



RISING POPULARITY

Actor Nora Fatehi wins internet for her sweet gesture towards a fan on the set of a reality show

LEISURE P2



DEMOCRATS CLOSE TO WIN

After winning a US Senate seat in Arizona, Democrats are one seat short in the battle for control of the chamber

INTERNATIONAL P10



PAKISTAN FACE ENGLAND

Pak take on England for T20 World Cup title, the same match-up that happened in 1992 WC final where Pak came on top

SPORTS P12

BJP picks Purohit, Cong Sahu for Padampur fight



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Opposition BJP fielded Pradip Purohit and the Congress named ex-MLA Satya Bhusan Sahu as their candidates for the December 5 bypoll to Padampur Assembly seat in Bargarh district.

Purohit is the state president of Krushak Morcha. He won the seat in 2014 but lost it in the 2019 election to BJD's Bijay Ranjan Singh Baraha whose death October 3 necessitated the byelection.

Purohit, a farmer leader, will file his nomination November 14, leader of opposition Jaynarayan Mishra said. Confident of getting the party's nomination, Purohit has already started his campaign.

In a statement, Congress announced that Sahu, who won the Padampur seat in 1980, 1985 and 2004, will be its candidate. He was also the Congress candidate from the seat in 2019, but he secured the third spot after BJP's Purohit by getting 32,787 votes.

Purohit got 77,565 votes, while Baraha won the elections by getting 83,299 votes. Sahu said the problems being faced by farmers would be his main election issue. "Though there are certain resource constraints, I have been assured by the party of full support. I will contest the bypoll to win," he said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We've been waiting for the judge. You'll get justice as soon as the govt clears his appointment

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.3°C	31.0°C	
MIN	19.4°C	19.5°C	
Humidity	77%	77%	Forecast
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Mainly clear sky



GUNG-HO OVER POLLS: Voters holding their identification cards wait in a queue at a polling station in Kullu, Saturday, to cast their votes for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections. Nearly 66% polling was recorded till 5pm (Report Page 8)

HC moved over ASO posting

SEVERAL ASPIRANTS ALLEGE THAT THE POSTS HAVE BEEN SOLD OFF FOR SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ₹15L & ₹20L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 12: Irked over the results of the Assistant Section Officer (ASO) written test, at least 20 aspirants have approached the Orissa High Court alleging large-scale corruption in the selection process.

The High Court is likely to hear at least five of the petitions November 14 (Monday).

It is pertinent to mention here that November 7, the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) announced the results of the written examination for selection of 796 (265 women) ASO posts under the Odisha Secretariat Service.

Altogether 1,104 candidates have made it to the provisional list for Group-B posts in the Odisha Secretariat Service and shortlisted for document verification and skill test.

Numerous aspirants, however, alleged 'massive irregularities' in the selection process and staged a demonstration in front of the OPSC office in Cuttack Thursday. Some of them alleged that each post has been sold off for somewhere between ₹15 and ₹20 lakh.



File photo of protesting ASO aspirants in Cuttack

The High Court is likely to hear at least five of the petitions November 14

"It has come to our notice that some unscrupulous officials are involved in the recruitment scam. They are taking at least ₹15 lakh to ensure the job," said a candidate on condition of anonymity.

"It is really unfortunate to share that I secured 272.5 and my friend got 236. Her name has come out on the merit list whereas mine is missing. I want to ask the respected chairman of the OPSC on what basis my friend who secured less marks has been selected and I have been rejected,"

complained an aspirant. Another candidate said, "OPSC is a constitutional body but there are several allegations against it. There are errors in question papers and answer keys. Whenever we report the errors, the authorities say nothing can be done citing delay as the reason. Many aspirants claim that despite securing good marks their names are missing from the merit list."

Soon after, the OPSC had released a statement terming the allegations as baseless, it was learnt.

"The allegations by certain candidates in the mainstream and social media that candidates who were absent have been selected are baseless and false. OPSC follows a fair and transparent policy in the selection of candidates. This is being followed in letter and spirit in all examinations including ASO recruitment," the OPSC statement read.

Notably, more than 300 aspirants took part in a protest demonstration in front of the OPSC office in Cuttack recently holding placards against the 'unfair' evaluation by the commission.

Bengal min faces flak for remarks on Prez, regrets

AGENCIES

Nandigram, Nov 12: West Bengal Minister Akhil Giri Saturday drew widespread criticism for making controversial remarks on President Droupadi Murmu.

After the video clip of his comments went viral, Giri apologised for making such a remark.

In a 17-second video clip, Giri was heard commenting on the "looks of the President".

"They (BJP) said that I am not good-looking. We don't judge anyone by appearance. We respect the office of the President (of India). But how does our President look?" Giri, the minister of state for Correctional Homes, was heard saying at a rally in a village in Nandigram late Friday evening.

Later, while talking to reporters this morning, Giri apologised for making such a remark.

"I didn't mean to disrespect the Honourable President. I was replying to what BJP leaders said while verbally attacking me. Every day I am verbally attacked for my looks. If someone thinks I have disrespected the President, then it is wrong. I apologise for making such a remark. I have immense respect for the President of our country," he told a news channel.

Later in a video statement, Giri said he regretted making such a remark resulting from an outburst of anger following continuous attacks aimed at him.

"Just like I have respect for the country's constitution, I also respect the President of India, who is the Head of the State. I also work

Geriatric centre head murdered in Paradip

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, Nov 12: A staffer of an old-age home tried to commit suicide after allegedly murdering the chairman of the centre with a sharp weapon at Paradip Gada in Jagatsinghpur district, Saturday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Santosh Behera, the chief of Ratnamali Jema Jarashram in the area, and the accused as Kirtan Parida. After the gruesome attack, a profusely bleeding Santosh died on the spot, said sources.

Later, Kirtan tried to commit suicide by consuming pesticides. He, however, was rescued and admitted to Paradip community health centre for treatment. The incident has spread shockwaves in the area. Police registered a case and launched an investigation.

Paradip ASP Nimain Sethy said that Kirtan met Behera and demanded money to go home but the latter refused to oblige. Enraged, Kirtan entered Behera's room and hacked him to death when he was having a siesta.



PTI PHOTO

The spectacular collapse of a \$30bn crypto exchange

The entire \$30 billion fortune of former FTX co-founder Sam Bankman-Fried has been wiped out, one of history's greatest-ever destructions of wealth

AGENCIES

Canberra, Nov 12: Not long ago, FTX was one of the world's largest trading platforms for cryptocurrencies. Founded in 2019, the Bahamas-based crypto exchange had a meteoric rise to prominence, and was valued at more than US\$30 billion earlier this year.

All that has changed in the past two weeks. First, concerns emerged about links between FTX and an asset-trading firm called Alameda Research, including suggestions that customers' funds have been transferred from FTX to Alameda.

A few days later, rival firm Binance (the biggest crypto ex-



change) announced it would sell its holdings of FTT tokens, a crypto that reportedly comprises much of Alameda's assets.

Panicked customers rushed to withdraw funds from FTX, and the company is now on the brink of collapse, with a banner message on its website announcing it is "currently unable to process withdrawals".

"This is not the first such rapid disintegration we have seen in the

loosely regulated world of cryptocurrency, and it's unlikely to be the last," said John Hawkins, a senior lecturer, Canberra School of Politics, Economics and Society, University of Canberra.

The majority owner of both FTX and Alameda, Sam Bankman-Fried, had rescued other troubled crypto companies earlier this year. Now, he is desperately looking for an investor with a lazy \$8 billion to save his companies.

Many firms have already written off the value of their stakes in FTX. So it will not be easy for Bankman-Fried to find investors willing to put in new funding.

Binance thought about taking over the troubled company outright. It decided against, citing concerns about allegations of misconduct and an investigation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission. The price of FTT has now plunged. A week ago it was trading at US\$24. Now it is at less than US\$4.

Trading in 'assets' with no underlying fundamental value on loosely regulated exchanges is always going to be a very risky endeavour. For many, it is likely to end in tears. Other kinds of assets are different. Company shares have a fundamental value based on the dividend (or at least an expected future dividend) paid from the company's profits. Real estate has a fundamental value that reflects the rent

the investor earns. The value of a bond depends on the amount of interest it pays. Even gold at least has some practical uses, for jewellery, dental fillings or electronics.

But crypto so-called currencies such as Bitcoin, Ether and Dogecoin have no such fundamental value. They are a game of pass-the-parcel, in which speculators try to sell them to someone else before the price collapses.

Unregulated financial institutions are prone to the equivalent of a Depression-style "bank run". Once doubts emerge about their soundness, each person has an incentive to be early in the queue to withdraw their money before the money runs out.

In a recent interview, Bankman-Fried gave a description of his business model that seems to rely heavily on funds injected by new investors, rather than on future returns based on the intrinsic value of the assets themselves.

SHORT TAKES

Eligibility test for Class VI-VIII pupils

BHUBANESWAR: Students from Class VI to VIII will have to write an eligibility test before entering high school, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said Saturday. The examination will be conducted this year to check the learning standard of the students and also to check the learning recovery plan (LRP) launched during Covid-19 pandemic. The students will not be declared as 'unsuccessful' but steps will be taken for improvement. The papers will be prepared by State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and the exam will be conducted in same the school where the students have been enrolled.

Strong tremors felt in Delhi, Uttarakhand

NEW DELHI/DEHRADUN: Strong tremors were felt in parts of north India, including in Delhi-NCR, Saturday night as a 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, nearly 100 km east-southeast from Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand, officials said. The epicentre of the quake was Patadebal of Bajhang, 460 km west of Kathmandu, the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre of Nepal said. There was no immediate report of any damage. Panic-stricken people rushed out of their houses as the tremor struck at 7:57pm, three days after a 6.3-magnitude earthquake epicentred in Nepal left six people dead in the neighbouring country.

Continued on P4

leisure



ANISTON IS 'RELIEVED' AFTER HER IVF JOURNEY

Friends star Jennifer Aniston, 53, recently opened up about her past infertility struggles. Aniston said she has no regrets about how her IVF journey worked out explaining: "Here I am today. The ship has sailed. I actually feel a little relieved now because there is no more, 'Can I?'"

TOM HOLLAND REPORTEDLY INKS ANOTHER SPIDER-MAN TRILOGY

Hollywood star Tom Holland will likely return as Spider-Man as he has reportedly signed a new deal for another *Spider-Man* trilogy, which will be developed at Sony Pictures in partnership with Disney and Kevin Feige's Marvel Studios.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today will be as agreeable as any day can be. You are satisfied with what you have, says Ganesh. Besides, you have already planned on what you desire and are moving towards it. A date of romantic nature may turn out to be interesting or it may lead to a controversy; you have to decide on it.

TAURUS
Be careful, says Ganesh. All your calculations and conclusions, plans and moves are likely to go haywire. Time and again, you could fail and, ultimately, get frustrated. Even simple and obvious things are likely to get you worked up.

GEMINI
You face a hectic and demanding day today. You will spend your entire day wondering how best to channelise your energy and enthusiasm. You may be prone to extreme mood swings as well. Meditative techniques should help you keep your mind calm, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will tend to try new recipes at home. Family members will take advantage and enjoy it. You will indulge in pastimes. Arrival of guests will bring in an air of festivity and happiness, says Ganesh.

LEO
You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence and will be able to take on huge risks. Sportspeople will be able to make a lot of progress in their fields. You will square off against any obstacles in your way using your entire might. While it is a good day for you, keep a curb on your speculations, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
A la Sisyphus, you may realise the futility of your efforts and constant failure in achieving success. But do not despair, says Ganesh. Recharge your imagination, inquisitiveness and intelligence and focus on your long-term goals, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will try to be adept in your favorite subject. Today you will be buying antique artistic things too. If there are any legal proceeding going on then the results will be in your favor. You shall be a success in everything that you touch today. Your artistic streak will come to the fore today and you will develop an interest in the fine arts

SCORPIO
A series of events at work front may keep you busy throughout the day. You may be unable to manage the clutter and confusion created by too many things at the same time. However, you emerge a fighter because of your power of resilience. Ganesh advises to go slow, yet steady; take one problem at a time and sort it out.

SAGITTARIUS
You rule your hear today, predicts Ganesh. You are likely to become an expert in reading people's mind. Everything is fair in love and war, is what you believe! Win over your sweetheart and set out on a journey toward destination unknown, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
By and large, your life today will be dull. But, there isn't something unfavourable or negative about it, assures Ganesh, as the planetary movements signal a change, probably a positive one, happening in the near future.

AQUARIUS
You are armed with good communication skills, and like always, it will come to your aide today, too. There is one problem though. You are not clear about your emotions and it may make your arms blunt, foresees Ganesh. Make sure that you are able to identify your feelings and don't make any disastrous decisions based on that confusion.

PISCES
Your energy and enthusiasm will know no bounds today, as everything seems to fall into place, seemingly on its own. You will blaze a new trail at the work-place. Certain tough calls may leave you off-balance momentarily, but you will come out of it with flying colours.

Mithun doesn't want biopic on himself

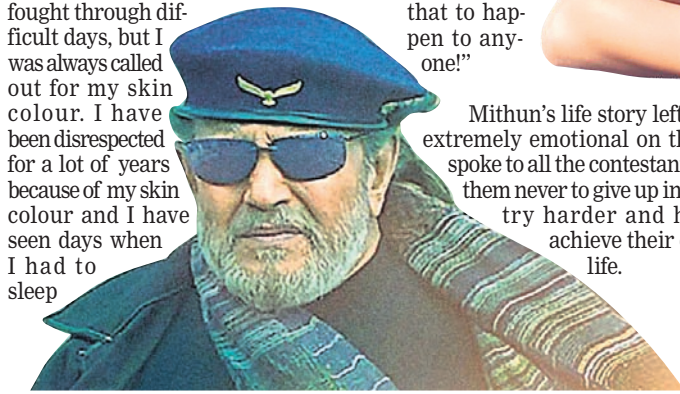
Mumbai: Three times National Award winner and yesteryear heart-throb Mithun Chakraborty, who will be seen gracing the Celebrating Disco Kings special episode of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li' Champs*, doesn't want a biopic on his life. Explaining his reason, the actor said that he has been through a lot in life and doesn't want anyone else to face the same.

The *Disco Dancer* star, who has performed in over 350 films as lead, elaborated: "Everyone has seen struggles and fought through difficult days, but I was always called out for my skin colour. I have been disrespected for a lot of years because of my skin colour and I have seen days when I had to sleep

with an empty stomach, and I used to cry myself to sleep," he said.

He further said: "I have also slept on the footpath for a lot of days. And that's the only reason I don't want my biopic to be ever made. My story will never inspire anyone, it will break them down (mentally) and discourage people from achieving their dreams. I don't want that to happen to anyone!"

Mithun's life story left everyone extremely emotional on the set. He spoke to all the contestants and told them never to give up in life and to try harder and harder to achieve their dreams in life.



Nora's gesture for fan wins internet

Mumbai: Actress Nora Fatehi has a huge fan following which is growing every day. Recently, she won heart of millions of citizens for her gesture towards a fan.

The dance actor who is currently judging the TV dance reality show encountered a female fan who couldn't stop sobbing after meeting her in person.

In the video, Nora can be seen comforting her fan and kissing her forehead and says, "See, we finally have a good picture to-

gether. Take care, it was good to see you," before she left the set. As she was about to leave, the fan touched Nora's feet.

Applauds poured in after the video went viral on various social media platforms.

Meanwhile, Nora will be lending her voice along with International rapper Nicki Minaj for the official football anthem - *Light the Sky* for FIFA World Cup 2022.

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

Meanwhile, on the work front, Nora was last seen in *Thank God*. Next, she has 100 Percent with John Abraham, Riteish Deshmukh, and Shehnaaz Gill in important roles.

Samantha thanks trainer for not letting her give up

Hyderabad: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has penned a post of gratitude to her trainer Junaid Shaikh for not letting her give up during testing times.

Taking to Instagram, the actress wrote: "Junaid Shaikh has never ever thought I did enough to deserve my favourite Jalebi. But today, he did, to celebrate *Yashoda's* success and especially the action scenes."

"The last few months you have been among the few people who have seen it all... my lowest of lows, through the weakness, through the tears, through the high dose steroid therapies, through it all."

"You didn't let me give up and I know

you won't let me ever give up. Thank you," she wrote.

Samantha is currently undergoing treatment for an auto-immune condition called Myositis.

Myositis is a condition wherein one's own immune system attacks one's own muscles.

"Don't clutter your life with people, trying to be close to those that don't like you or the ones you don't like. By being people's pleaser and pretending to be nice to someone whom you actually can't stand or someone who doesn't mean well for you, you are only harming yourself."

"Life is too short to be wasted on wrong energies. Better to choose solitude instead of forced connections!" she concluded.



'Choose solitude over forced connections'

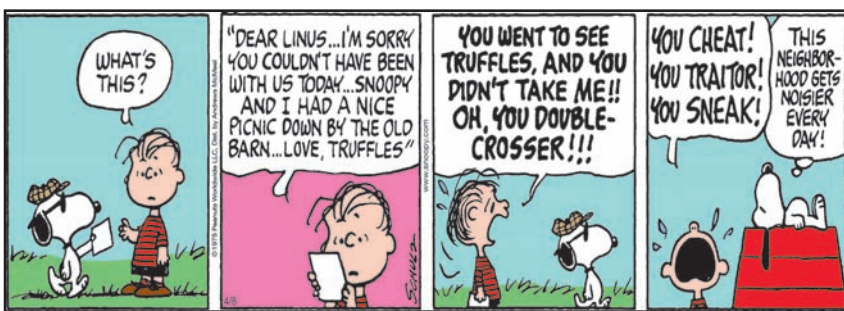
Chennai: Actress Sadha, one of the top actresses of south films, has said that it is better to remain alone than trying to be close to those that don't like you.

Taking to Instagram, the actress penned a lengthy post on the topic.

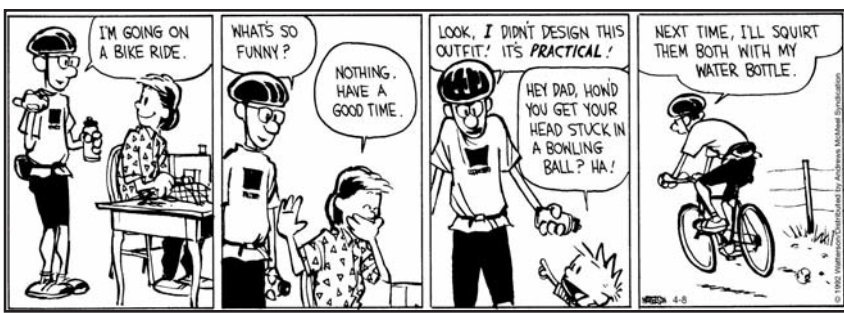
She wrote: "Why is it that most of us are scared of losing people from our lives, even if that means being stuck in friendships/relationships that are either dead or toxic or are retained only for benefits?"

"What we fail to understand (is that) people are nothing but energies and if you don't get good vibes even if it's from someone who was once very close to you, then it's in the best interest of your own energy to cut the chord with them and move on."

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

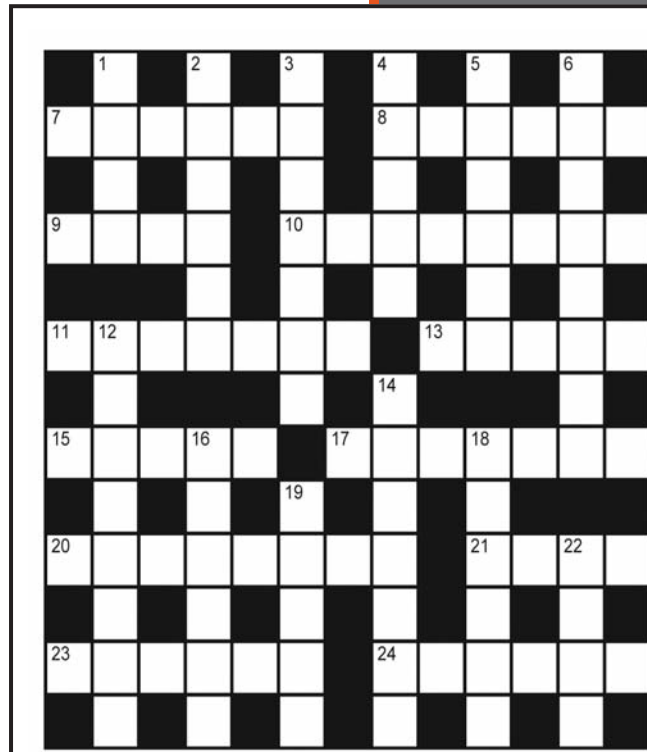


BREVITY



FUN post

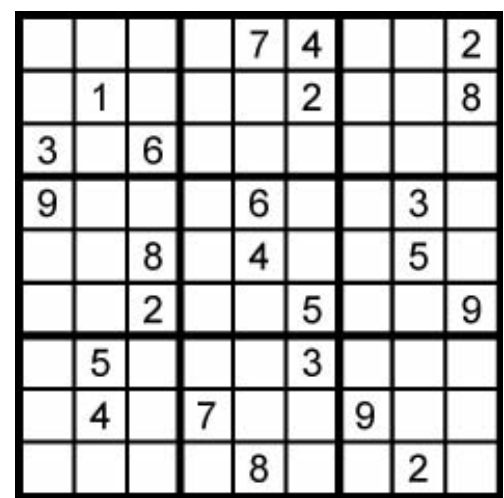
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Way across
 - 8 Chess piece
 - 9 Bugbear
 - 10 Skulduggery
 - 11 Shipping hazard
 - 13 Taste, e.g.
 - 15 Swig
 - 17 Movie theatres
 - 20 Blunders
 - 21 Ivory source
 - 23 Audition (3,3)
 - 24 Assert without proof
 - Down**
 - 1 Hot rum drink
 - 2 Modifier
 - 3 Moves unsteadily
 - 4 Coil of yarn
 - 5 Predicament
 - 6 Personal magnetism
 - 12 Messengers
 - 14 Short sleeps
 - 16 Water depth measure
 - 18 Lauds
 - 19 Large edible ray
 - 22 Endorse

SUDOKU

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

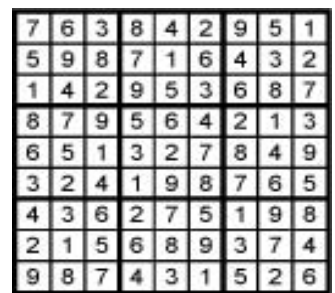


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



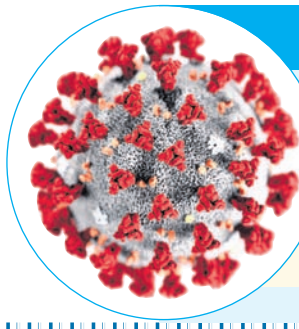
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



CELEBRATING CULTURE

Guru Jabahar Mishra performs solo Hindustani flute at the inaugural event of Rajarani Music Festival in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	64,00,64,031	61,95,68,673	66,14,805
India	4,46,65,643	4,41,22,562	5,30,528
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204



ANNUAL DAY FETE: Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy being felicitated by Evos Group Managing Director Kalinga Keshari Rath during the group's 12th annual function at a hotel in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. Actor-turned-politician Akash Dasnayak and actor Elina Samantray are also seen. OP PHOTO

State leaders hit out at WB minister over Prez remark

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Major political parties in President Droupadi Murmu's home state, Odisha, Saturday came down heavily on West Bengal (WB) minister Akhil Giri and demanded stringent action against him for his derogatory comments against her.

The BJP Tribal Morcha filed an FIR at the Capital police station here against Giri demanding strong action against him.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who hails from Odisha, took the opportunity to hit out against TMC supremo and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is a strident critic of the saffron party, for the comment and said she should resign.

The TMC minister had reportedly commented on Murmu's looks during a public rally at Nandigram in West Bengal.

Congress leader Suresh Routray said the party will not allow Giri to enter Odisha for his remark against the daughter of the soil and the ruling BJD demanded stringent action against anyone who made "objectionable" remarks against the president.

Droupadi's two-day maiden visit to Odisha after assuming the country's highest office ended Friday.

Pradhan took to the Twitter to criticise Giri and tagged Banerjee. He said, "If a member of your party insults the first citizen of the country and a woman while continuing to be in your cabinet, then you should resign as chief minister. Akhil Giri holding a minister's post is an insult to all women in the country."

He said in video message that Giri has insulted the first citizen of the country with a feudal mindset. A few days ago Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury did the same.

"Any amount of condemnation of West Bengal's jail department minister and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's most trusted Giri Ji's remark will be less. There is no place for racism or gender bias in democracy. If Mamata Banerjee has little morality left or little faith in democracy, then she should im-



FILE PHOTO

mediately sack him and apologise to the nation... I expect that Mamata Banerjee, being a representative of women, takes action," he added. Chowdhury, who is the Congress leader in Lok Sabha, had come under fire in July for referring to President Murmu as 'rashtrapatni'.

Strongly condemning the Bengal minister, BJD Rajya Sabha MP Munna Khan said "It is highly unfortunate that someone comments on the country's first citizen and that too over her looks. She is the daughter of Odisha. She has reached the country's top Constitutional post after a long struggle".

Congress leader and senior MLA Suresh Routray said all the citizens of the country and Odisha were "severely hurt" by the remark. "She (Murmu) was an MLA and a minister in Odisha and a governor of Jharkhand. She is educated and I know her sincerity and honesty. Making derogatory remarks against the country's president is really unfortunate."

Continuing his tirade, Routray said, "What is wrong in her (Murmu's) looks? Is West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of fair complexion?"

Keeping up his attack of the Bengal minister, the Congress leader said, "Our presiding deity Lord Jagannath is also black. We will not allow Giri to enter Odisha for making such a remark against

daughter of the soil. He should also be arrested. If Giri comes to Odisha we will make him bathe in cow dung."

In her complaint with the Sundargarh police, BJP woman tribal MLA Kusum Tete said "The Bengal chief minister (Mamata Banerjee) is also a woman. How does she tolerate such persons in her council of ministers? I request the West Bengal Chief Minister to suspend a minister like Giri."

The BJP Mahila Morcha burnt an effigy of Giri for his comment and demanded stern action. Giri, the West Bengal minister for correctional homes Saturday drew widespread criticism for making the controversial remarks on the president at a rally at Nandigram Friday evening.

He apologised for his remark after a video clip of his comments went viral.

In a 17-second video clip, the authenticity of which could not be verified, Giri was heard commenting on the 'looks of the President'.

"We don't judge anyone by their appearance. We respect the office of the President. But, how does our President look," he was heard commenting.

Later in a video statement, Giri said he regretted making such a remark resulting from an outburst of anger following continuous attacks aimed at him.

NHRC notice to state over botched surgery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has summoned the District Magistrate (DM) and Collector of Kalahandi to be present in person before it in New Delhi January 3, 2023 in connection with a case of stray dog menace in the district.

However, the official will be exempted from personal appearance if the requisite report is submitted before the commission by December 27, 2022, said the NHRC.

The NHRC move came while hearing a plea filed by rights activist Dilip Kumar Das who highlighted the stray dog menace in Kalahandi. In his petition, Das informed the commission that the minor son of Laxmidhar Dharua, a resident of Kokasara in Kalahandi district, was mauled to death by stray dogs at his village July 24, 2020. The rights activist

urged the commission to direct the district administration for ensuring adequate compensation to the next of the kin of the deceased. Das also urged the NHRC to direct the Kalahandi administration to initiate measures in order to check stray dog menace in the district.

Taking cognizance, the NHRC asked the Kalahandi DM to carry out a probe in connection with the incident and submit a report September 8, 2020. The district administration, however, did not revert despite several reminders from the commission, it was learnt.

Irked over the district administration's callousness, the NHRC, exercising its power u/s 13(a) of the Protection of the Human Rights Act, 1993, summoned the Kalahandi DM to appear before it in person January 3, 2023 and produce the requisite reports.

Incurred by the her during the treatment.



■ The Chief Secretary has been asked to show cause within four weeks as to why monetary compensation should not be awarded in favour of the relative of the patient

■ The commission's move came while hearing a plea filed by rights activist Dilip Kumar Das

examination at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, the CDMO confirmed that the lady suffered intestinal injury during sterilization process at Dhamnagar CHC July 17, 2021. Under Section 18(a) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the commission served the notice to the state government asking it to show reason as to why the NHRC should not recommend mon-

KALAHANDI DM SUMMONED

etary relief of Rs 50,000 for the victim in addition to actual expenses

incur by the her during the treatment.

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Odisha, Bihar renew pact to ply buses on 33 routes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Odisha and Bihar governments have renewed their agreements to operate direct bus services passing through Jharkhand on 33 routes covering almost 21,867 km, an official said Saturday.

As per the older agreement, buses were operating on 15 routes covering a total distance of 9,276 km. Now, it has been extended further, the official said. Services on the new and longer routes will boost connectivity of religious, tourists and places of educational importance between two states.

With a new agreement in place, people commuting to Patna, Biharsarif, Deoghar, Gaya, Aurangabad, Darbhanga, Rajgir, Bhagalpur, Buxer, Siwan, Aara,



Hajipur, Chapara and Nawada from different parts of Odisha including Puri, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Baripada, Balasore, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and many other places will be majorly benefitted, said State Transport Authority (STA) secretary Brajabandhu Bhol.

As per the new agreement, Odisha buses will cover 17,611 km

in Bihar, while Bihar buses will cover 8,784 km in Odisha. The buses will ply via Jharkhand covering a distance of 8,032 km in the state, he said.

This is a big step towards facilitating road transport in the state. The agreement between the transport departments of Bihar and Odisha would also help in strengthening the cultural roots, said Bhol.

The new interstate agreement with Bihar will also open the door for new inter-state bus permits. Around 100 permits and trips will be opened in both the states, he added.

The Odisha government is also discussing with other neighbouring states, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for similar agreements.



ADRENALINE RUSH: Baliyatra hoppers in Cuttack enjoy a joyride, Saturday. OP PHOTO

Destroyed shuttle Challenger artefact discovered after 36 yrs

A TV documentary crew seeking the wreckage of a World War II-era aircraft has discovered an artefact from the destroyed space shuttle Challenger that killed seven astronauts aboard, including a school teacher, in 1986.

Divers noticed a large 'human made' object covered partially by sand on the seafloor.

The proximity to the Florida Space Coast in the US, along with the item's modern construction and presence of 8-inch square tiles, led the documentary team to contact NASA, which confirmed the finding.

"While it has been nearly 37 years since seven daring and brave explorers lost their lives aboard Challenger; this tragedy will forever be seared in the collective memory of our country. For millions around the globe, myself included, January 28, 1986, still feels like yesterday, a



Space shuttle Challenger lifts off over Space Kennedy Center

(FILE PHOTO: AFP)

said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

"This discovery gives us an opportunity to pause once again, to uplift the legacies of the seven pi-

oneers we lost, and to reflect on how this tragedy changed us," he said in a statement.

The History Channel documentary detailing the latest

Challenger discovery will air November 22.

The last Challenger mission, dubbed STS-51L, was commanded by Francis R. "Dick" Scobee and pi-

loted by Michael J. Smith.

The other crew members on board were mission specialists Ronald E. McNair; Ellison S. Onizuka, and Judith A. Resnik; payload specialist Gregory B. Jarvis; and teacher S. Christa McAuliffe.

A major malfunction 73 seconds after liftoff resulted in the loss of Challenger and the seven astronauts aboard.

An agency investigation later showed unexpectedly cold temperatures affected the integrity of O-ring seals in the solid rocket booster segment joints.

The loss of Challenger, and later Columbia with its seven astronauts (including Indian-origin Kalpana Chawla) - which broke up on re-entry in February 2003 over the western US - greatly influenced NASA's culture regarding safety.

NASA created an Office of Safety and Mission Assurance, developed new risk assessment procedures, and established an environment in which everyone can raise safety concerns.

The agency also created the Apollo Challenger Columbia Lessons Learned Programme to share these lessons within the agency and with other government, public, commercial, and international audiences.

"Challenger and her crew live on in the hearts and memories of both NASA and the nation," said Kennedy Space Center Director Janet Petro.

NASA is currently considering what additional actions it may take regarding the artefact that will properly honour the legacy of Challenger's fallen astronauts and the families who loved them.

CM urged for action against rationalists

Puri: Servitors of Srimandir in Puri Saturday wrote to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, seeking punishment for those who allegedly made objectionable remarks against gods.

In the letter, the Chhatisha Nijog said people claiming to be rationalists have hurt religious sentiments of Hindus by ridiculing century-old traditions during the recent solar and lunar eclipses. The particular group of people made slanderous remarks in television channels against Lord Ram and Lord Laxman, it said. "They even said that rice and chicken can be offered to Lord Jagannath as prasad," it added. It said the state government will be responsible if there is any major law and order situation in the state. Copies of the letter were also sent to Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra and Director General of Police SK Bansal.

Bengal min faces ...

Continued From P1

The Nandigram area in East Midnapore district, the backyard of Adhikari, has witnessed rallies and counter-rallies by the TMC and BJP in the last week as both the parties have started warming up for the rural polls due early next year.

However, the BJP lashed out at the Trinamool Congress and said Giri's remark reflected the "anti-tribal" mindset of the TMC.

"President Droupadi Murmu hails from the tribal community. Akhil Giri made objectionable comments against the country's President. These comments reflect the anti-tribal mindset of the TMC party," BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar said.

Amit Malviya, In-charge of BJP's National Information & Technology Dept, Co-in charge West Bengal said in a tweet, "Akhil Giri, minister in Mamata Banerjee's cabinet, insults the President, says, 'We don't care about looks. But how does your President look? Mamata Banerjee has always been anti-Tribals, didn't support President Murmu for the office and now this. Shameful level of discourse...'"

Senior BJP leader and MP Saumitra Khan termed the comment "heinous" and demanded the immediate arrest of Giri.

"This is a heinous act and cannot be forgiven. The insult to the respected President is an insult to the women of this country and the entire population. He should be immediately disqualified as MLA and should be arrested. I have written to the National Women Commission regarding it," Khan said.

The Bengal BJP took out rally in various parts of the state including Kolkata demanding Giri's removal as minister and his arrest.

The TMC said it doesn't support such a comment but won't take responsibility for remarks made by leaders in an individual capacity.

"We don't want to comment on stray remarks by individuals. The party neither supports such remarks nor takes responsibility for such comments. We have immense respect for the President of the country," TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh told PTI.

The party, in a statement, said the leadership in no way endorsed such a remark.

"It's his personal remark. The party and the leadership in no way endorse this. We have the highest regard for the President. Whenever the matter is about women empowerment and introducing schemes that will help women across the state, our chairperson and chief minister Mamata Banerjee has always led from the front," the statement said.

Sports facilities to fulfil country's dream: Pandian

5-T Secretary VK Pandian visited Kalinga Stadium and reviewed the ongoing sports projects and various facilities for sportspersons

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Secretary (5T) to Chief Minister VK Pandian visited the Kalinga Stadium and reviewed the sports infrastructure projects taken up under the 5T initiative.

The projects include India's first indoor athletics stadium, indoor aquatics stadium, Tennis centre, Hockey High Performance Centre, Gymnastics centre and India's largest sports science centre.

Pandian also visited the Badminton High Performance centre being constructed under CSR

by Dalmia Bharat.

He discussed in detail with the site engineers on the progress of the projects and timelines for completion. Pandian expressed satisfaction that the construction is progressing well. The project construction has started around 15 months back and the projects are expected to be commissioned over the next two months. He commended the officials and staff present at the site for their hard work in creating such facilities for the sportspersons in such a short span of time.

The 5T secretary reflected upon Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's vision to invest in sports and the future of youth and shared that all these sports projects and endeavours will play a key role in nurturing champions of tomorrow. It will be a pride moment to see Odisha playing an important part in India's dream of becoming a true sporting nation and the state's sports infrastructure will be instrumental in that direction, he added.



CANCER CARE: Dignitaries attending the 4th Indo Oncology Summit at a City hotel in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

CP arrests 4 drug peddlers; 100gm brown sugar seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested four drug peddlers from Nayapalli area here. The accused were identified as Bijay Kumar Sahoo alias Chagala, 25, Subhabrata Das alias Lulu, 26, Prasant Kumar Sahoo, 30, of Pipili in Puri district and Deepak Kumar Nayak, 24, of Kendrapara district.

The joint team of Nayapalli police station and Quick Action Team of Commissionerate Police conducted a raid at rental colony area in Nayapalli. "When the accused were trying to sell the drugs, we seized 100 gm brown sugar, a Maruti car, four mobile phones and Rs 10,000 in cash from their possession," informed a senior police official.

PPL, TSML bag Kalinga Safety Excellence Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) was conferred with Kalinga Safety Excellence Award (Platinum) in Chemical & Fertiliser Category.

Nihar Kanti Rout, Joint General Manager (Fire & Safety) received the Award from Zha Liyou, Consul General of Consulate General of the People's Republic of China at a glittering function of Odisha State Safety Conclave-2022, November 11. Vinod Kumar, IFS (Retd.), Chairman, National Safety Council and Ashok Kumar Tripathy, IAS (Retd.) former Board of Revenue were also present.

Similarly, Tata Steel Mining Limited (TSML)'s Ferro Alloys



plants at Gopalpur and Athagarh have been awarded with 'Kalinga Safety Excellence Award' in Gold and Platinum category, respectively, by Institute of Quality and Environment Management Services (IQEMS).

BD Mohanty, Senior General Manager, TSML received the award on behalf of the company at the 13th edition of National Safety Conclave organised by IQEMS at an event in Bhubaneswar.

Pankaj Satija, Managing Director, TSML said, "We are working on several digital interventions like implementation of e-logistics for safe truck movement, connected workforce through Suraksha card to improve process safety and contractor safety risk management to achieve our goal of 'zero harm' at workplace".

The units of TSML have been recognised for outstanding contributions in the field of Occupational Safety, Health & Environment.

Fun and frolic at Loyola Fete 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Loyola School Saturday organised its Annual Fete 2022, while also setting the mood for children's day celebrations. The fete was inaugurated by Principal Fr Victor Misquith, Fr Rector Fr Augustine and the members of fete committee.

There were 17 food stalls, 45 game stalls and a stall for art exhibits set up for the students to enjoy the fete to the fullest. Also, a request corner was set up where



students could request for songs of their liking to be played. Music bands comprising the students entertained the gathering. The students grooved to many chart-

buster songs. The atmosphere was electrifying. Jalisa Prem Kumar, Shreya Sweekruti Nayak, Anushka Gaytri Mishra were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners re-

spectively of the raffle draw. Aarush Goenka, Arnab Mohanty and Rounak Swain won the consolation prizes.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by the students and their parents who had accompanied them. Loyola alumni who have now grown out of their school lives also stayed wistful about the event which they often visit. The fete was fulfilling for the Loyola staff, who had made arrangements for the event with love and care for the children.

IAPSM national conclave concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The 3rd Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM) young leaders' national conclave was successfully concluded Saturday at AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

The three-day conference, held from November 10 to 12 was organised by the department of community medicine and family medicine of Bhubaneswar AIIMS.

The event was inaugurated by Ashutosh Biswas, AIIMS executive director, along with other dignitaries, Padamshri Abhay Bang, Padmashri CS Pandav, Hariyansh Chopra, Sunila Garg and Purusottam Giri.

Biswas in his keynote address emphasized on the importance of the community physician in delivering the universal healthcare. Sonu Hangma Subba, organising chairperson, shared the vision of the need of the young leaders' capacity building and scientific exposure in robust arena of the academia and research. The conclave was attended by more than five hundred delegates from all part of the country and experts from premier institutes like

AIIMS New Delhi, PGIMER Chandigarh, JIPMER Puducherry, AIIMS Patna, AIIMS Raipur, AIIMS Jodhpur, AIIMS Bhopal, AIIMS Kalyani, AIIMS Gorakhpur, AIIMS Bathinda, AIIMS Bibinagar, AIIMS Mangalagiri and MGIMS Sevagram along with many government and private state medical colleges and partner agencies.

Several plenary sessions, panel discussions, oral and poster presentations and various competitions were conducted in this grand event. The preconference work shop had been organised by the department on nine themes including Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing application in public health.

Many themes like addressing the modifying risk factors for prevention of cancer in line with the national programme for prevention and control of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and stroke (NPCDCS) guidelines were addressed. On the concluding day, health topics like ethical issues in public health research and reaching the unreach for mental health were discussed by eminent speakers like Shashikant, Girish N Rao from AIIMS New Delhi and NIMHANS Bangalore.



FOR THEIR RIGHTS: Boards of Ravenshaw University hostels stage a protest near VC office demanding basic amenities in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Global carbon emissions showing no signs of shrinking

Global carbon dioxide emissions from all human activities remain at record highs in 2022, and fossil fuel emissions have risen above pre-pandemic levels, according to a new analysis by an international body of scientists.

The analysis, by the Global Carbon Project, calculates Earth's "carbon budget", which is how much CO2 humans have released, and how much has been removed from the atmosphere by the oceans and land ecosystems.

From there, we calculate how much carbon can still be emitted into the atmosphere before Earth exceeds the crucial 1.5 degree Celsius global warming threshold.

This year, the world is projected to emit 40.6 billion tonnes of CO2 from all human activities, leaving 380 billion tonnes of CO2 as the remaining carbon budget.

This amount of emissions is disastrous for the climate - at current levels, there is a 50 per cent chance the planet will reach the 1.5 degree Celsius global average temperature rise in just nine years.

We've seen significant progress towards decarbonisation and emission reduction from some sectors and countries, particularly in renewable electricity generation.

Humanity must urgently cut global emissions if we are to retain any hope of averting the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

Coal and oil emissions up, gas down, deforestation slowing. Based on preliminary data, we project that CO2 emissions from coal, natural gas, oil, and cement use (fossil emissions) will increase by 1 per cent in 2022 from 2021 levels, reaching 36.6 billion tonnes. This means 2022 fossil emissions will be at an all-time high, and



This year, the world is projected to emit 40.6 billion tonnes of CO2 from all human activities, leaving 380 billion tonnes of CO2 as the remaining carbon budget

The growth in fossil emissions this year is largely due to higher oil and coal use - particularly oil, as the aviation industry is strongly bouncing back from the pandemic

slightly above the pre-pandemic levels of 36.3 billion tonnes in 2019. Let's put the 2022 growth of 1 per cent (or around 300 million

metric tonnes) into perspective: it's the equivalent to adding an extra 70 million US cars to the world's roads for a year it's higher

than the 0.5 per cent average yearly growth of the last decade (2012-2021) but it's smaller than the 2.9 per cent average yearly growth during the 2000s (which was largely due to China's rapid economic growth) it's also smaller than the 2.1 per cent average yearly growth of the last 60 years. So, in relative terms, the global growth in fossil CO2 emissions is at least slowing down.

The growth in fossil emissions this year is largely due to higher oil and coal use - particularly oil, as the aviation industry is strongly bouncing back from the pandemic. Coal emissions have also increased this year in response to higher natural gas prices and shortages in natural gas supply.

Unexpectedly, there is the possibility that coal emissions this year will be higher than the historical peak in 2014.

Another major source of global

CO2 emissions is land-use change - the net balance between deforestation and reforestation.

We project 3.9 billion tonnes of CO2 will be released overall this year (though we should note that data uncertainties are higher for land-use change emissions than for fossil CO2 emissions).

While land-use change emissions remain high, we've seen a slight decline over the past two decades largely due to increased reforestation. Rates of deforestation worldwide, however, are still high. Together, fossil fuel and land-use change are responsible for 40.6 billion tonnes of CO2.

Nations responding to multiple

turmoils. The US and India are responsible for the largest increases in CO2 fossil emissions this year. US emissions are projected to increase by 1.5 per cent.

PTI

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3 awarded 10-year RI for raping minor

Baripada, Nov 12: A court in Mayurbhanj district Friday sentenced three persons to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a physically-challenged minor girl five years ago. Mayurbhanj District Special POCSO Court Judge Sumita Jena, in her order, said that the three persons were convicted in the rape case and sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years. The court also slapped a fine of ₹10,000 each for two convicts and ₹5,000 for the other. The court directed the District Legal Services Authority to pay ₹7 lakh to the victim as compensation, Special Public Prosecutor Abhinna Patnaik said. The father of the girl had lodged a complaint at Kuliana police station in 2017 after her minor daughter got pregnant.

Elderly man beheaded on witchcraft suspicion

Baripada, Nov 12: An elderly tribal man was beheaded allegedly by his nephew on the suspicion that he was practicing witchcraft in Mayurbhanj district, police said Saturday. The 30-year-old accused, who was later arrested, suspected that the 60-year-old man was responsible for the death of his father and the ailments of other relatives. The decapitated body was found in his house in Sarjamdihi village in Khunta area on Friday night, a police officer said. A murder case was registered and post-mortem examination was conducted on the body, he said. Superintendent of Police Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo visited the spot during the day.

KILLING OF PREGNANT JUMBO
Forester suspended; forest guard, ranger showcaused

Keonjhar, Nov 12: In the wake of the brutal killing of a pregnant elephant and its unborn calf with bow and arrows at Kalapata reserve forest, the divisional forest officer (DFO) of Keonjhar forest division suspended a forester of Talpada forest section under Telkoi forest range from service, Saturday. The suspended forester was identified as Purnachandra Mohanta. DFO HD Dhanraj also issued show-cause notices to forest ranger Shivaji Mohan Rao and forest guard Jharana Sahu for the death of the pachyderm and its unborn calf. They have been asked to reply to the notice within a period of three days. The action has been taken over delay in getting information about the death of the elephant by the Forest officials. However, the action has been taken five days after the death of the animals. The matter came to the fore after some villagers who had gone to Kalapata reserve forest, November 7 found stench emanating from a place and alerted the forester of Talpada forest section. Forest officials rushed to the spot and recovered the decomposed carcasses of an arrow stricken pregnant female elephant from the spot in the forest. The Keonjhar DFO visited the spot the same day and conducted a probe while the PCCF and wildlife officials visited the spot the next day and took stock of the situation. It is required for the junior officials



Forest officials had November 7 recovered the decomposed carcass of an arrow stricken pregnant female elephant from Kalapata reserve forest. The Keonjhar DFO visited the spot the same day and conducted a probe

to track the movement of the elephants and their present position in the jungle and file a report to their higher-ups every day. However, the junior officials were found to have neglected tracking of the animals' movement despite the carcasses lying there since a long period.

The negligence of the Forest officials raised doubts on proper implementation of the tracking system. It was suspected that the incident might have occurred long back and the animals may have been struck with arrows several months before. On the other hand, it is claimed that it is difficult to know where the animal might have been struck with arrows due to frequent movement of the elephants from one forest range to another forest range and vice-versa from one division to another division. As a result, this has posed challenge for the Forest department to arrest the persons involved in killing of the animals with arrows. Locals have demanded arrest of the persons involved through a proper inquiry into the death of the elephant. The case should not be closed by only taking action on the forest officials, they pressed.

Viral video shows seniors attacking juniors in hostel

ADMIN ORDERS PROBE; POLITICOS VISIT HOSTEL



Daringbadi, Nov 12: A video showing four Class-VII students being attacked by some Class-X students has gone viral. The incident has reportedly taken place at the hostel of a school run by the ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department at Greenbadi under Daringbadi block in Kandhamal district. Meanwhile, District Collector Ashish Ishwar Patil has ordered an investigation into the matter. The report is being awaited for action against those responsible for it. The video went viral Friday and guardians expressed their concern over safety of their kids at the hostel. Saturday, block chairperson Sushant Kumar Pradhan along with some sarpanches and samiti members visited the hostel. They talked to teachers and students at the hostel about various issues including this incident. The block chairperson said that the case is very sensitive and the hostel administration has not taken it seriously. Blaming the hostel authorities for the incident, he also said that all possible efforts will

be made to suppress such a matter. He demanded that those who are responsible for such incident should be driven out. It was learnt that local legislator Saluga Pradhan has talked to the district collector in this regard and urged the latter to transfer the headmistress of the school. The MLA said that since the headmistress has long been serving in the area, she should be transferred elsewhere. He pointed out that there are lapses in the management of the hostel. Contacted, Collector Ashish Ishwar Patil said that he has ordered an investigation into the matter. "Action will be taken after receiving the investigation report," he added. It may be noted here that there was a meeting of some officials of the welfare department, guardians and members of the school managing committee, Friday. The Class-X students who had bullied and attacked their juniors were driven out from the hostel. However, two other videos showing the attacks on the junior students made at different times are still going viral. This has caused tension among people in the area.



LITTLE MISS CONTEST: Participants walked the ramp at a Little Miss-2022 competition organised by Sai Sikshya Prishad, a cultural outfit, at Sambalpur, Saturday

SCAM IN HARISHCHANDRA YOJANA

Admin starts probe into irregularities
Locals want impartial probe

Hatadihi/Anandapur, Nov 12: The district administration has started investigation into alleged irregularities in allocation of funds under Harishchandra Sahayata Yojana in Sadha panchayat under Hatadihi block of Keonjhar. Notably, Harishchandra Sahayata Yojana was launched in the CMRF during August 2013 for providing financial assistance to the poor and destitute for conducting the last rites of their family member and for cremation of unclaimed dead bodies. A two-member team comprising ABDO Bichitra Kar and GPEO Muralidhar Swain under supervision of zilla parishad additional executive officer is looking into alleged allocation of funds to some beneficiaries. The chief development officer of the zilla parishad had issued a directive for investigation vide letter no-6199/November 5, 2022.

In the letter, it was stated that the Hatadihi BDO, CDPO and the medical officer of the Salania CHC will have to cooperate in the investigation and provide information about funds allocated to beneficiaries. The investigation will focus on allocation of funds to families of 198 beneficiaries. During the term of former sarpanch, Harishchandra fund was allocated to 172 people while 21 beneficiaries were allocated fund during the current term of the present sarpanch. However, some beneficiaries have suspected messing up of the investigation. They submitted a written complaint at Anandapur sub-collector Anil Sethi Friday, seeking an impartial probe into the fund irregularities. They alleged that in many cases, beneficiaries have not been paid full fund of ₹2,000 for funerals of the deceased. They alleged that the former sarpanch, the present sarpanch, GRS and PEO are involved in the irregularities. Only an impartial investigation can bring out the truth so that those complicit in it should be punished, they observed.

Rotten headless body recovered

Rasalpur, Nov 12: Police Saturday recovered a person's decapitated and decomposed body from Khamnagar ground under Sadar police limits in Balasore district. The matter came to the fore after an elderly woman who had gone to the ground for some work spotted the body inside a cactus bush with stench emanating from it. She raised an alarm as locals informed the police. It is suspected that the deceased was brutally murdered by miscreants as his head, private parts and right hand wrist were all severed from the body. Police launched an investigation with the help of a scientific team and sniffer dogs. A case was registered in this connection and the body was sent for post-mortem.

Patana locals sleepless over elephant menace

Patna/Betanoti, Nov 12: There is no let-up in jumbo menace in Patana range of Keonjhar district as for the last five days, the animals have been on a damaging spree here. A herd of 24 elephants has damaged houses of three people at Musakhara village late Friday night. They have also damaged crops, plants on acres of land. Locals have demanded immediate step by the Forest department to scare away the animals. On being informed, forester Chittaranjan Parida and Kasirei Tangiri forester Sunita Bighel and para staff rushed to the area and are keeping track of the animals. Reports from Betanoti area of Mayurbhanj district said, for last

several days, Kuradika, Chahalapada, Jamshuli and the nearby villages have been witnessing elephant menace. The animals have damaged crops over acres of land the area. A herd of elephants strayed out of Jharkhand forests and joined the herd from Similipal sanctuary. These pachyderms have been damaging paddy in large tracts of land at Saitapur and Chanchipada panchayats. Farmers are worried. They said that earlier, the animals were invading farmlands in last days of November or first week of December every year when paddy is ripening. Scores of farmers of Kuradika and other villages have lost their paddy crops to the marauding elephants.

Hrushikesh Bhoi selected for Kansa's role

Bargarh, Nov 12: Hrushikesh Bhoi has emerged successful in the keen contest to enact the role of King Kansa of Mahabharata in the famed 'Dhanu Yatra', which turns 75 this year, officials said. The selection committee headed by Bargarh district sub-collector Mirdha Toppo chose Bhoi to play the role of the tyrannical demon king of the epic from among 42 contestants, they said. His name was declared November 11. Bhoi, however, is not new to the role. He had donned King Kansa's robes nine times earlier. "Bhoi left all the participants behind and emerged as the best choice for the role," Toppo said releasing the list of artistes to perform in the festival which will begin here from December 27. The 11 day 'Dhanu Yatra', during

BARGARH DHANU YATRA



BHOI IS NOT NEW TO THE ROLE AS HE HAS DONNED KING KANSA'S ROBES NINE TIMES EARLIER

which the whole town becomes a stage, will be held after a gap of two years of the pandemic. A large number of visitors from across the state and the country flock to Bargarh to witness the spectacle. Officials said that initially 60 people had applied to play the role of

rejected as they had crossed the age limit of 60 years. From the remaining 56 contestants 42 were selected for the final round of the audition. Bhoi hails from Chicholi village under Ambabhona block in Bargarh district. He works as a driver in health department. He had played the role of Kansa between 2009 and 2017. The selection committee has also announced the name of artistes to play the roles of Mahamantri Vidur, Satyaki, Akruva and others. The 'Dhanu Yatra' had started after Independence as a mark of the triumph of good over evil. During it Bargarh town is transformed into Mathura under the rule of King Kansa and Ambapalli across the Jeera river becomes Gopapura, where Lord Krishna spent his childhood. The Jeera River is then considered as the river Yamuna and the writ of Kansa rules.

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UCO BANK, ASHOKA MARKET BRANCH, BHUBANESWAR-751001 NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: SAMEER KUMAR PANIGRAHI, CONTACT No.: 8763415323			
1.	Borrower: Itishree Nanda, W/o- Basanta Kumar Nanda, Plot No.: 176 3B, Kedargouri Vihar, BJB Nagar / A/c. No.: 17850610034446	₹59,800.00 + Unapplied interest	26.00
UCO BANK, PAKATIGIRIA BRANCH, PAKATIGIRIA, KHORDHA NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: PITABAS SAMANTARAY, CONTACT No.: 9692784260			
1.	Borrower: Manas Nayak, S/o-Bhramar Nayak, Baurisahi, Gurujanga, Khurda / A/c. No.: 15660610016664	₹20,000.00 + Unapplied interest	6.50
2.	Borrower: Kartik Pradhan, S/O- Nakula Pradhan, Malisahi, Gurujanga, Khurda / A/c. No.: 15660610016657	₹70,000.00 + Unapplied interest	19.50
3.	Borrower: Sansari Prusty, S/o- Nityananda Sahoo, At/P.O.: Kunjuri / A/c. No.: 15660610017197	₹88,095.00 + Unapplied interest	28.00
UCO BANK, BHANJANAGAR BRANCH, KHALASI STREET, RED CROSS ROAD NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: MANAS RANJAN NAYAK, CONTACT No.: 7008375427			
1.	Borrower: Prasant Kumar Tarasia, Ram Mandir Street, Bhanjanagar Dist.: Ganjam, Odisha- 761126 / A/c. No.: 25280610023822	₹80,000.00 + Unapplied interest	36.00
2.	Borrower: Nausad Mahamad, S/o- Amir Mahamad, Batagali, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam / A/c. No.: 25280610030226	₹1,04,900.94 + Unapplied interest	27.00
UCO BANK, CRPF HQ BRANCH, BHUBANESWAR NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: ANIL K BHOI, CONTACT No.: 9830321834			
1.	Borrower: Sarbeswar Routray, Nilakantha Nagar, Munda Sahi, Delta, Nayapalli / A/c. No.: 09280610028407	₹50,000.00 + Unapplied interest	20.00
2.	Borrower: Bhanumati Mohanti, W/o- Kulamani Mohanti, At: Nilakantha Nagar, P.O.: Baramunda, P.S.: Khandagiri, Munda Sahi / A/c. No.: 9280610027134	₹22,700.00 + Unapplied interest	7.00
UCO BANK, BANPUR BRANCH, BANPUR, KHURDHA NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: JITENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN, CONTACT No.: 7205862511			
1.	Borrower: Pradeep Kumar Lenka, S/o- Golak Lenka, Gobindapur Banpur / A/c. No.: 04270610036563	₹95,000.00 + Unapplied interest	38.00
UCO BANK, BAJRAKABATI ROAD BRANCH, BAJRAKABATI, CUTTACK NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: SUDIPTA MISHRA, CONTACT No.: 8018355614			
1.	Borrower: Ranjan Kumar Jena, At: Manikpur, Sasanipada / A/c. No.: 08760610022887	₹45,000.00 + Unapplied interest	12.59
2.	Borrower: Ranjan Kumar Jena, At: Manikpur, Sasanipada / A/c. No.: 08760610023129	₹17,850.00 + Unapplied interest	5.10
3.	Borrower: Ranjan Kumar Jena, At: Manikpur, Sasanipada / A/c. No.: 08760610023709	₹45,500.00 + Unapplied interest	13.60
UCO BANK, CHAMPESWAR BRANCH, CHAMPESWAR, CUTTACK NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: S K WASEEM AKRAM, CONTACT No.: 8260888095			
1.	Borrower: Sukadev Behera, S/o- Iswar Behera, At/P.O.: Champeswar/ A/c. No.: 17670610038925	₹40,500.00 + Unapplied interest	22.40
UCO BANK, GOPALPUR BRANCH, GOPALPUR, GANJAM NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: PRATIHA BHARATI SANBARSA, CONTACT No.: 8917399728			
1.	Borrower: Boiri Shiva Babu, S/o- B. Ramamurthy, Old Boxipalli Gopalpur Ganjam / A/c. No.: 21500610029909	₹1,37,000.00 + Unapplied interest	43.60
UCO BANK, KHORDHA BRANCH, KHORDHA NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: BAJRANG SAHU, CONTACT No.: 9131142380			
1.	Borrower: Mira Rani De, W/o- Milan De, Radhaballav Sahi / A/c. No.: 18620610027004	₹16,000.00 + Unapplied interest	13.68
2.	Borrower: Antaryami Pagad, S/o-Gopinath Pagad, At-champapur, Gadanial Khurda / A/c. No.: 18620610028230	₹17,000.00 + Unapplied interest	15.75
3.	Borrower: Manoj Kumar Rana, S/o- Nilakantha Rana, Kantamallim, Simor / A/c. No.: 18620610026892	₹27,000.00 + Unapplied interest	12.22
4.	Borrower: Mohmmad Sajid, S/o- Mahammad Gaphur, At/P.O.: Sardhapur, Khurda / A/c. No.: 18620610021491	₹35,000.00 + Unapplied interest	19.67
5.	Borrower: Praveen Bhanja, S/o- Ramesh Bhanja, Nilayam, Budhibagicha, Samantarapur, Khordha / A/c. No.: 18620610026045	₹12,295.00 + Unapplied interest	5.00
UCO BANK, PATIA BRANCH, PATIA, BHUBANESWAR NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: ASHOK KUMAR TRIPATHY, CONTACT No.: 8328866089			
1.	Borrower: Saroj Kumar Rout, S/o- Gajendra Rout, Plot No.: 489, Rout Sahi, Patia, Bhubaneswar / A/c. No.: 31080610008331	₹24,500.00 + Unapplied interest	10.00
UCO BANK, PURI BRANCH, PURI NAME OF THE BRANCH HEAD: MADHUSMITA JENA, CONTACT No.: 9438335084			
1.	Borrower: Manas Ranjan Das, S/o- Baishnab Charan Das, At: Kanaka Nagar, Baiguali, Puri / A/c. No.: 02900610042724	₹7,509.00 + Unapplied interest	2.53
2.	Borrower: Niranjan Sahoo, At: Tiadi Bagicha, Baseli Sahi / A/c. No.: 02900610043387	₹18,000.00 + Unapplied interest	4.96
3.	Borrower: Bijay Kumar Upadhyay, S/o- Kailash Ch. Upadhyay, Markandswari Sahi, Radhagobinda Lane / A/c. No.: 02900610045473	₹20,204.00 + Unapplied interest	8.70
4.	Borrower: Bijay Kumar Upadhyay, S/o- Kailash Ch. Upadhyay, Markandswari Sahi, Radhagobinda Lane / A/c. No.: 02900610045701	₹28,000.00 + Unapplied interest	8.36
5.	Borrower: Bhajaram Satpathy, S/o- Sadashiv Satpathy, Mukundamishra Nagar, P.O.: Gopinathpur, Puri / A/c. No.: 02900610046371	₹70,000.00 + Unapplied interest	20.00

The intending bidders may participate in the auction by fulfilling the following terms:

- The Bank does not guarantee the weight or purity of the jewellery/coins, either of its gold contents or otherwise.
- The Jewel is available for inspection by the intending bidders during business hours on any working day in the bank.
- The intending bidders have to contact the respective Branch Head for the Reserve Price of each account.
- The intending purchaser shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price (to be computed as per the balance outstanding).
- The Jewel to be handed over to the highest bidder on payment of the balance amount within 24 hours or on the next working day of the bank during the business hours.
- If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the earnest money will be forfeited and the jewel may be resold within 30 days from the date of auction.
- The unsuccessful bidder shall be entitled for the refund of the earnest money immediately after the auction is over.
- It shall be lawful for the bank to stop the auction at any stage without assigning any reason thereto in which case the earnest money shall be returned to whoever makes the deposit.

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 11.11.2022 **Authorised Officer, UCO Bank**

Nothing, not even the darkest falsehood can stop the ultimate triumph of Truth.

THE MOTHER



Destroying Institutions

This morning brought the headline “Centre’s silence on judicial postings condemnable: Supreme Court.” The report said the government neither appointed the persons selected by the judiciary or communicated its reservation, if it had any, on the names. The court noted that it was a challenge to persuade “persons of eminence to be invited to the Bench” and that this behaviour by the government was “further discouragement to them to accept the invitation.” I have a friend who recently suffered this and can vouch for it.

The court concluded that the government’s tendency to inexplicably withhold names for months on end without explanation, “would see rule of law and justice suffer.”

Yes, it will. I am making a larger point and will get to it soon. Near my house is the Madras Sappers regiment. On its gate there is the number 1780. It is the year that the regiment was founded on 3 September, meaning that it is 242 years old. There are no government institutions of that age anywhere on the subcontinent. The reason that the army has survived in this fashion for so long is of course because it is efficient and functional.

This two-century-old army’s recruitment was changed earlier this year. From here on three fourths of the jawans will be retired after four years. They will be given six months of training and then asked to handle equipment that has cost the nation millions of dollars to purchase. One retired general, writing his critique of the scheme said that “the government’s intention is to kill the Army’s regimental system, which is the bedrock of fighting arms and comradeship; ‘Naam, Namak aur Nishan; to be sacrificed through virulent application of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’. So what will fixed class regiments like say Rajput Regiment, Gorkha Regiment, Sikh Regiment be called? Will they be allotted numbers with police-ization of the Army or be renamed like ‘Savarkar Regiment’, ‘Mangal Pandey Regiment’, ‘Deen Dayal Upadhyay Regiment’ as being discussed on WhatsApp?”

The army, navy and air force all will have this new scheme whose logic has not been fully explained. It has been whispered that the government is doing this because its pension bill is getting unmanageable but that is not the official reason cited. We are meddling with an institution that was built for purpose and served its purpose for two centuries without transparency about why this is being done. Anyway, let us move on.

India’s statistical programme was one of the jewels of the government. Founded of course by Nehru, it has enjoyed a reputation for being solid and reliable. In 2019, just before the elections, it was revealed by the National Sample Survey Office that unemployment in India had more than doubled for the first time in history, and it had gone from 2.2% to over 6%. This report was withheld and not revealed, even to Parliament. This was the first survey on employment conducted by a government agency after demonetisation. Two members of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), including its interim chairman, resigned, saying that the government had withheld the report’s release despite the NSC’s approval. Niti Aayog was sent out to discredit the data of the government’s own report but it was released without change after the 2019 results were out.

A survey by the government conducted between July 2017 and June 2018 showed something astonishing: the average amount spent by Indians in a month had fallen in 2018 compared to 2012. Adjusted for inflation, the average fell from Rs 1,501 to Rs 1,446. The report revealing this said that in the last 50 years there had never been a time that consumption had decreased, and that such a fall indicated an increase in poverty in the country by at least 10%. The most worrying trend in the report was a dip in food consumption. The amount spent on food by urban Indians remained flat at Rs 946 per person per month in 2018 compared to Rs 943 in 2012. But rural Indians were spending less on food in 2018 (Rs 580) compared to 2012 (Rs 643). India usually recorded an average increase in consumption of around 3% a year, and a fall over six years suggested a fall in consumption of around 20%, wiping out years of progress. The report was approved for release by a committee on 19 June 2019.

But, like the unemployment data, was not released and still has not been, even though the former chief economic advisor asked for it to be made public.

When approached for demonetisation, the RBI told the government specifically that the scheme was bad and should not be allowed to proceed. It said most black money was held as land or gold and not cash, and abolishing currency would have no effect on curbing black money. And that demonetisation would have a negative impact on GDP and that Rs 400 crore in counterfeit currency was insignificant (only 0.02 per cent) compared to the total cash in circulation, which was Rs 18 lakh crore. But of course the RBI rubber stamped the decision anyway and then refused to release the minutes of the meeting where the above was released. Today the bureaucrat who oversaw demonetisation is the governor of the RBI. That brings me finally to my point.

The most important institutions of our democracy have been and are being undermined with almost no resistance. One fears for what is to come.



Aakar Patel

The most important institutions of our democracy have been and are being undermined with almost no resistance. One fears for what is to come



Sagarneel Sinha

BY LEADING THIS YATRA, RAHUL HAS SHOWN THE POLITICAL COURAGE TO EMERGE AS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE AGAINST MODI

The Lok Sabha elections of 2024 are only one and a half years away. The main Opposition Congress is currently ruling only two states, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Both these account for 36 Lok Sabha seats. In the last Lok Sabha elections, the BJP almost swept these seats by winning 33, although the grand old party won these states by ousting BJP in 2018. This year the Congress lost Punjab to AAP, which is cutting into its votes.

The Congress has been unable to recover the ground from the BJP and has been going through its worst phase ever. Now, it also has to battle AAP in Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. At such a crucial time, Rahul Gandhi has been undertaking the Bharat Jodo Yatra. It started from Kanyakumari and would end in Kashmir. According to Congress leaders, this yatra would be a “historic one” in Indian politics and “would herald a new phase of politics by ending the BJP’s rule in 2024.” They also claim that this yatra would also bring a change in Indian society which, according to them, has been “vitiated by the hatred policies of BJP and RSS.”

First, it needs to be accepted that the grand old party has taken the right decision to undertake a yatra, although it has come too late. Nevertheless, it has boosted the morale of party cadre and supporters. For it has brought a chance for the party to connect not only with supporters but also with common people. At a time when there have been serious allegations against Rahul’s political ability for his failure to emerge as the face of the Opposition, this yatra has, undoubtedly, shown, as of now, that he is trying to connect with the masses. It is more important for Rahul than the

FOCUS BHARAT JODO YATRA

MARCH & MILEAGE



The big question is whether the yatra and the crowds that it is drawing would translate into votes for Congress in the ensuing Assembly elections

Congress. By leading this yatra, Rahul has shown the political courage to emerge as the only alternative against Modi. Subtly, he also has been trying to send messages to other Opposition leaders like Nitish Kumar, Arvind Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee, Sharad Pawar and K Chandrasekhar Rao, that he is still ahead in the race as the main alternative against Modi.

Having said this, Bharat Jodo Yatra doesn’t seem to address all the problems of the grand old party. The large issue that it faces today among the majority is the perception that it’s biased towards the religious minorities of the country. However, it scoffs this by saying it’s not true and is BJP’s “vitiating campaign” against it. But that is the problem—it believes the saffron party is responsible for the worst phase it has been going through!

The Congress has a lot to answer to the majority community, as a section doesn’t seem to be satisfied with their religious views. The party proudly claims itself as a champion of pluralism but on the

other hand a section of the majority community in the present time isn’t ready to vote for the party. After the debacle in 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the party had appointed a four-member panel under the leadership of former Union Minister AK Antony which had listed minority appeasement by the party as one of the major reasons. Much water has flown since then and it’s a fact the party is still perceived as one appealing the minority. This is because the party hasn’t made serious attempts to remove that perception, barring some temple hopping occasionally undertaken by its leaders. As is evident the party faced another debacle in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The party’s tendency, as seen during this yatra too, is to attack the RSS every time, but it isn’t going to help. True that RSS is an ideological parent of BJP, but it is also a fact that it is a social organisation and, in a way, reaches out to the masses.

Another problem this yatra doesn’t address is the party’s obsession to attack industrialists. In

today’s world, where private jobs have been a source of bread and butter for a large section of the country, such an anti-industrialist stand isn’t going to benefit the party. It has been seen that for Rahul and party leaders close to him to it has become routine to attack industrialists, incidentally many of whom would have accumulated their wealth under Congress rule.

Notably, the Bharat Jodo Yatra stayed in Telangana for 12 days but the recent Munugode bypoll showed that the Congress has fallen to the third spot after the ruling TRS and the BJP, which has been successful to replace the Congress as the main Opposition. Apart from this, the party has to be worried with Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, which has been trying its luck outside Hyderabad. The party has been able to attract Muslim votes and got some success in Maharashtra and Bihar.

The big question is whether the yatra and the crowds that it is drawing would translate into votes for Congress in the ensuing Assembly elections. Price rise and unemployment are two main burning topics, which the yatra has been rightly highlighting, but the party can’t run away from the truth that these issues were very much present when it ruled the country. Currently the state where it rules, Rajasthan, is one with high unemployment rate. Also, it is a reality that BJP under Modi has been successful in implementing welfare schemes on ground level with benefits reaching to marginalised communities. That’s why BJP is popular and wins elections. Only attacking BJP and RSS won’t do; Congress has to correct its own mistakes. Only then, it can emerge as the people’s choice once again.

The writer is a political commentator. @NIFA

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

An antidote to climate despair

Dire predictions about the impending collapse of civilization have become almost common place. Okay, doomers – enough. Yes, humanity faces existential risks. In the coming decades, billions of people in the world’s poorest economies will be hit the hardest. It is now more likely than not that the planet will cross multiple climate tipping points.

A challenging future undoubtedly awaits, with rolling shocks shaking governments everywhere to their core. And, yes, we have only ourselves – or, more precisely, the wealthiest among us – to blame. But is a collapse of our free-wheeling, endlessly inventive, often confounding civilization inevitable? Absolutely not.

As Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, told world leaders gathered in Egypt this week at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, “We know what it is to remove slavery from our civilization, to find a vaccine within two years for a pandemic, to put a man on the moon.” But the only solution to the current crisis offered by politicians is economic growth. But while growth is essential to pull the poorest countries out of poverty, resilient societies will be forged not by ever-greater wealth, but by greater social cohesion, good governance, and the capacity to innovate.

Two years ago, we launched the Earth4All initiative, an interna-

tional collaborative effort by economists, scientists, and advocates to examine policy solutions that steer humanity away from collapse and toward resiliency. We present our findings in a new book, Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity.

We explore two scenarios: Too Little, Too Late and The Giant Leap. In both scenarios, the global economy grows throughout this century. In the former, the rich grow richer, leaving the poor further behind. Social tensions rise. Governments struggle to deal with major shocks. The risk of regional collapse grows every decade. We can be certain that on our current path, the global increase in average temperature is likely to hit a catastrophic 2.5° Celsius, putting the world in grave danger. This is the path we are on. But it is not the only path. With extraordinary effort, societies can transform themselves into “well-being economies” that are more resilient to shocks. Social tensions fall. Global temperature stabilises at around 2°C. This is the Giant Leap.

Earth4All can trace its origins to the Club of Rome-commissioned report The Limits to Growth, published 50 years ago. Back then, scientists used early computer models to show that Earth’s finite resources would eventually buckle under the weight of material consumption. Food production would fall, followed by a precipitous decline in

population. At the time, the conclusion that pushing beyond the limits of the planet could lead to collapse shocked many people. Over the last 50 years, the world has followed the report’s worst-case scenario, and we are beginning to see deep fractures in Earth systems and within societies.

But we believe our future will be built on economic optimism, not despair. Our analysis concludes that any strategy to build fair and resilient societies must address poverty, inequality, gender imbalances, food insecurity, and energy access. The transformation we need hinges on tackling all of them together.

Redistributing wealth is needed to rebuild trust in democratic systems, which is essential to broaden political support for bold decisions. The policies we propose, including progressive income and wealth taxes, international tax alignment, and a universal basic dividend, would ensure that the richest 10% will have less than 40% of national incomes by around 2030 and further reduce inequality beyond this date. Addressing wealth and income inequality must also be closely linked to reining in the disproportionate greenhouse-gas emissions and biosphere consumption of the wealthiest. This is why a fair price on carbon is a smart way to redistribute wealth and cut emissions.

As Mottley warned in Sharm

El-Sheikh, we can expect a billion refugees by 2050. This is a reasonable estimate, given that, without immediate deep emissions cuts, the largely uninhabitable zones around the equator are expected to expand in the coming decades, encompassing heavily populated areas. High-risk countries include some of the most fragile and vulnerable states on Earth: Egypt, Sudan, Nigeria, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Philippines.

Today, it may seem the world is as far from an Earth for All future as ever. But we found some room for optimism. We may have already reached a positive social tipping point: citizens want change. Our global survey finds that 74% of people in G20 countries want their governments to reform economic systems to prioritise well-being and the planet over a singular focus on growth and profits.

Our civilization often does the right thing when we have exhausted all other alternatives. This point has now been reached. Humanity’s future on Earth will be vastly more peaceful, prosperous, and secure if we do everything in our power to rebuild our economies to maximise well-being and planetary resilience rather than shareholder value.

Owen Gaffney is Head of Impact for Nobel Prize Outreach. Sandrine Dixon-Declève is Co-President of the Club of Rome. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance. OSCAR WILDE
- Great men are like eagles, and build their nest on some lofty solitude. ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER
- You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

WORDSWORTH

Coopetition

In most of the modern theories of business, competition is seen as one of the key forces that keep firms lean and drive innovation. That emphasis has been challenged by Adam Brandenburger of the Harvard Business School and Barry Nalebuff of the Yale School of Management. In part using some of the ideas of game theory, they suggest that businesses can gain advantage by means of a judicious mixture of competition and cooperation. Cooperation with suppliers, customers and firms producing complementary or related products can lead to expansion of the market and the formation of new business relationships, perhaps even the creation of new forms of enterprise. They chose coopetition for this concept (a blend of cooperation and competition), which they used as the title of their 1996 book explaining their theories, a book which has become a best-seller and which has since come out in paperback. However, it seems that they didn’t coin the word: it was Ray Noorda, the founder of Novell, who did that. The concept, and the word, seem to have been taken up most enthusiastically in the computer industry, where strategic alliances are common in order to develop new products and markets, particularly between software and hardware firms. How far does so-called “coopetition” extend in the name of the best interests of the industry (Computing, August 1997)? I think it’s important that Apple be seen now not as a pure competitor with Microsoft but in “coopetition”: competing in some areas, cooperating in others (PC Week, June 1998).



Owen Gaffney & Sandrine Dixon-Declève

WITH EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT, SOCIETIES CAN TRANSFORM THEMSELVES INTO ‘WELL-BEING ECONOMIES’ THAT ARE MORE RESILIENT TO SHOCKS

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, Rusalgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Experience & youth

Sir, The BCCI reportedly has set its eye for a massive overhaul of the Indian cricket team, following its agonising exit from this year’s T20 world cup, and inject young blood into the side ahead of the 2024 edition of the tournament. Sweeping changes with knee-jerk reactions cannot be the antidote for one bad performance, though, unfortunately it came in a big knockout game. On current form, can the BCCI think of not playing Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav, who are aged above 30, in the next world cup unless there is a huge dip in their batting? But for these two batters, and to some extent Hardik Pandya, India wouldn’t have reached the last four stage in this T20 world cup. In fact, Kohli is physically the fittest among the current Indian players. Remember, both Jos Buttler and Alex Hales, who lorded over the Men in Blue at Adelaide, are aged above 30, and in all probability both will represent England in white ball cricket for the next few years at least. In any field, therefore to achieve success a team must comprise the right mix of experience and youth.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Preventing pneumonia

Sir, Around the world, pneumonia affects 55 million kids under the age of five each year. The burden of pneumonia in India is 23% of the global total, and case fatality rates range from 14% to 30%. Every 13 seconds, one person passes away. Pneumonia is still a disease that is ignored and is a “global cause without champions.” World Pneumonia Day is celebrated every year November 12 worldwide to raise awareness on the disease’s causes and prevention because the majority of people are still unaware of these. The day also emphasises calling for action to combat this disease. Pneumonia is an acute respiratory infection that can be caused by bacteria, fungi, or viruses. Patients who have pneumonia experience breathing difficulties as their lungs fill with fluid. Children are especially at risk in communities where vaccination rates are declining, malnutrition rates are rising as a result of food shortages, and homes use polluting fuels for cooking and heating. If immediate action is not taken to reach these children, including with oxygen and antibiotics, UNICEF has predicted an explosion in child deaths. By 2030, nearly nine million child deaths from pneumonia and other major diseases could be prevented if pneumonia prevention efforts were increased.

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

national

of the day quote

We are among the fastest-growing economy. We are the fifth-largest in the world. And yet we have 'aspirational districts' in our country which hardly contribute anything to our GDP. There are problems faced by our rural and tribal areas and the agriculture sector. We need to use technology to find solutions

NITISH KUMAR | UNION TRANSPORT MINISTER

Since the day we have bid farewell to Rahul Gandhi from Amethi, he has embarked on a 'yatra' of the country which has not been completed yet

SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

Jammu and Kashmir has the potential of becoming among the topmost states and Union Territories in terms of creating startups because of its young talent

MANOJ SINHA | JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

2 labourers hurt in terror attack

Srinagar: Two non-local labourers were shot at and injured by the terrorists in Rakh-Momin area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district Saturday, police said. "Terrorists fired upon and injured two non-local labourers in Rakh-Momin area of Anantnag. Both the injured are being shifted to hospital for treatment. Area being cordoned off," Jammu and Kashmir Police said. Police parties have reached the spot and an operation has been started to nab the terrorists.

Boy dies in wall collapse

Palghar: An 11-year-old boy died and a teenager injured after part of a bus depot's compound wall collapsed on them at Jawhar in Palghar district of Maharashtra, police said Saturday. The incident occurred around 8.30 pm on Thursday, when a bus being moved in a reverse direction hit the wall, an official said.

Deaf, mute girl raped

Bhopal: A five-year-old deaf and mute Dalit girl was allegedly raped by a man living in her neighbourhood in Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal, police said Saturday. The police have arrested the 56-year-old accused for the incident, which took place in Kolar area on Thursday evening, inspector Chandrakant Patel of Kolar police station said. An offence has been registered against the accused under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, and he has been sent to judicial custody, he said.

Body found

Ghaziabad (UP): The body of a 35-year-old man from Bihar's Seetamarhi district with his throat slit was found at his house in the early hours of Saturday, police said. An embroiderer by profession, the victim Ayyaz was living with his wife Sazra and three children in the Khushal Park colony of Tronica city police station area since 2005. "On the intervening night of November 11 and 12, Ayyaz was sleeping alone while his wife and three children were sleeping in another room. Around 3 am his neighbours heard him shouting. They immediately informed his brother who lives nearby," SP (rural) Iraj Raja said.

Shah Rukh stopped at airport over luxury watches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 12: Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan Saturday paid customs duty of Rs 6.88 lakh after personnel at Mumbai airport found Rs 18 lakh worth watches in the combined baggage of the actor and five members of his team on their arrival from Dubai in a private jet.

The amount was paid on the actor's behalf by his bodyguard Ravi Shankar Singh, the official said. Khan, his manager Pooja Daddani, Singh and three other members of



the actor's entourage landed at the General Aviation Terminal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport around 12.30 am in a chartered flight.

During the screening of their baggage, customs personnel found six luxury watches in two of the six bags of the entourage members, the official said. The watches were evaluated for Rs 17.86 lakh and based on the prevailing rate, customs duty of Rs 6.88 lakh was levied, he said.

Earlier, Khan and the other members of his entourage were stopped at the General Aviation Terminal for an hour while the baggage screening was in process, he said. While Singh was asked to stay back as the actor's representative for some time, the other five members, including Khan, were allowed to leave the airport, after which the customs duty payment process was completed, the official said.

Stalin-led all-party meet 'rejects' 10% EWS quota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 12: An all-Legislative party meeting, chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Saturday, said it rejected the 103rd Constitutional Amendment providing 10 per cent EWS quota by the Centre, saying it created caste-discrimination among the poor.

The meeting, boycotted by Principal opposition AIADMK and its ally BJP, urged the state government to register its opinions when a review petition is filed. The ruling DMK had announced it would file a review petition against the November 8 five-judge Supreme Court Bench upholding the 10 per cent reservation for the economically weaker sections (EWS). The quota was upheld 3-2 by the Bench.

"We reject the 103rd Constitutional Amendment providing 10 per cent reservation to castes that have progressed since it is against the social justice envisioned by the Constitution, against various apex court verdicts, and for creating caste discrimination among the poor," the all-party meeting resolved.

"When a review petition is filed in the Supreme Court in this connection, we request the Tamil Nadu government to also strongly place its opinions to ensure social justice and equality," the resolution read.

While the participating parties supported poverty alleviation schemes, "we will not allow the basic values of social justice concept to be shattered." Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Higher Education Minister K Ponnudiyil said those who attended the meeting extended support to the issue. DMK's allies - Congress, Left

The Bihar government has been consistently working towards providing best-possible education to the students of the state. The government has decided to increase the budget allocation for the sector from 21 per cent to 25 per cent of the total budget

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

GARUDA-VII ENDS

The seventh edition of the bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the French Air and Space Force (FASF), Garuda-VII concluded at Air Force Station, Jodhpur Saturday



Kerala govt sends ordinance to axe Guv as Chancellor



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 12: The CPI(M)-led government in Kerala Saturday sent its ordinance to remove the Governor from the post of Chancellor of universities in the state, to the Raj Bhavan for approval, days after the cabinet had taken a decision in this connection.

Raj Bhavan sources confirmed that the ordinance to replace the Governor as Chancellor of varsities and appoint eminent academicians in that role, has reached its office for the assent of Arif Mohammed Khan. However, it is unlikely for the Governor to promulgate the ordinance soon as the tussle between him and the state government over the issue is yet to die down, sources added.

The Pinarayi Vijayan-headed government on Wednesday had decided to come out with the ordinance, a move opposed by both the Congress and BJP. The opposition parties have alleged that the cabinet decision was aimed at turning universities in Kerala into

The Pinarayi Vijayan-headed government Wednesday had decided to come out with the ordinance, a move opposed by both the Congress and BJP

"Communist centres". Meanwhile, ministers P Rajeev and V Sivankutty expressed hope that the Governor would promulgate the ordinance without any delay. When journalists pointed out the Governor's recent reported statement that he would send the ordinance to the President, Law Minister P Rajeev said he does not think that a person upholding a constitutional post would say so without even seeing the document. "I have not seen his interviews completely. But I don't think that a person holding a constitutional position would say so. Those holding a constitutional position cannot approach any matter with prejudice. So, if he had said that he would send it to the President even before seeing it, that means he is prejudiced," the minister said.

Rajiv killers released from jail



Nalini Sriharan, one of the convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, being released from prison in Vellore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 12: Nalini Sriharan and other convicts in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case finally walked out of the Tamil Nadu prisons Saturday evening after about three decades of incarceration.

Nalini, wife of V Sriharan alias Murugan, who was the first to be released, claimed her firm belief that she is innocent had kept her alive all these years. "Otherwise, I would have ended my life. Do you think I have murdered the former Prime Minister? Seventeen murder

cases have been framed against me," the 55-year-old Nalini said in her first reaction to the media after she stepped out of the special prison for women in Vellore, about 150 kilometres from here.

Her husband Murugan - a Sri Lankan national - along with another convict Santhan, also from Sri Lanka, were released from the Vellore prison.

Besides them, two other Sri Lankan nationals - Robert Payas and Jayakumar - were released from the Puzhal prison here. All the four were taken to the special refugee camp in Tiruchirappalli

to be lodged there.

Earlier, another convict who was set free in May, A G Perarivalan, along with his mother Arputhammal received the duo at Puzhal prison. The sixth convict P Ravichandran, on parole in the coastal Thoothukudi district, was brought to Madurai prison where he completed the formalities and was released.

Immediately after her release from prison, Nalini went to the Vellore central prison and became emotional upon seeing Murugan. The Supreme Court on Friday set free Nalini Sriharan and five other remaining convicts, who are serving life term for about three decades in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, noting that its earlier order releasing another convict A G Perarivalan was equally applicable to them.

Earlier in the day, with relief writ large on her face, Nalini, on parole for a month, was escorted by the police to sign at the Katpadi police station. Later in the afternoon, she was taken to the Vellore prison to complete the formalities related to her release.

Similarly, the Supreme Court's order copies were sent to the Puzhal and Madurai central prisons where the remaining persons have been lodged.



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

PTI PHOTO

'Per capita income in real terms grew by 33.4% in 8 yrs since NFSA'

In an affidavit filed before the top court, the Union government said this rise in per capita income of people has taken a large number of households to higher income class

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Per capita income of population in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent since the enactment of National Food Security Act (NFSA) in 2013, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

In an affidavit filed before the top court, the Union government said this rise in per capita income

of people has taken a large number of households to higher income class.

"During last eight years, since the enactment of NFSA, per capita income of the population in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent. The rise in per capita income of people is bound to have taken a large number of households to higher income class and they may not be as vulnerable as they were in 2013-14," the Centre said.

The affidavit was filed in response to a plea seeking welfare measures for migrant workers. The government has notified the National Food Security Act, 2013 on September 10, 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to



people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of up to 75 per cent of the

rural population and up to 50 per cent of the urban population for receiving subsidised

foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Referring to the increase in per capita income, the Centre said the upper limit of 75 per cent for rural and 50 per cent for urban population who were considered vulnerable in 2013-14, would have gone down considerably.

"Non-exclusion of non-eligible households in NFSA increases the subsidy burden on the Union government," it said.

The Union government also informed the top court that about 4.7 crore ration cards have been added in the last eight years under NFSA.

"The overall national ceiling under NFSA is 81.4 crore beneficiaries and a few states are yet to reach their state ceiling. Actual national coverage is nearly 79.8 crore as on August 31. Under

NFSA ceiling, there is still scope for adding approximately 1.6 crore beneficiaries for Antyodaya Anna Yojana and priority households categories," it said.

Migrant workers play a very vital role in building the nation and their rights cannot be ignored at all, the top court had earlier said while asking the Centre to devise a mechanism so that they receive food grains without ration cards.

It also observed that citizens are dying due to hunger despite our development and modalities should be set out to ensure that maximum migrant workers are given rations. The apex court had said the welfare schemes devised by the Centre should reach a maximum number of workers and the state governments will have to cooperate and assist the Union of India.

People in Himachal heights brave extreme cold to vote



Voters waded through snow as they make way to their nearest polling booth to cast their votes in Bharmour constituency area.

ELECTORATES OF REMOTE KINNAUR, CHAMBA AND LAHAUL-SPITI DISTRICTS HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF DEMOCRACY IN INDEPENDENT INDIA AS THEY WERE THE FIRST TO EXERCISE THEIR FRANCHISE MONTHS AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE NATION FOR THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTIONS

THIS WAS DONE TO ENSURE THAT SNOWFALL DID NOT DEPRIVE THE TRIBALS OF THE PRIVILEGE OF EXERCISING THEIR FRANCHISE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Nov 12: Shimla, Nov 12: Himachal Pradesh recorded a voter turnout of nearly 66 per cent Saturday; the Election Commission said citing provisional polling figures till 5pm for the assembly elections, a crucial test for the BJP hoping to beat precedent and return to power as well as for the Congress looking for electoral revival.

From capital Shimla to the icy heights of Spiti, people across the state voted braving cold and in the higher reaches of mountains trudging through snow to elect a new state government.

Voting began at 8am on a slow note but picked up as the day progressed and the sun warmed the winter chill.

In the first hour, around five per cent turnout was recorded, while by 11am, it was 17.98 per cent. It notched up to 37.19 per cent by 1pm and 55.65 per cent till 3pm.

Till 5pm, a 66.58 per cent turnout was recorded, according to provisional polling data released by the Election Commission (EC).

In the 2017 assembly elections, the polling percentage was 75.57, up from 73.5 per cent in the 2012 assembly polls.

The highest polling of 72.79 per cent was recorded in Sirmour district followed by 68.48 per cent in Solan and 68.48 per cent in Una, 68.03 per cent in Mandi and 67.5 per cent in Lahaul and Spiti.

The high-altitude district of Lahaul and Spiti had recorded 21.95 per cent, the lowest, till 1pm, but polling was brisk as the sun came out.

The poll panel's data showed that among the 68 assembly constituencies in the hill state, Seraj in Mandi district from where Chief Minister Jairam Thakur contested had the highest polling percent-

age of 82.22, followed by Shillai 77 per cent, Sujanpur 73.65 per cent. Bajinath and Sarkaghat recorded 50.25 per cent, the lowest, and 55.40 per cent, respectively, the provisional data showed.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Maneesh Garg said the final figures will be known after all poll parties return and final scrutiny of documents.

The polling process was peaceful and proper arrangements were made for the same. There was no untoward incident, and elections saw a very good response from the people. Even in snowbound areas people came out in large numbers with full zeal and enthusiasm, he told PTI.

The efforts of the Election Department and the EC towards ensuring peaceful elections could not have borne the desired results without active participation of the people, Garg said.

There were around 130 polling booths in tribal areas of Lahaul and Spiti, Chamba and a few in Kinnaur assembly constituency that were affected by snow, he said.

More than 38,000 people above 80 years of age, persons with disabilities and essential service voters have cast their vote through postal ballot, the EC said.

In an early morning message to voters, Prime Minister Narendra



A group of people gathered at a polling station in a snowy mountainous area.

At minus 10 degrees C, world's highest polling stn sees 100% turnout

At minus 10-degree Celsius, Tashigang, the world's highest polling station at a height of 15,256 feet in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul and Spiti district, Saturday saw a 100 per cent turnout. Tashigang, a village some 34 km from Kaza, is the highest settlement in the Spiti Valley close to the India-Tibet border. The village had 52 voters, most of them reached the polling station donning traditional attire. "I am participating in the election every year to keep the democracy alive," 78-year-old Sonam Dolma told the media. First-timer voter Tenzin Nodan said she was enthusiastic about casting her first vote. "For me, voting was very important." In the 2021 parliamentary bypoll for Mandi, Tashigang saw 100 per cent polling.

Modi urged them to enthusiastically participate in the festival of democracy and register a voting record. In a tweet, Modi also greeted young voters who will be exercising their franchise for the first time.

Enthusiasm voters to back the Congress, former party president Rahul Gandhi also asked them to turn out in large numbers and make their contribution in the progress and prosperous future of the state.

Himachal will vote for OPS (old pension scheme), Himachal will vote for employment, Himachal will vote for 'Har Ghar Lakshmi', he said in a tweet in Hindi.

If the ruling BJP is hoping for an encore on the back of its development agenda, the opposition Congress, desperate to wrest the state back from the BJP after multiple electoral losses and losing nine states in two years, is appealing to voters to go by the four-decade tradition of voting out incumbents in the state.

More than 55 lakh voters in the state are deciding the fate of 412 candidates in this high stakes political battle. Twenty-four women candidates are in the fray this time. Of the total voters, 28,54,945 are male and 27,37,845 female.



INKED: A voter shows her finger marked with indelible ink after casting her vote at a polling station at Jalot village in Kangra district, Saturday

South India gets its 1st Vande Bharat Express

The train connects Mysuru and Chennai via Bangalore. This is the fifth Vande Bharat Express train in the country

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday flagged off the inaugural special of south India's first Vande Bharat Express at Krantiveera Sangolli Railway station here.

It will enhance connectivity between the industrial hub of Chennai, the tech-cum-startup hub of Bangalore and the famous tourist city of Mysuru, officials said.

The Prime Minister said, The Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express will boost connectivity as well as commercial activities. It will also enhance 'Ease of Living'.

According to Railway officials, Vande Bharat Express is equipped with advanced state-of-the-art safety features including an indigenously developed Train Collision Avoidance System - KAVACH. It can pick up a speed of 0 to 100 kilometres per hour in just 52 seconds, and a maximum speed of up to 180 kilometres per hour.

The country's first Vande Bharat Express train was flagged off in 2019 on the New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route.

On Friday, the Prime Minister also flagged off the 'Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan' train, which is operated by Karnataka's Muzrai Department, under the 'Bharat Gaurav' train policy of Railways. It (Bharat Gaurav train) will fill



A Vande Bharat Express train at a station.

the dream of numerous travellers intending to undertake Kashi Yatra, according to the South Western Railway. The train offers an eight-day tour package at discounted rates for pilgrims.

Official sources said the Karnataka government gives cash assistance of Rs 5,000 to the Kashi Vishwanath Yatra pilgrims. This train covers holy places including Varanasi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Karnataka is the first state to take up this train under the 'Bharat Gaurav' scheme in which the state government and the Ministry of Railways are working together to send pilgrims from Karnataka to Varanasi (Kashi). The pilgrims will be provided comfortable stay and guidance for visiting Kashi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj, the statement read.

Biodiversity hotspot Karnataka pays for careless govt actions

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 12: Karnataka, which is recognised as one of the 35 biodiversity hotspots in the world and one of the four in India, is headed towards climate catastrophe, warn environmentalists.

Environmentalist and founding member of the Foundation for Ecological Security Dr AN Yallappa Reddy stated that Karnataka is already starting to witness climate catastrophe.

"Karnataka has been facing a climate catastrophe. It happened in Bangalore recently. The Western Ghats have been eroding in floods. Not a word has been spoken about what was being stated in the UN at COP-27," Yallappa Reddy said.

The state government has recently denotified 120 square kilometres of the Bannerghatta National Park forests located on the outskirts of Bangalore for de-

velopment, he says. Karnataka ranks fourth among the top five states in terms of increase in forest cover. Its forest cover is about 22.61 per cent of the state's geographical area, says India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021, published by the Forest Survey of India.

However, the situation looks bleak, says Yallappa Reddy. Nearly 50 per cent of Ballary district has been robbed by mining, illegal and legal. "They are levying fines and regularizing the encroachments of forests, regularizing destruction of biodiversity," he said.

COP-27 have been totally violated.

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However, the situation looks bleak, says Yallappa Reddy. Nearly 50 per cent of Ballary district has been robbed by mining, illegal and legal. "They are levying fines and regularizing the encroachments of forests, regularizing destruction of biodiversity," he said.



A group of tigers and other animals in a forest.

Environment activist SR Hiremath, who took on the mining mafia single-handedly resulting in the jailing of powerful mining baron Gali Janardhana Reddy, explained that the government should have a policy of allowing minimum level mining. The companies which take up mining should be made accountable to recreate the landscape which existed before mining. Intergenerational equity is possible only if action is taken, he said.

"If not, we all know about the extinction of the dinosaurs. This is the sixth extinction and human beings are first to get extinct. We are going towards it. Greed should be contained," Hiremath stressed.

"The Supreme Court took a noble decision by not entertaining the demand of the Federation of Indian Mineral Industry (FIMI), which demanded that the ceiling on mining should be removed. Unfortunately, the concerned authorities, the state governments as well as the central government stated the ceiling should be taken off," he said.

Yathish Baigampadi, an activist from coastal Karnataka, stated that while implementing any plan in the coastal region the government is not bothering to consider the experience of fishermen. The landscape is altering the coastlines. The shorelines which should not be altered are disturbed.

Centenarians cast their votes in Himachal polls



An elderly woman casting her vote.

Shimla, Nov 12: Dropping temperatures and advancing years failed to dampen the enthusiasm of centenarians as many of them came out to vote in assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh Saturday, with 105-year-old Naro Devi exercising her franchise in Churah in Chamba and 103-year-old Sardar Pyar Singh in Shimla.

There are over 1.21 lakh people above 80 years of age in the hill state with as many as 1,136 centenarians. The Election Commission had made special arrangements for the elderly and persons with disabilities at polling

stations across the state.

It was an honour to meet and felicitate Sardar Pyar Singh, 103 years old, on International Day of elderly persons. Here, he is seen casting his vote with his same indomitable spirit and zeal, said the state's Chief Electoral Officer, Maneesh Garg, while sharing a picture on the EC Twitter handle.

Naro Devi, 105, chose to cast her vote in a polling booth in Churah constituency of Chamba, despite the EC creating special facilities for the elderly to cast their postal ballot. Madari Ram, 98, voted at Vijaypur, Bilaspur.

Himachal was home to 106-year-old Shyam Saran Negi, India's first voter, who died a few days ago after casting his postal ballot for this election. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had visited Negi's residence in Kalpa in Kinnaur and had said the real tribute to him would be for all citizens to take part in voting and strengthen democracy in the country.

The EC said Chasak Bhatpuri, an 83-year-old woman, was among those who cast their vote in the remote Bharmour constituency in Chamba despite heavy snow.

Bharmour is the farthest in the state being at a distance of 14 km from the nearest road head. Seeing huge response from the voters despite heavy snow, the EC said sharing her picture in snow.

In a first, ISRO supplies rocket system for pvt launch vehicle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 12: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has for the first time supplied a rocket system to support a private launch vehicle built in the country.

Chennai-based space technology startup Agnikul Cosmos received its first flight termination system (FTS) November 7 from ISRO, with the support of IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre), a single-window autonomous government agency to promote, permit, and oversee private sector space-based activities.

The official handing over event happened marking the culmination of multiple rounds of interactions about interfacing, handling and using these systems on Agnikul's launch vehicle 'Agnibaan', the national space agency headquartered here said in a statement Friday.

This also marks the first time that a system that has been used for ISRO's vehicles is being supplied for supporting a private launch vehicle built in India. The package will be used for their fully controlled sub-orbital launcher, scheduled to launch from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota, it said.

According to Agnikul, Agnibaan

is a highly customisable, 2-stage launch vehicle.

On November 4, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), the lead Centre of ISRO for the development of launch vehicles, facilitated the hot testing of a rocket engine developed by Agnikul Cosmos.

VSSC successfully conducted the 15 seconds hot test of Agnilet Engine at its Vertical Test Facility, Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), Thiruvananthapuram.

The test was carried out as part of a MoU signed between ISRO and Agnikul Cosmos to provide opportunity for Indian space start-ups to use facilities

of ISRO through IN-SPACE.

Agnilet is a regeneratively cooled 1.4 kN semi-cryogenic engine using liquid oxygen and aviation turbine fuel as propellants. This engine is realised through state-of-the-art 3D printing technology, it was stated.

"Humbled to announce that we successfully test fired one version of our patented technology based single piece, fully 3d printed, 2nd stage semi cryo engine - Agnilet - at VSSC," Agnikul had tweeted.

"Besides validating our in-house tech, this is also a huge step for us in understanding how to design, develop & fire rocket engines at a professional level. An unforgettable day for Agnikul!" it said.



Agnikul rocket launch vehicle.

of the day quote

PM is now on a 2-day visit of 4 South Indian states that the Yatra has been through. There will undoubtedly be big photo-ops for camera-jeevi. But no antics can match the connect from walking with and LISTENING to the people

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

In 2014, when Narendra Modi became the prime minister of India, he started giving the respect to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose which he always and rightly deserved

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Congress's pledge is - progress of Himachal Pradesh, 'har ghar mein Lakshmi', empowerment of every section

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

70 new dengue cases in Assam

Guwahati: Seventy new dengue cases were detected in Assam, taking the tally to 796, according to data issued Saturday. Karbi Anglong continued to be the worst-hit as the district reported 55 new cases, said the National Health Mission, Assam. Eight new cases were reported in Kamrup Metropolitan, while Bongaigaon and Jorhat accounted for two each. Cachar, Dima Hasao and Tinsukia reported one case each. The state has been witnessing a surge in dengue cases since November 1.

Four arrested for sexual assault

Kolkata: Police arrested four persons for alleged sexual assault of a woman at a party in a resort in Rajarhat on the eastern outskirts of the city, a police official said Saturday. The alleged incident took place on the night of November 9 and the four were apprehended on Friday after specific complaints by the victim. The woman complained at Rajarhat police station that she was sexually assaulted by four men on November 9 night when she visited a villa of the resort where a party was on.

Maha man kills neighbour's dog

Beed (Maha): A man allegedly shot his neighbour's pet dog for barking at him in Maharashtra's Beed district, police said Saturday. The incident took place in Dharavati Tanda area of Parli taluka on Friday morning, an official said. The accused allegedly shot his neighbour Vikas Bansode's female pet dog after she barked at him, he said. A staffer at Bansode's beer bar witnessed the shooting and informed him about it, the official said.

Woman injured in leopard attack

Mumbai: A 34-year-old woman was injured in an attack by a leopard at Aarey Colony in suburban Goregaon, police said Saturday. The incident took place Friday evening, they said. "Sangita Gurav, a resident of Aarey Colony, was returning home from her workplace when she spotted a leopard in the area and started running to save herself, but fell down. After that the leopard pounced on her," a police official said. The woman sustained injuries on her neck and back, he said, adding that the feline then disappeared into the forest.

Abuses are my nutrition: PM



I want to tell them, whatever quantity of abusive words you use against Modi, I will digest all of them. You abuse BJP, no problem. We grew like that. But if you abuse the people of Telangana, then it becomes give and take

NARENDRA MODI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said the country is watching people's anger against family politics and alleged corruption in Telangana and assured them that those who "loot" the poor will not be spared.

Modi also made light of criticism by leaders of the ruling TRS and other parties against him, saying the "23 kg" of abuses he receives everyday keeps him going to serve people as such words are the "nutrition" that turns the harsh remarks into positive energy. He said some people, out of disappointment, depression and fear have 'exhausted' the dictionary to abuse him.

In strong remarks aimed at the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, Modi alleged that the party on which people reposed faith has betrayed them, adding the state needs a government that works for all families and not just one. He, however, did not name the TRS or KCR.

Modi was addressing BJP workers at the Begumpet airport here soon after his arrival on a visit to the state. Like in the recent past, KCR did not receive the Prime Minister at the airport. He was on his way to Ramagundam to dedicate the Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd (RFCL) plant to the nation.

The Prime Minister also asserted that 'Lotus will bloom' everywhere in Telangana, remarks that come ahead of the 2023 Assembly elec-

tions in the state where the BJP is making vigorous efforts to challenge the TRS. Lotus is BJP's party symbol. Reacting to Modi's remarks, TRS MLC K Kavitha said he came empty-handed without announcing anything and that he only delivered "empty" words.

"Today Prime Minister Modi came to our State. He came empty-handed... Other than delivering empty words, he doesn't do anything good for us," said Kavitha, daughter of KCR. Recalling his earlier speech from the Red Fort where he spoke against family politics, Modi said the country is watching people's anger against alleged corruption and family politics in Telangana. "I assure the people of Telangana today. Those who loot the poor will not be spared," he declared.

Some people are trying to unite to save themselves from action and form an alliance of the corrupt, but people of Telangana and the country are watching this, and understand what is happening, he said. Corruption and family politics are the biggest enemies of the poor and development, and the BJP is fighting against them, he added.

The Prime Minister said the people who flourished and got power in the name of Telangana have pushed it backward. "The government and the leader here continue to do injustice to the capacity of Telangana and the talent of the people of Telangana. The party which the Telangana people trusted the most, the same party has done the biggest betrayal to Telangana," he charged, without naming TRS.



The entire AAP government is focusing on poll-bound Gujarat, while the people in Punjab suffer. Over the past six months, the state has witnessed loot and murder. No government exists in the state

SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL | SHIROMANI AKALI DAL CHIEF

AQI WORSENS IN BIHAR

The AQI in various cities of Bihar is worsening with Darbhanga, being the most polluted city of the state recording an AQI of 400 on Saturday



Woman arrested for kidnapping infant for sacrifice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: A 25-year-old woman was arrested in southeast Delhi for allegedly kidnapping an infant to sacrifice him to bring her dead father to life, police said Saturday.

The child was recovered safely from the accused, identified as Shweta, a resident of Kotla Mubarakpur, they said. She was previously involved in two cases of robbery and burglary, police said. On Thursday around 4 pm, information was received that a two-month-old boy was kidnapped by an unknown woman from Garhi area, they said.

A team comprising sub-inspector Rajinder Singh, head constables Ravinder Giri, Sher Singh, Sachin Saroha, Neeraj Kumar and Dinesh Kumar, and woman constable Poonam was formed to crack the case.

The team was led by SHO Amar Colony police station Pradeep Rawat.

According to the police, the infant's mother informed that the kidnapper met her in Safdarjung Hospital and introduced herself as member of an NGO working for Jachcha-Bachcha care. Shweta promised to provide free medicine and consultation to the mother and the child. Later, she followed them on the pretext of examining the newly born baby, police said.

Cong vows to rename stadium

The party, which has been out of power in Gujarat for more than two decades, also promised unemployment allowance of ₹3,000 per month, ₹2,000 pension to divyangs, widows, senior citizens and needy women, and waiver of loans of up to ₹3 lakh of all fishermen, among other things

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 12: The opposition Congress Saturday said it would restore the name of the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera area of Ahmedabad as Sardar Patel Stadium if voted to power in upcoming Gujarat elections.

In its poll manifesto, the Congress also said it would revoke the remission granted by the state government to 11 convicts in the 2002 Bilkis Bano case allowing their premature release from jail. The 11 men convicted in the case walked out of the Godhra sub-jail on August 15.

The manifesto was released by Rajasthan Chief Minister and Congress' senior observer for Gujarat polls Ashok Gehlot here at the party headquarters.

"Today, some activists from



Karamsad town (the native place of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel), gave us a memorandum demanding that the stadium be renamed Sardar Patel Stadium which was its original name. We promise the stadium will be renamed as Sardar Patel Stadium in the first Cabinet meeting of our government," said Congress manifesto committee chairman Dipak Babaria.

Talking to reporters, senior Congress leader Madhusudan Mistry said Sardar Patel's stature was much bigger than PM Modi and the latter should be ashamed of renaming the stadium after himself.

"PM Modi changed the name of the stadium because he wants to put himself on par with Sardar Patel. Though the prime minister compares himself with Patel, he stands nowhere in comparison to Sardar Patel. We will change the name of the stadium in the first Cabinet meeting," Mistry added.

Hitting back at Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party's national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the opposition party has no moral right to talk about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of independent India.

"Despite Sardar Patel being everyone's choice, Jawaharlal Nehru became the prime minister after independence. Congress did not start any scheme after Patel for the first 8 to 10 years. They started it only after 1958-60. And I do not remember if any Congress leader has yet visited the Statue of Unity, built as a tribute to Sardar Patel by PM Modi," Trivedi told reporters in Gandhinagar.

The Congress also promised ten lakh jobs in government and semi-government departments, free medical treatment of up to ₹10 lakh, LPG cylinders at ₹500 and 300 units of free electricity every month.

Woman gangraped in front of husband

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 12: A 45-year old woman was allegedly raped by four men in front of her husband in Rajasthan's Sirohi district, police said Saturday.

The four men had entered the couple's home with the intention to rob them, they said. The couple was in a state of shock and stayed inside the house on Thursday before registering a case at the local police station on Friday, the police added.

Three accused were arrested on Saturday, while the fourth is being traced, they added. Deputy Superintendent of Police (Pindwara) Jethu Singh said the woman's husband worked as a watchman. The couple was preparing to sleep on Wednesday night when the four men entered their home and held them hostage.

"They stripped the man and took ₹1,400 from him. They demanded more cash and other valuables but the couple had nothing much except some silver jewellery. "When the robbers did not get anything else, they raped the woman in front of her husband," he said.

The officer said the police swung into action after receiving information about the case and personnel from different stations were engaged in identifying and tracing the accused. "Three of them have been arrested today (Saturday). Our teams are also chasing the fourth accused and he will also be caught," he said.



Conman dares Kejriwal, Jain to take polygraph test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Jailed conman Suresh Chandrashekhar has said he was ready to face a polygraph test but demanded that it should be conducted 'face-to-face' with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP minister Satyendar Jain and the process be telecast live.

In a statement issued through his lawyer, Chandrashekhar also insisted that his allegations were true. "The polygraph test (should) be conducted as a face-to-face confrontation conducted in the presence of all the three together and



the process be telecasted live so that the whole country can watch the 'pandora's box' of reality of Mr

On Tuesday, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari demanded a televised lie detector test for Kejriwal, Satyendar Jain and Suresh Chandrashekhar

Kejriwal and Mr Jain unfold in the open," he said in the statement dated November 11.

Tuesday, BJP MP and the party's former Delhi unit chief Manoj Tiwari demanded a televised lie detector test for Kejriwal, Jain and Chandrashekhar. Earlier this week, Chandrashekhar wrote to Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena alleging that he was receiving threats to withdraw his complaints against Kejriwal and AAP leaders Jain and Kailash Gehlot, and sought transfer to a jail outside the city.

Chandrashekhar had earlier written to Saxena seeking a CBI probe against Kejriwal and others for alleged threat and corruption. He had alleged that Jain extorted

₹10 crore from him in 2019 in exchange for his safety in prison. Chandrashekhar later issued a press release alleging that he had delivered ₹50 crore to Jain at his farmhouse in Asola in 2016, after which Kejriwal and others met him at a hotel for dinner.

Earlier in the day, Kejriwal said the BJP should make Chandrashekhar its national president as he was speaking the same language as the saffron party.

During a press conference, Kejriwal alleged that the BJP had brought Chandrashekhar into its fold as a star campaigner.

In UP, there is politics in the air but no air in politics

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS THE FARMERS THE MOST BUT WHILE POLITICAL LEADERS TALKED EXTENSIVELY ABOUT INCREASING FARMERS' INCOME, THEY DID NOT DWELL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 12: In Uttar Pradesh, there is politics in the air but no air in politics.

Even as the world struggles with issues related to climate change and its impact, the most populous state of the country remains completely cold to rising temperatures, melting glaciers in neighbouring Uttarakhand that will directly impact Uttar Pradesh and other vagaries of weather that included

erratic and out-of-season excessive monsoon.

Interestingly, a survey on voters' perception by a climate conscious NGO, just before this year's assembly elections, found that climate change and air pollution were important issues for the voters.

However, the poll manifestoes of all major political parties did not mention a word about these issues. Climate change impacts the farmer the most but while political leaders talked extensively about



increasing farmers' income, they did not dwell on climate change.

Climate change does not appear to be a state-level priority for the parties. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is currently in power in Uttar Pradesh, believes so. BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said, "This is not a state assembly election issue; hence it does not find mention in the Lok Kalyan Sankalp

Patra 2022. But this does not mean that as a party, we are not concerned. At the national level steps are being taken to deal with the problem."

For the Aam Aadmi Party, which has been in the news for its pollution control strategy in Delhi, the last page of its manifesto refers to generic issues pertaining to the environment and pollution

control, but does not mention climate change.

AAP spokesperson Vaibhav Maheshwari acknowledged that the topic is missing from the Aam Aadmi Party's overall public-facing election campaign as "we are focussing on issues that are of immediate concern to the people." He said, "I admit the issue of climate and pollution is missing. But once voted to power, we will ensure a better environment by framing, amending and implementing relevant policies with inputs of subject experts."

The Samajwadi Party poll manifesto came up with 22 resolutions and none of them focus specifically on climate change. The party clubs environmental conservation more broadly with urban development. Some time ago, SP spokesperson

Rajendra Chaudhary had said, "SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had studied as an environmental engineer and that "environment and better air quality is always an issue for us."

"Our manifesto does speak about focusing on sensitising children about environment conservation as they will eventually champion the cause," he said. The Rashtriya Lok Dal, a key ally of the Samajwadi Party, fares relatively better. Its manifesto discusses environmental issues and sustainability - but still falls short of specifying any climate-centric priorities. "Our focus is on checking industrial pollution, promoting afforestation, and offering an attractive electric-vehicle policy," said party secretary Anil Dubey.

international

of the day quote

If North Korea keeps going down this road, it will simply mean further enhanced American military and security presence in the region

JAKE SULLIVAN | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, WHITE HOUSE

Everybody has failed in relation to Myanmar. The international community as a whole has failed, and the UN is part of the international community

ANTONIO GUTERRES | CHIEF, UNITED NATIONS

Ties between the United Kingdom and India will remain on a phenomenal upward trajectory under Rishi Sunak

BORIS JOHNSON | FORMER PM, UK

SHORT TAKES

Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif may end his self-exile and return from London to lead his party in the next general elections, according to a media report Saturday. On Friday, it was reported that the 72-year-old three-time former prime minister was given a diplomatic passport by the PMN-L party-led government. A PML-N party insider, privy to the matter, has expressed confidence that Sharif, the will finally return in December but said the long-anticipated homecoming will not signal the government's intentions to concede on the issue of early elections as demanded by Imran Khan, the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

US cuts methane emissions norm

Sharm El-Sheikh: The Biden administration Friday ramped up efforts to reduce methane emissions, targeting the oil and gas industry for its role in global warming even as President Joe Biden has pressed energy producers for more oil drilling to lower prices at the gasoline pump. Biden announced a supplemental rule cracking down on emissions of methane — a potent greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to global warming and packs a stronger short-term punch than even carbon dioxide — as he attended a global climate conference in Egypt. The new methane rule will help ensure that the US meets a goal set by more than 100 nations to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030 from 2020 levels.

Moon rocket set for 1st test flight

CAPE CANAVERAL: NASA's moon rocket needs only minor repairs after enduring a hurricane at the pad and is on track for its first test flight next week, a top official said. "Right now, there's nothing preventing us" from attempting a launch Wednesday, said NASA's Jim Free, an associate administrator. The wind never exceeded the rocket's design limits as Hurricane Nicole swept through Kennedy Space Centre Thursday, says Free.

Trump files lawsuit to avoid subpoena

WASHINGTON: Former President Donald Trump is suing the House committee investigating the Jan 6 attack on the US Capitol to avoid cooperating with a subpoena requiring him to testify. The suit filed Friday evening contends that, while former presidents have voluntarily agreed to provide testimony or documents in response to congressional subpoenas in the past, "no president or former president has ever been compelled to do so."



The world is hoping to crucify us. We want people to match us, and we want to make sure people put their money where their mouths are

ABDULAZIZ BIN SALMAN | PRINCE, SAUDI ARABIA

UNIQUE GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

For visiting the most bars in a single day, a Melbourne-based South African native set a Guinness World Record. Through a 24-hour epic pub crawl, he visited 78 different places and accomplished this milestone. He was accompanied by friends Ruald de Villiers and Wessel Burger along the way



CLIMATE TALKS NEAR HALFTIME BUT NO SUCCESS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sharm El-Sheikh, Nov 12: As the UN climate talks in Egypt near the half-way point, negotiators are working hard to draft deals on a wide range of issues they'll put to ministers next week in the hope of getting a substantial result by the end.

The two-week meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh started with strong appeals from world leaders for greater efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and help poor nations cope with global warming. Scientists say the amount of greenhouse gases being pumped into the atmosphere needs to be halved by 2030 to meet the goals of the Paris climate accord.

The 2015 pact set a target of ideally limiting temperature rise to 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) by the end of the century, but left it up to countries to decide how they want to do so.

With impacts from climate change already felt across the globe, particularly by the world's poorest, there has also been a push by campaigners and developing nations for rich polluters to stump up more cash. This would be used to help developing countries shift to clean energy and adapt to global warming; increasingly there are also calls for compensation to pay for climate-related losses.

The hosts of last year's talks in Glasgow said they managed to "keep 1.5 alive," including by getting countries to endorse the target in the outcome document. But UN chief Antonio Guterres has warned that the temperature goal is on life support "and the machines are rattling."

And campaigners were disappointed that agenda this year doesn't explicitly cite the threshold after pushback from some major oil and gas exporting nations. The talks' chair, Egypt, can still convene discussions on putting it in the final agreement.



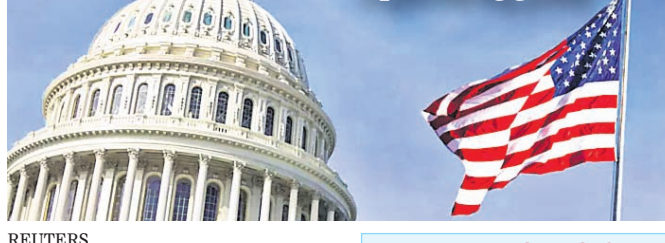
Climate activists protest climate justice and human rights at the Sharm El-Sheikh International Convention Centre, during the COP27 climate summit, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

NOW OR NEVER

US MIDTERMS Dems one seat shy of Senate control

- Senate control still undecided
- Vote count could take days
- Republicans move closer to control of House

Biden's party avoided historical trends by limiting their losses in Tuesday's midterm elections, shocking Republicans who had expected big gains



REUTERS

Phoenix, Nov 12: Incumbent Democrat Mark Kelly defeated Republican Blake Masters Friday to win a US Senate seat in Arizona, a contest that left Democrats one seat short in the battle for control of the chamber with two more races to be decided.

The win by Kelly, a former astronaut whose wife, Gabby Giffords, survived an assassination attempt when she was a US lawmaker, meant Democrats had battled to a 49-49 tie in the race for the Senate.

"I'm humbled by the trust our state has placed in me to continue this work," Kelly said on Twitter. Control of the Senate - and the shape of President Joe Biden's next two years in office - will now hinge on contests in Nevada and Georgia. Democrats needed one more seat for control, since Vice President Kamala Harris can cast the tie-breaking vote.

In the fight for control of the House of Representatives, Republicans were inching closer to becoming the majority and ending four years of rule by Democrats. That would give Republicans veto

TRUMP LASHES OUT

Days before he is expected to launch another White House run, Donald Trump is again at war with his own party, angrily denouncing potential rivals, airing old grievances and acting more like the insurgent who stormed to victory six years ago than a former president. But it comes as a growing chorus of Republicans are blaming him for their weaker-than-expected performance in midterms.

power over Democrat Biden's legislative agenda and allow them to launch potentially damaging investigations into his administration.

Republicans had secured at least 211 of the 218 House seats they need for a majority. Edison Research projected late Thursday, while Democrats had won 199. Many of the races where winners have not yet been determined are in Arizona, California and Washington state.

Despite the real possibility that they may lose the House, Democrats have still cheered their success in curbing their predicted losses after they galvanized voters angry over the Supreme Court's decision in June to overturn the constitutional right to an abortion.

Biden hails new US-ASEAN pact

In his first visit to Southeast Asia as President, Biden said the region was at the heart of his administration's Indo-Pacific strategy

REUTERS

Phnom Penh, Nov 12: Southeast Asian heads of government held talks on Saturday with visiting global leaders including US President Joe Biden, who hailed the launch of a new US-ASEAN pact as a critical step towards tackling "the biggest issues of our time".

In his first visit to Southeast Asia as president, Biden said the region was at the heart of his administration's Indo-Pacific strategy and Washington was committing resources, not just rhetoric, under a new Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

"Together we will tackle the biggest issues of our time, from climate, to health security, to defend against the significant threat to the rule-based order," he said, opening a meeting in Cambodia with lead-



President Joe Biden and ASEAN leaders at the 10th ASEAN-U.S. Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

ers of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"We will build an Indo Pacific that's free and open, stable and prosperous, and resilient and secure," he added.

ASEAN is engaging a host of leaders, including Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Australian Prime Minister Anthony

Albanese and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol.

The event is the first in a series of summits in Southeast Asia over the next seven days that are expected to discuss tricky global issues, from the war in Ukraine, climate, and regional tensions over the Taiwan Strait, the South China Sea and North Korean missile launches.

800 test Covid +ve on cruise ship in Oz

REUTERS

Sydney, Nov 12: Australia's Home Affairs Minister Saturday sought to reassure the public that Covid-19 protocols were adequate after a cruise ship with hundreds of infected passengers docked in Sydney.

Carnival Australia's Majestic Princess cruise ship was docked in Sydney, the capital of the most populous state, New South Wales, with "in the vicinity" of 800 passengers on board testing positive to the virus, the company said.

State health authorities rated the outbreak's risk level at "Tier 3", indicating a high level of transmission. The incident has sparked comparisons with a 2020 outbreak onboard the Ruby Princess cruise



The Ruby Princess cruise ship docked in Sydney.

state authorities, O'Neil told reporters in Melbourne.

Carnival Australia, part of global leisure company Carnival Corporation & plc, said Covid-positive passengers were isolating on-board and being cared for by medical staff, according to New South Wales Health. The agency said it was working with cruise ship staff to monitor the health of passengers and crew members. Company president Marguerite Fitzgerald told ABC television that once Carnival saw an elevated number of Covid cases, it put extra protocols in place.

The outbreak comes as Covid-19 cases rise across Australia, reflecting community transmission of the Omicron variant XBB, the federal government said this week.

Dying lands: Farmers fight to save the 'skin of the Earth'

FROM THE US AND CHINA TO KENYA, HUMAN EFFORTS TO PRESERVE SOIL ARE PROVING NO MATCH FOR INCREASINGLY EXTREME WEATHER, WHICH IS DAMAGING THE LIVING SYSTEM AND DEPLETING ITS ABILITY TO PRODUCE FOOD

REUTERS

Shanghai, Nov 12: In America's dusty Corn Belt this spring, the land was drowning. In China's Yangtze river basin, it's bone dry. Farmers in both are fighting a losing battle to save the soil that produces our food.

Carolyn Olson figures she did everything she could to protect her 1,100-acre farm near Cottonwood, Minnesota. She grows three-foot-high tall-grass buffer strips around her fields to protect the soil and in winter plants crops to provide ground cover. But torrid rainstorms in May washed away so much soil during planting season that she expects the crop to suffer. "When you get that much rain, almost four inches in about an

hour, even your best practices fly out the window," said the 55-year-old, whose farm has been in her husband's family since 1913.

By contrast, there's not enough water in the vast Yangtze basin, which produces a third of China's crops. Scientists are resorting to firing rockets into clouds to "seed" them with rain artificially in the hope of replenishing soil drained of nutrients by sizzling temperatures. It's no silver bullet, though.

Soil erosion could lead to a 10% loss in global crop production by 2050, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). With the world's population forecast to rise by a fifth to nearly 10 billion by then, malnutrition and famine is set to affect more and more people.



- Soil is washed away in US corn belt deluge
- Land dries up in China's Yangtze river basin
- Scientists fire rockets into clouds to 'seed' rain
- World fights to save the soil that produces food

Land degradation is a vicious cycle. Once you have degraded soils, and you have these bad (weather) events, then you have very bad second consequences

RONALD VARGAS | SOIL SCIENTIST AND SECRETARY, FAO'S GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

Few places are in deeper crisis than the pastureslands of northern Kenya, where ever-deepening drought has denuded the land of

vegetation, exposing the soil to damage and confounding efforts to adapt farming methods. "The soil left there is very vul-

nerable, like the skin of the Earth ... you're not wearing clothing when the sun's beating down," said Leigh Ann Winowiecki, a Nairobi soil scientist at CIFOR-ICRAF, a research center on the benefits of trees for people and landscapes.

UN scientists say it can take up to 1,000 years for nature to produce 2.3 cm of soil, making preservation critical. Extreme weather, some of it caused by climate change, not only damages crops but also erodes the soil and depletes nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus from the complex ecosystem, according to specialists. This leads to land degradation - the decline of its ability to sustain plant life, and by extension animal and human life. One-third of the world's total

CHINA TIGHTENS CURBS

Beijing: Everyone in a district of 1.8 million people in China's southern metropolis of Guangzhou was ordered to stay home for virus testing Saturday and a city in the southwest closed schools as another rise in infections was reported. Nationwide, a total of 11,773 infections were reported over the previous 24 hours, including 10,351 people with no symptoms. China's numbers are low, but the past week's increase is challenging a "zero-Covid" strategy that aims to isolate every infected person. But the ruling Communist Party said it would stick to "zero Covid" even as other countries ease travel and other curbs and try to shift to a long-term strategy of living with the virus.

business

of the day quote

My heart and soul is into it (Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor plant) and the way the government is supporting, the state government is supporting I have no doubt that within two and a half years (of the groundbreaking ceremony production will start

ANIL AGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, VEDANTA RESOURCES

Our market-beating performance in domestic business was sustained through growth in our organic portfolio, with big brands getting bigger; and significant demand acceleration in acquired brands which have seamlessly transitioned in a short period

NIKHL CHOPRA | CEO & WHOLETIME DIRECTOR, JB CHEMICALS & PHARMACEUTICALS

The results reiterate our core strength and the USP (unique selling point) of having a diversified business portfolio

RAHUL MITHAL | CHAIRMAN & MD, RITES LTD

SHORT TAKES

IREDA Sept qtr profit rises 67%

New Delhi: The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Saturday posted 67 per cent jump in net profit at Rs 184.30 crore for September quarter 2022-23, mainly due to higher revenues. In the year-ago period, the profit after tax was Rs 110.27 crore, according to a statement from Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. Gross income rose to Rs 791.56 crore from Rs 682.94 crore. IREDA's Net Non-Performing Assets were reduced to 2.72 per cent in the quarter under review from 4.87 per cent in the same period a year ago. Its loan book stood at Rs 33,783.36 crore in the quarter as against Rs 28,856.48 crore earlier. The agency sanctioned loans of Rs 11,226.49 crore in the quarter as compared with Rs 5,925.12 crore in the same period a year ago.

Adani revises dates for NDTV open offer

Mumbai: In a bid to acquire an additional 26% stake in media company NDTV, billionaire Gautam Adani-led Adani Group has revised the date of launching an open offer to November 22. Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Limited along with AMG Media Networks Limited and Adani Enterprises are making an open offer at a price of Rs 294 per share to acquire up to 26% stake in NDTV. The open offer, which was scheduled earlier to run from Oct 17-Nov 1, will now run from Nov 22-Dec 5. In an intimation to the broadcaster through JM Financial, which is managing the offer, Adani Group said there has been no competing offer to the open offer and the last date for making such competing offer has expired.

Aurobindo Pharma Q2 net slides 41%

New Delhi: Aurobindo Pharma Saturday reported a 41 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 409 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2022. The Hyderabad-based drug firm had posted a net profit of Rs 697 crore in the July-September period of last fiscal. Revenue from operations also declined to Rs 5,739 crore in the September quarter as against Rs 5,942 crore in the year-ago period. Aurobindo Pharma Vice-Chairman and Managing Director K Nithyananda Reddy said the company's second quarter performance was subdued, mainly due to macro-environment factors and higher competitive intensity for some products in the US.



India and the US relations are continuously improving and strengthening and today we have a bilateral trade of about \$175 billion. I believe that in the coming 7-8 years, it will be \$500-600 billion by 2030, when our exports in goods and services will be \$2 trillion each

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

DISNEY FOLLOWS TECH GIANTS

Walt Disney Co is planning to freeze hiring and cut some jobs as it strives to move the Disney+ streaming service to profitability against a backdrop of economic uncertainty, according to a memo



No need to change inflation target: Das

INFLATION HAS BEEN TRENDING ABOVE THE RBI'S UPPER TOLERANCE LEVEL OF 6 PER CENT SINCE JANUARY THIS YEAR

New Delhi, Nov 12: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Saturday said there was no need to change the inflation target despite the central bank's failure to keep it below the 6 per cent upper tolerance level for 9 consecutive months while excluding confidence that the October print will be less than 7 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act mandates that in the case of the inflation target not being met for three consecutive quarters, the central bank has to submit a report to the government explaining the reasons and detail the remedial actions it will be taking to check the price rise.

Speaking at the HT Leadership Summit Saturday, Das said there is no need to change the goal post for inflation targeting as higher than 6 per cent inflation would hurt growth.

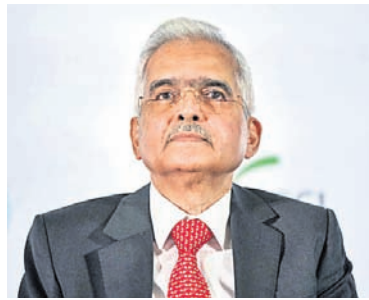
As per the mandate given to the Reserve Bank by the Union Government, the central bank is required to ensure that retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

"We should not think of shifting the goal post because we have not been able to meet it. We remain committed to bring the inflation down to 4 per cent over a period of time," he said.

Noting that internationally there is a debate on shifting the goal post, he said it would be too early to enter into that discussion.

As per a notification issued on March 31, 2021, the central government retained the inflation target at 4 per cent (with the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent and the lower tolerance level of 2 per cent) for the five-year period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026.

"We expect the October num-



Our estimate is that India will grow by about 7 per cent. The IMF has projected that India will grow by about 6.8 per cent in the current year. And that puts India among the fastest growing major economies in the world

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | RBI GOVERNOR

RETAIL INFLATION IN SEPT INCREASED TO 7.4% FROM 7% IN AUGUST

INFLATION PRINT FOR OCT LIKELY TO BE LOWER THAN 7%: GOVERNOR

FOREX KITTY STAND AT \$529.994BN FROM ALL-TIME HIGH OF \$645BN

ber which will be released on Monday to be lower than 7 per cent. Inflation is a matter of concern with which we are now dealing and dealing effectively," he said.

For the last six or seven months, he said, both the RBI and government have taken a number of steps to tame price rise. The RBI on its part increased the interest rates and the government also announced several supply side measures, he added.

Talking about the economy, Das said India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy with a likely growth rate of 7 per cent in 2022-23 on the back of strong macroeconomic fundamentals and financial sector stability.

The country's economy remains resilient, supported by the banking and non-banking sectors, he added.

Das said the entire world has withstood multiple shocks. "I call it triple shocks of Covid-19 pandemic, then the war in Ukraine, and now the financial market turmoil."

On the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), Das said it will bring down the cost of printing currency notes and also facilitate cross-border payments.

"It will facilitate international payments, cross border payments. It will be good for exporters and importers. The future belongs to technology and there could be a time where half the world or more than half the world will be on digital currency and you cannot be on paper currency. You will have to move in tune with the changing technological developments," Das said.

Referring to observations made in certain quarters that the RBI is using the forex reserves indiscriminately, Das said "it's not so". The reserves are being accumulated for 'rainy days', he added.

"And when it rains, I have said it earlier also, you have to pick up your umbrella and use it. We didn't pick up reserves just to keep it as a showpiece in the Reserve Bank of India. And even at this point of time, our reserves are very comfortable," he said.

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. In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion.

India can buy as much Russian oil as it wants, outside price cap: US

India is now Russia's largest oil customer other than China

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 12: The United States is happy for India to continue buying as much Russian oil as it wants, including at prices above a G7-imposed price cap mechanism, if it steers clear of Western insurance, finance and maritime services bound by the cap, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said.

The cap would still drive global oil prices lower while curbing Russia's revenues, Yellen said in an interview with Reuters on the sidelines of a conference on deepening US-Indian economic ties. Russia will not be able to sell as much oil as it does now once the European Union halts imports without resorting to the capped price or significant discounts from current prices, Yellen added.

"Russia is going to find it very difficult to continue shipping as much oil as they have done when the EU stops buying Russian oil," Yellen said. "They're going to be heavily in search of buyers. And many buyers are reliant on Western services."

Final details of the price cap to be imposed by wealthy G7 democracies and Australia are still coming together ahead of a December 5 deadline. The existence of the cap would give India, China and other major buyers of Russian crude leverage to push down the price they pay to Moscow, Yellen said. Russian oil "is going to be selling at bargain prices and we're happy to have India get that bargain or Africa or China. It's fine," Yellen added.

Yellen said that India and private Indian oil companies "can also purchase oil at any price they want as long as they don't use these Western services and they find other services. And either way is fine."

The cap is intended to cut Russia's oil revenues while keep-



ing Russian crude on the market by denying insurance, maritime services and finance provided by the Western allies for tanker cargoes priced above a fixed dollar-per barrel cap. A historical Russian Urals crude average of \$63-64 a barrel could form an upper limit.

The cap is a concept promoted by the United States since the EU first laid out plans in May for an embargo on Russian oil to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

INDIA WARY
Yellen's remarks were made after India's foreign minister said last week that his country would continue to buy Russian crude because it benefits India.

"I do not think we will follow the price cap mechanism, and we have communicated that to the countries. We believe most countries are comfortable with it and it is in no one's case that Russian oil should go offline," said one Indian government official. He added that stable supplies and prices are most important.

Rosneft, Russia's largest oil exporter, is expanding its tanker charter business to avoid its buyers having to find tankers, insurance or other services as the price cap.

Yellen said that even with Russian tankers, Chinese tankers and a "shadow" fleet of older, decommissioned tankers and re-flagged vessels, "I just think they will find it very difficult to sell all the oil that they have been selling without a reasonable price."

HURTING POOREST

This is due to rising global food prices that are making nations more dependent on local production, and a trend that is seeing most currencies falling against the US dollar, the baseline currency for calculations

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Rome, Nov 12: Global spending on food imports is expected to reach a record \$1.94 trillion in 2022, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization warned Friday, a 10 per cent jump compared to the previous year due to rising prices.

The new forecast would mark "an all-time high", and is due to the depreciating values of currencies

against the US dollar - the main currency of exchange on international markets - as well as Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine.

Ukraine and Russia are agricultural superpowers, with more than 30 nations reliant on them for wheat and sunflower oil exports.

"The bulk of the increase in the (global food import) bill is accounted for by high-income countries, due mostly to higher world prices, while volumes are also expected to rise," the report said. Consequences will be more dramatic for economically vulnerable countries, it added.

"For instance, the aggregate food import bill for the group of low-income countries is expected to remain almost unchanged even though it is predicted to shrink by 10 per cent in volume terms, pointing to a growing accessibility issue for these countries," the FAO said.

Sub-Saharan Africa, already hard-hit by malnutrition, is ex-

Global food import bill to jump to record high



pected to spend \$4.8 billion more on food imports, despite a decrease in volumes. "These are alarming signs from a food security perspective," FAO said.

RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE

Between Russia and Ukraine, the two countries account for 30 per cent of the world wheat trade and 78 per cent of sunflower oil exports prior to the Kremlin's invasion of its neighbour. The ongoing eight-

month conflict pushed grain prices to unprecedented levels.

The opening of a secure maritime corridor has allowed more than 10 million tonnes of agricultural products to leave Ukraine in recent months, leading to a cautious decline in market prices.

Another easing factor is that world wheat production "should reach a record level of 784 million tons in 2022/23", the FAO said,

driven in particular by the Russian and Canadian crops.

But other factors are weighing heavily on the balance of poor importing countries, warns the FAO, like the global import bill for agricultural inputs.

In particular, fertiliser imports are expected to reach \$424 billion in 2022, a nearly 50 per cent increase compared to the year before.

Russia is one of the world's leading exporters of gas and nitrogen fertilisers, and prices have tripled in one year. "As a result, some countries may be forced to reduce input applications, almost inevitably resulting in lower agricultural productivity and lower domestic food availability," the FAO said.

The "negative repercussions" for global food security is likely to extend to 2023. The FAO has been advocating for months to establish a financing facility for countries heavily dependent on imports.

boAt LEADS

India wearable mkt registers 56.4% rise

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: India's wearable market registered another record quarter, shipping 37.2 million units in Q3 2022 (July-Sept), a growth of 56.4 per cent (year-over-year) with boAt leading in the market, a report showed.

According to the IDC, smartwatches (inclusive of basic and advanced) remained the fastest-growing category crossing the 12 million shipments mark in a single quarter, a growth of 178.8 per cent (year-over-year).

Basic smartwatches continue to dominate the market, with a 95.5 per cent share that increased by 187.1 per cent annually in Q3. With a shipment drop of 80.8 per cent (year over year), wristbands experienced yet another quarterly decline.

boAt continues to lead with a 32.1 per cent of market share in Q3 growing 19.5 per cent (year-over-year), according to the report.

With a 13.8 per cent market share, Noise stood second. It cemented its smartwatch leadership with a 29.5 per cent share, growing 216.5 per cent annually.

Fire-Bolt climbed to third place with a healthy 395 per cent (year-over-year) growth and 8.9 per cent share. OnePlus dropped to fourth place in the overall wearable category growing by 107.6 per cent (year-over-year) and 8.2 per cent share, while Realme stood at fifth place and was the only vendor amongst the top 5, with declining shipments at -18.5 per cent (year-over-year) in Q3, the report added.

PM opens onshore facilities of ONGC's U-field in KG block

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday dedicated to the nation Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited's U-field onshore facilities at Odalarevu in B R Ambedkar Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh.

The project was dedicated to the nation along with the inauguration/foundation-stone laying of various other development projects worth over Rs 10,700 crore in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, a company statement said.

U-field is situated in Krishna Godavari basin block KG-DWN-98/2 in Bay of Bengal. Natural gas from the field will be brought to the onshore facility through under-sea pipelines before being dispatched to users.

ONGC, however, did not say when production from this field will start. The U-field is part of ONGC's flagship deep-water KG-DWN-98/2 Cluster-II development project in the prolific Krishna Godavari Basin. U-field is the deepest gas discovery of the project, with gas production potential of about 3 million standard cubic metres of gas per day. "The first well of the U field - U-3-B is one of the fastest deep-water well monetized globally in a record time of 11 months," the statement said.

Billionaire Hinduja brothers call truce on bitter family feud

The Hinduja family's business spans sectors including banking, chemicals and healthcare and employs roughly 200,000 people worldwide and their vast wealth put Srichand, Gopichand and the Hinduja family at the top of this year's The Sunday Times UK Rich List, with a net worth of more than 28 billion pounds (\$33 billion)

REUTERS

London, Nov 12: India's billionaire Hinduja family has agreed a worldwide truce in a long legal feud over the future of its global business empire, a London court ruling published Friday showed.

The Court of Appeal in London largely rejected an appeal over restrictions on reporting the dispute, which was contested in a specialist court in a case which centred on the health of 86-year-old patriarch Srichand Hinduja.

Srichand's younger brother Gopichand, 82, had challenged the legitimacy of a lasting power of attorney granted to Srichand's wife Madhu and later his daughters, Vinoo and Shanu, in the Court of Protection, which makes decisions on financial or welfare matters for people unable to do so.

"The Hinduja family matter regarding the health and welfare of

SP [Srichand] has already been resolved amicably between all parties and today's judgment solely concerned whether those matters should remain private," a spokesperson for Gopichand Hinduja and his brothers Prakash and Ashok, but not Srichand, said.

Srichand's daughters Vinoo and Shanu Hinduja said in a separate emailed statement that they welcomed "the transparency that this ruling will bring to the proceedings", but said a final agreement had still to be achieved.

"While we are pleased that the dispute surrounding the health and welfare of our father has been resolved, a final settlement with respect to the broader disputes still needs to be reached," they added.

Judge Anthony Hayden said in a ruling in August, which was published Friday, that the needs of Srichand, who is suffering from dementia, had become "margin-



alized in a family dispute". Hayden said in August that he had been "driven to consider a

placement in a public nursing home" for Srichand after his family could not agree on how and

where he should be treated.

"We have - as any other children would have done - cared for our parents and have worked in their best interests," Vinoo and Shanu Hinduja said. "Our absolute priority has been to ensure that our parents' wishes are fulfilled and that their dignity and wellbeing are protected," the sisters added.

The spokesperson for Gopichand Hinduja and his brothers Prakash and Ashok said that the High Court decision had "no impact whatsoever on the ongoing care of SP Hinduja, on which the family are united, or on any business operations."

"The family looks forward to continuing a harmonious relationship in the future," the spokesperson added. The proceedings in the Court of Protection did not involve Prakash or Ashok Hinduja.

The rulings published Friday revealed that the family told the court in June to end "all

disputes existing between them in all jurisdictions", including one which began at London's High Court in 2019 over the Hinduja family's assets.

Srichand had asked the court to rule that a July 2014 letter signed by him and his three brothers Gopichand, Prakash and Ashok saying that any assets held in their names belonged to all four of them, had no "legal effect".

A 2020 judgment in that case said that his three siblings had relied on the letter "as a basis for seeking to take control of Hinduja Bank, an asset in [Srichand's] sole name". That dispute has now been resolved, Hayden's ruling said.

The Court of Appeal's ruling said the Hinduja family has reached "a confidential agreement" to settle litigation in London and abroad. The 2020 judgment previously stated that the family was engaged in litigation in Switzerland and Jersey.

It is no doubt that pressure exists but it can only be suppressed with confidence and belief in ourselves. And for good results, it is pertinent that one must do so. England are a competitive team, their win to reach the finals against India was a proof of that. Our strategy is to stick to our plan and using our pace attack as our strength to win the final. We've been

working really hard for this. It feels like a dream come true to reach the final
BABAR AZAM



PAKISTAN SQUAD

Babar Azam (C), Mohammed Rizwan, Shan Masood, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammed Haris, Khushdil Shah, Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Mohammed Wasim, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf, Shadab Ahmed, Mohammed Nawaz, Shaheen Shah Afridi & Mohammed Hasnain

We expect a really tough challenge. They're a team we've seen lots of in the recent past, and we've had some brilliant matches against them, played in a fantastic spirit, and I'm sure tomorrow (Sunday) will be no different. But the consistent message is always to take the game on. That's

something we pride ourselves on as a group. We must try and play with a level of freedom and allow ourselves to express the huge amounts of talent that we have as a group
JOS BUTTLER



ENGLAND SQUAD

Jos Buttler (C), Alex Hales, Phil Salt, Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Moeen Ben Stokes, Moeen Ali, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Chris Jordan, Dawid Malan, Sam Curran, Mark Wood & Tymal Mills

Let's not judge India by one defeat: Sachin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar Saturday said he too was disappointed at India's humiliating loss against England in the T20 World Cup semifinal but urged the critics not to "judge" the side on the basis of one defeat.

England hammered India by 10 wickets after Rohit Sharma's much-vaunted batting line-up failed to fire in the first 10 overs to score a modest 168/6 at Adelaide Oval on Thursday.

"I know the semifinal was really, really disappointing against England. I'm of the same vote. We are all the well-wishers of Indian cricket," Tendulkar was quoted as saying in a video sent to media organisation.

"But also let us not judge our team only by this performance, because we have been world No. 1 T20 side as well. To get to that number one spot, it does not happen overnight. You have to play good cricket over a period of time. That's what the team has done," he added. Former English captain Michael Vaughan has led the criticism and called India the "worst underperforming white-ball team in history" as they prolonged their ICC tournament title wait since 2013 Champions Trophy.

India's opening duo of KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma have been the biggest failure as they have not been able to step up in the Powerplay and early middle overs. India managed 38/1 inside the Powerplay against England. It was only because of Hardik Pandya's

By no means I'm trying to say that you know so these kinds of performances are 'okay'. Players also didn't want to go out and fail. But every day it does not happen. In sport these ups and downs are there

SACHIN TENDULKAR

fifty fifty that India could manage 168/6.

"168 at Adelaide wasn't a great total. The dimension of the ground is completely different, the side boundaries are really, really short. I would have said maybe 190 or so, or around that would have been a good total, 168 at Adelaide is equivalent to 150 or so any other ground.

"To me that's not a competitive total. So, let's accept that we did not put up a good score, and so was the case with our bowling when it came to picking wickets we were unsuccessful.

"It was a tough game for us. 170 for no loss (for England), that's a bad defeat, rather disappointing," Tendulkar added. But, the former captain went on to lend his support to the team and said win and loss are part of the game.

"By no means I'm trying to say that you know so these kinds of performances are 'okay'. Players also didn't want to go out and fail. Players also want to go out and win for the country.

"But every day it does not happen. In sport these ups and downs are there. It cannot be victories are ours and losses are theirs. We have to be in it together."

A '1992' IN 2022

History favours Pakistan, while form is with England as both the sides clash for ICC T20 World Cup glory with Babar aiming to match Imran Khan's feat of beating an English side for the title in 1992 ODI WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Nov 12: A determined Babar Azam will be aiming to secure his seat beside the great Imran Khan in Pakistan cricket's Hall of Fame as his team takes on a formidable England in the T20 World Cup final here Sunday.

The passage of 2009 champions into the final could even beat a Hollywood thriller script as they were down and out after the first week of the tournament with morale shattering defeats to arch-rivals India and Zimbabwe.

Pakistan raised hopes of a dramatic comeback in the second week of a tournament with a win over South Africa and a prayer on their lips for some divine intervention. Just like in 1992, miracle hap-

pened when the Netherlands produced a performance for the ages to shock South Africa and out of nowhere, Pakistan were back in contention for a semifinal berth.

Critics say that in cricket, you never know which Pakistan turns on a particular day and the semifinal performance against a well rounded New Zealand side showed that when it comes to playing edge of the seat 'Russian Roulette', the 'Green Machines' are second to none.

But just like everyone wants a slice of '92 from Babar's team, the core of this current English team also has a date with history on this very Australian soil.

Seven years ago in 2015, this was the country where England's white ball cricket lay in tatters after they

were dumped out of the competition at the group league stage by Bangladesh.

The white ball cricket transformation started with horses for courses approach by the ECB, leading to a sea change in the mindset and intent of the English players. That fearless approach was on full display against India Thursday.

Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammed Wasim Jr and Harris Rauf will need way more than just inspiration to get past the likes of Jos Buttler, Alex Hales, Ben Stokes and Moeen Ali.

These are all sought after practitioners of T20 cricket and all of them have abilities to silence the 80,000 odd Pakistan fans, just like they did with the bulk of the 42,000 Indian fans in Adelaide.

Can Afridi do a Wasim Akram when Buttler is batting or Babar and Rizwan take the game deep in their own style like Imran and Javed Miandad did in that 1992 final.

Big matches always brings big performer to the centre stage and Stokes for one wouldn't mind a repeat of his 2019 Lord's performance to win the silverware.

The weather forecast predicts that the final could be marred by rain on both Sunday and the reserve day, which is Monday.

Unlike a normal T20 game which could be a minimum five-over contest, the event technical committee has kept provisions for minimum 10-overs a side contest with an early (3 pm Melbourne time) start on reserve day if needed.

On a spicy deck like the MCG, the

presence of Mark Wood would have been an advantage but the tear-away quick's back isn't holding up well. Despite the pasting he got from Hardik Pandya, Chris Jordan is a fine T20 bowler in his own rights and would like to use his extensive BBL experience to get the better of the Pakistani batters.

If both batting units are taken into account, England with Hales, Buttler, Stokes, Phil Salt (in place of Dawid Malan), Harry Brook, Moeen and Liam Livingstone look stronger on paper against Pakistan with Rizwan, Babar, Shan Masood, Mohammed Haris and Iftikhar Ahmed.

But on big days, it is not always the names that matter but also the mindset and temperament to last the distance.



Ganguly lauds eves' progress



Sourav Ganguly (C), in between two other guests, speaks during the 'NATCON 2022' in Abu Dhabi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Nov 12: Women cricket in India will reach an "all-time high" in the next three years as the women's team has performed very well in the last few years, according to former BCCI President Sourav Ganguly.

He was speaking at Indian retailers' apex body CREDAI's 3-day annual conference 'NATCON 2022' held at Abu Dhabi Friday. In a session moderated by Anuj Puri, Chairman of property consulting firm Anarock, the former Indian cricket team captain said the women's team have performed very well in the last few years.

"Women cricket is on a high. Women cricket will go to a different level in the next three years. We did that in the last three years," he said. Till recently, Ganguly, was the former President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

"The way they played in the Commonwealth Games. I was actually surprised to see the way they competed in the Commonwealth Games. They won the Asia Cup recently. They beat the England team 3-0 in England which is never an easy thing to do," he added.

Ganguly said Women cricket in India will reach an "all-time high" in the next three years. The Indian

women's cricket team triumphed in the Asia Cup in Bangladesh, beating Sri Lanka by eight wickets.

The team also won the country's first-ever silver medal in cricket at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham earlier this year. Last month, the BCCI announced equal match fees for its centrally-contracted female and male players in a bid to promote gender equality in the country's most popular sport.

As per the newly introduced system, the Indian women's cricketers will now receive ₹15 lakh per Test, ₹6 lakh per ODI, and ₹3 lakh per T20I, the same as their male counterparts.

In a rapid fire round moderated by Puri, Ganguly was asked, between Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag, who he enjoyed opening the innings more with. "Sachin was the most sane one and Sehwag was insane. So its Sachin. He actually also made me a better player," he said. "Sachin actually got me lift my game."

To another question, which living person he admired the most, Ganguly against chose to name the little master. "Sachin. He was special and I have seen him up close. I have seen him hit in rib cage. Did not make a noise. Got runs. The next morning he had a double fracture in ribs.

"I heard a sound and I went and asked him you are okay. He said he was fine. The next morning he had fractures. He was special," he said.

On what was more challenging - Test in Australia or Test in England, he said Australia. Asked to choose between what role he prefer to be in, captain of India and BCCI President, Ganguly chose to go with the cricket team.

When asked to choose between India's win in Kolkata Test in 2001 at home or India's win at Lord's in Natwest Cup final in 2002, he said: "2001 win at home as it changed the team. It changed the belief in team."

Ganguly named Sri Lankan spinner Muralidharan, especially as he was getting on in age, as someone who gave him nightmares. "Older he became, the better he became. I found Murali the hardest when he was older," Ganguly said.

Before the rapid fire, Ganguly spoke at length about leadership and said it is important to listen to others. "It's not my way or highway," he said and cited several examples.

Having been in several leadership positions, he also talked about importance of having an eye to find the right talent and giving it adequate opportunity. "You create an atmosphere to express themselves." As a piece of advice, he suggested that one should retire from the game on a high.

Thapa signs off with silver after sustaining injury

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Shiva Thapa's (63.5kg) Asian Championships campaign came to a bittersweet end after he was forced to withdraw from the final midway due to an injury, bowing out with an unprecedented sixth medal, a silver, in Amman, Jordan Saturday.

The 28-year-old, who became the most successful male boxer in the tournament, sustained an injury in his right knee in the opening seconds of the second round of the light welterweight gold medal bout against Abdullaev Ruslan of Uzbekistan, suffering a RSC (Referee stops the contest) loss. Thapa, seeded third, was trailing when



the injury occurred. He had lost the fast-paced opening round 0-5.

In the opening three minutes, both the boxers had tried to assert their authority, even resorting to body blows with the Uzbek coming on top. In the second round, while

attention as the ringside doctor examined his right knee.

Eventually the bout was called off as Thapa hobbled away. The seasoned boxer struggled to even stand up while the referee announced the winner.

His haul now includes a gold (2013), three silvers (2017, 2021 and 2022) and two bronze medals (2015 and 2019). With the silver, Thapa has overtaken Kazakh legend Vassily Levit, who was the only other male pugilist with five Asian titles.

Six-time World Champions MC Mary Kom (7) and L Sarita Devi (8) have more Asian medals than Thapa, with the latter having the distinction of claiming six successive, five of them gold.

Bhoi, Jayram, Nanda bag gold at Jr. Nat's

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Lalu Prasad Bhoi, Dondapati Mruty Jayram and Ommkar Prasad Nanda secured gold medals for Odisha Saturday at the ongoing National Junior Athletics Championships in Guwahati, Assam.

Bhoi claimed the yellow metal in the boys' U-20 100m event clocked 10.71 seconds. Sदानanda Kumar (10.73s) of Jharkhand and Krishna Raj PS (10.87s) of Tamil Nadu bagged silver and bronze medal respectively.

Jayram clinched gold in the boys' U-18 100m event with a timing of 10.83s ahead of Tamil Nadu's Varun Manohar (10.86s) and Maharashtra's Yash Paresh (10.95s).

Nanda finished on the top of the podium in the boys' U-16 shot put event with the throw of 18.34mtr: Uttar Pradesh duo of Akhand Pratap Singh (17.52m) and Sujal Kumar (17.31m) won silver and bronze medals, respectively.

Odisha lose to Uttarakhand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Odisha suffered a four-wicket loss against Uttarakhand in their Elite Group D match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy cricket tournament at the Bandra Kurla Complex ground in Mumbai, Saturday.

After being invited to bat first, Odisha were bowled out for 178 in 44.2 overs, with Subhanshu Senapati (60, 76b, 7x4, 1x6) and opener Anshy Rath (51, 95b, 4x4) scoring half centuries. Himanshu Bisht (4/26) and Rajan Kumar (3/24) shared seven wickets between them for Uttarakhand.

In response, Uttarakhand completed the chase in 42 overs, courtesy Dikshanshu Negi (80 n o, 111b, 11x4) and Swapnil Singh (48, 66b, 7x4). For Odisha, Debabrata Pradhan (2/20) and Rajesh Mohanty (2/36) bagged two wickets each.

Despite posting a not-so-challenging total on the board, Odisha



SUBHRANSHU SENAPATI

were motivated and wasted no time to push Uttarakhand into backfoot. By the end of the fifth over, Uttarakhand's top four batters were back in the hut.

However, Swapnil and Dikshanshu led the team's total from 27/4 to 100 with a crucial 73-run partnership. However, Swapnil's departure in the 25th over gave Odisha some hope to turn things around. However, another 59-run stand between Dikshanshu and Vaibhav Bhatt (27) for the seventh wicket sealed the deal for

Uttarakhand.

Earlier, Odisha lost Shantanu Mishra in the third over. However, Anshy - the other opener - and Subhanshu made amends with a 103-run stand for the second wicket. This partnership was the only bright spot for Odisha on the day as Subhanshu's departure in the 26th over allowed Uttarakhand to grab the momentum.

Odisha then lost wickets at regular intervals before eventually being bundled out for 178. Rakesh Pattnaik (28) and skipper Abhishek Raut (10) were the only two batters, besides Anshy and Subhanshu, to reach double digits.

BRIEF SCORES

Odisha 178 (Subhanshu Senapati 60, Anshy Rath 51; Himanshu Bisht 4/26, Rajan Kumar 3/24) lost to Uttarakhand 179/6 (Dikshanshu Negi 80 n o, Swapnil Singh 48; Debabrata Pradhan 2/20, Rajesh Mohanty 2/36) by 4 wickets.