



## BEING HONEST

Actor Priyanka Chopra says too much credit is given to actors whereas they just infuse life in a script

LEISURE P2



## FRESH MISSILE ATTACKS

Russia again unleashes missile attacks on energy facilities, while its forces steps up attacks in eastern Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL P10



## FIRST T20I TODAY

India aim to shed their archaic playing style for good with a young and fearless bunch when they face NZ in first T20I

SPORTS P12

### SHORT TAKES

#### FORMER DIPLOMAT BEURIA NO MORE



**BHUBANESWAR:** Noted Odia litterateur and former Indian Ambassador, Abasara Beuria died in a private hospital here in the early hours of Thursday, family sources said. He was 80 and is survived by his wife and two daughters. Beuria breathed his last following a cardiac arrest. He had served in Indian diplomatic missions in Japan, Russia (formerly USSR), the US, the UAE, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Madagascar. President Droupadi Murmu, who had met Beuria at a government function during her Odisha visit November 11 here, condoled the former diplomat's death. "Saddened to learn about the demise of Shri Abasara Beuria, former diplomat. Condolences to his family and friends," Murmu tweeted.

#### Republicans set to stall Biden's agenda

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump's Republican Party has wrested control of the 435-member US House of Representatives from the ruling Democratic Party with a razor-thin majority, setting the stage for a showdown with Joe Biden in the next two years of the latter's presidency. The Republicans now have 218 seats as against 211 of the Democratic Party. The counting of six seats is still going, the outcome of which would determine the final size of the House. The Republicans - who had hoped to win back control of both chambers - underperformed expectations in the November 8 mid-term elections. But they won the seat they needed for their House majority Wednesday when California's 27th district went to incumbent Mike Garcia. **P10**

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



My inner voice is telling me to withdraw from the elections

## Demands unfulfilled: SKM to resume stir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) will hold nationwide marches to Raj Bhawans November 26, alleging breach of assurance by the Centre on farmers' pending demands, the organisation announced Thursday. SKM, a body of farmers' unions that spearheaded the agitation against the new farm laws later repealed by the Centre, has called a meeting December 8 to decide the future course of the movement.

The farmers will also celebrate November 19 as 'Fateh Diwas' or 'Victory Day' as the Centre had ordered the repeal of the new farm laws following their agitation. "Marches to offices of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs of all political parties will be held from December 1 to 11," SKM leader Darshan Pal said at a press conference here. "It is high time that the Centre makes an effort to fulfil the assurances it had given when

we had called off the farmers' agitations," he added.

The SKM also expressed disappointment at the Union government and accused the Centre of completely reneging on the written promises to the farmers when the protest was lifted December 11, last year. The farmers' body claimed that neither the committee on minimum support price (MSP) had been formed nor the 'false' cases registered against farmers during the agitation were withdrawn. It also accused the government of not being ready to consider the biggest demand of the farmers - a legal guarantee on MSP.

It should be stated here that the farmers' strike which began August 9, 2020 continued for more than 16 months and was finally withdrawn December 11, 2021 after the Centre agreed to fulfil their demands. The main demand was the repeal of the three farm laws that were termed 'draconian' by most of the farmers' unions.



**LAST DAY RUSH:** With Thursday being the last day of the Balyatra, huge crowds thronged the fair ground in Cuttack for some last minute fun and shopping

## BJD, BJP spar over crop insurance dues

It has been alleged that Bargarh farmers have suffered the most with the majority of them not getting their claims as the 2 parties play blame game

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** Ahead of the Padampur byelection, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and BJP have engaged themselves in a tug of war over delay in disbursement of crop insurance to farmers of the state especially in Bargarh district which suffered due to drought during the kharif 2021 crop season.

The delay in disbursing crop insurance claims under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and input subsidy has become a major issue for the Padampur bypoll. The drought-hit farmers of the district have been protesting for some time now for fulfillment of their demands.

To please the farmers, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, had announced November 15 ₹200 crore for the distressed farmers of the drought affected areas of the state.

While announcing the input subsidy, Patnaik had blamed the Centre for the delay in paying of insurance.



■ Tomar claims the Centre has cleared ₹622 crore of the ₹723 crore due for crop insurance

■ The BJD has said that the state government has shown the way by releasing ₹200 crore for distressed farmers

Despite continuous follow up and pursuance by the Odisha government with the technical advisory committee (TAC) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, many of the affected ones have not yet received their crop insurance dues, the CM had said in a statement.

Countering Patnaik's statement, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said Thursday that Centre has disbursed the majority of the claims. In the letter Tomar said that in the nine disputed districts, ₹723 crore is the total payable claim out of which ₹622

crore has been settled. The Union Minister further informed that after due follow up, majority of claims in disputed districts have been settled at the TAC and complete settlement is expected by this week.

In the letter, Tomar also said that the responsibility of floating the bids for the implementation of PMFBY, allocating cluster of districts to insurance companies (ICs) and agreement of premium rates vests with the state government as per the norms of the Revamped Operational Guidelines (ROGs). **Continued on P4**

## 12 students expelled for ragging

■ Ragging has reared its ugly head in Odisha time and again with two students dying by suicide due to physical and mental torture this year

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Nov 17:** A day after a video of an alleged molestation and ragging of a Plus-II first year girl of the state-run Binayak Acharya College here in presence of students went viral on social media platforms, a decision has been taken to rusticate 12 of the youths seen in clipping, officials said Thursday. The in-



cident drew flak from all walks of life and people termed it as the most shameful in the history of Silk City. Bada Bazaar police have arrested five youths involved in the ragging of the girl.

A meeting was held in the premises of the college Thursday in which Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M, Bada Bazaar IIC Prashant Bhupati and principal Pramila

Khadanga were present. A decision was taken to rusticate all the 12 students seen in the video, the SP said. It was also decided that an anti-ragging committee will be formed which will probe whether other students are involved in the incident. The SP also informed that senior women police officers will counsel the survivor while district police will take care of her security and studies.

Among the five arrested, two are minors. Three of the accused were identified as Abhishek Nahak, 22, Sridhar Nahak, 19 and Aditya Kumar Sahu, 20. They were produced in court and remanded to judicial custody. The two minors were produced before a juvenile justice board and sent to a probation home. **Continued on P4**

## BMC to frame pet rules soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** Following a spate of dog-bite incidents and fights between dog owners and victims, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has swung into action.

The BMC will soon be introducing guidelines for animal lovers who keep pets at home. Those have to be followed strictly and any deviation

will invite action. Pet lovers, especially dog owners have welcomed the move as they feel it is necessary for a city like the Odisha capital.

There will be detailed rules for domesticated pets like dogs, birds, cats etc. A senior BMC official said Thursday that rules will be framed for animals when they are at home and when they are taken out. BMC will also have to be informed if someone is keeping a pet at home.

## PADAMPUR BYPOLL HEAVYWEIGHTS FILE PAPERS ON LAST DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** On the last day of filing nomination for byelection to Padampur Assembly constituency, 13 candidates including the nominees of all the three major political parties, the BJD, BJP and Congress filed their nominations Thursday before the sub-collector. As Thursday was the last day for filing nominations, candidates queued up to file their papers.

BJD's Barsha Singh Bariha, Pradeep Purohit from BJP and Satya Bhushan Sahu from the Congress filed their nominations for the bypoll, which has been necessitated following the demise of sitting BJD MLA Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha.

While the BJP and Congress candidates are former MLAs of the constituency, Barsha from the ruling BJD, is the daughter of the deceased BJD MLA and daughter-in-law of senior BJP leader Rama Ranjan Baliarsingh.

Although filing of nominations was open from November 10, no contestant filed papers till Wednesday evening as agitating farmers of the region resorting to dharna since November 1 demanding payment of crop insurance, had requested the political parties not to file papers till their problems are resolved.

Barsha who filed her nomination paper first was accompanied by former MP Prasanna Acharya, sitting MLAs - Debesh Achary, Snehangini Chhuria, Susant Singh, Alaka Mohanty, Rita Sahu and several other party leaders. "I will fulfil the unrealised dreams of my father," Barsha said after filing her nomination. **Continued on P4**

## Joyride for Malala's 'Joyland' in Pakistan

AGENCIES

**Los Angeles, Nov 17:** Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai's film 'Joyland' is all set to have a joy ride in Pakistan. This development came Thursday, after the film was initially banned in Pakistan. Even though 'Joyland' is Pakistan's official entry to the Oscars, the film was banned in the country as the main character of the movie was an ambitious dancer and trans-woman played by Lahore actress Alina Khan. A section of the critics said last week that such a film does not portray the values of Pakistan society. Malala incidentally is the executive producer of the film.

Finally however, all that has changed. Pakistan has reversed its ban on Saim Sadiq's Cannes-winning 'Joyland', according to a senior advisor to the government, 'Variety' reported Thursday.

Salman Sufi, the head of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's strategic reforms unit revealed the news on Twitter. He said that the film would now be allowed to release in Pakistan, albeit with some minor cuts November 18 onwards.



"The decision is a simple yet powerful message that the Pakistan government stands by freedom of speech and safeguards it, and cannot allow mere smear campaigns or disinformation to be used as choking creative freedom," Sufi

was quoted by 'Variety'. "The entire life of Malala symbolises the struggle for freedom. She has always propagated freedom of thought, of speech, of oppression against woman. Hence her film should be screened all across

Pakistan. I personally do not believe in banning films that highlight issues faced by marginalised segments of our society. People should be trusted to watch 'Joyland' and make their own mind," he added. When the ban was implemented

last week, Malala had spoken out strongly. 'Joyland' is a love letter to Pakistan, to its culture, food, fashion and, most of all, its people. How tragic that a film created by and for Pakistanis is now banned from the screens because of claims that it does not 'represent our way of life' or 'portrays a negative image of our country'. The opposite is true - the film reflects reality for millions of ordinary Pakistanis, people who yearn for freedom and fulfillment, people who create moments of joy every day for those they love, but do not get it," Malala had said.

Pakistan's censor board had granted 'A' (adult) certificate to the film August 17, but that was overturned November 11 by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on the basis of written complaints that the film was 'repugnant' and contained 'highly objectionable material which does not conform with the social values and moral standards' of Pakistan society.

However, in another twist to the tale late Thursday evening, Pakistan's Punjab government banned the movie as it promotes homosexuality, an official notification from the government said.

| MARKET WATCH |          |           |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| INDEX        |          | VARIATION |
| SENSEX       | 61750.60 | ↓ 230.12  |
| NIFTY        | 18343.90 | ↓ 65.75   |
| DOLLAR       | 81.05    | ↑ ₹0.07   |
| EURO         | 84.49    | ↓ ₹0.18   |
| GOLD         | ₹52,870  | ↓ ₹192    |
| SILVER       | ₹60,946  | ↓ ₹1051   |

| WEATHER   |        |                  |
|-----------|--------|------------------|
|           | BHUB   | CTK              |
| TEMP. MAX | 31.2°C | 32.0°C           |
| TEMP. MIN | 16.5°C | 16.6°C           |
| Humidity  | 76%    | 74%              |
| Rainfall  | Nil    | Nil              |
|           |        | Forecast         |
|           |        | Mainly clear sky |



## PARIS HILTON DENIES THAT SHE'S 'STRUGGLING' TO GET PREGNANT

Socialite Paris Hilton has shared that she isn't struggling to start a family. The 41-year-old's mom, Kathy Hilton, recently declared it 'breaks her heart' seeing her daughter and her husband, Carter Reum, be so 'desperate' to have a baby of their own.

## MEL GIBSON WON'T TESTIFY IN HARVEY'S SEXUAL ASSAULT TRIAL

Director-actor Mel Gibson, will not be called to testify in Harvey Weinstein's criminal trial. Gibson would have been brought onto the stand to corroborate parts of a story from a Jane Doe in the case, who said she confided in Gibson after she was allegedly sexually assaulted by Weinstein.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

#### ARIES

You may want to meet up with friends you haven't met in a long time, and the stars indicate that you will have great fun. Your enthusiasm will add a glow to whatever you do. Your sincerity in approach is what makes it special, says Ganesh.

#### TAURUS

You will put your heart and soul into whatever you do today, says Ganesh. But there may still be dark clouds hovering over the results. Don't let that bother you. You must keep up the hard work throughout the day. Finally, you will hit the deck with a feeling of happiness and satisfaction, predicts Ganesh.

#### GEMINI

You will let your personal likes and dislikes cloud your judgement today. Don't let that happen, or you may lose a worthy friend. You are likely to have a chance meeting with your soul mate or maybe even your ex-sweetheart. A romantic evening is on the anvil.

#### CANCER

Today may not be a productive day for you. Though there may not be any major loss, you may feel a little lost and would like to be left alone. If you have kids, you may suffer from the empty nest syndrome with your kids not at home.

#### LEO

Even an emperor, when struck with an ailment, is not a pretty sight. Bearing this in mind, today you shall make health your number one priority, says Ganesh. You will do wise to chart out some sort of a workout regime for yourself, and inculcate a sense of discipline in maintaining it, even if it is anything as simple as a thrice-a-week routine.

#### VIRGO

Get out of your self today, for a change, and try to look at things from a loved one's perspective. It's good to be confident, but over confidence is a different matter altogether, reminds Ganesh.

#### LIBRA

Today promises to be a joy ride for your hidden gourmand side. Relish what you eat, and thank God for the good luck. Career wise, however, you may find yourself standing at a crossroads. But, the good part about that is there shall be many paths to choose from. And, who knows the art of balancing better than you.

#### SCORPIO

Ganesh feels that your intuitive feelings will rule your actions today. You will need to break past your stress threshold and tackle work with zeal and zest. Follow your instincts and relax to some good music when the burden of work is overwhelming. At the end of the day, it is not the thought that matters but how that thought was implemented into action.

#### SAGITTARIUS

A demanding day today, as you find yourself in charge of arranging and attending high-voltage meetings. Those dealing in stock and share will have profitable returns in the afternoon. But don't count your chickens before they hatch, says Ganesh.

#### CAPRICORN

If trouble happens to knock at your door today, your guardian angel will come to your rescue, foresees Ganesh. Unlike many others who waste life running after impossible goals, you will be content with your achievements. But that does not, by any means, imply that you aren't ambitious. Just like yourself, your ambitions will be simple in nature, to the extent that it may elicit awe among people.

#### AQUARIUS

The game is set; you are put up against those who are holding a grudge against you and are waiting for an opportunity to pull you down. But, you are confident, skillful, and know your strengths very well. No matter how hard the opponents try, they will be no match to you, predicts Ganesh.

#### PISCES

You will find yourself in a philosophical state of mind today. You will be able to see things for what they really are, rather than what they appear to be. You are unlikely to try and swim against the flow today, given your mental state.

## ACTORS ARE GIVEN TOO MUCH CREDIT: PRIYANKA

Los Angeles: Priyanka Chopra is a global icon! In a recent interview, PeeCee was asked how it feels working with the biggest names in the world. In response, she said that working with the best filmmakers has taught her how to be the best actor. She further talked about how actors are given way too much credit, and that their job is just to infuse life in a script. "We give too much credit to actors; actors do nothing

by the way. I've always said this. Actors do nothing," said Priyanka. Further elaborating on it, she said "We say out somebody else's words, we are working on a script that is written by someone else, we are lip-syncing and singing songs that are in someone else's voice. We're dancing steps that are choreographed by somebody else. We are doing marketing, where questions are asked by somebody else. We are dressed by somebody, hair and makeup are done by somebody. So what am I doing?" asked Priyanka. She further added that as an

actor, her job is to take what is written in a script and infuse life into it. "So my job only comes in between action and cut. Those 30 seconds of a scene, is where I come in. And then when I talk about the movie etc. So I have a very limited role." AGENCIES



## Elli narrowly escapes an 'oops moment'

Mumbai: Elli AvrRam is an ardent social media user who often treats her fans and followers with her sultry pictures and videos. Recently, the Starlet got papped as she stepped out to attend an awards function in a gravity-defying white dress. A video of the actress is going viral on internet where she can be seen having a narrow escape from an 'oops' moment.



In the video Elli can be seen wearing a revealing outfit. And the strapless outfit that Elli was wearing was slightly tough to carry but she managed it well. As soon as the video went viral in cyberspace, netizens took to the comments section of the post to troll her. A user wrote, 'tauba tauba' while another wrote, 'ye kya pehna hai behaya'.

Meanwhile there was a section of netizens who dropped heart emojis expressing their love for her. Elli's dress came with an excessively plunging neckline that was made to stuck on her body with fashion tape. She flaunted her confidence and that fabulous physique in that super glamorous look. AGENCIES



## Nucleya to perform in City at 'Casa Bacardi On Tour'



Bhubaneswar: Music lovers will have a unique experience here as influential independent artist Nucleya and one of the most popular DJs Gurbax are set to perform in the City, Saturday. Well-known beverage brand BACARDÍ will present 'Casa Bacardi On Tour' at Embassy Concerts, Symphony mall from 5 pm onwards.

Nucleya aka Udyan Sagar is single-handedly responsible for building a lexicon of bass music unique to India. His tracks *Let's Nacho* and *Paintra* have featured in mainstream Hindi movies like *Kapoor and Sons* and *Mukkabaaz*. With over 1.48M subscribers on YouTube, he's garnered a unique audience for his music. Elaborating more on the event, Sameeksha Uniyal -

Senior Manager, Brand BACARDÍ, said, "We've been very eager to bring Nucleya to Bhubaneswar as the City has a crowd that adores music. We could sense the excitement amongst locals ever since the event was announced. The response has been absolutely phenomenal, and we can't wait to bring more such experiences to the city with CASA BACARDÍ on Tour."

The programme is being produced by WMS with promotion partner Signature 24 Productions. To catch the Bass Raja live at his concert and enjoy a unique experience concert-goers can book their tickets on <https://insider.in/casa-bacardi-on-tour-2022-bhubaneswar-nov19-2022/event> AGENCIES

## How Varun prepped to play a wolf

Mumbai: Actor Varun Dhawan, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming movie *Bhediya*, recently opened up about his preparation to play a wolf in the film in an episode of *The Kapil Sharma Show*.

Varun spoke about his transformation from a person to a *Bhediya* (Wolf) and how much time the process of make-up consumed. He said: "For this role, I had been with an animal flow teacher for around 6 months. Too much hard work has gone into getting the physique right as

the director (Amar Kaushik) didn't want my body to be tight and asked to cut down on the muscles. He had asked for a flexible body."

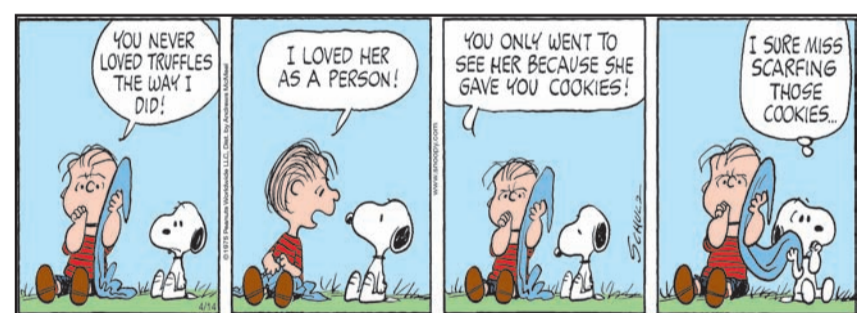
Kriti Sanon, his co-actor in the movie, goes on to praise and share how before the film started Varun was instructed to grow hair on his entire body and one can see his hard work in the film.

Varun added jokingly: "People usually apply sprays on their head when they have a hair fall but I was applying it on my ear to grow hair."

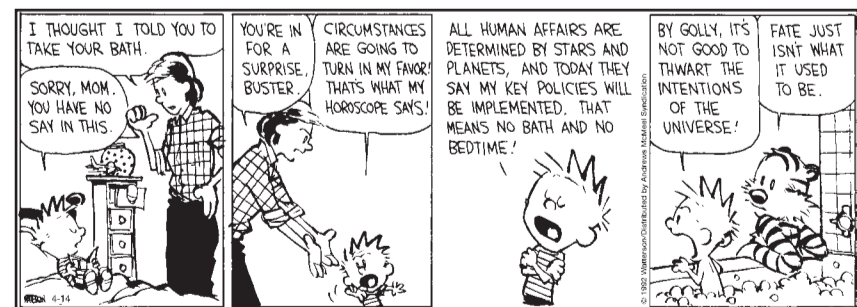
*The Kapil Sharma Show* airs on Sony Entertainment Television. AGENCIES



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

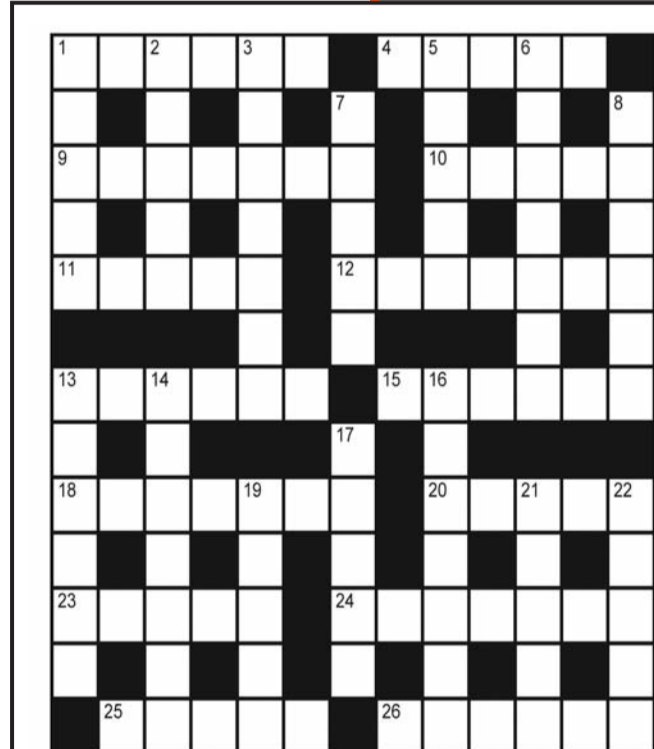


### BREVITY



### FUN post

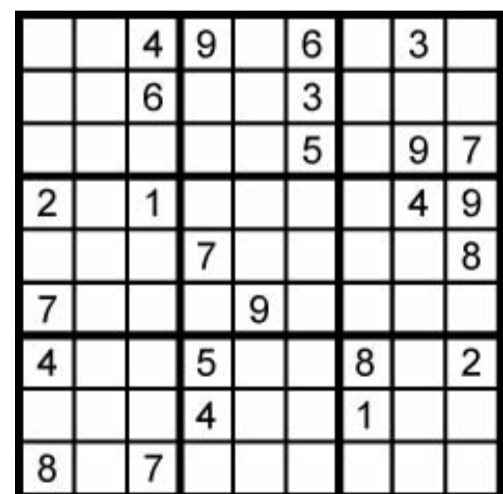
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Author's output
  - 4 Outbuildings
  - 9 Administers
  - 10 Anzio locale
  - 11 Tennis shot
  - 12 Fibre source
  - 13 Pummel
  - 15 Desert sights
  - 18 Collar
  - 20 Discontinue
  - 23 Fencing move
  - 24 Heavy iron lever
  - 25 In reserve
  - 26 Appearance
- Down**
- 1 Approaches
  - 2 Deadly snake
  - 3 Hangs around
  - 5 Bank job
  - 6 Crack shot
  - 7 Fancy tie
  - 8 Recurrent events
  - 13 Fishing gear
  - 14 Atones
  - 16 Vessel stoppers
  - 17 Park feature
  - 19 Flip over
  - 21 Mosey
  - 22 White heron

### 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

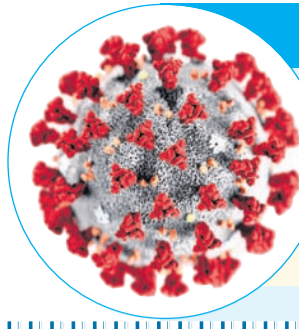


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## NOSTALGIC MOMENT

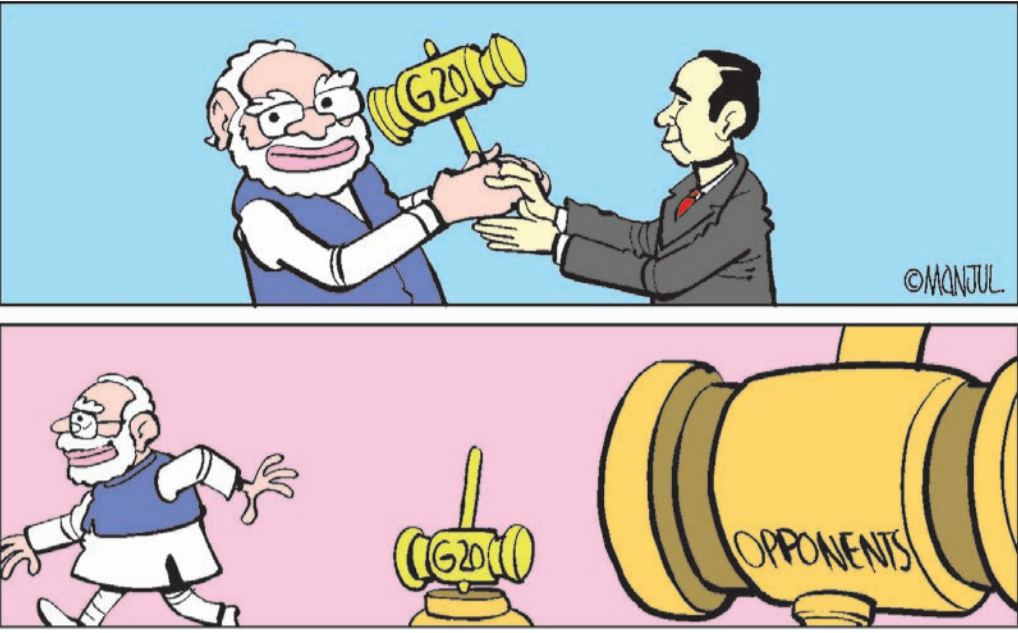
Musical programme 'Smruti Tume Akshaya' was organised by Cine Critic Association at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

|        | INFECTED     | RECOVERED    | DEAD      |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World  | 64,17,08,805 | 62,11,77,513 | 66,20,774 |
| India  | 4,46,67,311  | 4,41,29,590  | 5,30,546  |
| Odisha | 13,36,304    | 13,26,915    | 9,204     |

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Birsa Munda stadium to be world cup-ready by Nov 30

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** Ahead of the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup 2023, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Thursday visited the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and directed the officials concerned to complete the construction work by November 30.

The world cup is scheduled to be held at Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium and Kalinga Stadium here from January 13 to 29 next year.

Leading a three-member high-level team, Mahapatra visited Rourkela on the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and reviewed the progress of the work at the stadium and the Rourkela Airport.

Other members of the team were Sports and Youth Services Secretary R Vineel Krishna and Managing Director of Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Idco) Bhupender Singh Punia.

After taking stock of the work, the Chief Secretary said the construction of Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium is in final stage. The turf has been laid in the main and practice stadium. The work of the visitors'



**The Men's FIH Hockey World Cup is scheduled to be held at Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium and Kalinga Stadium from Jan 13 to 29**

**The Chief Secretary said the construction of Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium is in final stage**

gallery and the place for the staying of players and officials is going to be completed soon, he added.

Mahapatra said a practice match would be held after the work is completed. A modern parking place is being developed around the stadium as a large number of football lovers are expected to throng Rourkela from in and outside the state to watch the World Cup Hockey which is being organised for the first time in the steel city.

In addition, arrangements have been made for drinking water and toilets inside the stadium, he said. Steps are being taken to put up

LED screens at strategic points of the steel city to enable people who cannot make it to the stadium to watch the tourney.

Around 20 matches will be played at Rourkela, said sources. Direct charter flights will be arranged for the smooth movement of players from Rourkela.

Keeping this in view, the expansion of the Rourkela airport is going on very fast. A target has been fixed to complete the work by November 30. Various roads connecting Rourkela with the airport are also being developed, the Chief Secretary added.

# Leveraging innovation key to tackle climate risks: Neha

Amid a galaxy of climate activists and experts attending this year's 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2022: The Power of Youth', there will be a young woman who was selected for UN India's 'We The Change' campaign, which aims at showcasing climate solutions pioneered by young Indians. Meet **Neha Shivaji Naikwade**, a mechanical engineer and co-founder of Parvaah, a youth cell working towards zero-waste initiatives

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** It was in 2021, when Neha found a place amongst the 17 Promising Young Environmental Activists selected for UN India's 'We The Change' campaign which aims at showcasing climate solutions pioneered by

young Indians. This marked the celebration of India's climate leadership. All the 17 young climate champions have done pioneering work in diverse sectors and have waged a war against global warming.

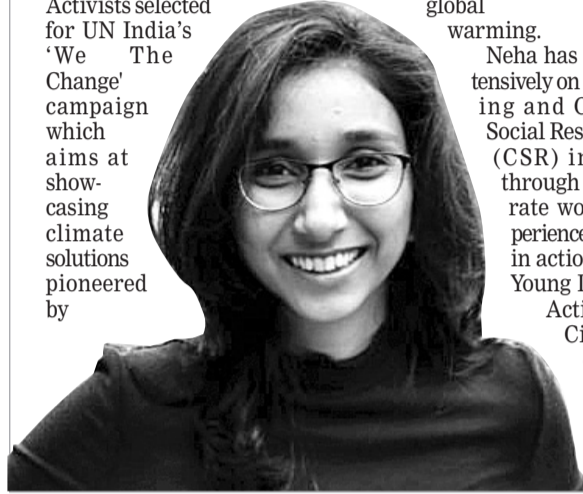
Neha has worked extensively on policy making and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives through her corporate work and experience as a 'policy in action fellow' at Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC). Neha was also short-listed for the

Global Policy, Diplomacy and Sustainability Fellowship. She currently works with the Climate Collective Foundation as a project manager where she helps develop and strengthen climate-oriented startups and early-stage climate-tech entrepreneurs. One of India's few environment-oriented data scientists, Neha used her skill set to help launch over 140 green startups. Neha built the Climate Data Program which aims to support startups tackling climate change with data technologies such as AI-ML, Big Data and Advanced Climate Modeling.



"I believe that in order to support mitigation, adaptation and resilience to our changing world, it is important to leverage innovation and technology to help understand and manage climate risks.

Startups will play a key role in developing these new technologies and solutions," Neha said. "I hope to bring attention to the need for youth driven climate innovation to address climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries. To keep global warming under 1.5 degrees, every sector of the global economy needs to transform in just over two business cycles," the young activist added.



# 89th birth anniversary of Baxipatra held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** The 89th birth anniversary of Late Harishchandra Baxipatra was organised by Harishchandra Baxipatra Smruti Committee at Soochana Bhawan here, Thursday.

On the occasion, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan delivered the Harishchandra Baxipatra Memorial Lecture. He said that a person's noble work makes him unforgettable even after his death and Baxipatra was one of them. He also said a politician should always be ready to sacrifice for others. Former minister and president of Harishchandra Baxipatra Smruti Committee Panchanan Kanungo said, "Harishchandra Baxipatra always worked for the development of Odia language and upliftment of its status in the country."

Veteran journalist Arun Kumar Panda and social activist Haribandhu Karji were felicitated on the occasion.



Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan addressing the 89th birth anniversary of Harishchandra Baxipatra at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Born November 17, 1933, Baxipatra was a member of Orissa Legislative Assembly from Koraput constituency in 1974 and in 1990, and

became a minister. He was an activist and writer who had actively participated in the JP movement. Baxipatra joined CPI in 1959 during

student career. He was a trade unionist and also head of AISF of the state. Later, he joined Utkal Congress in 1973. He died October 27, 2000.

## Mid-Term Assessment for Class III-IX begins

**Bhubaneswar:** School and Mass Education secretary Aswathy S Thursday directed all the district Collectors and district education officers (DEOs) to properly oversee the conduct of Mid-Term Assessment for students of Class III to IX in all government and government-aided schools. The test that started Thursday across the state is being conducted in connection with Learning Recovery Programme (LRP). Earlier, in a letter, Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) state project director Anupam Saha had directed all the DEOs for conduct of Mid-Term Assessment for students of Class III to IX in all the government and government-aided schools from November 17 to 19, 2021.

## Man gets 14-yr RI for rape bid on daughter

**Bhubaneswar:** A fast-track special POCSO court here Thursday handed down 14 years of rigorous imprisonment to a 46-year-old man for trying to rape his daughter. The convict was identified as Mohd Tafique alias Papu of Alisha Bazar under Lalbag police limits in Cuttack. The convict, who had a garage in the Capital city, was staying along with his family in Jadupur area under Khandagiri police limits here. The shameful act of the convict came to the fore when his wife and elder daughter spotted him forcefully trying to rape his 17-year-old daughter in their residence September 17, 2020. The victim's mother along with her elder sister had gone to her grandparent's house for some reasons when the incident occurred. Upon seeing his wife, Tafique fled the spot. Subsequently, the victim along with her mother went to Mahila police station and lodged a complaint against the accused.

# CRUT bags national award for mobility

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) has bagged the 'Most Innovative Bus Transit System in India' award in the category of 'Transit & Mobility' at the 2nd Urban Infra Business Summit & Awards 2022.

Sharing the news in its official Twitter account, CRUT said, "It gives us immense joy to share that CRUT has been awarded as the 'Most Innovative Bus Transit System in India' in the category of 'Transit & Mobility' at the 2nd Urban Infra Business Summit & Awards 2022". The award recognises outstanding performance in bringing about positive change and development in urban infrastructure projects and initiatives, it added.

Dipti Mahapatra, GM (P&A), CRUT received the award. Recently, CRUT, which operates



popular public transport service 'Mo Bus', has achieved a new milestone by recording all-time highest ridership in a single day. The CRUT has achieved the milestone November 14 with ridership of 2, 54,460.

Earlier, transport wing informed that it will add 40 more electric

buses to its current fleet in view of the rush during Men's Hockey World Cup scheduled to be held from January 13 to 29 next year.

According to sources, the fleet of 40 new e-buses will reach here around two weeks before the quadrennial world championship.

## ROW OVER FARMER ISSUES

# BJP's stir in front of Assembly from today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 17:** To woo farmers ahead of the Padampur bypoll, BJP will launch an indefinite dharna in front of the Assembly here from Friday over various farmers' issues.

Addressing a press conference here, state BJP general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan said they will launch the protest over several issues concerning farmers including farm assistance, crop insurance, supply of fertilisers and Kalia money distribution.

"The potato mission and onion mission have completely failed in the state. But despite that, there is no policy in place to help farmers recover losses," he said.

Harichandan further alleged that the farmers were getting Rs 4,000 under the Kalia scheme instead of Rs 10,000 as promised, referring to the 2019 elections.

He alleged due to irregularities in opening of mandis, the farmers are forced to sell their paddy at Rs 1,250 per quintal against the MSP of Rs 2,040 per quintal. The BJP leader said though the farmers constitute a majority of population, they always suffer due to the government's anti-farmer policy. "Odisha is the only state where no incentive is given to the farmers who incur losses. Instead of being given high yielding seeds, they are given low quality and fake seeds," said Harichandan.

The BJP general secretary further added that due to the apathy

of the state government, the farmers of the state produce 1.5 to two times less than the farmers of Punjab.

There is a shortage of cold storages in the state, yet the government is not taking any initiative in this regard. He further alleged that the input subsidy is not being given to farmers since 2018 in the state and the government is also not taking any steps in this regard.

Harichandan demanded the state government to give Rs 100 bonus per quintal to farmers as announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Sohela in 2016 from this Kharif season.

"The farmers are forced to take loans from money lenders and self help groups at high rate of interest as they are not getting co-operative loans. There is large-scale black marketing of fertilisers under the nose of the government and shortage of fertilisers is being artificially created," he alleged.

Reacting to BJP's announcement to sit on a dharna, BJD spokesperson Sammit Patra said instead of resorting to dharna before Odisha Assembly, the BJP should stage a dharna before the Parliament.

Be it procurement or lifting of rice or even fixing of MSP and crop insurance, all these responsibilities lie with the Centre. "It would be good if the BJP stages a sit-in before the Parliament to ask their own government at the Centre to renounce their anti-farmer attitude," Patra said.

# 60% Indians report data breach by loan service providers

As many as 6 in 10 Indians report personal data breach by their loan service providers while 4 in 10 blame insurance providers or banks, a new report has revealed.

Nearly 59 per cent with existing loans have been approached by alternate service providers to switch to another lending institution either via email, phone call, SMS and WhatsApp in the last five years, while 40 per cent of those with existing insurance policy/policies have been approached with detailed competitive offer, according to the report by online community platform LocalCircles.

Meanwhile, 34 per cent with bank accounts have been approached with offers to open a similar bank



account. Out of them, 23 per cent had been approached several times and 11 per cent once or twice.

"This indicates a massive data breach as the sender has access to

an individual's personal loan data which is being used to send unsolicited loan offers," the report showed. "Citizens whose data got compromised by loan agencies, in-

Citizens whose data got compromised by loan agencies, insurance companies and banks believe it is due to their weak data protection governance internally and externally

People believe financial institutions are failing in their responsibility to protect their personal data. 53% feel that it is the service providers of these institutions that compromise their personal data, while 38% feel that employees are involved as well

urance companies and banks believe it was due to their weak data protection governance internally and externally," the findings showed.

It is clear that people believe financial institutions are failing in their responsibility to protect their personal data.

Asked about how such data is getting compromised, the majority felt it was the weak internal and external governance at the financial institutions that was leading to it. Also, 53 per cent felt that it was the service providers of these institutions that compromise their personal data, while 38 per cent felt employees were involved as well.

A sizable 43 per cent also felt that the institutions themselves were compromising their information or selling it, a big enforcement or communication gap that the financial institutions must plug.





**SHEER JOY:** A man was seen afloat on a rubber tube angling on a wintry morning in Harada creek in Sambalpur, Thursday

OP PHOTO

## BDO MAKES SURPRISE MIDNIGHT RAID AT HOSTEL

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Daringbadi, Nov 17:** Daringbadi BDO conducted a surprise verification at the student's hostel of Welfare department at Greenbadi under this block in Kandhamal district late Wednesday night after a video showing ragging of a Class-VII boy went viral on social media platforms.

The video shows a hostel inmate being beaten up by a Class-X student staying in the same hostel run by the state Welfare department.

Daringbadi BDO Gadadhar Patra reached the hostel Wednesday midnight and conducted a surprise check of the hostel and various amenities available to the inmates. He enquired about the quality of food being served to the inmates, their studies, boarding facilities and lifestyle in the hostel. He also held discussion with the



**VIRAL RAGGING VIDEO**

hostel superintendent and the school headmaster Rohit Kumar Pradhan about the students and the facilities available to them. He urged the students to concentrate on their studies and lead a life of discipline in the hostel. He also talked to them on maintaining good health and not to fall sick.

When contacted, Patra said that night patrolling will be undertaken in hostels on a regular basis adding that he himself or the tehsildar will make surprise visits to keep tabs on the issues. Action will be

taken through discussion with the school authorities whenever problems are noticed.

Moreover, a review meeting of the issues plaguing the hostels and schools will be held every month at the Daringbadi Panchayat Samiti conference hall by involving the headmasters, teachers, wardens and hostel superintendents of all hostels in the 25 panchayats of the block. Community welfare officer AB Patra Majhi and other officials accompanied the BDO during the visit.

## ABEO slapped ₹15K penalty

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baisinga, Nov 17:** The assistant block education officer (ABEO) of Betanoti block in Mayurbhanj district has been asked to pay a penalty of ₹15,000 for violating RTI rules.

According to reports, Radhamohan Mohant, an RTI activist from Nahandashola village, had filed an RTI application seeking information about cluster resource centre coordinators (CRCCs) from the block education office January 15, 2020.

However, the authorities of the block education office failed to reply to the queries of Mohant.

Upset, Mohant had again applied for the same, but the block education office did not respond.

Later, the RTI activist filed a complaint at Odisha Information Commission (OIC) in this regard.

The OIC admitted the complaint July 19, 2022 and had asked the ABEO of Betanoti Balamam Nayak to submit his replies.

However, the ABEO, who is in charge of the BEO, failed to reply satisfactorily. The OIC directed the district education officer to recover ₹15,000 from the ABEO for violating the RTI norms.

## CORRUPTION IN 2 JAJPUR PANCHAYATS

# 2 ex-BDOs, 8 others get Lokayukta notice

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Nov 17:** Lokayukta has sought replies from two former BDOs and eight others over their complicity in the irregularities in nearly 40 projects of two panchayats under Dasarathpur block of Jajpur district.

Reports said, large-scale irregularities have been committed in various projects and schemes in Gramnandipur and Biruhan panchayats under Dasarathpur block. It was earlier alleged that attempts had been made to suppress such corruption by burning files related to some projects in the two panchayat offices.

Acting on a Lokayukta directive, the Vigilance department had earlier looked into the wrongdoings. On the basis of its report, the Lokayukta has served notices two former BDOs of Dasarathpur block and eight other officials and people's representatives seeking their replies by December 9.

Those who were served with notices are former Dasarathpur BDOs Narayan Chandra Nayak and Debraj Sethi, GPTA Pradosh Ranjan Das, accountant Benudhar Nayak, former panchayat execu-



**Locals had alleged irregularities in MGNREGS, Mo Guhala Yojana, housing, road and plantation projects under Gramnandipur and Biruhan panchayats**

tive officer Akshay Kumar Bal, former sarpanch of Biruhan Bhanumati Mallick, panchayat executive officer Rajnan Kumar Behera, GPTA Amiya Kumar Rout, former junior engineer Manas Ranjan Panda and former sarpanch of Gramnandipur Nabakishore Mallick.

Locals had alleged rampant corruption in projects under MGNREGS, Mo Guhala Yojana, housing,

roads and plantation works in Gramnandipur and Biruhan panchayats.

Taking serious note of the irregularities, then project director of DRDA, Vishal Singh had set dates to look into the alleged

scams at the panchayat offices. However, prior to that, (April 17, 2021) all files related to the projects and schemes marred by irregularities were found burnt in the two panchayat offices.

Some RTI activists had filed complaints against the BDO and sarpanches at the Mangalpur police station alleging sabotage aimed at scuttling the investigation.

Earlier, locals like Bijay Ketan Mohapatra and Pratap Kumar Nayak had alleged that the district administration was not conducting investigations into the scam properly. The two filed a petition (703/2021) at the Lokayukta in this regard.

The Lokayukta then directed the Vigilance department to look into the irregularities and submit a report. On the basis of the Vigilance report, the Lokayukta has directed the 10 people to submit their replies about the irregularities and file burning.

In the report, the Vigilance has detected irregularities in 20 projects in Gramnandipur panchayat and 18 projects in Biruhan panchayat. The Vigilance, vide letter 1175 dated September 28, 2022, has recommended the state government and the Jajpur district administration for appropriate action against those involved in the irregularities.

# Choked by dust pollution, villagers warn of agitation

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Nov 17:** Palaspanga-Bamebari road is one of the lifelines for mineral transportation in Keonjhar district. Thousands of trucks, tipper trucks and dumpers loaded with iron ore operate on this route on a daily basis.

Locals said the road is in very bad shape and full of potholes because heavy vehicles operate over years with authorities paying no heed to its routine maintenance. Owing to plying of trucks on this route, dust particles are floating about in the ambient air, causing severe pollution in several villages. People living in the villages along this route feel suffocated with the dust pollution, it was alleged.

As the administration is doing little to sort out the dust pollution issue, resentment is brewing among locals.

Upset over the lingering issue,



Kandarapasi sarpanch Sabitri Nayak, ward members and villagers have apprised Collector Ashish Thakare about the inconvenience faced by them in a letter. They have warned of agitation if the issue is not resolved within seven days.

"The road is in miserable condition despite the fact that the route facilitates transportation of minerals in heavy vehicles from Joda

mining area. As the road is full of potholes and dust, commuting on the road is a nightmarish task for us. No step is being taken to repair the road. Dust emanating from the road always keeps the air hazy. People are affected by respiratory diseases. Too much dust settles on roofs of houses, gardens, farmlands and water bodies making our lives miserable," they lamented.

# Road deaths on the rise in Ganjam dist

## LACK OF TRAUMA CARE CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT ADDS TO ACCIDENT FATALITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Nov 17:** Ganjam district tops the list of fatalities due to road accidents in Odisha. However, sources said Monday that the lack of trauma care centres in the district is also contributing to the number of deaths due to road accidents.

Various reports have pointed out to the rising number of accidents in the district. Similarly fatalities have increased due to road mishaps. The national highway which passes through the district witnesses accidents every day. The district administration has formed a Road Safety Committee on the basis of directions issued by the Supreme Court. However, it has not had any visible effect.

Sources said the decisions taken by the committee are not being implemented for the safety and security of the commuters. Hence accidents and related casualties are on the rise.



The committee was asked to convey its decision and plans on reducing road mishaps to the Odisha government and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). However, with the committee having just one meeting during the year, it has not been effective enough to check the rate of accidents.

The Supreme Court has said that treatment of persons injured in road mishaps should be the first

priority of officials. However, it is not happening due to the lack of trauma care centres. Those which are available in some hospitals of the district lack modern equipment. There is a trauma care centre at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Bhubaneswar. However, it is small and needs urgent upgrading.

Local intelligentsia called for setting up of more trauma care cen-

The district admin has formed a Road Safety Committee on the basis of directions issued by the Supreme Court. However, it has not been effective

tres in the district for urgent treatment of seriously injured persons within the 'golden hour', the first hour after a road accident, so that their lives can be saved. The Supreme Court has also advocated for establishment of more trauma care centres in various important places.

The Road Safety Committee has also discussed this issue and has sent a request to the Odisha government to set up trauma care centres. However, despite several trauma care centres coming up in other places, there is no such proposal for Ganjam district.

## Vedanta pat on matric toppers' back

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, Nov 17:** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, felicitated 79 meritorious students from 21 government schools across Jharsuguda on Children's Day for securing A-1 position in the High School Certificate (HSC) Examination 2022, conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha.

Envisioned as an opportunity to laud the hard work put in by the students and encourage them to aim for higher achievements, the programme was organised in collaboration with the District Education Office, in the presence of Jharsuguda DEO Pushpa Minz

and ADEO Pradipta Kumar Sa. Congratulating the students, Sunil Gupta, CEO, Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda said, "Our education initiatives for the community strive to ensure that students hailing from rural communities enjoy better access to quality primary education, which is fundamental to shaping a bright future. It is heartening to see a rise in literacy levels of Jharsuguda, reflected in the rising higher matriculation/higher secondary passing percentage in the region and the number of students securing A-1 position in the HSC examination. Vedanta Aluminium will continue to help bridge the literacy divide and unlock new horizons for our communities."



**FOR A CAUSE:** Denizens formed a human chain from Petrol Pump Square to Railway Station Square in Titilagarh of Bolangir district demanding district status to the area, Thursday

OP PHOTO

## Lawyers stage stir seeking HC bench in Bolangir district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Nov 17:** The lawyers of Bolangir district resumed their agitation Thursday and staged a demonstration over their demand for establishment of High Court (HC) bench in the district.

The District Bar Association and Bolangir Action Committee have decided to boycott court works on third Thursday of every month to press their demand. Besides, no legal work would be done in the courts across the district on the day.

All the government offices remained closed here as residents extended their support to the lawyers of western Odisha.

However, all the essential services along with educational institutions were kept out of the purview of the bandh. Various outfits and lawyers have long been pressing for this demand by holding protests.



A God who cannot smile, could not have created this humorous universe.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Who Pays?

If there is one issue that has taken center stage at this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), it is money. Delegates, climate activists, and the rapidly increasing number of private-sector attendees are discussing who should pay for climate change, and how.

The focus on money is past due. While the annual climate talks are ultimately about cutting greenhouse-gas pollution, the transition to a net-zero economy requires massive financing, as will adapting to a world of rising average temperatures and sea levels, increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather, and all the other costly effects of burning fossil fuels.

Ever since COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, a key figure in this debate has been "\$100 billion." That is how much the world's advanced economies promised to provide to developing countries every year by 2020. But it was never clear whether this target referred only to public money, or whether it could include a mix of public and private flows. While most of the Global South interpreted it as a commitment of public funds, most of the Global North preferred the broader definition. If one takes the latter view, the rich world was already on track to providing \$97 billion in annual climate finance flows back in 2011, according to a widely cited study from the Climate Policy Initiative.

And yet, 13 years on from the 2009 pledge, few would make the mistake of mixing public and private funding, while everyone recognises that the global energy transition will require not billions but trillions of dollars per year. Ahead of the COP26 talks in Glasgow last year, Mark Carney, the UN's special envoy for climate action and finance, concluded that at least \$100 trillion of external finance would be "needed for the sustainable energy drive over the next three decades if it is to be effective." And there is considerable convergence among international bodies, consultancies, and banks around this number. Massive amounts of private spending will need to be directed away from fossil-fuel investments and toward low-carbon infrastructure, energy, and transportation.

But that doesn't let governments off the hook. Public funds are the lever for rechanneling private money at the necessary pace and scale. The Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and CHIPS and Science Act that the United States has recently enacted are good examples of this lever in action. The idea is that some \$500 billion in government investments will encourage many hundreds of billions more in private flows. Yet while those sums (and similar policies elsewhere) could jump-start a global clean-energy race, all the public investments and most of the private ones will be spent domestically. That leaves the Global South still wanting.

The global picture fits a similar pattern. Since annual foreign direct investment dwarfs development aid, much of the money to cut carbon-dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse-gas pollution will come from private sources, regardless of what governments agree to do. Unlocking these funds will require what climate negotiators call "creative" solutions, which means, "We know that much more money is needed, but we can't be the ones who provide it."

Thus, John Kerry, the US climate envoy, came to COP27 with a proposal to use carbon credits to fill at least some of the financing gap. Under this approach, rich countries and companies would get some credit not just for cutting their own pollution, but for paying others to do so.

The idea is not new. The US proposed a similar system ahead of COP3 in Kyoto in 1997. At the time, much of the rest of the world, including the European Union, opposed the plan. Yet, ironically, the EU now has the world's largest carbon market, while the US, aside from California and a dozen northeastern states, does not. To this day, it is still politically impossible at the national level to make polluters pay for their carbon pollution. That is why President Joe Biden's administration has focused instead on spending money to aid the energy transition at home, and it is why Kerry is proposing a voluntary carbon credit system.

Carbon credits, especially voluntary ones, are no substitute for meaningful efforts by companies and countries to cut their own pollution. For one, carbon-credit systems have plenty of problems of their own. While California's carbon market trades billions worth of credits per year, it also has allowed some \$400 million in apparently fraudulent forest offsets into its system. If California's mandatory market struggles this much with compliance, just imagine the problems that would plague a voluntary global system.

The US and other rich, large polluters still have a responsibility to pony up direct aid on a much larger scale than they are currently doing. That goes both for unconditional aid to help the poor weather climate change, and for funding to help them cut their own pollution. Germany and Austria deserve credit for leading the charge with promises of €170 million (\$175 million) and €50 million, respectively, in aid for the most vulnerable countries. And a new commitment from the US, the EU, and Germany to invest \$500 million in renewables in Egypt is a good step (even though the gas thus freed appears to be set for export to the EU). But given that these sums all fall in the millions, they still miss the mark by orders of magnitude.

There is clearly something to the idea of hitching billions in much-needed aid flows to private financial flows in the trillions. The first order of business is for governments to help guide trillions in private investments toward the Global South. "Creative" solutions should focus on making loans and investments less risky for private investors, with rich governments and multilateral funds providing loan guarantees and other assurances to help reduce sovereign credit and other risks.

Carbon credits could similarly play a role in helping scale up sorely needed investments, provided that voluntary carbon credits are seen only as a stepping stone to making polluters pay to cut their own pollution. Ultimately, building more momentum behind the global clean-energy revolution is what really matters. If allowing rich companies to boast of their green credentials means that they will fund more clean energy in the Global South, that is not a bad thing. Often, the best way to ensure that necessary work is done is not to care too much about who takes the credit.

The writer is a climate economist at Columbia Business School.

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### WISDOM CORNER

We all want to be famous people, and the moment we want to be something we are no longer free. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**

A wise man can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer. **BRUCE LEE**

No one gets away with anything, ever, so take responsibility for your own life. **JORDAN PETERSON**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Crap

Crap is actually Middle English. It seems to be a mixture of two older words — one thread comes from Dutch krappen, to pluck off, cut off, or separate; the other may be from Old French crappe, siftings or waste or rejected matter, from medieval Latin crappa, chaff. The first sense in English was indeed "chaff," and was also used in some places as the name for weeds that infested cereal crops, such as darnel, rye-grass, or charlock. Later it took on an extra meaning of the waste residue that was left after rendering fat. Its application to excretion appeared in the 1840s. There's an example in the Oxford English Dictionary from 1846 that refers to a crapping ken, a privy, where ken means a house.

### FOCUS POLLUTION

# DELHI'S WINTER WOES

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi in the winter months following Diwali has steadily deteriorated passing to the 'Severe' and 'Very Poor' categories primarily owing to the increase of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPM) in air. The average level of the deadliest particle i.e. PM2.5 in the National Capital Region (NCR) reached over 300 µg/m<sup>3</sup> which is over eight times the safe limit. These particles are so fine that they can travel deep into our respiratory tracts settling in the lungs causing severe breathing problems. Exposure to such fine particles can cause short-term health effects such as eye, nose, throat and lung irritation, coughing, sneezing, runny nose and shortness of breath. The long-term hazards include elevated susceptibility to respiratory diseases, including acute respiratory distress, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and even lung cancer. These alarming pollution levels led the Delhi government to close primary schools and impose restrictions on vehicular traffic, movement of trucks and activities at construction sites.

An AQI between 0-50 is considered 'Good', 51-100 'Satisfactory', 101-200 'Moderate', 201-300 'Poor', 301-400 'Very poor', 401-500 'Severe' and above 500 is 'Severe-plus emergency' category. As per a study carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO), among 1600 cities of the world, Delhi is one of the worst cities in terms of air pollution. According to another estimate, air pollution alone accounts for the death of nearly 10,500 people in Delhi every year on average.

In winter, the cold air is generally heavier and sinks to the bottom not allowing the pollutants to disperse. The slow wind speed at the surface in winter also worsens the problem. The



One of the key non-point sources of pollution is the particles blown away by the farm stubble burning by the farmers from the vast surrounding areas like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh

geographical location of Delhi makes the matter even more complicated as it is surrounded by mountains on all sides hindering the easy dispersal of pollutants. Delhi is not the only city in the world battling with winter air pollution every year. Although cities like Beijing and Los Angeles also share the same geographical setting as of Delhi, the problems in those cities are easier to handle primarily because of the point sources of pollution as the major polluting factor. Point sources of pollution include emissions released from specific sources like industries or vehicular traffic located within the city limits itself which are easier to handle and control. However, Delhi has far more complicated situations with a majority of the pollutants coming from non-point sources located outside the city stretched over a vast region.

One of the key non-point sources of pollution is the particles blown away by the farm stubble burning by the farmers

from the vast surrounding areas like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The farmers in these regions generally cultivate paddy in their farms during the monsoons, it being a highly water-intensive crop. Paddy is generally harvested after the monsoon following which sowing of wheat immediately begins in the same fields in early October. Therefore, the farmers have very little window of time between the harvesting of paddy and the sowing of wheat and, therefore, to get rid of the crop residues of paddy in their fields quickly, they set fire to the farm stubble and then clear the residue. This is a widespread practice prevailing among the farmers of the region. This is indeed a huge problem to deal with which is not there in the case of the other cities like Beijing and Los Angeles battling with air pollution. The problem stems from the fact that the socio-economic conditions of our farmers are very different who are generally poor and lack neces-

sary funds and technologies to dispose of their stubble in an eco-friendly manner.

First, most farmers lack high-cost machineries like crop balers, happy seeders, and super seeders which are generally rented out to them by local cooperatives. But, cooperatives don't exist in all villages. Second, the process after harvesting requires a series of steps like mulching, ploughing, application of cultivation machines with each step requiring fuel and labour for four to five days, which is a lengthy process. But if they opt for stubble burning, they can directly burn the farm residues immediately after the harvesting of the crop which is a far quicker and cheaper process. Hence this practice is widely followed because of the low operation cost. Thirdly, there is no crop substitute for paddy. For instance, out of the four million hectares of land cultivated in Punjab, three million hectares are for paddy. Rice and wheat are the only crops for which the government provides a fixed minimum support price. Alternative crops like cotton, maize, mustard, sugarcane, and even Basmati rice are largely avoided due to their fluctuating selling prices. Lastly, farmers find stubble management less rewarding as it needs additional expenditure to manage their baled stubble and take to factories for safe disposal.

Given these complex ground realities in the case of a developing country like India, it is a challenging task to convince the farmers to refrain from stubble burning. The government must find a way out to reach out to the farmers with funds and technologies to mitigate the problem and enable Delhi to breathe clean air.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.

### SPECTRUM COP27

# A movement for food-system change

Decades of progress on reducing food insecurity are being reversed. The number of undernourished people is rising again, and in Africa alone, 310 million people are projected to be chronically hungry by 2030 if urgent action is not taken. Worse, a host of factors threatens to push the world's food systems toward collapse. Dangerous climate tipping points are approaching faster than predicted, and tens of millions of people are suffering from a cost-of-living crisis, ongoing global conflicts, biodiversity loss, and the continuing effects of COVID-19.

There is still time to put the global food system on a fairer, more sustainable, and more resilient path, but the window is closing quickly. Fortunately, the Egyptian government has placed food and nutrition center stage at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, which means the issue will get more attention than it has received at any previous COP. The World Leaders Summit at the outset of the conference focused on the food security crisis, and the Food Systems Pavilion (another COP first) has ensured that food and agriculture remain high on the agenda throughout the two-week event.

Agriculture alone is responsible for about one-third of global greenhouse-gas emissions and is the primary driver of biodiversity loss. It is also linked to 92% of the global

water footprint, because the sector is the largest user and polluter of freshwater. Perversely, even as the number of people facing acute food insecurity rises, one-third of all food produced globally is either lost or wasted.

Discussions about the nexus of food systems and climate at COP27 should focus on four priority areas. The first is political leadership. November 7-8, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi convened heads of state and government to discuss the global food security crisis and the world's response to it. Political, business, and philanthropic leaders thus had a rare opportunity to come forward with major commitments and clear roadmaps for reforming food systems, emphasising not only financing but also support for smallholder farmers and adoption of digital technologies in agriculture.

The second priority is to close the significant and unjust global climate financing gap, which reflects a failure by many countries in the Global North to meet their past commitments. African countries have rightly called for a major increase in financing for climate adaptation. The international community must meet this request head-on and at the scale required. Only 3% of current global climate finance is targeted at agriculture and land use. Far more is needed to ensure sustainable food production, which in turn would bring benefits to bil-

lions of people, as well as to the climate and other species.

Smallholder farmers are especially in need of support. Under 2% of climate finance makes it to this cohort, even though it produces almost one-third of the world's food and works one-quarter of the world's agricultural land. Developing a better food system requires political, private sector, and philanthropic leadership at scale to help smallholder farmers adopt more climate-resilient agricultural practices.

A third area of focus should be national commitments and their implementation. A year ago, the Glasgow Climate Pact called on all countries to revisit their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and strengthen their emissions-reduction targets for this critical decade. With only a few having done so, however, there is a risk of further drift and delay.

Moreover, while many NDCs do refer to food and land use, only a few countries — such as Colombia and the United Arab Emirates — have actively committed to sectoral targets and concrete action. All countries will need to strengthen their work on the "practicalities of implementation" by supporting locally driven strategies and integrating NDC commitments into national planning and budget frameworks.

The fourth priority area is private-sector and civil-society activity, which is no less important than

national governments. Businesses should be adopting science-based targets to deliver on their climate commitments and to protect their own economic future. This is especially true of the world's commodity and trading companies, lest they end up backpedaling from their sustainability commitments, including to reduce deforestation.

Regions and cities also can adopt ambitious food-system plans, and local communities can do remarkable work from the ground up to make their food systems more just and resilient — whether by reducing food loss and waste, pursuing landscape restoration, or securing alternatives to charcoal. And, of course, the world's major philanthropies can and must dramatically increase their funding for food systems.

Our hope is that all these players will come together this month to launch a collective movement for food-system change — which is crucial to both the Paris climate agreement targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Egypt could be a turning point for food and the climate. Leaders from all sectors have a collective responsibility to make it so.

Naoko Ishii is Director of the Center for Global Commons at the University of Tokyo. Joshua Omonuk is a climate justice activist.

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Naoko Ishii & Joshua Omonuk

AGRICULTURE ALONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF GLOBAL GREENHOUSE-GAS EMISSIONS AND IS THE PRIMARY DRIVER OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS

### Vernacular MBBS

Sir, As part of an ambitious project to impart medical education in Hindi, the Madhya Pradesh government got Hindi-translated textbooks of three subjects: Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry for first-year MBBS students and they were unveiled with much fanfare October 16, 2022. Students from rural areas who were unable to get medical education because of lack of knowledge of English will not lag behind and will be able to pursue MBBS in Hindi. The initiative is a welcome step but it raises concerns over mapping education in accordance with nationally and internationally acceptable standards. It will help students to become more patient-friendly as graduate doctors would know the medical terms in regional languages. However, it may be difficult for students to match the skills of literature reading and presentation at different platforms, compared to students doing MBBS in English. Other than the Hindi textbooks designed for this initiative, most medical literature available is in English and therefore it will pose a difficulty in comprehension and knowledge incorporation. In a multi-lingual country such as India, the challenges of imparting education in mother tongue are numerous. However, proper planning and effective implementation should be done carefully to make the pilot project a success.

Bhagaban Nayak, BERHAMPUR

### 8 billion people

Sir, The world's population has reached the significant milestone of eight billion. According to UN estimates, the increase in global population from 7 billion to 8 billion took place over a 12-year period. This achievement may be credited to the longer life expectancies made possible by improvements in nutrition, sanitation, public health, and medicine. Only seven nations — China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Brazil — have more than half of the world's population. But it's estimated that another half a billion people will be born by 2030. According to the current estimates, India is expected to surpass China to become the world's most populous nation in 2023. Demographic trends around the world show that life is getting better in many ways. We are living longer thanks to a decrease in child and maternal mortality, treatments for fatal diseases, better healthcare, and other causes. Furthermore, universal healthcare and long-term care systems must be established in order to accommodate the growing number of older people. Social security and pension systems must also be strengthened to ensure their long-term viability.

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

OrissaPOST

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## of the day quote

We are planning to have some G20 meetings in the Northeast region

**G KISHAN REDDY** | UNION MINISTER

Being the administrative minister in charge -- the Election Commission of India reports to the law ministry -- I want to say that the Election Commission of India is an impartial, transparent, empowered and independent body

**KIREN RIJU** | UNION LAW MINISTER

We are yet to get the confirmation from Prime Minister's Office (PMO) over the date of commissioning of Mopa International Airport. Tentatively, we are prepared to inaugurate it December 11

**PRAMOD SAWANT** | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### ED arrests TMC's Anubrata Mondal

**Kolkata:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday arrested senior Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal in a cattle smuggling case after a marathon interrogation at Asansol Correctional Home where he has been lodged, the agency officials said. He was earlier apprehended by the CBI in the same case in August and is in judicial custody. The CBI is investigating the criminal aspect of the cattle smuggling case, while the ED is probing the money laundering angle. ED sources said the agency will now seek custody of Mondal. The central agency interrogated Mondal in the correctional home after his daughter Sukanya Mondal during interrogation had said "his father was aware of all the financial accounts and transactions".

### Azam's name removed from voters list

**Bareilly (UP):** Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan's name has been removed from the electoral roll in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur, officials said Thursday, weeks after he was convicted in a 2019 hate speech case. This means the former minister, who has already been disqualified as MLA after his conviction, will not be able to vote in the December 5 by-election to his traditional seat of Rampur Sadar (urban). The decision to remove his name from the list was taken by the Rampur Electoral Registration officer (ERO) on a complaint by BJP bypoll candidate Akash Saxena.

## RAJIV GANDHI ASSASSINATION CASE

**THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SAID THAT THE DECISION TO RELEASE THE CONVICTS IN THE RAJIV GANDHI ASSASSINATION CASE WAS A "MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE"**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** Facing criticism from the Congress, the government on Thursday moved the Supreme Court seeking a review of its order for premature release of six convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

The Centre said the order granting remission to the convicts, who had assassinated the former prime minister, was passed without affording it adequate opportunity for hearing despite it being a necessary party to the case. The government highlighted the

# Two dozen women sterilized without anaesthesia

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Nov 17:** The negligence of the Bihar health department was in full view in Khagaria district Wednesday when around two dozen women were sterilized without anaesthesia.

The women went to the Alauli and Parbatta health centres in the districts for a family planning operation Wednesday. The medical staff pinned them down on the bed, held their hands and legs tightly, put cotton in the mouth and performed the operation without anaesthesia.

The victims suffered unbearable pain during and after the surgery.



Amarnath Jha, the civil surgeon of Khagaria said: "We have initiated an inquiry into the matter and asked for an explanation

from the NGO responsible for the inhuman act."

The health department has given the contract for family planning op-

## HARYANA NOTIFIES E-VEHICLE POLICY

The Haryana government said it has notified the Electric-Vehicle Policy, under which 12 schemes have been made live, Additional Chief Secretary of Industries and Commerce Anand Mohan Sharan said Thursday. He said the aim of the policy is to promote the manufacturing of electric vehicles and their components in the state



## ED Director gets one-year extension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The Union government Thursday extended by one year the tenure of ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra, according to an official order.

The order issued by the Personnel Ministry said the 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer has been given the extension till November 18, 2023. Mishra, 62, was appointed director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for a period of two years by an order November 19, 2018. Later, by an order of November 13, 2020, the appointment letter was modified retrospectively by the Central government and his term of two years was replaced by three years.

The government last year brought an ordinance allowing that the tenure of the directors of the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) can be extended by up to three years after the mandated term of two years. Mishra was subsequently given a one-year extension then, his second.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in tenure of Shri Sanjay Kumar Mishra, IRS (IT:84006) as Director of Enforcement in the Enforcement Directorate for a period of one year beyond 18.11.2022, ie upto 18.11.2023 or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the Thursday order said. The ED functions under the Union Finance Ministry and it enforces the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act that was brought by the Modi government in 2018, and the civil sections of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

# SC to hear plea against Collegium system of appointment of judges

The apex court had October 16, 2015 struck down the ambitious NJAC Act, 2014 which had sought to replace the 22-year-old collegium system of judges appointing judges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to consider listing a petition against the collegium system of appointment of judges to the apex court and high courts, days after Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju said people were not happy with the practice of judges appointing judges.

The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud. Advocate Mathews J Nedumpara, who mentioned the matter, referred to the 2015 verdict of the apex court which had struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act and the Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014, leading to the revival of the collegium system of existing judges appointing judges to constitutional courts.

The bench, also comprising Justices Hima Kohli and J B Pardiwala, assured the counsel it will consider the request in due course after perusing the petition. The plea has said the collegium

system of appointment of judges has resulted in denial of equal opportunity to thousands of lawyers who are eligible, meritorious and deserved to the considered.

The NJAC Act, 2014 would have accorded a major role to the executive in appointing judges to the higher judiciary.

The apex court had October 16, 2015 struck down the ambitious NJAC Act, 2014 which had sought to replace the 22-year-old collegium system of judges appointing judges.

Last month, Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju had said the people of the country are not happy with the collegium system and, according to the spirit of the Constitution, it is the government's job to appoint judges.

On November 13, former Chief Justice of India U U Lalit had, however, said there is nothing wrong with the collegium system.

"The collegium system is here to stay and it is an established norm where judges choose judges," he had said while speaking to the PTT, adding the fundamentals of the system can be fine-tuned.



**FOR A CAUSE:** An Iranian woman reacts during a protest against the government of Iran over the death of Mahsa Amini, who was arrested by the morality police for not wearing the 'hijab' properly, at Church Street in Bangalore

## Bank union to go on strike Nov 19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** Operations of public sector banks (PSBs) may be impacted as bank union AIBEAA has given a strike call for Saturday to oppose incessant outsourcing of jobs.

Although the officers are not part of the strike, there may be some impact on cash deposit and withdrawal, clearing of cheques etc.

Several banks, including Bank of Baroda and Punjab & Sind Bank, have already informed their customers about the potential impact on services if November 19 strike materialises.

If the strike materialises, a certain section of the Bank's employees may participate in strike on the said date, in which case, it is likely that the normal functioning of the branches/offices of the bank may get affected, Punjab & Sind Bank said in a regulatory filing Thursday. Outsourcing of jobs by some of the banks are putting privacy of customers and their money at risk apart from reduction in recruitment at the lower level, All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEAA) general secretary CH Venkatachalam said.

## Court dismisses Muslim's side plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Varanasi, Nov 17:** A Varanasi court Thursday rejected Gyanvapi Masjid committee's objection to a petition seeking right to worship 'Shivling' claimed to have been found in the mosque complex and fixed December 2 for hearing the case.

Fast-track court Judge Mahendra Kumar Pandey found the petition filed by Kiran Singh worth hearing and fixed December 2 for taking up the matter, Assistant District Government Counsel Sulabh Prakash said.

The court rejected the objection filed by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee questioning maintainability of the Singh's plea.

The mosque committee had objected to the plea citing the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. The Act states that the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947, must be maintained.

Prakash said lawyers of the Hindu side argued that Waqf Act is not applicable to them. The fast-track court had on Monday post-



poned its judgement on the matter till November 17.

After hearing the arguments of both the sides to the dispute, the court had, October 27, reserved its order on the suit for November 8. As the judge was on leave November 8 the matter was posted for November 14.

On May 24, plaintiff Kiran Singh, general secretary of the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, filed the suit in the Varanasi district court, seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims into the Gyanvapi complex, handing over of the complex to the Sanatan Sangh and permission to

offer prayers to the 'Shivling'.

On May 25, District Judge A K Vishvesh had ordered the transfer of the suit to the fast-track court.

The Varanasi district magistrate, the police commissioner, the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which manages the affairs of the Gyanvapi mosque, and the Vishwanath Temple Trust were made respondents in the suit. However, the Muslim side has maintained that the structure was part of the fountain mechanism at the "wazookhana" reservoir, where devotees carry out ritual ablutions before offering "namaz".

# Centre challenges release of convicts

alleged procedural lapse, saying the convicts seeking remission did not formally implead the Centre as a party which resulted in its non-participation in the case.

"Thus absence of any assistance by the Union of India, due to procedural lapse of convicts/petitioners, while the present matter was being finally heard and decided has prevented this Court from appreciating the crucial and important evidence in the matter, which if presented, would have assisted this court to arrive at a just and correct judgment in the matter," it said.

On November 11, the top court had ordered premature release of six convicts, including Nalini Sriharan, who had hosted the assassin, noting the Tamil Nadu government had recommended remission of their sentence.

Besides Nalini, R P Ravichandran, Santhan, Murugan, Robert Payas and Jayakumar walked out of the jail following the Supreme Court order.

In its review plea, the central government said certain facts were in its possession but could not be



placed before the court to enable it to arrive at a correct judgment and to do complete justice in the "peculiar and shocking" facts and circumstances. It said four out of the six convicts granted remission are Sri Lankans.

On November 11, the top court while ordering the release of the convicts had noted their conduct was satisfactory during incarceration and they had undertaken

various studies.

The apex court said its earlier judgement in the case of A G Perarivalan, one of the convicts released earlier, was equally applicable in the matter of six others.

Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court had on May 18 ordered the release of Perarivalan, who had served over 30 years in jail. Under Article 142,

the top court may issue any verdict or order necessary to provide "complete justice".

The Tamil Nadu government had earlier favoured the premature release of Nalini and Ravichandran, saying its 2018 advice for remission of their life sentence is binding upon the governor.

In two separate affidavits, the state government had told the top court that in a cabinet meeting held on September 9, 2018, it had considered mercy petitions of seven convicts in the case and resolved to recommend to the governor remission of their life sentences invoking the power granted under Article 161 of the Constitution. Nalini and Ravichandran had moved the top court seeking premature release.

Both of them had challenged a June 17 order of the Madras High Court, which rejected their pleas for early release, and cited the apex court judgment ordering the release of co-convict Perarivalan.

Nalini, Santhan, Murugan, Perarivalan, Robert Payas, Jayakumar and Ravichandran were sentenced for life.

# Court allows police to quiz accused for 5 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** A Delhi court Thursday permitted the city police to question Mehrauli killing accused Aaftab Amin Poonawala for five more days in its custody, while another judge allowed his narco analysis test to unravel the sensational case after he consented to undergo the forensic procedure.

Metropolitan Magistrate Aviral Shukla passed the order after the accused was produced before him through video conferencing, considering threat perception to Poonawala due to charged atmosphere in the court premises which also witnessed protest from around 100 lawyers.

The lawyers assembled in the court premises shouting slogans against Poonawala and demanded death penalty for him.

Prior to the production of the accused before the court on expiry of his earlier five-day custodial interrogation, Delhi Police moved a plea before the judge in a packed courtroom, seeking the accused's

## MEHRAULI KILLING



production before the court virtually, due to the possibility of attack by "some religious outfits and miscreants" on the accused, which was allowed.

"I am aware of the sensitivity of the matter, the media coverage and the public traction," the judge said, while allowing police plea. The hearing of his further custody was held in the absence of media and those unconnected to the case.

After the proceedings, the court sources informed that the accused was sent to five more days of custodial interrogation at the hands of police which had sought 10 days of custodial interrogation in the case. The detailed order of the proceedings is awaited.





## of the day quote

If I have to go (back) to the Assembly, if I have to stay in politics and if justice is to be done to Andhra Pradesh...unless you ensure our victory in the next election...that could well be my last election

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | FORMER AP CM

What I feel is that the Congress has got bankrupt ideas. It is a matter between the Election Commission of India, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the NGO (concerned)

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

The 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' is getting huge support from people everywhere. A message has gone across the country about what Rahul Gandhi wants -- inflation, unemployment should be reduced and there should be politics of peace, love and brotherhood

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Delhi court refuses bail to Satyendar

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court Thursday refused to grant bail to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Satyendar Jain and two others in connection with a money laundering case. Special Judge Vikas Dhull of the Rouse Avenue Court pronounced the order which was deferred earlier. The same judge was scheduled to pronounce the order Wednesday. However, the court deferred the matter, citing the order was not ready. A detailed order will be made available later in the day.

### Int'l drug racket busted in Ludhiana

**Chandigarh:** An international drug racket having links across the border was busted following the recovery of 20 kg heroin and the arrest of one person in Punjab's Ludhiana, said the Narcotics Control Bureau Thursday. Besides heroin, cash amounting to Rs 5.86 lakh, foreign currency (Dirham) worth Rs 2,850, two bullets, 20 branded watches, 250 grams of silver coins, 17 grams of opium, two laptops, five pen drives, seven sim cards, five mobile phones and some documents have been recovered by the NCB's Chandigarh unit, a senior official said.

### PM to visit AP, UP tomorrow

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Arunachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh November 19. His visit to Arunachal Pradesh is being seen as a key step towards boosting connectivity in the northeast region. Modi will inaugurate the first greenfield airport called Donyi Polo airport at Itanagar, during his visit.



We do not approve of Rahul Gandhi's remarks on Savarkar. We have immense respect and faith for Swatantra Veer Savarkar and it cannot be erased

UDDHAV THACKERAY | FORMER MAHA CM

### GADKARI FALLS ILL IN SILIGURI

Union Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari fell ill Thursday afternoon after an official function in West Bengal's Siliguri district, but is said to be stable now. Gadkari complained of not feeling well as he came down from the stage after laying the foundation stone of a proposed road connecting Siliguri with Sevak Cantonment



### 'ILLEGAL' MINING CASE

Charges against me baseless, says Soren



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Nov 17:** Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday claimed that the allegations leveled against him in a mining case are "baseless".

Addressing reporters before leaving for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office in Ranchi, where he is set to face questioning in connection with the matter, Soren claimed that he was a "victim of conspiracy" by the Opposition. "The central agency should level allegations only after a detailed investigation into the matter," he said. The ED summoned Soren at its regional office here for interrogation in a money laundering case linked to alleged illegal mining in the state.

The agency has said it has "identified" proceeds of crime relating to illegal stone mining in the state to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore till now. Soren, talking to reporters, said, "If we calculate the yearly revenue from stone chips mining, it would not touch Rs 1,000 crore. How they estimated the figure is beyond understanding. I am going to ED office and want to see how they arrived at that figure."

"I am the Chief Minister of the state and hold a constitutional post. But the way summons were issued, it seems I will flee from the country. In my political career, I haven't found any political leader leaving the country, but businessmen have done so," he said.

The chief minister said that such actions create uncertainty in the state. "The Opposition has been hatching a conspiracy to topple this government ever since we came to power. The conspirators who were working like a submarine, have now come to the surface," Soren said.

# Covaxin not approved due to pressure: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The Union Health Ministry Thursday termed as "misleading" and "fallacious" media reports which claimed that regulatory approval for Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin was rushed due to political pressure.

It said scientific approach and prescribed norms were adhered to in approving Covid-19 vaccines for emergency use authorisation. "These media reports are completely misleading, fallacious and ill-informed. It is clarified that Government of India and the national regulator i.e. CDSCO have followed a scientific approach and prescribed norms in approving Covid-19 vaccines for emergency use authorisation," the ministry stated.

The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)



met January 1 and 2, 2021 and after due deliberations made recommendations in respect of proposal for Restricted Emergency Approval of Covid-19 virus vaccine of Bharat Biotech.

Before Covaxin was approved for restricted emergency use in January 2021, the Subject Expert Committee reviewed the data on

There have been media reports claiming that Bharat Biotech, manufacturer of the indigenous COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin, "had to skip certain processes" and "speed" up clinical trials due to political pressure, the ministry said

The reports further claimed that there were several irregularities in the three phases of the clinical trials conducted for the vaccine

afety and immunogenicity of the vaccine and recommended for grant of permission for restricted use in emergency situation in public interest as an abundant precaution, in clinical trial mode, to have more options for vaccinations, especially in case of infection by mutant strains. The SEC's approval for commencement of

phase 3 clinical trial of proposed dose of Covaxin was based on scientific data presented by Bharat Biotech and established practices in this regard, the ministry said.

Moreover, the purported 'unscientific changes' in clinical trials of Covaxin, as claimed in the news reports, were made after submis-

## RAHUL GANDHI SPARKS NEW CONTROVERSY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Akola (Maharashtra), Nov 17:** Unfazed by the controversy over his recent statement against VD Savarkar, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi targeted Thursday the late Hindutva ideologue again, claiming that he helped the British rulers and wrote a mercy petition to them out of fear.

However, Rahul's comments drew criticism and triggered protests from both the Shiv Sena and the BJP. Savarkar's grandson Thursday lodged a police complaint against Rahul in Mumbai for "insulting" his grandfather.

Rahul's fresh attack on Savarkar comes just two days after he called the freedom fighter a symbol of the BJP and the RSS. He was already under fire of the BJP and the Eknath Shinde-led faction of the Shiv Sena for those remarks.

Former Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray said Thursday that he does not approve of Rahul's remarks on Savarkar (made Tuesday) and maintained that his party has immense respect for the freedom fighter. Thackeray made the statement at a press conference in Mumbai some time before Rahul interacted with mediapersons here.

Addressing a press conference at Wadegaon in this, Rahul showed documents dating back to 1920 to mediapersons, claiming that they contained a letter written by Savarkar to the British.

"I will read the last line, which says 'I beg to remain your most obedient servant' and is signed V D Savarkar, which shows he helped the British", Rahul said at the media interaction during his Bharat Jodo Yatra that is in the last leg in Maharashtra.



RISKY ATTEMPT: People cross a railway track under a parked train in Patna, Bihar

PTI PHOTO

## C V ANANDA BOSE APPOINTED AS WEST BENGAL GOVERNOR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** Former bureaucrat C V Ananda Bose was Thursday appointed the Governor of West Bengal, a communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

Bose (71) is a 1977 batch (retired) Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Kerala cadre. He last served as an administrator in the National Museum here before superannuating in 2011.

"The President of India is pleased to appoint Dr C V Ananda Bose as regular Governor of West Bengal," the communique said.

His appointment will take effect on the date he assumes charge of his office, it said. Manipur Governor La Ganesan had been holding the additional charge of



governor of West Bengal for nearly three years.

He had engaged in tussles with the Mamata Banerjee government on multiple occasions over the law and order situation and other issues in the state. La Ganesan, however, shares a cordial relationship with the state government. Banerjee had travelled to Tamil Nadu earlier this month to attend a family function at the invitation of La Ganesan.

Bose has worked both in his cadre state Kerala and in the Centre in different positions. He has been the district collector of Quilon district (now Kollam) in Kerala, served as the secretary to the then chief minister of the state and as additional secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, among others, according to his official records.

## Terror funding increasing through social media: NIA



**Director General of the NIA, Dinkar Gupta said that measures to curb such cases of terror funding would be discussed in the 'No Money for Terror' ministerial conference, being held in Delhi November 18-19**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** India has evidence social media platforms are being used to raise terror funds, NIA Director General Dinkar Gupta said Thursday, underlining that the issue will be deliberated during a two-day international ministerial conference on countering terror financing.

Addressing a press conference ahead of the meeting beginning Friday, Gupta also said Pakistan and Afghanistan were not participating in the conference, while China was yet to confirm. The third 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing' hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among others.

Asked if Pakistan, China and Afghanistan were invited to the conference, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Sanjay Verma said, "China has been invited." He, however, remained silent

on the other two neighbouring countries.

Giving details of the conference, Gupta made it clear that no country-specific discussion is part of the agenda but representatives of 73 nations, including ministers of over 20 of them, will discuss with an open heart all issues, be it the source of terror, the threat or its funding.

"Every participating country has full right to express its views," he said. Gupta said terror activities have declined in India during the last eight years, and there is a "huge reduction" in terror activities in all "theatres of conflicts", be it Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, the northeast or the areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.

He said it was a battle to be fought, and the country has to strengthen its infrastructure, mechanisms, and frameworks to fight this menace of global terrorism and its financing.

To a question on the inclusion of social media platform regulation in the agenda of the terror financing conference, Gupta said social media platforms are being used to raise financing, funding or as crowdfunding platforms.

The director general said terror financing was a critical issue and it needed to be discussed, be it the traditional modes of funding terror activities like hawala, wire transfers or cash couriers, or the new ways that are developing.

## Cervical cancer 4th most common among women: WHO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 17:** The World Health Organisation and its member states in the South-East Asia Region and across the world marked the second Cervical Cancer Elimination Day of Action Thursday.

The cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women with an estimated 604,000 new cases and 342,000 deaths in 2020, of which the South East Region accounted for 32 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively, said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia.

"Vaccination of girls against human papillomavirus (HPV), screening and treatment of pre-cancer lesions, and improved access to diagnosis and treatment of invasive cancers are critical, cost-effective measures that pol-



### CERVICAL CANCER

The cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women with an estimated 604,000 new cases and 342,000 deaths in 2020, of which the South East Region accounted for 32 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively

DR POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH  
WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

icy makers should urgently apply to eliminate cervical cancer, in line with the Region's Flagship Priority on preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases, as well as the 2021 Regional Implementation Framework on eliminating cervical

cancer as a public health problem. "Five Member States - Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand - have introduced nationwide HPV vaccination, which Bangladesh, India and Timor-Leste will soon also introduce. HPV vac-

ination has been introduced in several provinces of Indonesia, protecting tens of millions of girls," Dr Singh said.

The gaps and challenges nevertheless persist, which if unaddressed, will prevent the Region from achieving the global 90-70-90 targets: that is, by 2030, ensure that 90 per cent of girls are fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine; that 70 per cent of women are screened using a high-performance test by 35 years of age, and again by 45 years of age; that 90 per cent of women identified with cervical disease or pre-cancer are treated; and that 90 per cent of women with invasive cancer are effectively managed, said South East Director.

Dr Singh said that WHO has called for action in several key areas to achieve the elimination target of four or less cases per 100,000 women.





