**NATURE LOVER** 

VOLUME 11. ISSUE 184 | www.orissapost.com

Odia actor Tamanna Vyas is playing a climate warrior in her upcoming movie 'Oxygen'

LEISURE



#### SMART BILLING SYSTEM

Odisha govt launches smart electricity billing system in a bid to provide quality service to power consumers

DOWNTOWN



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

#### **DC IN PLAYOFFS**

Delhi Capitals seal IPL 2021 playoff berth after beating defending champions Mumbai Indians by 4 wickets

SPORTS P

**BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 | 2021** 

12 PAGES + SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00



#### DILIP PATNAIK NEW EASTERN AIR COMMANDER

New Delhi: Air Marshal Dilip Kumar Patnaik has been appointed as the new Eastern Air Commander in Shillong. He will take over as Air Officer Commanding in Chief of the Eastern Air Command Sunday. An alumnus of Kendriya Vidyalaya-I in Bhubaneswar, Patnaik is the first Odia Air Force Officer to be elevated to the prestigious post. Patnaik, who hails from Bhubaneswar, was conferred the

Vayu Sena Medal for gallantry during Operations in 1999. He was also felicitated with Ati Vishist Seva Medal in 2020. He has flown a wide variety of fighter and trainer aircraft including the Mirage 2000 and the Mig 21.



#### **ELECTION COMMISSION FREEZES LJP POLL SYMBOL**

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) Saturday barred the Chirag Paswan and the Pashupati Kumar Paras factions from using the name of Lok Janshakti Party or its symbol 'bungalow' till the dispute between the rival groups is settled by the poll panel. The

commission also said that the two factions can use free symbols available to field their candidates for the bypolls to two assembly seats in the coming days. Both the groups shall be known by such names as they may choose for their respective groups, including, if they so desire, linkage with their parent outfit Lok Janshakti Party, the order read.



1800 266 266 1 (toll free)



A 1,000kg handwoven Khadi Tricolour, the largest in the world, unfurled atop a high mountain overlooking the Leh valley Saturday to commemorate

The crisis manager we sent to the

state has deflected the crisis by

creating a bigger crisis, sir!

35.0°(

Light rain

**WEATHER** 

## GST collection up 40% in state ■ This is the highest

growth rate of indirect tax collection among all the major states in the country

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Odisha has recorded 40 per cent growth in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection during September 2021 as against the corresponding period of last year.

The state has collected ₹3325.94 crore in September 2021 as against ₹2383.99 crore in September 2020. The jump is the highest among all the major states in the country, official sources said Saturday.

Following Odisha, Jharkhand registered 33 per cent growth, Karnataka (29 per cent), Gujarat (28 per cent), Telangana (25 per cent) and Maharashtra (22 per cent).

The progressive GST collection upto September of the current financial year was ₹20,303.86 crore while ₹12.272.98 crore was collected



till September of last fiscal, thereby registering a growth of 65.44 per cent, they said.

Similarly, the collection of Odisha GST (OGST) has recorded a growth of 48 per cent. The OGST collection during September stood at ₹929.68 crore against ₹631.08 crore during September last year.

Progressive collection of OGST upto September of FY 2021-22 was ₹5,766.43 crore while the state had collected ₹3671.45 crore during the same period of the previous fiscal. Progressive OGST collection has recorded a growth of 57.06 per cent till September.

Similarly, there is a collection of ₹772.93 crore in CGST, ₹996.48 crore in IGST & ₹626.85 crore in Cess during September 2021. There was

a growth of 55.46 per cent in collection of CGST, 30.56 per cent in over September 2020. The total collection of VAT (petrol and liquor) stood at ₹807.81 crore during September 2021 as against ₹577.27 crore during September 2020 with growth of 40%.

This growth during August is the result of better compliance by dealers having turnover of more than ₹5 crore as well as follow-up action of non-filer assessment and return scrutiny in case of wrong return filers, said an official.

Enhanced commercial activities in the manufacturing and mining sectors contributed to the growth of revenue collection, he said. Anti-evasion activities, especially action against fake billers are also contributing towards enhanced GST collection. he added. During the recent review with tax officials, Commissioner of CT & GST, Sushil Kumar Lohani, has asked the field officers to detect the wrong return filers by applying data analytics.

# **MASSIVE CHINESE BUILD-UP NEAR LAC**

■ *The development is seen* as a major cause of concern for India as the neighbouring country has built substantial infrastructure along the LAC in eastern Ladakh

AGENCIES

Ladakh/ New Delhi, Oct 2: Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane Saturday said that China has deployed troops in considerable numbers all across Eastern Ladakh and Northern Front right up to our Eastern Command, adding that India is quite well poised to meet any eventuality.

'There has been an increase in the deployment of Chinese troops which has been a matter of concern. For the last six months, however, the situation has been 'quite normal'," said Naravane, who was on a two-day visit to review the operational preparedness in the region. India expects to hold a 13th round of talks with China on the Ladakh standoff and disengagement of military forces next week, said the Army Chief General.

"Chinese (troops) have deployed in considerable numbers all across Eastern Ladakh and Northern



#### **BORDER ROW**

- India expects to hold a 13th round of talks with China on the Ladakh standoff and disengagement of military forces next week
- The Army has deployed the first K9-Vajra self-propelled howitzer regiment in the Ladakh sector along the LAC, the de-facto border with China

#### **GRENADE LOBBED ON CRPF PARTY**

Srinagar: Terrorists lobbed a

grenade on a CRPF party and resorted to firing in south Kashmir's Anantnag district Saturday evening. However, no loss of life or injury was reported, officials said. Sources said that a grenade was lobbed by the terrorists towards a CRPF naka party at KP road in Anantnag. However, it missed the target, causing no injuries or loss of life. Additional police parties have reached the spot. The area has been cordoned off and a search operation has been launched to nab the attackers.

Command. Definitely there has been an increase in their deployment in the forward areas, which remains a matter of concern for us. Front right up to our Eastern he told news agency ANI

But we are monitoring all their developments. Based on whatever inputs we get we are carrying out matching developments in terms of infrastructure. At the moment, we are quite well poised to meet any eventuality," he said, adding he doubts "any aggression can be shown in any area".

On achieving disengagement through dialogue, General Naravane said, "By and by, all friction points will get resolved. Iam of the firm opinion that we can resolve our differences through dialogue. I am hopeful we will be able to achieve results. We're hopeful of having the 13th round of talks in the second week of October and reaching a consensus on how disengagement will take place.'

On Friday, the Army Chief General took stock of operational preparedness in Eastern Ladakh

## Pipli bypoll results today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The fate of 10 candidates in fray for the highstakes Pipli bypoll will be revealed Sunday Around 78.24 per cent of the 2.30 lakh voters of Pipli Assembly constituency exercised their franchise during the byelection held September 30.

Postal ballots will go for counting at 8am followed by electronic voting machine (EVM) votes at 8:30am in three halls at Penthakata Warehouse in Puri, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha Sushil Kumar Lohani here Saturday.

He said EVM counting will be conducted in two halls while postal ballot counting will be held in one hall. Three additional AROs have

been appointed by the Election Commission for the counting and the process will be supervised by an election observer. A total of 62 government officials will count the votes at 14 tables set up in three halls. Each candidate can also deploy one agent at each table, Lohani stated. Stating that all Covid protocols will be strictly adhered to at the counting centre, he said only those fully vaccinated have been deployed.

The results will be displayed on a large screen at the counting centre for the political agents while the round-wise result will be published on the official website of ECI results.eci.gov.in after every round.

A three-tier security system has been put in place at the counting centre.

#### POCKET PINCHER

### **FUEL PRICES HIT FRESH HIGH**

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Petrol and diesel prices soared to new highs across the country Saturday after rates were hiked again by 25 paise and 30 paise a litre, respectively. The petrol and diesel prices in Bhubaneswar touched ₹103.03 and ₹98.67 respectively.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest ever level of ₹102.14 a litre and to ₹108.19 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

# First royal wedding in Russia since Bolshevik revolution

■ Grand Duke George Mikhailovich Romanov's great-grandfather Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich had fled Russia during the 1917 Bolshevik revolution

REUTERS

St Petersburg, Oct 2: A descendant of Russia's former imperial family married his Italian bride Friday in the first royal wedding to take place on Russian soil since tsarist times more than a century ago.

Grand Duke George Mikhailovich Romanov tied the knot with Victoria Romanovna Bettarini, an Italian, at St. Isaac's Cathedral in Russia's former im-

perial capital St Petersburg. Russian Orthodox clergy conducted the elaborate ceremony, watched by hundreds of guests who included the groom's mother, Duchess Maria Grand Vladimirovna of Russia - the selfproclaimed heir to Russia's imperial throne - and more than a dozen minor European royals.

George Mikhailovich's greatgrandfather, Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich, fled Russia during the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, escaping first to Finland and later relocating with his family to Western Europe

Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II, his wife and five children were murdered by a revolutionary firing squad in July 1918, in the cellar of merchant's house in Yekaterinburg, a city 1,450 km east of Moscow.

George Mikhailovich, 40, was born in Madrid and has lived most

of his life in Spain and France. Bettarini, 39, who converted to the Russian Orthodox faith last year and took the name Victoria Romanovna, was led to the altar by her father, Roberto Bettarini, who has served in the Italian diplo-

matic service. George Mikhailovich visited Russia for the first time in 1992 and moved to Moscow in 2019, where he works on a number of charity projects.

The Romanov dynasty ruled Russia for over 300 years before Nicholas II abdicated in early 1917, setting the country on course for the Bolshevik Revolution in November of that year, civil war and 70 years of Communist rule.

Russia's Orthodox Church in 2000 canonised Nicholas II, who had been portrayed as a weak leader by Soviet authorities.



A MARRIAGE AFTER A CENTURY: Grand Duke George Mikhailovich Romanov tied the knot with Victoria Romanovna Bettarini, an Italian, at St Isaac's Cathedral in Russia's former imperial capital St Petersburg. Russian Orthodox clergy conducted the elaborate ceremony

### **PRICES IN CITY**

Petrol ₹103.03 **(+0.26)** ₹98.67 (+0.33) Diesel rates too touched a record

high of ₹90.47 in Delhi and ₹98.16 a litre in Mumbai. Prices differ from state to state

depending on the incidence of local taxes

The price hike follows international oil prices soaring to near three-year high as global output disruptions forced energy companies to draw more crude oil out of their stockpiles.

The basket of crude oil India imports has averaged USD 78 per barrel in last few days.

The fourth increase in its rates this week has sent petrol prices ঽ above₹100 in most major cities of the country.

Similarly, the seventh increase in prices in nine days has shot up diesel rates above ₹100 mark in several cities in Madhya Pradesh,-Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



# leisure

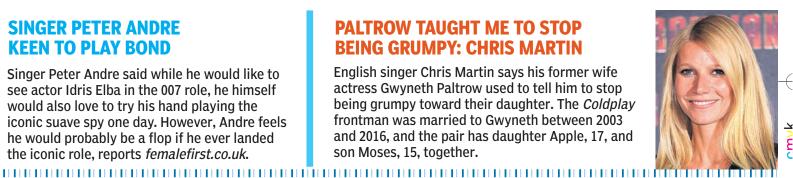


## SINGER PETER ANDRE

Singer Peter Andre said while he would like to see actor Idris Elba in the 007 role, he himself would also love to try his hand playing the iconic suave spy one day. However, Andre feels he would probably be a flop if he ever landed the iconic role, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

#### **PALTROW TAUGHT ME TO STOP BEING GRUMPY: CHRIS MARTIN**

English singer Chris Martin says his former wife actress Gwyneth Paltrow used to tell him to stop being grumpy toward their daughter. The Coldplay frontman was married to Gwyneth between 2003 and 2016, and the pair has daughter Apple, 17, and son Moses, 15, together.





GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 🙇

You may want to meet up with friends you haven't met in a long time, and the stars indicate that you will have great fun. Your enthusiasm will add a glow to whatever you do. Your sincerity in approach is what nakes it special, says Ganesha.

#### **TAURUS**

You will focus on nurturing the positive aspects of your life today, says Ganesha. You might exhaust yourself mentally trying to set things straight. It would be better to brainstorm with someone close to you or approach people whom you have differences with

You will let your personal likes and dislikes cloud your judgement today. Don't let that happen, or you may lose a worthy friend. You are likely to have a chance meeting with your soul mate or maybe even your ex-sweetheart. A romantic evening is on the anvil.

#### CANCER

Today may not be a productive day for you. Though there may not be any major loss, you may feel a little lost and would like to be left alone. If you have kids, you may suffer from the empty nest syndrome with your kids not at home

#### **LEO**

You may wear the trendiest suit, drive the swankiest car and dine at the costliest restaurant, but if luck is not on your side, you can forget becoming a business tycoon. Fortunately, that is not the case with you today. With a favourable alignment of the cosmos, you are set for a day where your business proposals will be the hardest thing to overlook

#### **VIRGO**

Family matters. And matters of family matter more. Your negotiation skills are supreme and you shall bring harmonious ends to disputes today. Life has taught you to be balanced and level-headed, and you strongly believe that there is progression in opposition.

#### **LIBRA**

Today promises to be a joy ride for your hidden gourmand side. Relish what you eat, and thank God for the good luck. Career wise, however, you may find your self standing at a crossroads. But, the good paths to choose from. And, who knows the art of balancing better than you.

#### **SCORPIO** In all probability, you are set

to shine out as a man of care and kindness. Ganesha advises you to shut the doors on worries and open the windows to let merrymaking and happiness sweep you off your feet today. The social bug will bite you hard, says Ganesha.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Providence smiles upon you today, predicts Ganesha. Catching a film with your beloved today is a very good idea. Chances are you may have a nice outing along with your friends or family. In either case, the load in your wallet is likely to lessen, steadily if not dramatically.

#### CAPRICORN

Not many can match you when it comes to living a healthy lifestyle, and as Ganesha says, health won't be an issue today either. On the work front, you are likely to complete pending projects successfully and your boss, who may be furi-ous because of the delay caused, will reluctantly admit that you did justice to the work and that it was worth the wait.

#### **AOUARIUS**

It's family time, and your near and dear will be mighty pleased. You will pamper and fuss over them, and will even pull funny faces to make them smile. Your love and affection will undoubtedly pay off, and come back to you in more ways than one. Ganesha says you deserve a pat on the back for being so devoted to family

#### PISCES

You have been neglecting your health of late, a fact which is hammered home by your ill-fitting trousers today! So. while you ignored the adage of preven tion being better than cure, you could still make a stitch in time to save nine! Head for the gym, and watch those calories, says Ganesha.



Tamanna

plays climate warrior in

**Oxygen** 

POST NEWS NETWORK

to get clean oxygen.'

in pivotal roles.

Mohanty and Kabir.

**BHUBANESWAR:** Actress

Tamanna Vyas will be seen as a

climate activist in her upcoming

Odia movie Oxygen opposite Sambit

Revealing about her character, Tamanna

said, "Though a love story, the film mostly

talks about protection of the environ-

ment. I am playing nature lover Mahi,

who spends more time in the lap of

nature than with her friends. She does

everything to preserve nature. The

film tells how today youths must work

towards the protection of the environment

The film also features Bobby Mishra,

Babu Pradhan, Tania, Nikhilesh Ghosh,

Umakanta Muduili, Krishna, Srabani,

Jagannath, Prasann and child artiste Raja

Directed by Pinu Nayak, Oxygen has its

script penned by Rashmi Ranjan Panda.

Music of the movie has been taken care

of by Abhijit Majumdar while lyrics have

been written by Nirmal Nayak, Tapu

Nayak and Satyaranjan Bal. Songs

have been choreographed by Rajendra

Produced by Sivaprasad Panda

under the banner of Aarpee

Productions, release date of the

movie is yet to be finalised.

## **KEEN TO PLAY BOND**



ctress Radhika Madan is excited and relieved in equal measure that *Shiddat*, which was held off due to the pandemic, has finally reached the audience.

Hotstar offering is a classic story of opposites attract as her pragmatic Kartika falls in love with the emotional Jaggi, essayed by Sunny Kaushal.

"Kartika has some shades of grey as well. She has complicated the concept of love so much that she doesn't know what to do with it when it comes her way. In the world of dating apps where relationships start with swipes, and we want one person to tick all our boxes, we are not leaving enough room for love to bloom," says Madan.

> with playing a toxic character, but in glorifying him/her: With Jaggi, we ensured that he is pure. He tant.'

> As the leading lady, Madan

says she is mindful of how

love should be depicted on

screen. "The problem is not

isn't a stalker. He is childlike, and is not afraid to be vulnerable. The motivation of the character is impor-

ity to pull off death-defying stunts in the

# Dream couple Chay-Sam announces separation

Hrithik has been

an idol for Tiger

Mumbai: Action star Tiger Shroff is a big fan of

Hrithik Roshan and he said that the senior actor is

War, which completed two years of its release

spiration to me. I was thrilled to have not only got-

ten a chance to work with him but also dance

is what legends are made of and I learnt so

much each day I spent with him. It was my wish

to share the screen with him and War fulfilled

that so I will always be grateful to everyone for

Tiger played the role of an intelligent un-

dercover operative Khalid and he defied grav-

film, directed by Siddharth Anand.

Tiger shared screen space with Hrithik in the film

Tiger said: "Hrithik has been an idol and in-

"His discipline and dedication to the craft

an idol and inspiration for him.

making that happen for me.'

along with him.

Hyderabad: Star couple and Internet favourites Samantha Ruth Prabhu Akkineni and Naga Chaitanya, son of Telugu superstar Nagarjuna, have ended weeks of speculation and announced their separation after four years of mar-

The couple, popularly known as Chay-Sam, confirmed the news in an official statement from Naga Chaitanva, shared by Samantha, which they released Saturday. They requested their fans and media to allow them privacy.

The statement read, "To all our well wishers. After much deliberation and thought Sam and I have decided to part ways as husband and wife to pursue our

own paths. We are fortunate to have a friendship of over a decade that was the very core of our relationship which we believe will always hold a special bond between us. We request our fans, well wishers and the media to support us during this difficult time and give us the privacy we need to move on. Thanking you for your support.'

The rumours around trouble in Samantha and Chaitanya's marriage started when she dropped the surname from her Twitter profile and renamed it as 'S

However, the couple has been rooting for each other's work on social media with full gusto.

FUN



### **PEANUTS**

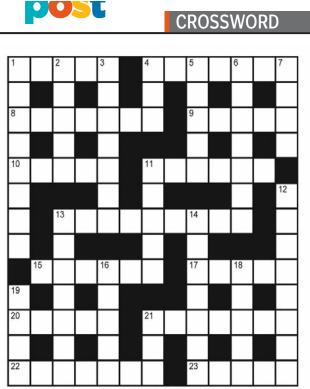


#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



#### BREVITY





#### Across

- 1 Strength
- 4 Collapse
- 8 Dress feature 9 Spoil (2,3)
- 10 Eyeball benders (2,3)
- 11 Tear into
- 13 At once
- 15 Eskimo huts

- 17 Develops 20 Geologic period 21 Domestic sheep
- 5 Prods
- 3 Tornado

Chinese game

2 Kind of ray

23 English Channel

feeder

(3-5)

**Down** 

7 Small whirlpool

- 4 Stage signal

- 19 "Beowulf" 6 Put into print

22 Beasts of burden 11 Flu symptoms

- beverage 21 Romaine
- lettuce

12 Liquorice-

liqueur

flavoured

13 Warning signal

on board

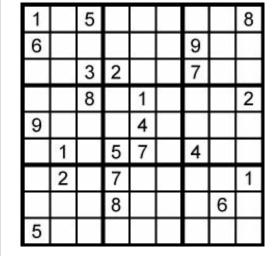
16 Earthy colour

18 Intense hatred

14 Entrance

#### SUDOKU

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



#### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD DEMURE PULSAR RTALE N

SUDOKU

8 7 1 9 2 6 3 6 4 1 5 7 7 4 5 2 8 9 4 1 2 7 4 1 3 6 8 9 5 6 8 1 9 5 3 2 7 3 2 4 1 8 5 6 9 6 2

9 2

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown



#### **CLEAN MOVE**

Students of SCS Autonomous College clean Puri beach to mark **International Coastal** Cleanup Day, Saturday

	COVID-19	
		INFECTED
	World	23,51,97,390
	India	3,37,91,061
	Odisha	10,27,431

#### **TRACKER RECOVERED** 21,19,67,952 48,08,280 3,30,68,599 4,48,573 10,14,412

# **Pradhan for Mahima Dharma** philosophy in UGC curriculum

Today the whole world needs to adopt the philosophy of Bhima Bhoi. Inclusion of his ideas and philosophy in the course curriculum will be real tribute to the great philosopher, said the Union Minister

PNN & AGENCIES

Redhakhol, Oct 2: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday suggested the University Grants Commission (UGC) to conduct extensive research on the philosophy of Mahima Dharma and include it as a part of undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) curriculum.

During a visit to the birthplace of saint poet Bhima Bhoi at Redhakhol in Sambalpur district, Pradhan paid rich tribute to the poet and saint's statue and joined a

"Today the whole world needs to adopt the philosophy of Bhima Bhoi. Inclusion of his ideas and philosophy in the course curriculum will be real tribute to the great philosopher," said the Union

He said that research will be conducted on Bhima Bhoi's philosophy and steps will be taken to pay respect to this saint-poet at the national and international level.

"Bhima Bhoi chairs will be established in different universities of the country and abroad for deeper research on his philosophy. With this effort, the idea and philosophy generated from a saint of this backward place can reach a world audience," he added.

It is worth mentioning here that Bhima Bhoi was a great philosopher of Mahima Dharma. The essence of the Mahima cult, a humanist cult, is abundant in the writings of this



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan pays tribute to Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi at the latter's birthplace in Sambalpur's Redhakhol

19th-century poet.

His famous quote, "witnessing the plethora of plights on earth how one could bear with; let the world get redeemed at my cost," is inscribed on the wall of the United Nations Organisation hall in various languages.

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences Bhubaneswar, a deemed to be university, has set up a Bhima Bhoi Chair and Research Centre to promote higher studies and research on the life and works of this saint-poet.

Gangadhar Meher University in Sambalpur has also set up a Bhima Bhoi Research Chair to carry out interdisciplinary research in the arena of social sciences including literary creations/Dalit literature and will design tailor-made solutions for challenges faced by the marginalised section of the population in the state, especially in

#### **State to conduct MSME** census

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The Odisha government has approved conducting census of the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSME) ensuring proper policy planning to revitalise the ailing sector.

The census will begin this month and continue for next three months. The state will collect data from 5 lakh MSME units.

SME Principal Secretary Satyabrata Sahu said that Odisha is the first state to conduct the MSME census after

The census will be conducted in 314 blocks and 126 municipalities of the state

he state has also allocated a sum of ₹15 crore to carry out the initiative

MSME Principal Secretary Satyabrata Sahu said that Odisha is the first state to conduct the MSME census after 15 years.

The government has started imparting training to master trainers and around 1,500 teachers will be deputed to conduct the survey.

The census will be conducted in 314 blocks and 126 municipalities of the state. The state has also allocated a sum of ₹15 crore to carry out the initiative.

As envisaged, the census would help identify sick units and challenges faced by the rest of the units in terms of registration, credit linkage, statutory clearances, taxation, raw material and marketing of finished products. The state Directorate of Industries has been appointed as the nodal agency. Odisha has also sought the help of the Union government for the management of the census.

#### IN MEMORIAM



CM Naveen Patnaik unveils a book 'Gandhi in Odisha' on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

# Police verification time for passport reduced to 4 days

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The average police verification time for issuance of passport in Odisha has come down to four days in September 2021 in comparison to 26 days in 2019, the police said here Saturday.

As per data of the passport authorities, the average time for passport verification was 26 days in 2018 & 2019 and 36 days in 2020 (delay due to corona). In earlier vears, average verification time was 99 days in 2017, 90 days in 2016 and 38 days in 2015, the Odisha



Police said in a tweet. Early this year, the police was taking a few weeks for passport verification. Then, the passport veriof the state government.

'Tablets were purchased and distributed to each police station. A specific App for passport verification was installed and a special branch started guiding and monitoring passport verification more clearly," the police said.

The average verification time was brought to six days in August last. For the first fortnight of September 2021, average time of passport verification by Odisha Police was four days only, which is among the best in the country, the Odisha police claimed.

MAN NABBED

FROM MP FOR

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The twin

city Commissionerate Police

Saturday claimed to have arrested

a 28-year-old man from Madhya

Pradesh on charges of ₹67.5 lakh

Omm Prakash Bharrawat, a resi-

dent of Manchhakhedi Khadpalia

in Mandasur district of Madhya

Pradesh, has been arrested from his

native place in connection with a

case (373/21) registered against

him under Sections 406 (criminal

breach of trust) and 420 (cheating

and dishonestly inducing delivery

of property) of the IPC following

According to Khandagiri police,

₹67L FRAUD

POST NEWS NETWORK

fraud in the City here.

#### **BSCL** organises women cyclothon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) Saturday organised an allwomen cyclothon to promote healthy lifestyle and create awareness on breast cancer on the second day of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration.

The event started around 7am from Sishu Bhawan Square and culminated there at about an hour later before passing through Janpath,

Exhibition **BREAST CANCER** Ground Road, **AWARENESS** Sachivalaya

Marg and Udhayn Marg. The participants included students from Rama Devi Women's University and Kamala Nehru Women's College, respec-

The event was presided by Director of Acharya Harihar Post-Graduate Institute of Cancer, Dr Lalatendu Sadangi. Leading surgeon and Head of Department of Surgical Oncology in AIIMS Bhubaneswar, Dr Madhabananda Kar joined as the guest of honour. General Manager of the BSCL, Kamaljit Das and founder of KRIAA Foundation Lili Jenamani also participated in the event.

## With 478 new nCoV cases, daily TPR stands at 0.69%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Odisha Saturday registered 478 new Covid-19 cases, just one more than the previous day, taking the tally to 10,27,431, while seven fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 8,209, a Health department official said.

The new infections include 57 people in the age group of 0-18 years. The rate of infection among children and adolescents now stands at 11.92 per cent against 15.57 per cent Friday, the official said.

Of the 478 new cases, 281 were from quarantine centres while the remaining 197 were local contacts. Khurda reported the highest number of daily cases at 211 followed by Cuttack (57).

Nine districts - Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Kandhamal, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Ravagada - did not report any new case during the last 24 hours, he said.

The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said that seven Covid-19 deaths were reported in the last 24hours. Two deaths each were reported from Khurda and Sundargarh districts whereas one death each was recorded in

The rate of infection among children and adolescents now stands at 11.92 per cent against 15.57 per cent

The state currently has 5,336 active Covid-19 cases while 10,13,833 patients, recovered from the disease

The state's cumulative positivity rate also stands at 5.11 per cent, he said, adding that 85,59,959 people have been fully inoculated with Covid-19 vaccine so far

Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Kendrapara districts.

The coastal state's coronavirus death toll is 8,209. This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients have died so far due to comorbidities, the official informed.

The state currently has 5,336 active Covid-19 cases while 10,13,833 patients, including 691 Friday, recovered from the disease, he said.

As 478 samples gave positive results out of 69,251 samples tested Friday, the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) stood at 0.69 per cent.

# Renovated Ekamra Haat opens for public after 2 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: After taking over the management of urban haats from IDCO, the Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department has given a new look to the urban haat situated at Unit-III in the City, popularly known as 'Ekamra Haat'.

The objective of 'Ekamra Haat' is to provide a marketing platform to artisans and weavers of the state by facilitating the sale of their products.

The re-opening of 'Ekamra Haat' Saturday brought a sigh of relief to the artisans and weavers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The haat has two zones, namely 'Ekamra Kutir' with 50 stalls including eight for live demonstration and "Ekamra Bazar" having 33

stalls around a large open space. Of these 83 stalls, 56 are for the handicrafts sector and 27 for the handlooms sector. The visitors will be able to buy handicraft items and handloom products directly from the artisans/weavers of the

state and also interact with them. The visitors can also learn more



about and enjoy the production process through live demonstrations. Sales outlets of Boyanika, Amlan, Sambalpuri Bastralaya and Utkalika have also been opened in this haat.

Arrangement for food stalls has been made too and traditional Odia cuisine along with famous delicacies from other parts of the country is available here under one roof. There are 10 food stalls in the Ekamra Kutir zone.

Moreover, facilities such as conference hall, open air theatre, ATM, and parking space are also available on the Ekamra Haat premises for

convenience of visitors/exhibitors and buyers.

The Ekamra Haat is a concept to showcase the everlasting heritage of handicraft and handlooms, culture and tradition of the state along with traditional food. The haat will remain open from 10.00 am to 9.00 pm daily following the COVID-19 protocol/ guidelines.

However, the timings of the haat would be changed for the period between October 11and 20. The Ekamra Haat is being managed by State Institute for Development of Arts and Crafts (SIDAC), Bhubaneswar

government generally get access to

#### a complaint lodged by Satyajit Samantaray. Samantaray, a resident of Plot No-502 of Baramunda under Khandagiri police limits here, had July 16 this year approached the police alleging that Bharrawat had conned him of ₹67.5 lakh.

**Omm Prakash Bharrawat** has been arrested in connection with a case (373/21) registered against him under Sections 406 and 420 of IPC following a complaint lodged by **Satyajit Samantaray** 

"Samantaray came in contact with Bharrawat, who had been operating a financial consultancy firm at B-95, Duplex in Baramunda area here, in December 2020. The accused lured Samantaray into investing ₹67.5 lakh in cryptocurrency through his firm on the promise of hefty returns. A gullible, Samantaray paid the amount in instalments to the accused. However, he neither received the promised returns, nor the invested money,' said a Khandagiri police official, quoting Samantaray's police complaint. The accused was on the run, added the official.

The official further said that Bharrawat confessed to have duped the victim along with a few others in a similar fashion. A laptop anda cellphone have been recovered from his possession.

## Wettest September in 14 years of no use

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Recognising the need to spark curiosity and critical thinking amongst students, the NITI Aayog has appreciated Koraput district administration move to provide over 30,000 children with child-friendly interactive books in the Anganwadis of the district.

Calling it "building the foundation for the future", the Aayog in a tweet said that books curated by the Bakul Foundation will help spark curiosity and critical thinking amongst students. This is the first time that the books have been provided to children directly in Anganwadis, which act as preschooling for children taking admission in Class I in a government schools.

As per sources, unlike children going to private English-medium schools, who have exposure to books in pre-school, children in

their first books only in Class I. As a consequence, about 50% children in Class V of public schools fail to read the textbook of Class II, as per Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). Recognising this problem and

with a view to improving the learning levels of children at the foundational level, the Koraput district administration requested Bakul Foundation to create an omnibus combining its different publications for children in Anganwadis into one. Thus, an omnibus titled 'Mo Bahi Gadi' containing five different Bakul Books was distributed directly to the children at Anganwadi centres

Since this is the first book that children were going to possess, the book cover was customised with the photograph of a train with different bogies, with each bogie having the cover of each of the five books that were part of the omnibus.

#### **ODISHA HAD RECEIVED 401.7 MM RAINFALL IN** SEPTEMBER 2007. THE **HIGHEST SEPTEMBER RAINFALL WAS**

**RECORDED IN 1961 AT** 

483.2MM

AGENCIES Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Odisha witnessed the wettest September in the last 14 years, thanks to the deep depression formed over the Bay of Bengal. The coastal state was pounded by an incessant 385mm rainfall. Although the deficit was compensated, farmers and experts are sceptical whether the late rain would be of any help as far as agriculture is concerned

Much of the rainfall required for kharif crops is collected in the



months of July and August. But the state went through a prolonged dry spell in these two months, rais-

ing the fear of a possible draught. Monsoon is usually in its withdrawal phase in September. But the state was lashed with 195mm rainfall in Bhubaneswar and 341mm in Puri in 24 hours September 12. A senior meteorologist at the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar. Uma Shankar Das

said, while revealing the data, that

such unusual downpour was due to climate change.

Odisha had received 401.7mm rainfall in September, 2007. The highest September rainfall was recorded in 1961 at 483.2mm.

However, at least six of the 30 districts, including Kalahandi and Sambalpur, are still in the red zone. "The timing of rain is very important in paddy farming and late rains affect germination to a great extent. While in coastal Odisha,

farmers plant kharif paddy around August, in western Odisha, in districts like Sambalpur, Bargarh and Kalahandi, which are major paddy producing districts, farming starts around June. Post-transplantation activities in western Odisha were greatly affected by insufficient rainfall in July and August. Even by the end of September, Sambalpur district was running deficient by 28 per cent. We would see lesser harvest this year due to late rains," said Ashok Pradhan of Paschima Odisha Krushak Sangram Samanwaya Samiti, a major farmers' organisation in western Odisha.

With an overall rain deficit of around 63 per cent, districts like Angul (88 per cent), Kandhamal (85 per cent), Bargarh (83 per cent), Sambalpur (83 per cent), Sonepur (80 per cent), Boudh (79 per cent), Jharsuguda, Puri and Keonjhar (78 per cent each), Bolangir and Deogarh (76 per cent each), and Nuapada (75 per cent) suffered from the dry spell throughout August.

### Niti Aayog lauds Koraput admin's move for Anganwadi children

POST NEWS NETWORK

# **New electricity consumer** billing system launched

The state government has given ₹117 crore and the Union government has sanctioned about ₹42 crore under the integrated power development scheme (IPDS) for the project



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: With an aim to provide quality service to power consumers in state, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Saturday launched a new electricity consumer billing system.

'The new system is future ready. It will provide for smart meter reading, smart grid, pre-paid regime and correct accounting of renewable energy generated from roof

top solar," said Mahapatra. He asked the power distribution companies (discoms) to make the system highly visible with 360 degree foolproof arrangements for enhancing the consumer satisfaction.

Energy secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal said that the new system will improve the power service for around 73 lakh consumers in state with quick power connection, advanced metering, error free billing

care centres, a centralised help desk, and a state-of-the-art data centre at the Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) in Bhubaneswar. Along with various customized

and collection, dedicated customer

IT applications for the convenience of customers and ease of doing business, the new system also includes setting up of a disaster recovery centre on cloud and IT infra in three discom offices; Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL). Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), and Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), which used be NESCO. WESCO. and SOUTHCO respectively.

Around 517 offices of the three discoms at different levels will be modernised with the latest computing and networking equipment. For developing and rolling out of

he system will bring about digital transformation in providing various services to electricity consumers of Odisha

t will also lead to having a real time inventory of the materials and resources available in different divisions so that those could be transported to other divisions and fitted there as per the

he system also envisions reducing the aggregate technical and commercial (A&T) loss from the present level of 30 to 15 per cent at the rate of 2 to 3 per cent per annum

the new system, the state government has provided ₹117 crore while the Centre has funded about ₹42 crore under the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS).

The system will bring about digital transformation in providing various services to electricity consumers of Odisha. It will also lead to having a real time inventory of the materials and resources available in different divisions so that those could be transported to other divisions and fitted there as per the requirement, said an official.

The system also envisions reducing the aggregate technical and commercial (A&T) loss from the present level of 30 to 15 per cent at the rate of 2 to 3 per cent per annum. The project is being implemented by OPTCL.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION



A meeting, chaired by Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik, in progress at the Syndicate Hall of Ravenshaw University in Cuttack, Saturday

# State to join AMRUT-2 and SBM-2: Patnaik

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The Odisha government said that the state will partner with the Central government in successful implementation of the flagship missions like AMRUT-2 and Swachha Bharat Mission 2.0

This was announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while speaking at the launch of Atal Misson for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 and SBM 2.0 through videoconferencing Friday.

"I am happy that the Union government is launching AMRUT 2.0 and SBM 2.0. Odisha will partner with the Central government in successful implementation of these

wards improving the livability standards for our urban population. I thank the Hon'ble PM for giving me this opportunity to share our experiences," Patnaik said.

Patnaik also informed the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Odisha government has targeted to provide tap water connection to all houses in the cities by December 2022. He said the state has implemented the Centre's AMRUT Mission since its launch in 2015 and has achieved substantial improvement in the urban water supply sector and septage management across nine major towns of the state.

Water supply and septage projects with an investment of about

in the state, he said, adding that with the implementation of the projects and urban reform measures under AMRUT, Odisha has been securing the first position in the country consecutively for the last 3 years.

"I am glad to share that so far, 27 cities out of 114 cities have achieved 100 per cent tap water house connections including Bhubaneswar City which has become the 1st and only Million Plus City to achieve this status, We have targeted to achieve 100 per cent house connections in all our cities by December 2022," Patnaik said.

While talking about taking the provision of drinking water to next level, Patnaik said Odisha mission under the state's 5T initiative. Under this mission, 24×7 water supply of directly drinkable from tap, meeting IS 10500 quality standards is being provided to all households of Puri.

The Chief Minister said Puri city has become the first city in the country to achieve this unique distinction of joining the league of international cities like London, New York, Singapore and Tokyo. "This will reduce 400 tonne of plastic waste annually in pilgrim city of Puri," Patnaik said.

He also said that this trans-formative initiative is being expanded to 17 more cities, including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur

### Schools in City celebrate Gandhi, Shastri birth anniv

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri were celebrated at city schools Saturday.

BJEM School celebrated the day with patriotic fervour both on physical and virtual platforms. As a part of the 3rd edition of SRMG (Students Remember Mahatma Gandhi, an initiative to spread Gandhiji's message of peace and non-violence), the celebration was preceded by a gamut of inter-school competitions in which around 200 students from 10 Odia-medium schools and 16 English-medium schools took part.

The students participated in 1 competitions like essay writing, elocution, quiz and documentary video-making. The SRMG was organised by BJEM School in collaboration with Alumni Association of Govt High School, Badagada and supported by Union Bank of India. The programme was envisioned to promote Gandhian values among children and to encourage them to practice the same in real life.

To commemorate the 152nd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the celebrations were held in two sessions – a floral tribute session physically conducted in the school premises in the morning and an online prize distribution session in the afternoon.

The morning session began with floral tributes to the portraits of both Gandhiji and Shastriji in the august presence of the chief guest Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister of Science and Technology, Sandhya Jena, principal of the school, Pallabi Mohapatra, vice-principal, and all the staff members of the school

# OVSA organises rabies vax drive, Sabyasachi joins in-

AROUND 100 DOGS (PET AND STRAY) WERE VACCINATED ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE DRIVE AND ANOTHER 300 STRAY DOGS WOULD BE VACCINATED IN THE COMING TWO DAYS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Odisha Veterinary Service Association (OVSA) organised a special rabies vaccination drive for pets and stray dogs Saturday at Bibartan near passport office here in the City.

The event is an extended ob-

servation of the World Rabies Day

2021, which aims to eradicate rabies

from India by 2030. OVSA organised rabies vaccination in all the 30 districts of the state on World Rabies Day i.e. September 28, 2021. Odia actor Sabyasachi Mishra was the chief guest at the programme and inaugurated the vac-

cination drive in addition to unveiling of OVSA T-shirt. In his address, Sabyasachi hailed

the veterinary doctors for their



contribution to society in terms treating and expressing compassion for the dumb animals. He expressed his desire to work with the OVSA for animal welfare in the state

Odisha Medical Service Rout was the guest of honour on the occasion and he also expressed his desire to work with OVSA in a

synergistic manner to eradicate

Dr Pratap Kishore Khamari,

Additional Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, was also a Guest of Honour. Dr Khamari explained the arduous task of veterinary doctors in carrying out their work in the field.

The sincere efforts of OVSA would go a long way in controlling and eradicating rabies, he added. All the dignitaries present on the occasion hailed the efforts of OVSA in organising the vaccination drive in such a large scale throughout the state.

Around 100 dogs (pet were vaccinated on the first day of the drive and another 300 stray dogs would be vaccinated in the

Dr Jadunath Parida, president OVSA, Dr Madan Mohan Mahapatra, general secreatary and Dr Sankarsana Mahunta, vice-president, presented an outline of the activities undertaken by the organisation, especially in providing free vaccination to dogs as a mark of their social responsibility.

They expressed their gratitude to the state government as well as\_ people for their cadre being declared Group-A at entry level. They expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for fulfilling their long standing demand of entry level Group-A for Odisha Veterinary Service (OVS) cadre.

Dr Parida said that the vaccination drive against rabies would continue in a phased manner

#### AYUSH doctors launch indefinite stir

Bhubaneswar: The All-Odisha Ayush Doctors' Association (AOADA), an association of AYUSH doctors working under National Health Mission (NHM), launched a noncooperation agitation demanding the Chief Minister to regularise their services, Around 1,150 AYUSH doctors, who have been working in co-located CHC/PHCs in the state on contractual basis since last 14 vears, had earlier written to the CM putting forth their grievances.

I, Sri Aditya Mohapatra, Harchandi Sahi, Old Town, Bhubaneswar, do hereby inform that I missed on the way our family land original patta last week. Patta details: Bhubaneswar Sahara, Unit No. 27 Mouza, Khata No. 994/321, Plot No. 953/3488. If anyone finds the documents kindly contact me

### FOR A LIQUOR-FREE CITY



People, under the aegis of Pujya Puja Sansad, take out a rally in Puri for a liquor-free Pilgrim City, Saturday ор РНОТО

# Odisha Chief Justice discusses shortcomings in justice delivery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: In a first of its kind, the Chief Justice of Odisha, accompanied by other senior judges, interacted virtually with representatives of 161 District and Taluka Bar Associations of the state, Saturday, to discuss issues concerning the state's justice delivery system.

On the occasion of Gandhi Javanti, Dr S Muralidhar, the Chief Justice of High Court of Orissa, assessed how non-participation of various Bar Associations in court work on different grounds, including the Covid pandemic, is affecting the justice system.

Among other subjects, early disposal of old cases, frequent ceasework and strikes and improving the working conditions of the Bar and Bar-Bench relationship were also put forth in the meet.

The meeting commenced with the Registrar General soliciting submissions of the Bar representatives on each of the afore-

The Chief Justice exhorted the members of the Bar to ensure that the birthplace of Utkal **Gourab Madhusudan** Das must produce the best Bar in the country

mentioned issues.

Taking note of their submissions the participating judges of the Orissa High Court shared their ideas and suggestions on tackling arrears and urged the Bar members to put their best foot forward in improving the

justice delivery system. Justices CR Dash, B Mohanty, BR Sarangi, Debabrata Dash and S Pujahari spoke on the occasion calling upon lawyers to offer their services with diligence to people for whom the entire system exists and further to introspect and eschew the tendency of resorting to casework and strikes so that the system can fulfill its obligations to the citizen and the faith of the common man in the idea of justice

Addressing an audience of nearly 400 advocates accompanied by all District Judges of the state, the Chief Justice of Odisha exhorted the members of the Bar to ensure that the birthplace of Utkal Gourab Madhusudan Das, the doven of legal profession and a legend of Odisha, must produce the best Bar in the country.

does not get eroded.

"Just like doctors and policemen, who never took a day off the vicious pandemic, we should remember how the courts of the state underwent risks during the pandemic so as to ensure that no man or woman who approaches any courts of the state is driven away from its doors. The Bar has opened 48 courts, inaugurated 11 court complexes and launched a plethora of ICT-enabled services for the benefit of the advocates and litigants during the last eight months," Muralidhar said.

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488. Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347 Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

state

# Water level in Subarnarekha rises again; panic in Baliapal



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliapal, Oct 2: Hardly has floodwater receded in scores of villages and farmlands in north Balasore when the water level in the Subarnarekha river has started rising, triggering panic among people living in low-lying areas under Baliapal block, a report

The water level in the river was at 7.80 metre at Rajghat Friday morning against the danger level at 10.36 metre. It continued to rise and touched 9.13 metre Saturday af-

This has created possibility of floodwater entering most parts of Baliapal. Farmers are deeply worried as they have already lost crops and vegetables due to three backto-back floods

Over years, people living in 20 riparian villages in this block have been facing flood fury, because the river mouth of Subarnarekha has silted. And there is an urgent need for dredging it to facilitate smooth passage of floodwater, they added. People of Baliapal, Kudamansigh, Sungamuhan, Nayabali, Bishnupur, Routraypur, Ikadpal, Kulhachad, Talapada, Jamkundaparuki, Charbastkalrui, Choudhrykud, Asti and Surjapur will not face frequent floods, they noted.

They also pointed out that the river embankments have become weak at different points, which need to be fortified.

Two days ago, several parts of the district had been flooded and waterlogged following heavy rains due to deep depression on the Bay of Bengal. Heavy rains lashed upstream areas of Subarnarekha

Several houses collapsed and 50 panchayats in Bhograi block were marooned due to floodwa-

Floodwater in low-lying villages under Jaleswar, Bhograi, Baliapal and Basta has not yet receded. Paddy in hectares of farmland is rotting under water. People in these 50 panchayats are still struggling with water-logging. And now, they have lost their sleep over fears of

### **YOGA FOR HEALTH**



People practice 'Yogasan' at a programme organised on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti at Semiliguda in Koraput district, Saturday

#### Woman techie assaulted by RPF cop in moving train

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 2: A woman engineer sustained critical injuries on her head after a constable of Railway Protection Force (RPF) assaulted her with a stick in a moving train at Panposh station in Rourkela Friday night.

The injured woman was identified as Anita Rajshrestha, 30, of Narendra village of Dharwad district in Karnataka.

She lodged a complaint at the Government Railway Police (GRP) station Saturday. The RPF constable was identified as Ajit Kumar

Reports said, Anita boarded the Geetanjali Express from Gondia station in Maharashtra to attend some work in Howrah. She was travelling without a ticket and admitted to it when asked by the RPF constable at Panposh station. However, Nayak misbehaved with her and attacked her with a stick after an argument in the moving train near Panposh. She sustained severe injuries on her head.

When the train halted at the Rourkela railway station for a brief period, the RPF constable then deboarded Anita who was bleeding profusely. The woman lodged a complaint against Nayak. Police reg-

istered a case in this regard.

# Admin holds spl gram sabha in Kotia Officials directed to



POST NEW NETWORK

Koraput, Oct 2: Panicked of repeated intrusion by officials of Andhra Pradesh government into Kotia panchayat, the district administration tried to reach out to the residents in Kotia panchayat by holding a gram sabha on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti,

The aggressive posture of the Andhra government in Kotia panchayat and its regular intrusion into the area have set alarm bells ringing in the district.

Acting on the direction of

District Collector Abdaal M Akhtar, the officials visited the panchayat and attended the meeting along with local residents. Meanwhile, the district rural development agency also conducted a separate gram sabha in the area. Observers expressed happiness

on the meeting. However, they expressed reservation on the outcome. They said conducting a meeting is a welcome move but what remains to be seen is that how the district administration is going to fulfill what were deliberated at the meeting

Officials of various line de-

partments attended the gram sabha in the Kotia panchayat and deliberated on the ways and means to bring all-round development in the fringe area.

The officials sought the opinion of the residents in this regard as it will help in ensuring a quality life to the people.

Kotia sarpanch and residents attending the meeting stressed proper implementation of the watershed projects, ITDA projects, horticulture schemes and Jal Jeevan Mission as they will help bring development in the area. The area often slips into tension

The aggressive posture of Andhra government in Kotia panchayat and its regular intrusion into the area have set alarm bells ringing in the district

cting on the direction of District Collector Abdaal M Akhtar, the officials visited the fringe panchayat and took note of problems faced by local residents. The district rural development agency also conducted a separate gram sabha in the area

Observers were happy on success of the meeting. They said conducting a meeting is a welcome move but what trict administration is going to fulfill what were deliberated at the meeting Carrying out development in the area matters most to the people here, they

due to frequent intrusion and high-handedness by the officials of the neighbouring state.

The meeting was held under the direct supervision of Krushna Chandra Biswasray the block development officer of Pottangi block. Naba Kishore Hantal, executive officer, Kotia, Ajay Tarai, junior engineer and APO Soumendra Navak attended the gram sabha on behalf of the district administration.

# submit final report on damage to SRC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 2: Various parts of Mayurbhanj district suffered damage due to floods following heavy rains recently. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi reviewed the flood situation and the extent of damage in the district, Saturday Marndi has laid stress on construction of cyclone shelters in the flood-prone At the review meeting, he di-

rected the officials of various departments to submit a final report on the extent of flood damage to the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) and draw up plans for construction of new cyclone shelters in flood-affected areas.

Heavy rains had lashed areas under Morada, Rasgobindapur and Suliapada blocks September 21 and 22. 163 villages in 29 panchayats under these blocks have suffered damage.

According to reports, 26,411 people were affected by floods while 156 houses have collapsed. A person

died due to wall collapse while 12 cattle sheds have been damaged.

The energy sector has also suffered losses in the district. The minister was told that 130 utility poles have broken while 36 conductors got damaged. Patches of soil on both sides of Sulipada check dam have collapsed.

Floods have damaged roads with stretches of 30.70 km. In rural areas, 102 roads were damaged by floods. The agriculture department said, over 33 per cent of paddy crop in seven panchayats under the three blocks were damaged. Paddy crop in 75 hectares was washed away. It has estimated that there is a need for Rs 5.10 lakh as assistance to be paid as compensation to the affected farmers.

MLA Rajkishore Das discussed the flood situation in Rasgobindapur block. The minister directed the officials of the revenue department to prepare estimates for construction of cyclone shelters in flood-affected areas under Badasahi. Betanoti, Rasgobindapur, Morada and Kuliana blocks.

#### **INDIA FOR TIGER - A RALLY ON WHEEL**

# Saving the tigers, conserving biodiversity across country



The rally was kicked off in Telangana and concluded at Baripada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 2: Even as tiger population in the country is on the decline, 'India For Tiger – A rally on Wheel' promoted by the Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change as part of celebrating Azadi Ki Amrut Mahotsav, concluded at a ceremony at Baripada Friday. The rally on wheels was aimed at promoting tiger conservation and biodiversity across the country

The rally on wheels, which was kicked off in Telangana, passed through various parts of the country before reaching Kuliana Friday night where the forest department

through public awareness.

received the rally participants.

A bicycle rally was also flagged

off at Bhanjapur in Baripada town to mark Gandhi Jayanti Saturday. The rally was concluded at Murgabadi. A ceremony was organized at Prayas Hall here. Both the rallies assumed importance for public awareness amid sporadic reports of poaching and wildlife smuggling in Similipal and other areas.

Field Director of Similipal Tiger Project, M Jagjayanand presided over the meeting while former member of NTCA Debabrata Swain was present.

Speaking on the occasion, Swain said Similipal sanctuary can be well protected if forest officials come forward and relieve the burden of tribals and people living around the sanctuary.

'If siali lata (a kind of creeper)

and bamboo are regenerated aplenty inside the forests, wildlife can stay safe inside and would not come out into towns and villages,'

Dwelling upon the subject of protection of environment and wildlife, Zilla Parishad chairperson Sujata Murmu said, "There is a need to focus on 3T - tribals, trees and tigers. Focusing on these three factors will ensure welfare of tribals and tigers, she added.

Udala MLA Prakash Madhei suggested steps to organise Similipal Mahotsav to create public awareness on protection of the sanctuary.

Morada MLA Rajkishore Das, deputy director of STP (South) Samrat Gouda, deputy director of STP (North) Sai Kiran, deputy director of NSTR (Andhra Pradesh), C Chaitanya, Baripada DFO Santosh Joshi and member of Save Elephant Foundation Rajanikant Jena underscored the need for various protective measures for Similipal and wildlife.

On the occasion, four sub-divisional level forest officials were awarded Biju Pantaik Puraskar for their remarkable contributions towards protection of Similipal

Two frontline officers engaged in protection of elephants and 14 officials of STP and forest ranges of Similipal were also awarded.

#### Local boy's sculpture in IMA earns laurels

POST NEWS NETWORK

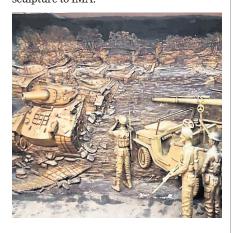
Rajkanika, Oct 2: A rare artifact of a man of Nahuni village under this block in Kendrapara district has found place at Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun in

The artisan was identified Trilochan Behera, a potter by profession from Brahman Sasan in Nahuni village. He was born in a poor family but that did not stop him from bringing laurels for the state. His sculpture has been placed at the entrance of IMA.

Trlochan in his sculpture has depicted the 1971 Indian-Pakistan war in which Indian jawans fought till their last drop of blood and sacrificed their lives for the country. This sculpture had drawn wide appreciation of people visiting the IMA and has boosted the Odia pride. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has lauded Trilochan for his sculpture and promised him of providing financial assistance.

In the past, Trilochan used to assist his father to make earthenwares and sell them in the market. Later, he started making idols of various deities during festivals. With his work in Rajkanika area and outside, he carved a niche for himself. Since then there was no looking

He started building various sculptures and many of them have drawn appreciations in Uttar Pradesh. His work found a place in the IMA after a non-Odia officer of Indian Army noticed his work and asked him to send his



### **WILD ANIMAL MENACE**

# Mobile app launched for speedy disposal of claims

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanianagar. Oct 2: The state forest, environment and climate change department has launched a new mobile application for speedy disposal of pleas for compensation to persons affected by wild animal menace, a report said.

In the new mobile application, affected persons can apply online about their losses. The applications received will be probed by concerned forest rangers and divisional forest officers within 10 days. The officials will then submit a re-

port to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) for action at his end. The compensation money will be credited into the bank account of the beneficiaries after receiving the sanction of the PCCF.

Earlier, people facing crop damage, injury or death of their kin due to wild animals had to frequent forest department offices to get their compensation. Many a time, it was seen that people failed to get compensation despite being a victim of wild animal menace. This often led to unpleasant situation and face-off between

the forest officials and local people. With the launch of the new mobile application, forest officials hope there will be no more unpleasant situation or face-off between them and local people.

Meanwhile, 82 elephants are learnt to be stationed in North Ghumusar Forest Division and South Ghumusar Forest Division. To check the pachyderms from straying into human habitations, forest officials with help of the energy department are disconnecting the power supply in some places under both the divisions.

यूनियन बैंक 🕥 Union Bank

**REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE** 3rd Floor, Asis Plaza, OT Road, Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001

NOTICE

[RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Barbil Branch Keonjhar under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act. No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor in loan A/c mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Barbil Branch for an amount mentioned below with nterest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the Borrower to redeem the secured assets.

BARBIL BRANCH, Name and Address of Borrower / Guarantor

Place: Balasore, Date: 01.10.2021

Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)

Date of Demand Notice / Date

₹11,86,494/-Borrower: Kapil Constructions, as on 31.01.2020 Prop.: Mr. Rabindra Kumar Mishra Guarantor: Mrs. Chanchala Mishra

Immovable Property 24.02.2020/ Residential Building at New 27.09.2021 Colony, Station Road + interest thereon Barbil in the name of Mrs. Chanchala W/o: Mr. Rabindra Kumar Mishra, Both Mishra, Village: Sundara, Town: Barbil, Dist.: Keonjhar are at New Colony, Station Road, Barbil Khata No.: 127/356, Plot No.: 111/1006, Area: Ac.0.035dec

Sd/- Authorised Officer



A day passed without accomplishing a good action is a day without soul.

**THE MOTHER** 



# Reversal of progress

ndia has launched part two of the Swachh Bharat Mission and the Prime Minister says that its aim is to make India's cities garbage-free. While anlacktriangle nouncing the programme, he was quoted as saying: "The garbage mountains in cities will be processed and removed completely as part of Swachta second phase. One such garbage mountain has been in Delhi for long, it's also waiting to be removed.

This focus on littering and rubbish is what separates Swachh Bharat from the two other programmes for sanitation run previously. In 1999, the Vajpayee government began the Total Sanitation Programme, aimed at providing toilets. In 2012, the programme was called Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan and this was renamed Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in 2014. When it was announced by the Prime Minister, he made participants take an oath whose text does not mention toilets and is focussed on littering and garbage.

October 2, 2019, all the villages of India were declared 100 per cent open defecation-free (ODF). But a survey released the following month by the National Statistical Office — 'Drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing conditions in India' - found that 28.7 per cent of village households had no access to a toilet. Another 3.5 per cent of households had access but did-

A place is declared ODF when its residents are deemed to have access to a toilet, even if it is a public one. Several states declared 100 per cent ODF in March 2018 were found by the survey conducted six months later to not have achieved this. The NSO said that in Gujarat 75.8 per cent, in Maharashtra

78 per cent and in Rajasthan 65.8 per cent of rural households had access to any type of toilet — whether personal, communal or paid though all three states had been declared ODF by the government. Madhya Pradesh had been declared ODF with only 71 per cent of households having access, while in rural Tamil Nadu access was 62.8 per cent.

A survey done first in 2014 and then in 2018 by the IZA Institute of Labor Economics found that the number of people who had access to some type of toilet but still defecated in the open was constant between 2014 and 2018 at 23 per cent. The study found that at least 43 per cent of rural people in the states they surveyed — Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh—continued to defecate in the open. One of the issues faced was toilets that were constructed had no running water, rendering them unusable. This was caused by a mismatch of resource. In 2016-17. Swacch Bharat received about ₹14,000 crore but rural water infrastructure received only ₹6,000 crore. The ministry of water resources estimated that a household required a total of 40 litres of water a day, of which 15 to 20 litres was for sanitation. But even a well-supplied rural household received only between 8 and 10 litres of water a day, and that was used up for cooking, drinking and washing with sanitisation being the last prior-



Aakar Patel

Now we have moved to part two of the campaign, once again with a focus on the visual and aesthetic aspects, meaning garbage and littering, rather than on sanitation and hygiene

ity. And many villages had no access to piped water at all. Why should there have been a focus on sanitation and not on littering or

garbage? It is because absence of sanitation affects the health of children. The National Family Health Survey of 2019-20 revealed some awful numbers. On four key metrics which represent the nutritional status of children, states recorded a significant fall in 2019-20 compared to the levels in 2015-16. In states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal, the share of anaemic and wasted (low weight for height) children was significantly higher than the levels recorded 15 years earlier in 2005-06. This indicated a reversal of progress that had been hard to win. Even in states such as Kerala, which continued to lead in these indicators, the levels recorded in 2019-20 were poorer than the 2015-16 figures.

The survey put out data for 22 states and Union territories and an analysis of 10 major states was conducted. Anaemia among children was higher in all the 10 states in 2019-20 compared to 2015-16. In Gujarat, Himachal, Maharashtra and West Bengal, a higher percentage of children were anaemic in 2019-20 than were in 2005-06. The percentage of wasted children was higher in half of the 10 states. In Assam, Guiarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal, a higher percentage of children were wasted in 2019-20 compared to 2005-06. In seven of the 10 states analysed, a higher percentage of children were underweight (low weight for age) in 2019-20 compared to 2015-16. Stunting (low height for age) was higher in six out of the 10 states compared to 2015-16. The study also found that incidence of diarrhoea had increased in half the states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal. In Bihar it was up from 10.4 per cent in 2015-16 to 13.7 per cent in 2019-20.

In 2021 the programme has been renamed Swachh Bharat 2.0, to continue till 2026 with a focus now on cities. But the initial campaign launched with little focus on its true objective (the health of children) appeared to have delivered October 2, 2019 the reversal of that objective. And now we have moved to part two of the campaign, once again with a focus on the visual and aesthetic aspects, meaning garbage and littering, rather than on sanitation and hygiene.

#### WISDOM CORNER

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.

For every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness.



#### WORDS**WORTH**

#### **■** Peter out

hough its sense is well enough known, its origin is puzzling, and most" reference works just say they don't know what it is. A clue to where it comes from lies in this comment in an article on hard-rock mining in Appleton's Journal of New York, dated 18 October 1873: "No mortal forecast can tell whether a good vein will not narrow to nothing ('peter out,' as the miners phrase it) in a week; and, on the other hand, it may widen in that time beyond all anticipation". Other evidence backs up the implication here that the phrase began its life as a bit of American miner's jargon for exhausted veins of ore. The first example in the Oxford English Dictionary is from 1846 (so before the California gold rush that some have suggested as its source). Taking it back further, though, requires some guesswork. We should leave aside a derivation from the proper name, which is often given as a source, especially in reference to St Peter, whose support for Jesus waned at a crucial moment. But this is unlikely to be the origin, since there is no direct evidence for the link, and it seems somewhat strained as an association of ideas. There are two main possibilities for where it came from. One is the saltpetre (US spelling saltpeter) that was a component of the blasting power that miners used (the second part comes from Greek petros. a rock, which by an odd link is also the source of St Peter's name); this sounds a bit of a stretch, but you never know. The other is French péter, to fart, which famously appears in the English petard for a medieval military explosive device, from which we get "hoist by his own petard." There are other slang expressions that suggest the second may be the more likely origin. Peter was used in the eighteenth century for a kind of loaded dice (on which, as Jonathon Green explains it, the loser was hoist, as by a petard).

#### FOCUS INSTITUTIONAL FINANCE

# THE MUDRA ILLUSION

UDRA (Micro Units Development and raised the hopes of the poor, particularly the youth in the country, in 2015, its birth year, with promises of hassle-free credit to prop up their livelihood activities - their existing micro-enterprises starved for credit or their startup ventures.

The government is still in the same excitement as it believes and maintains that PMMY (Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana) has been a tremendous success. The official macro data, prima facie, supports the assertion. It shows that the scheme helped 310 million per sons (the number close to the US population or eight times that of Canada) and financed ₹15.86 trillion (the amount more than that of the individual GDP of some 160 countries); all this, in a little over six years - between April 2015 and September 10, 2021.

MUDRA promised both rural and urban poor a collateral-free cheap credit up to ₹10 lakh under PMMY for a wide range of self-employment activities. These loans comprise three categories: Shishu (for loan up to ₹50,000), Kishor (Rs 50,000 to ₹5,00,000) and Tarun (Rs 5,00,000 to ₹10,00,000).

But, do the realities on the ground match with these claims and promises?

First, a little about the genesis and the need, before knowing the truth in the claims. The Indian government established MUDRA in March 2015 as a company under the Companies Act, 2013. It was formed as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI); it was registered April 7, 2015, also as a Non-Banking Finance Institution (NBFI) with the RBI. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PM MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) the next day, April 8, at a function held at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi. MUDRA's present authorised capital is ₹10 billion and paid-up capital is ₹7.5 billion.

Since MUDRA is a refinance

OVID-19 is pushing the world

to the brink. The pandemic



MUDRA has created more hype than the actual impact. It is high time the scheme is reviewed, actual challenges of the MSME sector diagnosed and corrective action taken to ensure adequate credit flow to MSMEs in general and micro-enterprises in particular

agency, it does not directly lend but facilitates lending through banks. To be clear, banks finance microenterprises and MUDRA refinances banks; supplies funds to the extent they have lent under the PMMY. Public and private sector banks, small finance banks, nonbanking finance companies give loans under MUDRA.

Since the development of microenterprises is crucial for the Indian economy a MUDRA-like facilitator was felt necessary to ensure adequate credit to the sector.

The micro-enterprise is the second most important sector, after agriculture. While the MSME as a whole employs 111 million people (NSS 73rd round, 2015-16) and supports the lives of 550 million people in the country, its micro part alone provides 107.6 million jobs (about 97 per cent of the sector). The majority of the 63.38 million micro-units in the country are owned by persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes; 54 per cent of micro-units are located in rural areas and rest in urban areas. They are engaged in manufacturing, processing, trading and services like shopkeeping; fruit and vegetable vending; truck and taxi operating; food processing units; repairing; small industries; and a host of other similar activities.

MSME adds about 33 per cent to the GVA (Gross Value Added) of the country. MSME-related products significantly contribute to the country's exports; the sector's share in total exports in 2018-19, for instance, was 48.10 per cent.

Despite its crucial importance, the MSME sector does not get adequate institutional finance. RBI's Expert Committee (UK Sinha Committee, 2019) says, "In India, the total addressable demand for external credit is estimated to be ₹37 trillion while the overall supply of finance from formal sources is estimated to be ₹14.5 trillion, therefore, the overall credit gap in the MSME sector is estimated to be ₹20 – 25 trillion.'

NSSO's 2013 survey found that the bulk of MSME units are unregistered enterprises and they do not maintain the books of accounts. This could be a reason for the bankers' reluctance to lend So, MUDRA has been taken up to help increase the institutional credit to micro-enterprise

But these lofty goals and impressive data projections are of no satisfaction to the poor; the proof of the pudding for them is in its eating. They neither get adequate cheap credit nor without any collateral as has been publicised.

The deciphering of the macro data doesn't conflict with the common experience. For instance, the ₹15.86 trillion (to be exact ₹15.86.081.69 crore) worth loan amount disbursed to more than 310 million (exact number 3,10,282,823) persons works out on an average to about ₹51,000 (Rs 51,117, exactly). That means most of the loans were under the Shishu category and ₹10 lakh loan has been a dis-

tant dream to many. Secondly, the banks had been giving loans to the micro-enterprises, though not adequately even before MUDRA's advent which they continue to give after MUDRA. They now brand all nonfarm, non-corporate, production loans up to ₹10 lakh with MUDRA's 'mudra' (seal).

Thirdly, there are complaints of banks insisting on security for MUDRA loans making the collateral-free loan dream unreal. Also, no specific interest rate is prescribed as the interest rates are under deregulated regime; so, the banks are simply advised to charge 'reasonable' interest rates. Cheap credit claim is not highly credible.

In effect, no significant additional credit flow - cheap and collateral-free - is observed. MUDRA has thus created more hype than the actual impact. It is high time the scheme is reviewed, actual challenges of the MSME sector diagnosed and corrective action taken to ensure adequate credit flow to MSMEs in general and micro-enterprises in particular. Without that the refinance arrangement through newer institutions like MUDRA may not do any better than what the pre-existing arrangement did.

The writer is a development economist and commentator on economic and social affairs.

#### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Yasmine Sherif

**OF LEARNING CAN** 

**RAISE INCOMES BY** 

8-10 PER CENT

PSM Rao

**CRUCIAL** 

**DESPITE ITS** 

IMPORTANCE,

**SECTOR DOES** 

INSTITUTIONAL

THE MSME

**NOT GET** 

**FINANCE** 

**ADEQUATE** 

# **Education must come first**



Education Cannot Wait, the United Nations' global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, 75 million **STUDIES INDICATE** children and youth globally were being denied their right to an ed-THAT EACH ucation as a result of conflict, dis-**ADDITIONAL YEAR** 

placement, and natural disaster. Fast forward to the present. As COVID continues to ravage the world's least-developed countries, and with other crises on the rise, the number of children who are out of school has increased to an estimated 128 million. This is a rough estimate that will likely increase as the world's multiplying crises deepen, and it is already more than the population of Japan, or the populations of France and Italy combined. At the same time, two in three students globally are still affected by school closures. Many of them, particularly girls, may never return to full-time education, raising the risk of a surge in child marriage and child labour.

Education is the foundation for peace, stability, economic prosperity, and social progress. With the pandemic, climate change, and geopolitical shifts placing the world at an inflection point that will define the trajectory of human development for generations to come, we must move urgently to make education a top priority. It is hard to imagine a better investment than education.

For starters, investing in education for all – including crisis-affected children – could contribute significantly to long-term economic growth. Studies indicate that each additional year of learning can raise incomes by 8-10 per cent. Likewise, the World Bank estimates that enabling every girl to complete 12 years of education could generate an additional \$15-30 trillion in lifetime productivity and earnings

Research also shows that violent conflict drops by up to 37 per cent when girls and boys have equal access to education. And closing gender gaps in education can contribute to curbing climate change and hunger, and to fostering respect for human rights. A generation of women professionals and leaders could be empowered to break cycles of poverty, violence, displacement, and hunger. In fact, the economic gains from expanding girls' education alone could far outweigh the financial costs of the necessary investments, yielding benefits lasting for generations.

For businesses, this economic windfall promises to create new markets, promote stability in regions where there is now chaos, and strengthen the long-term viability of investments. Entrepreneurs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America will gain pathways to establish a new generation of enterprises.

For governments, the promise of faster economic growth means more revenue. And more resources will enable policymakers to respond more strongly to the climate crisis, bolster environmental protection, build roads and productive infrastructure, and provide basic health care, education, and social services.

But children caught in conflict zones and on the brink of starvation will reap the greatest benefits. For them, quality education means safe spaces to learn, mental-health services, school-based nutrition programmes, and access to water and sanitation. Just \$220 annually can provide a child living in a crisis setting with a holistic quality education, whereas internal displacement costs the

global economy over \$20 billion a vear, or about \$390 per displaced person. While some progress has been made, more needs to be done now. At a recent global roundtable co-organised by UK, Canada, UN Refugee Agency, and Education Cannot Wait, UN Special Envoy for Global Education, Gordon Brown, highlighted World Bank estimates indicating that meeting the educational needs of refugee children alone will cost over \$4.8 billion per year.

We must catalyse the investments needed to fill this gap. Specifically, public donors, the private sector, and key stakeholders such as philanthropic foundations. high-net-worth individuals and local governments must urgently mobilise hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding for Education Cannot Wait.

As we rethink humanitarian and development interventions in the twenty-first century, education must be central to our response to the multiplying disruptions associated with COVID, violent conflict, and climate change. We must take bold action now. For the millions of children whose future is threatened by today's crises, education cannot wait.

> The writer is Director of Education Cannot Wait.

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

rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### Unholy practice

Sir, Bandhs called upon by various political parties for their demands are disrupting public life and attacking their personal liberties. Bandhs are undemocratic, unethical, unjust and unconstitutional. Protesters and politicians should realise the mistake they are committing by calling bandhs for their narrow interests. The worst sufferers are the public, who struggle to maintain their poise and equilibrium during the stressful situation. Daily wage labourers, office-goers, students, and persons working in the unorganised sectors are the hardest hit during bandhs. Bandh may be an easy tool in the hands of crafty politicians, but, it is really unwholesome and uncalled for. Democracy is not a licence for vandalism and hooliganism. A bandh serves no purpose. A strong po-

litical will can avert this unholy practice. *Prabhudutt Dash,* BHÜBANESWAR

#### People's Chief Minister

Sir, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's decision to convert former CM Jayalalitha's helicopter into an air ambulance is laudable and only enhances his good image of being a people-friendly CM. The Tamil Nadu health department has been making arrangements to convert this chopper which was bought by the former Chief Minister in 2006 for her travel. The chopper which has not been in use since 2019 has all facilities and if converted into an air ambulance can definitely serve by airlifting those in need of immediate medical attention to hospitals anywhere in the state. This can save lives of ordinary citizens during emergency. The decision to use the chopper for public welfare only goes to show that Stalin is a leader of the masses and for the masses

M Pradyu, KANNUR

#### **Congress crisis**

Sir, Congress state affairs in-charge Harish Rawat and former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh trading charges have added to the drama in Punjab. Rawat alluded to BJP's shadow around the former Chief Minister and accused Amarinder Singh of inaction in the sacrilege cases and tardy implementation of the Congress' manifesto promises. The latter rejected the allegations, claiming that they were prompted by the pathetic situation the party now found itself in Punjab. Meanwhile, the crisis in the Punjab Congress continued, with the party asking Channi to sort it out at the state level.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE



### **BRIDGING THE GAP**



Police personnel led by SDPO Uma Shankar Singh and Hinjili police station IIC Abhimanyu Das seeking opinion of people on law and order situation in villages

# Devp to continue in bordering villages of Gajapati district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Oct 2: The district administration will continue with the development of villages along Andhra-Odisha border and a number of projects taken up earlier would be completed soon, Additional District Magistrate Sangram Sekhar Panda said Saturday.

According to Panda, ₹9.65 crore was previously sanctioned for a new road along the border, the work of which has already started. ₹17 lakh was also sanctioned for a drinking water project to cater for the needs of Gangabada and Manikapatana villagers in the

In addition, solar-powered lights have been installed at a cost of ₹8 lakh. Construction of a cyclone shelter is also underway. Moreover, the district administration has taken up construction of Champapur-Gangabada village



ficial said. A number of livelihood projects were taken up under Integrated Tribal Development Authority (ITDA) for tribal residents of the bordering villages. Thirty families have been provided with financial assistance for goat farming and 100 families funded for

Three self-help groups (SHGs) were provided technical and financial support who took up farming of ornamental fish. Gajapati administration will soon create a platform for residents of the bordering villages for marketing of agricultural and forest products, the

# **Unseen crowds in Ganjam for e-shram cards**

₹300 FROM EACH APPLICANT EVEN THOUGH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Polsara, Oct 2: The Centre has formed a national database for unorganised workers to ensure the welfare of crores of people, a report said. People in Ganjam district are queuing up to register their names on the e-shram portal after rumour spread that they will not be able to register themselves in the portal once the target is achieved.

Reports said registered work ers under the e-shram portal will be enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and premium for the first vear will be borne by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India. This apart, the portal will provide a host of other benefits.

This has happened as the computer centres and Jan Seva Kendras are preparing the cards at nights

The craze for an e-shram card has swayed the residents so much so that they are queuing up outside various computer centres. Jan Seva Kendras and online kiosks

as the server often remains down during day. As a result, people are quieting up outside these centres at night to apply for the e-shram

The craze for an e-shram card has swayed the residents so much so that they are queuing up outside various computer centres, Jan Seva Kendras and online kiosks to register their names in



They are queuing up in hordes without being aware of the benefits of the e-shram cards or where to apply if they face problems. The Aadhaar card correction centres are also witnessing large crowds as many of the applicants have failed to register for e-shram cards as their mobile numbers are not seeded with Aadhaar cards. The large

crowds have also sparked fear of spread of Covid-19 in the area.

People were found neglecting basic safety norms and putting their life in danger while rushing to register their names for the eshram cards or seed their phone numbers in the Aadhaar cards.

Recently, a woman of Baghadi village was crushed to death by a speeding passenger bus when she was on her way to the Utkal Gramya Bank on the other side of the road

Taking advantage of the desperation of people, various computer centres are charging anything between ₹50 and ₹300 from each applicant to register names.

An applicant is not required to deposit any fee while applying online for an e-shram card. However, the huge rush is providing an opportunity to the online centres to fleece the applicants.

When contacted, Suranjan Sahu, block development officer, Polsara refused to comment on the issue as his office has not received any directive from the government to register people for e-shram cards.

Residents have demanded a separate office in every block for registration of names for the

# PMAGY brings no cheers to villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, Oct 2: As many as 33 villages of Kendrapara district including four of Rajnagar block have been included under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY).

The four villages of Rajnagar block included under the yojana are Rajnagar village of Rajnagar panchayt, Righagarhgaon of Ishwarpur panchayat, Bhagabanpur of Ostia panchayat and Tetelenga of Koilipur panchayat.

Once included, the villagers hoped they would have drinking water facility, illumination of village streets, drainage facility, good road communication facility and clean environment. The pictures of their villages would change for better. But, things did not take shape as expected.

Rajnagar village is a case in point. The village was included



under the yojana four years ago. Then ₹40 lakh was provided for development of the village. The irony is that the money is still lying unutilized.

According to sources in the block in the first phase Bhagabanpur and Rajnagar villages have received ₹20 lakh and ₹9.50 lakh respectively. Tetelenga and Righagarhgaon villages will soon receive their money under this yojana. Notably, the yojana was launched on a pilot basis in 2009-10. Its aim is to bring about a sea change in these villages with over 50 per cent of its population being Scheduled Castes

# Lanjia Saura tribals demand irrigation infra, drinking water



POST NEWS NETWORK

Gunupur, Oct 2: Lanjia Soura, a primitive tribe, has demanded development of irrigation infrastructure and drinking water facility in Gunupur area of Rayagada district. Most of these tribal people have been left out of the food safety net.

They have submitted a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through Gunupur sub-collector Sonal Jena. Reports said, scores of Lanjia

Saura people live in Shagada panchayat. They have been leading a basic facilities like drinking water and irrigation.

Though their livelihood mainly hinges on collection and sale of minor forest produce, many of them have shifted to farming. "But irrigation is essential to boost the farming prospects. As proper irrigation facility is missing, we have to face droughts and are unable to do farming in right manner," they pointed out in the memorandum. They said there is a need for new dykes across Rugudi creek to irrigate farmlands and ward off drought

About 40 years ago, three dykes had been built across the creek. Then, they used to come handy for farming. The tribals raised various crops. But dykes have been in bad shape for lack of renovation. These dykes should be renovated to bolster farming.

tator of India's freedom movement.

However, it has been facing neglect

have no pattas of their land they farmland. They said that forest dwellers have every right to get land patta of their land.

They also lamented that the government has made provision of ration cards to ensure subsidized food stuff for the poor, but many of them are still deprived of the benefits of food security. Safe drinking water has not been provided to them in some villages too.

The Shagada Panchayat Unnayan Parishad, a local outfit fighting for the cause of tribals, observed that the government is urged to pay heed to the plight of the primitive tribe

and sort out their basic issues. It is said that Lanjia Saura Development Agency (LSDA) is exclusively working for welfare and development of these tribals. Lakhs of rupees are being spent, but basic problems of the tribe have not been resolved till date.



Women along with local people stage a sit-in at Udala in Mayurbhanj district, seeking total prohibition, Saturday

# Gandhiji had visited this rly station in 1934

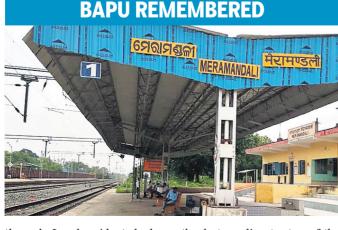
LOCALS THRONGED HINDOL ROAD. SADASHIVPUR. DHENKANAL STATIONS TO STEAL A GLANCE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Oct 2: May 1934 holds a special place in the hearts of people in Dhenkanal. It was on that day, the Meramandali railway station under Odapada block in Dhenkanal district, witnessed Mahatma Gandhi's fifth visit to Odisha in May, 1934.

On his 152nd birth anniversary, local residents fondly remember Gandhiji's visit. The station that was set up in 1923 to facilitate road communication has already completed 98 years.

It was an auspicious day when Gandhiji reached the railway sta tion from Sambalpur via Angul by a car on his way to Cuttack. Hundreds of locals thronged Hindol Road, Sadashivpur and Dhenkanal stations as the passenger train with Gandhiji on board passed



through. Local residents had a thanks to negligent nature of the glimpse of Mahatma Gandhi in Railway department. 1934. Since then, Meramandali railway station became a silent spec-

Though locals have been demanding the facelift of the station

for ages, their pleas have been

It is pertinent to mention, Meramandali railway station comes under Dhenkanal-Angul industrial corridor. Many industrial houses have set up their units in Dhenkanal due to communication

Meramandali is considered to be the centre of business activities in the district. After the construction of the new railway line from Cuttack to Sambalpur via Angul, a number of trains ply through the route. Very few trains halt at Meramandali railway station, they grieved.

Adequate lighting, development of platforms, an access road from NH-55 to the railway station and a flyover are needed, the locals opined. They also demanded that a lifesize statue of Mahatma Gandhi be erected on the railway station

## Malkangiri: SHGs script success stories with milling machines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 2: Successful implementation of the state government's various schemes and programmes has made a huge difference to the life of people in tribal dominated areas. They are expediting the pace of development and have made them self-reliant.

Malkangiri district has been in the focus of the state government which is why the government has been taking various steps for development of the district. With an aim to empower the women of the district, the Odisha Livelihoods Mission and Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) recently provided 38 milling machines to women's self help groups in the

different blocks of the district. Through Odisha Livelihoods



Mission, the SHGs were first identified. Then the selected SHGs in Mathili, Khairaput, Malkangiri, Korukonda and Kalimela blocks were provided the machines. As of now, with the earnings the women members of these SHGs are managing their family expenses.

The district was once known for  $its\,people\,including\,women\,leaving$ the district for neighbouring states as migrant labourers. However, the number of migrant labourers in the district has decreased thanks to developmental programmeslaunched in the district and their successful implementation.



# TWOSTATES





SUNDAY | OCTOBER 3 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

CITIZENSHIP

(AMENDMENT)

# power in Assam by 2050: CM

INDO-ASIAN NEW SERVICE

Guwahati, Oct 2: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has alleged that illegal settlers have hatched a plan to grab power in the state by 2050, gradually be coming a majority and dominant community in different Assembly

Sarma claimed that the land encroachers in Gorukhuti (Sipajhar) in Darrang district, who were evicted from government lands September 20 and 23, were part of this blueprint plan to wrest control of the government.

"Not all Assamese Muslims are involved in this plan. This is the thought process of a section of people. They have conspired to make a blueprint to obtain majority in the Assembly constituencies in a phased manner. After becoming the Chief Minister, I have seen various reports and evidence of this blueprint," Sarma

According to intelligence and other reports, these illegal settlers are planning to gain a majority in Sipajhar, Borkhola and Lumding Assembly constituencies by altering the existing demographic situation in these areas within the next few years, the Chief Minister said.

He said that it was observed in the recent Assembly elections that already the demographic pattern has been changed in Batadroba, Barkhetri and Mangaldai, resulting in the opposition Congress wresting three seats from the BJP. Sarma informed that out of the



10,000 people evicted in Gorukhuti (Sipajhar) in Darrang district, the names of around 6,000 were not included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) published in

He said that the government would discuss with those who have been living in Gorukhuti for many vears and include their names in the NRC. Muslims comprise 34.22 per cent of the 3.12 crore population of Assam, of which 4 per cent are indigenous Assamese Muslims and the remaining are mostly Bengali-speaking Muslims.

Muslim votes are a determining factor in at least 30 to 35 seats out of Assam's total 126 Assembly seats.

Of Assam's 34 districts, 19 districts have 12 per cent or more Muslim population, and in six dis-



**Not all Assamese Muslims** are involved in this plan. This is the thought process of a section of people. They have conspired to make a blueprint to obtain majority in the Assembly constituencies in a phased manner. After becoming the Chief Minister, I have seen various reports and evidence of this blueprint

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA I ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

tricts (out of these 19 districts), the Muslim population constitutes

# Illegal settlers planning to grab Panel to draw framework for Assam Accord execution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Oct 2: The Assam government has set up an eight-member committee to prepare a framework for implementation of all clauses of the 36-year-old Assam Accord, especially the Clause-6 report prepared by a central panel pertaining to protecting the cultural, social and linguistic identity and heritage of the indigenous people, officials said Saturday.

The Commissioner and Secretary of the Implementation of Assam Accord Department, GD Tripathi, issued a notification announcing the formation of the sub-committee, which will submit its report within the next three months.

"The Governor of Assam is pleased to constitute a sub-committee to examine and prepare a framework for implementation of all clauses of Assam Accord in general with special emphasis on Clause-6 (High Level Committee Report)," the notification said.

The latest panel will also lay emphasis on implementation of Clause 7, 9 and 10 along with update of National Register of Citizens, issues of flood and erosion, rehabilitation of families of martyrs and victims of Assam agitation, it added. Besides, the sub-committee will consider various problems faced by the state and potential for all-round economic development while preparing the report for implementation of the historic pact.

The sub-committee, headed by Implementation of Assam Accord Minister Atul Bora, has three ministers and five members from the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), the notification stated.

Other ministers on the panel are Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Pijush Hazarika and Finance Minister Ajanta Neog, while the five from the AASU include its president deport them. Dipanka Kumar Nath, general A series of committees have Secretary Sankar Jyoti Baruah,

Chandra Das and Uddip Jyoti Gogoi. Deputy Secretary of the Implementation of Assam Accord Department Sujata Suchibrata has been appointed the convenor of the sub-committee, the notifica-

chief adviser Samujjal Kumar

Bhattacharva, and advisers Prakash

tion said. September 7, the Assam government had announced it will form a new committee with members from the AASU after a meeting between the student organisation and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

The Assam Accord was signed in 1985 after a six-year-long violent anti-foreigners movement. It stated, among other clauses, that names of all foreigners settling in Assam on or after March 25, 1971

will be detected and deleted from electoral rolls, and steps taken to

been formed since 1985 by the successive state governments promising to implement the historic pact in letter and spirit. However, many of the clauses remained unfulfilled, including the most contentious Clause-6.

According to Clause-6 of the Assam Accord, constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

The Clause 7 says: "The Government take(s) this opportunity to renew their commitment for the speedy all round economic development of Assam, so as to improve the standard of living of the people. Special emphasis will be placed on education and science and technology through establishment of national institutions.'

Clause 9 provides for sealing of the international border, intensifying patrolling on land and river routes, setting up adequate check posts to stop future infiltration and building a road along the border to facilitate patrolling by se-

"It will be ensured that relevant laws for prevention of encroachment of government lands in tribal belts and blocks are strictly enforced and unauthorized encroachers evicted as laid down under such laws," the Clause 10 of the Accord says.

February 25 last year, a High-Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and headed by Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma had submitted its report to the then Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal for handing it over to Union Home

# Italian link in Kerala antique dealer case

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 2: First it was the solar scam, then came the gold smuggling case and now it's the fraudulent antique dealer and the common factor in all these is, it was a lady in the limelight.

Eyebrows have now been raised ever since the name of a Kerala lady based in Italy surfaced after 54-year-old Kochi resident Monson Mavunkal was arrested by the Crime Branch police from his home-cum-museum, last Saturday (Sept 25) after victims approached Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan with their complaints that they were swindled of Rs 10 crore by this master 'fraud', who managed to even take the top most Kerala Police officials for a ride.

For a while the name of the lady was not heard but after a few days it has now surfaced and she herself said she has no role in anything of what's being heard. Anita Pullalyil is the lady

whose connections with Mavunkal and not to mention with high ranking police officials like the then State Police chief Loknath Behra, with a number of pictures of she hogging the attention and is seen in the company of none other than Vijayan,



**Union Minister of State** for External Affairs V Muraleedharan has expressed suspicion in the silence of **Chief Minister** Pinarayi Vijayan on the issue of Mayunkal and other things associated with it

Behra, among others. Anitha is based in Italy but hails from Trissur and took the route of the Loka Kerala Sabha (LKS) and became close to not just Behra, but also to Mavunkal

and numerous other bigwigs.

LKS is a global meet of Keralite diaspora settled outside Kerala and it was first launched by the Vijayan government in 2018 and the second edition was held in January 2020.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan Saturday expressed suspicion in the silence of Vijayan on the issue of Mavunkal and other things associated with it. "Vijayan has to break his silence as in the backdrop of LKS and using the links of the office of Vijayan, massive fraud was done. Allegations of this did surface during the LKS. This particular lady was seen in a crucial role during the LKS and now there are numerous reports of her role and the connections she has had with Vijayan's office," said Muraleedharan.

"Ít's said that Behra in May 2020 had sought a probe by an intelligence agency, but why was no probe initiated and the Home department has to give an answer for it. There were a few complaints against Mavunkal also, but that too was swept under the carnet. Hence Vijavan has to break his silence. This is similar to the solar scam (which took place in 2015 when the office of then Chief Minister Oommen Chandy had a role). Vijayan should demand a probe by central

agency," added Muraleedharan. Mavunkal, took all his high profile guests into his fold by showcasing antiques in his collection which he claimed included the "staff of Moses" and "two of the 30 silver coins that were taken by Judas to cheat Jesus Christ".

Police said that he had showcased these "rare" items -- a throne said to be used by Tipu Sultan, as well as a huge collection of old Qurans, Bibles (Old Testament and New Testament), and old handwritten copies of the

Bhagavad Gita. Mavunkal used to bring several VIPs to his palatial residence, a part of which was converted into museum to house his

# SC, ST, forest dwellers get exemption in two-child norm

Guwahati, Oct 2: The BJP led Assam government has eliminated criteria to adhere to a two-child norm for the people belonging to Scheduled Caste, tribals and other traditional forest dweller communities in order to get a government job.

The state cabinet, in its meet ing chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, decided to exempt the people belonging to SC, ST, Adivasi and other traditional forest dwellers from the purview of Assam Public Services (Application of Small Family Norms in Direct Recruitment) Rules, 2019, relieving these communities from the two-child norm, in order to remove the barrier for them to get government services.

The Chief Minister after the cabinet meeting in Dhemaji in eastern Assam briefed the media but did not explain why the state government modified the norms even as Sarma after becoming the Chief Minister in May strongly advocating to follow the population control policy, which, however, also criticised by various political parties and NGOs including the main

Great-grandmother keeps martial art form alive



opposition party Congress.

Sarma earlier said that the Assam government would in a phase manner implement a twochild policy norm for availing benefits of certain specific state schemes including the housing scheme.

Amid his insistence on a population policy with a two-child norm and adoption of adecent' family planning norms by Muslims to eradicate poverty in the northeastern state, the Chief Minister had recently held an interactive meetcitizens from the Muslim community.

The eight sub-groups were formed with representatives of the indigenous Muslim community to deliberate on issues such as health, education, skill development, preser vation of cultural identity, financial inclusion and empowerment

of women.

Muslims comprise 34.22 per cent of the 3.12 crore population of Assam, of which 4 per cent are indigenous Assamese Muslims and the remaining are mostly Bengali-

### Addiction-free clubs to come up in Kerala edu campuses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 2: All educational institutions in Kerala will have 'Vimukthi Clubs' before Gandhi Jayanti next year to create proper awareness among the younger generation about the menace of addiction to intoxicants.

The addiction-free campaign of the state Excise Department and Vimukthi Mission will be ramped up by forming 'Vimukthi Clubs' in all the educational institutions before Gandhi Jayanti day next year, state Excise and Local Self Governments Minister MV Govindan Master said here Saturday

Inaugurating a month-long, statewide addiction-free awareness campaign on the occasion of the 152nd Gandhi Jayanti Day Celebrations here, the Minister said addictionfree programmes will be organised in over 20,000 wards in local selfgovernments across the state with public participation.

He said a sustained campaign need to be carried out to create proper awareness against addiction. "Such a campaign should  $take \ the \ message \ down \ to \ the \ ward$ level by enlisting the support of all sections of the society to achieve the goals set out by it," he said.

"We are living in times when even children fall prey to this evil. This will seriously affect the future generations. The activities of Vimukthi Mission should reach all educational institutions in the state as our ultimate aim is to root out this menace." the Minister was quoted as saying in a statement here. "Addiction to intoxicants has reached such a dangerous level as it has begun to affect the social consciousness and mental health of its victims. Tackling this challenge is vital to build a healthy society," Master said, noting that the Excise Department has started meticulously planned efforts in that direction.

Presiding over the function, Transport Minister Antony Raju said authorities of educational institutions should take utmost care to ensure that students will not

get access to addictive substances. 'We should also be alert to efforts by vested interests to sabotage programmes against addiction.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Vatakara (Kerala), Oct 2: Deftly parrying her son with a bamboo cane, Meenakshi Amma belies her 78 years with her prowess at kalari, thought to be India's oldest martial art.

The great-grandmother in Kerala has been a driving force in the revival of kalaripayattu, as the ancient practice is also known, and in encouraging girls to take it up.

"I started kalari when I was seven years old. I am 78 now. I am still practising, learning and teaching," the matriarch of the Kadathanad Kalari Sangham school, founded by her late husband in 1949, told AFP.

'When you open the newspapers, you only see news of violence against women," she said.

'When women learn this martial art, they feel physically and mentally strong and it makes them confident to work and travel alone."

Kalari, which contains elements of dance and yoga, can involve weapons such as swords, shields and staffs. Reputedly 3,000 years old, and mentioned in ancient Hindu scriptures, it remains infused with



Meenakshi Amma practices kalaripayattu at her school.

religion in the present day.

India's British colonial rulers banned the practice in 1804 but it survived underground before a revival in the early 20th century and

after independence in 1947. In recent decades it has come on in leaps and bounds, thanks in no small measure to Meenakshi, who won a national award in 2017.

Now it is recognised as a sport and practised all over India. Inside Meenakshi's kalari hall. her bare-chested son Sanjeev

Kumar, a lungi tied around his

waist, puts barefoot pupils -- boys and girls alike -- through their paces on the ochre-red earth floor.

started kalari when I was seven years old. I am 78 now. I am still practising, learning and teaching... When women learn this martial art, they feel physically and mentally strong and it makes them confident to work and travel alone

sions in kalaripayattu - one is kalaripayattu in peace and the other is kalaripayattu in war," said the 'gurukkal' (master). "It's an art that purifies mind, body and soul, improves concentration, speed and patience, regenerates physical and mental energy. When totally connected mentally and physically to kalari, then the opponent disappears, the body becomes eyes."

"It's a form of poetry," said civil engineer Alaka S. Kumar, 29, daughter of Kumar and the mother tosome of Meenakshi's many greatgrandchildren.



#### **1ST NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST** ON POLLS. DEMOCRACY BY EC

The Election Commission has launched the inaugural edition of The Election Commission of India Annual National Essay Contest on Election & Democracy. The online competition opens October 2, and the last date for the submission of entries is November 21



3 women nabbed for trying to 'sell'

minor's virginity

Nagpur, Oct 2: In a shocking in-

cident, the Nagpur Police have ar-

rested at least three women pimps

who allegedly tried to 'sell the vir-

ginity' of a 12-year-old girl to a cus-

tomer for ₹40,000, police said here

Saturday.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



I would like to remind us all that the speedy and affordable delivery of justice is the legitimate expectation of the people and is the collective responsibility of the different organs

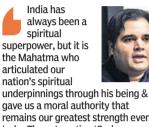
KIREN RIJIJU UNION LAW MINISTER

The flag of Bapu's ideas of truth, nonviolence and justice is still flying high in 'satyagraha' against

of the State

the black farm laws, in the fight for justice for the tribals of Sonbhadra and for the Dalit girl of Hathras, and in the rising voices for the ideology of love against the ideology of hatred

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA CONG GEN SECY



gave us a moral authority that remains our greatest strength even today. Those tweeting 'Godse zindabad' are irresponsibly shaming the nation

VARUN GANDHI BJP MP

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **GI for Alibag** white onion

Alibag: The famed white onion of Alibag in Maharashtra's Raigad district has earned itself a 'Geographical Indication', giving the crop a unique identity and wider markets, agriculture department officials said here Saturday. They pointed out that Alibag's white onion, which has medicinal qualities and is used for the treatment of heart ailments, controlling cholesterol and creation of insulin, has been mentioned in the official gazette as long back as 1883.

#### Four B'desh NLFT **Ultras surrender**

Agartala: Four Bangladesh trained extremists of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) have surrendered to the Tripura police and deposited arms and ammunition, police said Saturday. A police official said that the four NLFT militants surrendered to the officials of the special branch of Tripura police Friday. The NLFT cadre, who fled from the Jupui camp under Bagaichari police station of Rangamati district in southeast Bangladesh, during the surrender, have deposited a US made revolver, one improvised gun, a Chinese grenade and some ammunition, incriminating documents and Bangladesh currencies of 800 taka.

#### 12 cops injured as bus falls into ditch

Korba: At least 12 policemen were injured after a bus carrying them fell into a ditch in Chhattisgarh's Surguja district Saturday, a police official said. A total of 38 police personnel were on board the bus at the time of the accident, he said. It was going from Mainpat Police Training School in Surguia to Mungeli where the police personnel were to be deployed in view of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's visit there Sunday

#### Civilian shot dead

Srinagar: A civilian was allegedly shot dead by militants here Saturday, police said. Around 5.50 pm, terrorists fired at Majid Ahmad, a resident of Chattabal Srinagar at Karan Nagar, injuring him critically, a police official said. Ahmad was shifted to the nearby SMHS hospital where he succumbed to injuries during treatment.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

**U'KHAND AVALANCHE** 

**Bodies of three Navy** 

officers, sailor found

New Delhi/Uttarkashi, Oct 2:

The mortal remains of three Indian

Navy officers and a sailor, who

were part of a mountaineering ex-

pedition, were recovered Saturday

from the site of an avalanche at Mt

Trishul in the western Kumaun re-

gion of Uttarakhand, officials said

Efforts are continuing to

locate the fifth naval

climber and a Sherpa

who were among the

six missing since Friday

They said all-out efforts were

continuing to locate the fifth naval

climber and a Sherpa, who were

among the six missing since Friday.

The deceased Navy personnel

are Lt Commander Rajnikant Yadav,

Lt Commander Yogesh Tiwari, Lt

Commander Anant Kukreti and

sailor Hari Om, the officials said.

ployed to carry out search and res-

cue operations. The 20-member ex-

pedition was flagged off at Mumbai

September 3 and 10 climbers had

started the final leg of their jour-

nev to the summit of Mt Trishul

(7.120 m) Friday morning but were

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

has expressed grief over the death

of the Navy personnel. Deeply an-

guished by the tragic death of four

Navy personnel who were part of

the Indian Navy mountaineering ex-

pedition to Mt Trishul. The nation

has not only lost precious young lives

but also courageous soldiers in this

tragedy, he said in a tweet.

caught in the avalanche

A multi-agency team was de-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan sells rice by maligning India Disinfolab said in a report that taking advantage of this campaign, from September 30, the Pakistani accounts started another campaign to malign India by boycotting Indian food products

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: Pakistan has been fighting a losing battle over the credit for Basmati. A consignment of Pakistani rice was also rejected by the EU recently. Hence, what it could not sell in open market, it could sell through social media - thanks to the 5th Gen Warfare skills.

Disinfolab said in a report that

taking advantage of this campaign, from September 30, the Pakistani accounts started another campaign to malign India by boycotting Indian food products. The 'boycott business' come with an economic logic, it added.

Analysing this campaign gave interesting details about the mechanics of Pakistan troll factories. While they have been pushing the anti-India agenda, after few days realising the opportunity to sell rice, launched this campaign, the report said.

These accounts are part of various troll groups of digital Pakistan. From the analysis of these accounts, we see that associate themselves with Pak military, ISI, ISPR etc. It has not yet been confirmed if the rice brands being promoted belong to Pak Fauj, or are independent of them, the report said

These accounts while using the same template in their tweets also tag the same set of troll groups which they are part of so that other members of these groups can amplify these tweets.

like Troll groups @WeareTeamGP, @EmergingTeam, @WeTeamISP\_, @WEareISPIANS, @WeAreVOIK are the key groups pushing the Pakistan rice on social media.

satisfied with the decision as it

will ensure smooth and hassle-free

procurement. The procurement of

Kharif crops - Paddy and Millet- was

earlier to start from October 1, but

due to heavy rains, the central gov-

ernment had postponed the pro-

curement till October 11 as the

moisture content in fresh arrivals

The decision irked farmers and

many of them protested Saturday

in several parts of the two states,

laying siege to the houses of many

Farmers broke police barricades

and faced water cannons, includ-

ing near Chief Minister Khattar's

In Punjab, farmers protested

outside the residences of several

Congress legislators, including

state assembly Speaker Rana K P

Singh in Rupnagar and MLA Harjot

ministers, MPs and MLAs.

was beyond permissible limits.

We have arrested three accused so far and further investigations in the case are underway, Nagpur Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar told IANS

The Nagpur Crime Branch's Social Service Branch managed to rescue the minor girl safely before she became a victim to the pimps' evil designs to push her into the flesh trade, police said.

The sinister incident happened when one of the accused lured the girl to her home in Omnagar, Koradi locality on the pretext of a birthday party, and the two other accomplices contacted a customer with the ₹40,000 deal.

Following a timely tip-off by a local NGO, the SSB sleuths sent in a decov customer who confirmed the goings-on and alerted the police.

A crack police team comprising women officials raided the premises to save the girl and nab the three main culprits present The accused have been identified

as Archana Vaishampayan, 38, Ranjana Meshram, 45 and Kavita Nikhare, 30 and they have been remanded to police custody. According to police, the prime ac-

cused, Vaishampayan is said to have lured the little girl on the promise of giving her ₹5,000 to help for her mother's cancer treatment.

The accused also convinced the girl's mother to send her to work as a caretaker for Vaishampayan's two-year old son, without revealing her actual motives

# **Centre reverses its order**

The government had Friday said that it had postponed the procurement to protect farmers as sale of paddy with high moisture content caused due to untimely rains could lead to rejection of the grain at buying centres and consequent loss to farmers

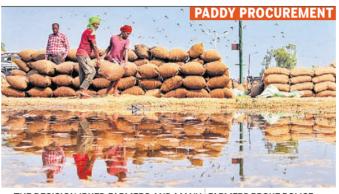
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 2: Punjab and Harvana governments Saturday announced that the procurement of paddy - a major Kharif crop - will begin from October 3, after the Centre acceded to their request.

The Centre's earlier decision to put off procurement till October 11 due to recent heavy rains sparked protests by farmers in the two states.

"I am happy that the Union Consumer Affairs Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey has accepted our request, and procurement will start in Harvana from October 3. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who was flanked by his deputy Dushyant Chautala and state Agriculture Minister J P Dalal said, said after meeting the central minister in Delhi.

He said the paddy crop has reached the mandis for purchase



THE DECISION IRKED FARMERS AND MANY FARMERS BROKE POLICE OF THEM PROTESTED SATURDAY IN SEVERAL BARRICADES AND FACED PARTS OF THE TWO STATES, PUNJAB AND WATER CANNONS, INCLUDING HARYANA, LAYING SIEGE TO THE HOUSES OF NEAR CM KHATTAR'S MANY MINISTERS, MPs AND MLAS HOUSE IN KARNAL

and, keeping in mind the interests of all such farmers, Union Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubev was requested to start the procurement at the earliest

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, who had taken up the issue during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday, said that farmers would be

house in Karnal.

#### Congress revamps Chhattisgarh unit PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Oct 2: Congress president Sonia Gandhi Saturday ap-Sushil Anand Shukla was ap-

pointed additional office-bearers in the party's Chhattisgarh unit, replacing four vice-presidents as well

The development came amid speculation over the possibility of a leadership change in Chhattisgarh where cabinet minister TS Singh Deo is vying for the chief minister post.

Arun Singhania, PR Khunte, Ambika Markam and Vani Rao were appointed vice-presidents in the Congress' state unit, replacing Girish Devangan, Atal Srivastava, Bhanu Pratap Singh and Padma Manhar, according to a party statement.

Vasudev Yadav, Amarieet Chawla and Sumitra Dhritlahre were appointed general secretaries in place of Dwarika Prasad Yadav, Uttam\_\_ Vasudev and Pankaj Sharma.

pointed head of the communication department of the party's Chhattisgarh unit in place of Shailesh Nitin Trivedi. Four new DCC chiefs were also

appointed. In another appointment, the Congress named Neerai Pandev the head of NSUI's Chhattisgarh unit, replacing Smash Sharma. Manjul Tripathi was named NSUI Madhya Pradesh unit chief, replacing Vipin Wankhede.

The party also announced its candidate for assembly bypolls --Chalrosanga Ralte for Tuirial in Mizoram; Balmoori Venkat Narsingh Rao for Huzurabad in Telangana: and Nitendra Singh for Prithvipur in Madhya Pradesh.

Gearing up for the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, the Congress Saturday named Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel as a senior observer for the polls next year. The appointment also assumes significance as it comes amid speculation over the possibility of a leadership change in state. Baghel, who had played a crucial role in the run up to the Assam assembly polls with his team carrying out extensive booth training of party Congress general secretary in-charge Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

# India, Lanka to hold 12-day military drill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: India and Sri Lanka will carry out a 12-day mega military exercise from Monday with a focus on enhancing counterterror cooperation.

The eighth edition of the 'Mitra Shakti' exercise will be conducted at the Combat Training School in Sri Lanka's Ampara from October 4 to 15, the defence ministry said Saturday.

The aim of the exercise is to promote close relations between armies of both countries and enhance inter-operability and sharing best practices in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations, it said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla arrived in Colombo on a four-day visit to take stock of the overall ties.

On the exercise, the defence ministry said an all arms contingent



A worker winnows the harvested paddy crop to separate the grains from husk at grain market near Amritsar, Saturday

of 120 personnel of the Indian Army will participate in the drills along with a battalion-strength contingent of the Sri Lankan Army. The exercise will involve tactical level operations at sub-unit level in an international counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism environment, it said in a statement.

The ministry said that the exercise will go a long way in further strengthening the relationship between both the South Asian nations and will act as a catalyst in bringing synergy and cooperation at the grass-root level between

#### **Baghel senior observer for UP polls**

Chhattisgarh where cabinet minister TS Singhdeo is vying for the top job in the workers, has in the past discussed the preparations for the elections in UP with

# Evaluation questioned as 8 DU colleges declare 100% cut-offs

NEARLY 70,000 SEATS ARE UP FOR GRABS AT THE VARSITY AND PRINCIPALS HAVE SAID THAT THERE ARE NEARLY 10.000 STUDENTS WITH PERFECT SCORES IN BEST OF FOUR SUBJECTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: A day after eight Delhi University colleges declared 100 per cent cut-offs for 11 courses, a section of educationist Saturday questioned the evaluation system of the Boards, even as others rejected the idea of entrance tests, saying it would encourage the coaching industry.

Some also called for making more investment on opening good quality institutions, which they said, would be beneficial for the students.

They said so many students getting cent percent marks also raise question on the integrity of those

assigned to give marks. The cent per cent marks raise a

question on the integrity of those assigned to give marks be it the board or the schools. Earlier there was thought given to organise an entrance test but that has not been done. If at this juncture, that could be done it would have been a good solution.

"If it's not done why can't Delhi University conduct an online interview? All the 10 students who have got 100 per cent scores can be assessed and then, one of them can be chosen. This has to be innovated specially in the Covid pandemic. said Professor Arbind Jha of IGNOU.

Professor AK Bhagi of National Democratic Teachers' Front said, "The absolute scores is for Best of Four subjects and there is high possibility of students having perfect scores in four subjects."

But the number of such students was lower during pre-Covid times, but because of coronavirus and the evaluation being based on internal assessments, the number of cent per cent scorers has increased. This has led to more colleges announcing 100 per cent cut-offs.

Bhagi opined that a hybrid testing system can be formulated under which the Board marks should be taken into consideration along with the performance in an entrance exams.

The university should not go into extremes and only hold entrance exams as that would encourage people to go for coaching and people from low income groups would be at a disadvantage, he



said, adding that entrance exams should be only for some courses.

Currently, the university holds entrance exams for a total of 13 undergraduate and postgraduate courses. This year, a committee has finalised the process for holding the Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET) and the recommendations have been submitted to the Union education ministry but the nod from the ministry is pending. The CUCET is likely to be held next year.

Since the nod is pending, the Delhi University continued with the merit-based admission process.

Over 2.87 lakh students have applied for Delhi University's undergraduate courses, down from 3.53 lakh applications last year, with

the maximum aspirants from CBSE Over 2.29 lakh applicants are from CBSE-affiliated schools, followed by Board of School Education Haryana (9,918), Council for the Indian School Certification Examination (9,659) and UP Board of High School and Intermediate

Education (8,007). Nearly 70,000 seats are up for grabs at the varsity and principals have said that there are nearly-10,000 students with perfect scores in Best of Four subjects.







# international



The government is in talks with some groups of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban **Pakistan for** "reconciliation" with the help of the Taliban in **Afghanistan** IMRAN KHAN PAKISTAN PM

#### **SHRINGLA ON LANKA VISIT**

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla Saturday began his fourday visit to Sri Lanka during which he will meet President Gotabava Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, and review the bilateral ties





pending reform of the Security Council is a membership-driven

PRESIDENT OF THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Combatants around the world should lay down their arms and focus on defeating humanity's common enemy, the

COVID-19 pandemic, and not one

ANTONIO GUTERRES | LIN SECRETARY GENERAL

Northern Ireland's contentious post-Brexit trading arrangements could work in principle if they were "fixed"



BORIS JOHNSON | BRITISH PM

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Four killed

Abu Dhabi: An air ambulance of the Abu Dhabi Police crashed in the UAE's capital here on Saturday, killing two pilots, a doctor and a nurse, according to the police. The Abu Dhabi Police, in a tweet, said that pilot trainer Khamis Saeed Al-Holy, Lieutenant Pilot Nasser Muhammad Al-Rashidi as well as civilians Dr Shahid Farouk Gholam and nurse Joel Qiui Sakara Minto died, the Khaleei Times newspaper reported. The General Headquarters of the Abu Dhabi Police mourned the death of four of its medical team members who were killed in the air ambulance plane crash while on duty on Saturday, "Four people were killed in an ambulance plane crash while on duty on Saturday," the police said.

#### Man arrested

Austin: A man seen on surveillance video wearing an American flag bandanna when he threw a Molotov cocktail into the headquarters of the county Democratic Party in Austin was arrested in Texas a fire official said. Ryan Faircloth, 30, was booked Friday in the Travis County jail. He was charged with arson and possessing a prohibited weapon - the Molotov cocktail - according to Austin Fire arson investigator Capt. Jeffrey Deane. Investigators received multiple tips after releasing the surveillance video. One of the tips led to Faircloth's social media. Information found online and other evidence led arson investigators and the FBI to make the arrest, Deane said.

#### Four hackers held

Jakarta: Police have arrested four Indonesian hackers on suspicion of an international scam that harmed companies in South Korea and Taiwan involving a \$5.94 million, a police officer said. The Indonesian Police's Director of Cyber, Brigadier General Asep Edi Suheri, said the suspects sent fake emails with notification of a change in the account number of a company to its partners, reports Xinhua news agency.

#### Nigerian Prez lifts Twitter ban

Abuja: Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari announced that he has directed the lifting of a ban on Twitter's operations in the country, but only if the micro-blogging giant meets certain conditions imposed by the government. In his address to mark the country's 61st Independence Day, Buhari on Friday said his administration took the decision to allow Nigerian citizens to continue the use of the platform for business and positive engagements after Twitter reached out to the government to resolve the impasse, reports Xinhua news agency

# **Taiwan fumes over Chinese incursion**



Taipei, Oct 2: Taiwan sharply criticised China on Saturday after Beijing marked the founding of the People's Republic of China with the largest ever incursion by the Chinese air force into the island's air defence zone.

Taiwan, a democratically governed island that is claimed by China, has complained for more than a year of repeated missions near it by China's air force, often in the southwestern part of its air defence zone close to the Taiwancontrolled Pratas Islands.

Taiwanese fighters scrambled against 38 Chinese aircraft in two waves on Friday, the Taiwan Defence Ministry said. It said Taiwan sent combat aircraft to warn away the Chinese aircraft, while missile systems were deployed to monitor them.

"China has been wantonly engaged in military aggression, damaging regional peace," Taiwan Premier Su Tseng-chang told reporters on Saturday morning.

The first wave of incursions comprised 18 J-16 and four Su-30 fighter jets plus two nuclear-capable H-6 bombers and an antisubmarine aircraft, while the second had 10 J-16s, 2 H-6s and an early warning aircraft, the ministry said.

The first batch of Chinese aircraft all flew in an area close to the Pratas Islands, with the two bombers flying closest to the atoll, according to a map issued

by the ministry.

The second group flew down into the Bashi Channel that separates Taiwan from the Philippines, a key waterway that links the Pacific with the disputed South China Sea

On Saturday, the ministry reported a further incursion, this time involving 20 aircraft, all fighters apart from two anti-submarine aircraft.

They too flew in the vicinity of the Pratas. Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu added his condemnation, tweeting on Saturday that the record sorties ensured Friday "wasn't a good day".

"Threatening? Of course," he added. China has yet to comment. It has previously said such flights were to protect the country's sovereignty and aimed against "collusion" between Taiwan and the United States, the island's most important international backer.

The previous largest incursion happened in June, involving 28 Chinese air force aircraft.

China's latest mission came less than a day after its government launched a verbal attack on Wu, evoking the words of revolutionary leader Mao Zedong to denounce him as a "shrilling" fly for his efforts to promote Taiwan internationally.

China has stepped up military and political pressure to try to force Taiwan to accept Chinese sovereignty. Taiwan says it is an independent country and will defend its freedom and democracy.

## **ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION**

# Qatar holds first legislative council vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doha, Oct 2: Qatari citizens voted for the first time in elections for an advisory council on Saturday - a long-delayed step that aims to give people in the autocratic sheikhdom slightly more say over how they're ruled.

The "experiment", as Qatari officials have described the vote, comes as the 2022 World Cup casts a global spotlight on the hereditarily ruled nation and generates pressure for reform. Qatar first introduced plans for the legislative elections in its 2003 constitution, but authorities repeatedly postponed the vote.

Qataris on Saturday headed to the polls to choose two-thirds of the 45-member Shura Council, which drafts laws, approves state budgets, debates major issues and provides advice to ruling emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The body does not have sway, however, over matters of defense, security and the economy.

The vast majority of the nearly



Qataris vote in legislative elections in Doha, Qatar, Saturday

300 candidates are men, with nearly all hailing from the same family or tribe in several districts.

The country's electoral law, which distinguishes between born and naturalised Qatari citizens, and bars the latter from electoral participation, has drawn criticism from rights groups. In a report last month, Human Rights Watch described the system as "discriminatory", excluding thousands of Qataris from running or voting. The disqualifications have sparked minor tribal protests that led to several arrests.

Sheikh Tamim, who previously elected all the council members, will handpick the remaining 15 members of the body and retain ultimate authority over decision-making in the energy-rich country. Like other Gulf Arab states. Qatar bans political parties. Foreign workers

**Qatar first introduced** plans for the legislative elections in its 2003 constitution, but authorities repeatedly postponed the vote

outnumber Qatari citizens in the tiny country of 2.8 million nearly nine to one

Among the sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf, only Kuwait's parliament has genuine sway over the government, with lawmakers empowered to introduce laws and question ministers. The elected body, however, clashes frequently and raucously with the emir-appointed Cabinet, blocking major initiatives and hampering economic development. The move brings Qatar more in line with the United Arab Emirates, where citizens vote for a limited number of seats in a consultative parliament that advises the government.

#### **SURPRISE MOVE**

# Duterte to retire from politics

Duterte announced his surprise withdrawal from the election after accompanying his former longtime aide, Sen. Bong Go, to register his own vice presidential candidacy with the ruling party at a Commission on Elections centre

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manila, Oct 2: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte Saturday announced he was retiring from politics and dropping plans to run for vice president in next year's elections when his term ends, avoiding a legal battle with opponents who question such a move.

Duterte said many Filipinos have expressed their opposition to his vice-presidential bid in surveys and public forums. "The overwhelming sentiment of the Filipino is that I'm not qualified, and it would be a violation of the constitution, Duterte said. "In obedience to the will of the people... I will follow what you wish and today I announce my retirement from politics.'



The leader, known for his deadly anti-drugs crackdown, brash rhetoric and unorthodox political style, earlier accepted the ruling party's nomination for him to seek the vice presidency in the May 9 elections. The decision outraged many of his opponents, who have described him as a human rights calamity in an Asian bastion of democracy.

Duterte announced his surprise withdrawal from the election after accompanying his former long-

time aide, Sen. Bong Go, to register his own vice presidential candidacy with the ruling party at a Commission on Elections centre.

Philippine presidents are limited by the constitution to a single six-year term and opponents had said they would question the legality of Duterte's announced vice presidential run before the Supreme Court if he pursues his bid. While two past presidents have

run for lower elected positions after their terms ended in recent history, Duterte was the first to consider running for the vice presidency. If he pursued the candidacy and won, that could elevate here on Friday. him back to the presidency if the elected leader dies or is incapacitated for any reason.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA United Nations, Oct 2: President of the 76th session of the UN

**Covishield vaccine**'

**'I took India's** 

General Assembly Abdulla Shahid has said he had received the two doses of the Covishield vaccine manufactured in India, as have a "large portion" of other countries around the world. The Covishield vaccine, which has been developed by British-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, is manufactured in India by Pune-based Serum Institute of India.

"On vaccines, that's a very technical question you have asked me. I got Covishield from India, I've got the two doses. I don't know how many countries would say that Covishield is acceptable or not, but a large portion of the countries have got Covishield," Shahid said at his first press conference

He was responding to a question on whether any COVID vaccine should be recognised and considered or the ones that have been validated by the World Health Organisation or any other group.

"And I've survived. But let someone else, a medical person make that call, not me," he added with a laugh. India has exported over 66 million vaccine doses to nearly 100 countries through grants, commercial shipments and the COVAX facility. The Maldives, home country of Shahid, was among the first nations to receive the India-made vaccines in January when 100,000 doses of Covishield were dispatched

Trucks are parked as part of government's reserve tanker fleet based at a depot in Fenstanton, England, Saturday. Military drivers will be deployed to deliver fuel to forecourts from Monday as the crisis at the pumps continues. The British government has extended an emergency visa program for truck drivers as fuel shortages frustrate motorists lining up at empty pumps

### Danish artist makes off with pile of cash intended to be art

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copenhagen, Denmark, Oct 2: A Danish artist who was given a pile of money by a museum with which to create a piece of artwork, submitted two empty canvases — titled "Take the Money and Run."

Jens Haaning was given the equivalent of nearly \$84,000 in Danish kroner and euro bank notes by the Kunsten Museum of Modern Art in Aalborg

For its exhibition on labour conditions and money, entitled Work It Out" that opened September 24, the museum commissioned him to recreate two of his earlier pieces, which featured bank notes attached to a canvas representing the average annual

wage in Denmark and Austria. As well as lending him the notes, the museum also paid him 25,000 kroner (\$3,900) for the work. But when museum officials re-

ceived the completed artworks, they were blank. "The artwork is that I have taken the money," Haaning told a radio show on the P1 channel that is part of Danish broadcaster DR this week. He declined to say where the money was.

Haaning, who is known as a provocateur, said the artwork represented his current work situation. "I encourage others who have just as miserable working conditions as I to do the same," Haaning told P1. "If they are being asked to give money to go to work, then take the money and run.'

to Male. In all, the Maldives has received a total of 3.12 lakh doses of Madein-India Covid vaccines through grants, commercial shipments and the COVAX facility. The UK had initially refused to recognise Covishield, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India. However, following India's strong criticism of the decision, the UK on September 22 amended its new guidelines and included the vaccine.

**SHARP DROP** 

# Amazon records least September fires in 20 years

**SEPTEMBER IS HISTORICALLY BRAZIL'S WORST MONTH FOR FOREST** FIRES AND. WHILE THE DATA IS POSITIVE, **ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS QUESTION** WHETHER THE TREND WILL BE **CONFIRMED BY COMING MONTHS** 

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rio de Janeiro, Oct 2: The number of fires in Brazil's Amazon during September dropped to the lowest for the month in two decades, according to data from the Brazilian National Institute for Space

September is historically Brazil's worst month for forest fires and, while the data is positive, environmental experts question whether the trend will be confirmed by coming months.

The number of Amazon fires was just over half the level recorded in September last year, according to the data. That helped push down the nationwide total, along with a sharp drop in the amount of fires in the Pantanal wetlands. Fires in September retreated to the lowest number for the month since 2018. several months before President Jair Bolsonaro took office.

Since taking office, Bolsonaro has encouraged development within the Amazon and dismissed global complaints about its destruction as a plot to hold back the nation's



agribusiness. His administration also weakened environmental authorities and backed legislative measures to loosen land protections, emboldening land grabbers.

More recently, he has sought to demonstrate heightened environmental commitment in the face of criticism from the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden and troubled institutional investors. At the United Nations this month, he credited his administration's redoubled efforts for the plunge of Amazon deforestation alerts in August, which followed a year-on-year decline in July. September results will be released in the coming week.

Environmentalists roundly dismiss his shift as disingenuous and say his deployment of the military to the Amazon is ineffective for preservation; an Associated Press investigation last year found the

same results. Márcio Astrini, executive secretary of the Climate Observatory, a network of environmental nonprofit groups, welcomed September fire data, but said he would need to see lower figures through at least year-end before declaring it a trend, particularly given still-elevated deforestation levels and limited enforcement.

"As government action in the Amazon is very weak, even with these variations, it's hard to say it will be maintained. Why would it be maintained?" Astrini said. "The government isn't there, there's no repression. So it depends on the will of the people who are deforesting, setting fires.?

Severe drought and early data at the start of the forest fire season had raised widespread concern that this year's blazes would reach the same destruction recorded in the past two years. But rainfall in the Amazon during August was significantly above average. That was the main inhibitor keeping ranchers from setting fire to felled trees in September, which seemed "almost divine intervention," said Ane Alencar, science director at the Amazon Environmental Research Institute.

By contrast in the Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetlands, there has been a shift in behaviour from last year leading to far fewer fires, despite the ongoing drought that has rendered the area a powder keg, Alencar added.

Fires are down by more than  $\rightarrow$ two-thirds in the first nine months of 2020 after last year's explosion brought ruin to the local tourism industry.

'The disaster of last year served to help people better organize firefighting and prevention this year,"

# business



I urge all the citizens of the country to come together and dedicate themselves for realising Modi ji's dream of making India a \$5 trillion economy and also making the country self reliant and developed AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

#### **FREE AIRPODS ON PURCHASE OF IPHONE 12**

Apple has launched 'Twice the Joy' festive offer on purchase of an iPhone 12 or 12 mini where customers will get a free Airpod worth Rs 14,900. The free products on offer are AirPods with Charging Case, AirPods with Wireless Charging Case and AirPods Pro. The festive offer will begin next week October 7





I don't think there is any such decision that has happened at all. Of course bids were invited and that is assessed by the

officers and in due course of time, there is a whole well laid down process through which the final winner will be selected

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

By signing the MoU, IREDA will continue to enhance the cooperation and coordination with NEEPCO, working

together to promote further progress on renewable energy development and addressing climate change

PRADIP KUMAR DAS CHAIRMAN & MD, IREDA



responsibility about 5,000 km of work had been done. But after he took over, the figure has crossed 12,000 km

SHARAD PAWAR NCP CHIEF

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Exports rise 21% to \$33.4B in Sept

New Delhi: The country's merchandise exports rose 21.35% to \$33.44 billion in September 2021 on an annual basis, driven by key sectors such as engineering goods and petroleum products, according to government data. Merchandise imports stood at \$56.38 billion last month, registering an increase of 84.75% compared to the year-ago period, when it was at \$30.52 billion. Imports were up 49.58% compared to September 2019 when it was at \$37.69 billion. In September 2021, the trade deficit - the gap between imports and exports, stood at \$22.94 billion as gold imports jumped almost 750% to \$5.11 billion.

#### **ASUS brings new** VivoBook series

Bhubaneswar: The tech giant ASUS announced the expansion of its consumer laptop portfolio with the launch of all new VivoBook K15 OLED. This is ASUS's first VivoBook line-up with OLED display in India. The new Vivobook series runs on the latest 11th Generation Intel Core processors along with Intel Iris Xe graphics and comes in four CPU variants -Intel i3, Intel i5, Intel i7 and AMD R5. The laptops offer an immersive viewing experience with 15.6-inch Full HD OLED nanel, three-sided Nano Edge display, 5.75 mm bezel and 84% screen-to-body ratio.

#### **OPPO launches A55 at ₹15,490**

Bhubaneswar: OPPO announced the launch of the A55 model in India at starting price of Rs 15,490. A55 featuring an unmatched True 50MP AI Triple Camera and 3D curved exquisite design. It will be available in two variants: The 4+64GB variant will be available from October 3 at Rs 15,490 while the 6+128GB model will be available from October 11 at 17,490. The allrounder device features a 5000mAh long-lasting battery which allows around 30 hours of call time or 25 hours of music streaming

#### **Google hits brakes** on mobile banking

California: Google has hit the brakes on a project to add mobile banking to its Pay app, even as the online financial services market for everyday investors heats up. The company has ended work on its Plex project, but continues to eye ways to integrate financial services, a spokesperson said Friday.

# Why WhatsApp Payments failed to click

PhonePe continues to dominate transactions -- almost half the market size at 47%, followed by Google Pay at 35%

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: Facebook-owned WhatsApp, which kicked off its ambitious peer-to-peer (P2P) digital payments pilot project in India in 2018 with nearly 10 lakh users, has failed to make it a success ever after more than three years of its inception, as the transaction value of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments continues to break all records in the country.

This Bill would give Cairn

Energy and Vodafone Plc

a window to do away

with the arbitrations and

settle their long-drawn

tax disputes with the

government

New Delhi, Oct 2: The Ministry

of Finance October 1 notified rules that when adhered to will

lead to the government with-

drawing tax demands raised using

the 2012 retrospective tax law and

any tax collected in enforcement

of such demand is paid back. But the repayment, going by the time-

lines drawn in the rules, will take

It was passed by the Parliament

The Bill has amended the

Income Tax Act, 1961 so as to pro-

vide that no tax demand shall be

raised in future on the basis of

the said retrospective amendment

for any indirect transfer of Indian

assets if the transaction was un-

dertaken before May 28, 2012 -

when the finance bill was passed

The 2021 Act also provides

by the Parliament in 2012.

a minimum of 2-3 months.

in the Monsoon Session.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The current figures are dismal for the Mark Zuckerberg-run platform. The late entrant WhatsApp currently has a mere 0.01% share of the UPI payments volume, according to the latest NPCI data.

WhatsApp Payments is still restricted to the cap of some 2 crore users in the country, the growth has stalled and numbers evidently paint a sorry picture.

**TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021** 

**Govt notifies rules to** 

scrap retro tax clause

What has failed WhatsApp, which has more than 40 crore users in

**UNDER THE NORMS** 

n addition, the companies and any other interested party will have to furnish an indemnity bond committing not to seek

that the demand raised for off-

shore indirect transfer of Indian

assets made before May 28, 2012

shall be nullified on fulfillment

of specified conditions, the

Ministry of Finance said in a

Such as withdrawal or fur-

nishing of undertaking for with-

drawal of pending litigation and

furnishing of an undertaking to

the effect that no claim for cost,

damages, interest, etc, shall be

filed and such other conditions

are fulfilled as may be prescribed.

statement Saturday.

damage from the Indian government or its affiliates

India, to fast-track its payments feature in a country, dominated by the likes of Paytm, PhonePe and

Google Pay. Industry experts feel it is a mixed bag, led by the heated political debate on the security of key financial data, latest Facebook datasharing row, insufficient messaging for its users and uncertainties over the regulation landscape.

WhatsApp Payments needs to be seen with microscopic eye, primarily because in payment you will be dealing with sensitive personal data and cyber security is going to be an essential building block component for WhatsApp to demonstrate its due diligence, Pavan Duggal, one of the nation's top cyber law experts, told IANS.

WhatsApp Thursday unveiled the Indian rupee symbol in its chat composer to make sending payments using its platform easier for users in India. According to the company, with these latest updates, Payments on WhatsApp will become more inclusive and intuitive.

Director Punit Goenka. The company has filed a civil

sent to it as "illegal and invalid". The development comes a day after the board of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) rejected

"The company has filed a suit before the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay High Court under the ordinary original civil iurisdiction (CivilSuit), inter alia requesting the Bombay High Court to declare that the requisition notice sent to the Company by Invesco Developing Markets Fund and OFI Global China Fund LLC (shareholders of the Company) is illegal and invalid," said Zee

Invesco Developing Markets Fund along with OFI Global China Fund

# RIL floats trading subsidiary in UAE

New Delhi, Oct 2: Reliance Industries has incorporated a new subsidiary in the UAE for trading in crude oil, petroleum products and agricultural commodities.

Reliance International Ltd has been incorporated as a whollyowned subsidiary in Abu Dhabi Global Market, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the firm said in a stock exchange filing.

The company has invested Rs 7.42 crore or \$1 million in cash in 10 lakh equity shares of \$1 each of 'Reliance International Limited', the filing said.

The plans follow an announce-



ment in June that the Indian conglomerate will invest in projects of Abu Dhabi National Oil Co to produce chemicals that can be used for

infrastructure and consumer goods. RINL is incorporated to undertake activities relating to, amongst others, trading of crude oil, petroleum products, petrochemicals and agricultural commodities. RINL is vet to commence its business operations, Reliance said.

The investment in RINL does not fall within related party transactions and the promoter promoter group group companies do not have any interest in RINL, it said adding no governmental or regulatory approvals were required for the said investment.

Reliance operates the world's largest oil refining complex at Jamnagar in Guiarat and has several petrochemical units in the

### Zee attempts to block investors' EGM demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 2: Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd Saturday said it has moved the Bombay High Court against the requisition of minority shareholders, Invesco and OFI Global China Fund, to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to discuss various issues, including removal of Managing

suit before the high court requesting to declare the requisition notice

the request of shareholders.

Entertainment in a regulatory update.

LLC hold 17.88% stake in ZEEL

### 'RIDE FOR REAL HEROES'

BHUBANESWAR: Hero MotoCorp, country's leading motorcycle and scooter manufacturer, Saturday, organised bike rallies in different dealerships of Odisha honouring the frontline workers and doctors, for their contributions during the Covid-19 pandemic. The company held bike rallies in Rohan Autoriders (Bhubaneswar), JMG Automobiles (Cuttack), Sanjib Autobikes (Bhadrak) and Supreme Sales (Jeypore) dealerships. The company also donated Covid-19 kits to hospitals.





Bikers at Sanjib Autobikes, Bhadrak



Bike rally begins at Supreme Sales, Jeypore



Riders pose at JMG Automobiles, Cuttack before the rally

#### UCO Bank celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

Union Bank FGM bags inspirational award

Bhubaneswar: Ramakanta Pradhan, Field General Manager of Union Bank of India, has received the award as one of the

most inspirational personalities of Odisha. Pradhan was nomi-

nated as one of the 'Top 20 Most Inspirational Personalities of

Odisha Awards 2021'. An English magazine honoured him with

this award on Gandhi Jayanti in the presence of eminent per-

relentless service to provide banking services to the remotest

sonalities of the state. Pradhan bagged this award for his

corner of Odisha, as the State Head of Union Bank of India.

Bhubaneswar: UCO Bank, Zonal office, Bhubaneswar organised the 'FIT India Freedom' program under the banner of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsay' at the Adivasi



Ground in the City. The Covid-19 rules and regulations were followed during the event. All the employees of Zonal Office, FI, RTC, SLBC, AMB, Ashoka Market, Bhubaneswar, CRPF-HQ, Surya Nagar, OGS, Rasulgarh, Patia, Maitree Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, Khandagiri, AIIMS, Sijua, Pokhariput, Bidyut Marg, Gothapatna, Jamukoli and Janla branches were present on this occasion. Various programmes like running, yoga and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan were organised during the event.

# Microchip crunch, high fuel prices dent auto makers' Sept sales

MAJOR AUTOMOBILE PLAYERS SUCH AS MARUTI SUZUKI, HYUNDAI MOTOR, TATA MOTORS AND MAHINDRA REPORTED AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON PRODUCTION THAT LED TO LESSER DISPATCHES

Indo-asian news service

New Delhi, Oct 1: Microchip shortage along with high fuel prices heavily dented major automobile manufacturers September sales on a year-on-year basis. The semiconductor or microchip shortage has impacted the industry's production levels, extending the waiting period besides escalating prices.

At present, these shortages have forced several original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to slow down production, thus further extending the waiting period for popular, feature-rich and high-end

mestic sales of 66,415 units, sales Consequently, passenger car to other OEMs of 2,400 units and market leader Maruti Suzuki's exports of 17,565 units, the company total sales for the month under resaid in a statement. Hyundai Motor India said that view fell to 86.380 units from 160.442 units sold in September 2020. Total cumulative sales in September fell sales in the month include do-

patched in the month of September 2020. The domestic sales fell to 33,087 units from 50,313 units reported for the corresponding period of last year. Similarly, the company shipped out 12,704 units in abroad in the like month of 2020. Even as Tata Motors' domestic sales last month rose to 55,988 units from 44,410 units sold in September 2020, the company's Executive Director Girish Wagh said semiconductor shortage continues to impact the auto industry globally.

"The impact of supply shortage due to restric-

**Overall domestic** 

**PV** sales witnessed a sharp decline in production volume during September 2021 in the backdrop of semiconductor shortages, which will further increase the waiting period of car models during the upcoming festive period

## Demand for CNG vehicles go up

Rising fuel prices have accelerated demand for CNG vehicles in the country. Accordingly, the availability of CNG in more cities has supported this trend. Demand for CNG vehicles remains strong, benefiting from surging fuel prices and increased CNG penetration in newer cities, said Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL). According to MOFSL, the retail demand evolution has been a mixed bag since the lifting of the second lockdown from mid-June 2021. It pointed out that demand has bounced back quicker for 'PVs, but 2Ws' have seen slower recovery. Besides, 'CVs' are expected to see healthy recovery from October 2021, the outlook for tractors is cautious due to the very high base of last year.

tions in East Asia continued in September, leading to moderation of production and offtake volumes. The situation is fluid and we continue to work to mitigate the impact on our customer orders through an agile, multi-pronged approach," he said.

Another auto giant Mahindra & Mahindra's overall passenger vehicle sales for September declined units sold during the corresponding period of 2020.

M&M's Chief Executive Officer (Automotive Division), Veejay Nakra, said "The challenges around the supply of semiconductors continue to pose difficulties for the auto industry globally. We have taken several steps to mitigate the effect and are working towards managing the situation as best as possible.

ROHAN GUPTA | VP, ICRA by 12% to 13,134 units from 14,857

to 45,791 units from 59,913 dis-September from 9,600 units sold **D/N Test:** Australia Women reach 143/4 at stumps on the third day after visitors declared their innings on 377/8

# INDIA EVES IN CONTROL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gold Coast, Oct 2: India dictated terms to mighty Australia who did everything they could to survive the difficult overs under lights and finish the third day of the rainmarred pink ball Test at 143/4 here

At stumps, Australia trailed the visitors by 234 runs after veteran seamer Jhulan Goswami (2/27) bowled beautifully and struck twice to leave them at 63/2 at one stage. India declared their first innings

Mithali Raj's side was lucky as the umpire gave Australian captain Meg Lanning (38) out wrongly, raising his finger despite an inside edge and bringing to an end her ominous stay in the middle. On that occasion, the lucky bowler was Pooja Vastrakar (2/31).

There was a fair bit of dew though and that obviously did not help the India bowlers, who kept things tight for a major part of the Australian innings.

After Tahlia McGrath (28) hit Vastrakar's wide and short delivery straight to Smriti Mandhana at point to leave the hosts at 119 for four, Goswami was brought back with two slips, a gully and a silly mid-off, but Ellyse Perry (27 batting) and Ashleigh Gardner (13 batting) survived.

The dismissal of Lanning raised questions about the absence of DRS, which was supposed to be part of the game but the organisers could not go ahead with their plans. India got the timing of declaration right considering that batting is most difficult in the second session of a day/night Test with pink ball owing to factors related to light. Australia recovered nicely after losing Beth Mooney early as the duo of Alyssa Healy (29) and skipper Lanning not only steadied the ship but also played some exquisite shots.

However, shortly before the break, Goswami delivered for the visitors with her magnificent bowling. After softening Healy with a few short stuffs, Goswami bowled a length ball, got it to move just enough for the batter to nick it to the waiting hands of wicketkeeper Taniva Bhatia.

This was after the 38-year-old fast bowler cleaned up Mooney's stumps with one that came back at the left-handed opener, even as the batter looked to flick it on the leg

For India Deepti Sharma (66,



167b, 8x4) made a fine half century, finishing as the team's second best scorer, a day after opener Smriti Mandhana's magnificent maiden hundred in the format.

Earlier in the day, India dug in deep, instead of going for quick runs, to reach 359/7 at dinner. Resuming at their overnight score of 276/5 after rain and lightning had brought a premature end to the second day's play at the Carrara Oval, the Indians scored 83 runs for

the loss of Taniya and Vastrakar's wickets in the long first session.

Taniya made 22 off 75 balls, while Vastrakar made 13. At the dinner break, Deepti Sharma was batting on 58. Taniya's dismissal brought to an end a 45-run stand for the sixth wicket with Sharma that came at a much slower pace than Thursday as the two teams seemed like they would be contend with a draw rather than forcing a result was wiped out by inclement weather. The duo of Taniya and Deepti

consumed more than 28 overs to get those 45 runs. It was Stella Campbell, who dismissed Taniva for her first Test wicket. Perry gave the team another breakthrough when she had Vastrakar brilliantly caught by Mooney at gully as the batter looked to drive through covers

This was Perry's 300th international wicket, even as Sharma went of 54. Perry is the only woman cricketer with 5,000 international runs and 300 wickets.

**JHULAN GOSWAMI** 

#### **BRIEF SCORES**

India Women 377/8d (Deepti Sharma 66; Stella Campbell 2/47, Elysse Perry 2/76); Australia Women 143/4 (Meg Lanning 38, Tahila McGrath 28, Elysse Perry 27 batting; Jhulan Goswami 2/27, Pooja Vastrakar 2/31). Match to

# Dube, Jaiswal nullify Gaikwad's brilliance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 2: Yashasvi Jaiswal (50, 21b, 6x4, 3x6) timed it beautifully while Shivam Dube (64 n o, 42b, 4x4, 4x6) deflated Chennai Super Kings with brute power as Rajasthan Royals kept their playoff hopes alive with a morale-boosting sevenwicket win in the IPL here Saturday.

Chasing a 190-run target, Royals made a short work in just 17.3 overs. They now have 10 points with two matches to go. The fourth place is set to be clinched at 14 points and net run-rate is going to be crucial. The defeat won't hurt CSK much as they sit pretty on 18 points, having already made it to last four stage.

When CSK ended their innings at 189/4 with Ruturaj Gaikwad's (101 n o, 60b, 9x4, 5x6) superb century, little did anyone think that Royals' Indian players would reply in kind and go even one better.

Jaiswal was given fine support by Evin Lewis (27, 12b, 2x4, 2x6) in their opening stand of 77 in 5.2 overs which set up the game. Josh Hazlewood (0/54) wouldn't have imagined that he would be hit for

three sixes in his first spell as the match slipped out of CSK's grasp

in the Powerpay itself. Such was Dube's domination that even the stylish Sanju Samson

(28) paled in comparison during

their 89 run stand for the third wicket in 9.3 overs. But when the match started, it seemed as if Gaikwad owned the stage as he hit a six off Mustafizur Rahaman's last ball to complete a coveted maiden IPL ton. Ravindra Jadeia (32 n o. 15b, 4x4, 1x6) scythed

through the Royals attack at the

back-end as CSK added 55 runs in

only 3.4 overs. For the Royals, leg-spinner Rahul Tewatia (3/39 in 4 overs) was the most successful bowler. The Punekar is not someone who is muscular but a "strong core" (according to him) and stable base allows him to maintain shape while going for the big shots as Royals found out on the day.

BRIEF SCORES: CSK 189/4 (Ruturaj Gaikwad 101 no, Ravindra Jadeja 32 no; Rahul Tewatia 3/39) lost to RR 190/3 (Shivam Dube 64 n o, Yashasvi Jaiswal 50; Shardul Thakur 2/30) by 7 wickets.



Shivam Dube in action; (inset top) Ruturaj Gaikwad; (inset bottom) Yashasvi Jaiswal

## 'CHEEKY' TOWNSEND DOES A CR7 IN DRAW



celebration as 'a mark of respect for' his idol after scoring the equaliser

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Oct 2: There was a trademark Cristiano Ronaldo celebration at Old Trafford Saturday, even if it didn't come from the Portugal superstar himself.

Everton winger Andros Townsend did a cheeky yet passable imitation of the spin-in-the-air celebration in front of his team's jubilant fans after scoring the 65thminute equalizer in a 1-1 draw at Manchester United.

"It's just a mark of respect to a guy who influenced my career,' said Townsend, adding he "probably didn't do the celebration justice.'

With Ronaldo starting on the bench and not entering until the 57th, United produced another sloppy performance but managed to take the lead through Anthony Martial in the 43rd following an exquisite touch and pass by Bruno Fernandes.

Everton was dangerous on the counterattack throughout the game as United's concentration and discipline waned in its third game in an eight-day span — and less than 72 hours after an energy-sapping home win against Villarreal in the Champions League that was sealed by Ronaldo's stoppage-time goal.

And the hosts were picked off on a break by Everton that resulted in Townsend's goal, as Fred failed to

gather possession in two attempted tackles in midfield following a corner by United before Abdoulaye Doucoure charged through to set up Townsend. After drilling a low shot into the

corner from just inside the area, Townsend performed the Ronaldostyle celebration.

"I spent many hours on the training pitch and in the video room trying to analyze his free kicks and his step-overs and the way he dedicated himself to football. Townsend said. "So it wasn't an imitation. It was a mark of respect to one of my idols.

It was a fifth goal of the season for the winger, who has been revitalized since his move on a free transfer after leaving Crystal Palace.

Ronaldo also has five goals this season after joining United for a second spell, but couldn't add to that total in a quiet cameo after coming off the bench. He had one shot but it flashed wide off his left foot.

Later on the day, late goals by Timo Werner and Ben Chilwell sent Chelsea to the top of the table after a 3-1 win over 10-man Southampton at Stamford Bridge. James Ward-Prowse scored an equaliser for Southampton from the penalty spot only to be sent off in the 77th minute. Trevoh Chalobah's ninth-minute header gave Chelsea the lead.

# Delhi Capitals seal playoff berth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Oct 2: Shreyas Iyer showed steely temperament while Ravichandran Ashwin compensated his poor bowling effort with a final six as Delhi Capitals inched towards a top-two finish, beating Mumbai Indians by four wickets in an IPL match here Saturday.

Chasing a modest 130 on a cha lenging Sharjah Stadium track, DC made a rough weather of the chase but Iver with a run-a-ball 33 anchored the innings and added crucial unbroken 39-run stand with Ashwin (20 n o).

Needing just four runs from the last over. Ashwin sealed the chase with five balls to spare as he hit a six off Krunal Pandya as the duo shared a match-defining partnership, consuming 36 balls.

The win took DC to 18 points from 12 games and one more win is sure to clinch a top-two finish with one more win as only twin defeats in last two games and three big wins for RCB and at least one victory from CSK will push them to third spot. That looks improbable at the moment with the scenario of net run-rate.

This is the seventh loss in 12 matches this season for the five-time champions MI and their chances of qualifying for playoffs are fast fading away.

Defending the modest total, Mumbai had a cracking start sending Delhi's top three - Shikhar Dhawan (8), Prithvi Shaw (6) and Steve Smith (9) – back in the hut inside the powerplay.

With no significant partnerships

SPINNING WEB: Axar Patel (C) celebrates with teammates after dismissing a Mumbai batter, Saturday

going, it was their former captain Iyer showed fine patience and rotate the strike with clever singles. Not under any run-rate pressure. Iver held on cleverly rotating the strikes as he slammed just two boundaries in his run-a-ball knock.

Earlier on a day when star bowler Ravichandran Ashwin was completely off-colour, Axar Patel (3/21) dismissed Quinton de Kock (19), Suryakumar Yadav (33) and Saurabh Tiwary (15), ensuring that runs were hard to come by in the middle overs.

But it was their uncapped Indian pacer Avesh Khan (3/15) who continued his dream run in the IPL and set it up for Capitals, hurrying Rohit Sharma with sheer nace

Avesh then returned at the death and dismissed the dangerous Hardik Pandya (17) and Nathan Coulter Nile (1) in three balls to further tighten the noose.

World's fastest bowler Anrich Nortje, who shared the new ball with Avesh, was also tidy with 1/19 from his four overs as DC bowlers got their length right on a slow deck. Such was their discipline that none of the MI batters save

Surya could cross 20-run mark. The 24-year-old Avesh, who is

second (21) in the list of leading wicket-takers in this IPL, now has taken three Indian superstars -MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and now Rohit – in this IPL.

Ashwin at the other end looked unsettled with Surya sweeping the star Indian off-spinner for a six, while De Kock also looked ominous, taking on his compatriot Kagiso Rabada with a lap-shot over fine-leg.

Making a smart captaincy call, Rishabh Pant brought on Axar immediately after the power-play and the Gujarat lad delivered dismissing De Kock in his second ball. He smartly used his height advantage and was spot-on with his lengths, making it difficult for the Mumbai batsmen.

Having not been in best of forms, Surya looked to be back in his element top-scoring for them with a 26-ball 33 but Patel outsmarted the Mumbai No.3 with a full toss.

#### **BRIEF SCORES**

MI 129/8 (Suryakumar Yadav 33; Avesh Khan 3/15, Axar Patel 3/21) lost to DC 132/6 (Shreyas Iyer 33 n o, Rishabh Pant 26, R Ashwin  $20\,n$ o; Nathan Coulter-Nile1/19) by 4 wickets.



## ever medal at **WWTCC** event

India win first

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sitges (Spain), Oct 2: India clinched a silver medal after going down 0-2 to Russia in the final of the FIDE World Women's Team Chess Championship (WWTCC) here Saturday.

It was India's first ever medal in the World Team Chess Championship.

After losing the first match 1.5.-2-5 despite a brilliant win for D Harika on the board, the Indians were outclassed 3-1 in the second as a strong Russian team stormed to a title triumph.

In the second match, Harika held Goryachkina to a draw as did R Vaishali (Elo 2149) against the higher rated Alexandra Kosteniuk (Elo 2517).

However, Tania Sachdev and Mary Ann Gomes went down to higher rated Katernya Lagno and Polina Shuvalova to give Russia a comprehensive victory and the gold.

Sacheva fought well before losing to Lagno in 53 moves and Gomes, who has been in good form throughout the tournament, succumbed to defeat in 48 moves against Shuvalova in a Sicilian Kann Variation game.

India, who had done well to finish second in the preliminary Pool A by winning three matches and drawing one while losing to Russia, came into the final after a win over a strong Georgian team.

#### **BRONZE FOR MEN AT** JUNIOR WORLD C'SHIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lima, Oct 2: Indian shooters claimed the gold medal in the women's skeet team event and the bronze in the men's team finals of the ISSF Junior Championship here.

The trio of Areeba Khan, Raiza Dhillon and Ganemat Sekhon finished at the top of the podium in the women's event after shooting an aggregate score of 6.In the gold medal round Friday, the Indian women were pitted against the Italian team of Damiana Paolacci. Sara Bongini and Giada Longhi.

#### In the men's section, the Indian team of Rajveer Gill, Ayush Rudraraju and Abhay Singh Sekhon won the bronze medal after prevailing over Turkey's Ali Can Arabaci, Ahmet Baran and Muhammet Seyhun Kaya 6-0, the same scoreline as the women's gold

medal contest A day earlier, rising Indian woman skeet shooter Sekhon had won the silver medal in the tournament's individual women's skeet competition.

The Chandigarh shooter, who picked up her first senior ISSF World Cup stage medals in New





Delhi earlier this year, went down in a shoot-off to American Alisha Fayth Layne, after both were tied on 46 hits in the 60-shot final.

In the men's individual skeet none of the three Indians in the fray -Rajveer Gill, Abhay Singh Sekhon and Ayush Rudraraju-could make it to the six-man finals but they shone in the team event.

India are currently place second in the pecking order with two gold, three silver and two bronze for a total of seven medals in the tournament. The USA tops the chart with seven medals including three gold.

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