

## CM promises district status to Padampur

OPPOSITION TERMS IT A POLITICAL STUNT AND VIOLATION OF MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 16:** BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik promised Wednesday formation of a separate Padampur district by December 31, 2023. The new district will be created by dividing Bargarh district in western Odisha.

This was revealed by members of the Padampur District Action Committee who are demanding formation of a separate region of Padampur. The members of the committee met the chief minister at Naveen Niwas here.

"As the model code of conduct (MCC) for the bypoll is in place,



the CM didn't make an official announcement. However, the BJD will include the assurance for Padampur district formation in its bypoll manifesto," Umesh Chandra Sahoo, president of the action committee told reporters here.

Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari, who accompanied the members of the committee said: "We called the members of the committee to discuss their demands with the CM. During the discussion, the chief minister has assured the district tag to Padampur."

It should be stated here that the demand for district status to Padampur has been on for some time now. Even Wednesday several organisations staged dharna near Paikamal chhak in Bargarh town. Action committee members had also staged demonstrations in front of the sub-collector's office in Padampur to press their demands.

**Continued on P4**



### FOOTBALL FEVER

With the FIFA World Cup set to begin November 20 in Qatar, a fan draws murals of the legendary Pele and Diego Maradona on a wall in Kolkata, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

## 5 journos quit jobs after fresh threats surface in Valley

AGENCIES

**Srinagar, Nov 16:** Five journalists with local newspapers here have resigned as a fresh threat against mediapersons surfaced on various social media platforms Wednesday. The resignation came after a propaganda arm of terrorists put out a list of over a dozen journalists, accusing them of being informers of security forces. All the 12 have been threatened with dire consequences if they continue working with the media.

Police said The Resistance Front (TRF), which is an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), is behind the threats. An FIR under anti-terrorist law, UAPA has been registered and investigations have been launched.

"The content of the post clearly depicts the intention of terrorists and anti-national elements. They have put the life of people, especially media persons, in danger by publicly calling them corrupt and giving direct threats to their lives. In this regard, an FIR stands registered," a police officer said. Official sources said around a dozen suspects have been rounded up by the police and are being questioned for their alleged links with TRF.

"We have rounded up suspects for being over ground workers of TRF. The detentions are not exactly linked to threats against media houses or journalists," an officer informed.

Three reporters have published resignation letters on their social media pages. They have done so to avoid trouble, as terrorists have threatened to target anyone working for various media houses here.

**Continued on P4**

## PRADHAN ALLEGES INSURANCE SCAM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 16:** Ahead of the Padampur bypoll, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged his cabinet colleague Narendra Singh Tomar to order for a probe into alleged scam in disbursing crop insurance claims under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima

Yojana (PMFBY) in Odisha.

After receiving complaints from farmers of Bargarh district, Pradhan met Wednesday the Union Agriculture Minister in New Delhi and requested him for a proper investigation towards the functioning of PMFBY and alleged malpractices by officials of Odisha government during the crop cutting experiments (CCEs) in the

Kharif 2021 season. Pradhan has also written a letter to Tomar on this issue.

"Sadly, CCEs have been conducted unscientifically without proper use of technology to suit insurance companies. This is a possible case of collusion between private insurance companies and government officials," Pradhan said in his letter.

**Continued on P4**

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Your China initiative was good. Every TikTok user has welcomed it

## Beyonce hogs Grammy nominations with 9

STAR SINGER SO FAR NOMINATED 88 TIMES IN VARIOUS SEGMENTS

AGENCIES

**Los Angeles, Nov 16:** Beyonce has propelled herself into the highest Grammy echelon. The star singer claimed nine nominations Tuesday, making her tied with her husband Jay-Z as the most nominated music act in the history of the awards.

Beyonce's *Break My Soul* reeled in 'Record' and 'Song of the Year' nominations, while *Renaissance* got the 'Album of the Year'. With Jay-Z also earning five nods this year, each spouse now holds the record for the most-ever Grammy nominations at 88 apiece.

Kendrick Lamar came away with the second-most nominations, with eight. Adele and Brandi Carlile both received seven nods. Harry Styles, Mary J Blige, Future, DJ Khaled, The-Dream and mastering engineer Randy Merrill each picked up six nominations.



Beyonce, the most decorated woman in Grammy history with 28 wins, could break the late

Hungarian-British conductor Georg Solti's record for most awards won if she bags four Grammys this time. Solti, who has 31 Grammys, has held on to the record since 1997.

For the first time in Beyonce's lauded career, she was nominated in the dance category. Her seventh studio project is up for 'Best Dance-Electronic Music' album and *Break My Soul* is nominated for 'Best Dance-Electronic Recording'. Other nominations include best 'R&B' song for *Cuff It*, 'R&B' performance for *Virgo's*

*Groove*, traditional R&B performance for *Plastic Off the Sofa* and song written for visual media for *Be Alive*, the Oscar-nominated song from the 'King Richard' soundtrack.

Nearly half of this year's leading nominees - announced by the likes of Olivia Rodrigo, John Legend, Machine Gun Kelly and Smokey Robinson - are women and more than half are people of colour, according to the recording academy. The ceremony will be held February 5 here.

**Continued on P4**



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# leisure



## KRAMER REVEALS SHE WAS GHOSTED BY CHRIS EVANS

Singer Jana Kramer, who once dated actor Chris Evans, revealed that she was ghosted by him. She even admitted that she DMed him about a year ago, though she did not reveal whether Evans responded.

## MADONNA GOES TOPLESS AGAIN

Queen of pop Madonna went topless again after she warned trolls to stop 'bullying' her following rapper 50 Cent's hurtful 'grandma' comments. November 14, she posted a video and photos of her covering her bare breasts only with her hair and a \$3K Balenciaga purse, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
If you have children, it's likely you'll spoil them today. After all, it's for days like these that you work hard, says Ganesh. You will also complete pending assignments and it's a productive day for those in medical professions and public services.

**TAURUS**  
You will enjoy your responsibilities at the home front, says Ganesh. People whom you trusted to watch your back might let you down today. Remember, what you sow is what you reap, so do not fall short of putting in the effort required to make something fruitful.

**GEMINI**  
Today, a strong emotional link with someone special may get established, predicts Ganesh. So you will remain delighted and elated for most part of the day. Still, some petty problems may spoil your happy mood later in the day. Diffuse tension with a light-hearted approach.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will realise that in this materialistic world, everything is judged by its appearance, and what is unseen counts for nothing. You will work hard to be seen and will crave for attention.

**LEO**  
The thing with skills is that they are not static; they are as dynamic as anything else. It is akin to being on a treadmill — you need to continuously keep moving just to stay in the same place, says Ganesh. So keep refreshing yourself by learning new things in order to sustain your progress.

**VIRGO**  
Financial doldrums are headed your way today. In order to seek what you desire, expect shelling out a hefty price. You might just net those short-term goals in the evening. Ganesh foretells large and important business deals will end the day on a high note.

**LIBRA**  
Today will be fabulous for you, especially if you are in the world of business. Long-term deals seem to be on the cards for you. If you happen to be a government officer, luck favours you today. Keep your ears and eyes open, there may be news of a possible promotion. All Ganesh has to say to you today is, keep your options open and hopes alive.

**SCORPIO**  
In all probability, you are set to shine out as a man of care and kindness. Ganesh advises you to shut the doors on worries and open the windows to let merrymaking and happiness sweep you off your feet today. The social bug will bite you hard, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your dedication to work is set to shift to the top gear. Find yourself swamped by excess of workload in the forenoon. Things, however, will lighten as the afternoon progresses. Expect a fun-filled, exciting evening.

**CAPRICORN**  
As the day begins, you may get a strong urge to leave everything and set off on a backpacking trip. So strong the wanderer in you may be now that it may even momentarily take over the famed Goat caution. Yet alas, this being only a fleeting moment, you may soon don your dapper avatar, and head to work. If nothing else, at least, loosen your tie at the end of the day and head to a dance floor. In short, live a little, winks Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will take the road to spirituality today and give a miss to materialism. You will visit temples, other religious places, and spiritual leaders to find answers for some of your questions. It will, however, take a while for you to distinguish between mysticism and materialism, and understand that you can have the best of both worlds.

**PISCES**  
You will not take matters to heart needlessly today, and will instead calmly evaluate the bitter words of others to see if there is a grain of truth in them somewhere. This is a good practice and one that should be continued.



## Tamannaah's savage reply to wedding rumours

**Mumbai:** Tamannaah Bhatia has been in the news lately due to her back-to-back releases. Recently, speculations were doing rounds that the *F3* actress will be getting married to a businessman. Clearing the air, she took to her Instagram handle and gave a savage reply. The diva shared a video dressed up as a man on the story section of the app, along with the caption, "Introducing my businessman husband..."

However, this is not the first time the rumors of her getting married circulated. Tamannaah Bhatia had rubbished such speculations like a boss earlier as well. Back in 2019, the *Devi 2* actress revealed during an interaction that she has given her parents the responsibility of finding a suitable groom for her. She also added that her mother is already searching for a match.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Tamannaah Bhatia will next grace the silver screens with Chiranjeeviled *Bhola Shankar*. While she will be seen as the Megastar's love interest in the movie, the National Award-winning actress Keerthy Suresh will play the role of his sister.

Helmed by director Meher Ramesh, the film is an official Telugu remake of the hit Tamil drama, *Vedalam*. The much-awaited project will be released on the big screen 14th April 2023. AGENCIES

## Huma to collaborate with Nicole Kidman

The 'Badlapur' actress is all set to join a conversation about a happy and healthy life with the Hollywood icon



**Mumbai:** Huma Qureshi has once again charmed the critics as well as the audience with her performance in her latest release

*Monica, O My Darling*. While the praises are still pouring in on social media, there is one more good news for her fandom. Huma is all

set to collaborate with global icon Nicole Kidman.

Sharing the news with her Insta fam, Qureshi dropped a post to give details of her collaboration with Nicole. The duo will discuss health, wellness, and beauty.

Captioning the announcement post, the *Gangs Of Wasseyapur* actress wrote, "Finally! Super excited to announce that I will be in conversation with world-renowned actress Nicole Kidman, hosted by Australia's leading wellness brand @swissein ... Women discussing the secrets behind a happy and healthy life! Watch this space for more."

As soon as she shared the post, many of her fans and peers from the industry congratulated her. "OMG what an unexpected and iconic pairing," exclaimed an Instagram user, while another commented, "more power to you." On the other hand, Raghavendra Mahat, Diana Penty, and Patralekhaa, among others, were the first ones to drop wishes for the actress in the comments section. AGENCIES

## Kritika shares her fangirl moment

**Mumbai:** Celebrities have often called themselves "huge" Shah Rukh Khan fans. The latest to join the list is actress Kritika Kamra who has recently talked about the same while narrating to the story of her fan girl moment with the *Baazigar* star.

Kritika recalled being at a party to which SRK was also invited. She asserted, "I am a huge Shah Rukh Khan fan. And, this one party, it was a TV channel's party to celebrate a milestone. I remember Shah Rukh Khan entered the party. He was supposed to make an appearance, come to the stage and do something. And, suddenly, the channel guys came to me and asked me - would you like to interview him?"

The actress further added, "I had no idea. Of course, I am not a journalist. I have never done this before but I got so excited with the idea of just talking to Shah Rukh Khan that I said yes. I went for it fully unprepared, and I had no idea what to do, or what to ask him. I was so nervous, I was almost shaking."

Concluding her story, the *Tandav* actress said, "But it went very smoothly. Because, I mean, he is the best, he is so charming that he took things into his own hands. He asked questions and gave answers. And we did little dance steps together." AGENCIES



## Abhishek is a very giving actor: Naveen

**Mumbai:** Actor Naveen Kasturia, who plays Victor in the recently released second season of *Breathe: Into the Shadows*, has most of his scenes with Abhishek Bachchan in the streaming show. The actor recently spoke about his camaraderie with Abhishek and how the latter is a very giving actor, who gives room to his co-actors to explore their characters and the story.

He mentioned the one quality of Abhishek that makes him stand apart from other actors. "I think Abhishek is a very giving actor, he gives you your space, and off camera he is very warm and friendly. From the very beginning of the shooting, he started talking to me, and so we did not need an icebreaker as such."

"Since our off screen camaraderie was good, it reflected on screen, and that helped me a lot. I cannot define my experience and bond with



Abhishek in words, but I can only say he just made me very comfortable", he added.

The *Guru* actor even invited himself for lunch at Naveen's place. "There was a time when Abhishek called my mom when we were shooting in Lajpat Nagar and complained that we did not

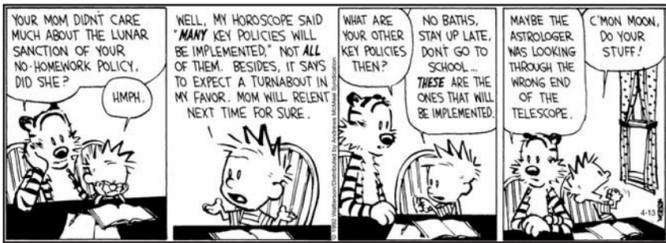
invite him home for lunch. So that's the level of comfort and fun we share", Naveen concluded. AGENCIES



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

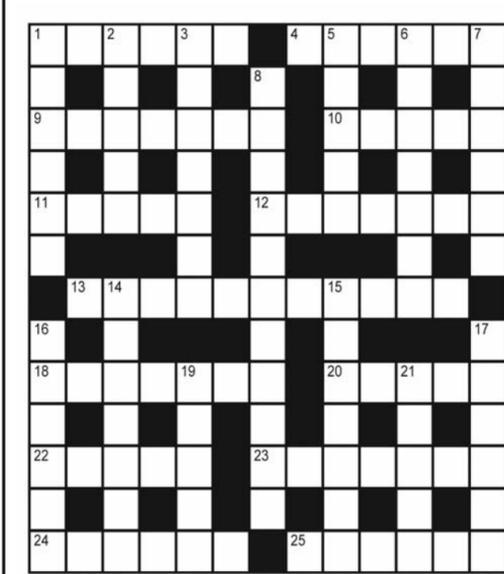


### BREVITY



### FUN post

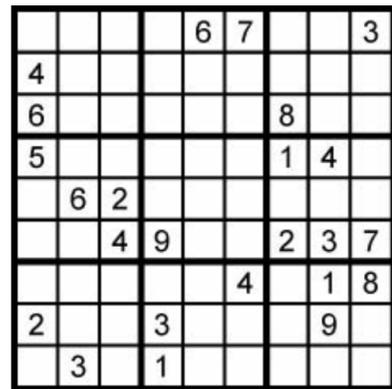
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Put in stitches
  - 4 Annoyance
  - 9 Physics topic
  - 10 Smallest
  - 11 Make fun of
  - 12 Silhouette
  - 13 Theatre offering (7,4)
  - 18 Jungle fever
  - 20 Beguile
  - 22 Chef's wear
  - 23 Beginning of a tree?
  - 24 Motifs
  - 25 Ledger column
  - 5 Apportion
  - 6 Sporting dog
  - 7 Main course
  - 8 Tact (6-5)
  - 14 Blow up
  - 15 Inane
  - 16 Collision
  - 17 Position
  - 19 Dentist's request
  - 21 Free-for-all

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Continued from P1

**Beyonce hogs...**

"This makes me feel very proud, but it makes me conscious of the fact that we have to maintain the work we have done," said Harvey Mason (Jr), the Recording Academy's CEO. He said there have been strides in the peer-driven voting system and increased membership, but he still believes more progress can be made. "We have 13,000 voters now," Harvey added. The academy added a 'Special Song for Social Change' segment and five new categories including Songwriter of the Year, which Harvey says will further help diversify the 65th edition of the Grammys.

**Five journos quit...**

A young reporter who has been accused of being an Army informer is particularly distraught after the threats and has left his job. "I have been reporting about civic issues, water, drains, and transport. I have never reported anything on army or covered any Army function so far. Yet they have branded me as an informer," the reporter said. Sources said that journalists in the Valley have nowhere to turn to. Journalist associations have disappeared while the Press Club of Kashmir has been closed. Fear is compelling many in the media to quit their jobs.

**Pradhan alleges...**

"Due to such an unholy nexus, in some gram panchayats, the payout rate is as low as five per cent against expected pay rate of 76.56 per cent," he added. Citing the complaint made by the farmers, the BJP leader said HDFC Ergo General Insurance Company Limited entrusted with the responsibility of crop insurance under PMFBY by Odisha government has paid abysmally low sums against crop loss in Paikamal, Jharbandh, Padmapur, Gaisilat, Sohela and Bijepur blocks of Bargarh district. Reacting to this letter of Pradhan, BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra said, "The people of Odisha have seen the anti-farmer attitude of BJP. 'Genuine Fasal Bima claims' of farmers of Odisha were stopped for a long time. Now after pressure from farmers and continuous follow up by CM, the crop insurance amounts are being released."

**CM promises district...**

However, the opposition Congress and BJP strongly condemned Patnaik's assurance to the agitating people of Padmapur. O.P.C.C. president Sarat Pattnayak called the move a 'political stunt'. Congress Legislature party leader Narasingha Mishra alleged that Patnaik has violated model code of conduct by making such an assurance as he is also the chief minister. The BJP also criticised the CM's assurance to the people of poll-bound Padmapur. Bargarh BJP MP Suresh Pujari said, the chief minister had not fulfilled the promises he made to Bijepur voters during the bypoll in 2019. "Patnaik only makes false promises which are never fulfilled," he said.

**CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT**

It is hereby declared that my name changed from Suresh Chandra RayMohapatra Dhires Chandra RayMohapatra to Dhires Chandra RayMohapatra, S/o. Suresh Chandra Ray Mohapatra. Both persons are same.

**LOST**

I, Mr. Rasbihari Maity declare that one Original ROR Khata No.321 (Dt.21.04.1990), Plot No.0.060, Gharabari, Mouza-Dubulagadi, P.S.-Basta, Pin-756027, Tahasil-Balasore, Dist- Balasore which is lost from my custody and I am duly reported to the IIC, Merine Police Station, Kasafal vide SDE No 05, dated 11.11.2022. If any person or concern having any claims/ objection over the aforesaid property may contact Mr. Rasbihari Maity, Mob- 9938851070 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.



**SEEKING JOBS:** Members of Youth For Action scuffle with police as they try to gherao the residence of Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb in Bhubaneswar demanding employment to the jobless in industrial units, Wednesday

**Nabard sanctions ₹220.50cr for state**



PNN/ AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 16:** The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has sanctioned Rs 220.50 crore to the Odisha government under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), officials said Wednesday.

Nabard has sanctioned the fund for construction of 57 flood protection projects and one bridge at a rural area.

The project will help two credit starved districts of Kendrapara and Nuapada, four aspirational districts of Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Rayagada, six Left Wing Extremist, LWE affected districts of Bolangir, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Nuapada and Rayagada and eight disaster affected districts of Bolangir, Boudh, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Khurda, Nayagarh, Nuapada and Sonepur. State water resources department would execute the projects for protection and restoration of river

banks at 57 identified stretches on 32 different rivers/creeks for restoration/stabilisation of agricultural land, standing crops and providing flood relief operations by construction of one rural bridge, he said.

The major items of work for flood protection include repairing & strengthening of scoured banks of the rivers 50.69 km, construction of launching aprons and stone packing of slope of embankments, raising and strengthening of embankments (107.74 km), construction of cement concrete guard wall,

etc, construction of 93 new spurs, provision of road on embankments for a total length of 57.78 km. Besides, a box cell bridge will be constructed over Sankha creek in Jagatsinghpur district. The creek has sluices to prevent saline ingress into the farmlands at Patua and Baghadi, respectively.

**THE FUND WILL BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 57 FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS AND ONE BRIDGE AT A RURAL AREA**

**Digital Life Certificate Submission Camp at SBI**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 16:** A mega Digital Life Certificate Submission Camp through face Authentication Technology by Jeevan Praman App for pensioners was organised by the Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare and SBI CPPC in collaboration with AO Bhubaneswar at SBI Bhubaneswar Main Branch, Wednesday.

**This is a new initiative by government of India for facilitating submission of Life Certificate for the pensioners**

The programme was attended by Vishal Kumar, Under Secretary, GOI, Anshul Sharma, ASO, GOI and Chaitanya Reddy from UIDAI in presence of Amarendra Kumar, DGM (D&TB) and Sanjay Kumar Jha, DGM (Zone-I, Bhubaneswar).

This is a new initiative by government of India for facilitating submission of Life Certificate for the pensioners. Atandrita Mishra, AGM, CPPC, Bhubaneswar and Manas Ranjan Acharya AGM Bhubaneswar Main Branch were present on the occasion and facilitated smooth conduct of the camp.



**'Give children every opportunity to shine'**



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 16:** The Parliamentarians' Group for Children (PGC) Wednesday hosted an interactive session of children with Members of Parliament representing different political parties including Odisha MPs. In marking the Child Rights Week, thirty-five Members of Parliament listened to children sharing their experiences in countering discrimination through sports - calling for inclusion and equality for all children. The focus of World Children's Day this year is on sports as a powerful means to promote inclusion, equality and non-discrimination. Sports help children develop important life skills such as leadership, discipline, teamwork, tolerance, hard work and cooperation.

Five children from different states shared compelling stories of determination, hope and resilience. Seventeen-year-old Jolina Marak from Meghalaya, Gold medalist in Deaflympics 15-year-old Guranshi Sharma from Madhya

**Elephant corridor mapping not done properly, HC told**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cuttack, Nov 16:** The Orissa High Court was informed by a wildlife expert that mapping of elephant corridors in the state has not been done 'properly'.

Wildlife expert Dr Raman Sukumar, who specialises in elephant movement, informed the High Court that elephant corridors "have not been identified scientifically" in Odisha.

Sukumar participated online while the High Court was adjudicating over a batch of writ petitions on the subject Tuesday.

Odisha Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Manoj Nair assured the court that this (elephant corridor) will be one of the issues to be taken up by the newly-formed Joint Task Force (JTF).

"JTF will examine the action plan that was put in place in the state of Karnataka while dealing

with similar issues as well as the "East Central India Elephant Action Plan", he said, adding that JTF will address the issues by involving the local population.

Nair said the electricity distribution companies have already been consulted to address the issues of electrocution which has been happening in great frequency in the recent past. On the issue of elephant poaching, he assured that concrete action would be taken to take the criminal cases to their logical end by having timelines for the completion of an investigation, filing of charge sheets and then pursuing the trial till completion.

The division bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar, said it expect that a more detailed granular action plan on each of these aspects giving specific timelines will be placed before the court by the next date January 18, 2023.

**ECOR GM inspects Puri rly station**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 16:** East Coast Railway (ECOR) General Manager Roop Narayan Sunkar on his visit to Puri, Wednesday, inspected Puri railway station and reviewed the redevelopment work.

During the inspection, Sunkar stressed on the need and significance of facilities provided to the passengers. He emphasised on providing facilities for all types of passengers and advised officials to focus on the poor and under privileged passengers along with the redevelopment work. The primary focus is on development of circulating areas, concourse, platforms, lightings, waiting rooms, toilets and elevators among other things, he said. In the review meeting, Sunkar praised officials for improved project monitoring system.

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	61980.72 ↑ 107.73
NIFTY	18409.65 ↑ 6.25
DOLLAR	80.98 ↑ ₹0.49
EURO	84.5800 ↑ ₹0.7060
GOLD	₹53081.00 ↑ ₹336
SILVER	₹62286 ↑ ₹696

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	30.2°C	29.6°C
TEMP. MIN	16.0°C	16.4°C
Humidity	85%	70%
Rainfall	0mm	0mm
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

**A novel immunotherapy could bolster cancer treatment**

Scientists have found a novel immunotherapy that could bolster the effectiveness of cancer treatment, according to a study.

Rather than rally T cells against cancer, scientists have used different human immune cells called natural killer (NK) cells as a novel means to fight cancer, according to a study.

The team of scientists at Albert Einstein College of Medicine described findings that could boost the impact of immune-checkpoint therapy, the study said. Findings have been published in The Journal of Clinical Investigation (JCI).

Immune checkpoint inhibitors such as Keytruda and Opdivo work by unleashing the immune system's T cells to attack tumour cells. Their introduction a decade ago marked a major advance in cancer therapy, but only 10 per cent to 30 per cent of treated patients experience long-term improvement, the study said.

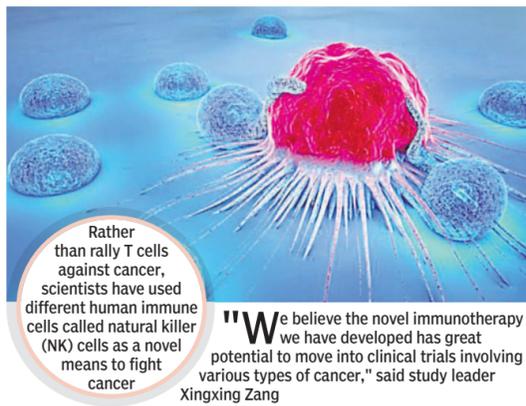
"We believe the novel immunotherapy we have developed

has great potential to move into clinical trials involving various types of cancer," said study leader Xingxing Zang.

The surfaces of immune cells are studded with receptors known as 'checkpoint' proteins, which prevent immune cells from straying beyond their usual targets, which are pathogen-infected cells and cancer cells. When checkpoint receptors on immune cells bind with proteins expressed by the body's own normal cells, the interaction puts the brakes on a possible immune-cell attack, the study explained.

Diabolically, most types of cancer cells express proteins that bind with checkpoint proteins, tricking immune cells into standing down and not attacking the tumour, the study said.

Immune checkpoint inhibitors are monoclonal antibodies designed to short-circuit immune-cell/cancer-cell interactions by blocking either the tumour proteins or the immune-cell receptors that bind with tumour proteins. With no



brakes to impede them, immune cells can attack and destroy cancer cells, the study said.

The limited effectiveness of checkpoint inhibitors prompted Zang and other scientists to look at checkpoint pathways involving NK cells, which - like T cells - play major roles in eliminating un-

wanted cells, the study said. A cancer-cell protein called PVR soon captured their attention.

"We realized that PVR may be a very important protein that human cancers use to hobble the immune system's attack," said Zang. PVR protein is usually absent or very scarce in normal tissues but is

found in abundance in many types of tumours including colorectal, ovarian, lung, esophageal, head and neck, stomach, and pancreatic cancer as well as myeloid leukemia and melanoma, the study said.

Moreover, PVRs appeared to inhibit T cell and NK cell activity by binding to a checkpoint protein called TIGIT, prompting efforts to interrupt the TIGIT/PVR pathway by using monoclonal antibodies made against TIGIT. More than 100 clinical trials targeting TIGIT are now in progress worldwide. However, several clinical studies including two large phase 3 clinical trials have recently failed to improve cancer outcomes.

Meanwhile, according to the study, the cancer-cell protein PVR was found to have another 'binding partner' on NK cells - KIR2DL5. "We hypothesized that PVR suppresses NK cell activity not by binding with TIGIT but by binding with the recently recognized KIR2DL5," said Zang. To find out, he and his colleagues synthesized a monoclonal antibody targeting

KIR2DL5 and carried out in vitro and in vivo experiments using the antibody, the study said.

Zang and colleagues demonstrated that KIR2DL5 is a commonly occurring checkpoint receptor on the surface of human NK cells, which PVR cancer proteins use to suppress immune attack, the study said. In studies involving humanized animal models of several types of human cancers, the researchers showed that their monoclonal antibody against KIR2DL5 - by blocking the KIR2DL5/PVR pathway - allowed NK cells to vigorously attack and shrink human tumours and prolong animal survival.

"These preclinical findings raise our hopes that targeting the KIR2DL5/PVR pathway was a good idea and that the monoclonal antibody we have developed may be an effective immunotherapy," said Zang. The research team has filed a patent application for KIR2DL5/PVR immune checkpoint including antibody drugs and is interested in a partnership to further develop and commercialize the technology.

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PPL donates ₹70L for school transformation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, Nov 16: Paradeep Phosphates Limited has contributed ₹70 lakh for transformation of 19 high schools in Jagatsinghpur district under 5T Programme.

The government of Odisha and Jagatsinghpur district administration sought PPL's active participation in this programme and utilise its CSR fund in transforming 19 high schools of Jagatsinghpur.

PPL management accepted the proposal and the Board of Directors were pleased to sanction ₹70 lakhs for wholesome transformation of



19 schools. This Fund will be utilised for building smart Classrooms, e-Library and other infrastructure. Jagatsinghpur Collector and DM Parul Patwari thanked PPL management for their support for the noble cause.

Chief Manufacturing Officer and Unit Head Pranab Bhattacharyya, handed over the cheques to the Collector November 16. Sudhir Ranjan Mishra, Head of Corporate Affairs was also present.

Transforming SHGs into SMEs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Nov 16: Taking the vision of women empowerment a step ahead, the state government has envisaged transforming potential Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) into successful enterprises of tomorrow. With the objective, district-level investors' summits are being organised in the build-up to the Make In Odisha Conclave 2022, so as to build an ecosystem and give rural women an opportunity to lead small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

With the slogan 'SHG to SME: Invest In Her', the summit at Sundargarh, organised by Mission Shakti in collaboration with FICCI at Vikas Bhawan, saw the participation of members from over 80 local WSHGs. The platform provided the women an opportunity to interact with successful entrepreneurs, officials from various local industries and members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Joining over virtual mode, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Mission Shakti, Sujata R Karthikeyan highlighted the role of WSHG members in the state in successfully handling various non-conventional assignments.

BOOST TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



She appreciated their contribution towards the state's economic growth and stressed the need for creating an ecosystem to foster the latent entrepreneurial spirit in them. "Thus we can convert many WSHGs into SMEs," she said.

"There is a possibility to convert many WSHGs in rural areas into successful SMEs through hand-holding and investment. The WSHGs in Sundargarh have been extended assistance of ₹300 crore in loans by linking them to various banks. Moreover, steps are being

taken to build capacity among enterprising women in the district by giving market access to their products," she said, adding, "The local administration, private industries, investors and members of FICCI should invest in order to help them become successful entrepreneurs." During the Make In Odisha Conclave 2022, which is going to be held at Bhubaneswar from November 30 to December 4, a special session will be convened for discussion of opportunities for Mission Shakti WSHGs. An exhibition of the

24 large industries from Sundargarh and the neighbouring Jharsuguda district participated in the investors' meet. Those included IFGL, NTPC Darlipali, NTPC Dulunga and OCL and committed an order totaling around ₹1.12 crore for the procurement of products from local WSHGs

products manufactured by WSHG members from various parts of the state will also be held during the gala event. Therefore, the objective of the district-level investors' meet is also to orient the WSHG members and other stakeholders about the subject.

The future opportunities available for WSHG members in the industrial development of

Sundargarh district were widely discussed. Importance was laid on providing market for various products churned out by WSHGs. "The programme will help give the required confidence to women under Mission Shakti in Sundargarh district to connect and manage their enterprises effectively," said Sundargarh Collector Parag H Gavali.

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Mission Shakti department joint secretary Binod Jena, Sundargarh ZP vice chairman Kamal Lakra, CDO & EO Bhairab Singh Patel, Sub-Collector Dashaarathi Sarabu, DSWO Prabasini Chakra, Mission Shakti district coordinator Lambodara Baskey and Rourkela Chamber of Commerce president Subrat Patnaik were among others present on the occasion.

Youth detained for making college girl's obscene video viral

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 16: Police Wednesday detained a college student on charge of making an obscene video of a girl student studying in a private college viral on social media platforms.

The detained boy was identified as Abhishek Nahak, 24, a resident of Shantinagar in Hariakhandi area. After reports surfaced, Bada Bazaar police reached the college and launched an investigation on its own. The accused was picked up and brought to the police station where he was questioned in this connection.

His mobile phone was also seized. The accused is a habitual offender as he was earlier arrested in March this year for molesting another girl of the college, police said. Police had then arrested him and produced him in court after the survivor's family members lodged a complaint at the police station.

An investigation has been launched to ascertain involvement of others in making the video viral. The accused will be arrested and produced in the court, Thursday police added.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Advertisement for Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) regarding a tender for the re-construction of an office block. Includes details on tender value, closing date, and contact information.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Advertisement for the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No. IV, regarding an invitation for bids for road works. Includes details on bid identification, procurement notice, and project specifications.

Ban on cameras, mobiles soon in Baladevjew shrine

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 16: The district administration will soon put a ban on use of cameras and mobile phones inside the Lord Baladevjew temple, the presiding deity of Kendrapara district.

People from various quarters have been demanding a stop on use of cameras and mobile phones inside the temple at Ichhapur in the town. A voluntary outfit Baladev Sena has also been spearheading an agitation demanding a complete ban on use of cameras and mobile phones inside the temple.

However, people have been taking cameras and mobile phones inside the temple and clicking photographs and shooting videos of the deities during their visit. They are also making and answering calls on their phones during their visit inside the temple.

The matter came to the fore when a delegation of Baladev Sena met Sub-Collector Niranjan Behera at his office and submitted a memorandum in this regard. Tuesday Behera is also the ex-officio chairman of Lord Baladevjew trust in the town. Accepting the memorandum, Behera



assured the delegation to take decision in this regard in the next meeting of trust board.

Speaking to mediapersons, Papan Kumar Swain said that Lord Baladevjew is symbol of Hindu culture and faith. Rampant use of cameras and mobiles has disturbed the peace in the temple as some devotees have been found clicking the photographs of some secret rituals of the deity. Even the objectionable videos of some persons inside the shrine have gone viral on social media. This has shocked scores of devotees and there is an urgent need to ban the use of cameras and mobile phones inside the temple premises.

He said that the administration

should make arrangement of lockers outside the temple to store cameras, mobile phones, bags and helmets and engage police personnel to verify the devotees entering into the temple. The district administration should also put up notice boards at public places informing them about the restrictions prevailing in the temple.

The administration should also act tough and take stringent action against the people violating the norms. Baladev Sena members Niranjan Suar, Amar Barik, Niranjan Mekap, Jyotiranjana Patri, Khageshwar Behera, Umesh Behera and Pratik Anurag were part of the delegation.

Vyasaganar civic body chairperson hurls file at EO; video goes viral

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 16: A video showing Vyasaganar Municipality Chairperson Sangita Pingua hurling a file at the executive officer of the civic body Ashok Kumar Rout has gone viral on social media, Wednesday.

It is alleged that the incident which actually took place October 15 might have taken place over sharing of cut money.

The video of the incident doing the rounds has sent the area's locals abuzz. Moreover, Rout's transfer order coming a day before the video went viral has created ripples in the political circle.



The video which went viral Wednesday shows the chairperson Pingua seeking a reply from Rout about cancellation of an application for installation of a mobile tower.

Pingua said she had directed the EO to cancel the permission for installation of the tower based on the grievances of the public.

"The approval was given despite my advice as it was causing inconvenience to people. The permission was cancelled later by the EO," she said.

On the other hand, Rout denied any discrepancies at work and said that he has never been irregular or erroneous on duty in his career. "I will certainly move my seniors seeking justice in this case," he said.

Man gets 20-yr RI for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 16: A special fast track POCOS court here sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him for rape of a minor girl, Tuesday Judge Ganeswar Pati announced the sentence against Prahllad Behera, a native of Khallikote po-

lice limits by examining the statements recorded by 12 witnesses, police charge-sheet and the medical report. The judge also slapped a penalty of ₹30,000 on Behera. If he fails to pay he will have stay in prison for an additional three months, the judge said in the order.

The court also directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to pay ₹5,00,000 financial assistance to the victim, said public prosecutor Mohan Singari.

According to the case diary, the incident occurred when Behera spotted the girl alone on the road and lured her to an empty house. There he forced himself on her despite resistance. The girl narrated her ordeal to her family.

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SATKOSIA ECO-TOURISM

16 tents to woo tourists on Mahanadi sands



POST NEWS NETWORK

Gania, Nov 16: With the onset of winter, tourists from various parts of the state and the country have started visiting tourist sites in the state. Now the Satkosia Sands Resort and the Nature Camp at Badamul Manganasi of Chhamundia range under Nayagarh-Mahanadi Wildlife Division are ready with as many as 16 tents, three air-conditioned cottages and three tents on the

sandbar of the Mahanadi river. The place is on the backdrop of the mountain slope overlooking the mighty Satkosia gorge.

The facility was inaugurated by Nayagarh Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kshyama Sarangi in the presence of Chhamundia range officer Santosh Kumar Sahoo.

"16 tents have been pitched in on the sand while work of four more air-conditioned tents is under way. Some tourists were welcomed to the tourist site Tuesday with

bouquets," officials said.

It was learnt that the tourism centre is being managed by Maa Satabhauni Parivesh Vikash Samiti. Its members had decorated the entry points with flowers and balloons.

The department has made provision of jungle tracking, food, cycling, canopy walk, camp fires, fold dance, sports, children's park, cement chairs, umbrellas on the sand bed, and facilities for boating in Satkosia gorge, bird watching and crocodile spotting along with selfie

points for tourists.

It is said that a 100-metre canopy walk and Muduligadia Eco-village have turned out to be the major attractions for tourists now.

Notably, Badmul, the remote scenic forest village in Satkosia Tiger Reserve on the banks of river Mahanadi is attracting large number of nature lovers every year.

The eco-tourism project at Badmul was started as a community-based nature tourism destination that has ultimately been seeing grand success for some years, except for the Covid pandemic period.

With rise in the number of tourists, the income of the resort is on the rise.

Satkosia Sands resort has not only served as a livelihood option for the forest-dependent communities of the southern part of Satkosia sanctuary but also built self-confidence among the tribal population and rural women.

It is said that people of nearly 6 villages are earning their livelihood from the single nature camp at Badmul (Bethiasahi). Earlier, many people from Badmul village used to migrate outside or depend on the minor forest produce for their livelihood including poaching and selling of meat of wild animals.

Advertisement for Union Bank of India, Regional Office: Balasore, 3rd Floor, Asis Plaza, OT Road, Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001. Includes a DEMAND NOTICE.

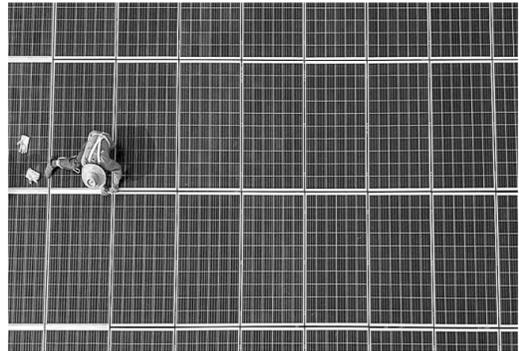
Notice under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 for Enforcement of Security Interest. A Demand Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued and sent by Regd. Post with A.D. by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Bhadrak Branch-1 against the following Borrowers/Guarantor, which could not be served to the below mentioned parties. Therefore, the contents of the same including the outstanding, Loan amount and details of the secured assets are herein furnished below.

Table with 4 columns: Borrowers/Name & Address of Borrowers/Guarantor, Nature / Limit, Date of Demand Notice/Outstanding, Details of Property Mortgaged. Lists details for Mr. Udaya Nath Pradhan and Mrs. Rajshree Mohapatra.

As the above mentioned Borrowers/Guarantor of the Bhadrak Branch-1 have defaulted in repayment of the principal loan/ facility in installments/ interest/ both, the account has been classified as NPA and all of you are jointly and severally liable to pay the above mentioned amount as mentioned against the respective account with subsequent interest as per the agreement. You are hereby called upon to pay the said outstanding amount together with up to date interest within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Bank shall be constrained to take any one or more of the following measures against the properties Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the Bank detailed above, to recover the amount without the intervention of the court as provided under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (54 of 2002) i.e. 1. Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower including the right to transfer by the way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured assets. 2. Take over the management of the secured assets of the Borrower including the right to transfer by the way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets. 3. Appoint any person (hereafter referred to as the manager) to manage the secured assets the possession of which has been taken over by the secured creditor. 4. Require at any time by notice in writing any person who has acquired any of the secured assets from the Borrower and from whom any money is due or may become due to the Borrower, to pay the Bank, so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the secured debt. Please take notice that after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer by the way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the Bank. The charges, expenses incurred for taking the aforesaid actions shall be met out of the sale proceeds and if the sale proceeds are found insufficient to satisfy the entire amount due to the Bank, for the balance amount appropriate legal action as provided in the SARFAESI Act 54 of 2002 or any other Act as deemed necessary will be taken against you, holding all of you jointly and severally liable to all costs and consequences thereof. It may be noted that under the provisions of the section 13 (8) of the Act, right of redemption is available to you, by paying the dues of the Bank together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank, at any time, before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. This notice is issued without prejudice to the rights of the Bank available under any other law.

FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION

# THE TECH IMPERATIVE



**Rapid technological advances have sharply reduced the price of renewables bringing decarbonisation within financial reach. That is why some developing countries, notably India and China, have embarked on massive renewable-energy programmes over past decade**

The price of renewables bringing decarbonisation within financial reach. That is why some developing countries, notably India and China, have embarked on massive renewable-energy programmes over the past decade. Nonetheless, given the need for massive investments in renewable energy infrastructure and already-elevated storage costs, the transition to a net-zero economy is still not financially viable. Moreover, the transition would dislocate millions of people in developing countries who earn their living from fossil fuels, leading to enormous adjustment costs. Underestimating these costs or believing that these problems will resolve themselves is another, subtler form of climate imperialism. While multilateral cooperation in the fight against climate change seems unlikely, America's new IRA could be a global game changer. By subsidising renewable-energy research and development, it would obviate the need for onerous and inequitable carbon-taxation mechanisms. More to the point, such measures would help create a new, hopeful narrative that focuses on mitigating climate change through

technological innovation and boost supply, rather than sacrifice and reduced demand. Like the US, few developing countries are likely to "carbon tax" their way to emissions reductions. The IRA could also help lower-income countries to reduce the costs of decarbonisation by encouraging the deployment of technologies such as low-cost batteries and carbon capture and storage. In our book Greenprint, Aaditya Mattoo and I argue that by making greater use of these technologies, developing countries could meet their energy needs without increasing global climate emissions. The IRA is essentially a protectionist trade and industrial policy. As such, it could spark an international arms race of green-energy subsidies. But that might be a good thing. A global subsidy war could spur technological innovation, potentially driving down the price of renewables. Moreover, it may do for new technologies what China's subsidies for photovoltaics did for the global solar-energy industry. As many have warned, the IRA is not without risks. President Joe Biden's signature legislation links

many of its subsidies and incentives to production and research in the US and North America. It thus constitutes what the World Trade Organization calls "local content requirements." The EU, one of America's biggest trading partners, has complained about this barrier to trade. But, given the urgency of the existential threat posed by climate change, a global rush to subsidise key technologies seems like a feature, not a bug. To the extent that a global subsidies race could make clean energy financially viable, it would save rich countries the charade of committing to provide trillions of dollars to poorer countries that they cannot raise. Finally, such a race could help resolve developing countries' grievances about the rich world's climate hypocrisy. Driving down renewable-energy costs would be a global public good provided by the developed world - assuming, of course, that whatever new technologies emerge would be freely available. The unequal global rollout of COVID-19 vaccines should serve as a reminder that the mere invention of new technologies does not guarantee an equitable distribution. The Green Revolution of the 1960s, when industrialised countries significantly reduced global hunger and poverty by introducing high-yield crops across the developing world, is a useful model for distributing cheap, non-proprietary renewable technologies. But to achieve a green revolution for the twenty-first century, the world must move beyond stale and divisive discussions about which countries are responsible for the climate threat. Given today's geopolitical rivalries, efforts to strengthen multilateral cooperation on climate change are likely to be futile. But competitive technological progress, even if promoted by protectionist policies, could save the planet.

*The writer, a senior fellow at Brown University, is a distinguished non-resident fellow at the Center for Global Development.*  
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The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt highlights the growing consensus that multilateral cooperation is necessary to avert environmental catastrophe. But with geopolitical tensions spiking and the US-China rivalry heating up, such efforts seem doomed to fail, much like previous efforts to promote global coordination on vaccines, trade, technological innovation, and macro-economic policy.



Arvind Subramanian

**WHILE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE SEEMS UNLIKELY, AMERICA'S NEW IRA COULD BE A GLOBAL GAME CHANGER**

The good news is that the consensus may be wrong: A lack of multilateral cooperation need not be fatal to the climate cause. The existing frameworks for international coordination are outdated anyway, and technological competition, fueled by the United States' climate-focused Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), may prove to be a more potent driver of innovation, ensuring that the fight against climate change continues apace. So far, the main framework for promoting multilateral cooperation on climate change has relied on the principle of "cash for cuts," whereby developed countries offer financial aid to persuade developing countries to launch ambitious decarbonisation efforts. But this approach is no longer credible, given that the international community has failed to meet its financial commitments and has shown no sign of improving. Worse, the "cash for cuts" paradigm is premised on a double standard. While lower-income countries are asked to reduce emissions, rich countries are increasing their reliance on fossil fuels, particularly in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Moreover, the European Union's planned border tax on carbon-intensive imports would effectively punish lower-income countries in Africa and elsewhere, limiting their own clean-energy transition. The EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism essentially foists developed-world policies on poorer countries, making it tantamount to climate imperialism. Fortunately, rapid technological advances have sharply reduced



THE MOTHER

# Nuclear No Answer

Just as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has highlighted Europe's dangerous dependence on fossil fuels, increasingly frequent and intense climate-driven weather events are highlighting the death and destruction that fossil-fuel dependence has wrought. Understandably, political and public pressure to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, move away from insecure primary energy supplies, and develop new, reliable, secure, and affordable energy sources is at an all-time high. But rather than rushing ahead, we need to consider carefully which options are most realistic, and how they will be deployed and operate in the real world.

Consider nuclear power: With many countries and companies now giving this option a second (or even a third) look, the 2022 World Nuclear Industry Status Report (WNISR) offers valuable insights into how the sector is faring. While the last 12 months may be remembered as a turning point for the broader energy sector, it won't be because of the nuclear industry. Nuclear energy's share of global commercial gross electricity generation in 2021 dropped to 9.8 per cent, which is its first dip below 10 per cent in four decades, barely more than half its peak of 17.5 per cent in 1996. Meanwhile, wind and solar surpassed nuclear for the first time in 2021, accounting for 10.2 per cent of gross power generation.

These diverging trajectories can be seen clearly across every indicator of investment, deployment, and output. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, operating reactors peaked in 2018, both in terms of their number (449) and total capacity (396.5 gigawatts). The IAEA reports that 437 reactors were "in operation" globally at the end of 2021, including 23 reactors that have not generated power for at least nine years, and which may never do so again.

In 2018, when installed nuclear power peaked below 400 GW, solar and wind capacity rose above 1,000 GW, on its way to reaching 1,660 GW by the end of 2021. In just three years, solar and wind added two-thirds more capacity than nuclear at its last peak. Even if nuclear plants usually generate more electricity per unit of installed capacity than wind and solar, the divergence in these numbers is staggering.

In 2021, total investments in non-hydro renewables hit a record \$366 billion, adding an unprecedented 257 GW (on net) to electricity grids, whereas operating nuclear capacity decreased by 0.4 GW. Only six new reactors were connected to the grid that year, and half of these were in China. Then, in the first half of 2022, five new reactors went online, two of which were in China. But while China has the most reactors under construction (21, as of mid-2022), it is not building them abroad.

Until recently, that role was taken up by Russia, which is dominating the international market with 20 units under construction, including 17 in seven countries as of mid-2022. Sanctions and potential other geopolitical developments have cast doubt on many of these projects, with a Finnish consortium already canceling construction of a facility based on a Russian design.

Only 33 countries operate nuclear power plants today, and only three - Bangladesh, Egypt, and Turkey - are building reactors for the first time (all in partnership with the Russian nuclear industry). Twenty-six of the 53 construction projects around the world have suffered various delays, with at least 14 reporting increased delays, and two reporting new delays, just in the past year.

For the first time, the WNISR also assesses the risks of nuclear power and war: There has been significant international concern about Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which has been occupied by Russia forces since March 4, 2022. Owing to repeated shelling in and around the area, the plant has frequently lost external power, prompting warnings from the IAEA that the situation is "untenable." Operating a nuclear facility requires motivated, rested, skilled staff, but Zaporizhzhia's Ukrainian personnel are under severe stress.

The key challenge now is to maintain continuous cooling for the reactor core and the pool for spent fuel, even after the reactor is shut down. The failure to evacuate heat from residual decay would lead to a core meltdown within hours, or a spent-fuel fire within days or weeks, with potentially large releases of radioactivity.

As world leaders convene at COP27 to discuss the global decarbonisation agenda, they should focus on the technologies that can be deployed rapidly and universally to replace fossil fuels. As consecutive editions of the WNISR have shown, nuclear power is too slow and too expensive to compete with energy-efficiency measures and renewable energy.

*The writer is a co-author of the World Nuclear Industry Status Reports.*  
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Antony Froggatt

**Nuclear power is too slow and too expensive to compete with energy-efficiency measures and renewable energy**

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

# US & the perils of exporting inflation



Sourajeet Pradhan

On 11 November, the Sensex gained 1.78% and ended at 61,795 points. Equity market across the globe strengthened on news of slowing retail inflation in US. The US is the largest economy in the world. Any financial activity or market event will have a 'spill over' effect on the entire world. Last month, the announcement of inflation data in US triggered the news of an imminent recession in US as well as in the entire world. Last Thursday, the US inflation data was published. While the retail inflation was expected to be at 7.9% (the retail inflation in October was 8.3%), the actual rate turned out to be 7.7%. This was welcome news, not only for US but globally as well.

The inflation data appeased the market regarding the aggressive interest rate hikes and the Federal Reserve's 'hawkish' stance. The 'cooling off' of inflation reduced the probability of recession from 60% to 40%. This is the first instance of positive news from US in a long time. The Fed is expected to slow its pace of rate hike to address the investor sentiments and the sentiments of people in general with respect to recession and unemployment.

The US Federal Reserve, adamant to bring down inflation to a targeted level of 2%, has hiked the interest rate multiple times this year. The most glaring question is that up to what level the Federal Reserve will increase the interest rate in order to curb inflation. Apart from that, the other poignant question is what are the global consequences of these rate hikes on the entire world?

From an Indian perspective, with US bond yields rising to such levels, the risk of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) withdrawing their money from emerging market like India and parking it in US bonds will be very high. FIIs, for India, have been net sellers in 2022. Higher bond yields reduce the attractiveness of equity markets vis-à-vis fixed income securities.

The other major repercussion is the value of Indian rupee depreciating every time there is a major flight of FIIs from Indian market. The net outflow of dollars catapult rupee to reach a level of 81.9 against US dollar. In January 2022, rupee was trading at 74.37 against the dollar. A weaker rupee will result in balance of payment issues and widening of Current Account Deficit.

When it comes to financial markets, the entire world is integrated and no country can function in isolation. Since US contributes 22% to world economy and US dollar is the most preferred global currency, any policy decision in US will impact the entire world. The Fed's interest rate hike may not be in the best interests of the world. It will drive the world towards recession. Yes, inflation in US have reached unprecedented levels, the same cannot be said regarding other emerging markets.

The Fed's tightening monetary stance has been devastating not only for emerging economies but for advanced economies as well. Inflation in EU and Britain have reached double digit numbers, with their currencies depreciating by 25-30% against US dollar. Earlier, these advanced economies could cope with the pressure of a strong US dollar; but the strength and resilience is low this time. These countries are marred by issues of economic slowdown, high unemployment and political instability.

The rising bond yields will push Europe towards the 2013 'debt crisis' (Greece), which Europe cannot afford at this point of time. For other developing countries, the

situation is worse. Currencies have depreciated to substantial level, with minimal export earnings. The poorest countries are most vulnerable. They mostly depend upon imports of essential goods. With a depreciating currency, they will be dragged into a vicious debt cycle.

The central banks must rethink their orthodox and conventional strategies to curb inflationary pressures. Squeezing out liquidity from the economy through interest rate hike may not be the only option. They must address the supply-demand imbalances first, which is actually driving them towards an inevitable recession.

A stronger dollar will make imports of consumer goods cheaper for US. This will moderate the retail inflation in US. By doing so, the US is mitigating its own issues by exporting inflation to other countries. This is short term and illusory in nature. The US cannot be a hub of prosperity in an integrated world economy by pushing others into deep recession.

*The writer is an investment banker. Views are personal.*

WISDOM CORNER

- There is nothing as sweet as a comeback, when you are down and out, about to lose, and out of time. ANNE LAMOTT
- Let us try to teach generosity and altruism, because we are born selfish. RICHARD DAWKINS
- Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere. CARL SAGAN

WORDSWORTH

**Countryside**  
Originally it referred to an element of open landscape. Since flatness is rare in the country, most of it can be thought of as being on one side or the other of some natural feature, such as a hill or a valley. So the term originally meant a rural feature that had a natural unity and was on one side of such a feature. This fits with the older sense of country as being some tract of land that had well-defined limits or boundaries. In the nineteenth century, countryside became fashionable among descriptive writers following the Wordsworthian discovery of the aesthetic value of landscape, and its sense shifted to mean not one part or section of the visible terrain, but the natural or rural landscape as a whole.

**Coup**  
Strangely, for a word that's been naturalised for more than three centuries, coup has never quite lost its French accent, though the vowel has lengthened in deference to the slack-jawed speech of its adoptive country. It's also a conveniently short word for newspaper headlines and late twentieth-century busy thinkers, which is why we so rarely see the full expression coup d'état in other than formal writing. The original French word was spelt the same, and meant a blow. If we trace it back, we pass through the medieval Latin culpus and classical Latin colaphus, to eventually arrive at the Greek kolaphos for a blow or punch. But moving down the centuries again, we find the links with English branching out from the source in surprising ways. For a start, coup was borrowed not once, but twice. It turns up first about 1400 for a blow or stroke, then changes to mean an upset or overturning, and later to refer to emptying something out - such as a wheelbarrow - to finally arrive in modern Scots with the sense of a rubbish tip. That version was soon converted to standard English pronunciation, though the modern Scots word is said as though it were spelt cowp.

# Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Appointing judges

**Sir,** The recent statement by ex-CJI UU Lalit that "the collegial system of judges appointing judges is the best and it is here to stay," is a matter of debate and discussion by the stakeholders. While appointing judges to the apex court and different high courts, aspirations of people of regions and sections need to be taken into account. Presently, a few states are over-represented while some other states are grossly under-represented in appointing of judges to the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of high courts. Justice should not only be done but seem to be done.

**Pratap Nayak,**  
BHUBANESWAR

Stakes are high

**Sir,** It's not surprising to decode BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik's decision of fielding Barsha Bariha, daughter of former legislator Bijay Singh Bariha for upcoming Padampur bypolls where the stakes are high for the ruling party. After a debacle in Dhamnagar bypolls, the BJD seems to have understood its mistake on the internal strife among its members. In order to compromise its laxity the BJD has deployed over a dozen of MLAs for the Padampur bypoll as observers. However, if the Opposition's strength is to be assessed, Pradip Purohit lost the previous election by a thin margin. The veteran leader from BJP, also an anti-mining activist, is considered to be a strong contender to Bariha. The extension of support from the native Binjhal community to Barsha Bariha has also favoured the political winds towards the BJD this time. Trading on the recent win of Dhamnagar bypolls and the campaign of its lucky charm Dharmendra Pradhan, the BJP must not get deluded and organise as much as local leaders to win this election and raise hopes for 2024.

**Debadurllav Harichandan,** BHUBANESWAR

Murder most foul

**Sir,** The killing of Shradha Walkar, who was strangled to death by her live-in-partner, Aaftab Amin Poonawala, in a fit of rage after an argument, is a murder most foul. Aaftab chopped the body into 35 pieces and hid them in his fridge before disposing of them in the Chattarpur forest. However, the victim's head is yet to be traced. We believe Aaftab was in contact with many other women via the Bumble app, and screening the chats could help better understand his psyche. Psychos like Aaftab are dangerous to society and deserve the most exemplary punishment.

**NJ Ravi Chander,**  
BANGALORE

# national

## of the day quote

Partha Chatterjee was arrested after documents in his name were found in the residence of Arpita Mukherjee. That was right. Law will take its course

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Industries such as IT, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology are doing very well. The plastic industry is the major industry which provides packaging and moulded items to pharma, electronics industry

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

About 1.35 lakh government jobs have been given so far. More than one lakh government jobs are under process and more than one lakh government jobs have been announced in the last budget

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Model sexually harassed by Rapido rider in B'lore

Bangalore: A model in Bangalore has lodged a complaint against a rider of the bike taxi aggregator platform Rapido, accusing him of sexually harassing her, police said Wednesday. The 21-year-old victim, who is also a dubbing artist, lodged the complaint with the city's Hennur police Monday against the accused identified as Manjunath Tippeswamy. She has also named the platform in her complaint.

### Minor girl gangraped in Tiruchi, 3 arrested

Chennai: Three people have been arrested on the charges of drugging and gang-raping a minor girl in Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu. Ranganathan from Tiruchi, who is a relative of the minor girl, kidnapped her in April 2021 and took her to a secluded place, police said. The minor girl was then drugged and gang-raped by Ranganathan and his four accomplices. The accused kept the minor in captivity and repeatedly gang-raped her threatening to make the video of the heinous act viral.

### 102 kg opium seized in Rajasthan, 3 held

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), Neemuch intercepted a 22-wheeler truck at Rajadhok Toll Plaza, Jaipur-Agra Highway in Rajasthan and seized 95 packets of opium weighing 102.910 kg. An official said that this was one of the biggest seizures of opium made by CBN in the recent past. "After receiving specific intelligence that an Ashok Leyland Truck (22-Trawler) having Registration No. of Rajasthan would be carrying huge quantity of illicit opium from North East to Rajasthan, teams of officers from CBN Neemuch were formed to nab the accused. Surveillance on the suspected route was mounted and team of officers of CBN successfully identified the truck at Rajadhok Toll Plaza," said the official.

### Quake hits HP

New Delhi/Shimla: An earthquake of 4.1 magnitude shook parts of Himachal Pradesh Wednesday, according to the National Centre for Seismology. The epicentre of the tremor, which struck at 9:32 pm, was located 27 km north-northwest of Mandi in the hill state. Tremors were felt in Mandi, Kangra and surrounding areas. So far, no loss of life or damage to property has been reported, officials said.



The result of the BJP's negative outlook towards the Muslim community is that even under their government, they are still as poor, backward and distressed as they were during the Congress rule

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

## ATR NOW OPEN FOR PUBLIC

The Amangarh Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Uttar Pradesh is now open for public. Chief conservator of forests, Bareilly zone, Lalit Verma said that two routes for jungle safari had been developed inside the forest on which people could enjoy watching animals. He said that the forest had a population of tigers, elephants, leopards, swamp deer, bears and many other animals



## KATHUA GANGRAPE-MURDER CASE

# Minor accused not to be tried as juvenile: SC

The Supreme Court said that the accused was wrongly mentioned as a minor at the time of the harrowing Kathua gangrape case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Supreme Court Wednesday held that one of the accused in the sensational gangrape and murder case of an eight-year-old nomadic girl in Kathua was not a juvenile at the time of the offence and now can be tried afresh as an adult.

The top court also held that medical opinion regarding the age of an accused cannot be "brushed aside" in the absence of statutory proof on the same issue. "Medical opinion regarding age in absence of any other conclusive evidence should be considered to determine the age range of the accused... Whether medical evidence can be relied upon or not depends on the value of evidence," a bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and J B Pardiwala said.

It set aside the orders of the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Kathua and the high court which had held that the accused Shubam Sangra was a juvenile and hence to be tried separately. "We set aside the judgements of the CJM Kathua and the high court and hold that the

accused was not a juvenile at the time of commission of offence," Justice Pardiwala said while pronouncing the verdict.

The minor girl was kidnapped January 10, 2018 and was raped in captivity in a small village temple after keeping her sedated for four days. She was later bludgeoned to death.

The top court, February 7, 2020, had stayed the proceedings before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) against Sangra. It had stayed the proceedings after the Jammu and Kashmir administration claimed that the Jammu and Kashmir High Court had erroneously affirmed the order of a trial court holding him as juvenile at the time of the offence in 2018.

Senior advocate P S Patwalia, appearing for the J-K administration, had said the high court had October 11, 2019, wrongly affirmed the trial court order of March 27, 2018, without appreciating that the date of birth recorded in the municipal and school records are contradictory to each other.

He had said that despite the notice to the 'minor' accused issued by the apex court January 6, 2020 on the administration's appeal, the JJB has continued its proceedings against the accused, treating him as a juvenile. Patwalia had contended that the accused, then treated as juvenile, was one of the main conspirators of the entire incident and kidnapped, gang-raped and murdered the victim.



## BRIDGE MISHAP

# HC raps Morbi municipality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 16: The Gujarat High Court Wednesday asked the Morbi municipality as to how it allowed people to use the suspension bridge between December 29, 2021 and March 7, 2022, before it was closed for repair despite knowing that it was in a critical condition.

The British-era suspension bridge on the Machchu river in Morbi town collapsed October 30, five days after it was reopened following renovation, killing 135 people. The HC sought the information from the Morbi municipality while hearing a suo motu (on its own) Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the collapse of the bridge.



A division bench of Chief Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice Ashutosh Shastri also sought to know the reasons for allowing Ajanta Manufacturing Private Ltd (Oreva Group) to use the bridge despite there being no approval for utilisation.

The Ahmedabad-based Oreva group had been maintaining and



National Cadet Corps (NCC) during winter Annual Training Camp (ATC) at Nagrota, on the outskirts of Jammu

PTI PHOTO

## Masks no more compulsory in flights

TILL NOW, THE USE OF MASKS OR FACE COVERS WHILE TRAVELLING ON FLIGHTS WAS MANDATORY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Keeping in view the declining cases of Covid-19 in the country, the government Wednesday removed mandatory requirement to wear masks in flights.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation said that the decision has been taken following a review meeting on the issue with the Ministry of Health.

"In line with the Government of India's policy of graded approach of Covid-19 management response, the in-flight announcements henceforth may only mention that in view of the threat posed by Covid-19, all pas-



sengers should preferably use mask/face covers," the Ministry said in an office memorandum.

The Ministry said that any reference of fine need not be announced with regard to use of

masks. "Any specific reference to fine/penal action need not be announced as part of the in-flight announcements. Hence, consolidated Covid-19 instructions for domestic and international air travel issued for passengers, airport operators and airlines issued vide order dated May 10, 2022 stands modified to that extent," it said.

In June this year, the airlines were asked to ensure that all passengers wear face masks properly and continue to wear the mask throughout the journey and masks could be removed under exceptional circumstances and for permitted reasons only.

## SC puts HC observation on feeding stray dogs on hold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Supreme Court Wednesday stayed the Bombay High Court's observation about those interested in protection and welfare of stray dogs, including feeding them, in Nagpur must adopt or put them up in dog shelter homes and bear expenses for their maintenance.

The apex court directed the Nagpur Municipal Corporation to take steps for the general public to feed stray dogs at appropriate locations, demarcated and identified by them. "You cannot insist that people who want to feed them must adopt them," the court observed

orally during the hearing.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and J K Maheshwari also asked the public to ensure no nuisance is caused by feeding the stray dogs.

The bench said till the next date of hearing no coercive steps should be taken in pursuance of the October 20 order of the high court, which had ordered imposition of penalty of ₹200 for every breach.

The apex court was hearing petitions challenging the high court order which said no citizen of Nagpur and areas surrounding it shall feed or make any attempt to feed stray dogs in public places, gardens, etc.

# Who cares for heritage? Neither UP govt, nor locals

MANY FEEL THAT DUE TO THE HERITAGE MONUMENTS, AGRA'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT HAS SUFFERED A BLOW, RESULTING IN HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND IMPOVERISHMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agra, Nov 16: Though the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has announced a series of activities including free entry to the Taj Mahal November 19 to celebrate the World Heritage Week, the locals display no particular love or a sense of pride in their city's heritage.

As a fallout of the PIL by eco lawyer MC Mehta, industries in the Taj Trapezium Zone, spread over 10,400 sq kms, were forced to down shutters or switch over to natural gas.

"Right now there is a total ban on opening new units and expansion of existing ones. A number of restrictions stunt the growth of industries in Agra, Mathura and Firozabad," said Rajiv Gupta, former president of National Chamber of Industries and Commerce.

Within the city, there are stringent restrictions on new constructions in the vicinity of ASI protected monuments. Though the Agra Development Authority has submitted a heritage vision document in the Supreme Court, three years ago, there has been no action or follow-up. As a consequence, town planners remain confused whether to develop Agra as a Smart city or a Heritage city.

The vision document was prepared by Delhi's School of



Architecture and Town Planning, after Mehta raised a number of issues and highlighted shortcom-

ings before the bench. Meanwhile, the Green activists, and conservationists have de-

manded Heritage city status for Agra in Uttar Pradesh, even as efforts are on to transform it into a Smart city.

With three world heritage monuments, the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, two under consideration, Sikandra and Itmad-ud-daula, and dozens of other historical structures, Agra is "highly qualified" to be designated as a heritage city, say conservationists.

It is strange that though Agra abounds in monuments that draw millions of tourists round the year, the city folks remain apathetic and unconcerned about their precious heritage. The Yogi Adityanath government in the state has not taken any concrete steps to make Agra a tourist-friendly city. The emotional disconnect is hampering the growth of the tourism sector, many feel.

For decades, the demand for the Heritage city status has been hanging fire, but the state government has been indifferent and is seen

dragging its feet in acting on this long pending demand.

Heritage conservationists of the city say "Agra deserves the Heritage city tag, to protect its identity. The haphazard urban growth is a huge threat to historical monuments. Encroachment around monuments and mushroom growth of colonies should be discouraged."

The Heritage Week celebrations, they say is a good time to focus on this demand. "So far, the state government is seen meeting out a step motherly treatment to Agra, refusing to act on its promises including starting a ferry service in Yamuna which unfortunately has been reduced to a sewage canal. The demand for International air connectivity and flights to major Indian cities, has been shelved to benefit interest lobbies in Delhi," says conservationist Devashish Bhattacharya.

World Heritage Week is celebrated all over the world every year from November 19-25.

CM-GUV WAR REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

# Vijayan govt convenes spl Assembly session

# All set for Sabarimala pilgrimage season

IN THE ABSENCE OF COVID-19 CURBS, AROUND 49K PILGRIMS ARE EXPECTED TO TURN UP AT THE SHRINE ACCORDING TO REGISTRATIONS MADE ON THE VIRTUAL QUEUE SYSTEM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 16:** All preparations are in place for the annual Sabarimala pilgrimage in Kerala that gets underway Thursday.

Though the temple's full season began when the temple priests arrived Wednesday at 5pm, the pilgrims will be allowed entry from Thursday 5am.

According to the schedule, the first phase of the present season ends December 27, to reopen December 30 for the second phase. The religious festivities will conclude January 14 - 'Makara Vilakku' - when a celestial light appears on the horizon thrice, soon after sunset.

With the celestial light, the hill-top reverberates with the chants of "Swamiye Ayyapa".

The sanctuary sanctorum of the famed Sabarimala temple opened its door first for the temple priests Wednesday evening, which signals the commencement of welcoming



devotees, from the wee hours of Thursday morning, which coincides with the first day of the Malayalam month of 'Vrischikam'.

Situated on the mountain ranges of the Western Ghats at an altitude of 914 metres above sea level, Sabarimala temple is four kilometres uphill from Pamba in Pathanamthitta district, which is around 100 kms from the capital city.

The temple, which bars the entry of women who have attained puberty, is accessible only on foot from Pamba.

Notably, Covid pandemic played spoilsport in the past two years, with severe restrictions imposed and prior to it, the temple had turned into a battle ground with protests by Hindu groups since the September 28, 2018, Supreme Court verdict that allowed women of all ages to enter the temple that hitherto banned girls and women aged between 10 and 50.

And what followed was a massive resistance by the Hindu groups, while the Police tried to give security for some women who came to pray in the temple and finally, the police helped two women in the banned age group to pray in the temple.

This act saw the Pinarayi Vijayan government take a sound beating in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, which, as per many, was the reason for the Congress to win 19 out of the 20 Lok Sabha seats.

head during the pilgrimage and without it, none is allowed to step onto the holy 18 steps at the Sannidhanam.

Every pilgrim carries with him a kit (alrumudi) which contains coconuts which are broken just before climbing the 18 steps. A pilgrim carries on 'alrumudi' on his

As per the rules, the Cabinet decides the dates and sends it

As per the rules, the Cabinet decides the dates and sends it

## Driver reverses bus for 8 km as tusker chases it; video goes viral

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thrissur, Nov 16:** A busload of frantic passengers and a wild tusker in the middle of a forest path...! What more could a driver expect while driving a bus through a winding road.

But, the calm driver drove the vehicle in reverse for over eight kms, negotiating the sharp curves and bends on the forest road and saved the lives of over 40 passengers while the animal came charging towards them.

The visuals of the encounter, which took place at Valparai route in Chalalady in this district Tuesday, have gone viral on social media.

In the video, believed to have been shot by some passengers using their mobile phone, the jumbo could be seen coming from the opposite direction of the private bus. The panic-stricken passengers could be heard asking the driver to reverse the bus as there was no sufficient room to manoeuvre around and turn back on the narrow forest path.

A seasoned driver, Ambujakshan, drove the bus in reverse gear from Ambalalpara to Anakkayam till the tusker, which was keeping pace with the vehicle, gave up.



"It was an unforgettable experience... Everyone was gripped with fear... There was no way other than taking the bus in reverse gear for over eight kilometres," he said Wednesday. Residents said the tusker, which caused some anxious moments, has been frequenting the place for over two years. He was named 'Kabali', the title character of a Rajinikanth-starrer movie with the same name, by the locals.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 16:** The war of words between Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has already reached unprecedented levels, and a new showdown loomed as the LDF government Wednesday called for a special Assembly session from December 5.

As per the rules, the Cabinet decides the dates and sends it

**Job to run universities is with the chancellor, to run government is with elected government. Give me one instance where I tried to interfere in the business of the government; I shall resign at that very moment. I can give you 1001 examples where they interfered in the functioning of universities daily**

ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN | GOVERNOR, KERALA



to the Governor for the final clearance and the highlight is they are bringing out a new Bill, which will see easing out the Governor as the Chancellor of Universities.

Consequent to the call for a new session, the Ordinance that was sent to Khan last week on the same topic of removing the Governor as the Chancellor stands negated.

The relation between Khan and Vijayan in particular has been souring for the past few months and the contentious issue was over the way the state Universities are being run.

Khan came out strongly in the way the Kannur Vice Chancellor was given an extension and he wielded the axe when he booted out 15 nominated Senate members of the Kerala University after they failed to adhere to his directive.

That case is presently before the Kerala High Court and also is the case where he, based on an apex court order, asked 10 VCs in the state to resign.

Vijayan has been peeved in the way Khan has been acting but the

## Abusive banner against Khan in college campus

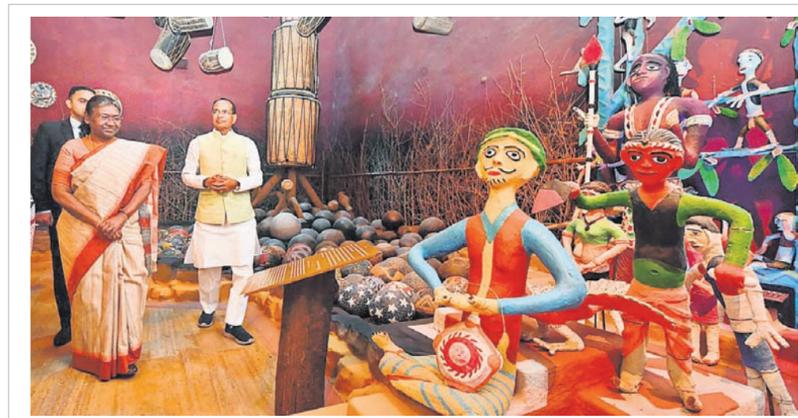
**An SFI banner with abusive remarks against Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan was spotted Wednesday at the Government Sanskrit College, here. The remarks on the banner which were written in Malayalam meant "Raj Bhavan is not the property of the Governor's father". When the Governor's office came to know about it, displeasure was expressed, post which Kerala University higher ups and the principal of the college intervened and got the banner removed. On Tuesday, the CPI(M) laid a siege to the Raj Bhavan protesting the alleged attempt to begin "safronisation" of the universities in Kerala. The abusive banner came up as part of the protest.**

latter said he has no personal against anyone and all he wishes is to ensure that things go according to the guidelines of the UGC.

And to show the displeasure against Khan, the CPI-M-led Left staged a protest before the official residence of Khan Tuesday, but ensuring not to ruffle him further, neither Vijayan or his cabinet ministers took part.

Khan went on record to say that all have the right to protest, but he will not succumb to pressure.

Now all eyes are on the upcoming session and the proposed Bill which is going to be passed even as the Congress-led opposition has made it clear that they will strongly oppose the Bill.



**PREZ IN BHOPAL:** President Droupadi Murmu during a visit to the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum in Bhopal, Wednesday

## As poll buildup picks up in MP, BJP leaders busy grooming sons

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, Nov 16:** With Madhya Pradesh set to go to the polls next year, the sons of many senior BJP leaders have found themselves in the fray as probable candidates with their fathers directly or indirectly advocating for their candidature.

The party has been working on an unannounced guideline, which will prevent two members from the same family from contesting elections.

Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar's son Devendra Singh Tomar, former state BJP President Prabhat Jha's son Tushmul Jha, Public Works Minister Gopal Bhargava's son Abhishek Bhargava, former minister Gaurishankar Bisen's daughter Mausam Bisen, Home Minister Narottam Mishra's son Sukarna Mishra are some of those who can stake claim in the upcoming elections.

**While dynasty politics has been a major election issue for the BJP, the party leaders do not seem to lag behind in introducing their next generation into electoral politics**

A statement by Satyanarayan Jatiya, member of BJP's Parliamentary Board, on how being a leader's child is not anyone's fault and all qualified leaders should get tickets to contest elections, has added to the hopes of these ticket hopefuls.

Earlier, Jatiya had made another statement regarding a 'no age criterion' in the party. He had said the party entrusts responsibility to the right worker at the right time.

After this statement, many discussions gained momentum in the party, including former minister Kusum Mahdele questioning the reasoning behind him and other leaders being denied ticket.

Dynasty politics has been a major election issue for the BJP. Political analysts believe that the party does not intend to give up the issue on which it hounds the Congress.

They feel that the saffron party will not create trouble for itself by being questioned over nepotism.

However, some analysts also believe that BJP leaders will not lag behind in introducing their next generation into electoral politics.

## Uneven rainfall, fewer rainy days in MP matter of concern



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, Nov 16:** By the official end of the monsoon season, June 1 to September 30 this year, Madhya Pradesh had received over 23 per cent excess rainfall. In the previous two years rainfall was below par, whereas in 2019 the state had recorded over 45 per cent excess rain during the same period.

India Meteorological Department's (IMD) data showed that the state has been witnessing uneven rainfall since 1996 and there has been inconsistency in average rainfall in both the western and eastern parts of Madhya

Pradesh. For instance, during this year's monsoon season, the eastern part of the state recorded 10 per cent excess rainfall, while the western part received over 35 per cent excess rain during the same period. If the state witnesses excess rainfall for two years, the situation will be quite different for the next two or three years and the average rainfall will be below average, the data showed.

Weather scientists claimed that uneven rainfall and inconsistency have been due to the impact of climate change. Another concern which has been consistently witnessed is that besides uneven

distribution of rainfall, the number of rainy days has also decreased. According to weather scientists, out of 120 days, the number of rainy days should be between 60 to 70, which has reduced despite the excess rain. Excess rainfall within a lesser number of rainy days creates more problems - for instance floods and damage to crops.

According to the IMD data, the maximum number of rainy days is between 47 to 52 days, while the minimum rainy days are between 32 to 36 days in some parts of the state. Weather experts were of the view that climate change has become a serious issue and it needs to be paid more attention otherwise the situation would worsen for human beings.

Research reports of various institutions suggest that more than half of Madhya Pradesh faces the threat of adverse weather conditions on account of global warming and climate change.

Weather scientists said evidence of climate change is already visible in Madhya Pradesh in many sectors such as agriculture, water resources, infrastructure, ecology, and biodiversity.

## Shivraj may spring a surprise with Cabinet reshuffle in MP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, Nov 16:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is likely to spring a surprise with a major Cabinet reshuffle.

Around 10 sitting ministers can be replaced with new faces, and the third reshuffle and expansion of the Cabinet is likely to take place by the second week of December, sources said.

The sources claimed that Chouhan has expressed his disappointment at the performance of several ministers of his Cabinet and they may be replaced with new faces.

A series of discussions has been held in the core committee

meetings on this count, and a possible list of ministers has been prepared. The final decision will be taken after obtaining consent from the Centre.

It would be interesting to see if Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalists will be replaced or not. At present, there are 31 ministers in the state Cabinet, while four posts are vacant. Sources said that at least four to five ministers from Scindia's camp may be replaced.

There are six Cabinet ministers and three MoS from the Scindia faction in the Cabinet. The expansion and reshuffle was supposed to be taken place in November, but it was delayed for the Gujarat elections scheduled in the first week of December.



## Cong leaders focus on fitness ahead of Bharat Jodo Yatra in MP

*Bharat Jodo Yatra, a mass contact initiative of the Congress, is scheduled to enter Bondarli in Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh Nov 20 evening*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhopal, Nov 16:** Congress leaders in Madhya Pradesh have taken up jogging, exercising and other fitness activities to match the footsteps of Rahul Gandhi ahead of the Bharat Jodo Yatra's entry into the state.

The Congress's yatra, which began from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu September 7, covers nearly 25 km every day. It will enter Madhya Pradesh from Maharashtra November 20.

Congress MLA and former Madhya Pradesh minister PC Sharma told PTI that he has practising brisk walking since a month and even bought a new pair of

shoes for the first time to participate in the yatra.

"I only wear slippers and have never worn shoes. I have been doing brisk walking for more than five km daily to keep pace with Rahulji's walking speed," the 66-year-old legislator said.

Sharma said he had walked during the yatra with Gandhi in Hyderabad and Bellary.

"It is too hard to match his speed. I am eagerly waiting for our leader's yatra to enter Madhya Pradesh," he added.

All India Congress Committee member from Madhya Pradesh Jagdish Saini said he gets up at around 5am and has been going for a walk regularly for last four to



five years.

"But since the last 10 days, I have been jogging twice daily - in the morning and evening - in a bid to

keep pace with Rahul Gandhi," the 67-year-old leader said.

Congress leader and Bhopal Development Authority's former

vice chairman PD Sharma said he wakes up at 4am and goes for jogging to a park to remain fit and to also shed some weight.

"I am doing this since Rahulji started the yatra from Kanyakumari September 7," he said.

The 59-year-old leader said he was counting the days for the yatra to enter MP and would go to Burhanpur November 20, when the foot march will enter the state.

"I want to walk with Rahulji. I have bought a brand new pair of jogging shoes and 10 kurta-pyjama sets for the yatra. I weigh 87 kg and want to shed some kilos to run alongside our leader," he added.

MP Congress's Right to Information cell chief Puneet Tandon said he gets up at 5.30am and goes to the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) ground where he jogs, runs and does cycling for two hours.

"I have been following this fitness regime since the last 30 days. I am super excited about Rahulji's visit. I have been working out to keep pace with our leader," Tandon (39) said.

MP Congress spokesman Awanish Bundela said he has been walking and exercising in the morning for last five years.

"But in view of Rahulji's visit, I have started jogging in the evening as well since the last 10 days. I am going to take part in the yatra," the 43-year-old leader said.

The foot march will pass through six MP districts - Burhanpur, Khandwa, Khargone, Indore, Ujjain and Agar Malwa - over 13 days before entering Kota district of Rajasthan December 3.

It will pass through 12 states before culminating in Jammu and Kashmir after spanning a distance of 3,570 km over nearly 150 days.

## of the day quote

The overall development of the state is only possible when rural and tribal development is given priority



HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

Medical institutions like the Cancer Institute and AIIMS came to Haryana only during the Congress government. Medical education was given to students at a nominal fee because the Congress government consider education a responsibility. But the BJP-JJP government is commercialising education



BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | LEADER OF THE OPPN IN HARYANA ASSEMBLY

BJP is going to win with a thumping majority. People of Gujarat are set to script history in the Indian democracy by electing the highest numbers of BJP MLAs. And post elections, Bhupendra Patel will continue as the Chief Minister



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### JD-U to support Dimple Yadav

Patna: Bihar's ruling Janata Dal-United (JD-U) Wednesday decided not to contest the by-poll to Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri parliamentary constituency. The by-election in Mainpuri is taking place due to the demise of sitting MP and veteran socialist leader Mulayam Singh Yadav. Mainpuri is a traditional seat of Mulayam Singh's family and Samajwadi Party (SP) has given the seat to party chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav.

### Eight killed in road accident

Jammu: Eight people were killed in a road accident in J&K's Kishtwar district Wednesday, officials said. Officials said that a Tata Sumo taxi went out of the driver's control in Marwah area of Kishtwar and dropped into a deep gorge. "Eight people travelling in the vehicle died on the spot," an official said.

### 31 ultras surrender

Imphal: As many as 31 militants belonging to five valley-based underground extremists outfits surrendered to the state government and laid down their arms and ammunition before Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh at a 'homecoming ceremony' in Imphal. Of the 31 tribal guerrillas, 17 belong to the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP)-People's War Group (PWG); four are from the United National Liberation Front (UNLF); six from The People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), three cadres from Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) while one cadre is from PREPAK (VC).

## J'khand: People with more than 2 kids won't be able to contest civic election

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ranchi, Nov 16: People having more than two children, whose last child was born after February 9, 2013, will not be able to become candidates in the upcoming elections to the municipal bodies in Jharkhand.

As per the Jharkhand Municipal Act 2011, the State Election Commission has issued an order regarding this.

The election schedule for all the 49 municipal bodies in the state is likely to be announced in the next few days.

The State Election Commission has completed its preparations. This is the first time that elections to all the municipal bodies of the state will be held simultaneously.

In case of more than two children, a copy of the order issued by the Commission regarding dis-



Players of President's Body Guards and Lancers (red jersey) in action during the President's Polo Cup exhibition match, at PBG Parade Ground in New Delhi

## AAP CLAIMS THREAT TO CANDIDATE

# EC asks Gujarat CEO to take 'warranted' action

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Election Commission Wednesday asked the Gujarat chief electoral officer to inquire and take action "as warranted" after the Aam Aadmi Party alleged that its Surat (East) candidate was abducted and coerced by the BJP to withdraw from the poll fray.

A four-member delegation of AAP led by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia met the Commission officials this evening and handed over a representation after holding a protest outside the EC office here.

The BJP rejected the allegations with Union Minister Anurag Thakur accusing the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party of making false claims as a "cover-up" for the charges of corruption it was facing.

Sisodia alleged AAP candidate from Surat (East) Kanchan Jariwala was forced to withdraw his nomination and abducted at the behest of the BJP which "feared" defeat on the seat in the Gujarat assembly election.

The Delhi deputy chief minister demanded that the election process in the constituency be put on hold till an impartial inquiry is held into the matter.

An EC spokesperson said AAP's representation has been sent to the CEO in Gujarat to inquire and take "action as warranted". Sisodia claimed that Jariwala was still "missing" and his life was in danger. However, Surat city BJP president Niranjan Zanzmera refuted the allegations and said the AAP should "take care of its own house."

Jariwala also issued a video statement in which he purportedly said he withdrew his nomination without any pressure and



The representation of women in state police is almost 28 per cent in Bihar. The increased presence of women in the state's police force has not only empowered women but also made the constabulary more efficient and effective

NITISH KUMAR | CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR

## FIRST PVT ROCKET SET TO BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW

Indian Space Research Organisation is all set for the maiden launch of the country's first privately developed rocket "Vikram-S" by space startup Skyroot Aerospace November 18 from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh



## MEHRAULI MURDER

# Aftab would have killed Shraddha 10 days before

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Aftab Ameen Poonawala, who allegedly killed his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar would have killed her ten days before but he hesitated as she was crying, sources said.

"They had frequent fights, as Shraddha suspected that he was cheating on him, because he was active on the dating app Bumble on which the duo had met three years ago," said the sources. "She knew that he was talking to other girls on the dating app and had lost interest in her," the sources claimed. "After a fight, Aftab would have killed her 10 days before he did but Shraddha cried and he then hesitated," said the sources.

The police said that after chopping the body of his 27-year-old girlfriend into pieces on May 18, the accused bought a brand new refrigerator with a large storage capacity the next day and stored the remains in it.

To counter the stench, he lit incense sticks at his home. Aftab was reportedly inspired by the American crime show 'Dexter', which tells the story of a man with homicidal tendencies who lives a

## Court approves narco test of accused

New Delhi: The Saket Court Wednesday approved a narco test of Aftab Ameen Poonawala. The development comes after the Delhi Police had approached the court earlier in the morning seeking a permission for the test saying that he was not cooperating in the investigation. A day earlier, the police had also taken him to his house in Chattarpur, which he shared with Walkar, to recreate the crime. Sources have said that when Aftab was first called for questioning, he told the investigators the victim had left the house May 22.

double life.

Being a trained chef, Aftab was adept at using the knife, said sources. However, the knife used in the crime is yet to be recovered. He had thrown the body pieces at Mehrauli forest over a period of 18 days. To avoid suspicion, he used to leave his house with a body part in a polybag at around 2 a.m.



## Man pushes woman from 4th floor in UP

Lucknow: A 19-year-old woman was allegedly pushed to death from the fourth floor of a building allegedly by her neighbour who was trying to befriend her and force her to convert, police said Wednesday. The incident occurred in an area under the Dubagga police station limits Tuesday night, Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) Piyush Mordia said, adding the family members of the young woman have alleged the accused Sufiyan, who is in his early 20s, was forcing her to convert to Islam. An FIR under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code along with relevant sections of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Act (or the so-called love jihad law) has been registered against the man, they said.

# Cong drops 5 sitting MLAs in central, north Guj, repeats 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 16: The Congress has dropped five sitting MLAs and retained seven others as it released the final list of 37 candidates Wednesday for the second phase of the next month's two-phase Assembly elections in Gujarat.

With the latest list, Congress has finished its candidate selection exercise for all the 179 seats it will contest. The party has left three seats- Umreth, Naroda, and Devgadhi Baria - for Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) as part of their pre-poll alliance.

The election to all 182 constituencies will be held on December 1 (89 seats) and December 5 (93 seats). The counting of votes will be taken up December 8.

The sitting MLAs dropped by Congress are: Bharati Thakor (Becharaji constituency), Jashubhai Patel (Bayad), Rajesh Gohil (Dhandhuka), Niranjan



Patel (Petlad), and Vajesingh Panada (Dahod).

The Opposition party has retained MLAs on seven seats, namely- Palanpur (Mahesh Patel), Deodar (Shiva Bhuriya), Viramgam (Lakha Bharwad), Thasra (Kanti Parmar), Kapadvanj (Kalabhai Dabhi), Balasinor (Ajitsinh Chauhan), and Padra (Jashpalsinh Padhiyar).

The Congress has given a ticket to its former MLA Mahendrasinh Vaghela for the Bayad constituency. Vaghela, the son of former chief minister Shankersinh Vaghela, had won from Bayad in 2012 on a Congress ticket. He switched allegiance to BJP ahead

of the 2017 polls but didn't contest the previous elections. He left BJP and rejoined Congress recently.

For the Kalol seat in the Panchmahal district currently represented by BJP, Congress has given a ticket to former Panchmahal BJP MP Prabhatsinh Chauhan.

Notably, Chauhan's daughter-in-law is the current MLA but BJP has not renominated her. Chauhan, 81, is perhaps the oldest candidate in the upcoming elections. He has been sulking after he was denied a ticket by BJP for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and recently joined Congress.

A four-member delegation of AAP led by Manish Sisodia met the Election Commission officials to complain against 'misuse of the police and the election machinery to forcefully withdraw the nomination paper of AAP candidate from Surat East constituency Kanchan Jariwala by BJP'

had followed his conscience after the people of his constituency labelled him "anti-national" and "anti-Gujarat" for contesting the election from AAP.

The AAP representation urged the poll panel not to accept Jariwala's application for withdrawal of the nomination, claiming it was obtained under "threat and coercion". Pressing for an inquiry, Sisodia demanded that if

the BJP is found complicit, the election in the assembly seat should be rescheduled.

"The BJP first tried to get the nomination rejected by putting frivolous objections and tried to influence the proposers of the candidate by threat and coercion to backtrack their signatures on the nomination papers of AAP candidate," Sisodia alleged while speaking to reporters.

The returning officer of Surat (East), "in all his fairness", rejected the objections raised and accepted the nomination of AAP's Jariwala, he said.

"But the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not stop there and went on to threaten Kanchan Jariwala and also his family," he charged.

Sisodia claimed the police personnel then took Jariwala to the nomination centre "under their protection" for the withdrawal of his nomination. "It is not only a misuse of the police machinery but against the essence of free and fair elections. This is a horrific story and a blot on the election system that threatens to tear apart the democratic fabric of the country," Sisodia charged.

## CATTLE RUN OVER CASES

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DATA, CATTLE RUN OVERS AFFECTED 200 TRAINS IN THE FIRST NINE DAYS OF OCTOBER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Railways will build 1,000 km of boundary walls over the next six months in sections of its network where maximum cases of cattle being run over by trains are recorded, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Wednesday.

According to official data, cattle run overs affected 200 trains in the first nine days of October. As many as 4,000 trains have been affected

# Rlys to build 1K km of boundary walls



so far this year.

He also stated that conventional boundary walls will not be able to solve the problem of cattle run over but will end up affecting villagers around the area.

The minister, however, did not give any information on the material that will be used for building the boundary walls to make them

sturdy enough to not only keep the cattle away from railway tracks but also protect them from human intervention.

Cattle run overs can cause serious damage to trains, derailment and delay them. The nose of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express train, which was launched October 1, was damaged owing to

We are working seriously on the issue of building boundary walls. We are looking at two different designs. While we have approved one, which is a sturdy wall, over the next five to six months, we plan to build 1,000 km of such walls across sections to determine if the design works

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | RAILWAY MINISTER

three cattle run overs in the first nine days of the month.

According to information accessed by PTI, with more than 6,500 of the 26,000 cattle run cases in 2020-21, North Central Railway is one of the worst affected zones. It covers 3,000 km of tracks and hosts

parts of Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors.

It includes divisions like Agra, Jhansi and Prayagraj, and is the gateway for trains from the east to reach the northern parts of India.

The stretches identified for building boundary walls include sections in North Central Railways and Northern Railways - in the Jhansi Division between Virangana Lakshmi Bai-Gwalior section, Prayagraj Division between Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay-Prayagraj section, Moradabad Division between Alam Nagar and Shahjehanpur, Lucknow Division between Alam Nagar and Lucknow.

The Northern Railways zone recorded the highest number of cattle run over cases - nearly 6,800 - across divisions of Moradabad and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Ferozpur in Punjab, Ambala in Haryana, and Delhi in 2022, officials said.

# international

## of the day quote

The Indo-Pacific is increasingly crucial for our security and our prosperity. It is teeming with dynamic and fast-growing economies, and the next decade will be defined by what happens in this region

It's a bigger military support package than all eight previous packages combined. It's the single largest we've done, and we follow exactly the Ukrainian priority list of what they themselves think they need just now

His (Imran Khan) politics actually revolve around this issue (chief of army staff), and let me say that until our politics don't come out of this subject, our democracy will not get stronger and we won't grow as a nation

BILAWAL BHUTTO-ZARDARI | FOREIGN MINISTER, PAKISTAN

## SHORT TAKES

### UK dy PM asks for independent probe

London: British Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said Wednesday he has requested an independent investigation into two formal complaints about his behaviour, the latest case of alleged bullying to put pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Raab said he had been notified of two separate complaints, one from when he was foreign minister and one from his tenure as justice minister. Some officials who have worked for him say he was a tough and demanding boss, with others being quoted by local media as saying he was rude, aggressive and a bully. Raab has denied the allegations.

### Spacey to face 7 more sex charges

London: Actor Kevin Spacey will be charged with seven further sex offenses, all against one man, piling on the pressure for one of Hollywood's biggest stars. Britain's Crown Prosecution said Wednesday that charges against the former "House of Cards" star are three of indecent assault, three of sexual assault and one of causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent. The charges relate to incidents between 2001 and 2004.

### Israel deploys robotic guns

Al-aroub: In two volatile spots in the occupied West Bank, Israel has installed robotic weapons that can fire tear gas, stun grenades and sponge-tipped bullets at Palestinian protesters. The weapons, perched over a crowded Palestinian refugee camp and in a flashpoint West Bank city, use artificial intelligence to track targets. Israel says the technology saves lives — both Israeli and Palestinian. But critics see another step toward a dystopian reality in which Israel fine-tunes its open-ended occupation of the Palestinians while keeping its soldiers out of harm's way.

### Kuwait puts to death 7 inmates

Dubai: Kuwait Wednesday put to death seven prisoners in a rare mass execution in the small, oil-rich nation despite facing international criticism over its plans. The state-run KUNA news agency described those executed as all facing premeditated murder and other charges in the sheikhdom. It identified those killed as three Kuwaiti men, one Kuwaiti woman, a Syrian man, a Pakistani man and an Ethiopian woman.



Americans thought they could stop the nations with threats and sanctions, but the steadfastness of the independent nations forced them to retreat and once again proved that resistance and cooperation is the only way to confront the greed of the West  
EBRAHIM RAISI | PRESIDENT, IRAN

## ITALY'S GROUNDBREAKING MOMENT

Italian women MPs will be allowed to breastfeed their children in the Chamber during debates, the committee responsible for the Chamber's rules announced. Breastfeeding members of the chamber of deputies will be allowed to sit in the top row of the assembly, or in a reserved gallery



## UK PM GREEN LIGHTS NEW INDIAN YOUTH VISA SCHEME

London, Nov 16: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Wednesday green lit a new youth mobility partnership scheme that will offer 3,000 visas to 18-30-year-old degree-educated Indians every year to live and work in the UK for up to two years. The reciprocal scheme, which will also involve British nationals living and working in India, was signed as part of the UK-India Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP) last year and will now be formally launched in early 2023. The scheme was launched by Sunak as part of the UK's Indo-Pacific focus at the G20 Summit in Bali, where he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to confirm the new bespoke route and



which Downing Street said makes India the first visa-national country to benefit from such a scheme. "I know first-hand the incredible value of the deep cultural and historic ties we have with India," said Sunak, Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister. "I am pleased that even more of India's brightest young people will now have the opportunity to experience all that life in the UK has to offer — and vice-versa — making our economies and societies richer," he said. The launch of the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme is dubbed a "significant moment" for the bilateral relationship and the UK's wider commitment to forging stronger links with the Indo-Pacific region to strengthen both Indian and British economies. It is also seen as an effort to propel the ongoing free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations, which are now expected to run until at least March next year. Downing Street says such an FTA will be the first deal of its kind India has made with a European country and would build on the UK-India trading relationship worth GBP 24 billion annually.

## 50 YRS AFTER APOLLO



## NASA'S MIGHTIEST MOON ROCKET BLASTS OFF

The liftoff marked the start of NASA's Artemis lunar-exploration programme, named after Apollo's mythological twin sister. The space agency is aiming to send four astronauts around the moon on the next flight, in 2024, and land humans there as early as 2025

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cape Canaveral, Nov 16: NASA's new moon rocket blasted off on its debut flight with three test dummies aboard Wednesday, bringing the US a big step closer to putting astronauts back on the lunar surface for the first time since the end of the Apollo program 50 years ago.

If all goes well during the three-week, make-or-break shakedown flight, the crew capsule will be propelled into a wide orbit around the moon and then return to Earth with a Pacific splashdown in December.

After years of delays and billions in cost overruns, the Space Launch System rocket thundered skyward, rising from Kennedy Space Center on 8.8 million pounds of thrust and

hitting 100 mph (160 kph) within seconds. The Orion capsule was perched on top and, less than two hours into the flight, busted out of Earth's orbit toward the moon. "It's a great day," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

The moon shot follows nearly three months of vexing fuel leaks that kept the rocket bouncing between its hangar and the pad. Forced back indoors by Hurricane Ian at the end of September, the rocket stood its ground outside as Nicole swept through last week with gusts of more than 80 mph.

Cheers accompanied the rocket as it rode a huge trail of flames toward space, with a half-moon glowing brightly and buildings shaking as though hit by a major quake.

"For the Artemis generation, this is for you," launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson called out, referring to all those born after Apollo. "You have earned your place in history," Blackwell-Thompson told her team following liftoff.

The 322-foot SLS is the most powerful rocket ever built by NASA, with more thrust than either the space shuttle or the mighty Saturn V that carried men to the moon. A series of hydrogen fuel leaks plagued the summertime launch attempts as well as countdown tests.

Orion should reach the moon by Monday, more than 230,000 miles from Earth. After coming within 80 miles of the moon, the capsule will enter a far-flung orbit stretching about 40,000 miles beyond.

# India gets G20 presidency

THE G20 OR GROUP OF 20 IS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

## Xi, Trudeau trade barbs at G20 meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bali, Nov 16: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Wednesday exchanged barbs on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali over the leaked reports of their meeting.

In perhaps a very rare open remark captured on television camera, an agitated Xi was seen objecting to Trudeau saying whatever they discussed in their earlier meeting was leaked to the media.

"Everything we discuss has been leaked to the paper, that's not appropriate," Xi told Trudeau through a translator on the sidelines of the closing session of the G20 meeting.

"That is not how the way the conversation was conducted," he said, adding "if there is sincerity, we will have a good conversation. Otherwise, the result is hard to say."

But 50-year-old Trudeau, who looked impatient, interrupted the translator, saying: "We believe in free and open and frank dialogue and that is what we will continue to have. We will continue to look to work constructively together but there will be things we will disagree on."

For which, 69-year-old Xi said, "let us create the conditions first", after which the two shook hands and went separate ways. Asked about his exchange with Xi, Trudeau said, "not every conversation is going to be easy but it's extremely important we stand up for the things that are important to Canadians".



The world is looking at the G-20 with hope. Today, I want to assure that India's G-20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented  
NARENDRA MODI | PM, INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bali, Nov 16: Indonesia Wednesday handed over the G20 presidency to India for the coming year at the Bali summit here with Prime Minister Narendra Modi terming it a matter of pride for every Indian citizen.

At a brief ceremony, Indonesian President Joko Widodo handed over the G20 presidency to Prime Minister Modi at the conclusion of the two-day G20 Summit here. "Together with every countries'

efforts, we can make the G20 summit a catalyst for global welfare," Modi said. The handing over ceremony came as the member states issued a joint declaration.

Delegations from the member states had differences on how to characterise the Russia-Ukraine war, with Ukraine's western allies said to be seeking outright condemnation of Moscow.

## BALI SUMMIT ENDS

There were fears earlier that the member states may not agree to a final document. G20 declarations require consensus of all members. Though the main business of the Summit ended in the afternoon, heads from some countries — including India — had scheduled bilateral talks on its sidelines for later in the day.

Under its Presidency, India is ex-

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### CONDEMNING RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

Meetings of G20 ministers earlier this year ended without joint declarations because of Russian opposition to references to the war in Ukraine. This week, leaders adopted a declaration deploring Russia's aggression in Ukraine "in the strongest terms" and demanding its unconditional withdrawal.

### US-CHINA TIES ON BETTER FOOTING

The summit was preceded by a bilateral meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, the first time the two had met since Biden became president. Although there were few tangible results, it was overall a positive meeting after relations between the superpowers plunged to near historic lows earlier in the year.

### FOCUS ON GLOBAL ECONOMY

The G20 economies agreed in their declaration to pace interest rate rises carefully to avoid spillovers and warned of "increased volatility" in currency moves, a sea change from last year's focus on mending the scars of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### FOOD SECURITY

The leaders promised to take coordinated action to address food security challenges and applauded the Black Sea grains initiative, but civil society groups criticised what they said was the absence of concrete steps on hunger.

### COMBAT TERRORISM FINANCING

The G20 countries asked the world community to step up their efforts to effectively combat money laundering and terrorism financing as the grouping reaffirmed its commitment to delivering the strategic priorities of the FATF and its regional bodies to lead global action to respond to these threats.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

G20 leaders agreed to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius — confirming they stand by the temperature goal from the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

pected to host over 200 G20 meetings across the country, beginning December 2022. The next summit will be held in New Delhi September 9-10. Collectively, the G20 accounts for

85 per cent of the global GDP, 75 per cent of international trade, and two-thirds of the world population, making it the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

## Trump launches 2024 Prez run

REUTERS

Palm Beach, Nov 16: Donald Trump, who has mounted relentless attacks on the integrity of U.S. voting since his 2020 election defeat, Tuesday launched a bid to regain the presidency in 2024, aiming to preempt potential Republican rivals.

Seeking a potential rematch with Democratic President Joe Biden, Trump made his announcement at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida a week after midterm elections in which Republicans failed to win as many seats in Congress as they had hoped.

In a speech lasting little more than an hour, Trump spoke to hundreds of supporters in a ballroom decorated with chandeliers and



lined with American flags. "In order to make America great again, I am tonight announcing my candidacy for president of the United States," Trump said to the phone-waving crowd, which included family members, donors and former staffers. "Two years ago we were a great nation and soon we will be a great nation again," he said.

## Missile that hit Poland was Ukrainian stray

REUTERS

Warsaw, Nov 16: A missile that hit Poland was probably a stray fired by Ukraine's air defences and not a Russian strike, Poland and NATO said Wednesday, easing global concern that the war in Ukraine could spill across the border.

Nevertheless, NATO's chief said that Moscow, not Kyiv was ultimately to blame, for starting the war in the first place and launching the attack that triggered Ukraine's defences.

"This is not Ukraine's fault. Russia bears ultimate responsibility as it continues its illegal war against Ukraine," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

## EASING CONCERN OF ESCALATION



NATO ambassadors were holding emergency talks to respond to the blast that killed two people at a grain facility in Poland near the Ukrainian border; the war's first deadly spillover onto the territory of the Western military alliance.

"From the information that we and our allies have, it was an S-300 rocket made in the Soviet Union, an old rocket and there is no evidence that it was launched by the Russian side," Polish President Andrzej Duda said. "It is highly probable that it was fired

by Ukrainian anti-aircraft defense." Stoltenberg also said it was likely a Ukrainian air defence missile.

Polish Prime Minister Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said Warsaw might not need to activate Article 4 of NATO's treaty, which calls for consultations when a member country considers its security under threat. Earlier, US President Joe Biden said the missile was unlikely to have been fired from Russia.

The Kremlin praised Washington's "measured" response after the incident. "In this instance, attention should be paid to the measured and more professional response from the American side," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

# China's older people risk curtailing the prosperity they created

A RAPIDLY AGEING POPULATION AND DECLINING FERTILITY ARE SET TO PLANT A BOMB UNDER THE ECONOMIC BOOM

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Nov 16: China's stunning economic growth over the past 30 years has been fuelled by the sweat of a generation of workers at the peak of their powers.

As a result, China's economy is on-track to overtake the United States' by 2030. With an average growth rate of more than 9 percent between 1980 and 2010, China became the world's second-largest economy in 2010. But now a demographic reversal unlike anything since the great famine in 1959-61 casts doubt on this prosperity.

A rapidly ageing population and declining fertility are set to plant a bomb under the economic boom. Since the 1950s, China's mortality

rate has declined steadily from 23 in 1000 in 1950 to 6.2 in 1000 in 2001.

And while its birth rate initially surged, from the early 1970s, the birth rate declined dramatically in response to various factors, particularly the famous one-child policy. The result was a population that featured a high share of working-age people and low numbers of the young and old.

In 1976, 100 working-age people supported 77 dependents (4 old and 73 young people). By 1990, 100 workers only needed to support 49 (5 old and 44 young).

This dramatic demographic transition coincided with economic reform and opening up to the world, creating a 'golden age' of sustained and rapid economic growth.

Millions of agricultural workers moved to non-agricultural sectors and from rural to urban areas, providing a vast supply of labour which helped China to become the 'world's factory'.

This delivered a 'demographic dividend' which was responsible for around 15 percent of China's impressive economic growth from 1982

to 2000. But it cannot last. Although the rapid change brought China prosperity, it also brings a potentially bigger cost: China's population

ageing will accelerate and become much faster than both developed countries and many of Beijing's competitors in Asia.

Based on the United Nations' 2022 population prospects, it will take China less than 18 years for the proportion of its elderly (aged 65 and over) to double to 20 per cent. It took Sweden more than 70 years, Germany 56 and Japan 21.

China's declining fertility rate is also a concern. Despite the government loosening controls over family planning, fertility plumm-

ed from 2018 reaching a historical low of 1.15 children per woman in 2021.

High housing prices, expensive education and women's job insecurity after giving birth are all factors in the falling fertility rate. Demographers believe fertility will decline further in 2022 because of Covid-19 and the government's strict Covid zero policy.

By 2100, UN estimates show 100 working-age Chinese will have to support as many as 103 dependents (83 elderly and 20 young people).



Higher labour costs, driven by the lack of available workers, are likely to push low-margin, labour intensive manufacturing out of China to countries such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and India where workers are more available



**Paytm's lock-in expiry had no impact on the share price as the company's robust performance continues to impress investors**  
AVINASH GORAKSHAKAR | DIRECTOR (RESEARCH), PROFITMART SECURITIES

## UK INFLATION HITS 41-YEAR HIGH

Surging household energy bills and food prices pushed British inflation to a 41-year high. Consumer prices rose 11.1% in the 12 months to October, the most since October 1981 and a big jump from 10.1% in September, the Office for National Statistics said Wednesday



## of the day quote

We foresee a stronger presence in the Australian market appreciating the recently concluded Indo-Australia trade agreement  
**NAREN GOENKA** | CHAIRMAN, AEPC

Passenger vehicle sales in India could hit a record of over 38 lakh units in FY23 but the strong growth momentum is not expected to carry over to 2023-24 with pent-up demand already been released  
**SHAILESH CHANDRA** | MD (PASSENGER VEHICLES), TATA MOTORS

With our digital-first solution, Beato is well positioned to lay the new standards of how care will be delivered in the future to millions of Indians  
**GAUTAM CHOPRA** | CO-FOUNDER & CEO, BEATO

## SHORT TAKES

### Govt gets ₹3,839cr from Axis stake sale

**New Delhi:** The government has garnered about Rs 3,839 crore by selling a 1.5 per cent stake in Axis Bank, held through SUUTI. Last week the government sold a 1.5 per cent stake in Axis Bank through the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI). The floor price for the offer was Rs 830.63 per equity share. With the sale of the SUUTI stake, the disinvestment proceeds mopped up so far this fiscal increased to Rs 28,383 crore. The budget target from disinvestment in the current fiscal (Apr-March) is pegged at Rs 65,000 crore.

### US slaps \$1.4mn fine on Air India

**New York:** The US government has fined Air India \$1.4 million for "extreme delays" in refunding passengers \$121.5 million for flights cancelled or changed significantly. Announcing the action against the Indian flag carrier and five other airlines Monday, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said: "A flight cancellation is frustrating enough, and you shouldn't also have to haggle or wait months to get your refund." If passengers don't get refunds promptly for cancelled flights, "we will act to hold airlines accountable on behalf of American travellers and get passengers their money back", he warned.

### Over 6.85cr ITRs filed for FY22

**New Delhi:** Over 6.85 crore income tax returns have been filed so far for fiscal 2021-22 and the number is expected to go up further by December 31, a senior official said. The last date for filing income tax returns (ITRs) for 2021-22 fiscal for individuals was July 31, while for corporates and others who need to get their accounts audited was November 7, 2022. If the deadline is missed, taxpayers can also file a belated return by paying penalty, the last date for which is December 31.

### Bikaji Foods shares debut at nearly 6%

**New Delhi:** Shares of Bikaji Foods International Ltd ended the day nearly 6 per cent higher on its market debut Wednesday against the issue price of ₹300. The stock listed at ₹321.15, reflecting a gain of 7 per cent against the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 11.66 per cent to ₹335. The stock finally settled at ₹317.45, higher by 5.81 per cent. At the NSE, shares of the firm debuted at ₹322.80, climbing 7.6 per cent and later ended at ₹317.50, a gain of 5.83 per cent.

## EU SANCTIONS LOOM

# Indian refiners wary of buying oil from Russia



India and China are two of the world's top three importers, had become Russia's biggest customers after the West shunned Russian oil after the outbreak of war in Ukraine

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Nov 16:** Indian refiners are wary of buying Russia crude oil loading after December 5 when European Union sanctions take effect, pending clarity on the proposed G7 price cap mechanism, according to sources familiar with the refiners' crude purchase plans. Chinese refiners have already begun slowing down Russian oil imports from next month. The Asian giants, who are two of the world's top three importers, had become Russia's biggest customers after the West shunned Russian oil after the outbreak of war in Ukraine.

Reduced buying by both of them would leave Russia chasing alternative customers, potentially depressing prices even if those new buyers are unlikely to join a plan by rich nations in the Group of Seven (G7) to cap Russian oil prices.

Reliance Industries Ltd, operator of the world's biggest refining complex and a major customer for Russia, has not placed orders yet for Russian cargoes loading after December 5, two sources familiar with the refiner's purchase plans told Reuters. Neither has state-run Bharat Petroleum Corp (BPCLNS), they said.

According to the sources, Reliance is cautious about reactions from foreign banks given its exposure to the western financial system and overseas sales of refined products.

"There are too many uncertainties attached to the cap mechanism. We don't know what the payment mechanism could be and what would be the cap level," said a source at one of the state refiners.

Still, Indian Oil Corp, the country's top refiner, has placed orders for Russian cargoes, including for loading some parcels beyond December 5, under term and spot

deals, said one of the sources. "IOC wants to secure barrels," the source said, adding that Indian refiners have the option of raising purchases under their term deals with the suppliers, mainly in the Middle East, to meet their contractual commitments if they face problems in getting Russian supplies.

In contrast, private refiner Nayara Energy, majority owned by Russian entities, plans to continue Russian oil imports, sources aware of its crude purchases said.

**R**eliance and BPCL have not placed orders yet for Russian cargoes loading after December 5  
**B**ut IOC has placed orders for cargoes, including for loading some parcels beyond December 5  
**N**ayara Energy, majority owned by Russian entities, plans to continue Russian oil imports  
**C**hinese refiners have already begun slowing down Russian oil imports from next month

After western sanctions were imposed on Russia and Rosneft, which owns about 49% of Nayara, most foreign banks stopped dealing with Nayara, leaving the refiner dealing through Indian banks.

**PAYMENT, INSURANCE**  
While refiners are cautious about sanctions, India and Russia have set up alternatives to western insurance, finance and maritime services in order to conduct their trade. Indian refiners buy Russian oil on a delivered basis with insurance - cargo, P&I and hull and machinery - arranged by Russian entities. India accepts Russian insurance.

Also, India has recently devised a mechanism to settle trade with foreign nations in rupee terms through vostro accounts of foreign banks in India.

A commerce ministry official Tuesday said Russia's Gazprombank had opened a vostro account with UCO Bank, and VTB Bank and SberBank have opened accounts with their own India-based branch offices.

India's central bank in July this year introduced a new mechanism for international trade settlements in rupees.

# Sensex settles at fresh lifetime high

THE BSE SENSEX ROSE 0.17% TO CLOSE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT SESSION. THE NSE NIFTY WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED, EDGING UP 0.03%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

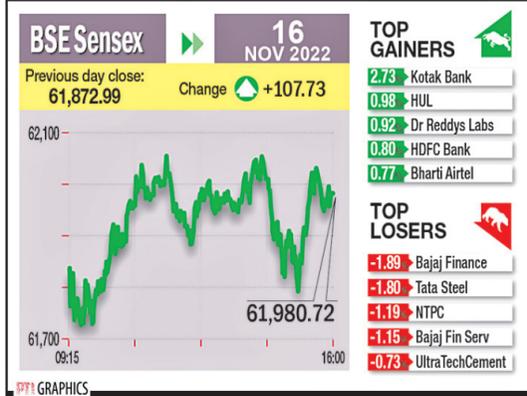
**Mumbai, Nov 16:** Equity benchmark indices ended the trade in the positive territory on Wednesday, with the BSE Sensex closing at its fresh life-time high of 61,900.72, helped by buying in banking counters.

After facing highs and lows during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally ended 107.73 points or 0.17 per cent higher at 61,900.72. During the day the index hit its 52-week high of 62,052.57, higher by 179.58 points. The broader NSE Nifty ended marginally higher by 6.25 points or 0.03 per cent to 18,409.65.

From the Sensex pack, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Dr Reddy's, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major winners.

Bajaj Finance, Tata Steel, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and IndusInd Bank were among the major laggards.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower, while Tokyo ended higher. Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly lower in the afternoon session. Wall Street had ended



### Rupee falls 35 paise to close at 81.26 against US dollar on forex outflows

The rupee depreciated by 35 paise to close at 81.26 against the US dollar on disappointing trade data and foreign fund outflows. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth Rs 386.06 crore.

Forex traders said a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets weighed on the local unit. "As the domestic market has started to trade around the all-time high levels, it is trending indecisively following the recent geopolitical tensions and weak per-

# Koo now 2nd largest microblog

Koo says it is next only to Twitter in reach and is harbouring global ambitions

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 16:** Homegrown microblogging platform Koo Wednesday announced that it has become the second largest microblog available to the world.

Launched in March 2020, the platform recently clocked 50 million downloads and has seen an upward trajectory in terms of growth. "We are overwhelmed by the response we have received from our users and are happy to share that today, we are the second largest microblog in the world within just 2.5 years of our existence. Since the launch, our users have believed in us," Aprameya Radhakrishna, CEO and Co-founder, Koo, said in a statement.



Koo is the only Indian microblog competing with other global microblogging platforms such as Twitter, Gettr, Truth Social, Mastodon, Parler and stands second (after Twitter) in terms of user downloads, the statement said. "Today, Koo is the second largest micro-blog in the world. Given the changes happening in the micro-

blogging landscape globally, we are looking to expand our wings to geographies where fundamental rights are being charged for," Mayank Bidawatka, Co-founder, Koo, was quoted as saying in the statement.

Currently, Koo is available in 10 languages and has users from over 100 countries, including the US, UK, Singapore, Canada, Nigeria, UAE, Algeria, Nepal, Iran, and India.

"Koo has always provided a free yellow eminence tick to eminent personalities, and a simple self-verification tool to every citizen and will continue to do so. We are very excited about inviting a larger global audience to this proudly 'Made in India' product," Bidawatka added.

## Taneira launches first store in Bhubaneswar

**BHUBANESWAR:** Taneira, the Indian ethnic-wear brand from the house of Tata, forays into Odisha with the launch of its first store at Station Square, Bhubaneswar. The store was inaugurated in the presence of CK Venkataraman, Managing Director, Titan Company Limited and Ambuj Narayan, Chief Executive Officer, Taneira. Sprawled across 2800 sq ft, Taneira's store presents a soulful amalgamation of traditional crafts in an upscale earthy setting located at 108 D, next to Tanishq, Master Canteen area. The sheer grandeur of the store includes local artwork decorations such as Dokra wall installation. The store provides an experiential shopping where customers can browse through the wide assortment of handcrafted sarees, blouse and ready-to-wear kurta sets made with the natural, pure and authentic fabrics. To celebrate the diverse textiles and craftsmanship, Taneira brings India under one roof through an exquisite range of pure Kanjeevarams, Banarasis, South Silks, Pochampally Ikats, Mangalagiris, Chanderis, Maheshwaris, Jamdanis and Tussars including revival designs. Speaking at the grand occasion, Venkataraman said, "We are happy to foray into Odisha with the launch of our first store in Bhubaneswar. We look forward to treating the customers to diverse craftsmanship and authentic handcraft through our design differentiated weaves from 100+ clusters which are perfect for all kinds of occasions and wedding festivities." Narayan added, "We are very happy to launch our first store in Bhubaneswar. To cater to the rooted yet progressive women, our newly launched store houses a wide range of exclusively designed hand-woven sarees, blouses, and kurta sets to choose from." With the grand launch of its store, Taneira invites the saree enthusiasts to indulge in the intricately woven fineries. The brand is running an Inaugural Gold Coin Offer for the customers from November 16 to November 21 as a part of which Taneira will gift 0.2 grams Tanishq gold coin on shopping worth ₹20,000.



## BIZ BUZZ

# TV SPORTS MARKET LIKELY TO REACH ₹9,830CR BY FY26

While Cricket continues to dominate the sports viewership in India with the IPL season having the most significant impact, other non-cricketing franchise-based events such as kabaddi, football, kho-kho etc are also witnessing traction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 16:** The overall TV sports market is expected to touch ₹9,830 crore and sports digital revenue will hit ₹4,360 crore by FY26, according to a report.

The digital revenue for sports, which was ₹1,540 crore in FY21, is

expected to grow three-fold to ₹4,360 crore in FY26, it added.

In the first nine months of 2022, the sports viewership in India stood at 722 million and is estimated to surpass the 776 million viewership of the pre-Covid year of 2019, as per the report.

The digital revenue for sports is growing with a high double-digit CAGR of 22 per cent, said the joint report by industry body CII, KPMG and India Broadcasting Digital Foundation.

"The same is likely to be driven by organic growth in the number of OTT viewers in India, as well as an increase in consumption of sports on OTT, fuelled by the convenience of anywhere viewing," the report said.

The advertisement revenues for sports properties on digital platforms are likely to be driven by



OVERALL TV SPORTS MARKET WAS ESTIMATED AT ₹7,050CR IN FY21  
CRICKET CONTENT TELECAST STANDS AT 16,217 HOURS TILL WEEK 44 OF 2022. THIS HAS ALREADY CROSSED 15,506 HOURS IN 2021

"robust advertiser interest" in digital and higher fill rates compared

to other content genres. "The subscription revenues for

sports are expected to grow on the back of an increase in OTT subscriptions, and a visible, concerted effort by OTT platforms to move towards an SVOD future (subscription video on demand)," it added.

However, despite the rapid growth of digital consumption in the last few years, the TV sports market is still expected to be more than twice the overall digital sports market "in the medium to long term", according to the report.

TV, the conventional platform for sports consumption and monetisation, is "likely to remain highly relevant for the foreseeable future," it added.

The overall TV sports market was estimated at ₹7,050 crore in FY21. "The same is expected to reach ₹9,830 crore in FY26; growing at a steady CAGR of 7 per cent," the report added.

Imports during April-October 2022-23, on the other hand, increased by 33 per cent to \$32.3 billion from the UAE, the data showed.

Imports from China during the same period grew by 18 per cent to \$60.3 billion, while India's exports to China declined by 37.3 per cent to \$8.8 billion, according to the data.

Exports to India's major destinations, such as the US, UAE, China, Bangladesh, UK and Saudi Arabia, have recorded negative growth in October. On the other hand, exports registered positive growth in the Netherlands, Singapore and Brazil during the month.

In April-October this fiscal, exports to the US rose by 8.4 per cent to \$47 billion. Similarly, the outbound shipments to the UK during seven months of the fiscal have increased by 8.3 per cent to \$6.5 billion.

India's exports entered negative territory after a gap of about two years, declining sharply by 16.65 per cent to \$29.78 billion in October due to global demand slowdown, even as the trade deficit widened to \$26.91 billion, according to data released by the ministry Tuesday.

# India's export to UAE rises 17.6% in April-October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 16:** India's exports to the UAE, with which a free trade agreement was implemented May 1, rose by 17.6 per cent to about \$18 billion during April-October this fiscal, according to the commerce ministry's data.

However, exports in October dipped by 18 per cent to about \$2 billion.



Imports during April-October 2022-23, on the other hand, increased by 33 per cent to \$32.3 billion from the UAE, the data showed. Imports from China during the same period grew by 18 per cent to \$60.3 billion, while India's exports to China declined by 37.3 per cent to \$8.8 billion, according to the data. Exports to India's major destinations, such as the US, UAE, China, Bangladesh, UK and Saudi Arabia, have recorded negative growth in October. On the other hand, exports registered positive growth in the Netherlands, Singapore and Brazil during the month.

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According to the report, the TV ad revenue for sports growth is expected to be a premium to the overall TV market growth, given the advantage that sports as a genre enjoy over other genres.

"Subscription revenues for sports are likely to be driven by the increase in TV House Hold penetration, upselling of packs (including sports channels), and organic growth in Pay TV ARPU," it added.

Cricket continues to dominate sports viewership and reach in India, with the IPL season being the largest impact sports property on TV. The overall volume of live cricket content telecast in India stands at 16,217 hours till Week 44 of 2022. This has already crossed 15,506 hours in 2021.

"No other sport comes close in terms of both volume of content as well as the reach," it said.

# BENZEMA looks for REDEMPTION



Karim Benzema (with beard) in action during a training session with France teammates

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Nov 16: When Karim Benzema held up the Ballon d'Or award last month, the crowd in the Parisian theater rose to applaud him. Now he hopes to lift France fans out of their seats at the World Cup.

That crowded theater seemed a fitting location for Benzema's crowning moment of personal glory, considering he was once the symbol of national disapproval — long rejected and maligned by the French public following a sex tape scandal.

After a dramatic fall from grace that led to a long exclusion from the national team until his recall last year, there he was, milking their applause.

Calm and poised, intellectual-looking with thin-rimmed glasses, Benzema finally being celebrated as a national icon — only the fifth Frenchman to win the award as the best player in Europe and the first since Zinedine Zidane, his idol, in 1998.

"There were times when it was much harder for me. There was a period when I wasn't in the national team, but I never gave up," Benzema said when collecting the

Ballon d'Or. "(Zidane) kept telling me to enjoy my soccer, that one day I could win this trophy. It only made me stronger mentally."

Since his recall to the national team, Benzema has scored 10 goals in 16 games — including four at last year's European Championship — and he enters the World Cup as arguably the world's most complete forward along with Lionel Messi. Jose Mourinho, Benzema's former coach at Madrid, highlights the unselfish streak that the forward has maintained while winning five Champions League titles. Benzema is 34 years old, and he will turn 35 the day after this year's World Cup final.

"I don't think there's an age limit. You see more and more players improving after their 30s. It's a question of determination," Benzema said.

France coach Didier Deschamps finally recalled Benzema to the national team in 2021 after six years out for his alleged part in a sex tape scandal, and Benzema was France's best player at the European Championship.

The scandal, in which he was allegedly involved in blackmailing former France teammate

Matthieu Valbuena, had big consequences.

Benzema, who is of Algerian descent, faced a nationwide deluge of vitriol and scathing criticism, including on the political level. The relationship with Deschamps reached a breaking point when, in an interview, Benzema accused the coach of caving in to pressure from racists when he omitted him for Euro 2016.

Although Benzema made it clear he did not think Deschamps was a racist, the coach's family home was tagged with offensive graffiti. There appeared no way to repair their relationship and no way back for Benzema into the national team, which reached the Euro 2016 final and won the 2018 World Cup without him.

Public support for him was rare. It came from Zidane, and their bond tightened strongly. Zidane was known for his incredible vision, poise, balletic balance and technical ability. So it's some compliment when he praises Benzema's skill.

His tally of 329 goals is second all-time at Real Madrid — an even more remarkable total considering how unselfish he was during Cristiano Ronaldo's glory era.

Benzema came into his own when Ronaldo left Madrid to join Juventus in 2018, adding a ruthlessness to his game that wasn't needed when he was Ronaldo's provider-in-chief. Ronaldo graciously said he would never have scored 450 goals for Madrid without Benzema's creativity as a passer, and his rare ability to open space for him with his deceptive runs.

Relishing the added pressure of his new role as the main scorer, Benzema improved his fitness and sharpness. The goals have flowed with four consecutive seasons with at least 20 league goals and 131 overall during that spell. Last season, he netted a career-high 44 goals in only 46 games, including an eye-popping 15 in 12 Champions League matches.

Now he spearheads France's attack alongside Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann, his World Cup teammate from 2014.

Benzema was France's top scorer at that tournament in Brazil, but he missed a last-gasp chance to equalize against Germany in a 1-0 quarterfinal loss. Eight years later, he has another shot at glory on the biggest stage. This time, the nation's right behind him.

# Qatari WC organisers apologise to TV crew

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Nov 16: Qatari World Cup organisers have apologised to a Danish television station whose live broadcast from a street here was interrupted by officials who threatened to break camera equipment.

Journalists from the TV2 channel "were mistakenly interrupted" late Tuesday evening, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy acknowledged in a statement.

"Upon inspection of the crew's valid tournament accreditation and filming permit, an apology was made to the broadcaster by on-site security before the crew resumed their activity," organisers said.

Reporter Rasmus Tantholdt was speaking live to a news anchor in Denmark when three men drove up behind him on an electric cart and tried to block the camera lens.

"You invited the whole world to come here, why can't we film? It's a public place," Tantholdt was heard saying in English. "You can break the camera, you want to break it? You are threatening us by smashing the camera?"

The incident five days before



Rasmus Tantholdt was speaking live when Qatari officials interrupted him in Doha, Tuesday

the World Cup starts revisited a subject that has been sensitive for tournament organizers who have denied claims there are strict limits on where media can film in Qatar.

Qatari organisers said they later spoke to Tantholdt and also "issued an advisory to all entities to respect the filming permits in place for the tournament."

Denmark's soccer federation has also been one of the biggest critics of Qatar among the 32 World Cup teams over the emirate's record

on human rights and treatment of low-paid migrant workers. They were needed to build massive construction projects since FIFA picked Qatar as host in 2010.

Danish players will wear game jerseys that have a toned down badge and manufacturers' logo as a protest in support of labor rights when they play France, Australia and Tunisia in Group D.

A third-choice black jersey option has been included as "the color of mourning," for construction workers who have died in Qatar.



## AN ANTIQUE SIGHT

An aerial view of the inaugural FIFA World Cup final at the Estadio Centenario in Montevideo, Uruguay. The match, which was played July 30, 1930, witnessed the hosts — Uruguay — beat South American rivals Argentina 4-2. The match was considered as a "re-match" of the gold medal match of the 1928 Olympics, which Uruguay won after a replay. The match at Estadio Centenario, played on a Wednesday, was one of only two World Cup Finals to be played on a day other than Sunday, the other being the 1966 FIFA World Cup Final, which was played on a Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Consecutive defeats for Praggnanandhaa, Arjun



ARJUN



PRAGGNANANDHAA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

San Francisco, Nov 16: Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa went down to Dutch GM Anish Giri 2.5-3.5 in the second round of the Meltwater Champions Tour Finals here Wednesday. The other Indian in the fray — Arjun Erigaisi — was outclassed by World No.1 Magnus Carlsen 2.5-0.5.

Praggnanandhaa was in superb form, winning the first two games to take a commanding lead before letting his opponent off the hook. The Indian GM won the opening game in 33 moves and wore down the Dutchman in the next and looked set for an easy win.

However, the 28-year Giri hit back brilliantly to win games three and four to force a tie-break. He continued the winning streak to take the first of the blitz tie-break games and drew the next to dash Pragu's hopes.

Meanwhile, Erigaisi, who had posted his first-ever win over Carlsen in the Aimag Rapid tournament last month, was outplayed by the

Norwegian ace. Carlsen won the first game in 75 moves and then held on for a draw in 86 moves. He secured a 41-move victory in the third to seal a 2.5-0.5 win.

In other second round matches, Quang Liem Le of Vietnam, hammered American Wesley So 2.5-0.5 and Jaz-Krzysztof Duda of Poland defeated Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov 2.5-1.5. Carlsen is on top of the standings with two victories and six points, followed by Duda (6 points).

Praggnanandhaa, who has lost both his matches, is in the sixth spot (1 point), while Erigaisi is yet to open his account. In the third round Thursday, Pragu will meet Liem Le and Erigaisi will take on So.

The eight players will play a round-robin tournament. The winner will be the player who accrues the most points and cash overall. Eight players qualified for the Finals after a series of events in the Meltwater Champions Tour. The total prize fund for the Tour finals is USD 210,000. Each win in the round-robin earns the player USD 7,500.

# Eyes on 2024 WT20, players to get lot of chances: Hardik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wellington, Nov 16: Stand-in T20I skipper Hardik Pandya Wednesday said the road map for 2024 T20 World Cup starts now, adding that going forward a lot of players will be given chances to stake their claim in the side. India's 2022 T20 World Cup hopes ended with a 10-wicket defeat against eventual champions England in the semifinals.

Pandya, who will be leading India in the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, starting Friday, said the team needs to overcome from their World Cup failure. "Yes, we all know there is disappointment of the World Cup but we are professionals and we need to cope with it. How we cope with our success we cope-up with our failures and move forward and look forward to get better rectify our mistakes," Pandya told reporters.

The next T20 World Cup will be played in 2024 in the West Indies and United States and the Indian squad is expected to undergo a major transition in the next two years with the likes of Virat Kohli and



Kane Williamson and Hardik Pandya pose with the winners' trophy for the T20I series between New Zealand and India, starting Friday

Rohit Sharma among others being gradually eased out of the set up.

"Yes, the next T20 WC is almost two years so we have time (to unearth new talent). A lot of cricket will be played and a lot of people

will get enough chances.

"The road map starts from now. But it's too fresh right now. We have a lot of time so we will sit down and have conversations on those grounds," Pandya said. "Right

now it's making sure that the boys enjoy playing here. We will talk about the future later," he added.

The white-ball tour of New Zealand that includes three T20Is and as many ODI's will not feature Kohli, Rohit, opener KL Rahul, keeper-batter Dinesh Karthik and veteran off-spinner R Ashwin as all have been rested as part of "workload management of players".

In their absence, the likes of Shubman Gill, Umran Malik, Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson have been given a chance and Pandya says it will be an important series for them in the grand scheme of things.

"The main boys are not here but the same time the talent which the guys who are already here, they have also been playing for one and a half, two years now," he said.

"They have had ample chances and enough time in international cricket to express themselves and show what they have. Very excited for them, new bunch of guys, new energy and excitement.

"Every series is important. You can't play an international game thinking it's not important. Yes

World Cup is there but that's a different format, it's 50 overs. But it is an important series for a lot of boys who if they eventually do well here will be able to put a strong case going forward."

In a scathing column after the semifinal loss, former England captain Michael Vaughan wrote that India has achieved absolutely nothing since winning the ODI World Cup at home in 2011 and has been the most under-performing white-ball team in the history.

Asked about Vaughan's remarks, the all-rounder said, "I don't think we need to prove anything to anyone. Obviously when you don't do well, people will have their opinion, which we respect. I understand people have different point of views," Pandya said.

"Being at the international level, I don't think we need to prove anything to anyone. It's a sport, you keep trying to get better and eventually when the result is supposed to happen it will happen. There are things we need to work on, going forward we will rectify and work on it," he added.

# Tough TT draw awaits Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Table tennis legend Achanta Sharath Kamal and top-ranked Indian G Sathiyan will have their task cut out as they face a tough draw at the ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup Tournament beginning Thursday in Bangkok.

World No.44 Sharath kamal, who is set to receive the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, will run into Chinese Taipei's Chuang Chih-Yuan, ranked No.16, while World No.39 Sathiyan will open against 26th-ranked Yukiya Uda from Japan.

World No.44, Manika Batra will be the lone Indian woman competitor in the USD 200,000 prize money event and she will be up



SHARATH KAMAL

format for the first time, has the top 16 Asian players, including No.1 seed Wang Chuqin and Lin Gaoyuan from China, seeded No.3 and two strong Japanese contenders in No.2 seed Tomokazu Harimoto and Yukiya Uda.

Both Sathiyan and Sharath achieved sixth positions — so far their best finish — in the 2019 edition in Yokohama and the 2015 edition in Jaipur, respectively.

Sharath has been in good form this year, having claimed three gold medals in the Commonwealth Games, while Sathiyan too was part of the gold-medal winning men's team in Birmingham, where he also picked up a silver in men's doubles and bronze in singles.

# INDIA CONTINUES GOLDEN RUN AT ASIAN AIRGUN MEET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: India's pistol shooters continued their golden run, sweeping all the four gold medals on offer for the second day running in the Asian Airgun Championship in Daegu, Korea Wednesday.

India's gold count has now gone up to 21. The day's first medal event, the 10m air pistol women, saw an all-India title clash, where Rhythm Sangwan prevailed over Palak 16-8 to clinch her second international gold of the year.

Rhythm had won the event at the Cairo World Cup stage earlier this year. That was followed by yet

another all-India contest, in the 10m air pistol women junior event, where Manu Bhaker pipped Esha Singh 17-15 in the gold medal match. It was a see-saw battle in the truest sense between two champion shooters, with the lead changing hands after almost every single-shot series.

It was then the turn of the men as Shiva Narwal, Naveen and Vijayveer Sidhu triumphed over Lee Daemyung, Mok Jin Mun and Park Daehun of Korea 16-14, in the 10m air pistol team men final.

The trioka of Sagar Dangl, Samrat Rana and Varun Tomar annihilated Team Uzbekistan 16-2 in the 10m air pistol team men junior event.