

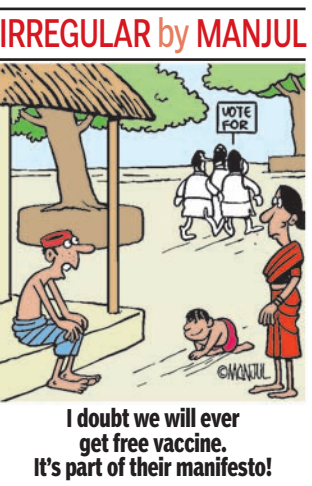


**SCATHING ATTACK**  
Actor Kangana Ranaut says streaming apps are like porn sites as they show explicit content  
**LEISURE P2**

**RIDERS ON THE STORM**  
Flood-hit Hyd witnesses a unique relief op as horse riders come forward as saviours  
**TWO STATES P7**



**VOTERS COMPROMISED**  
The FBI has accused Iran of being behind emails sent to Democratic voters intimidating them into voting for Trump  
**INTERNATIONAL P10**



IRREGULAR by MANJUL

I doubt we will ever get free vaccine. It's part of their manifesto!

## Give votes, get vaccines

**Bihar BJP Manifesto:** This is the first time that a vaccine, especially one that is in the works, is part of an election manifesto

**AGENCIES**  
Patna, Oct 22: BJP's "free coronavirus vaccination for all" promise in Bihar ahead of next week's election has become hugely controversial with the ruling party fending off allegations of an "appalling" attempt to use the vaccine for its political agenda.  
"As soon as a COVID-19 vaccine is available for production at a mass scale, every person in Bihar will get free vaccination. This is the first promise mentioned in our poll manifesto," Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Thursday, announcing the BJP's manifesto for the Bihar election.  
"What about non-BJP ruled states? Indians who didn't vote BJP will not get free Covid vaccine?" - Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) questioned.  
Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Chaubey faced the question in Bihar. "The corona vaccine is being made across the world. When it is ready, we have prepared an elaborate plan on distributing the vaccine, who will be given preference etc... Every state will



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman releases party manifesto ahead of the Bihar Assembly Elections, in Patna, Thursday

be given free coronavirus vaccine," the minister told reporters.  
His clarification failed to cork the deluge of criticism on social media, with some using the hashtag #vaccine-electionism.  
Congress MP and former union minister Shashi Tharoor tweeted: "Tum mujhe vote do main tumhe vaccine (Give me votes, I will give you vaccine)... what appalling cynicism! Will the Election Commission rap her and her shameless government on the knuckles?"  
National Conference leader Omar Abdullah called it blatant populism. "Will BJP be paying for these vaccines from the party treasury? If it's coming from the government treasury then how can Bihar get free vaccines while the rest of the country has to pay? There is so much wrong with this bla-

**Refer to poll schedule: Rahul**  
**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday took a swipe at the BJP for promising free COVID-19 vaccine in its Bihar poll manifesto, saying one has to refer to the state-wise election schedule to know when one will have access to vaccine. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday released the BJP manifesto for the Bihar assembly polls which promised free COVID-19 vaccine once it has been cleared by the ICMR. "GOI just announced India's Covid access strategy. Kindly refer to the state-wise election schedule to know when you will get it, along with a hoard of false promises," Gandhi said on Twitter.  
"Carrying the tagline 'BJP hai to bharosa hai', the party drew heavily upon the trust enjoyed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi among the masses by virtue of pro-people measures like the Jan Dhan scheme and the Ujjwala Yojana.

**SHORT TAKES**

**Facebook, Twitter summoned by Parl**

**New Delhi:** Social media giants Facebook and Twitter have been issued summons by a joint committee of Parliament on the issue of protection of data and its privacy, sources said Thursday. Representatives of Facebook India have been asked to appear on Friday before the Joint Committee on the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, chaired by BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi, while Twitter officials are required to appear October 28, as per the notice issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

**Anti-tank missile passes final test**

**New Delhi:** India Thursday successfully carried out the final user trial of the third-generation anti-tank guided missile Nag at Pokhran desert in Rajasthan, in a significant milestone that paves the way for deployment of the weapon in strategically sensitive sectors, officials said. The missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to engage highly fortified enemy tanks in day and night conditions. "The missile has fire and forget and top attack capabilities with passive homing guidance to defeat all MBTs equipped with composite and reactive armour," an official said.

**Barring tourists, govt allows all to travel to India**

**NEW DELHI, Oct 22:** The government Thursday decided to restore with immediate effect all existing visas, except electronic, tourist and medical categories, almost eight months after their suspension following the coronavirus outbreak and subsequent imposition of a nationwide lockdown.  
The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) also announced giving permission to all Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Person of Indian Origin (PIO) card holders and all other foreign nationals to visit India for any purpose, except on a tourist visa.  
The move will enable foreign nationals to come to India for various purposes such as business, conferences, employment, studies and research.

**FILLIP TO NAVY**



INS Kavaratti parked at Naval Dockyard during its commissioning into the Indian Navy, in Visakhapatnam, Thursday

**Doubts over plasma efficacy**

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** Months after convalescent plasma (CP) therapy for serious Covid patients began in the state, serious doubts over its efficacy have come to the fore.  
The State Health Department Thursday said that it has received no formal communication from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to discontinue Plasma Therapy.  
The response from the state health department came after the ICMR recently admitted lesser effect of the therapy on critical Covid-19 patients and an announcement of the apex government research



body to discontinue the therapy.  
On the other hand, officials of the department also claimed that there was no order for discontinuing Ramdesivir which is also said to have showed lesser efficacy in the treatment of the disease.

The State government had launched several Plasma Banks to boost the treatment of critical patients in the state with the help of the plasma of the COVID cured persons.  
The plasma was extracted from cured persons because of it developing antibodies against the viral disease. However, ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava recently said that there had been discussions on discontinuing Plasma Therapy for treatment of COVID 19 for serious patients.  
The lower efficacy of Plasma Therapy and Ramdesivir is surely a setback in the treatment of COVID-19 amid aged and critical patients.

**State machinery used for campaigning: Cong**

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** Leaders from Odisha Congress Thursday accused the ruling BJD of using government machineries for bypoll campaigns and other party-related works.  
Suresh Routray alleged that use of money and muscle power is also seen in Tirtol and Balasore where the bypolls are scheduled to be held next month.  
"As the election campaigns gather pace, government officials are leaving no stones unturned to ensure that they extend their helping hand to the party in power. Many government officials are now seen engaged in party works during the bypolls in Tirtol and Balasore," he said.  
"The Teshsildars, sub collectors and several other officials are now being roped in for party works. BJD workers are distributing money to the voters during their campaign. They are not even adhering to COVID guidelines during the campaign. They are trying to win the elections with money and muscle power."  
The veteran Congress leader also said that he visited Tirtol and found people to be aware. "I can say that even by taking money from rival parties, they would vote for BJD," he said.  
BJP had earlier accused power utility companies in the state and other government departments of working for the political parties



**As election campaigns gather pace, government officials are extending a helping hand to the party in power**  
SURESH ROURAY | CONGRESS LEADER

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	40558.49 ↓ 148.82
NIFTY	11896.50 ↓ 41.20
DOLLAR	73.86 ↓ ₹0.09
EURO	87.33 ↓ ₹0.46
GOLD	₹50,660 ↓ ₹673
SILVER	₹62,268 ↓ ₹1361

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	26.6°C	27.2°C
TEMP MIN	24.6°C	22.6°C
Humidity	98%	98%
Rainfall	3.2mm	4mm

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky

**Centre warns Twitter for showing Leh in China**

OUR TEAMS HAVE WORKED SWIFTLY TO INVESTIGATE AND RESOLVE THE CONCERNED GEOTAG ISSUE: TWITTER

**New Delhi, Oct 22:** Taking strong exception to misrepresentation of the India map, the government has written a stern letter to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, saying that any attempt by the platform to disrespect the sovereignty and integrity of India, which is also reflected by the maps, is totally unacceptable.  
The same is also unlawful, Ajay Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT, said in the letter, according to IT Ministry sources.  
The government issued the letter after Twitter wrongly showed



Jammu and Kashmir as part of China. It asked Twitter to respect the sensitivities of Indian citizens, and has also made it clear that any attempt by Twitter to disrespect sovereignty and integrity of India, which is also reflected by the maps, is totally unacceptable and unlawful.  
Twitter later said that it quickly resolved the "technical issue".  
"We became aware of this technical issue Sunday, and understand and respect the sensitivities around it. The teams have worked swiftly to investigate and resolve the concerned geotag issue," a Twitter spokesperson said earlier this week.  
The issue was first brought to attention by national security analyst Nitin Gokhale after he went live on Twitter from the Hall of Fame, a war memorial at Leh.

Such attempts not only bring disrepute to Twitter but also raise questions on its neutrality and fairness  
AJAY SAWHNEY | SECRETARY, ELECTRONICS AND IT DEPARTMENT  
He discovered that the location of the war memorial at Leh was shown as "Jammu and Kashmir, People's Republic of China."  
The IT Secretary in his letter reminded Twitter that Leh is the headquarter of the Union Territory of Ladakh and both Ladakh as well as Jammu and Kashmir are integral and inalienable parts of India governed by the Constitution of India.  
He had asked Twitter to respect

the sensitivities of Indian citizens.  
The IT Secretary mentioned that any attempt to misrepresent the country's map not only brings disrepute to Twitter but also raises questions about its neutrality and fairness as an intermediary.  
Such attempts not only bring disrepute to twitter but also raises question on its neutrality, fairness, Ajay Sawhney, secretary of the electronics and IT department wrote to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey.

when the Model Code of Conduct is in place. The party has also made multiple submissions before the Election Commission (EC) of violation of the election rules and demanded its intervention.  
BJD on the other hand said that it campaigns with their MLAs, senior leaders and ministers to woo voters. The party has refuted all allegations made by rival parties as baseless.  
The bypolls to Balasore and Tirtol Assembly Constituencies of Odisha are to be held on November 3, according to a notification issued by ECI.



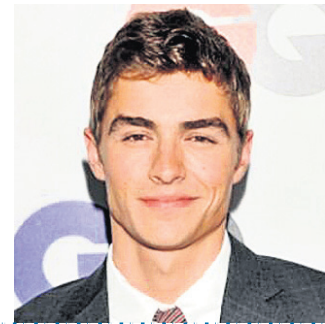


## MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY WAS SEXUALLY ABUSED AS A TEEN

Hollywood star Matthew McConaughey has revealed that he was a victim of sexual abuse several times during his teenage years. In his new memoir, *Greenlights*, McConaughey opened up about being sexually abused, reports variety.com.

## 'JOB IN VIDEO STORE MADE ME WANT TO BE A FILMMAKER'

Actor Dave Franco says his job in a video store as a teenager pushed him to explore the world of showbiz. Franco is all set to make his directorial debut with *The Rental*, which also stars his wife Alison Brie.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
There are chances that there will be some disappointing moments today, foretells Ganesh. Your own recklessness may well be the cause. Ganesh says it's good to take inspiration from seniors once in a while.

**TAURUS**  
Touchdown! Ganesh senses a strong possibility that you will achieve an important milestone today. Emotional well-being is important for physical health. You may spend your evening in the company of like-minded people to indulge in some healthy discussions and musings, feels Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
There are strong indications that you will find it easy to assume a leadership role and set the agenda at work today, says Ganesh. In the afternoon, you will be busy looking for an expensive gift for someone very important to you. You may not be able to find the right gift, but that is only because you want it to be really special. By evening, your focus will shift back on your professional goals.

**CANCER**  
There is a strong possibility that you will reach an important milestone in your life today, says Ganesh. Your emotional health is important for your physical well-being. How about spending some good time with like-minded people who can light up your mood?

**LEO**  
There's more to glittering gold than meets the eye, says Ganesh. But today, you can be rest assured that monetary problems, which were troubling you for so long, will finally be solved as you make money from various sources later in the day. Still, this does not mean you incur avoidable expenses. Ganesh foresees you generating wonderful results at the workplace towards the end of the day.

**VIRGO**  
There is an indication that you may assume a leadership role and dictate the agenda at work today, predicts Ganesh. You may spend your afternoon window-shopping, looking for a gift that you feel like giving to a loved one. You will spend the evening planning your long-term goals with a close friend or family.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh predicts that today you will receive that much-awaited good news from abroad. At the workplace, you will remain completely focused. You may devise and come up with some innovative method to speed up work, much to your relief.

**SCORPIO**  
Today, you are likely to make a fine show of your knack of organising things, predicts Ganesh. At the workplace, you will develop a special liking for your job. Later in the day, you may find lasting solutions to pending problems. Take the trouble to research any decisions you make so that you are liable to make well-informed decisions about your future.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Ganesh sees you being the good Samaritan, heralding better things for a brighter future. Household affairs will remain quiet and sublime. At work, however, expect smoother sailing in the latter part of the day.

**CAPRICORN**  
You will never have paid so much attention to how presentable you look, as you will today. It could be for an important business meeting or to impress your sweetheart, but you will be exceptionally meticulous about the way you dress up, says Ganesh. The day will be enthralling, both at work and home. Fun and entertainment at social gathering is on the cards.

**AQUARIUS**  
A series of disappointments may drag you down today. But this is a temporary phenomenon, and a cheerful demeanour is the only solution. It is also best to avoid conflicts and differences at work in the larger interest of things. This too shall pass, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
You are likely to reveal your innermost feelings and the true nature of your thoughts today, says Ganesh. Feel free to be optimistic about your chances of success if you are thinking of proposing to someone special in the evening. More pleasure, less pain. Now, who wouldn't want that?



## 'Streaming platforms are nothing but porn hub'

**MUMBAI:** Kangana Ranaut Thursday described streaming platforms as porn hubs. Her assertion came as she took on the streaming platform Eros Now, for posting a few memes featuring stars Ranveer Singh, Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif, which she felt were sexually explicit.

Although the streaming platform subsequently deleted the memes, Kangana has shared a few screenshots along with her post.

Tagging the streaming platform, Kangana tweeted from her verified account: "We must preserve cinema as a community viewing theatre experience, its more difficult to enthrall large section of audience than sexualise content for personal viewing, digitisation of art faces this major crisis, all streaming platforms are nothing but a porn hub. SHAME."

In two separate tweets, the actress shared that watching films should be done together with one's family and friends. Netizens also called out the streaming platform alleging they have hurt Indian culture and sentiments. Meanwhile, Eros Now has issued an apology on their official Twitter account Thursday.

@Kangana Team

## Gauahar denies MARRIAGE RUMOURS

**MUMBAI:** Actress Gauahar Khan has denied reports suggesting she might get married to rumoured boyfriend Zaid Darbar in November. Zaid is eminent composer Ismail Darbar's son, and a choreographer and social media influencer. Rumours have been rife ever since Gauahar posted series of photos and videos on Instagram going by which it would seem the two share a close bond.

However, Gauahar has now dismissed all such speculations. "These are just rumours. If there will be anything I will let you all know about it," she said.

Among videos that sparked acted as catalyst to the rumours is one uploaded by Gauahar where the two can be seen sharing steps on Neha Kakkar and Parmish Verma's song Diamond da challa. At the end of the clip, Zaid goes on his knees and slips a ring on Gauahar's finger, making fans wondered if it is a real proposal.



Gauahar-Khan

## Shahid posts glimpse of early morning cricket practice

**MUMBAI:** Actor Shahid Kapoor has shared a sneak-peek from his early morning cricket practice for the upcoming film *Jersey*.

Shahid is seen hitting a straight drive in a video he posted on Instagram. He is dressed for practice in a black T-shirt, basketball shorts, leg guards, gloves and a helmet. "Early mornings.. wake up

with drive," he wrote alongside the video.

The actor and his co-actor Mrunal Thakur recently completed the Uttarakhand schedule of the film. Shahid thanked the state government for their efficient policies that enabled the team to shoot with proper safety measures amid the pandemic. *Jersey* is a Hindi remake

of the Telugu hit of the same name. The Hindi version is also being directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, who helmed the 2019 original.

The story is about a talented but failed cricketer named Arjun, who decides to make a comeback in his late thirties and play for India, in order to fulfil his son's wish.



Shahid Kapoor PTI PHOTO

# Online art expo celebrates Shakti's nine avatars during Navaratri

**NEW DELHI:** As the country celebrates the auspicious Navaratri festival, an online exhibition of artworks featuring the nine forms or avatars of divinity is currently live, and will continue till mid-November this year.

Presented by Gallery Art Exposure, the festive-special show is titled *Shakti* and houses splendid works of art by artist Jayashri Burman. Burman, as an artist has never ceased to inspire art lovers with her vivid depiction of mythology in her artworks. In her own words, "The gods came into a counsel when they witnessed the world brimming with injustice and chaos. Deliberating upon how to bring an end to this unruly world order, Durga was created out of the gods' special



powers. She was moulded into a fierce being who could demolish the evil powers.

"For me, Shakti is the essence of goodness, with which we protect ourselves and our dear ones,

and fight wrongdoings. Shakti establishes a symbiotic harmony with love and peace, to bring about a better earth and empowered humanity."

According to Somak Mitra,

Director, Gallery Art Exposure, the paintings of Jayasri Burman - warm, richly-hued and fantastic - reflect the soul of the artist in all its passion and strength. "Jayasri's dream-like lyrical works inspired by Indian mythology and folk-art are a tribute to her rich childhood and myriad happy experiences. Her art reminds one of an intricate tapestry, weaving the design element of folk-art into the intricate patterns of mythical figures and forms set in utopian natural surroundings. The artist sees women as free and divine - both creatures of nature and Mother Goddesses."

The exhibition can be viewed online at [www.artexposure.in](http://www.artexposure.in) till November 17.



Creations of artist Jayashri Burman

### PEANUTS



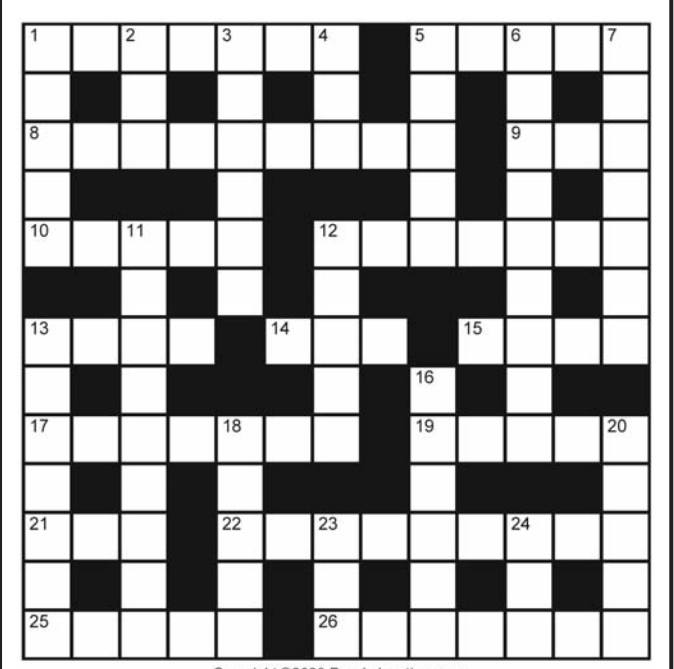
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Dakar locale
  - 5 Capital of Bolivia (2,3)
  - 8 Olympian's quest (4,5)
  - 9 Table scrap
  - 10 Symbol of slowness
  - 12 Business wear, usually
  - 13 Karate blow
  - 14 Ultimate degree
  - 15 Nile wader
  - 17 Set apart
  - 19 Grounds
  - 21 Ornamental carp (4,5)
  - 22 Plant eating creature
  - 25 Arduous journeys
  - 26 Kitchen mixer
- Down**
- 1 Heroic tales
  - 2 Lacking value
  - 3 Take a chance
  - 4 Young fellow
  - 5 Sachet scent
  - 6 Snooker site (4,5)
  - 7 Stringed instruments
  - 11 Express regret
  - 12 Saltpetre
  - 13 Chirping insect
  - 16 Look up to
  - 18 Flu symptoms
  - 20 Look of disdain
  - 23 Burgle
  - 24 Roulette bet

### SUDOKU

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

0		1	7		4	8		B	A	9	
5	7	D								3	1
		6			3					8	4
4	A	0			6	9	C	7			
	D	6		A				E			0
1				C					4		
	C	5					2				
8									E		6
B	4					8	A	0	5	3	
6	5					9	B	C	2		
							2	6	C	3	
C	4	5			1				8	B	
6	9	A	E								0
B	A		9	D	7			5			1
E	0		C	3				D	5		7

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

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

**SUDOKU**

4	A	2	8	E	3	9	D	B	1	7	0	5	6	C
5	D	3	C	7	1	8	2	0	A	6	B	4	E	9
1	8	B	4	2	A	5	C	6	3	9	E	7	0	D
C	6	9	B	0	5	1	E	7	D	2	A	4	3	8
7	E	0	6	9	D	4	A	3	8	5	C	B	1	2
8	B	D	2	5	4	A	0	1	E	3	6	9	7	
6	3	C	D	9	7	4	5	0	B	A	2	8	1	
A	2	4	0	8	7	6	3	C	9	0	1	E	B	5
0	1	7	3	B	C	E	9	2	6	8	5	D	4	A
E	9	5	1	0	6	8	2	4	7	0	3	6	2	
8	4	1	0	3	8	5	7	A	6	0	2	0		
2	5	8	1	4	0	7	9	C	E	D	3	A	6	
3	7	E	9	C	B	0	6	A	5	1	2	8	D	4
D	C	6	5	A	2	3	8	4	B	0	9	1	7	E
9	0	A	7	6	E	2	1	D	4	3	8	C	5	B

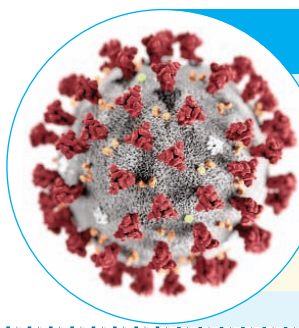
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## CITRUS FRUIT

A greengrocer sells lemons at Unit-I market in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	4,15,88,199	3,09,60,411	11,37,804
India	77,06,946	68,74,518	1,16,616
Odisha	2,76,094	2,57,041	1,196

# WB funded watershed project to boost agri

ABOUT 1.90 LAKH FARMERS OF THE STATE WILL BE BENEFITED FROM 'REWARD' PROJECT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** The state government has planned to implement World Bank funded Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agriculture Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) project in seven districts of the state to ensure efficient water management and enhanced cropping area.

The project would be implemented in Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Nayagarh, Deogarh, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Sundargarh districts from next financial year. State Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department would execute the project with help of its Soil Conservation and Watershed Management



THE STATE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS A \$50 MILLION LOAN FROM THE WORLD BANK TO IMPLEMENT THE REWARD PROJECT

**EFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT, SOIL FERTILITY IMPROVEMENT, ADOPTION OF STANDARD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND ENHANCEMENT OF CULTIVATION ARE SOME OF THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Directorate, official sources said here, Thursday.

The state government expects a \$50 million loan from the World

## BIG PUSH TO FARM SECTOR

The project would be implemented in Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Nayagarh, Deogarh, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Sundargarh districts from next financial year

State to spend ₹500 crore including ₹350 crore loan from World Bank for implementing the project over a period of 6 years

Bank to implement the REWARD project in the seven districts over a period of six years.

The total cost of the project is ex-

pected to be around Rs 500 crore. While the World Bank would fund 70 per cent of the project cost, the state has to share the balance adopting public financial management system, the sources said.

About 1.90 lakh farmers will be benefited from the project. Efficient water management, soil fertility improvement, adoption of standard agricultural practices and enhancement of cultivation are some of the salient features of the proposed project.

The REWARD project would be implemented in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh apart from Odisha, with the World Bank extending \$178 million loan to the three states. The total project cost in the three states is estimated to be 350 million USD.

## POLITICKLE BY MANJUL



# States' views sought over MDM for pre-school kids

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 22:** The Union government has written to Odisha and other states seeking their suggestions on giving mid-day meal (MDM) to pre-school students.

The letter sent by Union Education Ministry asked the state governments to give their opinions on extension of MDM scheme to the students of pre-primary classes.

After receiving suggestions from states, the Expenditure Finance Committee will take the final decision on the extension of the scheme to pre-school students, sources said.

As per existing rules, MDM is being provided to primary and upper primary students. Around 11.6 crore children have been enrolled in the MDM scheme in around 12 lakh schools across the

country.

The Union government had launched the scheme with a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance in schools. Besides, the MDM scheme aims at improving nutritional levels of children.

The scheme was turned into a cooked meal programme in 2001. As per the scheme, every child in government and government-aided primary school would be served a prepared MDM with a minimum content of 300 calories of energy and 8-12 grams of protein daily for a minimum of 200 days.

The scheme was further extended in 2002 to cover the children studying in Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) centres. In 2007, the scheme was extended to cover upper primary students.

# CS asks secretaries to support startups

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** In a bid to strengthen startup ecosystem in Odisha, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy has directed all the secretaries to implement support system for startups through new schemes.

"You are aware of Odisha achieving 'Leader' tag in States' Startup Ranking 2019 conducted by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently. But the state has potential to further strengthen the startup ecosystem and boost its national ranking in the coming years," Tripathy said in his recent letter to all the secretaries.

To further strengthen the startup ecosystem, he asked all the departments to introduce/implement support system for startups in areas relevant to their departments.

The secretaries have been advised to implement new schemes or amendments made to existing schemes to support the startups.

They have been asked to introduce innovation/incubation support funds or awards and amendments in sectoral policies to include support for state registered startups.

Tripathy also suggested the departments to introduce new sectoral policies in emerging technology areas such as e-vehicle, artificial intelligence, drones/micro aviation and others to support startups.

As many as 714 startups along with 17 incubators and 13 nodal institutions have been registered under the Odisha Startup Policy 2016. Over 20 new startups are getting registered under Startup Odisha initiative every month, making the state startup ecosystem as one of the fastest growing system in the country.

# SILVER PLATING OF EIGHT SRIMANDIR DOORS SOON

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Oct 22:** The doors at as many as eight gates of Srimandir here would be plated with silver; said sources in the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

Earlier, the temple administration had planned to cover the doors of three prominent gates at Srimandir with silver. A devotee had expressed his willingness to donate the required amount of silver and bear the expenses for covering the doors at Jay-Vijay, Kalahata and Beharana gates of the 12th century shrine with silver.

"The doors at five more gates of Srimandir would be plated with silver. A 15-member committee has been formed for the purpose. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled to be held at Niladri Bhakta Niwas October 27," said a source in the SJTA.

According to sources, the doors at Satapahacha, Bhoga Mandap, Nrusingha temple, Bimala temple and Goddess Mahalaxmi temple at Srimandir would be covered with silver.



AROUND 2.5 TONNE SILVER WOULD BE USED TO BEAUTIFY THE WOODEN DOORS. A DEVOTEE WILL DONATE SILVER FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION WORK

## ADDING GLITTER

The doors at Satapahacha, Bhoga Mandap, Nrusingha temple, Bimala temple and Goddess Mahalaxmi temple at Srimandir would be covered with silver

The doors would be constructed with fine quality teak woods

"Artisans from Mumbai are scheduled to participate in the October 27 meeting and display the designs for the silver plating work. The meeting will also deliberate on the safe storage of silver for the beautification work," added the source.

It is learnt that the temple administration would construct new wooden doors for the eight gates before initiating the silver plating work. "The doors would be constructed with fine quality teak

woods. Around 2.5 tonne silver would be used to beautify the wooden doors. A devotee will donate silver for the beautification work," said the source.

Notably, many devotees have come forward to donate gold and silver to Srimandir for beautification work. Recently, the SJTA has approved designs for a new set of ornaments for the presiding deities after a devotee from Mumbai showed his interest to donate 5kg gold to Srimandir.

# Satpathy welcomes speedy trial for leaders

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Amar Satpathy Thursday welcomed the Orissa High Court's order in favour of special courts for early disposal of criminal cases against politicians.

The leader said that such a provision will affect all the parties equally and could help in reducing the time limit for pendency of the cases against the politicians.

"The administration and others are unable to function properly due to this issue. The High Court has said that through special courts and other means such cases could be heard and settled early. Of course, this is a good step,"



Satpathy said. He also added, "Often there are allegations against politicians. Whenever such allegations come, like in Lokayukta office, the par-

**THE BARCHANA MLA SAID SUCH A PROVISION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PARTIES EQUALLY AND COULD HELP IN REDUCING THE PENDENCY OF THE CASES AGAINST THE POLITICIANS**

ties put their views in front of them. Watching everything from suspicion would not be a good idea. Allegations are made multiple times. Laws are equal to all

# Keep close watch on markets: DMs told

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** With the unprecedented rise in onion price, the state government Thursday directed the district Collectors to keep close watch on the market and conduct inspection at onion stores.

Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare secretary VV Yadav has written a letter to all the Collectors in this regard.

"The rising trend of prices of onion is a concern which affects the common man. This is due to the loss of crop in the procuring states as our state is depending on import of onions from these states. Although it is a national phenomenon, the unscrupulous traders may resort to high profiteering and sell onion at an exorbitant price," Yadav said.

Therefore, he directed the Collectors to keep watch on the price and availability of onion in the market.

Field functionaries have been



asked to frequently inspect both the wholesale and retail premises on regular basis and ensure its availability at reasonable prices the needy consumers.

The retail price of 1 kg of onion has already breached the Rs 80-mark and is likely to rise further for another three months. Wholesale onion traders in Bhubaneswar said major onion crop in source markets in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have been destroyed due to unexpected rains.

# 22,916 students chosen for degree admissions

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** The second merit list for admissions to Plus III courses was published Thursday. Out of 96,515 students who ap-

## SECOND MERIT LIST

plied for admission to degree courses, 22,916 were selected in the second phase of admission.

Of the selected candidates, 12,069 were picked for Arts, 4,119 for Physical Science, 3,465 for Biological Science, 1,781 in Commerce, 398 in self finance and 184 in Sanskrit streams. As usual BJB College topped the cut-off list in the second round too. In Arts stream the college has the highest cut-off in Geography (89.4%), Economics (85.5%) and Political science (83.2).



## FESTIVE TIME

Puja in progress at VSS Nagar Durga Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

# RTOs to remain open for registration Oct 24, 26

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** The registration sections of regional transport offices (RTOs) across the state would remain open during Dussehra, State Transport Authority (STA) said Thursday.

According to a tweet by STA, a large number of vehicles are likely to be sold during the festival. Dealers, however, have been asked not to deliver any vehicle without registration and ensure that high security registration plates (HSRPs) are affixed to them.

In an order, State Transport Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said, "It is hereby ordered that the Registration section of all RTOs shall remain open on two days i.e. 24.10.2020 and 26.10.2020 from 3 pm to 5 pm to receive the registration documents from the dealer and allotment of regis-



tration number."

The RTOs will also approve registration of NTV vehicles done through dealer points on 'work from home' basis. The respective RTOs shall make roster arrangements with adequate intimation to the dealers under their limits, the STA office order stated.

"In case the dealer is found delivering vehicles without registration and without affixing

HSRP, steps shall be taken for cancellation or suspension of the trade license of the dealer," Panda warned.

Notably, there are four government holidays starting from October 23 and 26 on occasion of Dussehra. The STA office order was issued apprehending that dealers might face difficulties in getting newly sold vehicles registered at the respective transport offices.



# Ensure Covid norm compliance during fest: Health secy

# 11-year-old girl alleges torture by stepmother

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** The state Health department Thursday directed the district Collectors to ensure compliance of Covid-19 rules during the festive season to ward off the chances of spread of the killer virus.

A letter from Health Secretary PK Mohapatra said that examples from other states have shown how festivals have contributed towards rise in Covid cases and asked the Collectors to intervene and ensure social distancing, mask wearing and others during the festivities.

The department has also asked them to intensify awareness campaigns against the pandemic. The letter to the Collectors said, "I, therefore, reiterate to fine-tune the preparedness of your District Corporation limits for management of Covid-19. Gear up the IEC campaign on a mission mode to ensure following of Covid appropriate behaviour by all and strict enforcement of the Covid guidelines as any relaxation in the enforcement of health norms will have serious implications," it said.

The department said that based upon the evidence of the second wave in many Western European countries where winter has started as well as the surge in positive cases in Kerala, after Onam festival, the government should avoid any complacency about the decline in the number of new cases and keep up the efforts to contain the pandemic.

"Due to the upcoming festival season and the present unlock situation, it is important to re-emphasise amongst the people the im-



The Unit-II Market Building in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, witnesses a rush ahead of Dussehra. OP PHOTO

## NO COMPLACENCY NOW

A LETTER FROM HEALTH SECRETARY PK MOHAPATRA SAID THAT EXAMPLES FROM OTHER STATES HAVE SHOWN HOW FESTIVALS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS RISE IN COVID CASES

HE ASKED THE COLLECTORS TO GEAR UP IEC CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE FOLLOWING OF COVID APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR BY ALL AND STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE COVID GUIDELINES AS ANY RELAXATION IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF HEALTH NORMS WILL HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD AVOID ANY COMPLACENCY ABOUT THE DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND KEEP UP THE EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE PANDEMIC, SAID THE HEALTH DEPT

portance and significance of following the Covid appropriate behaviour including wearing masks, respiratory etiquette, social distancing and hand washing / hy-

giene, through an intensive and focused campaigning strategy," the department said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, in his address, has appealed to the

people of Odisha not to be complacent over the declining positive rate during the last fortnight and to avoid crowded places during the festive season.

# State's nCoV fatalities near 1,200

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** State's novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) caseload rose to 2,76,094 Thursday as 1,913 more people tested positive for the infection, while 15 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's coronavirus death toll to 1,196, an official of the Health & Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

The state reported less than 2,000 cases for the fourth consecutive day, Thursday.

As many as 1,109 new cases were reported from quarantine centres, while 804 infections were detected during contact tracing, said the official.

Only three districts reported more than 100 coronavirus cases with Khurda, under which Bhubaneswar falls, registering the highest 254 cases followed by Cuttack 150 and Angul 106, the official added. Three fresh fatalities each were reported in Angul and Mayurbhanj, two each in Dhenkanal, Khurda and Subarnapur, and one each in Cuttack, Puri and Sundargarh districts, the official further said.

Ganjam district has so far reported the highest number of coronavirus fatalities at 225, followed by Khurda 205 and Cuttack 105. As many as 53 Covid-19 patients have died due to other ailments so far, said the official.

Six districts—Khurda, Ganjam, Cuttack, Puri, Balasore and Sundargarh—have together reported about 61.28 per cent of the total Covid deaths and 45.12 per cent of the viral infections.

The state has so far tested over 41.99 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 40,114 Wednesday, the official pointed out. On the other hand, as many as 2,128 Covid patients recovered Thursday, taking the total recoveries in the coastal state to 2,57,041. The recoveries include 210 from Khurda, 149 from Angul, 140 from Cuttack, 114 from Sundargarh and 104 from Balasore.

The state government, meanwhile, has issued an advisory on post-Covid follow-up protocol, asking cured patients to practise yoga, pranayam and meditation and engage in household works, if health permits. Those who have recovered from Covid-19 have been asked to drink adequate amounts of warm water (if not contraindicated), take immunity-boosting AYUSH medicines prescribed by a qualified practitioner of AYUSH. Morning or evening walk at a comfortable pace, balanced nutritious diet, and adequate sleep and rest are advised.

Recovered individuals have been advised to share their positive experiences with their friends using social media and community and religious leaders for creating awareness and dispelling myths and stigma.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** An 11-year-old girl in the Capital city has sought one of her neighbours' help after she failed to bear the inhuman torture by her stepmother. A case has been registered in this regard with Airfield police seeking legal action against the alleged stepmother.

According to sources, when the complainant and the girl's neighbour, Mina Pradhan (name changed), was doing her daily chore at her residence in Sundarappa area, she heard someone knocking the door. Pradhan saw the petrified minor girl at the door requesting her to save her. Upon asking, the victim revealed that she is staying along with her stepmother in a flat of the same apartment. She also informed the complainant that her father, who works outside, visits them occasionally.

Her stepmother, in the absence of her father, used to force her to do household work and often beats her too, said the girl. The accused also allegedly branded the girl with burning woods or hot iron rods. Subsequently, Pradhan contacted the Child Line officials who rescued the girl. Police have been investigating into the allegations.

**ODISHA REPORTS 1,913 NEW COVID-19 CASES, 15 DEATHS**

# Olympiad exams to be held online this year

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF), the biggest organiser of Olympiad exams for school students in the world, Thursday announced that the exams will be conducted online this year.

Students can appear for SOF Olympiad exams from their homes considering the safety and health concerns. Last year, around 87,000 students from hundreds of schools in Bhubaneswar had appeared in the Olympiads from Class I to XII.

Mahabir Singh, founder director of SOF, said, "SOF is partnering a leading international organisation to conduct online exams. Extensive use of Artificial Intelligence, remote proctoring, video recording of exam and various other tools will be used to ensure fairness in the exams."

He also said that during 2019-20, over 56,000 schools from 32 countries registered for the six Olympiad exams and millions of students appeared in them.

# Forensic reports likely October 29

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** A team of Commissionerate police probing the massive explosion at a petrol pump near Raj Bhawan here is likely to receive the documents related to forensic examinations of articles and CCTV footage collected from the spot October 29. One person was killed while many others sustained injuries in the explosion October 7, 2020.

Sources in the Commissionerate Police revealed that the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) will submit the examination reports in connection with the incident October 29. The investigating team will decide its future course of action after getting the reports from SFSL.

Sources claimed that many may face arrests if the reports suggest any negligence as the cause of the



Sources claimed that many may face arrests if the reports suggest any negligence as the cause of the explosion

explosion. Recently, the items collected from the blast site were submitted to the SDJM court here which later handed over the articles to SFSL at Rasulgarh here for scientific examination.

Earlier, the CCTV footage from the place was also submitted to the laboratory by the Commissionerate Police too.

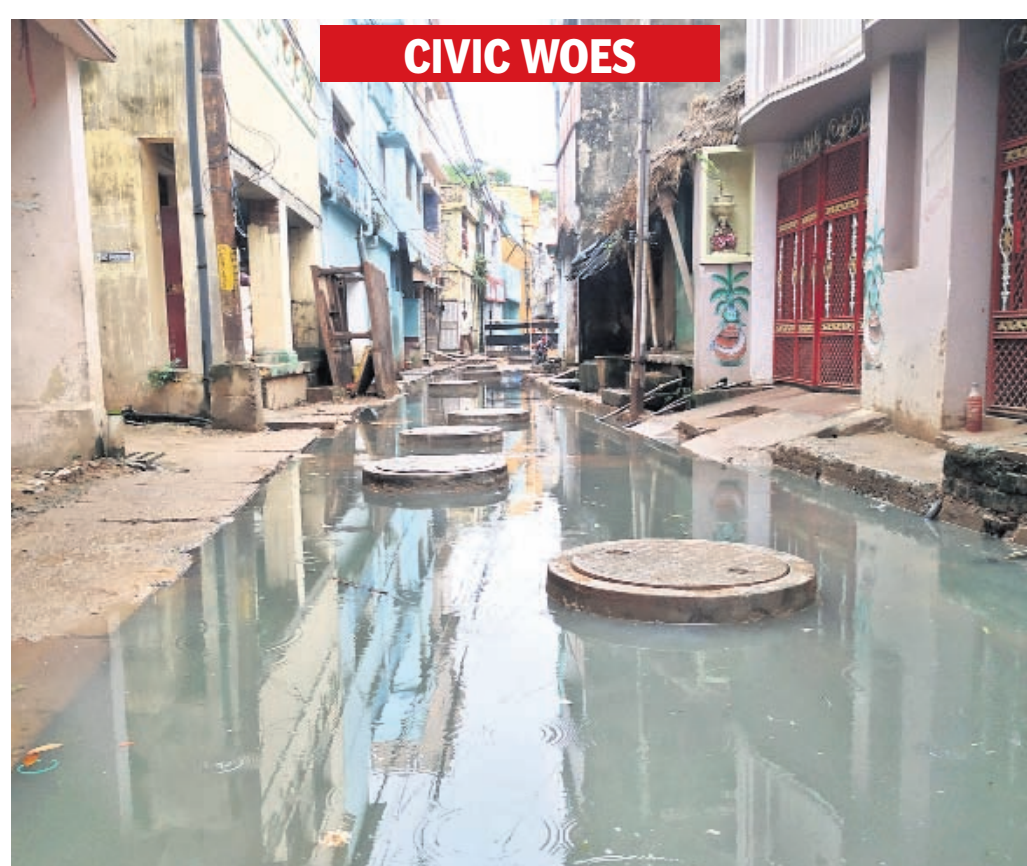
# Innovation centre at Khapuria ITI on cards

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 22:** If things go well, an ultra modern innovation centre would come up at the state-run Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Khapuria here with the Odisha government signing a pact with a Hyderabad-based private agency in this regard, Thursday.

The Directorate of Technical Education and Training (DTE) under the administrative control of Skill Development and Technical Education department has signed a memorandum of understanding with Hyderabad-based EdgeFX Technologies Private Limited for setting up a state-of-the-art innovation centre at Khapuria ITI.

"The innovation centre would offer an in-depth knowledge to ITI students on artificial intelligence, robotics and electronics among other advanced topics. This would help make the ITI students industry-ready," Khapuria ITI principal Hrusikesh Mohanty said.



Drain water inundates a stretch at Kathagada Sahi in Cuttack, Thursday

OP PHOTO

# CLASSIFIED

## AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit executed before the Executive Magistrate, Chatrapur vide Sl.No. 432, dt.21.10.2020, I do hereby declare that, the actual name of my son is G. Vijay Reddy, S/o G. Banamali Reddy in all correspondence as well as in the Aadhaar Card bearing No. 247526630684. But in the admission register of Army Public School, Gopalpur his name has been recorded as G. Vijay Kumar Reddy instead of his actual name G. Vijay Reddy. So G. Vijay Reddy and G. Vijay Kumar Reddy, S/o G. Banamali Reddy is one and same person. Henceforth he is known G. Vijay Reddy in all correspondence. G Dhaneswari

# Campaign on for safe nesting of Olive Ridley turtles

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Konark/Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** Even though the pandemic has affected millions of people, there are many who have continued their relentless efforts towards preserving environment and protecting marine ecosystem.

Soumya Ranjan Biswal and his team members of Odisha Paryavaran Sangrakhsh Abhiyan Trust braved all the difficulties during the lockdown period and pulled out more than 5 tonne plastic waste from the Odisha beaches to ensure a safety of the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.

The 30-day beach cleaning campaign known as 'Devi Kachhap Kalyanam' was started by Biswal and volunteers of the trust at Devi nesting zone September 27, 2020.

"There are three main nesting sites in Odisha - Rushikulya, Gahiramatha and the Devi river mouth. Since Devi nesting zone is not officially protected, it is getting degraded by the day with increasing pollution levels and rampant mangrove deforestation," Biswal said



Members of Odisha Paryavaran Sangrakhsh Abhiyan Trust pull out plastic waste

"Over the last few years, pollution has been steadily increasing in our area. Every year, we find that the Devi nesting zone is littered with plastics and fishing waste. We also come across plastic waste deep within the sand. As it is widely acknowledged, the plastic pollution is extremely dangerous for the marine ecosystem," he added.

These turtles need a pristine environment for nesting, and the pres-

ence of fishing nets and other waste on the beaches injure them in multiple ways. Baby turtles, while trying to make their way to the ocean, often end up getting trapped in the discarded waste, he maintained. "Hence, it is necessary to clean the beaches every year before the nesting season starts," said Biswal.

"Keeping in mind the COVID-19 crisis and other environmental issues, we decided to launch

# THE 30-DAY BEACH CLEANING CAMPAIGN KNOWN AS 'DEVI KACHHAP KALYANAM' WAS LAUNCHED BY THE VOLUNTEERS AT DEVI NESTING ZONE SEPTEMBER 27

this mission to restore the turtle beach. We have set up a full-time camp on the beach and clean up the beach for more than eight hours a day. Every day, we collect about a quintal of trash comprising of polythene, nets, footwear, cigarettes, medical waste and others," he added.

The district administration of Puri extended its support to the cleaning campaign by transporting the collected trash to the nearest waste management plant. "We also got help from private companies who provided tractor for the cleanliness drive," he stated.

# New mobile app for ECoR employees

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** Employees of East Coast Railway (ECoR) can now see the data and documents related to their service through a mobile app and communicate the same with the administration for changes, if required.

This mobile application allows an employee to view his/her historical data since the date of joining including details related to his/her increments, promotions, awards, transfers, postings, leaves, training and composition of family as per records and nominations for retirement benefits.

The app will be a single-window communication system between the Railway employees and administration.

A comprehensive exercise of entry and validation of data re-

lated to service records of employees is underway in ECoR. Data of 95 per cent serving Railway employees has already been entered in this module.

Apart from information related to their profile and scanned copy of their service records, employees can also check e-APAR (Annual Performance Appraisal Report) which has been introduced recently.

The app, HRMS Employee Mobile App for Indian Railways, is available on Google play store. To access the records, employees need to register themselves by entering PF Number. An OTP will be sent to their phone number (as available in Railway records). Employees must enter OTP to complete registration process. If the mobile number is not available, employees may contact the Establishment Section concerned.

# FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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# Missile testing in Wheeler Island might hit arrival of Olive Ridleys at Gahirmatha

# Focus on expeditious execution of MGNREGS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Deogan, Oct 22:** Even as migrant workers and others have been facing scarcity of jobs amid Covid-induced difficulties, people's representatives have laid thrust on expeditious execution of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Deogan block of Bolangir district.

The issue came up for discussion at a meeting of Panchayat Samiti here Wednesday when it is being reported that migrant labourers are gradually returning to their workplace in other states.

It was stated that life and livelihood of people in the block have been affected by various restrictions due to the Covid prevention exercise by the administration.

The meeting was presided over



by block chairperson Rina Meher. At the meeting, president of the Block Sarpanch Sangh Dayandhi Khamari expressed concern over the Covid impact on the life and livelihood of people. He put forth a proposal on expeditious implementation of MGNREGS.

Most of the Samiti members voiced concern over improper implementation of the MGNREGS in

the block. They all wanted that projects under MGNREGS be accelerated so that more and more people have a chance to get work scope.

A draft proposal on fund utilization of the 5th State Finance Commission and the 5th Finance Commission of the Centre was unanimously passed at the meeting. It was decided that the flood repairing fund will be executed in seven days.

The block chairperson sought opinion of the other members on how the farmers, deprived of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in 23 panchayats, will get their claims. Notably, in some parts of the district, farmers have been staging agitation over their pending insurance claims.

Amid allegation of a PDS mess, a three-member committee comprising two sarpanchs and a samiti member, was formed to ensure that PDS items are properly supplied to people at this time.

Zilla Parishad member Sushil Kumar Chand alleged that funds for various developmental activities remained unutilized over years and later they were returned to the government.

It was also alleged that there have been irregularities in PMAY.



The environment around Bhitarkanika is gradually getting degraded due to man-made interference. Problems of habitat disturbance have affected the wildlife sanctuary, the report said.

The turtles are believed to have been distracted by light caused by uranium burning.

tails on how the light and smoke emitted by the missiles distract the turtles from their way to Gahirmatha. Dr Kalam had assured Das that missile testing will not be carried out starting from the arrival of turtles to the return of the hatchlings into the sea.

However, after Kalam's death, test fire of missiles is continuing in Wheeler Island. Environmentalist Hemant Kumar Rout alleged that the natural calamity like cyclonic storm Amphan had led to beach erosion of Nasi-2 island where the sea turtles congregated in large numbers.

He also admitted that the test fire of missiles would impact the arrival of sea turtles. Environmentalists Jagannath Das blamed the loss of environment in Gahirmatha and Bhitarkanika sanctuaries on mushrooming of illegal prawn gheries and missile testing. He urged forest officials to discuss the matter with DRDO authorities.

When contacted, Gahirmatha Range Officer Debashis Bhoi said the DRDO authorities have been informed about the arrival period of sea turtles and talks with them will be held soon.

interferences.

He alleged that an eco-retreat fair was held at Pemtha beach in 2019 but at the end of the fair, tonnes of polythene were found lying scattered on the beach.

This is condemnable as the polythene is a deterrent for the free movement of the turtles on the beach. While polythene has proved dangerous for the turtles, the missile testing for last two months has dealt a huge blow to their arrival in Gahirmatha. He alleged that testing of missiles would distract the turtles from arriving at Gahirmatha. Earlier, noted environmentalist Banka Bihari Das had urged then DRDO head Dr Abdul Kalam not to test fire missiles during mating and mass nesting season of the sea turtles.

Later, Dr Kalam presented de-

ferences.

Later, Dr Kalam presented de-

# Selfie zones for Angul town

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul, Oct 22:** With the craze for 'selfies' increasing among youths and elders, residents of Angul town have urged the administration to provide 'selfie' points in the town like those in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

At present, Angul town is going through a beautification drive. Residents have suggested to the District Collector through tweets to set up some selfie points in the town as part of the beautification drive. They have even proposed the names of a few places that can be developed as selfie points.

"Angul is an industrial town. People from Odisha and other states visit this town regularly. The city has several hotels and tourist spots. However, there are no selfie points in this town. So if some are created, they will give a new look and



identity to the town," observed Chandan Kumar Sahu and Pabitra Bhanj, two residents of this town. Similarly, Anil Das, a young entrepreneur, is enthusiastic about such points. "I had envisaged some places that can be converted into selfie spots. I had even prepared a blue print and handed it over to the district administration. However, I haven't received any feedback. I will be happy if the town gets some selfie points," said Das.

Biju Maidan, Raja Chowk, Eco Park, Naran Sagar and some other spots have been proposed by some selfie lovers living here.

In his response to the tweets,

District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said, the administration is getting ready to give the town some selfie points.

People of Talcher town too don't want to be left behind. They have also urged the sub-collector to provide them with some selfie points. Jeevanjyotsna Jena, a Talcher resident, termed the administration's plan to set up some selfie zones in the town as a welcome one. But the parts of the district should also get some selfie zones.

Speaking on this development, Swain said, "For selfie zones, a plan has already been prepared. First the budget for creating zones will have to be finalised. Then only selfie zones will be identified and developed."

# Cobra rescued from ATM machine

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kuchinda, Oct 22:** After three days long operation, forest officials of Sambalpur district rescued a cobra from a post office ATM located at Panchamukhi Chhak in Kuchinda area of Sambalpur district, Thursday.

Sources said, a person had visited the kiosk October 19. There he heard some unusual sound. When he looked behind the ATM machine he found a cobra there.

However, the man closed the door of the kiosk and informed the post office authority in this regard. Forest officials rushed to the site to catch the cobra, but it entered into the ATM machine. After three days, it was rescued.

## APOLOGY

We regret carrying an elephant picture, purportedly owned by Mr Aditya Panda, as part of a story we published in our State page of the edition dated October 22. The error was inadvertent and we sincerely apologise for this.

-- Editor

# Tribal lands reclaimed from mining co

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Joda, Oct 22:** A mining company, which was accused of grabbing land of the tribals in Joda mining circle area of Keonjhar district received a setback as the administration has identified the land of tribals Wednesday, a report said.

Earlier, tribals had alleged that Tarini Prasad Mohanty's mining farm had grabbed their land at Naibuga of Basantpur panchayat.

Acting on the complaint, Champua sub-collector issued an order for land measurement. Additional tehsildar of the Jhumpura Kresansiya Tirkey and Malda revenue inspector Sonali Sethi along with a police force identified the encroached land near Naibuga.

The company had encroached upon 10 decimal land of Raimani Champia of Dubuna village, 20-decimal land of Bana Munda of Kotupalli village and six decimal



land of Sombari Munda of Dubuna village for several years.

The company has forcibly constructed a road on the land for transportation of minerals by scores of trucks.

Though tribals have been protesting against the company for their land, the company was ignoring their agitations.

Upset over it, the land losers had taken up the issue with Champua sub-collector, who held a hearing on the complaint October 16 and di-

rected the Jhumpura additional tehsildar, Malda revenue inspector and revenue inspector to reclaim the land.

After reclaiming their land, tribals had planted trees on their land. The officials said that detailed information about the land reclamation will be provided to the administration.

However, the lease holder TP Mohanty said the land was not grabbed while the road was being used for over 30 years.

# 3 die in road mishaps

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur/Cuttack, Oct 22:** Three persons were killed and as many others critically injured in two separate road mishaps in Jajpur and Cuttack districts Thursday.

In the first incident, two persons were killed and another injured as the car they were travelling in collided head-on with a truck on NH-16 near Mukundabindha village under Panikoi police limits in Jajpur district.

The identities of the deceased and the injured are yet to be ascertained.

Source said the portion of the NH near Mukundabindha village is under construction. So, only one side of the road has been left open for vehicular movement. The ill-fated car was heading towards Cuttack on this stretch. However, while trying to overtake another vehicle, the car suffered a head-on collision with the truck going towards Panikoi.

The injured were admitted to Jajpur district headquarters hospital. Police seized the bodies for post mortem.

# Covid scare in Bonai jail

**Sundargarh:** As many as 39 inmates of Bonai jail in Sundargarh district have tested positive for COVID-19, a senior jail official said Thursday. One jail official has also tested positive for this deadly disease. The jail presently houses 263 inmates. Out of them, 118 inmates and some employees had recently undergone antigen tests. Of them, 40 have tested positive for the infection. According to a jail source, all the infected prisoners are in isolation in separate cells. Frequent sanitisation is being carried out inside the jail premises. Notably, Sundargarh district Thursday reported 99 fresh cases of COVID-19 taking the caseload to 10,146.

# Anand Mahindra to help Malkangiri Anganwadi workers to cross river

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Oct 22:** The plight of two Anganwadi workers in Odisha has moved industrialist Anand Mahindra so deeply that he has decided to help them out. The two - Pramila Pelmel and Hemalata Sikha - work at Suapali and Nedupali Anganwadi centres respectively. They have to cross a flooded river everyday and walk through hilly terrains to reach their work places. Mahindra has promised to help them out by donating an inflatable boat which will help them reach their workplaces at Ralegada gram panchayat under Swabhimana area of Malkangiri district.

Reacting to a Twitter post that portrayed the plight of Pramila and Hemalata, the industrialist wrote, "Yesterday was a 'marine' day for me: tweeted about a



Anganwadi workers try to cross the river by tying buckets to their waists. PHOTO

cycle that works on water & about patrol boats built by Mahindra Marine. But this story is heart-rending. Hiten, would one of our rigid inflatable boats be of use to that community? Can we consider donating one from CSR funds?"

Notably, Pramila and Hemalata swim across a river everyday to reach their respective workplaces. They attend to the needs of children and women staying in Suapali and Nerudapali villages under Chittrakonda block. They provide food to residents of the two villages and provide healthcare to women especially those who are pregnant. They also spread awareness about COVID-19 and the precautions that should be taken.

Both Pramila and Hemalata cross the swelling Nerudapali river all through the year including in rainy season when it is in spate. They usually tie dried bottle gourd shells to their waists that help them remain afloat when crossing the river. Their determination and dedication to duties has earned them accolades from all over Odisha.

## OFFICE OF THE REGULATED MARKET COMMITTEE, ANANDAPUR

AT/PO-GHASPURA, DIST.- KEONJHAR, PIN NO.-758015  
E-mail ID: rmc.anandapur@gmail.com  
Bid Identification No.01/RMC/Anandapur/2020-21  
Tender Call Notice No.505 Dtd.21.10.2020

- Name of the work : Civil work
  - Number of works : 07
  - Estimated cost : Rs.33.15 lakhs to Rs.65.62 lakhs
  - Period of completion : 06 (Six) calendar months
  - Date & time of availability of bid : From 15.00 hours of 22.10.2020 to 17.30 hours of 07.11.2020
  - Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal : By 17.30 hours of 07.11.2020
  - Date of opening of bid : At 10.00 A.M. of 10.11.2020
  - Name and address of the Officer inviting bid : Sub-Collector, Anandapur-cum-Chairman, RMC, Anandapur
- Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Sub-Collector, Anandapur-cum-Chairman, RMC, Anandapur

**भौतिकी संस्थान Institute of Physics**  
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग, भारत सरकार का एक स्वयंशासी अनुसंधान संस्थान  
An Autonomous Research Institute of Dept. of Atomic Energy, Govt. Of India  
इ-कॉन्टैक्ट स्कूल Po-Sainik School, बुधनेस्वर Bhubaneswar-751005, http://www.iopb.res.in

**ENGAGEMENT OF PART-TIME MEDICAL OFFICER BY WALK-IN INTERVIEW**  
ADVT. No. IOP/Recruit/ 04 /2020  
DATE OF WALK-IN INTERVIEW: 18/11/2020

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement of Part-time Medical Officer (Purely on a temporary basis) in Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar as mentioned below:

Sl.	Post	Educational Qualification	Consolidated Remuneration
1.	Part-time Medical Officer (Purely on a temporary basis)	Minimum MBBS with One year experience. Mandatory internship will not be counted as experience. Candidate with institutional experience will be preferred. Retired Medical Officers below 65 years of age can also apply.	Rs.50,000/- per month

अधिक जानकारी और आवेदन प्रारूप के लिए वेबसाइट [www.iopb.res.in](http://www.iopb.res.in) पर जाएं।  
For further details and application format please visit website at [www.iopb.res.in](http://www.iopb.res.in).

रजिस्ट्रार REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-259  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BARPALI CANAL DIVISION, BARPALI**  
E-mail Id - ee.barपाली.canal@gmail.com  
**'e' Procurement Notice No-03/2020-21**  
**BID IDENTIFICATION NO-BCDT 26 to 31 /2020-21(ON-LINE) DATED 20.10.2020**

- Type of the work : Improvement to Canals and its system
- No. of works : 06 (Six) Nos.
- Class of contractor : "B" & "A"
- Bid identification No : BCDT-26 to 31/2020-21
- Estimated Cost : 73.87 lakhs to 99.24 lakhs
- Period of completion : As per DTCN.
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal : Dt. 27.10.2020 at 11.00 AM to Dt. 07.11.2020 up to 5.00 PM.
- Last date /time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt. 07.11.2020 up to 5.00 PM.
- Date of opening of Bid (Cover-I) : Dt. 09.11.2020 at 11.00 AM

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said website.  
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website-http://tenderodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, Barपाली Canal Division, Barपाली  
OIPR-32353/11/0001/2021

**JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA, SARANG**  
DIST.: DHENKANAL (ODISHA), Ph: 06760-295622  
Email: jnvndhenkanal@gmail.com  
Website: navodaya.gov.in/nvs/nvs-school/Dhenkanal/en/home

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed tenders are invited from the Registered and reputed firms having Registration under GST/VAT & Income Tax, VAT clearance certificate for supply of following items for the period upto April 2021.

Grocery, Non-veg, Snacks Items, Vegetables & Fruits, Hair Cutting (Student, Office & Computer Stationery), Science Lab & Mathematics Lab items, Furniture, Sports Goods, Computer & Computer peripheral, Footwear, Uniform & Bedding, Electrical items, M&R items, Utensils, Medicines, Bakery items, Toilet items & Stitching of Uniform, Laundry works, Fire extinguisher, Covid-19 equipment & sanitizing material.

Sealed tenders are also invited from the Registered and Reputed manpower agencies/ service providers under the labor (REGULATION & ABOLITION) ACT-1970 to provide the services of different manpower on DAILY WAGE basis for day to day Official/Mess/M&R work of JNV, Sarang, Dhenkanal, Odisha, such as Casual workers, Mess workers, Gardeners/ Mali, Sweepers & Massions, M&R workers etc. The tender forms & other related informations can be obtained from the Vidyalaya Office on all working days from dtd.23.10.2020 to 06.11.2020 (4.40 P.M.) during office hours on payment of Rs.100.00 (Rupees One hundred only) which is non-refundable. The tenders completed in all respect along with requisite earnest money in shape of Bank Draft in favour of Principal, JNV, Sarang, payable at S.B.I. IGIT, SARANG to be submitted in this Vidyalaya by 5.00 P.M. of 06.11.2020 and it will be opened at 10 A.M. on 07.11.2020 before the P.A.C. In case of exigencies if it could not be opened on 07.11.2020 date of opening will be notified in the Vidyalaya Notice Board/Website. The detailed information for outsourcing the services of aforesaid workers & tender items have been given in the tender document which can be downloaded from the official website:- <https://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/nvs-school/Dhenkanal/en/home>

The Vidyalaya Purchase Advisory Committee reserves the right to reject one or all tender papers partially or wholly without assigning any reason thereof. Any dispute in this process would subject to the Court Jurisdiction of the Dhenkanal district.

PRINCIPAL



FOCUS COVID-19

# FESTIVITIES AMID PANDEMIC



Festival shoppers crowd market areas with little space to breathe, posing a health risk to themselves, and others.

The country faces the difficult problem of balancing health protection, economic safety, and social cooperation for various restrictions. The need to protect jobs and livelihoods lost or curtailed under lockdown with the need to prevent the resurgence of the epidemic is faced in all countries.

On the whole, India seems to have done well in educating people on the need for limited activities and adopting alternatives to their routines, but groupism, political enmities, and communal hatred are encouraged to distract attention from fighting the common enemy of all in the Coronavirus.

Unlock strategies are different in different countries and even between states within a country. They are based on certain parameters of the pandemic and of the state of the economy. Most important is said to be Ro - the basic reproduction number which represents the magnitude of the epidemic in a place. Ro shows the number of social infections caused by an infected person during his/her infection period. If the number is more than one, the person may infect more than one on average which may increase escalation of the virus. This has happened in the case of the Covid-19 pandemic. Ro has to be brought to less than one to contain the disease. Unlock steps must invariably follow the pulse of the economy and society and cannot be taken on the basis of demands and pressures or notions of comparative or equal rights.

In case unlocking fails and necessitates re-imposition of lockdown, people's resentment is likely to grow more and make lockdown a failure. The situation is complicated due to lack of the spirit of cooperation among people often fanned by social-political differences, even during a national health emergency. Unity should not be difficult to find as a vaccine to prevent Coronavirus.

*The writer is former Director, ICSSR, New Delhi.*

## Vegetable terror

Be fearless and resolute, all obstacles will melt away before you.

THE MOTHER



Vegetable prices have gone through the roof. So much so, that an average middle-class consumer has been forced to cut down on his daily vegetable intake. Most people hesitate to visit markets. The price terror has come on top of vanishing jobs and truncated salaries triggered by a Covid-19 induced lockdown. Every consumer item starting from cereals, edible oils to vegetables sells at nearly 50 per cent more than their pre-pandemic rates. People, who used to spend ₹800 a week on vegetables, now have to spend around ₹1,500 a week. The price shock has worsened the miseries of the common man. Prices of onion and potato are rising when tomato has become the latest bugbear. Onion rules over ₹80 a kg in the local market, while potato costs ₹45/kg. Every vegetable, both locally produced and those coming from outside, has gone out of the reach of people. Prices of brinjal, beans, potato, carrots, green chilly et al are now out of bounds. Even 'untouchables' in the market like pumpkins, gourds, arum, snake gourds, Malabar spinach, ivy gourds from whom people turned away and that were available at throw-away prices have gone up in their standing. Each of these vegetables commands not less than ₹60 a kg. The reason dished out for the price rise is their short-supply from producing regions.

Despite its highfalutin efforts over years, the state government has failed to protect ordinary people from the vagaries of price volatilities of kitchen essentials. Such price shocks are not new in the state. But, unfortunately the government has not learnt a thing or two from its failures. Our farmers are no less hardy and industrious than farmers of other states. If provided with wherewithal and facilities, there is no reason why we cannot become self-sufficient in vegetables. Odisha is endowed with a suitable climate and soil to produce enough kitchen staples like potatoes and onions besides other vegetables. Farmers in Bolangir, Boudh and Kandhamal have shown that we can produce good quantities of onions. However, we continue to depend on others states for our daily quota of essentials such as onions, potatoes, fish and eggs. The failure of the government to generate enough farm produce could be made good of if we had proper agriculture infrastructure like warehouses and cold-storages to preserve perishable commodities. The government has failed on this count also. In the absence of the state-promoted scientific warehouses and market linkages, out farmers shy away from growing cash crops like vegetables. They prefer to grow only those commodities that come under minimum support price (MSP). There are scores of policies but they mostly remain on paper. For onions, we continue to depend on Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh while West Bengal gives us potatoes. We look to Andhra Pradesh for our fish and eggs quotas. The much-talked about Potato Mission of the state government has flopped. Matters could be compounded in the future once the amended farm Acts are implemented here. Under the changed laws, potatoes and onions have been kept out of the ambit of the Essential Services Maintenance Act.

Onion prices have surged after crops were damaged due to rainfall in various parts of the country, especially in Maharashtra. However, with Unlock 5.0 here, inter-state transportation has resumed and there is free flow of labour. The rain may have caused temporary delays in supply of vegetables. But vegetable prices have been soaring for over a year now. The rising inflation is a result of the consistent price rise over months. We can see a peculiar phenomenon. Inflation is going up even as people have no money to purchase things. This is high time the state produced enough vegetables to meet its own requirement and set up warehouses and cold-storages to preserve them. Perishable items such as vegetables cannot be imported all the time. The government should develop proper infrastructure and logistics to ensure seamless flow of farm produce. Or else, there will be no end to the miseries of the common man.

Dr. S. Saraswathi

**UNLOCK STEPS MUST INVARIABLY FOLLOW THE PULSE OF THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY AND CANNOT BE TAKEN ON THE BASIS OF DEMANDS AND PRESSURES**

The Calcutta High Court has directed the state government to treat all Durga Puja pandals as "no-entry zones" and keep devotees at a distance by erecting barricades. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has also urged devotees to watch pujas "virtually". In the present stage of combining locking and unlocking normal life in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, temple festivals have emerged as a big issue.

In Maharashtra, a war of words has broken out between Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari over re-opening temples in this festival season when a decision has already been taken to re-open markets and shops, restaurants and hotels, liquor shops and bars, and theatres and entertainment parks. Koshyari, in his letter to Thackeray, forwarding representations to reopen temples that were closed during lockdown, asked him if he, a "votary of Hindutva" had "turned secular". Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan called for extra vigil. He warned that the country may head for "big trouble" if precautionary guidelines to prevent spread of the virus are not followed.

The pandemic has released a political drama in the phase of relaxation of lockdown restrictions. All states are contributing to this re-opening *tamasha*, ignoring the seriousness of the pandemic. We are faced with economic compulsions to resume our usual activities.

When and how a country should "unlock" are best known to the concerned nations. WHO has warned nations against premature lifting of lockdown as it would spark resurgence and cause "even more severe, longer-term damage to the economy". It has cautioned against any relaxation of response as festival season and winter would together aggravate the situation.

Cumulative Covid-19 positivity rate in India is below 8 per cent now. But, Kerala, where unlocking started earlier than in other states, has seen a sudden increase in cases. Harsh Vardhan says certain districts in some states are witnessing community transmission;

**Pandemic has divided the population into two groups - one comprising the over-cautious and health conscious people, and the other including opposite types and the economically poorer who cannot afford the precautions. Less-informed citizens are eagerly awaiting unlock instructions which to them mean first and foremost more freedom of movement**

mainly in densely populated localities. Avoiding large gatherings has become the standard instruction to all.

A second wave of Covid-19 is turning out to be more destructive in Europe. Some have re-imposed lockdown and shutdown.

Pandemic has divided the population into two groups - one comprising the over-cautious and health conscious people, and the other including opposite types and the economically poorer who cannot afford the precautions. Less-informed citizens are eagerly awaiting unlock instructions which to them mean first and foremost more freedom of movement.

Unlocking temples is as much a technical question as lockdown to be decided by knowledgeable authorities on the basis of data on the prevalence of the disease and certain scientific calculations regarding the risks involved in unlocking. It cannot be decided by secular-communal standpoints or political pressures and popular demand or made an election issue. Temple lockdown is no insult to gods and goddesses.

"Until a vaccine against Covid-19 becomes available, it is essential that people follow safety precautions when they are outdoors and avoid crowded places for Diwali shopping" - a typical advice from health secretaries and medical personnel who have to deal with certain inevitable consequences of lifting lockdown in the festival season is on test. Such an advice should not be necessary for people with normal intelligence.

Crowded markets remain a concern because of flagrant violation of social restrictions. Collecting fines from violators has proven to be no solution. This was seen in Koyambedu wholesale market in Chennai which was for some time shifted elsewhere as the place became Covid-19 hotspot. Its reopening is greeted within a day with 50 new cases detected among traders at the market.

The scene is repeated across India in all major markets in all cities and towns and in fairs and mandis in villages. They are spontaneous eruption of crowds going on their business or enjoying the liberty of unlocking phase.

### WISDOM CORNER

- I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times, the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**
- Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears. **JOHN LENNON**
- There are three gems on this earth: food, water and pleasing words - Fools consider pieces of rocks as gems. **CHANAKYA**

### WORDSWORTH

#### ■ Unclarity

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Rowan Williams, plunged into enormous controversy by saying in a radio interview and a lecture in early February 2008 that "it is inevitable that some aspects of sharia law will have to be incorporated into UK law to accommodate our Muslim population." The lecture, at the Royal Courts of Justice before an audience of senior members of the legal profession, was a detailed and subtle academic argument, hard for a layperson to understand. Leaving aside the issues he raised and the reasons for the immense criticism he has since been subjected to, his half-apology to the meeting of the General Synod of the Church of England this week raised a linguistic issue. He said, "I must take responsibility for any unclarity and for any misleading choice of words that has helped to cause distress or misunderstanding among the public." Unclarity? Every journalist, broadcaster and cartoonist who quoted that sentence has focused on the word through some sort of emphasis. This may have been because it is rare. But why didn't he use confusion or obscurity? Was it a scholar's diffidence or was he trying to euphemise his error by means of a terribly British type of negative? It was probably the former and that he undoubtedly meant unclarity literally, an utterance that lacked clarity. But its history suggests its users often prefer it to retain a penumbra of imprecision. Unclarity has a longer history.

#### ■ Under the rose

The allusion goes back to classical times. The Romans adopted the Egyptian sun-god Horus as part of a cult of Isis and Serapis that reached them through Greece. The Greeks had taken him over as Horus the child (whose name in Egyptian was her-pa-khrad), Greeking his name to Harpocrates. The Egyptian hieroglyph for a child was a seated boy sucking his finger; the Greeks thought this showed him with his finger to his lips and so made him the god of silence and secrecy. He became popular among Romans once the cult had been officially sanctioned during the reign of Caligula in the first century AD. There's a famous story from those times in which Cupid - the Roman god of love - was said to have given a rose to Harpocrates as a little thank-you bribe for not letting on what his mother Venus, the goddess of sensual love, was up to (very filial, that). So the rose became the symbol of confidentiality in the classical Roman world. The ceilings of Roman dining rooms were decorated with roses to remind guests that what was said there under the influence of wine (sub vino) was also sub rosa, under the rose, privileged and not to be made public.

### LOL

#### CREDIT CARD

A call came from the bank to a woman. "Hello Ma'am, We are offering you credit card with best deals. No annual charges. No interest on balance for three months. Big credit limit, and no penalties for over-spending. She



replied swiftly, "No, thanks! I have a husband, with lifetime zero fee, no spending limit; no penalties and most importantly, no repayment forever." Line cut from the other side without a word!!

### SPECTRUM NATIONALISM

## Divided we stand



Mark W. Moffett

**ALTHOUGH NATIONALISTS AND PATRIOTS ARE BOTH NOMINALLY DEVOTED TO THEIR SOCIETY, THEY RELATE TO IT DIFFERENTLY**

The words nationalism and patriotism are commonly bandied about to describe people's entrenched political commitments, and both labels have made frequent appearances in the run-up to next month's US elections. For a psychologist, however, these terms represent distinct but variable expressions of how humans identify with their society. In fact, the personality differences between nationalists and patriots seem to be universal across cultures, suggesting they are part of our common heritage as humans.

Although nationalists and patriots are both nominally devoted to their society, they relate to it differently. Patriots show pride in a shared identity and sense of belonging - sentiments that come naturally to native-born citizens and naturalized immigrants alike. With their passion directed toward their own group, patriots emphasise the quotidian needs of their communities: food, housing, schools, and so forth.

By contrast, nationalists couch their identity in glorification. As concerned as patriots are with caring for their fellow citizens, nationalists are preoccupied with preserving what they perceive as a superior way of life, and with

keeping their people safe from outside threats.

But patriots and nationalists also have divergent ideas about who constitutes "their people." Nationalists prize those aspects of their identity that set them apart from others. Hence, they place great importance on demonstrations of loyalty, customary rules of order, obedience to recognised authorities, and the preservation of established social relationships.

Patriots also give "their people" a high standing, but they regard that status as something to be earned rather than merely defended. By implication, patriots allow for the possibility of continual improvement.

Looking across the natural world, we find the closest parallels to nationalists shown by the ants, which stick tightly to what amounts to a colony flag: a particular scent that all members share as a kind of emblem of the group's identity. In humans, a patriot can become as teary as any nationalist in displaying allegiance to emblems such as a flag or anthem; however, nationalists are especially sensitive to such symbols.

For nationalists, even a brief exposure to the national flag or a respected leader spurs an intense reaction, as does the absence of a

symbol when one is expected. This is exemplified by the uproar among American white nationalists over Black professional athletes who kneel during the national anthem to protest police violence.

While nationalists are much more suspicious of diversity than patriots are, that doesn't mean the latter are immune to prejudice. By reserving their ardor for fellow citizens or members of their own race or ethnicity, patriots may also end up discriminating against those unlike themselves. As it happens, the emergence of these conflicting perspectives may have been integral to our survival. After all, each mode of thinking can be beneficial in certain contexts. In my own work as a biologist, I've found that groups ranging from chimpanzee communities to termite nests tend to serve two overlapping purposes: to provide for community members and to protect them.

The patriot-nationalist dimension of our identities could be an adaptation to coping with these divergent social needs. Similar balancing acts between responsibilities exist in other animals, too. Scientists have found that ant colonies are most successful when they contain not just individuals

who boldly rush to the colony's defense, but others who retreat from dangers while fastidiously tending the nest. Take away too many of the latter group, and the young will starve; remove too many of the former, and parasites will steal the colony's resources.

While we think of healthy societies functioning through cooperation between their members, conflicts can be advantageous, too. Even though people with opposing outlooks seldom see eye to eye, the fact is that human societies with too few or too many people at either end of the spectrum will be vulnerable to catastrophe.

Many of our current social divisions reflect the fact that we evolved in largely homogeneous societies. Multiethnic and multiracial societies are relatively new in our history, and many people - patriots and nationalists alike - remain partial, consciously or not, to their own ethnicity.

*Mark W. Moffett is a Research Associate at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.*

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## 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

#### Coalition politics

Sir, Coalition politics is quite tricky. On the one hand, the lurking danger of being browbeaten by partners can hamper the smooth flow of administration. On the other, the process of extensive consultations will help leaders in decision-making. India has had many coalition governments at the Centre between 1977 and 2014. The perils of several parties coming together under a common minimum programme but with different philosophies and ideologies have been exposed repeatedly. The BJP returned as a strong national entity in 2014 but it carried with it some allies. The need for it to forge an alliance continued as it needed support of other parties in the Rajya Sabha and such an alliance helped it provide an alternative to the Congress in the states. Two of its allies - Shiv Sena and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) - have got themselves out of the NDA in recent times. TDP left it before the last LS polls. The Opposition is in a shambles. But regional satraps are busy consolidating their bastions. In the south, no national party can dream of coming to power on its own except in Karnataka. The AIADMK in Tamil Nadu would back the BJP in future too. The same is with the YSR Congress in Andhra Pradesh where Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has several skeletons in his cupboard. Kerala is out of bounds for the BJP. Telangana is firmly with TRS as of now. New coalitions at national level may sprout with or without the Congress.

**Ganapati Bhat, AKOLA**

#### Accept stammering

Sir, International Stammering Awareness Day (ISAD) was celebrated this week, October 22, worldwide. The day is designated to spread awareness on the issues faced by millions - one per cent of the world's population - who stammer. In India too, millions are confronting the challenge of stammering. It creates trouble for education, interpersonal relationships, social activities, and in finding employment. Our society expects that every individual speak fluently. Those who stammer are isolated and many a time judged as being incapable of handling jobs and engage in marriage. Community is giving advice to people who stammer, like "speak slowly, breath repeatedly, and develop self-confidence." Such advice makes their life more stressful. Rather, let us accept this as part of life. Let us listen to them patiently give them time to speak, and avoid prejudging them. Equal opportunities may empower people who stammer.

**Amit Singh Kushwaha, SATNA**



# Yedi assesses flood damage Will the floods exacerbate in Karnataka

STATE TO SEE MORE RAINS AS MONSOON EXTENDS: OFFICIAL

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Oct 22:** Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa Wednesday conducted an aerial survey of flood-hit districts in the state's northern region and assured the affected people of more funds.

"The Chief Minister undertook aerial survey of Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Raichur in the state's northern region and Belagavi, Bagalkote and Vijayapura in the northwest region and assured the affected people of releasing more funds for their relief and rehabilitation," an official told IANS here.

The state government released Rs86 crore last week for rescue and relief operations in about dozen districts, which were battered by heavy rains and flash floods, resulting in huge loss of houses, crops and infrastructure.

"As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured the state of all help, including financial aid to rehabilitate the affected people, more funds will soon be released to compensate them for losses they suffered," the official asserted.

State Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chauhan and state disaster management authority commissioner Manoj Rajan accompanied the Chief Minister in the aerial survey of the worst-hit districts. The affected districts are Bagalkot, Ballari, Belagavi, Bidar, Gadag, Kalaburagi, Kodagu, Koppal, Raichur, Yadgir, Vijayapura and Udupi across the state's north, northwest, coastal and southern regions.

Besides torrential rains, the flash floods were caused due to discharge of excess water from the dams in



The CM took aerial survey of Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Raichur in the state's northern region and Belagavi, Bagalkote and Vijayapura in the northwest region

Incessant rains and flooding have damaged the red gram crops in hundreds of hectares before they could be harvested in October and November

The loss from the damaged pulses crop is estimated to be about ₹500 crore for kharif season

the neighbouring Maharashtra into Krishna and Bheema rivers in the state.

"The excess water turned the rivers into spate and inundated villages and towns in Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Bagalkot and Vijayapura districts. Normal life was disrupted as roads and bridges were submerged and power lines were snapped due to strong surface winds," the official recalled.

"A central team will soon visit the affected districts and assess the damage caused to crops, houses and public infrastructure to prepare a report and for releasing financial aid from the national disaster relief fund," said the official.

Incessant rains and flooding have damaged the red gram (tur dal) crops in hundreds of hectares in Kalaburagi, Bidar and Yadgir districts before they could be harvested in October and November.

According to the state red gram

growers' association, the loss from the damaged pulses crop is estimated to be about Rs500 crore for kharif season.

The state agriculture department is surveying the rain-affected crop areas to assess the damage for compensation and insurance claims.

As the southwest monsoon was timely and excess in the region, sowing was undertaken in 7.6-lakh hectares of agricultural lands for growing cash crops such as a variety of pulses, cotton, jowar, bajra, maize, sunflower, sugarcane and groundnuts since July.

"Excess rains and flash floods have damaged about 50 per cent of the standing crops in the affected districts, resulting in heavy loss to farmers," added the official.

About 37,600 farmers have insured their crops this year while the area insured is over 51,500 hectares in the northern district.

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Oct 22:** With the southwest monsoon extending further, delaying the onset of the northeast monsoon, more rains have been forecast across Karnataka till this weekend, a weather official said Thursday.

"Favourable weather conditions due to low pressure in the Bay of Bengal and surface winds are continuing the spell of southwest monsoon rains over the state during this week too," state meteorological centre head CS Patil said here.

Though the southwest monsoon withdraws from the state by September, it has extended for over three weeks into October due to unseasonal weather systems like depression in the Bay of Bengal and a trough in the Arabian Sea.

"As the southwest monsoon spilled over to October, the northeast monsoon, which commences in the third or fourth week of this month has been delayed, as cloud



formation and wind conditions will take 10 days for rains to occur," said Patil.

Moderate to heavy rains are forecast in the coastal, southern and central regions of the state till Sunday before the monsoon withdraws from the state by this month-end.

With the north and northwest regions of the state reeling under flash floods due to heavy rains and release of excess water from dams

across Krishna and Bheema rivers, the weather office has advised the authorities in the coastal and southern regions to evacuate the people from low-lying areas and river banks to safer places.

"A low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal is set to turn into a depression in the next 24 hours. A trough over the peninsula will cause heavy rains in the coastal, south interior and north interior areas of the

state," Patil warned.

According to the met office, the state has received 58 per cent excess rainfall from October 1-21, with 94 percent in the coastal, 100 percent in northern and 19 per cent in the southern regions for the first time in many years.

Monsoon remained active even Wednesday, with moderate to heavy rainfall in coastal, southern and northern regions of the state.

Subramanya, Belthangadi, Shirali and Agumbe in the coastal areas received maximum rainfall of 7cm till Thursday morning.

Rain/thundershowers will occur at most places over coastal area, at many places over south interior and at isolated places over north interior areas of the state over the next 24-48 hours.

Bangalore will have a cloudy sky with a spell of rain or thundershowers over the next 2 days, with maximum and minimum temperatures at 26 and 20 degree Celsius.

## Silicon City's iconic Sankey tank overflows after 12 yrs

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Oct 22:** Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister CN Ashwatha Narayana Thursday offered 'bagina' at Sankey tank which is filled to the brim and overflowing after a gap of 12 years.

'Bagina' is a kind of puja offered invoking water Goddess Gange, a Hindu ritual widely prac-

ticed in Karnataka, whenever tanks, lakes and rivers fill to the brim.

Due to copious rains in the last fortnight, the Sankey tank filled up after a more than a decade.

This iconic tank is situated in Malleshwaram constituency which Narayana represents in the Assembly.

The tank is also well-known for

its scenic beauty and it is a bird watchers paradise.

Speaking to reporters after offering 'bagina' to the tank, Narayana said that the very fact that the tank is filled to its brim has brought a lot of cheers to the people of Malleshwaram and surrounding localities.

"It is a pleasure to worship and offer 'bagina' to goddess Gange

on this auspicious occasion," he said. He added that the state government was taking steps to tap every rain drop to increase the ground water level in the state. "We will soon come out with a plan to construct soak pits, in order to prevent water going waste. Besides this the water filling capacity of tanks in the city will also be enhanced," he added.

## Telangana's Covid tally crosses 2.27L

AGENCIES

**Hyderabad, Oct 22:** Telangana's Covid-19 tally crossed 2.27 lakh Thursday as the state reported 1,456 new cases during the last 24 hours.

Health officials said the fresh cases pushed the cumulative number to 2,27,580. Of this only 20,183 cases are active, including 16,977 who are in home or institutional isolation.

Five more persons succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours ending 8 pm Wednesday, pushing the death toll to 1,292.

The fatality stands at 0.56 per cent against the national average of 1.5 per cent. The officials said the percentage of deaths due to Covid-19 was 44.96 while the remaining 55.04 had comorbidities.

The state continued to see more recoveries than new infections. A total of 1,717 people recovered from the infection, taking the cumulative recoveries to 2,06,105. The state's recovery rate climbed further to 90.56 per cent against the national average of 89.2 per cent. The declining trend in new infections continued both in the state capital

and the districts.

According to the media bulletin issued by the office of the director of public health, Greater Hyderabad reported 254 new cases. After several weeks, none of the districts reported more than 100 cases.

Medchal Malkajgiri and Rangareddy recorded second highest number of cases at 98 each followed by Nalgonda (92), Khammam and Komaram Bheem Asifabad (89 each), Bhadradi Kothagudem (82) and Siddipet (47).

Out of 2,27,580 total positive cases so far, 70 per cent (1,59,306) were asymptomatic while the remaining 30 per cent (68,274) were symptomatic. During the last 24 hours, 38,565 tests were conducted. Of this, 35,931 samples were tested in the government-run laboratories and 2,634 in private. Of the total samples, 16,968 were primary and 4,627 were secondary.

With this the cumulative number of samples tested have gone up to 39,78,869. Eighteen government-run laboratories, 46 private laboratories and 1,076 Rapid Antigen test centres are conducting the tests.

Samples tested per million population ratio rose further to 1,06,901.



## How much the deluge cost T'gana

CENTRAL TEAM IN HYDERABAD ASSESSES DAMAGE CAUSED BY FLOODS



WHILE THE LOSS TO CROPS IS ESTIMATED AT ₹8,633 CRORE, LOSS TO ROADS IS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND ₹222 CRORE

THE LOSS TO GHMC IS ESTIMATED TO BE AT ₹567 CRORE

APART FROM THE ₹550 CRORE FOR IMMEDIATE FLOOD RELIEF, THE STATE GOVT TOLD THE CENTRE THAT FOOD PACKETS WERE SUPPLIED TO MORE THAN TWO LAKH PEOPLE

ONE KILOGRAM OF BLEACHING POWDER AND THREE LAKH CHLORINE TABLETS WERE SUPPLIED TO THE AFFECTED PEOPLE

AGENCIES

**Hyderabad, Oct 22:** A five-member inter-ministerial team is sent by the Centre to assess the damage caused by the floods in Telangana, the state government officials said Thursday.

The team, led by Joint Secretary Praveen Vashista, met Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar at the state Secretariat and discussed the flood situation and relief measures in the state.

Somesh Kumar informed the Central team that the state government has taken all measures to minimise loss of lives and property arising out of the recent floods.

He gave a powerpoint presentation and briefed about the extent of damage caused due to the floods in the state. A photo exhibition

was arranged to depict the damages caused by the floods.

Officials of Irrigation, Municipal Administration, Roads & Buildings, Agriculture, Energy, and Panchayat Raj Departments as well as from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the Water Board interacted with the Central team and gave an overview of the loss incurred in the state.

Officials informed that there was excess rainfall during the last 10 days which has resulted in flooding. The state government has already released Rs 550 crore for immediate flood relief.

Though there were rains in the entire state, excessive damage was in and around Hyderabad and the neighbouring districts adjoining the city. Breaches in three major tanks coupled with flooding in Musi river has resulted in low-

level areas being inundated.

The state government officials said damage to public infrastructure was enormous and the state government had already made a preliminary assessment of the damage.

While the loss to crops is estimated at Rs 8,633 crore, loss to roads is estimated to be around Rs 222 crore. The loss to GHMC is estimated to be at Rs 567 crore.

Apart from the Rs 550 crore for immediate flood relief, the state government told the Centre that food packets were supplied to more than two lakh people. One kilogram of bleaching powder and three lakh chlorine tablets were supplied to the affected people.

The Central team arrived in Hyderabad Thursday to assess the damage caused by floods.

It will visit the flood-affected areas to assess the extent of damage to properties and crops during recent heavy rains and floods.

The other members of the team are RB Kaul, Consultant, Ministry of Finance; K Manoharan, Director, Department of Agriculture; SK Kushwaha, Senior Engineer, Transport and Highways; and M Raghuram, Senior Manager, Ministry of Water Resources.

The Centre sent the team a week after Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao said that due to heavy rains and flash floods, the state suffered losses to the tune of Rs 5,000 crore.

He wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to release Rs 1,350 crore immediately for the relief and rehabilitation works.

Heavy rains and floods since October 13 have wreaked havoc in various parts of the state, especially Hyderabad, claiming at least 70 lives.

## BMTC begins trial run of electric bus



AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Oct 22:** The maiden trial run of the first electric bus of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation began in the city Thursday.

Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, who holds the transport portfolio, was part of the maiden ride from Shantinagar bus stand to Vidhana Soudha.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa who inspected the bus at the Vidhana Soudha, expressed his pleasure over the initiative of the BMTC.

Later, speaking to reporters, Savadi said the 12-metre-long 35-seater electric bus is fully air-conditioned and has an automatic gearbox.

The bus has the capacity to run about 200 to 250 km in a single charge with an air-conditioner in the traffic conditions.

According to a statement issued by the BMTC, the bus that can op-

erate with 100 to 125 passenger consistent load has wheelchair provision with kneeling feature for specially-abled and senior citizens.

The 12-metre-long 35-seater electric bus is fully air-conditioned and has an automatic gearbox

LAXMAN SAVADI | DEPUTY CM & TRANSPORT MINISTER, KARNATAKA

The vehicle has various other features like USB charger provision for mobile charging, emergency alarm, stop buttons and emergency exits for safety purposes, the officials said adding that the electronically controlled air suspension with disc brakes at front and rear adds to its safety.

The Department of Heavy Industries (DHI) of the Government of India has sanctioned 300 electric buses to the BMTC for operational cost model under the Phase-2 of FAME India scheme, the statement read. Under the scheme, the DHI will provide a maximum demand incentive of Rs 55 lakh for each bus.

## 9-yr-old kidnapped for ransom found murdered

AGENCIES

**Hyderabad, Oct 22:** In a shocking incident, a nine-year-old boy who was kidnapped for Rs45 lakh ransom five days ago in Telangana's Mahabubabad district was found murdered Thursday, police said.

The charred body of Kusuma Deekshith Reddy, 9, son of a local journalist, was found on the hillocks on the outskirts of Annaram in Ksamudram mandal, about five km from Mahabubabad town.

Deekshith was kidnapped by an unidentified person when he was playing outside his house in Mahabubabad town Sunday (October 19) evening.

Police S Koti Reddy said though the kidnapper killed the boy within a couple hours after the kidnap, he behaved like a psychopath to call the boy's family every day to demand money. Manda Sagar, 23, a bike mechanic, living near the house of Deekshith Reddy, has been arrested for kidnap and murder.

The police officer said the accused kidnapped the boy to make easy money. "Since he was known to the boy, he accompanied the kidnapper. After taking the boy to a secluded place, he realised that controlling the boy single handedly will be difficult. He strangled the boy to death as he was worried that the boy may reveal the incident to his family," the SP said.

AGENCIES

**Hyderabad, Oct 22:** The inundated colonies in flood-hit Hyderabad are witnessing a novel rescue and relief operation as horse riders have come forward as saviours to the marooned people.

Going door to door in Nadeem Colony and other inundated areas, the equestrians from Hyderabad Horse Riding School (HHRS) are providing food, milk, medicines and other essentials.

A group of 10-20 trained horse riders wearing HHRS uniform can be seen riding through the flooded lanes of Nadeem Colony, Nerja Colony, Balreddy Nagar and Virasat Nagar to extend a helping hand to

the victims of one of the worst floods the city has ever seen.

HHRS president and chief trainer Mohammed Abdul Wahab is leading the group, divided into different teams. "Aur kisi ko kuch chahiye (Does anybody need anything else)?" he can be heard asking in a flooded street.

Abdul Wahab told IANS that while the school is engaged in various social service activities, this is the first time they are using horses for rescue and relief work.

As the heavy rains and flash floods left many areas in four-five feet water, carrying out relief work is not easy. "Horses are natural swimmers. History shows horses have helped warriors win the wars

RIDERS ON THE STORM



by swimming across rivers," said Abdul Wahab, who planned the entire operation and execution by assigning the tasks to different teams of horse riders.

Abdul Wahab, who comes from a family of equestrians, said he was moved by the devastation caused by the floods and wanted to do his bit. "Serving humanity is the biggest service. When you have everything at your disposal you should go out

and help those in distress. It gives an immense satisfaction that we are of some help to people," he told IANS after the sixth day of rescue and relief operations.

Not confining himself to the Toli Chowki area, Abdul Wahab also visited Hafiz Baba Nagar, the worst affected area in the old city. "We are not using horses because the water has receded but the havoc wrecked by the flood water is shocking. People have lost everything," he said. He along with his team is going door to door to provide essential commodities to the affected. "They need utensils and clothes because everything got washed away with water. Mud has piled up in every house," he said.



## of the day quote

The NDA government has spared no effort in securing the country's boundaries and its focus on building border roads has shaken China

JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

The Delhi government has decided to implement its 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' anti-pollution initiative in all 70 assembly constituencies from next week

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

A plan is being prepared for a permanent solution to the recurring problem of flooding in the state

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Pilot assaulted

**Mumbai:** A 31-year-old pilot has alleged he was assaulted by three persons, including a father-son duo, after an argument over vehicle parking issue here, a police official said Thursday. The incident, which was captured on CCTV, took place in suburban Kalina Wednesday afternoon. The victim, Joash Gonsalves, filed a complaint against one Sheikh Noorul Hasan, his son Zaid and another person who allegedly bashed him up outside his building 'Golden Tower', the official said. The complaint was filed at the Vakola police station. A video clip shows the three persons beating up Gonsalves.

### Gold seized

**Chennai:** The Customs department said here Thursday that it has seized 114 gm gold valued at Rs 6 lakh from a passenger who flew in from Dubai. As per a statement issued here by the Commissioner of Customs, Chennai International Airport, 50-year-old Keedir Naina Mohamed of Tamil Nadu arrived here from Dubai by Air India Express flight. On being questioned, Mohamed confessed to carrying gold paste in his rectum.

### Three killed

**Guna:** Three members of a family were killed when their speeding car overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district Thursday morning, a police official said. The accident took place near Kalapahad village when the victims were on their way to Chhattarpur from Indore to take part in the post death rituals of an acquaintance.

### Man found dead

**Banda (UP):** A man was found hanging from a tree Thursday in a forest area near Ken river in the city area of Uttar Pradesh's Banda district, police said. "Upon receiving information, police has recovered the body of an unidentified youth, about 35 years, hanging from a tree in the forest area," SHO (City) Dinesh Singh said.

### Man arrested

**Kanpur (UP):** A man was arrested Thursday for allegedly raping a 19-year-old woman for over a year on the pretext of marriage under the Chakeri Police Station area here, police said. The woman, a private tutor, met the accused at the house of one of her students. He befriended her about a year ago, they said. The accused later promised to marry the victim and allegedly raped her in a hotel where he allegedly filmed the act to blackmail her. Since then he sexually exploited her on several occasions, Station House Officer (Chakeri) Ravi Srivastava said.



Unless the government puts money in the hands of the bottom half of the families and puts food on the plates of the poor, the economy will not revive smartly

P. CHIDAMBARAM | FORMER FINANCE MINISTER

## SUSHIL MODI COVID POSITIVE

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi Thursday said that he has tested positive for COVID-19 and was undergoing treatment, while also asserting that his parameters were fine and he was looking forward to hitting the campaign trail soon in the poll-bound state



# Not allowed to step out: Umar to court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 22:** Former JNU student leader Umar Khalid, arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with north-east Delhi riots in February, told a court here Thursday that he was not allowed to step out of his cell and it was sort of a "solitary confinement".

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat directed Tihar Jail Superintendent to be present before the court Friday to hear the matter. Khalid made his submissions directly to the court through video conferencing when he was produced before it on expiry of his judicial custody in the case.

The court also pulled up the Assistant Jail Superintendent of Tihar prisons for not unmuting the microphone when Khalid told him that he wanted to speak to the judge. Khalid said the official told him the microphone will be unmuted if the judge gave the permission for it.

"If an undertrial wants to say something, then unmute and let him speak or you tell us that he wants to say something," the judge told the jail official. Khalid alleged that he was alone in his cell and not



allowed to step out of his cell or talk to anyone.

"I have not been allowed to step outside at all. I am alone in my cell. No one is allowed to meet me. It is practically sort of a solitary confinement. I am not well for the last three days. I am feeling discomfort. This is like a punishment.

Why am I given this punishment? I reiterate that I need security but it cannot be that I have to be in my cell all day," he claimed.

He further said that Wednesday he was shown an order passed by Additional Superintendent Pradeep Sharma of Jail number 2, in which it was stated that Khalid should

not be allowed out of his cell for 24 hours a day.

"I request a recall of that order. In the morning, the Jail Superintendent came and asked the jail staff to allow me to go outside. I was allowed to step out for 10 minutes and then after he left, I was not allowed to go outside since then," Khalid alleged.

When his counsel, advocate Trideep Pais, told the court that no adverse steps should be taken against him by the jail authorities for putting forward his grievances, the judge said, "Khalid should not be punished for putting forward his grievances. You should take care of it."

The court had October 17 directed the Tihar Jail Superintendent to provide adequate and security in judicial custody. The directions came on an application filed by Khalid seeking adequate security in prison so that he was not harmed by anyone in judicial custody.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi February 24 after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

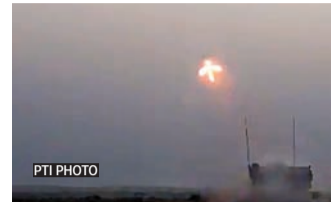
# Anti-tank missile passes final test

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 22:** India successfully carried out the final trial of anti-tank guided missile - Nag - Thursday. The missile will be inducted soon in the Indian Army. In 2008, Ministry of Defence approved procurement of 300 Nag missiles and 25 missile carriers for Army. The test was carried out at 6.45 a.m. at the Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said. The missile was integrated with the actual warhead and a tank target was kept at designated range. This was launched from Nag Missile Carrier NAMICA.

The missile hit the target accurately defeating the armour. Anti-tank guided missile has been developed by DRDO to engage highly fortified enemy tanks in day and night conditions.

The missile has "Fire & Forget" "Top Attack" capabilities with passive homing guidance to defeat all main battle tanks equipped with composite and reactive armour. The NAG missile carrier NAMICA is an Infantry Combat



The test was carried out at 6:45 am at the Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan, Defence Research and Development Organisation said

Vehicle BMP2 II based system with amphibious capability. With this final user trial, NAG will enter into production phase.

The missile will be produced by Defence PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), whereas Ordnance Factory Medak will produce the NAMICA. Defence Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and Indian Army for the successful trial of NAG Missile. Chairman DRDO, G. Sathesh Reddy appreciated the efforts of DRDO, Indian Army and Industry in bringing the missile up to the production phase.

# Few takers for wedding cards in corona times

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 22:** The Big Fat Indian Weddings in India have lost much of the pomp and pageantry usually associated with them in the past, as a fall-out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the festivities associated with the ostentatious weddings - that brought immense joy and celebrations in the families - have gone for a toss and turned these social occasions into a tame affair.



Gone are the days - at least for several more months - when hundreds of guests thronged weddings. Now restrictions on gatherings, including weddings, in a bid to stem the spread of coronavirus has led to thin attendance at the celebratory events.

And one thing indicating this downturn in celebrations is the drastic dip in demand for invi-

tation cards. A visit to Chandni Chowk - one of the biggest markets that cater to the need of those looking to shop for invitation cards for weddings - is enough to tell one about the downturn in demand after the pandemic.

Customers for wedding invitation cards are few and far between and most shopkeepers can't help but gaze at their shops' doors while looking for the elusive customers. "Our businesses remained shut for months but have since resumed. But there isn't any increase in demand as many restrictions on social gatherings like weddings are still in force," Krishna Murari Gupta, President of Delhi Wedding Cards Association, said.

"Many people have postponed weddings in their families while other have turned them into closed family affairs with very limited number of attendees, directly affecting not only our wedding cards business but also other businesses connected to weddings," he said, adding that virtual market too had greatly impacted their business as people were now shifting to e-cards and WhatsApp invitations.

# UP cop suspended over beard

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Baghat (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 22:** Sub-inspector in Uttar Pradesh Police, Intesar Ali, has been suspended and sent to the police lines, and all this for keeping a beard without permission.

Ali had been warned thrice to shave off or seek requisite permission for the same. However, the policeman did not seek permission and continued to keep the beard.

SP Baghat Abhishek Singh said that as per the police manual only

Sikhs are allowed to keep a beard while all other policemen have to remain clean-shaven.

"If any police personnel want to keep a beard, he has to seek permission for the same. Intesar Ali was repeatedly asked to seek permission but he did not comply and kept the beard without permission," the SP said.

Ali joined the police force as sub-inspector and was posted in Baghat since the past three years. He told reporters that he had applied permission to keep a beard but got no response.

## FARM WORK



Farmers thrash rice paddy at a field in Karad, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

# PM's address sets tone for Bengal polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Oct 22:** Invoking Goddess Durga, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday reaffirmed his government's irrevocable commitment to women's empowerment and safety. Reaching out to the people of West Bengal during the state's biggest festival Durga Puja, the Prime Minister said though it was being celebrated on a limited scale due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the "enthusiasm is still unlimited".

In an attempt to connect with the masses ahead of next year's Assembly polls, he listed out various development projects that the Centre has launched for Bengal, and said "Sonar Bangla" can be created through the resolve of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

Noting that Goddess Durga was worshipped as a symbol of 'Shakti' (strength), Modi said his government was consistently working for the empowerment of women. "From opening Jan Dhan accounts for 22 crore women, giving soft loans to them under the Mudra Yojana, to launch-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures while inaugurating a community puja pandal for Durga Puja celebrations in West Bengal, via video conferencing, in New Delhi, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

ing Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao initiative, granting permanent commission to women in the armed forces and extending maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks, we have taken a number of steps for their empowerment," he told a gathering at Durga Puja celebration organised by the BJP.

He also said anti-rape laws were made more stringent to include the death penalty. "We are alert towards the security of women. We have strengthened laws against rape. Now, there is even provision for the death penalty to the perpetrators," he said in his virtual address

to the people of the state. In Bengal, Goddess Durga was also worshipped as a daughter, he said, adding women must be treated with respect. The Prime Minister's remark came in the backdrop of a string of incidents of rape and murder of women, including the Hathras incident that shocked the nation and triggered outrage against the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh.

Durga Puja, he said, was the epitome of pluralism and reflected the collective strength of India. Speaking about the development schemes of his government for the people of the state, Modi said under the Pradhan

Mantri Awas Yojana pucca dwellings were built for about 30 lakh poor families. "About 90 lakh poor women have been given free gas connections under the Ujjwala scheme. Bank accounts of about four crores poor of Bengal have been opened through Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme, clean piped water will be delivered to about 4 lakh households," he said. Reacting to the Prime Minister's address, the TMC alleged the BJP attempted to politicise Durga Puja and Modi made a "failed" effort to connect with the people.

# Himalayas poised for a series of big quakes: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 22:** The entire Himalayan arc is poised to produce a sequence of great earthquakes, and the next big quake - of the magnitude of 8 or above - may occur during our lifetimes, according to a study reviewing geological, historical, and geophysical data.

The human toll of such an event in the densely populated countries across the arc is likely to be unprecedented, the researchers said. The study notes that the sequence of future Himalayan earthquakes could be similar to the great earthquakes that occurred in the twentieth century along the Aleutian subduction zone, which extends from the Gulf of Alaska to

Kamchatka in Russian Far East. The review, which appeared in the journal Seismological Research Letters in August, used basic geological principles - stratigraphic analysis, structural analysis, soils analysis, and radiocarbon analysis - to estimate the size and timing of prehistoric earthquakes and evaluate future risk.

"The entire Himalayan arc extending from the eastern boundary of Arunachal Pradesh (India) in the east to Pakistan (in the west) has in the past been the source of great earthquakes," study author Steven G. Wesnousky said.

"These earthquakes will occur again and scientifically, it would not be a surprise if the next great earthquake occurred in our life-



times. But the resolution of our studies is at best on the order of

100 years, longer than a human lifetime," said Wesnousky, a professor

of geology and seismology and director of the Center for Neotectonic Studies at the University of Nevada at Reno, US.

Seismologist Supriyo Mitra noted that the research matches previous studies. "The research is a comprehensive review of paleoseismological studies of past Himalayan earthquakes and a forecast of the future events based on the findings," said Mitra, a professor in the department of Earth sciences at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata.

"The Himalayan faults, as shown in the paper, are poised to produce an 8-plus magnitude earthquake. So yes, we are staring at a big one in the future. How far from now no one can tell," Mitra, who was not in-

involved in the study, said. Prior studies have examined the rate of strain accumulation that is occurring along the Himalayan arc from satellite observations. In the latest study, the timing and size of most recent prehistoric earthquakes were defined from geology.

The methodology directly applies geologic principles to defining the past size and timing of earthquakes recorded by sediments broken and deformed by earthquake offsets at sites along the length of the Himalayan Frontal Thrust, Wesnousky said. Satellites can help in finding the location of active earthquake faults but unable to provide any information on the past timing and size of earthquakes on those faults, he said.



of the day quote

The implementation of various development and welfare schemes get delayed due to the absence of basic banking infrastructure, because of which people have to travel long distances to avail the services

CONRAD K SANGMA | MEGHALAYA CM

We are alert towards the security of women. We have strengthened laws against rape. Now, there is even provision for the death penalty to the perpetrators

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

We will face challenges on the way of development and trust which we are treading, but I want to assure you that we will stand up to them and rest only when we make Jammu and Kashmir, which is the crown of India, the most developed region

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LT GOVERNOR

SHORT TAKES

Lightning strike leaves 25 injured

Thane: At least 25 people were injured when lightning struck a residential area at a village in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said Thursday. During heavy rains in Thane Wednesday evening, lightning struck Palaspada hamlet in Umbarli village under Sahapur taluka around 7 pm, regional disaster management cell chief Santosh Kadam said.

Exotic birds rescued by BSF

Kolkata: At least 54 exotic birds were seized by the BSF in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas, close to the India-Bangladesh border, a statement by the paramilitary force said Wednesday. The birds, kept in two iron cages, were rescued by the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans during an operation Tuesday night at Shah Para village in Tentulberia area of the district, the statement said.

Two terrorist recruits surrender

Srinagar: Two newly recruited terrorists have surrendered before the security forces in Kashmir after their parents appealed them to lay down arms, officials said here Thursday. After the police received a specific tip-off about the presence of terrorists in Shalpora Tujar Sharief area of Sopore in north Kashmir, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by the police, the army and the CRPF. According to the police, during the search operation, as the presence of terrorists got ascertained, they were given the opportunity to surrender.

Assam-Mizo border issue resolved

Assam/Aizawl: The fortnight long Assam-Mizoram border issue seemed to be resolved Thursday after the movement of over 300 Mizoram bound essential goods laden vehicles and the start of the process of withdrawing forces from Assam's territory, a top official said.

Doctor booked

Mumbai: An offence has been registered against a 31-year-old doctor from a hospital in central Mumbai for allegedly raping his colleague repeatedly by threatening to make a video of her viral, police said Thursday.



Going by the logic of the stage, after the full roll out of NEP, Class 10 and 12 board exam should also discontinue

MANISH SISODIA | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OF DELHI

AP TOPS nCoV RECOVERY RATE

A total of 95.1 per cent of COVID patients in Andhra Pradesh have recovered from the virus, making it a state with the highest recovery rate in India



India, US set for high-level talks

The third edition of the two-plus-two dialogue between India and the US October 27 will entail a comprehensive discussion on cross-cutting bilateral issues as well as deliberations on regional and global developments, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Thursday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: The third edition of the two-plus-two dialogue between India and the US October 27 will entail a comprehensive discussion on cross-cutting bilateral issues as well as deliberations on regional and global developments, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Thursday.

US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper will visit India October 26 and 27 for the high-level dialogue aimed at further boosting defence, security and global strategic ties between the two countries. The Indian side at the talks will be represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"The third ministerial dialogue will entail a comprehensive cross-cutting bilateral issues of mutual interests. In addition, both sides will also exchange views on regional and international issues," MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said at a media briefing. He said Pompeo and Esper will have bilateral meetings with their Indian counterparts as well.

"They will also be meeting the National Security Advisor. There will be a joint call on the prime minister," Srivastava said. Asked why the talks have been scheduled just days ahead of the US presidential election, Srivastava said: "Diplomatic calendars have their



AFP FILE PHOTO

logic. Earlier two meetings were also held towards the end of year." Specifically asked about key issues to be discussed, the MEA spokesperson said the talks will cover all "salient regional and global issues" as the partnership between the two countries is a comprehensive global one.

The high-level talks are taking place in the midst of India's festering border row with China in eastern Ladakh as well as renewed global focus on growing Chinese military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific region. Both the issues are expected to figure in the talks.

The first edition of the two-plus-two dialogue was held in Delhi in September 2018 after the mechanism was approved by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

The second edition of the dialogue took place in Washington in December last year. The new framework of the ministerial dialogue was initiated in order to provide a forward-looking vision for the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Serum Institute, Merck, IAVI join race

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 22: IAVI, a non-profit scientific research organisation and Serum Institute of India announced an agreement with Merck to develop SARS-CoV-2 neutralising monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) co-invented by IAVI and Scripps Research as innovative interventions to address the Covid-19 pandemic.

The agreement builds on the advanced antibody discovery and optimization expertise of IAVI and Scripps Research, gained from years of experience in HIV broadly neutralising antibody research and development, and on Merck's and Serum Institute's significant capabilities in design and scale up of accelerated manufacturing processes for mAb production. The global de-

COVID ANTIBODIES



PTI PHOTO

velopment plan is being led by the three organisations in partnership.

The two companies have broad networks across complementary geographic areas that will be crucial to reach given the worldwide spread of COVID-19. If the highly

potent and broadly cross-reactive SARS-CoV-2 neutralising antibody candidates being advanced through this partnership are shown to be efficacious in clinical trials, either as a single antibody or a potential combination of both candidates,

Merck will lead commercialisation in developed countries. Serum Institute has a proven track record of more than 50 years in developing affordable medicines and is the world's largest producer of vaccines. Serum Institute will lead global manufacturing as well as commercialisation in low- and middle-income countries, including India. "We're acutely aware of the tremendous potential for monoclonal antibodies to be used in Covid-19 response. By combining the scientific achievements of IAVI and Scripps Research with our partners' development, manufacturing, and distribution expertise, we are hopeful that this partnership will result in globally accessible antibodies that are available to all who can benefit from them," said Mark Feinberg, President and CEO of IAVI.

3,800 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS BY PAK THIS YEAR: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Pakistani troops have resorted to more than 3,800 incidents of unprovoked ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir this year and even supported smuggling of arms and narcotic substances, including through drones and quadcopters, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Thursday.

MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said Pakistani forces have continued to engage in unprovoked ceasefire violations, often from civilian areas, to support infiltration of terrorists across the LoC. The MEA spokesperson said there have also been attempts to drop arms and ammunition close to the LoC in the garb of civilian activities.

FESTIVE FERVOUR



A potter makes an earthen lamp ahead of the Diwali, in Gorakhpur

PTI PHOTO

Delhi violence 'worst' since partition: Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: The riots in north east Delhi in February this year was the "worst communal riots since partition" in the national capital and that it was a "gaping wound" in the conscience of a nation aspiring to be a "major global power," observed a Delhi Court Thursday.

The remarks by the court came while dismissing the bail pleas in three cases of former AAP Councillor Tahir Hussain, who allegedly abused his "muscle power" and "political clout" to foment communal violence. "It is common knowledge that the dreary day of February 24, 2020 saw parts of north-east Delhi gripped by a communal frenzy, reminiscent of carnage during the days of partition. Soon, the riots spread like wildfire across the smoke-grey skyline of Capital, engulfing new areas and snuffing out more and more innocent lives.



PTI FILE PHOTO

"The Delhi riots 2020 are a gaping wound in the conscience of a nation aspiring to be a major global power. Even if there were no direct acts of violence attributable to the applicant, he cannot shy away from his liability under the provisions of the sections invoked against him, particularly on account of the fact that his house/building became the hub/centre point for the rioters and rabble-rousers to unleash the worst communal riots since partition in Delhi," Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav said.

Rain may play 'asura' in Bengal this Durga puja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 22: Rain is likely to play spoilsport in south Bengal this Durga puja, with the meteorological office here predicting light to heavy showers over the next 48 hours, and the government issuing alerts to farmers and fishermen.

A well-marked low-pressure area, formed over the central part of Bay of Bengal, is expected to move north-westwards during next 24 hours and north-north-eastwards thereafter, triggering rainfall in Bengal and Bangladesh, a spokesperson at Alipore met office said.

The low-pressure system is likely to intensify into depression by tomorrow, and deep depression during the subsequent 24 hours, he said.

"On October 22, heavy rain (7-11 cm) may lash one or two places in East Midnapore, North and South 24 Parganas districts. The following day, heavy to very heavy rain (7-20 cm) was expected at one or two places in the three districts," the spokesperson said.

People in Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, and Nadia, too, should brace for moderate to heavy rain during the two days. The Met office predicted heavy to very heavy rain in the southern districts of West Bengal Friday, the day of Maha Saptami of Durga Puja, as the well-marked low-pressure area, formed over the west-central Bay of Bengal in the last two days, turned into a depression. A Met office bulletin said Thursday that the system is likely to cross an area between Sagar Island in the state and Kheupura in Bangladesh by October 23 afternoon and turn into a deep depression.



PTI PHOTO

VIRUS DAMPENS FESTIVE CHEER

COVID-19 cloud on Dussehra, Ramlila

THE CHEER IS MISSING AS MOST RAMLILA PERFORMANCES HAVE EITHER BEEN CANCELLED OR RECORDED FOR DIGITAL VIEWING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Each year, as evenings lengthen and nights fill with the sweet smell of the 'saptaparni' tree, grounds big and small across north India come alive with the sights and sounds of the Ramayana being staged for rapt audiences. This October is different.

The cheer is missing as most Ramlilas have been either cancelled, recorded for digital viewing or recast in the corona mould - the retelling of the epic knitting the age-old story of good vanquishing evil with the dos and don'ts of a pandemic.

So, Ram is given a corona test at birth, Shiva's bow is sanitised in the scene of Sita's swayamvar and Bharat is behind a mask when he meets Ram in the Bharat Milap sequence at the Vishnu Avatar Ramlila Committee's staging of the mythological tale in north Delhi's Shastri



PTI FILE PHOTO

Park locality. That is the one way to tell the story of Ram and Sita, the loyalty of Lakshman and Hanuman, and the epic battle between Ram and Ravan in the time of a pandemic.

The lights strobe in rhythm to the music adding to the atmosphere of

dread and drama as always and the actors are dressed in character. But this is Ramlila in a new avatar with fewer artistes on stage and some even wearing PPE kits.

"In scenes where we had 20 artistes earlier only five or 10 are on

stage now. Similarly, in the audience there are fewer chairs, placed at six feet distance from each other. At the entry we sanitise everyone and distribute masks to all the visitors," Singh added.

The Sanskriti Kala Sangam, which has been providing actors, dancers and supporting crew to organisers for 15 years, got no invite from anywhere this year so its director Yash Chauhan decided to tell the story through digital media. The Sangam has performed in places such as Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Meerut and Rohtak over the years. The episode in the Ramayana shows Bharat trying to persuade his elder brother Ram to return to Ayodhya from exile and take his rightful position as the new king. Chauhan also rued the lack of a live audience.

The Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra (SBKK) at Mandi House also managed to stage the 'Sampoorna Ramlila' for the 64th

year by housing the crew at a hostel and testing them for COVID-19 infection every 15 days.

Another grand scale Ramlila is being organised at the banks of Saryu river in the historic city of Ayodhya, believed by devotees to be the birthplace of Ram.

The star-studded 'Ayodhya ki Ramlila', for telecast on Doordarshan, YouTube and other social media platforms, sees Delhi BJP MP and actor Manoj Tiwari playing the role of Angad (Ram's emissary), Gorakhpur BJP MP and actor Ravi Kishan playing Bharat, and Vinodu Dara Singh enacting the role of Hanuman.

Many organisers blamed the Delhi government for not giving them enough time to prepare. Many other committees decided to follow suit. No Ramlilas being staged also means that the traditional fairs, the food and festivities that were so much a part of the Dussehra season are missing.



# international



Homosexual people have a right to be in a family. They are children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out or be made miserable over it  
POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## KIM JONG-UN PAYS TRIBUTE TO FALLEN CHINESE SOLDIERS

North Korean state-media Thursday reported that the country's leader Kim Jong-un visited the cemetery of Chinese soldiers who fell during the 1950-53 Korean War to mark the anniversary of their participation in the conflict



### of the day quote

The context of social networks serving as amplifiers for idiots and crazy people is not what we intended,  
ERIC SCHMIDT | FORMER GOOGLE CEO

We deserve to have a President and to have a leadership in our country that understands the dignity of who we are and respects the dignity of who we are as a people, and guides our country, in a way that we can regain our standing and get closer to those ideals we hold  
KAMALA HARRIS | DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

I don't care about the polls. There were a bunch of polls last time, and it didn't work out... Not this time. Not this election  
BARACK OBAMA | FORMER US PRESIDENT

# US proposal on H-1B visa may affect hundreds of Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 22: The State Department has proposed not to issue temporary business visas for H-1B specialty occupations which allowed several companies to send their technology professionals for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US, a move which could affect hundreds of Indians.

The proposal, if finalised, will eliminate any misconception that the "B-1 in lieu of H policy" provides an alternative avenue for foreign professionals to enter the US to perform skilled labour that allows, and potentially even encourages them and their employers to circumvent the restrictions and requirements relating to the H non-immigrant classification established by Congress to protect the US workers, the State Department said.

The move, made public Wednesday, less than two weeks ahead of the November 3 presidential election, is likely to impact several Indian companies which send their technology professionals on B-1 visas for a short stay to complete jobs on site in the US.



### DIFFICULT TIMES

The proposal, if finalised, will eliminate any misconception that the "B-1 in lieu of H policy" provides an alternative avenue for foreign professionals to enter the US to perform skilled labour

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On December 17, 2019, the Attorney General of California announced a \$800,000 settlement against Infosys Limited to resolve allegations that approximately 500 Infosys employees worked in the state on Infosys-sponsored B-1 visas rather than H-1B visas, the State Department said.

"The proposed changes and the resulting transparency would reduce the impact of foreign labour on the US workforce of aliens performing activities in a specialty occupation without the procedural protections attendant to the H-1B classification," it said.

In its federal notification issued

Wednesday, the State Department said the US architecture firm seeking protection from rising labour costs in the country might believe it could lay off its US architects and contract for the same professional architectural services to be provided by a foreign architecture firm.

If the foreign firm sought H-1B visas for its architects, it would be required to pay the prevailing wage for architects in the area of intended employment in the United States, presumably the same wage the US architects had been paid, and meet the other requirements enacted by the Congress to protect US workers.

But under the B-1 in lieu of H policy, the foreign architects could ostensibly seek B-1 visas and travel to the US to fill a temporary need for architecture services, as long as they retained a residence in the foreign country and continued to receive a salary, perhaps significantly lower than what is customary for US architects, dispersed abroad by the foreign firm (or under the auspices of a foreign parent or subsidiary), the State Department said.

Under the department's guid-

ance, visas could be issued for multiple architects planning temporary work in the US in certain situations. However, a foreign employer may succeed in undermining the US immigration law and policy by rotating architects between the US and the foreign country to effectively fill the position of one US architect at a significantly lower cost, the notification said.

"If the architects who intended to perform skilled labour were of distinguished merit and ability... seeking to perform (temporary architectural services) of an exceptional nature requiring such merit and ability, one might argue the current regulatory language suggests this type of labour is a permissible basis for B-1 non-immigrant visa issuance," the State Department said.

This potential outcome is harmful to the US workers and contrary to the policies of the Trump administration, it said.

The State Department said the application process for a B-1 visa does not include similar procedural requirements to protect the US workers like that of H-1B visas.

## Pak parl panel's nod to Bill seeking review of Jadhav's conviction



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 22: A Pakistani parliamentary panel has approved a government Bill that seeks a review of the conviction of death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav, complying with the directives of the International Court of Justice, according to a media report Thursday.

The draft bill titled "the International Court of Justice (Review and Reconsideration) Ordinance" was discussed and approved by the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Law and Justice on Wednesday despite stiff resistance from the Opposition. Taking part in the debate, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Farogh Naseem said the Bill has been introduced in compliance with directives of the International Court of Justice.

## US POLLS 2020

# Iran, Russia have US voter information: FBI



AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 22: The Federal Bureau of Investigation officials have accused Iran of being behind a flurry of emails sent to Democratic voters in multiple battleground states that appeared to be aimed at intimidating them into voting for President Donald Trump.

The officials did not lay out specific evidence for how they came to pinpoint Iran, but the activities attributed to Tehran would mark a significant escalation for a country some cybersecurity experts regard as a second-rate player in online espionage. The Wednesday announcement was made at a hastily called news conference 13 days before the election.

The allegations underscored the US government's concern about efforts by foreign countries to influence the election by spreading false information meant to suppress voter turnout and undermine American confidence in the vote.

Such direct attempts to sway public opinion are more commonly associated with Moscow, which conducted a covert social media campaign in 2016 aimed at sowing discord and is again interfering this year, but the idea that Iran could be responsible suggested that those tactics have been adopted by other nations, too.

## Russia dismisses 'meddling' charges

Moscow: The Kremlin Thursday dismissed as "absolutely groundless" claims that Moscow had obtained US voter information and taken actions to influence public opinion ahead of the November 3 election. "Accusations are raining down every day. All of them are absolutely groundless, they are not based on anything," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"These actions are desperate attempts by desperate adversaries," said John Ratcliffe, the government's top intelligence official, who, along with FBI Director Chris Wray, insisted the US would impose costs on any foreign countries that interfere in the 2020 US election and that the integrity of the election is still sound.

"You should be confident that your vote counts," Wray said. "Early, unverified claims to the contrary should be viewed with a healthy dose of skepticism."

The two officials called out both Russia and Iran for having obtained voter registration information, though such data is sometimes easily accessible.

## S Korea sticks to flu vaccine plan despite 25 deaths

REUTERS

Seoul, Oct 22: South Korean officials refused Thursday to suspend a seasonal influenza inoculation effort, despite growing calls for a halt, including an appeal from a key group of doctors, after the deaths of at least 25 of those vaccinated.

Health authorities said they found no direct links between the deaths and the vaccines.

At least 22 of the dead, including a 17-year-old boy, were part of a campaign to inoculate 19 million teenagers and senior citizens for free, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said.

"The number of deaths has increased, but our team sees low possibility that the deaths resulted from the shots," the agency's director, Jeong Eun-kyeong, told parliament. South Korea ordered more flu vaccines this year to ward off what it calls a "twindemic", or the prospect that people with flu develop coronavirus complications and overburden hospitals in winter. "I understand and regret that people are concerned about the vaccine," said Health Minister Park Neung-hoo, who confirmed the free programme would go ahead. "We're looking into the causes but will again thoroughly examine the entire process in which various government agencies are involved."



Members of the Bavarian State Parliament are separated by plexiglass panels during the speech of Bavarian Prime Minister Markus Soeder in Munich, Germany

## Won't give up cartoons, vows France

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, Oct 22: Two teenagers accused of pointing out French teacher Samuel Paty to his killer who beheaded him were Wednesday charged with complicity in terrorist murder, prosecutors said, as the nation paid homage to the killed educator.

"We will not give up cartoons," President Emmanuel Macron earlier told a solemn ceremony at the Sorbonne university in Paris attended by Paty's family, who was tar-



geted for having shown cartoons of the Prophet Mohamed in a civics class discussion on free speech early this month. The President gave France's highest civilian award, the Legion of Honour, to Paty and said he had been killed by "cowards" for representing the secular, dem-

ocratic values of the French Republic.

"He was killed because Islamists want our future," Macron said. "They will never have it."

Earlier, anti-terror prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said the two teenagers - aged 14 and 15 - had been in a group of pupils who shared 300-350 euros (\$356-\$414) offered by the killer to help find Paty.

The two stayed with the killer, Chechnya-born 18-year-old Abdulkh Anzorov, for more than two hours waiting for Paty.

# Honeymoon over? Saudi Arabia-US ties face reset with Biden win

Riyadh's human rights record, with the brutal 2018 murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi and detention of women activists, will be a prime point of friction with a Joe Biden administration

REUTERS

Riyadh/Washington, Oct 22: Saudi Arabia's crown prince enjoyed a near free pass under his personal relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump, but the kingdom's brazen young leader will have to tread more carefully should Democrats take the White House and reset strategic ties.

Riyadh's human rights record, with the brutal 2018 murder of Washington Post Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and detention of women activists, will be a prime point of friction with a Joe Biden administration, as will the Yemen war. At issue for the Gulf powerhouse,

which lobbied hard for Trump's maximum pressure campaign against foe Iran, is how Biden will address Tehran's ballistic missiles and support for regional proxies in any talks to revive an international nuclear pact with Iran that Washington quit in 2018.

While Riyadh and its Gulf allies prefer a Trump administration that also prioritised lucrative deals over human rights concerns, a Biden win would not upend decades-long alliances, five regional sources and diplomats said. Biden may, however, place stronger conditions on US support, they said.

"There will be challenges but there are long-term strategic in-



US President Donald Trump speaks with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Osaka, Japan, June 28, 2019

stitutional relationships and no one wants to break the camel's back, though a Biden administration will

want compromises," said one Gulf source. A foreign diplomat in the region echoed the view that

Saudi-US ties would not be unduly harmed: "I imagine (Biden) would demand a few high-profile concessions... something on women's rights defenders maybe."

In his campaign, Biden pledged to reassess ties with Saudi Arabia, an oil exporting giant and major buyer of American arms, demand more accountability over Khashoggi's killing in Riyadh's Istanbul consulate and end US support for the Yemen war.

"Instead of giving blank checks to dictators and authoritarianists around the world, as the Trump Administration has done, Joe Biden will stand up for universal values with friends and foes alike, and

stand with the democratic world as we address common challenges," a campaign spokesman told Reuters.

De facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has firmly consolidated power, crushing dissent and detaining rivals to the throne, measures that tainted a reformist image initially lauded abroad as he moved to open up the kingdom.

He has denied ordering Khashoggi's killing, which sparked global outrage and spooked investors, but in 2019 indicated some personal accountability by saying it happened under his watch.

Riyadh jailed eight people for between seven and 20 years in the case.



# business



Time has come to give a push for reinflating demand in the economy hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic  
SANJEEV SANJAL | PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ADVISER

## KOTAK CUTS INTEREST RATE

Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) has announced that it has reduced its rate on home loans by a further 10 bps to 6.9% p.a. The new rate came to effect from October 21. Consumers can avail Kotak's festive season bonanza, with home loans and balance transfer loans starting at 6.9% p.a., the bank said



## of the day quote

We are around upwards of 20% in the market share in ICV and for all other segments put together in the medium and heavy commercial segments (including ICVs) we are in the range of upwards of 30%

ANUJ KATHURIA | COO, ASHOK LEYLAND

The Indian Economy is still in the recovery mode. Tourism provides a big boost to it, but right now inbound travel from foreign countries has not been restored, preventively, to control the pandemic. Likewise, the job market has not started to look up just yet. Job creation will be important

AMIT ADARKAR | CEO, IPSOS

The 'MyAmbar' app (developed for women safety) is devised to assist women in distress by facilitating information and access to support, over a single platform

P BALAJI | CHIEF REGULATORY AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS OFFICER, VODAFONE IDEA

## SHORT TAKES

### Burger King plans to raise ₹542 cr

**New Delhi:** Burger King India Ltd, a quick service restaurant chain, has filed draft papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise ₹542 crore through fresh issuance of shares in the IPO. According to the addendum to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed with Sebi on Wednesday, Burger King's IPO comprises fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹542 crore and an offer for sale of up to 6 crore equity shares by QSR Asia, the promoter.

### Centre relaxes export norms

**New Delhi:** The government on Thursday eased export norms for nitrile or nitrile butadiene rubber (NBR) gloves, used by medical professionals, a move aimed at promoting shipments of the protective equipment. Export of these gloves were banned in the country in view of domestic requirements in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. "The export policy of nitrile/NBR gloves exported...is revised from prohibited to restricted category," the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification.

### Sahara Group demands ban

**New Delhi:** Sahara Group Thursday demanded a ban on new Netflix series 'Bad Boy Billionaires' and asked the streaming platform to take corrective measures to remove "ill-researched and baseless" content, which it alleged was aimed at tarnishing the image of the business house. Objecting to the intention of Netflix, the spokesperson of Sahara India Pariwar said, "the whole film is a bundle of lie, manipulating and ill-conceived which is an attempt made by Netflix to tarnish the image of Sahara".

### SBI Card Q2 net profit dips 46%

**New Delhi:** SBI Card Thursday reported a 46% dip in its net profit at ₹206 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The credit card company had posted a net profit of ₹381 crore during the corresponding period of the previous financial year. However, its total income during July-September 2020 rose 6 per cent to ₹2,513 crore as against ₹2,376 crore in the year-ago period, SBI Card said in a release.

# Festive sales bring cheer among retailers, e-Tailers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Oct 22:** A buying spree among consumers during the current festive season has ushered in green shoots of recovery in the retail sector, which was severely affected due to the COVID-19 crisis, while e-commerce companies enjoy a higher pie of sales as people prefer online shopping now, officials said Thursday.

Leading e-tailers have received overwhelming response during their annual festive sale days, while traditional traders witnessed increasing sales in several categories, though their revenue is still lower than that of last year, they said.

A report by RedSeer, a consulting firm, estimates that the festive sales this year are expected to touch \$7 billion in gross merchandise value (GMV) as compared to \$3.8 billion in the same period last year. Walmart-owned Flipkart and



Amazon India said lakhs of sellers, including those from small cities and towns, have received orders during the initial days of festive sales on their platforms.

Fashion e-tailer Myntra said 50% of shoppers on its platform on the first day (October 16) of its sale were from tier II and III cities.

Sellers from small cities have received a greater share of orders this year, it said.

Leading e-tailers have received overwhelming response during their annual festive saledays, while traditional traders witnessed increasing sales in several categories

Several organised retailers having omnichannel presence also said their online sales have grown significantly as people are preferring shopping from home, the officials said.

"Compared to last year, demand for display products (television) has already surpassed by 30 per cent despite the pandemic situation. Prices are also up as panel cost has surged by more than 100 per

cents, and there are supply constraints," Sansui ED Abhisekh Garg said.

With sales of home appliances such as washing machine and refrigerator at 80-85 per cent of that of festive period last year, he remained optimistic about demand till Diwali.

Demand for cell phones, both feature and smartphones, has been good, the officials said.

"Cost impact on feature phones is about 15% though demand re-

mains strong," Indian mobile brand Karbonn managing director Pradeep Jain said.

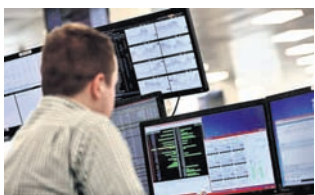
Malls in the city said they are experiencing rising sales during the current festive season, despite lower footfalls due to the pandemic.

However, small standalone retail stores have seen a revival in demand but that is "grossly inadequate".

"Unlike in previous years, only a few customers are walking in our store. Margin has fallen drastically, and we are even selling at a cost price as we can't afford to lose a customer," said a small garment shop owner at Satadal market in Gariahat area here.

Federation of All India Vypar Mandal, an apex body of traders, have written to the government to "initiate enquiries on the e-commerce majors for predatory pricing which is hurting small offline stores across sectors".

## Global market sentiment sapped by Covid surge



REUTERS

**London, Oct 22:** World shares slipped to a two-week low and oil steadied after another heavy fall Thursday, as the global surge in COVID-19 cases and fractious US stimulus talks kept financial markets cautious.

US traders were digesting a drop in weekly jobless claims ahead of Wall Street trading, but with Europe's bourses battling to avoid a fourth consecutive drop and pre-US election paralysis setting in, the conditions were choppy.

Disappointing German consumer morale data meant it was the first dip of the week for the high-flying euro while Turkey's lira went tumbling again as its central bank balked at hiking interest rates.

Europe has seen coronavirus cases surge to a record high, with Spain becoming the first Western European country to exceed 1 million infections and France, Britain and Italy all seeing recent record increases.

Bond market caution also ushered sensitive Italian government debt yields higher though there was also roaring demand for a 30-year bond sale there and the early drift back into ultra-safe German Bunds didn't last past lunchtime.

## Honda 2Wheelers achieves new high in exports biz



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:** Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. (HMSI) announced the exports of its next generation 125cc, advanced & stylish motorcycle - SP125 to Europe. The motorcycle is exported via the CKD route.

MD, President & CEO of HMSI Atsushi Ogata said, "The transition from BSIV to BSVI was a challenging phase for the Indian automobile industry.

Honda 2Wheelers India converted this challenge into opportunity to export to advanced countries and have started exporting CKD kits of our 125cc motorcycle SP125 to Europe.

This is a testimony of our superior quality and technology as well as commitment to expand our global footprint. We are looking forward to expand to many new markets in future."

Consignments carrying over 2000CKD kits of its next generation 125 cc Motorcycle - SP125 to Europe have been dispatched since August 2020. It's noteworthy that SP125 was the first BSVI motorcycle launched by Honda in India last year (November 2019).

## 'Next stimulus should focus on short gestation infra projects'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 22:** Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar Thursday said the Indian economy might end up with a lower contraction in the current fiscal than projected by various organisations and also stressed that the next stimulus should focus on short-gestation infrastructure projects.

Participating in a virtual event organised by Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Kumar said helicopter money is not something that the government is looking at. Generally, helicopter money refers to quantitative easing policy by the central bank to ensure more liquidity in the system.

"There are some people who now say that it may not be as bad as it has been forecast and there are signs that we may not have economic contraction (of) 9.5% or 10% that we thought about," he said.

According to him, recovery in August and September was quite smart, and it has been witnessed across many high frequency indicators. "I think this third quarter, we will see smaller contraction (in economic growth) than had been fore-



cast and fourth quarter could well be a wash if not a small positive.

"So if that is true, then, I think we might end up with a contraction, which is lower but nonetheless contraction itself is very unprecedented thing," he said.

The RBI has projected the Indian economy to contract 9.5% in the current fiscal while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank had estimated contraction at 10.3% and 9.6%, respectively. Kumar also said the next stimulus should focus on short-gestation infrastructure projects as it will have a strong multiplier effects and can sustain growth.

"There are enough productivity enhancing expenditures which can be rolled out in a relatively short span," he said.

# FLIPKART, JIO DEALS PUSH VC INFLOWS TO \$3.6BN IN Q2: REPORT

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 22:** Despite the pandemic recession, venture capitalists continued to invest dollars into the country with September quarter seeing investment inflows more than doubling to \$3.6 billion over April-June, says a report.

In June quarter, which was marked by very strict nationwide lockdown, VC inflows stood at \$1.5 billion, according to the data collated by KPMG, which also feels that the ongoing quarter will see more fund inflows.

But on annualised basis, the inflow has been tepid with only around \$500 million of additional inflows into the country, shows the report.

Of the total \$3.6 billion inflows, as much as \$1.3 billion came into Flipkart from Walmart, which had bought out the former for \$17 billion in August 2017.

According to Nitish Poddar, a partner at KPMG India, the clear



standout sector for VC investment here has been edutech. This has been true for the past couple of quarters as well, but this quarter, the list of deals just goes on and on.

Amarjeet Singh, another partner at the advisory firm, said the country continues to be an attractive market for VCs. With the impact of the pandemic and the new normal paving the way for disruption in business models, there is significant demand in the edutech, healthtech and fintech segments.

Funding is likely to rise further in December quarter and invest-

India continues to be an attractive market for VCs. With the impact of the pandemic and the new normal paving the way for disruption in business models, there is significant demand in the edutech, healthtech and fintech segments  
AMARJEET SINGH | PARTNER, KPMG

# FB adds shopping, pricing tiers to WhatsApp Business

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 22:** Facebook Thursday said it will finally start charging companies using WhatsApp for Business, as it expanded ways for its users to check out available products and make purchases right from a chat.

Some 50 million businesses and 175 million people message a WhatsApp Business account every day and this move will help WhatsApp continue building a business of its own while it provides and expands free end-to-end encrypted text, video and voice calling for more than 2 billion people.

"We also want to make it easier for businesses to integrate these fea-



tures into their existing commerce and customer solutions. This will help many small businesses who have been most impacted in this time," WhatsApp said in a statement.

"We will charge business customers for some of the services we offer," it added.

WhatsApp will first add a Shopping button, which went live Thursday globally, though it will come to India later. "In the future we'll make it possible to add items to a cart

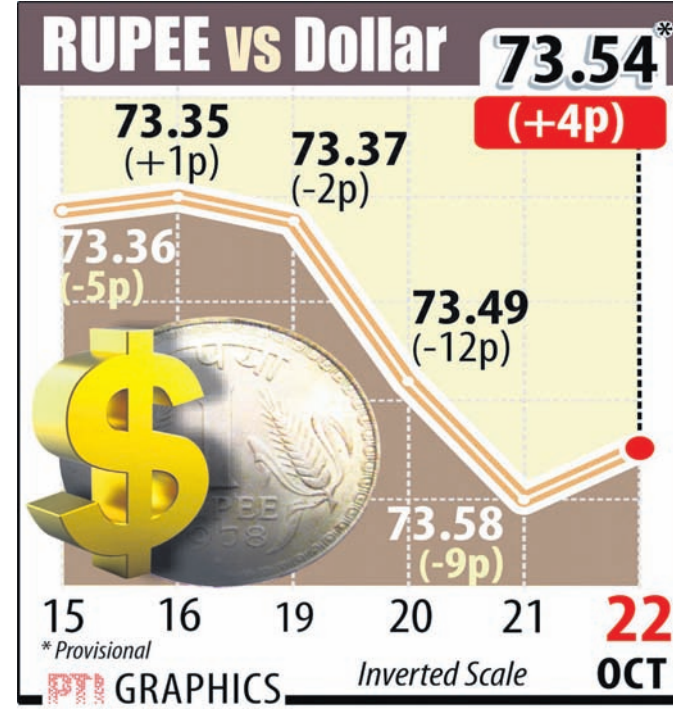
and check out, all within WhatsApp'.

The mobile messaging platform said that over the coming months, it plans to expand its partnerships with business solution providers.

"Businesses will also have a new option to manage their WhatsApp messages via hosting services that Facebook plans to offer," the company said.

This will make it easier for small and medium size businesses to get started, sell products, keep their inventory up to date, and quickly respond to messages they receive - wherever their employees are.

Since launching WhatsApp Business in 2018, millions of people and businesses have found it to be a great way to get in touch.



# 'Media, entertainment sector to grow over 10% till 2024'

A ROBUST LONG-TERM OUTLOOK AS IT IS EXPECTED TO GROW AT 10.1% COMPOUND CAGR TO REACH \$55 BILLION BY 2024

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 22:** The media and entertainment industry is expected to grow at an annual rate of over 10% to reach \$55 billion by 2024, according to a report. The sector's growth, which would be like a K-shaped bifurcated recovery, is on the horizon led by over-the-top (OTT), online advertising, video/games/e-sports, music and podcasts, PwC India said in the report released Thursday.

The advisory has a robust long-term outlook as it is expected to grow at 10.1% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) to reach \$55 billion by 2024. In terms of individual

segment market size as a percentage of total industry revenue, OTT video is expected to see the largest gain and reach 5.2% by 2024, closely followed by online advertising.

Though India will remain the world's biggest cinema market in admission terms, cinema revenue will contract at (minus) 2.6% CAGR to total \$1.5 billion over the reporting period.

"Our research shows that India will be the fastest growing entertainment and media market globally in terms of pure consumer revenue," the report said.

Over the next four years, the outlook remains highly positive for digital segments such as OTT, on-



line advertising, online gaming and music and podcasts that were perfectly positioned to meet consumers where they are in 2020, predomi-

and Australia to become the sixth-largest OTT market by 2024.

Subscription video on demand will be the prime driver of revenue, increasing at a 30.7 per cent CAGR from USD708 million in 2019 to USD2.7 billion in 2024. The exponential growth of OTT is at the cost of the cinemas and traditional TV, which has de-grown already in 2020. OTT is directly benefiting from the closure of cinemas, as some film studios choose to fast-track new releases to home video platforms.

When it comes to online advertising, India is already the sixth-largest market in the Asia Pacific region, said the report.

It added that mobile will be the pri-

mary driver of revenue in this space due to increased data affordability, new mobile-first formats, ability to measure, and strategic targeting. Gaming and e-sports are capitalising on the need to bring live experiences in more personalised and more engaging ways. E-sports was under 1 per cent of overall market in 2019 but has become one of the fastest-growing segments with a projected 33 per cent CAGR by 2024.

The podcast industry was already experiencing rapid growth prior to the pandemic. Fueled by the uptake of music-streaming brands, the overall space is expected to grow at a 13.5 per cent annually till 2024 to \$1.7 billion.



# SUPER KINGS TAKE ON ARCH RIVALS MI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sharjah, Oct 22:** Their campaign turning from bad to worse, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are expected to try out a few of their younger players when they take on defending champions Mumbai Indians (MI) in an IPL match here Friday.

Though skipper MS Dhoni conceded after the loss against Rajasthan Royals that the season might be already over them, CSK can still get to 14 points if they win their remaining four games, giving them an outside chance of making the play-offs.

Things have gone pear-shaped for CSK since their win over MI in the tournament opener November 19. The team received a hammering at the hands of Rajasthan Royals and would be without the services of the injured Dwayne Bravo, who is out of the tournament.

The Super Kings batsmen struggled against Royals and it remains to be seen if the untested players in the side get their chance as indicated by Dhoni after the drubbing Monday.

Dhoni himself has not been at his best along with the others barring Faf du Plessis. The team's persist-



ence with a struggling Kedar Jadhav has come in for a lot of flak and it needs to be seen if he makes way for either N Jagadeesan or Ruturaj Gaikwad.

However, they would be up against a formidable MI side who won five games in a row before Kings XI

Punjab halted the juggernaut, turning the tables in a double Super Over Sunday night.

The four-time IPL champions have been in ominous form and the varied bowling attack could prove a challenge for the CSK batters, who are low on confidence.

At Sharjah, which was a tough venue for bowlers to start with, things seem to have changed with the wicket slowing down and sort of evened out things.

Also, the MI batting line-up has been in good nick with Quinton de Kock in splendid form while Rohit

Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan have had their moments.

That's not all, the power-hitting abilities of Kieron Pollard and Hardik Pandya have rescued MI when the big guns have not fired. Krunal Pandya has underlined his utility with some crucial cameos and tight spells in tandem with leggie Rahul Chahar.

A well-rounded and consistent Mumbai Indians unit could provide a huge challenge for an under-fire CSK battling to salvage some pride.



# Pandey, Shankar, Holder lift SRH

AGENCIES

**Dubai, Oct 22:** Manish Pandey (83 n o, 47b, 4x4, 8x6), Vijay Shankar (52 n o, 51b, 6x4) and Jason Holder (3/33) were the standout performers for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) as they completely outclassed Rajasthan Royals (RR) in their must-win IPL encounter here, Thursday.

Chasing 155, SRH clinched a comprehensive eight-wicket victory with 11 balls to spare. It was after the exploits of Holder, who was playing his first game this season, restricted RR to 154/6.

In reply, SRH began their chase in an unexpected manner losing both their openers - skipper David Warner (4) and Jonny Bairstow (10) - inside three overs to be reduced to 16/2. Jofra Archer (2/21) took both the wickets with gem of deliveries.

Then it was all Pandey and Shankar as the duo put together an unbroken 140-run stand for the third wicket. Pandey took the onus to attack to keep the required rate within reach,

while Shankar played second fiddle to Pandey. Earlier, Holder led a disciplined bowling display by SRH to restrict RR to 154/6. Sunrisers, who are struggling at the penultimate spot in the points table with only three wins from nine outings, opted to bowl after winning the toss.

Playing his first match of the tournament, Holder came up with an impressive bowling effort while also affecting a run out to destabilise the RR innings. Rashid Khan (1/20) and Shankar (1/15) picked a wicket each. For RR, Sanju Samson (36) was the top scorer.

Among others, Ben Stokes (30), Riyan Parag (20), Robin Uthappa (19) and skipper Steve Smith (19) got starts but failed to convert them into big scores. Archer (16 n o) played a cameo in the death overs to help RR go past 150-run mark.

**BRIEF SCORES:** RR 154/6 (Sanju Samson 36, Ben Stokes 30, Jason Holder 3/33) lost to SRH 156/2 (Manish Pandey 83 n o, Vijay Shankar 52 n o; Jofra Archer 2/21) by 8 wickets.



(From L): SRH's Jason Holder (L) celebrates a wicket with Jonny Bairstow; Manish Pandey and Vijay Shankar (R) congratulate each other with a fist-bump after the match. PHOTOS: IPL OFFICIAL WEBSITE

# Indian team allowed to train in quarantine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sydney, Oct 22:** Sydney and Canberra are set to host the white-ball leg of India's tour of Australia after the New South Wales government allowed the visiting team to train during their mandatory quarantine upon arrival.

'ESPNcricinfo' Thursday reported that New South Wales government and Cricket Australia have struck a deal to allow Indian and Australian players returning from IPL to train here while quarantining.

The Indian team was initially supposed to land in Brisbane but the Queensland state health authorities did not relax their 14-day quarantine rule to allow Virat Kohli and Co to train during that period.

India are scheduled to play three T20s, three ODIs and four Tests in

Australia. The first two ODIs are set to be played November 27 and 29 at the Sydney Cricket Ground before final game of the series in Canberra's Manuka Oval.

The first T20 will also be played in Canberra before the action returns to Sydney for the final two games. The pink-ball Test will be played under lights at Adelaide from December 17 to 21. The Boxing Day Test from December 26 could also be held in Adelaide if the COVID-19 situation in Melbourne doesn't allow the authorities to host the game at the iconic MCG.

Cricket Australia is expected to announce the entire schedule after getting it approved from the BCCI. The New Year's Test in Sydney has been pushed ahead to January 7 to 11 before the teams travel to Brisbane for the fourth and final five-dayer from January 15.

# A Real shocker in Madrid

Los Blancos left shellshocked by depleted Shakhtar Donetsk

REUTERS

**Madrid, Oct 22:** Shakhtar Donetsk pulled off a shock 3-2 win away to 13-time winners Real Madrid in their Champions League Group B opener Wednesday, despite the Ukrainian side missing 10 players due to injuries and COVID-19.

Shakhtar raced into a 3-0 lead after a whirlwind first half with a strike from Brazilian midfielder Tete in the 29th minute, an own goal from Madrid defender Raphael Varane four minutes later and a well-taken effort from Israeli forward Manor Solomon.

Luka Modric pulled one back for Zinedine Zidane's shellshocked side with a brilliant strike from distance early in the second half before substitute Vinicius Jr reduced the deficit to one goal.

Federico Valverde thought he had equalised in the added time with a heavily deflected shot but the goal was ruled out for offside as Vinicius was blocking the vision of goalkeeper Anatoly Trubin and the depleted visitors celebrated one of their most memorable victories in European competition.

La Liga champions Madrid, meanwhile, reflected on a second consecutive home defeat after losing 0-1 at their Alfredo di Stefano stadium to promoted Cadiz Saturday, further denting their confidence



**TWO SIDES OF EMOTION:** Shakhtar Donetsk players rejoice after a goal; (inset) Real Madrid players wear a dejected look after conceding one, Wednesday

ahead of the 'Clasico' at Barcelona in three days' time.

Shakhtar's Portuguese coach Luis Castro meanwhile had described the numerous positive COVID-19 cases affecting his staff and squad as a 'nightmare' but watched on in admiration as his players outwitted and outran their more illustrious opponents.

Viktor Kornienko zigzagged his way through Madrid's defence to lay the ball off for Tete to slot past an outstretched Thibaut Courtois for

the opening goal.

Courtois did manage to parry a shot moments later but teammate Varane stabbed the loose ball into his own net, committing his latest Champions League howler after gifting Manchester City two goals in last season's last-16 tie.

Zidane turned to Benzema immediately after the interval and Vinicius soon after and his side finally showed some character and moved to within one goal of leveling the match. Caption

# DEFENDING CHAMPIONS BAYERN MUNICH OUTCLASS ATLETICO MADRID 4-0

# Coman's night out in Munich

REUTERS

**Munich, Oct 22:** Winger Kingsley Coman scored twice and set up another goal as holders Bayern Munich crushed Atletico Madrid 4-0 in the Champions League Group A opener Wednesday to stretch their winning run in the competition to 12 games.

The France international put the hosts ahead with a fine effort in the 28th minute and then set up Leon Goretzka to fire in their second in the 41st.

Fellow France international Corentin Tolisso killed off any Spanish hopes of a comeback with a sensational shot in the 66th minute before Coman twice shook off defender Felipe to bag his second goal of the evening six minutes later.

Bayern, who had won all 11 of their games en route to the Champions League title last season, are top on three points in group, with Lokomotiv Moscow and Salzburg on one point following their 2-2 draw.

The Germans were without their in-form winger Serge Gnabry, who tested positive for COVID-19 Tuesday. But they still enjoyed a whirlwind start and hit the post with Niklas Sule in the 15th.

Coman did it much better 13 minutes later when he latched onto a Joshua Kimmich cross to score



**ON A ROLL:** Kingsley Coman wheels away in celebration after scoring for Bayern Munich, Wednesday

with a fine finish. He then set up Goretzka whose slightly deflected shot beat keeper Jan Oblak.

Atletico, with only two wins from their previous 10 away games in the group stage of the competition and without striker Diego Costa,

came close just once in the entire first half with Luis Suarez.

Joao Felix did find the back of the net right after the restart but his effort was disallowed for offside. The Portuguese then launched a solo run in the 65th before laying the ball

on for Yannick Carrasco, who waited far too long to finish the move.

They were punished for the wasted chance a minute later with Tolisso firing an unstoppable missile from 25 metres. Coman then added their fourth in the 72nd.

# Becker accused of failing to surrender Big W titles



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Oct 22:** Tennis great Boris Becker appeared in a London court Thursday, accused of failing to surrender two of his Wimbledon trophies to be sold to settle his debts.

The 52-year-old Becker, who was declared bankrupt in 2017, has also failed to turn over his two Australian Open trophies, according to a new 28-count indictment that claims he hasn't complied with orders to disclose information.

The German pleaded not guilty to all counts during his appearance at Southwark Crown Court. Becker has allegedly concealed property holdings and more than

1 million pounds (USD 1.3 million) held in bank accounts.

The indictment lists Becker's Wimbledon trophies from 1985, when at age 17 he became the youngest men's singles champion at the All England Club, and 1989. Becker also won the tournament in 1996. He won the Australian Open in 1991 and 1996.

Becker, who lives in London, was told that his trial would begin September 2021. He faces several years in jail if convicted. He remains free on bail.

"He is determined to face and contest these charges and restore his reputation in relation to the allegations made against him," said Jonathan Caplan, Becker's attorney.

# Lucky Liverpool win at Ajax

REUTERS

**Amsterdam, Oct 22:** Liverpool beat Ajax Amsterdam 1-0 away with a fortunate own goal in their Champions League group-stage opener Wednesday, riding their luck at times but still showing their title credentials.

Ajax fullback Nicolas Tagliafico turned the ball into his own net in the 35th minute to ensure a winning start in Group D for the English champions, who looked the stronger of the two teams despite Ajax creating several good chances at the Johan Cruyff Arena.

Davy Klaassen struck the post with a powerful shot and Quincy Promes had a point-blank effort stopped by the legs of Liverpool goalkeeper Adrian as the Dutch club created a handful of excellent opportunities.

Yet Liverpool, who won their sixth Champions League title in 2019, still proved value for their victory dominating possession and counter attacking at pace while keeping a clean sheet despite missing defensive talisman Virgil van Dijk, who suffered a serious knee injury at the weekend.

Fabinho moved from midfield to centre defence to replace Van Dijk and had an outstanding game,



Liverpool players congratulate each other after the goal against Ajax, Wednesday

notably hooking a clearance off the line to deny Dusan Tadic just before halftime.

It was one of several chances for Ajax in the first half, as Lisandro Martinez had a header saved by Adrian and Ryan Gravenberch shot narrowly wide, much to the annoyance of Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp, who spent the early

part of the game berating and shouting instructions to his players.

But his agitation was quelled when Sadio Mane turned the Ajax defence with a swift body movement to set up the goal. He mis-kicked his own effort, but it caught Tagliafico as he clumsily tried to clear, but instead deflected it into the Ajax net.

# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

## Man City pass Porto test

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City came behind to make a winning start in Champions League Group C Wednesday with a 3-1 victory over Porto at the Etihad Stadium. City had fallen behind to a fine 14th-minute solo strike from Luis Diaz but a Sergio Agüero penalty brought them level before second-half goals from Ilkay Gundogan and Ferran Torres secured the win. Pep Guardiola's side, defeated in the quarterfinals last season, struggled to find their fluidity in the opening 45 minutes but as Porto fired after the break, City's quality proved enough. City's Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho, brought on in the 85th minute, limped off in stoppage time with what appeared to be a muscle injury.



## Lukaku saves Inter the blushes

**MILAN:** Romelu Lukaku scored twice, including a 90th-minute equaliser, to give Inter Milan a 2-2 draw at home to Borussia Mönchengladbach in the Champions League Wednesday where five shots on target produced four goals. The Belgian put Inter in front with an opportunist goal in the 49th minute but the Bundesliga side levelled in the 63rd with their first shot on target, a penalty converted by Remy Bensebaini. Gladbach's second and only other shot on target also produced a goal as Jonas Hofmann put them ahead in the 84th minute before Lukaku pulled Inter level, scoring in his ninth consecutive European game.

