

Crop residue burning has to be stopped: SC

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (PTI)

THE Supreme Court on Friday said that crop residue burning in Punjab and some other States adjacent to Delhi have to be stopped and solution has to be found to reduce the pollution level in the national capital region (NCR).

While hearing a matter relating to the debilitating air pollution in the Delhi-NCR, a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul observed there were several reports and committees on the pollution issue, but nothing was happening at the ground level.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah, said the apex court wanted to see the results. The Supreme Court was informed that every endeavour was being made to bring farm fires under control.

The top court is seized of a plea filed in 1985 by environmentalist M C Mehta on air pollution and the issue of crop residue burning had arisen during the hearing of the matter.

DELHI GOVT DEFERS IMPLEMENTATION OF ODD-EVEN SCHEME: ENVIRONMENT Minister

Gopal Rai on Friday said the odd-even car rationing scheme will not be implemented from November 13 to November 20 as there has been a significant improvement in Delhi's air quality due to rain.

Addressing a press conference here, he said the Government will review the air quality situation after Diwali and a call on the odd-even scheme may be taken if there's a sudden dip in air quality. Rai had earlier said the scheme will be implemented in the city after the Supreme Court reviews its effectiveness and issues an order.

Eighth Ayurveda Day celebrated on grand scale across country

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (ANI)

ON THE occasion of the eighth Ayurveda Day, Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that Ayurveda is like a boon in this era of nuclear power, pesticides, and a toxic environment.

With continuous efforts, the Ministry of Ayush has established more than 8,000 wellness centres across the country.

To further strengthen the service delivery of the Ayush sector, the Ayush Grid Project was launched and arrangements were made to strengthen it.

Ayurveda Day is celebrated every year on Dhanvantari Jayanti. By organising the event every year, the fame of Ayurveda Day has increased across the world. The need for medicinal plant cultivation is increasing rapidly across the world due to global expansion. This time on the occasion of the eighth Ayurveda Day, a micro website of Ayurveda Day was created which got the support of about 20 crore people from all over the world.

In his presidential address, Sonowal said that the message of Ayurveda Day's global campaign 'Ayurveda for One Health' and the global theme of the G-20 meeting 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' have left such an indelible impression that the whole world is watching.

Special guest of the programme, Haryana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gyan Chand Gupta praised the Ministry of Ayush for celebrating Ayurveda Day on this large scale in the country and the world and also underlined the efforts being made by the Haryana Government for the development of Ayurveda.

'SUPPORTING AYURVEDA A VIBRANT EXAMPLE OF BEING VOCAL FOR LOCAL': PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that supporting ayurveda is a vibrant example of being "vocal for local" and added the ancient treatment is furthering new paths to wellness.

In a post on X to mark Ayurveda Day, which falls on the day of Dhanteras, the Prime Minister said, "It is an occasion to salute the innovators and practitioners who are blending this ancient knowledge with modernity, propelling ayurveda to new heights globally." He added, "From groundbreaking research to dynamic startups, ayurveda is furthering new paths to wellness."

The Prime Minister earlier also wished people on Dhanteras.

Past 12 months hottest ever on Earth, El Nino effect to intensify

WASHINGTON, Nov 10 (IANS)

AMID rising concerns of climate change, especially caused by fossil fuel emissions, researchers have found the past 12 months (November 2022 to October 2023) have been the hottest ever recorded, and the situation is expected to worsen next year.

According to an analysis released on Thursday by non-profit organisation Climate Central, which analyses and reports on climate science, human-induced climate change has significantly elevated temperatures around the world and global average temperatures in this period were about 1.32-degree Celsius above pre-industrial averages, as per media reports. Its report also warned that El Nino is only just beginning to boost temperatures, and, based on historical patterns, most of the effect would be felt next year.

As per Climate Central, in the examined period, at least 90 per cent of the world's population experienced at least 10 days with high temperatures that would have been unlikely without the influence of climate change, while 25 per cent faced five-day heat wave spells made at least twice as likely by climate change.

"This is the hottest temperature our planet has experienced in something like 125,000 years," Climate Central's Vice President (Science), Andrew Pershing, said at a news conference, NBC News reported.

Blinken, Austin meet PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin in New Delhi on Friday. (ANI)

THE India-US partnership is truly a force for global good, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin jointly called on him Friday after conclusion of the '2+2' ministerial dialogue.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar were also present at the meeting between Modi and the two visiting

American officials.

"Glad to receive @SecBlinken and @SecDef. The '2+2' Format is a key enabler for further strengthening the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," Modi said on X.

"Our shared belief in democracy, pluralism and the rule of law underpins our mutually beneficial cooperation in diverse sectors. The India-US partnership is truly a force for global good," he said.

I&B Ministry proposes Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (IANS)

THE Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Friday invited comments on the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023 that will provide for a consolidated framework to regulate broadcasting services including DTH, OTT and digital news platforms.

The proposed draft Bill, which has been released for public consultation, aims to replace the Cable TV Networks (Regulations) Act 1995 and other policy guidelines that govern this sector. The Ministry invites feedback and comments on the above Bill from a wide range of stakeholders, including domain experts, broadcasting services providers and the general public. "The comments can

be sent on [jsb-moib\[at\]gov\[dot\]in](mailto:jsb-moib@gov.in) within 30 days from the date of this press release," it added.

The draft bill also provides for content evaluation committees with independent members, more participative Broadcast Advisory Council for self-regulation, differentiated approach for program and advertisement codes and statutory penalties, among others. The Ministry said that with the digitisation of the broadcasting sector, especially in cable TV, there is a growing need to streamline the regulatory framework.

It said, "This involves ensuring ease of doing business and enhancing adherence to the Programme Code and Advertisement Code by the broadcasters and Distribution Platform Operators."

A new **AI AIRCRAFT** every six days for 18 months



■ **By Gurdip Singh**

SINGAPORE, Nov 10 (PTI)

AIR India has ordered 470 aircraft to serve the Indian economy and is set to receive a new aircraft every six days over the next 18 months, CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said on Friday. He was speaking at the 67th Assembly of Presidents of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines here.

“We have new aircraft, we are recruiting many, many new

crew and staff, improving the training regime and there is more work to do and we are making good progress,” he said.

Speaking at a session, Wilson said a vast majority of Air India customers want reliability and punctuality, and the challenge is to satisfy customers’ requirements. Moreover, new aircraft are being put on international flights and most of the grounded planes have been restored, Wilson added.

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India-US to produce **ARMoured VEHICLE**

■ Decision on project under which India will procure 31 MQ-9B drones from the US will be announced at the right time, says Defence Secy Austin

NEW DELHI, Nov 10 (PTI)

INDIA and the US will co-produce an infantry combat vehicle as part of defence industrial cooperation, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Friday. He said this while speaking to a small group of journalists after the '2+2' Defence and Foreign Ministerial dialogue in Delhi.

Besides Austin, the US delegation comprised Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The Indian side was headed by External Affairs Minister S



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin pose for a group photo before the 5th India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi on Friday. (PTI)

Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"We are working together to co-produce an armoured vehi-

cle and that is extremely important," Austin said. To a question, he said the talks covered a wide range of issues includ-

ing the rising security challenges from China.

At the same time, he said the US-India relationship is not just based on challenges that China represents but it is based on shared values between the two countries.

Asked about the project under which India will procure 31 MQ-9B drones from the US, Austin said it will be announced at the right time. Officials in the Government are doing everything possible to make sure that India gets that capability as quickly as possible, he said.

We are stepping up US-India defence activities in multiple domains -- from space to under sea, Austin said. We exchanged views on major developments in Indo-Pacific region, Middle East and Ukraine, he said.

The defence secretary said the US-India cooperation is stronger than ever.