SUNDAY
14 NOVEMBER
2021

The Sunday Statesman

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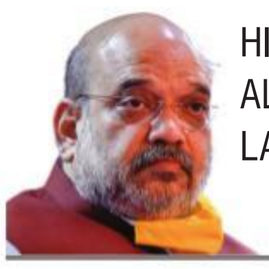
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Pages 12 | ₹5.00 |LC*

KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION



HINDI IS A FRIEND TO ALL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES: SHAH

P5



JUDGE DISSOLVES BRITNEY SPEARS' CONSERVATORSHIP

P10



UNEASY LULL BEFORE THE STORM IN PAKISTAN?

P7

DI MARIA STRIKE TAKES ARGENTINA TO VICTORY

P12



WEATHER

MAINLY CLEAR SKY.MODERATE FOG IN THE MORNING. THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES WOULD BE AROUND 26 AND 10 DEGREE CELSIUS RESPECTIVELY.

RAINFALL: Nil

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 97% Min: 38%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 27.4°C (-1) Min: 11.1°C (-3)

SUN RISES	SUN SETS
06:44 hrs	17:28 hrs
MOON RISES	MOON SETS
14:55 hrs	02:55 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Vehicles stuck in traffic as tourists arrive in large numbers spend their vacation during the weekend, in North Goa on Saturday. ■ANI

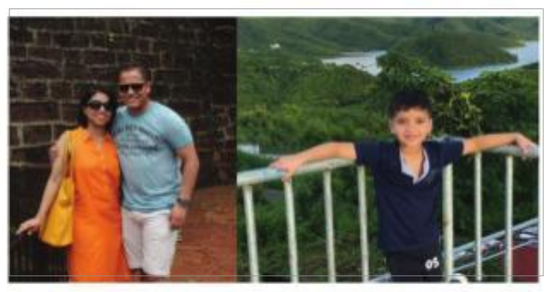
Sports awards: Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, Paralympics gold medallist Sumit Antil, and woman cricketer Mithali Raj along with nine other sportspersons were conferred the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award – the country's highest sporting honour – at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday, while an unprecedented 35 athletes were honoured with the Arjuna Award. (P12)

Visas for Sikh pilgrims: The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued around 3000 visas to Indian Sikh pilgrims to participate in the 552nd Birth Anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak in Pakistan from 17-26 November. During their stay in Pakistan, the Sikh pilgrims would pay obeisance at different Gurdwaras, including Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib and Gurdawara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur.

AR colonel, wife & son dead in Manipur attack

Four jawans also killed in ambush; massive operations on to nab attackers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
IMPHAL, 13 NOVEMBER



The commanding officer of the 46th battalion of the para-military Assam Rifles, Colonel Viplav Tripathi, died along with his wife and 9-year-old son today in an ambush by PLA insurgents today at Sehken village in Singhat Sub-Division of Manipur's Churachandpur district.

The ambush near the Indo-Myanmar border took place around 10 a.m. and three of the colonel's escort detail and a driver were also killed on the spot.

The officer's convoy including a Quick Reaction Team was attacked with Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) at Sehken village, followed by heavy gunfire from ambush.

At least four Assam Rifles personnel were injured in the attack and ensuing firefight, and were later taken to the health centre at Behiang on the Indo-Myanmar according to informed sources.

Army, Assam Rifles and police forces led by senior police and para-military officials have launched a massive combing operation in the area to nab the militants.

Strongly condemning the attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on social media, "I pay homage to those soldiers and family members who have been martyred today. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of sadness."

"The cowardly attack on the Assam Rifles convoy in Churachandpur is extremely painful and condemnable. The nation has lost five brave soldiers including CO 46 AR and two family members. My condolences to the bereaved families. The perpetrators will be brought to justice soon," said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Strongly condemning the attack, Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh said state and paramilitary forces are already on their job to track down the militants.

"The perpetrators will be brought to justice," he wrote on Twitter.

A statement released on social media by the insurgent People's Liberation Army said it and the Manipur Naga People's Front had carried out the attack. The statement added that they were unaware of the presence of the family members of the deceased colonel in the convoy.

(With agency inputs)

Delhi schools to stay shut, no construction work to be permitted

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Beginning from Monday, all schools in Delhi will remain closed for a week owing to air pollution in the national capital nearing an emergency level. However, the schools will continue to function in online mode.

This was one of the four major decisions taken at an emergency meeting called by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

He said the school closure decision was essential to prevent children from inhaling polluted air.

Kejriwal further announced, "All the offices of the Delhi government will operate in the work-from-home mode (WFH) for a week. An advisory will be issued for private offices too to go back to the WFH mode as much as possible." The third decision the Chief Minister announced was that construction activity will remain banned all over the city from 14 to 17 November.

The government will soon present a proposal to the Supreme Court for a lockdown in the city in view of the alarming situation caused by severe air pollution. At this stage, the government is working on the proposal and will consult the Central government in this regard before taking it to the apex court, Kejriwal added. The Chief Minister had called an emergency meeting on Saturday evening on the issue after the Supreme Court asked for "some urgent measures" to effectively handle the severe air pollution crisis in the city.

Declare lockdown if need be: Apex court



A view of the national capital shrouded in smog, in the capital on Saturday. ■SUBRATA DUTTA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

The Supreme Court on Saturday took a serious view of the severe air pollution in Delhi-NCR and suggested that if needed the government can declare a two-day lockdown to bring down the levels, which have been caused by stubble burning, vehicles, firecrackers, industries, dust.

The top court emphasised that the air pollution issue should be looked into "beyond politics and governments".

At the outset, a bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, that the "situation is very bad... In the house we are wearing masks. It is a bad situation".

"How to control air pollution in Delhi, two days lockdown, if need be, or what. How will people live in Delhi?" queried the Chief Justice.

He emphasised that the government should look at steps to bring down the AQI from 500 to 200, and then further improve it.

Mehta began the argument by detailing steps taken by the air quality management commission to abate air pollution in NCR and adjoining areas, which included steps taken to address agricultural stubble burning.

The bench, also comprising Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Surya Kant said instead of blaming the farmers, all state governments and the Centre should come together to address the issue.

Forces kill 26 Maoists in Gadchiroli

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NAGPUR, 13 NOVEMBER'

At least 26 Maoists were killed during a fierce encounter with Maharashtra Police in the deep forests near Dhanora in Gadchiroli district, Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal said.

"Around 26 Naxals have been eliminated in the encounter at multiple locations by several security forces in the region. Three security personnel have also been injured in the cross-firing. They have been airlifted by helicopter to Nagpur and admitted for treatment at a local hospital," Goyal told IANS.

The gun-battle which started in the early hours of Saturday in the dense forest of Kolgut-Dandat was continuing till evening with at least 26 fatalities notched among the Maoists, while three security personnel were also hurt, Goyal said.

As per initial reports received at the Gadchiroli district headquarters, the encounter was with a Dalam of the banned CPI(Maoist) and commandos of the C-60 unit.

Now, a massive combing operation has also been undertaken to detect more bodies of the slain extremists with a possibility of the death toll likely to go up in this remote region on the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh.

Though the exact identity of the Maoists killed in Saturday's operations is yet to be established, there is speculation that a prominent leader of an outlawed organisation is among the slain. Goyal, however, declined to comment.

Following a tip-off on Friday that some Maoists were expected to gather and plan out some activities in the region, the security forces launched search and combing operations. Soon, they came virtually face-to-face with the extremists leading to the fierce jungle gun-battle which continued till Saturday evening.

Daily Covid deaths on higher side

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Notwithstanding a substantial decrease in the new Covid-19 cases, the daily death due to Covid-19 continued to remain on the higher side, reveals data provided by the Union Health Ministry.

While 555 new deaths were reported during the past 24 hours, there were only 11,850 new cases reported during the same period. This week India reported approximately 58,650 new cases and 1,899 deaths due to the pandemic.

According to the Union Health Ministry, India's recovery rate stands at 98.26 per cent, which is the highest since March this year, and more than 12,403 patients recovered during the past 24 hours. The total recoveries have reached 3,38,26,483 since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Ministry said.

The daily test positivity rate has also come down from 1.05 per cent, weekly positivity rate to 0.94 per cent.

India's active caseload has also come down to 1,36,308, which is the lowest in 274 days

India's vaccination drive is also very encouraging with the administration of more than 123 crore doses of the vaccine.

The top five states which have registered maximum cases in the previous 24 hours are Kerala with 6674 cases, Maharashtra 925 cases, West Bengal 860 cases, Tamil Nadu 812 cases and Mizoram 669 cases. More than 83.89 per cent of the new cases have been reported from these five states with Kerala alone responsible for 56.32 per cent of the new cases, the ministry data indicated.

Delhi cases: The number of single-day Covid-19 cases in the city came down to 56 on Saturday from 62 on Friday following 58,483 tests done across the national capital.



PM chairs meet on cryptocurrency

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday chaired a comprehensive meeting on the way forward for cryptocurrency and related issues in which it was decided that unregulated crypto cannot be allowed for money laundering and terror financing, according to government sources.

The meeting was held after a consultative process done by the Reserve Bank of India, the Finance Ministry, and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in which global and Indian experts were consulted and global examples and best practices studied. According to sources the Government strongly feels that attempts to mislead the youth through over-promising and non-transparent advertising have to be stopped.

It was also discussed that unregulated crypto markets cannot be allowed to become avenues for money laundering and terror financing.

Sources said that the government is cognizant of the fact that this is an evolving technology hence it will keep a close watch and take proactive steps.

There was consensus also that the steps taken in this field by the Government will be progressive and forward-looking. The government will continue to proactively engage with the experts and other stakeholders. Since the issue cuts across individual countries' borders, it was felt that it will also require global partnerships and collective strategies.

Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai among world's top 10 polluted cities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Of the world's top 10 cities with the worst air quality, three ~ Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai, are in India, data from air quality and pollution city tracking service from IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group showed.

While Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) at 556 made it to the top of the list, Kolkata and Mumbai recorded an AQI of 177 and 169, respectively, at fourth and sixth position, on the list.

The cities with the worst AQI indices also include Lahore, in Pakistan, and Chengdu, in China.

A real-time air quality information platform, IQAir is also a technology partner of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

As per System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) data, Delhi's overall air quality on Saturday morning stood at 499, whereas the level of PM 10 and PM 2.5 pollutants in the air was recorded at 134 and 72, respectively. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data at 9 a.m. recorded an AQI of 468 at Anand Vihar, 484 at ITO, 433 at RK Puram and 452 at Sri Aurobindo's. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', then 401 and between 500 is considered 'severe'.

The Supreme Court on Saturday took a serious view of the severe air pollution in Delhi-NCR and suggested that if needed, the government can declare a two-day lockdown to bring down the levels.

Climate talks resume, cautious coal phaseout still on table

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GLASGOW, 13 NOVEMBER



A climate activist holds a placard next to police officers near the venue for the COP26 U.N. Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland, on Friday. ■AP

UN talks to curb global warming ran into last-minute problems Saturday because of cold hard cash.

Negotiators in Glasgow, Scotland, held last-minute huddles and pored over fresh proposals for sealing a deal that they hoped could be credibly said to advance worldwide efforts to tackle global warming. But funding issues - specifically, compensation for climate damages and credits in a trading system - caused the discussions to bog down.

British officials chairing the talks released new draft agreements after shuttle diplomacy continued past an official Friday evening deadline. U.S. climate envoy John Kerry and his Chinese counterpart, Xie Zhenhua, both indicated cautious optimism late Friday that the negotiations were moving forward. During the buildup to the delayed session on Saturday afternoon, Kerry huddled with diplomats from Africa and other parts of the developing world.

The last-minute negotiations focused on a potential loss-and-damage fund for poor nations hurt by climate change and forest credits in a carbon-trading market.

"I hope we can have some resolutions before formally starting this plenary," conference president Alok Sharma, an official from host nation Britain, told negotiators. "Collectively this is a package that really moves things forward for everyone."

Divisions remained on the issue of financial support sought by poor countries for the disastrous impacts of climate change they will increasingly suffer in the future. The United States and the European Union, two of the world's biggest historic emitters of greenhouse gases, continued to have deep reservations about the so-called "loss and damage" provisions.

Mohammed Quamrul Chowdhury of Bangladesh, a lead negotiator for less-developed countries, ticked off the ways that vague wording in the latest draft fell short of committing wealthier countries to putting new money on the table for countries struggling with climate damage.

"This package is very hard to explain for those already suffering the consequences at the front lines of the rising risks, or to anyone aware of the scientific evidence of what is coming our way unless we act faster," said University of Twente climate scientist Maarten van Aalst, who is also director of the Climate Centre of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Another issue causing problems Saturday has confounded negotiators for six years: setting up carbon-trading markets. The idea is to trade credits for reducing carbon like other commodities, unleashing the power of markets, with poorer nations getting money, often from private companies, for measures that reduce carbon in the air. One huge issue has been rich nations want to make sure that poor nations that sell their credits for making carbon reductions, which include carbon-sucking forests, don't include the same settings as reductions in their national emissions, called double counting.

Saturday's draft provided "strong" provisions to prevent double counting of offsets, but new issues involving forests reemerged later in the day, according to Environmental Defense Fund Vice President Kelly Kizzier, a former European Union negotiator and expert on carbon market negotiations.

Before the areas of disagreement between rich and poor nations demanded urgent attention, coal had garnered more consideration.

A proposal for the overarching decision retains contentious language calling on countries to accelerate "efforts towards the phase-out of unabated coal power and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies."

But in a new addition, the text says nations will recognize "the need for support towards a just transition" — a reference to calls from those working in the fossil fuel industry for financial support as they wind down jobs and businesses.

Some advocacy groups said the current proposals were not strong enough.

"Here in Glasgow, the world's poorest countries are in danger of being lost from view, but the next few hours can and must change the course we are on," Oxfam senior policy adviser Tracy Carty said. "What's on the table is still not good enough."

But the possibility of having fossil fuels explicitly mentioned for the first time in a decision coming out of the UN's annual Conference of the Parties meeting, or COP, was well-received by some environmentalists.

"It's weaker and compromised, but we see it as a bridgehead, a bit of a breakthrough," Greenpeace Executive Director Jennifer Morgan said. "We will have to fight like hell to keep it in there and have it strengthened in the coming hours," Morgan said, adding that there were "a clutch of countries really seeking to strike that line from the deal."

In another proposal, countries are "encouraged" to submit new targets for emissions reduction for 2035 by 2025, and for 2040 by 2030, establishing a five-year cycle. Previously, developing countries were expected to do so only every 10 years. Developed countries are also being asked to submit a short-term update next year.

The proposed agreement states that in order to achieve the 2015 Paris accord's ambitious goal of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial times, countries will need to make "rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global carbon dioxide emissions by 45% by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid-century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases." Scientists say the world is not on track to meet that goal yet, but various pledges made before and during the two-week talks, which are now in overtime, have brought them closer.



TMC Government has refused to reduce the share of State taxes on the fuel

RAJU BISTA, DARJEELING BJP MP
ON THE FUEL PRICES IN WEST BENGAL THAT HE SAID WERE HIGHER THAN IN BJP-RULED STATES

No construction activity permitted in Delhi: CM Kejriwal on air pollution

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

The air quality in the national capital plunged to the 'severe category' leaving Delhiites gasping for fresh air on Saturday morning.

To tackle increasing air pollution levels in the national capital, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced a 'pollution lockdown' under which all construction activity in the national capital has been shut down from November 14 to 17 November.

Government office employees will be asked to operate from home (WFH) at 100 per cent capacity for a week, while private offices will be issued an advisory to go for WFH (work from home) option as much as possible, stated the Chief Minister.

Kejriwal announced the decisions after chairing a high-level emergency meeting with senior officials and ministers of the Delhi government.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Health Minister Satendra Jain, Environment Minister Gopal Rai and Chief Secretary attended the meeting.

The air quality in the national capital plunged to the 'severe category' leaving Delhiites gasping for fresh air on Saturday morning.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board the overall AQI in Delhi was 427 in the evening According to the government agencies, an AQI between 0-50 is considered good, 51-100 is satisfactory, 101-200 moderate, 201-300 poor, 301-400 very poor and 401-500 are marked as severe/hazardous.

'Immediate steps need to be taken'

As air quality dipped to the "severe category" in the Delhi-National Capital Region, health experts said the toxic air is suffocating and affecting even those who have no respiratory problem or chest disease. "So it is true that the air for the last few days has been continuously deteriorating. Yesterday evening, we experienced probably the worst air quality in the recent past and it was so bad that although I have no respiratory problem, even I was actually feeling suffocated. And so while I was going home yesterday evening, it was really unfit for human consumption," Dr. Arvind Kumar, Chairman of Institute of Chest Surgery, Medanta Hospital told ANI.

"So if this is what is happening to an apparently normal person who has no chest disease, you can imagine the agony, the pain, the disability, the distress, which people with chest disease must be suffering," he added.

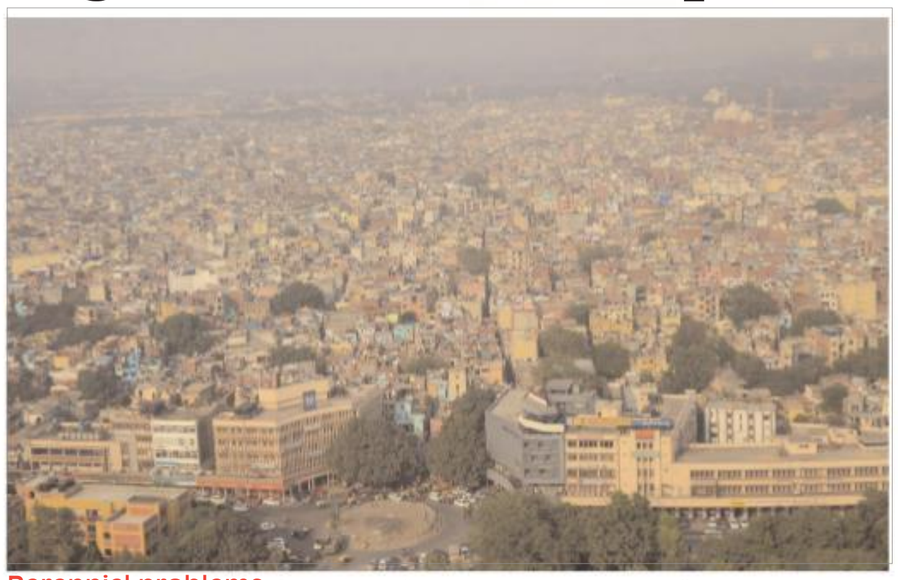
Dr Arvind further said, "Air pollution can cause serious complication to those who have recovered from COVID-19. We have a large number of post-COVID-19 recovered patients, people who are there and their lungs are highly vulnerable to serious complications if continuously exposed to this kind of toxic air."

He also stressed on taking immediate measures to tackle the situation. "So medically speaking, it is the need of the hour to take any and every measure immediately to improve the air quality. And as the honourable Supreme Court has said, one of the steps could be to go for a lockdown, which will cut down the vehicles, including cars on the road. Or reduce all the activity including construction and other activities, thereby bringing about an immediate improvement in the quality as we saw during lockdown period or Corona last year. So it is a medically required step."

"However, along with that, I would also like to stress that it's very sad that for the last six years, year after year, we are allowing this dangerous, avoidable situation to develop and once it develops, we go for such knee jerk reaction and this kind of temporary measures, but sadly, no permanent solution to the problem is found," he added.

Earlier today, the apex court said that air quality in Delhi is in the 'severe' category, and in another two to three days it will dip further.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board the overall AQI in Delhi was 427 in the evening According to the government agencies, an AQI between 0-50 is considered good, 51-100 is satisfactory, 101-200 moderate, 201-300 poor, 301-400 very poor and 401-500 are marked as severe/hazardous.



Perennial problems: A thick haze of toxic smog hung over in the Capital, exacerbated by a spike in the burning of crop waste in surrounding states. SUBRATA DUTTA

LNJP Hospital in Delhi gets more patients with respiratory problems due to air pollution

ANI
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Owing to the increase in air pollution levels after Diwali, the number of patients with respiratory problems coming to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital (LNJP) has increased, said LNJP Managing Director Dr Suresh Kumar on Saturday.

"Increased level of pollution in Delhi is a matter of concern. Due to this, elderly people and children are facing a lot of problems, especially the ones with breathing issues and those who have been infected with COVID-19. Since Diwali, there has been an increase of 10 to 15 per cent in the number of patients coming to the hospital, including those with breathing issues. Our emergency and OPD wards are receiving a lot of patients with breathing issues, a lot of them with dipping levels of oxygen. We had to provide nebulisation to many patients. This also includes an increase in the number of child patients with asthma, breathing problems and allergies," Kumar told ANI. Kumar said the level of PM 2.5 particles is very high in and around Delhi. "It causes chest infection, irritation and other breathing issues," he added.

He said that increasing levels of PM 2.5 particles could enable the COVID-19 virus to stay in the environment for longer than its usual surviving period of five to seven hours.

"It has been proven in studies too. Pollution has caused six million premature deaths worldwide. It affects life expectancy and quality of life. It affects lungs, brain and overall health, as per WHO," Kumar added.

He said that parents should be more aware of rising levels of pollution and methods to keep children safe from it and encourage children to wear masks, especially the ones suffering from asthma and allergies.

On being asked about masks to stay safe from pollution, Kumar said to ANI, "A simple three-layer mask can prevent pollution entering your nose and lungs by 65 to 95 per cent."

When asked about a slight rise in COVID-19 cases amid high levels of air pollution, he said, "A marginal level of increase has been witnessed. LNJP currently has six COVID-19 patients, out of which three are from outside Delhi. People are coming to Delhi from other states. They are not following COVID appropriate behaviour thinking that the pandemic is over. It is not over yet. We need to be careful."

Kumar informed ANI that LNJP hospital crrently has around 38 confirmed dengue patients and 40 suspected patients.

JOBS & CLASSIFIEDS QUEST

LEGAL NOTICES

COURT NOTICE
(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF
Shri Vinay Kakran Civil Judge (Junior Division), Gurugram
ASHISH DHALL
Versus
GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR No. HRGR02-001168-2021
Next Date : 09.12.2021
PUBLICATION ISSUED TO :- GENERAL PUBLIC
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/ respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s) /respondent (s) should appear in person or through counsel on 09.12.2021 at 10:00 a.m.
For details logon to https:// highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=gurugram
Civil Judge
(Junior Division), Gurugram
Dated, this day of 12.11.2021

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Nivedita Anil Sharma District Judge (Commercial Court-01) Room No. 57, Third Floor Shahdara District, Karkardooma Court, Delhi CS Comm. - 21/2019
Punjab & Sind Bank
— Plaintiff
Versus
Rani & Others
— Defendant
To,
(i) Sh. Sanjay, s/o Sh. Nanak, r/o A-20, MCD Staff Quarters, Usmanpur, Shahdara, Delhi-32.
(ii) Sh. Sunny, s/o Sh. Nanak, r/o A-20, MCD Staff Quarters, Usmanpur, Shahdara, Delhi-32.
Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 04-12-2021, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 29-10-2021.
District Judge
(Commercial Court-01)
Shahdara District,
Karkardooma Court, Delhi
Seal of the Court

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Nivedita Anil Sharma District Judge (Commercial Court-01) Room No. 57, Third Floor Shahdara District, Karkardooma Court, Delhi CS Comm. - 23/2019
Punjab & Sind Bank, A Body Corporate and Government of India Undertaking Constituted under the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Act, 1980 having its Head Office at 21, Rajendra Place, New Delhi having one of its Branch Office at Krishna Nagar, New Delhi Filing Suit through Sh. Roshan Lal, Chief Manager at Krishna Nagar, New Delhi, the duly constituted authority and Principal Officer.
— Plaintiff
Versus
1. Mr. Raj Pal Singh, s/o Sh. Ramfal, r/o 78, Brahmpur URF Bhopara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005.
Also at: B1, DLF Dilshad Extension-II, Bhopara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005.
2. Mrs. Susheela, w/o Sh. Raj Pal Singh, r/o 78, Brahmpur URF Bhopara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005.
3. Mr. Billan Kumar, s/o Mr. Sant Ram, r/o A 14, DLF Dilshad Extension-II, Bhopara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005.
Also at: B1, DLF Dilshad Extension-II, Bhopara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005.
- Defendant
Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 04-12-2021, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 29-10-2021.
District Judge
(Commercial Court-01)
Shahdara District,
Karkardooma Court, Delhi
Seal of the Court

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
In the Court of Nivedita Anil Sharma District Judge (Commercial Court-01) Room No. 57, Third Floor Shahdara District, Karkardooma Court, Delhi CS Comm. - 220/2021
Union Bank of India (E-Corporation Bank)
Having Head Office at Union Bank Bhawan, Vidhan Bhawan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai-21
And It's Branch Office DJB Office Complex, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi-48, Through its Authorized Representative Sh. Pranjal P K Pandey.
— Plaintiff
Versus
Sanjay Kumar, s/o Sh. Ram Layak PD, Q-1736, Sector-3, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi-17.
Also at : Village-Assoya, PO: Mirzapur, PS-Marhowran, Chapra Bihar.
Also at : SFO (T), Cab Sectt. ARC DG (S) Cab Sectt, East Block-V, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-66.
2. Ms. Rinju Devi, w/o Sh. Sanjay Kumar, Q-1736, Sector-3, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi-17.
Also at : Village-Assoya, PO: Mirzapur, PS-Marhowran, Chapra Bihar.
3. Amrapali Leisure Valley Developers Pvt. Ltd., (Builder & Developer) Through its Directors, 307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Towers, Plot No. 15, Community Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi-92.
Also at : C-56/40, Sector-62, Noida, UP.
Also at : 8, West End, Green Farms, Rajokri Village, Delhi-110038.
Also at : 83, AGCR Enclave, Karkardooma, Delhi-110092.
Also at : Plot No. GH-01, Tech Zone-IV, G. B. Nagar, UP.
— Defendants
Whereas you are intentionally evading service of summons, it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 27-11-2021, the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court on this 29-10-2021.
District Judge
(Commercial Court-01)
Shahdara District,
Karkardooma Court, Delhi
Seal of the Court

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001.
OA No. 81/2021
Date : 30-09-2021
Central Bank of India
— Applicant
Versus
Mr. Manish & Ors.
— Respondent
To,
Defendant
1. Mr. Manish, s/o Mr. Dori Lal, House No. 241, Gali No. 14, Balbir Nagar Extension, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.
Also at : House No. 60, 1st Floor, Gali No. 8, Balbir Nagar Extension, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.
Also at : C-43, First Floor, Gali No. 4, North Chajjupur Illaqua Shahdara, Delhi-110094.
2. Ms. Tamanna, w/o Mr. Manish, House No. 241, Gali No. 14, Balbir Nagar Extension, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.
Also at : House No. 60, 1st Floor, Gali No. 8, Balbir Nagar Extension, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.
Also at : C-43, First Floor, Gali No. 4, North Chajjupur Illaqua Shahdara, Delhi-110094.
3. Mr. Patwari Lal, s/o Mr. Babu Lal, r/o A2/2, Main Gali, A Block West Jyoti Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032.
Whereas the abovenamed applicant(s) has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 20,98,380.60/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty and Paise Sixty only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 24-12-2021 at 10-30 a.m.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application/Software.
(ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Officeal Portal i.e. drt.gov.in
(iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748478.
Given Under my hand and Seal of the Tribunal this the 30th day of Sept., 2021.
By Order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar
DRT-II, Delhi.
Seal of the Court

COURT NOTICE
(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
IN THE COURT OF MS. SHIVANI
Judicial Magistrate - 1st Class, Gurugram
Sunder Singh and Ors.
Versus
M/s. Arnav Buildwell Pvt. Ltd. and Ors.
CNR No. HRGR02-002758-2021
Next Date: 04-01-2022
Publication Issued to:
M/s. Brahma Realty Pvt. Ltd., 1206-B, Surya Kiran Building, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi through its Director.
2. Arnav Buildwell Pvt. Ltd., 1497, Bharadwaj Bhawan, Wazir Nagar Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi through its Director.
3. M/s. Bhrama City Pvt. Ltd., 1206-B, Surya Kiran Building, 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi through its Director.
In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 04-01-2022 at 10-00 a.m.
For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=gurugram.
Dated, this day of 25-10-2021.
Judicial Magistrate - 1st Class,
Gurugram
Seal of the Court

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I, SUBHRA Sahoo, S/o.- Sri Susanta Kumar Sahoo, R/o.-8/4, Santoshpur East Road, Police Station- Survey Park, District- South-24 Parganas, PIN - 700075, State - West Bengal, shall henceforth be known as 'Subhra Sharma' by virtue of an Affidavit Affirmed Before the Learned Metopolitan Magistrate at Kolkata on 09.11.2021. 'Subhra Sahoo' and 'Subhra Sharma is same and one identical Person.

I, SANDHARANI Sahoo, D/o.- late Jugal Maji, W/o- late Narayan Chandra Sahoo, R/o. 8/4, Santoshpur East Road, POLICE STATION- Survey Park, District South-24 Parganas, PIN-700075, State-West Bengal, shall henceforth be known as Sandhyarani Sharma by virtue of an affidavit affirmed before the Learned Metropolitan Magistrate (First Class) at Kolkata on 10.11.2021. 'Sandhyarani Sahoo', Sahu 'Sandhya' and 'Sandhya Sharma is same and one identical person.

I, SUSANTA Kuma Sahoo, S/o. late Narayan Chandra Sahoo, R/o. 8/4 Santoshpur East Road, Police station Survey Park, Distict - South 24 Parganas. PIN-700095 State - West Bengal shall henceforth be known as Susanta Kumar Sharma by virtue of an Affidavit affirmed before the Learned Metropolitan Magistrate (First Class) at Kolkata on - 09.11.2021. Susanta Kumar Sahoo, 'Sahu Sushanta' and Susanta Kumar Sharmais same andone identical person.

I, CHITTA SAHA, SON OF KUMUD SAHA, D.O.B - OI-OI-1969, RESIDING AT NARAYANPUR, NETAJI NAGAR, RAJARHAT, GOPALPUR(M), NORTH 24 PARGANAS, KOLKATA - 700136 , I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM CHITTA RANJAN SAHA TO CHITTA SAHA, VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATE 27-10-2021 SWORN BEFORE 1ST CLASS MAGISTRATE AT ALIPORE

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The Sunday Statesman

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Delhi records 56 new Covid-19 cases

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

According to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin, the positivity rate also fell to 0.10 from 0.12 per cent yesterday. The city had 9,070 hospital beds for Covid-19 patients but only 147 beds were occupied.

The number of single-day Covid-19 cases in the city came down to 56 on Saturday from 62 on Friday following 58,483 tests done across the national capital. There was no report of death due to the coronavirus from any part of Delhi.

According to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin, the positivity rate also fell to 0.10 from 0.12 per cent yesterday.

The patients who recovered and were discharged by different hospitals numbered 66. There were 155 patients taking treatment under the home isolation system and 361 belonged to the category of active cases.

The count of people who got jabbed under the vaccination programme during the past 24 hours was 78,443 and the number of those got their first vaccine dose was 26,892. The cumulative number of persons who got their both vaccine doses so far was 78,49,519.

The city had 9,070 hospital beds for Covid-19 patients but only 147 beds were occupied.

Kejriwal offers prayer at Salasar Balaji Temple



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today offered prayers at Salasar Balaji Temple in Churu district of Rajasthan on his wedding anniversary.

"Today is (my) marriage anniversary. With the entire family, sought the blessings of Bajrangbali ji at Sri Salasar Balaji Dham Mandir," he tweeted in Hindi.

Kejriwal, accompanied by his wife, reached Salasar last night and visited the temple this morning. He was felicitated by the temple management committee.

A large number of local people greeted Kejriwal at the temple. A couple of months back, the Chief Minister had spent ten days at Vipassana Sadhana Centre, located in the Galtaji area of the city, where he remained disconnected with all political activities.

Petition in Delhi HC to stop sale, purchase, circulation of Salman Khurshid's book

ANI
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

A petition has been moved in the Delhi High Court seeking to stop the circulation, sale, purchase and publication of the book "Sunrise Over Ayodhya" written by Salman Khurshid.

Advocate Vineet Jindal has filed the petition before Delhi High Court through Advocate Raj Kishor Chaudhary to ban Salman Khurshed book over his comparison of Hindutava to ISIS and Boko Haram. The petitioner has also sought not to publish the book in any form, i.e., either printed or electronic.

The petitioner has approached the Delhi High Court under Article 226 of the constitution of India praying inter-alia for an appropriate writ, order or direction in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents to stop the circulation, sale, purchase and publication of the book namely "Sunrise Over Ayodhya" and published in any form, i.e., either printed or electronic as it violates the fundamental right guaranteed under article 19 and 21 of the constitution of India.

Former union minister Salman Khurshid is embroiled in a controversy for "defaming and comparing Hinduism with terrorism" in his recent book "Sunrise Over Ayodhya: Nationhood in Our Times." Khurshid's new book on the Ayodhya verdict was released last week. It explores the apex court's landmark judgment on the Ayodhya dispute.



Looking forward to doing my very best. Thank you for the opportunity

TRINAMUL CONGRESS MP MAHUA MOITRA
ON BEING APPOINTED THE TRINAMUL CONGRESS'S GOA IN-CHARGE

THUMBNAILS

International Gita Mahotsav-2021: An online competition on holy book Gita and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav will be held between 21 November and 8 December as part of the International Gita Mahotsav-2021. An official spokesperson on Saturday said people from all over the country and abroad will be able to participate in this online competition of International Gita Mahotsav-2021. According to the orders of the nodal officer of International Gita Mahotsav-2021, Vijay Dahiya, the administration has started preparations for organising the online competition. National Informatics Centre (NIC) officer Vinod Singla has been entrusted with the responsibility of organising this competition. The nodal officer of Gita Mahotsav said deputy commissioner Kurukshetra, Mukul Kumar, has constituted a committee to make this competition a success and engage maximum people in it.

BSF re-inducted in Kashmir after civilian killings by terrorists: It is more than two decades after which Border Security Force (BSF) has been re-inducted in the Kashmir valley following incidents of killing of civilians by terrorists. BSF was deployed in the valley in the initial years of terrorism but it was later replaced by CRPF that was assigned the task of internal security. Deployment of BSF has been done across the Kashmir valley following the recent visit of Home Minister Amit Shah. Additional companies of CRPF have also reached Kashmir. Bunkers have also come up at places in Srinagar from where these were removed when the situation slightly improved. BSF troops are seen stationed at these bunkers and also patrolling at vulnerable places.

Schools shut in Leh as Covid-19 cases rise: In view of the spurt in cases of Covid-19 in the Leh district of Ladakh, the deputy commissioner, Leh, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse on Saturday ordered closure of all schools in the Leh district till further orders. He ordered that all government and private schools including residential hostels would remain closed from 15 November (Monday) till further order except for conduct of board exams. He ordered the chief medical officer to immediately conduct Covid sampling of 9th class students in residential schools before they leave for their homes. Sampling of students of 10th, 11th and 12th classes will be done after completion of their Board examinations when they leave for their homes.

2022 Punjab Assembly Polls: SAD announces 3 more candidates

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, 13 NOVEMBER

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Saturday announced the names of three more candidates for the 2022 Assembly polls.

With this, SAD had announced the names of as many as 83 candidates out of the 97 assembly seats it will be contesting from in the upcoming Assembly polls. The party fielded Sunita Chaudhry from the Balachaur Assembly constituency, Jaspal Singh Bitu Chatha from Patiala Rural and youth leader Bachittar Singh Kohar from Shahkot assembly constituency.

"SAD President S Sukhbir Singh Badal announced Sunita Chaudhry from Balachaur, Jaspal Singh Bitu Chatha from Patiala Rural and youth leader Bachittar Singh Kohar from Shahkot assembly constituency as party candidates. Total 83," said party leader Daljit Singh Cheema in a tweet.

Earlier, SAD informed that former member of Parliament Prem Singh Chandumajra will contest from Patiala's Ghanaur, while sitting MLA Dilraj Singh Bhundar will seek re-election from Sardulgarh assembly constituency in Mansa district.

Party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal will contest from his traditional Jalalabad. Pritpal Singh Pali will be the party's candidate from Ludhiana Central. Anil Joshi will contest from Amritsar North and Talbir Singh Gill from Amritsar South.

SAD and BSP formed an alliance in June to contest the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections together. Out of 117 seats in the Punjab assembly, BSP will contest 20 seats and SAD will contest the remaining 97.

Assembly elections are scheduled to be held next year.



SAD and BSP formed an alliance in June to contest the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections together. Out of 117 seats in the Punjab assembly, BSP will contest 20 seats and SAD will contest the remaining 97.

Punjab govt to give Rs 2 lakh as compensation to 83 people held for R-day tractor rally

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Friday announced to provide Rs 2 lakh as compensation to 83 people arrested by Delhi Police for carrying out a tractor rally in the national capital on January 26.

"Reiterating my government's stand to support the ongoing Farmers' Protest against three black farm laws, we have decided to give Rs 2 lakh compensation to 83 people arrested by Delhi Police for carrying out a tractor rally in the national capital on January 26," Channi tweeted. On January 26, protesters broke barricades to enter New Delhi and clashed with police in several parts of the national capital during the January 26 'tractor rally' protest organised by farmers.

The protestors also had entered the iconic Mughal era monument Red Fort and unfurled their flags from its ramparts.

Farmers have been protesting on the different borders of the national capital since November 26 last year against the three newly enacted farm laws: Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and farm Services Act 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Farmer leaders and the Centre have held several rounds of talks but the impasse remains.

Haryana govt to distribute fogging machines to check Dengue & Malaria

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 13 NOVEMBER

Haryana deputy chief minister, Dushyant Chautala on Saturday said the state government will distribute fogging machines across rural and urban areas to eradicate dengue and malaria. Launching the fogging machine distribution programme campaign at Panipat today, Chautala said this step is being taken to effectively eliminate the outbreak of mosquitoes in the rural and urban areas.

The way there has been an exponential increase in the outbreak of dengue and other diseases, ensuring fogging machines will help to curb the situation, he said adding Panipat has become the first district in this fight from where this programme is being started. While congratulating the officers of development and panchayati raj department for this, the deputy CM said they have got these machines arranged in a very limited time. As many as 23 machines have been distributed in Panipat in the first phase and about 95 machines are being given in the villages in the next few days. He said that through collective efforts all villages will be covered in the next four to five days. Chautala said even in urban areas, whether it is a colony or a sector, fogging machines will be ensured everywhere. He said that after preparing a complete plan for this, they should also appoint an administrative officer to regularly monitor it so that a huge campaign against dengue and malaria could be carried out within the district.

The deputy CM said such machines are fully automatic and should be put to immediate use. The youth of the villages should be associated with this social work and this work should be done by taking them along. Chautala said Haryana is the first state in the country where fogging machines are being distributed in this way. Its purpose is to effectively curb the spread of the disease due to mosquito bite. He said that earlier as an Member of Parliament (MP), he had distributed 350 fogging machines in Hisar from the MP quota. The persons concerned should also take complete training in operating this machine to avoid any issue, Chautala said.

Highway, power project builders damaging environment by dumping debris in Chenab

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 13 NOVEMBER

The smooth flow of River Chenab is getting hindered and environment damaged as government agencies and private contractors engaged in building a number of power projects and widening the Jammu-Srinagar highway continue to dump the excavated debris directly into the river ignoring the warnings of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and courts. The contractors lobby without bothering for the penalty imposed by the NGT from time to time continues to dump boulders and muck on hill slopes of the rivers Chenab and tributaries of Tawi which finally flows down due to rains.

Complaints of debris being thrown into the Chenab have also been pouring in from the Kishtwar district where several power projects are being built and the National Highway is also being widened. The additional district magistrate, Kishtwar, Kishori Lal Sharma, has ordered the police to register an FIR under Section 133 against the R&B Infra Project Pvt. Ltd; and the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd "for violating the environment norms by indiscriminately dumping"



muck and debris on the land acquired for construction of the Rattle hydroelectric project..

The report of the district administration warns that unscientific dumping of muck and debris at unspecified locations along the National Highway-244 was leading to severe damage to the ecology flora and fauna of this ecologically fragile area. Besides, the debris flow into river Chenab leading to irreparable damage to its physical and biological features which bears offences and are punishable under Environment Protection Act 1986; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1975 besides it leads a public nuisance in the area under Section 133.

A bench of NGT Chairperson noted, "State PCB may accordingly proceed with coercive measures, including assessment and recovery of compensation for the damage and initiating prosecution against the violators of environmental norms, following the due process of law." The order came following two inspection reports filed by the Divisional Officer of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) on the status of the muck dumping on July 31 and September 17. The report stated that the muck dumping in almost all sites was found done in an un-scientific manner and without proper compaction and terracing.

Disciplinary action initiated

ANI
CHANDIGARH, 13 NOVEMBER

Punjab Agriculture Minister Randeep Singh Nabha on Saturday said that disciplinary action would be initiated against those officials who were allegedly involved in malpractices in Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) supply. In a release by the state government, Nabha said that disciplinary action has been initiated against the Agriculture Officer and Block Agriculture Officer of the Patiala district due to the negligence in the supply.

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• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Punjab govt exempts CLU for standalone industries in permissible zones

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 13 NOVEMBER

In a bid to facilitate industrial development in the state, the Punjab government has exempted the provision of getting Change of Land Use (CLU) permission for setting up standalone green, orange and red category industries in permissible zones.

Giving details, Punjab housing and urban development minister Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria revealed that earlier the industrialists were required to obtain the CLU from the department and then required to get the building plans approved.

The minister said the process was quite cumbersome and time consuming for the industrialists to start their projects. Exemption from obtaining CLU would encourage setting up of industries, as it would reduce the process. Now the industrialist can directly get their building plans approved from the department, he said.

The approval of building plans would be subject to the fulfillment of siting guidelines for industries and building bye-laws of the department, which the applicants would have to abide, added Sarkaria.

Various industrial associations since long were demanding to ease out the process of setting up of industries and demanded single step clearance. These associations were of the view that there are many entrepreneurs inclined to establish industries in the state, but lengthy procedures for getting the approvals including CLUs are discouraging them.

Considering the demand of the industrial associations and keeping in view the changing scenario where the state has to reduce its dependency on agriculture and has to look for other avenues to boost the economic growth, this decision has been made, said Sarkaria.

The government is inclined to better the economic prospects of the state and the decision of exempting the industries from getting CLU is expected to yield the desired results, said the Minister. The step would encourage industrialists to come forward to set up industries which in turn would result in growth of the state on the economic front and also lead to employment generation, he said.

JKRTC terminates three 'erring employees'

SRINAGAR, 13 NOVEMBER

The Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) on Saturday terminated the services of three employees for dereliction of their duties. The terminated employees include JKRTC Conductors Abdul Majid Dar and Sham-us-din besides Helper Rouf Ahmad Shah.

Managing Director, JKRTC, has warned all the employees to perform their duties with full zeal and zest and refrain from causing losses to the Corporation either by misappropriating the funds or due to incompetence while performing their duties. SNS

MP emerges as hub of tribal entrepreneurship

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 13 NOVEMBER

The Scheduled Tribes of Madhya Pradesh who are known for their unique culture but were denied of economic opportunities during the colonial age have in today's time found a unique way to regain their rights by manufacturing Kodo to earn their livelihoods.

The state government led by chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan initiated many schemes-projects for the tribal youth and those interested in adopting business activities is proving to be beneficial for them.

The story of Sidhi district is one that ought to inspire all. Tribal women here are manufacturing Kodo millets to earn their livelihoods. Central Tribal University Amarkantak and Sidhi district administration are preparing to launch the brand name 'Sonanchal Kodo' in the market with their coordinated efforts. Tribal women are directly associated with this initiative. They are putting in their efforts to make Kodo a symbol of their economic self-sufficiency. Soon the 'Sonanchal Kodo' brand will be available in the market.

Similarly, tribal women of Dindori district have prepared many products of Kodo-Kutki and introduced them in the market under the brand name 'Bharti Brand'. The women of Baiga tribe of 41 villages of the district have started cultivation of Kodo-Kutki. Around 1,500 women have started cultivation on an experimental basis.

Ramniwas Maurya, a tribal farmer of Dindori district also operates the grain bank. Through this they make Kodo-Kutki seeds available to the farmers so that the production of Kodo-Kutki keeps increasing.

What is worth mentioning is the efforts put in by the Falam Sampada Company which comprises tribal farmers of a remote Jamuniya village of Dobe gram panchayat in tribal Tamia development block in Chhindwara district.

The company manufactures more than two dozen products which include honey, mahua cookies, kodo cookies, multigrain flour, etc. The director of the company Gurudayal Dhurve said, 'We are only five years old. We started it in 2014 with an initial capital of Rs. 6 lakhs. We have more than 3,000 acres of agricultural land in the surrounding villages of Dobe Gram Panchayat."

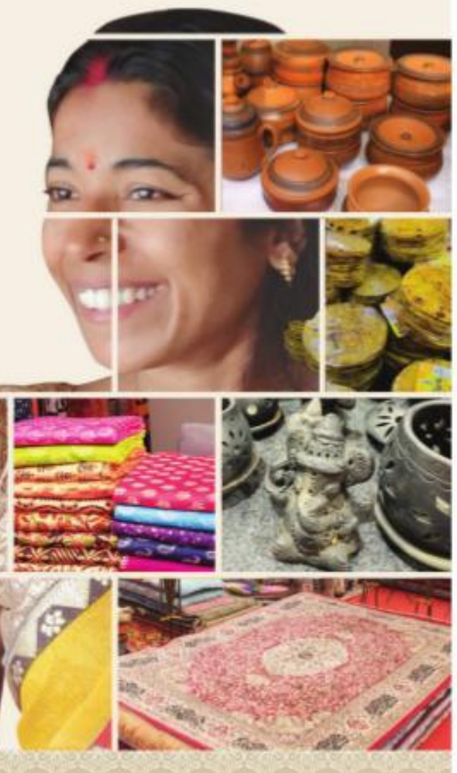
Ministry of Rural Development Government of India
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



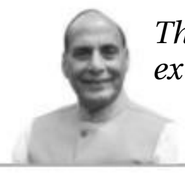
"Our Government is taking continuous steps to widen the scope of entrepreneurship among women and their greater participation in the resolve of self-reliant India. Self Help Groups and Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana are heralding a new revolution in rural India today."
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Meet the Aatmanirbhar SHG women artisans and explore the rich cultural heritage of Rural India
at Saras Aajeevika Mela

Saras AAJEEVIKA
14th – 27th November 2021
India International Trade Fair (IITF)
Hall No. 7 (A, B, C) Pragati Maidan, New Delhi



Unique by Art, Swadeshi by Heart
Exhibition cum sale of handcrafted products across 130+ stalls by rural women artisans from over 260 Self Help Groups
Take home the unique handicrafts, handlooms, home decor, traditional and natural products from across India
Direct B2B meetings with rural women artisans of Self Help Groups
#SarasMeinHum
Dawp 35101/13/0006/2122
Handicrafts | Handlooms | Natural & Traditional Products | Home Decor Products
All Covid-19 protocols to be mandatorily followed
Indiaruraldev Indiaruraldev MoRD_GOI @MinistryOfRuralDevelopment



The cowardly attack on an Assam Rifles convoy in Churachandpur is extremely painful and condemnable

DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH
EXPRESSING ANGUISH OVER MANIPUR AMBUSH

BJP to retain UP with significant fall in number of seats: Poll

According to opinion polls, the ruling BJP is expected to grab 40.7 per cent of the vote share in Uttar Pradesh in 2022 elections

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is likely to return to power in 2022 Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, though with significant reduction in the number of seats that the saffron party is expected to win, as per the latest round of opinion poll of more than 72,000 samples surveyed in the ABP-CVoter-IANS poll between first weeks of October and November.

Other key political players in the state - Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Congress are not in a position to dislodge the Yogi Adityanath government in 2022, as things stand today.

According to the latest round of opinion polls, the ruling BJP is expected to grab 40.7 per cent of the vote share in the Assembly polls. Notably, the saffron party has continuously maintained its vote share of around 41 per cent in the state; in 2017 Assembly elections the BJP had garnered 41.4 per cent of the votes polled.

As for other the vote share of other key political players in the state, the survey shows that while the vote share of SP is expected to witness a jump of 7.5 per cent from 23.6 per cent in 2017 to 31.1 per cent in 2022, the BSP's vote share is likely to witness a slump of 7.1 per cent from 22.2 per cent in 2017 to 15.1 per cent in 2022.

The country's grand old party - Congress, out of power in the state since 1989, is expected to get 8.9 per cent of the votes. It had secured 6.3 per cent votes in 2017.

In terms of number of seats, as per the survey data, BJP and its allies are projected to grab seats in a range of 213 to 221 seats in 2022 Assembly polls. Though BJP and its alliance partners will witness a dip of almost 100 seats from the figure of 325 seats they had won in 2017, the coalition is expected to cross the majority figure comfortably.

The total strength of Uttar Pradesh Assembly is 403 seats.

The SP and its alliance partners, emerging as key challenger to the saffron party are expected to win 152 to 160 seats this time. The survey further shows that BSP is continuously losing the political ground in the state as the party can secure victory on just 16 to 20 seats. Congress party is likely to grab 6 to 10 seats.

Notably, the survey found that more people don't want to see incumbent Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath returning to power once again in 2022. During the survey, while 51.9 per cent of the respondents said that they don't want Yogi Adityanath to occupy the post, 48.9 per cent expressed their opinion in his favour.

However, interestingly, when compared to other key contenders for the post of chief minister, Yogi is still the most preferred choice for the top post in the state. During the survey, while 41.4 per cent of the respondents said that Yogi is their preferred choice, 31.4 per cent opined in favour of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav for the top job and 15.6 per cent of the respondents said they want to see BSP supremo Mayawati as next chief minister.

Only 4.9 per cent of those interviewed during the survey wanted Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to be the next chief minister of the state. Another interesting finding of the survey is that the majority of the respondents believe Mayawati, a key political player in the state for more than three decades, has become irrelevant in this election. While 60.3 per cent of those, who were surveyed, believe that the Dalit leader is out of race for the upcoming Assembly polls, only 30.7 per cent believe that she is still a key contender.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi has been actively campaigning for her party in Uttar Pradesh, leading protests over a host of issues in the recent months, however, the survey data suggests that her political activism won't benefit the grand old party in the upcoming Assembly elections in the state.

Out of those interviewed, while 52.8per cent% of the respondents said that Congress will not benefit from Priyanka Gandhi being active in Uttar Pradesh, 47.2 per cent believe that Gandhi will be able to woo enough voters for the party.

The Lakhimpur Kheri incident in which protesters were run over and mob lynching took place will dent the BJP's electoral prospects, as per the latest round of survey conducted after the horrific incident.

During the survey while 62.1 per cent of the respondents opined that the Lakhimpur Kheri incident will harm the BJP's election prospects, 21.5 per cent said that the saffron party will benefit from the incident, which snowballed into major controversy triggering widespread protests by the farming community.

The survey data suggests that the strategy Akhilesh Yadav is forging alliance with smaller parties that are essentially caste-centric with support restricted to a few districts like O.P. Rajbhar-led Suheldev Bharat Samaj Party (SBSP) will harm the BJP's electoral prospects in the upcoming Assembly polls. The survey data suggests that unemployment, farmers' protest, inflation and the Ram temple will be key issues in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Lakhimpur Kheri incident to harm BJP in Assembly polls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

The Lakhimpur Kheri violence that claimed the lives of nine persons in Uttar Pradesh on October 3 will harm the poll prospects of the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Assembly elections scheduled in the state next year, as per the ABP-CVoter-IANS 5-State Snap Poll.

According to the survey, 62 per cent of the voters feel that this issue will harm the saffron party in Assembly elections, while only 21.5 per cent feel that it would help the BJP. A total of 16 per cent respondents feel that it will not have any impact on the elections.

According to the 2019 cross tabulation, 48.4 per cent of BJP voters, 64 per cent of Congress voters, 80.6 per cent of Samajwadi Party (SP) voters, 77.1 per cent of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) voters and 68.6 per cent of other political parties fee that the incident will harm the saffron party in the coming elections. Only 28.2 per cent of BJP voters, 20 per cent of Congress voters, 12.9 per cent each of SP and BSP, and 14 per cent others feel that it would help the BJP.

A total of 22.2 per cent of BJP voters, 16 per cent Congress voters, 6.5 per cent SP voters, 10 per cent BSP voters and 17.4 per cent others said that this would not have any impact on the polls.

The survey also highlighted that the Yogi government will be benefitted from the inauguration of nine medical colleges in UP recently, as 58.8 per cent voters agreed with this, while 48.2 per cent said that it will not give any benefit to the present government.

Similarly, as per the survey, over 56 per cent respondents are not influenced by the record Covid vaccinations in the state.

Robbery was main motive behind Gariahat killings: Police

The managing director of Kilburn Engineering Ltd, Samir Chaki, along with his driver Rabin Mandol were stabbed to death at his ancestral house on Kankulia Road at Gariahat

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 13 NOVEMBER

The key accused in the Kankulia Road twin murder case, Vicky Haldar, who had been arrested from Mumbai by the officers of the homicide wing of the detective department (DD) Of Kolkata police told interrogators that he along with his associates had entered the deceased Samir Chaki's ancestral home with a motive to rob him.

"They had a one-point agenda to rob Chaki believing he used to travel with cash and valuables. They had also decided beforehand that they would kill him," said an officer.

Meanwhile, police have recovered two sharp weapons allegedly used in the murder following a search at a canal at Diamond Harbour, South 24 Parganas, with the police officers taking Haldar along for the exercise. Police have also recovered debit and credit cards belonging to Chaki from Haldar.

The managing director of Kilburn Engineering Ltd, Samir Chaki, along with his driver Rabin Mandol were stabbed to death last month at his ancestral house on Kankulia Road at Gariahat, where he had gone to meet a prospective buyer of the house, which he had put up for sale. Police have arrested six persons named in the FIR, including Vicky's mother Mithu Haldar from her house at Diamond Harbour.

Heavy rains continue to lash many parts of Kerala; extensive damage reported

STATESMNA NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 13 NOVEMBER

Heavy rains have caused extensive damages in many parts of Kerala.Thiruvananthapuram district has been witnessing continuous heavy downpour since Friday night, wreaking havoc.

The high land areas of Thiruvananthapuram district such as Ponmudi, Nedumangadu, Palode and Vithura witnessed incessant rains on Saturday. Widespread destruction of property was reported in many parts of Thiruvananthapuram district following heavy rains.

A portion of a bridge, located on the national highway in the nearby suburb Neyyattinkara, was washed away in rains.

Rainwater entered shops in the coastal hamlet of Vizhinjam as a canal there overflowed. Incessant rains caused landslides on the rail track near Nagarcoil, following which the train services in the Neyyatinkara - Nagarcoil rail route have been fully or partially cancelled.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD)has warned that extreme caution is needed in Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts in the wake of heavy rains. Red alert has been sounded in Thiruvananthapuram.

On Sunday, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Idukki are on orange alert. The remaining districts are on yellow alert. As per the latest forecasts, many districts can expect rainfall till Tuesday.

GLEE SPREE



Under-privileged children at a carnival to celebrate Children's Day organised by Best Friendz Society at Khidderpore area in Kolkata on Saturday. ■SUMANA DAS

Centre releases about ₹ 8,400 cr as health sector grant to states

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

The centre has released an amount of Rs 8,453.92 crore as health sector grant for rural and urban local bodies of 19 states.

The grants have been released as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.

The Finance Commission, in its report for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26, has recommended a total grant of Rs 4,27,911 crore to local governments. The grants recommended by the commission inter-alia include health grants of Rs.70,051 crore. Out of this amount, Rs 43,928 crore have been recommended for rural local bodies and Rs 26,123 crore for urban local bodies.

1. Support for diagnostic infrastructure to primary healthcare facilities in rural areas – Rs 16,377 cr
2. Block level public health units in rural areas – Rs 5,279 cr
3. Construction of buildings of building-less Sub centres, PHCs, CHCs in rural areas – Rs 7,167 cr
4.Conversion of rural PHCs and sub centres into health and wellness centre – Rs 15,105 cr
5. Support for diagnostic infrastructure to the primary healthcare facilities in urban areas – Rs 2,095 crore
6. Urban health and wellness centres (HWCs) – Rs.24,028 crore

These grants are meant to strengthen health systems and plug the critical gaps in the health care system at the primary health care level.

The commission has also identified interventions that will directly lead to strengthening the primary health infrastructure and facilities in both rural and urban areas. Health grants recommended to be released in the financial year 2021-22 is Rs13,192 crore. This includes Rs 8,273 crore for rural and Rs 4,919 crore for urban local bodies.

The Finance Ministry is of the view that rural and urban local bodies can play a key role in the delivery of primary health care services especially at the 'cutting edge' level and help in achieving the objective of Universal Health Care.

Strengthening the local governments in terms of resources, health infrastructure and capacity building can enable them to play a catalytic role in epidemics and pandemics too.

Involving Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local government as supervising agencies in these primary health care institutions would strengthen the overall primary health care system and involvement of local governments would also make the health system accountable to the people.

'US Congress has played key role in deepening strategic partnership'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today appreciated the consistent support and constructive role of the US Congress in deepening the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership which, he said, was anchored in shared democratic values.

Modi was talking to a US Congress delegation led by Senator John Cornyn.

An official statement read, the Congressional delegation noted the excellent management of Covid situation in India despite the challenges. The PM noted that people's participation based on democratic ethos of the country played a key role in managing the worst pandemic of the last one century.

There was a warm and frank discussion on regional issues of mutual interest, including those related to South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. Modi and the visiting delegation noted the increasing convergence of strategic interests between the two strategic partners and expressed desire to further enhance cooperation with an aim to promote global peace and stability.

The Prime Minister also exchanged views on the potential for enhancing the bilateral relationship and strengthening cooperation on contemporary global issues such as the terrorism, climate change and reliable supply chains for critical technologies.

Modi thanks reputed weaver from West Bengal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday recalled his interaction with reputed weaver and Padma Award winner Biren Kumar Basak, from Nadia district in West Bengal, and thanked him for his gift.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister wrote about Basak's weaving skills. He said he greatly cherished the gift given to him by the reputed weaver from Nadia in West Bengal.

"Shri Biren Kumar Basak belongs to Nadia in West Bengal. He is a reputed weaver, who depicts different aspects of Indian history and culture in his Sarees. During the interaction with the Padma Awardees, he presented something to me which I greatly cherish," the Prime Minister tweeted in both Bengali and English.

USDFC aims to invest $350 million in India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 13 NOVEMBER

The US Consulate in Kolkata is gradually opening new Visa appointments while US International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC) aims to invest 350 million dollars in India to support multiple projects in the country's financial services sector, health infrastructure, renewable energy and food security space.

Addressing a session 'Current and Future Perspectives of Trade and Investment between the USA and India', organized by Bharat Chamber of Commerce, the US consul general Ms. Melinda Pavek, commenting on pending Visa applications to the USA, said, "the Consulate General in Kolkata is gradually opening new Visa appointments as per directions received from Washington. The Consulate is struggling with reduced staff partly because of the pandemic and partly due to travel restrictions still continuing on account of which staff from US have not been able to rejoin."

Speaking on the perspectives of future US investments in India, she stated that the US International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC) has aimed to invest $350 million in India to support multiple projects in the country's financial services sector, health infrastructure, renewable energy and food security space.

She further informed that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a US$50 million loan agreement with Northern Arc Capital (NAC), an Indian financial institution, to fund non-bank financial entities that provide financial services to women. This loan will be provided through co-financing with the USDFC based on the Facility for Accelerating Financial Inclusion in Asia (FAIA) announced on 27 March 2020.

US Consulate Kolkata seeks to empower women entrepreneurs in North-East

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 13 NOVEMBER



As part of Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW), the U.S. Consulate Kolkata, in partnership with a Shillong-based non-profit 'Asian Confluence' organised a two-day boot camp for 25 selected women entrepreneurs from Northeast India at the American Center in Kolkata, this month.

Addressing the gathering, the US Consul General, Melinda Pavek (*photo*), said, "The United States believes strongly in women's empowerment through entrepreneurship, and stands firmly for women's equality, and inclusion in all public endeavours. These are challenging times indeed but also an opportunity for us to show the strength and depth of our bilateral relationship. We must keep in mind that women in particular face increased challenges during these times."

The consulate, in its statement, said, the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) programme, funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA), is implementing AWE in over 50 countries globally. The U.S Consulate General Kolkata-led AWE programme has supported 150 early-stage entrepreneurs and business owners from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Nagaland through a structured online education from the University of Arizona's 'Dreambuilder' course.

This included guided facilitation from alumni and business leaders, as well as technical sessions with the 'Nexus Incubation Hub' at the American Center in New Delhi. It has resulted in creating an entrepreneurship ecosystem for scaling business ideas and fostering networks to provide access to mentorship, funding, business partners, and market linkages.

The consulate stated that while the programme had to shift to a virtual platform, "we were able to organise three in-person workshops in Dimapur, Shillong, and Imphal with strict adherence to Covid protocol and safety measures. The grand finale brings together 25 top entrepreneurs from the northeast who will participate in a shark-tank styled business pitch session which will be evaluated by a jury panel.

The top performers will be awarded seed funding and/or entry slots as part of the January 2022 cohort of the Nexus incubation programme at the American Center in New Delhi, said the statement.

Encouraged by the first edition, the US Consulate General will launch the second edition of AWE for 75 early-stage entrepreneurs in Bihar and Jharkhand on 19 November 2021.

People with special needs require empathy and not sympathy: VP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu today emphasised the need to build an inclusive society that is sensitive to the needs of differently-abled persons.

He was interacting with the staff and trainees of the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development and Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

He said people with special needs require empathy and not sympathy. The differently-abled persons can excel in any field if an enabling and conducive environment is created for them, he said.

Referring to India's stellar performance at the recently held Tokyo Paralympics, he said the determination and hard work displayed by paralympians inspired millions of Indians. They have proved that any disability can be overcome through grit and willpower.

The Vice President called for creating disabled-friendly public infrastructure for barrier-free travel. Praising CRC for empowering Divyangjans through skilling training, he urged the private sector to come forward and actively provide employment to people with disabilities.

On this occasion, the Vice President also distributed aids and appliances to the Divyang beneficiaries.

CRC, Nellore is functioning under the administrative control National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad.

It is currently providing skill development training to specially-abled persons in various vocational trades such as data entry operation, sewing machine operation, Office Assistant training and LED board making, among others.



RSS and BJP have hijacked Hindutva and Hinduism in the name of their parties. They claim Hindutva and Hinduism are the BJP and RSS, but it is not so

PDP LEADER MEHBOOBA MUFTI
RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON CONGRESS LEADER SALMAN KHURSHID'S BOOK

'A country that can't preserve its languages, can't preserve culture'

Shah: Hindi is friend of all indigenous languages, country's prosperity lies in prosperity of Indian languages

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
VARANASI, 13 NOVEMBER

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that Hindi is the friend of all indigenous languages and added that India's prosperity lies in the prosperity of our Indian languages.

Addressing the Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan in Varanasi on the second day of his visit to the city, Shah said, "Hindi is the friend of all indigenous languages. India's prosperity lies in the prosperity of our Indian languages. I have seen that a sense of inferiority complex was instilled in the minds of the children who couldn't speak English. It is my firm belief that the time is not far when those who can't speak their mother tongue will feel inferiority complex."

"A country that cannot preserve its languages, cannot also preserve its culture and organic thought process. Such a country to the development of the world. Thus, it is very important for us to preserve and prosper our languages," he said.

Shah said, "Once the people of our country decide and our languages become the language of governance, we will automatically get back the knowledge trove of Maharishi Patanjali and Panini. We need to shun out the inferiority complex from the minds of the youth that was instilled during British rule. We need to create an environment wherein people take pride in speaking their mother tongue."

The Home Minister further said that the efforts were made to create a lot of controversies around the Hindi language but that time is over now. "The conversation and development of Indian languages is a central pillar of the National Educational Policy. Syllabus of engineering and medical courses have been translated into 8 Indian languages so far," he said.

Azamgarh will now be known for education: Shah

AZAMGARH, 13 NOVEMBER

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that Azamgarh, which was known for radicalisation during Samajwadi Party rule, will now be known for education. The Union Home Minister on Saturday laid the foundation stone of a state university in Azamgarh and later addressed a public rally. While speaking at the public rally, Shah said, "Azamgarh was known for radicalisation during the Samajwadi Party rule. Now, Azamgarh will be known for education." The Union Minister suggested that Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath name the university being built in Azamgarh after Maharaja Suheldev. "Azamgarh is witnessing transformation under Yogi government and Mafiaraj has ended under CM Yogi Adityanath," Amit Shah said. Shah added that CM Yogi brought an end to casteism, nepotism and appeasement. ANI

US Congress has played key role in deepening strategic partnership: PM Modi

SNS
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today appreciated the consistent support and constructive role of the US Congress in deepening the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership which, he said, was anchored in shared democratic values.

Modi was talking to a US Congress delegation led by Senator John Cornyn.

An official statement read, the Congressional delegation noted the excellent management of Covid situation in India despite the challenges. The PM noted that people's participation based on democratic ethos of the country played a key role in managing the worst pandemic of the last one century.

There was a warm and frank discussion on regional issues of mutual interest, including those related to South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. Modi and the visiting delegation noted the increasing convergence of strategic interests between the two strategic partners and expressed desire to further enhance cooperation with an aim to promote global peace and stability.

The Prime Minister also exchanged views on the potential for enhancing the bilateral relationship and strengthening cooperation on contemporary global issues such as the terrorism, climate change and reliable supply chains for critical technologies.

India, France to hold counter-terror exercise

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

India and France will hold a 12-day military exercise aimed at countering terrorism from Monday in the French port town of Frejus.

A platoon strength of a Gorkha Rifles Infantry Battalion will represent the Indian Army while the French side will deploy troops of 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Light Armoured Brigade at the exercise, according to the Defence Ministry. "Exercise Shakti will focus on counter-terrorism operations in the backdrop of semi-urban terrain under United Nations mandate with an aim to enhance military cooperation and interoperability between the two armies," it said. The last edition of the exercise was conducted at Mahajan field firing ranges in Rajasthan in 2019.

Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

O.A. No. 104/2019
CORPORATION BANK Applicant
Versus
M/S SHRI KRISHNA CATERERS & Ors. Respondents

To,

1. M/s. Shri Krishna Caterers Through Proprietor Sh. Neeraj Goyal S/o Sh. Anil Kumar Goyal, Shop No.5, Gaushala Market Kishangarh, Vasant Kunj New Delhi-110070, **Also at:** 108/9, First Floor, Nirmal Apartments, Kishangarh, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-70.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 16,20,420.95 (Rs Sixteen Lakh Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty and Paise Ninety Five Only)** against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on **15-12-2021 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.etribunal.gov.in) Phone No. 011-23748473)**

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application / Software;

(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by 'Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **30th day of September, 2021.**

by order of this Tribunal
Assistant Registrar

Respondent may contact under mention phone number for further enquiry.
Sh. Amit K. Dar, Ld. Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi, Phone.: 011-23748473
E-mail: drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

O.A. No. 656/19 Dt. 29-10-2021
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK Applicant
Versus
Sh. Sanjiv Agarwal & Ors. Respondent

To,
Defendant

1. Shri Sanjiv Agarwal S/o Sh. S.N. Agarwal, House No. 143, Swarnim Vihar Sect.-82 Noida -201301

2. Smt. Sangeeta Agarwal W/o Shri Sanjiv Agarwal and D/o Shri Kailash Nath Agarwal, House No. 143, Swarnim Vihar Sect.-82 Noida U.P.

3. Sh. Satya Narain Agarwal, House No. 143 Swarnim Vihar Sect.-82, Noida U.P. 201301

4. M/s Ramdeo Polyster Pvt. Ltd., A-1/29 Cooperative Indra Estate Dada Nagar Kanpur U.P.

5. M/s Shyamraj Colour Chem Pvt. Ltd., 143, Swarnim Vihar, Sect.-82 Noida - 201301

6. M/s Tirupati Inks Ltd. (now Under Liquidation With NCLT Principal Bench Delhi) Proforma Defendant No. 6 (through The Liquidator: Shri Lekh Raj Bajaja, A2Z Insolvency Services Pvt. Ltd.), 107, Agarwal Prestige Mall, Adjoining To M2K Pitampura Delhi - 34

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 60,16,95,329/- (Rs Sixty Crore Sixteen Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Nine Only)** against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **06-01-2022 at 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webexapplication / software;

(ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself of DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in.

(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at **Ph. No. 23748478.**

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **29th day of Oct., 2021.**

By order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to change the route of train no. 02454/02453 New Delhi - Ranchi - New Delhi Rajdhani Special (bi-weekly) on every Wednesday from New Delhi and every Thursday from Ranchi with new special train no. 06146/06145 (via Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn. - Garwa Road - Tori - Lohardaga) as per the Dates & Revised Time-Table given below:-

TRAIN NO. 06146/06145 NEW DELHI - RANCHI - NEW DELHI RAJDHANI SPECIAL (WEEKLY) (VIA LOHARDAGA & TORI)

02454 Existing Route & Timings		06146 Revised Route & Timings		STATIONS	02453 Existing Route & Timings		06145 Revised Route & Timings	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
—	16:10	—	16:10	NEW DELHI	11:10	—	11:10	—
20:55	21:00	20:55	21:00	KANPUR CENTRAL	05:40	05:45	05:40	05:45
23:00	23:02	23:00	23:02	PRAYAGRAJ JN.	03:35	03:37	03:35	03:37
01:12	0122	01:12	01:22	PT. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA JN.	01:35	01:45	01:35	01:45
04:10	04:15	04:10	04:12	GARWA ROAD	22:50	22:55	22:50	22:55
04:43	04:45	04:43	04:45	DALTONGANJ	21:45	21:47	21:45	21:47
08:00	08:05	—	—	BARKAKANA	19:25	19:30	—	—
—	—	05:04	05:09	BARWADIH JN.	—	—	21:22	21:27
10:25	—	08:10	—	RANCHI	—	17:15	—	18:25

Days of run : - 06146 Ex. New Delhi on Every Wednesday from 16.03.2022 and 06145 Ex. Ranchi on Every Thursday from 17.03.2022.

Accommodation : 1st AC, AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.

Frequency reduced of Train no 02454/02453 New Delhi – Ranchi - New Delhii Rajdhani Special Bi-weekly to weekly details are mentioned below:-

Train No. & Name	Existing Frequency	Revised Frequency	Date w.e.f.
02454 New Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani Special	Wednesday, Saturday	Saturday	16.03.2022
02453 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	Thursday, Sunday	Sunday	17.03.2022

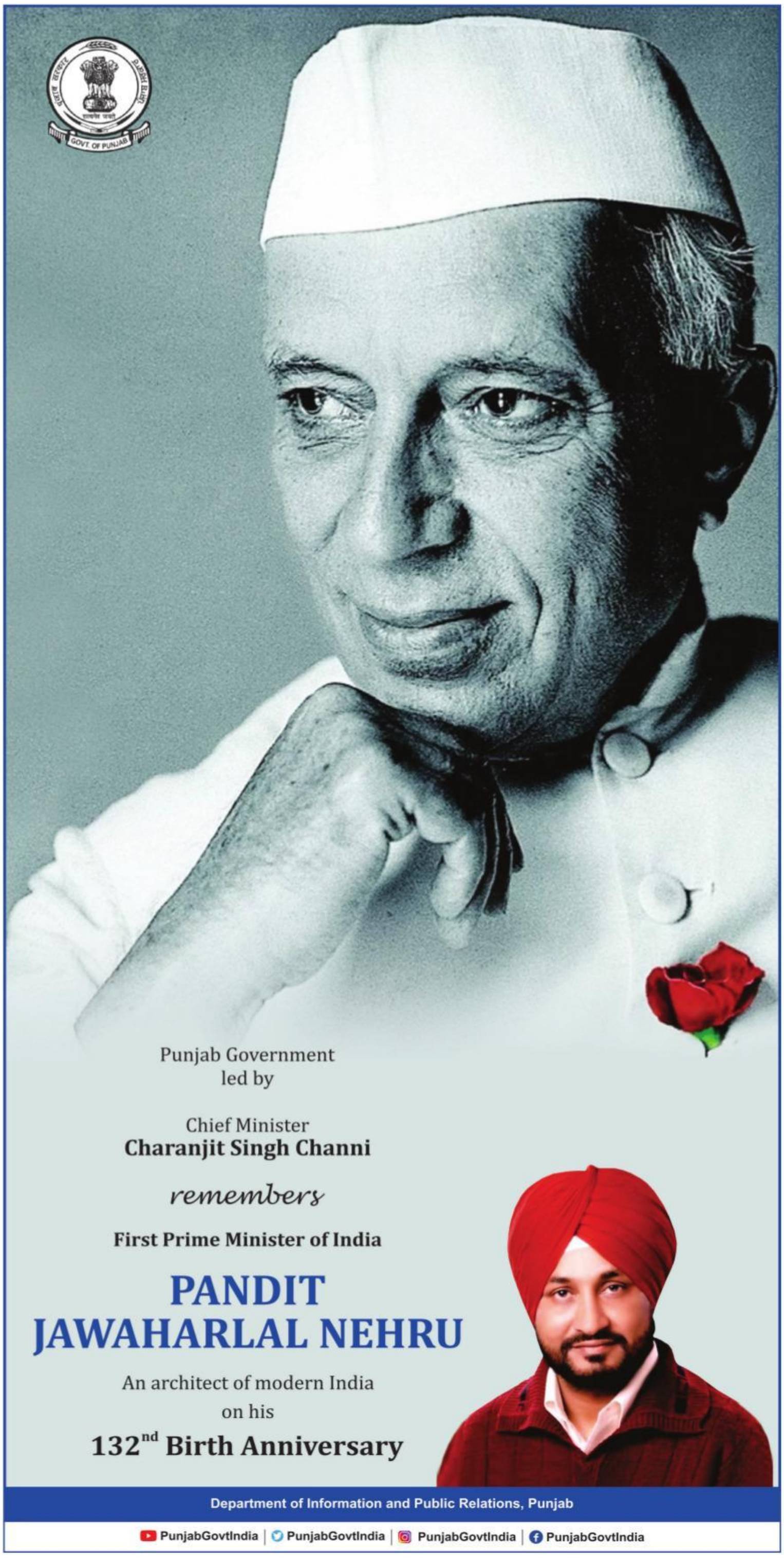
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A CJ moved

The only way a judge of our higher judiciary can be removed from service is by impeachment, but the framers of our Constitution made the process so cumbersome and stringent that it is almost impossible to remove a judge from service by this method. Over the decades though, the Supreme Court has evolved an alternate system and the latest on whom it is being applied is Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee of the Madras High Court. The Supreme Court Collegium on 16 September recommended his transfer as chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. The transfer order was made public only on 9 November. The Madras High Court has a sanctioned strength of 75 judges against the Meghalaya High Court's four. The formula was tried on former Madras High Court Chief Justice VK Tahilramani by ordering his transfer to the Meghalaya High Court as CJ in 2019. He resigned rather than preside over a four-judge High Court. Justice Banerjee was transferred from the Calcutta High Court and appointed Chief Justice of the Madras High Court on 4 January 2021. He was due to retire on 1 November 2023. CJ Banerjee made several scathing attacks on other constitutional functionaries. A Bench of CJ Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy was highly critical of the Election Commission of India in April this year for allowing election rallies to take place amidst the Covid-19 pandemic in Tamil Nadu. The Bench asked the EC's counsel whether he was living on another planet when election rallies were being held. "Public health is of paramount importance, and it is distressing that constitutional authorities have to be reminded in such regard." Election Commission officers should be booked on murder charges probably, the Bench had observed.An aggrieved EC approached the Supreme Court seeking directions to restrain the media from reporting oral remarks of judges. The court turned down the plea stating freedom of speech covers judicial proceedings. In response to a Public Interest Litigation against the Puducherry unit of the BJP alleging it had misused Aadhaar details of voters for election campaign purposes, a Bench headed by CJ Banerjee warned, "It will not do for the Election Commission to pass the buck in this case and say that the cybercrimes division is conducting an investigation." According to the petition, the BJP, being the ruling party at the Centre, had misused its power and indulged in identity theft covered by Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, and clearly in breach of the fiduciary duty it owed to citizens. The said offence was committed with an intention to threaten the security of the country, leading to the offence of cyber terrorism under Section 66F of the IT Act, it was contended. When the Election Commission is up and about in all other matters and asserts its primacy and authority, it must look into this allegation immediately and with the degree of seriousness it deserves, CJ Banerjee observed. His all too brief tenure as Chief Justice of Madras HC has been eventful.

Home truths

We may all have been in high dudgeon since India's pre-semi-final exit from the Twenty20 World Cup and the Supreme Court may for a longer while have been saddled with the task of deciding whether Sourav Ganguly and Jay Shah should carry on in their administrative roles in cricket, but a thorough overhaul of the system ~ in the aftermath of the disaster in West Asia ~ is unlikely. Some people were to go out anyway, at the end of their tenures, which implied the entry of new faces, and the obvious selection requirements of the forthcoming home series against New Zealand were a reason for a few more changes in the squad. But if the spectacular nosedive brought about any alteration in higher-altitude thinking, it would so far have to be considered one of the Board of Control for Cricket in India's well-kept secrets. You can look the other way when Australians speak of an Indian team divided against itself with a good many players silently resenting captain Virat Kohli's allegedly overbearing ways and it is easier disdainfully to bypass innuendos from Pakistanis that India are no longer a happy, cohesive unit, but when one of India's own stalwarts calls a spade a spade, silence could connote a tacit acknowledgement. And there was no doubting the fundamental truths about India's performance articulated by Ravi Shastri, then India's head coach. Truth to tell, his statement will be got back to again, given fixture congestion is the flip side of the commercial exploitation of cricket, which yields enormous amounts of money. This money is the prioritised objective of high-ups, to the virtual exclusion of everything else. This is driven home by Indian cricketers' months-long imprisonment in the so-called bio-secure bubbles, its attendant psychological problems never even sought to be scientifically considered so our hero-worshipped players do not end up being martyrs to mental disorder. India, aping England, found in the new normal way of doing things an easy expedient without bothering to invite opinions on the nostrum. Shastri's second point was thus as important as his first, even though both have come to be considered and criticised by segments of the media whose ersatz patriotism eclipses powers of reasoning. It has been said that most top-level teams play about as many games in a comparable period as India, but then, two or three or more mistakes never made one right, did they? Also, if one set of players copes better with prolonged captivity, it cannot guarantee another's unflustered durabilty. Which was why it was wrong to plan for players to get out of the Indian Premier League bubble to get into the Twenty20 World Cup one. They are not machines to be filled with fuel and set going, Shastri said, and, as sure as eggs are eggs, they would some day, try to haul him over the coals. But a fact is a fact is a fact. Logic, even if often impotent against power, will be on his side. The board will, of course, count its cash. And Indian cricket will wilt when it comes to the crunch.

Post-fact world?

We have ruined our Earth and now we are planning for galactic civilization. Eight of the richest billionaires including Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson are now planning to conquer outer space. The climate crisis is for the humble people of the Earth!



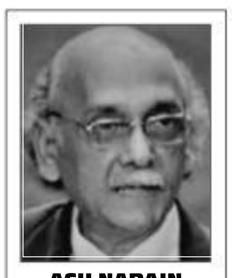
Alternative facts are not facts, they are outright lies. In politics, facts have never been what they are in science. But today, lies have become the new truths. And lies are the lifeblood of autocracy. Of course, lies are not the domain only of autocrats and populist leaders. Navigating the post-truth world is a treacherous exercise. The climate denialists are not the only ones to trot out their own facts. Populist leaders apart, there is a growing army of people and groups who question all other facts except their own. The age of reason seems to have taken a break. Welcome to the post-fact world! And let us brace ourselves for what Yale University law professor Dan Kahan describes as "a culture war of facts."

Anti-intellectualism and anti-rationalism have been on the rise for quite a while. Historian Richard Hofstadter's 1963 book, Anti-Intellectualism in American Life, won the Pulitzer Prize. In the age of social media, anti-intellectualism has led to a new level of debasement, bigotry and dumbing down of culture. Ignorance combined with arrogance is a deadly cocktail.

Earlier, poets, dreamers and philosophers lived in their own world; now hard-line fanatics create their own enchanted, self-contained world. Churchill once said, "gentlemen, history will be kind to us ~ we will write it!" Today, denialists and blind followers of modern political messiahs manufacture their own facts and prefer to live in their own cocoon. They would also like to write their own history. Uncertainties and crises have made people vulnerable to the chest-beating propaganda machine. Populism of the right and wokeism of the left are both dangerous.

Climate crisis, says UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, "is a race we are losing, but it's a race we can win." Sadly, the climate crisis has become enmeshed in culture wars. In the US, in particular, acceptance of the scientific consensus on climate change is now seen as an alignment with liberal views. Irrational zealots are having a field day.

Surveys show that the American public's belief in the science of climate change is fast declining. A large percentage of the population across the world is sceptical of science. Un-science or nescience seems to have captured their imagination. One hoped that scientific methods would shape humankind's thinking and behavior in the 21st century. Instead, it appears, a large section of people wants to return to what American commentator Victor Davis Hanson calls "medical alchemy." Hanson further says, science is "dying (and) superstition disguised as morality is returning."



ASH NARAIN ROY
The writer is director, Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi

Climate denialists, unplugged as they are from the world of science, dismiss scientists and intellectuals as foes of truth and liberty. And conspiracy theory has become an intellectual black hole. It is the result of polarization in politics in the US. It is deeply rooted in the racial and ideological divide.

We have ruined our Earth and now we are planning for galactic civilization. Eight of the richest billionaires including Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson are now planning to conquer outer space. The climate crisis is for the humble people of the Earth!

We earthly people are busy waging our own battle. For more and more people and leaders, the battlefields of the past are becoming combat zones of today. Ecological Leninism, to borrow a phrase from Columbia University professor of history Adam Tooze, seems to have overtaken us. No wonder, the worst climate deniers like Donald Trump and Jair Bolsonaro consider climate change "an expensive hoax." Leaders of their ilk downplay both the climate crisis and Covid threat, peddling conspiracy theories and ridiculing science.

Anti-vaxxers' weird reasoning says it all. "My beliefs are religious. My god has endowed me with an immune system that protects me, and if I get sick, that is an act of god." Every slight, every lived experience, however obscure, is amplified in the cauldron of social media. Over-exposure to social media, some argue, has accelerated and normalized our culture's infantile tendencies. Our lives are not just shared, they are displayed and consumed. Thanks to social media the world is embracing what Moises Naim calls "ideological necrophilia" (the passionate commitment to dead and foggy ideas).

Today every fool and every demon invokes the voice of destiny. Are we witnessing the end of 'modernity' and the end of science, technology and reason? The dominant ideology of 'progress' took it for granted that the growing domination of nature by man was the very measure of humanity's advance. Industrialisation was based on the principle of iron and smoke or "where there is muck, there is brass." The "economic doom" literature has put it that human beings are innately destructive. In our efforts to make the planet yield more for ourselves, we have diminished its ability to sustain life of all kinds.

George Bernard Shaw was right when he said that all progress depends on the unreasonable man. No wonder, we literally move mountains to mine the earth's minerals, redirect rivers to build cities in the desert, and burn forests to make way for crops and cattle. Shaw further argued that while the reasonable man adapts himself to the world, the unreasonable ones persist in trying to adapt the world to themselves.

Modernity was associated with progress which replaced the medical belief in providence. That narrative has been found hollow in the time of climate catastrophe. As Nobel Laureate Octavio Paz says, one of the key building blocks of modernity was the ideology of progress. But "there was no way of telling what goal was being pursued by progress. Progress merely seemed to create the demand for more progress, in a process without end, and therefore, in a sense, without meaning."

We have followed a model of growth where human beings become insatiable consuming machines. Mindless expansion of production serves as a distraction from the issue of redistribution. Our experience, more so during the pandemic times, is how the incomes of the rich are increasing at an accelerating pace while everyone else's have slowed dramatically. Is it progress? This progress has led us to the shrine of an abyss. The Amazon fires are a shameful indictment of our lust for excess.

Mediocrity is a new genius in the age of social media. Social media is a market place, not a social good. In fact, it isn't even social. It provides a very large megaphone to denialists and conspiracy theorists. Technology is greatly to blame for our mediocrity and cultural-intellectual morass. Do we know too much? And is it good? As Goethe says, "we know accurately only when we know little; with knowledge doubt increases."

A MEMBER OF THE ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

More incentives imperative

According to the Ministry of Education and Training, Vi?t Nam needs to have 7,300 more lecturers with a doctoral degree and over 300 more with a master's degree in culture, arts and sports. This is part of Project 89 on enhancing the capacity of lecturers and managers in tertiary education institutions to meet the requirements on fundamental and comprehensive reforms in education. Project 89 was approved by the Prime Minister on January 18, 2019. In 2021, as many as 165 institutions registered to send 1,277 staff to study doctorates under Project 89. Among them, 360 lecturers are sent to be trained abroad. It is expected that by 2022, as many as 1,308 will be sent to study for a doctorate under Project 89.

In a recent interview with Giáo D?c Vi?t Nam (Vi?t Nam's Education) online magazine, Director of the Higher Education Department under the MoET Nguy?n Thu Thu? shared her thoughts about incentives and policies to encourage Vietnamese intellectuals to return home after finishing studies abroad to contribute to the country. What are the policies being used to retain talent and make sure they return after finishing their studies abroad which are being funded by the Government? Policies and incentives to attract and retain talents have been mentioned in many legal documents including the Law on Science and Technology, Law on Higher Education, decrees of the Government, and regulations of the MoET, departments, and agencies. Many localities and higher education

Viet Nam News

institutions have also been implementing effective policies to attract highly qualified human resources. Vinh Phúc Province has issued Resolution No 06/2021/NQ-HĐND on a number of policies to attract intellectuals and talented people to the province in 2021-2025, providing VNĐ600 million for professors, associate professors, those who hold a doctorate degree or Doctor of Medicine, and level-2 specialists; offering VNĐ400 million for those who hold a master's degree or Master of Medicine, and level-1 specialists and resident doctors. Teachers and lecturers with a doctorate degree are also supported with VNĐ600 million, those with a master's degree and bachelor's degree will be supported with VNĐ400 million and VNĐ300 million, respectively. Lào Cai Province also issued a similar resolution, supporting those with professor titles with VNĐ1.5 billion, and those with an associate professor, doctorate degree with VNĐ1 billion and VNĐ360 million, respectively. For higher institutions, we have HCMC University of Food Industry which offers financial support worth VNĐ75 million each for individuals with a doctorate degree, VNĐ100 million and VNĐ150 million for associate professors and professors respectively under the condition that they must work for the university for at least five years. Although there have been many policies introduced, they are not strong enough to encourage Vietnamese scientists and intellectuals to return home and contribute more.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR editor@thestatesman.com

Centre relents on petrol & diesel

SIR, Finally, the Union government decided to relent by cutting excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 a litre, respectively. This has been followed by reduction in value-added tax by several state governments.

Earlier, the Union government was not willing to reduce the excise on various pretexts - that it had provided free vaccination, free rations to 80 crore residents and so on. But a day after the BJP suffered some electoral reverses, the government relented, possibly sensing debacles in coming elections.

The piecemeal reduction in excise duty is not the solution as India imports 85 per cent of crude and excise duty will continue to be paid in future also. The recent trend towards depending upon fuel taxes to fill the coffers of the government must be arrested and fuel must be brought under GST to give relief to the masses.

Yours, etc., SK Khosla,
Chandigarh, 8 November.



KNOWING HISTORY

SIR, In the Perspective page article by Shreemoyee Roychoudhury published on 7 November, there is misconception about Hindutva icon, V. D. Savarkar. The word Hindutva originated in Bengal during the Indian Renaissance in the 19th century. The word Hindutva, the concept of Bharat Mata and the "Bande Mataram" slogan were all products of Bengal that spread across the country. Its journey was started by Raja Rammohan Roy, Debendranath Tagore, Bhudev Mukhopadhyay, Nabagopal Mitra, Rajnarayan Basu, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and so on. In "Bangadarshan" which Bankim Chandra himself edited, he refused to accept the Islamic Rulers as the history of Bengal.

He said: "In our consideration, not a single English book contains the true history of Bengal. These books contain merely a hotchpotch of the birth, death and family feud of the Muslims who used to relax lying down on their beds wearing useless titles such as the 'Badshah of Bangalah' or 'Subah-dar of Bangalah'. This is not the history of Bengal; this is not even an iota of the history of Bengal. This has no connection whatsoever with Bengal's history. The Bengali who accepts all this as the history of Bengal is not a Bengali. The one who accepts without questioning the versions of the Muslims, who are blind with self-pride are liars and Hindu-haters, is not a Bengali."

This is how the history of a nation changes, by unearthing facts. The piece "Draupadi" of Mahashweta Devi was removed from the syllabus to stop poisoning of minds of young men against Indian Army, protector of India. Why was the dark side of Muslim invaders who destroyed temples, killed and raped Hindu women while occupying Bengal and finally married and converted them not recorded in history books during the British period? Was it not fact? A nation's pride depends on past glory. History cannot be changed, but let all history be known. There is no place for imaginative historians.

Yours, etc., Amal Biswas, Kolkata, 8 November.

SAFETY AUDIT

SIR, I refer to today's report '11 dead in Maha Covid hospital fire'. Maharashtra has been facing the merciless onslaught of Covid-19 cases, but its public health response has also had to combat the second, connected scourge of hospital fires.

Not so long ago, the State was adding on average over 50,000 cases and losing a few hundred lives daily in the second wave of the pandemic, straining its infrastructure and institutions. It has also been frequently hit by deadly fires, of the kind witnessed on Saturday in the ICU of a hospital that killed 11 Covid patients. With about 16,000 active cases now, many of the patients in the State require oxygen support and hospitals are stretched to the limit. Now that many Covid-19 hospital fires have been reported, in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh in particular, State authorities should be able to document their learnings and put out a checklist to save patients.

They should clarify whether fire safety guidelines for hospitals issued by the Centre in September last year were acted upon. This is particularly important in Maharashtra's context, given that devastating fires have been recurring. The government must lose no time in ordering a comprehensive audit.

Yours, etc., Khokan Das,
Kolkata, 7 November.

WELCOME STEP

SIR, The Road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari has bestowed power to local people to monitor the construction of national highway, lanes, right of way. etc. in their area and report to NHAI if they find any irregularities. They will be able to check the progress from the comfort of their homes by checking a website on which the contractor will have to publish photographs of work every week and provide the video of construction every month.

The NHAI will impose a penalty of Rs 5 lakh or more on the contractor on the basis of feedback from the locals.

Enabling locals to monitor work is a great initiative. Often, contractors use low-quality materials and waste time on construction site.

Due to this, the money of taxpayers is wasted and every year new roads are required. This vicious cycle of corruption goes on and taxpayers's money is wasted. These efforts will eventually help in constructing better roads that last for many years and proper use of money. It will discourage people from illegal activities.

Yours, etc., Rajat Jain,
Ujjain, 8 November.

Uneasy lull before the storm in Pakistan?

SHANTANU MUKHARJI



All does not look good with Pakistan. The country's decision to enter into an unethical compromise with the religious extremist group Tehreek e Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) continues to be questioned by all segments of the media, civil society, academia and political opposition. This has put the Imran Khan-led government on the backfoot. Also, the government's ambiguous and non-transparent compromise with the TLP is being described as a complete surrender to the ultras conceding all their demands. This is compounded by the conflicting claims and counter claims by the Minister for Interior, Sheikh Rashid and Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry, thus exposing the establishment's glaring lack of coordination in dealing with a complex national crisis adding to Imran Khan's woes.

No sooner the government heaved a sigh of relief at buying time to 'diffuse' the monumental challenge of the Progressive Democratic Movement (PDM), the multi-party opposition alliance, its Secretary General Shahid Khaqqan Abbasi announced that the PDM would launch a slew of anti-government rallies in principal cities of Pakistan to protest against the government's anti-people policies.

Outlining the action plan, the PDM disclosed that it would commence the first march in Karachi on November 13, followed by Quetta on November 17, then in Peshawar on November 20 and finally to Lahore before storming into the capital Islamabad. Such a plan has rattled the government as it would mount further pressure. The PDM chief, Maulana Fazlur Rahman was also present when this announcement was made. The focus would be on corruption, nepotism, failed economic policies and unchecked inflation. In other words, Imran Khan's plate is full and the road ahead is bump.

Meanwhile, the media has also stepped up its tirade against the otherwise vulnerable government through a series of opinion pieces in popular dailies. Gen (Retd) Talat Masood who is a regular political commentator, in his latest article in the Express Tribune, has articulated Pakistan's ongoing problems. He has said that the government's abject failure in tackling the TLP imbroglio has taken the country into a hostage situation. He is scathingly critical of the government's failed policies in dealing with the economic turmoil, rising fuel prices, and even being weak-kneed in addressing the flawed educational policies where every Tom, Dick and Harry can obtain a P.hD degree by paying a premium.

Most crucially, the commentator talks about the government's weakness which stood exposed by the way it handled the selection of the DG ISI. The decision on such an important appointment was marked by a flip-flop policy and absence of cohesion was markedly noticed. First, Lt Gen. Anjum, then Lt Faiz Hameed and then again a volte face. November 19 will be the date when Lt Gen Anjum is expected to formally take charge from Lt Gen Hameed who is slated to move to command the important Peshawar Corps. However, the suspense remains, as judging by Pakistan's history, there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. Other than this, the continuous terror attacks in the tribal belts show the inherent weaknesses in the system.

Other than these insinuations, Gen Masood surmises that all these factors indicate there are no easy ways for correcting the course for a nation like Pakistan without a dedicated and visionary leadership. These are strong words from a veteran Pakistan watcher who has been in the system and that too in critical positions. Such an assessment is hard to ignore and it is hoped Prime Minister Imran Khan has already read this warning.

Amidst these problems gripping Pakistan, there are reports that Chief of the Army Staff, Gen Qamar Ahmad Bajwa has fallen out with Prime Minister Imran Khan chiefly because of the appointment of the DG ISI. Lt Gen Hameed is thought to be the Prime Minister's choice while Lt Gen Anjum is backed by Gen Bajwa. It would mean that Khan who was publicly claiming that he had the support of his army chief and the army now no longer enjoys that. On ground, it would seem that Bajwa is calling the shots. And in Pakistan, political survival without the army is impossible.

In the meantime, reports are also trickling in that 111 Infantry Brigade which is known for 'facilitating' coups since Gen (later Field Marshal) Ayub Khan's takeover in 1958, and then the coups that brought Gen Zia ul Haq and Gen Pervez Musharraf to power, is being watched by all quarters. As of now, things are fluid. Either way, Prime Minister Imran Khan remains most vulnerable. His political moves so far have been amateurish rather than those of a seasoned political hand. Those in uniform seem to be more dexterous in their moves. Therefore, November 19 and the events that will follow are important. Experts reckon that this "lull before the storm" cannot be ignored.

The writer is a retired IPS officer, a security analyst and a former National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister of Mauritius. The views expressed are personal.

POLITICAL DIARY | KALYANI SHANKAR

Opposition must work with cohesion

The Congress party seems to be falling into the trap of the BJP by responding to dead issues like the Rafale scam that the party had raised in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll. It is clear that the issue did not click with the public as former party president Rahul Gandhi had hoped. He had high expectations that the BJP would face defeat. He should have learned the lesson that flogging a dead horse is futile. It is the same with the BJP; going back to the past may not yield results. After all, it is the Modi government that has been in power for the past eight years. Times have changed and the political atmosphere has changed. The millennials want to have a good life.

For the BJP, it is much more crucial. The party has been cleverly trying to change the poll agenda in UP and other states and steer it to its benefit. Therefore, the opposition needs to focus on the year-long farmer's agitation, petrol price hike, handling of Covid and day-to-day issues pertaining to the common man.

The BJP has a lot at stake as it rules all but one of the seven states that are going to polls in 2022. Of the seven, the BJP is ruling in U.P., Uttarakhand, Goa, Gujarat and Manipur while the Congress is ruling in Punjab.



While UP, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa are going for polls early next year, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh will see elections later in the year. The Congress is confident of winning Goa and Manipur, two states where it had emerged as the single largest party in 2017, but was beaten by the BJP in government formation thanks to backroom maneuvers and horse-trading.

The Congress created a storm in Punjab by changing charismatic chief minister Amarinder Singh last month under pressure of the cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu. It was the one state the Congress could have won easily, but it messed up things by wrong calculations.

The Congress has labeled the Rafale deal a Rs 50,000 crore scam of the Narendra Modi government. It claimed that the predecessor Manmohan Singh government had worked out a better deal with France. The BJP says that the UPA government had not formalised the agreement and left too many grey areas that could have spiked the cost enormously. The issue has been discussed in Parliament and taken even to the apex court. The Congress continues to seek a joint parliamentary probe into the deal.

Soon after the 2019 defeat, Rahul Gandhi had blamed senior Congress leaders for not supporting him during the campaign. But many leaders had told him that too much criticism of the Modi government would not click. They proved to be right.

Aiming to win a third term, the BJP's principal political target has been and will be the Congress. The BJP too should realise dredging the UPA rule is like flogging a dead horse.

Congress and other opposition parties should focus on the inadequacies of the BJP government in the states and at the Centre on other day-to-day issues. Instead of setting the agenda on several burning local issues in each of the poll-bound states, going back to the Rafale scam will not help the Congress.

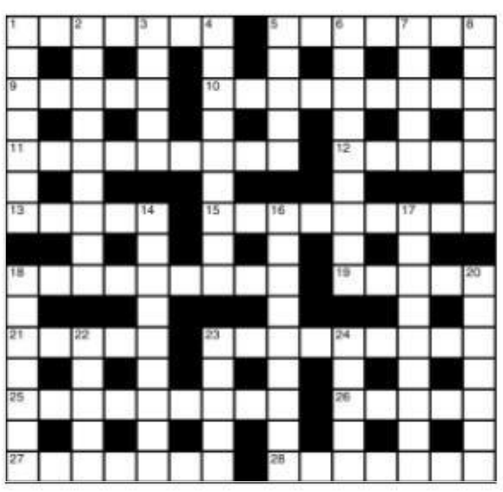
The first step is to make sure opposition votes are not splintered. A divided opposition gives the BJP hope to win. As of now, U.P. is facing a multi-cornered contest with the Congress, BSP, BJP, and SP planning to contest on their own.

The Congress is not in a position to win U.P. and neither are the regional parties like SP and BSP. If the opposition forms a Grand Alliance as it did in Bihar, it could put up a good fight. Now, at the most, the Congress can hope to improve its position at the cost of SP and BSP.

As of now, the multi-cornered contests in U.P. and other states will only help BJP come back. If the opposition is serious, it needs to change the narrative, draw up a good political agenda, and chart a road map for the future to win the confidence of the people. Otherwise, the BJP will have the last laugh.

CROSSWORD

NO 29087



SOLUTION FOR 07 NOVEMBER



ACROSS

1 Books from dump missing covers and devoured by rodents (7)
5 Arab revolutionary claims it's difficult to get job (7)
9 One following strict diet, say, squeezed into vehicle (5)
10 A dog tears around rock (9)
11 Demolish theatre in very poor quarter (9)
12 Refined sweetheart taking year off before degree (5)
13 Playwright scoffs behind enemy's back (5)
15 Motor originally bought by relative is a gem (9)
18 Cracks about clergyman meeting clowns (9)
19 Top 40 on the radio (5)
21 English musketeer lacks a moral code (5)
23 Predecessors hog markets for Spooner (9)
25 Enticed unfit to embrace exercise bug (9)
26 Call up First Lady about Oklahoma (5)
27 Itinerant almost steals King Tut's head ornament (7)
28 Alcoholic has fling with Mary Jane (7)

DOWN

1 Victors guarding island in an indolent manner, clearly (7)
2 Write rules and pin one above blackboard (9)
3 Institute providing support for fellow with a mental condition (5)
4 Gladiator fights nursing a cut, amazingly (9)
5 Burglars initially lie about fire (5)
6 Anger about commotion outside hotel's American bar (9)
7 Some knit a scarf, having spun material (5)
8 Prune tips of azalea bush on hilltop (7)
14 Friends rolled joint in perverse kind of comedy (9)
16 Making a comeback, ruler takes second Sumerian city (9)
17 Euphoric old hack is drunk in supermarket (4-1-4)
18 Queen enters church toilet with extremely unkempt hairstyle (7)
20 Most sumptuous female consumed by desire (7)
22 Government department defends article on international capital (5)
23 Swift measures blocked by Left (5)
24 Make cross hand gesture (5)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with **The Independent, London**)

NOW AND AGAIN

Outspoken and witty

TIRTHANKAR MITRA

The tea stall on Southern Avenue was abuzz with conversation in which a handsome man with a receding hairline was the cynosure of all eyes. His acquiline nose and intelligent eyes along with his ability of being in the news made Subrata Mukherjee a household name for the last five decades.

Excitement was in the air. A new political party had come into being, to challenge a regime firmly in the saddle in the state for decades. Municipal elections were round the corner. And Mukherjee was leading the new party's campaign.

Instead of delivering speeches from podiums and vehicles, Mukherjee loved to rub shoulders with the masses. This had been his style of campaigning - to feel the people's pulse - ever since his maiden electoral triumph against a noted academic. Hence the tea stall talks.

Recognition and praise are part and parcel of the existence of most public men who bask in it even when they do not deserve it. An animated conversation was on at the tea stall during which he was praised for his role as the hero of a television serial opposite a leading actress of the day.

Forsaking the practice of accepting complements with a smile, Mukherjee replied, "I think I cut a very sorry figure in it." Despite being on the campaign trail, he did not take kindly to flattery and couldn't care less that he had rubbed a voter the wrong way.

But Mukherjee steered the campaign to success and became the first citizen of the city. His mayoral tenure was marked by decisions which put ideas above ideology.

Not chary of rapping civic tax defaulters on the knuckles, Mukherjee did not think twice of taking either hard decisions or speaking his mind. Of late, his dubbing a rosogolla to be akhadya (inedible) may have shocked some people.

Apart from outspokenness, wit and humour were his other strong points by which he took pot shots at leaders of other political outfits as well as the leader of the party he belonged to. Strangely enough, Mukherjee retained cordial relations with almost everyone on the other side of the political divide and those within his own party dashing efforts of those who carried tales.

100 YEARS AGO

RACIAL DISTINCTIONS IN CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - I have followed with interest the accounts of the discussion in the Legislative Assembly on the above question and congratulate Government on wisely referring the matter to a committee instead of taking the vote of the Assembly. For the consideration of the members who are to take this matter in hand, might I suggest that the law so far as it relates to the European may be allowed to remain as it is at present. The Indian on the other hand should be allowed the same privilege as the European, and should he object to being tried by an European his case should be transferred to the file on an Indian magistrate. To the Domiciled European or Anglo-Indian who does not come within the definition of "an European British subject" a similar privilege should be extended in the matter of deciding for himself whether his trial should be before an European or Indian magistrate.

W. DAVEY.
Dinapore.

TO REBUILD THE FRENCH WAR ZONE

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - I have the honour to inform you that I have received a cablegram from Paris advising that the French Government are issuing Fcs. 3,000,000,000, worth of bonds of the "Credit National pour faciliter la Reparation des Dommages causes par la Guerre" at the price of Fcs. 498.50 per Fcs. 500 Bond. The bonds will carry interest at the rate of 6 per cent and there will be four yearly drawings with premiums, free of Income Tax in France. They will be reimbursable at the latest in 1936 at the price of Fcs. 500. The Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Bombay, will be pleased to transmit any orders for the purchase of these Bonds. We shall be obliged if you will kindly announce the issue of these new bonds in your esteemed journal both for the information of intending investors and to facilitate the object for which the loan is called.

J. RABINO.
Manager, Comptoir National, Bombay.

EMPLOYMENT FOR MIDDLE-CLASS MEN

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR, - For many years now the Calcutta University has been issuing literature showing that if a number of educated men would get together in a suitable locality to carry on small industries of the right kind, and cultivate small holdings cooperatively, joining that with educational work, which would combine with it very well indeed, they might make a comfortable living under the healthiest conditions, and that such a colony might rapidly develop into an important education centre. A sub-committee has been formed of the Bengal Cooperative Organisation Society to study cooperative schemes applied to education, and if a good number of people come forward now it might be possible to organise such a colony. An estate is now offered in the vicinity of Hazaribagh eminently suitable for the purpose. People could have small holdings of ten bigahs for a salami of Rs 1,000 a year for a bigah rent.

M. PETAVEL.
Lecturer, Poverty Problem,
Calcutta University.



There is a significant jump in travel demand and we are very excited about the demand recovery.

AJAY SINGH
CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, SPICEJET

THUMBNAILS

IREDA profit: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has posted the highest-ever profit during the first half of this fiscal year, claimed the ministry of new and renewable energy. "The profit after tax of IREDA was highest-ever at Rs 299 crore in the first half of this year. Similarly the total income from operation also increased to Rs 1,386.97 crore against Rs 1,284.94 crore," said a senior officer of the ministry here on Saturday. He said the company's net worth has also increased to Rs 333.19 crore, up by 22 per cent. The company sanctioned Rs 5,925 crore loan during the period, which is an increase of 405 per cent. SNS

SBI initiative: State Bank of India (SBI) initiated multiple CSR activities in New Delhi and NCR. Dinesh Khara, chairman, SBI, presented a cheque of Rs 2 crore to Manoj Pant, secretary of National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) in the presence of Amitava Chatterjee, CGM Delhi Circle and S C Joinwal, CGM GBU. The officials of SBI also handed over keys of an ambulance to Gaurav Singh, regional head and additional CEO of Haryana State CSR Trust, at the SBI's local head office (LHO) in New Delhi. SNS

HDFC Bank: HDFC Bank, in a Press statement issued on Saturday, announced its integration with the Government of India's National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) to enable digital collections and settlement of funds to various e-NAM beneficiaries. SNS

Star Cement: Star Cement has announced the winners of their consumer connect initiative "Kismat Ki Bori" from north Bengal. The campaign that started in the month of October in various locations of north Bengal had enabled every customer to try their luck and win big, said a Press release issued by the company. SNS

Economy may grow by 10% in FY22: Acuite

Benign inflation to delay rate normalisation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Factors that remain in favour of India's growth recovery include, near complete removal of lockdown restrictions, strong pick-up in the pace of vaccinations, robust export growth with outbound shipments clocking a growth of 55.1 per cent in April-October 2021 and healthy run of Central government capital expenditure

The continued benign inflationary trajectory in Q3 of financial year 2021-22 has increased the likelihood of further postponement of interest rate normalisation, said Acuite Ratings & Research today.

The assessment comes after India's October retail inflation inched up sequentially on the back of a marginal rise in food prices along with high fuel and commodity prices. Accordingly, data furnished by the National Statistical Office showed that Consumer Price Index (CPI) inched up to 4.48 per cent last month from 4.35 per cent in September 2021.

However, on year-on-year basis, the rise in last month's retail inflation was slower than the 7.61 per cent rise recorded for October 2020.

"From India's monetary policy perspective, taking comfort from the current moderation in CPI inflation, the RBI in its last MPC meeting continued to advocate the need for nurturing the nascent growth recovery thereby maintaining its accommodative stance," the agency said.

"However, the central bank did make an attempt to nudge short term money market rates in upward direction by calibrating the liquidity surplus through the expansion of the scope of "VRRR" auctions along with discontinuation of "G-SAP" operations."

Besides, the ratings agency said that this might be a precursor to interest rate normalisation that can happen by December 2021.

"However, given RBI's approach of "gradualism" and continuation of benign inflationary trajectory in Q3 FY'22 the likelihood of the postponement onto next quarter is on the rise."

On India's industrial output growth easing to 3.1 per cent in September, on a sequential basis, the agency blamed the recent surge in global commodity prices along with supply chain disruptions primary led by global semiconductor chip shortages and with the recent energy crisis. The rise in Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for September eased to 3.1 per cent from 12.03 per cent in August 2021.

However, on a year-on-year basis, the September out up showed an accelerating trend from a growth of just 1 per cent reported for the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

"We continue to maintain our FY'22 GDP forecast at 10 per cent. Factors that remain in favour of India's growth recovery include, near complete removal of lockdown restrictions, strong pick-up in the pace of vaccinations, robust export growth with outbound shipments clocking a growth of 55.1 per cent in April-October 2021 and healthy run of Central government capital expenditure."

"Additionally, accommodative policy backdrop will continue to provide support to India's growth trajectory," the rating agency stated.

Semiconductor shortage hits Oct PV sales

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Challenges pertaining to electronic components' availability, coupled with high operating and ownership costs due to rising commodity prices dragged passenger vehicles' sales lower on a year-on-year basis in October.

Accordingly, the sales of passenger vehicles fell to 2,26,353 units in October as compared to 3,10,694 units sold during the corresponding month of the previous year.

On a sequential basis, October's PV sales were higher than September's level of 1,60,070 units.



The data furnished by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) does not include sales figures from some key players such as Tata Motors.

The PV sales data comprises cars, utility vehicles and vans.

Segment-wise, a total of 1,03,829 passenger cars were sold in the domestic market in October, down from 1,82,692 units sold in the like period of 2020.

The sales of other sub-categories such as utility vehicles (UV) and vans also degrew on a year-on-year basis. As per the data, UV sales fell to 1,12,112 u nits from 1,14,390 units, while the off-take of vans declined to 10,412 units from 13,612 units in the year-ago period.

As regards two-wheelers, sales were lower in October 2021 at 15,41,621 units compared with 20,53,814 units sold in the same month of the last year.

The overall domestic automobile sectors' off-take representing the sales of passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, three-wheelers and quadricycle fell to 17,9 9,750 units from 23,91,192 units sold during the same period of last year. However, the data showed a year-on-year rise in exports. The overall exports, including PVs, two and three-wheelers and quadricycle, rose to 456,698 units from 454,637 units during the same period of last year.

"Manufacturers were banking on the festive season to recover from the severe drop in sales they have faced in the early part of financial year 2021-22," said Rajesh Menon, director-general, SIAM.

"However, shortage of semiconductors and steep hike in raw material cost have been a major spoilsport for the industry," Menon added.

Hero Q2 profit falls 22% to ₹748 crore

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER



Two-wheeler market leader Hero MotoCorp today reported a 22 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 747.79 crore in the second quarter ended on 30 September 2021, impacted by lower sales.

The company, which posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 963.82 crore in the same period last fiscal, said its electric vehicle project is in advanced stages and is gearing up to launch the first product by March 2022.

Consolidated revenue from operations was at Rs 8,538.85 crore as against Rs 9,473.32 crore in the year-ago quarter, Hero MotoCorp said in a regulatory filing.

The company sold 14.38 lakh units of motorcycles and scooters in Q2 FY'22, down 21 per cent from 18.22 lakh units sold in the same period last fiscal.

Total expenses stood at Rs 7,640.71 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal, down from Rs 8,359.23 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

Cost of materials consumed were also lower at Rs 6,091.07 crore as against Rs 6,692.38 crore in the year-ago period.

Commenting on the quarterly performance, Hero MotoCorp chief financial officer Niranjan Gupta said: "Commodity prices, which have been impacting the industry margins so far, are showing some signs of softening as we move from here. Through accelerated Leap-II savings programme, overheads management, and judicious price increases, we have been able to improve our margins sequentially and expect further recovery moving forward."

On the outlook, he said Hero MotoCorp expects a build-up in demand over the coming quarters as the economy continues to show recovery and improvement.

"Positive economic signs, encouraging farm activities and increased need for personal mobility is likely to restart the momentum in the two-wheeler industry and we expect positive sentiments both in the rural and semi-urban markets," Gupta added.

Stating that its electric vehicle (EV) project is in the advanced stages, the company said it is gearing up to launch the EV by March 2022.

SpiceJet loss narrows to ₹562 crore

MUMBAI, 13 NOVEMBER

Airline major SpiceJet's Q2 FY'22 standalone net loss narrowed to Rs 561.7 crore on a sequential basis.

The airline had reported a net loss of Rs 729 crore in the first quarter of financial year 2021-22.

However, on a year-on-year basis the net loss widened. The airline had reported a net loss of Rs 112.59 crore during the second quarter of financial year 2020-21.

"We have made excellent progress in our recovery and I expect this trend to continue forward in the coming quarters. With the nationwide vaccination drive growing at an unprecedented pace across geographies, there is a significant jump in travel demand and we are very excited about the demand recovery," said Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director, SpiceJet.

"The settlement with key lessors, the return of the 737 MAX in the current quarter (Q3), transfer of the logistics business and some very significant announcements lined up soon are all positive tailwinds that should have a significant impact on our long term plans," he said.

According to Singh, the return of the 737 MAX comes at a time when passenger traffic is picking up and the government has allowed airlines to operate at full capacity.

"We look forward to inducting additional capacity in the form of our 737 MAX aircraft," Singh said. IANS

RIL activates chatbot to assist investors

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER



Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has re-activated WhatsApp chatbot to assist investors for the second and final call on its partly paid shares.

The smart WhatsApp chatbot to address investor queries on the second and final call has been activated. The AI-enabled easy-to-use chatbot is developed by Jio's group company Haptik and was previously used at the time of rights issue in May 2020, and the first call in May 2021.

Reliance had made a rights issue of 42.26 crore equity shares at Rs 1,257 each. The final call of 50 per cent of the amount ~ Rs 628.50 per share ~ has now become due.

10 November 2021 was the record date to decide holders of the Reliance partly paid-up shares, who need to pay the second and final call.

On payment of the second and final call amount, the partly paid-up shares will transition into fully paid-up shares of Reliance Industries, which are traded under symbol RELIANCE on both NSE and BSE.

The second and final call can be paid through following modes: online ASBA, physical ASBA, 3-in-1 account, R-WAP facility (enabled for Net-banking, UPI, NEFT and RTGS payments) and payments through cheque/demand draft.

The payment can be made from 15 to 29 November (both days inclusive).

The credit of the fully paid-up equity shares on payment of the second and final call is expected to take place within two weeks from the last date for payment mentioned in the final call notice i.e. within 2 weeks from 29 November 2021.

Reliance's rights issue at a total size of Rs 53,125 crore was the largest ever rights issue in India. This was the world's largest rights issue by a non-financial company in the last 10 years. The existing shareholders of Reliance Industries were offered new shares of the company in 1:15 ratio.

NEWSFEED

POWERGRID POSTS PROFIT AFTER TAX (PAT) OF Rs 3,376 CRORE FOR Q2FY22 TOTAL INCOME RISES BY 7% TO Rs 10,515 CR

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power, GoI, has announced unaudited financial results for Q2FY22 ending 30th September 2021.

The company has reported PAT of Rs 3,376.38 crore and Total Income of Rs 10,514.74 crore on consolidated basis registering a YoY growth of 9% and 7% respectively. On standalone basis, the Company has posted PAT and Total Income of Rs 3,338.27 crore and Rs 10,472.00 crore respectively registering a YoY growth of 7% and 6% respectively during Q2FY22.

GM/ER INSPECTED THE PROGRESS OF KNG - NDAE & KNG - NDF BG LINE PROJECT



Shri Arun Arora, General Manager, Eastern Railway inspected a newly constructed Railway bridge over river Bhagirathi on Krishnanagar - Nabadwip Dham new BG line project in presence of Shri Jagannath Sarkar, Hon'ble MP.

On November 09, 2021 Shri Arun Arora inspected the progress of Krishnanagar - Nabadwip Dham & Krishnanagar - Nabadwip Ghat new Broad Gauge line/gauge conversion projects. He also inspected Amghata & Nabadwip Ghat Railway stations on Krishnanagar - Nabadwip Ghat section and inspected a newly constructed Railway bridge over Krishnanagar - Nabadwip Dham new BG line project which is now under progress and directed all concerned to expedite all important projects in a time bound manner to facilitate intending pilgrims & tourists.

PFC & PFCCL OBSERVE VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

2021 Power Finance Corporation (PFC), its subsidiary PFCCL and regional offices observed VigilanceAwareness Week 2021 w.e.f. 26.10.2021 to 01.11.2021 on the theme 'Independent India @75:Self Reliance with Integrity'. Beginning with Integrity Pledge, various awareness activities were carried out during the week. As new initiative, Vigilance Corner is created on the website of PFC and PFCCL for outreach to the general public as well as other stakeholders.

Chairman & CEO, Railway Board visits Western Railway HQ



Shri Suneet Sharma - Chairman & CEO, Railway Board recently visited Western Railway Headquarters at Churchgate, Mumbai. He chaired the review meeting with Shri AlokKansal - General Manager of Western Railway, Principal Head of the Departments and DRM of Mumbai Central Division.

AADHAR HOUSING FINANCE & UCO BANK ENTER INTO CO-LENDING PARTNERSHIP



Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. & UCO Bank have entered into a strategic co-lending agreement to offer Home Loans at competitive interest rates. Speaking on the occasion, Shri. Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO, UCO Bank said, "Home Loan Penetration in India at around 10% is one of the lowest globally. Pandemic induced demographic changes, initiatives taken by Central and State Governments such as PMAY, reduction in GST on affordable Housing and stamp duty cuts etc. are expected to give a fillip to affordable Housing especially in Tier-2 and smaller centres. With Aadhar Housing Finance's network of more than 300 Branches covering 12,000+ locations, UCO Bank, through this strategic partnership, aims at achieving Co-Lending Model's objective of improving flow of Credit to unserved and underserved sectors of economy by providing affordable Home Loans to economically weaker, Low and Middle Income groups."

NTPC IN PACT WITH INDIAN OIL FOR COLLABORATION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY



NTPC Ltd. and Indian Oil signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate in the field of renewable energy and mutually explore opportunities for supply of low carbon/RE RTC captive power. The MoU was signed today at New Delhi in the presence of Shri Gurdeep Singh, CMD-NTPC, Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman Indian Oil and Shri C K Mondol, Director (Commercial), NTPC, Shri SSV Ramkumar Director R&D and P&BD Indian Oil. The signatories of the MoU were Ms. Sangeeta Kaushik, Chief General Manager (BD) NTPC and Shri V K Raizada, Executive Director (M&I) Indian Oil. This is a first-of-its-kind novel initiative by two leading national energy majors of India, to support the country's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets & reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

HON'BLE UNION MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY TO INAUGURATE IITF; A SPOTLIGHT ON THEME: 'AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

This year, India International Trade Fair 2021 will be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India on November 14, 2021 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The 40th edition of IITF, a magnum of India Trade Promotion Organization(ITPO) represents India in totality as an ideal destination for numerous business and investment opportunities. This year, the fair assumes a special significance as it coincides with celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav '- 75 years of India's Independence. The fair is being organised including at the New Exhibition Complex at Pragati Maidan. Bihar is the Partner State, while Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are the Focus States.

METRO RAILWAY KOLKATA NOW ALL COMMUTERS CAN AVAIL REGULAR METRO SERVICES ON WEEKENDS

For the convenience of the Metro Railway commuters, Metro will run 272 daily services (136 UP & 136 DN) instead of 266 services from Monday to Friday from 07:00 hrs. to 22:30 hrs. w.e.f. 15.11. 2021 (Monday) . Metro is going to run 06 additional daily services on weekdays. Out of these 272 services, 173 services (86 UP & 87 DN) will run in between Kavi Subhash and Dakshineshwar instead of 167 services (83 UP & 84 DN). During morning and evening peak hours, Metro will run services at an interval of 5 minutes.

NHPC CELEBRATES 47TH RAISING DAY



Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, Shri S.K.G Rahate, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power and Shri A.K. Singh, CMD, NHPC lighting traditional lamp at 47thRaising Day of NHPC on 7th November 2021 at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad. Also present on the occasion, Smt. Sheila Singh, wife of Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, and Smt. Sudha Singh, President, NHPC ladies welfare association.

BHAKRA BEAS MANGEMENT BOARD

BBMB organized a Blood Donation Camp today i.e. on 09.11.2021 at BBMB Rest House, Sector 35-B, Chandigarh in association with the team from Department of Transfusion Medicine, P.G.I., Chandigarh to commemorate the death anniversary of Ex-Chairman, BBMB Late Maj. Gen. B.N.Kumar and to cater the acute shortage of Blood due to outbreak of COVID-19 and Dengue. The camp was inaugurated by Er. Sanjay Srivastava, Chairman BBMB.

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PFC has been conferred with the highest "Maharatna" Status for a CPSE by Govt. of India

32% increase in Standalone Profit After Tax from Q2'21- PAT at Rs. 2,759 cr. for Q2'22.vs.Rs.2,085 cr. for Q2'21

Interim Dividend of Rs 2.50 per share declared in Q2'22. Thus, so far PFC has given an interim dividend of Rs.4.75 per share i.e.47.5% Healthy CRAR quarter on quarter. CRAR as on 30.09.2021 is 21.76% with Tier I capital of 18.42% and Tier II capital of 3.34% The Net NPA levels have dropped below 2 %. The net NPA ratio as on 30.09.2021 is 1.92%, which is the lowest in last 5 years. 19% increase in consolidated Net worth from H1'21 - Net worth at Rs. 90,311 cr. for H1'22 vs.Rs.75,596 cr. for H1'21 22% increase in consolidated Profit After Tax from H1'21- PAT at Rs. 9,578 cr. for H1'22 vs. Rs.7, 847 cr. in H1'21 18% increase in Net Interest Income from H1'21-Net Interest Income at Rs. 15,069 cr. for H1'22 vs. Rs.12, 782 in H1'21 Reduction in consolidated net NPA ratio from 2.60% in H1'21 to 1.72% in H1'22 due to resolution of stressed assets.

Atomy India eyes larger market share with Korean Absolute Quality Products; plans to set up manufacturing units in India by 2025



On the occasion of the First Anniversary celebrations, Atomy India- Indian arm of Global Direct Selling leader Atomy from South Korea-today announced that the company plans to set up manufacturing units in India by 2025 and will empower the nation by strengthening the vision of Make In India for the world. Dr.SeikhImtiaz Ali (Abraham Lee), Managing Director, Atomy India said, "Since India is known to have ancient secret of Ayurvedic Products and it is recognised worldwide. With Atomy's 'Global Sourcing Global Sales' GSGS market strategy, we plan to export Ayurvedic Indian products to different parts of the world"

Naveen lays foundation for Cancer Hospital

Dedicates 71 transformed schools, distributes SHCs'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SAMBALPUR , 13 NOVEMBER



Chief minister Naveen Patnaik reached out to people of Bargarh district at Bijepur on Saturday with a slew of projects and to distribute the Smart Health Cards.

Prior to his visit , the police resorted to preventive arrest of several BJP leaders while the Congress activists where also picked up and at one place roughed up allegedly by supporters of the BJD.

Apart from launching the distribution of the SHC in Bargarh district , the CM laid foundation stone for the much awaited Cancer Hospital. He said the mega – Gangadhar Meher Lift irrigation project will be commissioned by 2023.

Bargarh district is the rice bowl of the state, it is the land of Maa Laxmi, he said.

The chief minister also laid the foundation stone for different other projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crore.

For beautification of Nrusinghanath Temple under Padmapur sub division, the state government allotted Rs. 40 crore, a rope way for Nrusinghanath and Harishankar is also under proposal to boost tourism, the CM said.

He dedicated 71 transformed smart high schools at Bijepur.

Several Ministers like Naba Das, Susant Singh were present.

BJD draws a line between state and central BJP

Attacks 'state BJP' leadership without ruffling national party leaders

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 13 NOVEMBER:

The reaction of the ruling BJD to the sustained month-long Opposition tirade over the Mamita Meher murder issue has interestingly been one of singling out the 'state BJP' while taking care not to ruffle the central leadership of the saffron party.

The BJD has also alleged that the ' state BJP' has been supporting and financing the Congress to further the Justice for Mamita protests.

BJD national spokesperson and MP Sasmit Patra's statements over the last two days has repeatedly referred to 'state BJP' and its alleged tie-up with the Congress drawing almost as though the BJP at the central level is different from the state unit.

Till date, the unwritten and unstated of the BJD has been to attack the state unit of the BJP without uttering anything against the central leadership.

The word in the BJD circles has been that they are allowed to criticize the state BJP unit and perhaps even the central government , but not any central BJP leader or the central BJP leadership. BJD national spokespersons were instructed accordingly and at times even asked to stay away from TV debates on certain contentious national issues.

The fact that many of the high profile BJP leaders who are active on Twitter like national vice president Baijayant Panda, national spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi, MP have stayed away from the agitation. Leaders like Suresh Pujari, Pratap Sarangi, Juel Oram (all MPs) have also not taken part in any of the street protests, dharna's or bandh on the Mamita murder issue has, in a way, helped the BJD is drawing a distinction between the 'state' and 'national' BJP.

Significantly, the BJD has also charged that the state BJP and the Congress have an understanding and since the Congress is cash-starved, the state BJP is extending help to carry on with the agitation on the Mamita Meher murder issue.

The Congress was quick to hit back saying every parliamentarian knows for sure how the BJD is closer to the BJP than any of the existing NDA partners. The BJD never utters a whisper of protest against any bill or anti-people issue in parliament .

People of Odisha are aware of it. The BJD gifted a Rajya Sabha seat to the BJP and Ashwini Vaishnaw was elected on a BJP ticket to become the railway minister. This was after just one phone call from PM Narendra Modi to CM Naveen Patnaik, charged the Congress.

Congress joining hand with the BJP is laughable, said Congress spokesperson Ganeswar Behera while adding that the BJD is making such wild baseless allegations to try and shrug off the deeply entrenched perception among people that the BJD is an ally of the BJP.

He went on to note that there are reports that a few months ago when a BJD delegation met Union Minister Amit Shah, one of the BJD MP's had pleaded saying we are doing all that you say but your state unit is abusing our CM every day.

Forest officials seize Ganges stingray

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KENDRAPARA, 13 NOVEMBER:

Forest officials seized two endangered Ganges stingray (Himantura fluviatilis) from the fishing market at Garjanapur within the Bhitarkanika National Park of Kendrapara district on Saturday and arrested two fishermen on the charges of poaching the marine species .

Two fishermen on the charges of poaching the marine species

Ganges stingray is a species of Stingray having its width maximum anterior to eyes; snout acutely pointed and is classified as endangered.

Mamita murder: Police aware of 'sexual exploitation' in hostel but is not probing it: Bijoy Mahapatra

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 13 NOVEMBER:

Senior politician and former minister Bijoy Mahapatra picked holes in the ongoing police investigation to the sensational Mamita Meher murder case by noting that the case diary speaks of sexual exploitation of girls and women staff at the hostel and this angle has not been probed as yet.

Quoting the police report to media persons here, Mahapatra said as per police report Mamita was staying in the hostel and was aware of the happenings which she threatened to expose. It was due to this threat that the main accused Govinda Sahu murdered her.

The point is that the police is aware of the sexual exploitation , it mentions about staff and students being exploited , but it has not tried to find out who all were involved in it, said Mahapatra.

" Mamita paid with her life for threatening the expose , we demand that the police investigate and expose those who were visiting the hostel and were being entertained by Sahu" said Mahapatra.

Mahapatra pointed out that the FIR was not sent to the court immediately as is mandated by law , instead, it was sent after three days.

(The DIG Deepak Kumar promptly held a press conference to deny the charge of delay in submission of FIR to the court saying it was dispatched on 13 October but due to public holidays the court got it on 16 October.

Importantly, the DIG did not comment on the major point of 'sexual exploitation 'of students and women staff as mentioned in the report. The DIG asserted that investigations are going on in the most scientific and professional manner.)

Congress leader Bhakta Charan Das today iterated the demand for an HC monitored SIT probe into the case.

Das said the police needs to obtain the telephone call records of Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra, his driver and two other close associates as well as that of arrested accused Govinda Sahu and deceased Mamita Meher.

The Congress leader said the tour diary/records of the Minister from 18 September to 25 September needs to be made public as the charge is that it was during this period that he had tried to effect a compromise at Raipur.

Das questioned Minister Mishra's silence for almost 15 days when the entire state was outraged over the murder that had occurred in his home constituency.

The ruling BJD was quick to counter Das by showing photographs of the Congress leader with the accused Govinda Sahu and his visits to the college on several occasions.

It is well known that Das was close to Sahu and the son of the Congress leader was a member of the trust board of the college, said BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra on Saturday.

Bhakta Das admitted that he had visited the institution and even provided funds from the MPLAD .

Marginal dip in Covid-19 cases in Odisha

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 13 NOVEMBER:

The COVID-19 cases in Odisha decreased marginally by six percent in the last 24 hours as 247 fresh infections were detected from 20 districts.

Two fresh fatalities took the death toll to 8,375 while the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) at 0.40 percent continued to remain below 1 percent for almost a month. Odisha registered more COVID-19 recoveries than new cases as 339 people recuperated from the disease as against 247 fresh cases. This is for the 10th successive day that the state's recoveries have surpassed the daily tally. Of the new cases, 37 were children. Khordha district which includes state capital Bhubaneswar reported the highest number of daily cases at 115.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001
O.A. No.571/2019
Central Bank of India ..... Applicant
Versus
Rajesh Kumar & Anr. ..... Defendants

To,
1. **Rajesh Kumar S/o. Sh. Bali Ram**
R/o. H. No. 244/63, School Block, Mandawali, Delhi-110092.
Also at: Rajesh Kumar S/o. Sh. Bali Ram, Flat No.E-665, 3rd Floor, Gali No.9, Meera Niwas, West Vinod Nagar, New Delhi-110092.
Also at: Rajesh Kumar Trading Manager Operations
M/s. Adroit Financial Services Pilot 401-402, 4th Floor, Angel Mega Mall, Plot No.C K-1, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad-201010.
Also at: Sh. Rajesh Kumar S/o. Sh. Bali Ram, Vill. Jabbar P.O. Menhadwali, Distt.- Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-270001
Also at: Sh. Rajesh Kumar S/o. Sh. Bali Ram, 2nd Floor, House No.245;30 Mandawali School, Delhi-110092.
2. **M/s. Amrapali Centurian Park Pvt. Ltd.**
Registered Office At:
307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Tower, Plot No.15, Community Center Karkardooma, Delhi-110092.
Corporate Office Also At:
C-56/40, Sector-62, Noida (Uttar Pradesh)

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs.35,40,709/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Nine Only)** against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before **Ld. Registrar on 17.11.2021 at 10:30 A.M.** (for further details kindly visit DRT website: **www.etribunal.gov.in** Phone Number 011-23748473).
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the **"Cisco Webex"** Application / Software.
(ii) **"Meeting ID" and "Password"** for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar / Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. **"drt.gov.in"** under the Public Notice Head.
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates / Litigants can contact the concerned official at **Ph. No.011-23748473.**
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **15th September of 2021.**
Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for further enquiry.
Mr. Amit K. Dar, Ld. Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi. Phone No.: **011-23748473,**
E-mail : drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in
SEAL OF COURT
By Order of this Tribunal,
For Assistant Registrar

Unseasonal rain worry for Odisha farmers

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 13 NOVEMBER:



Farmers across the state are encountering the grim prospect of kharif crop loss with unseasonal rain in winter months posing an imminent threat to the annual yield.

Heavy rain continues to lash several parts of the state. The IMD said a fresh low pressure is likely to form over south Andaman sea and its neighbourhood by Saturday and is likely to move west-north-westwards and become more marked during the subsequent 48 hours. Heavy rain is likely to drench the State, which does not augur well for the kharif growers.

It has been a mixture of opposites on farmers. The state had recorded the highest monsoon rainfall deficit in over two decades in the current year with a deficiency of 29 percent than the average rainfall in September.

The transplantation of seedlings has been affected due to erratic monsoon rain. However things had improved to a certain degree as periodic low pressure induced rain lashed in September and October, saving the crop loss.

The unseasonal burst of rain in November has begun to pose a fresh threat of massive crop loss. The harvesting of the kharif crop has already begun in western parts of the state while the standing crop is ready for harvest in the remaining regions.

Thus rainfall at a time when harvesting season has begun may have its adverse consequence on the annual yield, said agriculture department officials.

Meanwhile the IMD authorities said light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur in 10 districts of Odisha on Saturday. The Ganjam, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Boudh, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Puri, Khurda (including Bhubaneswar), Cuttack (including Cuttack city), and Keonjhar will be drenched by unseasonal rain as per the weather bulletin.

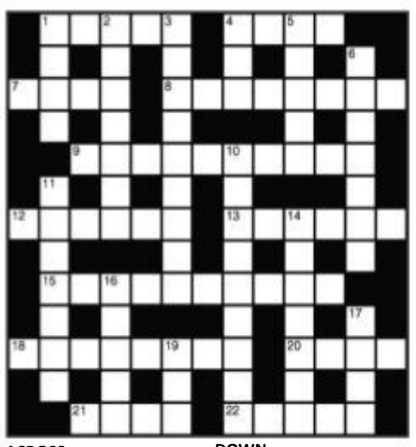
The forecast has made farmers, who have already suffered crop loss due to rain deficit in August-September, a worried lot.

The agriculture department has asked the peasants in western districts to shift their harvested paddy to safer places. As the downpour will lead to the water-logging in crop fields, the authorities have also asked the farmers to do the needful for clearing the water-logging.

The unseasonal rain may also lead to the outbreak of pest attack on standing crops and vegetable plants. Once the dry weather prevails, farmers must take measures to arrest the pest attack. The infestation of the brown plant hopper (BPH) pest usually occurs after unseasonal rain, said officials. The district agriculture offices in the 30 districts will take stock of the situation at the ground level after dry weather prevails, said a senior official of the agriculture and farmers' empowerment department.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Initial (5)
4 Opening (4)
7 Sword handle (4)
8 Journalist (8)
9 Tactless (10)
12 Musical piece (6)
13 Male relative (6)
15 Eavesdropped (8,2)
18 Famous volcano (8)
20 Reference line (4)
21 Barrel (4)
22 Exhausted (5)

DOWN
1 Just (4)
2 Circular building (7)
3 Put an end to (9)
4 Joint (3)
5 Big (5)
6 Refined (7)
10 Widespread agreement (9)
11 Large rock (7)
14 Ordinary soldier (7)
16 Steam bath (5)
17 Elevator (4)
19 Irritate (3)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Toque, 4 Apse (Toecaps), 8 Plaid, 9 Antique, 10 Allowed, 11 Crowd, 12 Lead crystal, 16 Aries, 18 Speak to, 20 Eyesore, 21 Nudge, 22 Step, 23 Messy.

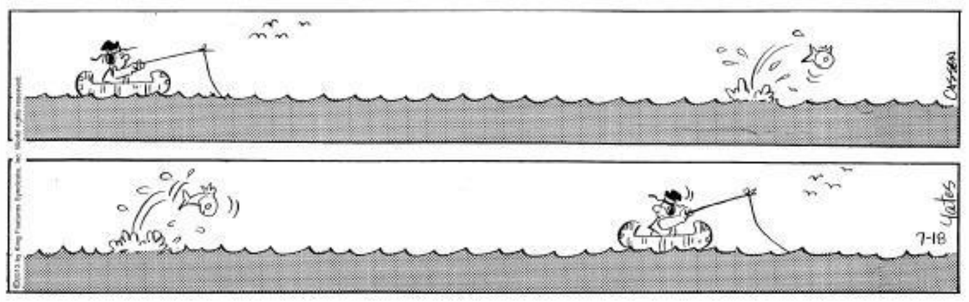
DOWN
1 Top hat, 2 Quail, 3 Endowed, 4 Attic, 5 Sequoia, 6 Hard-pressed, 7 Send, 13 Evident, 14 Sternum, 15 Comedy, 16 Amen, 17 Stoop, 19 Kudos.

By arrangement with The Independent
Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski



NEED TO KNOW

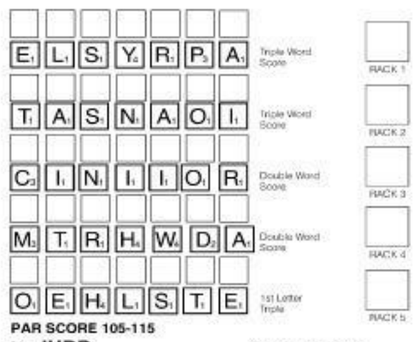
HOSPITALS
- AIIMS 26588500, 26588900
- Moolchand Medcity (formerly Hospital) 42000000 & 24-hour Chemist Shop 42000447
- Vidyasagar Institute for Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences 26924300, 26924304
- Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre 29051280, 29958747
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay 25496320, 25494403
- Guru Tegh Bahadur 22586262, 22585007

RAILWAY INQUIRY
General Inquiry 139
- Toll Free Nos. 1800112511
- SMS Inquiry Nos. 57886, 54959, 5676747

ROADWAYS INQUIRY
- ISBT (General Inquiry): 23868836, 23865181
- Haryana Roadways 23861262
- Himachal Roadways 23717473, 23325320
- Punjab Roadways 23867842, 23860626
- Rajasthan Roadways 23864470
- U.P. Roadways 23868709

FLIGHT INQUIRY
- AIR INDIA Flight Inquiry and Reservation 18001801407
- INDIGO AIRLINES New Delhi City Office 43513185, Call Centre 09910383838, 18001803838, Reservation 43513186; Indigo Airlines Airport 011-25671580; Terminal I-B 25671576, Palam Road 25671579, 18001803838
- JET AIRWAYS Flight Inquiry and Reservation 39841111
- EMIRATES Flight Inquiry and Reservation 33773377
- Air Canada Flight Inquiry 25656421/25656431 Reservation 41528181
- Air France Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23466262 (City) 25652294 (Airport)
- Kuwait Airways Flight Inquiry and Reservation 23354373

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS



PAR SCORE 105-115
by JUDD
FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION BY JUDD
P R O C E D S RACK 1 = 68
G R A N T E E RACK 2 = 74
D I V O R C E RACK 3 = 83
P O C K E T S RACK 4 = 67
PAR SCORE 180-190 JUDD'S TOTAL 272

Directions Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary(Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words(Chambers). Judd's solution tomorrow.
10-25-12

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SUDOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/26

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answer to previous puzzle

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.



The booster vaccinations are a real chance to break the severe fall and winter wave of the pandemic...

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL
CALLING ON ALL TO GET SHOTS TO AVOID A BAD VIRUS WINTER

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)	
SINGAPORE	30	26	H
HONG KONG	25	22	S
TOKYO	17	08	S
LONDON	13	08	R
DUBAI	31	21	S
SAN FRANCISCO	20	11	H
NEW YORK	11	06	H
MOSCOW	02	-02	R

S= sunny, CL= clear, H=hazy, R= rainy...

THUMBNAILS



A singer performs during a celebration event of the 75th anniversary of the UNESCO in Paris, France. ■ IANS

Man travelling to space killed: A man who travelled to space with William Shatner last month was killed along with another person when the small plane they were in crashed in a wooded area of northern New Jersey, according to state police. The one-time space tourist Glen M. de Vries, 49, of New York City, and Thomas P. Fischer, 54, of Hopatcong, were aboard the single-engine Cessna 172 that went down Thursday. AP

4 arrested for breaking into college: Four people in Pakistan broke into Islamabad Model College on Friday, assaulted students and harassed teachers in the institution. After the incident, the principle Dr Faiz filed a complaint at the Shalimar police station. Theye were immediately arrested and presented before the court. AP

Judge dissolves Spears' conservatorship

Britney Spears is free, a Los Angeles judge ended the conservatorship that has controlled the pop singer's life and money for nearly 14 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LOS ANGELES, 13 NOVEMBER

Britney Spears is free. A Los Angeles judge on Friday ended the conservatorship that has controlled the pop singer's life and money for nearly 14 years.

The decision capped a stunning odyssey that saw Spears publicly demand the end of the conservatorship, hire her own attorney, have her father removed from power and finally win the freedom to make her own medical, financial and personal decisions for the first time since 2008.

"As of today, the conservatorship of the person and estate of Britney Jean Spears is hereby terminated," Judge Brenda Penny said.

Jubilation erupted outside the courthouse, with fans cheering and shouting after the decision was announced. The crowd chanted "Britney! Britney! Britney!" and fans sang and danced to Spears' song "Stronger."

Spears promptly tweeted about the decision: "Good God I love my fans so much it's crazy!!! I think I'm gonna cry the rest of the day!!!! Best day ever…praise the Lord…can I get an Amen???"

Spears' attorney, Mathew Rosengart, told fans and reporters that the case "helped shine a light on conservatorships and guardianships from coast to coast, from California to New York. And that took a tremendous amount of insight, courage and grace."

The judge's move was widely expected, with little support left for prolonging the legal arrangement. No new arguments were offered at the 30-minute hearing. Spears did not attend.

As recently as last spring, it appeared that the conservatorship could continue for years. Then it unraveled with surprising speed.



Britney Spears supporters march outside a hearing concerning the pop singer's conservatorship at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. ■ AP

Key to the unraveling was a speech Spears made at a hearing in June when she passionately described the restrictions and scrutiny as "abusive" and said "I just want my life back," a line her lawyer repeated in court Friday. Spears demanded that the conservatorship end without any prying evaluation of her mental state.

Legal experts at the time said that was unlikely to happen, and would represent a departure from common court practice. But the judge said at Wednesday's hearing that California law did not require her to order further evaluation of Spears if no one requested it.

The judge allowed Spears to hire Rosengart, an attorney of her choice, in July. He made it his goal first to have James Spears removed from his role as conservator of his daughter's finances before working to end the conservatorship altogether. The judge suspended James Spears at a September hearing, citing the "toxic environment" his presence created. But more courtroom battles could lie ahead.

Rosengart has further vowed to pursue an investigation of James Spears' role. He said he and his team have found mismanagement of Britney Spears' finances, suggesting she could pursue further legal action. Court records put her net worth at about $60 million.

James Spears has parted ways with the attorneys who helped him operate it, and he has hired Alex Weingarten, a lawyer specializing in the kind of litigation that may be coming. In court filings last week, Britney Spears' former business managers, Tri Star Sports and Entertainment Group, pushed back against Rosengart's demands for documents about the firm's involvement in the conservatorship from 2008 to 2018. The group also denied any role in or knowledge of any surveillance of the superstar.

Jodi Montgomery, the court-appointed conservator who oversaw the singer's life and medical decisions starting in 2019, developed a care plan with her therapists and doctors to guide Spears through the end of the conservatorship and its aftermath.

The judge kept a small part of the conservatorship temporarily in place to allow the accountant who took over for James Spears to put the singer's affairs in order in the coming months before transferring power back to her.

Britney Spears was a 26-year-old new mother at the height of her career when her father established the conservatorship, at first on a temporary basis, in February 2008 after a series of public mental health struggles. It ends a few weeks before her 40th birthday, with her sons in their mid-teens and her career on indefinite hold, as she is engaged to be married a second time. A turning point came early in 2019, when she canceled a planned concert residency in Las Vegas.

Convinced she was put in a mental hospital against her will, fans began coalescing and demanding that the court #FreeBritney.

At first, they were dismissed as conspiracy theorists, but the singer herself gave them validation in 2020 in a series of court filings that said they were correct to demand greater transparency and scrutiny of her legal situation. Those filings proved to be the first indication from Spears, who had remained silent on the conservatorship for years, that she would seek major changes.

Bannon indicted on contempt charges for defying 1/6 subpoena

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 13 NOVEMBER



Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of former President Donald Trump, has been indicted on two counts of criminal contempt of Congress after he defied a subpoena from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

On Friday, the Justice Department said Bannon, 67, was indicted on one count for refusing to appear for a deposition last month and the other for refusing to provide documents in response to the committee's subpoena. He is expected to surrender to authorities on Monday and will appear in court that afternoon, a law enforcement official told the AP. The person was granted anonymity to discuss the case.

The indictment comes after a parade of Trump administration officials-including Bannon- have defied requests and demands from Congress over the past five years with little consequence, including during Democrats' impeachment inquiry. President Barack Obama's administration also declined to charge two of its officials who defied congressional demands.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said Bannon's indictment reflects the Justice Department's "steadfast commitment" to the rule of law. Each count carries a minimum of 30 days of jail and as long as a year behind bars.

The indictment came as a second expected witness, former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, defied his own subpoena from the committee on Friday and as Trump has escalated his legal battles to withhold documents and testimony about the insurrection.

If the House votes to hold Meadows in contempt, that recommendation would also be sent to the Justice Department for a possible indictment.

Officials in both Democratic and Republican administrations have been held in contempt by Congress, but criminal indictments for contempt are exceedingly rare. The most recent notable examples of criminal penalties for not testifying before Congress date to the 1970s, including when President Richard Nixon's aide G. Gordon Liddy was convicted of misdemeanor charges for refusing to answer questions about his role in the Watergate scandal.

Democrats who voted to hold Bannon in contempt praised the Justice Department's decision, saying the charges reinforce the authority of Congress to investigate the executive branch and signal potential consequences for those who refuse to cooperate. "The days of defying subpoenas with impunity are over," tweeted House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, who sits on the Jan. 6 panel and also led Trump's first impeachment inquiry.

With Dems' prized bill at stake, a numbers game looms ahead

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 13 NOVEMBER

Like Hercules and his 12 labors, Democrats' $1.85 trillion package of social and climate initiatives seems afflicted by a maddening parade of hurdles. Looming ahead is the Congressional Budget Office, which could cause problems that would be messy but probably surmountable.

The office, created in 1974 as Congress' nonpartisan fiscal scorekeeper, is working on a 10-year cost estimate of the bill and its component spending and tax proposals. The key question politically is how close the measure comes to paying for itself with savings, like President Joe Biden and top Democrats claim it does.

After months of backbiting and bargaining among Democrats, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer are confronting the same stubborn problem. Facing unbroken Republican opposition, Democrats can lose no votes in the Senate and just three in the House to pass their mammoth bill.

That gives Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and his moderate House counterparts significant leverage. Among other things, the centrists want the measure's savings-chiefly tax increases on wealthy people, big corporations and companies doing business abroad-to fully pay for its family services, health care and environment programs. Five moderates blocked the House from voting on it last week. They demanded to first see CBO's official estimate



of the bill, mainly to see if the agency thinks it would worsen already huge federal deficits. Many centrists are from districts where accusing Democrats of aggravating budget shortfalls is easy fodder for GOP campaign attacks.

In a compromise with progressives, the centrists said they'd vote for the bill if CBO figures are "consistent" with preliminary White House estimates asserting that the measure paid for itself. They promised to try resolving "discrepancies" if CBO's numbers were worse. Pelosi, D-Calif., hopes to finally push the measure through her chamber next week. The Senate is certain to change the bill and its work will take longer.

The budget office has released estimates on pieces of the 2,100-page legislation. It has promised overall figures "as soon as practicable, but the exact timing is uncertain."

That means a complete score on the bill may not be ready next week. If that's the case, would House moderates accept partial CBO numbers or cost estimates from another source? Demand fresh assurances from Biden and Pelosi? Insist on changing the bill, or delaying it again?

That's unclear. Concerns about worsening inflation may only intensify moderates' qualms. In a reassuring report for Democrats, Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation, which works with CBO and produces nonpartisan estimates about tax legislation, said last week the measure would raise $1.5 trillion in new revenue over the next decade. That alone would cover most of the legislation's cost.

Unlike the White House's early estimate, CBO's score may show the bill isn't fully paid for. It follows stricter rules for making calculations than the White House, which- no matter which party holds the presidency-almost always produces rosier numbers than CBO. For example, the White House estimated that by increasing IRS tax enforcement, mostly aimed at the highest earners, by $80 billion over 10 years, the bill would raise $480 billion in additional revenue.

BREAKING DAWN



The sun rises through the thick fog that covers the city of Frankfurt, Germany. ■ AP

US court declines to lift stay on vaccine mandate

WASHINGTON, 13 NOVEMBER

A federal court declined Friday to lift its stay on the Biden administration's vaccine mandate for businesses with 100 or more workers.

The New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted an emergency stay last Saturday of the requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration that those workers be vaccinated by Jan. 4 or face mask requirements and weekly tests. Lawyers for the Justice and Labor departments filed a response Monday in which they said stopping the mandate from taking effect will only prolong the COVID-19 pandemic and would "cost dozens or even hundreds of lives per day."

But the appeals court rejected that argument Friday. Judge Kurt D. Engelhardt wrote that the stay "is firmly in the public interest."

"From economic uncertainty to workplace strife, the mere specter of the Mandate has contributed to untold economic upheaval in recent months," Engelhardt wrote.

At least 27 states have filed legal challenges in at least six federal appeals courts after OSHA released its rules on Nov. 4. The federal government said in its court filings Monday that the cases should be consolidated and that one of the circuit courts where a legal challenge has been filed should be chosen at random on Nov. 16 to hear it.

Polish police find body of young Syrian near Belarus border

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WARSAW, 13 NOVEMBER



Belarusian servicemen control the situation while migrants get humanitarian aid as they gather at the Belarus-Poland border near Grodno, Belarus. ■ AP

Polish police said Saturday that the body of a young Syrian man was found in the woods near the border with Belarus, the latest victim in a political standoff at the European Union's eastern border.

The regime in Minsk has for months been encouraging illegal migration across its border into the EU nations of Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. All three countries are reinforcing their frontiers, seeking to block the newly opened migration route, and the situation is growing more dangerous as winter approaches. Police said the body was found a day earlier near the village of Wólka Terechowska. They said the exact cause of death could not be determined.

It brings the death toll now to at least nine reported victims in the migration encouraged by Belarus' longtime President Alexander Lukashenko.

Many of the migrants are from Syria, Iraq, or elsewhere in the Middle East, people seeking to flee conflict and hopelessness for the prospect of better lives in Europe.

A large number are in a makeshift camp on the Belarusian side of the border in frigid conditions. Polish authorities report daily new attempts by the migrants to breach the border.

The situation showed no signs of ending soon. Belarusian state news agency Belta reported that Lukashenko on Saturday ordered the military to set up tents at the border where food and other humanitarian aid can be gathered and distributed to the migrants.

Poland's Border Guards agency on Saturday morning said in one case, Belarusian soldiers began destroying a temporary border barrier near the Polish village of Czeremcha and used laser beams to blind Polish security services.

Nearby, a group of some 100 migrants was waiting to cross the border. "Belarusians equipped the foreigners with tear gas, which was used toward the Polish services," the Border Guards said, saying the Poles stopped the attempts to cross.

Many of the reported incidents at the border are very hard to verify. Independent journalists face limits to their reporting in Belarus, and a state of emergency in Poland's border zone prevents media from entering the area.

Alzheimer's drug cited as US Medicare premium jumps

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 13 NOVEMBER

Medicare's "Part B" outpatient premium will jump by $21.60 a month in 2022, one of the largest increases ever. Officials said Friday a new Alzheimer's drug is responsible for about half of that.

The increase guarantees that health care will gobble up a big chunk of the recently announced Social Security cost-of-living allowance, a boost that had worked out to $92 a month for the average retired worker, intended to help cover rising prices for gas and food that are pinching seniors. Medicare officials told reporters on Friday that about half the increase is due to contingency planning if the program ultimately has to cover Aduhelm, the new $56,000-a-year medication for Alzheimer's disease from pharmaceutical company Biogen. The medication would add to the cost of outpatient coverage because it's administered intravenously in a doctor's office and paid for under Part B.

The issue is turning into a case study of how one pricey medication for a condition afflicting millions of people can swing the needle on government spending and impact household budgets. People who don't have Alzheimer's would not be shielded from the cost of Aduhelm, since it's big enough to affect their premiums.

The new Part B premium will be $170.10 a month for 2022, officials said. The jump of $21.60 is the biggest increase ever in dollar terms, although not percentage-wise. As recently as August, the Medicare Trustees' report had projected a smaller increase of $10 from the current $148.50.

"The increase in the Part B premium for 2022 is continued evidence that rising drug costs threaten the affordability and sustainability of the Medicare program," said Medicare chief Chiquita Brooks-LaSure in a statement. Officials said the other half of the premium increase is due to the natural growth of the program and adjustments made by Congress last year as the coronavirus pandemic hit. The late Friday afternoon announcement-in a time slot government agencies use to drop bad news-comes as Congress is considering Democratic legislation backed by President Joe Biden that would restrain what Medicare pays for drugs. However, under the latest compromise, Medicare would not be able to negotiate prices for newly launched drugs. The news on Medicare premiums could reopen that debate internally among Democrats.

"Today's announcement ... confirms the need for Congress to finally give Medicare the ability to negotiate lower prescription drug costs," Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., said in a statement. "We simply cannot wait any longer to provide real relief to seniors." Pallone has been a proponent of the original House version of the legislation, which took a tougher approach toward the pharmaceutical industry.

Communities consider 'managed retreat' from climate change

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ST. HELENA ISLAND, S.C., 13 NOVEMBER

Ricky Wright points to the bank of a creek to show one way his hometown has been affected by climate change. Many banks have eroded or collapsed, and now some favorite fishing spots that were once on solid ground are reachable only by boat.

Wright is part of the Gullah Geechee, a group of Black Americans who descended from slaves and live off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The community that has endured for centuries is now imperiled by a combination of rising seas devouring their land, higher temperatures changing how they farm and fish, and destructive storms threatening their way of life.

"I would say (it's) depressing to lose places like that, especially if you grew up there," said the 65-year-old fisherman, who noted other changes, like the great white shark migrating to waters off St. Helena Island. "It's scary."

The risks to the Gullah Geechee and other communities have intensified enough to raise a startling question: Should some populated places simply be abandoned to nature? One strategy gaining traction is so-called managed retreat, which is the planned relocation of vulnerable people. "This is a huge issue. By my reckoning, there will be 30 million people who are displaced by midcentury, and there will be mass migrations in the United States," said Stephen F. Eisenman, director of strategy for the Anthropocene Alliance, a climate and environmental justice group. The biggest question is whether the retreats are planned and methodical or unplanned and chaotic.



Water laps the bottom level of four homes in Harbor Island, S.C. (AP FILE PHOTO)

The issue also raises concerns about economic fairness in this landscape that is home to Hilton Head Island, a popular destination for well-heeled tourists visiting its many resorts.

While the Gullah Geechee are told to think about moving, the hotels stay open and industry gets new permits, said Harriet Festing, co-founder of the alliance. "So there's a lot of distrust of government intention and the messages that are coming to them."

Forms of managed retreat have existed in the U.S. since at least 1989, when the Federal Emergency Management Agency began buying properties in flood-prone areas. Parts of Louisiana, Wisconsin and Illinois have used planned relocation to try to save communities from flooding and rising seas.

With help from government buyouts, some communities simply move to nearby areas that are less prone to disaster. Others migrate to different parts of the country or different countries altogether.

But buyouts aren't the only component. Other strategies include restoring habitats, replacing concrete-laden areas with green space and using zoning laws to limit development in troubled places.

Parts of Florida, California and New York could someday need to use the same strategy. "Imagine New York City over the next hundred years shifting its density north. It could happen," said A.R. Siders, an assistant professor at the University of Delaware's Disaster Research Center.

One reason why the idea is met with resistance is because of its name. "Managed retreat" is too technical for some and too defeatist for others. Proponents are starting to adopt other language, including planned relocation and climate migration.

But regardless of what it's called, more and more communities have considered some version of the idea, especially, Siders said, in the aftermath of major disasters such as Hurricane Sandy.

The concept "pushes us to do better adaptation," she said.



...tour is a sign of support for Taipei at a time of rising geographic tensions...

HONDURAS PRESIDENT JUAN ORLANDO HERNANDEZ

SAYS HONDURAS WANTS TO STAND BY TAIWAN, WHICH IS FACING A GROWING MILITARY THREAT FROM CHINA

Biden-Xi to hold virtual summit

As the two sides look to dial back tensions after a rough start to the U.S.-China relationship since Biden took office

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, 13 NOVEMBER

President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping will hold their much-anticipated virtual summit on Monday evening as the two sides look to dial back tensions after a rough start to the U.S.-China relationship since Biden took office earlier this year.

The White House is setting low expectations for the video call between the leaders. Biden looks to stress that the two nations need to set guardrails in deepening areas of conflict in the increasingly complicated relationship between the two nations.

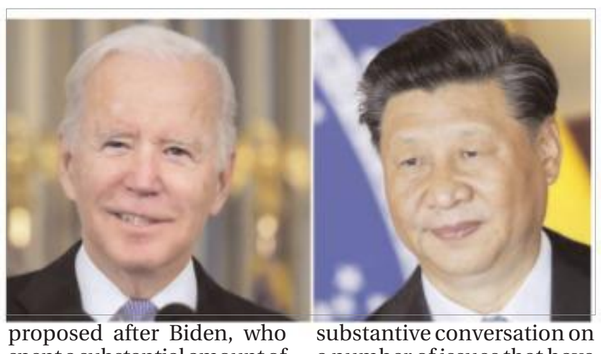
White House officials said that no major announcements are expected to come from the meeting.

"I wouldn't set the expectation ... that this is intended to have major deliverables or outcomes," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki, who added that the two leaders would discuss how to manage the countries' competition and cooperate in areas where interests align.

The meeting will be the third engagement between the two leaders since February. It comes after the U.S. and China this week pledged at U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland to increase their cooperation and speed up action to rein in climate-damaging emissions.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan and senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi came to an agreement on holding the Biden-Xi virtual summit by year's end when they met last month for talks in Zurich but the two sides had not settled on a date.

The virtual meeting was



proposed after Biden, who spent a substantial amount of time with Xi when the two were vice presidents, mentioned during a September phone call with the Chinese leader that he would like to be able to see Xi again, according to the White House.

Xi has not left China during the coronavirus pandemic. White House officials proposed a virtual summit as the best available substitute for the two leaders to have a substantive conversation on a number of issues that have put strains on the U.S.-China relationship.

"We hope the U.S. will work together with China to jointly strive to make the leaders' summit a success and bring China-U.S. ties back to the right track of sound and stable development," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Friday.

There has been no shortage of tension in the relationship in recent months as Biden has made clear he sees Beijing's actions on a number of fronts as concerning.

The president has criticized China for human rights abuses against ethnic minorities in northwest China, squelching pro-democracy efforts in Hong Kong, and resisting global pressure to cooperate fully with investigations into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic.

Tensions have also been exacerbated recently by the Chinese military's flying dozens of sorties near the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory.

The White House suggested that Biden would raise his concerns on many of those issues during Monday's meeting. "There will be a broad range of topics that will be discussed and the President is certainly not going to hold back on areas where he is concerned," Psaki said.

Biden, at the Group of 20 meeting in Rome and again at the U.N. climate gathering, criticized Xi for failing to show up to the summits, where world leaders discussed the way forward on the pandemic and steps to ease the impact of climate change.

"I think it's been a big mistake, quite frankly, for China ... not showing up," Biden said in Glasgow. "The rest of the world is going to look to China and say, what value added have they provided?"

Both leaders took part in Friday's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) virtual meeting, where leaders discussed efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic and support the global economic recovery.

Taliban establish military tribunal to enforce Sharia law in Afghanistan

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
KABUL, 13 NOVEMBER

The Taliban have announced to establish a military tribunal on the commands of their supreme leader Hebatullah Akhundzada to enforce Islamic law in Afghanistan, reported *The Express Tribune*.

The formation of the tribunal has been done for the enforcement of "sharia system, divine decrees, and social reform,", the newspaper reported citing the Taliban's deputy spokesperson, Enamullah Samangani's statement.

The statement further said that Obaidullah Nezami has been appointed as the tribunal's chairman along with Seyed Aghaz and Zahed Akhundzadeh as the deputies.

The military tribunal is authorised to interpret the Sharia rulings, issue decrees that are relevant to the Islamic civil laws and register complaints, lawsuits and petitions against the Taliban officials and personnel of the police, army and intelligence units, reported The Tribune citing Samangani.

Meanwhile, amid the rise in terror attacks in Afghanistan, questions are been raised over the Taliban's ability and willingness to protect the civilians especially the minorities of the country, said a media report.

Di Valerio Fabbri, writing in Geopolitica.info, said the Taliban is now facing its biggest test of managing the country's governance as it struggles with the tag of being a 'rogue state', outcast by the international community.

"Moreover, the mounting terrorist attacks by the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP) have raised questions over the Taliban's ability and willingness to protect religious minorities and Afghan civilians. Unless the Taliban steps up to tackle these challenges, Afghanistan is undoubtedly destined to descend into civil war," Fabbri said.

According to Fabbri, the Taliban's governance tests are too many. But it looks like the regime doesn't realise the enormity of the challenges as it pursues the single-line agenda of international recognition.

"Taliban has pressed the Western financial institutions to release Afghan Central Bank's money. Probably by now, the group would have realised that capturing a country through force and violence is easier than governing it, Fabbri added.

Taliban ban arbitrary military operations, courts

KABUL, 13 NOVEMBER

The Taliban's Purification Commission has ordered a ban on arbitrary military operations and courts, sending a stern warning to the violators.

Members of the Commission on Friday gathered at the previous Afghan parliament emphasised good behaviour of the Taliban fighters as vital and added that tens of those who ill-treated people were either punished or dissolved, reported *Khaama* Press.

Stating that no one is allowed to abuse or beat the former security personnel, the commission said that culprits will be brought to justice.

People as impersonating as the Taliban affiliates and annoying citizens will be identified and punished, according to the commission.

It has also banned arbitrary courts countrywide. The Taliban affiliates have been ordered to take action against those who violate the ban. ANI

Pollution wrecks havoc in Lahore as air quality degrades



ISLAMABAD, 13 NOVEMBER

The people of Pakistan's Lahore on Saturday woke up sniffing and coughing due to air pollution, choking the city with smog.

The Air Quality Index of the city was recorded as a hazardous 346. On Thursday, Lahore was also declared as the most polluted city in the world, Samaa TV reported citing the Air Quality Index.

According to experts, smog is caused by air pollution that can not only cause accidents but is also harmful to health. Rain can only recede the smog.

Meanwhile, the deputy commissioner of Lahore has also formed an 'Anti-smog Task Force' to cope up with the matter, the team will comprise heads of the environmental department, Water and Sanitation Agency, Metropolitan Corporation Lahore, industries, and police, Samaa Tv reported.

"Two special teams have been formed to monitor cars emitting smoke in the city," Lahore DC Muhammad Usman said adding that the government has decided to visit all brick kilns and factories in the city using boilers and surfaces.

On Friday, the Lahore High Court also ruled that no measures have been taken in city by the authorities to curb smog.

The court also slammed bureaucrats in Pakistan and said that they are just seating in their offices sending reports from there, Samaa Tv reported. ANI

Major Opp alliance holds rally against Imran govt in Karachi

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
ISLAMABAD, 13 NOVEMBER

The alliance of major opposition parties, the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) on Saturday is holding a rally at Karachi's busy Regal Chowk to protest the rising inflation under Imran Khan government.

PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman *(in photo)* and Pakistan leader of the opposition in the national assembly, Shehbaz Sharif are also likely to address the rally, *Samaa* TV reported.

Hundreds of workers from the PDM parties, especially Fazlur Rehman's Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party, have gathered in the rally.

Karachi traffic police have closed at least five roads leading to Regal Chowk and released a traffic plan, Samaa TV reported.



This came days after PDM announced to hold 'mehngai' march across Pakistan before going ahead with a long march towards Islamabad.

The PDM informed that the rallies against the government over rising inflation would be held in Karachi, Quetta, Lahore and Peshawar.

In other recent developments, the Imran Khan government has announced a hike in the price of petrol by Pakistani Rs 8.03 per litre, a day after the Prime Minister also warned the nation that fuel prices would have to undergo an increase.

Hong Kong: Authorities jail activist 'Captain America 2.0' under Beijing-imposed 'security law'

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
HONG KONG, 13 NOVEMBER

Authorities have jailed a pro-democratic activist nicknamed "Captain America 2.0" in Hong Kong for chanting slogans that are deemed 'separatist' under the Beijing-imposed national security law in the city.

The person, identified as Ma Chun-man was sentenced to more than five years of imprisonment by the District Court, Radio Free Asia reported on Friday.

The court found him guilty of "inciting secession" after he chanted pro-democratic slogans. The activist has pleaded guilty under the draconian National Security Law which was imposed by Beijing on Hong Kong on June 30 last year.

The law was imposed as a response to anti-China



The person, identified as Ma Chun-man was sentenced to more than five years of imprisonment as the court found him guilty of 'inciting secession' after he chanted pro-democratic slogans

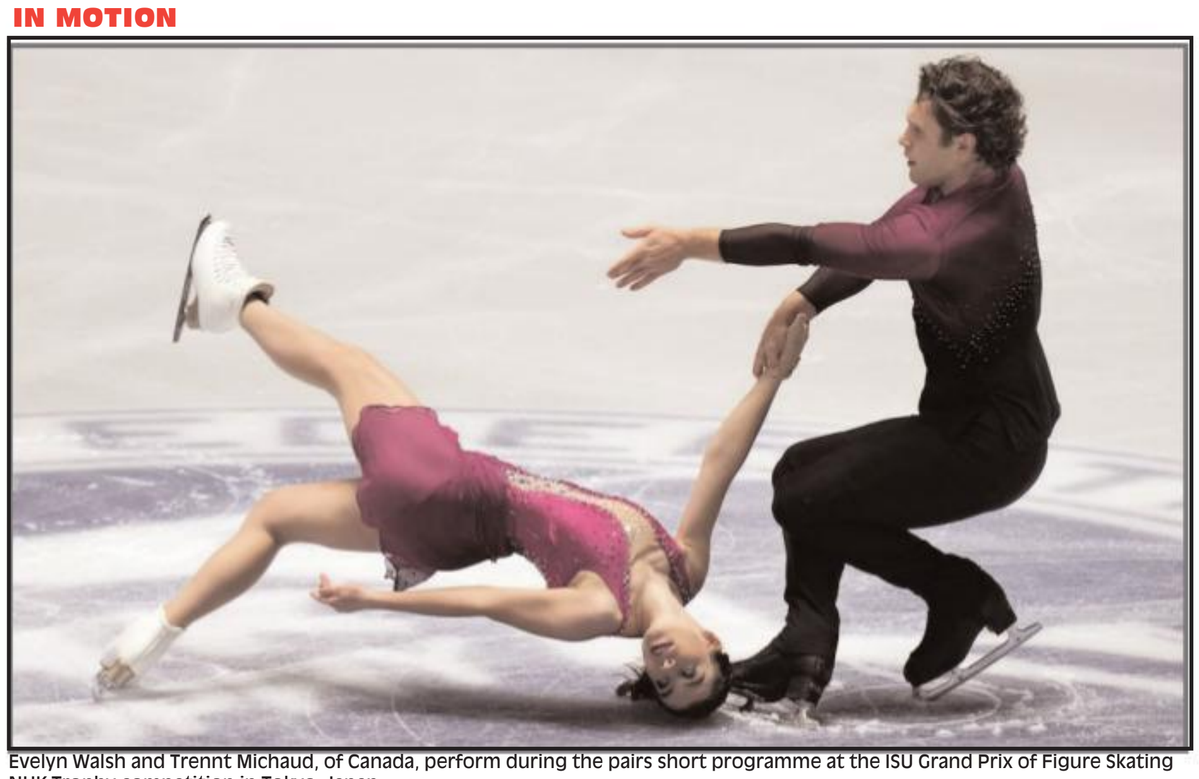
protests that roiled Hong Kong.

The law criminalises any act of secession (breaking away from China), subversion (undermining the power or authority of the central government), 'terrorism and collusion with foreign forces', with punishments of up to life in prison. Earlier in the month, a student activist Tony Chung from Hong Kong was also pleaded guilty on the same charges under the draconian law.

In other related developments, foreign correspondents working in Hong Kong city informed that their 'sources' are not willing to give them information after Beijing imposed the 'security' law.

A survey conducted by the Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) showed that more than 80 per cent of respondents said that the working environment for journalists had deteriorated since the CCP imposed the law, Radio Free Asia reported.

IN MOTION



Evelyn Walsh and Trennt Michaud, of Canada, perform during the pairs short programme at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating NHK Trophy competition in Tokyo, Japan. ■ AP

Government-allied forces leave Yemeni city, rebels re-enter

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SANAA, YEMEN, 13 NOVEMBER

Forces loyal to Yemen's internationally recognized government have withdrawn from the strategic port city of Hodeida, allowing the rebels to retake their positions, Yemeni officials and the U.N. said.

The Joint Forces, backed by the United Arab Emirates, said late Friday they redeployed troops from Hodeida because there was no need to stay in the city amid a U.N.-brokered cease-fire deal.

They criticized the government for not allowing them to retake control of the city from the Houthi rebels. The Joint Forces say the rebels repeatedly violated the 2018 deal that ended their offensive against Hodeida.

A U.N. mission observing the cease-fire said government-allied forces have withdrawn from their positions in the city and areas south of the city and the Houthis have taken over the vacated positions. It said it wasn't notified before the withdrawal.

In 2018, heavy fighting erupted in Hodeida after government forces backed by a Saudi-led coalition moved in to wrest control of the strategic port city from the Houthis. After months of clashes, the warring sides signed a U.N.-brokered agreement in December 2018 that included a cease-fire in the city and an exchange of more than 15,000 prisoners.



The deal, seen as an important first step toward ending the broader conflict, was never fully implemented.

Yemen's war began with the 2014 takeover of the capital of Sanaa by the Houthis, who control much of the country's north. A Saudi-led coalition launched a bombing campaign months later, determined to restore the government and oust the rebels.

The grinding regional proxy war has killed tens of thousands of civilians and fighters. The war also created the world's worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and pushing the country to the brink of famine.

The Joint Forces said they recognized the mistake of remaining in defensive positions without fighting in Hodeida as other government-held areas face intensified attacks by the Houthis.

In recent months, the Houthis have attacked government forces in different areas, including the provinces of Shabwa, Bayda and Marib, despite calls by the U.N., U.S. and others to stop fighting and engage in negotiations to find a settlement to the conflict.

Philippines' Duterte calls for closer international cooperation'

MANILA, 13 NOVEMBER

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has called for "closer international cooperation" at the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, to speed up global economic recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Closer international cooperation is needed to address these constraints and to ensure that all countries recover from this crisis," Duterte said at the virtual meeting.

APEC economies, the Philippine president said, need improved risk management systems, better response and mitigation measures, and more robust support mechanisms for vulnerable communities.

To achieve these goals, he called for the creation of an integrated vaccine passport validation and contact tracing system, institutionalizing social protection for non-traditional forms of employment, and promoting transnational education and digital inclusion in APEC economies.

Duterte reiterated calls for developed economies to support vulnerable countries like the Philippines in mitigating climate change.

"Developing economies such as the Philippines contribute the least to climate change, but we are the most vulnerable to its disastrous consequences," he added. ANI

Type 003, China's 3rd aircraft carrier likely to be launched in early 2022

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
SHANGHAI, 13 NOVEMBER

Construction on China's third aircraft carrier, Type 003 is progressing steadily and is expected to be launched by February next year, according to a US-based think tank.

Citing a report by the Washington-based, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Radio Free Asia reported that commercial satellite imagery of Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai signifies the installation of



the vessel's main external components. CSIS further mentioned that the construction and installation of the aircraft carrier are nearly completed.

As reported by Radio Free Asia, the CSIS researchers mentioned that in past few

The recent construction of Type 003 aircraft carrier is following other Chinese aircraft, named Liaoning and Shandong

weeks the visual appearance of the aircraft has gone through a "significant shift." The Radio Free Asia (RFA) quotes CSIS researchers as saying, "the initial installation of major internal components has been completed."

The recent construction of Type 003 aircraft carrier is following other Chinese aircraft, named Liaoning and Shandong. Both the aircraft carriers are in operation. Liaoning, the first Chinese aircraft carrier bought from Ukraine in 1998 was commissioned in the year 2021, while the second carrier-Shandong in 2019.

The type 003 aircraft carrier has different features compared to the last two carriers including catapult systems, which purposely aids in aircraft launch from the ship.

In a similar context, Radio Free Asia quotes CSIS researchers as saying, "a major leap forward for the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN)." The CSIS's report authors foresee that though the Type 003 launch could take place in nearly three to six months, there are technical issues that require the attention of developers. RFA quoted the report as saying, "Even after launch, it will still be years before the Type 003 is commissioned into the PLAN and achieves initial operating capability."

Covid: Frequent lockdowns, restrictions hampering China's local businesses adversely

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
BEIJING, 13 NOVEMBER

Despite implementing a zero-tolerance policy against the COVID19, there has been a recent surge in coronavirus cases in China, hampering its local businesses adversely.

International Forum for Right and Security (IFFRAS) reported that Chinese authorities are concerned over the prolonged effect of lockdowns and restrictions on the local economies of the province as well as the national economy.

In areas such as Rulii, a southwestern border city, four lockdowns in the past seven months have been imposed with little to no effect on the number of cases being reported.

According to its former Mayor, Dai Rongii, these prolonged lockdowns have sent Ruili into a deadlock having a deleterious impact on the local economy of Ruili.

The former mayor also requested the government to resume production and necessary business to balance the interest of the nation with the interest of the localities, reported IFFRAS.

The residents of border provinces like Heilongjiang, Hebeir, Yunnan provinces



have done their best to tackle the problem. More than 97 per cent of the population of Ruili was vaccinated by July 2021. However, the surging cases in the neighbouring countries as Myanmar appear to be the prime cause of these recent surges in China.

Since these cities are largely dependent on border trades, frequent lockdowns and restrictions may keep the physical health of their people in check but the financial health is deteriorating by the day, reported IFFRAS.

The Province of Heilongjiang in Northeast China has reported more than 68 symptomatic cases and around 22 asymptomatic cases, and Hebeir province which is adjacent to Beijing has reported more than 21 new cases on November 6.

Similar is the situation for the city of Ruili, a remote city in Yunnan province sharing its boundaries with Myanmar. The Yunnan province has reported more than 1500 cases this year, a large portion of these cases coming from Ruili, reported IFFRAS.

The nation has reported more than 800 cases over the span of 3 weeks in more than 20 provinces out of 31 provinces of Mainland China.

This is the biggest outbreak of COVID19 in terms of infected provinces after arguably, the earliest COVID outbreak of the world in Wuhan in 2019-2020, reported IFFRAS.

The Sunday Statesman
Sport
Posted at RMS, Delhi, Postal Reg. No. DL (ND)-11/6089/2018-19-20



GAMBHIR SEETHES, LANGER PRAISES

While former India cricketer Gautam Gambhir has castigated Australian opener David Warner (photo, left) for smashing Pakistan spinner Mohammad Hafeez's delivery, which had bounced twice, over the mid-wicket fence for a six, during their T20 World Cup semifinal on 11 November, Aussie coach Justin Langer showered praise on his batter saying, "It's one of the best things I've ever seen in cricket". Gambhir had posted on social media that it was "absolutely pathetic" and slammed the opener for lack of sportsmanship.

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Skipper chosen: Goalie Arindam Bhattacharjee was on Saturday announced as SC East Bengal's captain in a rare, if not unprecedented, instance of a Mohun Bagan player being given the leading role after switching over.

Ex-journalist dead: Partha Rudra, erstwhile reporter for several newspapers and television networks in a fairly long career, was on Saturday said to have died aged about 58 after a protracted battle against cancer.

Neeraj Chopra, Sumit Antil among 12 conferred Khel Ratna; 35 get Arjuna awards

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER

Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, Paralympics gold medallist Sumit Antil, and woman cricketer Mithali Raj along with nine other sportspersons were conferred the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award -- the country's highest sporting honour -- at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here on Saturday. While an unprecedented 35 athletes were honoured with the Arjuna Award in a glittering ceremony.

Loud applause greeted Chopra, the first Indian to win an athletics gold medal in Olympics at Tokyo earlier this year, and the Paralympics heroes as they received the Khel Ratna awards from President Ram Nath Kovind in the presence of a host of Ministers, dignitaries, and sports celebrities.

A large number of nominations were received for these awards this year, which were considered by the selection committee headed by Justice (Retd) Mukundakam Sharma earlier this month.

Khel Ratna was presented to twelve sportspersons -- Neeraj (athletics), Ravi Dahiya (wrestling), Lovlina Borgohain (boxing), PR Sreejesh (hockey), Avani Lekhara (para-shooting), Antil (para-athletics), Pramod Bhagat (para-badminton), Krishna Nagar (para-badminton), Manish



Narwal (para-shooting), Mithali Raj (cricket), Sunil Chhetri (football), and Manpreet Singh (hockey).

However, Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medallist Krishna Nagar didn't attend the award ceremony. There were reports that his mother passed away on Friday and that's why he didn't turn up for the event.

Meanwhile, all members of the men's hockey team that won the historic bronze medal in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics have been awarded Arjuna Award except Sreejesh and Manpreet, both of whom had already received it in the past.

The full list of athletes who received the Arjuna includes Arpinder Singh, Simranjit Kaur, Shikhar Dhawan, Bhavani Devi, Monika Devi, Vandana Katariya, Sandeep Narwal, Hiimani Uttam Parab, Abhishek Verma, Ankita Raina, Deepak Punia, Dilpreet Singh, Harman Preet Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh, Surender Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Birendra Lakra, Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Shamsher Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Varun Kumar, Simranjeet Singh, Yogesh Kathuniya, Nishad Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Suhas Yathiraj, Singhraj Adhana, Bhavana Patel, Harvinder Singh, and Sharad Kumar.

The Dronacharya Award for the Life-Time Category were also presented on the occasion. It was presented to coaches TP Ouseph (athletics), Sarkar Talwar (cricket), Sarpal Singh (hockey), Ashan Kumar (kabaddi), and Tapan Kumar Panigrahi (swimming).

The Dronacharya in the regular category was awarded to Radhakrishnan Nair P (athletics), Sandhya Gurung (boxing), Pritam Siwach (hockey), Jai Prakash Nautiyal (para-shooting), and Subramanian Raman (table tennis).

The Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement went to athlete Lekha KC, chess Grandmaster Abhijeet Kunte, Davinder Singh Garcha (hockey), Vikas Kumar (kabaddi), and Sajjan Singh (wrestling). Punjab University (Chandigarh) received the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for 2021.

Australia, New Zealand chase maiden silverware in Dubai

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
DUBAI, 13 NOVEMBER

After 44 matches across four venues in the UAE and Oman, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup has reached its last destination: the finale. Vying for the silverware at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday will be neighbours Australia and New Zealand, two nations separated by the Tasman Sea and the balance of their playing eleven.

Whoever wins on Sunday will clinch their maiden silverware in the format. Australia was in the fair distance to win the 2010 edition, only for England to place them second-best. Now, Australia has got the chance to go one step further against first-time finalists New Zealand in a rematch of the 2015 Cricket World Cup final.

Both Australia and New Zealand reached the semi-finals after finishing second in their respective groups in Super 12. But they weren't the first-choice favourites of cricket fans and experts to reach the final. The semi-finals held on Wednesday and Thursday threw up highly unexpected results, coinciding with 'he 'expect the unexpected' nature of the shortest format of the game.



New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell and James Neesham turned the game around in the last few overs against England in the first semi-final at Abu Dhabi while Matthew Wade and Marcus Stoinis had engineered similar slog-overs heist for Australia against Pakistan in the second semi-final at Dubai.

For Australia, with the greatest number of trophies in the Men's Cricket World Cup, having a T20 World Cup trophy will complete their cabinet of silverware.

Their batting has been largely led by David Warner, who has accumulated 236 runs at an average of 47.2. Captain Aaron Finch, Steve Smith, and Glenn Maxwell are due for a big score. With the ball, leg-spinner Adam Zampa has been the standout, taking 12 wickets at an economy rate of just 5.7. They will have their task cut out against an in-form New Zealand.

The Black Caps, current winners of the World Test Championship, will be eyeing to clinch a white-ball trophy. Since the early blip against Pakistan, they have been formidable as a unit with different players stepping up to do the job in different matches. Mitchell, who became an unlikely hero in the semi-final, has been the top-run scorer for New Zealand, scoring 197 runs at an average of 39.40. Left-arm pacer Trent Boult has been spearheading the bowling attack, clinching 11 wickets at an economy rate of only 6.5 while Tim Southee and Ish Sodhi have impressed as well.

The only point of a dilemma for them will be to include either Tim Seifert or Mark Chapman in place of an injured Devon Conway. Conway, who scored 46 in the semi-final, has been ruled out of the final as well as the subsequent India tour after injuring his hand while punching his bat in anger after dismissal.

Though Seifert looks like the most obvious choice for Conway's replacement, Chapman being a left-handed batter could become a better fit with Glenn Phillips asked to take up wicket-keeping duties.

With toss and dew proving to be decisive factors in deciding the outcome in Dubai, expect a batting-heavy Australia and bowling-heavy New Zealand to battle the uncontrollable while trying to control the controllable in their quest for the coveted trophy.

New Zealand best in Power-play with the ball, going to be a challenge, says Finch

AGENCIES
DUBAI, 13 NOVEMBER

Australia captain Aaron Finch reckons that New Zealand, their opponents in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final on Sunday, have been the best in Power-play with the ball and will be a challenge for his team to see them off in the first six overs. He added that the Black Caps have shown that they are a quality side for a long time. In the final to be held at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday, both Australia and New Zealand will be vying to win the trophy for the first time.

"I think the New Zealand side, they have got a huge amount of quality and they have shown that over a long period of time now. I think they have been the best Power-play performing team with the ball in this tournament, so that's going to be a challenge," said Finch while replying to a query from IANS in the pre-final press conference on Saturday.

"They have got obviously Darren Mitchell who played a great knock in the last game against England. Martin Guptill, class and power. Then you've got Kane Williamson who is all class as well in the top three. They have got match winners right throughout their innings, and with the bat and ball, Ish Sodhi and Mitch Santner have shown their class in the past as well. It's a game between two sides that are really similarly matched I think and it will be a great game," added Finch.

Finch went on to say that matches in the ongoing tournament have been won by teams who have bossed power-play phases in both innings. "I think we've seen throughout the tournament the importance of the power play. A lot of games have been dictated by who has won the initial contest in the Power-play in both innings. No doubt it will be a real challenge. It won't define who wins the match but it does help set up your innings if you perform over the bat and on the flip side, if you can make inroads and get early wickets with the ball it goes a long way to trying to control the middle overs on your terms a little bit more."

The 34-year-old refused to believe that the final on Sunday was billed as an 'unexpected final', as many hadn't given a chance to both teams to reach the summit clash. "It's not unexpected. We came here with a clear plan to try to win this tournament. We always felt as though we've got the depth of the squad and the quality in our squad to put ourselves in a position to do that. New Zealand have been in every final for a long time now in ICC events. They are a great team over all the three formats of the game."

'Great to be playing our neighbour in a WC final'

DUBAI, 13 NOVEMBER

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson is excited by the prospect of playing their trans-Tasman Sea neighbours Australia in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final in Dubai on Sunday. He added that playing against each other in the past gives both teams to have a fair look at their resources. New Zealand are in their first-ever Men's T20 World Cup final and will face off against Australia in what will be a re-match of the 2015 Cricket World Cup final.

"I think when you play each other, I suppose both teams get a reasonable look at one another. So probably not too many advantages to either side except that we do play each other and have done so recently on a number of occasions and had some really good contests.

It's great that obviously, we're playing our neighbour on the other side of the world in a World Cup Final. A really exciting prospect for both teams," said Williamson. IANS

It could be a tough season for new Barcelona boss

PULAKESH MUKHOPADHYAY

We are being told, day in and day out, that Xavi Hernandez **(in photo)** has had to be ferried back to Camp Nou from what would have been his soft-work-big-pay holiday in West Asia as Barcelona were seeing stars without Messi.

That is about as far from the truth as Miami is from Madhyamgram but you know, don't you, facts are not allowed to stand in the way of a story expected to sell well in an age when football matters far less than a lot of things in and around it, including stars with media clout.



Barcelona had been slipping spectacularly since quite a while before Messi upped sticks and legged it to Paris, having previously griped after bad results about things going wrong instead of living up to his billing by turning things around. Some people are always more equal than others, after all. Well might that leave you wondering whether Alex Ferguson got it right when he said Messi was only a good Barcelona player - and not the best-ever anywhere - but that hardly takes Xavi an inch farther. And he has miles to go before he runs into reporters who, harping on Messi, appear to suggest he - Xavi, not the erstwhile blue-eyed boy - must produce, like rabbits out of the Catalan hat, yet another suitable fairytale character, probably with the right telegenic looks, for the customary back-from-from-the-brink narratives to fill up the backpage with all over again. As of now, the tendentious hack only bides his time.

For those big boys in the boardroom, the feel-good factor must return for the wheels of commerce to roll anew the right way because they have long been trundling back, with the global coronavirus pandemic only serving to hand the lounge-suited ones an excellent excuse for all salaries to be cut long before Messi came by his departure ticket.

Not that Xavi has not been on the ball. The photo ops and emotional outpourings over, what he said implied the players must pull up their socks. That was a bit of all right. And then he iterated his messsage.

Coaches usually pull it off when their pupils have what it takes. There is no getting away from it even today when just about everyone in the exalted position comes to be heralded as a living legend habitually making history every day, Bank Holidays included. Pep Guardiola, after all, has been a man minus the Midas touch - if you think of the continental platform - since leaving Barcelona.

Not even the world's biggest idiot considers Jose Mourinho football's answer to Stephen Hawking any more. And if Xavi sounds like he might not mind being strict in terms of his syllabus, football will certainly not happen upon its first hard taskmaster. The highly successful Woolverhampton team of the 1950s were coached by Stan Cullis, a "fanatically firm, uncompromising disciplinarian," said Jimmy Greaves.

Softness might have come in when English Premier League also-rans began owning Riviera retreats. But Cullis also "had a genius for discerning talent and a capacity for team-building rivalled only by Matt Busby at Old Trafford."

Xavi is quite unlikely to find the sort of footballers, himself included, in the club who made them the world's best. Whether it ruffled Guardiola or not, Barcelona's style was then popularity called *tiki taka*. It, for some critics and historians, was a throwback to Hungary's Socialist football, orchestrated by coaches with laser-precise game-reading, among other attributes. So there is a test in this of Xavi's own cerebral powers as well.

It is a world away from what he was used to until recently, literally as well as metaphorically, but he cannot be unaware of it. And he knows his Barcelona like the back of his hand.

SHORT POINT

Ganguly roots for Kiwis: Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President and former India captain Sourav Ganguly has picked New Zealand as his favourite against Australia ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final to be played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Ganguly also hailed the spirit of the present Men in Blue, despite their debacle in the tournament, gave a thumbs up to franchise cricket, and talked about a host of other issues, from Rahul Dravid's appointment as the national coach to bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan. ANI

'India's absence hits television'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 13 NOVEMBER

There in no one peeling an onion by way of black magic ahead of tomorrow's Twenty20 World Cup final in Dubai - Australia and New Zealand steer clear of that sort of recreation - but Television is said to be crying buckets because India are not in the mother of all battles.

No other country is quite as enamoured of international cricket, especially the shortened varieties of it, as Virat Kohli's motherland but there is a catch here: if the Men in Blue are not in the fray, soaps and serials step forth to claim popular attention, diverting people from the game though cricket is believed - wrongly or not - to be all Indians' common religion.

"Viewership will go down dramatically," a veteran in the Indian sport promotion industry told *The Statesman* here today, adding: "India's absence will hit television hard, though ads contracted to be shown through the competition will be there on the screen all right. That implies a lot of money. But television will miss the huge number of unscheduled ads that flow in with an uptick in the Indian performance and that could be a big loss."

Ads have long been spilling over into the cricketing action and while they seldom fail to rub the viewer up the wrong way, they are good for television for very obvious reasons.

The source, insisting on anonymity, said that India's two initial losses in the tournament - to Pakistan and New Zealand - upset fans so badly that they might not even be inclined to switch on the telly in the front room for the final, which could turn out to be a humdinger given that the teams in the contest were very good and entertainingly combative.

"People want to see the team they love, sometimes for reasons quite unrelated to cricket," the source said.

New Zealand though could stir an interest in the final as they are to visit India immediately after the Twenty20 World Cup as cricket's commercial juggernaut rolls relentlessly on.

It happens to be a point made by Ravi Shastri, until recently their head coach, in the aftermath of India's ouster from the tournament, with an emphasis on the seriously damaging effects of life in bio-secure bubbles. And fresh controversies have cropped up over the selection of the squad for the series against New Zealand.

"The exclusion from the Test line-up of Hanuma Vihari is just the sort of sordid business that's bad both for the present and the future," said the source.

Di Maria strike leaves Argentina on cusp of World Cup spot

AGENCIES
MONTEVIDEO/WARSAW, 13 NOVEMBER

Angel Di Maria struck a sublime first-half goal as Argentina edged closer to securing a place at the 2022 FIFA World Cup with a 1-0 victory over Uruguay here.

The visitors took the lead in the seventh minute at Montevideo's Campeon del Sigo stadium when Paulo Dybala forced a turnover and then found Di Maria just inside the penalty area on Friday night.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward took one touch before firing an inch-perfect shot from an acute angle into the far corner.

Uruguay responded by showing greater urgency, driving forward in numbers against an Albiceleste side that seemed content to sit back. The Celeste continued to press after halftime with Luis Suarez and Augustin Alvarez threatening to equalise on several occasions. But they were unable to find a way past goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, who made a series of impressive saves.



Argentina captain Lionel Messi, who has recently recovered from knee and hamstring injuries, was introduced as a 76th minute replacement for Giovani Lo Celso. The 34-year-old had a little impact as Argentina barely ventured forward in the closing stages in a bid to protect their lead.

The result leaves Argentina with 28 points from 12 outings, six points behind leaders Brazil with both teams having seven South American zone qualifiers remaining.

Uruguay, who have lost their past three qualifiers, dropped to sixth, 12 points further back.

The top four teams will earn a World Cup spot while the fifth-ranked side will advance to an intercontinental playoff.

Argentina's next match is a home duel against Brazil on Tuesday in San Juan while Uruguay will meet Bolivia in La Paz on the same day.

Poland win

Poland beat hosts Andorra 4-1 to secure the second place in the Group I of the FIFA World Cup European qualification here.

The game was special for Aston Villa defender Matty Cash, who made his debut for Poland coached by Paulo Sousa. The 24-year-old, whose mother was born in Poland, obtained Polish citizenship this month. On Friday night, he came onto the pitch in the 62nd minute to replace Przemyslaw Frankowski.

The hosts had to play with 10 men from the first minute as Ricard Fernandez was sent off for hitting Kamil Glik by the elbow. Poland didn't have problems proving their advantage. Robert Lewandowski scored twice, while Kamil Jozwiak and Arkadiusz Milik also beat the goalkeeper. Andorra found a consolation goal just before the break thanks to Marc Vales who surprised Wojciech Szczesny.

Poland have secured their spot in the play-offs of the qualifications.

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