



## FITNESS FREAK

Actor Malaika Arora promotes a new form of workout which she claims will be beneficial for the entire body

LEISURE P2



## TOUGH STAND AGAINST RUSSIA

World leaders appeared ready to convey a strong message from most condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL P10



## POLLARD BIDS ADIEU

Kieron Pollard calls time on his IPL playing career, but he will be part of Mumbai Indians as the new batting coach

SPORTS P12

## Exports enter -ve territory after 2 yrs

**New Delhi:** India's exports entered negative territory after a gap of about two years, declining sharply by 16.65 per cent to USD 29.78 billion in October, mainly due to global demand slowdown, even as trade deficit widened to USD 26.91 billion, according to data released by the commerce ministry Tuesday. Key export sectors, including gems and jewellery, engineering, petroleum products, ready-made garments of all textiles, chemicals, pharma, marine products, and leather, recorded negative growth during October. P11

## HC slams Guj govt over bridge collapse

**Ahmedabad:** Days after 135 people were killed when a suspension bridge collapsed in Morbi, the Gujarat High Court Tuesday asked the state government as to why no expression of interest (EoI) was invited for maintenance and operation of the British-era structure and how 'largesse' was given to an individual without floating a tender. The High Court made the observation while hearing a suo motu (on its own) Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the collapse of the suspension bridge on the Machchu river October 30, five days after it was reopened following renovation. The Ahmedabad-based Orevia Group had been maintaining and managing the ill-fated suspension bridge. P7

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Very successful summit! I have had selfie with every top world leader!

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	61872.99 ↑ 248.84
NIFTY	18403.40 ↑ 74.20
DOLLAR	81.09 ↓ ₹0.16
EURO	84.09 ↑ ₹0.50
GOLD	₹52,750 ↑ ₹32
SILVER	₹61,902 ↓ ₹569

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.2°C	30.0°C
TEMP MIN	16.0°C	16.4°C
Humidity	73%	75%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	



**DAREDEVILRY:** Britain's Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, Red Arrows, performs a flying display over the city skyline, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

## EOW ARRESTS 3 CYBER CROOKS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police claimed to have cracked a multi-state network of cybercriminals allegedly involved in cheating people, with the arrest of three persons in this connection. The network was operating from Rajasthan, EOW DIG JN Pankaj said, Tuesday. The DIG said that two persons—Mahmud Khan and Munif Khan—have been arrested with help of Rajasthan police. They were brought to Odisha on five-day remand after being produced before a local court in Rajasthan. The group, as revealed so far, has opened nearly 2,000 mule accounts in different parts of the country, mainly in Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Assam, he said. EOW also arrested Anil Khiller of Baisinga in Mayurbhanj who used to supply the SIM cards to the scamsters in Rajasthan. He has procured and sent at least 1,200 SIM cards to these scamsters. The arrests came when EOW was probing allegations of opening mule accounts with Indian Post Payment Bank in the name of innocent/rustic persons, especially in Nabarangpur, by giving the impression that the account holders would get benefits under government schemes through these accounts. But these accounts were used for illegal money transactions in cyber-crimes, the EOW said.

# Union, state govts in race to woo farmers

As the state & Centre announce measures to resolve agrarian crisis Tuesday, Congress leader Tara Prasad Bahnpati dubs those as a way to hoodwink farmers ahead of the Padampur bypoll

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** The state government and the Centre Tuesday announced measures to resolve the agrarian crisis in the state in the midst of the intensified stir by farmers demanding payment of crop insurance claims and input subsidy. The announcements were made a day after the farmers reportedly prevented BJP's Pradip Purohit from filing his nomination for the December 5 Padampur bypoll.

Dubbing the measures as 'drama', senior Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahnpati said both the BJP in the Centre and BJD in state are hoodwinking the farmers ahead of the Padampur byelection. Farmers have been facing hardship due to non-release of crop insurance claims by the Centre. Now, by instructing the state government to issue claims with im-



OP PHOTO

Agitating farmers stage a sit-in near Padampur sub-Collector's office in Bargarh

mediate effect, the BJP is playing drama just before the Padampur bypoll. On the other hand, the BJD government should have released the input subsidies to the drought-hit farmers much earlier. However, it announced the input subsidies only when the byelection is around the corner, the senior Congress leader said. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced input assistance for

drought-hit areas of the state. "About Rs 200 crore will be spent from the state exchequer to support the distressed farmers," a release issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. The announcement of central relief was made by Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar through a social media post.

Continued on P4

## G Udayagiri shivers at 7.2 degrees Celsius

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** Cold conditions prevailed in the state Tuesday, with the G Udayagiri in Kandhamal district recording the lowest temperature of 7.2 degrees Celsius, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Two places recorded temperatures below 10 degrees Celsius, the other being Similiguda in Koraput district (9 degrees Celsius).

As many as 20 locations across the state recorded temperatures below 15 degrees Celsius, with the mercury plummeting to 10.5 degrees Celsius in Phulbani in Kandhamal district and 11 degrees Celsius each in Daringbadi in Kandhamal and Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi. Other places that recorded low temperatures include Kirei in Sundargarh (11.5 degrees Celsius), Chiplima in Sambalpur (12), Jharsuguda (12.6), Keonjhar (13), and Bargarh (13).

The twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack saw the temperatures drop to 16 and 16.4 degrees Celsius respectively, which are 3.6 and 2.2 notches below normal respectively. The Regional Meteorological Centre, while forecasting chilly conditions for the next three-four days, attributed it to dry and cold winds blowing from the northwest.

# India's population growth slows down

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** As the global population reaches 8 billion, India, formerly a powerful driver of the number of people on the planet, is experiencing a marked slowdown. Falling fertility rates in the South Asian country have forced at least one state to consider reviewing policies that encouraged families not to go beyond having two children. The world's population is estimated by the United Nations to have hit 8 billion on November 15, with China and India accounting for more than a third of the total. India estimates its population at 1.33 billion, slightly lower than the 1.4 billion that the World Bank estimates for China.

India will become the most populous country in 2023, according to the United Nations. But India's annual population growth has averaged 1.2% since 2011, compared with 1.7% in the 10 years previously, government figures show. Further slowing can be expected. India's total fertility rate (TFR) - children per woman - fell to 2 in the latest assessment period, for 2019-2021, from 3.4 in 1992-93, according

**In Odisha, the total fertility rate dropped 21% in only 11 years, between 2008/10 and 2019/21**

to a government report issued last month. It estimated that the average must be 2.1 for the population to reproduce itself.

Increasing use of contraceptives and rising education among girls could have contributed to the decline in fertility rates, the government says. The use of family-planning methods jumped to 66.7% in 2019-21 from 53.5% in 2015-16.

That indicated that India's national population policies and health systems were working, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said in comments shared with Reuters.

"As India invests in its younger people, it needs to make plans for a demographic transition to take better care of a greater proportion of older people in the future," the UNFPA said.

Continued on P4

## WhatsApp India head resigns

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** WhatsApp India head Abhijit Bose and Meta's public policy head Rajiv Aggarwal have resigned from their positions, social media major Meta said Tuesday.

The development comes within a week of Meta announcing 11,000 layoffs across the globe.

The company has given charge of Meta India Public Policy to Shivnath Thukral who is currently serving as Director of WhatsApp Public Policy in India.

"I want to thank Abhijit Bose for his tremendous contributions as our first head of WhatsApp in India. His entrepreneurial drive helped our team deliver new services that have benefited millions of people and businesses. There is so much more WhatsApp can do for India and we're excited to continue



helping advance India's digital transformation." Will Cathcart, Head of WhatsApp, said in a statement.

Bose had joined WhatsApp as the first country head of the company in India in February 2019.

Meta, Director for Partnerships in India Manish Chopra said that Aggarwal has decided to step down from his role at Meta to pursue another opportunity.

He announced that Thukral has been appointed as Director, Public Policy for Meta in India.

# Baliyatra enters Guinness Book for paper boat feat

AGENCIES

**Cuttack, Nov 15:** Bringing laurels to the state, the Baliyatra on Mahanadi riverbed here has made it to the Guinness Book of World Records Tuesday as over 2,100 students made around 22,473 paper boats in 35 minutes during an event organised by the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) to commemorate Odisha's glorious maritime past.

Expressing happiness, Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani said that altogether 2,121 students of around 22 schools were able to make 22,473 paper boats during an event hosted by CMC at Barabati Stadium. "The record was achieved today on the sidelines of Baliyatra," he said.

Sources said the CMC had contacted the headquarters of the Guinness Book of World Records

in London for an attempt to make 10,000 paper boats in just 15 minutes. Subsequently, the record book authorities issued the protocol for organising the event and the civic body roped in 3,000 students, who were also trained on making paper boats.

The previous record was made by an art school in Gujarat wherein altogether 1,304 participants folded miniature paper boats in 2016, it was learnt.

"The record to beat was 1,304 participants. And what was achieved here was 2,121. There were a host of guidelines. The minimum time was 15 minutes and three sculptures each. It was not a time-based record but it was for the number of people making the origami sculptures. Around 23,000 boats were made," said Rishi, an official adjudicator for the Guinness



Schoolchildren make paper boats at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Tuesday

Book of World Records. CMC Mayor Subash Singh and around 50 officials of Guinness Book of World Records, including one from London, were present on

the occasion. According to the CMC Mayor, the primary objective of the exercise was to attain global recognition for Cuttack's historic Baliyatra.

## FAIR EXTENDED

The state government Tuesday extended the historic Baliyatra in Cuttack by a day. "The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) had approached the Odisha government to extend the Baliyatra by two days. But after considering all aspects, the state government extended the duration of the annual fair by a day," said Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani. As per the decision, the open air trade fair will conclude November 17 instead of November 16, Chayani pointed out.

"Efforts were made for the last two months to make Baliyatra a grand success. As many as 2,121 students were involved and they were able to make around 23,000 boats. I congratulate the students and others involved in the event."

# leisure



## DEMI MOORE SPLITS FROM BEAU IN LESS THAN A YEAR OF DATING

Hollywood star Demi Moore is enjoying the perks of singlehood. The 60-year-old actress and her boyfriend, Daniel Humm, have split after less than a year of dating. "She's in a good place," a source close to the actress told *People* magazine.

## 'JIMMY KIMMEL NEEDS PROTECTION AT OSCARS'

Actress Regina Hall hopes Jimmy Kimmel can avoid a repeat of the Will Smith and Chris Rock incident at the Oscars. The late night talk show presenter joked about the precautions that need to be taken.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today you will feel mushy and forlorn. Ganesha says you will make special efforts to strengthen your relationships. You look upon commitment as a security for the future. As a result, you will develop strong, long-term bondings.

**TAURUS**  
You are likely to confront a turning point in relationships today, foresees Ganesha. Because you are in need of some compassion and support, you will feel the need to spend time with friends and relatives. Your beloved or better half may bring a change in mood by helping you shed your negative frame of mind, says Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
You will spend your day fulfilling the demands made upon you by your family members and colleagues. You will need to devote time to matters at home. Pay attention to the needs of your relatives for they will be helpful to you in the near future, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
The day shall find you in buoyant spirits, indicates Ganesha. As you are feeling lively and full of beans, you will not mind slogging it out, even if in some mindless activities or chores. It is a perfect day for activities like gardening, cooking, baking and even for a nice house warming get-together.

**LEO**  
Financial gains in shares and stocks are indicated. If you are an investor, your investments will yield substantial profits. Long-standing debts are also likely to be cleared, and pending dues will be settled. Expenses for the purposes of entertainment are a possibility, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Meticulous as you are, hopefully you won't grudge the extra quota of domestic responsibilities that comes your way today. But then, since the work is in a more than satisfactory state, some added issues on the home front won't hurt either.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says today is a good day to renovate your home. You will be able to decorate your home artistically because of your designing skills. The atmosphere at your home will be a happy one with the arrival of guests. You will make plans to go for a picnic with close friends or relatives. Ganesha wishes you all the very best for your future.

**SCORPIO**  
Just another mundane day in store for you. At work, pressure may mount and lead to a hectic and tedious day. You may even feel irritated at times. Thus, feeling the need to unwind, you may invite your sweetheart for the cup of coffee and spend quality time together.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Variety is the spice of life. Add variety of activities to your daily schedule and nothing would seem boring any more, foretells Ganesha. Indulge in creative activities like writing, cooking, gardening or even reading. Catch up with friends and memories of old times; have a blast!

**CAPRICORN**  
Often, sentiments take over your mind. Making you impractical, at times, this tendency proves to be harmful for you. Don't show it on your face as others may take advantage of your weakness, advises Ganesha. If you don't control your emotions, it may become an obstacle in your path to success. Be strong and give a tough fight to those who want to go ahead of you.

**AQUARIUS**  
If you are an astrologer, doctor or a spiritual leader, today is a favourable day for you. Those who may want to challenge you must reconsider the thought of testing your strengths, says Ganesha. Doing charity work, helping the needy, and working for humanitarian causes give you a feeling of contentment.

**PISCES**  
Today your intellectual streak comes to the fore. You will indulge your curiosity and take interest in natural phenomenon. Your faith will help you complete all your pending tasks with ease.

## Will 'expose the reality' of Pakistan: Adnan Sami



**Mumbai:** Musician Adnan Sami recently penned a scathing note attacking Pakistan establishment for harrasing him and saying he will expose all that in due time, which will leave many in shock.

Adnan, who is been a citizen of India since 2016, was born in the UK to a Pakistani father. Adnan has never minced words in criticising Pakistan. In the latest criticism, he has promised to 'expose the reality' of how the administration treated him. He took to Twitter to share a long note alongside a picture of himself. The note read: "Many people ask me why I have such contempt towards Pakistan. The hard truth is that I have absolutely no contempt towards the people of Pakistan who have been good to me. I love everyone who loves me."

"However, I have major issues with the establishment. Those who truly know me will also know what that establishment did to me for many years which ultimately became one of the big reasons for me to leave Pak," he added.

The Padma Shri awardee concluded: "One day, soon, I will expose the reality of how they treated me which not many know, least of all the general public which will shock many! I have remained silent about all this for many years, but will choose the right moment to tell all..."

IANS



## Cinema must highlight injustices: Parvathy

**Chennai:** Award-winning Malayalam and Tamil actress Parvathy Thiruvothu flagged instances of 'honour killing', rape and oppression of the minorities to make a case for cinema addressing what all is going wrong in the society.

The actress, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming streaming movie *Wonder Women*, shared her thoughts about speaking up on the need to highlight these issues as a moral responsibility.

Talking about the violence meted out to women as a result of caste discrimination, the

actress said: "When our sisters are raped and hung on trees by upper-caste goons, there's hardly any word about it."

She then made a reference to the Karnataka hijab row without actually mentioning it. "There's hardly any noise around for women who want to dress up in the way they want to as per their beliefs. Ours is a democratic country, after all," she said.

Answering a question on the ongoing persecution of women in Iran, the actress said: "I don't have any reaction to matters such as these. I have stopped reacting, I feel we are way past giving reactions. It's the time to act so that we can put society on the right track."

Wonder Women will drop on SonyLIV November 18

AGENCIES

## Drishyam opened many windows for me: Ishita

**Mumbai:** Ishita Dutta, who started her career as a TV actress and continues to be a part of the entertainment industry, says that the first instalment of *Drishyam* (2015) changed a lot for her as an artiste.

Ishita, who's also playing a key role in *Drishyam 2* along with Ajay Devgn and Tabbu, said, "The first instalment of *Drishyam* marked my debut in Hindi cinema. The film opened many windows for me, and people recognised me as an actor because of it."

Asked, how much her character Anju progressed between both the instalments, she added, "It has progressed a lot. In the previous film, something traumatic happened to Anju. Seven years later, the audience will see how the incident has impacted her. She needs medical help and her father (played by Ajay Devgn) tries his best to protect her even more."

Sharing her experience of working with Ajay, Ishita said, "During the first film, I was obviously intimidated by Ajay sir. I was scared, but he is so sweet and easy to work with. He makes you feel comfortable despite being such a big star. That's why the father-daughter bond came out so well in the film. I think a lot of credit for that goes to him."

IANS



## Malaika promotes new workout form

**Mumbai:** It is no secret that Malaika Arora is a fitness freak. The 49-year-old is a dancer, actor, host and mother, yet makes sure that keeping healthy and

fit remains one of her most important priorities. The *Chaiyya Chaiyya* fame actor is often papped on her way to some sort of workout, whether it is Yoga, Pilates or the neighbourhood gym. Recently Malaika, who swears by Yoga, posted a video of her new workout using a danda (stick) and encouraged everyone to try out this new form of yoga, that is beneficial for the entire body.

Sharing a video of the same, Malaika wrote, "Good morning everyone, I'm back with a fantastic Monday workout. This time with a prop. Danda yoga is one of my favourite forms of yoga. Here are some reasons why." She continued: "It's a fabulous workout to reduce belly fat, especially the around your waist. It gives a great stretch to the muscles of the arms and legs and spine and relaxes the body thoroughly."

"This week, try adding a prop to your workout, something as simple as a bottle of water or a towel. It will enhance your workout and give you a welcomed break," concluded Malaika.

IANS



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

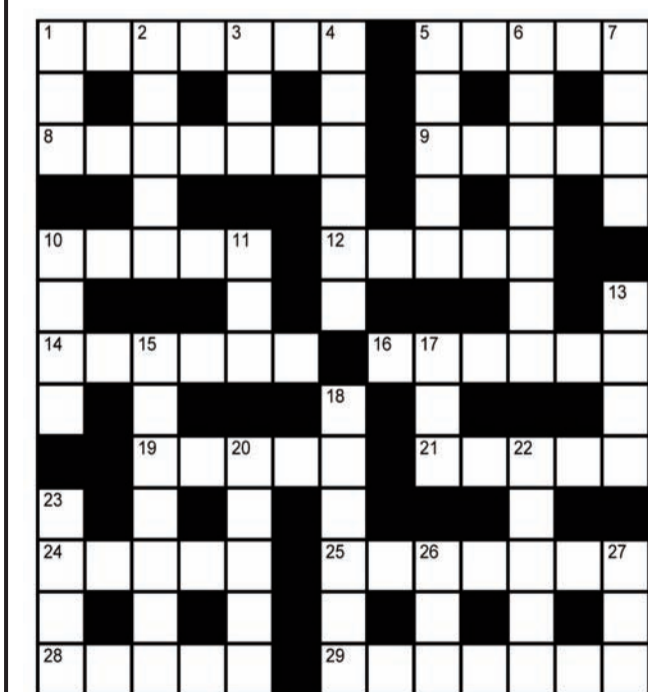


### BREVITY



### FUN post

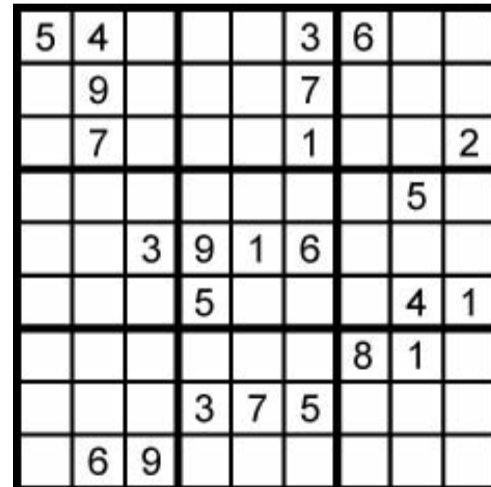
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Type of crisis
  - 5 Hosiery material
  - 8 Risk taker
  - 9 Vigour
  - 10 Supped
  - 12 Deep ravine
  - 14 Mollycoddle
  - 16 Sheen
  - 19 Large edible ray
  - 21 Draws nigh
  - 24 French farewell
  - 25 Deer's headress
- Down**
- 1 Russian fighter
  - 2 Fiend
  - 3 Feverish
  - 4 Madden
  - 5 Paramour
  - 6 Viper
  - 7 Foil relative
  - 10 Ignoramus
  - 11 Salon supply
  - 13 Son of Rhea and Cronus
  - 15 Assignment
  - 17 Samovar
  - 18 Make fizzy
  - 20 Sharp as a tack
  - 22 Hippodrome, e.g.
  - 23 Highland toppers
  - 26 Stocking part
  - 27 Boozier

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

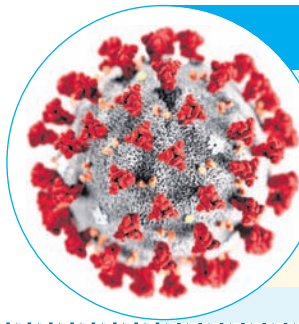


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## BUDDING ARTISTS

Two students working on an art during a three-day children's festival 'Suravi' at Unit IX Boys' High School in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	64,08,01,451	62,04,88,006	66,16,931
India	4,46,66,175	4,41,27,724	5,30,533
Odisha	13,36,304	13,26,915	9,204

## PM GATI-SHAKTI MULTIMODAL MARITIME SUMMIT

# Odisha has potential for a shipping hub: CS

The PM Gati-Shakti is a platform that would address the critical issues of reducing logistic cost of mineral transport and accelerate the growth of coastal shipping, says the Chief Secy



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** Odisha is a maritime state and for its strategic location, it has the potential to become a coastal shipping hub in the country, said Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra here Tuesday.

The Chief Secretary said this while inaugurating a two-day summit on Prime Minister Gati-Shakti Multimodal Maritime organised here by Paradip Port Authority, state and Union governments.

"Our coastline is quite suitable for the development of deep ports. Eastern part of India including Odisha is growing at a faster rate. Odisha is supplying thermal coal, iron ore and manganese to a large number of states in India. The growth rate will be faster in coming years," Mahapatra said.

The PM Gati-Shakti is a platform that would address the critical issues of reducing logistic cost of mineral transport substantially

and accelerate the growth of coastal shipping, he said.

It is a comprehensive and converged platform of all the related departments of both state and Centre along with other major stakeholders, he added.

"With uploading of information by all concerned, the planning and decision making for the sector would be more perfect and faster. It would also bring the real ease of doing business for the investors," said Mahapatra.

The Chief Secretary further said that Odisha would soon become one of the biggest hubs in coastal shipping of the minerals and finished products.

He assured that the state government would extend all support for implementation of the recommendations of this two-day summit.

Joining the inaugural session as guest of honour, Divisional Railway Manager Rinkesh Roy said, "East Coast Railway (ECoR)

is No-1 freight loading zone in the entire Railways. Paradip is the second largest port in terms of the volume handled through the rail link network. The region has a huge mining and industrial belt."

He said that the ECoR is on its path for augmentation of its rail network in Odisha from mining and industrial points to the Paradip port.

Addressing the summit, Shipping Ministry joint secretary (Sagarmala Projects) Bhusan Kumar informed about the converged mechanism put in place for successful implementation of Gati-Shakti projects in the state.

Kumar said that the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways prioritised improvement of connectivity to more than 50 non-major operative ports through PM Gati Shakti. In this comprehensive port connectivity plan, more than 107 connectivity gaps were identified for abridging port connectivity.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAD) vice chairman Jayant Singh said, "Inland waterways are the low hanging fruit in seamless multimodal transportation. Odisha with its long stretches of water mass across different regions possesses immense potential for development of inland waterways."

Paradip Port Trust chairman PL Haranadh said that the port in its 56 years of cargo handling service would attain a record 125 MMT annual traffic in the financial year 2022-23. During the Amrit Kal, Paradip will be the port of the millennium by having a capacity of more than 500 MMT by 2047, he said.

## 'Foreign power' trying to plunder Odisha: Ex-MLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** Senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Sanjay Das Burma alleged that some 'foreign power' is trying to loot state's mineral resources and also plunder 'Ratna Bhandar' of Lord Jagannath in Puri.

Das Burma, BJD general secretary and former MLA, made the statement while addressing the BJD's Janasampark Yatra at Malasahi in Puri district Sunday. A video of his speech went viral Tuesday creating a murmur in the ruling party as well as in state politics. "All efforts must be made to defeat these forces and foil their conspiracy to loot the wealth of the state," he said.

"Some foreign power has an eye on our wealth. They are trying to loot Odisha's rich mineral resources and (Srimandir) Ratna Bhandar. We have to defeat these elements ... foil their conspiracy," the BJD leader said while appealing to women to foil such efforts.

The former legislator, however, did not name the 'foreign power' and whom he was referring to.

Stating that he was given important positions including ministerial posts by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the BJD leader said that he was made the government deputy chief whip on his first election to assembly and later made BJD's youth wing president.

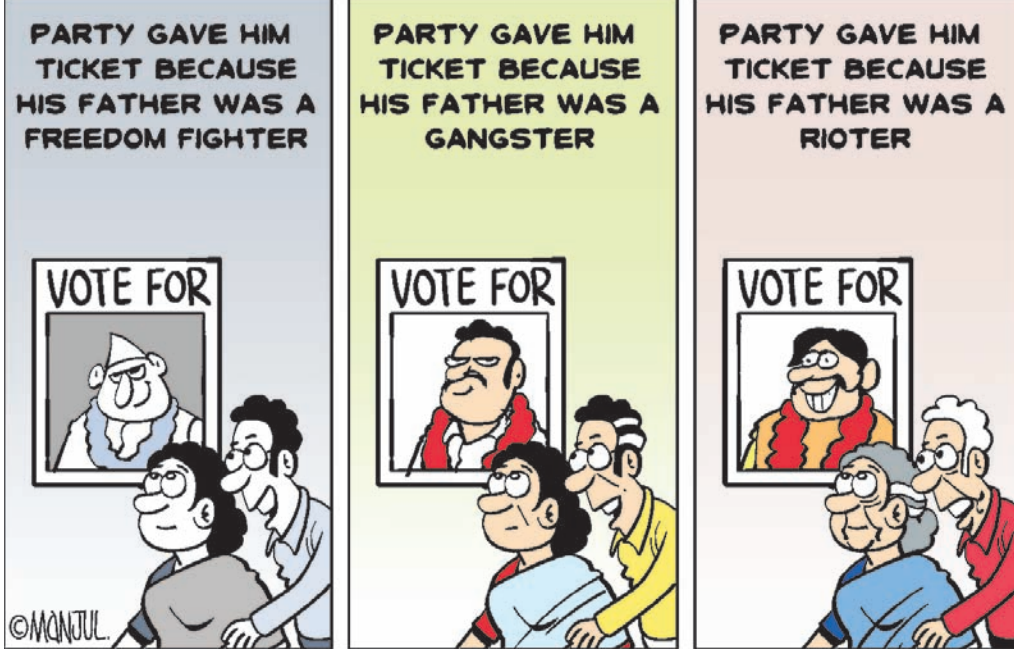
"However, today the situation has changed. Some people think every decision and action taken by them will be accepted by all. A fitting reply will be given to such conspirators," Das Burma said.

The opposition BJP and Congress welcomed Das Burma's statement.

"We have been saying for a long time that Odisha's mineral resources are being looted, but the government did not bother. Now, a ruling party leader is saying the same thing. Thanks to him that the truth is coming out," said state BJP spokesperson Biranchi Tripathy.

The ruling BJD did not comment on Das Burma's statement.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Climate change can derail growth strategy: Neelima

Neelima Mishra, the only youth from Odisha who was an official participant for the Climate Force: Arctic 2019 Expedition, will attend the 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2022 on Climate Change: The Power of Youth' as an expert panelist. Speaking to **OrissaPOST**, Mishra stated that climate change has the potential to derail growth and deepen poverty apart from causing large-scale devastations

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** "Climate change has the potential to derail growth strategy and deepen poverty apart from causing large-scale destructions to lives, properties and livelihood," said Neelima Mishra, who is an active campaigner involved in raising awareness about hazards of single-use plastics.

Neelima, who has graduated with an M. Phil in Environmental Policy from the University of Cambridge, UK in 2022, on the Chevening Scholarship (funded by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said, "I have completed my post-graduation in Forestry Management, from the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal. This helped me gain sector specific knowledge about the environment and sustainable development. I have also worked in various capacities and positions as a consultant to the state government from 2013 to 2021.

Regarding her participation in Climate Force Arctic Expedition, 2019, organised by the 2041 Foundation, she said she was the only participant from Odisha among 80 people from all over the world to reach the Arctic, earning an accolade from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. This expedition, which was supported through crowd funding and various corporate sponsorships, was an opportunity to learn the intricacies of climate change by seeing them real time and directly from the sustainability experts.

She said that after her experiences at the Arctic, she registered herself with 'Ceiba Green Solutions', a social enterprise fo-



a TedX speaker at XIMB in February 2020.

"Last month, I had also received a micro seed grant of \$900 from the Pollination Project to develop a 'compost cafe' in Bhubaneswar which will act as a learning and demonstration centre for waste segregation and various types of composting like aerobic, pipe, stack, DIY, vermicomposting among others. The aim is to get citizens involved in the process of responsible waste management at homes, schools and communities," she mentioned.

"Climate change has the potential to derail growth strategy and deepen poverty apart from causing large-scale destructions to lives, properties and livelihoods," Neelima opined. Planting trees and then taking care of them is the best solution, she said adding that segregating waste and composting organic waste is another solution.



**PULLING CROWD:** Baliyatra in Cuttack witnessed heavy footfall, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

## IN INDONESIA, MODI INVOKES BALIYATRA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his interaction with the Indian diaspora in Bali Tuesday referred to the age-old Baliyatra festival of Odisha to highlight the close cultural linkages between India and Indonesia.

The Prime Minister, who addressed the Indian community on the sidelines of G20 summit, said that India and Indonesia are connected by shared culture and heritage.

"As I speak to you in Bali and we sing songs of Indonesian traditions, Baliyatra Mahotsav is being celebrated 1,500 km away from here, in India's Cuttack. This mahotsav celebrates thousands of years-old India-Indonesia trade relations," he said.

The PM appreciated the community members for enhancing the stature and prestige of India abroad through hard work and ded-

The PM, who addressed the Indian diaspora, said India and Indonesia are connected by shared culture and heritage

ication to their adopted motherland. He also spoke about the positive trajectory of India-Indonesia bilateral relationship, and the crucial role played by the Indian community in its strengthening.

Modi spoke about India's growth story, its achievements and tremendous strides that India is making in various fields such as - digital technology, finance, health, telecom and space. He also mentioned that India's roadmap for development includes the political and economic aspirations of the world and the vision of a self-reliant India embodies the spirit of global good.

## Open more branches in rural areas, banks told

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** The state government Tuesday asked the bankers to open more brick and mortar branches in the unbanked rural areas of the state.

Chairing the 169th State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) meeting here, Development Commissioner PK Jena said the government gives priority to financial inclusion of the rural people. He directed the bankers to open more branches and ATMs in the unbanked rural areas of the state.

The national average of brick and mortar branches and ATMs per lakh population is 18.12 and 22.32 respectively, whereas for Odisha the respective ratios are 13.42 and 17.70 only.

Jena also asked the authorities of the banks performing poorly to enhance their credit deposit ratio. He said, "The CD ratio of the state on an average has increased to 76.85 per cent till September 2022



against 68.48 per cent achieved during the same period of last financial year. However, the performances of some banks including Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India Punjab and Sind Bank and few other private banks are not satisfactory."

He advised the concerned banks to improve the cash-to-deposit (CD) ratio in the coming months of the financial year.

Jena appreciated the perform-

ance of the banks for achieving 50 per cent of the annual credit plan (ACP) target. Due to the collaborative efforts made by the Collectors and banks on achieving 55.40 per cent of ACP in the agricultural sector.

Finance department Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev has suggested the banks to enhance the ACP target for MSME, agricultural sector, and financial target for self-help groups (SHGs) for the

THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR BRICK AND MORTAR BRANCHES AND ATMS PER LAKH POPULATION IS 18.12 AND 22.32 RESPECTIVELY, WHEREAS FOR ODISHA THE RESPECTIVE RATIOS ARE 13.42 AND 17.70 ONLY

THE BANKERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INCREASE THE AVERAGE LOAN SIZE OF SHGS FROM ₹2.7 LAKH TO ₹4 LAKH BY THE END OF CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR

year 2022-23. He urged all banks to continue the momentum and increase the total credit outtake apart from helping to expand the credit outreach in the state.

Notably, the average loan size for SHGs is only ₹2.7 lakh which is a major hindrance in the way of transforming them into enterprises. Therefore, the bankers have been asked to increase the quantum of credit to the SHGs and enhance the average loan size to ₹4 lakh by the end of current financial year.

## BMC's thrust on City beautification

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday decided to remove illegal hoardings from different squares in the Capital city.

Following the instruction of BMC Commissioner Vijaya Amruta Kulange, a meeting was convened Tuesday with the chairmanship of Additional Commissioner Binaya Kumar Dash. More than 30 advertising agencies participated in the meeting where it was decided to remove the hoardings from different squares of the City.

Emphasizing on beautification of the City ahead of Hockey World Cup 2023, the meeting urged the registered agencies to cooperate for such development. "State government is coordinating with line departments to make the event a success where it is the responsibility of city authorities to ensure its assigned activities," said Dash.

Continued from P1

India's population growth slows...

In Odisha, an eastern state, the TFR dropped 21% in only 11 years, between 2008/10 and 2019/21, maybe too fast from the point of view of the government there.

"Odisha may need to relook at the policy framework that promotes a two-child norm," the state's Planning and Convergence Department said in a June note seen by Reuters. The policies discourage exceeding two but do not encourage reaching that number.

The northeastern state of Assam, with its TFR higher than the national average, is still pushing in the other direction. In January, it implemented a policy that made anyone with more than two children ineligible for government jobs and election to local and civic bodies.

"This is the need of the hour to have such a legislation in place," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told Reuters.

But such measures have limited impact on fertility, the UNFPA said, citing global experience. "Most such schemes have had only a marginal impact on fertility and in some cases have even been counterproductive," the UN agency said.

Union, state govts...

"A decision in this regard has been taken by the technical advisory committee constituted by the Government of India and the insurance companies. The state government has also been instructed to issue claims with immediate effect. The central government is committed to clear the claims of farmers at the earliest," he said in a Twitter post.

Tomar said that he had a discussion with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan regarding the insurance claims made in Jharbandha, Padampur and Paikmal blocks of Bargarh district.

Officials said that about 2,63,560 hectares of cropland in 64 blocks and 15 urban local bodies of 12 districts in the state have suffered crop loss of 33 per cent and above due to drought.

"So far, many of the affected farmers have not yet received their crop insurance dues despite continuous follow-up and pursuance by the state government with the technical advisory committee under the ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Government of India," the CMO release said.

The CM, it said, has decided to provide assistance out of the state's own resources after considering the gravity of the situation, demands of the affected farmers and crop loss reports by the collectors.

Steps will be taken for immediate disbursement of assistance after collectors of affected district submit the requirement of funds to the special relief commissioner, the release added.

50,263 schools under umbrella of 'Mo School'

Bhubaneswar: Instituted with the noble aim of transforming government and government aided schools across Odisha, Mo School Abhiyan, completes its fifth year of journey today.

The institution has evolved as one of the largest alumni connect programmes across the globe, supplemented with love and affection of its engaging alumni and community groups. The initiative that started off with a handful of schools has now a humongous count of 50,263 schools under its umbrella. More than 30 lakhs alumni have hopped on the bandwagon of Mo School to come forward and holistically redevelop their alma mater. Social organisations, eminent personalities, corporate bodies, private organisations among others have joined hands with the initiative.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my name from Umesha Chandra Senapati to Umesha Senapati for all purpose.



FOR JOB'S SAKE: Demanding reinstatement, laid off computer teachers of ICT School Coordinator's Association, stage a hunger strike near PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Guv urged to commute man's jail term

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: In a first such incident, the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has reportedly requested the governor, a constitutional authority, to consider the release of a murder convict serving life sentence exercising his constitutional powers under article 161 of the Constitution of India. The convict, Gopal Das alias Ashok, while studying in Agarpara College in Bhadrak had murdered a fellow student over rivalry during the college elections.

March 19, 1997, a local court in Bhadrak convicted Das and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Das has been in the jail for the last 25 years.

Meanwhile, his brother Laxmidhar in 2019 approached the OHRC seeking its intervention for the commutation of the life sentence of Das who had by then served 22 years in jail. While hearing the



plea, the commission later recommended Das's name to the State Sentence Review Board for consideration January 6, 2021.

However, the board rejected the recommendation over some technical grounds. The board reasoned that the matter could not be taken for consideration twice within a period of one year.

Notably, the board had earlier rejected a separate recommendation by the jail authorities due to negative report of the district administration regarding the release of Das in 2020. The convict was reportedly involved in theft case while released from jail for a short period in furlough few years back so the district administration sub-

A local court in Bhadrak convicted Das March 19, 1997 and sentenced him to life imprisonment. He has been in the jail for the last 25 years

mited a negative report. The OHRC in November 2021 sent another recommendation which was also rejected by the board in its meeting held January 12, 2022.

So, the commission sent the recommendation to the Principal Secretary to the Governor directing him to place the matter before the governor and submit the action taken report or comments over the issue by December 27, 2022.

Notably, the Supreme Court of India had upheld the human rights commission's power to make the relevant recommendations during a case in 2010.

Comviva inks MoU with KIIT, ITER



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: Comviva, a company provides digital solutions, signed MoUs with technology universities in Bhubaneswar - Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Institute of Technical Education & Research (ITER), SOA University, Tuesday towards a stronger collaboration to drive core technical competencies to develop market appropriate talent. This shall help in enhancing the quality of the talent pool and make them better ready for industry demands.

On the occasion, Saranjit Singh, pro-vice chancellor, KIIT said, "We are proud to partner with Comviva and expand the learning opportunities offered to our students. There is a great demand for digital technology talent and this partnership with Comviva provides an amazing opportunity for our students to comprehend complex technology challenges and industry best practices. KIIT strongly believes in closely working with the industry

and we welcome this partnership with Comviva to build a more market-ready and industry-aligned technology workforce."

Speaking on the collaboration, Manoranjan Mohapatra, CEO of Comviva said "Digital technology is changing the face of the world. There is a fast-growing demand for a market-ready workforce, and it is imperative that Industry and academia work closely together to develop quality tech talent. Being one of the global players in FinTech, MarTech and Digital technologies, we are in a unique position to partner with technology institutions in bridging the talent gap and nurturing future-ready digital talent."

As a part of this strategic partnership, Comviva shall provide content, technologies, faculty training and access to industry experts in its core areas of focus like Digital Payments, Real-time Marketing & Analytics, AI & Data Science and Digital solutions for a richer customer experience, helping bridge the skill demands of the growing technology industry.

'Tribals enriched cultural heritage'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: In a programme organised on the occasion of 'Janajatiya Gaurav Divas,' Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) under ST & SC Development Department, with support from ministry of Tribal Affairs, government of India, felicitated 75 tribal achievers for their remarkable contributions in various fields Tuesday, as part of the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav to mark 75 years of India's Independence.

The birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda is being observed as 'Janajatiya Gaurav Divas' to pay tribute to the revered tribal leader. In a colourful inaugural function organised in the auditorium of SCSTRTI, Jagannath Saraka, Minister, ST & SC Development,



Law, Odisha, felicitating the achievers, in his address mentioned that the tribal communities have enriched the country's cultural heritage, through their exquisite art and craft. They have played a leading role in promotion, protection and conservation of the environment through their traditional practices. He also said that about 85 tribal rebellions have taken place against the British Raj to restore independence and many tribals have been martyred in the process.

Minister also appreciated the effort taken to felicitate the 75 Tribal Achievers from across the state for their invaluable contribution to the society which will undoubtedly inspire many more of the young generation.

As part of the celebration, week-long programmes have been planned that include live demonstration by tribal artisans, screening of audio-visual films on tribal freedom fighters of Odisha along with Swachhta campaign.

Sperm counts decline globally, including India

An international team of researchers has found a significant decline in sperm counts over the years in many countries globally including India. Sperm count is not only an indicator of human fertility but also that of men's health, with low levels being associated with increased risk of chronic disease, testicular cancer and a decreased lifespan, the researchers said.

The decline reflects a global crisis related to modern environment and lifestyle, with broad implications for the survival of the human species, they said.

The study, published Tuesday in the journal Human Reproduction Update, used data from 53 countries. It includes an additional



seven years of data collection (2011-2018) and focuses on sperm count trends among men in regions not reviewed previously, specifically South America, Asia and Africa.

The data shows, for the first time, that men in those regions share the significant decline in total sperm counts (TSC) and sperm concentration (SC) seen previously in North America, Europe and Australia. The study shows an accelerated post-2000 decline in TSC

and SC globally.

"India is part of this larger trend. In India, due to availability of good data (including 23 estimates in our study, one of the countries with the richest data), we have more certainty that there is a strong and sustainable decline, but it's similar globally," Professor Hagai Levine of Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, told PTI. "Overall, we're seeing a significant worldwide decline in sperm counts of over 50 per cent in the past 46 years, a decline that has accelerated in recent years," Levine said.

While the current study did not examine the causes of sperm count declines, Levine pointed to recent research indicating that disturbances in the development of the

POST NEWS NETWORK

Affix HSRP by Nov 30, STA to vehicle owners

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: The time period for affixation of High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) on old vehicles registered prior to April 01, 2019, carrying Odisha registration mark and registration number ending with 1, 2, 3 and 4, will end November 30, reminded the State Transport Authority (STA) to vehicle owners Tuesday.

Urging vehicle owners to get the HSRP affixed without delay, in a press note, Dipti Ranjan Patra, Joint Commissioner Transport, Technical, said, "As of November 14, 2022, a total of 31,25,236 vehicle owners have booked slot, out of which HSRP has been affixed in 15,30,576 vehicles. For the convenience of the vehicle owners, the department has extended the deadline three times. The vehicle owners who do not have access to the internet or do not have knowledge of technology can apply for HSRP through nearby Mo Seva Kendra or at HSRP facilitation centres at 88 locations and at other parts of the state. Where the dealers' network of all OEMs is not available, important

government and private establishments have started HSRP fitment, informed the commissioner.

Patra further said that fitment of HSRP of old and existing locally manufactured trailers and other vehicles registered prior to April 01, 2019 whose manufacturers have closed businesses can be done at the RTO from where the vehicle was purchased. "This facility can be provided only at RTO offices through Vahan application. The respective owner can visit the RTO office and produce the RC book for HSRP booking," he informed.

About replacement of HSRP in case of damage, all the auto mobile manufacturers and authorized HSRP vendors of OEMs have been intimated with Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on provision of duplicate or damaged HSRP, which is also available online for the benefit of vehicle owners.

In accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court of India, Central government amended Rule 50 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR) and as per notifications or statutory orders from ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), state transport department has made affixation of HSRP mandatory for all old vehicles which were registered prior to April 1, 2019.



Vehicles registered prior to April 01, 2019, carrying Odisha registration mark and registration number ending with 1, 2, 3 and 4, will end Nov 30

Programme on Energy Conservation Building Code-2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 15: A One-day training programme for sensitisation of stake holders on Energy Conservation Building Code-2022 was organised by EIC (Electricity)-cum-Principal Chief Electrical Inspector (PCEI), Odisha in Bhubaneswar Tuesday.

Principal Secretary, department of Energy, MD OPTCL, MD OPGC, sector experts from B.E.E, EIC (Electricity), EIC (Design) Works Department, senior officers of Government departments, architects, Municipal Corporations, academicians of engineering institutions participated in the programme.

On this occasion, Principal Secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal unveiled the 'Odisha Energy Conservation Building Code-2022'.

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# No let-up in dengue cases in Ganjam dist

4 new cases reported Tuesday, tally now 161

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Nov 15:** There is no let-up in spread of dengue in Ganjam district as the disease continues to spiral with each passing day. With the addition of four new cases Tuesday, the number of affected persons has gone up to 161 in the district. The new cases have been reported from Kukudakhandi, Buguda, Shergad and Digapahandi blocks. All the four have been admitted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here and are undergoing treatment, district health department officials said.

Two of the newly-infected persons have contracted the disease during their stay outside the state. Among them is a 62-year-old man who was working in Chennai and had just returned home in Buguda. Similarly a 20-year-old man working in Surat tested positive for dengue after returning to his native village in Shergad block.

A 40-year old woman of Krupasindhupur village under Kukudakhandi block was suffering from cough and fever. After her blood sample was tested, it turned out to be dengue positive. A 36-year-old youth of Siddheswar village under Digapahandi block is the latest to contract the disease.

CDMO Dr Umashankar Mishra said that health officials are conducting awareness programmes across the district. Pesticides are also being sprayed in all water bodies and drains which are the breeding grounds for dengue-causing Aedes mosquitoes. However, it should be stated here that despite the best efforts of the district administration, the disease is spreading fast.



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# Villagers warn of Padampur bypoll boycott

**Padampur:** With the bypoll to Padampur Assembly seat round the corner, residents of Baidapali village have warned of boycotting the election over road connectivity issues. The warning has activated the district administration. Rajborasambar BDO Biswanath Sahu visited the village and came to know that reconstruction of a village road under the Panchayati Raj department has been hanging fire due to soil dumping.

# Efforts on to prevent forest fires in Similipal

PANEL FORMED TO MAINTAIN VIGIL OVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Nov 15:** Every year, parts of the Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district face the brunt of forest fires due to human intervention. These wildfires keep on raging for days together and destroy flora and fauna during the summer. This has become a cause of concern for the district administration as well as the sanctuary authorities.

Keeping this development in view, a recently-formed district level fire management committee has included a part of the Similipal sanctuary in its action plan aimed at preventing fires during the summer of 2023. The plan will be put in place from December so that all norms are in order to prevent wildfires from breaking out during the summer months.

The committee will be headed by District Collector Vineet Bhardwaj while officials of various departments will be included as members. Moreover, awareness drives to prevent forest fires will be launched in villages located on the peripheries of the Similipal National Park. Local residents will be included in the awareness campaign and they will be sensitised on prevention of fires. They will also be taught ways to douse



**Awareness drives to prevent forest fires will be launched in villages on the peripheries of the Similipal National Park. Local residents will be included in the awareness campaign**

fires quickly in case it breaks out inside the forest.

Field director of the Similipal Tiger Project, T Ashok Kumar informed that local youths have been included in the firefighting teams.

This is because the Forest department is suffering from staff crunch. Firefighting exercises will be carried out from January 15 to June-end, 2023.

As the tourist season is under way, visitors are being thoroughly checked before they enter the sanctuary area. Departmental staff has been pressed into service at different tourist sites inside the sanctuary, Ashok informed.

Deputy Director of Similipal Tiger Project, Samrat Goud said that strict vigil is being maintained to prevent the outbreak of forest fires. He added that teams will be kept ready 24x7 to nip in the bud any impending sign of wildfires.

# ₹60L allocated for three Amrit Sarovar projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khandapara, Nov 15:** The administration has approved an outlay of ₹60 lakh for excavation of ponds in the Amrit Sarovar scheme to be implemented under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in three panchayats of Khandapara block in Nayagarh district.

Notably, the groundwater level has been plummeting alarmingly in various parts of the state due over exploitation and the absence of recharging systems. Hence, excavation of new ponds

and renovation of old ones will come handy in conserving water in the monsoon season and recharging the groundwater, it was said.

Officials said, the block administration had earlier sent a proposal to the district administration for digging of 10 Amrit Sarovars (ponds) in Khalisahri, Banamalipur and Shalajharia panchayats. These projects will be executed under MGNREGS.

The district administration has given approval to the three projects. Once the projects are operational, water woes in the three panchayats will decrease considerably, officials said.

# Elephant poacher nabbed in Keonjhar

**Keonjhar:** Forest officials arrested Tuesday a person involved in the poaching of a pregnant elephant in Kalapata reserve forest under Telkoi range in Keonjhar district. The accused was identified as Chagulu Patra, a resident of Similipal village. He had allegedly shot arrows at the elephant injuring the animal and leading to its death. "A case (OR-277/2022-23) had earlier been registered in connection with the jumbo poaching, November 7. One of the accused has been arrested and produced in court. Further investigation into the matter is underway," Keonjhar divisional forest officer (DFO), HD Dhanraj informed. The arrest came two days after the DFO suspended Purnachandra Mohanta, a forester of Talpada section and issued show-cause notices to ranger Shivaji Mohan Rao and guard Jharana Sahu for the death of the female jumbo and its unborn calf. They have been asked to respond by Wednesday. Some villagers had gone to Kalapata reserve forest November 7 and found stench emanating from a place. They alerted the forester of Talpada section. Officials rushed to the spot and recovered the decomposed carcass of the female elephant.



**CHILDREN'S FEST:** Little girls perform a dance routine at the Sishu Mahotsav organised at the Dayanand Public School at Padiabahal in Sambalpur

# Lawyers in Sambalpur refuse to resume work

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Nov 15:** Lawyers in Sambalpur have refused to abide by the Supreme Court order on resumption of work. They vowed Tuesday to continue with their agitation for establishment of a permanent bench of the Orissa High Court in Western Odisha.

The matter came to the fore during a meeting of the district bar association here, presided over by president Sureshwar Mishra. The members refused to abide by the SC order on joining duty and decided to continue with their stir every Wednesday. They warned that all the 1,600 lawyers in the district will not hesitate to surrender their individual licences.

The SC had asked Monday the lawyers to resume work and warned that they will be held guilty of contempt leading to either suspension or cancellation of their licences.

# Face-off over eviction drive in Khuntpali

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Nov 15:** Tension ran high Tuesday after officials of the district administration in Bolangir and villagers of Khuntpali affected by Lower Suktel irrigation project were involved in a face-off during an eviction drive. Villagers demanded that issues of their rehabilitation and relocation must be solved before they move out.

Residents of Khuntpali, including women and children staged a road block to prevent the administrative team from entering the village. Sensing the mood of the villagers, officials did not enter and instead held talks with the agitators to diffuse tension.

The villagers questioned the frequent visit of the administrative team without resolving the issues. They informed that they had submitted a seven-point charter of demand to the district collector, but their demands were yet to be met.

# LOWER SUKTEL



They said officials will be allowed to enter the village only after their demands are fulfilled.

In the demands, the villagers have said that the priest of the village deity should not be evicted till the temple is relocated to a separate place. They alleged that they are yet to get land for construction of new houses despite spending a part of the compensation they had received for displacement from the village. They demanded for homestead land to 12 displaced

persons and land for construction of houses to original residents residing at the rehabilitation colony. They also said that clean drinking water facilities, Anganwadi, school, playgrounds and ponds should be set up as part of their rehabilitation.

The face-off led to an impasse at the village. Later, ADM/project director of Lower Suktel irrigation project, Mahendra Mohapatra reached the site and held discussions with the villagers. He urged them not to disrupt work after receiving the compensation amount. The villagers pointed out that over 80 per cent of villagers have already been displaced while 20 per cent still live in the village. SDPO Tophan Bag intervened and assured that only those houses that have been completely vacated will be demolished.

Following Bag's assurances, the administrative team entered the village and demolished the houses that have been completely vacated.

# Villagers in support of JSW's expansion plans

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koira, Nov 15:** Neighbourhood villages of Nuagaon Mines have unanimously supported JSW Steel during the public hearing conducted to obtain environment clearance for capacity expansion of its iron ore mine.

JSW Steel had proposed environment assessment for the Nuagaon iron ore mine for production of 20 MTPA with total excavation 22.013 MTPA with screening, crushing 4500TPH CPU and setting up of 30 MTPA grinding and beneficiation plant. Also, there will be 30 MTPA slurry transportation system over ML area 776.969 (as per DGPS)/767.284 Ha (as per ROR).



Residents of villages like Nuagaon, Barapada, Gandhalpada, Guali, Katashi, Parediposi, Kohlarudukela, Panduliposhi and Topadihi expressed support for the company to achieve its expansion plans. The public hearing was conducted by officials of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and district administration.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
**Office of the Superintending Engineer**  
Upper Kolab Head Works Division  
At/PO-Kolabnagar, Dist-Koraput  
**CANCELLATION OF TENDER NOTICE**  
No.3562 Date:14.11.2022  
No.A-722:The online tender processes for works vide e-procurement notice no. SEUKHWD-04/2022-23, Dated 10.11.2022 is hereby cancelled for technical issues.  
Sd./ Superintending Engineer,  
Upper Kolab Head Works Division,  
Kolabnagar  
OIPR-32015/11/0012/2223

**E-1 Security Services Pvt. Limited**  
Bhubaneswar  
Plot No-1488, S-1 Plaza, Sastrinagar, Unit- IV, Lane-3,  
Bhubaneswar, Khordha-751001,  
Email id: e1mdbalaram@gmail.com,  
Mob-9827612743, 7381811306  
Branch Office: At/PO- Nabarangpur, Senapati  
Street, Nabarangpur, Odisha. Mob-9937188098  
**ENGAGEMENT OF WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT TEAM (WDT)**  
Adv. No:-E1SSPL/167/2022 Dated the 11.11.2022  
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for engagement as Watershed Development Team (WDT) & Office Assistant in the Office of the Project Director, Watersheds, Nabarangpur on "outsourcing" basis. Applicants can logon www.nabarangpur.nic.in for details of vacancy, eligibility criteria, age, remuneration, application forms and other terms and conditions. The candidates are advised to send their self attested photocopies of all the relevant Educational Certificates in accordance to the post applied for along with completed prescribed Application Form through Speed Post or Courier in the above address on or before 26.11.2022. Document verification of the applications will be done at PD, Watersheds Conference Hall, Nabarangpur on dated 02.12.2022. Only eligible Applicants will be called for Document verification.  
Sd./-Managing Director  
E-1 Security Services Pvt.Ltd.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
RWS&S DIVISION, RAYAGADA  
No.O-1256  
E-mail: eerwssrgd@gmail.com, Phone- 8280408061  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-Procurement  
Tender Identification No.04/RWSS/RGD/2022-23  
1) Name of works: (1) Providing power supply to proposed PWS (Supply voltage 4400V/06 KW/ Public Works & Sewerage Pumping) at Puttasing & Tolona under Gunupur Block. (2) Total number of works: 1 No. (Detailed list available in the website). (3) Estimated cost: Rs.10.29 lakhs. (4) Class of contractor: HT Electrical (5) Period of completion: 2 months.  
Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of tender online for bidding  
1 2 3 4  
Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Rayagada Online Tender / 04/RWSS/RGD/ 2022-23 19.11.2022 at 12.00 hours 29.11.2022 upto 17.00 hours  
N.B.: Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in  
Sd./ Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Rayagada  
OIPR-25007/11/0005/2223

# Irregularities mar MGNREGS projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Nov 15:** Large-scale irregularities have marred implementation of various MGNREGS projects in Kashipur block of Rayagada district. In the process, instead of development, funds have been allegedly misappropriated while many job card holders are sitting idle.

The latest scam to surface is misappropriation of ₹10 lakh allotted for building a road and construction of a guard wall and a culvert in the block. The amount has allegedly been swindled without any work being done.

Ombudsman of MGNREGS, Laxminarayan Padhi has already submitted a report on



this issue to District Collector Swadha Dev Singh. The report said that a GRS, the PEO and a junior engineer are involved in the scam. Bills have allegedly been passed without proper inspection of the work sites.

The report states that over ₹2.37 lakh allocated for construction of a guard wall from Ghasisahi to Chandaguda has been embezzled. In another official record it has been

shown that ₹1.58 lakh has been spent for construction of a road at Badachekana village and for payment towards wages of labourers. The ombudsman in his report has said that he physically inspected the spots in question and found that none of the projects has been executed.

It should be stated here that irregularities had also surfaced in mango and cashew plantations under the MGN-

REGS schemes executed by the Horticulture department. Locals alleged that attempts had earlier been made to hush up the alleged wrongdoing.

The district project coordinator of MGNREGS said that reports about execution of the projects uploaded in the official website are false.

Irregularities and scams have also marred various MGNREGS projects done by the Zilla Parishad. Executive officer of the Zilla Parishad, Rabinarayan Tripathy admitted that large-scale irregularities are being committed in MGNREGS projects in Kashipur block. He informed that he will talk to the collector for taking stern actions against those involved.

**UCO BANK** Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423 **DEMAND NOTICE** (for Immovable Property)

Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorised Officer against the following Borrower of **UCO Bank, Champeswar Branch**. The details are given below:

CHAMPESWAR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/ Legal Heirs	Balance due as per Demand Notice	Schedule of Mortgaged Property	Demand Notice Date
<b>Borrower : M/s. Sahoo Brothers, Prop.: Late Basanta Kumar Sahoo, At: Barakoli, P.O.: Nukhapada, Dist.: Cuttack - 754032 / Legal Heirs of Late Basanta Kumar Sahoo are: 1) Jyotsnarani Sahoo, W/o.: Late Basanta Kumar Sahoo, 2) Mrs. Debasmita Sahoo, D/o.: Late Basanta Kumar Sahoo, 3) Mr. Deepak Kumar Sahoo, S/o.: Late Basanta Kumar Sahoo, 4) Ms. Sangeeta Sahoo, D/o.: Late Basanta Kumar Sahoo, All are At: Barakoli, P.O.: Nukhapada, Dist.: Cuttack - 754032</b>	<b>₹19,20,803.99</b> as on <b>04.11.2022</b> + Interest and other expenses thereon	All that Residential Land with Building thereon at Khata No.: 98/43, Plot No.: 841/986, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.05 Dec and Plot No.: 841/987, admeasuring Area: Ac.0.06 Dec, <b>Total Area: Ac.0.11 Dec</b> , KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Barakoli, Tahasil/P.S.: Narasinghpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Bounded by North: Property of Saroj Kumar Sahoo, South: Property of Mahendra Sahoo, East: Property of Duryodhan Sahoo, West: Road	<b>04.11.2022</b>

You have committed default in repayment of loan and further interest at the agreed rate availed from **Champeswar Branch** as mentioned in the above table. The Bank has issued notice under the said Act to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notice sent to the above mentioned parties by Regd. Post with AD which could not be served. Due to irregularity in repayment of a such due, the debt has been classified as Non-Performing Asset (NPA). You shall not transfer the above said property by sale, lease without obtaining written consent of the Bank. You are therefore, called upon to pay the dues together with interest within **60 days** from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise the right of Enforcement of Security Interest as against the mortgaged secured assets given in the schedule as per securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. This notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action. **Your kind attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 15.11.2022 **Authorised Officer, UCO Bank**

There is nothing small in God's eyes; let there be nothing small in thine.

SRI AUROBINDO



# Gloomy Economy

The misplaced confidence of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das may have made him gloat over the INR strengthening because it went up 63 paise against the dollar one fine day recently. But then it crashed again the very next day. It is obvious India's economy is not really strong. One proof of this is that the RBI is dipping into reserves for survival. The argument that this is being done to cushion the Indian rupee against the volatility fuelled by US Fed's rate hikes and high commodity prices is hardly tenable. The fact that in the past 12 months over US\$ 16 billion reserve has been spent is not a sign of a healthy economy. Multiple repo rate adjustments have debilitated the poor and the middle class. India's foreign exchange reserves dropping to a two-year low should be a matter of concern for the economy as the pace of foreign inflows into the country's markets lessens amid global monetary policy tightening. The rupee has, in a short span of time, gone from one of the world's best performing currencies to one of the worst. It has depreciated 2 per cent versus the dollar since September 21, ranking among the worst-performing emerging market units. Over the time period, it has fared worse than 14 other emerging market currencies. Prior to September 21, the rupee had outperformed many of its peers.

As India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs, a weakening rupee will make its purchases expensive, further fuelling inflation which has remained above the RBI's upper tolerance band for eight consecutive months.

In fact, experts caution that India's economy will grow well below its potential over the next two years, with inflation staying above the mid-point of the RBI's tolerance band despite recent interest rate hikes.

Growth could be faster than many other economies, but so far as job creation is concerned, it would be too slow. This means the hope of pulling millions out of poverty will recede further. This is ominous as India is already ranked as one of the worst in the world in tackling hunger.

Growth is projected to slow down sharply to an annual 6 per cent in the third quarter from 13.5 per cent in the second. It is even likely to decelerate further to 4.4 per cent in the fourth quarter. The median expectation was for 6.9 per cent growth in the 2022-23 fiscal year, slightly above the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) projections of 6.8 per cent. It is now pegged at 6.1 per cent next year.

The deteriorating global economic situation suggests there may be even further downgrades in coming months. India's GDP growth is expected to decelerate to 5.7 per cent in 2022 from 8.2 per cent last year due to higher financing costs and weaker public expenditures. Such a gloomy picture is being painted by none other than the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). As the global economic crises worsen further due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, sanctions against Russia by the West and Russia's retaliatory economic measures, urgent policy corrections are the need of the hour. This is vital for protecting the country's poor and middle class as the UNCTAD's estimates suggest the country's GDP growth is likely to decelerate to 4.7 per cent in 2023.

Without course correction and coordinated multilateral policies such as substantial debt relief and large-scale social welfare measures, the crisis will continue to persist in developing and low-income countries. UNCTAD's prescriptions are multilateral synchronisation of monetary and fiscal policies, a substantial debt-reduction programme for developing and low-income countries, and a massive increase in official development assistance.

Viewed in this perspective, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that "India's economy is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent this year, which will be the highest among the world's largest economies" sounds rather too unrealistic.

India's growth trajectory during the current fiscal may become better than many G20 countries in an economically depressed world. But, the optimism should be tempered given the stark realities of massive unemployment, worsening inequalities and poverty.

## WISDOM CORNER

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.

LAO TZU

Truth is ever to be found in simplicity, and not in the multiplicity and confusion of things.

ISAAC NEWTON

Truth, like gold, is to be obtained not by its growth, but by washing away from it all that is not gold.

LEO TOLSTOY

## WORDSWORTH

### Cosmeceutical

This is a blend of cosmetic and pharmaceutical which has appeared only in the nineties. It's a well-known term in the pharmaceutical business, which is still most commonly encountered in the USA, but is now increasingly being used elsewhere, and which is moving into more general contexts. It refers to a product which is marketed as a cosmetic, but which contains biologically active ingredients that have an effect on the user. Examples are anti-wrinkle creams, baldness treatments, moisturisers and sunscreens. They are causing problems world-wide for regulatory authorities, such as the American Food and Drugs Administration, which must decide when a product crosses the line between being merely a cosmetic and becoming a drug, the latter having much more stringent controls on its development, testing and supply. Much seems to depend on the labelling of the product: one describing itself as a deodorant would probably be classed as a cosmetic, whereas one labelled as an antiperspirant might well be classified as a drug because it claims to close the pores of the skin. More prescription drugs are being sold across the counter; some may soon become "cosmeceuticals" or "nutriceuticals" - active chemicals sold as cosmetics or food (Economist, Apr 1995). Photodamage, the deterioration of skin due to sun exposure and aging, is the biggest market segment for cosmeceuticals (The Scientist, Jan 1998).

### Costus

This Asian spice was well-known in the classical world, but it is comparatively rare today in the West. It wasn't used much in food, as the Greeks and Romans disliked its burning taste, but they appreciated what Pliny called its "exquisite scent" and also used it in medical prescriptions. It is the root of a tall herb, whose botanical name is Saussurea lappa, which even today grows wild only in the highlands of Kashmir. Its name comes to us from Sanskrit through Greek and Latin. Another name for it is putchuk, from a language that's variously suggested as being Telugu, Hindi or Malay. It is recorded in the Anglo-Indian Dictionary Hobson-Jobson of 1886; the authors remarked that it was exported from Bombay and Calcutta to China, where it was used as the chief ingredient in joss sticks. The English herbalist Nicholas Culpeper knew of it under the name of cost or coste: "Being boiled in oil, it is held to help the gout by anointing the grieved place with it". In modern usage, its name has reverted to costus, the Latin form. It is still used as a medical herb in some places, being antiseptic and helpful against asthma and bronchitis, among other things. Its oil is used in perfumery and sometimes in aromatherapy. In the fourteenth century another herb with a similar aroma, from the Mediterranean this time, was introduced to Britain. The English name of the oriental herb was borrowed for it, but as it was often used to flavour ale, it became commonly known as alecost. (Another name was costmary, because it was widely associated with St Mary.) However, that herb's popularity declined after hops appeared on the scene in the early fifteenth century.

# INDIA & AN UNENDING WAR

## FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

In his virtual address to the COP27 at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, November 8, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he was open to negotiations with Russia if the latter was focussed on safeguarding Ukraine's territorial integrity, withdrawing from all occupied territories including Crimea, compensating Kyiv with war reparations, respecting the UN charter, and bringing to justice perpetrators of war crimes with the promise never to commit such act again.

This was a tall order as a Ukraine fatigue had set in for the Western powers and NATO, bearing them down in supplying Ukraine with military and financial aid. The Biden administration had an important reason in putting Ukraine under pressure to negotiate an end to the war; and that was the midterm polls which have now thrown up unexpected results in the Republicans having come in majority in the House with the Senate taken by the Democrats. Despite Biden's appeal to work with the Republicans, it is very likely that they would be blocking further aid and defence supplies to Ukraine. The EU members are equally worried that come winter, Russia will close its entire gas taps and put the major European economies like Germany, France and Italy to misery.

Putin on the other hand has been playing his cards close to his chest in opting for a withdrawal strategy while continuing his aggressive strikes on Ukraine's infrastructure and utilities, destroying nearly 40% of its water and power supplies besides severely bombarding major cities including Kyiv.

It needs to be noted that while Zelenskyy was delivering his address at COP27, the Indian Foreign Minister was in Moscow, the first time that he was undertaking a bilateral visit since Russia's invasion. EAM Jaishankar met Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and Deputy PM Manturov (who leads the inter-governmental commission) and discussed a range of issues including currency swap arrangement (which remained undecided), trade, energy, investment, defence, space, nuclear and connectivity. Calling Russia a 'time-tested friend' and qualifying his statement that India's friendship with Russia has been largely advantageous to the Indian people in procuring cheap oil, the Indian Minister had no qualms in saying that all this works out well to India's advantage. On the



While India risks a goodwill deficit among its Western friends on its ambivalent stance on the Ukraine war which could stand to risk its global image, and with China continuing to aggrandise with its eyes on its Western front, the future seems deadly uncertain

other hand, repeating PM Modi's alleged admonition to Putin that this was not the era of war and advising the path of diplomacy and dialogue, India was playing to both sides knowing fully well that Ukraine has been seriously rattled with India's continuing cheap oil purchases from Russia "at the cost of Ukraine's blood" as Foreign Minister Kuleba had pointed out bluntly. Incidentally, Jaishankar met Kuleba on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Meeting and the EAS Summit in Phnom Penh though the meeting expectedly did not produce any positive outcome.

Speculation in some diplomatic and media circles that India would act as a peacemaker in the Ukraine war was largely belied as the Indian side never broached the matter seriously. Thus an opportunity which India could have used to broker peace and gain goodwill among its Western friends was lost. With the arms chest closing up from US and NATO, Ukraine would have no option but to head for a final 'do or die' push after its takeover of Kherson. This could give a new twist to the war with Russia's withdrawal from one of its key cities where it had held a referendum to join Russia a month ago. The Russian grouse has been that the Western powers, including NATO, have conspired in defanging Russia's clout on its own border and that had to be countered. On the other hand, the US play of bleeding Russia through feeding Ukraine with arms and financial support to continue the war has clearly not worked though Ukraine has had battlefield successes in the recent past and has recovered some ground in the Donbas region, mostly around the Donetsk area.

Interestingly, PM Modi has reached Bali to attend the G20 Summit (Nov 15-16) where India will be handed over the Presidency by Indonesia Dec 1. The main issues being discussed at the G20 would be the Ukraine war, climate change, global economic growth, post-COVID health issues and digital transformation. Xi's meeting with Biden in Bali Nov 14, their first face-to-face meeting since Biden took over as President, hogged headlines. While Biden reiterated USC's 'One China' policy and ruled out the possibility of a new Cold War with China, Xi drew the red line on Taiwan and responded to Biden's accusations of human rights violations in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong cursorily with, "America had their own democracy while China had theirs." Xi conveyed China's willingness to do business with America (USG's regulations on the Chinese semi-conductor industry with decline of China's property sector and steep decrease in GDP growth have blunted Beijing) in the light of US diversifying global supply lines and embracing India for 'friendshoring'.

This would give India a lead in its economic relations with the US notwithstanding the latter's indirect support for Russia in the war. Jaishankar's meeting with his US counterpart Blinken in the Cambodian capital therefore went off on a good note in view of India's forthcoming presidency of the G20 which has been welcomed by the US.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a recent address to the National Defence College said, "We believe in a multi-aligned policy realised through diverse engagements and multiple stakeholders. India does not

believe in a world order where a few are considered superior to others." Targeting China, the Minister talked of "enlightened self-interest" and "strategic morality", predicated on the respect for "the legitimate strategic imperative of all civilized nations". While in Moscow, Jaishankar had added, "We are clearly on the side of peace, respect for international law and support for the UN Charter, we support any initiative that de-risks the global economy and stabilises the global order." India is known for its democratic values though there has been a serious attrition which the global community has well noticed.

No wonder India was rapped on its knuckles in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at UNHCR, Geneva Nov 11. In a meeting attended by 130 countries, India was grilled for over three hours on issues ranging from human rights concerns to anti-terrorism mechanisms (UAPA and AFSPA, besides NRC and CAA), treatment of minorities, women and children, and behaviour towards human rights defenders besides lack of transparency in administering the FCRA. India's democracy came under severe criticism from countries ranging from the US, Canada, Mexico to Europe, Africa and even Asian countries such as Malaysia. Pakistan had its way on Kashmir supported by Turkey on the need for peace in the sub-continent.

India needs to therefore strongly take up the cause of the Global South and reiterate its position on the escalating energy and food insecurity and fuel crises which signal a global doomsday with the Ukraine war showing no respite. Quoting Freud in her book, Violent Fraternity, Shruti Kapila gives the example of a family of hedgehogs trying to come together during winter to give each other warmth but falling apart when their skins prick each other: Could it be likened to the European theatre? As Freud says, "The ambivalent but ultimately reversible play between love and hatred causes war but also offers the potential for peace." While India risks a goodwill deficit among its Western friends on its ambivalent stance on the Ukraine war which could stand to risk its global image, and with China continuing to aggrandise with its eyes on its Western front, the future seems deadly uncertain.

The writer is a retired diplomat. Views are personal

## IN JEST THIS

# Nobody loses when democracy works well

I love it when democracy works well and an election goes smoothly - almost perfectly. But enough about Brazil's national election.

This year's US midterm election went fairly well, despite the usual rumors of votes being dumped, voting machines being manipulated, and dead people voting for the wrong party.

The way I see it, there were more winners than losers. Almost everyone who runs for office, whether in the United States, India or any other country, begins the race as a winner. It takes courage to run for office. You have to put yourself out there and become a punching bag for the other candidates. You have to face the possibility - in many cases, probability - that you will lose the election, perhaps in a landslide. But that itself does not make you a loser. The way I see it, you are only a loser if you fail to get more

than one vote. You are only a loser if the sole person who votes for you is the person staring back at you in the mirror. You are only a loser if you can't get your spouse or kids to vote for you, if your siblings make all sorts of excuses, if your mother says the lines at the polls are too long, and you're going to lose anyway, so why bother?

The election results themselves do not usually make anyone a loser. It's not whether you come first or last that determines if you're a winner or loser - it's how you ran the race. Did you engage in thoughtful debate or make fun of your opponent's weight? Did you try occasionally to use your brain or merely say something profane? Did you exhibit dignity and grace or spread ideas from a Twitter-verified nutcase?

The way I see it, the US election had many winners on both sides of the aisle. Winners galore. Winners wearing red, winners wearing blue,

winners out the wazoo.

But alas, there were some losers too. Losers who may one day become winners, not by winning elections but by exhibiting the characteristics of winners. What are these characteristics? Well, here are just three:

- 1. When winners lose an election, they concede gracefully. They congratulate the person who got the most votes. They do not become "election deniers." An election denier is a candidate who, upon losing an election, denies that an election ever took place. "There was an election?" they ask. "It may have looked like an election, but I wouldn't call it an election." Election deniers are different from results deniers. Results deniers are the type of people who look at the numbers on a scale and say, "This can't be true. I didn't gain 5 kg just snacking during Diwali. Someone rigged the scale!"
- 2. Winners have principles and

of those principles is to tell the truth. They do not pledge to increase employment and then do so by telling so many lies that media organisations are forced to hire more fact checkers. They don't make promises that they don't intend to keep. And they don't make up stories about crowd sizes at their rallies, or whether they were top students in college.

3. Winners don't try to belittle their opponents based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, economic status, or lack of hair. They focus their energy on their plans to improve the lives of the everyday citizen, not the person who drives a luxury car and complains that the voting places do not have drive-through lanes.

You can be a winner without winning an election. And you can be a loser without losing an election. At least that's the way I see it.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### Lurking danger

Sir, Innumerable research works are being conducted to pinpoint impending earthquakes. Some specific areas of the world are more susceptible to quakes than the rest. Depending upon the severity of earthquakes, India has been divided into four zones. Recently there were two earthquakes in a span of one week in Delhi and the National Capital Region; the latest recorded 5.4 on Richter scale. The region (NCR) comes under zone 4. In India, there are more than 30 cities that fall under the 'high risk' zone for seismic activities. Interconnected land plates between India, Nepal and Burma have rendered northeastern and eastern India more susceptible to tremors. Previous quakes in the region including the ones in Nepal have left the plates fragile, and ready to crumble. According to a study, about 60 per cent of land mass in India is exposed to earthquakes - not a pleasant finding at all. People should be made aware of the fact that earthquakes cannot be predicted, and an aftershock is a natural aftermath of the bigger quake. Huge buildings, with minimal safety standards, cannot keep the layers of earth safe. The 'development bug' has hit the people - mindless infrastructural creations, replacing the old-world charm, are a threat to stability of the earth.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### Learn to respect

Sir, I strongly condemn Bengal minister Akhil Giri's "how does President look" comment and I also expect that no party supports what he said. It is necessary that every Indian must respect the President and our Constitution. President Droupadi Murmu is a symbol of women empowerment and such misogyny is unacceptable. It is pertinent to mention that earlier, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had created a row after calling the President 'Rashtrapatni'. He later apologised for his remarks. Similarly, Congress leader Ajoy Kumar remarked that NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu "represents a very evil philosophy of India and should not be made a symbol of Adivasis." Congress spokesperson Udit Raj made derogatory remarks saying that "no country should get a President like Droupadi Murmu Ji." Nowadays, political leaders are forgetting their social responsibility. They are spreading the poison of intolerance and negativity in their words and deeds. Droupadi Murmu is a people's president and we should cast away all political differences and respect her and the Constitution. The President of India is an institution not just an individual.

Hitesh Kumar Parida, PANIKOILI

# national

## of the day quote

Cooperatives could be the best way to reach out to far-flung areas and the central government is transforming these cooperatives into an effective instrument to ensure growth in agriculture and allied sectors

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Bhupendra Patel will remain the chief minister of Gujarat if BJP secures a majority in the next month's Assembly elections

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

We are building a double lane motor bridge on the Kali river which will further cement trade ties between India and Nepal. We are also building and widening the national highways in the border areas which will make the Kailash-Mansarovar yatra easier for pilgrims

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI | UTTARAKHAND CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Fake medicines seized, 7 arrested

**New Delhi:** Fake medicines of international brands valued at Rs 8 crore were seized and seven people have been arrested in this connection from the national capital, police said on Tuesday. With the arrests, the Delhi Police's Crime Branch claimed to have busted an international syndicate which was manufacturing fake life-saving drugs. "We have also seized huge quantity of loose medicines, packets, packaging material and machinery equipment," a senior official said. The accused were identified as Pabitra Narayan Pardhan, Shubham Manna, Pankaj Singh Bohra, Ankit Sharma alias Anku alias Bhajji, Ram Kumar alias Harbir, Aekansh Verma and Parbhat Kumar.

### Youth beaten to death in Bihar

**Patna:** A youth in Bihar's East Champaran district was beaten to death over a case of personal enmity, police said on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Chandip Yadav, a native of Dhangarha village under Dumaria Ghat police station in the district. Accused Mukesh Yadav invited the victim for dinner in his home. When Chandip Yadav went there, Mukesh Yadav and his family members brutally assaulted him till he became unconscious. When Chandip Yadav did not return till late night, his mother went to the house of Mukesh Yadav to enquire about her son.

### Headless body recovered in UP

**Azamgarh (UP):** A body of a woman, with its limbs chopped off and head missing, was found inside a well on Durvasa-Gahaji Road in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district on Tuesday, police said. Police fished out the chopped hands and legs dumped into the well with the body while head was missing.

### Body found

**Srinagar:** The body of a man, who appeared to be from outside J&K, was found in Srinagar district on Tuesday, police said. "One unidentified dead body seemingly of a non-local was found lying on road in Soura area of Srinagar. "Prima facie seems unnatural death. Inquest proceedings started under CrPC 174. Body sent for post mortem. Public is requested to inform Soura Police station for identification of the deceased", police said in a tweet.



The BJP, which has misled the people of the country, is shaken by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

## ED DECLINES REQUEST

The Enforcement Directorate has not agreed to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's request for rescheduling the summons issued to him, official sources said



# Morbi bridge crash: HC raps Gujarat govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, Nov 15:** Days after 135 people were killed when a suspension bridge collapsed in Morbi town, the Gujarat High Court Tuesday asked the state government as to why no expression of interest (EoI) was invited for maintenance and operation of the British-era structure and how "largesse" was given to an individual without floating a tender. The High Court made the observation while hearing a suo motu (on its own) Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the collapse of the suspension bridge on the Machchhu river on October 30, five days after it was reopened following renovation.

The High Court wanted to know from the state government as to whether a 2008 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a 2022 agreement with Ajanta Manufacturing Private Ltd (Oreva Group) imposed any conditions regarding fitness certification and if so, who was the competent authority required to do so. The Ahmedabad-based Oreva group had been maintaining and managing the ill-fated suspension bridge. "This (2008) agreement with Ajanta (Oreva Group) is one-and-a-quarter pages agreement, absolutely without any conditions. This agreement is by way of an understanding, largesse of the state for ten years, and no tenders floated, no expression of interest," a division bench of Chief Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice Ashutosh Shastri observed.

"After that term was over in June 15, 2017, what steps were taken by the state government or the Morbi municipality to float a tender? How come no expression of interest was tendered, and how the largesse of the state was given to an individual without floating a tender... Why you have still not superseded the municipality?" the court asked. The court observed that even after the term of Ajanta got over in June 15, 2017, the corporate entity continued to maintain and manage the bridge in absence of an agreement



The High Court wanted to know from the state government as to whether a 2008 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a 2022 agreement with Ajanta Manufacturing Private Ltd (Oreva Group) imposed any conditions regarding fitness certification and if so, who was the competent authority required to do so

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the Morbi municipality to float a tender? How come no expression of interest was tendered, and how the largesse of the state was given to an individual without floating a tender... Why you have still not superseded the municipality?" the court asked. The court observed that even after the term of Ajanta got over

in June 15, 2017, the corporate entity continued to maintain and manage the bridge in absence of an agreement. It wanted to know from the state government whether any steps were taken by the local authorities to float a tender for the bridge's operation and maintenance after the 2008 MoU expired in 2017. "Under the said (2008) MoU (not available at present), who had been fixed the responsibility to certify that the bridge is ready and fit for usage is not forthcoming. The largesse of the state seems to have been granted without there being any tender floated in this regard," observed the judges.

The company had informed the Morbi Collector on various dates (four times) in 2020 that until and unless an agreement is executed, it will not commence the repairing work of the suspension bridge, it said.

## Aspiring footballer dies after botched surgery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Nov 15:** A city-based student who had recently undergone a medical procedure for a knee-related issue, died here Tuesday following multiple organ failure, with her friends and relatives alleging medical negligence.

The Opposition parties lashed out at the government over the incident, even as the latter appealed that the issue should not be politicised. The victim, 17-year old Priya, an aspiring footballer, died at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) here, where she was undergoing treatment following a "complication" that arose from a knee-related surgery she underwent recently at a local government hospital at Periyar Nagar in the city, officials said. She was subsequently shifted to RGGGH.

Following disturbed blood circulation, her right leg was amputated and she was under the care of a team of multi-disciplinary experts including Urologist and Orthopaedic in the Intensive Care Unit, they said. Due to the blood flow issue, her kidney, heart and lungs got affected on Tuesday and she breathed her last, they said.

Her friends and relatives later staged a protest, alleging medical negligence at the local hospital and refused to accept her body saying they would do so only after their demand for action against those responsible was met.

Police and medical authorities held talks with them and assured of action, before her mortal remains were accepted by the relatives. An official said two doctors with the local hospital at Periyar Nagar were suspended and indicated they might face criminal action as well. Health Minister Ma Subramanian said Chief Minister M K Stalin has announced an interim relief of Rs 10 lakh to the family of the deceased and job on compassionate grounds for one member of her family.

# Mamata takes a jibe at Modi over GST



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jhargram (WB), Nov 15:** Launching a tirade against the BJP-led Union government, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday said the Centre should do away with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime if it is unable to clear the dues it owed to the state.

Banerjee wondered if she would have to "beg" to get the dues cleared. Addressing a rally in the tribal-dominated Belpahari area of the Jhargram district, she said the BJP-led government must either make the payment or the party must step down from the seat of power.

"They are not releasing funds under the MNREGA scheme. The BJP has to step down from power if it does not clear our dues. The Centre must scrap GST if it can't clear the state's dues (Jodi amader bokeya na dey, tahole bondho kore dik GST)".

"They are not doing us any favour by giving us GST dues; it is people's

money that they have taken through GST," she said at the birth anniversary programme of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda. Banerjee said that she had also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and raised the matter.

"We had agreed on implementing the GST; we thought the Centre would clear our dues. But now the Centre is taking away all money collected as GST but not giving us our dues. I had met the Prime Minister and requested him, but nothing moved forward. Are we supposed to beg for it?"

"Why should we pay GST if the Centre is not clearing our dues? If the Centre can't give us the money, we can also stop paying GST (Amrao tho bondho kore dite pari, keno GST tax debo?) The country is for the people, not for politicians. This is not BJP's money," she said. Listing out schemes, "under which funds have been withheld", Banerjee said the Union government is constitutionally bound to pay the state for the 100-day work scheme.

# Stone quarry collapse: Eight bodies recovered



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Aizawl, Nov 15:** A total of 12 people have been confirmed to have died in Mizoram after a large portion of a stone quarry collapsed and fell on them while they were working, officials said Tuesday, adding at least eight bodies have been retrieved so far.

The incident took place Monday noon at Maudarh village in Mizoram's Hnahthial district. An official of the Mizoram Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department earlier said at least 15 workers were buried alive after a huge portion of a stone quarry of a private company suddenly collapsed when the workers were working in the stone pit.

Hnahthial district's Additional Superintendent of Police Vijoy

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in Indonesia capital Bali to attend the G20 Summit, Tuesday condoled the deaths in the stone quarry disaster**

Gurung said search operations were underway to rescue four more bodies.

"Continuance of the search and rescue operation is very difficult after the evening. Big stone boulders and other challenges are causing troubles to the rescuers," Gurung said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in Indonesia capital Bali to attend the G20 Summit, Tuesday condoled the deaths in the stone quarry disaster.

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga tweeted: "Search and rescue operations at quarry landslide, Maudarh village are being carried out tirelessly. My heart goes out to the victims of this unfortunate incident. Our gratitude to the PM Narendra Modi who conveyed his condolences via telephone."



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with young supporters during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Hingoli district PTI PHOTO

# 3 out of every 5 child brides went through teenage pregnancy: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** Three out of every five child brides, surveyed as part of a study across four states, went through teenage pregnancy, a new report has claimed.

The report by NGO Child Rights and You (CRY) said under-age marriage has a detrimental impact on girls' sexual and reproductive health (SRH) as majority of them become mothers before attaining adulthood. The study was conducted in 40 villages of eight blocks from four districts namely Chittoor, Chandouli, Parbhani, and Kandhamal in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.

The study was conducted on the occasion of Children's Day and Child Safety Week (November

14 to 20). The study claimed that only 16 per cent parents and parents-in-law and 34 per cent of child brides or grooms are aware of the negative consequences of child marriage.

While the study highlighted social norms and practices majorly influencing perception of under-age marriage in the society, it said other factors contributing to child marriage were extreme poverty, forced migration and gender inequity.

The findings also implied that lack of educational opportunities due to issues of accessibility, availability and affordability pushes girls to drop out of school, leaving them far more vulnerable to child marriage in comparison to boys.

Fear of girls eloping or having a "love affair" leading to premarital



sex and pregnancy emerged as dominant reasons why parents prefer to marry off their daughters as soon as they reach puberty, the study claimed. Lower dowry, the patriarchal construct of 'women's

honour', finding grooms and adaptation by girls being easier in new households too are reasons behind high prevalence of child marriage, the study suggests.

Puja Marwaha, the CEO of CRY

said the study aimed to understand the prevailing knowledge, attitudes, practices and social behaviour regarding child marriage as well as to document nuanced initiatives taken at the community levels to challenge child marriage practices.

"The study also tried to map the convergence of community and government systems under the available provisions and practices to determine the scope for synergies at both ends," Marwaha said. Going by the findings of the study, child marriage has a detrimental impact on girls' sexual and reproductive health as the majority of them become mothers before attaining adulthood, thus being exposed to high-risk pregnancy, it said.

More than half of the women re-

spondents - 51 per cent of child brides with at least two children, stated that the gap between their first and second child was less than two years, while 59 per cent of child brides stated to have experienced teenage pregnancy, it said.

A sizable proportion of adolescent mothers reported to have given birth to babies with low birth-weight. According to the study, 17 per cent and 16 per cent of child brides reported having babies with low birth-weight for their first and second child, respectively.

The study found that cases of child marriage in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha were still prevalent, even though there has been some decline in number of cases over the past few years as observed by duty bearers and community members.

# 'Influx of migrants main reason behind Thane's burgeoning population'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 15:** As the global population reached 8 billion, the spotlight is on Thane, the district with the highest population in India, with experts attributing the growth to migrants who find cheaper accommodation to commute from workplaces in adjoining Mumbai.

Former IAS officer Sudhir Kumar Goyal told PTI that Thane offered for cheaper accommodation for people who came to Mumbai in search of employment. Thane district, which borders Mumbai, recorded an exponential growth of more than 30 per cent in population as per the 2011 census, he said. "Thane city and the district remained under-developed for a long time, offering easy accommodation for the labour class as well as for those who were in middle income groups. "Cheaper local train service connecting almost all major areas of Mumbai is another factor, which helped the migrants settle down as far as 70 to 80 km from their work place in Mumbai," he said. As a result of the rising population, Thane has also become the district with maximum number of municipal corporations in the country. The population of Thane district in 2001 was 81,31,849, which rose to 1,10,60,148 in 2011, as per the last census. An increase in birth

rate does contribute to increasing population, but in case of Thane, it might not be a major reason for the rising population as migration plays a major role, an expert said. "Not only in Thane but the migrant population is increasing in the outskirts of Mumbai. This is the growth of the city. Expansion of cities happens like this. Today it is Thane, but after a few more census, it might be some other district," said Dr K S James, Director of the International Institute for Population Sciences. Urbanisation is taking place throughout Mumbai, but due to high rates and high cost of living, people are migrating to Thane and other regions in The Mumbai Metropolitan Region where housing rates are cheaper as compared to Mumbai city, he said. Infrastructure has also improved over the years and made the daily commute to Mumbai a lot more easier, which may explain the high migrant population in Thane, said R B Bhagat, former professor of International Institute for Population Science. As the global population reached 8 billion, the UN on Tuesday said India's population growth appears to be stabilising which shows that the country's national policies and health systems, including access to family planning services, are working. India was the largest contributor to the milestone, having added 177 million people, the United Nations said.

AS A RESULT OF THE RISING POPULATION, THANE HAS ALSO BECOME THE DISTRICT WITH MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

THE POPULATION OF THANE DISTRICT IN 2001 WAS 81,31,849, WHICH ROSE TO 1,10,60,148 IN 2011, AS PER THE LAST CENSUS

# 7 lakh youth to work as climate change warriors



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 15:** As many as seven lakh youngsters in Maharashtra will be able to work as "climate change warriors" as the state government signed an agreement with UNICEF, a senior minister said Monday.

Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil said the "warriors" will operate as a water and environment army in the state

and sensitise people about the eco-friendly lifestyle, changing environment and water conservation. They will have to work with local organisations and institutions that work for environment conservation to accelerate their work of educating people, he said. "Seven lakh youth would be roped in from various state-run universities. Of them, 60 per cent will work in urban areas as the issues of water and pollution are more prominent there," Patil said. The participants will also get a certificate, fellowship, and grade in their academics, besides guidance and case studies during their assignments. "The state-run universities will design an action plan for their areas, in which the students will participate as warriors," he said.

# Old age pensioners face hurdles in online registration

Almost every other elderly person turning up to get their details registered for online payment of old age pension has a similar story to share

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Nov 15:** Thousands of old age pensioners in Kashmir have been running from pillar to post to ensure they continue receiving the meagre government financial support as the payment process has been moved to online mode.

Rahti, a 75-year-old widow from the Saida Kadal area of the city, said she has been visiting the Social Welfare Office here for the past three days with all documents to prove her eligibility for the pension that she has been drawing for many years now. "We were told to update our de-

tails here or else we would not get our pension," Rahti said. However, she returned home each day without getting her details uploaded to the official network, which would ensure she keeps receiving her monthly assistance of Rs 1,000. Several district social welfare officers PTI spoke to said pensioners are having to undergo the grind because of insufficient staff at the registration counters. Rahti said the monthly assistance she receives from the government was all she had to survive on. "The queue is too long, there are so many people here waiting to update their details. I will try again Monday," she said while

## HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

# Kashmir sees surge in tourism

Uncertainties emerging post the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 that ended the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, and two most difficult years of the coronavirus pandemic that followed, had broken the back of tourism in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Nov 15:** Srinagar's post-card perfect Dal Lake has been drawing a large number of tourists in the past few weeks for shikara rides while the lights on ornately carved houseboats are shimmering again as the Kashmir Valley has witnessed a huge tourism influx in recent months.

Hordes of tourists from Kolkata and other parts of West Bengal, and other states, are also travelling to the Valley as the 'Heaven on Earth' -- a sobriquet given to Kashmir for its ethereal beauty and vibrant cultural heritage -- is seeing tangible signs of return to normalcy.

Top Army officials in Kashmir have said that among other factors, also after the ceasefire understanding reached between India and Pakistan in February 2021, "a lot of parameters are showing signs of normalcy" and the "huge

influx" of tourists this year is a "great positive" among these parameters.

A record over 1.62 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir this year, which is the highest since independence, a J&K official had said last month, adding that it testified the overall development and change the Union Territory has witnessed.

The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh after the revocation of its special status, and both officially came into being October 31, 2019.

After three decades, Kashmir is attracting lakhs of tourists which tourism players say is the return of golden era of Kashmir tourism, the official has said.

Gulmarg in Baramulla district is located about 50 km from Srinagar, and is known for its picturesque snow-clad landscape, skiing resorts and gondola ride.



# Youth prefer to be self-employed in J&K

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Nov 15:** The youth of Jammu and Kashmir are now showing their potential not only in the union territory but also outside.

A good example of this is given by Arjmand Azad Qureshi, who was born in Kashmir, but is currently providing authentic products of centuries-old, famous Kashmiri handicrafts from Dharamsala,

Himachal Pradesh to the world. Arjmand Azad Qureshi, an MBA graduate from UK's University of Wales, was twice shortlisted for a government job in the Kashmir Valley but still prioritized his passion for business and is now a successful entrepreneur. Arjmand belongs to Dara Haroon of Srinagar district. Arjmand is also an operational manager accredited by India Tourism Development

Corporation (ITDC). According to Arjmand, Kashmiri products are being exported to foreign countries like the UK, Malaysia, the US, Canada, Australia, Mauritius, Bangladesh and Dubai, etc., and he is earning good profits. Arjmand said, "Business was my passion, that's why I preferred business despite being shortlisted twice for government jobs, because of the un-

favourable situation in Kashmir, I was repeatedly faced with problems and losses. So I took this initiative in Himachal Pradesh, the result of which is 'The Kashmiri Stag', which is in front of you."

Arjmand founded 'The Kashmiri Stag' October 24, 2020 and currently has a showroom in Badul Dharam Shamal as well as a Kashmiri Handicraft Gift Shop in Sidhpur, Dharamsala. According to Arjmand,

he is going to launch his brand in London and the US soon. According to Arjmand, the main objective of this initiative is to make authentic products of Kashmiri handicrafts available to everyone. "Most of the clients tell me that we were always worried about the authenticity of these Kashmiri products, but we have found a place where we can buy authentic Kashmiri products."

## SHIV SENA SYMBOL ROW

# HC junks Uddhav's plea against EC freeze order

The Election Commission froze the party's bow and arrow symbol October 8 amid the tussle between the two factions of Shiv Sena led by Thackeray and Eknath Shinde

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** The Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed the plea of Shiv Sena-UBT leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to stay the Election Commission's order freezing the party's bow and arrow symbol.

After hearing the submissions of the parties, Justice Sanjeev Narula also directed the poll panel to adjudicate the pending dispute as expeditiously as possible and dismissed the plea.

A detailed order along with reasons for dismissing the plea will be made available later, the court said.

The Election Commission froze the party's bow and arrow symbol on October 8 amid the tussle be-

tween the two factions of Shiv Sena led by Thackeray and Eknath Shinde.

In an interim order October 8, the poll panel said: "The Commission hereby makes the following Interim Order, to cover the purpose of the current by-elections and to continue till the final determination of the dispute into the matter."

It said that neither of the two groups led by Shinde and other led by Thackeray be permitted to use the name 'Shiv Sena' and neither of the two groups shall also be permitted to use the symbol, reserved for the party.

"Both the groups shall be known by such names as they may choose for their respective groups, including, if they so desire, linkage with their parent party 'Shiv Sena'; and both the groups shall also be allotted such different symbols as they may choose from the list of free symbols notified by the Election Commission for the purpose of the current by-elections," the poll panel said. Thackeray then approached the high court seeking to allot his candidates the symbol chosen by them for the upcoming bypolls rather than restricting it to three choices that the EC had given.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

heading home after another day of efforts ended in vain. Ghulam Rasool from the Bemina area of the city said the procedure was cumbersome. "I have a disability which is why I cannot work. This pension is my only suste-

nance. I was told to get a disability certificate from the chief medical officer (CMO)," he said.

Rasool said he would be lucky if he could get the disability certificate in just two visits to the CMO's office. Mughali, a frail looking elderly woman hailing from a village in Ganderbal, was upset as she was turned back from the registration counter after waiting for several hours in the queue.

She was told to get an age certificate from the block medical officer (BMO). "Khabar su kati chu behwaan (wonder where the BMO office is)," Mughali said as she left the premises.

Among other changes brought to the pension scheme, a woman receiving widow pension will have to get an unmarried certificate every three years to be eligible for the monetary assistance. While the director of social welfare did not respond to calls, several district social welfare officers said there was insufficient staff at the registration counters. Many applicants do not have all documents needed to register for online transfer of pension.





## of the day quote

There was a time when leaders used to forget their promises after elections, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought into existence politics of report card

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

The Centre is doing nothing to check the price rise of essentials. It is only interested in using agencies against the opposition parties. They are summoning senior officials of the state to the Centre and using threats and intimidation tactics. Steps must be taken to tackle the price rise of essentials, or else what the common people will eat

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

What is Narendra Modi doing? They (the BJP) are trying to spread fear, violence and hatred. Be it note ban, Agniveer, GST...All their policies only scare people. The one who gets scared, there is hatred in his heart which leads to division in the society. And then they say they are patriots

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### IAF procures electric vehicles

**New Delhi:** The Indian Air Force Tuesday inducted a fleet of electric vehicles in keeping with the government's initiative on introduction of green mobility. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari flagged off the first batch of 12 electric vehicles in the presence of other senior officers and staff. "In order to achieve reduction in carbon footprint and in keeping with the government of India's initiative on introduction of green mobility, the IAF has inducted a fleet of Tata Nexon electric vehicles," the IAF said in a statement. It said the force is planning to enhance the usage of electric vehicles in a progressive manner by procuring e-vehicles against downgraded conventional vehicles.

### BJP fields Raghuraj against Dimple

**New Delhi:** The BJP Tuesday named Raghuraj Singh Shukla, a former MP, as its candidate for the Lok Sabha bypoll to Mainpuri against Samajwadi Party's Dimple Yadav. Shukla was once a close associate of Shivpal Yadav but quit his Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party to join the BJP earlier this year. He was earlier in the Samajwadi Party (SP) and sided with Shivpal Yadav after he formed his own party. The bypoll has been necessitated due to the death of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, and Mainpuri has long been a pocket borough of his family. However, the BJP successfully breached the SP's citadels of Azamgarh and Rampur Lok Sabha seats recently and is hoping to do the same in Mainpuri.

### Several injured in Bengal clash

**Siuri (WB):** Several people were injured, of them two seriously, in a clash between two groups in West Bengal's Birbhum district, following which 12 people were arrested, police said Tuesday. A large number of crude bombs were hurled in the clash that took place in Baharapur village in Sainthia area on Monday evening, a police officer said, adding several unexploded bombs were seized from the area and disposed of on Tuesday. The BJP alleged that the clash took place between two local factions of the TMC, while the ruling party in the state dismissed the charge and called it "an apolitical clash that was a result of a personal feud".



**Their (BJP's) work is to divide and rule, and that is why (Congress leader) Rahul Gandhi has undertaken the Bharat Jodo Yatra**

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

## MEGA MILITARY DRILL STARTS

The armies of India and the US Tuesday began an over two-week mega military exercise at a military facility in Uttarakhand with an aim to exchange best practices and tactics in sync with growing defence ties between the two countries



# Aaftab taken to forest to locate body parts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** Delhi Police Tuesday took Aaftab Amin Poonawala, the 28-year-old accused of killing his live-in partner, to the forest area of south Delhi's Chhatarpur and spent nearly three hours to locate specific places where he had allegedly dumped her body parts.

Delhi Police has recovered 13 body parts, believed to be of the woman, from different areas which will be sent for DNA analysis. It will be conducted by the forensic experts, they said. Poonawala allegedly strangled his live-in partner Shradha Walkar in May and sawed her body into 35 pieces which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence in South Delhi's Mehrauli before dumping them across the city over several days.

Head of the Department of Crime Scene Management at FSL Rohini, Sanjeev Gupta, said a two-member team of experts on Saturday visited the scene of crime and collected at least seven-eight bone pieces along with blood stains.



MEHRAULI MURDER

"These exhibits were handed over to the Investigating Officer. We are yet to receive the exhibits from police. A DNA analysis will be done to establish the identity of the woman," he said.

Blood samples of the woman's parents would also be collected for DNA analysis. After the scene recreation exercise on Tuesday, the accused was brought back to the police station.

According to police officials, he will also be taken to some other places in the city besides the Chhatarpur jungle area as part of their probe into the horrific murder. As Poonawala, with his face covered with a white cloth and surrounded by police personnel, was taken to the woods, camera crews and journalists jostled with each other.

The ire over the gruesome killing seemed to spill over with a woman at the spot asking Poonawala if he was ashamed of his actions. "The crime scene was recreated to understand and ascertain the sequence of events that led to the heinous crime and how he managed to locate the

spots where different pieces could be dumped without inviting public glare," a senior police official said.

The police is also likely to approach authorities on online dating app Bumble through which both the accused and victim met. "We want to access his account to analyse his profile and know how many women he was in contact with and screen the chats to understand his psyche. Based on the profile analysis we will also be approaching those people with whom he was in contact with and invited them to the same residence where he had killed the woman," the official further said.

Police officials are also trying to get in touch with the accused's friends and will probe whether he was in relationship with multiple women after killing Walkar or he was cheating on her when they were together. "We will approach some of his friends whom he met before being in relationship with the woman," the official said, adding, his social media account is also being analysed to get details about their common friends.

## RSS-linked weekly targets Amazon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** RSS-linked weekly 'Organiser' has accused US e-commerce giant Amazon of financing a "Christian conversion module" in India's northeastern states and being involved in suspected money laundering.

In a cover story on its latest edition, the magazine said, "E-commerce giant Amazon is financing the Christian conversion module run by American Baptist Church (ABM). There is a possibility of a money laundering ring run by multinational companies and ABM to fund India's huge missionary conversion mission."

In the cover story titled 'Amazing Cross Connection', the RSS-affiliated magazine said the Social Justice Forum of Arunachal Pradesh had alleged that Amazon was "continuously funding the All India Mission (AIM), the frontal organisation of ABM, through its foundation Amazon Smile".

"Amazon is sponsoring the conversion module of All India Mission by donating money against every purchase by an Indian," the magazine alleged.

## Jacqueline gets regular bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** A Delhi court Tuesday granted regular bail to actor Jacqueline Fernandez in a Rs 200 crore money laundering case involving conman Sukesh Chandrashekar, saying the fact that the accused was not arrested during the investigation makes it a case for grant of bail.

Special Judge Shailendra Malik granted the relief on the condition that the accused will not leave the country without the court's prior permission, and directed her to join the investigation as and when asked by the ED.

"However without expressing much on the merits of the matter which of course would be decided during the trial, it is yet to be examined if there was a knowledge, intention or connection of applicant in taking those gifts and of proceeds of crime in this case. In that sense I find that accused/ applicant is entitled to relief of bail, more particularly when she was not arrested during the investigation," the judge said.



"In the present case accused/applicant being a woman having been not arrested by the ED in facts and evidence of present case, to my mind is certainly entitled for exemption of section 45 (of Prevention of Money Laundering Act) on account of her being woman," he added.

The court noted that in December last year, when Fernandez was stopped before taking a flight to Muscat, she was not served with any notice requiring her to appear before the ED, and before that she had already appeared during the investigation on two occasions.

## 51 former and sitting MPs face PMLA cases, SC told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** Fifty-one former and sitting parliamentarians face Prevention of Money Laundering Act cases lodged by the Enforcement Directorate, the Supreme Court has been informed.

However, the report does not mention how many of the 51 are sitting and former members of parliament (MPs). A report submitted before the top court also apprised it that 71 Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Legislative Council (MLCs) are accused in cases arising out of offences under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, who has been appointed as amicus curiae in a plea for expeditious disposal of criminal cases against MPs and MLAs, informed the top court in his report in this regard.

The status report also informed that 121 cases lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are pending against MPs and MLAs, including former and sitting members. The top court from time to time has been passing directions on the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay for ensuring expeditious trial of cases against lawmakers and

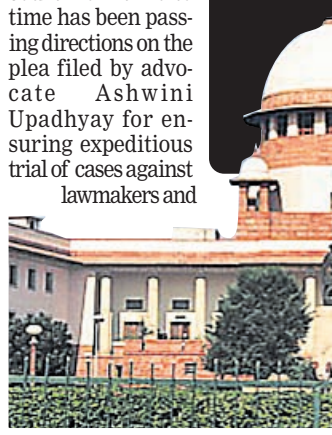
speedy investigation by the CBI and other agencies.

The amicus submitted that despite a series of directions by the Supreme Court and regular monitoring, a large number of criminal cases are pending against MPs and MLAs, many for more than five years. The apex court had earlier asked all high courts to furnish details of criminal cases pending for over five years against MPs and MLAs, and the steps taken for their speedy disposal.

It had also modified its August 10, 2021 order by which it had said judicial officers, who are holding trial of cases against law makers, should not be changed without the prior permission of the court.

On August 10 last year, the Supreme Court had curtailed the power of state prosecutors and ruled that they cannot withdraw prosecution against lawmakers under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) without the prior sanction of high courts.

It had expressed strong displeasure over the non-filing of requisite status reports by the Centre and its agencies such as the CBI, and indicated it would set up a special bench in the top court to monitor criminal cases against politicians.



The status report informed that 121 cases lodged by the CBI are pending against MPs and MLAs, including former and sitting members



AVIAN CARE: People feed migratory Siberian seagulls from a boat on the Ganga river in Varanasi

PTI PHOTO

## President pays tributes to Birsa Munda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi/ Khunti (Jharkhand), Nov 15:** President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Ranchi Tuesday morning and directly went to Ulihatu, the birthplace of Birsa Munda where she paid floral tributes at a bust of the tribal icon on his birth anniversary.

Birsa Munda's birth anniversary is celebrated as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'. Murmu arrived at the Birsa Munda Airport at about 9 am and was welcomed by Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais, Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Union ministers Arjun Munda and Annapurna Devi.

From there, she flew in an Indian Air Force chopper to Ulihatu, Birsa Munda's village, about 70 km from the state capital. This was Murmu's first visit to Jharkhand, where she was earlier the governor, after



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with Governor Mangubhai Patel welcome President Droupadi Murmu during the tribal conference programme on the Birsa Munda Jayanti celebrations, in Shahdol district

assuming the office of the country's first citizen.

She was accorded a warm welcome at Ulihatu, where the villagers danced to the tune of traditional instruments like the dhol, nagara and mandar (all per-

ussion instruments). Even though common people were not allowed at the main venue due to security reasons, many of them dressed in traditional attires stood on both sides of the road to greet the President.

# At 8th spot, India ranks high on list for climate protection: Report

The report leaves the first three places empty as "no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating". It puts Denmark in fourth place, followed by Sweden and Chile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** India climbed two spots to rank eighth out of 63 in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023, thanks to its low emissions and the increasing use of renewable energy.

The report was published on Monday by three environmental non-governmental organisations that track climate performance of the European Union and 59 countries, which together account for over 92 per cent of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the world.

The rankings by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network are based on how well the countries are doing to halve their emissions by 2030 -

an essential aspect to keep the 1.5-degree Celsius goal within reach and prevent dangerous climate change. The CCPI, which has been published since 2005, aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and it enables comparison of individual countries' climate protection efforts and progress.

The report leaves the first three places empty as "no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating". It puts Denmark in fourth place, followed by Sweden and Chile.

India earned a high rating in the GHG Emissions and Energy Use categories, while it got a medium rating in Climate Policy



REUTERS FILE PHOTO

and Renewable Energy sections. China, which is the world's biggest polluter now, fell 13 places to 51st in this year's CCPI and received an overall very-low rating due to plans for new coal-fired power plants.

The US rose by three ranks to the 52nd place. Iran (63rd), Saudi Arabia (62nd) and Kazakhstan (61st) fared the worst. The report said India is "on track" to meet its 2030 emissions targets, compatible with a well-below 2-degree-Celsius scenario. "However, the renewable energy pathway is not on track for the 2030 target," it said.

Since the last CCPI, India has updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and announced a net-zero target for 2070. Net zero

means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases put into the atmosphere and those taken out.

The NDCs are national plans to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius in accordance with the Paris Agreement. In August, India released its updated NDCs and now stands committed to reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030 from the 2005 level.

It aims to achieve about 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. These NDCs are, however, contingent on delivery of finance and technology transfer.

# international

## of the day quote

A new deal with France to tackle illegal migration across the Channel would make a difference, but the numbers making the perilous crossing would not go down overnight

RISHI SUNAK | BRITISH PM

People are campaigning and that's a beautiful thing. And I'm not asking anyone for anything

NANCY PELOSI | SPEAKER OF THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The EU strongly condemns the unacceptable violent crackdown of protesters. We stand with the Iranian people and support their right to protest peacefully and voice their demands and views freely

JOSEP BORRELL | EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

## SHORT TAKES

### Pak-Afghan border closed

Quetta: The Pakistan-Afghanistan border remained closed for a second consecutive day as tensions escalated between the two countries after unprovoked firing. The Chaman border, also known as Friendship Gate, which connects Pakistan's Balochistan to Afghanistan's Kandahar, was closed after an armed Afghan reportedly crossed into Pakistan's border and opened fire on the security troops. The Express Tribune reported. The attack was followed by hours-long firing between Pakistani and Afghan border troops, prompting the closure of the key trade border between the two neighbours.

### Shehbaz Sharif tests Cov +ve for 3rd time

Islamabad: For the third time, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif tested positive for Covid-19 Tuesday, a day after returning from his trip to the UK. Shehbaz, 71, returned to Pakistan Monday after taking a detour to London from the COP27 climate conference in Egypt to visit his elder brother Nawaz Sharif. In a tweet, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said the premier was feeling unwell for the past two days and took a Covid-19 test Tuesday on the doctor's advice, which returned positive.

### Japan to reopen to cruise ships

Tokyo: Japan will lift a more than 2 1/2-year ban on international cruise ships that was imposed following a deadly coronavirus outbreak on the cruise ship Diamond Princess at the beginning of the pandemic, transport officials said Tuesday. The Transport Ministry said cruise ship operators and port authorities' associations have adopted anti-virus guidelines and that Japan is now ready to resume its international cruise operations while receiving foreign ships at its ports.

### Israel swears in new Parliament

Jerusalem: After nearly four years of political deadlock and five elections, Israel swore in the most right-wing parliament in its history Tuesday. Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu is working to cobble together a far-right and religious governing coalition in the 120-seat parliament, or Knesset. The surging popularity of a right-wing alliance once on the fringes of Israeli society helped propel Netanyahu's political comeback even as he stands trial on corruption charges.



The atrocities the Russian army has left behind in Kherson Oblast (region) are the same as (atrocities committed) in other parts of our country that it was able to occupy

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

## STRICT RULE FOR ZERO-COVID

China's ruling party called for strict adherence to the hard-line "zero-COVID" policy Tuesday in an apparent attempt to guide public perceptions after regulations were eased slightly in places



# G-20 to hold tough on Russia, urge end to war



Leaders gather during the G20 leaders summit in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia

AGENCIES

Nusa Dua (Indonesia), Nov 15: Leaders of the world's largest economies appeared ready Tuesday to convey a strong message from most condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as President Joe Biden and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pressed the group to maintain pressure on Moscow over its nine-month war that has devastated Ukraine and roiled the global economy.

A draft declaration by leaders of the Group of 20 major economies under discussion Tuesday echoes the condemnation of Russia's war on Ukraine by the United Nations, while acknowledging differing views among members.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Welcoming Dinner

'MOST' G20 MEMBERS CONDEMN UKRAINE WAR

UKRAINE'S ZELENSKY PUSHES HIS PLAN TO END CONFLICT

INDONESIA APPEALS FOR END TO POLITICAL POLARISATION

THE PUSH FOR A STRONG STATEMENT AGAINST RUSSIA CAME AS THE SUMMIT WAS TOUCHED BY THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The careful wording of the statement reflects tensions prevailing at the gathering, which includes leaders from Russia and China, and the challenge facing the US and its allies to isolate Russian

President Vladimir Putin's government as some nations seek to avoid becoming entangled in antagonisms between the big powers.

Still, it would be a strong rebuke of the war that has killed thousands, heightened global security tensions and disrupted the world economy if adopted in its current form, particularly since China and India abstained from condemning Russia's aggression in the March UN resolution.

The statement seen Tuesday by The Associated Press "deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation" and "demands its complete and unconditional withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine."

The G-20 draft statement also noted there were different views on the situation and sanctions against Russia, saying that the G-20 was not the forum for resolving security issues.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who led the Russian delegation to the summit, denounced the Biden administration push to condemn Moscow.

In a video address to the summit, Zelenskyy joined Biden in trying to persuade the G-20 to further isolate Russia diplomatically and economically, despite a souring global financial outlook that has tested many nations' resolve.

Zelenskyy reiterated 10 conditions for ending the conflict that began in February, among them a complete withdrawal of Russian troops and full restoration of Ukrainian control of its territory.

The European Council president, Charles Michel, also urged other global powers to intensify pressure on Russia. But it was unclear how many nations would embrace the relatively tough language in a final statement.

At the summit, Biden met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who played a pivotal role this summer in brokering a deal to open up Ukrainian grain exports to ease global food shortages.



A steel worker of ThyssenKrupp stands amid sparks of raw iron coming from a blast furnace at a ThyssenKrupp steel factory in Duisburg, western Germany

# Russia rains missiles across Ukraine cities

REUTERS

Kyiv/Kherson, Ukraine, Nov 15: Russia rained missiles on cities across Ukraine Tuesday in a salvo of strikes that follow its humiliating withdrawal from Kherson, even as signs grew that its retreating forces were pulling even further back from the Dniro River in the south.

Air raid sirens blared and explosions rang out in nearly a dozen major cities after one of the biggest volleys of missiles so far, following a pattern in recent weeks of Moscow lashing out far from the front after battlefield losses.

In the capital Kyiv, flames poured out of a five-storey apartment block, one of two residential buildings the authorities said had been struck there. Other strikes or explosions were reported in cities from Lviv and Zhytomyr in the west to Kryvy Rih in the south and Kharkiv in the east. Regional officials reported some of the attacks had knocked out electricity supplies.

The widespread attacks came four days after Russian troops abandoned Kherson city in the south, the only regional capital Moscow had captured since its invasion,



six weeks after President Vladimir Putin declared it an eternal part of Russia. Russia had said last week its troops would occupy positions that were easier to defend on the opposite bank of the Dniro River. But video images filmed in the town of Oleshky, across a collapsed bridge from Kherson, appeared to show Russian forces had abandoned their bunkers there too. Further east, Russian-installed administrators said they were pulling out civil servants from the region's second biggest city, Nova Kakhovka, located on the river bank next to a huge, strategic dam.

Natalya Humenyuk, a Ukrainian military spokesperson, said Moscow appeared to be repositioning its artillery 15-20 km (10-15 miles) further from the river, to protect its guns from Ukrainian counterstrikes.

# Amid tensions with China, Taiwan shows off military drones

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taiwan (Taiwan), Nov 15: Taiwan displayed its self-developed drone technology Tuesday, amid rising concerns over China's threats to use force to assert its claim to the self-governing island republic.

The National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology, which develops military technology, offered a rare look at the Chien Hsiang drone designed to destroy enemy radars, and other unmanned



combat aerial vehicles. A dozen of the single-use drones, officially termed loitering munitions, are carried on a truck. Launched with a built-in rocket, they are guided by a propeller engine before crashing into their targets.

Any country that is "confident in itself" will come up with strategies and develop defence technologies, said Chi Li-ping, director of the institute's Aeronautical System Research Division.

Unmanned combat aerial vehicles are "a future trend", Chi said. "This is why we are doing research about it and laying out some strategies."

Taiwan's army began taking delivery last month of the first of 100 helicopter drones ordered from the institute. Chi emphasised their importance in relaying images to the army's command and communication systems for analysis and forwarding to combat units.

Taiwan has also developed the Teng Yun, which resembles the American MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle and can stay aloft for up to 24 hours. China, meanwhile, has forged ahead with developing its own drones, some models of which have been exported.

# Republicans on verge of US House majority in midterm elections

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 15: Republicans Tuesday were closing in on majority control of the US House of Representatives, a midterm victory tempered by the unexpectedly narrow margin they will hold over Democrats as they usher in two years of divided government.

Republicans so far have won 215 seats in the 435-member chamber, Edison Research projected, with 218 needed for a majority. Calls in tight races in states including California and Colorado later Tuesday would likely allow Republicans to wrest control of the House from President Joe Biden's Democrats, who trail with 204 seats.

The news could coincide with a speech at 9 p.m. ET (0200 GMT Wednesday) by former President Donald Trump from his Florida home, where he is expected to announce his 2024 presidential bid even as his Republican Party is showing early signs of Trump fatigue.

The anticipated House victory for Republicans will be far short of the "red wave" they had predicted for the November 8 midterm elections, and some in the party have blamed Trump for the disappointing showing.

Democrats retained control of the US Senate after keeping seats in competitive races in the swing states of Arizona and Nevada, and could win outright majority control if Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock beats Republican challenger Herschel Walker in a Georgia runoff December 6.

The divided Congress next year will mean Biden has a far tougher time advancing his agenda - from expanding domestic social programs and raising taxes on the rich and corporations to helping Ukraine in its battle against Russia.

# NASA returning to the Moon with mega rocket launch

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Cape Canaveral, England, Nov 15: Third time's the charm? After two failed attempts, NASA plans to launch its new mega Moon rocket Wednesday from Florida, less than a week after the massive machine withstood a hurricane.

"Our time is coming. And we hope that that is Wednesday," said Mike Sarafin, the manager of the much-delayed Artemis 1 mission, at NASA headquarters.

The Artemis 1 mission, a test flight without astronauts, represents the first step in the US space agency's plan to build a lasting presence on the Moon, and taking lessons from there to prepare for a future voyage to Mars.



Named after the sister of Apollo in Greek mythology, the new space program comes 50 years after humans last set foot on lunar soil.

The first launch of the Space Launch System rocket, the most powerful ever designed by NASA,

The Artemis 1 mission, a test flight without astronauts, represents the first step in the US space agency's plan to build a lasting presence on the Moon, 50 years after humans last set foot on lunar soil

is set for Wednesday at 1:04 am local time (0604 GMT), with a possible launch window of two hours.

Countdown has already begun at the storied Kennedy Space Center, where the orange and white behemoth awaits its

maiden flight. The takeoff is scheduled less than a week after the passage of Hurricane Nicole, which the rocket endured outside on its launch pad.

For now, officials are evaluating the risk associated with hurricane damage to a thin strip of caulk-like material called RTV, which encircles the Orion crew capsule atop the rocket, and makes it more aerodynamic.

Teams are looking at whether the RTV could shake loose during launch and pose problems. Two backup dates are possible if needed, November 19 and 25.

The weather promises to be mild, with a 90 percent chance of favorable conditions during the launch window.

# After FATF, UK removes Pak from high risk list

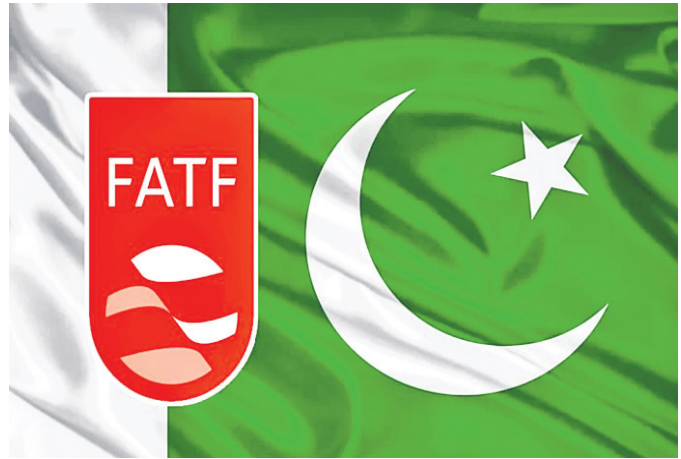
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 15: The UK government has removed Pakistan from its list of "High Risk Third Countries", which covers jurisdictions perceived to have unsatisfactory money laundering and terrorist financing controls.

The list, which is now made up of 26 countries including the likes of Iran, Myanmar and Syria, also removes Nicaragua as high risk in an amendment tabled in Parliament Monday.

It replicates countries listed as high risk or under increased monitoring by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering and to maintain certain interest.

"On the new list, Nicaragua and Pakistan are no longer classed as high-risk third countries for the purposes of enhanced customer



due diligence requirements in regulation," reads the official UK government legislation dated November 14.

The move follows an advisory notice by the UK Treasury welcoming "significant progress" in its anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of ter-

The move follows an advisory notice by the UK Treasury welcoming "significant progress" in its anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime

plans regarding strategic deficiencies that the FATF identified in June 2018 and June 2021, the latter of which was completed in advance of the deadlines, encompassing 34 action items in total," reads the advisory.

"Pakistan is therefore no longer subject to the FATF's increased monitoring process. Pakistan will continue to work with APG [Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering] to further improve

its AML/CFT system," it notes.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Zardari Bhutto shared the "good news" on his Twitter handle alongside a Note Verbale or diplomatic note from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The FCDO note reads: "His Majesty's Treasury issued an amendment to the UK's High Risk Third Countries' list 14 November 2022 through a Statutory Instrument. The amendment removes Pakistan from the list in accordance with the decision taken by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 21 October 2022."

"The FCDO recognises the progress Pakistan has made to improve money laundering and terrorist financing controls."

The UK government had added Pakistan to the list of high-risk countries in April 2021 following FATF action to red flag countries with weak financial monitoring procedures.

## of the day quote

India is not at the top in the concentration of natural resources of the world. If the country is thinking about becoming a factory of the world, then it has to be flexible in its regulations and should take merit-based decisions

SUNIL DUGGAL | VEDANTA GROUP CEO

Apple's iPhone is now getting made in India and its biggest plant in India is being set up at Hosur near Bengaluru. 60,000 people work in a single factory. The first 6,000 employees of these 60,000 employees are our tribal sisters from places nearby Ranchi and Hazaribagh

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | TELECOM AND IT MINISTER

Currently there is a provision for deduction of TDS on online gaming. There is existing provision, if it needs to be modified or retained in the same way that needs to be seen

NITIN GUPTA | CBDT CHAIRMAN

## SHORT TAKES

### ONGC Videsh to retake Sakhalin-1 stake

**New Delhi:** ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, has submitted an application to Russian authorities to retake a 20 per cent stake in the Sakhalin-1 oil and gas fields in the far east region of the country, the company said. Russian President Vladimir Putin last month disbanded Exxon Neftegas - a regional subsidiary of US super major ExxonMobil - as operator of the Sakhalin-1 and transferred the project and all of its assets and equipment to a new operator. The other former foreign shareholders in the project - Japan's Sodeco consortium and ONGC Videsh - have to apply to the Russian government to regain their shareholdings in the project. "ONGC Videsh Board in its meeting held October 18, 2022, has approved submission of its consent to claim the company's right in Sakhalin-1," ONGC said in its notes to a stock exchange filing.

### Hero Electric in pact with NIDEC Japan

**New Delhi:** Hero Electric Tuesday said it has entered into a 'preferred partner relationship' with NIDEC Japan, one of the global leading electric motor manufacturers. Under the partnership, NIDEC's electric motors will be deployed on Hero Electric's city speed range of e-bikes with the roll-out of the product expected in February 2023, the company said in a statement. "Our partnership with NIDEC Japan was forged to help alleviate our growing supply chain issues. Having them on board and our close partnership with them is now allowing us to develop powertrain components across all our product range progressively," Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill said.

### Nikon India enters healthcare sector

**New Delhi:** Imaging products firm Nikon India Pvt Ltd Tuesday announced its foray into the healthcare sector through system product microscopy business. The company has launched its 'AXR Point' scanning confocal microscope that has the capability to provide a field of view of 25mm in one single shot thereby helping researchers to generate most accurate statistical data while imaging, Nikon India said in a statement. The product is targeted at premier research institutes, research centres funded and established by the India government.



The proposed data protection bill will put an end to misuse of customer data, and violators will face punitive action under the rule

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS & IT

## SCRAPPED VEHICLES FOR STEEL PRODUCTION

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Tuesday pitched for policy guidelines to utilise scrapped vehicles as raw material for steel production, saying there are close to about one crore such vehicles in the country.



# India's exports in negative territory after 2 yrs

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** India's exports entered negative territory after a gap of about two years, declining sharply by 16.65 per cent to USD 29.78 billion in October, mainly due to global demand slowdown, even as trade deficit widened to USD 26.91 billion, according to data released by the commerce ministry Tuesday.

Key export sectors, including gems and jewellery, engineering, petroleum products, ready-made garments of all textiles, chemicals, pharma, marine products, and leather, recorded negative growth during October.

Imports during the month under review rose by about 6 per cent to USD 56.69 billion on account of increase in the inbound shipments of crude oil and certain raw materials such as cotton, fertiliser and machinery.

During April-October 2022, exports recorded a growth of 12.55 per cent to USD 263.35 billion. Imports rose 33.12 per cent to USD 436.81 billion. The merchandise trade deficit



for April-October 2022 was estimated at USD 173.46 billion as against USD 94.16 billion in April-October 2021, as per the data.

Trade deficit in October 2021 was USD 17.91 billion. Last time it was in November 2020, when exports contracted by 8.74 per cent. Briefing media, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that global headwinds are impacting consumption worldwide and that would have an impact on India's exports as well.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has projected that the global

trade growth will rise by 3.5 per cent in 2022 but only one per cent in 2023.

India's share in global merchandise trade is 1.8 per cent and in global services, it is 4 per cent, and there is a lot of potential to increase this, he said.

"We should not be depressed by the WTO forecast," the secretary

said, adding monetary tightening in the US and Europe is impacting demand globally. He also said that a lot of India's exports have imported inputs like in the pharmaceuticals and there are also some seasonal effects on trade.

According to experts, rising domestic consumption along with economic growth is leading to higher imports, particularly of raw material, capital goods and intermediate products.

When asked about the reason for releasing trade data now only once in a month, Barthwal said there were some fluctuations in the data released on first week of a month and then again by middle of that month, and "it was sending very confusing signals to

our stakeholders, so we decided to release most updated data" once a month.

Export sectors that recorded negative growth included gems and jewellery (21.56 per cent), engineering (21.26 per cent), petroleum products (11.28 per cent), ready-made garments of all textiles (21.16 per cent), chemicals (16.44 per cent), pharma (9.24 per cent), marine products (10.83 per cent), and leather (5.84 per cent).

Sectors that recorded positive growth included oil seeds, oil meals, electronic goods, tobacco, tea, and rice in October. Meanwhile, oil imports rose by 29.1 per cent to USD 15.8 billion. Gold imports, however, declined by 27.47 per cent to USD 3.7 billion during the month.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said that slowdown in merchandise exports is a reflection of toughening global trade conditions amid demand slowdown on account of high inventories, rising inflation, economies entering recession, high volatility in currencies and geopolitical tensions.

**EXPORTS DECLINE SHARPLY BY 16.65 PER CENT TO USD 29.78 BILLION IN OCTOBER, MAINLY DUE TO GLOBAL DEMAND SLOWDOWN, EVEN AS TRADE DEFICIT WIDENS TO USD 26.91 BILLION**

## HIGH PRICES, SLOWING GROWTH

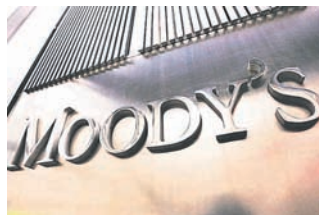
# Moody's accords negative credit outlook to countries

*It forecast that as many as 13 nations, including India, would spend over 20 per cent of their government revenue in servicing debt next year*

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** Moody's Tuesday gave a 'negative outlook' to credit worthiness of countries globally for 2023, saying high prices of food and energy would curb economic growth and raise social tensions.

Tighter financial conditions and economic scarring will push some debt burdens to unsustainable levels, while rising borrowing costs will erode debt affordability, according to Moody's. It forecast that as many as 13 nations, including India, would spend over 20 per cent of their government revenue in servicing debt next year. The policy dilemma between servicing creditors and meeting populations' demands for social and economic developments will intensify as governments dedicate a growing share of their revenue to interest payments, it added. "Our outlook for sovereign cred-



itworthiness in 2023 is negative. Although inflation will start declining, prices of food and energy will remain high, curbing economic growth and raising social tensions," Moody's said.

Global GDP growth will slow to 1.7 per cent in 2023, from 3 per cent in 2022 as higher prices and tighter monetary policy hurt consumer spending, investment and economic sentiment. Asia would outperform other regions. Large Asian countries like India will grow in excess of 4.5 per cent as domestic consumption, investment and tourism return to normal.

In its Global Macro Outlook 2023-24, Moody's had last week said global growth will slow in 2023 and remain sluggish in 2024. India's GDP growth projection for 2022 was cut to 7 per cent from 7.7 per cent, citing global slowdown, high inflation and rising domestic interest rates.

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Nov 15:** Market benchmark Sensex climbed 248 points to close at its all-time high of 61,872 Tuesday, propped up by robust flag-buying in banking and energy stocks amid a positive trend in global equities.

A strengthening rupee, encouraging domestic inflation data and unabated foreign capital inflows further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

After a see-saw session, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 248.84 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 61,872.99 - surpassing its previous closing peak of 61,795.04 on November 11. During the day, the index witnessed a high of 61,955.96 - its 52-week intraday high - and a low of 61,436.90.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 74.25 points or 0.41 per cent to finish at 18,403.40.

PowerGrid topped the Sensex gainers' chart, rising 2.20 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, SBI, Dr Reddy's, Titan, M&M and HDFC Twins.

In contrast, Bajaj Finserv, ITC, Reliance, Sun Pharma and Nestle India were among the laggards, shedding up to 0.76 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE



midcap gauge climbed 0.08 per cent and smallcap index ended marginally higher by 0.01 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, oil & gas climbed 0.99 per cent, telecommunication jumped 0.79 per cent, auto (0.75 per cent), bankex (0.70 per cent) and utilities (0.53 per cent).

FMCG, industrials, capital goods, metal and realty were among the laggards. Indicating easing of the price situation, retail inflation moderated to 6.7 per cent in October while the wholesale price index fell to a 19-month low mainly on account of subdued rates of food items.

The fall in consumer price index-based retail inflation to 6.77 per cent in October from 7.41 per cent

in September has also brought some relief for the Reserve Bank which has been struggling to bring it below the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent since January this year.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended with significant gains.

The rupee appreciated by 17 paise to close at 81.11 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.62 per cent lower at USD 91.63 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net buyers Monday as they bought shares worth ₹1,089.41 crore, as per exchange data.

# RBI's awareness programme



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** An intensive awareness programme on Grievance Redressal Mechanism of RBI Regulated Entities & RBI Ombudsman scheme was conducted by the Union Bank of India

at the Conference Hall of Collectorate office, Cuttack.

ADM Siba Toppo, Tushar Kanta Kar, Regional Head of Union Bank of India, Cuttack, Rajesh Kumar Behera, LDM Cuttack, Zonal Heads from Indian Bank & Punjab National Bank

were present in the meeting.

In the meeting all banks' district coordinators and customers were present and it was discussed how to be prudent in conducting digital transactions and how redressal of complaints are done through the Ombudsman scheme.

# Budget may tweak capital gains tax regime

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** The Budget may tweak capital gains taxes levied on equity, debt and immovable property to bring parity in varied tax rates and holding period, a senior official said.

Explaining the rationale, the official said there needs to have an alignment in tax rate and holding period for all the asset class. Changes in capital gain tax expected in Budget, the official said. The Budget for 2023-24 fiscal would be presented in Parliament February 1, 2023.

When asked about possible tinkering in capital gains tax, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Nitin Gupta said: "It's part of budget process, can't divulge." Under the Income Tax Act,

gains from sale of capital assets - both movable and immovable - are subject to 'capital gains tax'. The Act, however, excludes movable personal assets such as cars, apparels and furniture from this tax.

The official said the current capital gains tax structure is 'complicated' and hence needs a relook.

"We are looking at the suggestions that have come in from stakeholders," the official added. Depending upon the period of holding an asset, the long-term or short-term capital gains tax is levied. The Act provides for separate rates of taxes for both categories of gains. The method of computation also differs for both the categories.

Currently long term capital gains on shares is taxable at 10% when holding period exceeds 1 year.

# Top ad agency tells clients Twitter is now 'high-risk'

*GroupM, part of WPP which is the world's biggest ad company, with \$60 billion in annual media spend is concerned about Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**San Francisco, Nov 15:** As several advertisers pause spending on Twitter, GroupM, part of WPP which is the world's biggest ad company, is reportedly telling its

clients that buying ads on the platform is now a 'high-risk' venture. According to Platformer, GroupM with \$60 billion in annual media spend is concerned about Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter.

"Given the recent senior departures in key operational areas (specifically Security, Trust & Safety, Compliance), GroupM have updated Twitter's brand safety guidance to high risk," the company reportedly told clients in an internal Slack message.

"While they understand that our policies remain in place, they feel that Twitter's ability to scale and manage infractions at speed is



uncertain at this time," GroupM wrote. GroupM works with companies like Google, L'Oréal, Bayer, Nestle, Unilever, Coke and Mars.

The ad company joins IPG and Omnicom in warning clients about running their ads on Musk's platform.

Omnicom, in an internal memo, suggested its clients to "pause activity on Twitter in the short term", under a note titled "Twitter - Continued Brand Safety Concerns".

The memo listed recent events that could have "potential serious implications" for businesses that run advertisements on the platform.

Additionally, the memo highlighted a number of important challenges for advertisers, including the mass layoffs of Twitter's trust and safety teams, high-profile executives' resignations, and the growth of 'verified' impersonator accounts.

# Nine Russian banks open special vostro A/Cs for trade in ₹

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** As many as nine special vostro accounts have been opened with two Indian banks after permission from the Reserve Bank of India to facilitate overseas trade in rupee, a top government official said Tuesday.

Sberbank and VTB Bank - the largest and second-largest banks of Russia, respectively - are the first foreign lenders to receive the approval after the RBI announced the guidelines on overseas trade in the rupee in July.

Another Russian bank Gazprom - which does not have its bank in India - has also opened this account with Kolkata-based Uco Bank.



"Nine accounts have been opened. One in Uco Bank, one in Sber, one in VTB and 6 with IndusInd Bank. These six are different Russian banks," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal told reporters here.

The move to open the special vostro account clears the deck for settlement of payments in rupee for trade between India and Russia, enabling cross-border trade in the Indian currency, which the RBI is keen to promote.

The RBI has allowed the special vostro accounts to invest the surplus balance in Indian government securities to help popularise the new arrangement. UCO Bank already has a vostro account-based facility in Iran. Gazprombank, or GPB, is a privately-owned Russian lender and the third-largest bank in the country by assets.

Last month, the RBI and finance ministry asked the top management of banks and representatives of trade bodies to push export and import transactions in the rupee. They want banks in India to connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate cross-border trade in the Indian currency rather than the popular mode of the US dollar.

On when the rupee trade will begin with Russia, the secretary said there is a process involved in it and hopefully it would materialise soon. Barthwal said he held a meeting with officials of UCO Bank, RBI and the Department for Financial Services and discussed ways to promote rupee trade.

"We want to promote rupee trade because that is in the nation's interest. We would also not be looking unnecessarily for dollars. To the extent, rupee trade is possible, we will go for it," he added.

# ONGC Q2 profit tumbles 30% on windfall tax woes

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** India's top oil and gas producer ONGC reported a 30 per cent fall in September quarter net profit after the government brought a new tax on windfall profits arising from a spurt in international energy prices.

Net profit of ₹12,825.99 crore, or ₹10.20 a share, in July-September 2022-23 is compared with ₹18,347.73 crore, or ₹14.58 per share net profit in the same period a year ago, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) said in a statement.

Profit fell 15.6 per cent over the preceding June quarter when it had reported ₹15,205.85 crore net profit.

Net profit fell despite the company's gross billing for crude oil it produced soaring 37.7 per cent to USD 95.49 per barrel in July-September from USD 69.36 a barrel a year back.

State-owned ONGC sells crude oil, which is refined at refineries to produce petrol, diesel and other petroleum products, at international benchmark rates which soared following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

# DJOKO CRUISES PAST TSITSIPAS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Turin, Nov 15:** Novak Djokovic beat Stefanos Tsitsipas for the ninth straight time by 6-4, 7-6(7-4) in the players' opening match at the ATP Finals. Djokovic has beaten Tsitsipas in his third straight tournament following wins in Astana, Kazakhstan and at the Paris Masters.

"All the matches we've played have been decided by two or three points and that was again the case tonight," Djokovic said.

He broke Tsitsipas in the opening game and held from there to close out the first set. "A break in these conditions is decisive," Djokovic said of the fast indoor court.

A cross-court backhand passing shot winner that landed on the line helped Djokovic move ahead in the second-set tie-breaker.

Rafael Nadal's error-strewn performance damaged his chances Tuesday of adding the ATP Finals trophy to his glittering list of titles. The top-seeded Nadal lost 3-6, 4-6 to tournament debutant Felix Auger-Aliassime to leave him with two straight defeats here. The 36-year-old Nadal has now lost four straight matches for only the second time in his career, following defeats at the US Open and Paris.

Earlier, Andrey Rublev won a 37-shot rally on his fifth match point to seal a 6-7(7-9), 6-3, 7-6(9-7) win over fellow Russian Daniil Medvedev in the other Red Group match.

Following his win, Rublev wrote "Peace, Peace, Peace, All we need," on a TV camera lens in an apparent reference to the war in Ukraine.

Rublev and Medvedev — along with all Russian and Belarus tennis players — have been competing without

their flag or country next to their names as part of widespread sports sanctions due to Russia's war with Ukraine.

Rublev made a similar appeal in February, writing "No war please" on a TV camera lens shortly after Russia's invasion. His latest appeal comes following Russia's withdrawal from the Ukrainian city of Kherson, one of Ukraine's biggest successes in the nearly nine-month war.

### Good news for Novak

Djokovic is set to be granted a visa to play in next year's Australian Open despite his high-profile deportation in January. The Australian Broadcasting Corp Tuesday said it had confirmed newspaper reports that the immigration minister had overturned a potential three-year exclusion period for Djokovic.

The Australian Border Force has previously said an exclusion period could be waived in certain circumstances — and that

each case would be assessed on its merits. Immigration Minister Andrew Giles' office declined comment on privacy grounds, meaning any announcement on Djokovic's visa status would have to come from the 35-year-old Serbian tennis star.

Djokovic wasn't allowed to defend his Australian Open title this year after a tumultuous 10-day legal saga over his COVID-19 vaccination status that culminated with his visa being revoked on the eve of the tournament.

Djokovic arrived at Melbourne Airport as the world's top-ranked tennis player with a visa he'd obtained online and what he believed to be a valid medical exemption to the country's strict laws for unvaccinated travelers because it was endorsed by Tennis Australia and the government of Victoria state, which hosts the tournament.

Confusion reigned, generating global headlines. As it transpired, that medical exemption allowed him entry to the tournament, which required all players, fans and officials to be vaccinated for the coronavirus, but not necessarily to enter the country. It was rejected by the Australian Border Force.

Alex Hawke, Australia's immigration minister at the time, used discretionary powers to cancel Djokovic's visa on character grounds, stating he was a "talismán of a community of anti-vaccine sentiment."

Australia has had a change of government and changed its border rules this year and, since July 6, incoming travelers no longer have to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. That removed the major barrier to entry for Djokovic.

It allowed him to apply to new Immigration Minister Andrew Giles to reconsider his visa status. In his favor, Djokovic left Australia quickly after his visa was revoked and has not publicly criticized Australian authorities.

As the Department of Home Affairs website explains, applicants in Djokovic's circumstances must explain in writing to Australia's border authorities why the exclusion period should be put aside — "you must show us that there are compassionate or compelling circumstances to put aside your re-entry ban and grant you the visa."

# Pollard bids adieu to IPL, to remain at MI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** One of the most accomplished names in T20 cricket, Kieron Pollard, Tuesday called time on his IPL playing career after 13 seasons with league giants Mumbai Indians.

The 35-year-old wanted to carry on playing for a few more years but decided to retire from IPL after discussion with the five-time champions. Pollard, who has 3412 IPL runs in 189 matches, had made his MI debut back in 2010. However, his strong association with the franchise remains as he will be the team's new batting coach.

"It hasn't been the easiest decision to make as I intend to keep playing for a few more years, but following discussions with Mumbai Indians have decided to call time on my IPL career," said Pollard in a statement.

"I understand that this incredible franchise which has achieved so much needs to transition and if I'm no longer to play for MI then I cannot see myself playing against MI either. Once an MI always an MI."

Pollard, however, will be playing for MI-owned franchise in the inaugural International League T20 in the United Arab Emirates.

"This is not an emotional goodbye to MI however as I have agreed to take up the role of batting coach in the IPL as well as play with MI Emirates.

"This next chapter of my career is genuinely exciting and allows me to transition myself too from playing to coaching. I am immensely proud, honoured and blessed to have represented the biggest and most successful team in the IPL for the past 13 seasons.

"It was always an aspiration to play for this fantastic team and although I will miss the buzz of the IPL you get as a player, I take comfort in knowing that I have been fortunate enough to have played with some of the best players in the



world in front of our passionate fans."

Besides five IPL titles, Pollard also helped MI win two Champions League titles in 2011 and 2013. At MI, he will replace Robin Singh as batting coach.

"I must give big thanks to the Coaches, Managers and other backroom support staff we have had at Mumbai Indians and who I now join. We would not have achieved the success over the years without their continuing hard work, dedication and commitment to creating the best environment and look forward to emulating their successful approach."

"In particular I would like to pay special tribute to my good friend Robin Singh for his sound advice and guidance over the years and whose very shoes I now fill," said Pollard, who also thanked the Ambani family for their tremendous "love, support and respect".

"Today I make this step with hope and excitement towards the future knowing that I will be playing a role in an institution, whose values align so closely to mine, where 'We are family,'" added Pollard.

# Odisha athletes add 3 more gold at Junior Nat'ls



LAXMI PRIYA KISAN

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** Odisha athletes — Laxmi Priya Kisan, Ani Salbam and Susmita Tigga — extended the state's medals tally at the National Junior Athletics Championships in Guwahati, adding three gold medals on the closing day of the event. Odisha ended the meet with a total of 14 medals — 10 gold, 3 silver and a bronze.

Laxmi Priya claimed the gold in 800 mtr run in girls' U-18 category with a timing of 2 minute and 15.08 seconds. Moumita Roy of West Bengal settled for silver while Haryana's Asha bagged the bronze.



ANI SALBAM

Ani clinched the yellow metal in boys' U-14 600 mtr clocking 1 minute and 24.01 seconds. Uttarakhand's Suraj Singh and Ranveer Farak of Maharashtra bagged the silver and bronze, respectively.

Susmita aced the Girls U-20 3000 mtr steeplechase event with a timing of 11 minute and 2.31 seconds. Rajasthan's Nikita and Maharashtra's Shradha won silver and bronze medals, respectively.



SUSMITA TIGGA

# Odisha lose to MP in Vijay Hazare Trophy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 15:** Odisha suffered a six-wicket defeat against Madhya Pradesh in their Elite Group D match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy cricket tournament at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, Tuesday.

MP won the toss and invited Odisha to bat first, on a challenging track. Odisha openers — Shantanu Mishra (16) and Anshu Rath (25) — batted watchfully and added 45 runs before Shantanu got out in the 12th over.

In-form Subhanshu Senapati (55, 66b, 4x4, 1x6) continued to impress with yet another half century — his second in three matches. However, he didn't get any sort of support at the other end. After guiding the team past 150, he became the seventh wicket to fall and Odisha were eventually bowled out for 172 in 41.1 overs.

Batting at No.8, Debabrata Pradhan (25) also made a crucial contribution. Kuldeep Sen (4/28) was the standout among the MP bowlers and he was ably supported by Saransh Jain (2/38).

In response, Opener Abhishek



SUBHRANSHU SENAPATI

Bhandari (52, 60b, 6x4, 2x6) and Shubham Sharma (69, 75b, 8x4, 1x6) added 121 runs for the second wicket after losing the opening wicket early in the fourth over.

There was a mini collapse for MP when they lost three wickets for 10 runs. However, it was too late for a turnaround as MP sailed past the Odisha total with more than 18 overs to spare. Rajesh Mohanty (2/35) bowled well for Odisha.

# India team named for Australia tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** Experienced dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh will lead a 23-member Indian men's hockey team in the upcoming tour of Australia, Hockey India said Tuesday.

India will play five matches against Australia, beginning November 26 in Adelaide, as part of their preparation for next year's World Cup. The FIH showpiece will be held from January 13 to 29 in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

While Harmanpreet will lead the team, Amit Rohidas has been picked as the vice-captain for the upcoming matches. "The upcoming tour to Australia is a good opportunity for us to test ourselves against one of the top contenders at the upcoming FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar-Rourkela 2023," Indian hockey chief coach Graham Reid said in a release.

"We have picked a solid line of experienced players who we believe can help us in getting the desired results. We have also infused the team with a blend of youngsters to give them exposure of top-level competition and test the depth of our squad."

In the forward line, Mandeep Singh has been included along with Dilpreet Singh, Abhishek and



Sukhjeet Singh, Gurjant Singh, Akashdeep Singh, Mohd. Raheel Mauseen, Rajkumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, and Sumit have been included in the midfield for the tour.

In defence, Varun Kumar makes a return to the team after missing the FIH Pro League matches against New Zealand and Spain in Bhubaneswar. Jarmanpreet Singh,

Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, and Nilam Sanjeev Xess form the remaining backbone.

Harmanpreet led the Indian team to win over New Zealand in the recent FIH Pro League, while finishing 1-1 against Spain in the double leg contest.

The squad: (Goalkeepers) Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Sreejesh Parattu Raveendran; (Defenders)

Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh (C), Amit Rohidas (vc), Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Varun Kumar; (Midfielders) Sumit, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Mohd. Raheel Mauseen, Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh; (Forwards) Mandeep Singh, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh.

# Vinay Menon, the man representing India at FIFA WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 15:** India is very much being represented at the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Not on the field, but in certain activities surrounding it. In Vinay Mohan, the Belgium team for the upcoming showpiece will have a Keralite among its backroom staff.

The wellness coach of the Belgian team will be looking into various aspects like the physical and mental wellbeing of the players.

"I feel proud to have gotten this opportunity to be with the Belgian national team in the World Cup," said Menon. "It makes me really happy that I can represent India and make my country proud in my own way."

As a wellness coach of the team, Vinay is responsible for mental strategy and recovering of the body and the mind which help players perform at the optimal level.

The 48-year-old has previously also worked with Chelsea FC, one of the top clubs in Europe; he has also played an important role in fine-tuning the Chelsea squads that



Vinay (front row, 3rd from R) with the Belgium men's national team members



Vinay with Chelsea captain Cesar Azpilicueta with the 2020-21 Champions League trophy

won the UEFA Champions League in 2011-12 and 2020-21 seasons.

Vinay is now looking for support from all quarters for his side to do well in the World Cup. "India might not have a team yet in the World Cup, but I hope that all Indians who are travelling to Qatar for the matches will come and support Belgium," he said.

Vinay started his journey in the Cherali village near Ernakulam, Kerala, before completing his MPhil in physical education from the Pondicherry University. He further went on to study yoga science at the Kaivalyadhan Institute in Pune, before moving to Dubai as an

instructor in a five star resort. The young instructor had his first brush with the beautiful game, when he joined as the personal coach of then Chelsea owner Roman Abramovic, before joining the club altogether.

Still a part of Chelsea, he hopes to one day work in a similar capacity with the Indian football team. "If Belgium, with a population of 11 million, can make it to the World Cup, there's no reason why India with a population of 1.3 billion, can't," he said.

"I believe that India can play

the World Cup by 2030, and if and when that happens, I would very much like to lend my expertise to the national team."

Shaji Prabhakaran, All India Football Federation (AIFF) secretary general said, "For India, it's a very proud moment; an Indian getting into the Belgium national

team, as a wellness coach.

"This is a not a small responsibility Vinay has undertaken. Being the wellness coach means, he's a mental strategist of the team. And therefore, he controls the mind of the players that helps to measure the performance and puts the goals in front of the players."

