



SEPARATION RUMOURS

Sania Mirza is in the news, with rumours buzzing about her separation from cricketer Shoaib Malik

LEISURE P2



US VOTES

Americans cast the final ballots in midterm polls that will determine whether Democrats lose control of Congress

INTERNATIONAL P10



GARCIA WINS WTA FINALS

Caroline Garcia plops on a cowboy hat to go with the trophy after beating Aryna Sabalenka for the WTA Finals crown

SPORTS P12

Justice Chandrachud to take over as CJI today

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: Senior-most Supreme Court judge and CJI-designate Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud is all set to become the 50th head of the Indian judiciary Wednesday when President Draupadi Murmu would administer the oath of office to him at Rashtrapati Bhawan here.

His illustrious father YV Chandrachud was the longest-serving Chief Justice of India (CJI) and remained at the helm from February 22, 1978 to July 11, 1985.

Justice Chandrachud will serve as the CJI for two years till November 10, 2024. Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65.

He succeeds Uday Umesh Lalit, who had recommended him as his successor to the Centre October 11. President Draupadi Murmu had appointed him as the next CJI October 17.

Justice Chandrachud, born November 11, 1959, was elevated to the top court May 13, 2016.

He has been part of several Constitution benches and landmark verdicts of the top court including on matters relating to the Ayodhya land dispute, the right to privacy and adultery.

Justice Chandrachud was also part of the benches which delivered path-breaking judgements on decriminalising same-sex relations after it partially struck down Section 377 of the IPC, the validity of the Aadhaar scheme and the Sabarimala issue.

Recently, a bench headed by him expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act and the corresponding rules to include unmarried women for abortion between 20-24 weeks of pregnancy. The Justice Chandrachud-led bench had also passed several directions to assuage the miseries faced by people during the Covid-19 crisis, terming the brutal second wave of the pandemic last year as a 'national crisis'.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Can't say about economically weaker sections, but the verdict will help politically smarter sections!

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	31.6°C	30.5°C
TEMP. MIN	20.6°C	21.0°C
Humidity	77%	68%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather likely	



MARITIME FEST: A giant wheel at Baliyatra Ground on Mahanadi riverbed in Cuttack. Thousands throng the trade fair that kicked off, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Baliyatra kicks off after 2-year hiatus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 8: State's Baliyatra, linked to the maritime history of Kalinga, began on Mahanadi riverbank here amid tight security, Tuesday.

The nine-day event was inaugurated by Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Minister Pradeep Amat. Enthusiasm was palpable among locals who attended the event after two years' gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Cuttack district administration, Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) and Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissionerate of Police made several arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of the event.

Police Commissioner SK Priyadarsi said around 1,500 personnel have been deployed.

The officer said at least 20 police aid posts and four support centres have been opened for visitors and special women's teams deployed.

"Watch towers and CCTV cameras have been installed for effective surveillance," he said, adding, provision of wheelchairs for senior citizens and differently-abled has also been made.

A 19-year-old trader from Bihar, identified as Mohammad Irshad, drowned while taking bath in Mahandi. He had come to open a stall.

Ritualists-rationalists clash

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar/Berhampur, Nov 8: Two groups, claiming themselves as traditionalists and rationalists, clashed in Bhubaneswar and in Berhampur town Tuesday over consumption of food on lunar eclipse day which prompted the police to intervene and control the situation.

A clash took place at Lohia Academy building under Kharavela Nagar police limits in Bhubaneswar where a group of people identifying themselves as rationalists organised a community feast and was opposed by a number of people claiming to be traditionalists.

The second group, most of them youths, forcibly entered the Lohia Academy premises when the community feast was going on and attacked the rationalists, police said.

Police intervened when the situation turned volatile and even people who were eating biryani served at the community feast were thrashed. As the condition escalated, the police picked up about 12 members of both groups as a preventive measure.

In Berhampur, a group claiming to be traditionalists allegedly threw cow dung at a temporary camp where non-vegetarian food was served at a community feast. They also tore down posters which said there is no harm in consuming food on and during lunar or solar eclipse.

This led to the police resorting to lathi charge in order to disperse the warring groups.

FOOD CONSUMPTION DURING ECLIPSE



Police personnel intervene to prevent escalation of clashes in Bhubaneswar and Berhampur

OP PHOTOS

It's a failure of the state's intelligence, especially when cops knew about the prevailing tension over the issue since the solar eclipse day. The clashes could have been averted had the police acted prudently

DHITABRATA NAYAK | BHUBANESWAR LAWYER

"I blame the state government and the police for the entire episode. Police was aware that there was tension between the two groups over consumption of food on solar eclipse day—October 25," said Ganesh Das, a rationalist, who attended the community feast and meeting

As we knew there was tension between the groups, we deployed two platoons of force near Lohia Academy to prevent any mishap. That's the reason the clash did not escalate

RAJANIKANTA MISHRA | KHARAVELA NAGAR IIC

at Lohia Academy here. Kameswar Tripathy, a ritualist in Bhubaneswar, said they do not promote violence. "However, if they (rationalists) continue hurting the religious sentiments of Hindus, we'll intensify our stir," Prafulla Samantray, who at-

tended the community feast at Berhampur, said, "We demand proper action against the people who attacked the community feast."

Local CPI leader Narayan Reddy claimed that three members of the rationalists' group were injured in stone pelting in Berhampur.

The issue was also raised during the October 25 solar eclipse when there was a verbal duel between two groups over eating food during eclipse.

Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati and many Hindu religious heads rejected the rationalists' argument that the tradition of forgoing food during eclipse was superstition.

Continued on P4

NGT slaps ₹12cr fine on Srimandir admin

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has slapped a fine of ₹12 crore on Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) over damage caused to the environment due to illegal quarrying of laterite stone on land belonging to Lord Jagannath in Khurda, an official said Tuesday.

The SJTA has been asked to deposit the fine amount with the Khurda Collector. The money would be used for restitution, reclamation and renovation of excavated sites in the district.

While asking the Khurda Collector to complete the restoration work within four months, the environment watchdog asked the Khurda administration to submit an Action-Taken Report in this regard by March 31, 2023.

The NGT move came while hearing pleas filed by Bidu Bhusan Harichandan and Dilip Kumar Samantaray, represented by lawyer Sankar Prasad Pani, in 2018.

Pani had informed the tribunal that laterite stone mining was rampant at 40 different sites measuring an area of around 500 acre covering several villages in Khurda. He alleged that the persons involved in stone mining have neither obtained the necessary environmental clearance nor consent to

operate from the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and other authorities. They have cut down many trees in the area of mining, the petitioners said.

Taking cognisance, the NGT constituted a committee comprising a senior scientist/engineer of Central Pollution Control Board, Collector of Khurda, Member Secretary of State Environment Impact Assessment Authority and the representative of the Odisha SPCB to enquire into the allegations. The tribunal served notices on parties, including SJTA.

On December 3, 2021, the Khurda Collector informed the NGT that the filling of abandoned quarries with fly ash and top soil with morrum would cost around ₹11,75,00,000

In its affidavit, the SJTA informed the tribunal that they have detected 26 laterite stone quarries on land belonging to Lord Jagannath in Dakshineswar, Nijagarhtapanga, Jhinkijhari, Narasingh Prasad, Chhatipur and Dhaulimunha in Khurda. Of the 26, four stone quarries have been auctioned by the SJTA. Out of the four, three lease holders were operating with valid clearance certificates, while one was operating in violation of law.

The SJTA has informed NGT that no mining operation will be undertaken at the 23 quarries in future. On December 3, 2021, the Khurda Collector informed the tribunal that the filling of abandoned quarries with fly ash and top soil with morrum would cost around ₹11,75,00,000.

NO NEW ₹2K NOTES PRINTED SINCE 2019

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: An RTI reply has disclosed that no new ₹2,000 denomination currency notes were printed during 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

The RTI application filed by IANS disclosed that the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (P) Ltd printed 3,542.991 million pieces of Rs 2,000 notes in the financial year 2016-17, which drastically came down to 111.507 million notes in 2017-18 and was further reduced to 46.690 million notes in 2018-19.

The RTI reply received from the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (P) Ltd revealed said that 'V' number of Rs 2,000 denomination currency note was printed in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

The Reserve Bank of India had introduced the Rs 2,000 note after the government announced the demonetisation move that banned old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes on November 8, 2016.

A recent reply in the Parliament (August 1) said that the number of fake currency notes of Rs 2,000 denomination seized in the country as per NCRB data increased substantially between 2016 and 2020, from 2,272 to 2,44,834 pieces.

As per the data, the total number of fake Rs 2,000 notes seized in the country in 2016 was 2,272, which increased to 74,898 in 2017 before reducing to 54,776 in 2018. The figures in 2019 stood at 90,566 pieces, before registering a remarkable spike in 2020 to 2,44,834 pieces.

Non-stick pans could release millions of microplastics

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 8: Non-stick pans and pots could be releasing millions of ultrasmall Teflon plastic particles during cooking as they gradually lose their coating, researchers have said.

According to a study published in the journal 'Science of the Total Environment', a single crack on the surface of a Teflon-coated pan can release around 9,100 plastic particles.

Researchers including those from Flinders University in Australia have assessed how millions of tiny plastic particles potentially come off during cooking and washing of non-stick pans and pots. The researchers have highlighted the release of 2.3 million microplastics and nanoplastics from

broken coating, indicating an increased risk of exposure to these chemicals during cooking.

Microplastics are pieces of plastic that measure below five millimetres and nanoplastics measure less than 1 micrometre.

Teflon is the brand name of the chemical Polytetrafluoroethylene—a synthetic polymer containing just carbon and fluorine that is one of the most well-known and widely used 'forever chemicals'.

The name 'forever chemicals' comes from the fact that they are not broken down easily in the environment and remain a persistent issue for generations, it was learnt.

According to Cheng Fang, a co-author of the study from the University of Newcastle in Australia, the non-stick coating material Teflon is generally a fam-



ily member of PFAS.

PFAS are chemicals that are commonly found in non-stick cookware, firefighting foams and commercial products that resist grease and oil.

Several researches have linked the use of these chemicals to several health disorders, including reduced immunity, hormone disruption and increased risks of different types of cancer.

"Given the fact PFAS is a big concern, these Teflon microparticles in our food might be a health concern, [which] needs investigating because we don't know much about these emerging contaminants," Fang said.

"We estimate that thousands to millions of Teflon microplastics and nanoplastics might be released during a mimic cooking process," scientists wrote in the study.

Youhong Tang, another author of the study from Flinders University, said, "It gives us a strong warning that we must be careful about selecting and using cooking utensils to avoid food contamination." Researchers are of the opinion that further studies are needed to assess the risk of Teflon microplastics and nanoplastics during cooking since Teflon is a family member of PFAS.

leisure



'PEOPLE' NAMES CHRIS EVANS 2022'S SEXIEST MAN ALIVE

Hollywood star Chris Evans, who is known for his portrayal of 'Captain America' in Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), has been named the 'Sexiest Man Alive' for 2022 by People magazine. Reacting to his new title, he said that this news will delight at least one person - his mother.

ALANIS DROPPED OUT OF GIG BECAUSE OF SEXISM

Canadian-American singer Alanis Morissette claims encountering sexism is what caused her to drop out of a performance at the 'Rock and Roll Hall of Fame' ceremony. She was set to perform a duet with Olivia Rodrigo of the classic hit 'You're So Vain' as part of a tribute to inductee Carly Simon.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will be resolute and unwavering in your work today. By afternoon, you'll see results. Love will lighten your workload in the evening, when you meet your beloved. If single, you may come across someone very interesting, muses Ganesh.

TAURUS
This is a day for going on a shopping spree, says Ganesh. There are strong chances that you will be buying something durable and lasting, may be the latest fridge on the stalls. Later in the day, you are most likely to visit an exhibition and pick up some artistic and exotic objects.

GEMINI
Ganesh advises you to remain steadfast and disciplined in any work that you take up today. You will be full of enthusiasm, and will try to complete all your pending work. However, you need to make sure that your energies are being channeled in the right direction.

CANCER
It's time to meet friends, family members, neighbours, acquaintances, and people in general. Now that you are meeting so many people, you will also pay a visit to the Almighty. So a visit to a nearby temple, mosque, church or any other religious place is likely.

LEO
It is a race against time, and you cannot afford to lose today. Ganesh foresees you working extra hard in order to meet deadlines on this busy day. Expect a few tasks in the afternoon that may involve you moving against your will. But once again, your work shall provide you with the variety that you seek on this monotonous day.

VIRGO
Heart-break kid - this is the new epithet for you today. Your pockets will empty faster than you can save. Expect marital bliss to blossom and bloom. Bond with the best, rather, your better half, advises Ganesh.

LIBRA
Time is money. Today, this statement will have greater significance as you identify the upshot of time in your line of work. Every second counts for you, and you may fall back on the good old personal planner to sort things out. Also, early in the day, you may take up some burning issues and elaborate your views on them in a taking-the-bull-by-its-horns manner.

SCORPIO
The planets indicate you won't look before you leap, and commit to a hasty decision at work, says Ganesh. In the afternoon, all those efforts you put in will go down the drain. Expect to catch a seat all alone on a business trip, says Ganesh. In the evening, you may walk that extra mile to please your beloved.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesh sees you holding the fort to safeguard the interests of your loved ones. Afternoon may be reserved for undertaking a business trip. But a fun-frolic outing may well be a good option too! Expect to shell out a few extra bucks though, when you opt for a cosmetic make-over.

CAPRICORN
Striving hard to meet deadlines and taking time out to pursue your passion will be the major highlights of the day, says Ganesh. You may also wonder why your boss suddenly appears so pleased with you, but don't get carried away by the outward show. When everything seems right is exactly when you need to watch out for trouble.

AQUARIUS
Good news about a loved one will bring on a festive mood. You only need an itchy-bitsy excuse to party, and that's what you'll do today! You will make new friends, and they will prove helpful in times of need. Ganesh suggests a candlelit dinner to round up a perfect day.

PISCES
It is likely to be an extremely hectic day at work, but you will seize the initiative with some bold strategising. You will be busy dressing up for a party in the evening, to offset all the stress of a long hard day at work, says Ganesh.

Sania's cryptic post amid divorce speculation

Dubai: The former Indian tennis player Sania Mirza and Pakistan cricketer Shoaib Malik are all over the news. They got married in April 2010 in a star-studded wedding and are parents to one boy. Reports say that they are facing a rough patch in their marriage. Nothing has been confirmed yet, but Sania's latest

Instagram posts have hinted at the trouble in their paradise. The tennis player took to her social media saying, "Where do broken hearts go. To find Allah." Other media sites including Pakistani mentioned that Shoaib Malik allegedly cheated on Sania during one of his TV shows. It has been also re-



End of superstar era good for industry: Janhvi

Mumbai: Actress Janhvi Kapoor, one of the most talented and most loved of the current generation has proven time and again that she is a versatile actress and can convincingly portray any character on the big screen. Well, currently she is basking in the success of her recently released film 'Mili' which is a survival story and it also stars Sunny Kaushal and Manoj Pahwa in pivotal roles. Opening up about the cultural shift in Hindi cinema which is inspiring filmmakers to focus on stories and not stars, Janhvi said, "I remember papa telling me stories about how Rajesh Khanna's car would drive away and women would take the sand and put it in their maang. I don't think they would do that for anyone today". Janhvi emphasised that this isn't a bad thing. She added that she is happy with this change as it will not motivate people to write films that are compelling as opposed to just saying, 'acha, yeh hero hai, film ko itne budget mein bana denge, do gaane daal denge, opening toh mil jayegi'.



Big B urges fans to watch 'Uunchai'

Mumbai: Amitabh Bachchan recently hosted his Uunchai co-stars Anupam Kher, Boman Irani and Neena Gupta on his quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati. During the special episode, he also made a special request to the audience as well as the viewers, asking them to visit the theatres to watch the film. He said, "Theatre jakar, ticket khareed kar picture dekhne ka jo maza hai vo kujh aur hi hota hai. Kripya karke jaiyega theatre mein humari tasveer dekhne, aajkal badi maramari chal ri hai, koi ja hi nahi raha hai theatre mein. Haad jodte hain hum aapke, ticket lekar jaiyega (there is a different joy in going to the theatre and watching a movie after buying a ticket. The situation is very tough these days, no one is going to theatre. I join my hands and request you to buy tickets and watch our movie in theatres)."

Neena Gupta added that the prices of tickets are also down from 300-400 to 150 and asked Amitabh to tell this as well to the audience. This left him and the audience in splits.

Odia film on transgender cabbie shines at IFFFB

Bhubaneswar: After a successful trailer and poster launch at Cannes, Odia film "T", based on the life of Meghna Sahoo, a transgender from Bhubaneswar, bagged top honours at India International Film Festival of Boston (IFFB), the USA. Premiered at the event September 25, the movie was nominated in three categories - Best Actor (male), Best Director and Best Film - and it has now won Best Actor and Best Feature film on LGBTQ awards. Debasish Sahu won the award for Best Actor for his portrayal of a transgender woman. Prior to IFFFB, the film had bagged four awards at international events like Sweden Film Festival, Fox International Film Festival of Rome, Stockholm International Film Festival and Golden Lemur Film Festival of Portugal. The plot of the movie revolves around the struggles faced by Meghna, India's



first transgender cab driver showcasing her life's journey. Reacting to the news, actor and producer of the movie Jitesh Parida says, "We have tried to reflect society's reality in the film to associate common people with the issues of LGBTQ community. We hope this recognition will help us in getting closer to our objective." The film also stars Usashi Mishra, Hara Rath and Prasanjit Mohapatra in key roles.

PEANUTS



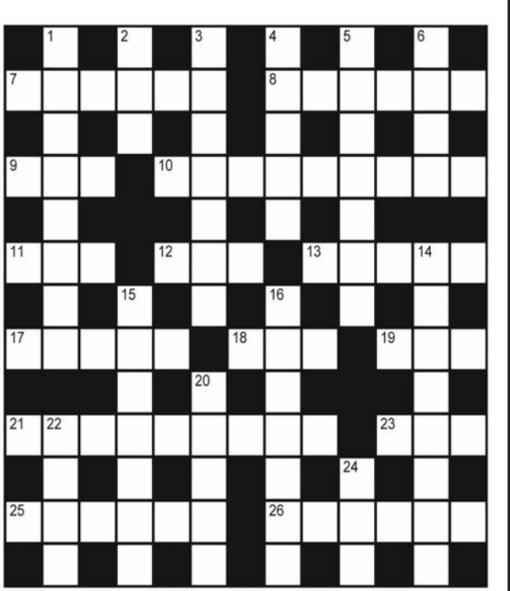
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



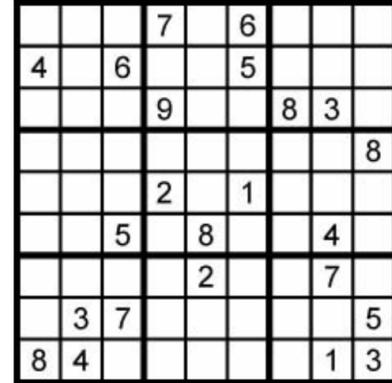
FUN post CROSSWORD



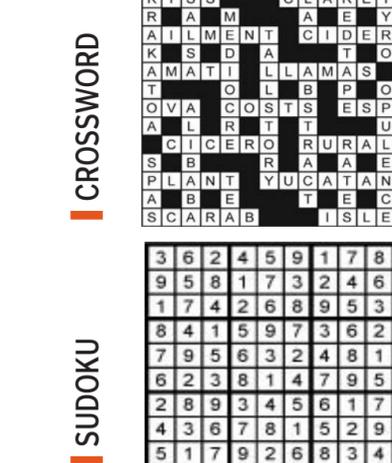
- Across**
- 7 Be a busybody
 - 8 Wine bottle sizes
 - 9 Large snake
 - 10 It rotates around the North Star (4,5)
 - 11 Slow-witted
 - 12 Tsetse
 - 13 Carpenter's tool
 - 17 Routine
 - 18 Overhead light?
 - 19 Pendulum's path
 - 21 Marked by richness of detail
 - 23 Embrace
 - 25 Aromas
 - 26 Defraud (3-3)
 - Down**
 - 1 Exercise type
 - 2 Commotion
 - 3 Oceanic birds
 - 4 Church part
 - 5 Clad
 - 6 Zilch
 - 14 Winter warmers
 - 15 Seaport
 - 16 Carrion eater
 - 20 Greet the day
 - 22 Jar toppers
 - 24 Gibbon, for one

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

WORLD TRAVEL MARKET 2022

Tourism scaling new heights under CM's leadership: Patra



Tourism in WTM has ensured the presence of Odisha on the international stage, and this will help in promoting the state's world-class tourism infrastructure in the international level

ASWINI KUMAR PATRA | TOURISM MINISTER

Tourism in WTM London 2022 has ensured the presence of brand Odisha on the international stage, and this will help in promoting the world-class tourism infrastructure of Odisha in the international level.

Considered to be among the biggest travel shows in the world, the WTM, London will provide the state with a perfect platform for networking and business opportunities with top notch exhibitors from all parts of the globe marking their presence in the event. Owing to the Covid pandemic, the WTM was last held in 2019. Being organised after a gap of three years, there is huge enthusiasm among the exhibitors to promote themselves in the international level through WTM.

The participation of Odisha Tourism in WTM 2022 has garnered positive feedback among the Tourism & Travel fraternity of India owing to its efforts towards pitching Odisha as a leading tourism destination in the country with its niche tourism products.

Incredible India Stand was inaugurated in the presence of Patra, Tourism Minister of Puducherry K Laxminarayanan, Tourism Minister of Tamil Nadu M Mathiventhan, Odisha Chief Secretary, Union Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh, High Commissioner of India HE Vikram Duraiswamy and Director of the Odisha Tourism Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Patra said, "It is a matter of great pride to see the Odisha Flag flying high in WTM 2022. Tourism in Odisha is achieving new heights under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The participation of Odisha



FOR A DIGNIFIED LIFE: Auto drivers belonging to Odisha Driver Mahasangha taking out a rally from Vani Vihar to PMG Square in Bhubaneswar seeking fulfillment of their various demands, Tuesday

3-YEAR OLD GIRL RESCUED

Bhubaneswar: Childline members with help of Badagada police Tuesday rescued a three-year-old girl illegally sold to a couple of Pipli. The mother of the girl had earlier lodged a complaint at Badagada police station here alleging that her daughter had been sold to Osid Mohamud and Mamtaj Begum of Pipli by her husband. "An illegal adoption deed was carried out between the father in a non-judicial paper in the court. It also has come to the notice of Childline that this illegal adoption has been planned and carried out by a Notary Public advocate Bibekanda Biswal at Bhubaneswar Court with an affidavit. The Notary is also instrumental in changing the name of the child and given a Muslim name. Even in absence of the mother he has done this affidavit in her name," claimed Childline sources.

'Efforts to revive ancient ship-building technology'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: A three-day national Dhara event - 'Samudramanthan', organised under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' with a focus on the state's rich maritime history and to create the vision document on maritime traditions-2047, kicked off Tuesday.

The programme was inaugurated at the SOA Deemed to be University here with speakers shedding light on India's maritime history. Coinciding with the inauguration of the historic Bali Yatra at nearby Cuttack, the event has been organised by the Indian Knowledge System Division of Ministry of Education in association with the Ministry of Culture and SOA.

The event will include panel and roundtable discussions on the country's maritime history locations, traditions, ship building, navigation, trade and cultural exchange, maritime security and international law which will be held at the Odisha Maritime Museum at Cuttack over the next two days.

The inaugural programme was addressed by Sanjeev Sanyal, author and member, Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister; GS Murthy, National Coordinator, IKS

Division, Priyanka Chandra, Director, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Culture and Pradipta Kumar Nanda, pro-vice chancellor, SOA, Nachieketa K Sharma, director, University Outreach Programme, SOA welcomed the speakers while Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) proposed the vote of thanks.

Sanyal, in his keynote address, highlighted India's ancient maritime exploits saying it is the only country in the world after which an ocean has been named. "India wielded enormous influence in South East Asia through its trade, culture and geo-politics during the time," he said adding that efforts were on to revive the ancient 'stitched ship technology' practised by Indians to build ships centuries ago.

History has recorded Odisha's maritime exploits of the past which made it a knowledge powerhouse because of its highly developed maritime traditions where seafarers traded extensively with the countries to the east, west and south of the Indian subcontinent. The famous Baliyatra, an annual event held on the edge of the Mahanadi river in Cuttack, is intended to celebrate the journey of ancient mariners from the Odisha coast to Bali island in distant Indonesia.

Continued from P1
Ritualists-rationalists clash

The rationalists were accused of hurting the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Intellectuals claimed that the police was aware of the simmering tension between the two groups over consumption of food on solar eclipse day—October 25. "It's a complete failure of the state's intelligence, especially when cops knew about the prevailing tension over the issue since the solar eclipse day. The clashes could have been averted had the police acted prudently," said Dhritabrata Nayak, a lawyer in Bhubaneswar.

When contacted, Kharavela Nagar IIC Rajanikanta Mishra said two separate cases were registered on the basis of complaints from both sides. "As we knew there was tension between the groups, we deployed two platoons of force near Lohia Academy to prevent any mishap. It's the reason the clash did not escalate," Mishra added.

Naveen hails nurses for bagging national award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday congratulated three nurses from Odisha for receiving the prestigious National Florence Nightingale Awards 2021.

The Chief Minister congratulated Damayanti Rout, Sibani Das and Khulana Barik on receiving the prestigious award from President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Naveen also saluted their selflessness, dedication and commitment in serving people.

In his Twitter account CM said, "Congratulate nurses from Odisha, Damayanti Rout, Sibani Das & Khulana Barik on receiving the prestigious National Florence Nightingale Awards 2021 from President Droupadi Murmu. Salute their selflessness, dedication & commitment in serving people", the CM tweeted.

While Rout works as an ANM at the public health sub-centre of



Nurses with President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhawan after receiving National Florence Nightingale Awards 2021

Gounighasa in Keonjhar district, Barik is posted at the district headquarters hospital of Jagatsinghpur and Das at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

Both Das and Barik have two decades of experience in nursing and have handled lakhs of patients so far. Rout, since 2003, has been conducting immunisation and village health and nutrition day sessions

in inaccessible areas of Ghasipura block in Keonjhar. She has been visiting households in her cycle for the last 19 years.

The National Florence Nightingale Awards were instituted in the year 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.

CLASSIFIED
AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit on dtd. 29 Aug. 22 Before The Executive Magistrate, Talcher vide AR no-2460,1 Anitamalini Nayak 54yr, D/o- It. Nityananda Nayak & W/o-Alekha Nayak Vill./PO: Jagannathpur, PS.-Colliery, Thr, Angul, do hereby declares, In my Vld. & ROR khata no-420/225 of mouza- Jagannathpur, My name has reflects Anita Nayak. My SBI A/c, Aadhaar & PAN my name has been mentioned as Anitamalini Nayak. Anita Nayak & Anitamalini Nayak of said address is one & same person(s) in this locality except me.

Exposure to third hand smoke may trigger skin diseases

Acute exposure to thirdhand smoke may increase the risk of skin diseases such as contact dermatitis and psoriasis, according to a small study.

Thirdhand smoke (THS) comprises the residual pollutants from tobacco smoke that remain on surfaces and in dust after tobacco has been smoked. It can remain on indoor surfaces indefinitely, causing potentially harmful exposure to both smokers and non-smokers.

Acute exposure of the skin to thirdhand smoke elevates biomarkers associated with the initiation of skin diseases. Biomarkers are natural substances that indicate a biological state, most commonly a disease.

The study, published in eBioMedicine, claims to be the first one to be performed on humans exposed dermally to THS.

"We found that exposure of

human skin to THS initiates mechanisms of inflammatory skin disease, and elevates urinary biomarkers of oxidative harm, which could lead to other diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, and atherosclerosis," said researcher Shane Sakamaki-Ching from University of California.

The research, which took place at UC San Francisco, involved the participation of 10 healthy, non-smokers who were 22 to 45 years old.

For three hours, each participant wore clothing infused with THS and either walked or ran on a treadmill for at least 15 minutes each hour to induce perspiration and increase uptake of THS through the skin.

"Alarmingly, acute dermal exposure to THS mimics the harmful effects of cigarette smoking. We found acute THS exposure caused elevation of urinary bio-



markers of oxidative damage to DNA, lipids, and proteins, and these biomarkers remained high after the exposure stopped," said Sakamaki-Ching. "Cigarette smokers show the

same elevation in these biomarkers. Our findings can help physicians in diagnosing patients exposed to THS and help develop regulatory policies dealing with remediation of indoor environ-

ments contaminated with THS," said Sakamaki-Ching.

Prue Talbot, a professor of cell biology in whose lab Sakamaki-Ching worked, explained that skin is the largest organ to contact THS and may thus receive the greatest exposure.

"There is a general lack of knowledge of human health responses to THS exposure," said Talbot, the paper's corresponding author.

"If you buy a used car previously owned by a smoker, you are putting yourself at some health risk. If you go to a casino that allows smoking, you are exposing your skin to THS. The same applies to staying in a hotel room that was previously occupied by a smoker."

The THS exposures that the ten participants were subjected to were relatively brief and did not cause visible changes in the skin.

Nevertheless, the molecular biomarkers in blood that are associated with early-stage activation of contact dermatitis, psoriasis and other skin conditions were elevated. "This underscores the idea that dermal exposure to THS could lead to molecular initiation of inflammation-induced skin diseases," Sakamaki-Ching said.

The participants did not know the clothing had THS. Blood and urine samples were then collected from the participants at regular intervals to identify protein changes and markers of oxidative stress induced by the THS. Control exposure participants wore clean clothing.

Next, the researchers plan to evaluate residues left by electronic cigarettes that can come into contact with human skin. They also plan to evaluate larger populations exposed to longer periods of dermal. PTI

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HAL boost for Jagannath Sagar

THE CENTRAL PSU WILL PROVIDE ₹7 CRORE FOR BEAUTIFICATION AND RENOVATION OF THE SPRAWLING WATER BODY IN JEYPORE TOWN



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jeypore, Nov 8: State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) will pay ₹7 crore for renovation and beautification of the historic water body 'Jagannath Sagar' here in Koraput district, officials said.

other officials and all councilors of the civic body were present during the ceremony.

The Jeypore MLA also laid the foundation stone of a room for keeping the relics of the deceased at Bhootnath crematorium. The total cost of the project is estimated to be ₹5.56 lakh. A park will also be built at a cost of ₹25 lakh at Dhanwi Township in this city. Bahinipati also asserted that there will be no dearth of funds for the development and upgrading of the historic water body.

Prior to the ceremony, an MoU was signed Saturday between Jeypore Municipality representing the Koraput district adminis-

tration and HAL for renovation of 'Jagannath Sagar'.

It should be stated here that 'Jagannath Sagar' was created more than three centuries back by the erstwhile royals of Jeypore over 300 acres of land. However, due to encroachments, dumping of garbage and lack of maintenance, the water body has shrunk to 55 acres.

According to the MoU, HAL will pay ₹7 crore in three phases during a three-year period. The funds will be spent on construction and installation of the main gate, an amusement centre for children, a resting place for senior citizens, an open air theatre, walkway, drainage system and a café, sources from HAL said. HAL will pay ₹1 crore in the first phase, ₹3.50 crore in the second and ₹2.50 crore in the third. The initial amount of ₹1 crore will be provided in four installments, sources said.

The development and renovation of 'Jagannath Sagar' has become a reality because of the efforts of local denizens and as the matter was raised consistently in the Odisha Assembly by Bahinipati.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra took notice of the issues raised by Bahinipati. Apart from the funding by HAL, a detailed project report of ₹8 crore has been prepared and submitted to the Odisha government for its appraisal and final approval. A survey has also been undertaken to prevent flow of polluted water into the water body



DEVELOPING TALENT: Tribal girls learning hockey skills at a training programme organised at Kasturba Gandhi Girls High School in Sindhrimal about 9 kilometres from Malkangiri

Youths duped over jobs in VIMSAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 8: Youths duped in the name of providing them with jobs at the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) here, have become a cause of concern for the health authorities. The fraudsters are issuing forged appointment letters for various posts in VIMSAR in lieu of huge amounts of money.

Four youths have recently fallen prey to this job racket. They were provided with appointment letters for posts of attendants at VIMSAR. The appointment letters carried the signature of the Additional Secretary of the Health department and logo of the Odisha government. In the letter it was also mentioned that the Health department has already intimated the director, superintendent and dean of VIMSAR about the ap-



FILE PHOTO

pointments. The youths had allegedly coughed up large amounts to get the appointment letters. A copy of the appointment letter has gone viral on social media platforms. The matter came to light after a youth, who got such an appointment letter from the fraudsters, contacted VIMSAR authorities.

Officials said that a big job racket is operating in Burla locality and duping youths.

Several local outfits said issuance of such fake appointment letters have tarnished the image of VIMSAR. They demanded an investigation into the matter so that the fraudsters are exposed.

Appointment letters for posts in hospital issued in lieu of huge amounts

VIMSAR superintendent, Professor Lal Mohan Nayak informed that he had got news of the existence of such a racket only a few days back. "However, there has not been any formal complaint in this regard and the Health department is not aware of the development. This could be the handiwork of a racket. Some appointments in VIMSAR had been done earlier through outsourcing, but the process has been stopped," Nayak said.

Nayak added that in the recent past, advertisements for vacancies in VIMSAR has not been published. So urged the youths to be careful and not fall into the trap of fraudsters.

Man falls to death while taking joyride at fair in Bolangir dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantabanji, Nov 8: A youth fell to his death while trying to get down from a joyride at a fair held at Turekela under Turekela police limits in Bolangir district, Monday night. The deceased was identi-

Police handed over the body to Sahu's family after registering a case of unnatural death

fied as Debraj Sahu, a resident of the area.

Sources said that the local puja committee had organised a 'Meena Bazaar' in the area as part of celebrations for Kartik Purnima which was being held with much fanfare in Turekela after a two-year lull due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sahu was getting down from a giant wheel when he fell and sustained grievous injuries. Locals rushed him to Turekela hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Police handed over the body to his family members after post-mortem. A case of unnatural death has been registered in this connection and further investigation is on, police said.

RAPID SPREAD OF DENGUE SPARKS CONCERN IN GANJAM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 8: The rapid spread of dengue is posing serious concern among the residents of Ganjam district and it is a huge challenge to the healthcare personnel, sources said Tuesday. Currently 149 people in 21 blocks of Ganjam district and also within the Berhampur Municipal Corporation are down with dengue.

Patrapur block has reported the highest number dengue cases with 33 persons including eight kids affected by the disease. Locals pointed out that many of those affected by the virus have come to Patrapur from outside the state and they are spreading the disease. However, even then, the number of people infected this year is much lesser to the 333 cases reported last year.



When contacted, chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Umashankar Mishra said even though the disease is spreading quickly, there has not been a single casualty due to the virus in the last nine years in Ganjam district. He also informed that a special ward has been set up on the first floor of the casualty department in MKCG Medical College and Hospital for treatment of dengue patients. The ward has been operational since August 17. Mishra stated that a team of doctors are treating dengue patients round the clock.

3 drown while taking holy dip on Kartik Purnima

Berhampur: Three people, including a Class-X student, drowned in different places of Ganjam district in the last two days while taking a holy dip on the occasion of Kartik Purnima, police said Tuesday. Sixty-year-old Harish Chandra Mallick and 55-year-old Sanju Daku drowned in a pond in Pattapur area Tuesday morning, while 15-year-old Gayatrishree Jagannath was swept away while taking a dip in the sea in Humma locality Monday evening. The bodies were fished out and handed over to their families after post-mortem, a police officer said. Cases of unnatural deaths were registered and an investigation is underway, he added.

Bodies of lovers recovered

Borigumma: Two lovers allegedly died by suicide and their bodies were found hanging Tuesday from a tree near Majhiagaon locality adjoining the National Highway-26 passing through Aaunli panchayat under this block in Koraput district. The deceased man was identified as Ramdhar Bhatra, a mason by profession of Litimajhia village while the woman Daimoti Bhatra, was a casual labourer belonging to Bada Majhia village. Both of them were married but sources said, they were allegedly in an extra-marital relationship. The deceased woman was a mother of four children while Ramdhar had two sons. The woman's husband was working outside the state. On getting information, Borigumma police and a forensic team reached the spot and launched a probe into the matter. Preliminary inquiry suggests that both were in love and had died by suicide, police said.

Woman disrobed, assaulted over past enmity in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Nov 8: Miscreants allegedly disrobed a woman and assaulted her over past enmity under Rambha police limits in Ganjam district, police said Tuesday.

The matter came to the fore after the victim lodged a complaint at the Rambha police station. In her complaint, the victim said that she was going to a place with her son when the miscreants suddenly assaulted her Monday.

They tore away her clothes and beat her mercilessly resulting in serious injuries, she added. Family members first admitted the victim to the Chhatrapur hospital and later shifted her to MKCG

Family members first admitted the victim to Chhatrapur hospital and later shifted her to MKCG Medical College and Hospital

Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur after her condition deteriorated.

They also demanded stringent action against the offenders. Rambha police IIC P Swaroop Kishan confirmed that a complaint has been received regarding the assault. He added that action will be taken after police conduct a proper probe.

Youth bludgeoned to death by brother

Kantabanji: A youth was bludgeoned to death by his younger brother following a tiff between the two on Arjuni riverbank near Kandeivi village under Turekela police limits in Bolangir district, Tuesday morning. The incident took place when the two had gone to the river bank to relieve themselves and an argument broke out. The deceased was identified as Phula Prasad Bag, 35, son of Charu Bag in Kandeivi village. It has been alleged that the accused Tilak Bag dumped the body of his brother in the river and fled. It should be stated that Tilak was out on bail after being in prison for more than two years. He has been accused of murdering Karna Bag in 2019, who also resided in Kandeivi village. The two were working at a company in Nagpur when Tilak allegedly killed Bag.

Patrolling intensified to check bird poaching in Chilika lake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 8: Wildlife personnel intensified Tuesday patrolling in and around the Chilika lake to curb birds from being poached on the eve of 'Chhadakhai' festival, which is celebrated a day after 'Kartik Purnima'.

The measures are being implemented because birds are hunted by local people on this occasion as they eat non-vegetarian stuff after staying away from it during the month of Kartik.

Chilika lake, the largest brackish water lagoon in India, spread over the districts of Ganjam, Puri, and Khurda, witnesses a large congregation of winged guests from several countries during the onset of winter.

"To curb poaching of the avian guests on the occasion of 'Chhadakhai', patrolling has been intensified from Sunday with two additional mobile teams. Special emphasis has been given in vulnerable areas like Nalabana, the bird sanctuary, and Tangi range" said PK Panda, assistant conservator of forest (ACF), Chilika wildlife division. The ACF said patrolling would also be carried out in the nearby areas of the lake.

An estimated 40,000 migratory birds of different species have already congregated in the lagoon so far, officials said.

Checking of vehicles, including fishing boats and motorcycles has been intensified in the range area, said Choodamani Murmu, range officer, Tangi.



FILE PHOTO

Loans sanctioned in name of tribals misappropriated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Nov 8: Loans allegedly sanctioned in the name of 12 tribal families in Nilagiri-based Large Agriculture Multi-purpose Cooperative Society (LAMPS) have been misappropriated. This was alleged by former MLA Chittaranjan Sarangi. He has demanded an investigation into the loan fraud.

Twelve tribal families living at Nuasahi and Jamudisahi have been burdened with loans of huge amounts even though they have not taken any such assistance from LAMPS, sources said.

It was alleged that some people along with unscrupulous staff of LAMPS managed to obtain copies of the voters' identity cards, Aadhaar, land documents of the tribals and forged their signatures and fingerprints. They have misappropriated loans worth lakhs. The fraud came to the fore through an

RTI query a few days back. The tribals were shocked to know about the fraud. The tribal families had earlier drawn attention of the LAMPS authorities towards such financial wrongdoings.

The society had conducted an investigation into the matter and had suspended the branch manager, an accountant of Nilagiri LAMPS and secretary of Sajanagad LAMPS.

However, loan amounts pending in the names of these tribals were not struck off from official records.

The tribal families met the former legislator in this regard and urged him to sort out the issue. The MLA staged a dharna. Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Society, Urmila Das and branch manager of Nilagiri LAMPS, Arun Kumar Maiti met the MLA and assured that the loans in the official records would be struck off. A letter has also been written to higher authorities.

Farmers stare at losses as LI project goes awry

Soro: After the withdrawal of monsoon, hectares of farmlands in upland areas of Soro block in Balasore district are dry due to insufficient rainfall. Farmers are struggling to save their crops while a newly set up lift irrigation (LI) project is lying defunct. Now, the farmers have lost all hope of saving their crops as they are unable to provide water to their parched farmlands. They alleged that the Lift Irrigation department is not taking any steps to repair the project to make it useful for the distressed farmers. Notably, the lift irrigation project was made operational in Nadigaon panchayat in 2017 at a cost of ₹7 lakh. Power supply to the project has been snapped by authorities due to unpaid bills to the tune of ₹35,000, sources said. They also pointed out that unless remedial measures are taken soon, farmers stare at huge losses.

SUNDARAM HOME Regd Office: No. 21, Pattulos Road, Chennai - 600 002. Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai-600014. Ph: 044-2851 5267

Branch: A /108, 2nd Floor, C/O Sundaram Finance Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007.

SALE NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Sundaram Home Finance Limited, formerly known as Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance Limited., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Section 13(2), issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of notice.

The Borrower and Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount within the statutory period, the Authorised Officer in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act in accordance with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had taken the actual possession of the property described herein below.

Public are hereby informed that the property more fully described in the table hereunder will be sold under Rule 8 & 9 of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" CONDITION, by inviting sealed tenders from the public up to 16.00 hrs on 26.12.2022. Those who want to participate in the auction sale can forward their bids only by RPAD in sealed covers to the undersigned on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 26.12.2022. Tenders received after 16.00 Hrs. on 26.12.2022, and thereafter will be rejected. The sealed tenders received by RPAD up to 16.00 Hrs. on 26.12.2022, will be opened on 26.12.2022 at 16.30 hrs. at the place mentioned hereunder. The successful bidder has to pay the balance amount within 15 days from the date of receipt of intimation. The sale shall be completed only on deposit of the Balance amount as stated above.

Name and Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower	Secured Debt (Rs.)	Reserve Price fixed for the Property	Place for Title Verification
Mr. Asit Kumar Mohanty (Borrower), C/O-N. K Patnanaik, Plot No-582/834, Kalunanda Nagar, Pokharpur, Bhubaneswar - 751020.	Rs. 36,48,703/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Three Only) as On 09.11.2022 +Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges.	Rs. 37,14,000/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs and Fourteen Thousand Only)	Sundaram Home Finance Limited A/108, 1st Floor, Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007.
Mr. Asit Kumar Mohanty, M/S Creative Solutions, Plot No-2938 B, Gouri Nagar, Garage Square, Bhubaneswar-751002			Place for Opening of Tender
Creative Solution (Co-Borrower), Plot No. 2933, Gauri Nagar, Old Town, Bhubaneswar - 751002			M/s. Sundaram Home Finance Limited, 23, Cathedral Garden Road, 2nd Floor, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034.
Mrs. Santilata Mohanty (Co-Borrower), C/O-N. K Patnanaik, Plot No-582/834, Kalunanda Nagar, Pokharpur, Bhubaneswar - 751020.		25% of the Tender Amount	Date and Time of opening the Tender
Mrs. Santilata Mohanty At Vhanapur, Via-Pipili, Ps-Nimapara, Pipili, Puri - 756104.			26.12.2022 @ 16:30
Mrs. Santilata Mohanty, Plot No-598/1222, Khata No-3, Bhanpur, Ps-Balanga, Balanga, Puri-752114			

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of immovable property admeasuring an area Ac.0.100 dec under Khata No.03, Plot no.598/1222, KISSAM: Gharabari (Homestead), situated at Mouza/Revenue Village, Bhanapur, under Tahsil: Nimapara, No.50, District: Puri in the state of Odisha and bounded as under: On towards North by Raghun Sahoo, On towards South by Road, On towards East by Pratap Routray, On towards West by Nepal Mohapatra.

Note: The intending purchasers are requested to verify the documents inspect the property and participate in the auction after satisfying about the title, nature and condition to property. Refund will not be given after sale confirmation in case if there arises any dispute regarding the title.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale of Property of Mr. Asit Kumar Mohanty, Loan Account No.66200150, please refer to www.sundaramhome.in/uploads/files/sale_notice/66200150.pdf

Date: 09-11-2022

for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., AUTHORISED OFFICER



Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.

THE MOTHER



Roe Roe Roe Your Vote

Midterm elections in the US November 8 are the first to be held since the Presidential election. In spite of the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol by pro-Donald Trump supporters, Joe Biden was declared President. The current midterm election results will have far-reaching consequences for both the US and the rest of the world. The future of US democracy is on trial just as President Joe Biden's handling of the deepening US economic crisis and the growing polarisation among Americans will be put to test.

As it normally happens in almost every midterm, this time as well the ruling Democrats are expected to fare poorly and Republicans may be catapulted into centre-stage of the US decision making process gaining control over the House of Representatives and even the Senate.

At stake are all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and about a third of the Senate – the two bodies making up the Congress. The current tally in the House of Representatives is 220 belonging to Democrats and 212 to the Republicans with three vacancies. In the Senate, 35 of the 100 seats are up for election and of these, Democrats have 14 against the Republicans' 21. Several states will also elect secretaries of state and governors.

Poll predictions favour a Republican win for a variety of reasons, including a negative outlook for the US economy and a sharp drop in Biden's approval rating that is hovering around 40 per cent. A majority of Republicans are out to capitalise on the cost of living crisis. On the contrary, Democrats are trying to downplay the economic issue and are pitting the future of democracy at peril in the hands of Trump and his followers as their main agenda. The spectre of threat to democracy has loomed large following the recent vicious attack on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband. Added to this is the Supreme Court's overturning of the Roe vs Wade verdict which was in favour of abortion. The latter led to a surge in registrations and more than half of registered voters say abortion will be a key factor to determine their choice. Biden's win was facilitated, among other things, by the support of women voters. During the midterm as well, women are expected to rally behind Democrats for the anti-abortion verdict. Whether women voters would respond the way they did in 2020 is doubtful since they are now concerned about the cost of living and rising gas prices.

Realising that his Presidency has so far caused widespread disenchantment among people, Biden chose the peril of democracy in his solemn speech November 2 as the centre point of the Democrats' election propaganda. The Republican opponents were, however, quick to dismiss it as alarmist posturing. On the contrary, Trump's violent rhetoric on the so-called electoral fraud is spreading like wildfire.

Meanwhile, Elon Musk, the new owner of Twitter has openly asked people to support Republicans. Author Stephen King has said whether people pay for the Blue Tick of Twitter or not, they should vote Blue (Democrat). A meme doing the rounds says Voting is just like Driving. To go backward choose 'R' and to go forward choose 'D'.

A triumph for Republicans will mean a crippled administration, facing legislative stagnation, hostile committees and investigations on matters such as Hunter Biden's business dealings. Trump, who has actively campaigned alongside Republican congressional candidates, still enjoys a certain level of popularity, investigations into his alleged smuggling of classified documents notwithstanding. In fact, the former President has maintained a favourable rating of around 44 per cent. Moreover, in 2020 liberals had turned up to vote with the agenda of ousting Trump. But, the enthusiasm seems to be on the wane now.

In such a scenario, Republicans regaining control of the House of Representatives and possibly the Senate may be a shot in Trump's arm. Whether he would contest the Presidential race or any other moderate Republican would replace him is a million dollar question. If Trump announces his intention to run in 2024, electoral attitudes may also change as his track record of intolerance and hate campaign would surely be revived to scuttle his chances. The midterm is set to redefine US politics like never before.

WISDOM CORNER

Whoever doesn't know it must learn and find by experience that 'a quiet conscience makes one strong!'

ANNE FRANK

Youth cannot know how age thinks and feels. But old men are guilty if they forget what it was to be young.

JK ROWLING

Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

OPRAH WINFREY

WORDSWORTH

Comeuppance

It's a common enough word that few people stop to think how odd comeuppance really is. Why should it mean the punishment or fate that someone deserves, a just retribution or just deserts? The Oxford English Dictionary directs enquirers about its origin to sense 74 of the verb come, implying that it derives from come up. That's reasonable, since the most common early written form in the US – where the word seems to have been invented around the middle of the nineteenth century – was come-up-ance, which we may guess is the situation or consequence of having come up. The OED and some other dictionaries suggest it refers to coming up before a judge or court for judgement. That's supported by the earliest evidence for the related expression come-uppings, known in American English from rather later: *I was led away, and I got my come-uppings, or the other fellow's come-uppings, for I wa'n't to blame any, and I always said so, and I guess the judge would say so too, if it were to do over again* (*The Minister's Charge*, by William Dean Howells, 1886). Curiously, come-upping is recorded in Cornish dialect in 1880 in the sense of a flogging. It's possible that it's a quite separate form, which was taken to the US by migrants and became associated with come-up-ance.

Conkerer

A conkerer plays the British game of conkers. A brief description may be desirable for those unfamiliar with it. Conkers has two players, each armed with a nut of the horse chestnut threaded on a string. Players take turns hitting their opponent's nut with their own. The player whose nut breaks first loses. Conker is a dialect word that originally meant a snail shell, with which the game was first played, though without the strings (it would be classed as animal cruelty these days, as the shells were frequently still occupied). Frederick Ross described it in *A Glossary of Words Used in Holderness in the East-Riding of Yorkshire of 1877*: "In the boy's game of conkers the apexes of two shells are pressed together until one is broken, the owner of the other being the victor." Strangely, for a game often considered to be an immemorial part of the English annual round of boy's games, the snail sense is first recorded only from the early nineteenth century, and the horse chestnuts one from the 1880s. The word might be from conch, but could equally well be a respelling of conqueror, since the game was often spoken of and spelled that way in the nineteenth century.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

OF THE 8,800 GLACIAL LAKES IN THE HIMALAYAS, OVER 200 HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS DANGEROUS

The COP27 has just begun in the Egyptian coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh and the planet is sending a distress signal. "Sea level rise, glacier melting, torrential rains, heat waves – and the deadly disasters they cause – have all accelerated," warns the World Meteorological Organisation in a report. While the world will debate as usual, reports have clearly indicated that it is still nowhere near the scale and pace of emission reductions required to put us on track toward a 1.5 degrees Celsius world. In fact, there has been a warning that national governments need to strengthen their climate action plans now and implement these in the next eight years, which means that the onus would now be on emerging economies including India.

Dealing with just one implication of global warming, it is in fitness of things to refer to an article way back in 2013 in 'Nature' where scientists cautioned that rising temperatures in the Himalayas raise the threat of glacial lake outburst, which is even more relevant today. Of the 8,800 glacial lakes in the Himalayas, over 200 have been classified as dangerous. Himalayan nations were urged to build an international network to monitor risks such as those from glacial lakes and give early warning of hazards. Will the issue get the focus it deserves or get lost in new pledges?

According to available data, the Himalayan river basins cover an area of 2.75 million square kilometres and have the largest irrigated area of 5,77,000 square kilometres, and the world's largest installed hydropower capacity of 26,432 MW. The melting glaciers fulfill the water requirements of over a billion people of the region. Obviously, these people will be affected when much of the glacier ice mass melts and gradually stops supplying water to inland rivers. While the Ganga and the Brahmaputra basins in India get a big chunk of their water from monsoons, the situation is different for the Indus, which is largely dependent on the glaciers. However, changing rainfall patterns and rising global temperature will affect the Ganga and the Brahmaputra basins as well.

As is evident, majority of glaciers in the Himalayan region are melting due to rising temperatures. Studies conducted by the Geological Survey of India, the Wadia Institute of Himalayan

FOCUS MELTING GLACIERS

A HIMALAYAN THREAT



It has been amply evident that the melting of Himalayan glaciers has been causing flooding disasters and this is expected to continue in the next few years. What would happen after that is the Ganga and the Indus flowing with radically reduced pace may result in acute water stress, mass migration, and unseen conflicts

Geology, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research and the Indian Institute of Science have observed accelerated heterogeneous mass loss in Himalayan glaciers. According to the Ministry of Earth Science, the mean rate of Hind Kush Himalayan glaciers is around 15 metres per year which is 12.7-13.2 metres in Indus, 15.5-14.4 metres in Ganga and 20.2-19.7 in Brahmaputra river basins.

The landslides that have occurred in recent years have been triggered by a plethora of natural and man-made factors such as heavy rainfall, earthquake, active geological features, deforestation, large-scale land use changes, among others. It needs to be mentioned here that our investment in pro-active scientific approaches – natural hazard surveillance or flood forecasting – is not sufficient and technologically sound. In the absence of science policy-based instruments, the destruction has been grave over the years.

However, in the first detailed inventory of glaciers at the Alaknanda river basin, which contributed the maximum water to river Ganga, scientists from IISc and IITs discovered a reduction of 59 sq km in the glacier area over a period of almost 50 years, between 1968 and 2020. This meant that 8 per cent of the total area of glaciers decreased. Scientists have said that regional climate change was a big reason behind the development. This study of the river basin, which took over two years to complete, was published in the

'Geocarto International' journal by Taylor & Francis. The average retreat rate of glaciers in the basin was 11.75 m per annum.

The analysis of climatic parameters in the basin suggested substantial evidence of deglaciation due to global warming, especially since the winter temperature increased by 0.03 Celsius per year between 1968 and 2020. The team of scientists studied almost all satellite imagery since 1968 meticulously and found that though the area of the glaciers reduced in the river basin, the number of glaciers increased from 98 to 116.

Scientists said the increase in numbers was a cause for concern. Small portions of the glaciers were melting in a way that they would not contribute water to the river and hence, there would be a "cascading effect" on the water security of the people living downstream, they observed. "They are melting faster and forming new water bodies such as lakes near the glacier. If the glaciers melt faster in the future, these water bodies will get added water and may overflow, causing destruction," experts pointed out.

The seasonal runoff from Himalayan glaciers provides different water services to about 800 million people for the purposes including irrigation, hydropower and drinking water. As the glaciers melt unconventionally, it will eventually result in water shortages. The greater runoff causes the rivers to flood. Glacier melting, in some measure, affects snow-

fall. A regular reduction in usual winter snowfall leads to water shortage.

Thus, the melting of these glaciers is undoubtedly a major cause of concern as it is expected to have a massive impact on the water supply for the rivers. Experts believe that continued melting will lead to change in glacier basin hydrology, downstream water budget and impact on hydropower plants due to variation in discharge, flash flood and sedimentation.

Excessive melting doesn't help water to mix with rainfall and groundwater, which is used for crop irrigation and future supply during drought. The ratio of runoff to rainfall determines both groundwater recharge and groundwater depletion. Increased glacial melting would disturb this even distribution sustaining a large population until now. It has been amply evident that the increased melting of Himalayan glaciers has been causing flooding disasters and this is expected to continue in the next few years. What would happen after that is the Ganga and the Indus flowing with radically reduced pace may result in acute water stress, mass migration, and unseen conflicts.

A study of IIT Indore last year found that the total river runoff, glacier melt, and seasonality of flow are set to increase until the 2050s, and then decrease, with some exceptions. Researchers have called for greater focus on the problems and to assess the current status and potential future changes of rivers for sustainable water resource management for agriculture, hydropower, drinking, sanitation, and hazard situations.

Climate change and global warming are indeed dangerous phenomena, and their consequences are severe for humans, affecting them in all possible ways. Even water, which is the basis for human survival, has been affected in various ways due to the ravages of nature and glacial melt is a key reason. There is thus an immediate need to ensure that warming is controlled by checking emissions of greenhouse gases to counter the disastrous effects of glacier melting. Experts and organisations working in the field should come out with an action plan to control such melting in the coming years.

The author is Senior Consultant & Guest Faculty at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kolkata.

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IN JEST THIS

Wear seatbelt, protect others from your skull



Melvin Durai

HUMAN BEINGS WERE ONCE HAPPY TO DRIVE CARS AT 20 KM PER HOUR, BUT THAT WAS A CENTURY AGO

If you are sitting in the rear seat of a car, you may be tempted to ignore the seatbelt. Nothing's going to happen to you. It's the people in the front who need to protect themselves. The worst that will happen to you, in case of an accident, is getting your hair all messed up.

This would be true, of course, if every car were traveling as fast as a tractor. Human beings were once happy to drive cars at 20 km per hour; but that was a century ago, when horse carriages were common and people complained about the price of hay.

Cars can go much faster these days and they're so smooth that you don't feel the speed, unless you're standing on the side of an expressway. When a car is flying down the road and hits another vehicle hurtling down the road (or even a stationary object), all passengers in the car are at risk of sustaining severe bodily harm.

But it's not just the momentum of the car that puts all passengers at risk – it's the fact that a car can be impacted on all six sides: front, back, left, right, top and bottom.

It's rare that a car flips over or zooms off a bridge, but it does happen. And the passengers who walk away from such accidents usually have something in common: they were wearing seatbelts.

That's why I'm happy to hear that the police in India are starting to be stricter about seatbelts. Mumbai police recently issued a notification saying that seatbelts would be mandatory for all passengers beginning on Nov. 1. Warnings would be given until Nov. 10 and e-challans issued from Nov. 11 onwards.

In response to the new rule, stand-up comedian Atul Khatri tweeted a photo of a man wearing a T-shirt with a seatbelt imprinted on it, saying, "Mumbaikars! Please wear seat-

belts from today or buy this t-shirt."

As you can imagine, Mumbai police were not amused. They immediately tweeted that from Nov. 11 onwards, an e-challan would be issued to anyone who jokes about seatbelts.

Actually, what the police tweeted to Khatri was this: "We shall keep them in stock for you, along with our challans. Your safety is never a joke! PS: If this ever will be basis for a stand up routine, ensure the message of safety is sent out as well." If Khatri has taken their message to heart, his comedy routine may sound like this:

"Listen everyone, you must always wear a seatbelt – it doesn't matter whether you're in the front seat, back seat or even on the roof. Let me give you several reasons why seatbelts are important:

"Firstly, numerous studies have been conducted showing that seatbelts protect not only passengers in-

side cars but also trees. If you're not wearing a seatbelt, you might get thrown out of the car into a tree. The poor tree has not done anything wrong, but now might be slightly injured and might also feel guilty about your broken skull."

"Secondly, the seatbelt keeps you in place. By wearing a seatbelt, you are not only protecting yourself, you are protecting other passengers from being struck by your flying skull. Please keep your skull to yourself!"

"Thirdly, the seatbelt can save you money. You won't end up with a hefty hospital bill and you won't have to pay fines to the police. Your insurance company may even give you a discount for not getting any challans."

"Fourthly, the seatbelt ensures that you get to spend more time on earth. Without a seatbelt, you may get thrown all the way to the moon."

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Economic blunder

Sir, November 8, 2022 marks the 6th anniversary of India's biggest economic blunder of demonetisation committed by Narendra Modi's government, scrapping the ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes all of a sudden. The policy decision of his government to flush out black money turned out to be a colossal failure, and it stands belied till today. Late justifications about the real benefits of demonetisation, ranging from a cashless economy to hitting terror networks have also proven to be far-fetched. True, in the last six years digital transactions have gone up markedly, but hardly enough to justify demonetisation. Most economists in the country had argued that demonetisation would not achieve the desired goals, and at the most it would only be a pinprick for the black money operators, for which causing a mass distress was totally unacceptable and inexcusable. Demonetisation was a fiasco in achieving its stated objectives, apart from being a disaster for the people. No doubt, the Narendra Modi government will be defined by its ill-planned and ill-thought out demonetisation of 2016 that caused immense problems and difficulties for the people of India.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Landmark verdict

Sir, After the verdict of the Supreme Court endorsing the 103rd Amendment in the Constitution, the poor upper castes will be able to get the benefit of reservation in education and jobs. This verdict has also accepted the efforts of the government to bring up the economically weaker sections of the general category. The majority members of the Legislative Bench emphasised in the judgement that reservation to the economically weaker sections is also necessary to ensure the progress towards the goal of an egalitarian society in an all-inclusive manner. Post the Parliament enacted a law in 2019 to provide reservation to the EWS through the 103rd Constitutional amendment; its legality was challenged by calling it as a violation of the basic structure of the Constitution. The court ruling will now have wider socio-political impact. Although the negative opinion of the two justices is indeed a clear-cut indication that the issue of reservation for the poor upper castes will continue to be hot in the coming days as well. Now the biggest challenge for the government is to implement this decision honestly. Therefore, the demand for making a rational policy regarding reservation is the need of the hour.

Ahhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR



In Delhi, children of the poor and rich study on the same desk. The responsibility of education of your children will be mine. It is my responsibility to shape the future of your children
ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

EVERY VILLAGE IN NE TO HAVE 4G NETWORK

All inhabited villages in the northeastern region and border areas will be connected with 4G network by December 2023, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said



of the day quote

Demonetisation and GST have destabilised the entire business fraternity. Corruption is at its peak. Development has come to a halt. Owing to the BJP's policies, inflation and economic disparity have only shot up
AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

The Central government has so far sanctioned houses to more than 3 crore underprivileged people while 1.22 crore houses have been approved in several urban areas, including Delhi
HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

I have introduced a new technique, which we will be launching in two to three months under which tractor-mounted unit will go to farmers' land to make bio-bitumen with 'parali' (crop straws that remain after grains such as rice & wheat have been harvested) which will be used for construction of roads
NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

SHORT TAKES

NCP activists stage protests

Nashik/Latur: Activists of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Tuesday staged agitations in different parts of Maharashtra against state Minister Abdul Sattar for his alleged derogatory comment against party leader Supriya Sule and demanded his removal. The protests were held at Nagpur, Pune, Jalgaon, Nashik, Amravati, Jalna, Latur, Ratnagiri, Baramati and Nandurbar areas of the state. Sattar's alleged derogatory comment against Sule has angered NCP workers, who had staged protests Monday as well. The minister, who belongs to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena, later told a rally in Sillod that he had apologised for a word he had used.

Over 2,000 Sikh pilgrims visit Pak

New Delhi: A total of 2,420 Indian Sikh pilgrims have travelled to Pakistan to participate in the Guru Nanak Jayanti celebrations in different prominent religious sites, the Union Home Ministry said Tuesday. Besides, a total of 433 pilgrims from India visited Sri Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan through ICP Dera Baba Nanak, Amritsar Tuesday to offer prayers on the occasion of Gurpurab, a home ministry statement said.

Katni: 85 pigs die of African swine fever

Katni: At least 115 pigs were found infected with African swine fever and 85 of them have died in the last 15 days in Madhya Pradesh's Katni district, an official said Tuesday. Following the sudden deaths of pigs, samples were sent to a laboratory in Bhopal for testing October 27, government veterinarian Dr R K Soni said.

Scindia tests Cov+ve

Bhopal: Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Tuesday said he has tested Covid-19 positive and advised people who met him in the last few days to get tested too. His announcement came hours after he created a buzz by suddenly left the state BJP headquarters where he was supposed to attend the core committee meeting. However, party leaders said that he had left as he was feeling unwell.

India's urban cities to see population boom: Report

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mumbai, Nov 8: India is projected to see an explosion in its urban population in the coming decades, but its cities already cannot cope and climate change will make living conditions harsher still. Mumbai grew by some eight million people in the past 30 years to a population of 20 million, and is forecast to add another seven million by 2035. Like other megacities, Mumbai's housing, transport, water and waste management infrastructure has not kept pace, with around 40 percent of

people living in slums. These crowded collections of ramshackle buildings, side by side with some of India's richest neighbourhoods, often have no regular water, power supply or proper sanitation.

As the world's population approaches eight billion, most of them in the developing world, it is a situation replicated globally.

Those living on the outskirts of Mumbai commute for hours to work, with many hanging out of doors on packed trains, and others travelling by car or motorbike on clogged, pothole-filled roads that flood during the monsoon.

MATTER OF CONCERN



Premature deaths
The UN projects that India's population will rise from its current

1.4 billion to overtake China's and peak at 1.7 billion in the 2060s, before dropping back to 1.5 bil-

lion by the start of the next century.

By 2040, 270 million more people will live in Indian cities, according to the International Energy Agency, driving carbon emissions higher from power generation and transport, and from the production of steel and concrete to house them.

Overcrowding, shoddy infrastructure and severe air, water and noise pollution are part of everyday life in India's megacities. About 70 percent of the billions of litres of sewage produced in urban centres every day goes untreated, a government report said last year.

Verdict on worship of Shivling in Gyanvapi mosque postponed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi (UP), Nov 8: A fast track court Tuesday postponed till November 14 judgement on a plea seeking permission to allow worship of a "Shivling" claimed to have been found in the Gyanvapi mosque complex here.



As the civil judge (senior division) of the court Mahendra Pandey is on leave, the court posted the matter for November 14, Assistant District government counsel Sulabh Prakash said.

After hearing arguments of both the sides, the court had on October 27 reserved its order on the suit for November 8.

On May 24, plaintiff Kiran Singh, who is general secretary of the Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, had filed the suit in the Varanasi district court seeking a ban on the entry of Muslims into the Gyanvapi complex, handing over the complex to the Sanatan Sangh and permission to offer prayers at the "Shivling".

On May 25, district court Judge A K Vishvesh had ordered the transfer of the suit to a fast track court. Varanasi district magistrate, police commissioner, Anjuman Intezamia Committee that is managing the Gyanvapi mosque, and Vishwanath Temple Trust were made respondents in the suit.

On April 26, a lower court (civil judge-senior division) that was earlier hearing a plea by a group of women seeking permission for daily worship of idols of Hindu deities on the mosque's outer walls had ordered a videographic survey of the Gyanvapi complex and the Hindu side had claimed a "Shivling" was found during the exercise.

However, the Muslim side has maintained that the object was part of the water fountain mechanism at the "wazookhana" reservoir where devotees carry out ablutions before offering 'namaz'.

CHAWLA MURDER, GANGRAPE CASE

Can't punish accused on suspicion alone: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The law does not permit courts to punish an accused on the basis of moral conviction or on suspicion alone, the Supreme Court said while acquitting three men sentenced to death for the gangrape and murder of a woman in Delhi's Chhawla area in 2012.

The court made the observation while noting that a kind of agony and frustration may be caused to the society in general and to the family of the victim in particular if the accused involved in the heinous crime go unpunished or are acquitted. The bench said the prosecution failed to provide leading, cogent, clinching and clear evidence, including those related to DNA profiling and call detail records (CDRs), against the accused, and said that the trial court also acted as a "passive umpire".

The three men were accused of abducting, gangraping and brutally killing the 19-year-old woman in February 2012. Her mutilated body was found three days after she was abducted.

A bench of Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi acquitted the convicts in a 40-page order passed Monday. The bench said that since the prosecution failed to bring home the charges levelled against the accused beyond reasonable



doubt, the court was left with no alternative but to acquit the accused, though involved in a very heinous crime. "It may be true that if the accused involved in the heinous crime go unpunished or are acquitted, a kind of agony and frustration may be caused to the society in general and to the family of the victim in particular, however, the law does not permit the courts to punish the accused on the basis of moral conviction or on suspicion alone," the bench said.

It added, "The court is constrained to make these observations as the court has noticed many glaring lapses having occurred during the course of the trial. It has been noticed from the record that out of the witnesses examined by the prosecution, 10 material witnesses were not cross-examined and many other important witnesses were not adequately cross-examined by the defence counsel."

DEMONETISATION ANNIVERSARY

Oppn terms noteban 'economic genocide'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: Describing demonetisation as an "economic genocide", a "criminal act" and an "organised loot", Opposition parties slammed the BJP-led Centre for its decision taken on this day in 2016 to scrap high-value currency notes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi November 8, 2016, announced the demonetisation of the old ₹1,000 and ₹500 banknotes. The key objectives of the decision were to promote digital payments and curb black money, besides eliminating terror funding.

At a press briefing here, the Congress alleged that demonetisation was the "greatest organised loot" in independent India and demanded a white paper on it from the Modi government.

In a tweet, Kharge said: "6 years of 'Organised Loot and Legalised Plunder'. Tribute to those 150 people who lost their lives due to #Demonetisation disaster. As we ob-



serve 6 years of this epic failure, it is important to remind the PM about the ill-conceived calamity which he thrust upon the nation."

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi also hit out at Modi over the decision, saying it was a deliberate move by "PayPM" to ensure that two or three of his billionaire friends monopolise India's economy. "Demonetisation was a deliberate move by 'PayPM' to ensure that 2-3 of his billionaire friends monopolise India's economy by finishing small and medium businesses," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. Trinamool Congress (TMC) spokesperson and leader of the party in the Rajya

Sabha Derek O'Brien said the move was a "gimmick". In a tweet, he said: "6 years ago, today a gimmick that turned out to be an economic genocide #demonetisation. Wrote about this in my book in 2017 #InsideParliament."

O'Brien also pointed out that West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee had called for the withdrawal of the decision. "@MamataOfficial called it first 'withdraw this draconian decision' minutes after announcement. Others agreed, but only weeks later." Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury accused the government of "beating its own drum on the criminal act of #Demonetisation, against all good sense, evidence and advice".

PM Modi unveils logo, theme and website of India's G20 Presidency

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: India's upcoming presidency of the G20 grouping is a matter of pride and a great Opportunity for the country in its 75th year of Independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday.

Modi made the remarks after unveiling the logo, theme and website of India's G20 presidency during an online event. India will assume the presidency of the powerful grouping from the cur-



rent chair Indonesia December 1. The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

In his remarks, Modi delved into India's development journey and said all governments and people contributed in their own way in taking India forward after the Independence. He also said that India can show the world

that the scope of conflict can come to an end when democracy becomes a culture.

The Prime Minister also said that development and the environment (Pragati and Prakriti) can walk together while emphasising sustainable development.

"It is a matter of pride for all Indians; it will bring greater glory for all Indians," Modi said on India's upcoming presidency of G20. The logo, theme and website of India's G20 presidency reflected the country's "message and overarching priorities" to the world. The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a Guru Nanak Jayanti programme during the ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Nanded district, Maharashtra. Meanwhile, a Congress Seva Dal functionary died after collapsing during the yatra. Rahul Gandhi, expressed grief over the death of Seva Dal general secretary Krishna Kumar Pandey

Climate change to impact mountains: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Johannesburg, Nov 8: Climate change will negatively impact mountain landscapes and human activity globally by increasing the risk of hazards such as avalanches, river floods, landslides, debris flows and lake outburst floods, a study has warned.

The study, published in the journal PeerJ, shows how complex mountain systems respond in very different and sometimes unexpected ways to climate change, and how these responses can affect mountain landscapes and communities.

"Worldwide, mountain glaciers are in retreat because of global

warming and this is causing impacts on mountain landforms, ecosystems and people. However, these impacts are highly variable," said Professor Jasper Knight, from the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

"The latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) treats all mountains as equally sensitive and responding in the same way to climate change. However, this approach is not correct," said Knight.

The researchers noted that mountains with snow and ice work completely differently to low-latitude mountains where snow and ice are generally absent. This determines how they respond to climate



Under the threat of climate change, mountain landscapes all over the world have the risk of becoming more hazardous to communities surrounding them

and what future patterns of mountain landscape evolution we can expect, they said.

Mountain snow and ice globally provide water for hundreds of millions of people, but this water supply is under threat be-

cause of changing weather patterns and as mountain glaciers get smaller and smaller.

In future, the water crisis in dry continental areas of Asia, North America, South America and Europe will only get worse, ac-

ording to the researchers.

The study also shows how climate change will negatively impact on mountain landscapes and human activity. This includes an increasing risk of hazards such as avalanches, river floods, landslides, debris flows and lake outburst floods.

These are made worse because of glacier retreat and permafrost warming. Alpine ecosystems and endemic species are already threatened with local extinction and mountain slopes are becoming greener as lowland forests spread to higher altitudes, the researchers said. The researchers said mountain communities and cultures are also affected by cli-

mate change. Transhumance -- moving livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle -- and traditional agriculture are dying out as grazing areas shrink and as water becomes scarcer, they said. The study authors noted that tourism, mining, urbanisation and commercial forestry are also pushing out these traditional practices, adding that mountain heritage landscapes and indigenous cultures and knowledge are not adequately studied or valued. The research shows that mountains should be considered and protected as integrated biophysical and socioecological systems, where people as well as physical landscapes are important.

AEROSOL POLLUTION

Maha could enter 'highly vulnerable' red zone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Nov 8: Aerosol pollution in Maharashtra is likely to move to 'highly vulnerable' red zone from the current 'vulnerable' orange zone in 2023, which may lead to drop in visibility levels and pose a host of health problems for its citizens, a study revealed.

As per a release issued by Asar, an organisation working for environmental causes, high aerosol amounts include particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) comprising sea salt, dust, sulphate, black and organic carbon. If inhaled, these substances can be harmful to people's health, it said.

Aerosol optical depth (AOD) is the quantitative estimate of the aerosol present in the atmosphere and it can be used as a proxy measurement of PM2.5. The study titled 'A deep insight into state-level aerosol pollution in India', conducted by Associate Professor Dr Abhijit Chatterjee and PhD scholar Monami Dutta from Bose Institute, Kolkata, provides an insight into



aerosol pollution with the long-term (2005-2019) trend, source apportionment and future scenario (2023) for various states.

Maharashtra currently falls under the orange 'vulnerable' zone with AOD between 0.4 and 0.5. However, rising aerosol pollution is expected to push the AOD above 0.5, which is the red zone (highly

vulnerable), Dr Chatterjee, the study's principal author said.

The AOD values range from 0 to 1.0, with 0 indicating a crystal clear sky and maximum visibility, while 1 signifies hazy conditions, the study stated. AOD of less than 0.3 fall under the green zone (safe), 0.3 to 0.4 is blue zone (less vulnerable), 0.4 to 0.5 is orange (vul-

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nerable) and above 0.5 is red zone (highly vulnerable), it said.

"Air pollution in Maharashtra has mostly been influenced by coal-based thermal power plants (TPP). Their capacity is increasing with the rise in demand for electricity. However, if the state continues to install TPPs as observed in the

past, it would enter the highly vulnerable zone, which could result in an increase in morbidity rate, drop in life expectancy and a host of health issues for people of the state," Dr Chatterjee said.

Maharashtra can witness an AOD rise of about 7 per cent between 2019 and 2023, he said. The study has identified thermal power plants, solid fuel burning and vehicular emissions as main sources of aerosol pollution in the state, he said.

Emissions from thermal power plants increased from 31 per cent to 39 per cent between 2005 and 2019, mainly due to the increase in capacity and dependence on coal-based power generation, the study stated. Maharashtra needs to turn down the capacity of thermal power plants by 41 per cent (10 GW) to move to the blue zone, author of the study Monami Dutta said.

The state government should not only restrict sanctioning of new thermal power plants, but should also focus on reducing the current capacity by at least 10 GW, she said.

Principals welcome move to open schools



As the air pollution in Delhi-NCR ameliorated over the last two days, the Delhi government decided to reopen schools which were closed for primary classes since Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: School principals have welcomed Delhi government's decision to restart primary classes from Wednesday following improvement in air quality even as environmentalists warned against "knee-jerk reactions".

As the air pollution in Delhi-NCR ameliorated over the last two days, the Delhi government decided to reopen schools which were closed for primary classes since Saturday. The overall education system has already been significantly disrupted during the pandemic where the country witnessed a long closure of schools. Shifting from offline to online mode was well adopted by the teachers and students. But the situation took a toll on the mental well-being of the students," said Alka Kapur, Principal, Modern Public School, Shalimar Bagh.

"Now, the schools getting closed due to deteriorating air quality is another setback for the education system. Hence, as the air quality gets better, the decision to reopen schools after a brief closure can be seen as a measure taken in the right direction for both the students and the teachers," she added.

Pooja Bose, Principal, Pacific World School echoed her views, saying the pandemic has caused considerable learning losses, and extending school closures further would have caused a landslide in their learning comprehension and grasping strengths. "Online classes will never be able to replace classroom teaching and comfort. I appreciate the authorities for respecting the arguments of many academicians and learned men and women. On the other hand, student-friendly measures have been implemented in our school to ensure

they study in a safe and sound study environment," she said.

The Centre's air quality panel on Sunday directed authorities to lift the ban on plying of non-BS VI diesel light motor vehicles in the region and the entry of trucks into the capital imposed under the final stage of the Graded Response Action Plan.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) order recommending the restrictions was issued on Thursday. However, environmentalist Vimlendu Jha said it could be too soon to revoke curbs as the air quality has improved a wee bit due to favourable wind speed and will go back to the "severe" category in a couple of days. "These are knee-jerk reactions and should be avoided. It is too soon to do away with the restrictions. The government should instead analyse the situation and bid some time before revoking the curbs because this situation will be there for a long time," he added.

Concurring with him, environmentalist Jyoti Pande said the government has been undertaking fire-fighting measures instead of controlling emissions and the sources of pollution. "Every year, the GRAP comes in and curbs are implemented. GRAP is a fire-fighting exercise," she said.

Pande has left Delhi due to the toxic air and said it is painful for her to leave her friends and extended family behind. The air quality in the national capital was recorded in the "very poor" category on Monday Anshu Mital, Principal, MRG School, Rohini, said the incidents of stubble burning have lowered, and the smog pollution has declined, though the air quality still remains in "very poor" category.

This doctor delivers baby girls for free at his hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 8: A doctor from Pune has embarked on a mission to save the girl child as part of which he not only waives the fees if a baby girl is born in his hospital, but also makes sure the little one gets a rousing welcome.

As part of his 'Beti Bachao Janandolan' initiative, Dr Ganesh Rakh, who runs a maternity-cum-multispecialty hospital in Hadapsar area here in Maharashtra, has been trying to create awareness against female foeticide and infanticide. He claims to have delivered more than 2,400 girl children in the last 11 years without charging fees from their parents and relatives.

Dr Rakh said the small initiative that he started in 2012 at his Medicare Hospital has now spread across various states and in some African countries. "Before 2012, in the initial years of the hospital, we came across different experiences here where in some cases if a girl was born, the family members would shy away from coming to see her. That picture struck me and gave me a fillip to do something to save the girl child and create awareness about gender equality," said the doctor while holding a newborn girl in his arms.

If a boy was born, some families would happily come to the hospital and pay the bills, but if the child was a girl, there was an indifferent approach in some cases, he said. "In order to support the

Before 2012, in the initial years of the hospital, we came across different experiences here where in some cases if a girl was born, the family members would shy away from coming to see her. That picture struck me and gave me a fillip to do something to save the girl child and create awareness about gender equality

DR GANESH RAKH

cause, we decided to waive the entire medical fees if a girl was born and later christened the initiative as 'Beti Bachao Janandolan'. In the last 11 years, we have delivered more than 2,400 girl children without charging any fees," he said.

Dr Rakh said as per a government survey there were more than six crore female foeticide cases in the last 10 years. This is a kind of "genocide", he claimed. The reason for female foeticide is people's preference for a son. This is not limited to one region, state, or a country, but it is a global societal issue, he said.

"As per our survey, of late there has been a remarkable drop in cases of female infanticide and this is a positive takeaway," Dr Rakh added. Dr Shivdeep Undre, working at the same hospital, said as part of the mission, they are reaching out to various states in the country and conducting gender sensitisation programmes.



NEW BEGINNING: Delhi Metro introduced first-ever set of two 8-coach trains on Red Line, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

SURVEY REVELATION

37% of Delhi women drinking more alcohol since pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Over 37 per cent of women in Delhi believe that their alcohol consumption has increased in the last three years, indicating the impact of the pandemic on alcohol habits, a survey has claimed.

Over 45 per cent women said that the reason for their increased drinking frequency was "stress," the survey said. The survey conducted by the Community against Drunken Driving (CADD), an NGO, cited the pandemic, the ensuing lockdown, increased availability of alcohol, and changed expenditure pattern, as factors that contributed to the increased drinking among women.

Out of the 5,000 women sur-

Over 45 per cent women said that the reason for their increased drinking frequency was 'stress,' the survey said

veyed, 37.6 per cent of women agreed that their alcohol consumption has increased, the CADD said in a statement. "42.3 per cent women considered their increase more sporadic and occasion-based. Respondents also agreed that many were also trying to make up for lost time, since early 2022 when things started opening up and thus alcohol was being had on more occasions and in more quantities," the statement read.

Increased availability of alco-



hol was cited as the reason for increased drinking among women in 34.4 per cent, and notably, boredom, in 30.1 per cent. Road safety expert and activist Prince Singhal,

also CADD founder, said a liberal view presented of alcohol drinking on TV and its putative ability to cure stress are two of the factors responsible for the phenomenon.

Over 300 orange producers learn new agri practices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Nov 8: More than 300 orange producers from Maharashtra's Nagpur and Amravati districts were given training on increasing productivity, dealing with climate change, biotic stress and other issues, at the Indian Institute of Management Nagpur (IIM-N), an official said on Tuesday.

A day-long training programme on good agriculture practices was organised on November 5 by Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MAGNET) in association with IIM-N and Grant Thornton Bharat, a release by the institute stated.

More than 300 orange cultivators from Nagpur and Amravati



districts attended the workshop held on the IIM-N campus. MAGNET is an Asian Development Bank (ADB) assisted project to strengthen the horticulture value chain in the state, and Grant Thornton Bharat is its project implementation support consultant.

The initiative is on a mission to train 30,000 horticulturists across the state. Key horticulture experts and progressive orange growers provided guidance to the farmers on innovative ways to increase productivity, climate change, handling biotic stress, technology adaptation and implementation.

Delhi registers 440% rise in crime in last 10 yrs: Report

The report added that 99 per cent of crimes against women and children are pending for trial as of 2021 and at this rate, it would take 27 years to provide a judgment to all such cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Reporting of major crimes in the national capital has increased by 440 per cent in the last 10 years from 2012 to 2021, according to a report.

The report launched by the Praja Foundation on State of Policing and Law & Order in Delhi' also highlights the pendency in the investigation of cases as well as trial proceedings in Delhi. No immediate reaction was available from the Delhi Police on the report.

According to the report, registered crimes of theft and chain snatching have increased by 827 per cent and 552 per cent respectively from 2012 to 2021. While registered crimes of molestation, rape

and kidnapping/abduction have increased by 251 per cent, 194 per cent and 39 per cent respectively.

The report further stated that 41 per cent of total rape cases were registered under POCSO Act in 2021. In the same year, it has been seen that 91 per cent of total kidnapping and abduction victims were children while the conviction rate was 38 per cent for crimes against women and only 52 per cent for crimes against children.

The report added that 99 per cent of crimes against women and children are pending for trial as of 2021 and at this rate, it would take 27 years to provide a judgment to all such cases.

Milind Mhaske, CEO, Praja Foundation said although it is a



good sign that more citizens are coming forward to report a crime, a sharp rise in crimes against women and crimes against children in Delhi is still concerning.

Citing an example, he said that 86 per cent of Delhi's victims of human trafficking from 2017 to 2021 were children under the age

of 18 years. Moreover, 89 per cent of all victims of human trafficking in 2021 were trafficked for forced labour.

"Policing and law and order are systematic factors important to address the rising crime rate in Delhi. However, cases pending at the investigation and judiciary stages

show a delay in the deliverance of justice to the victims. In 2021, 56 per cent of cases were pending investigation for crimes against women, which decreased minutely from 58 per cent in 2017. The pendency in the investigation of crimes against children has remained constant at 53 per cent in 2017 and 2021," Mhaske said.

The CEO of Praja Foundation attributed the delay in investigation of cases due to vacant positions in the Delhi Police force. "There was a 12 per cent vacancy in police staff in 2021-22, of which the highest vacancy was for the post of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (74 per cent). Police inspectors, sub-inspectors and assistant police inspectors play an important role during an investigation. While in 2020-21, there was a 13 per cent vacancy in these posts," added Mhaske. There is a pendency in trials at the judiciary level as well.

In 2021, 88 per cent of IPC cases were pending for trial, while 96 per cent of SLL cases were pending for trial. There has been an increase in the proportion of pending trials for crimes against women and children. The data on the pendency of trials for crimes against women shows an increase from 93 per cent in 2017 to 98 per cent in 2021, while the pendency of trials for crimes against children increased from 95 per cent in 2017 to 99 per cent in 2021," the report noted.

Elaborating on the status of POCSO cases, the report stated that under the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, girls were victims in 94 per cent of the total 1,454 POCSO cases in 2021, with rape (845) and sexual assault (501) being the highest.

"In 98 per cent of POCSO rape cases, the offender was known to the victim," the report noted.

of the day quote

People of Munugode reposed faith in Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and the leadership
K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO | TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER

The world today is driven by myriad frenzies and neuroses which can all be traced to a culture of conspicuous consumption. Indian spirituality is the only way out
RAMDEV | YOGA GURU

Punjab and West Bengal have a lot of things in common and share a deep bond. The people of Punjab fight and work for the nation. I salute the state of Punjab and its people
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM



PM Modi says there is a double-engine government in Karnataka, but what has he done? When there were floods, he did not come, did not hear out the woes of the people. Now, with the elections are nearing, he is coming
SIDDARAMAIAH | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

NEW ACHIEVEMENT SOON

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) may soon get additional sets of weather observations through AMDAR that can help improve forecast accuracy, particularly when early warning systems are proving to be important in view of increasing instances of extreme weather events

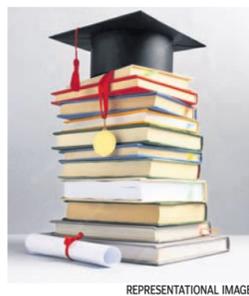


EDUCATION NOT BUSINESS TO EARN PROFIT: SC

THE TOP COURT UPHELD THE ANDHRA PRADESH HIGH COURT JUDGMENT TO QUASH THE STATE GOVT'S DECISION TO ENHANCE THE TUITION FEE IN MEDICAL COLLEGES TO ₹24 LAKH PER ANNUM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Education is not a business to earn profit and tuition fees shall always be affordable, the Supreme Court has said while upholding the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing the state government's decision to enhance the tuition fee in medical colleges to ₹24 lakh per annum. A bench of Justices M R Shah and Sudhanshu Dhulia imposed a cost of ₹5 lakh on the petitioner, Narayana Medical College, and Andhra Pradesh to be deposited with the court registry within a period of six weeks.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

"To enhance the fee to ₹24 lakh per annum i.e., seven times more than the fee fixed earlier was not

justifiable at all. Education is not the business to earn profit. The tuition fee shall always be affordable," the bench said.

The high court had held that considering the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee (for Professional Courses offered in Private Un-Aided Professional Institutions) Rules, 2006, the fee cannot be enhanced/fixed without the recommendations/report of the committee. The top court said several factors such as the location of the professional institution, nature of the professional course, cost of available infrastructure are required to be con-

sidered by the Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee while determining or reviewing the tuition fees. It said the college management cannot be permitted to retain the amount recovered/collected pursuant to the illegal government order.

"In view of the above and for the reasons stated above both the appeals fail and the same deserve to be dismissed and are accordingly dismissed, however, with cost which is quantified at ₹5 lakh to be equally paid by the appellant as well as the State of Andhra Pradesh to be deposited with the Registry of this Court within a period of six weeks" the bench said.

Farmers blame lack of disposal options as stubble burning rises

The Aam Aadmi Party, which is in charge of the government in both Delhi & Punjab, has taken responsibility for failing to curb stubble burning and aims to resolve the problem by November next year

AGENCIES

Khamanon, Nov 8: Smoke billows out of the fields in India's Punjab state as several thousand acres of crop stubble are set on fire, wrapping surrounding areas in a thick, grey blanket.

The national capital Delhi and surrounding areas are enveloped in a layer of smog each winter as cold, heavy air traps construction dust, vehicle emissions and smoke from the crop stubble burning in the states of Punjab and Haryana.

Raging farm fires in these states have become a common sight as farmers burn crop waste to clear their fields after a harvest and prepare for the next sowing. Typically, the harvesting of summer-sown crops starts in October and sowing for the winter crop begins after a couple of weeks after the harvest.

Farmers in Punjab, known as India's grain basket, claim they have no other option to get rid of their crop waste. "If, instead of burning, the stubble has to be disposed off in any other manner,



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

then that involves a lot of expenditure," Paramjit Singh, general secretary of a prominent farmers' union in Punjab, told Reuters. But he said the stubble fires hurt locals more than the people in Delhi, about 280 km (170 miles) south of Khamanon town in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib district.

"It will reach Delhi much later but the first (casualty) is the farmer because he is standing in the mid-

dle of it when he burns it," said Singh, 45, standing in a field of burnt crop waste near Khamanon as orange flames consumed nearby fields.

"He is helpless, he is not lighting it up out of choice."

"We have distributed around 120,000 machines to the farmers that assist in destroying the crop residue without having to burn it down," Punjab Chief Minister

Bhagwant Mann told reporters. He said the Punjab Agricultural University had developed a mobile app to identify the location of these machines and the government has also set up a bio-energy plant for disposal of crop stubble.

The AAP has urged the federal government to facilitate joint meetings between the northern states to identify the causes of pollution and come up with solutions to address the problem.

A federal government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the centre has already disbursed funds to the state authorities to offer alternative ways to the farmers to move away from burning crop stubble.

Meanwhile as per a study, aerosol pollution in Punjab is anticipated to rise by 20 per cent in 2023, and continue to remain in the "highly vulnerable" red zone for aerosol pollution.

Aerosol optical depth (AOD) is the quantitative estimate of the aerosol present in the atmosphere and it can be used as a proxy measurement of PM2.5.

LDF launches campaign against Kerala Governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 8: The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala Tuesday launched a massive grassroots level campaign by distributing pamphlets in households across the state against Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as the simmering tension between him and the front-led government over various issues seems to have reached a boiling point.

Distributed by the Left leaders and activists in various districts, the pamphlets, issued under the name of 'Education Protection Society', alleged that Khan was acting like a tool of Sangh Parivar and he does not even have the basic understanding of the Constitution. It also stressed the need for a mass public movement against Khan to protect the higher education sector of the southern state. According to LDF sources, the distribution of pamphlets is part of a series of protests being organised by the Left front against the Governor in the coming days.

The Left front also has plans to convene a mass protest gathering with the participation of over 1 lakh people in front of Raj Bhavan here on November 15, they said. CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan said at the grassroots level, protest meetings and gathering would be convened in colleges and university campuses in the state. The protest convention, being organised in front of Raj Bhavan, would be unprecedented and not witnessed by the state capital in recent times, he noted. "We can counter the political stand being taken by the Governor only with the support of the general public. So, a decision was taken to distribute pamphlets across the state to bring the issues to the people of the state," he told reporters in Thrissur.



Besides the protest programme in front of the Raj Bhavan, thousands of people would take part in protest meetings and gatherings being convened in all other districts November 15. "The Governor is taking a stand which is anti-constitutional and illegal. Our only demand is that his stand should be in accordance with the Constitution and prevailing laws," the leader said.

SHORT TAKES

Govt employees staged protest

Guwahati (Assam): Thousands of Assam government employees Tuesday staged a protest meeting here, demanding re-introduction of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and warned the authorities of intensifying the agitation if their demand is not met within this month. While employees from various districts reached the city for the meeting held under the aegis of the All Assam Government NPS Employees' Association (AAGNPEA), leaders and members of workers' federations from other states of the country also joined them as a show of solidarity.

Govt grants 265 DNB medical seats to J&K

New Delhi: In sync with Prime Minister's vision of "Health for All," the government has granted 265 Diplomat of National Board (DNB) postgraduate medical seats to several government hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir across 20 districts. The step will not only benefit people of Jammu and Kashmir, but the doctors there there will also get an opportunity of being trained in their own region, a health ministry statement said.

K'taka: Fearing arrest, youth commits suicide

Koppal: Fearing arrest over an incident of communal clash, a 25-year-old youth allegedly committed suicide in Gangavathi town of Karnataka's Koppal district. The youth was identified as Nagaraja Hanumantappa Gaddi (25), a resident of Huli Haidar village. Nagaraj, who had disappeared from the village, was staying at a rented house where he hanged himself, the police said. Nagaraja's brother is lodged in the Ballary prison in connection with the violence, police said.

POLICE RECRUITMENT SCAM CBI conducts searches at 7 locations in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The CBI Tuesday conducted searches at seven locations in Jammu, Pathankot, Rewari and Karnal in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The searches were conducted at the premises of arrested mastermind Yatin Yadav and CRPF constable Surender Singh among others, they said.

The CBI had taken over investigation into the case August 3 on a reference from the Jammu and Kashmir government. The case pertains to the leak of question paper for the examination through which 1,200 posts of sub-inspectors were to be filled by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB), they said.

The agency has arrested 13 persons so far in connection with the case, they said. The leaked question paper was also allegedly provided to the candidates in Jammu.



JOVIAL MOOD: Artistes perform during the traditional Pushkar Fair in Pushkar, Rajasthan

PTI PHOTO

India's first private rocket launch likely between Nov 12-16

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: India's first privately developed rocket - Vikram-S - is set for a launch between November 12 and 16, Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace announced Tuesday.

The maiden mission of Skyroot Aerospace, named 'Prarambhi' (the beginning), will carry three customer payloads and is set for launch from Indian Space Research Organisation's launchpad at Sriharikota.

"A launch window between November 12 and 16 has been notified by authorities, the final date being confirmed based on weather conditions," Skyroot Aerospace CEO and co-founder Pawan Kumar Chandana said.



With this mission, Skyroot Aerospace is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket into space, heralding a new era for the space sector which was opened up in 2020 to facilitate private sector participation. "The Vikram-S rocket is a single-stage sub-orbital launch vehicle which would carry three customer payloads and help test and validate the majority of the technologies in the Vikram series of space launch vehicles," Naga Bharath Daka, Chief Operating Officer of Skyroot Aerospace, said in a statement.

Chandana said Skyroot could build and get the Vikram-S rocket mission-ready in such a short time only because of the invaluable support from ISRO and IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre).

Skyroot's launch vehicles are named 'Vikram' as a tribute to the founder of the Indian space programme and renowned scientist Vikram Sarabhai.

Naxal violence reduced by 55% over 8 years: MHA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Union Home Ministry has said resolute implementation of the national policy and action plan led to a 55 per cent reduction in violent incidents perpetrated by the Naxals and 63 per cent in deaths over a period of eight years.

According to the annual report 2021-22 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, there has been an overall 55 per cent reduction in violent incidents (from 1,136 to 509) and 63 per cent reduction (397 to 147) in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) related deaths in 2021 as compared to 2013.

In comparison to 2020, the year 2021 saw a decline of 24 per cent (665 to 509) in incidents of violence and 20 per cent (183 to 147) in the resultant deaths, the report said.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

"Resolute implementation of the national policy and action plan by the government has resulted in unprecedented improvement in the Left Wing Extremism scenario

across the country," the report said. The last seven years have seen a significant decline in LWE violence as well as its geographical spread. The declining trend which

- In comparison to 2020, the year 2021 saw a decline of 24 per cent (665 to 509) in incidents of violence and 20 per cent (183 to 147) in the resultant deaths
- The last seven years have seen a significant decline in LWE violence as well as its geographical spread
- The declining trend which started in 2011 continues in 2021 as well

started in 2011 continues in 2021 as well, the report said.

At the same time, the developmental outreach by the government of India has seen an in-

creasingly large number of LWE cadres shunning the path of violence and returning to the mainstream. Owing to the improved LWE scenario, the list of LWE affected districts has been revised twice in the last three years. The number of LWE affected districts was reduced to 90 in April 2018 and then to 70 in July 2021.

In 2021, Chhattisgarh (255 incidents and 101 deaths) remains the worst affected state followed by Jharkhand (130 incidents and 26 deaths), Odisha (32 incidents and three deaths), Maharashtra (31 incidents and six deaths) and Bihar (26 incidents and seven deaths).

The overall improvement in LWE scenario can be attributed to greater presence and increased capacity of the security forces across the LWE

affected states, better operational strategy and better monitoring of development schemes in affected areas. According to the report, the geographical spread of LWE violence has also been shrinking considerably. In 2021, LWE violence was reported from areas under 191 police stations in 46 districts spread across eight states as compared to 330 police stations in 76 districts spread over 10 states in 2013.

The arc of violence has been considerably restricted with just 25 districts accounting for 90 per cent of the LWE violence, the report said.

The CPI (Maoist) continues to be the most potent among the various LWE outfits in the country and accounted for more than 90 per cent of total LWE violent incidents and 95 per cent of resultant deaths.

international



We have taken significant measures to strengthen the integrity of our elections processes and our systems, and will continue to invest in the fight against election interference
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | CANADIAN PM

UN WARNS OF FOOD SHORTAGE

The United Nations Tuesday warned of a worsening food crisis in bankrupt Sri Lanka and said the number of people needing urgent humanitarian help had doubled to 3.4 million



of the day quote

We want Russian oil to continue to supply global markets; stay on the market. But we want to make sure that Russia doesn't profit unduly from the war by enjoying prices that are essentially very high due to the war
JANET YELLEN | US TREASURY SECRETARY

I'd like to utter my condemnation [...] absolutely there needs to be free and fair investigation. An attack on the former prime minister or anyone needs to be probed in an impartial manner
BILAWAL BHUTTO ZARDARI | PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER

I'm sad because of my husband, but I'm also sad for our country. I just want people to vote and we will respect the outcome of the election, and I would hope that the other side would do that as well
NANCY PELOSI | US HOUSE SPEAKER

US votes with Biden agenda at stake

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 8: Americans Tuesday cast the final ballots in US midterm elections that will determine whether Democrats lose control of Congress, and with it the ability to push forward on President Joe Biden's agenda in the next two years.

The party that controls the White House typically loses seats in midterm elections. Nonpartisan forecasts suggest Tuesday's results will be no exception, as concerns about high inflation and crime outweigh the end of national abortion rights and the violent Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol in voters' minds.

Thirty-five Senate seats and all 435 House of Representatives seats are on the ballot. Republicans are widely favored to pick up the five seats they need to control the House, while the Senate - currently split 50-50 with Democrats holding the tie-breaking vote - could come down to a quartet of toss-up races in Pennsylvania, Nevada, Georgia and Arizona.

But even before the midterm elections were completed, the 2024 presidential election was taking shape. Former President Donald



In Congress, a Republican-controlled House would be able to block bills addressing Democratic priorities such as abortion rights and climate change

Former President Donald Trump on Monday night sent his strongest hint yet that he would be kicking off his third consecutive White House campaign soon, telling supporters in Ohio that he would be making a 'big announcement' on November 15

Trump on Monday night sent his strongest hint yet that he would be kicking off his third consecutive White House campaign soon, telling supporters in Ohio that he would be making a "big announcement" on Nov. 15. He did not specify what that would be, but he has been telegraphing plans to run again since shortly after losing his 2020 reelection bid to Biden.

Hundreds of supporters of Trump's false claims that his loss was the result of widespread fraud

are on the ballot this year, including several seeking positions that would give them direct oversight of the 2024 presidential elections in competitive states.

More than 42 million Americans voted ahead of Election Day, either by mail or in-person, according to data from the U.S. Election Project. State election officials caution that full results may not be known for days as they count ballots in close races - with control of the Senate perhaps not known until

Zelenskyy reaffirms tough stance on talks

If Republicans win control of Congress, it could become more difficult for President Joe Biden's administration to push forward large packages of military and other aid for Ukraine

REUTERS

Kyiv, Nov 8: Ukraine's president has hinted at the possibility of peace talks with Russia, a shift from his earlier refusal to negotiate with President Vladimir Putin that came on the eve of crucial elections in the United States.

Zelenskyy urged the international community late Monday to "force Russia into real peace talks" and listed his usual conditions for dialogue: the return of all of Ukraine's occupied lands, compensation for damage caused by the war and the prosecution of war crimes.

That is a change in rhetoric at least from a man who signed a decree in late September stating "the



Kyiv has repeatedly proposed (talks) and to which we always received crazy Russian responses with new terrorist attacks, shelling or blackmail
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT

impossibility of holding talks" with Putin. But since his preconditions appear to be non-starters for Moscow, it's hard to see how that would advance any talks. Western weapons and aid have been key to Ukraine's ability to fight off Russia's invasion, which some initially expected would more easily roll through the country. But US midterm elections Tuesday will define the amount and the shape of Washington's future political and financial support for Ukraine.

SHORT TAKES

Princess gives up royal duties

Copenhagen: Princess Martha Louise, the daughter of Norway's King Harald, said Tuesday she no longer will officially represent the Norwegian royal house following "many questions relating to me and my fiancée's role". The 51-year-old princess, who is fourth in line to the Norwegian throne, got engaged in June to Durek Verrett, an American who describes himself as a shaman and a healer on his website. At least one foundation for which Martha Louise served as a patron subsequently ended its connection with the princess.

Clashes over Covid rules

Beijing: Police in northeastern China said that seven people have been arrested following a clash between residents and authorities enforcing COVID-19 quarantine restrictions. The violence comes as China reports new cases nationwide, with 2,230 cases reported Tuesday in the southern manufacturing and technology hub of Guangzhou. While the numbers remain relatively low, China has relentlessly pursued its strict "zero-COVID" policy of quarantines, lockdowns and daily or near-daily compulsory testing. A news release from the police department in the Shandong city of Linyi said public security would take strong measures against those who "illegally violated the legal rights of personal protection of citizens."

US aid worker shot dead

Baghdad: Assaults shot dead an American aid worker in Baghdad Monday in a rare killing of a foreigner in the Iraqi capital in recent years, two police officials said. The man was shot in his car as he entered the street where he lives in the central Karrada district on the east bank of the Tigris River, they said.

N Korea slams US

Seoul: North Korea Tuesday accused the United States of cooking up a "plot-breeding story" on its alleged arms transfer to Russia, arguing it has never sent artillery shells to Moscow. Last week, National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby accused North Korea of covertly supplying a "significant number" of the ammunition to Russia. He said the United States believes North Korea was trying to obscure the transfer route by making it appear the weapons were being sent to countries in the Middle East or North Africa.

Attack on Imran: FIR filed after SC fiat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Nov 8: Police in Pakistan's Punjab province Tuesday registered an FIR in the assassination attempt on former Prime Minister Imran Khan, days after the incident, and named the assailant who was taken into custody as the prime accused in the case.

The move comes after the Supreme Court on Monday ordered the provincial government to file an FIR in the assassination bid on Khan within 24 hours. The FIR named the assailant, Naveed Mohammad Basheer, as the prime accused.

However, it does not mention the names of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and a senior Pakistan Army official Major General Faisal Naseer, three people who Khan had accused of hatching a plot to assassinate him.

"We are going to challenge the FIR in the apex court," a senior leader of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party Fawad Chaudhry said. The delay in getting a case registered in Punjab province, which has PTI at the helm, has raised eyebrows. "I wonder if I, being the former prime minister of Pakistan, can't get an FIR registered regarding an attack on me, what will happen to the common man," he said. On Sunday, Khan said that an FIR has not been registered on his life as authorities are refusing to file the case unless he removes an Army general's name from the complaint.



HELP US: Migrants on a rescue ship hold banners after Italy allowed the disembarkation of children and sick people, in the port of Catania, Italy

The bizarre row over dogs gifted by Kim

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Nov 8: A pair of dogs gifted by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in 2018 are now marred in a South Korean political row, with the country's former president blaming his conservative successor for a lack of financial support as he gave the animals up.

Moon Jae-in, a liberal who left office in May, received the two white "Pungsan" hunting dogs - a breed known to be indigenous to North Korea - from Kim following their peace summit in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang in September 2018.

The dogs are officially considered state property, but Moon



took the pair and one of their seven offspring home after he left office. The move was made possible by a change of law in March that allowed presidential gifts to be managed outside of the Presidential Archives if they were animals or plants.

But Moon's office on Monday said he decided he could no longer

raise the three dogs because the current government of President Yoon Suk Yeol was refusing to cover the costs for the animals' food and veterinary care.

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said that the dogs were returned to the government on Tuesday and that the parent dogs originally sent from Kim were being examined at a veterinary hospital in the city of Daegu.

In its statement released on Facebook, Moon's office accused Yoon's office of "inexplicably" blocking the ministry's proposal to provide government funds for the animal's care. The ministry confirmed it had drafted a budget plan to provide a monthly 2.5 million won (\$1,810) in subsidies,

including 500,000 won (\$360) for the dogs' food and veterinary care and 2 million (\$1,450) for hiring workers to look after them.

But the ministry said the plans were put on hold for months because of unspecified "opposing opinions" from within the ministry and the Ministry of Government Legislation. "It seems that the presidential office, unlike the Presidential Archives and the Interior and Safety Ministry, has a negative view about entrusting the care of the Pungsan dogs to former President Moon," Moon's office said.

If that's the case, Yoon's government should be "cool" about ending that entrustment, Moon's office said.

Indians make up largest foreign-born residents in England, Wales

The UK's Office for National Statistics found that India remained the most common country of birth outside of the UK last year at 920,000 people, followed by Poland at 743,000 people or 1.2 per cent of residents and Pakistan at 624,000 (1 per cent)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 8: Nearly one in six people living in England and Wales last year were born outside the country and Indians constituted the largest chunk at 1.5 per cent of residents, according to latest statistics based on the country's 2021 census data.

The UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) found that India remained the most common country of birth outside of the UK last year at 920,000 people, followed by

Poland at 743,000 people or 1.2 per cent of residents and Pakistan at 624,000 (1 per cent).

"One in six usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK, an increase of 2.5 million since 2011, from 7.5 million (13.4 per cent) to 10 million (16.8 per cent)," the ONS said in a release. "India remained the most common country of birth outside the UK in 2021," it said.

The top three countries of birth outside the UK for England and Wales remain unchanged as India,

CENSUS DATA



Poland and Pakistan since the last census 10 years ago, with the numbers rising across all categories - India from 694,000, Poland

from 579,000 and Pakistan from 482,000 in 2011.

The census data also shows that Polish (760,000, 1.3 per cent),

Romanian (550,000, 0.9 per cent) and Indian (369,000, 0.6 per cent) were the three most common non-UK passports held by residents in England and Wales in 2021.

London remained the region with both the largest proportion of people born outside the UK and the largest proportion of people with non-UK passports. In 2021, more than four in 10 (40.6 per cent) usual residents in London were non-UK born, and more than one in five (23.3 per cent) had a non-UK passport.

This is a marginal increase since 2011, when 36.7 per cent of London residents were non-UK born and 21.0 per cent had a non-UK passport. The number of people who listed Romania as their country of birth grew by 576 per cent since the previous census, from 80,000 in 2011 to 539,000 in 2021 - marking the high-

est out of any country, driven by working restrictions for Romanian citizens being lifted in 2014.

"The census paints a picture of how the make-up of the population has changed in the past decade. That decade, of course, saw us leave the EU as well as live with the pandemic," said Jon Wroth-Smith, Census Deputy Director.

"While these events may have had an impact on people's decisions or ability to migrate or travel at a given time, the census tells us about the change over the whole decade - who was living here in March 2021, compared with March 2011. We can see Romanians have been a big driver in this change, while there have also been increases due to migration from India, Pakistan and Poland, as well as southern European countries such as Italy," he said.

business

of the day quote

To increase India's cotton productivity, supply of good quality seeds is the need of the hour and requires some concrete action from related ministries on a war footing

The macro-environment has been challenging with a continued increase in timber prices, partially offset by the ease in some chemical prices. The situation remains volatile

The surge in demand on the back of the continued recovery of the automotive market has contributed to a strong performance this quarter

EARNINGS CORNER

Suzuki Motor profit jumps

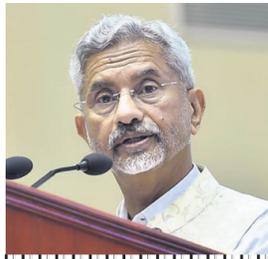
New Delhi/Tokyo: Japanese auto major Suzuki Motor Corporation Tuesday reported a two-fold year-on-year increase in operating profit at 89.8 billion yen (around ₹5,000 crore) in the second quarter ended September 30, 2022. Net sales in the period under review stood at 1,154.1 billion yen (around ₹64,000 crore), an increase of 39.3 per cent over 828.2 billion yen in the same period last year. The company attributed the rise in operating profit to sales volume growth across markets, including India, which offset the impact of higher raw material prices. Suzuki said its automobile sales across markets for the April-September period stood at 14.63 lakh units as compared to 12.55 lakh units in the same period last year. On the business outlook for the rest of the year, the automaker noted: "While there is no change in our perception that the risk of global recession is increasing, we have revised the forecast upward to reflect the progress of the first half of the fiscal year and the review of unit sales and the weak yen."

Dr Lal Path Labs PAT declines 25%

New Delhi: Diagnostic services provider Dr Lal Path Labs Tuesday said its consolidated profit after tax declined 24.8 per cent to ₹72.4 crore in the second quarter ended September. The company had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹96.3 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations, however, grew 7.1 per cent to ₹533.8 crore during the period under review, from ₹498.4 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Dr Lal Path Labs said its non-COVID revenue increased 14.8 per cent in Q2 FY23 to ₹514 crore, from ₹448 crore in the year-ago period.

GCPL net falls 25% to ₹359cr

New Delhi: FMCG major Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) Tuesday reported a decline of 25.06 per cent in its consolidated net profit at ₹358.86 crore for the second quarter ended September. It had posted a net profit of ₹478.89 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, GCPL said in a regulatory filing. The revenue from the sale of products of the Godrej group's FMCG arm was up 7 per cent at ₹3,364.45 crore during the quarter under review, as against ₹3,143.61 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal. GCPL's total expenses were 14.41 per cent up at ₹2,951.38 crore in the September quarter. It was reported at ₹2,579.45 crore last year.



India will continue buying Russian oil because it benefits the country

S JAISHANKAR | FOREIGN MINISTER

HIRING ACTIVITY DECLINES 6% IN OCT: REPORT

Hiring activity declined 6% year-on-year in October as recruiters adopted a cautious approach in adding new workforce, the Monster Employment Index (MEI) said Tuesday. Sequentially, hiring activity has dropped by 5% following the changing patterns in the startup ecosystem, funding winter and fears of an upcoming recession, according to the MEI.



Banks inadequately pricing risks: SBI report

Amid a decadal high credit growth of over 18 per cent, deposit growth has been falling way behind

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 8: Amidst liquidity tightening and a decadal high credit growth of over 18 per cent and deposit growth falling way behind, a report has warned that banks are not adequately pricing their risks from both asset and liabilities sides.

Liquidity crunch is primarily because the Reserve Bank has been sucking out funds from the system as it fights to tame inflation which has been much above its band of 4 per cent for the past 10 months of the year. This has prompted the RBI to frontload its inflation fight by increasing the policy rates by 190 basis points to pre-pandemic levels since the war on Ukraine began.

The average net durable liquidity injected into the banking system in April 2022 was ₹8.3 lakh crore, which is nearly a third of that now at ₹3 lakh crore. Atop this, the government has spent a large part of its cash balances in the Diwali week, and as a result the net LAF (liquidity adjust facility) in the system, which was hitherto negative, has improved of late. Bonus payments by the government and the private sector also



helped.

Even as the banking system has moved closer to a calibrated liquidity coupled with higher signaling rates, one thing has still not changed is that credit risks are not getting adequately priced in, even as credit demand is at a decadal high and liquidity remains significantly downsized, argues Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser at the State Bank of India, in a report.

According to the report, what is still intriguing, however, is that even as the banking system is witnessing net LAF deficit, market sources point out that risk premia over and above core funding cost

are not fairly acknowledging the inherent credit risk.

For example, short tenor working capital loans for less than one year are given at lower than 6 per cent and are linked to one-month/three-month T-bill rates, while 10- and 15-year loans are being priced at less than 7 per cent.

It is to be noted that 10-year G-Sec is currently trading around 7.46 per cent, while the 91-day T-bill is trading at around 6.44 per cent and 364-day T-bill at around 6.97 per cent.

The average core funding cost of the banking system is at around 6.2 per cent now, while the reverse repo rate is at 5.65 per cent. No wonder, banks are currently en-

OMCs' Q2 loss at ₹2,749cr

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) IOC, BPCL and HPCL posted a second consecutive quarterly loss totalling ₹2,748.66 crore in July-September as a one-time LPG payout by the government could not mask the losses from petrol and diesel prices freeze.

According to stock exchange filings by the three fuel retailers, the losses were due to erosion in the marketing margin on petrol, diesel and domestic LPG.

The losses would have been higher but for the ₹22,000 crore one-time government grant paid to make up for losses incurred on selling cooking gas LPG at rates below cost in the last two years. Losses were despite robust refining margin extending into the second quarter.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), which are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily in line with cost, have not changed rates for record seven months in a row.

IOC October 29 reported a net loss of ₹272.35 crore for the July-September quarter, which came on the back of ₹1,995.3 crore loss in the previous three months. November 3, HPCL reported a loss



of ₹2,172.14 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal, on the back of its highest-ever quarterly loss of ₹10,196.94 crore in April-June. BPCL Monday posted a loss of ₹304.17 crore in July-September, according to a company's stock exchange filing. In the first quarter, it posted a loss of ₹6,263.05 crore. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had last week indicated that his ministry will seek assistance from the finance ministry to cover the losses incurred on holding petrol and diesel prices since the Ukraine war to help the government fight inflation.

"OMCs still have under-recoveries on diesel," he had told reporters November 2 when asked if there is a price reduction in the offering in line with softening international oil prices.

Rate hikes unlikely to impact asset quality of home loan portfolios: Icra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 8: The ongoing rate hikes are unlikely to impact repayments by home loan borrowers despite an increase in the monthly instalments, a rating agency said Tuesday. Mortgage lenders have limited headroom to extend the loan tenures given the fact that the prime home loan segment already has long tenures, and a further extension in loan tenures will lead to overall tenures extending beyond the working life of the borrower, rating agency Icra said.

As a result, equated monthly instalments (EMIs) will go up by 12-21 per cent for prime home loans, while the same will go up by 8-13 per cent in the case of the affordable home loan segment, its sector head for financial sector ratings Manushree Saggarr said.

"While there is an expectation of a further increase in interest rates, lenders have limited headroom to increase loan tenures; thus, EMIs would have to be revised upwards. However, this is unlikely to impact the HFCs asset quality indicators significantly," Saggarr said.

Even with revised EMIs, the fixed obligation to income ratio (FOIR) is expected to increase by less than 10 percentage points and hence remain manageable, unless the original loans were given at aggressive FOIRs, she added.

The RBI has hiked rates by 1.90% since May in response to the runaway inflation, which has been transmitted into rates paid by home borrowers as well. Icra said the increase in FOIRs could also be partly offset by the expected increase in income levels with the improvement in the operating environment.

Central African Republic seeks Indian investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Landlocked in the heart of Africa, the Central African Republic is seeking Indian investors to mine its abundant natural resources ranging from oil, uranium and lithium to gold, diamonds, iron ore and copper.

The African nation's Minister for Economy Lea Doumta, who led a delegation on a two-day visit here, said her country is "mighty impressed" with India's growth and development model and is keen to emulate it. "We see India as a role model and are keen to partner with its government and companies in our economic progress," she told PTI here.

Bordered by Cameroon, Chad, the two Congos, and the two Sudans, the Central African Republic is one of the poorest nations despite its abundant natural resources.

According to the World Bank, the former French colony has 470



Bordered by Cameroon, Chad, the two Congos, and the two Sudans, the Central African Republic is one of the poorest nations despite its abundant natural resources

It's a win-win partnership for both." Besides iron ore, the Central African Republic also has deposits of lithium - the critical component used in batteries for electric vehicles or EVs. India is short on lithium and needs to import it for its fast-expanding EV fleet.

Indian companies such as mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd can come and look at resources in the country, she said, adding the Central African Republic is mapping its mineral wealth.

Situated on a fertile plateau and abundant in water resources, the Central African Republic has considerable agricultural potential and is now throwing open its land rights to the outside world, wherein investors can buy large land parcels online, she said, adding it is only the second country in the world that has Bitcoin as an official currency and such purchases can be done in Bitcoins.

minerals, with oil, gold and diamonds having the greatest potential. Diamonds account for nearly half of the country's total export earnings.

A nation comparable to the size of Ukraine has the largest reserve of iron ore in the world and the best quality of rare wood and timber across the globe.

"We have all the resources but not enough technological and fi-

ancial resources to mine them," she said. The country also has uranium, iron ore, copper and manganese deposits.

"We want the Indian government and its companies to help us build infrastructure like roads as well as in sustainable exploitation of our mineral wealth," she said. "India needs natural resources to feed its vast expanding economy and we need their technical know-how

3 Indian bizwomen in Forbes Nov issue



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Nov 8: Three top Indian businesswomen are featured in the Forbes Asia November issue highlighting 20 Asian women who

came up with varying strategies that helped their businesses soar despite the uncertainty of the new normal and three years of Covid-19.

Soma Mondal, the chairperson of Steel Authority of India Ltd,

Namita Thapar, executive director at India business of Emcure Pharma, and Ghazal Alagh, co-founder and chief innovation officer of Honasa Consumer, are on the list.

Some of these women operated in hard-hit sectors such as shipping, property, and construction, while others continue to innovate in areas such as technology, pharmaceuticals, and commodities, Forbes said in a press release Tuesday.

The Asia-Pacific region this year has mostly moved on to a post-pandemic era where governments, people, and businesses are learning to live with Covid-19, it said.

The other women on the list are from Australia, China, South Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.



An EV car rally was flagged off by Sabyasach Das, Area Sales Manager, EV cars, and Subrat Panda, Product Manager, Tata Motors, in presence of MD, Trupti Group, Suvendu Mohanty and CEO Ranjan Mohapatra. About 25 customers participated in the rally from Trupti Motors, Patia branch to Hotel Ginger, Bhubaneswar.

MUSK FREES THE BIRD AND THE DOG COIN FLIES

Crypto watchers said the latest price jump, following the Twitter deal, was fuelled by investor bets that Musk would make dogecoin a part of the platform's payments system

REUTERS

Singapore, Nov 8: It's no joke. Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter has put fresh wind in the sails of dogecoin, the meme cryptocurrency he catapulted to fame.

Dogecoin's price doubled after the Tesla tycoon completed the \$44 billion deal. It was trading at about \$0.07 Oct. 27 before Musk tweeted "the bird is freed" to announce his ownership. Five days later, it was at \$0.16.

That may not sound like much, but it gave the highly volatile cryp-

tocurrency a market value of \$21 billion, according to data platform CoinGecko.

Not bad for a coin that was created as a "joke" satirising wild speculation in the crypto market and named after an internet meme of a Shiba Inu dog.

"Trading dogecoin around Elon tweets has become a lucrative form of speculation," said Matthew Dibb, chief operating officer of Singapore-based crypto investment manager Stack Funds.

Musk has indeed played a big role in the rise of dogecoin since its lighthearted launch by two software engineers in 2013. His tweets expressing support for the coin, including one calling it the "people's crypto", helped its price come from almost nowhere to surge about 4,000% in 2021.

Crypto watchers said the latest price jump, following the Twitter deal, was fuelled by investor bets that Musk would make dogecoin a



part of the platform's payments system. "There's a lot of speculation that Twitter will provide a test bed for doge adoption and experimentation for different uses," Dibb added.

DOGE AND SHIB

Dogecoin, has since lost some

of its gains and is hovering at about \$0.12, which makes it the eighth-biggest cryptocurrency, with a market cap of around \$16 billion, according to CoinGecko.

The so-called meme coin hit a peak of \$0.63 in May last year, but macro gloom and investor apathy

to risky markets have since crushed it along with other prominent crypto assets such as bitcoin and ether. Even after the latest rally, doge is down 57% in the past 12 months.

Nonetheless, crypto market news website Coindesk said the doubling of its price had made doge the top performer among 150 digital assets in its CoinDesk Market Index in October.

Its share of the \$1 trillion global crypto market cap through the year until the end of October was 1%, a fraction of bitcoin's 39%, according to CoinMarketCap. Now it's at 1.58%.

Doge has lifted other dog-themed coins in its wake, chiefly Shiba Inu, which has the same motif of the Japanese canine breed as doge and is designed to be compatible on the Ethereum blockchain. Shib, which trades at just \$0.00001, jumped by a third in the days after Musk closed the Twitter deal.

Unlike bitcoin, both doge and shib have near unlimited supplies, meaning it would take more than mere speculative hoarding to drive their prices up.

AT MERCY OF MUSK?

Bets that Musk may allow crypto payments with dog tokens were kindled by his tweet last week of a picture of the Shiba Inu dog wearing a Twitter T-shirt.

Yet the early rally has stalled, with many crypto investors stumped about how serious he really is about dogecoin.

Musk, the world's richest person, called dogecoin a "hustle" on a talkshow in May last year; for instance, sending the price tumbling.

Then in January this year, Tesla started accepting dogecoin as payment for its merchandise, such as the "Giga Texas" belt buckles and mini models of electric vehicles.

Musk's newly launched perfume "Burnt Hair" can also be bought with doge.

India survive a scare England aware of Surya, Virat threats



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Nov 8: The Indian cricket team survived a scare ahead of the T20 World Cup semifinal against England as skipper Rohit Sharma sustained a powerful blow on his forearm during training Tuesday, but it did not turn out to be a serious injury. Rohit was undergoing usual practice drills as he faced team's throwdown expert S Raghunath at the Adelaide Oval when a short ball jumped off the length area and hit his right forearm. The captain, who was attempting a pull shot and missed the ball, was visibly in pain. After applying ice pack on the injured arm and resting for a while, Rohit resumed his training. Team sources said the skipper is doing fine and should play the semifinal against England Thursday. "He didn't feel much discomfort when he batted for the second time.

CT scan or x-ray might not be needed. Also we have one day in the middle which is also optional session. It doesn't look serious as of now," a source privy to development told this agency. Rohit looked desolate and in considerable pain when he was watching the training session from a distance, sitting on an ice box, after being hit. Mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton was seen talking to him for a considerable amount of time. Rohit resumed his training after some time but throwdown experts were told not to go full throttle as he mostly played defensive shots to check if his movements were okay. Rohit has a fascination for the attractive pull shot which has got him plenty of runs but he has also lost wickets playing the shot a number of times. Even in this tournament, Rohit got out playing the pull-shot against Zimbabwe and South Africa while

against Bangladesh, he was dropped in the deep trying to play the horizontal bat stroke. Rohit also had similar kind of dismissals during the 2021 England series. It is a high risk, high gain shot and it is intrinsic to Rohit the player. During the training, he dedicates maximum time to the pull-shot, whether it's played behind the square or in-front of the square. Even during the second training session on Tuesday after being hit, Rohit played a few pull shots with Raghunath getting it to rear from length. One of the pre-requisite to pull off the shot is the hand-eye co-ordination. However when one ages, reflexes are slightly on the wane and the reaction time is split second more, execution may suffer. India will take on England in the second semifinal here Thursday while Pakistan and New Zealand will lock horns in first semifinal Wednesday in Sydney.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Adelaide, Nov 8: England all-rounder Ben Stokes is hopeful that his bowling attack can contain the rampaging Suryakumar Yadav in the T20 World Cup semifinal against India even though his shots have forced him to scratch his head in awe. He was also lavish in his praise for Indian legend Virat Kohli, who he thinks has "earned the right to be never written off". England's top all-rounder is cautiously optimistic about his team's chances in the big semi-final Thursday. "Suryakumar obviously came in and set the world alight. He is a fantastic player and plays some shots where you sort of just scratching the head sometimes. He is in great form, but hopefully, we can try and shut him down and not allow him to get on one of his rampages," Stokes, who has been impressive with the ball, told reporters in an interaction organised by the England & Wales Cricket Board. Talking about Kohli, with whom Stokes has shared a healthy rivalry over the years, the Durham man was at his wits end that a player of that stature could be written off so easily after a downward spiral. "I think with Virat he could have four unbelievable years like he had, and then have a not so loud couple of months and then for some reason plays like that and gets written off, we have got no idea why. I think he has earned the right to never be written off." As far as Kohli is concerned, his numbers speak for itself, said Stokes. "You don't produce the numbers and produce the innings that he (Kohli) does in all three formats and it's fine. We as players and people who play against him a lot, we never take anything he has done in the game before into the game we have got here," said Stokes. Stokes admitted that England have reached the semi-finals without "playing their best cricket" so far but on a big day, against a good Indian team, that wouldn't be the case.



"I think the way we have managed to get through not playing our best cricket so far and now we find ourselves here. So obviously it's exciting. But we know we need to get this game done on Thursday, against a very strong Indian team which no one will ever take lightly," Stokes put things as they are. "This is because of the team they are and the players that they have in their squad. But we like to focus more on our squad and not think too much about them." In fact, he also didn't want to read too much into opposition skip-

per Rohit Sharma's lean run with the bat. "The likes of Rohit, they are world-class players. You can't take (assume) anything from what he has performed in the previous game because you have seen him do it many a time (in big games). He is one of the best to play the game, especially in this format. We won't be taking him lightly at all." When asked if spin will play a big role in Adelaide under floodlights, Stokes was non-committal. "I am pretty sure it will but how big a role, I don't know."



Odisha settle for second-place finish



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Odisha boys created history in roll ball event securing their maiden final appearance at the East Zone U-14 National Roll Ball Championship, which took place in Guwahati November 4-7. However, they fell short of the title in the extra-time after put off a valiant fight with the hosts - Assam. The regulation period ended 6-6, before the hosts scored the deciding goal, which turned out to be the winner via golden goal method. Jharkhand finished third thrashing Bihar 11-4. Biren Das from Odisha was awarded as the best goal keeper and Pratik Arnav Jena became the player of the tournament by scoring the maximum number of goals - 22. It was only the second edition of the event, which witnessed nine

participating states - hosts Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal and Odisha. Partha Sarathi Jena, secretary of Odisha Roll Ball Association, heaped praise on the team's performance. However, he also rued the lack of proper infrastructure and urged the state government to look into it. "The only problem we do have in our state is a proper Roll Ball infrastructure and in this regard, we request our Government and Sports Department to have a proper Roll Ball Ground in Kalinga Stadium like other state do have in their respective States, so that our efforts in making more professional Roll Ball athletes/players can be created and also can bring up this Indian origin sport- Roll Ball to much more higher level of success," said Jena.

SPORTS ODISHA, ECoR TRIUMPH



Sports Odisha and E.Co. Railway (ECoR) emerged champions in the men's and women's category respectively at the FAO Inter-Club Futsal Championship. Sports Odisha defeated Ardor Football Academy in the men's segment while ECoR eves beat OGP Club for the crown. In the men's category, the winners and the runners-up teams bagged ₹15,000 and ₹10,000 respectively, while ECoR and OGP Club got ₹10,000 and ₹7,000 respectively in the women's segment.

DOMINANT GARCIA REIGNS SUPREME

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fort Worth (Texas), Nov 8: Caroline Garcia plopped on a cowboy hat to go with the trophy she was holding after telling fans she had enjoyed her first trip to Texas. There was plenty for the Frenchwoman to like in Cowtown. Garcia took a tight first set and went on to a 7-6(7-4), 6-4 victory over Aryna Sabalenka to win the championship of the WTA Finals Monday night. The sixth-ranked Garcia became the second player from France to win the season-ending event after Amelie Mauresmo in 2005, also the last time the WTA Finals were held in the US. Tied in the deciding game of a match with just one break point, Garcia's service winner gave her a second chance to close it out. When Sabalenka sent a forehand long, Garcia dropped to the court on her back and put clenched fists over her eyes.

The event was moved to Texas from China over concerns about the safety of Peng Shuai, a Grand Slam doubles champion who accused a former government official there of sexual assault. Coronavirus restrictions also played a part in the decision. Garcia won her last six sets after dropping the first in a winner-take-all match against Daria Kasatkina in group play. The 29-year-old is the oldest WTA Finals winner since Serena Williams at 33 in 2014.

The only player to win titles on all three surfaces this season, Garcia was just as comfortable as Sabalenka on the temporary indoor hard court at Dickies Arena near downtown Fort Worth.

As a result, Garcia handed the No.7 player from Belarus just her third loss in 12 career hard-court finals. The 24-year-old Sabalenka was trying to become the first from her country to win the WTA Finals. The first set went to a tie-breaker without a break of serve in a meeting of the tour (Garcia) and tournament (Sabalenka) leaders in aces coming into the match. Garcia won six consecutive points in the tie-breaker, capped by her 10th ace of the first set for a 6-2 lead. Sabalenka's third double fault ended the set. Garcia finished with 11 aces to four for Sabalenka. Two break chances came quickly in the first game of the second set, but Garcia only needed one. She ripped a forehand winner down the line on Sabalenka's serve to go in front for good.

Sabalenka reached the title match by beating top-ranked Iga Swiatek. That semifinal victory ended a 15-match winning streak against top-10 opponents that was the longest on tour in 35 years. Going into the WTA Finals, Garcia was the only entrant in the eight-player field to beat Swiatek - but was ranked 45th when she did it at the Poland Open in July. Garcia went on to her best Grand Slam finish, reaching the semifinals at the US Open. Garcia's fourth victory of the season, second only to Swiatek's eight, came in the second 6-7 meeting in WTA Finals history. The other was Maria Sharapova-Serena Williams in 2004. Veronika Kudermetova and Elise Mertens beat defending champions Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova 6-2, 4-6, 11-9 to win the doubles title.



Grassroots development should be priority: Bhutia



Bhaichung Bhutia speaks to mediapersons, while Mithali Raj looks on during a press event in Bangalore

Bangalore, Nov 8: Former India football captain Bhaichung Bhutia feels that investing in grassroots development is the only way out to take the game forward in the country. He said footballers of all age in the country should have enough competitive matches to be able to do well in international tournaments. "You need to invest in the youth, grassroots development and then the player and the club benefit out of it and that's how football grows in the country. This is the only way if you want to really take football forward in India," Bhutia told PTI on the sidelines of an event here Tuesday. "We have to reach out to the kids in rural, district and state levels. Sadly, we are not making them compete. Kids are not being able to train and compete within their own age group. That's been the biggest challenge." The legendary striker also advocated the need to adopt the formula followed by European clubs, which invest in young talent and groom them to become quality players. "This model should be replicated by Indian football clubs. That's how you invest in grassroots. You are looking at grassroots very raw and then taking talent and training to become a really great asset for the club and the country, that's where the club also generates revenue," Bhutia said.

"A lot of clubs in Africa and South America get raw talent from the grassroots, train them and then sell them to big clubs in Europe. They go back and play for their country and that's where the country also benefits out of the talent. That's how football grows. This is the model which I really think helps." Meanwhile, former India women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj is keeping her options open for the women's IPL tournament slated next year - player or mentor or even owning a team. The BCCI recently announced that the inaugural women's IPL will take place in March next year before the men's tournament. Kunal Shah-backed Masai School, which offers courses in software development and data analytics, has raised USD 10 million in a Series B fundraising round led by Omidyar Network India, with sporting stalwarts Mithali and Bhutia also joining as investors and partners. "I am keeping that role open, whether as a player or in a franchise in some way as a mentor," she told PTI in an interview Tuesday. "But right now, nothing is clear, there are five teams. How they are going to do, whether it's a bidding or auction, so until there is some concrete information, I am keeping pretty much all things open," said Mithali, who retired from international cricket earlier this year. Asked if owning a team is an option, she said, "Maybe, yes".