



## BATTLING ODDS

Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh, who's living with epilepsy, opens up a conversation on how she deals with the disorder

LEISURE P2



## PUNJAB TIGHTENS GUN RULES

Punjab government bans public display of firearms and songs allegedly promoting gun culture and violence

NATIONAL P7



## KYIV VOWS TO FIGHT

Ukraine's President vows to keep pushing Russian forces out of his country after they withdrew from Kherson

INTERNATIONAL P10



**WINNERS TAKE IT ALL:** England players celebrate with their trophy after defeating Pakistan in the final of the T20 World Cup Cricket tournament at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Sunday. (Report on Page 12)

# India's coal dependence on rise

India will have to rely more on coal in the near future due to global uncertainties and supply chain disruptions despite the country's green energy push



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 13:** Despite India being bullish on green energy options as it aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, the geopolitical situation triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war has led to supply chain constraints, rising energy prices and pushing inflation to highest-ever levels in several countries. All these factors combined together have compelled India to continue to depend on coal-based thermal energy.

Recently, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that uncertainties in the energy sector are an area of concern for the government.

She noted that like many other nations, India too will have to rely more on coal in the near future due to global uncertainties and supply chain disruptions.

The Finance Minister even said that India's plan to shift to renewable energy has received a jolt and therefore ways to reduce coal dependency and return to eco-friendly energy resources, need to be devised.

Greenpeace India's Lead for climate and energy campaign Avinash Kumar gave a realistic perspective to India's growing de-

pendence on coal despite its aggressive green energy push.

"As part of the Covid-19 recovery plan, the government opened up its coal mining sector for private players and announced many new coal mines for auction. This new investment planned for coal power plants can impact the progress of clean energy. Ideally these investments should have been for renewables," he said.

Kumar further informed that in the light of the fact that coal is increasingly becoming economically unviable and the cost of renewables continues to drop, there

is a need to phase out of coal soon.

India's dependence on coal can be gauged from the fact that owing to the shortage of the fossil fuel in thermal plants, Coal India, the country's largest producer, was in June this year, forced to import 8 million tonnes of coal for this fiscal. It was for the first time in the 50 years of Coal India's existence that the public sector undertaking was asked to import the dry fuel.

In such a scenario, the COP27 summit, which is currently going on in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh, is deliberating on the need for climate funding and on ways to reduce dependence on traditional modes of energy like fossil fuels.

In fact, there are voices being raised in the summit, especially by developing economies that major polluters like China should be made to pay towards a climate fund.

India too on its part has been a strong promoter of renewable energy, as it has launched the International Solar Alliance (ISA), encouraging over 150 countries to take advantage of this international initiative. **Contd...4**

## DEMOCRATS KEEP CONTROL OF SENATE

Voters, making most surveys go wrong, have brought back a Blue wave. Women, in support of issues such as abortion rights, seem to have voted against Republicans

AGENCIES

**Phoenix, Nov 13:** The Democrats will retain majority control of the US Senate with two of its candidates

projected to win their pivotal races against Republican rivals, in a major boost to President Joe Biden, who welcomed the election results Sunday, saying he was feeling 'good' and looking forward to the second half of his term to fulfill the promises made to the American people.

Biden's Democratic Party defied the historical trend of midterm

elections breaking against parties in power, cementing its majority in the upper chamber of the US Congress.

The result, the best midterm performance for a sitting party in 20 years, means the Democrats will now have 50 seats in the 100-member Senate - with the Republicans currently on 49. **More on P10**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Thank you for taking blame for everything that goes wrong even 58 years after your death!

## Another woman arrested on blackmailing charges

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 13:** Amid the hue and cry in the state over the Archana Nag case, Rajasthan police have arrested a 42-year-old woman from Chandrasekharpur area here Saturday.

The accused Preeti Desai, who hails from Belgavi district in Karnataka, along with two others, was staying at an apartment in Chandrasekharpur for the last several months. A team of Bharatpur police from Rajasthan with the help of their Chandrasekharpur counterparts arrested Desai from her hideout here.



The fraudster who is involved in several cases of 'sextortion' in Rajasthan had fled to Odisha and recently a local court in

Rajasthan had issued a non-bailable warrant against her. Desai, reportedly a B.Tech graduate, can speak in English and Hindi fluently.

Sources said that Desai during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 contacted Anil Kumar Goel of Ranjeet Nagar in Bharatpur, who runs an old age home in the same district. The con woman identifying herself as a poor and homeless lady requested Goel to allow her to serve elderly persons and started living at the old age home.

Subsequently, she lodged a sexual abuse case at Udyog Nagar police station against Goel when he refused to give her ₹30 lakh and transfer the ownership of the old age home to her name. The case was later proved false.

Meanwhile, she sent obscene photos and messages to Goel's daughter and assaulted her on court premises in October 2021. Later, police registered a case (277/21) on the basis of the complaint lodged by Goel's daughter and started an investigation to ascertain the antecedent of Desai.

Police during investigation came to know that Desai had lodged two more false sexual abuse cases (59/19 and 436/2019) against Vikky Yadav of Ajitgarh in Sikar district and Nitin Bhatia of Jaipur city in 2019. Police found both the cases false during investigation.

She had lodged the cases after both Yadav and Bhatia refused to give her lakhs of rupees as extortion. She had married Bhatia before filing the false case. Bhatia recently committed suicide due to the false case and constant mental torture by Desai, said sources.

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	30.6°C 30.0°C
TEMP MIN	18.5°C 19.0°C
Humidity	64% 67%
Rainfall	0.0mm 0.0mm
Forecast: Dry weather likely	

## Jumbo calf electrocuted

**Buguda:** There is no let-up in elephant deaths in the state as yet another jumbo calf was electrocuted after accidentally coming in contact with a live wire in Buguda forest range in Ganjam district, Sunday. Locals spotted the carcass on a farmland and informed the forest officials. Forest and electricity department officials launched an investigation. Preliminary inquiries indicated that the animal might have died after accidentally coming in contact with the live wire laid for poaching wild animals near farmlands.

## Permacrisis: Why it's Word of the Year

AGENCIES

**Nottingham, Nov 13:** The Collins Dictionary's word of the year for 2022 is 'permacrisis'. As accolades go, the managing director of Collins Learning, Alex Beecroft, has said that this one "sums up quite succinctly how truly awful 2022 has been for so many people."

The word, most widely understood as a portmanteau of 'permanent' and 'crisis', has been in use for a little longer. In April 2021, policy analysts in Europe saw it as defining the era in which we live. Some in Britain inevitably ascribe the genesis of that era to Brexit. Others point to the pandemic.

For others still, it was Russia's invasion of Ukraine that made the word indispensable. As the writer David Shariatmadari has put it:



"Permacrisis is a term that perfectly embodies the dizzying sense of lurching from one unprecedented event to another; as we wonder bleakly what new horrors might be around the corner."

This represents a shift from the way the notion of crisis has been defined until now. However, digging into the philosophical roots of the word reveals that a crisis is not necessarily awful, but may, in the long term, prove a necessary and beneficial corrective.

Philosophers have long defined a crisis as a situation that forces an individual or group to a moment of thoughtful critique - to a point where a new path is mapped out in relation to some issue of pressing concern.

This definition stems from the ancient Greek term or

krisis, which describes a medical or political moment of opportunity that bifurcates into life or death, victory or defeat.

However, as philosopher of history Reinhart Koselleck has shown, in modern philosophy that ancient Greek notion of crisis undergoes a semantic shift. Its meaning changes radically, to refer to a contradiction between opposing forces that accelerates the transition of past into future.

This can be seen in Karl Marx's description of capitalism as a crisis-ridden economic system.

"Crisis" is similarly defined in American philosopher Thomas Kuhn's approach to the history of science. Kuhn views progress in modern research as driven by crises within existing scientific paradigms. **Contd...4**

# THERE'S NO FUTURE WITHOUT NATURE

24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER BHUBANESWAR

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# leisure



## TAYLOR LAUTNER MARRIES LONGTIME GF TAY DOME

Hollywood actor Taylor Lautner, who is best known for playing the shape shifter Jacob Black in *The Twilight Saga* film series, has tied the knot with his girlfriend Tay Dome. The two had been dating for close to four years, reports *US Weekly*.

## BALDWIN FILES LAWSUIT FOR RUST SHOOTING

American actor Alec Baldwin has filed a lawsuit against the *Rust* armorer and other cast and crew members for negligence after they gave him a loaded revolver on the set, killing the movie's cinematographer, Halyna Hutchins.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
 You are brimming with your creative instincts today, and will be eager to accept challenging tasks. Some benefits are on the cards at the office. But don't forget to relax, says Ganesh, as your body frequently requires careful attention.

**TAURUS**  
 This is one of those days when you are likely to misplace and lose valuable things, particularly money. Ganesh urges you not to indulge heavy gambling or blind speculation. I quest of easy money. Have no doubt that you are most likely to lose whatever you wager and incur huge losses. Be careful. Don't get carried away by impulses.

**GEMINI**  
 You will be flooded with mental stress and worry today. You will have a hard time expressing your feelings and emotions today. You will feel nostalgic and will be flooded with memories, however, do not let your past cloud your present and your future, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
 It is quite likely that both close and distant relatives will fill your heart with thrill and happiness, portends Ganesh. There may be a little misunderstanding with your peers at work. You will make quite a progress both at work and in personal life.

**LEO**  
 Humanity is something that is missing a lot these days, and you believe it to be your duty to ensure that you reach out to everyone around you, says Ganesh. But don't expect anything as revolutionary and emphatic in your personal life. At work, you may expect smooth sailing of sorts towards the latter part of the day, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
 Handicrafts business will fascinate you today, predicts Ganesh. People will be left wondering what fuels all that dedication and commitment - at work and at home! Ganesh advises you to consume those bonds of love and roll in the hay with your spouse.

**LIBRA**  
 An extended family is a boon, especially when it comes to charting out some success. Okay, maybe it's not Don Corleone calling the shots in your favour; but expect to get a favourable base from your relatives for the same. Bring your luck with you to work, and keep smiling.

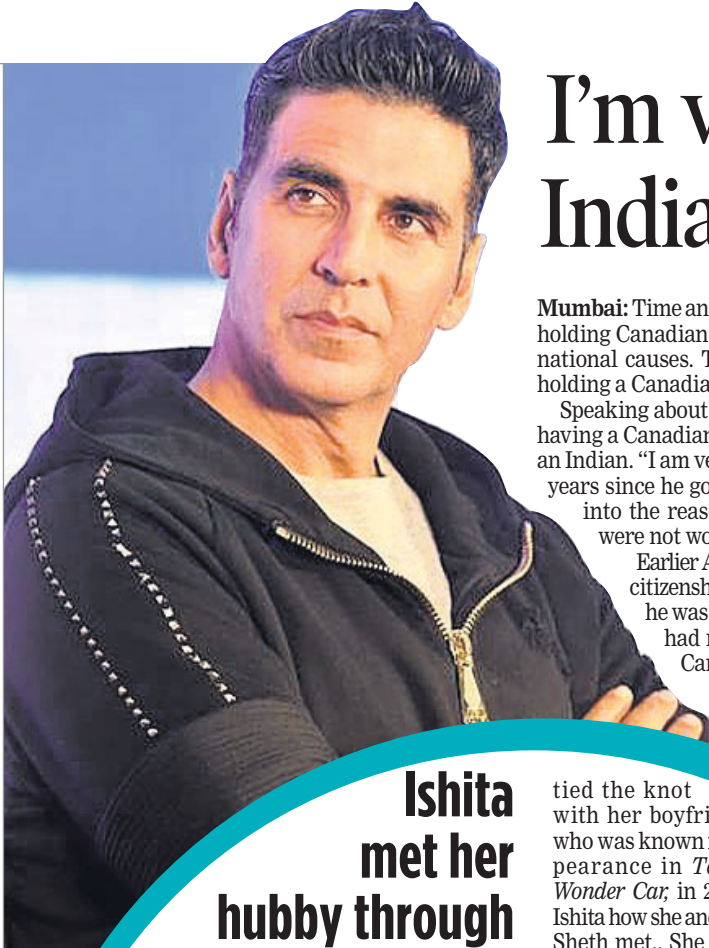
**SCORPIO**  
 The Dons in the office may bypass your superiors and probably make you run around as an errand boy. You are likely to impress your superiors with your brilliance. Evening, though, will ring out the exhaustion of the morning. Ganesh advises you to delay bidding on sealed tenders for today.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 All said and done, today Ganesh foresees you striking a fine balance between your profession and passion. Profession will win the hand during the course of the day. Your flitting in social circles is slated to take a back-seat as you tend to focus more on your work.

**CAPRICORN**  
 The usually high spirit that you display at work is likely to be dampened today by a trivial issue. So, try not to let too many thoughts trouble your mind today, advises Ganesh. Money matters may be pressing, forcing you to take risks. In the circumstances, keeping your cool will be the best thing to do, for a minor slip can cost you all that you may not be prepared to lose.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Hurry, splash on some Giorgio or curl your tresses! The spotlight is on you today, and you don't want a drab work jacket to take away the shine. You remain brilliant, both on the personal and professional fronts.

**PISCES**  
 An important day awaits you. Your spirits will be high, and your intuition uncanny. Guided by these, it is likely that you will make several significant decisions today in matters of finance and relationships. Your energy levels will be unflagging and you will find yourself at the peak of your abilities, says Ganesh.



## I'm very much Indian: Akshay

**Mumbai:** Time and again, Akshay Kumar has been trolled for holding Canadian citizenship, especially when he promotes national causes. The actor had earlier shared that despite holding a Canadian passport, he pays his taxes in India.

Speaking about the same at an event, Akshay shared that having a Canadian passport does not mean he is any less of an Indian. "I am very much Indian," he said. It's been nine years since he got his passport. "And I don't want to get into the reason of why, what happened, my films were not working, blah blah blah," Kumar said.

Earlier Akshay revealed that he got his Canadian citizenship at a time when his films flopped and he was thinking about moving to Canada. He had made this decision, when one of his Canadian friends suggested him to move if he wasn't finding success in India since a lot of people move there to work. Hence Akshay had considered moving there but soon after getting the citizenship he gained success with his films again and decided to stay back. AGENCIES



## Ishita met her hubby through Ajay Devgn

**Mumbai:** Actress Ishita Dutta, who is currently seen in the movie *Drishyam 2* talked about her co-star Ajay Devgn and said that because of him, she and her husband Vatsal Sheth met and got married.

The 32-year-old actress is known for her work in a number of films and TV shows. She made her Telugu film debut with *Chanakyudu*, and her entry into Kannada cinema with *Yenidu Manasali*.

Ishita also appeared in Hindi movies such as *Firangi*, *Setters* and *Blank*, but her serious foray into Hindi films started in 2015 with *Drishyam*, and now she is a part of the *Drishyam 2* cast.

The actress had

tied the knot with her boyfriend, who was known for his appearance in *Taarzan: The Wonder Car*, in 2017. Kapil asked Ishita how she and her husband Vatsal Sheth met. She revealed that Ajay attended her marriage from the groom's side.

"I met my husband through Ajay Sir. I am very happy that he was our matchmaker," the actress said.

Ishita came on the sets of *The Kapil Sharma Show* to promote *Drishyam 2* along with Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Shriya Saran, and Mrunal Jadhav.

IANS



## Fatima shares her battle with epilepsy

**Mumbai:** Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh, who will be soon seen as Indira Gandhi in *Sam Bahadur*, recently took to her social media to raise awareness about epilepsy which she has also been suffering from.

November is known as the Epilepsy Awareness Month. The *Dangal* actress has been making a constant effort to address this among the people and raise awareness about the same. She addressed the cause while she opened up a conversation on her social media for people to share their stories, struggles, and challenges about the same.

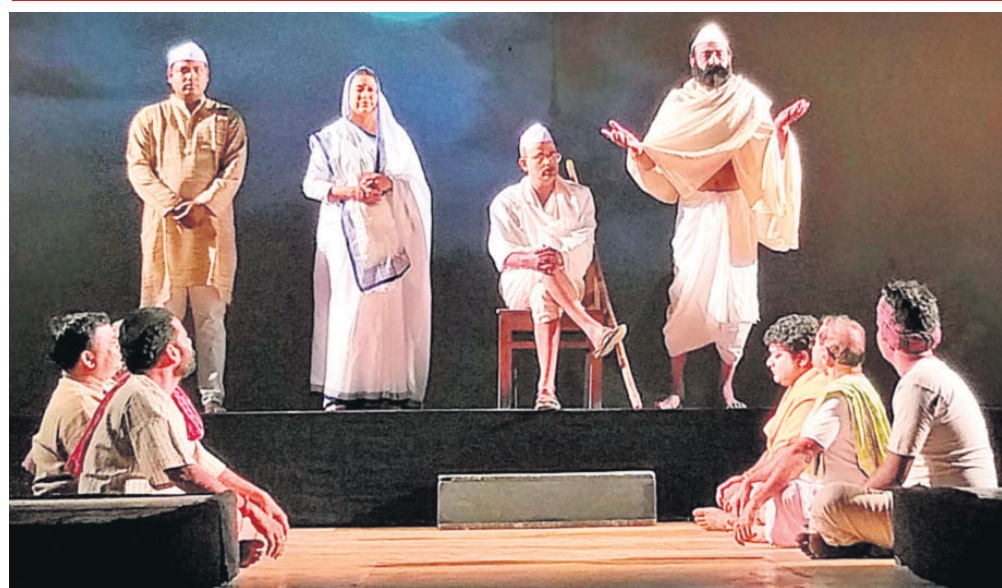
She also opened up about when she learnt about her health condition, stating that it was during the time of *Dangal* preparations she got to know about the disorder.

On being asked by one of her followers about when she found out about it, the actress wrote: "(I) was diagnosed when I was training for *Dangal*. I got an episode and woke up straight at the hospital... (I) was in denial first (for five years). And now, I have learnt to embrace it, and work and live around it."

On how she has been working with this condition, Fatima wrote that she informs all her directors that she has epilepsy.

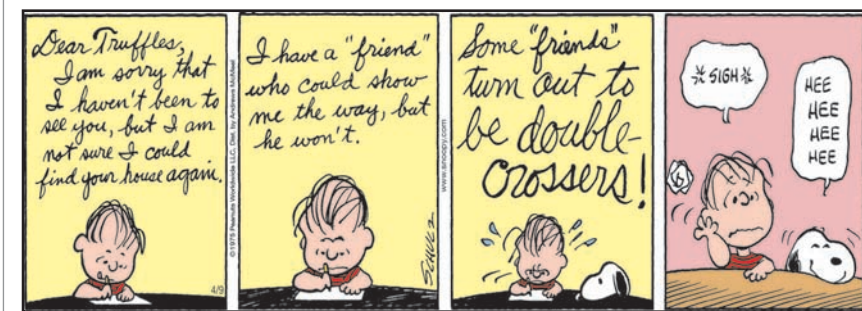
"They have always been very supportive and understanding. They know of the challenges they might face on the days I get an episode." IANS

## 'BAPU' COMES ALIVE ON STAGE

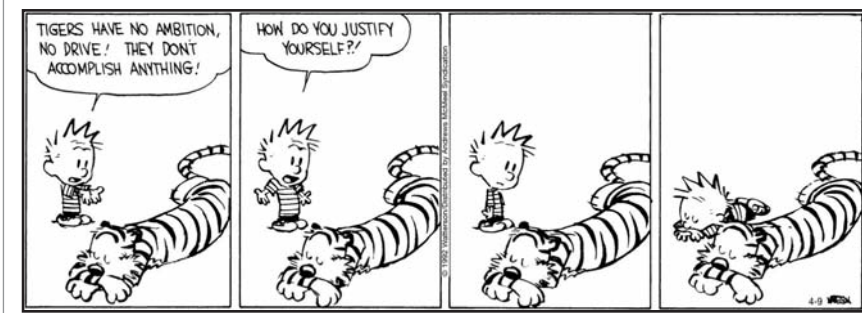


Members of Baripada-based theatre troupe Om Natya Sanstha performed Odia play *Gandhinka Odisha* at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Sunday. Written by Shankar Tripathy and directed by Dhira Basa, the play was staged as part of *Natyadhara*, a monthly cultural event jointly organised by Odia Language, Literature & Culture department, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and Odisha Natya Sangh (ONS). Apart from playwright Tripathy, ONS president Haren Sahoo, dramatists Dhira Mallick, and Lala Biren Ray attended the ceremonial lamp-lighting ceremony. ONS secretary Shubhakanta Padhi and treasurer Satya Jena coordinated the event.

### PEANUTS



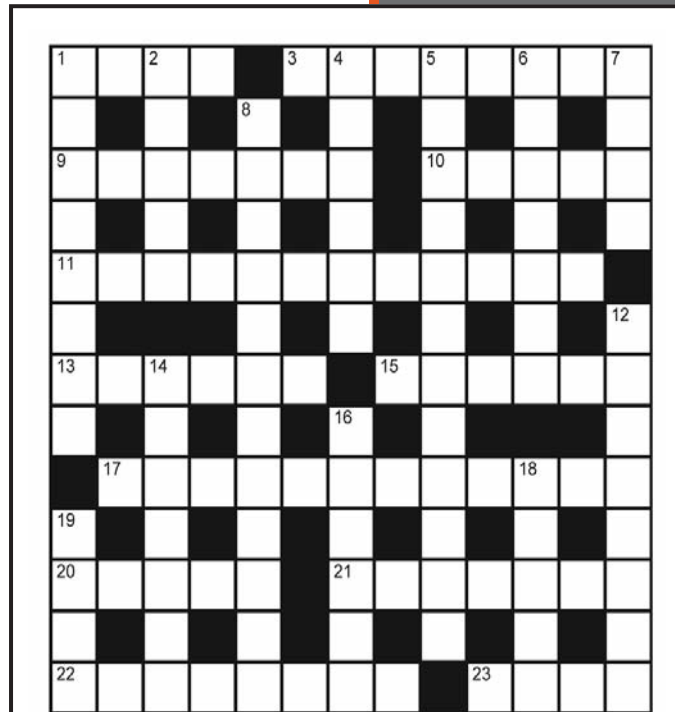
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Airport feature
  - 3 Automobile part (3,5)
  - 9 Anthology
  - 10 Plus
  - 11 You can't fool her (6,6)
  - 13 Refinement
  - 15 Knitted sock
  - 17 Smoke shop items (4,8)
  - 20 Blood carriers
  - 21 Inner circle
  - 22 Begrudged
  - 23 Norse thunder god
  - 6 Demolish
  - 7 After curfew
  - 8 Deterrent example (6,6)
  - 12 Clothing store aisle
  - 14 Medical buildings
  - 16 Platitude
  - 18 Third rock from the sun
  - 19 Profess, as fact
- Down**
- 1 Eventide, usu. in Scotland
  - 2 Dogma
  - 4 Not here
  - 5 Firm bandages for broken bones (7,5)

### 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.

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

### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

G	A	T	S	P	C
B	R	I	D	G	E
O	V	E	C	K	N
O	G	R	E	T	R
I	C	E	B	E	R
Q	U	A	F	F	C
R	A	S	E	X	M
M	I	S	T	A	K
H	E	A	T	O	I
T	R	Y	O	U	T
S	M	E	S	S	N

SUDOKU

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

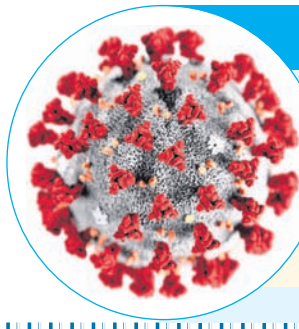
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## IN SYNC

Artistes perform Odissi during a cultural programme organised by Devdasi Nrutya Mandir at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	64,02,73,401	61,98,12,722	66,15,322
India	4,46,66,377	4,41,23,539	5,30,531
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

## PLIGHT OF ST/SC RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL INMATES

# NHRC seeks report from Mayurbhanj DM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 13:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action-taken report (ATR) within four weeks from the ST and SC Development department Principal Secretary and the District Magistrate (DM) of Mayurbhanj on alleged denial of basic amenities to inmates of Kasturba Residential SC/ST School and Kesadiha Ashram in the district.

The commission's move came while hearing a plea filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy. The activist had informed the apex rights body that although the state government spends crores of rupees every year for the wellbeing of inmates of ST and SC residential



Although the state government spends crores of rupees for the wellbeing of inmates of ST and SC residential schools, at least 94 students of Kasturba Residential SC/ST School and Kesadiha Ashram under Thakurmunda block in Mayurbhanj have been deprived of basic amenities, rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy alleged

schools, at least 94 SC/ST students of Kasturba Residential SC/ST School and Kesadiha Ashram under Thakurmunda block in Mayurbhanj have been deprived of basic amenities.

Lack of quality food, proper hygiene and adequate study materials are some of the issues being faced by the SC/ST students of Kasturba Residential SC/ST School

and Kesadiha Ashram. As a result, they have been suffering in the silence, said the activist.

The students have approached the district Collector of Mayurbhanj in this connection. However, it fell on deaf ears.

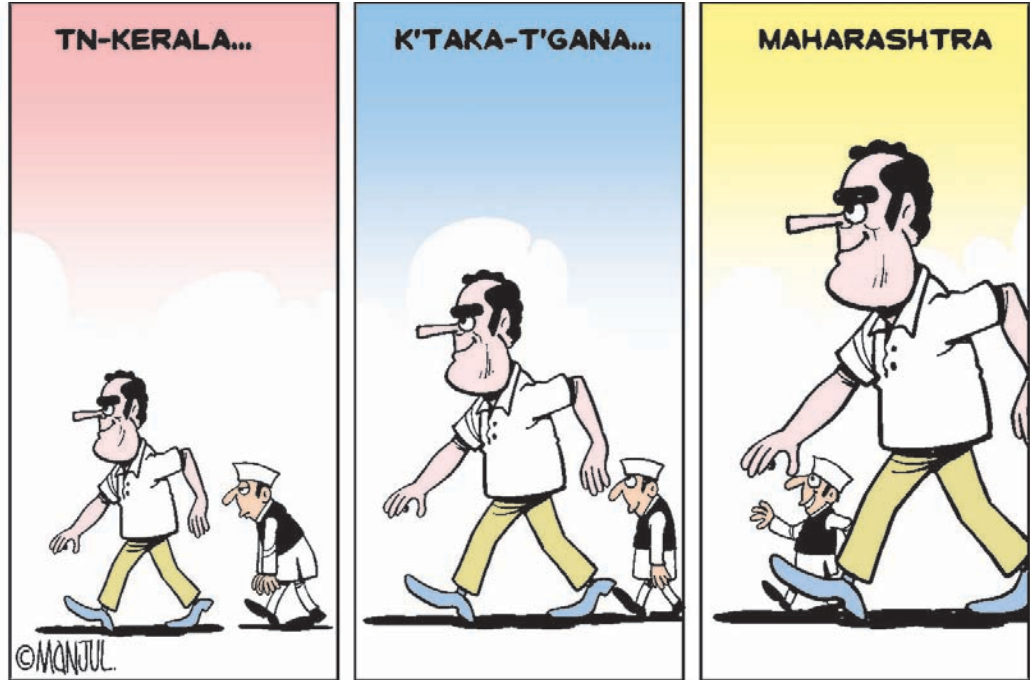
"The denial of basic amenities to the students of Kasturba Residential SC/ST School and Kesadiha Ashram and inaction on

part of district administration amount to serious violation of human rights of the students," Tripathy said.

While seeking the ATR, the commission also directed its registry to transmit the copy of the complaint to the state's Chief Secretary and the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC), asking them to inform the commission if they have initiated any action in connection with the incident.

According to sources, as many as 1,670 schools and 4,700 hostels are being run by the ST and SC Development department in the state. While 4.5 lakh children from ST and SC communities are enrolled in these schools, 60 per cent of them are girls staying in school hostels.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## RAJARANI MUSIC FESTIVAL- DAY 2

Ustad Sabir Khan plays sarangi during the second evening of Rajarani Music Festival on the temple premises in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

# Naveen consults with Binjhal tribals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 13:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday held discussion with members of the Binjhal tribe ahead of the announcement of BJD candidate for the December 5 bypoll to Padampur Assembly seat as a significant number of voters of the constituency belong to the community.

The byelection was necessitated by the death of MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha October 3.

Members of the community were considered to be supporters of Bariha, who was elected from Padampur five times and was from the tribal group.

During the meeting with the chief minister, the community members made it clear that they would only support Bariha's wife as the ruling party's nominee, Binjal Samaj president Hrushikesh Bariha said.

"We have told the chief minister that the community will support BJD if it nominates Bariha's wife. If one of his daughters gets the ticket, we don't have any issue. But, other family members like his nephew or daughter-in-law (nephew's wife) are not accepted," he said.

Ashwini Bhoi, a member of Binjhal Samaj, who was part of



The byelection was necessitated by the death of MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha October 3

Members of the community were considered to be supporters of Bariha



The action committee for creation of the separate Padampur district had earlier met the CM and held discussions on the issue. Padampur sub-division covers a vast geographical area. The BJD has full support for the demand for carving out a separate district from Bargarh

SUSHANT SINGH | BJD LEADER

margin of over 5,500 votes from Padampur segment.

Purohit had won the seat in the 2014 Assembly poll.

Congress nominee Satya Bhusan Sahu was elected from Padampur three times in 1980, 1985 and 2004.

Meanwhile, people of Padampur intensified their demand for creation of a separate district, which is being supported by all the three major parties.

Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari and senior BJD leader Sushant Singh Sunday met the agitating members of Padampur Zilla Kriyanustan Committee and invited them to a meeting with the chief minister.

"The action committee for creation of the separate Padampur district had earlier met the CM and held discussions on the issue. Padampur sub-division covers a vast geographical area. The BJD has full support for the demand for carving out a separate district from Bargarh," said Singh, a former minister.

BJP MP from Bargarh Suresh Pujari also met the committee members and supported their demand. "Though the people of Padampur were earlier assured of a separate district, the government has not fulfilled it," Pujari said.

Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati said his party will fight for the demand.

## CM pays tributes to poet Mayadhar Mansingh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 13:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday paid tributes to acclaimed Odia poet Mayadhar Mansingh on his 117th birth anniversary.

Speaking highly of the Padma Shri awardee Mansingh, the CM said, "Many works of poetry, plays, essays etc, written by him are still unique. His contribution to popularising Odisha literature and cul-

ture outside Odisha will always be remembered.

"My deepest regards to Mayadhar Mansingh on his birth anniversary," Naveen said.

Mayadhar Mansingh born on this day in 1905, and passed away October 11, 1973, was a poet and writer who wrote in Odia. He received the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award in India, in 1967.

Born in Nandala village, Krushnaprasad Tahasil of Puri

district, Mansingh's literary contributions include essays, poetic plays and long narrative poems, with his poetic style being profuse with the use of romantic and erotic metaphors, for which he earned the appellation "Pr mika kabi" (lover poet) in Odia literature.

He wrote books like The Saga of the Land of Jagannatha (English) which portrays vividly the ancient history of Odisha.

# In Malkangiri, a single drop saved today is an investment for tomorrow

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Malkangiri, Nov 13:** A community-led water governance initiative is doing wonders for tribal farmers in Malkangiri, helping them cultivate round the year, harvest better yield, earn higher income and consume diversified nutritious food.

"All our crops were rainfed, but we still received good yields. We sold the surplus at local weekly markets and bartered some for essential goods. However, climate change made things unpredictable," said Dhanurjaya Khila of Kadamguda in Korkunda block.

Farmers started incurring losses due to erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spells. "We slowly lost faith in agriculture. Many migrated to Andhra Pradesh for work," said Arjun Khila, another farmer.

Dhanurjaya and Arjun represent hundreds of thousands of farmers, who struggle to cope with the rising temperature, heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides.

To strengthen farmers' resilience and livelihood security, the Agriculture department in collaboration with local civil societies such as Sisu O Mahila Kalyana Samiti (SOMKS) and Parivartan launched a community-driven micro-irrigation programme, supported under the Special Programme for Promotion of Integrated Farming (SPPPIF), in 2019-20.

The system provided water to 651 acres and benefited 295 tribal farmers spread across Tekguda village in Khairput block, Chitapari III and Totaguda in Korkunda, and Potitang, Themrupali and Batriatal in Malkangiri block.

**Channelling resources**

Group discussions were organised



with farmers to identify major water deficit areas. The Agriculture department's technical team identified and marked certain areas in their farms that required irrigation.

"Based on our study, water deficit areas in farms were converted into water outlets," said Soumya Ranjan Majhi, an engineer with SPPPIF, Malkangiri. Each outlet covered three to five acres, to which water from natural streams was carried using pipeline distribution networks. Water was then redirected through drip irrigation to those areas where crops were cultivated.

Also, a cadre of community resource persons in the role of pump-cum-valve operators was created. The village water user committee (VWUC) members appointed the operator for a monthly payment of Rs 2,000. "Every drop of water is precious. We have sensitised farmers not to over-irrigate. They mostly think it will spur plant growth, instead it leads to waterlogging, leaches away soil nutrients, and reduces soil fertility," said Jagabandhu Hantal, pump-cum-valve operator in Totaguda.

Chameleon soil water sensors, which mimic a plant to understand how much water is present in the soil,

were installed to monitor water level in the root zone of plants.

**Joint governance**

"Besides access to irrigation, promoting community stewardship in water management and governance is critical for ensuring long-term sustainability," said Aniket Likhari, District Project Officer, SPPPIF, Malkangiri. All villages under the micro-irrigation system have functional VWUCs. Villagers elect the VWUC president, secretary and treasurer.

Tekguda VWUC president Chandrasen Madhi said they collected ₹100 per month from each household as user fee and deposited it in the VWUC's bank account as an emergency fund. They charge a fine of ₹50, if they find cases of excess water use during their routine inspections.

The VWUC bars monocropping. Meetings to assess seed availability and decide on the crops to be grown are organised during Kharif and Rabi seasons, according to Totaguda VWUC president Lakshmi Khara. The block agriculture officer (BAO) visits tribal villages to provide technical inputs from time to time.

**Resilient crops, effective land use**

Pulses and millets are preferred

crops as they need less water and have higher MSPs. "Special focus was given to revive traditional crops, including pulses, millets and tubers, as they are climate resilient, highly nutritious and a part of the local food culture," said Chief District Agriculture Officer Nandagiri Ramkrishna Hayagreeva. With farmers' help, Agriculture department has identified seeds with high yield potential and water resilience, to help select the most promising varieties suitable for the local climate, the soil and the hilly terrain.

"Before the launch of micro-irrigation system, we grew only dangar dhano (upland paddy) during rainy season," said Bhagirathi Madhi, who used to migrate from Tekguda to Andhra Pradesh to work in a brick kiln for Rs 400 per day.

Lachma Kurami at Batriatal grows pumpkin, bitter gourd, ridge gourd and bottle gourd around her farm fencing. In winters, she earns around Rs 1,500 per week by selling creeper varieties. In summers, demand is more and supply is less. "This time, I earned around Rs 3,000 a week," she said.

"Micro-irrigation has decreased water requirement and fertiliser cost," said Nigamananda Behera, an agronomist at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Malkangiri. Mixed cropping reduced topsoil run-off during rains, thus improving soil fertility and yield.

For the first time, farmers are selling finger millet at MSP in local markets. "This model has the potential to scale up in other tribal villages. Our field assessment has found that around 800 acres are suitable for micro-irrigation in Talaguda, Dardturuguda, Khadikajodi, Kandhaguda and Semilipatga villages," said Manaswini Mohapatra, Assistant Agriculture Officer, Malkangiri block.

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**INDICATIVE NOTIFICATION**

**ENGAGEMENT OF CULTURAL QUOTA IN WESTERN RAILWAY**

Employment Notification No. RRC/WR/04/2022 (Cultural Quota) Dated 14/11/2022

<b>Opening Date and Time</b>	<b>17/11/2022 @ 10.00 hrs.</b>
<b>Closing Date and Time</b>	<b>16/12/2022 @ 23.59 hrs.</b>

**1. Western Railway invites ONLINE applications** from eligible candidates of the following discipline for filling up the following Posts against Cultural for the year 2022-23

Sr. No.	Discipline	No. of Post
I	Octopad instrument player	01
II	Male Singer	01

For further details, refer Employment Notification No. RRC/WR/04/2022 (Cultural Quota) dated 14/11/2022 uploaded on RRC/WR's website: <https://www.rrc-wr.com> on 14/11/2022.

**0575** **Dy.CPO(Gaz)**

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# ₹150cr sanctioned for Khurda-Bolangir line

The state government has given land free of cost and is bearing 50 per cent construction cost for the 306.25 km Khurda Road-Bolangir railway project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 13:** With the Indian Railways commissioning the 10.5 km of newly-laid broad gauge line between Bichhupali and Jhartarba of Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line project, the state government has sanctioned Rs 150 crore for speedy execution of the much-awaited project.

Principal Secretary, Commerce and Transport Department, BP Sethi, has directed state government officials to release the fund to railways for early completion of the project.

The state government has given land free of cost and bearing 50 per cent construction cost for the 306.25 km Khurda Road-Bolangir railway project.

"I am directed to convey the sanction of the Government to an expenditure of Rs 150 crore only for development of Khurda Road-Bolangir NBG Rail Link Project from 112 km-289 km during the year 2022-2023," Transport Department Financial Advisor cum Special Secretary wrote to the Accountant General.

Recently, the state government held a high-level meeting with senior officials from Central government, Railway, Forest Department and Revenue Department to expedite the project. Decisions have



also been taken to fast-track the forest clearance at the earliest in a time bound manner, the official said.

Though survey of the new rail line between Khurda and Bolangir, connecting the coastal region of the state with the western district, was done in 1945, it got sanction from the Centre only in 1994-95 and the project is already delayed by more than 20 years due to lack of funds following which the state government signed an MoU with railways to contribute certain

amount of funds for expediting the works.

Meanwhile, sources said the ambitious project is also being delayed due to non-issue of Stage-I forest clearance. Of the total length of 306 km of the Khurda Road-Bolangir new railway project, 91 km from Khurda Road to Nuagaon has been commissioned. Now, another 10.5 km between Bichhupali and Jhartarba is commissioned.

Officials said that the work is in progress from Nuagaon to Daspalla (91 km to 106 km) and target is set to commission it by March 2023. The work from Daspalla to Buguda (106 km to 121 km) is very slow due to non-issue of Stage-I forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, the sources said.

Similarly, work from Buguda to Banigoghha is also yet to start due to non-issue of the Stage-I forest clearance. In total, the Government of India is yet to issue required forest clearance from 112 to 180 km while the work from 180 to 275 km is in progress and work at 275-301 km already commissioned.

Meanwhile, the East Coast Railways in a statement said that the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) has inspected this newly laid Bichhupali and Jhartarba line November 10.



**REMINISCING NETAJI:** Musicians perform during an event to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on State Museum premises in City, Sunday

## Plan to promote millet export by Indian Govt

**New Delhi:** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEEDA), has prepared a comprehensive strategy to promote Indian millets exports across the globe, commencing December 2022. Indian government has planned to facilitate participation of exporters, farmers and traders in 16 international trade expos and Buyer Seller Meets (BSMs).

## Aditya Birla Public School organises fancy dress activity



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 13:** To mark the importance of blended learning in 21st century and infuse learning with fun, The Aditya Birla Public School Bhubaneswar organized a Fancy Dress Activity on November 12 at AV hall of the school.

Attired in different fancy uniform, Adityans of class LKG-II showcased their talents with great enthusiasm. They were dressed as doctors, soldiers, police, scientist, Tree, Handwash, nurse and different freedom fighters and mythological characters and spoke a few words about the characters that they represented.

In this connection, parents were also called to witness the programme. In the end, they shared their positive feedback and views with others. They also appreciated the efforts given by the whole school team.

Principal LN Dash, in his address, said that we need to groom our children to remove stage fear at the very early age. A remarkable personality can only be made when fear is separated from someone's life. The programme was well coordinated by Regina Singh, Tamalika Ghoshal, Suman Sudha Prusty, Meera Pandey and administrative officer Narsingh Sahu.

## International seminar on maritime trade at Shailabala

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Nov 13:** An international webinar on maritime trade and Odia Culture was organised at Shailabala Women's Autonomous College, Cuttack on behalf of Post Graduate (PG) department of Odia November, 12.

The seminar was inaugurated by principal, Gayatri Biswal and presided by Chitta Ranjan Panda. Sugyani Sahu gave a brief introduction of the guests and keynote address was read by Sanjita Mishra. Jadu Dash of University of Southampton, U.K. focused on role of climate in Odisha's maritime trade. Er. Tanmay Kumar Panda from Germany highlighted on maritime trade of Kalinga with abroad and showed Kalinga map collected from museum of Netherland which was extended from Ganga to Godavari.

Debasis Sahoo from Germany described various boats used in ancient Odisha and the knowledge and experience of sailors to sail in deep sea in right way.

Kalyanamalini Sahoo of University of Lille, France spoke on spreading of Odia Culture and Language through Maritime Trade in different states.

Shantipriya Parida from Finland told how Odia culture influenced other countries. Swadhin Kumar Behera, Director, Application Laboratory, JAMSTEC, Japan said on impact of climate change and Odisha's development depends on growth of maritime trade and in establishment of ship-building factory in the state.

Sahadev Swain from U.K. compared contribution of ancient Sadhabs (traders) with the present Non-Resident Odias for bringing glory to Odisha in all over the world. Archanamayee Panda, Kamal Mahunta, Diptimayee Swain coordinated while Tapas Kumar Das provided technical assistance to the programme. Staff, students of the college and scholars from other universities in the state and country participated in this programme. Narendranath Nayak gave the vote of thanks.



## Suravi 2022 from today

**Bhubaneswar:** The state government will organise the state-level children festival 'Suravi' from November 14 to 16 in the City. Around 2,000 school children under the guidance of 1,200 teachers from across the state will attend the fest. The kids will get an opportunity to take part in various workshops, competitions and exhibitions during these three days. The state level Suravi-2022 will kick-start November 14 on the occasion of Children's Day and will continue till November 16 at Government Boys High School, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar.

Continued from P1

## India's coal...

Recently it also launched LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), a global movement encouraging people to change their lifestyles and consumption patterns in order to protect the environment.

Ironically though, India has been forced to depend on coal-based energy options due to shrinking global supply chains and rising fuel prices owing to the Ukraine crisis.

In fact Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi last month had said that India's dry fuel production will touch 900 million tonnes in the current fiscal. Coal India's production in 2021-22 was 622 million tonnes.

Though the central government is calling its dependence on coal as a temporary phase, it does hamper its efforts to push for greener options.

## Permacrisis: Why ...

The progressive shift from Newtonian to Einsteinian paradigms in 20th-century physics most neatly illustrates his thinking.

In both cases, 'crisis' is linked to the idea - the ideal, even - of progress. Marx believed that, because the rate of profit has a tendency to fall, capitalism would meet a final crisis and that this would lead to the emergence of communism: an entirely new and, crucially, better socio-political situation.

'Permacrisis' represents the contemporary inversion of this conception. It is similar to Marx's idea that human history will lead to a final crisis, only it precludes any idea of further progress.

Instead of leading to something better, it denotes a static and permanently difficult situation.



**FOR THE PEOPLE:** Barabati-Cuttack Assembly constituency BJD workers take out Jan Sampark Padyatra in Dargaha Bazar area of Cuttack, Sunday

# Things to keep in mind before you decide to turn vegan

**V**eganism is one such topic of discussion that attracts many readers. You may be curious about this lifestyle or want to explore more. Whatever drives you to search for the vegan way of life, be sure there are plenty of resources and contradictory opinions about it. Before turning vegan, the most important thing to understand is why you are doing it.

You can discuss the pros and cons of veganism with people who have adopted this lifestyle or research it. A healthier lifestyle choice or a weight loss goal may steer you towards veganism. Environmental concerns can also be your reason for choosing to turn vegan. As long as you are determined and have a strong desire to adapt to the new lifestyle, you can succeed in your efforts to turn vegan.

**Do it the right way - Opt for supplements you may need**

Several considerations accompany any lifestyle change, and a series of minor adjustments make it possible to adhere to the changes in the long run. Besides alternatives and stocking your pantry with food

that will match your newly chosen diet regime, think carefully about your nutritional goals. Most regular diets lack some essential nutrients like Vitamin B12, Vitamin D, or iodine. Though rich in micronutrients and essential vitamins, a vegan diet may also require supplementation for these critical nutrients. Arm yourself with knowledge about multivitamins and supplements that you may require along with your diet.

These nutrients are found in fortified dairy alternatives, but the recommended route is to take multivitamins or natural supplements for the correct nutritional values. There are several myths and misconceptions about supplements. However, if you go vegan, you may need a B12 or iron supplement. Before taking supplements, understand your body's needs and consult your physician or nutritionist. Is it expensive to turn vegan?

Another question that you may wonder about is how deep a hole plant-based products will make in your pocket. Contrary to what you may think, these products are less



expensive than you imagine. Compared to a plant-based diet, meat-eaters may be spending more on procuring food. Opt for whole foods that are readily available across grocery stores and can be ordered online. However, please read the labels carefully for ingredients to avoid culprits like gelatin or milk powder finding their way into your grocery basket.

**Restaurants are not a thing of the past**

Turning vegan does not mean you cannot enjoy your meals, and you can learn how to make vegan versions of your favourite dishes. Explore restaurants around you that serve vegan alternatives. You will not go hungry at a restaurant since most provide vegan options. Some of your favourite foods might already be vegan. Chances are you will be spoiled for choices rather than avoiding restaurants due to your newly chosen lifestyle. Before

you travel for work or leisure, check out places that offer meals that match your vegan meal plan.

**If it's vegan, it is healthy & boring!**

If you believe that everything labelled vegan is healthy, think again! You can find many junk food items like vegan pizzas, burgers, and cakes. The key is to enjoy these in moderation and avoid them if you are turning vegan for health reasons. A plant-based diet rich in whole foods consisting of fruits, vegetables, legumes, and grains will be beneficial. You don't need to avoid soy-based products but consume them in moderation. Research healthy ingredients you can include in your vegan meal plans, such as miso, tempeh, tofu, soy milk, and edamame. Many exciting and delicious recipes can be vegan too. The occasional cheat days or meals that apply to regular diets are equally applicable to a vegan diet. **It's your road to walk alone or with others!**

It is never easy to please everyone; a few might need help understanding your choices when turning vegan. You might face questions

from friends and family, and your reasons may not appeal to them. However, agreeing to disagree and following your path to enjoying your new lifestyle is essential. The only way to progress on your vegan journey is by staying true to yourself and respecting your choice above everything else. Besides, there are communities you can join that share your beliefs about turning vegan. They can encourage you, guide you, and help you eat ethically. You will certainly not be alone in your choice, and you can receive help if you ask for it from suitable sources.

**It's not for a day or two but a way for life**

Remember, you are not just changing your diet plan. It is a new lifestyle that you have chosen. It may take time to happen, and you may slip while treading on the new path of veganism. It is essential to acknowledge that you need time, but it is equally important to stick to your decision. Keep yourself motivated and look for new and exciting ways to experiment with food.

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**SHIP WRECKAGE**

# Hidden danger underwater

THE FRENCH SHIP VELDA WHICH SUNK 156 YEARS AGO  
POSES DANGER TO BOATS AND TRAWLERS ON SEA



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mahakalapa, Nov 13:** It was in 1866 or 67 when a French cargo ship Velda carrying foodgrains had sunk near Madali, just some distance away from Hukitola Island of Gahirmatha marine sanctuary area in Kendrapara district. About 156 years have passed since the ship sunk, but its wreckage is yet to be retrieved. It has been posing danger to fishing boats and trawlers on the sea.

Reports said, at that time most of Odisha was under the grip of great famine while people were dying of starvation in thousands. The British government imported foodgrains and other essentials like rice, wheat, edible oil, coconuts, molasses and flattened rice through Velda. The ship was on its way to Jambu Island where it was to un-

load the essentials. But as ill luck would have it, the ship sank on mid-sea, locals said.

A part of the ship is still visible to the local fishermen and tourists visiting the Hukitola Island.

There are instances of the trawlers and boats colliding with the wrecked ship in the sea, said some fishermen of Jambu, Tubi and Kajalapatia areas.

Fishermen and social activists like Subash Chandra Swain, Laxmidhar Swain, Biranchinarayan Das and Natha Kumar Bhola observed that the wreckage should be retrieved from the sea to ensure safety of fishermen. Notably, scuba diver Sabir Bux was curious about the sunken French ship. In 2011-12, he dived into the sea with camera to click pictures of the ship in the prohibited marine area without permission of

**Fishermen and social activists have also suggested that the place can be marked with floating warning signs around it. The wrecked ship should be retrieved and kept as showpiece at Hukitola Island to draw more tourists**

the Forest department. On being informed, former range officer of Gahirmatha marine sanctuary area Mihir Patnaik rushed to the spot and later took legal action against Sabir Bux.

Since the ship is posing threat to trawlers and boats, various local outfits and fishermen have been demanding that the administration should take safety measures to get rid of the wreckage to ward off accidents of boats, ships and trawlers.

They have also suggested that the place can be marked with floating warning signs around it. The wrecked ship should be retrieved and kept as showpiece at Hukitola Island to draw tourists.

Contacted, ranger of the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary Manas Kumar Das said that they are aware of the sunken ship and fishermen have been warned against going near the ship.



**ART COMPETITION:** Students participated in a drawing and painting competition on Sambalpuri culture and tradition organised by Sambalpur Mahotsav Committee at Gangadhar Meher University in Sambalpur, Sunday

## Man shot dead over govt land encroachment

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Nov 13:** A youth was killed in broad daylight by a local resident over a dispute on encroachment of government land at Jhriakocha slum under Jhiripani police limits in Rourkela, Sunday. The deceased was identified as Banchhanidhi Tanti (42).

Sources said, Banchhanidhi's family has been living in the slum for many years. He acquired a patch of the government land there. However, one Ajit Oram had opposed it. The two had engaged in



heated arguments over the land.

Hours later, some youths came on a bike and fired two rounds at him and fled the spot. A critically injured Banchhanidhi was immediately rushed to Rourkela Ispat General Hospital where he suc-

cumbed during treatment. Following the incident, tension flared up in Jhriakocha.

Infuriated, locals and his family members blocked the Koel Nagar-Jhiripani main road for around two hours demanding com-

ensation for the family of the deceased. Local police have set up a special team to nab culprit and his associates.

According to sources, Ajit was running a racket that used to encroach upon vacant government lands at Jhriakocha basti area under Jhiripani police limits, and let plots on rent.

ASP Sangram Keshari Behera and IIC Debnani Nayak visited the spot and started an investigation into the murder. Police have detained the main accused and are interrogating him.

**RARE CATCH**



A rare fish known as 'Pania Phala' fish in local parlance was caught by fishermen off the Paradip coast adjoining Bhograi block in Balasore district Sunday. The fish of 12 feet in length and having a pointed saw-shaped snout was sold for ₹30,000 to a pharmaceutical firm at Digha fish market for its use in preparation of life-saving drugs

## Tribals see red over stock yard project

LOCAL RESIDENTS HAVE WARNED OF MOVING COURT AND NHRC IF THE ISSUE IS NOT SORTED OUT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Nov 13:** A mining firm is building a stock yard for iron ore at Talakainsara village under Bansapal block of Keonjhar district. Locals have strongly opposed the project, accusing the firm of doing this work without consent of Pali Sabha. They said they would be forced to take up the issue with court and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) unless sorted out soon.

The tribal residents alleged that a number of trees have been cleared and boulders are being dug up while scores of farmers will be affected by the project. The project will also throw a spanner in the movement of wild animals in the area, they added, seeking intervention of the administration to resolve the issue.



According to reports, the Bansapal tehsil had held a public hearing on the stock yard project in 2019 without majority approval. The tribals pointed out that the area where the stock yard is being set up falls under the categories of farm lands and homestead land.

However, the mining firm did not pay heed to their concern. But the hearing was tilted in favour of the company, it was alleged.

On August 25, 2020, the tribals had also objected to the project at the mining firm office. But their complaint was ignored.

On February 18, 2021, the tehsil held a final hearing on the project when tribals had also opposed it. Later, they had taken up the issue with the National Commission for SCs and STs in New Delhi. The Commission had directed the directorate of mines and the Collector to submit a report in this regard.

It was learnt that people belonging to Munda and Bhuyan communities have been living on this land since 1960. Their livelihood is solely dependent on the land. The project will also take a heavy toll on the environment and the wildlife in the area. They have urged the state government to resolve the issue.

"As no one is concerned for us, we will be forced to take up the issue with court and the National Human Rights Commission," they said.

## Sarpanch's hubby held for impregnating minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**R Udayagiri, Nov 13:** Police Sunday arrested the husband of a woman sarpanch on charge of impregnating a minor girl under Adaba police limits in Gajapati district.

The accused was identified as Manas Mandal, whose wife is the sarpanch of Adaba gram panchayat in the area. The police action came after the girl's father lodged a complaint in the police station, Saturday. Childline officials from Mohana reached the place and rescued the girl.

Police registered a case and arrested Manda. The incident has spread shockwaves in the area. Police said that the accused noticed the girl, a student of Class-IX, during her daily travel to school. One day he dropped at her house when her parents had gone out-

side on work and raped her on the pretext of showing his mobile phone. Later, he visited the girl's house in the absence of her family members frequently and outraged her modesty. He even threatened her of dire consequences if she discloses the matter before others. The girl became four months pregnant. Fearing for life, the girl remained silent and did not reveal her ordeal before others.

The girl's father came to know about her pregnancy after she fell sick November 1. On being informed, Mandal asked the girl's family members to terminate the pregnancy. He even tried to bribe them with money and offered them a house under Central scheme after they refused to oblige. Finally, he threatened to kill them and went absconding.

## Nine arrested over man's electrocution

**Deogarh:** Police have arrested nine people in connection with electrocution of a person in Rimala area of Deogarh district, Saturday. The accused had laid a trap which was charged with live wire to catch wild animals. But a person identified as Deba Sahu (50) came in contact with the live wire and died a few days ago. After the matter came to the light, his family members and villagers filed a complaint at the police station in this regard. Police started an investigation and came to know that 10 people had laid the trap to kill wild animals. Such cases are being reported from various parts of the state. Recently, a man had died after falling into such a trap in Ganjam district. The trap allegedly was laid to kill boars.



**FOLK THEATRE:** Artistes enacted a scene from Mughal Tamasha, a satirical form of folk drama of Mughal period at Kuansa Ratha Danda in Bhadrak, Saturday night. The play was staged after a gap of 22 years

**ECO CONCERN**

## Locals, teachers join hands to breathe life into dying scrub forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khaira, Nov 13:** Years ago, a luxuriantly grown scrub forest used to exist near Begunia village in Mantri panchayat under Khaira block of Balasore district. However, the forest is now tottering on the brink of extinction due to years of nautical disasters and human-induced destruction.

Many elderly residents fondly remembered the days when the sprawling lush green forest was once home to a large number of wild animals like hyenas, jackals, wolves, foxes, mongooses and a host of reptile species. The village surrounding and local ecology was peaceful with cacophony of birds of the forest.

People feared to venture into the forest as it was too dense. Over the years, it continued to lose its existence and only a few trees are now struggling for survival where a forest once stood, some locals lamented. Ecologically concerned citizens and local people were pained at the miserable state of

the scrub forest at a time when they are scared to perceive the adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture and life across the globe.

However, they have a happy news now. Some villagers and local teachers have come together and started efforts to revive the scrub forest.

A couple of days ago, villagers along with retired government employee Kartik Chandra Lenka and Prakruti Mitra Awardee environmentalist Purna Chandra Sendha, teachers and students of the local UP school planted over 500 saplings of various species on the land.

"Without trees, the village looks lifeless, vacant and deserted. The forest area has shrunk due to encroachments. Again, all are concerned for its revival and have started their efforts. There is need for spontaneous cooperation from the Forest department to resurrect the dying forest," said Lenka.

The Prakruti Mitra Awardee observed that special care would be taken for the saplings to ensure their 100 per cent survival.



## Bird walk launched in Berhampur University campus

Around 50 participants took part in birding around four-km on the campus for around four hours to record the winged guests inside the campus

AGENCIES

**Berhampur, Nov 13:** The sprawling Bhanja Vihar campus of Berhampur University in Ganjam district serves as a base to host several winged guests with the onset of winter.

As most of the students are unaware that the campus is also a paradise of birds, the Department of Environmental Studies of the university Saturday organized its first bird walk on the campus, about 180 km from state capital Bhubaneswar, to commemorate the 126 birthday of Salim Ali, the bird man of India.

Around 50 participants, including students, researchers and faculty members of the university took up birding around four-km on the campus for around four hours to record the winged guests inside the campus.

Geetanjali Dash, Vice-Chancellor of the university inaugurated the bird walk in presence of Amlan Nayak, divisional forest officer (DFO) Berhampur.

The university campus is rich with flora and fauna. It has also hosted a number of migratory birds who settled here after flying thousands of kilometres, the VC said, adding that everyone



has the responsibility to protect its rich biodiversity.

Since waterfowls flew to the campus during the winter, the VC said the university would develop its existing small water bodies to host the winged guests.

The main objective of the bird walk was to explore, discover the birds and to enjoy nature, at the same time to create awareness among the students about different birds, said B Anjan Kumar Prusty, head of the de-

partment, Department of Environmental Studies.

While more than 100 different species of birds sighted on the campus throughout the year, we have recorded 39 species, including six migratory species during the birding period, he said.

The common species found during the walk included house crow, black kite, common myna, rock pigeon, red-vented bulbul, white-throated kingfisher, Indian grey hornbill, etc. he added

A photo exhibition was also organised in the department, where the photographs of different birds, sighted in the campus in different seasons, were exhibited on the occasion. DFO, Berhampur inaugurated the photo exhibition.



FOCUS IDEOLOGY

# WHAT MAKES A FASCIST?



Although far-right politics cannot be equated with fascism, all political belief systems evolve over time and pass through different phases. Parties or regimes exhibiting certain features might not be fascist today; but they could become so in predictable ways

their removal from office virtually impossible. Such autocratisation – an ugly, but necessary, neologism – is said to be more effective by dint of being harder to detect. But this contrast overlooks the fact that fascism – notwithstanding its glorification of violence – often did not have to engage in violence to achieve its aims. Mussolini himself didn't march on Rome. He arrived by sleeper car from Milan after Italy's king and traditional elites had decided to hand him power, in the hope that he would sort out a political mess that nobody else appeared capable of managing.

Moreover, it is largely forgotten that Mussolini governed for years within the structures of Italy's democracy, even including plenty of self-declared liberals in his cabinet. He practiced what today is often described as "autocratic legalism." He followed the letter of the law while violating its spirit; or he enacted legislation in ways that were procedurally correct but that put the rule of men over the rule of law. To be sure, there was plenty of horrific violence as well, most infamously the murder of the socialist politician Giacomo Matteotti. But not until 1925 did Mussolini clearly become a dictator (whereas Hitler left little doubt about the all-out racist totalitarian rule he would establish from the very day he was appointed Chancellor).

It is a failure of political judgment to conflate today's far right and fascism. But it is imperative to watch closely how the far right develops over time. A shift to fascism – represented by open commitments to authoritarianism and the glorification of violence – could happen fast, but it might also happen quite slowly. In any case, the conduct of traditional elites is a key factor to watch. That is one of the least-understood lessons of the rise of Mussolini's Fascism in twentieth-century Italy.

The writer is Professor of Politics at Princeton University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Almost exactly a century after Fascist leader Benito Mussolini's March on Rome and ascent to the Italian premiership, a politician whose party descends from the original Fascists, Giorgia Meloni, has been appointed as Italy's prime minister. Are we witnessing the return of lower-case fascism – a political phenomenon that has resonated far beyond Italy since 1922?

While there is nothing wrong with asking the question, throwing around the f-word too liberally could make it easier for far-right leaders to claim that since their critics always exaggerate, they also must be inflating the threat to democracy. Predictably, Meloni took great pains to distance herself from fascism in her maiden speech to parliament.

Yet in considering the question of fascism today, one must remember that it has gone through different phases. While there are no fascist regimes in Europe or in the Americas today, there certainly are some parties – including governing ones – that could shift gradually in a more fascist direction.

Like any political belief system, fascism can be expected to evolve. Liberalism today is not what it was a hundred years ago, and conservatism – not to be confused with a reactionary or even strictly orthodox stance – finds its very meaning in carefully adapting to changing circumstances. What defines these systems are basic value commitments which should be recognisable over time. Liberals tell stories about freedom; conservatives dwell on the perils of rapid change and the limits of human reason in remaking society.

And fascists? For starters, they have all been nationalists who promised national rebirth – that is, to make the country great again. But not all nationalists are fascists, and many politicians promise some form of regeneration. What has distinguished fascists historically has been their glorification of violent struggle and martial valor. They have also promoted strict gender, national, and racial hierarchies, with races in

particular assumed to be locked in permanent and deadly conflict.

Today's far right is undoubtedly in the business of re-establishing traditional gender roles and hierarchies, and it derives much of its energy from a relentless politics of exclusion: those alien to the nation must be kept out, lest they eventually come to replace the dominant in-group. But there is also a perceived danger from within: namely, the "liberal elites" and minorities who do not count as members of what far-right populists consider the "real people."

Yet this politics of exclusion does not necessarily go hand in hand with a glorification of violence and struggle as a means of providing men (it's usually men) with meaningful, disciplined, heroic lives. The latter feature, after all, emerged from the mass mobilisations of World War I, with Mussolini praising the "trenchocracy": an aristocracy of brave warriors – as opposed to today's weekend keyboard warriors – who had bonded in combat. Since the war had ended, Mussolini's followers continued the violence at home. Likewise, Hitler's rise is incomprehensible outside the context of the bloodthirsty right-wing militias that emerged in Germany in the early 1920s.



Jan-Werner Mueller

LIBERALS TELL STORIES ABOUT FREEDOM; CONSERVATIVES DWELL ON THE PERILS OF RAPID CHANGE AND THE LIMITS OF HUMAN REASON IN REMAKING SOCIETY

## Software Pain

Social networks and tech companies the world over are sending out gloomy information about mass layoffs and job cuts. This has already sent shockwaves among highly skilled workforce and aspiring youths, including thousands in India. Tech giants such as Twitter, Facebook and Amazon have drawn criticism for their thoughtless retrenchment in the face of recession fears. People have been sharing their ordeal and how the layoffs have impacted them. Faced with a global downturn, looming recession in the US economy and shooting interest rates across the West, Big Tech companies are in huge trouble.

It could also mean that even these massive tech companies have reached a stage where overall change is not required in leaps and bounds. This means developers and engineers are fast burning themselves out and are not needed anymore on a regular basis. Since sustenance of these monolith enterprises is possible without a huge workforce, great amount of employees will get laid off. This may also indicate that tech sector is a bubble and cannot be compared to primary sectors like agriculture, production and infrastructure. Bubble sectors get the most assistance from governments and investors whereas primary sectors suffer constantly. Although bubbles fetch in more wealth, they are short lived.

This week, Meta, that owns Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, declared it will sack 11,000 employees or more than 13 per cent of its staff. Last week, Twitter's new owner, Elon Musk, announced retrenchment of 50 per cent of the workforce. In August, Snap, the parent firm of Snapchat, reduced staff by 20 per cent. Amazon has resorted to a hiring freeze, while the payments-processing platform Stripe is also shedding 14 per cent of its workers. A bleak winter is in store for the job market which may surpass even the joblessness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

During the past decade, Silicon Valley was flush with easy money as investors were desperate to benefit from the unprecedented boom in the sales of smartphones – the device that spawned millions of apps. Then the pandemic struck prompting billions of consumers to shop and socialise online. This was in a way a windfall for software businesses. As Mark Zuckerberg admitted this week, Meta was among those businesses that counted on this huge tide lasting forever. It enjoyed a financial boost during the pandemic lockdown era because more people stayed home and scrolled on their phones and computers. But as the lockdowns ended and people started going outside again, revenues began to falter.

An economic slowdown and a grim outlook for online advertising – by far Meta's biggest revenue source – have contributed to its woes. This summer, Meta posted its first quarterly decline in history. Meta has worried investors by pumping in over \$10 billion a year into the new technology called the Metaverse as it shifts its focus away from social media. Zuckerberg predicts the Metaverse, an immersive digital universe, will eventually replace smartphones as the primary way people use technology. However, Meta has lost more than 71 per cent of its value so far this year as investors were uncomfortable with investments in the Metaverse.

Besides Twitter and Meta, other tech companies such as Apple, Amazon and Alphabet have said they will freeze recruitment and implement job cuts amid inflation and fears of recession. There are reports that the companies are in a higher-risk environment for which they will shy away from spending to grow their businesses.

According to a Bloomberg report, the tech sector shed 9,587 jobs in October, the highest monthly total since November 2020. The total job cuts announced by US-based employers for the past month have also gone up by 13 per cent with 33,843 employees having been fired.

In such a scenario, industry leaders, governments and policymakers need to put their heads together and take steps to tackle the cost of living crisis that seems to plague all countries today.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect. MARK TWAIN
- All differences in this world are of degree, and not of kind, because oneness is the secret of everything. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
- Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony. MAHATMA GANDHI

### WORDSWORTH

#### Copacetic

It's possible that this word – meaning that something is in excellent order or satisfactory – has created more column inches of speculation in the USA than any other apart from OK. It's rare to the point of invisibility outside North America. People mostly become aware of it in the sixties as a result of the US space program – it's very much a Right Stuff kind of word. The first stages of the flight of Apollo 10, like most of the flights that led up to it, have gone like clockwork. In the words of ground control at Houston, everything has been "copacetic" – a term of undetermined origin which means perfect (Chicago Tribune, 20 May 1969). But even in the USA it doesn't have the circulation it did thirty years ago. Dictionaries are cautious about attributing a source for it, reasonably so, as there are at least five competing explanations, with no very good evidence for any of them. One suggestion that's commonly put forward is that it was originally a word of the African-American community in the USA. The name of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, a famous black tap-dancer, singer and actor of the period round the turn of the twentieth century is commonly linked to this belief about its origin. Indeed, he claimed to have invented it as a shoeshine boy in Richmond. But other blacks, especially Southerners, said later that they had heard it earlier than Mr Robinson's day. But he certainly did a lot to popularise the word. A more frequent explanation is that it derives from one of two Hebrew phrases, hakol b'seder, "all is in order", or kol b'tzedek, "all with justice"; it is suggested these were introduced into the USA by Yiddish-speaking Jewish immigrants. Yet other accounts say it derives from a Chinook word copasenee, "everything is satisfactory", once used on the waterways of Washington State, or from the French coupersetique, from couper, "to strike", or from the French phrase copain(s) c'est epatant! ("buddy(s), that's great!"), or, in a hugely strained derivation, from the cop in on the settee, supposedly a hoodlum term used to describe a policeman who was not actively watching out for crime, and so one who was OK. We may agree that most of these suggestions are extremely implausible. Leaving theories aside, the first clear sighting of the word is in a biography of Abraham Lincoln, very popular in its day: "Now there's the kind of a man! Stout as a buffalo an' as to looks I'd call him, as ye might say, real copasetic." Mrs. Lukins expressed this opinion solemnly and with a slight cough. Its last word stood for nothing more than an indefinite depth of meaning (A Man for the Ages, by Irving Bacheller, 1919). Did Mr Bacheller invent the word, as has been suggested? Possibly. We've no way of knowing, though we would guess not. It's certainly an anachronism.

#### Coppice

A coppice is not just any woodland area, but one which is productively managed in a special way. Trees are cut down and encouraged to grow again from the stump. (In fact, the idea of cutting is inherent in the word, as it comes from the Greek kolaphos, "blow", via the Latin verb colpare, "to cut with a blow"; cospice is a variant form that appeared in the sixteenth century as the result of what's called grammatical syncope, or missing a sound out of a word). Coppicing produces a large number of thin stems, which are harvested on a regular cycle of about five to fifteen years. A common species that was coppiced was hazel, which supplied wood to make hurdles, brushes and besom brooms; oak was coppiced to supply bark for the tanning industry. Other common coppiced species in Britain were the wych-elm and the ash, often used for tool handles and the like.

### SPECTRUM RESERVATIONS

# For an egalitarian, inclusive society



Bijayani Mishra

THE APEX COURT HAS GIVEN A HISTORIC VERDICT BY BRINGING THE 103RD CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT INTO IMPLEMENTATION

With 3:2 majority, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitutional amendment and provided 10 per cent reservation to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among forward castes in government jobs and educational institutions. The five-judge Constitution Bench wrapped up the hearing after 6.5 long days where Justices Dinesh Maheswari, Bela M Trivedi and JB Pardiwala agreed that reservation singularly on the basis of economic background is not going to violate the basic structure of the supreme law of the land. Two judges – Justice UU Lalit and Justice S Ravindra Bhat dissented. On the basis of the majority's decision the writ petitions and other proceedings stand disposed off.

The Modi government tabled the Bill for the 103rd Constitutional amendment that provides an additional 10% quota for the EWS candidates. It's worth mentioning that the Economically Backward Class (EBC) and EWS are two different categories. We have an official definition of EWS given by the Government of India but the same is not defined for EBC and Most Economically Backward Class (MEBC). The eligibility to avail the EWS certificate is not purely on the economic background rather it is also based on the property held

by the applicant. The state government is given the autonomy to change the criteria and also extend the income limit for candidates seeking reservation under EWS (valid only in state-owned colleges and public jobs deemed fit for the respective states).

Now the verdict has raised three major concerns. First, is this sort of reservation (exclusively on economic background) violating the basic structure of the Constitution? Justice Maheswari interpreted his explanation by saying this move is an initiative to ensure an all-inclusive march towards achieving the goal of inclusive and egalitarian social order while countering the prevalence of inequalities.

The second concern is that most of the petitioners have termed this idea "as a backdoor attempt to destroy the reservation policy." They have mentioned that a quota of this nature could cross the national cap on reservation set in 1992 by the Supreme Court. In this context, it should be noted that the reservation for EWS does not breach the ceiling limit of 50% pronounced by the judgement in Indra Sawhney Vs Union of India (1992). This judgement also mentions that a state can make special provisions from time to time to create an inclusive society. Hence, affirmative action on the line of economic status is jus-

tified in today's fight against poverty.

Thirdly, treating the 'poorest of poor' as a 'separate category' is a reasonable classification. While concurring Justice Maheswari Justice Trivedi said, "Just as equals cannot be treated unequally, unequals cannot be treated equally." The classification is a reasonable one and it is not going to violate the provisions of OBCs, SEBCs, SCs and STs enshrined in the Constitution of India.

The EWS quota could be availed by persons with Rs 8 lakh gross family income. Further, a person must have a land holding of less than 5 acres, residential flat less than 1000 sq ft and plot (residential) less than 1000/200 sq yards. The quota excludes homogenous group such as OBCs, SCs and STs. These categories would be granted reservation separately. Moreover, it is important to note the several provisions that say the Central government can make special policies for the uplift of the EWS in educational institutions including private ones. The minority educational institutions those which are covered under Article 30(1) are exempted from this scheme. Lastly, the upper limit of EWS quota will be 10% and that will be in addition to existing reservations.

Justice J. Bhat said, opening of EWS quota cannot be interpreted in terms of 'double benefit'. The quota

system was a system to undo the social injustices and social stigmatisation. Making a categorisation on the basis of caste and class amounts to "Constitutionally prohibited discrimination". He further added that the Constitution establishes fraternity as a deeply embedded principle of society and all citizens should be given equal access to avenues of all kinds of opportunity.

So far Tamil Nadu has emerged as the only state that opposed the move of the recent verdict on EWS quota. Advocate P. Wilson has asked "whether it was possible to uplift through reservation because reservation was not meant as a poverty alleviation scheme." Sanjay Parikh, another senior advocate, opined that "reservation based solely on economic criteria cannot be sustained in the Constitution".

To sum up, we can quote Ambedkar who once said: "Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy." The apex court has given a historic verdict by bringing the 103rd Constitutional amendment into implementation and somewhere fulfilled the unfulfilled dream of Ambedkar of having an egalitarian and inclusive society.

The writer is Assistant Professor in Sociology, University of Delhi.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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#### Setting killers free

Sir, The Supreme Court ordering the early release of all six life convicts involved in the 1991 Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, saying that the remission granted to co-convict AG Perarivalan applied to them as well, should draw mixed feelings. The bench noted the Governor did not act on the Tamil Nadu Cabinet's recommendation of premature release and instead passed on the files to the Centre. While the Congress has termed the Supreme Court's decision 'unacceptable' and 'erroneous' and said it would take all legal remedies, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin welcomed the release.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

#### On collision course

Sir, Kerala has been treading in the footsteps of West Bengal in usurping the powers of Governors. Governor-Chief Minister feud is not new now-a-days. The standoff between the former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and then Governor late HR Bharadwaj was of unprecedented scale. Nevertheless, Yediyurappa did not usurp the university chancellor post from the Governor unlike Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal and Pinarayi Vijayan in Kerala. Latest in the series of Governor-CM feud is between Arif Mohammed Khan and Pinarayi Vijayan. Emboldened by the 'success' of Mamata Banerjee taking away the powers of Governor, Kerala is on its way to remove Governor as chancellor of universities. The tiff between Governor and CM arises only when the government is run by a party or parties different from the government that appointed Governors. There was an occasion when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President Giani Zail Singh ran on collision course. Except that, there is no occasion when PM and President were at loggerheads. If a Governor can cease to exist as chancellor by a resolution or at the stroke of a pen by the government, then the very system of Governor being a chancellor of universities is a casualty. The very existence of such a system is fragile. Chief Ministers take advantage of the Constitutional law that says that a "Governor is advised by the council of ministers headed by the Chief Minister." Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has been demanding the removal of Governor Ravindra Narayana Ravi. The present system makes it amply clear that a Governor can survive with no difficulty if he remains submissive to the Chief Minister. Remaining submissive to the Chief Minister should be the 'pleasure' of a Governor.

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE





**The BJP dispensation (in UP) has become a government of scams and its business of lies is beginning to be exposed. AYUSH scam is just one scam. When the curtain will rise, many scams will come to the fore**  
AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

## LAUNCH POSTPONED

Inclement weather conditions have put off the sub-orbital launch of India's first privately developed rocket -- Vikram-S -- by three days to November 18, the Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace said Sunday



## of the day quote

The Election Commission has become an extension of the BJP. It will do whatever the BJP tells it to do  
MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

The BJP is committed to implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act and it is a matter of time that its rules are framed  
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

Why would I contest polls? I have no such aspirations  
PRASHANT KISHOR | POLITICAL STRATEGIST TURNED ACTIVIST

# Punjab tightens gun regulations



A complete ban should be imposed on carrying and displaying weapons at public gatherings, religious places, wedding ceremonies and other events, the order said  
The Bhagwant Mann government has been under fire from opposition parties - Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal and BJP - for the alleged deteriorating law and order situation after a string of sensational killings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Nov 13:** The Punjab government Sunday banned the public display of firearms, including on social media, and songs allegedly promoting gun culture and violence, as it tightened regulations after facing flak from the Opposition over the law and order situation.

The state government also directed a review of arms licenses within the next three months, with no new licence to be issued during the period, and surprise checks, according to an official order.

A complete ban should be imposed on carrying and displaying weapons at public gatherings, religious places, wedding ceremonies and other events, the order said. Directions were also issued for registration of an FIR against those indulging in hate speech against any community, the order said.

The Bhagwant Mann government has been under fire from opposition parties - Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal and BJP - for the alleged deteriorating law and order situation after a string of sensational killings.

The state witnessed the murder of Shiv Sena (Taksali) leader Sudhir Suri on November 14 and Dera Sacha Sauda follower Pardeep Singh on November 10. Both of them were under police protection. Earlier the killing of international Kabaddi player Sandeep Nangal Ambian in Jalandhar in March and the brutal murder of singer Sidhu

Moosewala in May had sparked outrage.

There was also a rocket-propelled grenade attack at the Punjab police intelligence headquarters in Mohali. After the murder of the Dera follower, the opposition parties had said that the state had become the "terror capital" of the country with a reign of anarchy.

The state's home department, in a missive to the police head, commissioners of police, deputy commissioners and senior superintendents of police, said the chief minister had issued directions to take these steps to maintain law and order in the state. According to the order, songs that glorify weapons and violence should be completely banned.

There should be a complete ban on public display of weapons including on social media, the order said. It stated that within three months, there should be a review of arms licenses issued till now and if any arm license is found issued to any wrong person, it should be cancelled immediately.

The order further stated that no new arms license will be issued in the next three months. Such a license should only be issued if the concerned official is satisfied at a personal level that it is necessary to give it. In the coming days, surprise checks should be conducted at different places, the order said. The fresh order comes a day after a major reshuffle in the police department was done by the state government.



EVMs and VVPATs being transported through Air Force helicopter to be kept in a strong room at Bhuntar of Keylong in Lahaul and Spiti district  
PTI PHOTO

# BJP MP files FIR against Giri

After the state BJP unit in West Bengal Saturday filed an FIR at the local Nandigram police station in East Midnapore district, BJP Lok Sabha member, Locket Chatterjee filed a separate FIR against Giri at a local police station in New Delhi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, Nov 13:** Pressure seems to be mounting on the Trinamool Congress over its leader and West Bengal minister, Akhil Giri's derogatory comments concerning the looks of President Droupadi Murmu.

After the state BJP unit in West Bengal on Saturday filed an FIR at the local Nandigram Police station in East Midnapore district, actress-turned-politician and BJP Lok Sabha member from the Hooghly constituency in West Bengal, Locket Chatterjee filed a separate FIR against Giri at a local



police station in New Delhi.

According to her, such derogatory comments against the President are not just an insult to women but for the entire tribal community of the country considering that Droupadi Murmu is the first Indian president from that community.

"This is the real culture of Trinamool. Their leaders are ahead in insulting women, especially if that woman hails from the tribal community. They make tall claims about the tribal development in the state. But such derogatory comments from their leader, who is

also a minister, reflects the actual mindset of their leaders," Chatterjee said.

Meanwhile, the leader of the opposition in the West Bengal Assembly has also become active on the issue. Besides writing to the state governor, La Ganesan to intervene in dismissing Giri as the member of West Bengal legislative Assembly, he is also holding meetings with the party legislators in the state on how the matter can be raised on the floor of Assembly which is heading for its winter session from Monday.

# Clashes erupt in J'khand town

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chakradharpur (Jharkhand), Nov 13:** Clashes broke out between two groups of people here on Sunday, despite the prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC in place, when the body of a Bajrang Dal activist, killed a day ago, was being taken to a crematorium by his supporters, a senior police officer said.

"Mild force" was used by the police to disperse the mob, the officer said. "Violence erupted in the afternoon as soon as the body reached Pawan Chowk in the subdivisional town of Chakradharpur in West Singhbhum district, with two groups of people hurling stones and abuses at each other. The police had to use tear gas shells and mildly lathicharge the trouble-makers to bring the situation under control," said district Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ananya Mittal. The body was later taken to the cremation ghat and the last rites performed, the DC said. Mittal along with Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar are currently camping in the trouble-torn town.

According to police sources, six shops and a vehicle were damaged in the melee. Kamaldev Giri, a 35-year-old Bajrang Dal activist, was on Saturday evening killed after unidentified motorcycle-borne miscreants allegedly hurled crude bombs at him near Bharat Bhawan Chowk, the main thoroughfare of Chakradharpur town, sparking tension in the town.

Most shops and markets in Bharat Bhawan Chowk downed shutters following the incident. Supporters of Bajrang Dal had blocked Chakradharpur-Ranchi road for around three hours, seeking immediate action against the accused.

They called off the protest after the police intervened and assured them of justice. Asked if any arrest or detention has been made, Mittal said, "We are still investigating the matter."

"Giri's post-mortem has been conducted in the sub-divisional hospital by a panel of doctors, in the presence of a magistrate. We are waiting for the reports to arrive," she said. Earlier in the day, Sub-divisional Police Officer, Chakradharpur, Kapil Chaudhary, had said that security forces, including Rapid Action Force personnel, have been deployed in sensitive areas of the town as a precautionary measure.

## SHORT TAKES

### Toddler crushed to death by tempo

**Mumbai:** A 2-year-old girl was crushed to death by a tempo while she was playing on a road in a locality in Mumbai, police said Sunday. The incident, which took place on Saturday afternoon in Cheeta Camp locality of Trombay area, was recorded in a CCTV installed near the spot which showed the tempo driver did not notice the girl and the vehicle crushed her. The driver did not stop the vehicle after it hit the girl and left from the place.

### 3 held for robbery

**New Delhi:** Three persons were arrested for committing robbery inside a moving RTV bus near Chand Cinema in East Delhi's Kalyanpuri, police said Sunday. The robbery was committed on Friday evening while the accused were held on Saturday. A senior police official said that the accused were identified as Pradeep, Sugam, Abhishek. All are vagabonds in the area, said the police.

### Actor killed

**Kolhapur:** A 32-year-old Marathi television actor died after her motorcycle was hit by a concrete mixer tractor in Kolhapur district, a police official said Sunday. Kalyani Kurale-Jadhav, who appears in the TV serial 'Tujyhat Jeev Rangala', was on her way home late Saturday evening when the accident took place near Halondi intersection on Sangli-Kolhapur highway, the official said.

### Woman murdered

**Hyderabad:** A married woman from Telangana, who was missing for about one week, has been found murdered in Uttar Pradesh, where she had gone to meet her Facebook friend. The body of Uzma Begum (32), who went missing from her residence in Banswada on November 6, was found in the premises of a private security company in Amroha district of Uttar Pradesh. Police arrested an employee, Shehzad and questioned him, which revealed the shocking details of how friendship over Facebook led to the murder.

### 9-year-old raped

**Indore:** A 9-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped from a construction site and raped by a man in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, police said Sunday. The victim, who suffered injuries due to the assault, has been admitted to a hospital and her condition is stated to be critical, Indore's Deputy Commissioner of Police Amit Tolani told reporters. The incident took place on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday at the site of an under-construction building in Rajendra Nagar locality where the girl's father worked as a security guard, he said.

# Blast on rly track in Udaipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Udaipur, Nov 13:** An explosion occurred on a railway track here on Sunday, hours before the recently inaugurated Asarwa-Udaipur Express train from Ahmedabad was supposed to pass. Police said they are investigating all angles, including sabotage.

Officials said mining explosives were used to damage the tracks on Odha bridge near Kewda Ki Naal, which comes under the Jawar Mines police station of Udaipur.

"Local people informed us about the explosion in the morning. We have found some explosives on the track and efforts are being made to identify those responsible," local SHO Anil Kumar Vishnoi said. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the incident was worrying and ordered Director General of Police Umesh Mishra to investigate the matter thoroughly.

Mishra said efforts were being made to identify and arrest those responsible. "Necessary action is being taken in coordination with railway officials," he said.

The DGP further said that central agencies were cooperating in the probe. Teams of the



**Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the incident was worrying and ordered Director General of Police Umesh Mishra to investigate the matter thoroughly**

Forensic Science Laboratory and the Anti-Terrorist Squad visited the spot and conducted investigations.

Another police official said a "Superpower 90" detonator was used for the explosion. "The blast

appears to be well-planned. Due to the alertness of the local people, the matter came to light and a major incident was averted," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had flagged off the inaugural run of the Asarwa-Udaipur Express from the Asarwa railway station in Ahmedabad on October 31.

Following the explosion, the train was halted at the Dunganpur station, a railway spokesperson said. Udaipur Superintendent of Police Vikas Sharma said all angles, including sabotage, were being probed and the work to restore the tracks was underway. Police and railway officials are at the spot and conducting an investigation, the SHO said.

# Ban on five products of Ramdev's firm revoked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun, Nov 13:** An order asking Yoga guru Ramdev's Divya Pharmacy to stop the production of five medicines for diabetes, blood pressure, goitre, glaucoma and high cholesterol has been revoked by the Uttarakhand Ayurveda and Unani Licensing Authority.

Amending the earlier order, the authority on Saturday issued a fresh one allowing the firm to continue the production of these medicines.

Observing that there was an error in the previous order dated November 9, the drug controller of the state health authority GCN Jangpangi said it had been issued in haste. "We should have given the company time to explain its stand before issuing the order," Jangpangi said. Ramdev's close aide Acharya Balkrishna expressed his gratitude to the state government for rectifying the error.

In its earlier order, the Authority had asked Divya Pharmacy to stop the production of five of its products - Bpgrit, Madhugrit, Thyrogrit,

Observing that there was an error in the previous order dated November 9, the drug controller of the state health authority GCN Jangpangi said it had been issued in haste

Lipidom tablets and Eyegrit Gold tablets -- which were being promoted as medicines for blood pressure, diabetes, goitre, glaucoma and high cholesterol.

The previous order said the company can restart manufacturing these products only after the authority approves their revised formulation sheets.

The action was taken following a complaint filed by a doctor from Kerala, K V Babu, in which he had accused Divya Pharmacy of violating the Drugs and Magic Remedies (objectionable advertisement) Act and Drugs and Cosmetic Act.

# Women, babies worst affected by industrial, colliery pollution

According to NFHS, 45 per cent of women in the country are unable to produce milk for their babies, one of the reasons for which is climate change

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Raipur, Nov 13:** Climate change has hit every part of the country and the world. And Chhattisgarh is no exception as the new mothers in many parts of the state are not able to feed their babies in sufficient quantities.

Chhattisgarh's forest cover is more than 44 per cent of the geographical area, ranking third in the country. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) states that the places with industrial areas and collieries, where deforestation

is prevalent, more coal is being used and water sources are drying up, are getting affected more by climate change, resulting in the fast spread of many diseases.

According to NFHS, 45 per cent of women in the country are unable to produce milk for their babies, one of the reasons for which is climate change. The effect of climate change is being seen at a rapid pace in eight cities of the state namely Bilaspur, Raipur, Bhilai, Durg, Baloda Bazar, Raigarh, Korba, Janjgir-Champa and Bastar, resulting in the outbreak of diseases.



In view of this, the Central Government has started the National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) to save trees, protect the rivers and to reduce burning of coal among others.

The NPCCHH will also ensure that pollution is kept in check and reduced in areas with industries and collieries. Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research revealed that the risk of climate change is highest in eight states of India including Chhattisgarh due to the increasing

temperature every year. The main reason behind it is the decrease in forest area.

According to the research, the coming monsoons will be more powerful and irregular than before, because of which heavy rains are expected between June and September which will further cause a lot of damage to crops like paddy and tur. A study, published in the Earth System Dynamics (ESD) journal, also suggests that India's agricultural economy will be affected, in which many crops will be destroyed and normal life will be disrupted.



## POLL BUGLE IN N-E STATES

# Women missing from power corridors

NUMBER OF WOMEN MINISTERS, MPs AND MLAs IN SEVERAL NORTHEASTERN STATES ARE VERY LESS COMPARED TO THEIR PERCENTAGE IN POPULATION AND ROLE IN MOST SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kohima/Shillong, Nov 13:** Assembly polls are due in four northeastern states – Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, next year, and the women would play a vital role in these crucial polls as they have traditionally always been at the forefront of most of the societal issues.

Assembly elections in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura are expected to be held in February after the Assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, and Mizoram would go to the assembly polls next year end.

Similar to previous voters' list, in the recently published draft electoral rolls for Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram, women outnumbered male voters, but it was hard to find them among candidates in the electoral fray earlier.

Like all previous elections, 4,27,345 women voters outnumbered the male electorates of 4,03,927 in Mizoram.

Similarly, 6,38,473 female voters outnumbered the male electorates of 6,37,311 in Nagaland and in Meghalaya 10,68,018 women voters exceeded the number of male electorates of 10,43,194.

In the election-bound Tripura too, out of 60 assembly seats, in at least seven assembly segments, women voters outnumbered their male electorates.

For the past many decades, the number of women electorate was higher than the men electorate in Meghalaya and Mizoram, which are matrilineal and patriarchal societies, respectively.

Guwahati-based writer Ratna Bharali Talukdar said that women in most cases are not allowed to contribute to make important policies



### MOTHER OF ALL IRONIES!

- Mizoram in the last 50 years witnessed only one minister and three MLAs and similar situation in Nagaland too
- Currently, there are no women ministers in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh
- Of the total of 466 seats in the assemblies of seven northeastern states, only around 5 per cent are currently women

**“Women electorates are not only more than 50 per cent in the voters' list of several northeastern states, they are in the forefront in both domestic affairs and in the societal sphere. But the women are deprived of sharing governance. If women get the due political empowerment and governance, many issues of northeast India would be resolved more easily**

NANDITA DATTA  
SOCIAL ACTIVIST AND WRITER

Nagaland too.

Currently, there are no women ministers in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

Number of women in the legislative assemblies and many autonomous bodies of the seven northeastern states is equally depressing, if not worse.

Of the total of 466 seats in the assemblies of seven northeastern states, only around 5 per cent are currently women.

Social activist and writer Nandita Datta said that northeast India traditionally is a woman empowered society, though the women are given very less scope in politics and governance.

“Northeastern women are educated, efficient and conscious of all basic issues. We are able to take care of our family, society and administration collectively. But male political leaders thought that we are not capable,” said Datta, who got several prestigious awards for her numerous social works.

Former Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar's wife and social activist Panchali Bhattacharjee said

for the nation and the states.

Even male politicians and officials are framing policies concerning women. In the Gram Panchayats, in several northeastern states including Assam as there are 50 per cent seats reserved for the women, they are performing excellently well. Not only their satisfactory performance, women's works are also very transparent and standard in terms of quality, she told IANS.

Talukdar, who is also the Executive Editor of multilingual online portal 'Nezine' and re-

ceived many national level awards, said that in the academic, administrative, governing sectors women's participation is very less despite the literacy percentage of women not much less than the men's literacy rates.

Number of women ministers, MPs and MLAs in several northeastern states are very less compared to their percentage in population and role in most socio-economic aspects.

Mizoram in the last 50 years witnessed only one minister and three MLAs and similar situation in

that without reservation of seats for the women in both Parliament and state legislative assemblies, no parties including the Left parties, would nominate adequate number of women in the elections.

Traditionally, in India, men always intended to enjoy more power than women. If you see the history since several hundred years, you will find that men always dominate the women, except in exceptional cases, she told IANS.

In the patriarchal societies, women are always deprived not only in political and economical segments, but also in other basic sectors too, said Bhattacharjee, who was a senior official of the Central government's social welfare board.

The century old and world's largest all-women run market 'Ima Keithal' or the 'Mother's Market', located in Manipur capital Imphal and other smaller all-women markets functioning in different parts of the northeastern state boost the Manipur economy to a large extent and a great source of livelihood of thousands of women.

The all women market, which has a history of over 500 years, has around 3,615 licensed female vendors registered with the Imphal Municipal Corporation.

The Naga Society in the neighbouring Nagaland is a casteless and classless society where traditionally women have enjoyed a high social positioning and a fair spirit of independence playing a very central role in family and community affairs but not in governance of the state.

President Droupadi Murmu during her visit in Nagaland and Mizoram earlier this month urged the women to come forward and get more involved in public life.

# 'I was not aware of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination'



## All six convicts in the assassination case were released Saturday

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Nov 13:** S Nalini, who was a convict in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, has said that she was not aware of the bid to assassinate the former Prime Minister.

She was speaking to the media persons Sunday. The Rajiv Gandhi assassination convict was released from Vellore central prison in Tamil Nadu Saturday after the Supreme Court ordered to release all the six convicts in the assassination case.

Nalini told the media persons that she would like to meet the family of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and added that she was reluctant to meet them even though she did not have any idea that Rajiv Gandhi was being killed. She said that she was really sad about his killing.

She told the reporters that she wanted to lead a normal life after this and when asked whether she would

be settling in Chennai or with her daughter in London, she said that she was yet to decide on this.

It may be noted that Nalini, her husband Murugan alias Sri Haran, Shanthan, Robert Payas, Jayakumar and Ravichandran were released from Vellore, Puzhal and Madurai prisons after the Supreme Court verdict.

The Supreme Court had earlier ordered the release of another convict, AG Perarivalan from prison in May 2022 after a prolonged legal battle carried out by his mother.

The court had then considered his long incarceration in prison for 30 years in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The Supreme Court had while releasing Nalini and other five convicts stated that the justice meted out to Perarivalan must be given to other convicts and all six were released from prison Saturday itself.

The four Sri Lankans, Shanthan, Murugan, Robert Payas, and Jayakumar are lodged in the Tiruchi rehabilitation centre for Sri Lankan refugees after the release from prison.

# Rains to take backseat for a few days in TN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Nov 13:** Rains in Tamil Nadu will take a back seat for a few days from Monday. The Indian Meteorological Department in a statement said that the Low-Pressure Area (LPA) that caused heavy rains in the past few days is likely to move northwestwards towards Kerala and merge with the Arabian Sea.

The weather department predicted that another LPA is likely to form around the Andaman and Nicobar Sea around November 16-17.

The Met department officials predicted that under the influence of this new LPA, heavy rains are likely to occur at isolated places over the Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Madurai, Theni, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu.

It may be noted that since the arrival of Northeast monsoon in Tamil Nadu on October 29, there have been heavy rains in almost all districts of the state. Heavy rains have inundated many places and



**EVAC OPS:** Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services (TNFRS) personnel evacuate people from a waterlogged residential area following heavy rains, near Chennai, Sunday

schools and colleges were closed on Friday and Saturday due to the heavy rains and inundation.

State Disaster Management volunteers were also kept ready by

the revenue department of Tamil Nadu based out of each district for any eventuality.

With the present LPA moving out of the state, the possibility of

heavy rains has come down for a few days until the formation of a new LPA in the Andaman Sea which is likely to happen from November 16 and 17.

# Health dept on alert after Chennai sees 5-fold surge in Conjunctivitis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Nov 13:** Tamil Nadu health department officials are on high alert after a five-fold increase in Conjunctivitis was reported in Chennai over the last week.

Dr M Manoj Nair, Ophthalmologist, while speaking to IANS, said that there is a marked increase in conjunctivitis or Madras Eye cases in Chennai. He said that clusters are formed in schools, residential colonies, and flat complexes.

Conjunctivitis has a red eye condition with itching sensation and a gritty feeling. Discharges are also there from the eyes once conjunctivitis is diagnosed.

Regional Ophthalmologic Institute, Egmore is seeing around 50 out-patients a day instead of 10 patients a day in the first week of November.

Dr Manoj Nair said that the private hospital where he is working has also recorded 10 to 15 cases a



day. He said, “Almost all Ophthalmologic clinics and eye hospitals in the city are seeing an increase in conjunctivitis cases.”

He said that the eyes appear red due to inflammation in the Conjunctiva and small blood vessels in the conjunctiva cause the white of the eye to turn red.

While people with secondary infections are given antibiotics, in

most cases doctors want patients to be isolated and to take adequate rest. Dr Manoj Nair told IANS that the disease is highly infectious and the only way to prevent its spread is to isolate those who get infected. He said that the disease will not affect vision.

Infected children are directed not to go to schools and office-going people should take off from work.

# 1-day wine fest celebrated with high spirits in Shillong

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Shillong, Nov 13:** After a two-year hiatus owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 18th Shillong Wine Festival was held here Saturday, much to the delight of the Bacchus lovers of the region.

Men and women visited the outlets in large numbers and enjoyed tasting the wine made of local fruits and ginger at the fest organised by the Forever Young Club on Meghalaya Bharat Scouts and Guides campus.

Unlike the past when wine mak-

ers of other northeastern states took part in the event, this year's edition focused only on local wine makers.

Eleven local wine producers participated in the festival, where 'Colours', a local band, performed to keep wine lovers' spirits high.

Forever Young Club head Michael Syiem said that after several years of wait, the state government legalised wine making in 2020.

He, however, expressed sadness over the failure of the state government to make the wine fest a part of the 'Autumn Festival'.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Imphal, Nov 13:** A 47-year-old man in Manipur's Imphal West district has converted barren land into a 300 acre forest with a wide variety of plant species in 20 years. Moirangthem Loiya, who hails from Uripok Khaidem Leikai area of the district, started planting trees on the outskirts of Imphal town in the Langol Hill range about 20 years ago.

A nature lover from his childhood days, Loiya told PTI, “In early 2000, after completing my college studies from Chennai, when I went to the Koubru mountain, I was appalled by the wide scale deforestation of the previously thick vegetation that marked the Koubru hill ranges. I felt a strong urge to give back to Mother Nature what we humans as a whole have destroyed so much in modern times.”

The search soon led him to Maru Langol renamed Punshilok Maru or Spring of Life in the Langol Hill range on the outskirts of capital

Imphal town.

“I encountered the place accidentally while taking a hike and immediately felt the area which was all barren due to jhum cultivation could be converted into a thick green lush forest with time and dedication,” the 47-year-old told PTI.

“The site served as a home for me for six years, as I lived in isolation in a hut which I had constructed myself, planting bamboo, oak, jack-fruit trees and teaks while nurturing the area previously destroyed by human activities,” Loiya who now stays on and off at the forest said.

“I would purchase saplings from my own pocket and plant it whenever possible,” Loiya said, adding the plantation is done mostly ahead of the monsoon season and vegetative growth was always quick.

“Periodic illegal wildlife hunting for deer, mostly for sports, is another problem we generally face,” Loiya who established Wild Life and Habitat Protection

## PUNSHILOK: THE SPRING OF LIFE

# Manipur man converts barren land into 300-acre forest



Society (WAHPS) said. The society is devoted to preserving the Punshilok forest and fighting off

illegal hunting and wildfires. The state forest officials have been supportive of the endeavour

of Loiya in planting trees in the Longol hill range.

There are more than 100 species of plants, around 25 varieties of bamboo species in the 300 acre forest which also has barking deer, porcupines and snakes, forest officials said.

The officials said the land was barren some 20 years ago.

Forest officials said that most of the wildfires spread as people want a piece of land either for cultivation or any other activity.

Meanwhile, Loiya is certain that the task of growing a forest and nurturing it is going to be a lifelong mission although he now works in a pharmacy to earn a living and to sustain his family.

Loiya is currently preparing to organise a camp for volunteers this November so as to protect the forest from wildfire ahead of the dry season. During the camp, a fire-line will be created along the periphery of the forest, so that wildfires cannot cross into the forest section, he added.



of the day quote

The Modi government's reprehensible silence on the release of the culprits of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination is a compromise with the terrorist act

Sanskrit must be taught to children to inculcate in them an inclination towards Indian culture

There is no shortage of fertilisers anywhere in the state and I assure that all farmers will get fertilisers of their own choice. Stocks are coming regularly. There was some disturbance due to which supply got delayed, but I am assuring that each farmer will timely get enough fertilisers

SHORT TAKES

Sailor ends life

Mumbai: A 25-year-old Indian Navy sailor allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service pistol on a ship in the Mumbai harbour, a police official said Sunday. The incident took place Saturday afternoon on the naval warship INS Chennai, a Kolkata-class stealth guided missile destroyer, after which the Navy ordered an inquiry into the incident, he said. The sailor went to an isolated compartment on the ship and allegedly shot himself in the chest with his 9 mm service pistol. He died on the spot, the official said.

Four killed

Amritsar: Four members of a family were killed when their motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle in Ajnala near here, police said Sunday. Station House Officer of Ajnala Police Station Supinder Kaur said the accident took place on Saturday night. Surjit Singh (35), his wife Santosh Kaur (32) and their daughter Preet Kaur (7) and son Sonu (5) were crushed to death, she said. The bodies have been sent for the postmortem examination, Kaur said, adding that efforts were on to identify the vehicle that hit the motorcycle.

Man electrocuted

Chennai: A 35-year-old hunter and his five dogs were electrocuted Sunday when they came in contact with a live electric fence erected around a farm near Aranganallur in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. The deceased Manickam, 35, along with L. Karuppusamy, 29, and R. Manoj, 27, had gone for hunting here late Saturday night. Manickam and his five dogs came in contact with the live electric fence and were electrocuted instantly.



Winter session may be delayed

The Parliament's winter session may be delayed this year and in all likelihood, may begin mid-December. Two reasons seem to be behind the delayed summoning of the Parliament session: first being crucial Assembly polls in Gujarat and second due to the Prime Minister's eagerness to hold the joint sitting of Lok

Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the newly-constructed building. The BJP leadership is elated that the Election Commission virtually de-linked the Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat and gave the party extra cushion to set things right in Gujarat. Even as some Opposition leaders voiced their concern about delaying the winter session beyond November, it is said that even in the past this had happened. In 2017, the winter session began on December 15 and lasted until January 5.

Search for new Lokpal begins

The Modi government has begun the process for the appointment of the next chief of anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal. The name of Justice A M Khanwilkar is being mentioned as the likely choice for the key post. Though

Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose retired nearly six months ago, the Centre seemed in no hurry to fill the vacancy and temporary charge was given to the senior-most judicial member Pradeep Kumar Mohanty. Informed sources say that the process to appoint the new Lokpal remained in limbo as the government was looking for a suitable name. Justice Khanwilkar retired as the judge of the Supreme Court recently after serving for more than six years. The Lokpal is headed by a chairperson and can have eight members - four judicial and the rest non-judicial. At present, there are six members in the Lokpal and the two posts have been lying vacant for a long time.

Cong's collapse worrying BJP

The BJP leaders do not know whether to be happy or worried in Gujarat.

Two latest internal surveys have shown that the anti-BJP votes will be divided between the Congress and AAP. But the last survey showed that the Congress is slipping faster than expected as its door-to-door campaign has been unable to galvanise supporters and voters. It is largely because top central leadership is missing in action. There are reports that Rahul Gandhi may perhaps campaign in Gujarat polls deferring his Bharat Jodo Yatra in between. But the BJP leadership had not realized the cascading effects of the faster than expected collapse of the Congress in Gujarat as its leaders are flocking to the BJP or AAP. The BJP top leadership is burning midnight oil to decimate the AAP as many of its internal surveys have warned of the rise of Arvind Kejriwal. If the AAP's rise continues with the same speed, it may leave Congress far behind and that's what the BJP doesn't want. Therefore, Amit

Shah is hell-bent on crushing its rise with full force in Delhi, Gujarat and other states.

Jagan scores over Delhi

The Prime Minister was toying with the idea of introducing the facial attendance system for all Babus including the IAS officers for many years. But the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) under the PMO kept dithering on one ground or the other. The DoPT installed thumb impression machines in all government offices but secretary rank officers were spared. However, the YSR-led Andhra government has made facial attendance compulsory for all including senior IAS officers. The new norm is that all Babus will have to face a camera to mark attendance - a first-of-its-kind system anywhere in the country from top to bottom.



Forget even five things, let the BJP come out and tell us about two things that they have done in the MCD. They just hold press conferences and abuse Arvind Kejriwal 24 hours in the day. They have called me a fraudster, a terrorist, a Khalistani and what not. What kind of politics is this?

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

ARMY CHIEF LEAVES FOR FRANCE

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande Sunday left for France on a four-day visit with an aim to further strengthen the bonds of trust between the Indian and French armies amid the fast-evolving security matrix and the geopolitical situation



DRONES FROM PAKISTAN MORE THAN DOUBLED IN 2022: BSF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: The BSF has been "bombarded" by the onslaught of drone flights from across the Pakistan border on the western front, and instances of the aerial vehicles bringing drugs, arms and ammunition more than doubled in 2022, the force's Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh has said.



The problem is grave. We do not have a foolproof solution as of now. They (drones) have been bringing across narcotics, arms and ammunition, counterfeit currency and all kinds of things

Pankaj Kumar Singh | BSF DG

He said the force has recently established a state-of-the-art laboratory at a camp in Delhi to study drone forensics and the results have been very encouraging.

Security agencies could track the flight path and even address of criminals involved in this cross-border illegal activity that is rearing its head over the last few years, he said.

"The BSF has been at the receiving end of the drone menace for quite some time... The versatility of the drone, which is very well known, has been posing problems to us with nefarious elements having found new uses of the drone due to its anonymity and quick flight at sufficient height bypassing the frontiers," he said.

The DG said this while briefing Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who was chairing an event to inaugurate the forensic lab through a webinar session.

Quantifying the enormity of the drone menace, the DG said while the BSF detected about 79 drone flights along the India-Pakistan international border in 2020, it increased to 109 last year and "more than doubled at 266 this year".

"The major culprit regions are Punjab which saw 215 flights this year... In Jammu, about 22 flights have been seen," Singh said.

"The problem is grave. We do not have a foolproof solution as of now. They (drones) have been bringing across narcotics, arms and ammunition, counterfeit currency and all kinds of things," he said.

The DG said initially the BSF grappled with the challenge of not knowing what to do and even when the drone fell they had "no clue" where was it coming from or going.

"We then started getting into the forensics part. We realised that

these drones had chips similar to computation devices like computers and mobile phones. As digital forensics help in solving cyber crimes, we got answers here too," Singh said.

The BSF, tasked to guard over 3,000 km of the India-Pakistan International Border running across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu, first established a drone repair lab at Delhi in September last year and later enhanced it in October to analyse the forensics of the drones shot down or recovered by it, the Punjab Police and the Narcotics Control Bureau.

G20 summit: PM to attend 3 key sessions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in three key sessions - food and energy security, digital transformation and health - at the G20 summit in Bali, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said Sunday.

The prime minister will leave for the Indonesian city of Bali on Monday on a three-day visit to attend the summit that is expected to deliberate extensively on pressing global challenges including the Ukraine conflict and its implications.

At a media briefing, Kwatra said Modi and other leaders will discuss issues relating to global economy, energy, environment, digital transformation, etc. The summit is set to be attended by US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Kwatra said Modi will have a number of bilateral meetings with some of the G20 leaders. The prime minister is attending the summit at the invitation of Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

Indonesia is the current chair of the G-20. India will formally assume the G20 Presidency from December 1. The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

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

GUJARAT POLLS

Gadhvi to contest from Khambhalia



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Khambhalia will go to polls along with 88 other seats December 1 in the first phase of two-phase Gujarat elections

Gujarat have placed in me, I assure that I will serve the people of Gujarat till my last breath. Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat!"

Gadhvi, a former TV journalist, was named the party's CM candidate on November 4 based on the result of a poll conducted by the AAP. The party's Gujarat unit president Gopal Italia and general secretary Majoo Sorathiya were also in the race.

Gadhvi, who hails from an agricultural family from Dwarka district, had received around 73 per cent votes (in the poll for the CM face), leaving Italia and Sorathiya behind in the race.

With this, the AAP has so far announced the names of 175 candidates for the 182-member Gujarat Assembly. Khambhalia will go to polls along with 88 other seats on December 1 in the first phase of two-phase Gujarat elections. For the first phase, the last date of filing nomination forms is November 14 and the last date for withdrawal of forms is November 17. The second phase of polls will take place on December 5 and the counting of votes will be taken up on December 8. P



Former AAP councillor Haseeb-ul-Hasan climbs a transmission tower near Shastri Park Metro Station allegedly over not being given ticket for upcoming MCD polls in New Delhi

Man tricks daughter to write suicide note, then kills her

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Nov 13: A 40-year-old man allegedly tricked his teenage daughter into writing suicide notes to implicate his relatives and then asked her to enact suicide during which he actually killed her, police said.

The 16-year-old girl was found hanging from the ceiling fan of her house in Kalamna area of Nagpur city on November 6, a police official on Saturday said. The man, who worked as a labourer, was later arrested and an investigation was on to ascertain the motive behind the murder, he said.

Police initially registered a case of abetment to suicide against the girl's stepmother, uncle, aunt and grandparents on the basis of five suicide notes found in the room, the official of Kalamna police station said. But an examination of the mobile phone of the victim's father during the probe revealed there was a fiendish plot behind what looked like a suicide.

"In the mobile phone, we found a photograph of the victim enacting a suicide bid. It came to light that he had asked his daughter to act as

if she was hanging herself and clicked a photograph, claiming he wanted to teach his relatives a lesson," the police official said.

"Before that the man had asked the girl to write five suicide notes naming these relatives. When the girl did so and tied the noose around her neck and stood on a stool as instructed by him, he clicked a photo and then allegedly kicked the stool, causing her death by hanging. She died in front of her father and 12-year-old sister," the official said.

The accused then left the house. He later called police, claiming he had stepped out for some work and upon return found his daughter had hanged herself, said the official. The police initially registered a case of suicide abetment under the Indian Penal Code against the five relatives. But the investigators later realised something was amiss.

"After we came across the suicide enactment photo in his phone, we questioned the man and he told the police that he murdered his daughter. His first wife ended her life in 2016 and the second wife had also left home," the official said. The man was arrested for the alleged murder.

61 KG GOLD WORTH ₹32 CR SEIZED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 13: Customs officials seized 61 kg of gold worth Rs 32 crore in separate operations at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here, making it the highest value seizure by the department at the airport in a single day, an official said on Sunday.

At least seven travellers, five men and two women, were arrested in the seizures that were made on Friday, the official said. This is the



highest seizure in a single day in the history of the customs at the Mumbai airport, he claimed.

In the first operation, four Indians returning from Tanzania were found carrying 1 kg gold bars,

which were concealed in specially-designed belts with multiple pockets, the official said. Officials recovered 53 kg of UAE-made gold bars, worth Rs 28.17 crore, from the belts that the passengers had worn around their torso, he said.

The belts were handed over to the travellers by a Sudanese national at Doha airport during transit time, the official said. The four travellers were arrested and remanded to 14 days judicial custody by a court, he said.

100 new colleges in next five years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: The Union Health Ministry has drawn a proposal to set up 100 new medical colleges by 2027 by upgrading district hospitals under the fourth phase of a scheme that aims to boost the availability of human resources for the health sector.

The colleges will be set up under the centrally sponsored scheme for the "establishment of new medical colleges by upgrading district or referral hospitals" at an estimated cost of Rs 325 crore per college on the basis of central and state share of 60:40, official sources said.

The funding pattern for the northeastern and special category states is in the ratio of 90:10 between the Centre and the state. The Department of Expenditure has approved the proposal of the Health ministry, and a cabinet note in this regard has already been drafted, official sources said.

In the last three phases, 157 medical colleges were approved, and 93 of them have become functional while others are at different stages of construction.

These proposed 100 medical colleges will be set up in 100 districts which have a population of more than 10 lakhs and where there is no private or government medical colleges.



# international



Let us not be enchanted by the sirens of populism, which exploit people's real needs by facile and hasty solutions  
POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**MALDIVES GARAGE FIRE DEATH TOLL RISES**  
The number of Indians killed in the deadly garage fire in the Maldivian capital here rose to eight Sunday after the only unidentified body was identified as that of an Indian man. Thursday's fire is reported as the worst-ever recorded in Male City in terms of lives claimed and damage to property



## of the day quote

We are not in the country of our extended neighbourhood, we are in our extended family  
JADEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

We're preparing to build an advanced natural gas marketplace where multiple products, multiple contracts come together to form reference prices  
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT OF TURKEY

Four palaces were revealed in the Panama papers in the name of Maryam Nawaz. Thieves of this country are deciding what will be the future of this country. In any civilised society of the world, it cannot be imagined that important decisions are made outside the country by people who have been stealing the country's money for 30 years  
IMRAN KHAN | PTI CHAIRMAN

# Demos keep control of Senate

AGENCIES

**Phoenix, Nov 13:** Democrats held onto control of the US Senate, handing a major victory to President Joe Biden and extinguishing hopes of the "red wave" that Republicans had expected leading into the midterm elections.

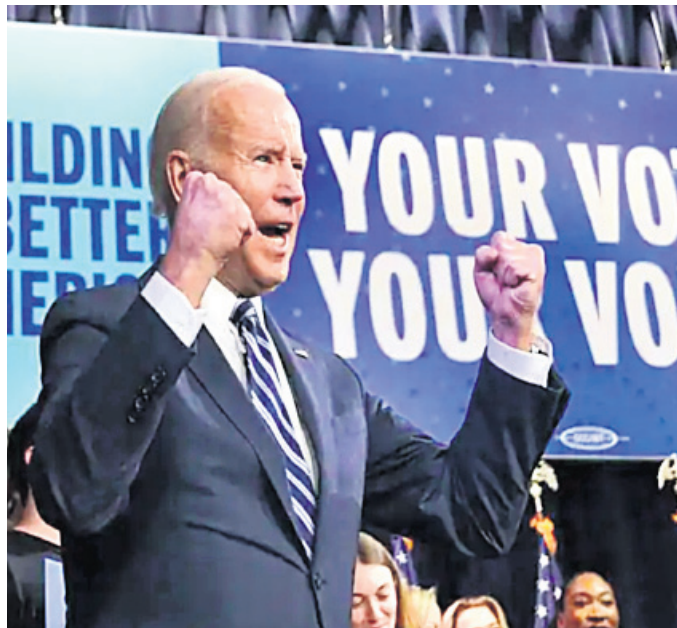
Biden - who struggled with low approval ratings ahead of Tuesday's elections, partly due to public frustration over inflation - said the late Saturday outcome made him look forward to the remainder of his term in office.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer described it as a "victory and vindication" for Democrats and their agenda. He accused the Republican Party of stoking fear and division during the campaign. Republicans, however, remained close to seizing control of the House of Representatives as officials continued counting ballots.

It could take several days or more before the outcome of enough House races is known to determine which party will control the 435-seat chamber. Returns were still flowing in for several races, including many in liberal-leaning California. As of late Saturday, Republicans had won 211 seats, with 218 needed for a majority, ahead of the Democrats with 205.

"The American people rejected the anti-democratic, authoritarian, nasty and divisive direction the MAGA Republicans wanted to take our country," Schumer said after Senator Catherine Cortez Masto's re-election win in Nevada sealed control of the chamber for Biden's Democrats.

The Democrats would control the Senate, as they have for the



Democrats will keep control of the Senate in the 2022 midterm elections

The party will hold at least 50 seats after Sens. Mark Kelly of Arizona and Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada held off challenges

L. Gov John Fetterman of Pennsylvania also flipped the state's GOP-held seat, NBC projected

The GOP tried to leverage economic volatility and public discontent in their bid to win a majority in the chamber

past two years, with 50 of its 100 seats, as Vice President Kamala Harris holds a tie-breaking vote.

**'FOCUSED ON GEORGIA'**  
If Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock were to win the December 6 Georgia runoff election against Republican challenger Herschel Walker, the Democrats' 51-49 majority would give them an additional edge in passing the few bills that are able to advance with a simple majority, instead of the 60

needed for most legislation. "We're focusing now on Georgia. We feel good about where we are," Biden said on Sunday in Cambodia ahead of an East Asia summit. "I am incredibly pleased by the turnout."

Hovering over the 2022 midterm elections all year has been former President Donald Trump, who used his continued popularity among hard-right conservatives to influence the candidates the Republican

# US, Japan, SK vow unified response to N Korea threat



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Nov 13:** US President Joe Biden and the leaders of Japan and South Korea Sunday vowed a unified, coordinated response to North Korea's threatening nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, with Biden declaring that the three-way partnership is "even more important than it's ever been" when North Korea is stepping up its provocations.

Biden met separately with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol before all three sat down together on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Cambodia.

The US President began by offering condolences for a crowd surge during Halloween festivities in Seoul that killed more than 150 people, saying the US had grieved with South Korea. The meeting was heavily focused on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's recent escalations, although Biden said the three leaders would also discuss strengthening supply

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have skyrocketed in recent months as the North continues its weapons demonstrations and the US and South Korea launched stepped-up joint defence exercises

Earlier this month, the South Korean military said two B-1B bombers trained with four US F-16 fighter jets and four South Korean F-35 jets during the last day of "Vigilant Storm" joint air force drills

chains and preserving peace across the Taiwan strait, while building on the countries' support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.

Biden had also planned to seek input from Kishida and Yoon on managing China's assertive posture in the Pacific region on the eve of his face-to-face with President Xi Jinping.

"We face real challenges, but our countries are more aligned than ever, more prepared to take on those challenges than ever," Biden said. "So I look forward to deepening the bonds of cooperation between our three countries," he added.

## SHORT TAKES

### Major power cut in Australia

**Canberra:** Tens of thousands of people in the Australian state of South Australia (SA) have been left without electricity after a severe thunderstorm hit the state. SA recorded more than 423,000 lightning strikes Saturday as a storm system brought winds exceeding 100 km per hour and flash flooding, Xinhua News Agency reported. As of Sunday morning, there were about 76,000 SA Power customers without electricity, with some areas advised they will have to wait until Monday until service is restored. The state emergency service (SES) received more than 1,000 calls for assistance between Saturday and Sunday morning.

### Hundreds rally in South Waziristan

**Islamabad:** Hundreds of people in Wana -- the headquarters of South Waziristan tribal district -- took to the streets Sunday against the recent wave of terrorism in the region, demanding civil administration fulfil its responsibilities to restore peace in the area, the media reported. The huge gathering titled "peace march" was organised by Wana Siyasi Ittihad (WSI), Dawn reported. Holding black flags, participants of the rally marched from the Wana Bazar and converged near the Javid Sultan camps.

### Slovenia votes for President

**Ljubljana (Slovenia):** Slovenians were voting in a presidential runoff Sunday that could elect the small European Union's country's first female head of state, as well as representing a test for the country's new liberal government. Liberal candidate Natasa Pirc Musar was leading in the pre-election polls against conservative Anze Logar, although she trailed the former foreign minister in the first round of voting two weeks ago.

### Protests hit Madrid

**Madrid:** Tens of thousands of Spanish public health workers and their supporters staged a demonstration Sunday to demand more primary health care staff and protest what they claim is the progressive dismantling of the public health system in favour of private providers by the conservative regional government in Madrid. The protest in the Spanish capital, dubbed the white tidal wave because of the white medical coats worn by many protesters, took place under the slogan "Madrid rises up for public health."

## 6 dead, 53 wounded in Istanbul explosion

REUTERS

**Istanbul, Nov 13:** Six people were killed and 53 others were wounded Sunday when an explosion rocked a busy pedestrian street in central Istanbul in what Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan called a bomb attack that "smells like terrorism".

Ambulances raced to the scene on the packed Istiklal Avenue, which police had quickly cordoned off. The area, in the Beyoglu district of Turkey's largest city, had been crowded as usual at the weekend with shoppers, tourists and families.

Video footage showed the moment the blast occurred at 4.13 pm. (1313 GMT), sending debris into the air and leaving several people lying on the ground, while others fled the scene.

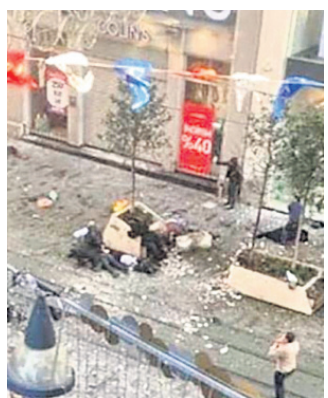
"Efforts to defeat Turkey and the Turkish people through terrorism will fail today just as they did yesterday and as they will again tomorrow," Erdogan told a news conference in Istanbul.

"Our people can rest assured that the culprits behind the attack will be punished as they deserve," he said, adding that initial information suggested "a woman played a part" in it.

"It would be wrong to say this is undoubtedly a terrorist attack but the initial developments and initial intelligence from my governor is that it smells like terrorism," he added. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the blast. But Istanbul and other Turkish cities have been targeted in the past by Kurdish separatists, Islamist militants and other groups, including in a series of attacks in 2015 and 2016.

A helicopter flew above the scene and a number of ambulances were parked in nearby Taksim Square. The Turkish Red Crescent said blood was being transferred to nearby hospitals.

If confirmed, it would be the first major bomb blast in Istanbul in several years.



# Netanyahu vows to be 'PM of everyone'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jerusalem, Nov 13:** Benjamin Netanyahu Sunday promised to be the "Prime Minister for everyone" after Israeli President Isaac Herzog officially invited the country's longest-serving premier to form the new government.

Netanyahu, who has won the backing of 64 Members of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), has been assigned the task to form the next government, a statement from the Presidency said, days after the November 1 election, the fifth in four years, to break the political impasse that had paralysed the Jewish nation. "I decided to bestow upon you, MK Benjamin Netanyahu, the mandate to form a government,"

President Herzog told Netanyahu during a meeting at the president's residence. Israel's longest-serving leader, 73-year-old Netanyahu has won a record five elections to hold office five times - more than any other Prime Minister in the country's 74-year history. Netanyahu will have 28 days to form the government. If an extension is required, the President has the legal authority to grant an extension of up to fourteen additional days. His return to power could see an upward trajectory in Indo-Israeli strategic ties.

An advocate of strong bilateral ties with India, Netanyahu was the second Israeli Prime Minister to visit India in January 2018. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his historic visit to Israel, the first by an Indian Prime Minister, in July 2017 when the 'chemistry' between the two leaders became the subject of intense discussion.

President Herzog said he was "not unaware" of Netanyahu's ongoing corruption trial, but that the court had ruled in the past that this was not a barrier to awarding Netanyahu the mandate.

# Kyiv vows to keep driving out Russia

AGENCIES

**Mykolaiv (Ukraine), Nov 13:** Ukraine's President vowed to keep pushing Russian forces out of his country after they withdrew from Kherson, leaving behind devastation, hunger and booby traps in the southern Ukrainian city.

The Russian retreat from Kherson marked a triumphant milestone in Ukraine's pushback against Moscow's invasion almost nine months ago. Kherson residents hugged and kissed the arriving Ukrainian troops in rapturous scenes.

"We will see many more such greetings" of Ukrainian soldiers liberating Russian-held territory," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Saturday.

He pledged to the people in Ukrainian cities and villages that are still under occupation: "We don't forget anyone; we won't leave anyone." Ukraine's retaking of Kherson was a significant set-



Local residents celebrate after Russia's retreat from Kherson

back for the Kremlin and the latest in a series of battlefield embarrasments. It came some six weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin annexed the Kherson region and three other provinces in southern and eastern Ukraine -- in breach of international law -- and declared them Russian territory. Driving

toward Kherson from the Mykolaiv region, AP reporters saw downed electrical lines, used projectile casings and the decomposed carcass of a cow. Several destroyed tanks lined the muddy road.

As Ukrainian forces Sunday consolidated their hold on Kherson, authorities contemplated the daunting task of clear-

## TRAGEDY IN AIR



Six people were killed after two historic military planes collided and crashed to the ground Saturday during a Dallas air show, officials said. The Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and a Bell P-63 Kingcobra collided and crashed around 1:20 pm, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement. Several videos posted on social media showed the fighter plane appearing to fly into the bomber, causing them to quickly crash to the ground and setting off a large ball of fire and smoke. The videos also show the planes performing aerobatic stunts. The FAA was also launching an investigation, officials said

### KEY INFRASTRUCTURE IN KHERSON MINED BY RUSSIANS - GOVERNOR

KHERSON'S HUMANITARIAN SITUATION 'VERY DIFFICULT' - OFFICIAL

AUTHORITIES WORKING TO RESTORE CRITICAL SERVICES

FIGHTING RAGES ON IN EASTERN DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS

ing out explosive devices and restoring basic public services in the city.

One Ukrainian official described the situation in Kherson as "a humanitarian catastrophe." The remaining residents in the city are said to lack water, medicine and food. There are shortages of key basics such as bread because of a lack of electricity. Ukrainian police called on residents to help identify collaborators with Russian forces during the eight-month occupation. Ukrainian police officers returned to the city Saturday, along with public broadcasting

services, following the departure of Russian troops. The national police chief of Ukraine, Ihor Kllymenko, said Saturday on Facebook that about 200 officers were at work in the city, setting up checkpoints and documenting evidence of possible war crimes. In what could perhaps be the next district to fall in Ukraine's march on territory illegally annexed by Moscow, the Russian-appointed administration of the Kakhovka district, east of Kherson city, announced Saturday it was evacuating its employees.

Kakhovka is located on the left bank of the River Dnieper, upstream of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station.

The deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said six people died Saturday as a result of Russian shelling. In Kherson, photos on social media Saturday showed Ukrainian activists removing memorial plaques put up by the occupation authorities.



# business

## of the day quote

As inflation moderates and more money comes into the hands of the consumer because of the good monsoon, we do think that over the next six months, hopefully, demand should improve from there also

**BHARAT PURI** | MD, PIDILITE INDUSTRIES

India is a big and under-penetrated market for no-code technology and will continue to be one of our focus markets. However, we think that the growth potential for no-code is unlimited and we want to capture that

**VINAY AGRAWAL** | FOUNDER & CEO, HUBBLER

We (Switch Mobility) are in a very different position because we have a number of products operating in India, the United Kingdom

**DHEERAJ HINDUA** | EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, ASHOK LEYLAND

## SHORT TAKES

### 9 of top-10 firms add ₹2.12L-cr

**New Delhi:** Nine of the 10 most valued firms together added over ₹2.12 lakh crore in their market valuation last week, with HDFC Bank and TCS emerging as the lead gainers. Last week, the 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 844.68 points or 1.38 per cent. From the top-10 pack, Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) was the only laggard. The top 9 firms added a total of ₹2,12,478.82 crore to their market valuation last week. In the ranking of top 10 firms, Reliance Industries emerged as the most valued company, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India, HDFC, Bharti Airtel and Adani Enterprises.

### Sembcorp to buy Vector Green

**New Delhi:** Singapore-listed utility company Sembcorp Industries Ltd Sunday said it will acquire clean energy platform Vector Green Energy for ₹2,780 crore to expand its renewable energy footprint in India to 3 gigawatts (GW).

### DICGC settles ₹8,516.6cr claims

**New Delhi:** Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation settled claims amounting to ₹8,516.6 crore during 2021-22 of about 12.94 lakh depositors of liquidated banks, merged entities and those placed under restrictions by the Reserve Bank.

## FTX hit by rogue transactions

REPORTS CLAIMED THE AMOUNT COULD BE AS HIGH AS \$600 MILLION



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**San Francisco, Nov 13:** Beleaguered crypto exchange FTX Sunday admitted that "unauthorised transactions" have drained hundreds of millions of dollars from its wallets, saying the company has moved many digital assets to a new "cold wallet custodian". FTX, which last week filed for bankruptcy in the US, did not reveal how much it lost in unauthorised transactions but reports claimed the amount could be as high as \$600 million.

## 'India's Most Desired Brands 2022' list out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 13:** Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio is India's strongest telecom brand in India, ahead of Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd, according to brand intelligence and data insights company TRA. TRA, formerly Trust Research Advisory, in its 'India's Most Desired Brands 2022' ranked companies according to their brand strength.

Reliance Jio topped the telecom category, followed by Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea Ltd and BSNL.

In the apparel category, Adidas was the top brand followed by Nike, Raymond, Allen Solly and Peter England.

BMW topped the automobile list, followed by Toyota, Hyundai and Honda, while LIC was ranked 1 on the banking and financial services index that had State Bank of India at number 2 and

Today, the market is trading at a higher level and is a bit expensive. As a result of that, investors are currently hesitant to enter the market. This is the reason why you may find less amount mobilised in the current quarter

**MANISH P HINGAR** | FOUNDER, FINTOO



ICICI Bank at 3rd. Kent topped the consumer

appliances ranking, followed by Livpure and Okaya. In consumer electronics, LG, Sony and Samsung were the top three brands.

ITC topped the diversified conglomerate list, followed by Tata and Reliance.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) topped the energy list, followed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Adani.

In the food and beverages category, Amul was the top brand, followed by Nescafe while Fogg was the top FMCG brand, followed by Lakme, Nivea and Colgate.

Philips topped the fast-moving electrical goods list, Mi on the gadgetry list, Himalaya in healthcare, ITC Hotels in hospitality, ACC in manufacturing, KFC in retail and Dell in technology.

Amazon, Facebook, Flipkart and Google were top-ranked firms on the internet brands list.

## BoM tops Q2 list of PSU lenders in credit growth

BoM was followed by Union Bank of India with a 21.54% growth and SBI stood at the third spot with an 18.15% jump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 13:** Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan growth in percentage terms during the second quarter of 2022-23.

The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 28.62 per cent increase in gross advances at ₹1,48,216 crore at the end of September 2022, according to published quarterly numbers of public sector banks (PSBs).

It was followed by Union Bank of India with a 21.54 per cent growth to ₹7,52,469 crore. The country's largest lender State Bank of India stood at the third spot with an 18.15 per cent jump in gross advances. However, SBI's total loans were about 17 times higher at ₹25,47,390 crore as compared to ₹1,48,216 crore of BoM in absolute terms.

With regard to Retail-Agriculture-MSME (RAM) loans, BoM recorded the highest growth of 22.31 per cent followed by Bank of Baroda with 19.53 per cent and SBI at 16.51 per cent during the period under review.

As far as low-cost Current Account Savings Account (CASA) deposits are concerned, BoM topped the chart with 56.27 per cent followed by Central Bank of India at 50.99 per cent.

BoM and SBI with 3.55 per cent Net Interest Margin (NIM), a key profitability parameter, stood at the top among PSBs. It was followed by Bank of India at 3.49 per cent and Central Bank of India at 3.44 per cent.

BoM and SBI were in the lowest quartile as far as gross non-performing assets (NPAs) and net NPAs were concerned, according to an analysis of the quarterly financial numbers published by public sector lenders.

As per the analysis, gross NPAs reported by BoM and SBI were 3.40 per cent and 3.52 per cent of their total advances, respectively, in the second quarter. Net NPAs of these banks came down to 0.68 per cent and 0.80 per cent, respectively, at the end of September 2022.

Moreover, BoM has a 16.71 per cent Capital Adequacy Ratio, the highest among PSBs, followed by Canara Bank at 16.51 per cent and Indian Bank at 16.15 per cent at the end of the second quarter of 2022-23.



## ECONOMIC CRISIS LOOMS

# India-UK FTA kernel of hope for Sunak

The constant churn of new PMs and governments with regularly changing agendas has made business decision-making even more challenging and the need of the hour is a period of stability with a plan that will deliver on the growth agenda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Nov 13:** It has been anything but a smooth ride for the Rishi Sunak led UK government, with the latest official data released this week reflecting a shrinking economy and a looming two-year-long recession.

The British Indian former finance minister, who took charge at 10 Downing Street last month with the promise to fix the fiscal errors of predecessor Liz Truss' disastrous mini-budget, has pledged to get a grip on the soaring inflation as a priority and warned of tough tax and spending decisions ahead.

Economic experts agree on the massive scale of the challenge, even as they hold out the prospect of a free trade agreement (FTA) with India as a potential generator of much-needed economic growth.

"The economic crisis in the UK is caused by some new and some long-standing factors," explains Anna Valero, Senior Policy Fellow at the London School of Economics (LSE) Centre for Economic Performance.

"High inflation, high interest rates and tightening fiscal policy occurs against the backdrop of particularly poor productivity growth in the UK since the financial crisis which has been a drag on real wages," she says.

"There are also large and persistent inequalities in the UK. Combined, poor growth and high inequalities have made the UK a 'Stagnation Nation', in urgent need of a new economic strategy to move the country onto a stronger, fairer and more sustainable growth path," she adds.

Asked how an India-UK FTA might impact this scenario, the analyst welcomed the fact that Sunak was committed to an agreement.

"Such a deal could generate growth opportunities for the UK, particularly if there is potential to export services - the UK's key area of



YEARS OF UNDERINVESTMENT AS A RESULT OF AUSTERITY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 2008 FINANCIAL CRASH

## DOWNFALL REASONS

The energy crisis triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict is seen as a dominating factor behind Britain's current cost-of-living crisis of mounting household bills

A weak post-Covid recovery, hangover effect of the uncertainties of Brexit since the UK left the European Union in 2016

comparative advantage - to a market that is expected to grow significantly over time," she notes.

"Long before the current crisis the UK economy was suffering from too little investment, economic inequality both between and within its regions, and resulting low growth," says Dr George Dibb, head of the Centre for Economic Justice at London-based think tank Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR).

"This was compounded by the recent decade of 'austerity', which meant cuts that hit ordinary families and degraded the education and health services that are the building block of any flourishing economy.

The City of London Corporation, which makes up the financial heart of the UK capital, also urged the government to focus on boosting growth and investment. "Levelling up must include all parts of the UK - including London - as the capital's success benefits every corner of the country," says Policy

Chair Chris Howard. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR), Britain's independent economic research institute, also calls for a focus on such an equitable growth agenda in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict induced

"terms of trade" shock where the cost of imports - food and energy in particular - has risen sharply relative to the value of exports.

"The Prime Minister needs to focus on enabling poorer households to cope with these shocks, while at the same time ensuring that there is a clear plan for stabilising the public finances in the medium term," says Hailey Low, NIESR Associate Economist.

She also views an India-UK FTA with positivity as the ongoing negotiations run into the new year. As the fifth largest economy in the world, India is situated at the heart of the Indo-Pacific region which adds to the attractiveness of such a free trade pact.

## GLOBAL SLOWDOWN

# Laid-off techies find it hard to get jobs

It's an anxious time for tens of thousands of newly laid-off workers amid inflation pressures and recession concerns

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 13:** As thousands of techies lose jobs at Big Tech companies, most of them are finding it difficult to get jobs, as there is a freeze on new hirings at nearly every top firm, amid global macroeconomic conditions and recession fears.

Meta, Twitter, Salesforce, Lyft, Stripe, Uber and tech giants like Microsoft and Google, have laid off employees as well as put a total freeze on new hirings.

Indian-origin Niles Bhandare, 39, was a data engineer at Twitter. He told the San Francisco Chronicle that he has seen a dramatic turnaround in job availability in the market. "While lots of recruiters have approached him, only about 20 per cent are focused on full-time posi-

tions. The rest are seeking contract workers - who can more easily be let go," the report said.

The last time Bhandare scouted for jobs, the situation was entirely different. "My take is, no one wants to commit now for full time, because companies are not sure about the economic situation," Bhandare was quoted as saying in the report. "Data suggests San Francisco's tech industry has been losing jobs for months," it mentioned.

In January, there were 41,718 tech job listings in the San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont metro area, according to job-hunting site ZipRecruiter. "By November 1, the jobs had plunged to 27,919 - down a third," said the report.

Some people who were in earlier rounds of layoffs got jobs but even they are pessimistic about the current market. Several Indian-origin people are left in the lurch as the clock is ticking for them as they are on work visas.

Himanshu V, an IIT-Kharagpur graduate who earlier worked at GitHub, Adobe and Flipkart, lost job at Meta. "I relocated to Canada to



join #Meta and 2 days after joining, my journey came to an end as I am impacted by the massive layoff"

Raju Kadam, who worked at Meta for nine months, said he wasn't expecting to be laid off as he had had "strong performance in all quarters" since joining the social network. "It abruptly came to an end. My clock to leave the USA has started today...help me find a job,

I relocated to Canada to join #Meta and 2 days after joining, my journey came to an end as I am impacted by the massive layoff

**HIMANSHU V** | IIT-KHARAGPUR GRADUATE

otherwise I have to leave the USA with my kids," Kadam said, posting a picture of his sons, Arjun and Yash, in the US.

He said that he has been in the US for 16 years now and has seen the worst downturns, "but I never lost my job". "I will do whatever in my power to give them the best opportunity to succeed in the USA. Hence, I need a new job in the USA ASAP," Kadam posted on LinkedIn.



# WHITE BALL KINGS

England become only team to hold the ODI and T20 world championship titles at the same time



TIME FOR BUBBLY: England players spray champagne on the podium after their triumph Sunday

AGENCIES

**Melbourne, Nov 13:** England's golden generation of white ball cricketers overcame a spirited Pakistan to lift the T20 World Cup trophy with a comfortable five-wicket victory here Sunday at the MCG. The Pakistani fans were longing for an encore of 1992 when Imran Khan's team created history at this very venue but batting let Babar Azam's side down as 137 for eight was never going to be good enough.

The seasoned Ben Stokes (52 n o, 49b, 5x4, 1x6) just like the 2019 ODI World Cup, anchored the chase despite occasional scratchiness and had a calm Moeen Ali (19) as an ideal foil. England chased down the target in 19 overs to regain the title they had won in 2010 in the West Indies. It was Stokes and Ali who put on 48 runs for the fifth wicket to bring

Shaheen Shah Afridi's hamstring injury was the final nail in the coffin for Pakistan

2nd T20 World Cup title for England, their first coming in 2010 in West Indies

England on the brink of victory. Shaheen Shah Afridi's hamstring injury also compounded Pakistan's problems. He could only bowl 2.1 overs and had to leave the field after one ball in his third.

The player of the evening certainly was left-arm seamer Sam Curran, whose couple of spells heavily tilted the game in England's favour. He was well supported by leg-spinner Adil Rashid (2/22) and pacer Chris Jordan (2/27).

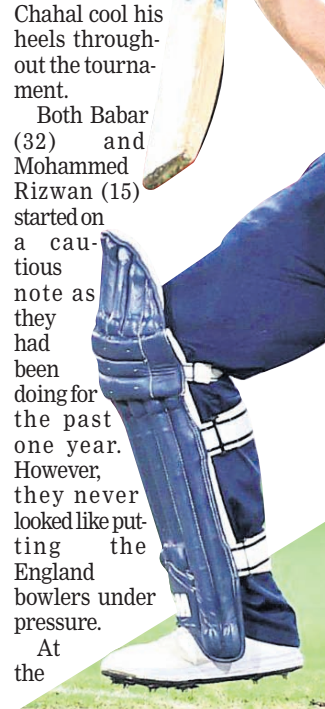
Stokes took 30 balls to measure the Pakistani attack but with no scoreboard pressure, the south-paw pressed the accelerator just

when needed to finish the match. Now England have become the only team in the world to have both the white ball titles in their kitty.

A champion T20 player in his own right, Jos Buttler in the past few months, has proved to be a leader of men and in fact put Pakistan under immense pressure with his heart-warming humility.

However, prior to Stokes's batting it was Curran and Rashid who put the Pakistan batters under tremendous pressure. Babar could not pick up Rashid's googly and was caught by the bowler off a 'wrong'un'. Curran, who made comeback from an injury earlier this year, has been England's 'go to' bowler in the competition and he then bowled a match-winning spell.

Rashid, with his stupendous effort, time and again showed how the Indian team management bungled the script by letting Yuzvendra



Ben Stokes

**BRIEF SCORES**

**Pakistan** 137 for 8 (Shan Masood 38, Babar Azam 32, Sam Curran 3/12, Adil Rashid 2/22, Chris Jordan 2/27) lost to **England** 138 for 5 in 19 overs (Ben Stokes 52 n o, Jos Buttler 26, Haris Rauf 2/23) by 5 wickets.

start of the back-10, when Jos Buttler introduced Liam Livingstone to bowl his off-breaks, Shan Masood (38, 28b, 2x4, 1x6) got 14 runs with a down the ground boundary and a six. That was the best over Pakistan had in the innings.

Shan built a launchpad for himself and threw it all away as Curran tested his patience with variations of cross seam deliveries and cutters.

England also did not have a good start, and Pakistan thought they had a chance till 84 for four. But then Stokes and Ali took the game away with aplomb.

# Great teams learn from losses: Stokes

BUTTLER ALL PRAISE FOR ENGLAND'S RESILIENCE



Man of the Tournament Sam Curran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, Nov 13:** The shock loss to Ireland did hurt but the players moved on quickly from that 'little blip' to focus on the road ahead, said star England all-rounder Ben Stokes after scoring a match-winning unbeaten 52 in the T20 World Cup final against Pakistan here Sunday. He once again showed his big match prowess with a gritty half century. Stokes looked back on the team's memorable campaign.

"With that (defeat to Ireland) being so early in the competition we obviously had to address it, say what had to be said and then let it go," Stokes said after the five-wicket win. "In tournaments like these you can't carry baggage with you, that was a little blip on the way. However, the best teams learn from their mistakes and not let it affect them," added Stokes.

England skipper Jos Buttler, who was made white-ball captain earlier this year, was all praise for his team that has set the benchmark in limited overs cricket.

"To win the T20 World Cup now feels great indeed, I am immensely proud of everyone here. It has been a long journey and few changes but we are reaping the rewards of how we have played in the last few years," Buttler said.

"It's been a fantastic tournament. We went to Pakistan before coming here, which was a valuable time for the group. The character we showed after the Ireland loss in must-win games is amazing," the England skipper added.

Buttler was all praise for Sam Curran who became the first specialist bowler to win the Player of the Tournament award taking 13 wickets in six matches. Buttler also hailed the spell of leggie Adil Rashid, who delivered with wickets in the middle overs.

"Huge swing in the game and that was a fantastic spell from Adil. He has been outstanding for us in the last three games, just the guy who makes things happen and his performance was outstanding," Buttler said. "And that man again, Ben (Stokes) is there at the end. He is the ultimate competitor in anything he does and has the experience to bank on as well. He timed it perfectly," Buttler signed off.

## SHORT TAKES

### Shooters shine

**New Delhi:** Indian shooters continued their gold rush in the 15th Asian Airgun Championship in Daegu, Korea, sweeping all the four team event gold medals on offer Sunday. They have so far won 10 gold medals in the competition. The day began with the men's air rifle trio of Arjun Babuta, Kiran Ankush Jadhav and Rudranksh Balasahab Patil beating Kazakhstan 17-11 in the final. The women emulated their male counterparts when Mehuli Ghosh, Elavenil Valarivan and Meghana Sajjanar overcame hosts Korea 16-10 in their team event title decider.

### Maxwell doubtful

**Melbourne:** Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell could miss the India tour next year after fracturing his leg in a 'freak accident' at a birthday party here. The 34-year-old underwent a surgery Sunday after fracturing his left fibula at a friend's 50th birthday celebration Saturday. "Both Glenn and his friend who were running slipped and fell, with Glenn's leg becoming trapped under the other person's, understood to be the cricketer's friend," cricket.com.au reported. Australia are slated to play four Tests and three ODIs during their tour of India in February-March next year.

### Easy for KBFC

**New Delhi:** Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) ended their 10-game losing streak against FC Goa with a 3-1 win in the ISL here Sunday. Goals from Adrian Luna, Dimitrios Diamantakos and Ivan Kaluzhnyi within the space of 10 minutes secured all three points for KBFC, while Noah Sadaoui scored for the Goans. It was KBFC's first win for FC Goa since November 2016. The three points lifted Kerala Blasters up into fifth place, level on points with FC Goa. It was a well-contested game. However, KBFC managed to utilise the chances they created. AGENCIES

# Messi ready for last hurrah

ARGENTINA SUPERSTAR NOT THINKING TOO MUCH AHEAD BEFORE WORLD CUP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Buenos Aires, Nov 13:** Lionel Messi has said he sees a resemblance between the current Argentina squad and the one that reached the final of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. The Albiceleste will be bidding for their third World Cup title when this year's edition gets underway November 20 in Qatar. Argentina will make their debut in the tournament against Saudi Arabia November 22 and will also meet Mexico and Poland in Group C.

"I feel a lot of similarities between this group and the one at the 2014 World Cup," Messi was quoted as saying by Argentine newspaper 'Ole'. "It is a group that always, whatever the match, plays with the same intensity and concentration and I think that is very important. We know that we are going to fight for (the title) but we are not thinking that we are going to be champions from the outset as many Argentines think," the legendary player added.

Lionel Scaloni's men are unbeaten in their past 35 games, a run that includes the Copa America final against Brazil in



July last year. They are just two games shy of the record for the longest sequence of international matches without defeat, currently held by Italy.

"Beyond the fact that it is a nice statistic and a record that we can achieve if we reach our objective, it's not something that we are thinking about too much," Messi said.

"I'm sure the bad games are going to come at some point, and we are going to get through them. This group is prepared for that. Hopefully (the difficult games) won't be so bad and we'll advance," the superstar added.

Messi, who will be playing in his fifth and likely last World Cup, said that he and his teammates would try to avoid the hype surrounding the team as the tournament approaches. "In terms of pressure, I think we have to isolate ourselves from everything that people are experiencing," the PSG player pointed out.

# Ambani in race to acquire Liverpool

ASSOCIATE PRESS

**London, Nov 13:** Billionaire Mukesh Ambani has entered the race to bid for world-renowned English football club Liverpool FC's takeover, reported a leading English daily here. The Premier League (PL) giants have been put up for sale by their current owners Fenway Sports Group (FSG), who bought the Merseyside club in October 2010 and have reportedly appointed Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley to assist them in selling the team.

According to 'The Mirror', the FSG are willing to sell the club for 4 billion British pounds.

Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries and rated by Forbes as the eighth richest person in the world, has enquired about the club, the English daily said. Few associated with the Mumbai-headquartered Indian multinational conglomerate, however, could not confirm the development. Others in the fray include parties from the Gulf and the USA.

Ambani's company owns IPL franchise Mumbai Indians and also runs the Indian Super League (ISL)

# Odisha script facile victory over Nagaland

POST NEWS NETWORK



**Bhubaneswar, Nov 13:** A five-wicket haul by Tarini Sa (5/19) and half centuries by Rajesh Dhupar (79, 114b, 5x4) and skipper Abhishek Raut (64, 67b, 5x4, 2x6) helped Odisha beat Nagaland by 135 runs Sunday in their Elite Group D Vijay Hazare Trophy match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

Put into bat, Odisha were bowled out for 224 in 48.3 overs by minnows in domestic cricket, Nagaland. Thankfully Odisha bowlers came to the party to save the team the blushes and bowled out the opposition for a paltry score of 89 in 35.5 overs.

Odisha did not start well when they batted. They were looking down the barrel at 36 for the loss four wickets when Dhupar and Raut put on 120 runs for the fifth wicket to rescue them. However, after their dismissal, it was Debabrata Pradhan (28, 34b, 3x4) who took the team past the 200-run mark. Pacer Akash Singh (5/29) was the standout bowler for Nagaland.

When the northeast team batted, they lost wickets at regular intervals to pose any form challenge to the Odisha bowlers.

# Ranking doesn't ruffle Rafa anymore

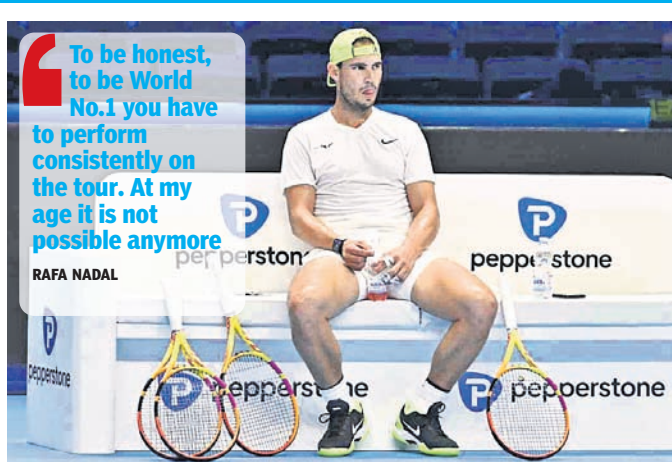
SPANIARD HAS A CHANCE TO USURP COUNTRYMAN ALCARAZ FROM TOP SPOT

AGENCIES

**Paris, Nov 13:** Carlos Alcaraz will spend a nervous week watching the ATP Finals as Rafael Nadal and Stefanos Tsitsipas bid to usurp the Spanish teenager as year-end men's World No. 1. The top-ranked Alcaraz is powerless to stop his rivals because he is out with an abdomen injury he suffered at the Paris Masters over a week ago.

Nadal on the other hand, will hope he has shaken off the rustiness he displayed in the same tournament when he lost in his first singles match in two months after spending time at home in Mallorca with his wife and newborn son.

The surest way for Nadal, who won the Australian and French



Open titles in 2022 and is ranked second, to finish No. 1 for a sixth time is by winning the title in Turin. Yet he is seemingly unconcerned about joining Pete Sampras in second on the all-time list of year-end No.1

"Like I've often said, it's not a priority for me anymore, because you need a consistency of results that is really only possible for the younger players," Nadal was quoted as saying by the 'Gazzetta dello Sport'. "And to be honest I don't like talking about what could happen in the future," the Spaniard added.

Meanwhile the tournament started Sunday evening at Turin with third-seeded Casper Ruud easing to a straight-set 7-6 (7-4) victory over Felix Auger-Aliassime in the opening match. The match was largely dominated by serving and a solitary break in the seventh game of the second set proved enough for the Norwegian player to secure a win over the fifth-seeded Auger-Aliassime of Canada.

# Injured Sindhu pulls out of BWF World Tour Finals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 13:** Double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu has withdrawn from the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals as she is yet to fully recover from a stress

fracture on her left ankle. The 2018 edition champion Sindhu had sustained the injury on way to her title winning run at the Commonwealth Games in August.

"Her (Sindhu's) doctor has advised her to take some more time so that she recovers completely ahead of the new season. She has discussed about the pros and cons but with so much restrictions in Guangzhou and also keeping new season in mind, she has taken this decision not to play," Sindhu's father PV Ramana said Sunday.

"She has already started her training a couple of weeks back and by January she will be fully fit. So in view of all these reasons, she sent a mail to BAI informing about her decision," Ramana added.