-spinners. Where are they?"

He also questioned India's record in major ICC tournaments and feels they need to achieve more success to justify the skill level of their players.

"India are so important for world cricket but for all the advantages India have, they must win more. Even in their own backyard at the 2016 World T20 they did not reach the final. They were nowhere last year," Vaughan wrote.

"This time it took an outrageous innings by Virat Kohli, probably the best in T20 of all time, to beat Pakistan in the group stages. They massively underachieve for their skill levels."

Vaughan feels experts are scared to criticise India as they fear of losing work or getting "hammered" on social media. "India have to be honest now. What happens when India arrive at a World Cup? Everyone plays them up. Nobody wants to criticise them because you get hammered on social media and pundits worry about losing work in India one day," he wrote.

However, Vaughan feels now is the "time to tell it straight." "They (experts) can hide behind their great players but it is about getting a team playing the right way as a whole."

"Why do they give the opposition bowlers the first five overs to bed in?" wrote Vaughan. "They have a left-arter in Arshdeep Singh who swings it back into the right-handers. So what do they do defending 168? They put on Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowling outswing to give Jos Buttler and Alex Hales width. Where is the left-arm seamer swinging it in to Buttler and Hales in the first over? Madness. Cramp them for room. Do not give them a chance to get off to a flyer in the first

over and settle nerves." The 48-year-old also highlighted the lack of bowling options in the current Indian team and said the need of the hour is to have more batting all-rounders, a fact which spin legend Anil Kumble has also pointed out. "How have they only got five bowling options when you think 10 or 15 years ago all of India's top six could bowl a little bit - Sachin Tendulkar, Suresh Raina, Virender Sehwag and even Sourav Ganguly?"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: India's utter rout in the T20 World Cup triggered a predictable deluge of fan gyan, ranging from self deprecating to team shaming, from funny to nasty, lame to crass, but generally to the point.

And where else was it on display but on WhatsApp University, the bottomless pit of unsolicited wisdom. The 10-wicket shellacking by England of Rohit Sharma's team left millions of fans numb. But only briefly. Within hours, the joke factory of WhatsApp got into action and the memes started pouring in. "Itna one-sided match dekh ke college ka pyaar yaad aa gaya (The lopsided contest reminded us of our love stories during college days)," read one meme, referring to the teenage crushes of boys whose ardent romantic overtures were rarely reciprocated by the recipient.

The most biting perhaps was a purported message by England to India: "Final hum khel lete hain. Aap Dream 11 pe team banao. (We will play the final, you make a team on Dream 11)," referring to the popular gaming site.

The Indian cricket fans are rarely this forgiving and jovial after such a massive drubbing of the national team. Perhaps, this time it was different because there was no real heartache of a last ball loss, the way Pakistan suffered at the hands of India in the league stage.

Even Virat Kohli, who along with Hardik Pandya provided some respectability to the inadequate score of 168, was not spared.

A pictorially morphed meme showed his wife sitting on her haunches (in a scene from the movie Sui Dhaga where she played a lower middle class seamstress) next to Kohli lying prone on his belly in full cricket gear. Kitney aadmi the? (the famous dialogue from Sholay). Kohli replies (sirf 2, indicating Jos Buttler and Alex Hales).



"England: Keeping India and Pakistan apart since 1947," was a comment on Twitter by someone named Melon Husk. "This is not the first time England has separated India and Pakistan," read a similar meme on WhatsApp. Indeed. The memories of the 1947 partition when British colonial rule ended with Pakistan gaining independence August 14 followed by India August 15 are not going away anytime soon.

Harking on that theme, a commentator, presumably from Pakistan, wrote: "Hum azaad bhi aik din pehle huway Or Final main b aik din pehlay ponch gae. (We became independent one day before and reached the final also one day earlier)." Perhaps in a grudging response, an Indian fan retorted good humouredly: Indian team can go to the final even now - to watch it!

Lovlina, Parveen, Alfiya, Saweety bag gold medals

India's T20 World Cup debacle decoded



Lovlina Borgohain



Parveen Hooda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 11: Lovlina Borgohain looked at ease as she struck gold in her maiden appearance in the middleweight division while three other Indian boxers were also crowned Asian champions in Amman, Jordan Friday.

World Championship bronze medalist Parveen Hooda (63kg), Saweety (81kg) and Alfiya Khan (81+kg) packed a power punch to clinch the yellow metal in their respective categories.

Minakshi, on the other hand, concluded her maiden Asian Championships campaign by clinching a silver medal in the flyweight division (52kg) as Indian women boxers signed off with a haul of seven medals.

Parveen continued to impress as she notched up a facile 5-0 victory over Japan's Kito Mai to grab the first gold for India in the ongoing event, while Olympic bronze medalist Lovlina, competing in her maiden tournament in the 75kg category, also cruised to a unanimous decision win over Ruzmetova Sokhiba of Uzbekistan.

Saweety and Alfiya then added to the gold rush, defeating Gulsaya Yerzhan of Kazakhstan and Islam Husail of Jordan respectively. While Saweety pummelled Yerzhan into submission, Alfiya's opponent was disqualified bringing an end to the bout in the first round itself.



Alfiya Khan

The title will be a big morale booster for the 25-year-old Lovlina who has struggled to find form since her bronze-medal winning exploits at the Tokyo Olympics. She made early exits in the Worlds and CWG earlier this year. The Assam boxer has moved up from 69kg to 75kg division as her former weight class doesn't feature in the Paris Olympics.

The two boxers started the proceedings on a tentative note, inviting the other to attack first, but Lovlina was able to use her long reach and land a few clean jabs. The two danced around the ring trying to avoid each other's attack, however, Lovlina succeeded in landing her jabs. One jab of her was so powerful that the referee was forced to give Sokhiba the count.

Despite it only being a five-boxer field, Lovlina has shown immense improvement during the course of the three bouts she played in the tournament. It is Lovlina's third Asian Championship medal, she had won the bronze in 2017 and 2021 in the welterweight division.

Earlier, Parveen put up a dominant show to beat fourth seeded Mai via unanimous decision. Having lost the opening round, Mai tried to up the ante but Parveen swiftly dodged all her attacks.

In the first Indian final of the day, Minakshi toiled hard but lost the gold medal bout to Kinoshita Rinka of Japan via 1-4 split verdict.



Saweety

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Nov 11: Old habits die hard, and the adage was truly reflected in the Indian team's outdated approach in the T20 World Cup.

A dated batting approach in powerplay by the biggest stars, failure to zero in on one of the two wicket-keepers, and head coach Rahul Dravid's aversion to taking risks contributed to India's failure to go all the way in the showpiece in Australia.

At the end of it all, Dravid's one-year report card doesn't paint a rosy picture and a meticulous planner like him will sit back and think hard about the tough calls he might need to take before the ODI World Cup in a year's time.

If skipper Rohit Sharma and Dravid put hands on their chests, they would know that reaching the semifinals is a good enough finish for a team with multiple soft underbellies.

The worst feeling for any cricket aficionado or a diehard fan is how the Indian team promised so much but flattered to deceive on the big days. There are multiple reasons for the sixth defeat in nine years at a knockout game of a global competition.

The first will be the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja due to stress fracture on back and knee surgery, respectively. Bumrah's presence always meant that there is a cushion of two overs at the death. Jadeja is a pure all-rounder who could be used as a floater in the batting order to bring a left-hander in the equation.

But these are the uncontrollable factors for a team that often harps on 'only controlling the controllables'. They couldn't do that, either. Here are some of the main reasons for the disaster that was waiting to happen.

Powerplay approach
Coming to the much-debated approach of the top three, perhaps KL Rahul, Rohit and, to some extent Virat Kohli, would admit that they failed to change their game with certain sameness in their styles.



TOO MUCH WATCHFUL: KL Rahul watches the ball closely while batting against England, Thursday

der in the equation. But these are the uncontrollable factors for a team that often harps on 'only controlling the controllables'. They couldn't do that, either. Here are some of the main reasons for the disaster that was waiting to happen.

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Real beat Cadiz to cut Barca's lead

MAN UNITED RALLY TO BEAT ASTON VILLA IN LEAGUE CUP

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Madrid, Nov 11: Real Madrid got back to winning—and moved closer to Barcelona going into the World Cup break. Real halted their two-match winless streak in the Spanish league by defeating relegation-threatened Cadiz 2-1 Thursday to cut Barcelona's lead to two points going into the World Cup stoppage. Eder Militao and Toni Kroos scored a goal in each half for Madrid.

Real were coming off their first league loss of the season—a 2-3 defeat at Rayo Vallecano Monday. They had drawn with Girona at home in the previous round. Madrid's only other loss of the season came at Leipzig in the group stage of the Champions League last month.



Real Madrid players celebrate after a goal against Cadiz

It was a heated match early on at the Santiago Bernabé Stadium, with Vinicius Júnior and Rodrigo getting into altercations with Cadiz's players. Militao opened the scoring with a header after a well-placed cross

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Manchester, Nov 11: Manchester United twice came from behind to beat Aston Villa 4-2 and advance to last 16 of the English League Cup.

After a slow opening 45 minutes Thursday, the game came alive after the break with all six goals scored in the second half. United forward Anthony Martial cancelled out Ollie Watkins' opener within seconds, then Marcus Rashford struck after Diogo Dalot's own goal had put the visitors back in front.

Bruno Fernandes then put United ahead in the 78th minute before Scott McTominay added a fourth in stoppage time, with both

goals set up by teenager Alejandro Garnacho after he had come off the bench.

The result saw United exact some revenge for Sunday's 3-1 Premier League loss in Villa manager Unai Emery's first game in charge. It also boosts Ten Hag's chances of winning a trophy in his first season at United, with Arsenal, Chelsea and Tottenham having all been eliminated on Wednesday.

In addition, defending champion Liverpool and Manchester City were drawn to face each other in the next round. Man United will play Burnley at home, while Newcastle welcomes fellow Premier League side Bournemouth.