



## A GIANT LEAP

Actor Saiee Manjrekar says acting in *Dabangg 3* helped her evolve as a person and as an actor

LEISURE P2



## ED SUMMONS TO FAROOQ

Summoning Faroq Abdullah for questioning by the ED creates quite a flutter in the political circles of Kashmir

TWO STATES P7

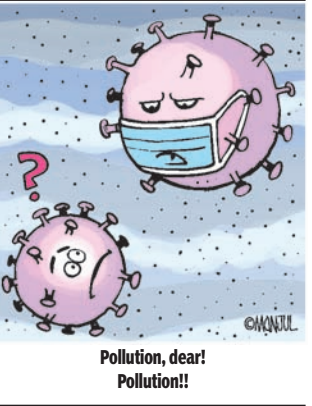


## COVID-19 CASES PASS 40MN

The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases across the planet has surpassed 40 million

INTERNATIONAL P10

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



### SHORT TAKES

#### Restrictions at Swargadwar eased

**Puri:** The district administration Monday revoked the ban on cremation of bodies at Swargadwar by people from outside Puri. People from other districts and the states will now be allowed to perform immersion of ashes at Mahodadi (sea), a notification from the district administration said. The restriction was earlier imposed till October 31. According to Puri Collector Balwant Singh, the ban, which was in force since July 7 to curb spread of novel coronavirus, was revoked Monday albeit with riders. The restrictions will continue for performing last rites of persons who succumb to Covid-19 at Swargadwar, Singh said. P3

#### Paytm in card biz

**New Delhi:** Leading digital financial services platform Paytm Monday said it will partner with various card issuers to introduce co-branded credit cards and is aiming to issue 20 lakh cards in the next 12-18 months. "In our country, credit cards are still considered a product for the affluent sections of society and not everyone can avail of its benefits. At Paytm, our aim is to provide credit cards that benefit India's aspiring youth and evolved professionals," Bhavesh Gupta, CEO - Paytm Lending, said in a statement.

### MARKET WATCH

INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	40431.60	↑ 448.62
NIFTY	11873.00	↑ 110.50
DOLLAR	73.37	↓ ₹0.05
EURO	86.56	↑ ₹0.32
GOLD	₹50,675	↑ ₹128
SILVER	₹62,300	↑ ₹624

### WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.8°C	34.4°C
TEMP MIN	24.1°C	22.8°C
Humidity	89%	92%
Rainfall	0.2mm	Nil

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky

# LINGARAJ TO HAVE SJTA STYLE ADMIN

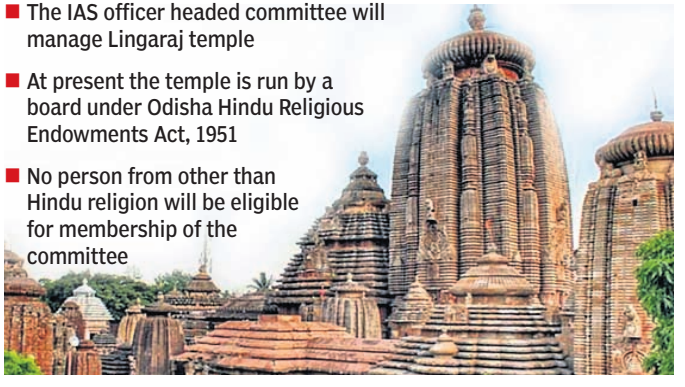
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The state government has decided to bring an Act in line with Sri Jagannath Temple Act for better management of Shree Lingaraj temple here and its properties.

The law department has drafted the Shree Lingaraj Temple Bill 2020 which will be put before the Assembly after thorough consultation with all stakeholders, sources said. As per the draft Bill, Shree Lingaraj Temple Management Committee will have power to acquire, hold and dispose of properties of the temple. An IAS officer not below the rank of commissioner and secretary will be appointed as the administrator of the temple while endowments commissioner; addition secretary; law, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner; finance department special secretary, Bhubaneswar DCP, superintending archaeologist of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will be its ex-officio members. Besides, three servants and two eminent spiritual personalities nominated by the government will be members of the panel. These members can hold the position for a period of three years. No person from other than Hindu religion will be a member of the committee. The government will

## DRAFT TEMPLE BILL

- The IAS officer headed committee will manage Lingaraj temple
- At present the temple is run by a board under Odisha Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1951
- No person from other than Hindu religion will be eligible for membership of the committee



have the power to remove any member of the committee excluding the ex-officio members. It can also dissolve and re-constitute the panel. Every member of the panel will be liable for the loss, waste and misapplication of any money or property of the temple. If so happens, the government will recover the same amount from the concerned member. The chief administrator will issue identity cards to sevakas, office holders and servants for entry into the temple premises. If anyone violates the rule, he/she will pay a fine of ₹500. The committee will not only manage the properties of the temple but will ensure rituals and periodical Nitis by the sevakas in accordance with the Record of Seva-Puja. It will also prepare a detailed

list of the temple properties. To remove unauthorized occupation of land belonging to the temple, the panel can impose provision of Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment Act, 1954 and Odisha Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1972. The panel will prepare annual report and submit it to the government. The Accountant General won't audit the accounts of the temple which will be audited by an auditor to be appointed by the state government. Shree Lingaraj Temple and Associated Temple Fund will be created where all incomes of the temple will be deposited. Five sub-committees will be formed to look after land & project, finance & establishment, welfare of servants, Nitis and associated temple.

## COVID HORROR IN DHENKANAL

### KIN TOLD ABOUT PATIENT'S DEATH AFTER 18 DAYS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Oct 19:** Eighteen days after a Covid-19 patient went missing in Dhenkanal district, family members of the patient were Saturday informed that the man had died and that his cremation had been conducted. The family accused the administration of gross negligence over the issue.

His family said, after testing positive for Covid-19, Duryodhan Behera was admitted to Covid Care Centre in Dhenkanal town September 29. His son Pradipta Behera visited the centre the next day. He was told that his father had been shifted to a Covid-19 hospital in Cuttack. Pradipta ran from pillar to post to collect information about his father. He visited all Cuttack based Covid hospitals October 1 where the authorities denied about receiving any such patient. With no options left, he contacted Dhenkanal District Medical Officer (DMO). He met CDMO Sujatarani Mishra who asked him to visit SCB Covid-19 hospital in Cuttack, again. Several days later, when the entire family was in distress, Pradipta received a call on his mobile phone from Dhenkanal town police Saturday that his father passed away at SCB Covid-19 hospital. Pradipta visited the SCB Covid-19 hospital Sunday morning where Mangalabag police showed him a photograph of his father. Sources said, Duryodhan had died September 30 in Cuttack - a day after being admitted to Dhenkanal Covid Care Centre. With the deceased not being identified, the Mangalabag police registered a case and 72 hours after the death, handed over the body to the municipality which cremated the body. Pradipta has demanded action against the CDMO and the COVID Care Centre in Dhenkanal town accusing them of gross negligence in the matter.

## Murmu moves privilege notice against OTV

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP, Chandrani Murmu, Monday moved a notice with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla requesting him to initiate breach of privilege proceedings against Odisha Television (OTV) for allegedly airing false and fake news. Murmu alleged OTV reporters posted on social media her morphed obscene video with malicious intent to defame, harass and mentally torture her. She submitted that her privilege as a member of the Lok Sabha has been grievously affected and violated. She said OTV has launched a vicious and malicious propaganda with ill intention to derail the investigation. "I'm tendering this notice to you, seeking your protection to ensure that the OTV channel be restrained from airing such fake and false stories with



a malicious intent to save its reporter Ramesh Rath," said Chandrani. The Lok Sabha MP also submitted that the police during investigation arrested an OTV reporter along with others. She said the reporter named Ramesh Rath was the perpetrator of the crime but when the police examined the perpetrator of the crime October 15, OTV attempted to subvert the truth. She added that the channel run several programs alleging that the journalist was questioned since he had published a story against the Chief Minister of Odisha and not for the alleged morphed videos of the female MP.

# New session for engg freshers from Dec 1

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** The academic session for freshers in engineering colleges and other technical institutions across the country will begin from December 1 and the deadline for admissions has been further extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). According to the academic calendar issued last month, the admission process for first-year students was to be completed by October 31 and classes for the first semester were to commence by November 1. "As we are aware, our country is going through a national emergency that has arisen due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Due to prolonged emergent conditions in the country, requests from various state governments and the ongoing admission process of IITs and NITs, the council has extended the last date of admission to first-year engineering courses (UG and diploma lateral entry) to November 30," AICTE secretary Rajive Kumar said in an official order. "The classes may be started in the

online, offline or blended mode, following the prescribed protocols and guidelines related to COVID-19. The academic calendar may further change, subject to the condition existing due to the pandemic and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education," he added. Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16, when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of the measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The University Grants Commission (UGC) had last month announced that the delayed academic session for freshers in universities and colleges will begin from November 1, and the winter vacation in 2021 and other holidays would be curtailed to compensate for the time lost. The guidelines framed by an expert committee, set up for revising the academic calendar in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, were accepted by the UGC and accordingly, the universities have been recommended a six-day teaching learning schedule every week.

# 'MO SARKAR' GETS POWER



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** With an aim to improve quality of services to power consumers, the government has decided to monitor electricity services under 'Mo Sarkar' initiative. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has made this announcement while launching the electricity consumer service portal 'Mo Bidyut' and a mobile application through video conferencing Monday. "Electricity is an essential service and impacts every aspect of modern day life. Hence, this service will be monitored under 'Mo Sarkar'," he said. The minister and senior officials will be in touch with consumers for their feedback, he said. Naveen launched the bilingual online electricity integrated consumer service portal www.mobidyut.com

developed by the energy department under 5T initiative. The CM said this is one more transformational initiative under the 5T mechanism. People of the state can now be able to avail efficient, time bound, and transparent online service delivery. He said now people need not run to various offices for new connections, bill payments or grievance redressal. Going to government offices for getting public services should be a thing of the past unless statutorily mandated. This will benefit more than 89 lakh electricity consumers of the state, Patnaik said. He appealed to consumers and general public to take advantage of this facility to resolve their electricity service related issues in a simple, easy and quick manner. Patnaik expected the energy department to come out with more

such efficient systems to provide better services to people. With the launching of the portal, consumers can avail new power connections up to 5KW for domestic, irrigation, pumping & agricultural purpose within 48 hours. Designed as a uniform online facility for all four power utilities such as TPCODL, NESCO, WESCO and SOUTHCO, this portal is also equipped with a proper escalation matrix & dash-board facility so as to ensure smooth flow of services, status updating and enforcing accountability of utility officials towards consumer issues. Among others, Energy Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra, Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Secretary to CM (GT) VK Pandian, Secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal and GRIDCO chairman Sourabh Garg attended the function.

# Chinese soldier, detained by India, to be freed

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** India detained a Chinese soldier in the Demchok sector in the disputed border in Eastern Ladakh. As per established protocols, he will be returned to Chinese officials at the Chushul - Moldo meeting point after completion of formalities. The soldier, a corporal, is being questioned to establish whether he was on an espionage mission. "A PLA soldier identified as Corporal Wang Ya Long was apprehended in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh October 19, 2020 after he had strayed across the LAC," Indian Army in a statement said.



The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldier told Indian agencies that he had crossed the disputed border to retrieve a yak that had strayed into Indian territory. The force said that the PLA soldier has been provided medical assistance including oxygen, food and warm clothes to protect him from the vagaries of extreme altitude and harsh climatic conditions. "A request has also been received from the PLA about the whereabouts of the missing soldier," the Indian Army said. India and China have amassed thousands of soldiers, tanks and missiles in the worst ever border crisis in four decades. Multiple rounds of talks between senior military commanders and diplomats and ministers have failed to resolve the crisis. Winters have arrived on the Himalayas and soldiers now face the prospect of braving temperature - 30 degrees below zero degree Celsius.

# IMF admits China has overtaken US as world's largest economy

AGENCIES

**Washington, Oct 19:** The world is waking up to a new reality post the devastating pandemic that brought everything to a grinding halt. One of them is the rise of China as the undisputed new economic superpower. According to the IMF's World Economic Outlook 2020 released recently, China has now overtaken the US to become the world's largest economy. Yes, you read that right. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), using the more reliable and now widely accepted yardstick, called the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), has determined China's economy at \$24.2 trillion compared to America's \$20.8 trillion. The PPP calculation method used by the IMF enables you to compare

how much you can buy for your money in different countries. The economists have traditionally been using MER (market exchange rates) to calculate GDP, which doesn't reflect the real figures. The MER method is being viewed with extreme suspicion because it underestimates the buying power of the currencies of many countries. As a result, the currencies of many nations are undervalued against the dollar. With PPP adjustment, IMF estimates China's economic output outmaneuvers the US's by a huge margin. IMF is clear in its report, it says the PPP "eliminates differences in price levels between economies" and thus compares national economies in terms of how much each nation can buy with its



own currency at the prices items sell for there. After the IMF, the CIA also decided to switch from MER to PPP in its annual assessment of national economies. The CIA Factbook notes that "the official exchange rate measure of GDP is not an accurate measure

of China's output; GDP at the official exchange rate (MER GDP) substantially understates the actual level of China's output vis-a-vis the rest of the world; in China's situation, GDP at purchasing power parity provides the best measure for comparing output across countries."

To tide over the inconsistencies with traditional methods, The Economist invented a new method called the Big Mac Index to determine whether the currencies were at a correct level. The fact is one US dollar can buy nearly twice as much in China than in America itself, and the current market exchange rates hardly acknowledge that. According to The Economist, "In 2019 China's workers produced over 99 trillion yuan worth of goods and services. America's produced \$21.4 trillion-worth. Since 6.9 yuan bought a dollar last year, on average, China's GDP was worth only \$14trn when converted into dollars at market rates. That was still well short of America's. "But 6.9 yuan stretches further in China than a dollar goes in America. One example is

McDonald's Big Mac. It costs about 21.70 yuan in China and \$5.71 in America, according to prices collected by The Economist. By that measure, 3.8 yuan buys as much as a dollar. But if that is the case, then 99trn yuan can buy as much as \$26trn, and China's economy is already considerably bigger than America's," The Economist adds. China's economic growth rate has been growing at a mind-boggling rate of around 10% for almost the last 30 years. The country has witnessed startling growth in every sector, with the manufacturing sector being the engine of overall resurgence. It has made unstoppable advances in its military power, building and accumulating world-class defence equipment.



# leisure



## WHEN BAUTISTA SURPRISED HIS DIRECTOR WITH ACTING RANGE

Director Peter Segal claims wrestler-turned-actor Dave Bautista surprised him with his acting depth while working on *My Spy*. "He has so much to his acting and I think with this action comedy people are really going to get surprised," Segal said.

## SINGER SMITH SAYS HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN NON-BINARY

Singer Sam Smith, who has in the past come out as non-binary, has now opened up about how having body dysmorphia helped them understand their own body. "I have always been non-binary and hearing other non-binary stories made me suddenly feel seen," Smith said.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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**ARIES**  
You are deeply interested in the occult and the paranormal and today, you may indulge in something to do with it. So, you may buy a full colour 15x10 glossy on shamanic rites or the tantra! Ganesh suggests using such knowledge for peaceful ends.

**TAURUS**  
Love is on the cards, says Ganesh. Your senses are likely to remain highly active today. Stay alert and avoid drifting into your own world at the cost of work. It is best for you to keep your eyes and ears open to avoid any misunderstanding with your near and dear ones, suggests Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you are likely to focus on self-improvement, predicts Ganesh. Self-employed people may expect huge profits in their businesses. You may end up spending more time at work and less time with family.

**CANCER**  
What good is life if it doesn't involve great fun and merrymaking. Keeping this in mind, you will set about planning your day. There may be no stopping you as you go about your day having a blast at every possible moment.

**LEO**  
Always dependable, that is what you are. And today, you will just underline this fact in bold strokes through your fine display of commitment to work, and your dedication to your family, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Today is the day when you'll be like the Iron Man: heart of gold, nerves of steel - minus the shiny body armour, though. Tolerance, optimism and exceedingly artistic talents will rule the roost.

**LIBRA**  
Expect some annoyance from the 'man in the chair', or people in charge who may be looking towards throwing a wench in your way. But know that it is just a blip on the radar. Your fortune is too powerful for anyone to affect it negatively.

**SCORPIO**  
It may have been on the cards for long and finally, you may end up buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle or a palatial house of your dreams today. In addition, your generous mood may also egg you on to buy an expensive gift for your life partner.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your business may bring you faster growth rates than bacteria today. Moreover, banking transactions will fetch returns exceeding your expectation. Management institutes will value your expertise and experience, predicts Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Creativity is your innate trait. But how creative can you get when dealing with day-to-day issues? You will not only answer this question with utmost modesty, but will make a great display of your creative skills by cleverly sorting out problems with your siblings, says Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
Money is on your mind today! If you want to sort out financial matters, today is the day. You may have a good time with friends in the evening. You will also realise how much your friends value you and the respect you command in your wider social circle.

**PISCES**  
Today, you will find yourself partitioning your time equally, and more importantly, excelling, at work as well as at home. So, while you will prove to be the right man for the job assigned to you at the office, at home you will establish yourself as the perfect family man, says Ganesh.

## DILWALE DULHANIA LE JAYENGE TURNS 25

# SRK-Kajol's statue to be unveiled in London

The sculpture is set to join a lineup that includes *Harry Potter*, *Laurel and Hardy*, *Bugs Bunny*, *Gene Kelly*, *Mr. Bean*, *Paddington*, *Batman* and *Wonder Woman*.

**Mumbai:** The blockbuster *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (DDLJ) will be 25 years old Tuesday, and a statue of its lead pair, Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol, will be erected at Leicester Square in London. This is the first time that a long-term statue involving Hindi film industry will be erected in the UK. The announcement came from Heart of London Business Alliance of the UK, and the statue will be set up as part of 'Scenes in the Square' movie statue trail. Talking about the inclusion of statues of the actors, Mark Williams, director of Destination Marketing at Heart of

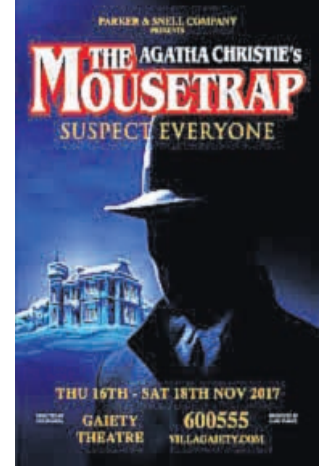
London Business Alliance, said: "It's fantastic to be adding such titans of international cinema to our trail as Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol. *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* is one of the most successful and important Bollywood films of all time, and it's exciting to be able to bring to the trail the first film that actually features Leicester Square as a location." The statue will join those of nine other film icons from the past 100 years, eight of which were unveiled in late February and recently granted longer-term residency by Westminster Council to remain at Leicester Square until at least July 2023. In September a statue of Harry Potter joined the original lineup that includes Laurel and Hardy, Bugs Bunny, Gene Kelly, Mr. Bean, Paddington and the superheroes Batman and Wonder Woman.



A still from Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge

## Agatha's stories to be adapted as Hindi film franchise

**Mumbai:** Filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj is developing a film franchise based on the works of famed author Agatha Christie. The series will feature a new pair as the lead investigators.



Some of Christie's iconic characters include Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple, and Tommy and Tuppence, but with his franchise Bhardwaj will create an entirely new pair of investigators.

Talking about the collaboration, James Prichard, great grandson of Agatha Christie, and Chairman and CEO of Agatha Christie Limited, said: "I'm truly excited at the prospect of developing a new Agatha Christie film franchise in India, and am delighted to be partnering with Vishal, who is a multitasking and visionary filmmaker with a terrific track record. I very much look forward to seeing where this project takes us."

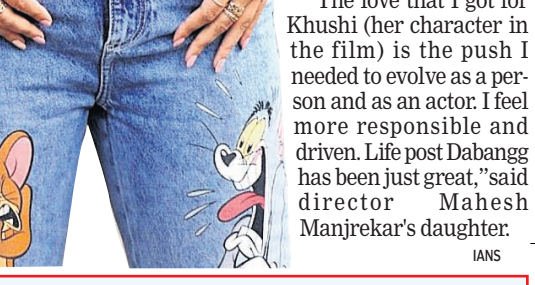
Bhardwaj added: "Agatha Christie had a tremendous skill of defining emotional chaos, dysfunctional relationships and the turmoil in her characters while engaging us in a riveting mystery. It is an honour to create an Indian franchise of a pair of young investigators looking to take over the world with their intelligence and charm."

## Saiee recalls her Dabangg experience

**Mumbai:** Saiee Manjrekar, who made her debut in the 2019 Salman Khan-starrer *Dabangg 3*, looks back at her screen test for the film saying she knew she had to impress in the very first take if she was to star alongside her favourite childhood hero.

"During my screen test, I knew that the first take was going to decide my fate to star along with my childhood favourite artist (Salman)," she recalled. "While shooting, it all felt surreal and each day I was on my toes to do justice to the character and the faith Prabhudeva sir and Salman sir had put in me. I got to learn so much from each one of them. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life."

"We all love a good old origin story, and Chulbul Pandey has been one India's most loved and adored characters of all times. It was a dream come true to be an integral part of that journey," she added. "The love that I got for Khushi (her character in the film) is the push I needed to evolve as a person and as an actor. I feel more responsible and driven. Life post *Dabangg* has been just great," said director Mahesh Manjrekar's daughter.



# Rapping not solely about women, intoxication: Baba

**THE THANDA THANDA PANI CREATOR HAS RECENTLY RAPPED FOR FABOOM, A FANTASY SPORTS PLATFORM WHICH IS GETTING POPULAR ON SOCIAL MEDIA THANKS TO ITS CATCHY VIBE.**

**New Delhi:** Rapper and musician Harjeet Singh Sehgal aka Baba Sehgal, says that while he appreciates home-grown rap music coming from the ground in India, it will have to take more than just rapping about one's struggles and journey "on loop". Counted as the first Indian rapper, Baba Sehgal started way back in the 1990s, but his content has kept up with the times, with young audiences finding his music groovy and

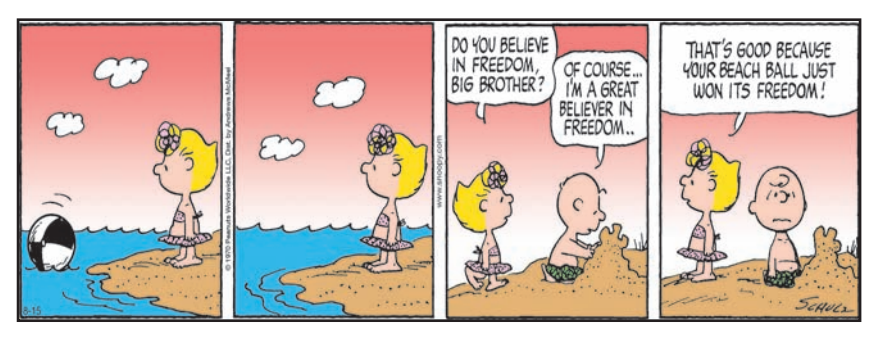
catchy. Asked how he has seen rap in India grow from the 1990s to 2020, he says, "If I talk about my journey as a rapper, I started rapping only for survival. I saw some international videos and started exploring rapping. I had to read a lot, considering there was no Internet back then." On things that have changed since then, he adds, "Rappers nowadays are usually pursuing this in movie songs etc. But somewhere I believe that rapping solely about intoxication or women is not what I would like to define as rapping."

Baba, who likes Emiway Bantai amongst the new-age rappers, has recently rapped for *Faboom*, a fantasy sports platform, in a music video structured on the EDM format. Thanks to a catchy vibe, the video is getting popular on social media. On his process of creating a number, he says, "When I creatively process my raps, I talk of anything and everything - like allopathy, homeopathy, even cats. But there is still a story in my raps, irrespective of the elements that I add for newness. I don't stick to a format or a beat but I stick to culture instead. I can rap on any beat, give me jazz or bhanga beat and I'll rap on it equally well. To me, the process of rapping has to be organic, it has to come naturally; it should

not be forced or imposed." "So, I admire homegrown rappers and respect their journey, but one doesn't have to stick solely to their ups and downs of life in raps, they should keep trying out new things and tapping into a diversity of content for the public to stay relevant," said Baba, 54, who continues to remain in the news with his Coronavirus-inspired rap of late.



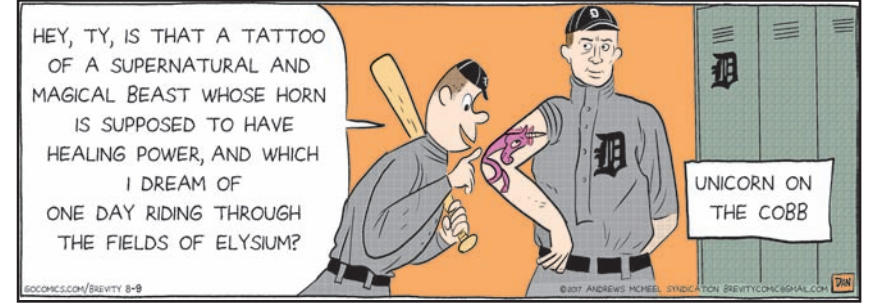
### PEANUTS



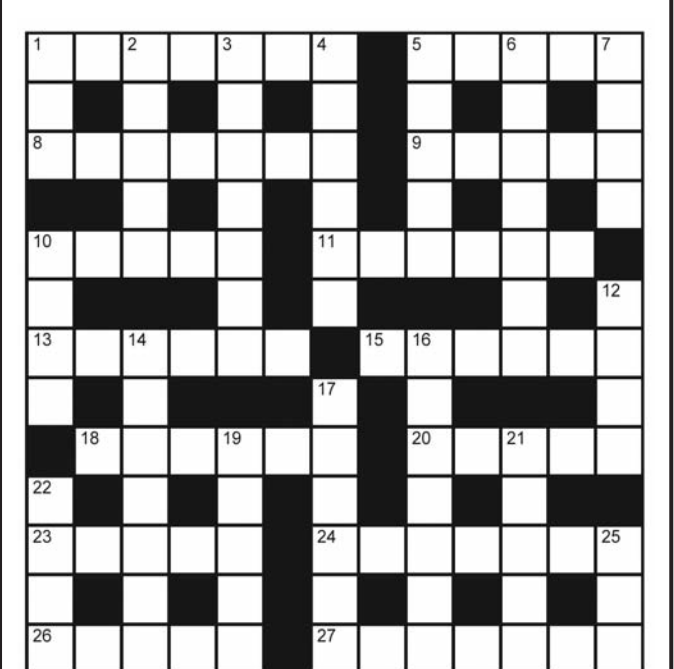
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



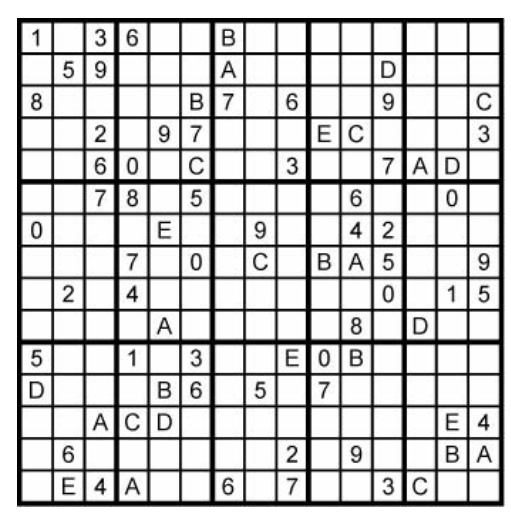
### FUN post CROSSWORD



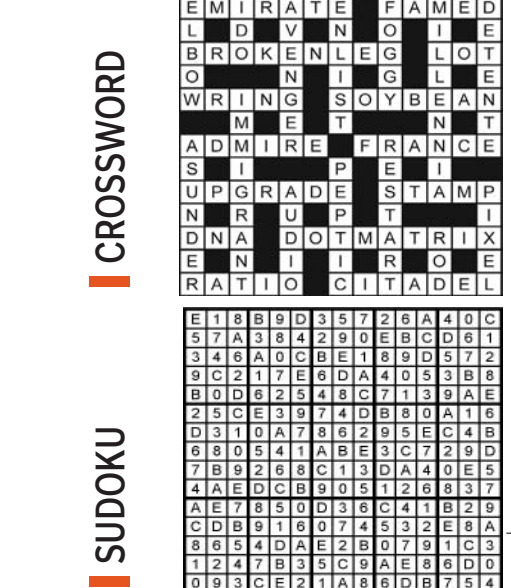
- Across**
- 1 The best policy?
  - 5 Precipitous
  - 8 Gruesome
  - 9 Poker play
  - 10 Wait for the door to open
  - 11 Road sign
  - 13 Conforms
  - 15 Machination
  - 18 Right away (2,4)
  - 20 Sweetener
  - 23 Nettle
- Down**
- 24 Programme section
  - 26 Aegean vacation locale
  - 27 Asian river
  - 1 Skirt's edge
  - 2 Mother-of-pearl
  - 3 Corrupt
  - 4 Concedes
  - 5 Pompous walk
  - 6 Gastronomist
  - 7 Yeats or Keats
  - 10 Wharf
  - 12 Low dam
  - 14 Type of shoppe
  - 16 Buffer
  - 17 Green
  - vegetable
  - 19 Family girl
  - 21 Hamlet's father, e.g.
  - 22 Oil cartel
  - 25 Storm center

### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

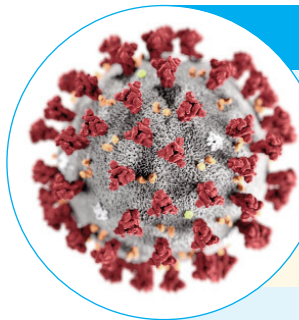


# downtown



## SAFETY FIRST

An elderly man sells face masks near Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	4,04,16,338	3,01,72,968	11,20,021
India	75,49,247	66,60,817	1,14,646
Odisha	2,70,346	2,49,575	1,152

## 8 spl trains from Bhub for festivities



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** Even as the Ministry of Railways has decided to run festive season special trains all over the country, some trains will also run from and through East Coast Railway (ECoR) jurisdiction during the festivities, including eight originating from Bhubaneswar.

Festive special trains towards Nizamuddin, Chennai, LTT, Gandhidham, Cuddapah will leave Visakhapatnam including Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada Double Decker Special train. Similarly, some special trains will run towards Patna, Howrah, Jayanagar, Surat, LTT, Chennai, Barbil and Paradip from Puri.

Some special trains will run towards Delhi, LTT, Tirupati, Chennai, Bangalore, Bangiriposi, Puduchery and Rameswaram from Bhubaneswar and towards Howrah, Manduadih and Puri from Sambalpur.

This apart, some of the special trains will run through ECoR jurisdiction during the festive season.

The special trains which will run from Puri are: Puri-Patna-Puri weekly, Puri-Howrah-Puri special, Puri-Jayanagar-Puri special, Puri-Surat-Puri weekly special, Puri-Lokamanya Tilak Terminus (LTT)-Puri special, Puri-Chennai Central-Puri weekly special, Puri-Barbil-Puri Tri-weekly special, Puri-Paradip-Puri special.

**Likewise, special trains from Bhubaneswar are:**

Bhubaneswar-Anand Vihar-Bhubaneswar bi-weekly special, Bhubaneswar-LTT-Bhubaneswar bi-weekly special, Bhubaneswar-Tirupati-Bhubaneswar special, Bhubaneswar-Chennai Central-Bhubaneswar special, Bhubaneswar-Bangalore Cant-Bhubaneswar special, Bhubaneswar-Bangiriposi-Bhubaneswar special, Bhubaneswar-Puduchery-Bhubaneswar special, Bhubaneswar-Rameswaram-Bhubaneswar special.

Special trains from Sambalpur are: Sambalpur-Howrah-Sambalpur special, Sambalpur-Manduadih-Sambalpur special, Sambalpur-Puri-Sambalpur special.

This apart, many special trains will run from and through ECoR jurisdiction during the festive period.

## 15-day drive to check crimes during fests

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The Commissionerate Police has launched a 15-day drive in the capital city to rein in antisocial activities during the upcoming festive seasons. Deputy Commissioner of Police Umashankar Dash Monday informed the media about the drive. Dash revealed that miscreants become active in illegal activities like gambling, bootlegging or NDPS related cases during festivities. The city police will keep a strict vigil on antisocial elements arrested in the past for similar offences.

The police will try to arrest the criminals against whom non-bailable warrants have been pending since long. The commissionerate police will carry out regular raids to take warrantees into custody during the festive period. Commissionerate Police succeeded in arresting several criminals during similar drives in connection

## COPS ON TOES

**POLICE WILL TRY TO ARREST CRIMINALS AGAINST WHOM NON-BAILABLE WARRANTS HAVE BEEN PENDING SINCE LONG**

**AROUND 13 PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OVER LAST COUPLE OF DAYS IN THE CITY**

**THE DCP REQUESTED REVELERS NOT TO GO NEAR PUJA PANDALS OR CROWD PANDALS DURING THE FESTIVAL IN ORDER TO AVOID SPREAD OF COVID-19 INFECTIONS**



with pending non-bailable warrants in the past too.

He also told the media that around 13 persons have been arrested over last couple of days in the city. Dash urged denizens to cooperate with cops so that a crime-free and peaceful festive session could be ensured in the coming days. The

Bhubaneswar DCP requested people to avoid giving 'Puja Chanda' by coming under the pressure from local hooligans.

He requested revelers not to go near puja pandals or crowd pandals during the festival in order to avoid spread of Covid-19 infections. The police will also try to ensure

proper compliance of Covid-19 guidelines like social distancing in the city during festive season.

Notably, the Commissionerate Police has set up a special task force under the Additional Commissioner of Police Rekha Lohani to crack whip on extortionists in the twin cities.

## HC go-ahead for Durga idols above 4-ft height

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 19:** The Orissa High Court (HC) Monday gave its approval for the nine puja committees in Silver City here that have built clay idols of goddess Durga taller than the cap of 4 feet imposed by the state government.

A division bench of Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq and Justice BR Sarangi gave the nod in response to a status report submitted by the Advocate General (AG).

According to sources, the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) had prepared a guideline for celebration of Durga Puja amid the pandemic. The guideline capped the height of the idols to 4 ft. By the time the SRC guideline came, nine puja committees here, however, had built clay idols of the goddess beyond the prescribed height. Meanwhile, police personnel



carried out an inspection of the idols to check compliance with the SRC guideline and flagged the issue of 'excess height'. Soon after, twin city police commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi asked the 'erring' puja committees to alter the clay idols in accordance with the prescribed norms.

Later, five petitions were filed in the HC in this regard. The state government too filed a status report with the HC relating to the issue. The HC then asked the AG to inspect the idols and file a report.

## Curbs eased on last rites at Swargadwar



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Oct 19:** The district administration Monday revoked the ban on cremation of bodies at Swargadwar by people from outside Puri.

People from other districts and the states will now be allowed to perform immersion of ashes at Mahodadhi, (sea), a notification from the district administration said. The restriction was earlier imposed till October 31.

According to Puri Collector Balwant Singh, the ban, which was in force since July 7 last to curb spread of novel coronavirus, was revoked Monday albeit with riders. The restrictions will continue for performing last rites of persons, who succumb to Covid-19, at Swargadwar, Singh said.

"Hindus consider Swargadwar as the gateway to heaven. They prefer cremating the bodies of their near and dear ones at Swargadwar and performing subsequent rituals like 'Asthi Bisarjan' in Mahodadhi (sea). In view of a sudden surge in Covid-19 cases in the Holy City, the Puri administration had July 7 took a bold step of imposing a ban on cremation of bodies at Swargadwar by non-Puri residents. However, after observing a downward trend in daily cases for the past 10-15 days, we've revoked the ban," Singh said.

## Burden to reduce on City crematory

**BHUBANESWAR:** The overburdened crematorium at Satya Nagar here is set to have less caseload as Puri administration, Monday, removed restrictions on cremations at Swargadwar. "Most of the cases from outside the city were being referred here. After a patient succumbed to infection the relatives choose to cremate the bodies in Bhubaneswar as Swargadwar remained closed. This led to the crematorium burning as many as 30 bodies a day. Many were forced to wait for a day or two," said a senior BMC officer.

The Puri Collector further said that the relatives of the deceased persons will strictly wear a mask, use sanitiser and maintain social distancing norms during the funeral ceremony at the crematorium as per the governments advisory.

"A maximum of 20 persons can participate in a funeral at Swargadwar. All have to wear mask and maintain social distance to reduce chances of contracting the virus. The municipality here will facilitate hand sanitizer," the senior IAS officer said, pointing out that bodies of those succumbing to Covid-19 cannot be cremated at Swargadwar.

The Executive Officer, Puri Municipality is also instructed to keep close surveillance in the matter along with strict implementation of the order, it added.



Science & Technology, Public Enterprises and SSEPD Minister Ashok Chandra Panda inaugurates a rejuvenated pond at Baramunda in Bhubaneswar, Monday

## Body parts seized from explosion site reach SFSL

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The Commissionerate Police Monday submitted before the SDJM court the human body parts and other items seized from the explosion site at an IOCL petrol pump near Raj Bhawan here.

One person had died while several others sustained grievous injuries in the blast that occurred at the LPG tank installed near the petrol bunk October 7, 2020.



The seized items include human and animal body parts, shoes, sand, metals and other items collected from the explosion site.

The items collected by the scientific team of State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) and Commissionerate Police from the spot are kept in around 20 boxes and more than 20 packets.

The court later forwarded the items to the SFSL at Rasulgarh for forensic examination. Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Umashankar Dash told Orissa POST that the DNA samples collected from the human body parts have been sent to SFSL through the SDJM court Monday.

The samples will be matched with those collected from the parents of missing Simanchal, a diploma engineer, who was working at the petrol pump on the fateful day.

He has been missing since the explosion occurred October 7. Simanchal's family members have already conducted a symbolic cremation ritual considering him dead.

The DCP also said that the SFSL examination report and the identity of the body parts will soon unravel the actual cause of explosion.

## MET PREDICTS HEAVY RAIN FOR THREE DAYS

POST NEWS NETWORK

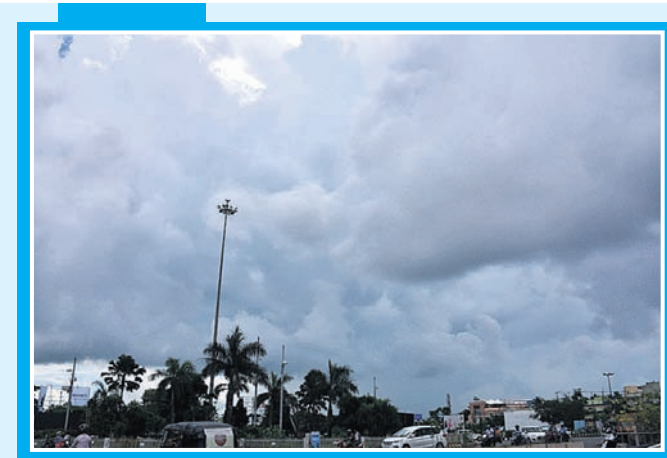
**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday said heavy rainfall is likely to lash several parts of the state for next three days under the influence of a low pressure area to be formed in 24 hours.

going to form over the same area in the next 24 hours.

Going by the modular study, the system is most likely to become more marked during the subsequent 24 hours. Under its influence, heavy rainfall will occur in most parts of coastal Odisha with isolated heavy to very heavy rain-

Kendrapara districts will receive heavy rainfall Tuesday while Ganjam, Puri, Malkangiri, Koraput, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore would experience heavy rain on the next day.

Heavy downpour would also occur at one or two places in Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Gajapati and



In a bulletin, the IMD said that under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over the east-central Bay of Bengal off the south Andhra Pradesh coast, a low pressure is

fall at one or two places in the south coastal districts, it said.

Some places of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Jagatsinghpur and

Kendrapara October 22.

The Met department said light to moderate rainfall will continue to occur in many other places across the state.

**IN REVERED MEMORY OF**

**GOURI SHANKAR TRIPATHY**

**BORN ON: 25.04.1925**  
**DEPARTED ON: 09.10.2020**

*A humane and kind man of rare dignity and poise.*

**You may have departed the physical World but will live in our hearts for ever.**

**IN MOURNING**  
Tripathy Family, Titilagarh, Bolangir



# Covid-19 tally goes past 2.7L

17 FRESH FATALITIES PUSH ODISHA'S CORONAVIRUS TOLL TO 1,152

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** State Monday reported 1,982 new novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases, which took the tally in the coastal state to 2,70,346, while 17 fresh fatalities pushed the toll to 1,152, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

## IN NUMBERS

Three fatalities each were registered in Khurda and Cuttack, and two each in Bolangir, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur. One each succumbed to the infection in Nuapada, Mayurbhanj, Bargarh, Boudh and Jagatsinghpur.

Khurda recorded the maximum number of new cases at 300, followed by Cuttack at 145 and Angul at 119

Over 40.82 lakh sample tests have been conducted in the state, including 38,740 Sunday

Of the 1,982 cases, 1,156 were reported from various quarantine centres and the rest were detected during contact tracing, the official said. Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded the maximum number of new cases at 300, followed by Cuttack at 145 and Angul at 119.

Taking to Twitter, the state health department said, "Regret to inform the demise of seventeen #COVID19 positive patients while under treat-



ment in hospitals."

Three fatalities each were registered in Khurda and Cuttack, and two each in Bolangir, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur. One each succumbed to the infection in Nuapada, Mayurbhanj, Bargarh, Boudh and Jagatsinghpur.

Meanwhile, 2,738 Covid-19 patients recovered Monday, taking the total recoveries in Odisha to 2,49,575, the H&FW department tweeted. As many as 53 Covid-19 patients died in the state due to comorbidities, said the H&FW department official.

Over 40.82 lakh sample tests have been conducted in the state, including 38,740 Sunday.

## City sees 213 fresh cases, 307 recoveries

With detection of 213 new infections in the past 24 hours, the novel coronavirus tally in the Capital city surged to 27,441, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Monday. Of the fresh cases, 145 were local contact cases while 68 were quarantine cases, the BMC said.

The Temple City also registered 307 Covid-19 recoveries in the last 24 hours, BMC tweeted. With this, the number of people recovered from the disease reached 24,450 in the City. The state capital currently has 2,830 active Covid-19 cases while 140 patients have so far succumbed to the virus.

# Central funds to help ST students released: Pradhan

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The central government has released more than Rs1656.8 crore during the last three years for empowering the Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable communities in Odisha, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan said.

Over the past three years, as many as 16,700 ST students have been imparted education in Ekalavya Ideal Residential schools in Odisha

Taking to Twitter, Pradhan said residential schools particularly Ekalavya ideal residential schools opened in inaccessible and Maoist infested areas to provide quality education has emerged as a game changer in strengthening the educational system.

During the last three years 16,700 ST students have been imparted education in Ekalavya Ideal Residential schools.

Similarly more than 11 lakh students have been benefited by the Per and Post Matric Scholarship.

Pradhan said over 3.37 lakh beneficiaries of ST department were given grants by the voluntary organisations of central government working for the welfare of ST students and several others were benefited under various other schemes.

# SEEKING SEER'S ADVICE



Members of Jagannath Sena submit a memorandum at Govardhan Mutt seeking guidance from the Puri seer on reopening of Srimandir, Monday

# Minister unveils NIT's Golden Jubilee building

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/Rourkela, Oct 19:** Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually inaugurated the newly constructed Golden Jubilee Building of NIT Rourkela (Odisha) today. The Golden Jubilee Building was planned to commemorate the completion of fifty years of existence of the institute.

Speaking on the occasion the Minister said that NIT Rourkela is a premier institution of our country and has been producing best brains for the country. The building is a symbol of its prestige. He said that institutions like NIT Rourkela will play very important role in the implementation of the NEP.

He said that this building has also added glory to the city of Rourkela as one of the tallest buildings around, for which the whole NIT Rourkela family is proud of. The magnificent structure is indeed metaphorically and geographically 'the heart of NIT Rourkela', he added.

Pokhriyal informed that this building has been constructed at an approximate cost of Rs. 95 crores and is entirely funded by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. It is now the tallest building of Rourkela, Odisha, he said. The building spans across 7000 sqm and is located centrally, at an impartial distance from every department. Structurally, the building consists of a block with seven floors and a tower block of 14 floors, he added.

Pokhriyal highlighted that the vision of having this building will fulfill one of the essential mottoes of the Institute to enhance efficiency in



the administrative functioning and amalgamate technology with this process to make it more people-friendly. He further said that the open spaces and state of the art architecture with enhanced safety and security features will provide an excellent working experience to all the employees of the Institute. This SMART building will add to the campus's grandeur, perfectly capturing the spirit of excellence and dedication that has been central to the Institute's philosophy since its inception, he added.

The building will house a world-class conference center, and there will be a library spread over two floors separated by a mezzanine. The building is also equipped with fire sensors and automatic water sprinklers for an emergency. According to the current plan, the offices like Academic Section, Examination Section, Establishment Section, Finance Section, Purchase, and Internal Audit, Alumni and International Relations, Sponsored Research, Industrial Consultancy, and Continuing Education Cell would be shifted to this building. This building will also house the Director's office, Deans' offices, Registrar's office, Board Room, and Senate Hall, among others.

# Plus II optional exams Nov 5

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The pending Odisha Plus-II optional paper exams will begin from November 5 and continue till November 7, a notification issued by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) Monday said.

The exams of the subjects, which could not be conducted or grace mark was given, will be held at 56 examination centres across the state. The students can also appear the exams at district nodal colleges with strict adherence to Covid-19 restrictions.

As many as 3.5 lakh students had appeared in the annual Plus II examination this year.

The examination was scheduled between March 3 and 28. However, the examination from March 23 to 28 could not be conducted in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

November 5, Economics, Biology exams will be conducted, November 6 Statistics, Anthropology and Sociology and November 6 Logics and Geography exams will be conducted.

The examinations of Biology (Section-A : Botany & Section-B: Zoology) for Regular students will be held in a single sitting with a gap of 20 minutes.

All Regular and Ex-Regular candidates (Registered in 2016, 2017 & 2018) will appear in white colour question as per 2018-2020 Syllabus.

Ex-Regular candidates, if any, i. e. registration up to the year 2015 will appear in yellow colour question as per 2017 Syllabus. However, the question paper of ocaational stream has been printed light green/light blue paper.

# Miscreants bomb trader's house in Jatni, two injured

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jatni, Oct 19:** Five unidentified miscreants hurled four bombs at a fish trader's house in Mundiasahi area under Jatni town police limits Sunday evening leaving two persons grievously injured.

The two-wheeler riding miscreants hurled crude bombs one after the other targeting the house of Rabindra Kumar Pradhan - a fish seller from Balichhak area. The impact of the explosion was so severe that asbestos roof of Pradhan's house blew away and walls were partly damaged, police sources informed.

The injured ones have been identified as Pradhan's wife Reena and neighbour Naresh Das who were standing besides the house. Both have sustained multiple injuries. They were immediately admitted to Jatni community health centre. On being informed, Jatni town police reached the spot and initiated a probe into the incident. Past enmity is suspected to be the reason behind the attack.



Clear sky over Kathajodi river as observed near Sunshine Ground in Cuttack, Monday

## SUNNY DAY

# BAR SEALED FOR FLOUTING COVID RULES IN CITY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The Commissionerate Police has sealed a bar and Restaurant at Infocity on the charges of violating Covid-19 guidelines here.

According to sources, police upon receipt of information regarding the observation of a birthday party flouting all the Covid-19 guidelines carried out a raid at the bar late Sunday night. It was sealed by the commissionerate police as well.

Meanwhile, The Bhubaneswar

Municipal Corporation (BMC) Sunday sealed a coaching institute at Nageswar Tangi on Lewis Road here for violation of Covid-19 norms during an event to celebrate the success of its students in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

# Boundary wall of shrine flattened for public works

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** In a joint enforcement drive officials, Monday, demolished the boundary wall of Sai Temple at Infocity here. The drive which is about 1.860 km is set for development works in the Nandankanan/Infocity area.

The drive which included officials from Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar Development Authority and Commissionerate Police here worked for making the road from Sikharchandi to Sai Mandir via Infocity.

Under the drive, the Sai Temple's wall which the sources said was blocking the passage of drain water leading to water logging in the area, was demolished. A senior BDA official said a notice was served to the temple management for the demolition of the boundary wall as it was constructed on government land. There were no reported objections.

CHAITALI SHOME, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** Odisha, which houses the Temple City Bhubaneswar, is known for historic temples which attract tourists from each corner of the globe. However, a closer look at these shrines reveals the state of neglect they are in.

Locals complained that the exit channel of Gosagareswara Pond, which is located around 800 metres west of Lingaraj Temple, has been blocked since the past few years.

The pond predates the adjoining set of temples; it has been assigned to the 13th Century C.E, the period of the Later Gangas. It is fed by a natural underground spring and the overflow was discharged into the Bindu Sagar through a channel on the north-eastern corner. For centuries, the water level in the tank remained constant, the inflow and outflow being maintained.

Sheer lack of maintenance and bad planning have today rendered the sacred pond into a cesspool of stagnant water. The exit channel has been blocked since the last few years; the water level has risen and enters the temple complex during the entirety of monsoon months.



The Gosagareswara complex consists of eleven temples dedicated to various divinities. While the presiding deity is Lord Shiva, the other

temples which include the Isaneswara, Narashimha, Paradeswara and the Saniswara Temples too have Shivalings in them. Three temples are abandoned and a large Mandap of a later period too exists.

The constant accumulation of water in the tank submerges the base of the main temple and is rendering the foundation weak and many cracks have developed. Water seeps into the Garbhagrihas of nearly all the temples in the complex. Constant water logging has resulted in a high ground water level; the mandap can be seen leaning to one side.

The water in the pond is highly polluted with micro hydrophytic organisms floating on the surface. Many of the locals who used the tank for their daily baths have stopped using it. Earlier it was also a source of drinking water. Even the dug well inside the complex is now contaminated due to the high ground waterline.

The temple was last repaired by the State Archaeology Department in 1999, a compound wall that was made which has stopped the natural flow of water. Presently the tem-

ple keepers are pumping out the water at regular intervals, but it is hardly effective. The locals have intimidated the authorities many times, but to no avail. If immediate measures are not undertaken, much damage will happen to the temples as the foundations will be severely affected.

According to noted environmentalist Dr. Biswajit Mohanty, rampant digging of bore wells has

rendered many of the natural springs dry. In some areas, the locals have formed Sahi committees and stopped the sinking of new bore wells. Mohanty says that the local clubs can be roped in for voluntary kar-sewa to clean and desilt these water bodies.

The Gosagareswara tank repairs should be immediately undertaken as all the temples in the complex are at risk.



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# Triangular fight on the cards

# Ganjam prepares for floods as weatherman forecasts heavy rains

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, Oct 19:** A triangular contest for the by-poll to Balasore Assembly segment is on the cards as the political situation heats up with leaders of several political parties visiting the area to wrest the seat, a report said.

The by-poll was necessitated due to the untimely demise of sitting MLA Madan Mohan Dutta due to health reasons. The election will be held November 3 for which campaigning will come to an end November 1.

Political parties have intensified their campaigning for the victory of their candidates. All eyes are on the result of this Assembly seat as leaders of major political parties like Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress have pitched their tents and making every effort to ensure the victory of their candidates.

However, three political parties namely, BJP, BJD and Congress are mainly in the fray and have fielded their respective candidates for the seat. Manas Dutta, son of the deceased MLA Madan Mohan Dutta is contesting from the BJP while the ruling BJD has fielded newcomer Swaroop Das as its candidate.

Similarly, opposition Congress has fielded a woman candidate Mamata Kundu for the seat. Five independents are also in the fray. The Balasore Assembly segment comprises Balasore civic body area, 26 panchayats under Sadar block and 11 panchayats of Remuna block.

## BALASORE BY-POLL



Manas Dutta, son of the deceased MLA Madan Mohan Dutta is contesting from the BJP



The BJD has fielded newcomer Swaroop Das



The Congress has fielded Mamata Kundu for the seat

Five independents are also in the fray

According to February 2020 census report, the total number of voters is 2,260,582 in this Assembly seat.

Among them, the number of male voters is 1,16,883 while the number of female voters is 1,09,990 and nine transgender voters. The district administration has made arrangement for 346 booths instead of usual 198 booths in view of the Covid norms imposed in the state. Every booth will have facility for voting for less than 1,000 voters.

Former MLA Arun Dey has won from this seat five times, Rabindra Mohan Das twice, Jeevan Pradip Das thrice. Since independence, only nine leaders have been elected to the

state Assembly from this seat. The ruling party at different point of times has won from this seat for six times while the opposition has won it for 10 times.

The deceased MLA Madan Mohan Dutta won from this seat in the 2019 elections by securing 74,815 votes while his nearest rival Jeevan Pradip Das garnered only 13,406 votes. The BJP has fielded his son Manas Dutta to get the sympathy votes and win from this seat, sources said.

The BJD has fielded Swaroop Das for the first time from this seat. BJD's Jeevan Pradip Das with whom this seat in 2009 and 2014, has been dropped from contesting the

election for his defeat in 2019 elections. The opposition Congress is trying to regain this seat by playing woman card and fielding Mamata Kundu as its candidate. The Congress had not won from this seat since 1985.

With only 14 days left for the elections, all the candidates are eyeing the rural voters and moving from village to village to wrest their support by making various promises. The candidates are also eyeing the young voters and trying to woo them through various social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Whatsapp. They are posting their plans and programmes and election manifestoes by ap-

THE DIST ADMIN HAS MADE ARRANGEMENT FOR 346 BOOTHS INSTEAD OF USUAL 198 BOOTHS IN VIEW OF THE COVID NORMS

THE ADMIN IS MAKING SURE THAT EACH BOOTH SEES LESS THAN 1,000 VOTERS

pointing a dedicated team to run the campaign.

"The BJP is laying stress on a corruption-free and prosperous Balasore and will expedite the developmental works initiated in the area," Union Minister Prapat Chandra Sarangi said. The Saffron party is also targeting BJD for not doing anything for the area when its candidate was the MLA for the last 10 years.

"The BJD is laying stress on the state government getting applause from the WHO for effective management of Covid infections and construction of the ring road which was the dream project of former MP" party candidate Swaroop Das said. "Balasore had achieved the best of development in establishment of industries, availability of better health-care facilities and education during our government," Congress leader Navajyoti Patmaik said.

It is claimed that whoever wins the support of Left parties will win from this seat as Balasore district was once the fortress of Left parties. The Left parties have not fielded any candidate and extended their support to the Congress candidate, sources said.



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Oct 19:** With IMD forecasting more rains in Ganjam district under impact of a low pressure formed over Bay of Bengal, the district administration has directed the water reservoirs authorities of the district to take necessary action to avoid any mishap.

The authorities have been told to release 75 per cent of the water in major reservoirs. Following the order, reservoirs authorities at Daha, Bhanjanagar and Baghua dams in the district released water into rivers and canals, Monday.

Meanwhile, water level in the dams continues to rise amid incessant rains in the district from Sunday night.

Ganjam sub-collector Rajendra Minz visited all the dams to take a stock of the situation.

It may be mentioned here that the water level in Russelkonda reservoir at Bhanjanagar recorded at 94.64 metre against its capacity of 96 metre, Monday morning.

Similarly, Soroda and Daha reservoirs were at 92.31 and 117.90 metre Monday morning against their ca-

Dams	Water level [capacity] (in metre)
Russelkonda	94.64 [96]
Soroda	92.31 [91.30]
Daha	117.90 [113.85]

capacity of 91.30 metre and 113.85 metre respectively.

On the other hand, the released water has flooded agriculture lands in various parts of the districts affecting the farmers.

In view of the expected flood-like situation in the district, the Ganjam DRDA PD Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde discussed with sub-collectors regarding the situation and ordered the concerned officials to start preparations such as evacuation of people in low-lying areas, arrangements of medicines and dry-foods at flood shelter homes.

Farmers from the district, meanwhile, said that release of excess floodwater from the dams has put an adverse effect on their ready to harvest crops.

Notably, the kharif crops in the district including paddy are in a harvesting stage.

# MISHAP AT ILLEGAL STONE QUARRY; 1 DEAD, 1 CRITICAL

The deceased and the injured labourers were unidentified till the last report came in

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Oct 19:** A labourer was killed while another rendered critical after they flung 100-ft downhill while drilling hole for blasting in an illegal stone quarry on Bichhakhundi hill at Kothahudi village under Jenapur police limits here, Monday.

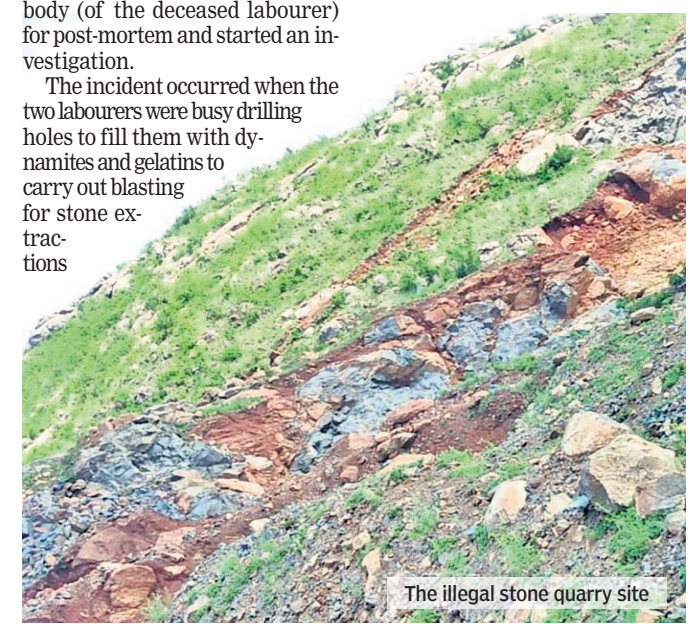
The deceased and the injured labourers were unidentified till the last report came in. They were claimed to be natives of Kashipur area in Dhenkanal district. The critically injured labourer was admitted to a private hospital in Cuttack. Jenapur police sent the body (of the deceased labourer) for post-mortem and started an investigation.

The incident occurred when the two labourers were busy drilling holes to fill them with dynamites and gelatins to carry out blasting for stone extractions

at the quarry. The two were busy in their work when the drilling bar broke. The two labourers under its impact flung down 100-ft under the hill. One of them died on the spot while another was rendered critical.

Observers alleged that the incident is fallout of mindless mining, in some illegal stone quarry and mega crusher units in the district, higher than the prescribed limits. The quarry owners guided by profit motive promote such excess mining which often results in casualties like deaths and critical injuries.

When contacted, Jenapur police IIC Ashis Kumar Sahu confirmed the death of a labourer at the stone quarry on Bichhakhundi hill. He however, said that he was yet to receive any complaint from the kin of the deceased or injured labourer.



The illegal stone quarry site

# HAWKER FOR A DAY



Minister of Tourism & Odia Language Literature and Culture Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi donned the role of a hawker and distributed various newspapers to over 20 households at Ranipatna area in Balasore, Monday. The minister while attending a function of the hawkers' association Sunday promised to distribute newspapers with them for a day. In the photograph, Panigrahi is seen leaving from the court premises with other hawkers to distribute newspapers among the people

OP PHOTO

# Huge cache of explosives seized during combing ops; Reds escape

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, Oct 19:** Security forces Monday seized a huge cache of explosives from Koraput-Malkangiri border during a combing operation, a top police official said.

According to Koraput SP Mukesh Bhamoo, a joint team of Border Security Force (BSF) and Koraput District Voluntary Force (DVF) came across the explosives stored by Maoists Monday morning during a combing operation.

The combing party seized 18 pieces of emulsion explosives, 500 pieces of gelatin, three pieces of camera flash, 15 metres of wire, 1,200 grams of splinter and slurry



## SEIZED ITEMS

- 18 pieces of emulsion explosives
- 500 pieces of gelatin
- 3 pieces of camera flash
- 15 metres of wire
- 1.2kg of splinter and slurry
- Maoist literatures

including a large number of Maoist literature.

"Based on an intelligence input about the movement of nearly 15 to 20 armed Maoists near Koraput-Malkangiri border; a combing operation was carried out. The ultras managed to flee from the spot after

noticing the jaws," Bhamoo said.

A bomb detection and disposal team recovered a huge cache of explosives from a drum which was buried underground. The Maoists had accumulated explosives with an intention to target the jaws in future, the SP added.

# Half of Malkangiri denizens have developed antibodies

THE COMMUNITY-BASED SERO-SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY RMRC AND MALKANGIRI DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Oct 19:** Almost half of the population in Malkangiri Municipal area has been exposed to the novel coronavirus and has developed antibodies for the infectious disease according to a serological survey report.

The community-based sero-survey was conducted jointly by Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) and Malkangiri district administration. It has revealed that approximately 50 per cent of people living in the Malkangiri Municipal have been infected with the novel coronavirus. However, on their own these individuals have developed anti-bodies to fight the disease, district Collector Manish



Agarwal said.

A three-day sero survey was conducted in the municipality area from October 6 to 8. A total 1,613 sam-

ples were collected from 19 wards under Malkangiri Municipality area. Of the total samples, 755 were those of Covid-19 warriors. It was

A 3-DAY SERO SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN THE MUNICIPALITY AREA FROM OCT 6 TO 8

AROUND 1,613 SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED FROM 19 WARDS UNDER THE MUNICIPALITY AREA

OF THE TOTAL SAMPLES, 755 WERE THOSE OF COVID-19 WARRIORS

found that nearly half of the samples had developed antibodies to fight the deadly virus.

Even though sero-survey in the urban area has given a satisfactory result, the Collector has urged people to observe all Covid-19 guidelines. He also said that those above 60 years in age and those having un-

derlying conditions like diabetes, hypertension, cardiac and kidney diseases are at higher risk. Agarwal has asked everyone to wear masks, maintain social distancing and avoid any type of public congregations. The sero-survey was also conducted among high-risk groups, including persons above 60 years and those who had other co-morbidities. It was found that 23 per cent among them had developed antibodies.

It should be mentioned here that the sero-survey has also been conducted in rural areas of the tribal district. People from 42 villages have given their samples for the survey. The results will be announced by the district administration soon.

# SILK CITY IS ALSO ON ITS TOES

**BERHAMPUR:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday forecast heavy rainfall for three days in five districts of the state including Ganjam district under the influence of a low pressure over Bay of Bengal.

Apprehending severe water-logging and possible flood-like situation in the Silk City, the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) has made elaborate preparations to combat the situation. As part of the measures, BeMC commissioner Siddheswar Baliram Bondar visited the slums and low-lying areas in the city.

The commissioner visited the low-lying areas like Uttaramukhi, Leprosy Colony, Anadri village, Jagabandhu huda, Purnabasi Colony and advised the residents to



BeMC commissioner Siddheswar Baliram Bondar visits slums and low-lying areas in Berhampur

immediately shift to the rehabilitation centres opened by the civic body if there was heavy rainfall.

He also spoke on the plans of the civic body to combat the flood-like situation if the city witnesses heavy to very heavy rainfall. He also took stock of the drainage system in the area.

# Gajapati lecturer under Vig lens

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, Oct 19:** Vigilance sleuths Monday conducted raids at several properties of a lecturer in Gajapati district for allegedly amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The simultaneous raids were going on at six places including one in Andhra Pradesh.

The lecturer under the vigilance scanner is G Nageswar Rao who works at Minaketan College at Gurandi area in Gajapati district.

The properties that are being raided simultaneously are his residence on Radhagovindanagar Lane-II, his father's residence at Badabrahmana Sahi, market complex at Betaguda area in Paralakhemundi, his ancestral house at Burujang village under Rayagada police limits in Gajapati district, his father-in-law's house at Chipurpali village under Meliaputi police limits in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh and Minaketan College at Gurandi.

According to a source, the lec-

turer's properties were raided on basis of a search warrant issued by a court. The officials have so far recovered Rs 31 lakh in cash, a house worth Rs 2 crore, several bank accounts and a luxury car.

More details regarding the total value of his assets were awaited. The raids were underway at the time of filing this report.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY 'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM**

The following tenders have been uploaded on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Notice No. Sr.DMM/KUR/EP/2020-21/EP/95 Dtd.:13.10.2020

Sl. No. 01: TENDER NO. 81205658, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: MANAGED EXPANDABLE RACK TYPE STM4, QUANTITY: 4 NOS.

Sl. No. 02: TENDER NO. 81205355A, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: SUPPLY OF AT WELD EQUIPMENT SET, QUANTITY: 54 SETS.

Sl. No. 03: TENDER NO. 81205807, BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS: SCHEDULE-A SUPPLY OF GPS BASED, QUANTITY: 547 NOS. SCHEDULE-B SOFTWARE ON CLOUD, QUANTITY: 547 NOS.

Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 12.11.2020 (for all tenders).

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Khurda Road, PR-304/L/20-21

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-343

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MALKANGIRI (R&B) DIVISION, MALKANGIRI**

**e-Procurement Notice**

Bid Identification No. E.E. (R&B)-MLK-07/2020-21 Date: 15.10.2020

No. 5407

1. Name of the Work	: Building Works
2. Total No. of Works	: 01 No.
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs.13.73 lakhs
4. Period of Completion	: 04 (Four) Months
5. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 hrs. of 22.10.2020 to 16.00 hrs. of 05.11.2020
6. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 16.00 hours of 05.11.2020
7. Date of opening of Tender	: 11.00 hours of 06.11.2020
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, Malkangiri (R&B) Division

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>  
Executive Engineer, Malkangiri (R&B) Division  
OIPR-34063/11/0005/2021



FOCUS LIFE

# LIVING IN LOCKDOWN



You can be among family members and still be very alone. Worse, people get on each other's nerves. There is a fight for space, for hogging the bandwidth and actually on every trivial matter because it is not the reason that is important. It is that the nerves are frayed

For so many students sitting in their homes and not knowing when the lockdown will end for their particular schools or colleges, this is a difficult time. Opening up has risks. Not opening up has other worries. Some have lost a loved one to Covid-19. Others have faced severe restrictions due to quarantine or are helping family members struck by the disease or just anxious about what will come next.

There are harrowing stories emerging from some who are unable to cope as they are couped up in their homes. You can be among family and still be very alone. Worse, people get on each other's nerves. There is a fight for space, for hogging the bandwidth and actually on every trivial matter because it is not the reason that is important. It is that the nerves are frayed. The cohabitation stress is taking a toll.

Young audiences, all a bundle of youthful energy, desperately want a way out of this situation that has snatched them away from friends and locked them in with parents.

A recent survey by 'YourDost', a Bangalore-based online mental health platform found that college students were the most affected by the pandemic and lockdown. The survey showed that "students registered 41 per cent increase in emotions of anxiety/fear/worry, 54 per cent increase in anger/irritability/frustration, 27 per cent in hopelessness, while sense of sadness increased by 17 per cent, and there was a 38 per cent increase in the feeling of loneliness/boredom." This is a worrying state of affairs.

Difficult as it sounds, we would want young audiences to pause and approach the challenge with ways that are simple and potentially powerful. Call it a strategy, if you will, but it is more than that because it will help us manage not just the immediate but also cast a long shadow on how we shape up and emerge from this situation. Can we come out of the lockdown as citizens who are smarter, wiser and equipped with at least some tools and experience to manage change of a high order?

That would be such an asset.

The story we need to tell ourselves is that six months, even a year, is not a very long time in our long and happy lives. This may not be easy for young minds to fathom as many of us grow with the idea that a year, particularly an academic year, is too much to lose. This is the Indian context. A good way to begin is to make a new friend, a very different friend, a close person who we live with but don't know fully and well enough. This is yourself, the inner self, the ocean that is embodied in you. Think about you – do you know yourself, do you really understand yourself, do you really "meet" yourself? Let this be the beginning of a new enquiry.

The author Naseeb Nicholas Taleb gives this example of a turkey that is sure of its next meal – it is so certain because food is good, and it is growing fat, actually being fattened for the Thanksgiving dinner. Come one day, and there will be a nasty surprise. We are in waters we know are uncertain. This is better than being in waters that we know and understood when often we do not. In sum, don't take the standard prescriptions for granted. Instead, Enquire. This

is our head at work.

Second, amid this uncertainty, what is it that brings me joy, happiness, and an element of playfulness. Books and certificates apart, it is good to pick up an activity that is a source of joy, a new discovery, an element of fun – and usually something we have never tried before. Is classical music a source of joy, or painting, or singing, or just dance? Or could it be listening to distant radio broadcasts or reading the classics? Explore. This is our heart at work.

It is not easy to always talk with meaning and connection to our loved ones. That is easier said than done. But we must equally know that one of the biggest regrets of many successful people is that they did not spend time or talk or listen to what their loved ones had to say. Do you have a parent, a grandparent, a sibling, who you haven't sat down to listen to in years? Do it now. Make something out of that conversation. Make it an ongoing discussion. Write it as a diary. These treasures will hold out for a long time, and become your support on many a wintry night. Engage. This, too, is our heart at work.

Many youngsters know that stress at work and in school means

that they eat in not-very-healthy ways. Their sleep habits are equally unhealthy. Here is an opportunity to govern these two. One of the best diets offered is the one that probably your Mom follows – eat as much, as long as you cook it yourself. You know the ingredients, you understand the oil, you know the masalas. Pick up cooking as something that will stay with you forever – whether you are a boy or a girl. Prefer traditional, Indian, food. Roti-daal or idli-dosa is preferred to pasta and pizza. Why? Because, in the former, you usually start from scratch with the most fundamental ingredients.

Enquire, Engage, Explore, Eat. This will also drive a routine that can regulate the day and help us sleep well. Sleeping well and deep of course will help give the energy to exercise till you break out into a sweat, with mindfulness in every breath.

*Dr. Saamdu Chetri is the former executive director of the Gross National Happiness Centre in Bhutan. Jagdish Rattanani is a journalist and a faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal*

THE BILLION PRESS



Is it true that existence consists only in the action of energy? Or is it not rather that energy is an output of Existence?

SRI AUROBINDO

## PAUSE, REFLECT

A nation in the neighbourhood has won praise from the International Monetary Fund, which tracks the GDP and other aspects of national economies worldwide apart from extending help to member nations in matters of financial stability. IMF statement, while releasing the Global Economic Outlook Report, was that the economic growth of Bangladesh is impressive when the economies of several nations like India are going in the reverse direction. Bangladesh, it said, would surpass India in per capita gross domestic product this year. There was also a stark warning that India could be named as the third poorest country in South Asia – after Pakistan and Nepal. This unfortunately comes at a time when talk of economic concerns within India itself is dying down on a claim that 'Bharat' is firmly set on the road to Super Power status because the political leadership is navigating the nation in an extremely capable manner; the kind folks in this sub continent had never seen.

GDP is measured based on several economic parameters, and these by themselves might not always reflect the correct picture of the overall growth of a nation. Per Capita GDP is a metric that breaks down a nation's economic output per person; and this helps gauge the economic well-being of a nation at its per-person level. Together, these form the barometer to gauge how a nation is faring on the economic front. For developed economies, the GDP growth rate may remain low but per capita GDP would remain high. For instance, the GDP growth for the US for last year was in the range of 2.3 per cent against the previous year's 2.8 per cent. At the same time, the per capita GDP of the US is in the range of \$68,000, of Singapore's over \$95,000 against India's 6,000 plus, and Pakistan's and Bangladesh's 5,000 plus. Considering the way Bangladesh is steadily progressing, it is predicted to beat India very soon in per capita GDP terms. In national GDP terms, it is already doing better than India.

The domestic impression that India's overall economic strengths remain high as against Pakistan's or Bangladesh's or of the other nations in the neighbourhood, other than China, is now being proved false. The political stability that Bangladesh enjoyed in the past 12 years when Sheikh Hasina held the reins without any interruption helped the nation focus major attention on economic growth. Her period saw emphasis on promoting exports. More and more women are being drawn into productive sectors of the economy, be it in the textiles-garments sector or in the farms. When one in five women in India is engaged in work, two in five women in Bangladesh are at work. She also helped create a secular social order for which she not only hanged her father's murderers, but also put down Islamic extremism with a stern hand. India, on the other hand, replaced extremism of one kind by another. The thoughts governing India's economic progress are outdated and impractical in today's world. Inability to change has made those thoughts to become burdens for the nation. No doubt, leadership makes all the difference to a nation. Sheikh Hasina is pragmatic, focused on taking the nation forward, and her strength is also reflected in the way she is tackling the Opposition and curbing fundamentalist streaks in the society. History on her side, she has been a good friend of India so far but may not remain so in the near future.

Many sectors in India are ailing and are not able to catch up with the new global trends or momentum. A recent global ranking has just two Indian higher education institutions finding space in a list of 400 institutions of learning. It is a moot point as to whether the new education policy will be of much help or will it be a tool to make things more primitive.

Another shame awaited India when, three days ago, India was placed at the 94th position in the global hunger index for 2020 that carried a study on 107 nations. Notably, last year, India's rank was at 102 among 117 nations tracked in the study. Pakistan and Myanmar in the neighbourhood fared better than India but remained as among the bad global cases. Pakistan at 88, Myanmar at 78, Nepal 73 and Sri Lanka 64 leave India red faced. Laziness is a profound national character with India. The Global Poverty Index report is also a hint that the massive subsidized ration scheme for the poor might have failed during the past few years since introduction of schemes like Aadhaar and such like have not really weeded out the corrupt but, rather, the truly needy have been left in the lurch while the crooks have cornered everything.

Saamdu Chetri & Jagdish Rattanani

**CAN WE COME OUT OF THE LOCKDOWN AS CITIZENS WHO ARE SMARTER, WISER AND EQUIPPED WITH AT LEAST SOME TOOLS AND EXPERIENCE TO MANAGE CHANGE OF A HIGH ORDER?**

## SPECTRUM ECONOMY

# Accommodative monetary policy



Dasarathi Mishra

**PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND EXPORTS ARE LIKELY TO BE SUBDUED, ESPECIALLY AS EXTERNAL DEMAND IS STILL ANEMIC. IF THE CURRENT MOMENTUM OF UPTURN GAINS GROUND, A STRONGER REBOUND IS FEASIBLE**

While releasing the Monetary Policy Statement earlier this month, RBI Governor Saktikanta Das sounded an optimistic note. He stated that, "Relative to pre-Covid levels, several high frequency indicators are pointing to the easing of contractions in various sectors of the economy and the emergence of impulses of growth."

The Monetary Policy Committee has stated that economic activity is stabilizing in Q2 (July-September) after the 23.9 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) contraction in real GDP in Q1 (April-June). Buttressed by government spending and rural demand, the manufacturing and some categories of services such as passenger vehicles and railway freight have gradually recovered in Q2. RBI reiterated that the focus must now shift from containment to revival. Clearly, RBI is on a path of pump-priming the economy.

The green shoots are visible in rural economy. The rural economy looks resilient. Kharif sowing has surpassed last year's acreage as well as the normal sown area. Early estimates suggest that food grains production is set to cross another record in 2020-21. Job creation

under MNREGA has provided incomes and employment in rural areas. Meanwhile, migrant labour and semiskilled workers are returning to work in urban areas. Now, the focus of the government and central bank is on recovery. Recovery is bound to be sector-specific. Recovery is discernible in agriculture and allied activities, fast-moving consumer goods, two-wheelers, passenger vehicles and tractors, drugs and pharmaceuticals, and electricity generation, especially in renewables. So they are set for a V-shaped recovery.

Private investment and exports are likely to be subdued, especially as external demand is still anemic. If the current momentum of upturn gains ground, a faster and stronger rebound is eminently feasible. RBI has prioritised the orderly functioning of markets and financial institutions, easing of financing conditions and the provision of adequate system-level as well as targeted liquidity. Since February 2020, RBI has taken a series of steps in this direction. More would follow. RBI Governor has assured market participants that in keeping with the monetary policy stance

announced on October 9, the central bank will maintain comfortable liquidity conditions and conduct market operations in the form of outright and special open market operations. In response to feedback from market participants, the size of these auctions will be increased to ₹20,000 crore.

RBI has decided to conduct on tap TLTRO with tenors of up to three years for a total amount of up to ₹1,00,000 crore at a floating rate linked to the policy repo rate. The scheme will be available up to March 31, 2021. Liquidity availed by banks under the scheme has to be deployed in corporate bonds, commercial papers, and non-convertible debentures issued by the entities in specific sectors. The liquidity availed under the scheme can also be used to extend bank loans and advances to these sectors.

Co-origination of loans by banks and a category of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for lending to the priority sector subject to certain conditions started in 2018 entailed joint contribution of credit at the facility level by both the lenders. This also helped in sharing of risks and rewards between them. RBI has decided to

extend the scheme to all the NBFCs (including Housing Finance Companies) to make all priority sector loans eligible for the scheme and give greater operational flexibility to lending institutions. The proposed framework will be called "Co-Lending Model".

Many experts and economists vouch for the next wave of economic reforms to steer the economy. A few areas could be as follows: One, we should not waste time in reforming the corporate bond market. With a developed bond market, the corporate sector can directly source their funding requirement from the market. To that extent, corporates will move from banking sector to financial market/ investors for raising funds. Two, recently the SEBI has permitted commercial papers to be traded on stock exchange. This is a step in the right direction. Three, the G-Sec market is very huge but participation of small investors is almost non-existent. Retail investors should be encouraged to participate in G Sec market.

*The writer is a former CGM, RBI. Views are personal*

## WISDOM CORNER

Fishes live in the sea, as men do a-land; the great ones eat up the little ones.  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.  
WARREN BUFFETT

If your strength is small, don't carry heavy burdens. If your words are worthless, don't give advice.  
PROVERB

## WORDSWORTH

### Ultracrepidarian

Ultracrepidarian is one who gives his opinions on matters beyond his sphere of knowledge. Essayist William Hazlitt used this word, probably first, in a famous letter of 1819 to William Gifford, the editor of the Quarterly Review. That letter has been described as "one of the finest works of invective in the language". In one of his more moderate castigations, Hazlitt wrote: "You have been well called an Ultra-Crepidarian critic". What Hazlitt thought of Gifford's journal may be deduced from this passage in The Spirit of the Age (1825): "His Journal, then, is a depository for every species of political sophistry and personal calumny. There is no abuse or corruption that does not there find a Jesuitical palliation or a bare-faced vindication. There we meet the slime of hypocrisy, the varnish of courts, the cant of pedantry, the cobwebs of the law, and the iron hand of power. Its object is as mischievous as the means by which it is pursued are odious." You can see why Hazlitt described himself as "a good hater". Ultracrepidarian, somebody who gives opinions on matters beyond his knowledge, comes from a classical allusion. The Latin writer Pliny recorded that Apelles, the famous Greek painter who was a contemporary of Alexander the Great, would put his pictures where the public could see them and then stand out of sight so he could listen to their comments. A shoemaker once faulted the painter for a sandal with one loop too few, which Apelles corrected. The shoemaker, emboldened by this acceptance of his views, then criticised the subject's leg. To this Apelles is reported as replying (no doubt with expletives deleted) that the shoemaker should not judge beyond his sandals, in other words that critics should only comment on matters they know something about. In modern English, we might say "the cobbler should stick to his last", a proverb that comes from the same incident. (A last is a shoemaker's pattern, ultimately from a Germanic root meaning to follow a track, hence footstep.) What Pliny actually wrote was ne supra crepidam iudicaret, where crepidam is a sandal or the sole of a shoe, but the idea has been expressed in several ways in Latin tags, such as Ne sutor ultra crepidam (sutor means "cobbler", a word still known in Scotland in the spelling souter). The best-known version is the abbreviated tag ultra crepidam, "beyond the sole", from which Hazlitt formed ultracrepidarian. Crepidam derives from Greek krepis, a shoe; it has no link with words like decrepit or crepitation (which are from Latin crepare, to creak, rattle, or make a noise) or crepuscular (from the Latin word for twilight), though crepidarian is a very rare adjective meaning "pertaining to a shoemaker".

## LOL

### TRAIN

Santa and Banta are at the New Delhi Railway Station to catch a train to Ludhiana. Santa was not sure whether the train waiting on the platform will have a halt at Ludhiana station. He goes to the inquiry counter and



asks, "Can I take this train to Ludhiana?" "No, Sorry," answers the man on the counter. Banta, however, is still hopeful. He suddenly butts in, "Can I?" The counterman looked at him with a convulsed face.

### Heart care in Odisha

Sir, Barely a fortnight ago, World Heart Day was observed. But the reality, despite huge governmental spending on this count, is depressing. The state Health and Family Welfare department claims it spent around 23 per cent of the total health budget on cardiac well-being facilities in government hospitals. It has equipped almost all government hospitals with modern gadgets for ECG, Echo, treadmill and angiography. But these mostly remain unused due to lack of sufficient number of cardiac surgeons in district headquarter hospitals (DHH) at Mayurbhanj, Baleswar and Keonjhar. Baleswar has one cardiac specialist, while tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts have no full-time cardiac doctor, as stated by Dr KR Rout, a former CDMO of Mayurbhanj. Cardiac surgeons doing private practice earn ₹30,000 to ₹50,000 a day, it is learnt. It is lamentable that the north-eastern region of Odisha has remained neglected in heart care treatment.  
**Janaki Ballav Dash, MAYURBHANJ**

### High fees

Sir, With high fees in private medical institutes, the medical aspirants and their parents often look for government MBBS seats. The NEET results were out on Friday. Some 85 per cent of seats formed the state quota. But the number of seats in Odisha is much less compared to other states. The all-India average is 30 seats per million population, while in Odisha, it is 17. Aspirants from Odisha are at a disadvantage. The government is urged to look into this and help create more seats by opening new colleges and increasing the infrastructure in existing colleges.  
**Gopal Prasad Mittal, BHUBANESWAR**

### Father Stan Swamy

Sir, The great philosopher Voltaire said, "To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticise." In the present scenario, this statement is significant. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) made its seventh arrest in the Elgar Parishad Bhima Koregaon case, with 83-year-old Father Stan Swamy being taken into custody without issuing a warrant. Father Stan Swamy has been working for the welfare of tribals for five decades. The Central government is targeting human rights activists, academicians, writers, lawyers, intellectuals and artists while riot-instigators are roaming free. The future of honest individuals, those who are raising their voice for the cause of the people, is bleak in India. The Father had criticised the misuse of power by the police and the government's failure to properly implement the 5th Schedule of the Constitution.  
**Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR**

## 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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# ED summons to Farooq creates flutter in Kashmir political circles

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Oct 19:** The summoning of National Conference (NC) president, Dr Farooq Abdullah for questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday has created quite a flutter in the political circles of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reacting to the ED summons to his father, Omar Abdullah, former chief minister, took to Twitter, "The party will be responding to this ED summon shortly. This is nothing less than political vendetta coming days after the formation of the People's alliance for Gupkar Declaration."

"To set the record straight, no raids are being conducted at Dr Sahib's residence."

In her reaction to the development, former chief minister and chief of People's Democratic Party (PDP), Mehbooba Mufti said, "ED's sudden summons to Farooq Sahab displays the extent of GOI's nervousness about mainstream parties in J&K fighting as one unit."

"Also reeks of political vendetta & won't in the least blunt our collective resolve to fight for our rights."

Sajad Lone, whose People's Conference (PC) is also part of the six-party Gupkar alliance that seeks restoration of J&K's special status, said in his reaction, "What a sorry state of affairs. Dr Farooq Sahib summoned by ED. Reeks of vendetta. Contrary to what they want to coercively achieve this will certainly have the opposite impact."

ED officials Monday summoned Dr Abdullah to their office in uptown Rajbagh locality of Srinagar city for



National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah leaves the Enforcement Directorate office in Srinagar after being questioned in connection with a money-laundering probe, Monday.

## 'WITCH HUNT'

**Srinagar:** After being questioned for several hours by the Enforcement Directorate Monday in connection with a money laundering probe, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said the resolve for restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir will continue. Talking to a media person after remaining inside the ED office for nearly seven hours, 82-year-old Abdullah said, "Remember one thing, we have a long way to go. This is a long fight." He further said, "Our struggle will go on whether Farooq Abdullah is alive or Farooq Abdullah is dead... Our resolve has not changed and our resolve will not change even if I were to be hanged." The former chief minister and ex-union minister said the struggle for restoration of the constitutional provision removed last year by the BJP-led government at the Centre was of all the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "It is not Farooq Abdullah or the National Conference's struggle alone. It is the struggle of all the people," he added. Several constituents of the newly formed People's Alliance, comprising mainstream political parties from Jammu and Kashmir, described Abdullah being summoned by the ED as a 'witch hunt' and 'political vendetta' by the Centre.

questioning in the Rs 113 crore scam allegedly carried out when

Abdullah was the chairman of the J&K cricket Association.

# Has Congress turned lukewarm to Article 370?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** It was over a year after they signed the 'Gupkar declaration' - pledging a joint fight to safeguard Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Article 370 and 35-A - that the top leaders of six regional and one national party met at National Conference (NC) patriarch Dr Farooq Abdullah's residence in Srinagar, October 15.

Ghulam Ahmad Mir, president of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) was, however, conspicuously absent. The Congress was part and parcel of the Gupkar declaration when it was signed August 4, 2019. It was represented by the senior party leader and a former minister, Taj Mohiuddin. According to some reports, Mir was absent due to a 'medical emergency.' There was no explanation as to why 'Taj' or any other JKPCC leader did not represent the party. Late in the night of October 14, Mir revealed to this journalist that Dr Abdullah had invited him for a meeting of the Gupkar declaration signatories. "I told Farooq Sahab that I would try my best to reach Srinagar as I am supposed to attend a remembrance ceremony of our senior leader and former minister Mohammad Sharief Niaz in Doda," Mir said. He claimed that he was in Batote, on the way from Srinagar



## VOLTE FACE

The days to come, after the electioneering in Bihar, would make it clear whether the CPI (M) and the Congress would endorse the rhetorical statements of the Valley-based parties or distance from them for apprehension of possible reverses at the national level

Both, the NC's founder Sheikh Abdullah as well as his successor Farooq Abdullah, have left behind some bitter experiences for their allies. Sheikh's volte face from Plebiscite happened in 1974-75 while Abdullah ditched a larger national opposition alliance to form a coalition government with Rajiv Gandhi's Congress in 1986-87

the thick of the debate over Home Minister Amit Shah's J&K Reorganisation Bill in August 2019, the Congress leaders had raised uproar over the Bill coming from the 'unconstitutional route', rather than categorically opposing the legislation. At one point of time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself challenged the Congress to make restoration of Article 370 as a part of its manifesto.

In a couple of interviews to local news agencies, even Omar sought

to Doda, in Jammu but did not mention any 'medical emergency.'

JKPCC insiders later disclosed that Mir and other party leaders had chosen to be absent as there was 'no green signal' from the Congress headquarters in New Delhi. According to one of them, the Congress high command was not comfortable with the phrases Article 370 and 35-A' in the changing situation and ahead of the Assembly elections in Bihar.

"As long as the signatories use the euphemistic phrases like 'restoration of the rights' that have been snatched away in August 2019, we have no problem. But abrogation of Article 370 has become part of the

national narrative and it would be imprudent for us to specifically emphasise it. It will only help our adversary the BJP," he asserted.

After his release from detention, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that the Valley-based opposition amalgam had not been fully supported by any principal opposition party at the national level. According to him, some-odd statements had flowed in occasionally from former Home Minister P. Chidambaram. The Congress top brass has been meticulously cautious in choosing its phrases while speaking about J&K's conversion into two union territories and withdrawal of its special status. Even in

# Why Sajad Lone has less to lose from poll abstention than NC, PDP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Oct 19:** Sajad Gani Lone, the Chairman of Peoples Conference (PC), who recently compared the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir to coronavirus, has taken a 90 degree departure from his earlier stand when he called Prime Minister Narendra Modi his 'elder brother' and was known for his proximity to the BJP.

Lone had then parted ways with the Mehbooba Mufti-led coalition government and decided to form an alliance of like-minded people to fight what he called the "dynastic rule of the Abdullahs and the Muftis".

However, his proximity to Delhi had become doubtful immediately after August 5 last year when he joined chorus with other regional mainstream parties to oppose the scrapping of J&K's special status.

Lone has now joined the alliance for implementation of Gupkar Declaration which seeks restoration of pre-August 5, 2019 position and restoration of statehood for



J&K. Lone has maintained that his ideological closeness with other regional political parties owes itself to the months of detention these leaders were placed under after August 5 last year.

Although all the parties in the alliance for implementation of J&K's special status are firm that Articles 370, and 35A and statehood must be restored so that these parties can

start the halted political process, yet none of them has so far said they won't fight the Assembly elections unless the Gupkar Declaration is implemented. Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, of the NC, has only said he would not fight the Assembly elections personally if these are held when J&K is still a Union Territory.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah

said Friday that restoration of statehood for J&K is just round the corner and that the same can happen soon. For Lone to stay away from the Assembly elections as and when they are announced without restoration of Article 370 would definitely not be as costly as it would for the NC and the PDP, two major political parties in the alliance for implementation of Gupkar Declaration.

The NC is the largest political party in J&K with its cadre and units spread across the two divisions of the Union Territory.

The PDP might look apparently decimated because of the number of party leaders who deserted it, yet it is the second largest after the NC in the Gupkar Declaration group.

Political analysts believe while Sajad Lone, the ANC headed by Khalida Shah and the JKPM which was formed by former bureaucrat Shah Faesal, who has since announced stepping out of politics, can afford to remain away from Assembly polls, the same would not be possible for the NC and the PDP.

## KERALA GOLD SCAM

# CM's ex-aide gets protection from arrest till Oct 23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, Oct 19:** The Kerala High Court Monday restrained the Customs, probing the Kerala gold smuggling case, from arresting M Sivasankar, suspended IAS officer and former principal secretary to the Chief Minister, till October 23.

The Court directed the Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate to file its counter on his anticipatory bail plea by October 23.

In his petition, Sivasankar submitted that Customs officials, who arrived at his residence in Thiruvananthapuram Friday last, to serve notice on him to appear before the probe team, took him along with them and as chest pain developed and at the instance of the officers, they rushed him to a nearby hospital in their car.

He said he was totally exhausted due to the constant and continued travel from Thiruvananthapuram to Kochi to attend the questioning of the agency on various days.

Sivasankar said he was questioned by different agencies for more than 90 hours and even after prolonged questioning, none of the investigating agencies implicated him as an accused.

He alleged that the attempt of the investigating agency was to sabotage the process of law and choose a date that is Friday evening to arrest him.

Sivasankar submitted that he apprehends that the Customs will manage to register new crimes without any basis and get him remanded to custody "to satisfy political wisdom as well as other vested interests."

**SEEKING ANTICIPATORY BAIL, SIVASANKAR SAID HE HAS COMPLIED WITH ALL THE DIRECTIONS TILL NOW AND THERE IS NO SCOPE FOR HIM ABSCONDING**

Seeking anticipatory bail, Sivasankar said he has complied with all the directions till now and there is no scope for him absconding also. Last week, the High Court restrained the Enforcement Directorate, probing the money trail in the sensational gold smuggling case, from arresting Sivasankar, till October 23.

Meanwhile, Sivasankar was Monday discharged from the medical college hospital here. He had been admitted to the hospital Friday after he complained of uneasiness when Customs officials arrived at his home and served notice to appear before them at 6 PM that day.

He was first shifted to a private hospital and the next day, to the Medical college hospital.

The private hospital where he was admitted had ruled out a stroke, but stated that the MRI of the spine revealed multiple disc prolapse in the lumbar and cervical region. His angiogram was normal. The back pain was due to lumbar disc prolapse compressing the spinal roots, the hospital said.

## VIJAYAN, SIVASANKAR ARE PARTNERS IN CRIME: CONG



**Kozhikode:** The Congress Monday alleged that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his now suspended secretary M Sivasankar were functioning in unison, trying to save each other in cases that have rocked the state and were being probed by various national agencies.

Senior IAS officer Sivasankar, who also held the post of the IT secretary, was first removed and then suspended, soon after his links with prime accused Swapna Suresh surfaced in the gold smuggling case.

Addressing the media here, Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said till date, Vijayan has not condemned the act of Sivasankar, who by now has been questioned for several days by various national probe agencies.

"While two Cabinet Ministers - G.Sudhakaran and Kadakampally Surendran openly condemned the

act of Sivasankar, Vijayan is yet to say a word about Sivasankar, and likewise the statements of Sivasankar given to various agencies do not contain a word about Vijayan. In the beginning, when the allegations came, Vijayan used to take credit that it was he who had asked for the probe, and when it got deeper, Vijayan started to feel the heat," said Chennithala.

"No one will ever believe that Sivasankar would have done all this without Vijayan's knowledge and he is doing his best to bail out Vijayan, and Vijayan is also doing his best to bail out Sivasankar. The two were partners in crime and when the CBI and Customs probe dwelled deep, the Vijayan government has started to get restless and is doing its best and even approached the court to stop the CBI probe," added Chennithala.

# HC junks plea against lease of Thiruvananthapuram airport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, Oct 19:** The Kerala High Court Monday dismissed petitions filed by Kerala government and others challenging the Centre's decision to lease Thiruvananthapuram international airport to Adani Enterprises.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Justices K Vinod Chandran and CS Dias delivered the verdict, dismissing arguments raised by the state government and others opposing the Centre's decision to lease out the airport to Adani Enterprises Limited.

The Kerala government, August 21, had moved the high court seeking a stay on further proceedings in leasing Thiruvananthapuram international airport to Adani Enterprises.

The state government had filed the application in the court, after an all-party-meeting in Kerala demanded withdrawal of the Union Cabinet's decision to lease the airport to Adani Enterprises.

Last year, the high court had dismissed the petition challenging the decision, terming it as not maintainable under Article 226 of the Constitution.

The state government then filed an appeal before the Supreme Court

challenging the high court order. The apex court set aside the judgement of the high court and the matter was remanded back to it for a decision on merit. Referring to the top court directive, the state government had said, "all further proceedings in relation to grant of lease with regard to operation, management and development of Thiruvananthapuram international airport to Adani Enterprises Ltd, is to be stayed pending disposal of the aforementioned writ petition."

The Adani Enterprises had won the rights to run six airports -- Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati -- through the PPP model after a competitive bidding process in February, 2019.

Vijayan had told the all-party meet that the state government had asked for the management and the operation of the airport with the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in which it will be the major shareholder.

The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) had taken part in the bidding. The Centre had said the state government did not qualify in the bidding process that was carried out in a 'transparent manner.'

## COVID REVIEW



Congress leader and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi with party general secretary KC Venugopal and others attends a review meeting on COVID-19, in Malappuram, Monday.

PTI PHOTO





This decade can be India's only when we make our foundations strong. This decade has brought an immense opportunity for young India  
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

### NOVEL MODUS OPERANDI

In a novel modus operandi, a gang used a hired ambulance with a fake patient to dodge the police on the route from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh to New Delhi. The Delhi police has now arrested four persons and recovered 181 kgs of cannabis, worth around ₹1.8 crore in the international market



### of the day quote

The threat of flooding due to heavy rains still persists and the government will provide assistance to the affected people in whatever way possible  
UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CM

Maharashtra is facing a historic economic crisis and the state government has no option but to take loan to help flood-affected people in the state  
SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

In R R Nagar there is a fight between us (Congress) and BJP, while in Sira it will be a triangular fight, I'm telling the truth  
SIDARAMAIAH | LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY

## Nath's 'item' remark raises political heat

Shivraj Singh Chouhan wrote to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, demanding that Kamal Nath be removed from all party posts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 19: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar and other party leaders sat on a two-hour silent fast Monday to protest against former CM Kamal Nath's "item" remark against state minister Imarti Devi. Chouhan also wrote a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, demanding that Nath be removed from all party posts, while Tomar said the Congress chief and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra should apologise to Imarti Devi. Talking to reporters in Gwalior's Dabra town, Imarti Devi, who is contesting the November 3 Assembly bypoll from there, said Nath did not know how to respect a Dalit woman and had lost his mind after losing the Chief Minister's post.



(silent fast) at Minto Hall in Bhopal to protest against Nath's remark.

BJP's Rajya Sabha member Scindia and Lok Sabha member Shankar Lalwani sat on a silent protest over the issue at Regal Square in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Indore. Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Madhya Pradesh BJP chief Vishnu Dutt Sharma, senior party leader Prabhat Jha and some other leaders staged a similar protest in Gwalior.

Tomar demanded that Sonia Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who always champion the cause of Dalit and women, apologise to Imarti Devi. Chouhan also took to Twitter to hit out at Kamal Nath. "With your cheap statement, Congress crooked and despicable mentality has come to the fore again. You have not just disrespected Smt Imarti Devi, but each and every girl and sister of Gwalior-Chambal region," he said in a tweet in Hindi Sunday.

"Kamal Nathji, who gave you the right to play with the respect of women?" Chouhan asked in the tweet. The National Commission for Women condemned Nath's remarks and also sought an explanation from him over it. The NCW also forwarded the matter to the Election Commission for necessary action.

## Boost to Quad: Aus to join Malabar drill

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 19: In a message to China on getting a wider footprint in the Indo-Pacific region, India invited Australia to take part in an annual naval drill - Malabar Exercise - in the Indian Ocean region along with the US and Japan to which Australia has agreed.

The Indo-Pacific region is seen from the west coast of India to the US. It is for the first time that all the 'Quad' countries - an informal security forum comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia - will be part of Malabar exercise scheduled next month.

Confirming the Australian Navy's participation in the Malabar series, the Indian Defence Ministry in a statement on Monday said: "India seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia, Malabar 2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy."



The Malabar series of naval exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral India-US naval exercise. Japan joined it in 2015. This annual exercise has been conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippines Sea in 2018, off the coast of Japan in 2019 and is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year.

This year, the exercise has been planned in a 'non-contact-at sea' format. The exercise will strengthen

the coordination between the navies of the participating countries. The participants in the exercise are engaging to enhance safety and security in the maritime domain.

"They collectively support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules based international order," the ministry said. Earlier this year, the Indian Navy had conducted exercises with Russia and the 'Quad' countries. The Indian Navy had carried out

a three-day bilateral maritime exercise with Japan in the north Arabian Sea from September 26, 2020 to September 28. It was the fourth edition of the India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise JIMEX, which is conducted biennially.

The Australian Navy and the Indian Navy carried out a passage exercise in the East Indian Ocean Region on September 23 and 24. The exercise involved the participation of HMAS Hobart from the Australian side and Indian naval ships Sahyadri and Karmuk. In addition, an Indian maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters from both sides carried out coordinated exercises. A bilateral maritime exercise took place between the Indian and Russian navies in the Bay of Bengal on September 4 and 5. The exercise is known as 'Indra Navy' and was the 11th edition. Indian Navy units undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with units of the US Nimitz Carrier Strike Group as they transited through the Indian Ocean region on July 20.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Man arrested

Mumbai: A 25-year-old man was arrested by the cyber crime department of Maharashtra Police Monday for allegedly siphoning money from several persons' online payment accounts. Munna alias Fashiuddin Ansari was arrested from Milind Nagar locality in suburban Ghatkopar. A trader from the city had complained that on August 20 and September 20, Rs 50,448 were withdrawn from his Paytm account by unknown persons.

#### Two drown

Thane: A woman and a boy have drowned in two different lakes of Maharashtra's Thane city, an official said Monday. The body of an unidentified woman, aged 35 to 40 years, was found in the Kachrali lake near the Thane Municipal Corporation headquarters around 2 am on Monday, regional disaster management cell (RDMC) chief Santosh Kadam said. In another incident, a 16-year-old boy, resident of Charai area here, drowned in the city's Upavan lake on Sunday evening, the official said. A team comprising the RDMC and fire personnel fished out the body, he said.

#### 5 hurt in clash

Ahmedabad: At least five rounds were fired Monday afternoon during a clash on a highway near Vadodara city, some 112 kilometres from here, leaving five people injured, two due to bullets, police said. The incident took place on Dumad crossroad on Ahmedabad-Surat Highway, Vadodara Zone 4 Deputy Commissioner of Police Lakshminsinh Zala said.

#### Cop shot dead

Srinagar: Militants Monday shot dead a police officer while he was returning home after offering prayers at a mosque in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The incident took place in Bijbehara area of the district, a police official said. Inspector Mohammad Ashraf Bhat was rushed to Bijbehara sub-district hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, he said.

#### Two held

Mumbai: Two persons have been arrested in the city for allegedly selling assembled Air Conditioners (AC) by pasting stickers of well-known brands on them, the police said Monday. The accused lured buyers by claiming that companies were selling off ACs at cheap rate to clear stocks during the coronavirus pandemic. The crime branch seized 26 ACs worth Rs 8.3 lakh, said senior inspector Mahesh Tawde.

### FESTIVE FLAVOUR



Dry fruits for sale at Chandni Chowk market during festive season, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic in New Delhi, Monday

## Chirag hits out at BJP leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 19: LJP chief Chirag Paswan Monday voiced strong displeasure over the use of term 'vote katua' for his party by some BJP leaders to keep Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar happy, and asserted his party will win more seats in the Bihar assembly polls than the JD(U).

'Vote Katua' is an expression used in the Hindi heartland for political parties and candidates in elections who are in the fray to eat into the votes of others without benefiting themselves. "I am pained at the term 'vote katua' being used against the LJP. They should apply their wisdom and not use such words just to make somebody happy. I don't mind whatever BJP leaders say, because I know they are just putting words to the chief minister's thoughts, the 37-year-old son of Ram Vilas Paswan, one of the foremost Dalit leaders and the LJP founder, said.

Several top BJP leaders including Union Minister Prakash Javadekar and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi have called LJP a 'vote katua' in the Bihar election fray.



Chirag, who had initially said he would go all out against the JD(U) only, has pitted nearly half-a-dozen nominees against BJP too

They have also accused him of creating confusion in the minds of the electorate by claiming close proximity to senior BJP leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chirag, who has the responsibility of carrying his father's impressive political legacy forward, has repeatedly professed his unflinching loyalty to Modi, saying he was like 'Hanuman' to the prime minister. Urging more respect from the BJP towards his late father and former Union minister,

he said they should not use such terms for a party built painstakingly by somebody who was their colleague in the government just until 11 days ago.

"Ultimately, a BJP-LJP government will be formed in the state after November 10," he said, and added the BJP should not say things that may hamper possibilities of a future coming together of the two. "The LJP will win more seats than the JD(U) and will build a new and young Bihar with the pledge of #Bihar1stBihar1st, Chirag said in a tweet.

The LJP which has dissociated itself from the NDA in Bihar, has put up candidates against JD(U) nominees in many places.

Chirag, who had initially said he would go all out against the JD(U) only, has pitted nearly half-a-dozen nominees against the BJP too. The LJP president posted a series of tweets severely criticising Kumar and his work in the past five years. Meanwhile, Tejashwi Yadav, sought to widen the rift between the JD(U) and the LJP even further, accusing Nitish Kumar of doing injustice to Chirag Paswan.

## Youth slashes father's neck when asked not to play PUBG

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 19: A youth in Meerut district attacked his father and slashed his neck with a knife when the latter asked him not to play PUBG, a Chinese gaming app which has been banned by the Centre, police said Monday.

The father was severely injured in the incident and later, the accused, identified as Amir, also

of the district but was not reported to the police immediately.

The youth attacked his father, Irfan, after he asked him to refrain from spending long hours at gaming. Upset with his father's criticism, Amir picked up a knife and slashed his father in the neck multiple times. Later, he also slashed himself in the neck.

Circle Officer Devesh Singh said the youth slashed his father's neck when he asked him



The youth attacked his father after he asked him to refrain from spending long hours at gaming

stabbed himself with the knife. Both, father and son have been admitted to the Meerut Medical College.

According to reports, the incident took place Thursday in Jamnanagar in Kharkhoda town

not to play the game. The youth is also in critical condition. The family of the youth said he was addicted to drugs and was undergoing treatment, said Inspector Arvind Mohan Sharma.

### COVID CURBS

## Puja pandals to be no-entry zones in Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 19: In a big damper on Durga Puja revelry, the Calcutta High Court Monday declared all pandals across West Bengal no-entry zones to prevent the surge of COVID-19 cases in the state.

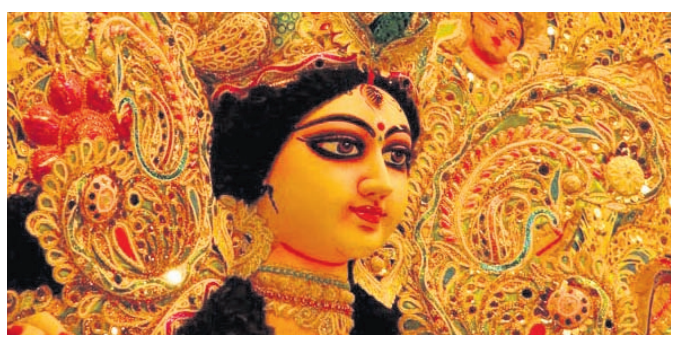
West Bengal has reported over 3.2 lakh COVID-19 cases and more than 6,000 deaths from the viral disease so far. A division bench of the high court comprising Justices Sanjit Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee, while hearing a public interest litigation, said that no visitors will be allowed to enter the marquees.

For small pandals, barricades will have to be put up five metres

from the entrance, while for the bigger ones, the distance has to be 10 metres, the court ordered. There should be 'no-entry' boards on the barricades, it said.

The court also ordered that only 15 to 25 persons belonging to the organising committees will be allowed to enter the pandals. The high court order comes amid red flags raised by medical experts and epidemiologists about a possible exponential spread of the pandemic in West Bengal after reckless celebration of Durga Puja, the state's biggest festival, as was witnessed in Kerala after Onam.

The court passed the order on a PIL filed by a man named Sourav



Chatterjee. Advocate general Kishore Dutta submitted before the court a plan chalked out jointly by West Bengal and Kolkata police on crowd control. The bench ordered that

the guidelines listed in the plan be strictly followed, but noted with concern that the deployment of police for crowd control will not be commensurate with the crowds that

were expected to throng the pandals.

The court also voiced concern over large crowds collecting at various markets and malls in Kolkata and elsewhere in utter disregard for COVID-19 protocols like social distancing and wearing masks. Markets have been chock a block with buyers across the state over the last few days.

The same bench of the Calcutta High Court had Friday directed the community Durga Puja organisers in the state to spend 75 per cent of the Rs 50,000 grant given by the West Bengal government on procurement of COVID protection equipment and the rest on strengthening public-police bonding.

## Tripura-Mizoram border tension eases

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aizawl/Agartala, Oct 19: The fortnight-long tension along the Tripura-Mizoram borders eased after the Mizoram authority following the objection of Tripura government revoked the prohibitory order imposed along the inter-state borders, officials of both the state said Monday.

Late on Sunday evening Western Mizoram's Mamit district administration revoked the prohibitory order under section 144 Cr P that was clamped in Phuldungsei, Zampui and Zomuantlang villages on Friday in view of the commotion caused after proposed construction of a temple in the Tripura territory by an indigenous organisation.

Tripura Home Department's Additional Secretary Anindya Kumar Bhattacharjee in his October 17 strongly-worded letter to Mizoram Home Department's Deputy Secretary David H. Lalthangliana said that the Mamit District Magistrate erroneously included some Tripura territory too when he promulgated the prohibitory orders in the Mizoram bordering areas.

North Tripura district Superintendent of Police Bhanupada Chakraborty said that though the Mizoram authority revoked the prohibitory order, troopers of the Tripura State Rifles and police would remain at Phuldungsei village for some more time.





The odd-even scheme would be our last resort. If rest of the methods to curb the air pollution fails, we will think about its implementation this year

SMARTPHONE DANGERS

Cell phones have become integral to function for nearly everyone. Cellphones emit intermittent electromagnetic radiation (also referred to as Radio Frequency energy) and bright screen light, both these aspects have tremendous impact triggered from prolonged use



of the day quote

The Maha government must take a loan to provide relief to farmers affected by heavy rains

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | SENIOR BJP LEADER

Future will be shaped by societies that invest in science and innovation. These investments must be planned well in advance and cannot be done in a short-sighted manner

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

A decision on Haj 2021 will be taken after the Saudi Arabian government's final call on the pilgrimage and the national as well as international nCoV guidelines will have to be kept in mind to ensure the well-being of the pilgrims

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Tahir Hussain produced in court

New Delhi: A Delhi court Monday adjourned till November 10 the money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain.

BSP MLA, wife booked

New Delhi: The CBI has booked BSP MLA Vinay Shankar Tiwari and his wife Rita Tiwari in connection with an alleged bank fraud to the tune of Rs 754.25 crore involving a company, officials said Monday.

5 policemen held

Ramgarh (Jharkhand): Five policemen, including an assistant sub-inspector, were arrested in Jharkhand's Saraikela-Kharsanwa district for their alleged involvement in cattle theft, a senior officer said Sunday.

Militant killed

Srinagar: Security forces killed a militant after an encounter in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir Monday, police said. His identity is being ascertained, they said.

'Half of Indians may have had COVID-19 by Feb'

The Central government's sero survey claimed that around 14 per cent of the Indian population had been infected with nCoV until September

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 19: At least half of India's 1.3 billion people are likely to have been infected with the new coronavirus by next February, a member of a federal government committee tasked with providing projections said Monday.

India has so far reported 7.55 million cases of the coronavirus and is second only to the United States in terms of total infections. But COVID-19 infections are decreasing in India after a peak in mid-September, with 61,390 new cases reported on average each day, according to a Reuters tally.

"Our mathematical model estimates that around 30% of the population is currently infected and it could go up to 50% by February," Manindra Agrawal, a professor at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur and a committee member, told Reuters.

The committee's estimate for the current spread of the virus is much higher than the federal government's serological surveys, which showed that only around 14 per cent of the population had been infected, as of September. But Agrawal said serological surveys might not be able to get sampling absolutely correct because of the sheer size of the population that they were surveying.

"We have evolved a new model which explicitly takes into account unreported cases, so we can divide infected people into two categories - reported cases and infections that do not get reported," Agrawal said. The committee warned that their projections



would not hold up if precautions were not followed, and cases could spike by up to 2.6 million infections in a single month if measures such as social distancing and wearing masks were ignored.

Experts have warned that infections could rise in India as the holiday season nears, with celebrations for the Hindu festivals of Durga Puja and Diwali due this month and in mid-November, respectively.

India's cumulative COVID-19 positivity rate has remained below 8 per cent for four days, demonstrating that the rate of spread of infection is being effectively contained, the Union health ministry said Monday.

Meanwhile, in a shocking incident, six employees of the Delhi Commission for Women's 181 helpline have tested positive for COVID-19, the women panel said Monday.

The helpline operates from Naraina area where 36 counselors work, according to the DCW statement. Two of the six employees who have tested COVID-19 positive are supervisors, while four are helpline counselors, it said. All of them have been put under home isolation and the office has been thoroughly sanitised.

'Pak trying to push militants into Valley'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 19: As India enhanced its infiltration grid at Line of Control, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) held a meeting with Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen head Syed Salahuddin to push militants into Kashmir to carry out unrest in the valley, a top government source said.

Salahuddin and Saeed are Specially Designated 'Global Terrorist' by the US Department of State. To execute this, Pakistan's ISI held a high-level meeting with heads of terror organisations at Kotli October 4, 2020 and at Nikial October 7, 2020, the source said.

The meeting was attended by Syed Salahuddin and Hafiz Saeed, all launch pad commanders and guides of various tanzems. The source said that each tanzem has been allotted Rs 20 lakhs and an additional Rs 30 lakhs have been promised, if successful operations are conducted by them. It was also found that infiltration along the

Line of Control with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir has stopped substantially. The Line of Control is a de facto border between India and Pakistan in the region of Kashmir. Last year, there were 130 infiltrations that took place and this year 27 have been reported so far. It was also found that Border Action Team (BAT) actions have been activated at some launch pads near the Line of Control. A group of 80 terrorists have been seen at launch pads of Athmuqam, Dudhnial and Thandapani areas opposite Keren Sector. Presence of Pakistan Army Pakistan Army Special Service



Group (SSG) has been indicated for carrying out BAT action," source said in

A group of 10 terrorists opposite Tangdhar sector near Neelam Valley with Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists is planning for infiltration and they have also planned BAT action. Further, a group of 40 terrorists were found opposite Poonch area camping at Pakistan villages in Sujjan area having groups of Jaish-

e-Mohammed and Al Badar. Sources also stated that a group of 20 terrorists were spotted opposite Krishna Ghati camping at Madarpur and Nattar areas.

Another group of 35 terrorists was spotted opposite Bhimber Gali camping at the general area of Lanjot planning for infiltration. Presence of SSG personnel indicated the intention of BAT actions and also standoff fire at some locations.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Girls wearing face masks arrive at school that was reopened as part of Unlock 5 after remaining closed for months due to pandemic, in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

Delhi's air quality remains 'poor'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: Pollution levels in Delhi dipped slightly Monday but the air quality stayed in the 'poor' category, with government agencies saying the AQI was likely to slip to 'very poor' in the next few days due to a change in wind direction and a reduction in speed.

The city recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 244. It was 254 Sunday, 287 Saturday, 239 Friday and 315 Thursday, the worst since February 12 (AQI 320).

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor, SAFAR, said the AQI was likely to slip to 'very poor' category by Wednesday due to a change in wind direction and a reduction in the wind speed.



Expecting further deterioration in air quality in the coming days, the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) on Monday asked the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana governments to be ready to close thermal power plants that do not meet the standards laid down in 2015. In two separate letters, EPCA chief Bhure Lal asked the two states to review preparedness for closing thermal power plants and to inform the authority of this as well as steps that will be taken to ensure compliance with necessary shut-down during the peak winter period.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal requested Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to hold monthly meetings with the tge CMs of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to curb air pollution, saying there is a lack of political will at the level of the states to address the problem of stubble burning. In a virtual press briefing, he said the affected states have been unable to find a solution to stop stubble burning and prevent air pollution.

CAA to be implemented soon, says Nadda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Siliguri (WB), Oct 19: BJP national president JP Nadda Monday said the execution of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) has been delayed due to the pandemic and asserted that the law will be implemented soon.

Nadda, who was speaking at a meeting of social groups of north Bengal, accused the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal of indulging in 'divide and rule politics' in the state to serve the political interests of her party - the TMC, unlike BJP which 'works for the development of all'.

Various social groups of the region had requested Nadda to ensure early implementation of CAA as there is a vast population of refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan in north Bengal. Riding the wave of the local sentiment

for the National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship Amendment Bill (now CAA), the saffron party had made deep inroads in the region, once considered a BJP bastion. It had bagged seven out of the eight Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Assembly polls are due in the state in the first half of next year and the fight for power promises to be a tough one as Banerjee will seek to return as Chief Minister for the third straight time. Indicating that CAA would be a major plank of the BJP in the assembly polls, Nadda said BJP is committed to its implementation. The citizenship law has become a flashpoint in West Bengal since before its enactment in Parliament in 2019 with the ruling TMC opposing the contentious legislation tooth and nail and BJP pressing for its implementation.

Ballia accused sent to 14 days of judicial custody



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ballia (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 19: Dharendra Singh, the main accused in the Ballia incident in which a person was shot dead in a panchayat meeting Thursday, was sent on 14-day judicial custody by the CJM court Monday.

Dhirendra Singh was arrested by the Special Task Force in Lucknow Sunday and then taken to Ballia where he was produced before the court Monday after a medical examination.

Dhirendra Singh had shot dead Jai Prakash Pal over a dispute over allotment of ration shops. The murder took place in the presence of the sub-divisional magistrate and circle officer, both of whom were later suspended.

Ten people have been arrested in connection with the incident. BJP MLA Surendra Singh has been openly supporting the accused. He was pulled up for his behaviour by the party leadership Sunday.

Durga Puja in Delhi to go online; COVID test for priests planned

MOST DURGA PUJA COMMITTEES IN DELHI HAVE DECIDED NOT TO ALLOW ENTRY OF PEOPLE AND LIMIT PHYSICAL DARSHAN TO THEIR MEMBERS ONLY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 19: Online darshan, home delivery of prasad and COVID-19 test for priests and cooks are some of the unique measures that Durga Puja organisers in the national capital have come up with to safely host the festival in the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic.

Some organisers said they will rope in two priests to avoid any last-minute scrambling if the main priest gets infected with COVID-19, while others plan to maintain a record of visitors for easy contact-tracing.

The Chittaranjan Park Kali Mandir Society, which organises one of the biggest Durga puja festi-



tival in Delhi, has decided not to allow entry of general public to the temple premises this year due to COVID-19. It has tied up with a DTH

service provider and a local cable operator so that devotees can have a darshan of Durga idol from their houses. The temple society also has

plans to facilitate online darshan on its Facebook page and YouTube channel. Purbanchal Bangiyo Samiti, an umbrella body of 38 Durga puja committees in East Delhi, said only 10 members of each committee will be allowed to have darshan at a time and they have to register their entry to the pandal so that contact-tracing can be easy. "In view of the pandemic, Durga idol will be worshipped in 13 temples while 12 committees will organise only 'Kalash' puja," Samiti General Secretary Mrinal K Biswas said, adding, "We have also decided to hire two priests due to COVID-19. If the main priest gets infected, the other can perform the puja."

CORONA IS THE NEW 'MAHISHASURA'

In times of the pandemic, evil has attained a new face -- coronavirus. Hence, the Safdarjung Matri Mandir, an old puja committee in the national capital, has decided to install 'Coronasur' instead of Mahishasura in its toned down Durga Puja this year. "Every year we create a Mahishasura which the goddess Durga symbolically kills. But this year, we have replaced it with Coronasur," Sumit Guha, one of the organisers at the Safdarjung Matri Mandir, said. The puja committee has decided to do away with the tradition of a tall idol this year. In fact, it has unanimously decided against an idol itself. Guha said that a 20 feet tall poster of goddess Durga will be installed instead.

Delhi Durga Puja Charitable and Cultural Committee in Kashmiri Gate, which claims to be organising Durga puja in the city for 111 years, will conduct COVID-19 test on the six labourers engaged in building pandals. Mata

Mandir Sarbojanin Durga Samity will also not allow 'outsiders' and only committee members will be permitted to the puja. Chief coordinator Debashis Saha said devotees can have darshan on the committee's Facebook page.





Before being a buyer in the arms market, Iran has the ability to supply arms to other countries  
SAAEED KHATIBZADEH | IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

## SAUDI WOMAN IN GUINNESS BOOK FOR WORLD'S LARGEST COFFEE PAINTING

A Saudi artist, Ohud Abdullah Almalki, has created the world's "largest coffee painting", becoming the first woman from the country to achieve a record title single-handedly, the Guinness World Records announced Sunday



### of the day quote

I think the relationship of my father and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is incredible. You know what I saw at the reception that my father received in India a few months ago, was absolutely overwhelming



DONALD TRUMP JR | US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S SON

The other night, Trump said in one of his rallies, "we've turned the corner". Turn the corner? Things are getting worse. He continues to lie to us about the circumstances



JOE BIDEN | DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

It is the US that peddles arms and ammunition everywhere, uses military trade to serve geopolitical interests, and even openly interferes in the internal affairs of other countries,



ZHAO LIJIAN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

### SHORT TAKES

#### Kashmiri Pandits meet Trump Jr.

New York: A high-powered delegation of Kashmiri Pandits met Donald Trump Jr., and his partner Kimberly Guilfoyle, who is also a senior advisor of US President Donald Trump's re-election campaign. At the meeting in Long Island, New York, the delegation was led by eminent business and Indian community leader, Mohan Wanchoo, also a coordinator of the Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD). At this exclusive event, Wanchoo gave a short talk where he apprised the two dignitaries and their Republican Party staff members of the history of the Kashmiri Pandits.

#### 90 dead in Vietnam floods

Hanoi: At least 90 people have died, while 34 others were reported missing due to floods and landslides caused by the incessant rains in Vietnam over the last two weeks, disaster management authorities said Monday. In a statement, the Central Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control said that majority of the fatalities were reported in the provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam.

#### 2 killed, 3 hurt in Calif. shootings

San Francisco: At least two people were killed and three others, including a 13-year-old boy, injured in separate shootings in California's Oakland city, authorities said, adding the incidents were not related. The two fatal shootings happened within 90 minutes on Sunday, the East Bay Times newspaper said in a report. In the first, a 56-year-old man was shot in the city's 8300 block of International Boulevard after he got into a confrontation with another person, the police said.

#### Bahrain, Israel ink key deals

Manama: Bahrain and Israel signed a series of key agreements covering bilateral relations, agriculture, trade, civil aviation, telecommunications and financial services, state Bahrain News Agency (BNA) reported. Among the historic deals signed in Bahrain's capital Manama was a Joint Communiqué on Establishment of Diplomatic, Peaceful and Friendly Relations between the two countries, BNA said Sunday.

## Clueless Imran has to go, says Pak Oppn

THE PAKISTAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT HAS LAUNCHED A THREE-PHASED ANTI-GOVERNMENT MOVEMENT TO REMOVE THE IMRAN KHAN-LED PAKISTAN TEHREEK-E-INSAAF GOVERNMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Oct 19: Prime Minister Imran Khan is "incapable and clueless", and his government is worse than a dictatorship, Pakistan's Opposition leaders have said at the second rally of an alliance formed to oust the premier.

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance of 11 Opposition parties formed September 20, has launched a three-phased anti-government movement under an "action plan" to remove the Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

Under the plan a number of rallies, public meetings and demonstrations will be held across the country, before a "decisive long march" to Islamabad in January next year. The first of these rallies was held Friday in Gujranwala near Lahore.

"This incapable and clueless prime minister will have to go home," Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Sunday at the Bagh-e-Jinnah, which was packed with people including supporters and workers of the alliance's members.

History has proved that the biggest dictators could not survive and "what standing does this puppet have?" Zardari said targeting Prime Minister Khan and added that "this is not a new fight but this will be a decisive fight". The rally in Islamabad also



marked the 13th anniversary of the twin blasts in Karsaz that targeted the homecoming procession of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in 2007. The blast left around 200 people dead and several injured.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice-presidents Maryam Nawaz and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chairman Mehmood Achakzai and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman were among the leaders of opposition parties who attended the rally.

The PPP also invited Mohsin Dawar, who heads the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), to address the gathering at the Bagh-e-Jinnah.

Maryam Nawaz, daughter of exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, attacked the PTI government for declaring opposition leaders and her father as "traitors".

"When answers are demanded, you say we are traitors," said the PML-N vice-president.

Fatima Jinnah, the sister of Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was also declared a traitor; Maryam Nawaz told the gathering. Calling PM Khan a "coward", Maryam accused him of using the armed forces for his face-saving and declaring opponents as traitors only to save his skin and hide incompetence.

"Do not scare us (by declaring us) traitors," the PML-N vice-president said and added that "when you (Khan) are pressed for answers, you hide behind the armed forces".

"You bring the army into disrepute. You use them (army) to hide your failures. Who gave you this right?" Maryam asked.

"Remember this, one or two personalities are not the entire institution, but one or two people can defame the entire institution, and when they take cover of that institution, they cause heavy losses to that institution," she said.

"We cannot respect those who violate their oaths. Is Nawaz Sharif

#### Maryam Nawaz's husband 'arrested'

Karachi: Police have "arrested" Safdar Awan, the husband of Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, from the hotel they were staying in Karachi, hours after the PML-N vice-president lashed out at Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government at second power show of 11-party Opposition alliance People's Democratic Movement (PDM) which was attended by thousands of people. "Police broke my room door at the hotel I was staying at in Karachi and arrested Capt. Safdar," Maryam tweeted early Monday. So far no official announcement has been made regarding the arrest by the police. It is also not clear whether the Safdar's arrest has been made with regard to an FIR that was lodged Saturday at Brigade police station by (PTI) government representatives against Maryam, Safdar Awan and their "200 goons" for violating the "sanctity of Quaid's Mazar Under Quaid-e-Azam's Mazar Protection and Maintenance ordinance 1971".

wrong in saying that the army should not interfere in politics?" she asked.

## World struggles as nCoV caseload breaches 40mn

The actual worldwide tally of Covid-19 cases is likely to be far higher, as testing has been variable: Experts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 19: The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases across the planet has surpassed 40 million, but experts say that is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the true impact of the pandemic that has upended life and work around the world.

The milestone was hit Monday morning, according to Johns Hopkins University, which collates reports from around the world. The actual worldwide tally of Covid-19 cases is likely to be far higher, as testing has been variable, many people have had no symptoms and some governments have concealed the true number of cases. To date, more than 1.1 million confirmed virus deaths have been reported, although experts also believe that number is an undercount.

The US, India and Brazil are reporting by far the highest numbers of cases - 8.1 million, 7.5 million and 5.2 million respectively - although the global increase in recent weeks has been driven by a surge in Europe, which has seen over 240,000 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic so far.

Last week, the World Health Organization said Europe had a reported a record weekly high of nearly 700,000 cases and said the region was responsible for about a third of cases globally. Britain, France, Russia and Spain account for about half of all new cases in the region, and countries like Belgium and the Czech Republic are



facing more intense outbreaks now than they did in the spring.

WHO said the new measures being taken across Europe are "absolutely essential" in stopping COVID-19 from overwhelming its hospitals. Those include new requirements on mask-wearing in Italy and Switzerland, closing schools in Northern Ireland and the Czech Republic, closing restaurants and bars in Belgium, implementing a 9 p.m. curfew in France and having targeted limited lockdowns in parts of the UK.

The agency said several European cities could soon see their intensive care units overwhelmed and warned that governments and citizens should take all necessary measures to slow the spread of the virus, including bolstering testing and contact tracing, wearing face masks and following social distancing measures.

WHO had previously estimated about 1 in 10 of the world's population - about 780 million people - have been infected with Covid-19, more than 20 times the official number of cases. That suggests the vast majority of the world's population is still susceptible to the virus.

## 16 DEAD IN PAK AS LANDSLIDE HITS PASSENGER BUS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Islamabad, Oct 19: Sixteen people were killed when a passenger bus was hit by a landslide in Skardu district of Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan, a senior official said.

In a statement, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Skardu, Anas Iqbal the accident took place Sunday morning when the bus, which was en route to the district from Rawalpindi, was struck by the landslide, Xinhua news agency reported.

He added that everyone on board the bus was killed and their bodies were retrieved from the rubble. "The landslide occurred in a remote area, miles away from residential settlement, so there was no loss of life or property except for the passengers."

Sources from Skardu told Xinhua that the victims included women and children. The bodies have been shifted to a nearby hospital from where they will be handed over to their relatives, meanwhile the area is being cleared for traffic, the DC said.

Landslides are prevalent in the Gilgit-Baltistan region owing to its mountainous terrain. Talking to Xinhua about the incident, Rashid Bilal, spokesperson of Pakistan meteorological department said that lately there have not been enough rains in the area to cause landslides.

The possible reason of the accident might be the slow melt-down of the ice in the affected area as the region is receiving good sunlight due to clear weather, he added.



A male deer barks in front of autumn foliage during the annual rutting or breeding season in Richmond Park, London

## INDIAN-AMERICAN GIRL WINS \$25K FOR POTENTIAL COVID TREATMENT

AGENCIES

Texas, Oct 19: An Indian-American teenager has been awarded \$25,000 for her research to find a treatment for the coronavirus. Anika Chebroli, a 14-year-old from Texas, has just won the 2020 3M Young Scientist Challenge for her work on a potential drug to treat Covid-19, reports CNN.

The schoolgirl has developed a molecule that can bind to a certain protein of the coronavirus and prevent it from functioning.

"I developed this molecule that can bind to a certain protein on the SARS-CoV-2 virus. By binding to it, this protein will stop the functioning," the eight-grader said.

The schoolgirl has developed a molecule that can bind to a certain protein of the coronavirus and prevent it from functioning

"It's exciting. I'm still trying to process everything," she said of her big win. Anika wasn't always focused on the coronavirus. When the year began, she was working on ways to fight the seasonal flu. Her plans changed when the pandemic hit. In order to find a potential drug for the highly infectious virus, the 14-year-old used multiple computer programmes to identify how and

where the molecule would bind to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Anika used in-silico methodology for drug discovery to find a molecule that can selectively bind to the Spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in an attempt to find a cure for the Covid-19 pandemic. Anika, who hopes to be a medical researcher and professor one day, said that her grandfather inspired her interest in science.

"My grandpa, when I was younger, always used to push me toward science. He was actually a chemistry professor, and he used to always tell me to learn the periodic table of the elements and learn all these things about science and over time I just grew to love it," she said.

## Indian Americans hold GOTV rally in support of Biden, Harris

THERE ARE OVER 1.3 MILLION INDIAN AMERICANS IN THE BATTLEGROUND STATES OF WISCONSIN, PENNSYLVANIA, MICHIGAN, FLORIDA AND NEVADA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Oct 19: Indian Americans held a Get out the Vote (GOTV) rally in the US state of California in support of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris for the November 3 elections.

For the future of this and the next generation of Indian Americans and "fulfill our" American dream, it is very important to vote for Biden and Harris this election, eminent hotelier Ashok Bhatt said at the GOTV rally organised Sunday by entrepreneur

couple Ajay and Vinita Bhutoria. Electing Harris as the first woman vice president of the country is history in the making, Bhatt said.

"It's a pride and proud both for all of us," he said at the event that was attended by business owners, teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, elected officials, community leaders, and students.

There are over 1.3 million Indian Americans in the battleground states of Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida and Nevada.

"I don't think anybody's debating this one is probably the most important election of our lifetime... there's so much at stake. All at once.



Right now, in our country, we are facing front and centre at least four crises that have converged," Bhutoria said.

He said that the country is currently facing public health crisis, economic crisis, racial injustice and climate change.

"It is important for all of us to vote for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, especially I appeal to all Indo-Americans in battleground states to vote for Biden, Harris," he said. Later the participants of the rally also did phone banking and outreach in battleground states.

Yogi Chugh, executive managing director of the S5 Advisory, said that the South Asian community needs to do everything it can for a Biden-Harris victory.

"It's time to put middle class families first and focus on our economy in which no one is left behind," he said. "We need a president who will unite country, who care more about humanity and bring out our best - not one who stokes division and brings out our worst," said Prakash Thapa, a Nepali American small business owner.

Mahesh Nihalani, senior community leader, urged the Indian Americans to support Biden and Harris on the presidential ticket, adding that the two leaders are strong proponents of India-US relationship. "Abki Baar Biden Sarkaar," he said.



# business

## of the day quote

There may be an impact on the deficit, but if you look at the world economy, people have gone up to 20% of the economy for the Covid relief measures. Our budgetary support to the Covid relief measures is not more than 1.5%



**SANJAY AGGARWAL** | PRESIDENT, PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

India is a significant market for Atlassian, one that's teeming with an extraordinary developer community and a vibrant startup ecosystem that we plan to tap into



**DINESH AJMERA** | SITE LEAD AND HEAD OF ENGINEERING (BANGALORE), ATLASSIAN

The management of the (global financial) crisis, the priority to save lives, had an impact on economic activity that was compounded by the shock of oil prices, but I would say, relatively speaking...the outcome in 2020 is acceptable



**JIHAD AZOUR** | DIRECTOR, MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA DEPT., IMF

## SHORT TAKES

### BookMyShow, upGrad join hands

**New Delhi:** Online ticket booking platform BookMyShow Monday said it has partnered with online higher education company upGrad to enable users to opt for their preferred upskilling, career advancement courses and entertainment on a single platform. This unique collaboration aims to build and offer quality education, career-oriented and upskilling formats to millennials and young working professionals across metros along with tier-II cities and beyond, where BookMyShow has a strong consumer connect across its plethora of entertainment offerings, a statement said.

### AI bid deadline may be extended

**New Delhi:** To attract potential suitors, the government will ease asset valuation norms for Air India by allowing bidders to put in offers on an enterprise value basis, a source said Monday. To begin with, the government is likely to further extend the deadline for putting in a preliminary expression of interest for the loss-making national carrier to December 15.

### Palve appointed Senior MD

**Mumbai:** Essar Capital Ltd, the investment manager of Essar Global Fund Ltd, has announced the appointment of Sanjay Palve as company's Senior Managing Director. Palve will play a key strategic role in managing the banking and finance functions of Essar Capital's investment portfolio across the sectors of energy, infrastructure, metals & mining, and services & technology.

### OMCs hold fuel prices

**New Delhi:** Oil marketing companies (OMCs) kept petrol and diesel prices unchanged across the four metros Monday as global oil prices remained subdued and product prices remained steady. Petrol prices have been unchanged for 27 days at a stretch while diesel prices were the same for the 17 consecutive days. Price of petrol in the national capital was at ₹81.06 per litre. In Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was sold for ₹87.74, ₹84.14 and ₹82.59 per litre, respectively.



As the process of unlocking started from June onwards in a phased manner, activities in construction and various projects have picked up and the demand in the domestic steel market has surged

**PK RATH** | CHAIRMAN, RINL

### COVID GIVES PUSH TO INNOVATIONS: OLA

Innovations in urban mobility and transportation business got a push during the COVID-19 pandemic with a move towards EVs and subscription-based ownership models, said Ola co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal



## 'Govt must not neglect bank recap despite pandemic'

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Oct 19:** India is neglecting bank recapitalisation as it focuses on debt moratoriums and interest waivers for borrowers amid the COVID-19 pandemic, former RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya said Monday.

Indian banks are saddled with over \$120 billion in bad debt, and in severely stressed conditions the bad-loan ratio could nearly double by March, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projections. Restoring banks' capital is critical for aiding a meaningful recovery, but there has been little focus on the matter, Acharya said.

"This lack of focus is tantamount to kicking the can down the road and jettisoning financial stability for short-term gains," said Acharya, who recently wrote a book titled the "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India".

"This repeated mistake has prevented India from recovering well from adverse shocks," Acharya said. His comments came weeks after India offered to waive the compounded interest component on all loans up to 20 million rupees following a legal challenge to the terms of a six-month moratorium.

Designing moratoria and forgiveness like farm-loan waivers that favour borrowers excessively in the short term has been detrimental to a sound recovery of credit growth in the medium term,



If the government doesn't wish to recapitalise banks in a timely manner, then it must ensure that the contours of debt moratoria and forgiveness package aren't so generous that banks won't be in a position to lend well during the recovery phase, which is likely around the corner

**VIRAL ACHARYA** | FORMER DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

Acharya said.

Though the latest one-time restructuring package has been finetuned to ensure it cannot be misused, it still has a little bit of a "band-aid and short-termism" approach to it, he said.

Funds to provide for the losses that would be incurred through restructuring should be set aside so that banks do not strangle growth as the economy begins to recover after the pandemic.

"If the government doesn't wish

to recapitalise banks in a timely manner, then it must ensure that the contours of debt moratoria and forgiveness package aren't so generous that banks won't be in a position to lend well during the recovery phase, which is likely around the corner," Acharya said.

"It would be good to learn from the past mistakes and start the work of repairing bank balance sheets at the same time as giving a soft landing to bank borrowers and the real economy.

### CIL coal supply to power sector drops 10% in H1 FY21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** The supply of coal by state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) to the power sector dropped by 10% to 197.89 million tonnes (MT) in the first half of the ongoing fiscal.

Coal India had supplied 219.85 MT of coal in the April-September period of the previous fiscal, according to official data.

However, the supply of fuel by the coal behemoth to the power sector increased by 22.4 per cent to 35.74 million tonnes (MT) in September compared to 29.20 MT in the corresponding month of previous fiscal.

The country's power consumption registered a growth of 11.45% to 55.37 billion units (BU) in the first half of October this year, mainly driven by buoyancy in industrial and commercial activities.



The government had imposed nationwide lockdown March 25 to contain the spread of COVID-19. Power consumption started declining from March onwards due to fewer economic activities in the country. The COVID-19 situation affected power consumption for six months in a row from March to August this year.

## 8 state-run cos asked to consider buybacks

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** The Union government has asked at least eight state-run companies to consider share buybacks in the fiscal year that runs through March 2021, two government officials said, as New Delhi scours for ways of raising funds to rein in its fiscal deficit.

The firms asked include miner Coal India, power utility NTPC minerals producer NMDC and Engineers India Ltd, said one of the sources, who sought anonymity as the discussions are private.

"Buyback is an important tool in our strategy and it helps in building market price," added the second official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

India is unlikely to be anywhere near its fiscal deficit target of 3.5% of GDP for 2020/21 as coronavirus curbs hit tax collections and delayed efforts to privatise energy firm Bharat Petroleum Corp and flag carrier Air India.

In February, the government had set itself a target of raising more than \$27 billion from privatisations and sale of minority stakes in state-owned companies this fiscal year.

However, some companies, particularly in the oil sector, may not be able to do buybacks, the sources warned, as the government's stake is just sufficient to ensure its position as a majority holder.

"The government stake in these companies is about 51% and there is a competing claim on their cash in the form of huge capex com-



India is unlikely to be anywhere near its fiscal deficit target of 3.5% of GDP for 2020/21 as coronavirus curbs hit tax collections

mitment and dividend payments," the second source said.

But for those with sufficient funds and capital expenditure below target for this fiscal year, the government could seek approval from the cabinet to prune its stake to less than 51% in individual firms without giving up control, the official said.

India had tasked 23 state-run companies with capital expenditure of 1.65 trillion rupees (\$22.5 billion) this fiscal year, but some firms face spending challenges as the world's second most populous nation adds virus infections.

The government had asked state-run firms to either meet their targets for capital expenditure or "reward the shareholder in the form of a dividend," the officials added.

## L&T LOWEST BIDDER FOR BULLET TRAIN PROJECT



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has emerged as the lowest bidder for constructing the 237km length of the Bullet Train Project under the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor.

The financial bids for the design and construction of 237km length of viaduct for 508km of Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor were opened Monday and L&T emerged as the lowest bidder, said a statement from the Indian Railways.

A total of three bidders involving seven major infrastructural companies had participated in the competitive bidding. The other bidders were - Afcons Infrastructure Limited, IRCON International Limited, JMC Projects India Ltd, Consortium and NCC Limited, Tata Project Ltd, J. Kumar Infra Projects Ltd, and HSR Consortium. The National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRL) had in-

vited bids for the project which is financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) March 15, 2019. The technical bids for this tender were opened September 23, 2020 and in less than one month, the financial bids have also been opened after rigorous evaluation of the technical bids.

This tender covers about 47 per cent of the total alignment of 508 km, between Vapi (Zaroli Village on Maharashtra-Gujarat Border) and Vadodara in the state of Gujarat and is the largest package under the project. This includes four stations namely Vapi, Billimora, Surat and Bharuch, and Surat Depot.

## Jio tops in 4G speed chart in September: TRAI

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** Reliance Jio continues to lead in the average 4G download speed chart published by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for September, 2020.

Jio achieved 19.3 Mbps average download speed in the month of September, witnessing an improvement from 15.9 Mbps in August, 2020. Reliance Jio has been the fastest 4G operator for the last three consecutive years with highest average download speed every month.

Performance of Bharti Airtel improved marginally in September to 7.5 Mbps from 7.0 Mbps in August, according to the data published by TRAI.

Though Vodafone and Idea Cellular have merged their businesses, TRAI publishes their network performance separately. Vodafone network registered 7.9 Mbps average download speed in September, a marginal improvement from 7.8 Mbps in August. Idea also registered an improvement in average download speed from 8.3 Mbps in the month of August to 8.6 Mbps in September.

On average 4G upload speed chart, Vodafone topped with 6.5 Mbps in September, an improvement from 6.2 Mbps in the month of August. Idea registered 6.4 Mbps average upload speed in September, while both Airtel and Jio achieved the same average upload speed of 3.5Mbps.

## China's economy grows 4.9% in Q3

The country's recovery has so far put it on track to be the only major economy expanding this year, according to IMF forecasts

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Beijing, Oct 19:** China's economy grew 4.9% on-year in the third quarter, sustaining its rebound from bruising virus lockdowns and moving closer to pre-pandemic levels, official data showed Monday. The world's second-largest economy grew slightly below expectations in the July-September period, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed, while it cautioned of uncertainty ahead as "the international environment is still complicated".

The country's recovery has so far put it on track to be the only major economy expanding this year, according to International Monetary Fund forecasts, while nations around the world continue to struggle with lockdowns and new waves of infections.

Analysts polled by AFP earlier pegged third-quarter growth in China, where the coronavirus first surfaced, at 5.2% from a year ago, up from the second quarter's 3.2% rise.

China's Communist leadership has hailed its handling of the virus, giving experimental vaccines to



hundreds of thousands of its citizens as it seeks to reframe the pandemic's origin story.

People in China are back out shopping, travelling and eating - in stark contrast to many other parts of the world.

But long-term fears over jobs and a potential virus rebound in China are weighing on consumer sentiment, despite government attempts to reignite domestic demand.

On Monday, NBS data showed retail sales grew faster than expected in September at 3.3%, up from 0.5% growth on-year the month before.

But this still lagged behind industrial output growth, which came in stronger than expected at 6.9% from a year ago last month.

Meanwhile, the urban unemployment rate dipped further to 5.4% in September, although fixed-asset investment growth turned positive for the first time in 2020.

## KAPIL WADHAWAN OFFERS ₹43K cr FAMILY ASSETS

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** The jailed promoter of crisis-hit mortgage lender DHFL, Kapil Wadhawan, has offered his personal and family properties, which he claims are worth ₹43,000 crore, for repayment of outstanding loans of lenders to the company. Wadhawan wrote to RBI-appointed administrator R Subramaniakumar



October 17 saying his offer would ensure maximum value for the assets that have been put on the block to repay loans.

Currently under judicial custody, Wadhawan has proposed to the transfer of the right, title and interest in various projects which form part of the real estate portfolio of his family to enable proper and complete resolution of DHFL and to maximise the value of the properties. The valuation of these projects including Juhu Galli project and Irla project are about ₹43,879 crore that to a 15 per cent lesser market value, the letter dated October 17 said.

Wadhawan has mentioned that after the IL&FS crisis in September 2018, not only DHFL but all the NBFCs face major financial crisis and the company took various steps and repaid ₹44,000 crore of liabilities by monetising DHFL's assets such as Aadhaar housing finance Ltd, Avanse Financial, DHFL Pramerica Asset Managers and DHFL Pramerica Trustee Ltd.

## 1 IN 3 CALL CENTRES TO PERMANENTLY SWITCH TO WFH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** Signalling the future of work in the pandemic times, nearly one in three call centres (27%) in India will switch permanently to work from home as a viable long-term strategy, a new report said Monday. Amid the WFH strategy, 53% businesses also reported a drop in productivity of call centre agents.

Some of the challenges listed were internet connectivity, telecom issues, practical constraints such as lack of privacy, space, noise cancellation, lack of desktops and laptops, according to the study by on-demand cloud communication and telephony solutions provider Ozonetel.

"The pandemic has made con-



tact centres look at the services that they provide and how they provide it," said Chaitanya Chokkareddy, Chief Innovation

Officer, Ozonetel. "At the start of the lockdown in March, we promptly assisted many of our clients to move their agents

Some of the challenges listed were internet connectivity, telecom issues, practical constraints such as lack of privacy, space, noise cancellation, lack of desktops and laptops

Nearly 71% of call centre agents mentioned internet connectivity as the biggest barriers to agent productivity, followed by telecom issues by 42%

55% call centres are letting agents opt for work from home, while 16% are not opening offices, and keeping work from home mandatory

Nearly 38% call centres said they will create a robust work-from-home process

to a work from home mode to help with business continuity plan very quickly," he added.

Nearly 71% of call centre agents

mentioned internet connectivity as the biggest barriers to agent productivity, followed by telecom issues by 42%.

The study found that while 61% call centre agents were happy with work from structure initially, gradually their motivation levels dropped.

In spite of all challenges, most companies continue to realise the risk that commute and working from office pose. 55% call centres are letting agents opt for work from home, while 16% are not opening offices, and keeping work from home mandatory.

Many call centres have seen the value in creating a robust work from home process even if they do not switch to work from home permanently, or if they are still un-

decided. Nearly 38% call centres said they will create a robust work-from-home process.

"We have analysed various metrics to determine and understand trends in customer experience as well as agent efficiency as call centres switch to work from home," Chaitanya said.

The study was done on 50 organisations to uncover the state of the call centre agents during Covid-19 lockdown.

Many of the productivity challenges that call center agents face can be solved when provided with better hardware such as better handsets and headsets, laptops or desktops, direct telecom DID numbers and reimbursement of Wi-Fi charges, the findings showed.



# Bowlers, Buttler help RR maul CSK

# KXIP run into mighty Delhi Capitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 19: The nail-biting win over defending champions Mumbai Indians was certainly a morale-lifter but the inconsistent Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) have another tough battle at hand when they take on table leaders Delhi Capitals in an IPL match here Tuesday.

Having lost two tight games they should have won at the start of the season, KXIP managed to get on the right side of the results in the last couple of games, although it was too close for comfort by their own admission.

Needing seven off the last two overs with nine wickets in hand, they should have wrapped the game against RCB much before the last ball and even in the IPL's first double Super Over against Mumbai Indians Sunday night, the KL Rahul-led side could have closed it out in regulation time.

Death bowling and the form of star



player Glenn Maxwell in a shaky middle-order remain a concern for a team that needs to win their remaining five games to make the play-offs.

The fact that KXIP have struggled this season despite having tournament's top two run-getters in openers Rahul (525) and Mayank Agarwal (393) best sums up their erratic run.

On a positive note, the successful return of Chris Gayle has reduced the burden on the shoulders of the star openers, especially al-



lowing Rahul to play more freely. Nicholas Pooran has shown his lethality time and again but is yet to play a match-winning knock and the pressure is increasing on Maxwell the batsman, who is proving to be more useful as a spinner operating in the powerplay.

However, the team is likely to stick to him in the game against Delhi Capitals. Delhi are clearly the team to be beat in the tournament and have gained in confidence with

a close win against Chennai Super Kings Saturday night.

While Prithvi Shaw needs to be back among the runs after a couple of ducks, his opening partner Shikhar Dhawan elevating his game bodes well for the team that has won seven out of the nine matches it has played.

Azar Patel has shown his utility not just with the ball but also with the bat. With an envious bowling line-up, Delhi have shown they can defend even below-par totals.

The match went into a Super Over last time the two teams met and more than Delhi, KXIP will be hoping that it doesn't come to that again.



(From L): Shreyas Gopal celebrates a wicket; Jos Buttler (R) and Steve Smith congratulate each other after completing 50 runs of their partnership

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 19: Rajasthan Royals (RR) rode on a splendid bowling show and a magnificent innings by Jos Buttler (70 n o, 48b, 7x4, 2x6) to outclass three-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by seven wickets in their IPL game here, Monday.

RR first restricted CSK to a modest 125/5 before Buttler and skipper Steve Smith's (26 n o) 98-run unbroken fourth wicket partnership took them there. They completed the chase with 2.3 overs to spare.

Chasing only 126, RR had to deal with some early hiccups as wonderful spells from Deepak Chahar (2/18) and Josh Hazlewood (1/19) reduced RR to 28/3 in 4.3 overs. However, Smith and Buttler cautiously approached towards the target before the Englishman raising the ante. Smith played second fiddle to Buttler.

Earlier opting to bat, CSK never got going and lacked the fire power to put up a decent score after being reduced to 56/4 in 10 overs.

Opening the batting again, Sam Curran made 22 off 25 balls before being dismissed by Gopal. Ravindra Jadeja top-scored for CSK with a 30-ball unbeaten 35 and skipper MS Dhoni made a run-a-ball 28 while adding 51 runs for the fifth wicket.

Jofra Archer (1/20) was terrific with the new ball but he would be disappointed with his outing on the field. Besides Archer, the spin duo of Shreyas Gopal (1/14) and Rahul Tewatia (1/18) were economical in the middle overs, while young Kartik Tyagi (1/35) too was impressive.

**BRIEF SCORES:** CSK 125/5 (Ravindra Jadeja 35 n o, MS Dhoni 28; Shreyas Gopal 1/14) lost to RR 126/3 (Jos Buttler 70 n o; Deepak Chahar 2/18) by seven wickets.

## Dhoni 1st to play 200 IPL matches

Abu Dhabi: CSK's match against RR here Monday marked the 200th appearance of MS Dhoni in IPL but, as is his wont, the skipper played down the milestone and said he was oblivious to it. "You spoke about it and that's how I got to know," CSK skipper Dhoni told presenter Danny Morrison at the toss. The two-time World Cup winning captain added, "It feels good but at the same time it's just a number. I feel fortunate to play for such a long time without many injuries." Dhoni has been the captain of CSK since the inception of IPL in 2008. When the franchise was suspended for two years, the veteran represented Rising Pune Supergiant. Earlier this month, he overtook Suresh Raina (194 games) to become the player with most appearances.

## India eves in Asian Chess quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 19: The top-seeded Indian women recorded three wins Monday to finish on top in the Swiss system preliminaries and qualify for the quarterfinals of Asian Online Nations (Regions) Cup Team Championship.

They will face Kyrgyzstan in the last eight after topping the preliminary phase with 16 match points ahead of the Philippines (13) and Iran (13).

On a good day for the Indians, they beat the Philippines 3-1 in round seven, Kazakhstan 2.5-1.5 in the eighth round before edging out Vietnam 2.5-1.5 in the ninth and final round.

Against the Philippines, Odisha star Padmini Rout on the second board, settled for draws. Overall, R Vaishali performed very well for the top-seeded Indians with 6.5 points from nine games while Mary Ann Gomes contributed five points.

## Spurs squander 3-goal advantage

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 19: Tottenham were transformed by Gareth Bale's homecoming, just not in the way that Jose Mourinho had imagined.

Cruising 3-0 when Bale came off the bench in the 72nd minute against West Ham, Tottenham incredibly collapsed in a game they had been in control of to draw 3-3 in the Premier League Sunday.

It was with almost the last kick of the game that Manuel Lanzini blasted a shot from distance into the roof of the net to snatch a point that seemed extremely unlikely when Son Heung-min scored in the first minute and Harry Kane netted twice by the 16th minute.

Agonizingly for Bale, after Fabian Balbuena's header in the 82nd and Davinson Sanchez's own-goal three minutes later, the on-loan forward from Real Madrid had a golden chance to score Tottenham's fourth.

Released by Kane, Bale sent Angelo Ogbonna sliding to the turf as he drilled into the penalty area but managed to drag a shot wide.

Rather than any joy for Bale on



Manuel Lanzini, with bare body, celebrates West Ham's equaliser

his return to Tottenham after seven years, it was a player brought on even later than the Welshman who ended up celebrating. It seemed unimaginable in the first half that the game would end with Lanzini ripping off his shirt and the visiting players piling on top of each other with West Ham manager David Moyes charging onto the pitch deliriously.

It was the second straight league game at home where Tottenham had thrown away a winning position after being held 1-1 by Newcastle three weeks ago after conceding a penalty. But that was followed by a League Cup win over Chelsea, a 7-2 rout of Maccabi Haifa in the Europa League and 6-1 dismantling of Manchester United before the international break.

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