

# NOVEMBER



Brewing news!





## MONTHLY BLEND



## TEJAS TRIUMPH: PM MODI TAKES FLIGHT, SHOWCASING INDIA'S AERONAUTICAL PROWESS"

On November 25, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to the skies in Bengaluru aboard the indigenous Tejas light combat fighter. During a visit to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), he assessed the ongoing activities at the manufacturing site. Modi's Tejas sortie in the twin-seat trainer model, which is utilised by both the Air Force and the Navy, demonstrated India's confidence in its indigenous capabilities. The Tejas 4.5-generation multi-role fighter, developed for close combat support, currently has 40 MK-1 aircraft in the Indian Air Force, with a further 83 MK-1A fighters on order. Modi's flight and Tejas' recent presentation at the Dubai Air Show demonstrate India's technological strength and determination to self-reliance in defence. Tejas' Naval derivative is being tested for Ground Maritime Operations after being developed by HAL for the Indian Air Force.



## DELHI'S AQI HITS 'SEVERE' AS POLLUTION PEAKS

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi fell even farther into the 'severe' category on November 24, reaching 401, leading officials to call a review meeting. Gopal Rai, the Delhi Environment Minister, blamed the poor air quality on car pollution and biomass burning. As a result, strict monitoring of BS-IV diesel and BS-III petrol vehicles was imposed. While occurrences of stubble burning are supposedly reducing, pollution levels continue to climb. Vehicle pollution and biomass burning were recognised as important contributors by scientists. Forecasts predict that the situation will worsen after November 27 owing to light rain and increased wind speed. Anand Vihar, RK Puram, and Alipur had 'very poor' air quality. Sectors in Noida also reported on AQI readings.



The Telangana state assembly elections, scheduled for November 30, will choose all 119 legislative assembly members. Employment, welfare programmes, and the agricultural sector are among the key electoral themes. Notably, the Madiga community is a major source of worry, lobbying for internal reservations inside the Scheduled Caste (SC) category. In response, Prime Minister Narendra Modi encouraged officials to speed the sub-categorization process for Madigas, emphasising the importance of their representation. Historically, the Madiga community, which predominantly lived in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, was involved in handicrafts, leatherwork, tannery, and agriculture. Despite its SC status, Madigas has a number of sub-castes. The Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS), which was created in 1994, advocates for internal reservation within SCs, emphasising the importance of equitable distribution. Modi's promises and recent encounters reflect the BJP's efforts to address Madiga's issues and gain support ahead of the Telangana elections.

## CRUCIAL ELECTIONS IN TELANGANA: MADIGA COMMUNITY'S CALL FOR INTERNAL RESERVATIONS TAKES CENTER STAGE



## CHINA'S PEDIATRIC HEALTH MYSTERY: WHO SOUNDS THE ALARM AS RESPIRATORY CASES SURGE AMONG CHILDREN

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has voiced worry over a significant increase in respiratory infections among youngsters in China and has formally requested relevant disease data from Chinese authorities. The discovery of these instances has heightened worldwide concerns as the world continues to deal with the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beijing, on the other hand, claims that no uncommon or novel infections have been discovered. To successfully address such health problems, experts emphasised the importance of transparency in data sharing. The sudden spike in "influenza-like illness" in China since mid-October has sparked global concern. Pneumonia, characterised by symptoms such as fever, fast breathing, loss of appetite, vomiting, and coughing, has resulted in a significant number of hospitalisations, particularly in youngsters. The WHO has recommended prophylactic measures including as immunisation, keeping a safe distance from infected people, and wearing masks. Transparency is critical in treating possible infectious clusters on a worldwide scale, according to health specialists.



## RAJASTHAN ROARS: A THRILLING SAGA OF VOTES, VICTORY, AND VIBRANCY!

After weeks of energetic campaigning, the colourful election environment in Rajasthan saw the start of polling in 199 of 200 constituencies. The sudden death of the Congress candidate in Sriganganagar's Karanpur resulted in the postponing of elections in that constituency. Over 5.2 million voters will cast ballots to decide the fate of 1,875 candidates. The attention is on key contests, including Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's election in Sardarpura against BJP's Mahendra Singh Rathore. The electoral machinery is robust, with 36,101 polling stations, live webcasting at 26,393 sites, and a large deployment of 65,277 ballot units, 62,372 control units, and 67,580 VVPAT devices. The BJP, Congress, CPI(M), RLP, and AAP are among the major players. The much-anticipated vote count is set for December 3.

# BUSINESS BREWS



## RIISING MENACE OF FRAUDULENT DIGITAL LENDING: CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES IN INDIA

In recent years, India's digital economy has grown significantly, resulting in an increase in digital lending supported by fintech firms. Along with this expansion, there has been a surge in unethical practises, particularly targeting financially inexperienced individuals in the low and middle income categories, such as students and merchants in small towns. Fraudulent digital lending firms flood social media with loan promises, frequently preying on those with poor credit. These sites, which promise cheap interest rates, use fraudulent methods, demanding repayments significantly in excess of the borrowed amount. The RBI has proposed an independent organisation for app verification, and the Finance Ministry and MeitY are working together to build a whitelist of legitimate lending apps. However, enhanced attentiveness and financial awareness are critical in tackling this issue. Although tech platforms such as Google and Apple have made efforts to restrict such apps, continual care is required to thwart the strategies of fraudsters.



## INDIA MULLS BROKEN RICE EXPORT TO MALI AMID GLOBAL SUPPLY DYNAMICS

The Indian government is considering authorising the sale of 100,000 tonnes of broken rice to Mali, a country that is largely reliant on India for food grain. This comes on the heels of India's recent licence to export roughly 50,000 tonnes of broken rice to Bhutan and 2.77 million tonnes of non-basmati white rice to Asian and African countries. Despite the ban on broken rice exports, India has been exporting rice on a government-to-government basis to important partners in Asia and West Africa. The National Cooperative Exports Ltd, which was founded to export agricultural produce, facilitates the exports. The Rice Price Index of the Food and Agriculture Organisation stayed 24% higher year on year, underscoring India's importance as the world's largest rice exporter. From April to October, India exported 498,000 tonnes of broken rice despite the ban. For a balanced influence on the world market and India's commerce, experts suggest a nuanced strategy rather than complete prohibition.



## H&M COMMITS TO OFFSETTING BANGLADESH WORKER WAGE HIKE WITH PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

According to a letter obtained by Bloomberg News, Hennes & Mauritz AB (H&M) has promised to compensating for higher worker salaries in Bangladesh by altering prices for garments manufactured in the country. In reaction to the Bangladeshi government's decision to raise the minimum monthly income by 56% to 12,500 taka (\$113) beginning in December, the Stockholm-based company warned its Bangladeshi garment suppliers that it will "absorb the wage increase in our product prices." H&M stated its support for equitable and competitive pay in its supply chain, emphasising its commitment to improving working conditions. This action was taken in response to widespread protests by textile workers demanding bigger wage increases. Mostafiz Uddin, managing director of Denim Expert Ltd., has praised H&M's move who believes that more brands will follow suit. Bangladesh, the world's second-largest supplier of ready-made garments, is primarily reliant on its textile sector, which is noted for its low labour costs.



## RBI TIGHTENS CONSUMER CREDIT NORMS: IMPACT ON UNSECURED LENDING AND FINTECHS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened consumer lending regulations, requiring banks and non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) to assign greater risk weights to unsecured personal loans. This action, which signals concerns about the rapid growth of the consumer lending market, is expected to have the greatest impact on Fintech lenders. The RBI's decision includes a 25% rise in risk weights for consumer credit exposure, including as personal loans, to 125%. This modification intends to provide more credit risk coverage, but will result in higher costs for lenders, affecting both banks and NBFCs. Credit card exposures experience a comparable increase in risk weights. While this regulation may initially hinder new credit issuance, the RBI's goal is to address the risk accumulation in the consumer credit sector.

## IPO FRENZY: SUCCESSFUL LISTINGS AND INVESTOR ENTHUSIASM MARK THE WEEK"

This week saw a surge in investor interest in the five Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) listed, including Tata Group's Tata Technology. The successful debut of these IPOs, which included Gandhar Oil Refineries Ltd., Fedbank Financial Services Ltd., Flair Writing Industries Ltd., and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), drew plaudits from industry professionals. Investors expressed strong interest in several mainboard IPOs, with bids totaling 2.59 lakh crore. Nithin Kamath, the creator of Zerodha, praised the smooth listing procedure, stressing the outstanding evolution of market laws over the last two decades. He emphasised the reduction in IPO listing time to T+3, a substantial improvement from T+16 years ago. Kamath highlighted the good impact of these developments, particularly for ordinary investors who now earn interest during the IPO process. The primary market was active in the week ended November 24, with five mainboard IPOs attempting to raise 377 crore.





# ARTISTIC AROMAS

चलते चलते हम पहुंचते हैं क्या कभी लौट सकने की तरह?

जैसे आजतक कुछ भी लौटकर नहीं आया

ना पिता साइकिल लेकर लौटे ना बाबा अपनी बेंट लेकर

दादी; थककर आराम करने गई थी भाई; चैन से कहीं बैठने

मैं किसी दिन दूढ़ने जाऊंगा सबको।

चलते चलते हम पहुंचते हैं क्या कभी?



In the heart of Mumbai's Dharavi slum, the Dharavi Dream Project hip-hop academy has become a beacon of empowerment and resilience, defying stereotypes and fighting COVID-19-related discrimination. Despite initial hesitancy from parents, the academy, founded in 2015, offers free classes in breakdancing, beatboxing, and rapping, with the support of Qyuki and Universal Music Group. The academy not only nurtures artistic talent but also addresses social issues, using hip-hop to shed light on India's inequality and mistreatment of marginalized communities. During the pandemic, the academy expanded its reach through online classes, reaching 100 students regularly and 300 occasionally, emphasizing alternative careers in the music industry. Dharavi, once a symbol of disease, emerged triumphant against COVID-19, exemplifying the community's resilience. The academy's mission extends beyond creating music stars; it aims to uplift voices, secure futures, and instill confidence in the vibrant Dharavi community.



## INKSIGHTS



## LEADERSHIP SHAKE-UP AT OPENAI REVEALS TENSIONS OVER AI SAFETY AND GROWTH



The exit of the prominent leader from the San Francisco-based company highlighted a philosophical divide among those involved in developing new artificial intelligence (A.I.) systems.

Thanks to the success of the ChatGPT chatbot, Sam Altman has guided OpenAI to a prominent position in the technology industry during the last year. Internal tensions erupted, however, when Ilya Sutskever, a co-founder and AI researcher, became concerned about the possible perils of OpenAI's technology and thought Altman was not appropriately addressing the issues. The battle between quick development and AI safety came to a head on Friday, when four board members, led by Sutskever, dismissed Altman. This decision, reminiscent of Steve Jobs' resignation from Apple in 1985, highlighted the long-standing schism in the AI industry over how to combine financial prospects with safety concerns. Altman is allegedly in talks to rejoin OpenAI. The incident shines light on the broader discussion within the AI community about the hazards and advantages of AI technology advancement.

## COMMUNITY DYNAMICS IN MADHYA PRADESH ELECTIONS: BJP LEADS ACROSS CASTES, CONGRESS HOLDS KEY SUPPORT

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, is expected to win the Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections on November 17. The Congress, on the other hand, is expected to be the top pick among Muslims and the Bheel group, according to the India TV-CNX Opinion Poll. The survey highlights a closely fought battle between the BJP and the Congress, with the BJP holding a modest edge. The data reveals the BJP's lead among Brahmin, Bania, Rajput, Kurmi, Yadav, OBC, Kirar-Dhakad, and other Dalit communities. Meanwhile, the Congress is expected to receive substantial support from Muslims and the Bheel group, with a slight split among Jatav-Satnami voters. The elections are significant since they are part of broader state elections taking place in five states, with results due on December 3.



## AUSSIERS ROAR: HEAD'S HEROICS CRUSH INDIA'S WORLD CUP DREAMS

ASHISH JOSHI



Australia restored its hegemony in one-day cricket, defeating India by six wickets at Narendra Modi Stadium to win an unprecedented sixth World Cup. Enormous with Indian fans, the 132,000-seat stadium saw a breathtaking 137-run innings from Travis Head, who combined with Marnus Labuschagne's undefeated 58 to form a vital 192-run partnership in pursuit of the 241-run mark. Even though India had a strong tournament run, a tenacious Australian squad outperformed them. Virat Kohli won player of the event for his incredible performance during the competition, scoring 765 runs at an average of 95.62. At 240 all out, India's innings collapsed, and skipper Rohit Sharma admitted they were short by 20-30 runs. Australia's success was largely due to Pat Cummins' outstanding bowling, which claimed several vital wickets and silenced the crowd as well as the disappointment of India.

## NOURISHING HOPE: UNVEILING THE PATH TO A WORLD OF ZERO HUNGER

YASHASVI SHARMA

The second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2), Zero Hunger, seeks to address global environmental sustainability and food security challenges. "Zero Hunger" Sustainable Development Goal adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2015.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 bridges disciplinary realms with its call to: "End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture."

People experiencing moderate food insecurity are typically unable to eat a healthy, balanced diet on a regular basis because of income or other resource constraints.

It is projected that more than 600 million people worldwide will be facing hunger in 2030, highlighting the immense challenge of achieving the zero-hunger target.

We all want our families to have enough food to eat which is safe and nutritious. A world with zero hunger can positively impact our economies, health, education, equality and social development.

It's a key piece of building a better future for everyone. Additionally, with hunger limiting human development, we will not be able to achieve the other sustainable development goals such as education, health and gender equality.

In the 2023 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 111th out of the 125 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2023 GHI scores. With a score of 28.7, India has a level of hunger that is serious.

You can make changes in your own life—at home, at work and in the community—by supporting local farmers or markets and making sustainable food choices, supporting good nutrition for all, and fighting food waste.

You can also use your power as a consumer and voter, demanding businesses and governments make the choices and changes that will make Zero Hunger a reality. Join the conversation, whether on social media platforms or in your local communities.







# BUZZ & BEANS

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