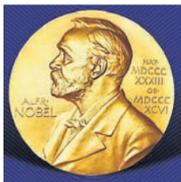




## SECRET OF SUCCESS

Actor Tina Desai has said even an ordinary story can be extraordinary if it is made and presented in a proper manner

LEISURE P2



## PANDEMIC IMPACT

The Nobel Prize ceremonies will be scaled-down for the second year in a row due to the Covid-19 pandemic

INTERNATIONAL P10



## MAN UNITED OUSTED

Manchester United bow out of League Cup following their 0-1 loss against West Ham in the third round

SPORTS P12

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## POSTAL VOTING FOR PIPLI STARTS

**PURI:** With just a week to go for the September 30 by-poll for the Pipli Assembly seat, the Puri district administration launched Thursday the process of postal ballot voting. Puri District Collector Samarth Verma said postal ballot voting for people above 80 years, physically challenged and Covid-19 recovered people will be conducted in seven blocks and will continue for five days. Seven teams have been formed with one micro observer to conduct the polling. There are a total of 1,077 postal ballot voters in the constituency.



## NIFTY REACHES ALL-TIME HIGH

**MUMBAI:** The Indian equity benchmarks sky rocketed to record highs Thursday. The Sensex rose as much as 1,030 points to hit record high of 59,957.25, within striking distance away from the 60,000-mark and Nifty 50 index closed above its important psychological level of 17,800 for the first time led by gains in banking, financial services, and oil and gas shares. The Sensex surged 958 points to close at record high of 59,885.36 and the Nifty 50 index climbed 176 points to settle at an all-time high of 17,823.

MORE P11

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**SCINTILLATING SHOW:** Artists from Bolangir perform Dhap dance during 'Ama Lokakala Ama Sanskruti' programme organised at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

# Panchayat poll rules amended

Earlier counting of votes was done in the booth on the same day. However, as per the new rule, the counting will be done on a different date as designated by SEC



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The Odisha government has amended rules for the smooth conduct of the elections for gram panchayats, panchayat samitis and zilla parishads, an official said Thursday.

As per the amended rules, the counting of votes will be done on a date fixed by the State Election Commission (SEC). Earlier, the counting of votes was done on the same day of the elections in the booth itself. However, now it will be on a different date as designated by the SEC. The counting of the gram panchayats, panchayat samitis and zilla parishad polls can take place on different dates, but the results will be announced on the same day.

A gazette notification issued in this regard by the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department said that the Odisha Grama Panchayat Election (Amendment)

Rules, 2021; Odisha Panchayat Samiti Election (Amendment) Rules, 2021; and Odisha Zilla Parishad Election (Amendment) Rules, 2021 have been framed.

"The presiding officer shall after close of the poll, seal the ballot box and voting machines in presence of candidates or their polling agents who may be present, prepare separate bundles of all papers and reports and forward the same to the election officer on same day after which the election officer shall proceed to take up counting of the votes on the scheduled date in presence of candidates or their agent, if any, who may be present at counting centre," the new notification said.

The SEC has further proposed to

have central counting at block headquarters instead of counting at the booth level in the next general election to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), 2022.

"Unless the commissioner otherwise directs, after the close of polling, the presiding officer shall seal the ballot boxes in presence of the candidates or their polling agents and prepare separate sealed packets of all papers and reports and forward the same to the election officer after which the election officer shall proceed to take up the counting of votes on the scheduled date in presence of the candidates or their polling agents, if any," said the clause included in the Rule 36 of Odisha Zilla Parishad Election Rules, 1994.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Don't get into number of dignitaries or tycoons he has to meet. Just tell him how many photo ops he has!

# BOLANGIR TO GET NEW PLANETARIUM

To educate young minds in the proper manner, the Odisha government has decided to set up 6 new planetariums and 30 science centres in various districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** A science centre and a planetarium will be constructed at Suryanagar near Talpali locality in Bolangir town, Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda stated Thursday. The planetarium will be built at a cost of ₹21 crore and will be completed within a period of 30 months, the minister added. The structure will come up on an area of 10 acre, Panda informed after a visit to the site.

The minister informed that the science centre will have an outdoor park displaying concept models of various scientific innovations and other exhibits. The centre will also have digital and physical interactive models on physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics for children.

This apart the planetarium will conduct shows on various thematic areas of the universe, evolution and space expedition. Panda added that the establishment of the centre will help to inculcate the inquisitive minds of the students and help them prosper.



6 more planetariums to come up in Odisha at a cost of ₹100 crore

The first among these six will be completed in Bolangir town within the next 30 months

Earlier, the Odisha Government had decided to set up six more planetariums and 30 science centres in the state in addition to the existing ones. At present two planetariums are operational in the State capital and Sambalpur while the foundation stone for another one was laid in March this year by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Rayagada. Sources said that ₹100 crore will be spent on building the new planetariums and district science centres.

After remaining out of bounds for visitors for approximately three months due to the second wave of the Covid-19 in the state, the Pathani Samanta Planetarium in this city and the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Planetarium in Sambalpur's Burla had reopened August 10. Visitors to the centres however, are only being allowed entry after they show double vaccination certificates.

# SC committee to investigate Pegasus row

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Sept 23:** In a significant development, the Supreme Court observed orally Thursday that it will set up a technical expert committee to inquire into the Pegasus snooping controversy and pass an interim order next week on a batch of pleas seeking an independent probe into the entire issue.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, which was to hear some other matter, addressed senior lawyer CU Singh, one of the counsels in the pleas, that the order will be pronounced next week.

"We wanted to pass an order this week," the CJI said. He added that the order had to be deferred as some members of the technical committee, which the court had in mind, expressed 'personal difficulties' in becoming part of it.

"That is why it is taking time to constitute the committee," the CJI said. "We will be able to finalise the members of the technical expert team by next week and then pronounce our orders."

The apex court's observations on constituting the committee assume significance in view of the Centre's statement that it would set up an expert panel on its own to look into the grievances of the alleged surveillance of certain eminent Indians by hacking their phones using Israeli firm NSO's spyware, Pegasus.

# Sahu's 'friend' Shruti booked

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Sept 23:** City Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh filed an affidavit Thursday in Orissa High Court on a case pertaining to the death of a Christ College student in August this year.

In his affidavit, the DCP informed the high court that a case has been filed against the deceased student's friend Shruti Maharana and Jagatpur police is now probing the entire incident.

Tusarkanta Sahu, an undergraduate commerce student of Christ College, had left his home near Chandi Square on a scooter for some work on the evening of August 3. But, he did not return home.

Sahu's family waited for a long time for his return. His father Hrusikesh then lodged a complaint in this regard with Cantonment

police. A couple of days later, Sahu's body was fished out from Mahanadi river near Jobra anicut August 5.

Hrusikesh had lodged a complaint against five of Sahu's friends in connection with the incident. He had also approached the DCP seeking action against Sahu's friends. He had claimed the alleged involvement of the friends in the unnatural death of his son.

Alleging police inaction in the case, Hrusikesh had moved the Orissa High Court August 23. Taking up the case August 26, the court had directed the DCP to file an affidavit in this connection.

Hrusikesh in his complaint has said that his son was killed by his female friend's boyfriends. He also has alleged that the girl used to mentally and physically harass his son. Hrusikesh mentioned that the girl and one of his boyfriends had once thrashed Sahu.

# Dhanbad judge was intentionally hit: CBI

Justice Anand's death created national furore prompting the Supreme Court to take up the case on its own and seek a report on the matter

AGENCIES

**Ranchi, Sept 23:** District judge Uttam Anand was intentionally hit by an auto-rickshaw and killed, the CBI told the Jharkhand High Court Thursday. The judge was hit by the vehicle on the morning of July 28 in Dhanbad, when he was jogging.

In its update, the probe agency said that reconstruction of the crime scene, examination of CCTV footage and forensic evidence all suggest that the judge was 'deliberately killed'. The reports 'conclusively suggest that the judge was intentionally hit' sources were quoted as saying by 'NDTV'.

The sources also informed that investigation is in the final stage. The CBI is now corroborating forensic reports with physical evidence to complete its case. Investigations into the conspiracy behind the killing are on, the sources said.

The two accused in the case are driver of the vehicle, Lakhan Verma and his helper Rahul Verma. Both were arrested a day after the incident. The three-wheeler they were driving was registered in the name of a woman.

Initially it was thought to be a hit-and-run case. However, CCTV footage was intentionally heading towards the judge when he was running. It hit the judge and fled away.

Justice Anand had been handling many cases of mafia killings in Dhanbad and had rejected bail requests from two gangsters. He was also hearing a murder case involving an MLA's close aide. Prior to his death, he had also received a number of threatening calls.

# JR HOCKEY WORLD CUP COMES TO TOWN

After successfully hosting senior men's tournaments like the Champions Trophy and the FIH World Cup, Bhubaneswar will now play host to the junior hockey stars of the world

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** Odisha will host the Men's Hockey Junior World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium here from November 24 to December 5, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced Thursday. A total of 16 teams are expected to take part in the tournament, including India.

At a function held here, Patnaik said Hockey India (HI) had recently

approached the Odisha government to support them for the men's junior world Cup to be held in two months time.

Others present at the function were Odisha Sports Minister, Tusharkanti Behera, FIH president Narinder Batra and HI Secretary-General Rajinder Singh.

"It is a short notice for making the arrangement for such an event, especially during the pandemic period. However, since India's prestige is at stake, we have readily agreed to host it," the CM said. "I hope the reigning Indian team will take advantage of the home conditions and emerge victorious again. Our priority will be to ensure a safe environment to compete during these challenging Covid-19 times," added Patnaik.

## PARTICIPATING TEAMS

India, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt, Belgium, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, USA, Canada, Chile and Argentina.

The Odisha chief minister also also unveiled the logo and the trophy for the event.

Batra thanked Patnaik for hosting the tournament in Odisha and said that the hockey infrastructure in the state is 'world class'.

It should also be stated here that Odisha is the official sponsors of the senior Indian men's and women's hockey teams since 2018 and has extended the deal to 2033. The Odisha government has been in the forefront of promoting

hockey in India and that is one of the main reasons, HI decided to request the state to once again host the junior-level tournament.

A robust infrastructure and the state government's support for the game, has made Odisha the 'hockey hub' of India in the last few years. Odisha will also host 2023 senior men's World Cup. The matches of the tournament will be played here and Rourkela in Sundargarh district.

The last time the tournament was held in 2016 at Lucknow. India emerged champions beating Belgium 2-1 in the final. It is however, not yet known whether crowds will be allowed during the matches keeping in mind restrictions imposed due to Covid-19.

Australia will not participate due to Covid-19 restrictions.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik with FIH president Narinder Batra during the unveiling of the trophy for the Junior Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
If you're looking to get married, buy the ring today. But before you take the leap, weigh all the pros and cons carefully, says Ganesh. All in all, this may be a day filled with activities related to your relationship and by the time the day ends, you may be on cloud nine!

**TAURUS**  
This is one of those dreadful days when you could be unduly touchy and short tempered, fears Ganesh. Don't go around getting into fights and quarrels with anyone who seems unfriendly or ill-mannered. You will only end up in spilling some healthy relationships. Your moods are likely change from moment to moment. An ugly row with your spouse cannot be ruled out. Do not endanger your married life. Be firm with yourself and keep your irritability under full control.

**GEMINI**  
Today, your house gets a facelift – a new rug, matching cushion covers, or a brand new kitchen. This will take up most of your time. First, you will be busy furnishing and setting up your home, and then you will spend your time flaunting it to your friends, relatives, neighbours, bosses, colleagues, acquaintances.

**CANCER**  
Your strange and unconventional behaviour doesn't always go down well with many people. If you think you are different, and maybe even better than others, it is advisable that you keep it under the wraps. The reason being that most people may not be able to understand you. Some may even feel intimidated by you. It would be a good idea for you to share your uniqueness only with 'liberal' friends, says Ganesh.

**LEO**  
Some people have the world at their feet. And today, you are one of them, says Ganesh. With your gorgeous appearance and gregarious attitude, it is easy for you to open all doors with just a touch. So, you have the luxury to choose – either you entertain yourself through multiple avenues such as movies, theatre and music, or you be the entertainer with your superior performing skills. But irrespective of what you decide to do, you shall excel in both, confirms Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
A shadow grows large in your mind today. An unknown fear will haunt your day, warns Ganesh. But be ready to take a hike. You are most likely to end up spending on your foreign associates. Be careful of those expenses, says Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Nothing comes for free – keep this in mind as you may have to pay your dues for the success you desire today, especially if it is a new project that you have undertaken. Be prepared to invest a considerable amount of time and effort in your endeavours. Spare money can be used to purchase new assets that may pay dividends in the future. Either that, or put it in a bank. In short, Ganesh advises prudence in money matters.

**SCORPIO**  
Your energy levels are high as you gear up for new events. However, there are chances that these events may not meet your expectations. But, don't lose hope and get disappointed. Keep your spirits high. Implement the first lesson learnt in school: try & try till you succeed!

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Remember that actions always speak louder than words. You will, in all probability, finish your work that has been seeking your attention for long now. You shall also successfully bring continuing disputes to the table and resolve them logically.

**CAPRICORN**  
The journey from defeat to success is driven by optimism. You will be very optimistic today – about your work, future and everything that can lead you to success, says Ganesh. You will also be very careful while dealing with day-to-day work, and will capitalise on every opportunity that can get you a step closer to your goals. Determination and good luck is all you need to realise your dreams; you will have both today.

**AQUARIUS**  
Things barely move today. But just like the proverbial tortoise, you seem to be winning the race, for many opportunities will come your way. There won't be any cash crunch, so you needn't lose sleep over that, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
The focus will be on children today, says Ganesh. While they will be the cause of an unfair share of your headache, you will be surprised at their ability to step up to the occasion, with just a little amount of coaching.



## TRAINOR SUFFERED HER FIRST PANIC ATTACK ON LIVE TV

All About That Bass hitmaker Meghan Trainor has opened up about her mental health struggles, saying that she suffered her first panic attack live on television. The singer was on *CBS This Morning* with Gayle King ahead of announcing the 2017 Grammy nominees when she started 'vibrating' and felt she was 'dying', reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

## GILLIAN ANDERSON BANS HER KIDS FROM WATCHING SEX EDUCATION

Actress Gillian Anderson, who stars as Dr Jean Milburn in the Netflix series *Sex Education*, has banned her children from watching the show. "But I have no control over what they do at their friends' houses. I have no control over what their friends show them," she said.



# A LOT CAN HAPPEN BETWEEN SCRIPT AND FINAL PRODUCT :TINA

**MUMBAI:** Actress Tina Desai is gaining visibility for her portrayal of Ananya Ghosh in the web series *Mumbai Diaries 26/11*.

Tina says coming to the world of cinema with no mentor, it is tough to judge the right project to get the right kind of visibility.

She added: "Since I have started my career in cinema from scratch, I did not have much understanding of judging the right project. My first film was a disaster but when

I heard the script narration initially, I found that story and my character very interesting. Eventually, post-release of the film, I realised that it is not just about a good story but how the film is made and released, it is about executing the idea.

"I think if made and presented well, even an ordinary story could also look extraordinary. I gradually understood the importance of production value and other

aspects of films and choosing the right project, therefore. A lot can happen between the script and final product, through filming, editing, and most importantly presentation."

The actress is known for appearing in shows like *Table No. 21*, *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, and *Sense8*.

## When SRK turned up at Juhi's party at 2.30 am

**MUMBAI:** Actress Juhi Chawla has told about an incident when superstar Shah Rukh Khan arrived at her party at 2.30 in the morning.

She revealed this on the sets of Zee Comedy Show where she will feature as a special guest this weekend.

"Whenever there is a party at our house, we always invite Shah Rukh. During one party, I had called him, and everyone was excited that he was coming, especially my staff because they wanted to take pictures with him," Juhi said.

"I had told him to come by 11 pm, but he had mentioned

that he would come slightly late. Eventually he came around 2.30 am, by the time which the staff had left and I had slept. The food was also over; everyone had gone home and that's when he came," the

actress recalled.

Commenting on Shah Rukh Khan's habit of arriving late, the show's 'Laughing Buddha' Farah Khan shared: "We all know that when we have a 9 am call time, Shah Rukh will come at 2 pm, but that's fine. However, when he suddenly comes in at 11 am, things go for a toss."

Offering Shah Rukh a funny piece of advice, Farah added: "I feel late aa rahe ho, toh consistently late aao. (If you are coming late, then be consistent with it.)" IANS



# 6th Deomali National Theatre Festival kicks off in Koraput

SIX PLAYS IN ODISIA, BENGALI, HINDI AND ENGLISH WILL BE STAGED BY THEATRE TROUPES FROM ODISHA AND WEST BENGAL IN STRICT ADHERENCE TO COVID GUIDELINES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**KORAPUT:** The 6th Deomali National Theatre Festival 2021, organised by Koraput-based theatre troupe Nandanik, started Thursday here at Tribal Museum with its 8th Foundation Day Lecture by Prof Sachidananda Joshi. The online lecture aired on social media was titled, *Changing Pattern of Performances in the Digital Era*.

In his speech, Prof Joshi, an eminent author-playwright-academic and currently, the Member Secretary of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, asserted that the artiste community is the worst



A screenshot of Nandanik's Foundation Day Lecture by Prof Sachidananda Joshi

affected in the Covid-19 pandemic era and expressed deep concern over their socio economic condition due to lack of

performances which are restricted due to the pandemic. He explained the psyche of an artiste and the importance of arts in

the society with reference to ancient Hindu philosophical texts. To demonstrate the emotion of an artiste who can't perform, Prof Joshi shared a video prepared by Dushyant Joshi where eminent actress Malavika Joshi enacted the pain of a performer who is missing her audience. The performance was adapted from the poem, *Bina Awaz Ki Taali* penned by Prof Joshi.

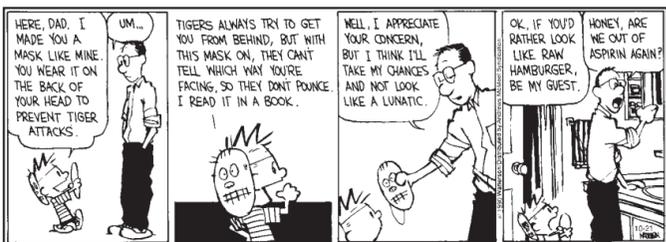
The Foundation Day Lecture acted as a curtain raiser to the 6th Deomali National Theatre festival. Six plays in Odia, Bangla, Hindi and English will be staged by theatre troupes from Odisha and West Bengal in strict adherence to Covid guidelines.

## FUN post

### PEANUTS



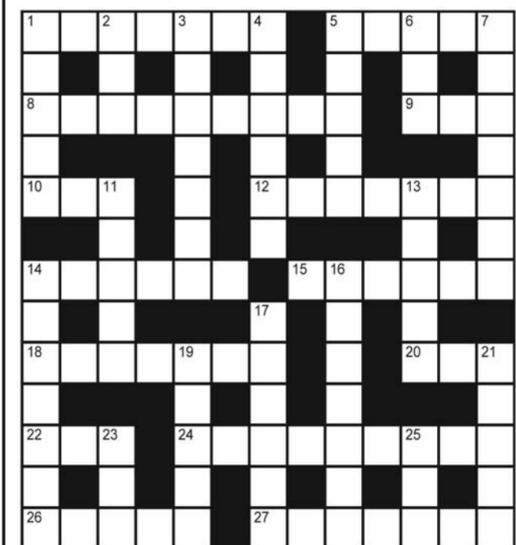
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



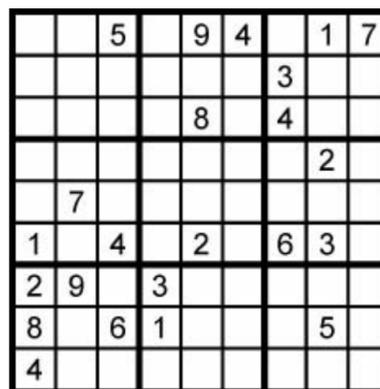
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Small stream
  - 5 Inner circle
  - 8 Expensive digs
  - 9 Joke
  - 10 Basenji, e.g.
  - 12 In one group (2,5)
  - 14 Chartered
  - 15 Body snatchers
  - 18 Vows
  - 20 Dead heat
  - 22 Clumsy sort
  - 24 Yeoman of the guard
  - 26 Waterfall effect
  - 27 Firebird
- Down**
- 1 Speedy
  - 2 Moving option
  - 3 Port city on the English Channel (2,5)
  - 4 Removable locks
  - 5 Tea additive
  - 6 Excavate
  - 7 Young birds of prey
  - 11 Critical
  - 13 Acrobatic feat
  - 14 Some computers
  - 16 Once famous actor? (3-4)
  - 17 Green light
  - 19 Loquacious
  - 21 Miscue
  - 23 It's a wrap
  - 25 Harbour craft

### SUDOKU

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

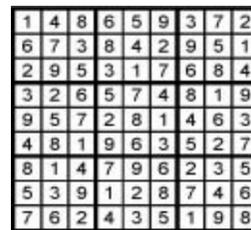


### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

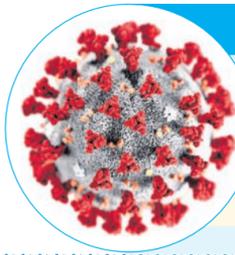


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## LEISURELY HOURS

People enjoying a game of dice in Dagarapara area of Cuttack, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,10,50,483	20,77,35,969	47,35,770
India	3,35,63,421	3,28,15,731	4,46,050
Odisha	10,22,594	10,08,671	8,157

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Kangaroo court in City punishes minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested three women on charges of holding a Kangaroo court and punishing a minor boy at a slum in Nayapalli area here.

The arrested are: Kabita Bhuyan, 38, of Polasara and Anita Nayak of Bhanja Nagar in Ganjam, and Sarojini Sahoo of Jagatsinghpur district. They have been residing at Ekamra Vihar of Salia Sahi here.

The minor and a person were engaged a heated argument over a trivial issue Sunday night but the incident resolved with the intervention of slum dwellers. However, three members of Maruti Vihar Mahila Sangha held a meeting Wednesday and forced the boy to kneel down. They also beat up the minor in front of everyone.

# Good oral health sine qua non for staying fit: Sauvik Singha

*A healthy mouth refers to balanced oral health and it is indeed the mirror of the body. Taking care of oral health is an investment in your general health. Oral health problems beyond dental diseases risk your body's fitness and escalate treatment expenses. During an interaction, Dr Sauvik Singha, Consultant, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, at Care Superspecialty Hospital, elaborates more on ways to maintain good oral health. Excerpts...*

### What are the conditions linked to oral health?

■ Endocarditis – inflammation of inner lining of heart chambers and valves – and cardiovascular diseases (clogging of arteries and stroke) might be linked to infections caused by oral bacteria. Bad oral health can lead to respiratory diseases. Certain oral microbes can be dragged into lungs, causing pneumonia. It can also lead to pregnancy and birth related complications. For example, severe gum disease (periodontitis) can lead to premature births and low birth weight.

### Do body conditions affect oral health?

■ Yes. Diabetes mellitus decreases body's resistance to infections leading to frequent prevalence of severe gum diseases. HIV/AIDS can lead to painful oral lesions and osteoporosis is a disease that weakens the bones and is linked with bone and tooth loss in the mouth. Also, people suffering from Alzheimer's disease, seizures and other similar ailments project a lack of dexterity in maintaining oral health. Certain immune disorder or cancers can cause dry mouth.



## OP TALKS

### Oral and general health: Is it a two-way street?

■ The overall health of one's body has a bidirectional connection with oral health. Your mouth is the entry point to respiratory and digestive systems. Some of the oral bacteria can cause diseases. Certain medications like painkillers, antihistaminics, antidepressants and diuretics can reduce salivary flow, decelerating neutralisation of

acids produced by bacteria and subsequently increasing the microbial multiplication and causing illness. Severe form of gum or mucosal disease might endanger general health while certain diseases like diabetes, HIV/AIDS can lower the body's resistance to infection making oral health problems more severe. A careful oral examination helps in detecting signs of nutritional deficiencies as well as immune disorders, microbial diseases, body injuries, and even some cancers.

### What are the ways to maintain good oral hygiene?

■ Practicing good oral hygiene includes measures that everyone can easily adopt. Brushing teeth twice a daily with soft bristled brush using fluoride toothpaste is the best way to maintain good oral health. Make flossing a daily habit. Practicing the use of mouthwash to remove food particles left after brushing and flossing. Maintaining a healthy diet and limiting the use of added sugars. Toothbrush should be replaced in every three months or sooner if bristles are splayed or worn. Practicing early interventions like dental sealant placement and examination for early signs of oral and pharyngeal cancers.

## JK Tripathy appointed state info panel chief

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The state government Thursday appointed retired IPS officer Jalad Kumar Tripathy as the State Chief Information Commissioner (CIC).

"On the recommendation of the Committee constituted for the purpose, the Governor of Odisha is pleased to notify the appointment of JK Tripathy as the State CIC, Odisha Information Commission, from the date he assumes charge of office," Information and Public Relations department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi said in a notification Thursday.

The Committee, led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, had approved the name of the former IPS officer for the chief post in the Odisha Information Commission (OIC) during its meeting held Tuesday on virtual mode, sources said.

As per norms, he will hold office for a term of five years from the date of joining and until he attends the age of 65 years.

Tripathy, a 1985-batch Odia police officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, has served as DGP of Tamil Nadu. He has also served the Tamil Nadu police over three decades in various capacities including Crime Branch CID, Economic Offences Wing (EOW) and police commissioner of Chennai.

At present, the state information panel is run by four information commissioners. The post of CIC was lying vacant since August 15, 2021, after the completion of the tenure of Sunil Mishra.

# State forms panel to boost fruit, vegetable production

POST NEWS NETWORK

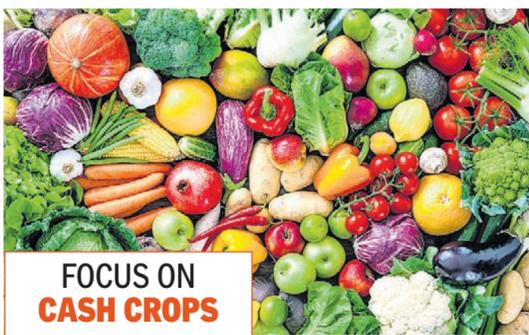
**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The state government Thursday constituted a committee, led by Agriculture Production Commissioner Raj Kumar Sharma, to prepare a target specific and time-bound plan to scale up fruit and vegetable production in the context of different agro-climatic zones of Odisha.

Presiding over a high-level meeting on digital mode, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra directed the officials to prepare the work plan in a couple of weeks, reflecting the interventions required in terms of the agri-input, post-harvest management, cold storage and market linkage.

Mahapatra asked the officials to prepare the plan with inputs from the experts, farmers and agri-entrepreneurs and list out the species which have a higher potential in the state.

Development Commissioner Pardeep Kumar Jena advised the officials to focus on vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, potato and onion; and fruits like papaya, banana, guava and lemon.

Horticulture director Rohit Kumar Lenka said that Odisha ranked first in the production of sweet potato, second in brinjal, fifth in watermelon, cauliflower, okra, tomato, and, sixth in bottle gourd at national level as per the Horticulture



## FOCUS ON CASH CROPS

The Chief Secretary asked the officials to prepare the plan with inputs from the experts, farmers and agri-entrepreneurs and list out the species which have a higher potential in the state

Development Commissioner Pardeep Kumar Jena advised the officials to focus on vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, potato and onion; and fruits like papaya, banana, guava and lemon

Area Production Information System (HAPIS) report of 2019-20.

Similarly, in the fruit production category, the coastal state ranked fifth in lemon, seventh in sapota, ninth in mango. In pro-

duction of spices, Odisha ranked sixth in coriander, seventh in chilli and turmeric and eighth in garlic as per the HAPIS report of 2019-20.

Meanwhile, Odisha ranked seventh in production of vegetables and eleventh in production of fruits, as per the agri-crop report of 2019-20. The total fruit production in Odisha touched 24,82,000 tonne, vegetable production reached 97,98,000 tonne and spice production crossed 2,02,000 tonne.

The Chief Secretary directed to choose the small number of these items in the first phase for more focused intervention. The department was also asked to conduct farmers' training and orientation programmes about the modern technique of cultivation and yearly return from the non-paddy cash crops.

# Durga Puja sans public for 2nd year in a row

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) stated Thursday that the upcoming Durga Puja festival will be celebrated sans devotees.

This is second consecutive year that the civic authority has banned the public from participating in the festival.

Such a decision has been taken keeping in mind the Covid-19 situation in Odisha.

BMC officials cited the examples of the Onam festival in Kerala and the Kumbh Mela in Uttarakhand. After both the functions, the number of Covid-19 cases had increased rapidly in the two states.

Keeping in mind this fact, the BMC has banned participation of public in the upcoming Durga puja.

The order issued Thursday by the BMC said, "The idol size should be

less than four feet. Immersion procession of idols by the organisers will not be allowed. The idols will be immersed in artificial ponds that will be created by the BMC. Only 10 persons of the organizing committee can be present during the immersions," the order said.

It added that flouting of Covid-19 guidelines by any puja organising committee will attract strict punishments.

It can be mentioned that the Orissa High Court September 17, had rejected a petition filed by Cuttack's Balu Bazar Puja Committee seeking relaxation in restrictions imposed on height of Durga idol from more than four feet.

The court was of the view by restricting the height of the idol, the sanctity of the occasion, the devotion and fervour associated with the festival, and the religious sentiments of the people is not disturbed.

# Show cause notices on 19 lecturers for absenteeism

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The state government Thursday served show cause notices on 19 lecturers of AES College at Tarabha in Subarnapur district for their absence in the college September 22.

In a letter to the lecturers, Higher Education department additional secretary Surendra Kumar Panda said that during a visit of officials, including Sambalpur's Regional Director of Education, to the college September 22, 19 lecturers of the institution were found to be absent without prior information.

Panda also wrote that the salary of the teachers concerned for the day (September 22) may not be drawn until further order.

The lecturers include Anoj Kumar Bhukta (Political Science), Niranjan Purohit (Education), Binati Mishra (Economics), Shivaram Meher (Mathematics), Rohit Padhan (Chemistry) and Prabhudatta Hota (Zoology).

# Second merit list for Plus III admissions out

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The Higher Education department Thursday declared the second selection merit list for Plus III admissions through Student Academic Management System (SAMS) portal.

As per the official notification, as many as 40,611 students have been selected in the second selection. Out of the selected students, 19,024 are boys, 21,584 girls and three are transgenders.

This year, altogether 2,44,252 stu-

dents had applied for admission to difference Plus III courses.

Official sources said that out of the 36,683 students, who had applied for slide up option, 15,232 have been selected. Slide-up ensures eligible students get selected for admission in higher 'choice of preference' institution applied in the CAF.

Like the first merit list, in second merit list too, the Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar (BJB) Autonomous College recorded the highest cut-off marks.

In Arts stream, BJB College de-

clared a cut-off of 89.33 per cent in Geography, 89.33 per cent in English, 87.5 per cent in Psychology, 86.3 in Economics and others

In Physical Science stream, the BJB College set 95.17 per cent in Physics, 95 per cent in Mathematics and 93 per cent in Chemistry.

Likewise, in Biological Science stream, the college recorded 95 per cent in Zoology, 92.8 in Botany and 90 per cent in Biotechnology.

In commerce, the college announced a cut-off of 88.8 per cent. Selected students will have to

deposit the admission fees according to their respective colleges through the SAMS portal between September 21 and 24. After the deposit of fees, students will report to the allotted institutes to complete the admission process between September 22 and 25.

Earlier, the first cut-off list for Plus III courses was declared September 9. While 2,44,252 students had applied for admission into the degree colleges of the state, as many as 1,68,537 have been selected in the first phase.

# Jatni MLA seeks varsity status to BJB College

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Sept 23:** Jatni MLA Suresh Kumar Routray has met Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan here and requested him to grant university status to BJB Autonomous College in Bhubaneswar.

The Congress MLA also met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Bishweswar Tudu and put forth several other demands.

During his meeting with Pradhan, Routray requested the minister to grant university status to BJB Autonomous College and sought financial support to other colleges in his constituency. The Congress leader urged Pradhan to draft a policy for ensuring jobs to



**BJB College fares well in terms of examinations every year. We've requested the Union Education Minister to grant university status to the college**

SURESH KUMAR ROUTRAY | JATNI MLA

locals in IIT, AIIMS, NISER and other major institutions in Odisha.

"BJB College fares well in terms of examinations every year. We have requested the Union Education

Minister to grant university status to the college," Routray said.

Routray also requested the Railway Minister to take initiatives to transform Bhubaneswar railway station into a modern station with world-class amenities. He claimed that a few railway stations in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have already been developed and inaugurated but the work is yet to start for Bhubaneswar station.

During his meeting with the Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, the Congress MLA demanded that the Saura community in Gujarat be renamed as Sabar and provided the benefits of reservation meant for Scheduled Tribe communities. With this, the people of the community in Khurda, Nayagarh and Phulbani will be benefitted, said Routray.

## EXQUISITE WORK



An artisan busy making decorative pieces in Phiring Bazar area of Cuttack for the upcoming festivals, Thursday

OP PHOTO

# State cautions RSP to follow SOP, maintain coordination

During heavy rainfall between September 12 and 16, the RSP authorities suddenly released water from Mandira Dam without informing the Rengali Dam officials, causing problems for the latter



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The state government asked Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to follow its standard operating procedure (SOP) for proper management of the Mandira Dam. The dam is situated on Sankh River, a tributary of Brahmani on the upper catchment area of Rengali Dam, and is owned and operated by the RSP. During heavy rainfall between September 12 and 16, the RSP authority suddenly released water from the Mandira Dam without informing the Rengali Dam officials. As a result, the latter faced

problems, sources said. Expressing dissatisfaction over this attitude of the concerned RSP authority, state Water Resources Secretary Anu Garg wrote a letter to the Director in Charge, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Rourkela. Garg said that during the heavy rainfall period, the Rengali Dam was effectively managing the reservoir considering different aspects such as MeT department forecast and anticipated contribution of water from different catchment conditions. However, from September 15 (12 pm onwards), the dam officials observed that there was a steady rise of reservoir level which forced them to open the gate on the next day looking at the safety of Rengali Dam, which would not have been necessary otherwise because of the down-stream conditions, she said. Subsequently, it was learnt that increase of inflow into Rengali Reservoir was due to the unwarranted and substantial release of water from Mandira Dam. The sudden and uninformed release of huge quantities of water creates emergency conditions at dams located downstream, Garg said. Under the above circumstances, the SAIL director was urged to instruct the concerned authorities to maintain proper coordination with downstream dam prior to the onset of every monsoon season by organising joint meetings and following the advisories prescribed in the SOP. The information on gate operation should be shared during the entire monsoon period with district administration as well as dam and state authorities so that decisions on downstream reservoir operation can be taken judiciously, she added.

## PLEA BEFORE GOVT



Activists of several political parties including Congress, CPI and CPM stage a dharna at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, seeking safeguard of the rights to life and livelihood in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic

# Three drug peddlers arrested in Puri

**Puri, Sept 23:** Puri Sadar police Thursday claimed to have seized 40 grams of brown sugar from a car and arrested three drug peddlers at Malatipatapur here. Accused Debaprasad Mishra, 34, Karim Uallah, 38, and Sk Anu, 34, of Sikharchandi area in

Bhubaneswar were on their way to peddle brown sugar in Puri city, said Puri Sadar IIC Sumati Kumari Mohanty. "The accused have collected the contraband from Balasore. They were travelling to Puri from Bhubaneswar to peddle the drug. We are trying to find out the persons involved in this illegal trade

in Puri," said Puri Additional SP Mihir Kumar Panda. Sources, meanwhile, claimed that drug peddlers used to smuggle brown sugar from Jankiagada and Nirakarapur areas of Brahmagiri to Puri and sell the drug in small sachets. The peddlers are charging around ₹700 for a sachet of brown sugar, said a source.

The police in Puri have arrested several drug peddlers in recent days but they are yet to bust the racket involved in the illegal trade and trace out the source of the contraband, added the source. "Our investigation is on and we are trying to trace the racket involved in brown sugar peddling in Puri," said the Additional SP.

## ICAR-CIFA signs agreement with Sambalpur varsity



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Bhubaneswar based ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) and Sambalpur University Thursday for collaborative efforts towards research and academic excellence. The signatories were Sanjiv Mittal, Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur University and Saroj Kumar Swain, Director, ICAR-CIFA. The MoU aims at research collaboration, student exchange and training programmes between the institutions. In the event, Swain appreciated Sambalpur University's vision of raising the standard of living of the weaker section of society in the western Odisha. Mittal reiterated the need for greater collaboration and application of science and technology for the betterment of the society. He also urged the scientists of CIFA to collaborate with Sambalpur University so that both organisations can be in a win-win situation in the pursuit of the said target.

# Infection rate among kids 11.18%

The coastal state currently has 5,713 active Covid-19 cases while 10,08,671 patients, including 445 Wednesday, recovered from the highly infectious disease

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The state Thursday reported 644 new Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to 10,22,594, while seven fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,157. The new cases included 72 children and adolescents whose rate of infection stands at 11.18 per cent, a Health department official said. The fresh infections were detected in 24 districts, with 375 reported from different quarantine centres while the remaining 269 being local contact cases. Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest 283 new cases followed by Cuttack (77) and Balasore (34). The state Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department informed that seven districts - Angul, Cuttack, Jajpur, Khurda, Nabarangpur, Puri and Sundargarh - reported one Covid-19 death each, which pushed the toll to 8,157. This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients have also died due to comorbidities, the department added. The coastal state currently has 5,713 active Covid-19 cases while 10,08,671 patients, including 445 Wednesday, recovered from the highly infectious disease. The state has thus far conducted over 1.95 crore sample tests including 72,193



**LONG BATTLE**  
Seven districts - Angul, Cuttack, Jajpur, Khurda, Nabarangpur, Puri and Sundargarh - reported one Covid-19 death each  
The state has thus far conducted over 1.95 crore sample tests including 72,193 Wednesday and its positivity rate stands at 5.2 per cent  
Odisha has, so far, administered over 2.87 crore Covid-19 vaccines doses of which 77,10,601 beneficiaries have taken both doses.

## Motu IIC nabbed for carrying unaccounted cash

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** Vigilance sleuths Thursday arrested Sushant Sahu, the inspector in-charge (IC) of Motu police station in Malkangiri district on charges of possessing unaccounted cash of ₹2.8 lakh. Acting on a tip-off, the officials of the Vigilance department intercepted his car near Phulnakhara and seized the money. The car is registered in the name of his brother in law Mihir Sahu. He could not account for the money satisfactorily during interrogation. Following the interception, the office room of Sahu, his house at his native village Phulnakhara and the house of his brother-in-law in Ranihat, Cuttack were searched. During house searches, among other incriminating material, a registered sale deed of value ₹24.90 lakh of plot at Nakhra purchased recently in the name of his wife has been recovered. A case has been registered u/s 7(a)/13(2) r/w 13(1)(b)/12 PC Amendment Act 2018. He is being forwarded to the court of Special Judge Vigilance Bhubaneswar.

# 4 spl trains to remain cancelled till Sept 30

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** In view of poor passenger patronisation due to Covid-19 pandemic, ECoR has decided to cancel some special trains till September 30. These trains are: 08431/08432 Puri-Cuttack-Puri Special, 08438/08437 Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special, 08461/08462 Cuttack-Paradip-Cuttack Special and 08454/08453 Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special. This apart, the 08428/08427 Puri-Angul-Puri Special will be partially cancelled till September 30 between Talcher and Angul, and will run between Talcher and Puri from both directions. Earlier, for the convenience of daily commuters, the monthly season tickets (MSTs) and quarterly season tickets (QSTs) were reinstated in some special trains. These trains are: 08428/08427 Puri-Angul-



Puri Special, 08456/08455 Khurda Road-Kendujharh-Khurda Road Special, 08522/08521 Visakhapatnam-Gunupur-Visakhapatnam Special, 08528/08527 Visakhapatnam-Raipur-Visakhapatnam Special, 08263/08264 Titlagarh-Bilaspur-Titlagarh Special and 07266/07265 Visakhapatnam-Kakinada Port-Visakhapatnam Special. The passengers will not be allowed to travel in other special trains with MSTs and QSTs except the above six trains.

## CMC seals 3 illegal bakery units

**CUTTACK:** A special squad of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Thursday sealed three bakery units operating illegally in Sikharpur area here. According to CMC City Health Officer Satyabrata Mohapatra, the units were operating without trade licence. This apart, the items baked at the units did not have any branding. "We've seized the biscuits, breads and cakes from the illegal units. Samples of the seized items have been sent for a quality check," Mohapatra added.

## STUDENTS' STIR



A group of Diploma students holds a demonstration at the office of SCTEVT in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, seeking early conduct of their examinations

## 7TH FOUNDATION DAY OF IIM-SAMBALPUR

# 'Take inspirations from Sai, Bhoi, Meher'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Sept 23:** The Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sambalpur, Thursday, celebrated its 7th foundation day with strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols. The ceremony was attended by students, faculty members, staffers and media persons. Attending the event virtually, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, "Sambalpur is one of the fastest growing cities of Odisha and a land enriched with rich cultural heritage. The region is well-known for freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai, renowned poet Swabhaba Kabi Gangadhar Meher and saint Bhima Bhoi. As students, you must take inspiration from their lives and leave an indelible mark in the field



of education." IIM Sambalpur Director Mahadeo Jaiswal said the management institute was established in 2015 with 49 students in the first batch of MBA. The institute outscored most other top institutes

in terms of highest gender diversity in MBA. "We started with faculty strength of three in 2017 and now we have 17 full time faculty members," he added. For collaborative work, the IIM

Sambalpur has signed three MoUs and partnered with the Ministry MSME, Flipkart, India SME Forum, JSW Vedanta Ltd., MCL, IOCL, and The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), Delhi, said Mahadeo. "We have set up an Incubation Centre and currently seven start-ups are being incubated at IIM Sambalpur. The work for our permanent campus is going on at full pace and we expect that the first phase of the project would be completed December 2022," he added. The institute felicitated a few key achievers from various fields on the occasion. Olympian from Odisha Amit Rohidas and renowned Sambalpur singer Jitendra Haripal were honoured by the institute. On the occasion, the institute awarded scholarship to the tune of ₹1 lakh each to top seven students of the first year exams.

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# MAOIST CAMP BUSTED, AMMUNITION SEIZED



**Malkangiri SP Prahlad Meena said the SOG, DVF of Odisha Police and the BSF launched a joint operation in Kirimiti village. Four guns and an SLR empty case were seized**

tween security forces and armed cadre of Maoists, he added. "Following the exchange of fire, when our team was conducting a search operation, a large quantity of Maoist materials were seized," the SP informed. Four guns, one SLR empty case, Maoist literature, medicines, umbrellas, uniforms and posters were seized during the operation, he said. Search and combing operations have been intensified in the area, he added.

Kirimiti village. With this inputs, a joint operation by the Special Operation Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF) of Odisha Police and the Border Security Force (BSF) was launched in the area," said Malkangiri SP Prahlad Meena. During afternoon hours of September 21, an exchange of fire took place near Kirimiti village be-



An ODRAF team and police are trying to pull out a police van stuck in the muck on the coast near Mahinsali bridge in Chandipur area of Balasore. A top police official was reportedly on a test drive on the beach, Thursday

# Fears of another flood haunt north Balasore

HEAVY RAINS CONTINUE TO LASH UPSTREAM AREAS OF SUBARNAREKHA IN JHARKHAND

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhograi, Sept 23:** Even as many parts of Basta and Sadar blocks in Barasore are already reeling from floods in the Jalaka river, heavy rains which have been lashing the upstream area of Subarnarekha river in Jharkhand owing to a cyclonic circulation has triggered panic among people in north Balasore. The administration has, meanwhile, sounded possibility of floods in the downstream areas.



**Chandili, Galudih, Karkai and Bankabal dams in the neighbouring state have been receiving huge amounts of water for the last few days. Jharkhand has started releasing water from these dams, which will lead to floods in Subarnarekha river basin areas**

lages in five panchayats under Baliapal block were marooned. Due to cyclonic circulation over Myanmar and Bangladesh coasts,

heavy rains are predicted in the Gangetic plains. In view of this, the administration has warned people against

flood situation. The administration and irrigation department officials have kept a close watch on weak points on various river embankments. Over a lakh of people were marooned in Mathani, Bahardha, Duddhahansa, Sadanandapur, Baruna Gadia, Basichakuri, Darada, Gadapada, Rautapada Srirampur and Rasulpur. Rescue operation is being carried out in the flood-hit areas.

# VSSUT student alleges ragging

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sambalpur, Sept 23:** A third-year student of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) here Thursday alleged that he was ragged and beaten up by senior students of the institute. The incident occurred Wednesday night when a group of senior students knocked on the door of the complainant's room and asked him to show them his mobile phone, the complaint lodged with the university authorities said. When the victim refused to comply with their demand, the seniors thrashed him. The student's father has lodged a written complaint with the dean of the students' welfare wing of the institute. Vice-chancellor Banshidhar Majhi claimed it was a case of a tussle among students. "However, the disciplinary committee of the university will hold a meeting over the issue Friday," he said. Incidents of ragging are not new in VSSUT. In August 2019, a video



showing seniors ragging around 50 junior students had gone viral. In the video, the senior students were seen tearing the shirts of their juniors, slapping them and forcing them to dance in their undergarments while holding their ears. The institute had debarred 10 students from appearing for the university examinations for a year and slapped a fine of Rs 2,000 each on 52 others for being involved in the incident. Ragging is banned in all campuses in the country.

# EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/21-22/  
E-Tender/59 Dt.: 20.09.2021  
(1) Tender No. e-tender-Estate-KUR-KV-2021 Dt.: 15.09.2021  
**Description:** MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS AND RENOVATION TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING AND ALLIED INFRASTRUCTURE OF KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA NO.03, MANCHESWAR, BHUBANESWAR.  
**Approx cost of the work:** ₹ 88.44 Lakhs  
(2) Tender No. e-tender-HQ-KUR-158-2021 Dt.: 15.09.2021  
**Description:** PROPOSED HIRING OF LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE (TATA SUMO/BOLERO OR EQUIVALENT VEHICLE) FOR ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/SETTLEMENT/KHURDA ROAD & ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/TRACK/KHURDA ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 03 YEARS.  
**Approx cost of the work:** ₹ 30.35 Lakhs  
**Completion period:** 04 months (for Sl. No. 1), 36 months (for Sl. No. 2).  
**Tender closing date & time:** at 1500 hrs. of 06.10.2021 (for both tenders).  
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.  
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>  
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg),  
PR-402/M/21-22 Khurda Road

# Spl drive to curb crimes in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Sept 23:** In the wake of busting an illegal gun-making unit in Jujumara area in this district, police have launched a special drive to contain crimes with the help of local people. Acting on information from local people, police have arrested three more people involved in the gun-manufacturing racket Thursday. They have seized four more guns from them. The three accused were identified as Tarani Pradhan of Basupalli, Ashok Pradhan of Hero village and Sushant Sahu of Ghudapal. Police confiscated four country-made guns, iron pipes used for making these guns and other materials from them. Earlier police had arrested Kumar Mirdha and Tarani's wife. Both of them were produced in court. Police revealed that Mirdha and Tarani had been making guns in their houses and sold them in various parts of Angul, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Bargarh. Further investigation into the matter

is underway, said Sambalpur SP Batula Gangadhar here at a presser. On the other hand, smuggling of corex and drugs, gambling, loot and snatching cases are on the rise in parts of western Odisha. "Police have started a special drive to contain all such crimes in the district. Police patrolling has been intensified in the district the evening," the SP said. It was said that many people found involved in drug smuggling at desolate places have been detained while 208 drug addicts had been detained in various police stations and later were released with warning. 21 of them were forwarded to court. Police are flooded with complaints that women and girls have to face misbehaviour from drug addicts and peddlers at some places. Police are carrying out raids and arresting the miscreants. Three people have been arrested for cyber crime. After the relaxation of Covid restrictions, gambling and betting cases are on the rise in the district while 14 people have been arrested in connection with gambling.

# Jockeys of Swabhiman Anchal



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Sept 23:** A video clip showing some tribal boys riding their horses on a stretch of hillside road under construction in the Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district has gone viral on social media. Galloping on a stretch of under-construction hilly road, raising dust behind them as shown in the video shot on

mobile phone camera, the horse-riding skills of these eight to twelve-year-old tribal boys can make anyone envious. As schools are closed owing to the Covid-pandemic, these kids are seen making full use of their pastime by racing their horses for fun. Once upon a time, the local tribes used to travel from one habitation to the other and carry their valu-

ables on these horses. These were the sole mode of transportation and communication in the hilly and densely forested terrains of this erstwhile Maoist infested 'cut-off' region of Malkangiri district. Now, this region is termed as the Swabhiman Anchal after Gurupriya Setu, the lifeline of this once remote and inaccessible part, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik July 26 in 2018. After the construction of this bridge, 151 villages across the Balimela reservoir were connected with the rest of Malkangiri district paving the way for development and progress in the shape of roads, communication, modern transport and many essential government services.

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1. The Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC), Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover/Single Cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the work as detailed below:  
2. Nature of work : Building works  
3. No. of Works : 09 Nos.  
4. Bid Cost : Rs.7,080/- (To be paid online) for Single Cover bid  
Rs.11,800/- (To be paid online) for Double Cover Bid  
5. Value of Tender : Rs.10.00 Lakh to Rs.2.80 Cr.  
6. Class of Contractor : 'D' Class to 'A' Class  
**SCHEDULE OF TENDER**  
7. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : Single Cover Bid Dt.24.09.2021 to Dt.04.10.2021 Double Cover Bid Dt.24.09.2021 to Dt.07.09.2021  
8. Last date/time of Receipt of Bids in the Portal : Dt.04.10.2021 up to 5.00 P.M. Dt.08.10.2021 up to 5.00 PM  
9. Date of Opening Bid : Dt.05.10.2021 at 11.30 A.M. Dt. 11.10.2021 at 11.30 A.M.  
10. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.  
Sd./- Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC), Odisha  
N.B.- The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T. as applicable under works contract.  
OIPR-12025/11/0021/2122

**PP CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PETROCHEMICALS ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (CIPET)**  
(Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India)  
S-3/79, Sector -A, Zone-B, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-75  
Email: cipetsat@gmail.com/mcti@cipet.gov.in, Website: www.cipet.gov.in  
CIPET: CSTS/BBSR/PP REPROCESS/2021-22/09 Date: 24.09.2021  
**INVITATION FOR QUOTATION**  
Sealed quotations are invited from reputed Manufacturers/Suppliers/Distributors/ Authorized Dealers for the supply of PP REPROCESS (Colour- Red, Blue, Green) at CIPET: CSTS Bhubaneswar. Interested bidders may submit their quotation on or before 04.10.2021 at the above address. The other details are available at CIPET website - [www.cipet.gov.in](http://www.cipet.gov.in).  
The Principal Director & Head, CIPET: CSTSBhubaneswar reserves right to accept or reject any/all quotations without assigning any reasons thereof.  
Principal Director & Head

**Government of Odisha**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DHENKANAL**  
Email ID- eerdivisiondhenkanal@yahoo.co.in; Contact No.- 06762 286706, Mobile No.- 9437255309  
No. 4518/Dtd.22.09.21  
**2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online-Dkl-08/2021-22**  
No.O-756:- In the unavoidable circumstances, the tender can not be uploaded in the scheduled date and time. Hence Availability of Tender on-line for bidding and opening of the tender invited vide T.O.TCN No. Dkl-08/2021-22 has been rescheduled as follows by the Procurement Officer, Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Dhenkanal.  

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Dhenkanal	Online Dkl-08	27.09.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	04.10.2021 upto 5.00 PM	01.10.2021 upto 4.00 PM	05.10.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

  
All other terms and conditions are available in website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website  
Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.  
OIPR-251011/0006/2122 Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Dhenkanal

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, PURUSOTTAMPUR, GANJAM**  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 4/2021-22 DATED: 22.09.21**  
**INVITATION FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING**  
Bid Notice No. 3153 Dated: 22.09.21  
The Block Development Officer on behalf of Govt. of Odisha, invites sealed tender in confirming with Detailed Tender Call Notice (DTCN) from the registered contractor of State PWD or equivalent class of CPWD/Railway/MES/Central Govt./State Govt. undertaking for the following works to be eventually drawn up in the percent rate contract.  

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Estimate Cost in Rs.	EMD in Rs. (%)	Eligibility of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of Tender Paper (Non-refundable)
1	Development of Historical Place of Jaugada Fortress at Pandia Village/ GP under Special Problem fund for the year 2020-21	Rs.8506976/-	Rs.85070/-	Super Class, Special Class, Class A & B	6 Months	Rs.10000/- including GST (Non-refundable)

  
Date of Sale of Tender Paper : 28.09.2021 at 10.30 A.M. to 07.10.2021 till 3.00 P.M. (Except Govt. Holidays)  
Receipt of Tender Paper : 28.09.2021 at 10.30 A.M. to 07.10.2021 till 3.00 P.M. (Except Govt. Holidays)  
Date of Opening Tender Paper : 07.10.2021 at 4.00 P.M.  
The details can be had from the Office of the undersigned during office hours.  
Sd./- Block Development Officer  
Purusottampur

**FOCUS ASSEMBLY POLLS 2022**

# OPPOSITION LOSES PLOT IN UP



**Lack of understanding between the Opposition is bound to split the votes, thereby benefitting the BJP. It is not only the major players like the Congress, SP and the BSP, which plan to contest the elections on their own, even regional parties from outside the state like Shiv Sena, TMC, AAP and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM will also make their debut in the UP elections**

The upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa, Manipur, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh are going to be crucial not just for the Modi government, but also for the Opposition, which vouches for unity amongst them to combat the BJP at the hustings. Ironically even before trying to forge alliances, the Opposition parties have already launched their campaigns in the Hindi heartland, swearing to fight it alone. In 2017, the SP and Congress had joined hands, but they were defeated badly at the hustings by the BJP, getting only 47 and 7 seats, respectively, out of the 403 seats.

Lack of understanding among the Opposition parties, despite hush-hush unity parleys, is bound to split the votes, thereby benefitting the BJP. Interestingly, it is not only the major players like the Congress, SP and the BSP, which plan to contest the elections on their own, even regional parties from outside the state like Shiv Sena, Trinamool Congress, AAP and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM will also make their debut in the UP elections. Instead of contesting the UP Assembly elections together, i.e., by giving one-on-one fight to the BJP in all the 403 constituencies, all of them want to contest separately.

The problem with all these parties is that they have bloated egos. Despite their failures in the previous polls, they think that they can manage to defeat the BJP single-handedly. In their heart of hearts, even they know it is impossible to beat BJP all alone, but they seem to be more interested in overshadowing each other in the game of numbers. Unlike the BJP, which can hope to go to the polls boasting about the Ram Temple, the Opposition cannot depend on Him (Lord Ram).

The UP Assembly election results will indicate the direction of the political wind in the 2024 general elections. So far, there are strong indications that the tide is in favour of the BJP, as the Opposition parties are digging their graves by refusing to join hands. No one needs political advisors like Prashant Kishor to tell the Congress,

SP or the BSP that they are in no position to defeat the BJP single-handedly. They can leave some positive stamp only if they sink their differences for the larger cause of defeating the BJP. If these three parties were not enough to split each other's votes, Mamata Banerjee, who recently trounced the BJP in West Bengal, is contemplating to recreate her magic in UP as well. She might join hands with the AAP, NCP and other smaller and irrelevant parties like the RJD to enter the political fray in the Hindi heartland. If this is not all to place the BJP in a secure position, the AIMIM's declaration to contest 100 seats in the Muslim-dominated areas would only strengthen the hands of the saffron party. Despite various factors working against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, like dengue fever, which has claimed around 70 innocent lives, handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, law and order issue, love jihad, farmers' agitation and others, he is playing the Hindutva card, which may go in favour of the BJP.

On the other hand, holding yatras and paying frequent visits to the temples will not help the Opposition to counter the Hindutva propaganda of the BJP. Only if they manage to unite by putting

up a joint fight against the BJP, they can hope to show the door to the incumbent government. There is an urgent need for the Opposition to come out with out-of-the-box strategies to defeat the BJP, instead of imitating the saffron party by paying obeisance to the Hindu Gods.

The likes of Prashant Kishor have already declared that if the Opposition wants to rout the BJP at the hustings, it should put up united candidates in all the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies in the 2024 general elections. For this, the beginning should be made in Uttar Pradesh itself. But no, all the regional parties, even those who have no foothold in UP, want to contest on their own, only to showcase their strength outside their bastion.

Mamata Banerjee and Sharad Pawar want to embarrass the Congress first, rather than the BJP, by fielding their candidates. Even if they get a single seat more than the Congress, they can bust the grand old party's claim of being a national party. Similarly, Asaduddin Owaisi will be contesting elections to prove that the entire Muslim vote bank, which does not go to the BJP anyways, is with him alone. For all these parties, more than the BJP, it is the

Congress, which is their enemy, as it stands to lead the Opposition, given its country-wide presence, which is gradually fading.

Instead of concentrating on the UP Assembly elections by working out strategies to defeat the BJP, these parties are playing a one-upmanship game among themselves. Their goal is not just to defeat the BJP, but to garner maximum votes for themselves to claim more seats in the 2024 general elections, if there are attempts to field united candidates.

Tragically, when the Opposition is itself not focused on its target, how can they expect to increase their seat tally? None of their record is impressive enough to claim to be a "party with a difference". Only when the development agenda of a particular party will overtake the communal or caste politics of another, a change in the government can be expected. In this given scenario, where every political party looks alike, where everyone is appeasing one or the other religion and/or caste and is playing with the sentiments of the public, no guesses are required as to who will get the majority vote.

*The writer is a Delhi-based senior journalist.*



Anita Saluja

**DESPITE VARIOUS FACTORS WORKING AGAINST UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH, HE IS PLAYING THE HINDUTVA CARD, WHICH MAY GO IN FAVOUR OF THE BJP**



Angel Gurria

**For many, the pandemic feels like a watershed moment in global policy-making. It is a rare opening to think big. In the crisis lies an opportunity to establish new foundations for a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economy**

## New business models

COVID-19 has sharpened the focus on many challenges with which the world has long been grappling, including rising inequality, insufficient access to adequate healthcare and education, and climate change. Long before the pandemic, people had begun to ask hard questions about globalisation and technological progress. Despite all the wealth creation and reductions in global poverty in recent decades, economic opportunity has remained elusive for many people, irrespective of their abilities. The resulting fracturing of society poses a grave threat to the long-term health of businesses, citizens, and economies.

For many, the pandemic feels like a watershed moment in global policy-making. It is a rare opening to think big. In the crisis lies an opportunity to establish new foundations for a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economy. But what would such an economy – and a resilient society – look like? What principles should guide the difficult choices we must make? How do we ensure that everyone is on board?

Business for Inclusive Growth (B4IG), a strategic partnership between the OECD and 35 major global companies, is one major initiative seeking to change how business is done. Founded in 2019 at the G7 Leaders' Summit, it brings together private- and public-sector entities to support the development of more inclusive business models, which are in turn the building blocks of a more sustainable long-term economic model.

Here, inclusion means providing more equal access to good jobs and training opportunities. It means committing to diversity, gender balance, and human rights. These commitments can all lead to more trust and engagement vis-à-vis employees, customers, and other stakeholders, and to greater long-term value creation.

A key priority for B4IG is to rethink how company performance is measured. Together with the OECD's Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability, and Equal Opportunity (WISE), the coalition is exploring how non-financial performance indicators – such as stakeholder well-being and environmental footprints – can be incorporated into business models. These indicators touch on everything from housing and health to knowledge and skills, and they apply to not only employees and consumers, but also suppliers and society.

The rapid growth of sustainable finance in recent years attests to the broader effort to go beyond pure financial metrics and GDP. More than \$30 trillion of assets worldwide now meet some level of environmental, social, and governance criteria, representing an increase of more than 30% from 2016. The rise of ESG-driven investing underscores the vital role that finance must play in incorporating non-financial metrics in the allocation of capital across the global economy. This is how, for example, a corporate borrower's cost of capital can be linked to its success in reducing carbon emissions or meeting diversity goals.

Public-private partnerships are essential for a strong, inclusive recovery and tackling the intersecting challenges that we face. Today's global problems demand fresh thinking about the roles of businesses, governments, and civil society, and about how they can best work together.

It is not sufficient for governments simply to referee the marketplace and otherwise "stay out of the way." Governments are needed to shape and create markets, by incentivising and de-risking certain investments, and by establishing targeted support and regulatory frameworks. Private-sector innovation in technology, healthcare, and other sectors often could not have happened without public backing. We can thank governments for the basic research that led to the Internet, clean energy, and vaccines.

Managing the green and digital transitions – including the trend toward more labour-replacing automation – will require a vast effort to reskill and upskill workers. In the European Union, 75% of firms with more than ten employees already provide, and partially fund, training for their workers. But more companies and governments must follow suit to extend training access to those who need it the most, particularly adults with low basic skills and those with low incomes.

Employers, on the other hand, have a crucial role to play in ensuring maximum effectiveness across our education and training systems. Governments and employers need to come together to help students benefit from work-based learning – for example, by creating more flexible arrangements and developing local school-business partnerships.

Employers must also engage more actively in career guidance to prepare today's youth for the world of work. And companies must play their part in tackling gender inequality, by offering paid parental leave and childcare, instituting pay-transparency rules, and engaging in unbiased job advertising.

It is on these bedrocks that we can start building new foundations for long-term economic prosperity beyond COVID-19. The scale and the breadth of challenges we face are unprecedented. We must discuss and solve them through global fora such as the Paris Peace Forum. Many have adopted the slogan of "building back better." But we cannot solve today's problems by going back to yesterday's solutions. We need to build forward better.

*The writer is a former secretary-general of the OECD.*  
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### WISDOM CORNER

**All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.** WALT DISNEY

**When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us** HELEN KELLER

**Smart people learn from everything and everyone, average people from their experiences, stupid people already have all the answers.** SOCRATES

### WORDSWORTH

#### Camp

The adjective first appeared in print in 1909, in J Redding Ware's *Passing English of the Victorian Era*, in which he says it refers to "actions and gestures of exaggerated emphasis", which are used by "persons of exceptional want of character", perhaps denoting homosexuals. He suggested it came from the French, perhaps because all things risqué were considered to be imports from across the Channel. Eric Partridge, on the other hand, was sure that it was natively English, from a dialect word camp or kemp, meaning rough or uncouth. Anthony Burgess has argued that it might be derived from a literal camp, as in a military or mining camp, in which the all-male society might lead gay men to advertise their availability through an exaggerated pseudo-femininity. It might be from a slang use of camp to mean a male brothel, though that term is probably of later date and derived from it. Those theories take you as near to the true origin as you're likely to get. As a side note, though camp still has close associations with the gay world, another sense has grown up in the past half century or so. It can now mean a sophisticated and knowing type of amusement, based on something deliberately artistically unsophisticated or self-consciously exaggerated and artificial in style. It's an obvious enough extension of the older sense.

### SPECTRUM UNCTAD PREDICTIONS

# Economic recovery only by 2030



Shivaji Sarkar

**THE UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021 EXPECTS INDIA TO GROW AT 7.5 PER CENT IN 2021 AND 6.5 PER CENT IN 2022, BUT IT IS INSUFFICIENT TO REGAIN THE PRE-COVID-19 INCOME LEVEL**

The UN Conference Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has predicted highly uneven growth despite possibility of a bounce back, but global output trends of 2016-19 would resume not before 2030. The agency notes that growth has been the slowest since the post 2007-8 financial crisis in the 2011-20 decade since 1945.

An important UNCTAD recommendation is to revive the public sector as critical instruments of long-term development. The report observes that the pandemic has seen an emergent consensus around the need for significant public sector intervention. A call India needs to heed amid its move for fast-paced privatisation. It suggests that expansionary fiscal measures that most governments are doing may end up "only as fire-fighting tools". Consolidating these in public sector infrastructure could come up as "critical instruments in long-term development".

The UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2021 expects India to grow at 7.5 per cent in 2021 and 6.5 per cent in 2022, but it is insufficient to regain the pre-Covid-19 income level. The world may grow at 5.5 per cent, may be the

highest in five decades, but amid too many pitfalls on regional, sectoral and income lines. It does not rule out sharper than accelerated deceleration next year.

It warns policymakers to trudge carefully particularly on deregulation. The developing economies, which as per it include India also have been hit harder than during the global financial crisis, while "new heavier debt burden reduces their own room for fiscal policy".

India's growth despite being next to China "is poised to slow down" because of the inherent fragility in coping with the pandemic and restoring employment and incomes. Even the high growth is insufficient to remove "the widened income and wealth inequalities and rising social unrests".

Even then, in 2022, UNCTAD expects global growth to slow to 3.6 per cent leaving world income still 3.7 per cent below where its pre-pandemic trend would have put it; an expected cumulative income loss of about \$13 trillion, as per 2015 dollar values, in 2020-22. Timid policy or, even worse, backsliding, could pull growth down further.

The world is not out of the woods. Indian efforts of four-year ₹96,000

crore reprieve for spectrum dues to telecom companies; ₹25,938 crore production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for automobile sector, ₹120 crore for drone industry, ₹10,683 crore for textiles and others announced for 13 sectors during the last one year is expected to raise minimum production to around ₹37.5 lakh crore over five years and create additional jobs of about one crore.

While the aim is good and incentives should be welcome, the UNCTAD points out the problem of inflation too. Rising prices in India is a constant concern of the Reserve Bank of India. Despite some seasonal moderation in food prices in India, the UNCTAD believes food prices would rise and could pose a serious threat to vulnerable populations in the South, already financially weakened by the health crisis.

The RBI is under pressure to increase its lowest interest rates. This is also affecting yields of depositors and hits the overall economy. The nation has witnessed that higher interest yields in the past had helped the country grow. Interest is mistakenly considered as income where as it is mere hedging

against inflation. If inflation is high and interest rates low on deposits, it hits capital building.

It may be a sequel to this that National Crime Research Bureau finds crimes rising during the pandemic - digital crimes and cyber monetary frauds, including internet banking by 11.8 per cent; social disorders rise 21-fold; other IPC crimes four-fold; 12.4 per cent rise in offences against public tranquillity; and 78.1 per cent in environment crimes. Cyber frauds are growing the most in Telangana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Bihar and Assam. It may be a mere tip of the iceberg as there are many cyber crimes that are difficult to investigate like cyber bullying and forcing people to pay money through digital transfers. These hit the growth processes and policing cost is high.

The UNCTAD also wants global reforms to the international economic architecture promised after 2008-09 crises, but abandoned "in the face of 'rentier' class" is now implemented for definite growth worldwide". India needs to take cue for correcting the policies and path for taking the country ahead. INFA

#### Sorrow of Bhubaneswar

Sir, Open drains in the capital city have become a death trap for the citizens. Drains without slabs or covers pose a serious threat to everyone, especially children. Open drains have claimed many precious lives in our smart city in the recent past. It is indeed a sorry state of affairs as despite the deaths the civic authorities have not taken any action. Waterlogging during low pressure-induced incessant rains is a recurring event in our city. In a welfare state, it is the duty of the government to ensure the safety and security of its citizens who have voted them to power. Aside from cleaning the drains regularly, all encroachment should be removed over drains and no illegal construction should be allowed near the drains. A comprehensive master plan is the need of the hour. Open drains are also the breeding ground of mosquitoes that cause malaria and dengue. It is a serious health hazard and BMC should leave no stone unturned in covering all open drains on a war-footing. Every life is precious. Hence, a proactive approach is essential along with strategic planning.

**Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR**

#### Compensating Covid cases

Sir, Covid-19 claimed numerous lives during the last 20 months. People were forced to run from pillar to post to get medicines, ventilators and medical oxygen cylinders. The Central government had initially stayed away from announcing any ex-gratia payment to Covid-19 victims' kin, taking the stance that it would rather be spending the money on preventive measures and on boosting the economy. The Supreme Court, however, has pointed to the statutory obligation under Section 12(iii) to provide a minimum standard of relief. The Centre should not hesitate to review its tax basket to rely more on the wealthiest to compensate those who have been hit the hardest. The actual Covid-19 death toll may be higher in many states as many cases have not been reported. It remains to be seen how the grievance redressal mechanisms in such states cope if there is a flurry of claims of wrong certifications of deaths. Even the mediclaims of the surviving members are not addressed and claims settled by the insurance companies and the survivors are put to test economically. However, most of the heart patients are admitted to hospital as per corporation guidelines and there is no justification when claims are refused with a lame excuse. We all need Covid care compensation at least in genuine cases.

**CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

LIVELIHOOD BOOST



Tribal development agencies providing fish fingerlings to women members of some SHGs in Keonjhar to boost livelihood for tribal communities

Toilet, home for 8-member family

POST NEWS NETWORK

Polasara, Sept 23: A poverty-stricken family comprising eight members lives a destitute life at Deulapali village near Khanduru square under Polasara block. A toilet is what they call their 'home'.



Satyaban Pradhan along with his elderly mother Saria, wife Sulata, son Prashant, daughter-in-law and three granddaughters has been living in Deulapali village for last couple of years.

While his wife Sulata and son Prashant are physically challenged, his mother is visually impaired. As if this was not enough, Satyaban got his leg fractured in an accident two years ago.

Having no roof over their heads, Satyaban has been running from pillar to post to get a pucca house under awas yojana. "Over the years, we have met people's representatives, sarpanch, MLA and administrative officers, requesting them to get us a pucca house under any housing scheme but to no avail," complained Satyaban and Sulata.

When contacted, Kalamb sarpanch Prashant Kumar Pradhan said earlier the sarpanch had power to award a pucca house to a genuine beneficiary. A sarpanch is no longer

enjoying this power. "Besides, his name was not in the list of the Phailin cyclone-affected villagers. His name is also not in the Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana (NSPGY) list either. This is why I am not in a position to help him," he said, adding that he has discussed this with the block development officer and will take the matter up with the District Collector.

In this regard, Polasara BDO Suranjan Sahu said the beneficiary lives in Polasara mouza. So he can't be included in the awas yojana by the panchayat. "I have discussed with the Polasara NAC executive officer. After converting the ad-

dress of the beneficiary in his identity card, he will be included in urban area awas yojana," he added.

"If the family is staying in a toilet in Polasara mouza, how did they get work order for the toilet under Swachh Bharat Yojana from Kalam panchayat," he further added.

In the locality, it has been discussed that as the news of a family living in a toilet removing its pan has come to the fore, the block administration is now passing the buck to the NAC administration.

Local residents urged the block administration to see how a genuine beneficiary should get a house at the earliest.

MGNREGS, CAMPA  
FUND BUNGLING  
RAISES CONCERN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 23: The members of the Nayagarh Zilla Parishad expressed their concern over siphoning off of funds received under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) at its 10th general body meeting held at the conference hall of DRDA.

They said that during the Covid-19 pandemic time and in 2020-21 fiscal ₹22 crore was sanctioned under MGNREGS for Nayagarh forest division. Of it, so far only ₹9 crore has been spent. Similarly, ₹16 crore was received under CAMPA and the total amount was spent. The members alleged that of the total ₹25 crore received under MGNREGS and CAMPA, only ₹5 crore was spent and the rest ₹20 crore was embezzled. The forest department officials who were present at the meeting were in a fix after not being able to answer the questions raised by the members.

Referring to the fact that some of officials who are involved in the corruption have been transferred, the members demanded for formation of a committee to probe the allegations. Keeping the members' concern in view, a five-member committee has been constituted and this committee will start its investigation from Ranpur range under Khurda forest division. Thereafter, it will probe into the corruption allegations in different ranges under Nayagarh forest division.

The members further alleged that even though there was fertiliser scam in the district, no officer from the agriculture department was present at the meeting. So, a show-cause notice has been served to the agriculture department. Similarly, journalists were not invited to the meeting. Even if they come on their own to collect news, they were misbehaved and asked to leave. So the members demanded the district correspondents should be invited to the meeting. A proposal in this regard was passed in the meeting.

Pointing out that the BDO is dilly-dallying in showing the list where the money received from Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water departments by the district council on the basis of Fifth Finance Commission's recommendation was spent, the members expressed their dissatisfaction. All the BDOs except for Nayagarh and Odagaon BDOs have been asked to furnish their lists at the earliest.

At the meeting, the Works department informed the meeting that the Sharankul bypass will begin from Katarajhari bandh and reach Shikharpur Agyanchaura and from there it will go up to Odagaon road via Karada Sasan village end.

This apart, a proposal to construct a road from Kantilo to Tentuliapalli via Dahikhai and Patharadwara under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was also accepted at the meeting. For this road, there was MP's proposal as well.



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DENGUE ON RISE IN  
GANJAM; TALLY 86

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 23: Dengue is reportedly spreading tentacles in many parts of Ganjam. More cases are being detected in Berhampur Municipal Corporation. Seven more cases were detected in the district.

In the BeMC area, five kids were found positive for dengue, taking the tally in the civic body area to 27. While the total tally in the district has mounted to 86. This was stated by CDMO Dr Umashankar Mishra Thursday. Seven people including an eight-year old girl of Lanjipalli have tested positive for dengue, Thursday.

The seven cases were reported from Lanjipalli, Gosaninuagon, Rangunibandh, Chhatrapur, S Arayapalli, Rangelunda and Sorada. As such cases are rising in the district, it has triggered panic among people in the areas. Some people down with fever have been admitted to private hospitals in Vishakhapatnam. These cases are suspected to be dengue. "Arrangements have been made to spray mosquito repellent oil and smoke in the affected areas, said the CDMO. Many patients are under treatment at MKCG Medical College and Hospital.

Fortified rice production starts

TWO RICE MILLS IN SAMBALPUR AND SONEPUR HAVE GOT APPROVAL FOR SALES OF THE RICE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 23: In a major development, production of vitamin-laced rice has started in Sambalpur. The rice enriched with minerals and vitamins is aimed at addressing the problem of anaemia and micro-nutrients deficiency among people.

According to reports, IP Rice Industries at Mundoghat in Sambalpur and Lalita Rice Mill in Sonepur had got approval of the state government for production of this rice, which was started from Wednesday.

Now, these mills have got approval for sales of this rice in the market. Following a directive from the government, the vitamin-laced rice will be supplied to consumers under PDS.

The civil supplies department had earlier issued a letter to the district civil supplies officer May 13, 2021 to extend cooperation to the private mill in setting up the rice plant at Mundoghat.

The mill owner has been asked



to complete the work in three months. This plant is capable of producing 500 kg of fortified rice per hour. Under this process, common rice or broken rice is pulverised while Vitamin A, B, C, zinc and minerals are laced with the pulverised rice.

The fortified rice will be sold in the market for ₹60 a kg. As per provision, these two mills will provide fortified rice to other mills in the state. These mills will admix the fortified rice with their own rice and supply it to market and to the gov-

ernment under PDS.

100 gm of fortified rice will be added with one kg of common rice. The two rice mills have been set up with the technology from Italy. The produced rice will be packaged and supplied to all mills. This effort is to deal with anaemia and malnutrition among people.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the much-awaited fortification of rice and its distribution scheme through public distribution system (PDS) in Malkangiri. The fortified rice is

100 gm of fortified rice will be added with one kg of common rice. The two rice mills have been set up with the technology from Italy. The produced rice will be packaged and supplied to all mills. This effort is to deal with anaemia and malnutrition among people.

The civil supplies department had earlier issued a letter to the district civil supplies officer May 13, 2021 to extend cooperation to the private mill in setting up the rice plant at Mundoghat

to be distributed through the PDS on a pilot basis.

It may be noted here that the NITI Aayog has identified 15 districts across the country including the tribal-dominated Malkangiri to implement the scheme for distribution of fortified rice.

The FCI had been asked to tie up with rice mills in different regions for necessary investments in this regard. The FCI helps in successful scaling up of procurement and supply of fortified rice in a phased manner.

20 migrants tortured in Andhra seek rescue

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gunupur, Sept 23: A scene of migrants' suffering in Andhra Pradesh came to the fore Thursday. A video was found circulating in this regard.

According to reports, over 20 migrant workers in Gunupur of Rayagada district were stuck in the neighbouring state while they were working at a prawn processing plant.

The owner of the prawn processing plant at West Godavari district has allegedly threatened the migrant workers to burn them

alive. They also alleged that they are being forced to work without wages and are getting tortured.

They lamented that they were confined to a room and beaten up. In the video, the distressed migrant workers have appealed to the administration for rescue. Four of the stuck migrants are women.

The reports said, over 20 people from remote areas like Putasingh, Pindagudi, Padmapur and Muniguda had gone to Andhra Pradesh in search of work three months ago. After facing harassment and torture there, a woman

migrant had told her husband over phone about their sufferings in the hand of the prawn processing plant owner.

Thereafter, her husband Trinath Dalei went to Andhra Pradesh and managed to get entry into the plant premises on the plea of looking for work September 9.

Trinath videographed the scene of torture on the migrant workers. But the factory owner and supervisor got to know of his act. Trinath and another migrant were confined to a room and beaten up mercilessly for two hours. They

were threatened of burning to death by the factory owner.

Trinath's wife somehow managed to save the two from the clutches of the factory owner. Fearing threat to their life, the migrants managed to escape from the factory at night Tuesday and fled to a nearby forest. Later, they informed the Andhra police about the incident. Police later rescued them and directed the factory owner to pay off their wages.

The assistant labour officer of Gunupur said the matter will be investigated.

FOUR FUGITIVE RAPE  
ACCUSED ARRESTED

AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Sept 23: Four persons who were on the run in connection with separate rape cases in Kendrapara district have been arrested, police said Thursday. An accused in a 2019 rape case was held from his father-in-law's house in Sukarpada village Wednesday, while another 27-year-old man who had allegedly sexually assaulted a woman in 2017 was arrested from Bhubaneswar. Kendrapara sub-divisional police officer Rajiv Lochan Panda said.

Visually-impaired tutor wards off darkness

POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur, Sept 23: Anyone visiting his class for the first time would be excused for thinking that he is a normal person. But he is visually impaired. Yet he is a 'go-to' tutor in Nuasahi locality of Lunga panchayat under Basudevpur block in Bhadrak district.

His students are now serving the state and the country as doctors, engineers and teachers. Many are settled in foreign countries.

Meet Bhaskar Mallick, who is best known as Bhaskar Sir in the locality. He has been teaching children for last 31 years.

When asked why he couldn't get a job for himself, Bhaskar said he was a brilliant student. After primary schooling from a village school, he passed Class XI from Binapada High School. Like any other student, he also had plans for higher education and a better future.

"But the destiny had something else in store for me. It was when I was pursuing my Plus II at Bhadrak College I started to feel something was wrong with my vision. Thereafter I discontinued reading Science and completed



Meet Bhaskar Mallick, who is best known as Bhaskar Sir in the locality. He has been teaching children for last 31 years in Basudevpur block of Bhadrak district

Destiny had something else in store for me. When I was pursuing my Plus II at Bhadrak College I started to feel something was wrong with my vision, Bhaskar said

What has made him so popular is that he never demands tuition fees from anyone. He happily accepts whatever they give

my BCom from BJB College in Bhubaneswar," he reminisced.

By then, the problem was beyond tolerable. Despite undergoing treatment at AIIMS in New Delhi for a long period, his lost vision could not be restored. It was

when he was told to live with the destiny's cruel joke for the rest of his life; he said he felt like the earth under his feet slipped. All his future plans were lost in the darkness.

"The following days were very painful. Since I had been enjoying

seeing the colourful world around me from my childhood days, I was not in a position to accept my impairment. I stopped going out and mixing with others. Confining myself to the four walls, I was just thinking why this has happened to me," he said.

Following my neighbours' suggestion, I started teaching a few students of my locality in 1990. And the journey started 31 years back and is still going on nonstop. He has 30 to 40 children in his class.

What has made him so popular is that he never demands tuition fees from anyone. He happily accepts whatever they give.

He is living with his ailing father and wife. His son works at a private company, and he along with his family stay somewhere.

"I am running my family with whatever I earn from tuition. From that income, I am treating my ailing father and wife. I have never allowed the problems to stop me in my work. Whatever may be the problems in life, if one is determined to face them instead of running away from them, one will achieve success," he suggested with a sense of satisfaction.

HELPING HAND



A camp to identify physically challenged children is in progress at Aska in Ganjam district, Thursday

# Rajan panel report on NEET was scripted: Anna Univ ex-VC

The former VC said that the report was totally lopsided and the Assembly should not have passed the Bill on NEET

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 23:** Even as the ruling DMK and political parties like Makkal Needhi Maiam of Kamal Haasan come out against the NEET, campaigning for the Justice AK Rajan committee, former Vice-Chancellor and renowned academician of Tamil Nadu, Balagurusamy has objected to the report.

In a statement, he said that the report was based on skewed statistics and scripted according to the whims and fancies of the ruling party. He said that getting the President's ascent to the Bill that was recently passed in the Tamil Nadu Assembly seeking exemption from NEET for the students of the state would not be easy.

The former Vice-Chancellor of Anna University said that the report was totally lopsided and the Assembly should not have passed the Bill on NEET based on the Rajan report.



Balagurusamy said that the committee wrote the recommendations first and then drafted content to support it.

He said that the national-level competitive examinations provide students of Tamil Nadu to get admission to colleges outside of the state. The former Vice-Chancellor said that students can get admissions in Central universities; all deemed universities and 15 per

cent in all other medical colleges in India, which is positive point.

He also said that the NEET scores help students get admission in medical colleges abroad, as it is a reputed testing agency. Balagurusamy said that the Central government has announced 27 per cent reservation for OBC and 10 per cent Economically Weaker Section reservation and added that this would have helped a lot of poor students.

# Akhara rejects Mahant's suicide theory

In a new twist to the alleged suicide of Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad chief Mahant Narendra Giri, the CBI team has launched a probe to unravel the truth

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Prayagraj, Sept 23:** The Niranjani Akhara, of which Mahant Narendra Giri was the chief, has outrightly rejected the suicide note of the deceased saint after terming it as fake.

Acharya Maha Mandaleswar of Shri Panchayati Akhara Niranjani, Acharya Kailashanand Giri said that "It is not a suicide note but a conspiracy note."

Kailashanand Giri dismissed the purported suicide note allegedly written by Mahant Narendra Giri and said, "This is not a letter written by Mahant Narendra Giri as he never used to pen anything so elaborate... he only used to put his signature while dictating the content of the letter to someone else. I have closely read the letter many times and it contains some words that seem to have been written by someone else having a good command over the Hindi language. Also, a particular character is used with some words in the letter which Maharaj did not even know how and when to use." Kailashanand Giri further

## CBI launches probe

**Prayagraj:** A five-member CBI team has reached Prayagraj to take over the investigation into the suspicious death of Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad chief, Mahant Narendra Giri. The Yogi Adityanath government, late Wednesday night, had recommended a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the Mahant's death. The state government had also set up an 18-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) Tuesday to probe the circumstances that led to the death of the seer. According to SIT sources, investigations into the call details of Narendra Giri's phone have now revealed that Mahant Narendra Giri had made and received several calls from some property dealers in Haridwar.

said, "I have been very close to him during his lifetime and knew him well. This letter is fake and part of a larger conspiracy to cover his murder which has been committed over greed of land. Mahant



Narendra Giri could never commit suicide as he was a roaring saint, who took a tough stand against fake godmen in the country and stood up to the repercussions. If he was under any pressure or needed money or there was any other issue, he would have shared it with me and with Ravindra Puri, the secretary of Niranjani akhara."

He said that there were several loopholes in the theory of suicide. "Why did the Mahant (Narendra Giri) not take the extreme step in his own room and why did he choose a room that he rarely frequented? Why the door of the room

where the body was found was forcefully opened? Why no one video-graphed the entire process of breaking the door and bringing the body down?" he asked.

Meanwhile, Mahant Balbir Giri, who has been named as Narendra Giri's successor in the suicide note, has also retracted his earlier claim that the handwriting on the alleged suicide note is that of the late Mahant.

"It is not his handwriting," he told reporters. BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj has also debunked the suicide theory saying that the alleged suicide note was fake.

## SP workers 'purify' places visited by CM Adityanath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sambhal (UP), Sept 23:** Samajwadi Party youth workers undertook "purification" exercise of the places visited by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Sambhal district by sprinkling 'Gangajal'.

A video of the purification exercise Wednesday has gone viral.

A case was lodged against Samajwadi Party Yuvjan Sabha state president Bhavesh Yadav and 8-10 others, Superintendent of Police Chakresh Misra said Thursday. Yadav has been arrested, he added.

The Chief Minister had inaugurated and laid foundations of projects worth ₹75 crore and addressed a public meeting at Kaila Devi in Sambhal district Tuesday.

A day later, Yadav and SP Yuvjan Sabha workers undertook the 'shudhikaran' (purification) exercise of the venue of the chief minister's public meeting and helped by sprinkling waters from the Ganga river.

Talking to the media during the exercise, Yadav claimed he conducted the purification drive as Adityanath has "insulted" Maa Kaila Devi by not visiting the temple when he was here.

The case was registered under IPC sections 153A (promoting disharmony, enmity or feelings of hatred), 295A (deliberate and malicious intention of outraging religious feelings) and 505 (intent to incite, or which is likely to incite, any class or community of persons to commit any offence against any other class or community).

Samajwadi Party president and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav has often alleged that when he vacated the Chief Minister's official residence at 5, Kalidas Marg in Lucknow after his defeat in the 2017 Assembly elections, seers and priests had undertaken "purifying rituals" at the sprawling bungalow to make it ready for Yogi Adityanath.

# Skeletons of 3 missing girls found in UP forest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh), Sept 23:** The skeletons of three minor girls, who had been reported missing since the past one month, have been found in a forest in the Harra area here.

The girls had left their home with their mother in Belahi village of the Halia area in Mirzapur district a month ago and were missing since then.

The mother is now absconding after the recovery of skeletons that have been sent for autopsy and forensic examination.

Station Officer (SO), Halia Rajkumar Singh said that some local shepherds spotted skeletons in the jungles of Harra Wednesday afternoon and alerted the husband and brother of the girls. They reached the spot and ascertained their identity with the



help of clothes lying there.

The police were informed and the skeletons were seized. The SO said that efforts were being made to trace the absconding mother.

Initial investigation revealed that one Devidas Kole of Belahi village had three sons and a daughter from his first wife Falguni, who died a few years ago. He had then married Sima, who had two daughters from her first husband.

After marriage, Sima's daughters

also started living with Kole's family.

On August 16, Sima left home with the three daughters - Golu, 12, Munni, 10, and Mamta, 8, without informing her husband.

Kole contacted his in-laws to get their whereabouts but failed.

On August 21, Sima contacted her brother Ramakant over phone and said that she was in Indore with her daughters.

On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, she reached Ramakant's place alone and on being asked about her daughters, she said that she had left them at Indore railway station.

Later, Kole and Ramakant reached Indore and also visited Ujjain to search for the three girls but could not find them.

Sima left her home when she learnt that skeletons of the girls had been found.

# Vendors meet TN minister over Ford exit

The vendors said the Ford's exit will translate to huge losses in terms of raw materials that have piled up

AGENCIES

**Chennai, Sept 23:** At least 75 vendors from across Tamil Nadu, supplying components to auto major Ford, met state Rural Industries Minister TM Anbarasan in Chennai after the car-maker announced its India exit. Claiming that business with Ford made up 20-40% of their business, the vendors elaborated

how the plant's closure - just outside Chennai - will impact their businesses.

Ford had cited a drastic fall in market share while announcing its exit from the Indian market.

SFC Solutions, which made fuel and brake systems for the auto giant, is worried about its 300 workers as 80% of the components the company manufactured have been for Ford. The representative of the company told authorities, "At least 200 of the 300 jobs will be lost. We also have imported parts worth ₹25 crore."

"We don't want to send any worker from my company. But if something doesn't work out, we will have to," said S Nargunam, Adviser to industry body TIEMA. The vendors said the carmaker's



exit will translate to huge losses in terms of raw materials that have piled up, imported, and locally made parts, and exclusive machinery.

While some raised concerns over job and financial losses, some offered suggestions to avert an adverse impact. Ellar - another company that makes auto components - has gradually reduced its dependence on Ford from 50% to 10%. Ford

has already compensated him, Ellar's CEO Pandiyan Mayilvaganam said.

"Ford still manufactures its Eco Sport overseas. Why can they not continue to buy our parts wherever they make the cars? We can export to them," he said.

The Ford plant employs 4,300 workers, including 1,400 on contract, who fear losing their livelihood. However, in assurance to the workers, Minister TM Anbarasan, however, said, "We will not abandon them. Our government will not let it go, particularly our Chief Minister."

Ford, sources said, is working on a series of compensation packages. Tamil Nadu is in talks with other carmakers who could take over the Chennai plant.

# Madras HC orders probe into patta transfer



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Sept 23:** Holding that it is not well, the Madras High Court has directed the Commissioner of Land Administration to inquire into the matter of transfer of patta of a piece of land in suburban Chromepet, in favour of a leather factory, said to be owned by a DMK MP.

A division bench of Justices Pushpa Sathyanarayana and Krishnan Ramaswamy gave the direction, while passing interim orders on a writ appeal from Quentin Dawson of Moovarasanpet, challenging the August 24 2020 order of a single judge, passed in a writ petition in favour of the leather factory, represented by its vice-president Vairakumar.

The prayer in the writ filed by the factory was to quash an order dated July 12, 2019 of the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) in Tambaram, granting the patta (land deed) in favour of one David Chambers of Anand Nagar in East Tambaram.

"We are of the view that all is not well in this case. Hence, a direction is issued to the Commissioner of Land Administration, Chepauk, to enquire into this matter and file

a report within a period of four weeks from today. The report shall, inter alia, indicate as to under what authority the impugned order was passed by the then RDO, when the said authority is only an appellate authority and the power only vests with the Tahsildar, as per Section 10 of the Tamil Nadu Patta Pass Book Act, 1983," the judges said.

The other directions included furnishing the reason for not summoning the appellant for enquiry, before passing the impugned order effecting name change in patta and when and where all the original files were placed/misplaced, since the then RDO asserted that on the date when he passed the order impugned in the writ petition, they were very much available in the office and the further course of action that is proposed to be taken against the errant officials in this regard.

The two spiral bound books presented before this Court today are all photocopies of some documents and the same are now returned to the custody of D Ravichandran, the present RDO, Tambaram. The same shall be produced on the next date of hearing October 21, the bench added.

# Thousands of shoe workers lose jobs in Agra

Wrong govt policies and inability to keep pace with the latest technology and upgradation led to the closure of 35 shoe-manufacturing units

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Agra, Sept 23:** Around five thousand trained shoe workers of Agra are now without work as over 35 leather shoe units have downed shutters following changes in the purchase policy by several government departments few years ago.

Agra is the biggest hub of leather shoe industries in India and exports a major chunk of its production. The industry employs over 2.5 lakh trained hands.

More than 80 per cent of all shoes for the Armed Forces and paramilitary agencies are manufactured in Agra. "Since Mughal times, Agra has been a major supplier of footwear all over India," says an industrial consultant.

Members of the Boot Manufacturing Association said, "The recent changes in the purchase policies by the Directorate

General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D) and other government bodies have hit hard the Agra industries. The parameters have changed."

"Preference is now being given to units with higher annual turnover, above ₹20 crore. This excludes the smaller, tiny, and cottage units that till now were able to participate in the tender process."

Association secretary Anil Mahajan said the government policies are now promoting only big business houses and units at the cost of smaller units that employ thousands of workers. Machines are taking over. This has proved detrimental to the interests of smaller units in Agra, Kanpur, and Kolkata, Mahajan added.

Sunil Gupta, the president of the Association said, "Shoes costing only around ₹200 were being purchased for over ₹600 by the gov-



ernment agencies."

Mechanised units were being given importance, whereas in terms of quality it does not make any difference. Shoes manufactured by hands are as good as those produced by machines, Gupta claimed.

The middlemen or big retailing

giants were taking advantage of the changed policies and supplying shoes manufactured by smaller units, to the government bodies.

"The Union government wants to increase employment potential, on the other hand, faulty policies were compelling smaller labour

# national

## of the day quote

The importance of healthcare has been even more clearly understood in the year gone by. It is our commitment to ensure top quality and affordable healthcare for our citizens. Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is key to realising this vision

In comparison to the SP government, the per capita income in UP has come down to about one third during the time of the BJP government. Inflation has been manifold but the interest rate on savings in the bank has halved

Only 53 MW of additional power capacity was added by the erstwhile AIADMK government during its 10 year rule

## SHORT TAKES

### Oz Trade Minister to visit India next week

**New Delhi:** Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan will visit India next week to explore sealing of an early harvest trade pact to be followed by a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) in line with the overall policy approach by the two sides to ramp up economic ties. It will be the first ministerial visit from Australia after it joined a new security alliance with the UK and the US that triggered sharp reactions from France and raised apprehensions about its possible impact on the Quad.

### Anirudh Tewari is new Pb Chief Secy

**Chandigarh:** The Charanjit Singh Channi-led government in Punjab Thursday shunted Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan and appointed Anirudh Tewari in her place. Tewari is a 1990-batch IAS officer and is currently holding the position of the Additional Chief Secretary Development, ACS Food Processing, ACS Horticulture and ACS Governance Reforms and Public Grievances.

### Youth kills self inside police station

**Kota (Rajasthan):** A 32-year-old man allegedly killed himself inside a police station here where he was lodged for disrupting public order, police said Thursday. However, family members of the deceased alleged that he was killed in custody by police.

### Man stabs college student to death

**Chennai:** A 19-year-old college student was stabbed to death near the Tambaram railway station here Thursday by a youth, who later attempted to commit suicide, said police. Seeing the grisly incident at about 1.30 pm today, passers by informed the police who rushed to the spot to find the college student in a pool of blood. Her assailant was found unconscious.

### Two killed in blast

**Bangalore:** An explosion rocked a locality in Bangalore Thursday killing at least two people and leaving five others injured, a police official said. The bodies of those who died in the blast were badly mutilated. The injured have been admitted to hospital, police said, adding, two of them are critically injured.



**The need of the hour is to initiate actions that return the economy to a high-growth track and create gainful jobs for millions of workers by 2030**

M VENKAIAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

## RARE CONDITION FOR BAIL

A man accused of attempted rape has been given bail on condition that he wash and iron the clothes of all women in his village for six months. Lalan Kumar, 20, will have to buy detergent and other items needed to provide six months of free laundry services to about 2,000 women in the village of Majhor in Bihar, under the ruling made



# Vaccination at home for differently-abled

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 23:** The government Thursday announced that differently-abled people and those with restricted mobility will be given Covid vaccine doses at their homes.

Addressing a press conference here, Union Health Ministry officials also said the country is still in the midst of the second wave of Covid-19 even though the number of daily new cases are declining.

However, they added, 62.73% of total infections reported last week were from Kerala alone, which is also the only state with over 1 lakh active Covid cases.

Thirty-three districts in the country are now reporting over 10 per cent weekly positivity rate, while 23 are recording between 5-10 per cent, the officials said.

Under Covid guidelines for the upcoming festival season, mass gatherings has to be avoided in containment zones and in districts with over 5 per cent positivity rate,



## FRESH GUIDELINES

**U**nion Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Thursday released guidelines on dealing with post-Covid health challenges which will help doctors and healthcare workers to deal with long-term effects of the coronavirus infection among patients. According to a Health Ministry statement, the minister said these "post-Covid Sequelae modules" will help in building the capacity of doctors, nurses, paramedics and community health workers across the country. In medical parlance, sequelae refer to a condition caused by a previous disease or injury. The minister said it is important to tackle the perceptions related to post-Covid situation such as fears and mental health issues, according to a Health Ministry statement. He said that proactive and comprehensive treatment of Covid-19 is required to ensure minimum side-effects and no negative effect of the treatment.

they said. On the ongoing vaccination drive, they said that 66 per cent of the country's adult population has been given at least one jab while 23 per cent is fully vaccinated.

They also said that 63.7 per cent doses of Covid-19 vaccine has been administered at centres in rural areas and 35.4 per cent in urban areas.

A total of 68.2 lakh doses (approximately 0.95 per cent) has been administered at Covid vaccination centres not tagged as rural or urban, they said. On the UK rule of 10-day quarantine for those vaccinated in India, the ministry officials said it was a discriminatory practice.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said both the countries are in dialogue on the matter.

"We believe that the dispensation that is proposed to be implemented from October 4 is a discriminatory practice. Both the sides are in dialogue and we believe a resolution will be found. We do reserve the right to reciprocate in a similar manner," Bhushan said.

## ASSAM: TWO KILLED AFTER ENCROACHERS CLASH WITH POLICE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mangaldai/Guwahati, Sept 23:** Staccato sounds of gunfire broke the fragile peace of Sipajhar in Assam's Darrang district Thursday as police tried to evict "encroachers", leaving two people dead in police firing, around 20 injured, in clashes, and a shocking video where an apparently dead man with a bullet wound on his chest lay motionless but was still hit by a man slinging a camera.

The incident drew condemnation, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi calling the police action "state-sponsored fire".

The public protest had erupted over the demand for rehabilitation of nearly 800 families evicted from the land they were living on for decades.

**A purported video of the incident has gone viral on social media where a photographer is seen kicking a presumably dead person**

Darrang Superintendent of Police Sushanta Biswa Sarma, a younger brother of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, claimed the protesters, armed with sharp weapons, pelted the police personnel and others present with stones.

Police initially fired in air to disperse the protesters but failed, forcing the men in uniform to fire at people, killing two and injuring at least ten others. Around 10 more, including policemen, were also injured in clashes. The video shows hundreds of policemen firing at unseen targets from behind the trees, and a man in vest and lungi running on a dusty street. The situation has been brought under control but tension prevails. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in Guwahati the eviction drive will not be stopped.

The Darrang district administration has so far cleared 602.40 hectares of land and evicted 800 families since Monday and demolished four "illegally" constructed religious structures at Sipajhar.



A glimpse of the India-Nepal joint military training exercise Surya Kiran XV in Pithoragarh

UNI PHOTO

## EX-GRATIA TO COVID VICTIMS' KIN

# SC appreciates Centre's stand

**ACCORDING TO NDMA GUIDELINES, ₹50,000 EX-GRATIA ASSISTANCE WILL BE PAID TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO DIED DUE TO COVID-19 BY THE STATES FROM THE SDRF**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sept 23:** The Supreme Court Thursday said it is "very happy" with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines for providing ₹50,000 ex-gratia assistance to the kin of those who succumbed to Covid.

Apprising the top court about the guidelines issued by the NDMA, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said: "To ensure uniformity, we have decided that the states from SDRF (State Disaster Response Fund)



will give 50,000 to the kin of the deceased who died due to Covid."

"We cannot repair the loss, but we can do something," he added.

Mehta also clarified that families of those who took their own lives, within 30 days of being detected Covid positive, will also be eligible for financial help under the Disaster Management Act.

A bench of Justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna orally said: "We are very happy. This will bring solace to a lot of people... it will wipe the tears of many".

It also appreciated the government's Covid management in the country, and added: "We are happy

that something is being done to wipe out tears of the person who suffered. We have to take judicial notice of the fact that what India has done, no other country could do." The top court noted that given the size of the population, vaccine expenses, economic situation, and the adverse circumstances, the government took exemplary steps. Mehta said India, as a nation, responded well.

According to NDMA guidelines, ₹50,000 ex-gratia assistance will be paid to the families of those who died due to Covid-19 by the states from the SDRF. During the hearing, Mehta emphasised that India, in

## SHOCKING INCIDENT

# Minor gangraped for months in Maharashtra

AGENCIES

**Thane, Sept 23:** A 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped multiple times over a period of eight months in Maharashtra's Thane district and the police have arrested 24 persons and detained two minors in the case, an official said Thursday.

Based on the girl's complaint, the Manpada police in Dombivli registered a case Wednesday night against 33 persons under IPC sections 376 (rape), 376 (n) (repeated rape), 376 (d) (gang-rape), 376 (3) (rape on a woman under sixteen years of age) and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, he said. Additional Commissioner of Police (East region) Dattatray Karale told reporters that the alleged incidents took place between January 29 and September 22 this year.

The girl told a relative about the ordeal Wednesday following which the complaint was registered, he added. "It all started when the girl's boyfriend allegedly raped her in January and made a video. He then started blackmailing her. Subsequently his friends and ac-

## Molestation inside BJP leader's office

**Mumbai:** In an embarrassing development for the BJP, the Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against two of its activists for allegedly molesting a woman worker inside a party Municipal Corporation's office when the nation was celebrating Independence Day last year, at the height of the pandemic lockdown. The incident sparked off another bitter political feud between Maharashtra's ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi and the opposition BJP, with the latter demanding to know why the issue was being raked up a



**Earlier this month, a 34-year-old woman died after being brutally raped and assaulted inside an auto rickshaw**

quaintances raped her on at least four or five occasions at different places in the district including Dombivli, Badlapur, Murbad and Rabale," Karale said.

A special investigation team (SIT) has been formed under Assistant Commissioner of Police Sonali Dhole to probe the case, he added.

"The victim has named 33 persons. Of them, 24 persons have been arrested and two minors detained. The girl's condition is said to be stable," Karale said, adding that search is on for the remaining accused.

The arrested men were produced before a court Thursday and were remanded in police custody till September 29, said another police official. Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, BJP leader Devendra Fadnis demanded that the Maharashtra government make special efforts to prevent such crimes. "An atmosphere of fear is prevailing in the state. The increase in the number of such incidents is worrisome," the former Chief Minister said.

## Army foils infiltration bid; three ultras killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Sept 23:** The Army foiled an infiltration bid near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district Thursday killing three terrorists and recovering a large cache of arms and ammunition, officials said.

"We noticed some suspicious movement in the Hathlanga area near the LoC. The infiltrators were challenged and three of them were killed," an army officer said.

He said a large cache of arms and ammunition, including five assault rifles, seven pistols and grenades, was recovered. Briefing the media at the Army's Chinar Corps headquarters here, Lieutenant General D P Pandey said there has been increased activity at the terrorist launchpads on the other side of the LoC recently. "While there was no infiltration since the beginning of the year, there has been a lot of activity at the launchpads, which cannot happen without the knowledge of Pakistan Army commanders," he said. Lt Gen. Pandey said this was evident from the infiltration bid that was eliminated Thursday and the one foiled in the Uri sector September 18-19.

# Defence ministry orders 118 Arjun tanks at ₹7,523 cr

**THE ORDER WILL PROVIDE FURTHER BOOST TO THE 'MAKE IN INDIA' INITIATIVE IN THE DEFENCE SECTOR AND IS A BIG STEP TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE 'AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT' (SELF-RELIANT INDIA) GOAL, THE MINISTRY SAID**

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 23:** The Defence Ministry Thursday sealed a contract to procure 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun for the Indian Army at a cost of ₹7,523 crore, in a major move to boost its combat capabilities.

The defence ministry placed the order for the Arjuna Mk-1A tanks with the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, Chennai. The MBT Mk-1A is a new variant of Arjun Tank designed to enhance fire power, mobility and survivability, infused with 72 new features and more indigenous

content from the Mk-1 variant.

"The Ministry of Defence (MoD) placed an order with Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, Chennai for supply of 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun Mk-1A for the Indian Army September 23," the ministry said in a statement. "The order, worth ₹7,523 crore, will provide further boost to the 'Make in India' initiative in defence sector and is a big step towards achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'," it said.

The ministry said the tanks would ensure effortless mobility in all terrains, besides precise target engagement during day and night. It has been designed and devel-



oped by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) by incorporating numerous upgrades on Arjun MBT, the in-service main battle tank with the Indian

Army. "The MK-1A is equipped with accurate and superior fire-power, all-terrain mobility and an invincible multi-layered protection provided by an array of ad-

vanced technology systems. It can take on the enemy during day and night conditions and in both static and dynamic modes," the ministry said.

It said the production order to Heavy Vehicles Factory will open up a large avenue in defence manufacturing for over 200 Indian vendors including MSMEs, with employment opportunities to around 8,000 people. "This will be a flagship project showcasing the indigenous capability in cutting edge defence technologies," the ministry said.

It said the MBT Arjun Mk-1A has been designed and developed

by Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), along with other laboratories of DRDO within two years (2010-12). "The development activities commenced from June 2010 and the tank was fielded for user trials in June 2012. It took only two years to develop and field the MBT Arjun Mk-1A for user trials from the user requirement," the ministry said.

"Extensive trial evaluation was conducted in various phases covering 7000 plus kms (both in DRDO and user trials) of automotive and substantial firing of various ammunition during 2012-2015," it said.

# international

## of the day quote

My country is keen to resume indirect negotiations with Israel for the demarcation of maritime borders

MICHEL AOUN | LEBANESE PRESIDENT

The new government of President Ebrahim Raisi will resume nuclear talks aimed at the revival of 2015 landmark deal

HOSSEIN AMIR ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Taliban's commitment not to allow the use of Afghanistan's soil for terrorism in any manner should be implemented and the world expects a broad-based, inclusive process that involves representation from all sections of the Afghan society

S JAISHANKAR | MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Seven dead

**Nairobi:** A local official in Kenya says seven people are dead after their boat capsized in Lake Victoria. Homa Bay County Commissioner Moses Lilan says the seven bodies pulled from the lake after the accident on Tuesday include one of a child. Officials say four people are still missing. Police say 19 passengers were on board when the boat capsized less than a half-kilometre from the landing site. The county commissioner says the boat was overloaded with passengers and luggage.

### Israeli to face trial

**Melbourne:** A former school principal who was extradited from Israel after a six-year legal battle was ordered to stand trial Thursday on 70 charges of child sex abuse. Malka Leifer, 55, pleaded not guilty to all the charges at the end of a court hearing. The committal hearing at the Melbourne Magistrates Court was held to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to warrant a trial. Leifer is accused of carrying out the abuse against sisters Dassi Erlich, Nicole Meyer and Elly Sapper when Leifer was head of Melbourne's Adass Israel School between 2004 and 2008.

### Bolsonaro in isolation

**Brasilia:** Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro will remain in isolation for the next five days after coming in contact with Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga, who has tested positive for Covid-19. The President's special communications secretary Andre de Sousa Costa said that all members of the delegation that accompanied Bolsonaro and Queiroga on a trip to New York to attend the UN General Assembly will also remain isolated, reports Xinhua news agency.

### Lava spread raises fears

**Todoque (Spain):** The advance of lava from a volcanic eruption in Spain's Canary Islands has slowed significantly, raising doubts Thursday about whether it will fan out across the land and destroy more homes instead of flowing into the sea. A giant river of lava slowed to four metres (13 feet) per hour after reaching a plain on Wednesday. On Monday, a day after the eruption on the island of La Palma, it was moving at 700 metres (2,300 feet) per hour. As it slowed, the lava grew thicker. In places, it rose up to 15 metres (50 feet) high, authorities said. The lava now covers 166 hectares (410 acres).

## PM Modi interacts with American CEOs

Ahead of his meeting with the business leaders, PM Modi had said he would interact with leading CEOs to highlight economic opportunities in India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by dignitaries, on his arrival, in Washington DC, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Sept 23:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday met a group of five top American corporate leaders on a one-on-one basis from a range of diverse sectors ranging from drones to 5G, semiconductor, and solar and encouraged them to step up their investments by highlighting the vast opportunities in India.

Modi, who arrived here Wednesday on an official visit to the US during which he will hold the first face-to-face meeting with President Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris, held separate meetings with CEOs of Qualcomm, Adobe, First Solar, General Atomics and Blackstone.

Ahead of his meeting with the business leaders, Modi had said he would interact with leading CEOs to highlight economic opportunities in India. "Talking technology..." the Prime Minister's Office said in a Twitter post after Modi's meeting with Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon and First Solar CEO Mark Widmar. They had a productive interaction, it said. "PM Modi highlighted the vast opportunities India offers. Mr.

Amon expressed keenness to work with India in areas such as 5G and other" Digital India efforts, it added. Qualcomm, which started its operations in 1996, has operations specialising in wireless modem and multimedia software, Digital Signal Processing (DSP) and embedded applications, and digital media networking solutions.

In India, Qualcomm Ventures has invested in companies that address key domestic issues from dairy, transportation to defence. Modi described the meeting as "fruitful" and said they talked about leveraging technology for greater public good and tech opportunities in India. "He was interested in India's strides in 5G and our efforts such as PM-WANI to boost connectivity," Modi said.

"Toward making India a global innovation hub!" Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted. The Prime Minister had a conversation with Amon on investment opportunities in hi-tech sectors in India.

They discussed investment opportunities offered in India's telecommunications and electronics sector.

## CHINA SENDS 19 JETS TOWARDS TAIWAN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Taipei, Sept 23:** China sent 19 fighter jets towards Taiwan in a large display of force Thursday, after the self-governing island announced its intention to join an 11-nation Pacific trade group that China has also applied to join.

Taiwan deployed air patrol forces in response to the Chinese jets and tracked them on their air defense systems, the island's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Among the various jets, some of which flew in a long L-shaped path, were 12 J-16 and two J-11s, as well as bombers and an anti-submarine aircraft.

China has sent fighter jets toward Taiwan on an almost daily basis this past year.

It stepped up its military harassment of the self-ruled island and has sent large displays of fighter jets after political events in which it views as interfering with its sovereignty.

## Nobel Prize ceremonies to be curtailed again

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Stockholm, Sept 23:** The Nobel Prize ceremonies will be reined in and scaled-down for the second year in a row due to the coronavirus pandemic, the foundation behind the coveted prizes said Thursday.

The winners of this year's prizes in chemistry, literature, physics, medicine and economics, as well as the Nobel Peace Prize, are set to be announced between October 4 and October 11. "It is now also clear that this year's Nobel festivities in December - when the laureates are honoured in Stockholm and Oslo - will be a mixture of digital and physical events," the Nobel Foundation said.

The laureates will receive their Nobel Prize medals and diplomas in their home countries, the foundation said. It said the presentation events will be woven together with an awards ceremony at Stockholm City Hall on December 10, which is the anniversary of the death of prize founder Albert Nobel.

## US rules out adding India, Japan to AUKUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Sept 23:** The US has ruled out adding India or Japan to the new trilateral security partnership with Australia and Britain to meet the challenges of the 21st century in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

On September 15, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson jointly announced the formation of the trilateral security alliance AUKUS under which Australia would get a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

"The announcement of AUKUS last week was not meant to be an indication, and I think this is the message the President also sent to (French President Emmanuel) Macron, that there is no one else who will be involved in security in the Indo-Pacific," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference on Wednesday.

Psaki was responding to a ques-



China has sharply criticised the trilateral alliance, saying such exclusive grouping has no future and will gravely undermine regional stability and aggravate the arms race and hurt international non-proliferation efforts

On September 15, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson jointly announced the formation of the trilateral security alliance AUKUS under which Australia would get a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for the first time

tion if countries like India and Japan whose leaders would be in Washington this week for the first in-person Quad Summit would be made part of the new security alliance.

The Quad comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia. US President Joe Biden is hosting the

first in-person Quad summit at the White House on September 24. "On Friday... you'll have the Australians there (for the Quad summit). But then you also have India and Japan. Would you envision for them a similar kind of military role that you've now defined for with the Australians?" a journalist asked.

## COMMON CONNECTION



Artists perform on stage during the 4th Budapest Demographic Summit in Budapest, Serbia, Thursday. The biannual demographic summit, which was first organized in 2015, offers a forum for pro-family thinker decision-makers, scientists, researchers, and church representatives of the same sort to exchange their thoughts about connections between demographics and sustainability

## PANDEMIC IMPACT



The winners of this year's prizes in chemistry, literature, physics, medicine and economics, as well as the Nobel Peace Prize, are set to be announced between October 4 and October 11

The peace prize is awarded in Oslo, Norway because Nobel wanted it that way for reasons he kept to himself.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee is keeping open the possibility of welcoming the Nobel Peace Prize winner or winners to Oslo, the foundation said. The committee plans to announce the format of its festivities in mid-October.

"I think everybody would like the COVID-19 pandemic to be over, but we are not there yet," Nobel

and Sweden, there will be less attention around the award ceremony and banquet, but globally we try to arrange a really nice celebration of the award winners," he was quoted as saying by Swedish news agency TT.

The pandemic curtailed the celebrations to honour the 12 laureates named in 2020. No formal banquet was held to honour the winners. Instead, their achievements were recognised and rewarded at low-key ceremonies in Europe and the United States.

Looking at last year's events, "some of the digital production gained greater global reach than we have seen before," Helgesen told TT. A Nobel Prize comes with a 10-million krona (\$1.15 million) cash award — to be shared in some cases — diplomas and gold medals.

The six awards are handed out by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institutet, the Swedish Academy and the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

## Under Taliban, thriving Afghan music scene heads to silence

**IN THE ALLEYS OF KHARABAT, A NEIGHBOURHOOD IN KABUL'S OLD CITY, FAMILIES WHERE MUSIC IS A PROFESSION PASSED THROUGH GENERATIONS ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kabul, Sept 23:** A month after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, the music is going quiet.

The last time the militant group ruled the country, in the late 1990s, it outright banned music. So far this time, the government set up by the Taliban hasn't taken that step officially. But already, musicians are afraid a ban will come, and some Taliban fighters on the ground have started enforcing rules on their own, harassing musicians and music venues.

Many wedding halls are limiting music at their gatherings. Musicians are afraid to perform. At least one reported that Taliban fighters at one of the many checkpoints around the capital smashed

his instrument. Drivers silence their radios whenever they see a Taliban checkpoint.

In the alleys of Kharabat, a neighbourhood in Kabul's Old City, families where music is a profession passed through generations are looking for ways to leave the country. The profession was already hit hard by Afghanistan's foundering economy, along with the coronavirus pandemic, and some families now too fearful to work are selling off furniture to get by.

"The current situation is oppressive," said Muzafar Bakhsh, a 21-year-old who played in a wedding band. His family had just sold off part of its belongings at Kabul's new flea market, Chaman-e-Hozari. "We keep selling them... so we don't die of starvation," said Bakhsh, whose late grandfather was Ustad Rahim

## BIG BLOW



Bakhsh, a famous Ustad — or maestro — of Afghan classical music. Afghanistan has a strong musical tradition, influenced by Iranian and Indian classical music. It also has a thriving pop music scene, adding electronic instruments and dance beats to more traditional

rhythms. Both have flourished in the past 20 years. Asked whether the Taliban government will ban music again, spokesman Bilal Karimi told The Associated Press, "Right now, it is under review and when a final decision is made, the Islamic Emirate

"AUKUS? What would it become? JAUUKUS? JAIUKUS?" Psaki said in lighter moments before giving answer to the question. The trilateral security alliance AUKUS, seen as an effort to counter China in the Indo-Pacific, will allow the US and the UK to provide Australia with the technology to develop nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

China has sharply criticised the trilateral alliance, saying such exclusive grouping has no future and will gravely undermine regional stability and hurt international non-proliferation efforts.

The move has also angered France, an European ally of the US, which said it had been "stabbed in the back" and has publicly expressed its outrage at the AUKUS alliance.

It recalled its ambassador to the US and Australia after the AUKUS security deal was announced. France also lost a lucrative contract to build conventional submarines for Australia.

## Vaccine certification must meet 'minimum criteria,' says UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Sept 23:** The UK government has said that COVID-19 vaccine certification from all countries must meet a "minimum criteria" and that it is working with India on a "phased approach" to its international travel norms.

It follows Covishield, the Serum Institute of India manufactured Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, being added as eligible to an expanded UK travel advisory on Wednesday.

But with India's vaccine certification not on a list of 18 approved countries, Indian travellers to the UK will continue to be treated as non-vaccinated and therefore required to quarantine for 10 days on arrival.

Following much confusion over this process, UK government sources said on Wednesday night that additions or changes to the approved country listings are being kept under "regular consideration", but there was no further clarity on the required criteria for approving a country's vaccine certification.



"As part of our recently expanded inbound vaccination policy, we recognise the following vaccines Pfizer BioNTech, Oxford AstraZeneca, Moderna and Janssen (J&J), for the purposes of international travel. This now includes the formulations AstraZeneca Covishield, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria and Moderna Takeda," a UK government spokesperson said. "Our top priority remains protecting public health, and reopening travel in a safe and sustainable way, which is why vaccine certification from all countries must meet the minimum criteria taking into account public health and wider considerations. We continue to work with international partners, to roll out our phased approach," the spokesperson said.

will announce it." But music venues are already feeling the pressure since the Taliban swept into Kabul on Aug. 15.

Wedding halls are usually scene to large gatherings with music and dancing, most often segregated between men's and women's sections. At three halls visited by the AP, staff said the same thing. Taliban fighters often show up, and although so far they haven't objected to music, their presence is intimidating. Musicians refuse to show up. In the male sections of weddings, the halls no longer have live music or DJs. In the women's section — where the Taliban fighters have less access — female DJs sometimes still play.

Some karaoke parlors have closed. Others still open, face harassment.



If your question is, do you want the petrol prices to come down then the answer is yes. Now, if your question is why the petrol prices are not coming down, then the answer is because the states don't want to bring it under GST

OYO TO FILE FOR UP TO \$1.2B-IPO

Hospitality firm OYO is planning to raise up to USD 1.2 billion (around ₹8,000 crore) through an initial public offering and is expected to file the draft red herring prospectus with Sebi next week, sources told PTI Thursday.



of the day quote

When the Fed starts tapering, we can expect some capital outflows and consequently some exchange rate volatility. RBI should be able to manage that through appropriate interventions in the market

A Saarthi app will also be launched for exporters to resolve their problems. A separate app will be prepared for export products

We humbly request your Ministry's intervention... create a task force which takes day-to-day updates from Ford India to monitor the compensation plan for automobile dealers and dealership employees

India, UAE aim to bolster trade ties



Both the countries would also aim to sign an 'early harvest' trade deal soon, before concluding the CEPA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday held a meeting with visiting UAE minister for foreign trade Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi and discussed ways to further boost trade and investment relations between both the countries.

"Both sides discussed the strong economic and commercial engagement between the India-UAE and the comprehensive strategic partnership which is driving the multifaceted bilateral relations," the finance ministry said in a statement.

A high-level UAE delegation, led by Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, is in India to hold talks aimed at improving bilateral economic relations, including expanding the existing trade and investment relationship, it said.

The first round of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations is underway. "The regular exchange of high-level bilateral visits even during Covid-19 pandemic reflects close friendship between the two countries," it added.

India and the UAE Wednesday formally launched negotiations for a CEPA with an early harvest to be concluded by end December, a move aimed at boosting trade

Shares breach new heights on banking, energy support

AGENCIES

Banagore, Sept 23: Propelled by rallying banking and energy stocks as fears of an economy-derailing third wave recede, Indian shares surged to fresh record highs, with the real estate sub index extending gains for the third straight day to reach a near 11-year peak.

The blue-chip NSE Nifty 50 index ended 1.57% higher at 17,822.95 Thursday, having hit a record high of 17,843.9 earlier, and the benchmark S&P BSE Sensex climbed 1.6% to end at 59,885.36, touching an all-time peak of 59,957.25.

Investors seemed to shrug off the results of a Federal Reserve meet, where it said it could start reducing bond purchases as early as November, and hinted at a rate hike arriving quicker than expected.

Banking stocks rebounded from losses in the previous session to jump over 2%, with Bajaj Finserv topping the Nifty 50 index and hitting a record high

In Mumbai, real estate stocks surged as much as 11.7% to their highest in nearly 11 years, which analysts said was due to improving property sales and the pace of the country's vaccination drive.

"The positive sentiment was also spilling over to auxiliary sectors," said Siddharth Purohit, a research analyst at SMC Global Securities. The fears of a fierce third wave that would derail a quick economic recovery are receding (due to increased vaccinations).

Banking stocks rebounded from losses in the previous session to jump over 2%, with Bajaj Finserv topping the Nifty 50 index and hitting a record high.

Energy stocks hit a record high, with Tata Power ending 4.2% higher. Conglomerate Reliance Industries rose 2.7% to hit a record high. Data out Monday showed its telecom unit Reliance Jio added 6.5 million subscribers to its wireless subscriber base in July, up from the 5.5 million in June.

Google suing CCI over report leak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Google Thursday said it has moved the Delhi High Court against the leak of antitrust body CCI's confidential report pertaining to the investigation against the tech giant.

Google, in a statement, said it aims to prevent any further unlawful disclosures of confidential findings by the investigative arm of Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Google filed a writ petition in the Delhi HC seeking redress in this matter, specifically protesting against the breach of confidence which impairs Google's ability to defend itself and harms Google and its partners, it added.



The tech giant noted that it has not yet received or reviewed this confidential report

Last week, reports had stated that CCI's investigation arm, the Director General (DG), has found that Google indulged in unfair business practices in relation to Android. After prima-facie find-

ing alleged violation of competition norms, CCI - in early 2019 - had ordered a detailed probe against Google in this regard.

"Protecting confidential information is fundamental to any governmental investigation, and we are pursuing our legal right to seek redress and prevent any further unlawful disclosures," a Google spokesperson said in the statement.

The company stated that the DG's findings do not reflect the final decision of the CCI and the submission of the investigation report is an interim procedural step.

Google has not yet had the opportunity to review the DG's findings, much less submit its defence of any allegations, the statement said.

JSPL bags 278 MT Kasia iron ore mine

At present, the Kasia mine has an environmental clearance (EC) for mining 75 MT mineral per annum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Integrated steel player Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) Thursday said it has bagged Kasia iron ore block in Odisha. The mine with 278 million tonne (MT) reserves is strategically located about 17 kilometers from company's pellet plant in Barbil in the state, JSPL said in a statement.

JSPL has received official communication from Odisha Government for the grant of mining lease of the Kasia Iron and dolomite mine. JSPL has been declared as the preferred bidder for the mine at a premium of

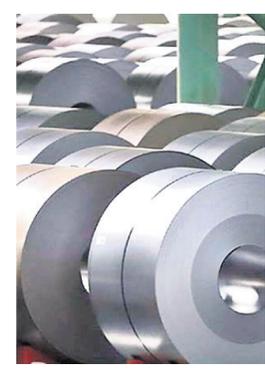
118.10 per cent, it said.

Sharing details with respect to the mine, JSPL said it has large resource of 278 MT of iron ore of an average Fe (iron) grade of approximately 62.5 per cent. The mine also has favourable lumps to the fine ratio of 2080.

The e-auction for Kasia iron and dolomite mineral block, which was earlier owned and operated by Essel Mining and Industries, was held September 18, 2021.

This large and high-quality captive iron ore mine provides significant raw material security to JSPL.

JSPL Managing Director VR Sharma said, "The company has



a current crude steel capacity of around 9 MTPA and plans to expand the capacity to 16 MTPA by FY25. Access to this large captive iron ore source, therefore, provides a massive strategic advantage to the company."

SHORT TAKES

LIC HFL extends home loan offer

Mumbai: Mortgage financier LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL) Thursday extended its lowest home loan rate of 6.66 per cent for home loans up to ₹2 crore. In July this year, it had announced to offer home loans at an interest rate of 6.66 per cent for an amount up to ₹50 lakh to new borrowers. The new offer announced Thursday is available for all borrowers with CIBIL score of 700 and above, irrespective of their occupation i.e. salaried or professional/self-employed, a release said.

Realme among top 6 global brands

Bhubaneswar: Realme, the world's fastest growing smartphone brand, has been listed among top 6 smartphone vendor in the global rankings, according to the latest market insights conducted by Counterpoint Research. Realme took the sixth spot with 15 million shipments and 135.1 percent YoY growth in Q2 2021. Last month, Realme became the fastest brand ever to ship 100 million smartphones, as data shown from research firm Strategy Analytics 2021, Q2.

More time to cos for holding AGMs

New Delhi: Companies will get an additional time of two months beyond September to conduct their annual general meetings for the fiscal year ended March 2021. The corporate affairs ministry has asked Registrars of Companies (RoCs) to give two more months to companies for holding their Annual General Meetings (AGMs). Under the companies law, corporates are required to hold AGMs within six months from the end of a financial year.

Ducati Monster range launched

Bhubaneswar: Luxury motorcycle brand Ducati announced the launch of its all-new Monster range in India. The Monster is priced at ₹10.99 lakh while the Monster Plus is priced at ₹11.24 lakh respectively (ex-showroom India). The new Monster represents all the essence of Ducati in the lightest, most compact and essential form possible. The recipe is the same like it was in 1993: a sporty engine, that is perfect for road use, combined with a superbike-derived frame.

BIZ BUZZ

Bank deposits rise 12% in FY21

New Delhi: Bank deposits grew 11.9 per cent year-on-year during 2020-21 compared to 8.8 per cent in 2019-20 on the back of high growth in current account and savings account (CASA) deposits, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed. The share of CASA deposits increased to 43.7 per cent in March 2021 compared to 41.7 per cent a year ago, according to the RBI's Deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks - March 2021 data released Thursday. Among institutional categories, the household sector held 64.1 per cent per cent share in total deposits. Bank deposits of non-financial corporations surged by 18.8 per cent during 2020-21 and their share in total deposits increased to 16.2 per cent in March 2021.

AM/NS Odisha Op wins SC Dey Memorial Trophy

Bhubaneswar: AM/NS India, Odisha Operation won S C Dey Memorial Trophy for the 'Professional Excellence' category. The Tech Elite team which participated in TQM Global Summit consisted four employees of AM/NS India - Sabita Kumari Rout, Sivakrishna Golagani, Hariprasad and Rajarshi Sinha. They presented a case study on improvement of iron ore pellet quality through reduction of green ball deformation. G Suresha, Executive Director, AM/NS India, Odisha Operations said, "It's really a proud moment for us that our team's research-oriented presentation on Iron Ore Pellet was well appreciated at TQM Global Summit." The programme was organized by Techno India University, West Bengal where Quality Circle Forum of India was the co-host.



Central Bank organises credit camp

Bhubaneswar: Central Bank of India, Berhampur and KK College branch organised multipurpose credit camp. The bank distributed 32 loans amounting to ₹13 crore. Pradeep Kumar Samantaray, Senior Regional Manager of Bhubaneswar Region, Vikram Vishwakarma, Chief Manager (RPC, Bhubaneswar), BB Dash, Branch Manager of Berhampur branch, Prabhat Sahu, Branch Manager of KK College Branch, Biswaranjan Swain, Marketing Manager and others were present at the camp. Retail, agriculture and MSME loans were also distributed. Around 100 customers were present in the event.



MoU signed with Gates Foundation to boost livestock sector

Developing the livestock sector envisages strengthening animal husbandry infrastructure, entrepreneurship development and implementing 'One Health' framework

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 23: The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) have signed a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sustainably improving India's livestock sector to support the nation's food and nutritional security.

The MoU aims to protect the economic wellbeing of small-scale livestock producers, the DAHD said, adding, improving animal health and production programmes

is to ensure food security and economic development.

The event was organised Wednesday as a part of ongoing celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', a commemoration of 75th year of India's Independence at the Ministry's headquarters, a release from the Ministry said.

Developing the livestock sector envisages strengthening animal husbandry infrastructure, entrepreneurship development and implementing 'One Health' framework. Through this collaboration, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide technical assistance for



the design and delivery of new technologies and implementation of best practices that are relevant in the local context, the

This collaboration will strengthen our digital infrastructure, research and development capabilities and bridge the information gap with respect to animal-human interactions among public and private stakeholders

ATUL CHATURVEDI | SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING

statement added. Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Dr K Vijayaraghavan highlighted the

significance of the collaboration and reiterated that the expected outcomes would go a long way in sustainability to improve the livestock sector thereby resulting in economic development.

Addressing the panel at the MOU signing, M Hari Menon, Director, India Country Office, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation said, "The Gates Foundation is honoured to deepen our partnership with DAHD, with the aim of contributing to the Government of India's national goals for sustainable development and improvement of the livestock sector."

# Knight Riders' night out



VENKATESH IYER PLAYS A SHOT DURING HIS KNOCK



Rahul Tripathi plays an inside-out shot during his match-winning innings

# Disciple v mentor: RCB face CSK test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sharjah, Sept 23:** Star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) would look to shrug off the crushing defeat in the previous round and get their mojo back when they take on MS Dhoni's resilient Chennai Super Kings in an IPL match, here Friday.

While RCB will look to start afresh, CSK got a confidence-boosting 20-run win against defending champions Mumbai Indians Sunday night.

It is imperative for RCB to improve upon their batting as they seek to keep their place in the top half of the points table. It will be important that the openers - Devdutt Padikkal (217 runs) and skipper Virat Kohli (203 runs) - provide a solid start.

But the opening duo would also need support from the middle-order, which crumbled against Kolkata Knight Riders. The likes of Glenn Maxwell (233 runs) and AB de Villiers (207 runs) will have to perform in unison against a strong CSK attack.

Australian Maxwell did justify his high price tag during the first leg, becoming the side's top scorer. He would be raring to go once again as will the ever-reliable De Villiers.

The RCB bowlers will also have to forget the underwhelming display against KKR. While pacers

Mohammed Siraj, Harshal Patel bowled well, Kiwi quick Kyle Jamieson, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga all had leaked more than 10 runs an over.

CSK could have suffered the reversal in their tie against Mumbai had it not been for youngster Ruturaj Gaikwad's mature unbeaten knock of 88 off 58 balls.

The team's leading run-getter Faf du Plessis (320 runs), Moeen Ali were out for ducks while Ambati Rayudu was retired hurt on nought. Veterans Suresh Raina and Dhoni also failed to reach double digit scores and the side was reeling at 24/4.

But Gaikwad was not ruffled and kept his calm, steering the three-time champions to a respectable 156/6. He stitched crucial partnerships with all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Dwayne Bravo, who smashed 23 runs off eight deliveries, taking the team over the 150-run mark. Defending a modest total, CSK showed immense resilience as the bowlers led by pacer Deepak Chahar and Dwayne Bravo handed the "Yellow Army" their sixth win of the season.

A win Friday will take them back to the top of the table. CSK will also have the option to choose young England all-rounder Sam Curran, who had been one of the breakout stars of last year's IPL, shining with both the bat and the ball.

**TODAY'S MATCH**

RCB v CSK

Time: 07:30 pm

TELECAST

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

**BRIEF SCORES:** MI 155/6 (Quinton de Kock 55, Rohit Sharma 33; Lockie Ferguson 2/27, Prasidh Krishna 2/43, Sunil Narine 1/20) lost to KKR 159/3 (Rahul Tripathi 74 n o, Venkatesh Iyer 53; Jasprit Bumrah 3/43) by 7 wickets.

**Abu Dhabi, Sept 23:** Rookie Venkatesh Iyer (53, 30b, 4x4, 3x6) left many in awe of his talent as Kolkata Knight Riders produced a clinical performance for the second successive game since IPL's resumption to tame the mighty Mumbai Indians by seven wickets and enter the top-four in the points table here Thursday.

Iyer, playing his second IPL game, displayed the wide range of his strokes alongside Rahul Tripathi (74 n o, 42b, 8x4, 3x6) to enable KKR to chase MI's modest total of 155/6 with as many as 29 balls to spare.

Quinton de Kock (55, 42b, 4x4, 3x6) struck an entertaining half century for MI before KKR bowlers bounced back in the last 10 overs, conceding 75 runs and taking five wickets.

Shubman Gill (18) and Iyer gave KKR another flying start with the first two overs bowled by Trent Boult and Adam Milne going for 15 runs each. Gill flicked Boult for a delightful six while Iyer pulled the New Zealand pace spearhead to set the tone for the rest of the innings.

While Jasprit Bumrah (3/43) found Gill's stumps in the third over, Iyer went on to play a memorable knock comprising four

boundaries and three sixes.

Iyer and Tripathi shared an 88-run stand for the second wicket which completely shut the door on MI, who suffered their second loss since IPL's resumption.

Earlier, MI skipper Rohit Sharma (33, 30b, 4x4) got off the innings in scintillating fashion, caressing a Nitish Rana delivery on to the mid-off boundary. The skipper, who was in sublime touch in the Tests in England, had not played the opening game against CSK.

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya did not start once again, raising questions about his fitness. Rohit

took the attack to mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty (0/22) with two consecutive fours in opening two deliveries of the fourth over.

De Kock was not to be left behind as he matched his skipper stroke for stroke, pulling a Lockie Ferguson (2/27) delivery over the fence for the first maximum of the match.

Introduced into the attack in the sixth over, Prasidh Krishna (2/43) was taken to task by De Kock, hitting the medium pacer twice over the fence to pick up 16 runs from his first over as MI cantered to 56 for no loss.

De Kock seemed unstoppable as he welcomed Andre Russell with consecutive fours. Morgan bowled out trump card Chakravarty by the 11th over with MI not losing a wicket against him.

Sunil Narine was also tidy giving away only 20 runs in four overs, claiming the crucial wicket of the

MI skipper. With de Kock going hammer and tongs, Rohit played the second fiddle before Narine got his man for the ninth time in T20s, holing out to Gill at the boundary.

KKR pulled things back between 10-15 overs, conceding only 26 runs and picked up two wickets. Pollard, as he often does, came up with much needed big hits in the last five overs, including a flat batted six over mid wicket in Krishna's 18-run over.

Ferguson bowled a brilliant last over for KKR, removing the dangerous duo of Pollard and Krunal Pandya (12) at the cost of only six runs. MI collected 49 runs from the last five overs.

# Hammers knock Man Utd out of League Cup



West Ham players celebrate a goal against Manchester United, Wednesday

**London, Sept 23:** One route to a first trophy since 2017 is already over for Manchester United. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team was knocked out of the League Cup in the third round by West Ham Wednesday.

Manuel Lanzini clinched a 1-0 vic-

tory after sweeping in from Ryan Fredericks' cutback to give David Moyes a first victory in management at Old Trafford—seven years after United fired him.

In the fourth round, West Ham will take on the other Manchester squad—City, winners of the last four League Cup finals—as the

London club chases a first domestic trophy since the 1980 FA Cup.

It was a completely changed United lineup from the side that won at West Ham in the Premier League Sunday so Cristiano Ronaldo did not feature. It is in the league after five rounds that United remains among the frontrunners with

Liverpool, which plays at Preston next in the League Cup.

United also lost their opening game in the group stage of the Champions League last week against Young Boys.

Chelsea advanced by beating Aston Villa 4-3 on penalties, with Reece James scoring the decisive spot kick. The game was tied at 1-1 through 90 minutes after Cameron Archer canceled out Chelsea's opener from Timo Werner's header from James' cross that was the German's first goal in 11 games. Chelsea will play Southampton in the fourth round.

Arsenal will host Leeds after beating AFC Wimbledon 3-0. Alexandre Lacazette's penalty in the 11th minute was not built on until the final 13 minutes when substitute Emile Smith Rowe and Eddie Nketiah wrapped up the victory over the third-tier side.

Tottenham will face another Premier League team away—Burnley—after ousting Wolverhampton. They survived a scare after blowing a 2-0 lead secured by Harry Kane and Tangy Ndombele.

Leander Dendoncker and Daniel Podence hauled Wolves level to force the game to penalties. But Ruben Neves, Dendoncker and Conor Coady failed to score in the shootout as Tottenham won 3-2 on penalties.

# World T20 anthem launched



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Sept 23:** The ICC Thursday launched the official anthem of the upcoming T20 World Cup along with a campaign film featuring 'avatars' of Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli and West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard.

The tournament will begin October 17 in Oman and UAE, with the final to be played in Dubai November 14.

Composed by Bollywood music director Amit Trivedi, an animated film features young fans from all over the world engaged in T20 cricket and includes some of the sport's biggest superstars. India captain Kohli leads the group of players brought to life as 'avatars' in the animation, that interact with each other throughout.

Kohli is joined by fellow captain

Pollard of the reigning champions, West Indies as well as Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell and Rashid Khan of Afghanistan.

Launched in collaboration with ICC's global broadcast partner Star Sports, the film premiers worldwide on Thursday across ICC, BCCI, and Star Sports' social media handles. The animation features a brand-new broadcast technology that blends both 3D and 2D effects to create the film.

A production team of over 40 people, including designers, modelers, matte painters, animators, lighters, and compositors, worked round-the-clock to produce the final version.

A total of 16 countries, featuring the sport's biggest names and best teams, will compete in the sport's biggest event since the COVID-19

pandemic.

"There is something magical and special about putting on the West Indies jersey and stepping onto the field," said Pollard. "This upcoming World Cup will give us more special moments. We know our fans will be fully engaged, watching, and supporting and we want to give them plenty to cheer about," he added.

The opening fixture of the tournament takes place on October 17 as Oman take on men's T20 World Cup debutants Papua New Guinea at Muscat's Oman Cricket Academy.

Claire Furlong, ICC General Manager, Marketing and Communications said: "Cricket has more than a billion fans around the world, and we wanted to put our young fans in the heart of the action alongside their heroes and allow them to live the game."

# Juve seal 1st Serie A win Asensio, Benzema lift Real

**Rome, Sept 23:** Critics had been demanding that Juventus use its younger players more during a horrendous start to Serie A, and they had to be appeased after Moise Kean, Federico Chiesa and Matthijs de Ligt each scored in a 3-2 win at Spezia for the Bianconeri's first Italian league win of the season Wednesday.

De Ligt scored the winner in the 72nd minute to complete a comeback after Juventus fell behind four minutes after the break. Playing in place of Juventus captain Giorgio Chiellini, the 22-year-old De Ligt coolly redirected in a loose ball that was being knocked around following a corner.

The 23-year-old Chiesa had equalised six minutes earlier with a typical goal for the Italy winger: he darted straight to the goal by dribbling through the legs of a defender then just barely got his shot off as he was sliding toward the ball.

The 21-year-old Kean—like coach Massimiliano Allegri in his



Matthijs de Ligt (L) rejoices after scoring Juventus' winner

second stint at Juventus—had given the visitors an early lead with a long shot after Adrien Rabiot knocked down a ball over the top from Leonardo Bonucci. n Spezia had struck back with goals both sides of halftime, the first coming with a solo effort from Emmanuel Gyasi, who dribbled by Danilo on the left flank and looped a long shot into the far corner.

Janis Antiste, a 19-year-old French forward, put Spezia ahead by beating De Ligt on a counter-attack with the help of his shot being deflected by Bonucci.

**Madrid, Sept 23:** This time, Real Madrid didn't need to rely solely on Karim Benzema and Vinicius Junior to keep winning in the Spanish league.

Benzema scored twice to reach 200 league goals but Madrid also got a hat trick from Marco Asensio on its way to a comfortable 6-1 win over Mallorca at home Wednesday, a result that extended the team's winning streak to five matches in all competitions.

It was Madrid's fourth straight league win, taking Carlo Ancelotti's team back to the top of the standings with 16 points from six matches, two points ahead of defending champion Atletico Madrid.

Benzema and Vinicius had been key for Madrid so far at the start of the season, having scored 11 of the team's 15 goals in the league. Benzema took his league-leading tally to eight goals by finding the net three minutes into the match and again in the 78th. Asensio scored his goals in the 24th,



Splendid outing: Marco Asensio (2nd from L) reacts after one of his goals with teammates, including Karim Benzema (with beard), Wednesday

29th and 55th minutes at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

South Korean Lee Kang-in put Mallorca on the board in the 25th with the help of Takefusa Kubo, who is playing on a loan from Madrid. Isco sealed the scoring after an assist by Vinicius in the 84th.

Benzema, who set up two of Asensio's goal, had a goal disallowed by video review for a foul in

the 49th. Madrid has outscored their opponents 21-6 in its first six league matches. It was only the second loss for mid-table Mallorca.

Sevilla scored three goals in the first 22 minutes to defeat Valencia 3-1 and end its three-match winless streak in all competitions. Villarreal ended their winless start to the season with a 4-1 home victory over Elche.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**Eves' compound archers in WC final**

**YANKTON:** The Indian women's compound archery team defeated hosts USA 226-225 to enter the finals but the men's team lost in the last-eight stage of the World Championship here. The seventh-seeded women's team, comprising Priya Gurjar, Muskan Kirar and Jyothi Surekha, held its nerves in a close battle with Linda Ochoa-Anderson, Paige Pearce and Makenna Proctor Wednesday. However, the men's team, led by the seasoned Abhishek Verma, lost 235-238 to Austria in the quarterfinals. The Indian women's trio will next face top seeds Colombia in the final. Colombia defeated France 234-220 in its semifinal match. The mixed team of Verma and Surekha also entered the final, beating Korea's Kim Yunhee and Kim Jongho 159-156. They will be up against second seeds Colombia in the summit clash. The Indian men's team was seeded fifth in the draw.

**Sharad Kumar hit by heart inflammation**

**NEW DELHI:** Tokyo Paralympics bronze medal-winning high jumper Sharad Kumar has been diagnosed with heart inflammation and has undergone a few more tests, reports of which are still awaited. Kumar, who won a bronze in the T-42 high jump event in the Tokyo Paralympics August 31, was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after experiencing chest congestion last week. "The earlier reports showed that I have an inflammation in my heart," Kumar told PTI Thursday. The 29-year-old Patna-born athlete was discharged from the medical facility earlier this week but had to come back for some more tests. "I have come back here for more tests. Since I live just 10 minutes away, I had asked the hospital authorities to allow me to go home," he added. Kumar's left leg was paralysed after he was administered a spurious polio vaccine as a toddler.