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# Remarks against Savarkar: Defamation case filed against Rahul in Maharashtra

## Incident won't affect MVA alliance, says Ramesh

THANE, NOV 18 /--/ The police in Thane city of Maharashtra have registered a case of defamation against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his "derogatory" remarks against freedom fighter V D Savarkar, an official said on Friday.

The first information report (FIR) against Rahul was registered at Thane Nagar police station on Thursday, he said. "The case was filed based on the complaint lodged by Vandana Dongre, a functionary of the Shiv Sena faction led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The complainant alleged that Gandhi hurt the sentiments of citizens through his derogatory statements against Savarkar," the official said. The offence was registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 500 (defamation) and 501 (printing or engraving matter knowing it to be defamatory), he said.

Rahul Gandhi, whose Bharat Jodo Yatra is currently passing through Maharashtra, on Thursday held a press conference at Wadegaon in Akola district, where he claimed that Savarkar helped the British

rulers and wrote a mercy petition to them out of fear, thereby betraying Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru and other leaders of the freedom struggle.

Two days prior to that, the Congress leader had addressed a rally in Washim district organised as part of his yatra, where he called Savarkar a symbol of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). "He was jailed in Andaman for two-three years. He started writing mercy petitions," the Congress MP had said there.

The BJP and Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena, the faction led by Shinde, have criticised Rahul over the remarks. The workers of these parties are holding protests against him. Uddhav Thackeray, whose faction of the Sena is in alliance with the Congress, also disapproved of the former Congress president's statements against Savarkar. Ranjit Savarkar, the late Hindutva ideologue's grandson, on Thursday lodged a complaint at Shivaji Park police station in Mumbai against Gandhi for allegedly insulting his grandfather. Rahul is

already facing another defamation case in Thane district.

In 2014, an RSS worker had filed the case against Gandhi after watching his speech in Thane's Bhiwandi township, where the Congress leader alleged that the RSS was behind the killing of Mahatma Gandhi. The complainant claimed this statement slandered the reputation of the RSS. In 2018, the court had framed charges against Gandhi in the case, but he had pleaded not guilty. However, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday defended Rahul, saying that he did not target Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar but only highlighted a "historical fact". Addressing a press conference at Shegaon in Buldhana district of Maharashtra where the Bharat Jodo Yatra has reached, Ramesh also said that although the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction does not support Gandhi's views on Savarkar, it will not impact the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance.

Ramesh said: "Gandhi had mentioned Savarkar in context of how tribal leader Birsu Munda did not compromise with the British

while Savarkar signed a mercy petition, which is a fact." "Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, one of the greatest Indians, was sentenced to six years imprisonment at Mandalay from 1908-14. Tilak did not sign a mercy petition," Ramesh, who is Congress general secretary in charge of the communications and publicity department, said. "We don't want to get into a debate on historical personalities now as the issue needs to be discussed dispassionately and in a scholarly way by sourcing archival material," he said.

It was a fact that (Mahatma Gandhi's assassin) Nathuram Godse was influenced by Savarkar. It was Savarkar's ideology that was behind the killing of Mahatma Gandhi. The ideology to which Savarkar subscribed was cause of his killing, the Congress leader claimed. Ramesh said the Congress and the Thackeray-led Sena differed on their views regarding Savarkar, but it will have no bearing on the MVA alliance, in which the grand old party, the Thackeray faction and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) are constituents. (PTI)



Union Minister for Defence, Rajnath Singh at the convocation ceremony of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, in Udupi, Karnataka on Friday

### AAP launches 'garbage campaign' vehicles to highlight BJP's 'garbage mismanagement' in Delhi

NEW DELHI, NOV 18 /--/ AAP Delhi unit convener Gopal Rai and the party's MCD election in-charge Durgesh Pathak on Friday flagged off 'garbage campaign' vehicles to highlight the BJP's "garbage mismanagement" ahead of elections to the civic body.

Launching the campaign, Rai alleged that the BJP had "littered entire Delhi" in the last 15 years. The BJP has been in power in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) -- trifurcated in 2012 into north, south and east corporations and then unified this year -- for three straight terms. The campaign vehicles showcase artificial garbage mountains with a banner that reads "Vote for BJP if you want garbage. Vote for Kejriwal if you want cleanliness".

"In the last 15 years, the BJP has littered the entire national capital. Through this campaign vehicle, we will tell Delhiites that if they want garbage in the city, they should vote for the BJP; if they want cleanliness, they should vote for Kejriwal," Rai said. The AAP leader further alleged that the BJP's only "achievement" while running the civic body was creating three landfill sites in Delhi. The 250-ward MCD goes to polls on December 4 while the counting of votes will take place on December 7. (PTI)

## Govt proposes penalty of up to Rs 500 cr for each data breach under Data Protection Bill

NEW DELHI, NOV 18 /--/ The Union government has raised the penalty amount to up to Rs 500 crore for violating provisions under the proposed draft Digital Personal Protection Bill 2022 issued on Friday.

The draft personal data protection Bill, issued in 2019, had proposed a penalty of Rs 15 crore or four per cent of the global turnover of an entity. "The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognises the right of individuals to protect their personal data, the need to process personal data for lawful purposes and for other incidental purposes," an explanatory note of the draft Bill said. The proposed Bill comes in place of the Data Protection Bill, which was withdrawn by the government in August this year. The draft proposes to set up a Data Protection Board of India, which will carry on functions as per the provisions of the bill.

"If the Board determines at the conclusion of an inquiry that non-compliance by a person is significant, it may, after giving the person a reasonable opportunity of being heard, impose such a financial penalty as specified in Schedule 1,

not exceeding rupees five hundred crore in each instance," the draft said. It has proposed a graded penalty system for data fiduciaries that will process the personal data of data owners only in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The same set of penalties will be applicable to the Data Processor -- which will be an entity that will process data on behalf of the Data Fiduciary.

The draft has proposed a penalty of up to Rs 250 crore in case the Data Fiduciary or Data Processor fails to protect against personal data breaches in its possession or under its control.

The draft has also proposed a penalty of Rs 200 crore in case the Data Fiduciary or Data Processor fails to inform the Board and data owner about the data breach. The Bill has a provision to allow entities to transfer the personal data of a citizen outside the country in cases where the processing of personal data is necessary for enforcing any legal right or claim, the performance of any judicial or quasi-judicial function, investigation or prosecution of any offence or data owner is not within the territory of India and has entered into any contract with

any person outside the country.

"The Central government may, after an assessment of such factors as it may consider necessary, notify such countries or territories outside India to which a Data Fiduciary may transfer personal data," according to the draft. The explanatory issued by the ministry of electronics and IT listed seven principles on which the Bill is based. This includes the usage of personal data by organisations in a manner that is lawful, fair to the individuals concerned and transparent to individuals and personal data is used for the purposes for which it was collected.

The draft has a provision to ensure that only those items of personal data required for attaining a specific purpose must be collected and it must be stored perpetually by default. "The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill is a legislation that frames out the rights and duties of the citizen (Digital Nagrik) on one hand and the obligations to use collected data lawfully of the Data Fiduciary on the other hand," the explanatory note said. The draft is open for public comment till December 17. (PTI)

### 'Friends of BJP' approached me to join party, I politely rejected: KCR's daughter

HYDERABAD, NOV 18 /--/ Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter and TRS MLC K Kavitha on Friday said some friends of BJP have approached her to join the party, but she refused the "offer". Speaking at a press conference, Kavitha hit out at Nizamabad BJP Lok Sabha member Dharmapuri Arvind refuting his reported comments that Kavitha had made a phone call to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. "I am a decent politician. I want to remain in this country in politics for a very long time. I am not going to name anybody. There have been proposals that were brought to me and friends of BJP, friendly organisations of BJP asking me to join the party and the proposed model called 'Shinde model'," Kavitha said replying to a query on media reports suggesting that she was approached by BJP inviting her into the party. The 'Shinde model' apparently refers to the recent change in government in neighbouring Maharashtra where the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition fell after a faction of the Shiv Sena led by its leader Eknath Shinde withdrew support and joined hands with the BJP. Shinde is now the Maharashtra chief minister.

Kavitha further said Telangana people do not "cheat and betray" their own parties and their own leaders. "We will become leaders on our own strength, not by backdoor. I have rejected their proposal very politely... the proposals that were brought to me, I have categorically rejected them because my heart is in a party where my leader is honourable KCR garu," she said. Replying to a question on her name being dragged by BJP leaders, the TRS leader said if central probe agencies come, she can prove they are wrong. (PTI)

## Children seek inclusion of climate change in curriculum, hand over charter of demands to UP officials

LUCKNOW, NOV 18 /--/ Over 300 students from state-run schools here took part in a children's convention on climate change on Friday and handed over a charter of demands seeking inclusion of climate change in the curriculum to senior government officials, UNICEF said in a statement.

The programme was organised by the Uttar Pradesh government's Basic Education Department and UNICEF ahead of World Children's Day on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, UNICEF (New Delhi) Education Specialist Ram Chandra Rao Begur said, "During this campaign, children not only became aware of the responsible climate actions that they had to take but also decided to become the vehicle of social change in their families, schools and communities.

A booklet with stories of such climate warriors would be released on the occasion and the posters done by children would be displayed." In their charter of demands, the children

mentioned the need for inclusion of climate change in the curriculum. They also demanded playgrounds for children in schools, provision for counsellors to ensure mental health support, propagation of government schemes for farmers, ban on cutting trees, provision for adequate arrangements to check water logging and control the spread of vector-borne diseases in villages.

In October, 6,000 children from 240 schools from 20 districts had participated in a week-long campaign on climate change. They had organised community meetings and interviewed farmers and the elderly in their families and neighbourhood to understand the impact of climate change on health, education and nutrition, UNICEF said in the statement.

Principal secretary (basic education) Deepak Kumar said: "Climate change is a global issue. The children of government schools have a very good understanding of it. If children are aware of the

consequences of climate change and are ready to make the change, they are sure to spread the message within their families."

Director-General of school education Vjay Kiran Anand said, "Children have demanded inclusion of climate change in the school curriculum. Their voices would surely make a difference." The participants also made posters that were displayed during the event and a booklet with stories of climate change warriors was also released. First established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day, World Children's Day is observed every year on November 20 to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. November 20 is also the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

On the same date in 1989, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. (PTI)

## Battle lines drawn between BJP and SP as nomination deadline for by-elections in UP passes

LUCKNOW, NOV 18 /--/ By-polls to two Assembly seats and the Mainpuri Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh will witness a direct contest between the BJP and the Samajwadi Party-RLD alliance with the November 17 deadline to file nominations passing and the BSP and the Congress electing not to field candidates.

The by-polls in Mainpuri was necessitated by the death of Samajwadi Party (SP) founder Mulayam Singh Yadav. The Rampur Sadar and Khatauli Assembly seats fell vacant after the disqualifications of sitting MLAs Azam Khan and Vikram Singh Saini, respectively, following their convictions in separate cases. While 13 candidates have filed the nominations in Mainpuri, the contest is mainly between the SP's Dimple Yadav and the BJP's Raghuraj Singh Shakya. The other candidates to have filed their nominations include Ramakanta Kashyap of Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj

Party and Independents. In Khatauli, the contest is between BJP candidate Rajkumari and Madan Bhairya of SP-ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). Fourteen candidates have filed their nominations from this Muzaffarnagar constituency.

Only three candidates have filed their nominations from Rampur Sadar -- the SP's Mohd Asim Raja, Akash Saxena (Honey) of the BJP and Independent candidate Rajender Singh. With the BJP enjoying an overwhelming majority in both the Lok Sabha and the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, the outcome of the by-polls pose no threat to the saffron party's grip on power. However, a victory would give a psychological edge to the winner in the run-up to the General Elections in 2024. Having already won from SP bastions Azamgarh and Rampur in the June by-polls, the BJP hopes a victory in Mainpuri would boost its quest to win all 80 Parliamentary constituencies in Uttar

Pradesh in 2024.

Another keenly watched aspect of the Mainpuri contest will be the role of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's uncle and Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) (PSPL) chief Shivpal Yadav. While the duo has been estranged at times, Shivpal has mellowed in recent weeks and asked his party activists to ensure victory of "badi bahu" (elder daughter-in-law) Dimple Yadav. Shivpal Yadav's tilt towards the SP has come as a blow to the BJP, which fielded his protege Shakya in the hope of gaining support from the PSPL 'strongman'. His Jaswantnagar Assembly segment is part of the Mainpuri Lok Sabha constituency and so is Akhilesh Yadav's Karhal Assembly seat. According to the Election Commission of India, scrutiny of nominations will be held on Friday while the last date to withdraw candidature is Monday. Voting will be held on December 5, while counting is scheduled for December 8. (PTI)

## IIT-Kanpur, IISc Bengaluru researchers develop technology to turn ACs into air purifiers

NEW DELHI, NOV 18 /--/ Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, have developed a one-of-a-kind technology to turn ACs into affordable air purifiers during the winter season.

With smog and pollution posing grave danger across several cities, especially during the winter, this invention is expected to be a boon for many, officials said. Ankush Sharma, professor

in-charge (Innovation and Incubation) at IIT-Kanpur, "This technology comes as a simplistic handy tool, which can be easily mounted atop regular ACs and utilised by switching on the 'fan mode'. The air filters are equipped with 'Anti-Microbial Air Purification Technology' developed by the researchers." "It has been tested at NABL Accredited Lab and has proven to be able to successfully deactivate SARS-CoV-2

(Delta variant) with an efficiency of 99.24 per cent." Co-Professor-in-charge (Innovation and Incubation) Amitabha Bandyopadhyay said: "This indigenous revolutionary innovation has tremendous potential to succeed in the global market. This launch is indicative of technology catering to critical world problems." The existing air filters in the market work on a particle capture mechanism. However, with continuous use, the filter

itself becomes a breeding ground for germs like a Petri dish. "The minimum cost of such air purifiers in the market is around Rs 10,000, which usually comes with a fan and an air filter to clean the air. On the other hand, this new type of air filter has proven to restrict microbial growth and is capable of capturing PM2.5, PM10, dust, pollen, allergens and germs from the air while purifying," Bandyopadhyay said.

The technology has

been licensed to AiRTH, a start-up incubated at IIT-Kanpur, for marketing. "It has been launched in the form of a product as 'Clean Air Module' and comes at an affordable price of Rs 2,000. One 'Clean Air Module' is claimed to be as effective as 10 normal AC filters. The product is now available for purchase through AiRTH's website and other e-commerce sites," said Ravi Kaushik, an IIT-Bombay alumnus and CEO of AiRTH. (PTI)



# THE ECHO OF INDIA

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM KOLKATA, SILIGURI, GANGTOK, GUWAHATI and PORT BLAIR

VOL XV • ISSUE NO 217

PAGES 8

PORT BLAIR • SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 19, 2022

Rs 5.00

## MP for reservation of B.V.Sc course seats for students of ANI

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 18/--/** The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Lt. Governor to examine the issue of reservation of B.V.Sc course seats for the students of A&N Islands by scrutinising the proposal of Pondicherry Veterinary College already pending with A & N Administration and issue necessary instructions so that students can get the admission from the current session itself.



In a letter, Mr. Sharma highlighted the problems being faced by the students of these Islands for getting admission in Veterinary Science Stream (B.V.Sc. & A.H) in mainland

colleges. He mentioned that whenever students from Andaman approaches in state for admission in studying Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (B.V.Sc.) degree courses then the state universities ask for a Domicile Certificate.

He added that in all states around 85% B.V.Sc seats are reserved and filled from their own candidates and only 15% seats are left for All India competition which are meagre in number. Therefore it becomes difficult for students of these Islands to compete at the National level for limited seats.

Mr. Sharma mentioned that there

is a shortage of Veterinary doctors in A & N Islands. As per 2019 livestock census there are around cattle -36438 Nos., Buffalo 3700 Nos. Goats 69781, pig 90488 Nos., comprising livestock 145394 Nos. whereas Poultry population accounts for 1283746 Nos. scattered all over the Islands.

He pointed out that the Pondicherry Veterinary College came forward and offered five seats for the students of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on certain conditions and a proposal was prepared by A & N Veterinary Council and submitted to A & N Administration for further examination and approval which is pending at Education Department for clarification.

## GANG RAPE CASE Calcutta High Court dismisses two writ petitions of former CS ROOPA LALL

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 18/--/** The Calcutta High Court on November 16, 2022, has dismissed two writ petitions filed by the former Chief Secretary, Mr. Jitendra Narain at the Circuit Bench at Port Blair of Calcutta High Court. According to sources, the two petitions, one in the nature of Habeas Corpus and another in the nature of an application for anticipatory bail. The Hon'ble Court has dismissed both the petitions.

It may be recalled that the former Chief Secretary has been sent to Judicial Custody for 14 days by the Sessions Court and as per the direction of the Hon'ble Court, the former CS is lodged in Prothrapur Jail.

## CPI(M) seeks appointment with LG

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 18/--/** The CPI(M) Andaman & Nicobar State Organising Committee in its meeting held on 5th November 2022, at Port Blair had decided that a delegation from the party should meet the Lt. Governor, A & N Islands and place before him the two resolutions adopted by the party demanding CBI investigation into the sex-for-job scandal involving the former Chief Secretary, other officers and businessmen and large scale corruption in the islands and siphoning off of a large amount of money to mainland. Accordingly, CPI (M) has sought an appointment with the Lt. Governor and waiting for his response.

## Cellular Jail museums closed on 25th Nov

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 18/--/** The general public and tourists have been informed that the museums of the National Memorial Cellular Jail will remain closed for the visitors on 25th November, 2022 in the afternoon from 12.30 pm onwards due to administrative reasons.

## Seminar to mark birth anniversary of Birsa Munda

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 18/--/** As part of celebration of Janjati Gaurav Diwas, 2022 which marks the birth anniversary of Tribal Freedom Fighter 'Birsa Munda', the Andaman & Nicobar Tribal Research & Training Institute (ANTRI) in collaboration with Directorate of Tribal Welfare, A&N Administration organized a day-day seminar on the theme 'Contribution of Tribal Freedom Fighters'.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal, JNRM, Dr H.K. Sharma enlightened the participants about the immense contribution of tribal communities in the Indian freedom struggle. He stated that tribal people showed their heroism by sacrificing their lives in the Independence movement and therefore, it is the responsibility of Indians, particularly the present generation, to make themselves aware of such struggles and remember them with a feeling of pride. Head of Office,

Anthropological Survey of India, Dr Nilanjana Khatua, ex-Director (Tribal Welfare), Mr. Som Naidu, Renowned



Historian & Founder Kalapani Museum, Mr. Mukeshwar Lall, Joint Secretary, Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Ms Sampatti Xalxo, Associate Professor, ANCOL, Ms Jochibet Vincent, Assistant Professor, JNRM, Dr Vivek Sahu and Tribal Welfare Officer, Dr. Pronob Sircar also delivered speeches on different aspects pertaining to the theme. Students of JNRM and ANCOL participated in the seminar.

## Skill development training prog on Handicrafts concludes

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 18/--/** The Directorate of Industries, A&N Administration organized a short term Skill Development Training Programme on 'Handicrafts



(Coconut Shell, Wood and Cane & Bamboo) products' at Stewartgunj, Gram Panchayat from 12th October to 17th November, 2022. Altogether, 21 candidates participated in the training programme and were imparted

the basic skills and knowledge for making handicrafts, thus creating self-employment opportunities for boosting the economy of Islands. The training programme concluded on Thursday with a valedictory function during which handicraft products produced during the training were showcased and the trainees received appreciation from PRI representatives and the villagers. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. M.K. Hussain, Pradhan, Stewartgunj, Gram Panchayat appreciated the handicraft products made by the trainees and advised them to apply the skills obtained during the course of the training program for the betterment of their livelihood.

## Lecture on disaster management for NCC cadets

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 18/--/** A lecture on disaster management was conducted at JNRM auditorium for NCC cadets by Commandant Dr. Sandeep Roy (Retd.), Ex-NDRE. He was welcomed by Lt. Cdr. Ankit Pant, Commanding Officer 1 (AN) Naval Unit NCC. The Commanding Officer briefed the cadets about the importance of Disaster Management for students of these Islands and urged them to make full use of the knowledge and experience of Commandant Roy.

During the lecture, Commandant Roy briefed the students regarding various kinds of disasters and their impact on human lives. He reiterated that India due to its varied geographical conditions is prone to all kinds of disasters. He also shared his first hand knowledge and experience of rescue operations during Chennai and Kerala



Floods. The cadets learnt about the duties and responsibilities of various stakeholders and interagency coordination in times of disasters. He also answered a

number of questions raised by the cadets and the staff of both NCC Units. During the event 180 NCC Cadets and staff of oth Army and Naval Units were present.

## IGNOU 36th convocation registration open

**PORT BLAIR, NOV 18/--/** The 36th convocation of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), is likely to be held in the month of January/February 2023.

Those learners who have completed their programme of study in December-2021 and June-

2022 Term-End Examination are eligible for award of original certificate at this convocation. Eligible students are required to register themselves for obtaining the degree/diploma certificate and pay the requisite fee through online mode only by

clicking the link: <https://onlineservices.ignou.ac.in/convocation/> or [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in).

The fee for obtaining the original degree/diploma certificate for Ph.D/ M.Phil/ Master Degree/Bachelor Degree/ PG Diploma/ Diploma programmes is Rs. 600/-

per certificate. For general query on the convocation, learners may contact the following number 011-29572224 and email: [convocation@ignou.ac.in](mailto:convocation@ignou.ac.in) or contact IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair over Phone: 03192-242888, 03192-230111 or Email: [reportblair@ignou.ac.in](mailto:reportblair@ignou.ac.in)

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Be entirely tolerant or not at all; follow the good path or the evil one. To stand at the crossroads requires more strength than you possess

Heinrich Heine

## UK budget, a major challenge before PM Sunak

Just three weeks after taking office, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faces a major challenge of balancing the nation's budget while helping millions of people slammed by a cost-of-living crisis as Russia's war in Ukraine pushes up energy prices and slows economic growth. Sunak has to restore the government's financial and political credibility after former Prime Minister Liz Truss announced 45 billion pounds (\$53 billion) in unfunded tax cuts that torpedoed investor confidence, sent the pound to record lows against the U.S. dollar and sparked emergency central bank intervention. Truss was forced to resign six weeks after taking office. The present government too will struggle to meet all of the competing demands. The uncomfortable reality is that unless global energy price rises reverse, the country will remain poorer than hoped to be. Wrestling with that reality means grappling with the demands of nurses, police officers, border guards and civil servants who are all clamoring for pay increases after inflation accelerated to a 41-year high of 11.1% in October. Welfare recipients and pensioners also are looking for higher payments, and low-income families are calling for an expansion of the free school lunch programme. But resources are limited, with Sunak facing a budget shortfall of at least 40 billion pounds (\$47 billion) that he says will require both tax increases and spending cuts to close. He may announce an expansion of a tax on the windfall profits of energy companies to help consumers struggling with higher natural gas and electricity bills. The government also may delay plans to raise the thresholds for higher income tax brackets. That would increase revenue from individual taxpayers as their pay brackets rise with inflation.

The budget comes against a grim backdrop, with the war in Ukraine, aftershocks from the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic strains of Britain's exit from the European Union all weighing on the UK economy. Economic output shrank by 0.2% in the third quarter, and the Bank of England predicted a recession that could last as long as two years. The government also is paying the price for the unfunded tax cuts announced by Truss, which damaged Britain's reputation for financial discipline and boosted government borrowing costs. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt and Sunak, who replaced Truss as Conservative Party leader and prime minister last month, have reversed most of Truss' policies, while pledging that the government will pay its bills and start reducing debts built up over the past 15 years. UK public debt ballooned to almost 83% of economic output in 2017 from less than 36% in 2007 as the government bailed out banks and struggled to bolster the economy. A decade of budget tightening had started to reduce the burden when the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine pushed debt to 98% of gross domestic product. That is the highest since 1963, when Britain was still recovering from World War II. But some economists caution against moving too fast to reduce government debt at a time when rising food, energy and housing costs are set to wipe out the savings of a fifth of British households. Now that most of Truss' policies have been reversed, the government should be able to close the remaining budget shortfall with "relatively small" policy adjustments that won't jeopardise investment needed to spur economic growth. After all, the broadest shoulders bear the heaviest load.

# CoP27 draft agreement shows clear divide on options to meet climate goals

## REFLEX ACTION

Dr. Gyan Pathak

(UNFCCC) entered into force in 1994, loss and damage funding was put on the CoP agenda. However, countries views differ on the issue whether should be tackled with a new fund or with existing mechanisms. While some developing and vulnerable countries wanted a new funding facility to be established at CoP27 itself, the developed countries such as the US and EU are opposed to it. The draft text indicate the clear divide with two option –the first is a new funding arrangement “as agreed at CoP27 ... to be operationalized no later than by CoP29 (2024)” and the second is “a mosaic of funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage.”

Dutch energy minister Rob Jetten's statement that too much focus on loss and damage will harm everything is just an example how slippery is the ground for agreement on new funding option. He even said that private funding is needed, but arrangement for funding in the draft text does not mention private funding, though it included a wide range of financial options. The US and the EU while opposing the move for establishment of a new fund at this summit itself have argued that parties do not yet know what shape it would take. US climate envoy John Kerry has said that there is no full definition on “what a facility is or what shape it might take.” In fact, the US does not want to have talks on loss and damage giving argument that it would weigh on the rest of negotiations. EU negotiator Jacob Werksman said, "We don't think this process is ready to agree in principle that a fund or facility is the only way forward, but we are not excluding that and could not exclude that as a significant part of the conversation."

Officials from the US and other developed countries have categorically said that there are

already existing funding mechanisms, including the Adaptation Fund established in 2001, the Green Climate Fund established in 2010, of the Global Shield backed by G7. The Global Shield against Climate Risks was launched with initial funding of more than \$200 million to provide “pre-arranged financial support designed to be quickly deployed in times of climate disasters”.

CoP27 president says time is running out and urges negotiators to step up their efforts amid a growing concern whether this climate conference in Egypt would live up to its billing as the “implementation summit.”

The draft text, which could still be changed, included a reference to the establishment of a UN-administered fund. Other options included a fit-for-purpose fund under the UN and the strengthening of existing entities and public finance, including grants. It is still not clear whether the developed and industrialised nations would agree to the draft text agreement, or parts of it. Still there is a hope of a breakthrough that can be worked out at last. Scheduled end of the talks are just four days away, and there are great anxieties on account of the negotiations entangled around the most controversial issues, preventing representatives from reaching agreement by Friday. And if it happens, there would be delay by a full year until CoP28 next year. There is also a talk doing round that the summit might not wrap up by Friday as scheduled and could extend into the weekend to give more time to negotiators.

Now, the focus of the ongoing talks have been shifted from “liability or compensation” to “co-operation and facilitation”. Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, the president of CoP27, has said that compromise is necessary to reach a “conclusive decision”. “This could be the CoP where we lose 1.5 degree Celsius,” said Alok Sharma, the former UK cabinet minister who presided over CoP26 summit in Glasgow last year. (IPA)



Different types of vegetables and fruits on display at 63rd Flowers Exhibition in Belagavi on Friday

# Efforts on to salvage currency from further meltdown

Last weekend Chengpang Zhao, the 45-year-old co-founder and CEO of the world's largest trading platform, Binance, announced on Twitter that his exchange would liquidate its entire FTT holdings.

FTT is an exchange coin of the crypto derivative exchange, FTX, which was valued at \$32 billion during the \$400 million Series C funding round in January 2022. FTX raised \$900 in July 2021 at a valuation of \$18 billion and \$420 million in October 2021 at a valuation of \$25 billion. FTX was founded by former Wall Street trader Sam Bankman-Fried and former Google employee Gary Wang in 2019. When Binance CEO announced his decision to sell all his FTT holdings on November 6, FTT was trading above \$24. As of November 15, the news of FTX collapsing and filing for bankruptcy protection is old. Within a matter of a week, investors come to know that FTX has less than \$1 billion of liquidity in the face of \$9 billion of liabilities, a hole of \$8 billion to fill. Several crypto firms that have invested in FTX find themselves in a hot soup, with their funds trapped in bankrupt FTX.

Between the collapse of the Terra-Luna ecosystem, which had a market cap of \$40 billion only a month before its collapse in May, and the downfall of FTX, a string of companies that included top-tier crypto hedge funds and decentralized finance (DeFi) entities

also went bust in cascading effect because of their exposure to these bankrupt companies. So far, over a trillion-dollar of value has been lost from the crypto market.

While selling his 23 million FTT tokens worth \$583 million last weekend, CZ said that he exited his position in view of “revelations” around FTT. There were reports in the media in the preceding weeks that trading Alameda Research, which is a sister concern of FTX, had overexposure to FTT, hinting at a deficit in its balance sheet. Soon there was a mad rush to get rid of FTT tokens. By the time, the rush settled FTX's balance sheet showed a mismatch between assets and liabilities to the tune of \$8 billion. FTX is registered in the Bahamas and last heard FTX CEO Sam Bankman-Fried (SBF) was in the Bahamas when investigators were looking for him in the US.

Binance's CEO told on Twitter that he can't act to be in love after the divorce. Binance was one of the earliest investors in FTX but it exited its position in 2021 in a deal worth \$2.1 billion, paid in FTT and Binance Network's stablecoin – BUSD. CZ sold all his remaining FTT just before FTX

went bust. Zhao justified his decision and said he needs to protect the community, taking a lesson from the Terra-Luna fiasco. As investigations reveal, the FTX chief had moved nearly \$10 billion of customers' funds to sister company Alameda Research, run by SBF's rumoured girlfriend -- Caroline Ellison.

The collapse of FTX kicked off a debate among the top industry players as to what went wrong. They argued SBF came onto the crypto scene in 2019 and began to behave as if he knew everything. The investors poured in money too soon and too liberally for FTX to become one of the top digital assets companies. The pattern looks similar in Terra-Luna and FTX cases. In the case of Terra-Luna, investors earned over 100 times on their investments within a year or two. The case with FTX looks similar.

On November 14, Binance's CEO announced an “industry recovery fund” to support crypto firms that have strong fundamentals but are facing a liquidity crisis after taking a hit from FTX. He also invited other crypto industry players to participate in the fund. Another development that FTX's

collapse has triggered in the crypto space is the stress on Proof of Reserves (PoR). Now, crypto firms, with Binance taking the lead, are showing the reserves that they have to assure the investors and everyone in the community about the financial health of the company. Apparently, this is going to be a mainstream thing.

Another idea that's gaining ground is of self-custody of funds. Several crypto firms had invested in FTX and now their funds are stuck for an uncertain period until a new buyer is found and the bankruptcy hearings are over.

Polygon cofounder and CEO Sandeep Nailwal in a tweet thread commented on the FTX developments and articulated the reasons that saved his network from the chaos created by FTX's downfall. Binance CEO says is the Lehman moment for the crypto industry. Nailwal says that neither Polygon nor any of its companies ever opened an account with FTX. He stresses self-custody of funds and avoiding lucrative deals in the market are the key fundamentals of any community-based business model. Promoters and CEOs are the leaders of their community and they should work in a manner that doesn't expose the community to more risks. Polygon (MATIC) is the 10th largest coin and one of the few cryptocurrencies whose price has appreciated despite the downturn. (IPA)

## FOCUS

Arun Kumar Shrivastav

### Conventional Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9						10	
11				12	13		
		14		15			
				16		17	
18		19	20				23
			21		22		
24	25	26			27	28	
29				30			
31					32		

**ACROSS**  
1 Frozen over  
5 American elk  
9 Ruinous damage  
10 Water storage  
11 Spoken  
12 Poke gently  
14 Exclude  
16 Pimplly condition  
19 Auction  
21 Tracking system  
24 Frequently  
27 Venture  
29 Digit  
30 Containers  
31 Sanity  
32 Atlas contents

**DOWN**  
1 Golf club  
2 Vehicle  
3 Dodges  
4 Small river valley  
5 Threatened  
6 Strange  
7 Droop  
8 Very hard mineral  
13 Container for ashes  
15 Mental steadiness  
17 Noted printing errors  
18 Footwear  
20 Land measure  
22 First man  
23 Untidy state  
25 Enemy  
28 Perfect score  
28 Corded fabric

### SUDOKU: 3700

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

**Yesterday's Solution 3699**

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

**Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1708**

H	E	R	M	I	T		F	A	R
E			E		E	X	I	L	E
A	R	C	A	D	E		N	O	D
R	O	A	N		M	O	D	E	
T	E	N	D	S		P			
		E			B		U	N	G
	P	O	R	T			L	O	O
R	U	M			O	V	E	R	D
O	C	E	A	N		N			P
D	E	N			E	X	T	O	L

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# PM advocates imposition of cost to countries supporting terrorism

NEW DELHI, NOV 18 /--/ In a veiled attack on Pakistan and China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said certain countries support terrorism as part of their foreign policy while some do so indirectly by blocking action against terrorists. Addressing the 3rd 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing', the Prime Minister also stressed the need for imposing cost on countries that support terrorism. In a similar tone, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing a separate session at the conference, said there are countries that seek to undermine, or even hinder, our collective resolve to fight terrorism. Ministry of Home Affairs is organising the conference which is being attended by 450 delegates from over 75 nations and international organisations. Officials said Pakistan and Afghanistan are not participating in the conference while China was invited but did not come.

During the last two decades, India has repeatedly sought inclusion of several Pakistan-based leaders of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed leaders in the United Nations Security Council's 1267 committee list but the proposals have been vetoed by China, a permanent member of the Council. "We have seen that some countries protect and shelter terrorists, protecting a terrorist is equivalent to promoting terrorism. It will



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the third 'No Money for Terror' (NMFT) Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing, in New Delhi on Friday

be our collective responsibility that such elements never succeed in their intentions," Shah said. The home minister said no one should ignore terrorists' safe havens or their resources. "We also have to expose the double-speak of such elements who sponsor and support them," Shah said. Pakistan is accused of providing all-round support to terrorist organisations in carrying out attacks in India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister

said organisations and individuals that try to create sympathy for terrorists must also be isolated. "International organisations must not think that absence of war means peace. Proxy wars are also dangerous and violent. There must be a cost imposed upon countries that support terrorism," he said. Certain countries support terrorism as part of their foreign policy and they offer political, ideological and financial support, Modi said, adding: "There can be no ifs and buts

entertained in such matters. The world needs to unite against all kinds of overt and covert backing of terror." He said it is well known that terrorist organisations get money through several sources and one of them is state support. The Prime Minister said in present times, ideally there should be no need for anyone to remind the world of the dangers of terrorism. "However, there are still certain mistaken notions about terrorism in some circles," he said. (PTI)

## ANTCC President places several genuine problems faced by patients at PHC C/Bay

PORT BLAIR, NOV 18 /--/ In his letter addressed to the Secretary (Health) Andaman & Nicobar Administration, the ANTCC President, Mr. R. Halder said that the medical equipment like ultra sound machine and x-ray machines which are not in a condition to be operated at the PHC Campbell Bay should be replaced with new ones and also to appoint a senior lab technician in operating those medical equipment. He said that the transportation cost for the referred patients being charged should be taken care of by the DHS, as the patients cannot afford the cost of transportation being charged to them. He mentioned that the pharmacy existing under PHC Campbell Bay needs to be upgraded with the availability of essential medicines required in a specific



time and further to appoint an additional pharmacist to run the PHC effectively. He said that a regular visit of Medical Specialist like Gynecologist, Orthopedic Surgeon, ENT and Eye Doctors, Anesthetist and General Surgeon would help the residents of Campbell Bay to avail specialized treatment at their place of stay. He stated that to provide sufficient meals to the inpatients admitted in the PHC as the government has sanctioned sufficient funds in the Medical Sectors to look after the diet of the patients. He further pointed towards the RO Plant Purifier in Campbell Bay which has been defunct for so many years which is to be repaired and maintained immediately to overcome the problems being faced by the patients and visitors in PHC, Campbell Bay.

## Chairman, SAZP calls for generating awareness on schemes for women & child development implemented by central govt

PORT BLAIR, NOV 18 /--/ All women should be aware about implementing various schemes for women and child development by Central Govt. said Smt. Pramila Kumari, Zilla Parishad Chairman, South Andaman in an awareness programme organized by the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Port Blair during the Integrated



Communication Outreach Programme on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan & Central Welfare Schemes at Community Hall - Chouldari, South Andaman on Friday. While addressing the gathering, Smt. Pramila Kumari said women empowerment is very crucial at this time, since she takes care of the whole family. "Our people are very talented and this programme would help to make people aware about various Govt. schemes. There are many schemes of which people are not aware of and somehow lacking behind. We need to propagate all such schemes to people at the ground level. In our area, many people are not aware of the government schemes run for them. Such programs will

help to educate them. These programmes should be more arranged in rural areas to bridge the communication gap. The PM's vision is to develop India by uplifting the Poor. We should be aware to move ahead in our life and to lead the world", she said. While delivering the special address, Dr. Supriya Roy emphasized the importance of Nutrition, women and child care. Smt. Chaitali Roy, Samity Member and Smt. Tapasi Dos, Pradhan, Chouldari Panchayat participated. Mr. K. Anandha Prabu, Field Publicity Officer, Presided over the programme and Mr. M. Murali, Technical Assistant welcomed the gatherings. Rangoli competition was held for women and winners were awarded prizes.

## Seats vacant in JNRM

PORT BLAIR, NOV 18 /--/ A few seats are lying vacant in respect of various UG courses in JNRM for the session 2022-23, hence candidates who have applied for admission may attend the counselling on 23rd November 2022 at 9AM in the Interdisciplinary Departments of JNRM. The candidate should bring the following documents in original for verification and one set of photostat copies (to be submitted during admission) viz. XII Marks Statement (Original will be detained in JNRM), School Leaving Certificate (Transfer Certificate) (Original will be detained in JNRM), X Pass certificate for verification of date of birth, Category Certificate (ST, OBC, PH, ward of central Govt. Servants/Ex-Servicemen & EWS), Aadhaar/Aadhaar Enrolment Slip and 1 passport size photograph.

Certificates downloaded from Digilocker is valid during counselling session for taking provisional admission by JNRM. However, Original Marksheet of 12th is required to be submitted to JNRM in due course of time for verification and grant of final admission by the Pondicherry University. As per the Pondicherry University norms, physics fitness test will be conducted for admission to BPES and the candidate must come in proper sports dress on the day of counselling for their Fitness Test for the events viz. 100 meter sprint, shot put, standing board jump, vertical jump & 12 minutes run/walk test. If no candidate is present from specific category, the left out seats will be filled from the general merit list on merit basis (except EWS category).

## Renovated community hall at Nayapuram village inaugurated

PORT BLAIR, NOV 18 /--/ Mr. Sunil Anchipaka, Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman), along with Mr. Dilkush Meena, SDM, South Andaman inaugurated the community hall at GP Kanyapuram on Thursday. The inauguration event saw a large gathering of local public who turned up to witness and see the newly renovated community Hall. The people at the inauguration appreciated the efforts taken up by Mr. P. Abdul Basheer and congratulated him for completing this project in such a short timeframe. Mr. Sunil Kumar, Tehsildar of Ferrargunj Tehsil and Mr. Mohammed Ali, Assistant Engineer (PRI) also graced the inauguration function.



## Health camp for women at Tushnabad

PORT BLAIR, NOV 18 /--/ WITH YOU (NGO) organised a health camp for women at Tushnabad community hall in association with Directorate of Health Service and GP, Tushnabad on Thursday. The camp was inaugurated by Smt. R. Smitha, Secretary (Social welfare). In her inaugural speech, the chief guest appreciated the efforts of WITH YOU to conduct such camps, exclusively for women. She appealed to the women folk to take care of their health and informed that as per the survey done most of the women are suffering from anemia. Further she said to take proper diet



and visit the hospital in case of any health issues. Speaking on the occasion, Miss V. K. Mariyam Bibi, President WITH YOU (NGO) stated that the NGO is committed to serve the people especially the women in their health and upliftment in society. She also expressed her gratitude towards the Administration specially Health department and PRI members for providing all support to make the camp successful. About 150 people got benefitted by this camp as Gynecologist, Pediatrician and medical specialists rendered their services. On this occasion, sanitary pads were distributed to the adolescents girls of GSSS Tushnabad. The program was attended by Smt. Padmawathi, Pramukh Panchayat Samity Ferrargunj, Smt. Rashmi Goenka, Social worker, Smt. Rajini ZPM, Tushnabad, Mr. P. A. Sarfuddin, ZPM Mithakhari, Mr. Mohammed Shafique, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Mithakhari, Mr. Salamat PSM, Tushnabad, Mr. Rafiq PSM, Mithakhari, Mr. Sumit Goenka and members of WITH YOU. Smt. Reva Devi, Vice President WITH YOU proposed the vote of thanks.

## Fishermen advised not to venture into sea

PORT BLAIR, NOV 18 /--/ As per the information received from the Meteorological Office, Port Blair, a low pressure area has formed over Southwest Bay of Bengal & adjoining Andaman Sea on Thursday and is likely to move west-northwestwards and gradually concentrate into a Depression over central parts of South Bay of Bengal around November 19, 2022. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into Andaman Sea & adjoining Southeast & East Central Bay of Bengal and Southwest & East Central Bay of Bengal on November 18, 2022. For any assistance, they may call Indian Coast Guard, SAR Agency at Toll Free No. 1554 or Directorate of Fisheries or nearest Zonal Fisheries Office/Sub Station over phone number 03192-240095 / 231474 / 273295 / 265111.

## Vacant seats in UG courses in ANCOL, counseling on 21st Nov

PORT BLAIR, NOV 18 /--/ A few seats are lying vacant in the general and reserved category (OBC/ST/EWS) in UG Degree courses in ANCOL for the academic year 2022-2023. All the interested candidates whose names appeared in the final merit list of various UG courses may advise attending the final round of counseling on 21st November, 2022 without fail. The final merit list may be downloaded from the common college admission portal website (<https://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in>). The special admission cum counseling drive for ST candidates will be conducted on the same day. If any reserved category (except EWS) seat lying vacant the same may be released to the General Category candidate on merit on the same day. The candidates should bring the original documents for verification on the day of counseling and they should bring one set of photostat copies of the X pass certificate, XII pass and mark statement, Transfer Certificate, Bank Pass Book, Aadhaar, Category Certificate (OBC/ST/PH/Central Govt. Servants / EWS). The prescribed fees should be paid by the candidate on the date of admission. If any candidate fails to pay the admission fee the candidate's admission will be canceled.

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FIFA World Cup  
2022 warm-up  
match

# Cristiano Ronaldo-less Portugal thrash Nigeria 4-0



A staff member of the Nigeria team takes a selfie with Portugal's Pepe, centre, at the end of an international friendly soccer match between Portugal and Nigeria at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon. The Portuguese team will leave for Qatar on Friday for the World Cup

DOHA, NOV 18/-- Portugal finished their final FIFA World Cup preparations with a comprehensive win over Nigeria in the warm-up game at Estadio Jose Alvalade in Portugal. Fernando Santos' men will now fly to Qatar for the FIFA WC. Portugal were without Cristiano Ronaldo who missed the training and the game due to gastritis. The Portuguese still cruised to a 4-0 victory over the Super Eagles, thanks to goals from Bruno Fernandes, Goncalo Ramos and Joao Mario. Manchester United's Fernandes opened the scoring in the 9th

minute. The lead was doubled in the 35th minute through Fernandes' penalty. In the 81st minute, Nigeria were awarded a penalty which Emmanuel Dennis failed to convert. Just a minute later, Ramos tripled Portugal's advantage, as Raphael Guerreiro registered an assist. Joao Mario scored in the 84th minute to call it a night and hand over a big boost to Portugal before they fly to Qatar for the World Cup. Portugal begin their group stage campaign against Ghana on 24th November.

## GAME NOTES

### Iran focused only on playing football, not on events back home, says Alireza Jahanbakhsh

DOHA, NOV 18 /--/ Iran captain Alireza Jahanbakhsh said Thursday his team was focused on the competition at the World Cup and not on anti-government protests that have gripped his country. Iranians have taken to the streets since September following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after she was arrested for allegedly flouting the strict dress code for women. Jahanbakhsh, who used to play for Premier League club Brighton, was asked by a British journalist at a press conference in Doha if the team was able to concentrate on their opening World Cup match against England on Monday "To be honest I'm not sure if England wasn't in our group you would have come with this question," Jahanbakhsh replied in English. "Secondly we've been facing this a couple of weeks now with all the English media — this was all the headlines once we got closer to the World Cup, whatever the reason is," Jahanbakhsh, who now plays for Dutch club Feyenoord, said. (AFP)

### Argentina's Nicolas Gonzalez injured, replaced by Angel Correa

DOHA, NOV 18 /--/ Argentina forward Nicolas Gonzalez suffered an injury in training on Thursday and is out of the World Cup, his country's football federation (AFA) said. The 24-year-old Fiorentina forward has been replaced by Angel Correa of Atletico Madrid. "In training today, Nicolas Gonzalez tore a muscle and has been withdrawn from the list for the World Cup," the AFA said in a statement. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said on Wednesday after his team thrashed the UAE 5-0 in their final warmup game that "some players are not 100 percent, we have a few small problems." Gonzalez, 24, was one of the players who sat out the match in Abu Dhabi as Argentina extended their unbeaten run to 36 matches. (AFP)

### Brazil will pick coach Tite's successor only in January, confirms CBF

RIO DE JANEIRO, NOV 18 /--/ Brazil will only choose the next coach of their national team in January, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said Thursday, denying rumors of talks with the likes of Pep Guardiola to replace outgoing boss Tite. Tite, who has coached the "Selecao" since 2016, has announced he will leave the post after the World Cup, leading to a flurry of speculation in Brazil on who could be next. But the CBF "is 100-percent focused on winning a sixth World Cup under Tite's command," it said in a statement. CBF president Edinaldo Rodrigues, who took office in March, "has never spoken with any football director about the coaching job after the World Cup," it said. (AFP)

# Beer sales banned around Qatar World Cup stadiums: FIFA

DOHA, NOV 18/--/ According to the report, an unnamed official, who is aware of the change of plans, has informed that Qatari officials have decided that the only drink that will be on sale to fans at stadiums during the monthlong World Cup will be nonalcoholic.

FIFA and Qatar on Friday banned beer sales around the eight World Cup stadiums in a stunning policy U-turn just two days before the start of the tournament. Football's world governing body said the decision was taken following "discussions" with the World Cup hosts, an Islamic state which severely restricts alcohol consumption. It gave no reason for the surprise decision but media reports said there had been an intervention by Qatar's ruling family. The decision could affect FIFA's deal with major sponsor beer-maker AB InBev, while fan groups said supporters should be concerned for other promises made by the hosts. A FIFA statement said only that alcohol would be focused on fan zones, "removing sales points of beer from Qatar's FIFA World Cup 2022 stadium perimeters." The move brought new criticism of Qatar, already under pressure over its rights record. "The real issue is the last minute u-turn which speaks to a wider problem -- the total lack of communication and clarity from the organising committee towards supporters," said the Football Supporters

Association in England. "If they can change their minds on this at a moment's notice, with no explanation, supporters will have understandable concerns about whether they

of the "unfair" criticisms that Qatar had faced. "I think that there is a misconception regarding the sale of alcohol in the stadiums," he said at the time. "We are working as any other World Cup



where this is something typical and usual, and it is no different than any other World Cup." He said it would be "business as usual". FIFA earns tens of millions of dollars each year from its sponsorship contract with AB InBev, the maker of Budweiser, the only beer available at official venues. "The tournament organisers appreciate AB InBev's understanding and continuous support to our joint commitment to cater for everyone during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022," added the FIFA statement. Neither the organising committee nor the Qatar government made any immediate comment. British newspaper The Times said the decision followed an intervention by the family of the emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. The New York Times said "World Cup staff members were told the move followed security advice" but that it was believed the decision originated with a brother of the sheikh who is influential in daily policy. Beer will remain available in VIP suites in stadiums, sold by the world body, at the main FIFA fan zone in Doha, some private fan zones and in about 35 hotel and restaurant bars. (AFP)

will fulfil other promises relating to accommodation, transport or cultural issues. "Dozens of beer tents had already been set up at stadiums ahead of the first game Sunday between Qatar and Ecuador. Qatar has spent tens of billions of dollars preparing for the World Cup and has predicted that more than one million fans will visit the country for the 29-day tournament. But its strict cultural rules -- homosexuality is also criminalised -- have faced international scrutiny. Organising committee chief executive Naser Al-Khater said in September that the availability of beer was one

# World Cup draws attention to equal rights, including attire

DOHA, NOV 18 /--/ Official-looking flyers have circulated on social media describing cultural expectations for fans attending the World Cup in Qatar. Some include rules for women's attire: Shoulders and knees must be covered. Problem is, it's bogus. While the local organizing committee suggests that fans "respect the culture," no one will be detained or barred from games in Qatar because of clothing choices. But persistent rumours swirling around appropriate garb and modesty at soccer's biggest tournament have also drawn attention to the country's record on equality.

Rothna Begum, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, has studied Qatar's male guardianship rules and women's rights in the conservative country. "There isn't anyone is going to go around arresting you for this because there isn't an official dress code," Begum said. "There isn't a compulsory dress code and you can't get sanctioned for it. It's just a social restriction, a social tradition." The local organizing committee includes a section on cultural awareness in its fan guide. "People can generally wear their clothing of choice. Shoulders and knees should be covered when visiting public places like museums and other government buildings," it said. The phrase "public places" is up to interpretation. The American Outlaws, the U.S. national team's supporters' group, produced its own fan guide. "Fans can wear shorts and

short sleeve shirts, and women are not required to cover their heads or faces. However, there are many buildings that require both men and women to cover their shoulders and knees before entering, including museums, shopping centres, and some restaurants," the guide says. "We recommend that fans carry some pants and/or a top with sleeves if they plan

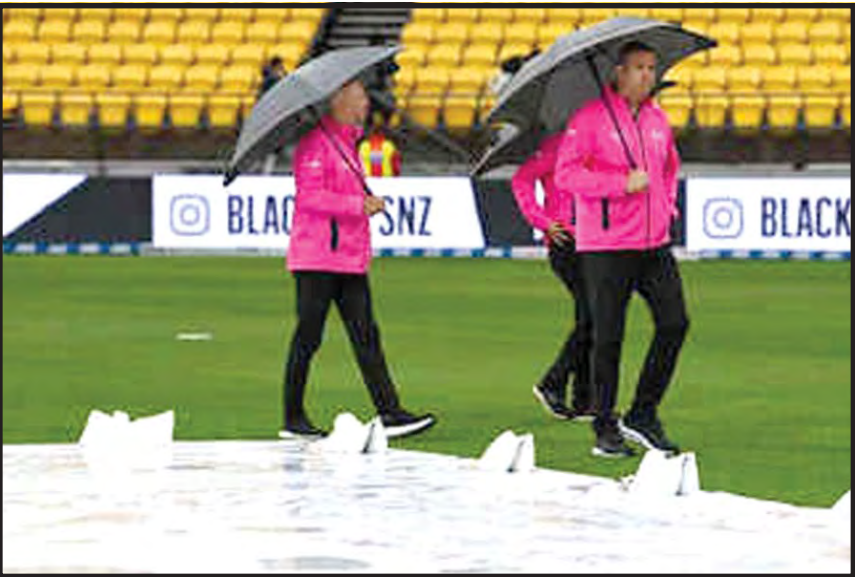
Islam encouraging female modesty, most Qatari women wear headscarves and a loose cloak is known as the abaya. Begum, who wrote about Qatar and its treatment of women in a 2021 report for Human Rights Watch, said that while women have made progress in Qatar, they still face discrimination in almost every facet of their lives. Women must get permission from male

guardians to marry, pursue higher education and work at certain jobs. Guardians can bar women under 25 from travelling abroad. It's a conservative culture that has little tolerance for dissent among its own citizens, she said. "There are no independent women's rights organizations and that's partly because the authorities have laws that make it difficult for you to set up associations that are in any way deemed political. You are not allowed," Begum said. "Women find it difficult to express or demand their rights offline or even online." That's one of the reasons critics are questioning FIFA for awarding the 2022 World Cup to Qatar. Observers certainly noticed when retired American soccer star Carli Lloyd wore a long, high-collared dress with long sleeves for the World Cup draw earlier this year. A letter recently circulated among teams from FIFA president Gianni Infantino and secretary general Fatma Samoura asked nations not to bring political or ideological issues into the tournament. "Please," they wrote, "let's now focus on the football." (AP)



on entering any buildings, as they may be asked to put them on. "In the stadiums, men and women will be required to wear tops. People will not be permitted to go shirtless during matches or in public settings." The first World Cup in the Middle East comes at a time when there is international attention on the treatment of women in Iran. The nation, which sits across the Persian Gulf from Qatar, has been rocked by anti-hijab protests following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died while being held by morality police for allegedly violating the country's compulsory dress code for women. Activists have called for Iran to be expelled from the World Cup. With

# Ind vs NZ: First T20I called off due to rain



WELLINGTON, NOV 18 /--/ The first T20 International of the three-match series between India and New Zealand was called off without a ball being bowled as incessant rain made the ground unplayable here on Friday. The rain did stop for a bit but barring a short period of dry spell, it continued to pour throughout at the Sky Stadium. The match was ultimately called off at 8.52pm local time, about an hour less than the cut-off time of 9:46pm for a five-over a side shootout. India are slated to play two more T20Is, followed by three ODIs as part of their tour of New Zealand. Both the teams had come in following their exit from the semifinal stage of the T20 World Cup in Australia. While India lost to eventual champions England, New Zealand were defeated by Pakistan. In the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, premier all-rounder Hardik Pandya is leading the Indian T20 side with wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant serving as his deputy. "Boys were quite excited to play NZ is a great country, great place to play. Unfortunate to not get a game. A lot of people came quite early as well, we were excited but this is something we as professional cricketers need to accept," Pandya said. Besides Rohit, star batter Virat Kohli and opener KL Rahul have also been rested for the tour. The next T20 will be played in Mount Maunganui on Sunday. (PTI)





उड़ेगा अरुणाचल,  
जुड़ेगा भारत



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TO THE NATION

by

SHRI NARENDRA MODI

HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

19<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 (Saturday)

in the august presence of

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|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd)</b><br>Governor<br>Arunachal Pradesh            | <b>Shri Pema Khandu</b><br>Chief Minister<br>Arunachal Pradesh      | <b>Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia</b><br>Union Minister of<br>Civil Aviation & Steel | <b>Shri Kiren Rijiju</b><br>Union Minister of<br>Law and Justice |
| <b>Shri Raj Kumar Singh</b><br>Union Minister of<br>Power, New & Renewable Energy | <b>Shri Chowna Mein</b><br>Dy. Chief Minister,<br>Arunachal Pradesh | <b>Shri Nakap Nalo</b><br>Minister,<br>Arunachal Pradesh                           |  |
| <b>Shri Tapir Gao</b><br>Member of Parliament<br>(Lok Sabha)                      | <b>Shri Nabam Rebia</b><br>Member of Parliament<br>(Rajya Sabha)    | <b>Shri Tana Hali Tara</b><br>MLA, Doimukh   |  |

Please be seated by 0800 hours  
Venue: Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar, Papum Pare