



NATURE LOVER

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

LEISURE P2



SMART BILLING SYSTEM

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

DOWNTOWN P4



DC IN PLAYOFFS

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

SPORTS P12

USHA TRAVELS

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DUBAI	10,333/-*

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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 Yashwantrao Chavan 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.



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KHADI PRIDE

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

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.



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," 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. I am 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.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The crisis manager we sent to the state has deflected the crisis by creating a bigger crisis, sir!

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 IGST and 27.28 per cent in Cess 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.

Pipli bypoll results today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The fate of 10 candidates in fray for the high-stakes 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 bye-election 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.

PRICES IN CITY

Petrol	₹103.03 (+0.26)
Diesel	₹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 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.

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 imperial capital St Petersburg. Russian Orthodox clergy con-

ducted the elaborate ceremony, watched by hundreds of guests who included the groom's mother, Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna of Russia - the self-proclaimed heir to Russia's imperial throne - and more than a dozen minor European royals.

George Mikhailovich's great-grandfather, 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 a 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 diplomatic 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

leisure



SINGER PETER ANDRE KEEN TO PLAY BOND

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.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

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 makes it special, says Ganesh.

TAURUS

You will focus on nurturing the positive aspects of your life today, says Ganesh. 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.

GEMINI

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 yourself standing at a crossroads. But, the good part about that is there shall be many 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. Ganesh 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 Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Providence smiles upon you today, predicts Ganesh. 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

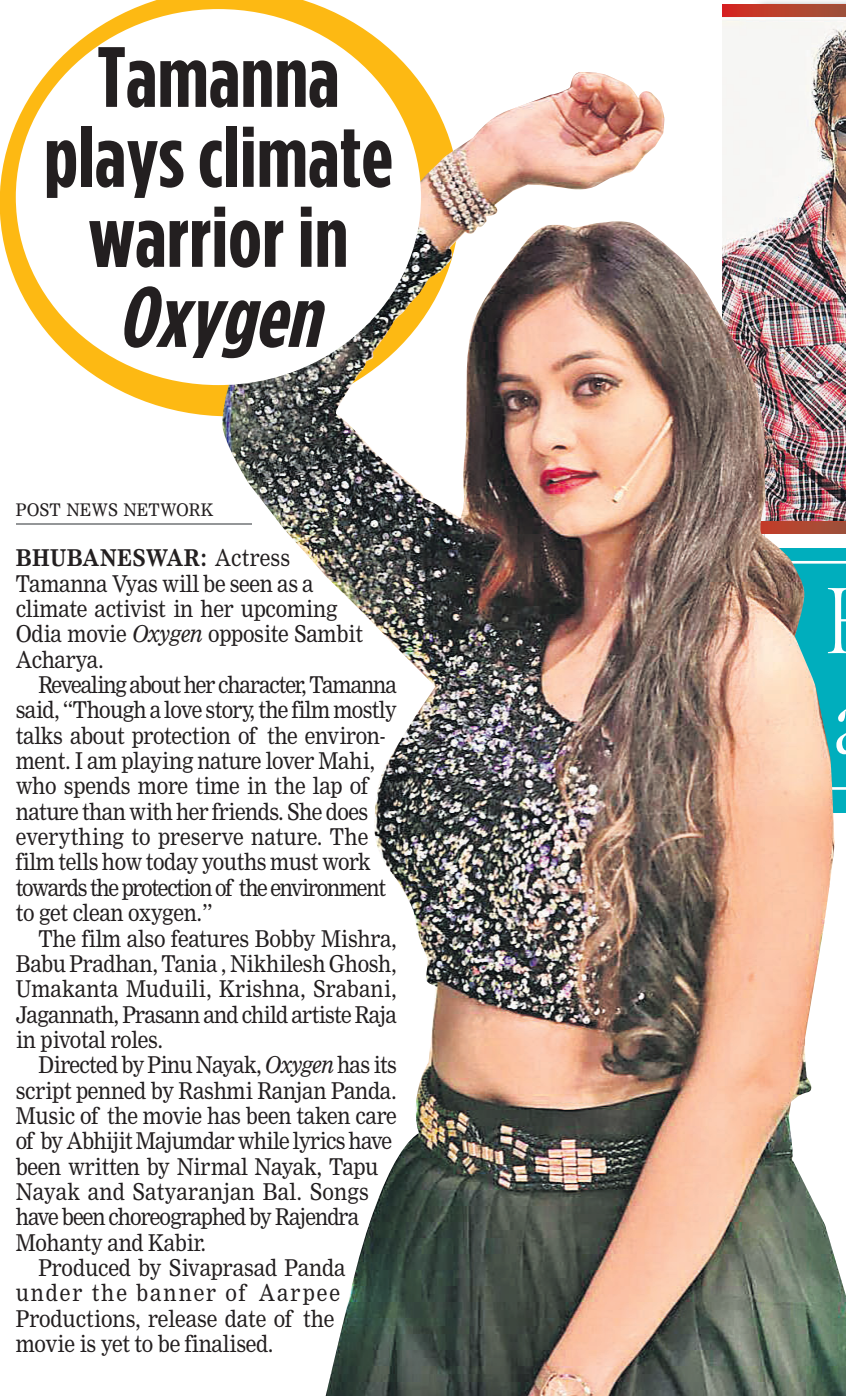
Not many can match you when it comes to living a healthy lifestyle, and as Ganesh says, health won't be an issue today either. On the work front, you are likely to complete pending projects successfully and your boss, who may be furious because of the delay caused, will reluctantly admit that you did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

AQUARIUS

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. Ganesh 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 prevention being better than cure, you could still make a stitch in time to save nine! Head for the gym, and watch those calories, says Ganesh.



Tamanna plays climate warrior in Oxygen

POST NEWS NETWORK

BHUBANESWAR: Actress Tamanna Bhatia will be seen as a climate activist in her upcoming Odia movie *Oxygen* opposite Sambit Acharya.

Revealing about her character, Tamanna said, "Though a love story, the film mostly talks about protection of the environment. 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 to get clean oxygen."

The film also features Bobby Mishra, Babu Pradhan, Tania, Nikhilesh Ghosh, Umakanta Muduili, Krishna, Srabani, Jagannath, Prasann and child artiste Raja in pivotal roles.

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 Mohanty and Kabir.

Produced by Sivaprasad Panda under the banner of Aarpee Productions, release date of the movie is yet to be finalised.



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 an idol and inspiration for him.

Tiger shared screen space with Hrithik in the film *War*, which completed two years of its release Saturday.

Tiger said: "Hrithik has been an idol and inspiration to me. I was thrilled to have not only gotten a chance to work with him but also dance along with him."

"His discipline and dedication to the craft 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 making that happen for me."

Tiger played the role of an intelligent undercover operative Khalid and he defied gravity to pull off death-defying stunts in the film, directed by Siddharth Anand.



Dream couple Chay-Sam announces separation

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 marriage.

The couple, popularly known as Chay-Sam, confirmed the news in an official statement from Naga Chaitanya, 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.

Glorifying a toxic character is a problem: Radhika Madan

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

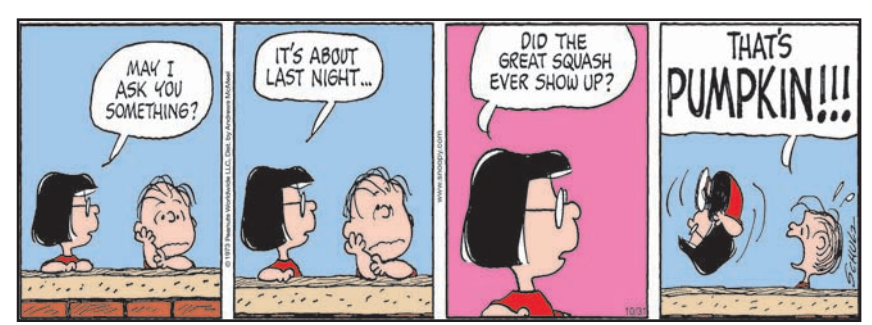
Hotstar offering is a classic story of opposites attract as her pragmatic Kartika falls in love with the emotional Jaggi, essayed by Sunny Kaushal.

"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.

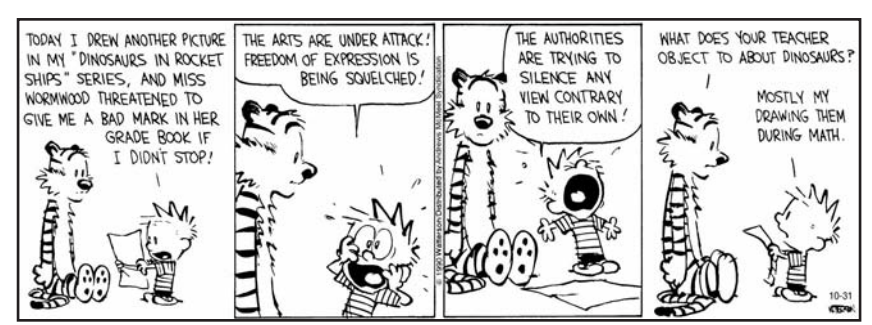
As the leading lady, Madan says she is mindful of how love should be depicted on screen. "The problem is not with playing a toxic character, but in glorifying him/her. With Jaggi, we ensured that he is pure. He isn't a stalker. He is child-like, and is not afraid to be vulnerable. The motivation of the character is important."



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

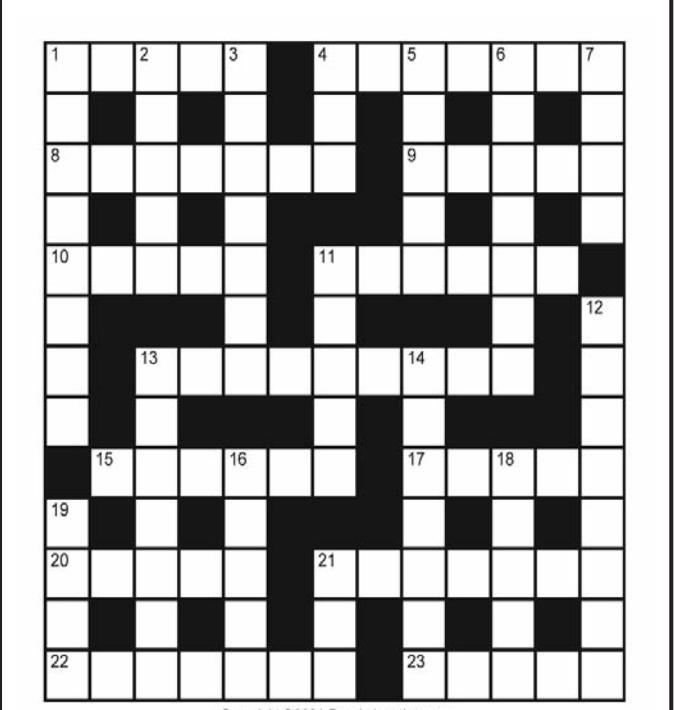


BREVITY



FUN post

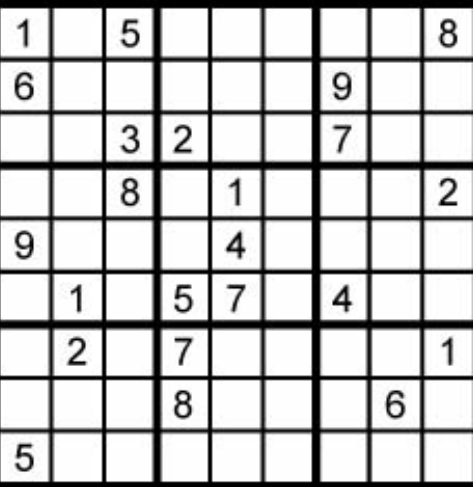
CROSSWORD



- 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
- Down**
- 1 Chinese game (3-5)
 - 2 Kind of ray
 - 3 Tornado
 - 4 Stage signal
 - 5 Prods
 - 6 Put into print
 - 7 Small whirlpool
 - 11 Flu symptoms
 - 12 Liquorice-flavoured liqueur
 - 13 Warning signal on board
 - 14 Entrance
 - 16 Earthy colour
 - 18 Intense hatred
 - 19 "Beowulf" beverage
 - 21 Romaine lettuce

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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



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. 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.

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

and collection, dedicated customer 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 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 to 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

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

OP PHOTO

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 video-conferencing 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

flagship missions and work towards 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

₹1,600 crore have been implemented 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

has started its 'Drink from Tap' mission under the state's 5T initiative. Under this mission, 24x7 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 transformative initiative is being expanded to 17 more cities, including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur and Rourkela.

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 15 competitions like essay writing, elocution, quiz and documentary video-making. The SRMG was organised by BJEM School in col-

laboration with Alumni Association of Govt High School, Badaga 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 observation 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 vaccination drive in addition to unveiling of OVSA T-shirt. In his address, Sabyasachi hailed the veterinary doctors for their



contribution to society in terms of controlling zoonotic diseases, 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 Association president Dr Narayan 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

rabies from the state. 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 (pets and stray) were vaccinated on the first day of the drive and another 300 stray dogs would be vaccinated in the coming two days.

Dr Jadunath Parida, president OVSA, Dr Madan Mohan Mahapatra, general secretary 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 non-cooperation 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 years, had earlier written to the CM putting forth their grievances.

FOR A LIQUOR-FREE CITY



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

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 Jayanti, 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 cease-work 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 sys-

tem can fulfill its obligations to the citizen and the faith of the common man in the idea of justice does not get eroded. 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 doyen of legal profession and a legend of Odisha, must produce the best Bar in the country. "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.

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Water level in Subarnarekha rises again; panic in Baliapal



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 said.

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 afternoon.

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 back-to-back floods.

Over years, people living in 20-rarian 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, Charbastakalrui, 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 for two days.

Several houses collapsed and 50 panchayats in Bhograi block were marooned due to floodwater.

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 another flood.



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

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 Nayak.

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 de-boarded Anita who was bleeding profusely. The woman lodged a complaint against Nayak. Police registered a case in this regard.

Admin holds spl gram sabha in Kotia



POST NEW NETWORK

Koraput, Oct 2: Panicked or 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, Saturday.

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-

BID TO REACH OUT

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.

Acting 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 remains to be seen is that how the district administration is going to fulfill what were deliberated at the meeting.

Carrying out development in the area matters most to the people here, they noted.

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

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

YOGA FOR HEALTH

FLOOD IN MAYURBHANJ

Officials directed to 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 Marnandi reviewed the flood situation and the extent of damage in the district, Saturday. Marnandi has laid stress on construction of cyclone shelters in the flood-prone areas.

At the review meeting, he directed 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 Sulipada 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 through public awareness.

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

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 Pantalk Puraskar for their remarkable contributions towards protection of Similipal sanctuary.

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 Uttarakhand.

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.

Trilochan 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 earthenware 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 back for him.

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 sculpture to IMA.

WILD ANIMAL MENACE

Mobile app launched for speedy disposal of claims

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, 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 of India New Delhi	REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE 3rd Floor, Asis Plaza, OT Road, Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001	POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
[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 interest 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	Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹)	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession
Borrower: Kapil Constructions, Prop.: Mr. Rabindra Kumar Mishra / Guarantor: Mrs. Chanchala Mishra W/o: Mr. Rabindra Kumar Mishra, Both Khatra No.: 127/356, Plot No.: 111/1006, Area: Ac.0.035Dec.	₹ 11,86,494/- as on 31.01.2020 + interest thereon	24.02.2020/ 27.09.2021
Residential Building at New Colony, Station Road, Barbil in the name of Mrs. Chanchala		
Place: Balasore, Date: 01.10.2021		
		Sd/- Authorised Officer

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 under Hinjili police station limits in Ganjam as part of 5T and 'Mo Sarkar' initiatives

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 district.

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 road at a cost of ₹5.4 crore, the of-



cial 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 broiler farming.

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 ADM informed.

Unseen crowds in Ganjam for e-shram cards

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DESPERATION OF PEOPLE, COMPUTER CENTRES CHARGE BETWEEN ₹50 AND ₹300 FROM EACH APPLICANT EVEN THOUGH ONLINE REGISTRATIONS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FREE

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 workers under the e-shram portal will be enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and premium for the first year 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 queuing up outside these centres at night to apply for the e-shram cards.

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 the portal.



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 e-shram 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 e-shram cards.

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 panchayat, 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 Saura, 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 miserable life in the absence of 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.

The tribals alleged that they have no pattas of their land they have been residing in and their 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 Ummayan 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.

TOTAL PROHIBITION CAMPAIGN



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

OP PHOTO

Gandhiji had visited this rly station in 1934

HE REACHED THE STATION FROM SAMBALPUR VIA ANGUL BY A CAR ON HIS WAY TO CUTTACK. LOCALS THROGHD 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 station 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 glimpse of Mahatma Gandhi in 1934. Since then, Meramandali railway station became a silent spectator of India's freedom movement. However, it has been facing neglect

thanks to negligent nature of the Railway department.

Though locals have been demanding the facelift of the station for ages, their pleas have been unheard.

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 advantage.

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 life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi be erected on the railway station premises.

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 programmes launched in the district and their successful implementation.



I, with an honest mind, respect critics a lot. But, unfortunately, the number of critics is very few. Mostly, people only level allegations, the people who play games about perception are more in number. So sometimes, I miss critics
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

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



of the day **QUOTE**

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 of the State
KIREN RIJUJI | UNION LAW MINISTER

The flag of Bapu's ideas of truth, non-violence and justice is still flying high in the farmers' 'satyagraha' against 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

India has always been a spiritual superpower, but it is the Mahatma who articulated our nation's spiritual underpinnings through his being & 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

SOCIAL MEDIA MISINFO



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 Pakistani troll factories. While they have been pushing the anti-India agenda, after few days re-

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.
Troll groups like @WeAreTeamGP, @EmergingTeam, @WeTeamISP, @WEAREISPLANS, @WeAreVOIK are the key groups pushing the Pakistan rice on social media.

3 women nabbed for trying to 'sell' minor's virginity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
Nagpur, Oct 2: In a shocking incident, the Nagpur Police have arrested at least three women pimps who allegedly tried to 'sell the virginity' of a 12-year-old girl to a customer for ₹40,000, police said here Saturday.
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 decoy 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 there.
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 accused, 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.

U'KHAND AVALANCHE Bodies of three Navy officers, sailor found

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Uttarkashi, Oct 2: The mortal remains of three Indian Navy officers and a sailor, who were part of a mountaineering expedition, were recovered Saturday from the site of an avalanche at Mt Trishul in the western Kumaun region of Uttarakhand, officials said.



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 Haryana 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 Haryana 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



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

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 government had postponed the procurement till October 11 as the moisture content in fresh arrivals was beyond permissible limits.
The decision irked farmers and many of them protested Saturday in several parts of the two states, laying siege to the houses of many ministers, MPs and MLAs.
Farmers broke police barricades and faced water cannons, including near Chief Minister Khattar's house in Karnal.
In Punjab, farmers protested outside the residences of several Congress legislators, including state assembly Speaker Rana K P Singh in Rupnagar and MLA Harjot Kamal in Moga.

and, keeping in mind the interests of all such farmers, Union Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey 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

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.
A multi-agency team was deployed to carry out search and rescue operations. The 20-member expedition was flagged off at Mumbai September 3 and 10 climbers had started the final leg of their journey to the summit of Mt Trishul (7,120 m) Friday morning but were caught in the avalanche.
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has expressed grief over the death of the Navy personnel. Deeply anguished by the tragic death of four Navy personnel who were part of the Indian Navy mountaineering expedition to Mt Trishul. The nation has not only lost precious young lives but also courageous soldiers in this tragedy, he said in a tweet.

WOMAN WINNWS



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

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 Bangladeshi 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 Bangladeshi 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 Surguja 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.

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 counter-terror 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



MITRA SHAKTI
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 tacti-

cal level operations at sub-unit level in an international counter-insurgency 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 both armies.

Congress revamps Chhattisgarh unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Congress president Sonia Gandhi Saturday appointed additional office-bearers in the party's Chhattisgarh unit, replacing four vice-presidents as well as three general secretaries.
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, Amarjeet Chawla and Sumitra Dhritlahre were ap-

pointed general secretaries in place of Dwarika Prasad Yadav, Uttam Vasudev and Pankaj Sharma.
Sushil Anand Shukla was appointed 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 Neeraj Pandey 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 - Chalorsanga Ralte for Tuirial in Mizoram; Balmoori Venkat Narsingh Rao for Huzurabad in Telangana; and Nitendra Singh for Prithvipur in Madhya Pradesh.

Baghel senior observer for UP polls

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 Chhattisgarh where cabinet minister TS Singhdeo is vying for the top job in the 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 workers, has in the past discussed the preparations for the elections in UP with Congress general secretary in-charge Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

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 per cent 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 per-

fect 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 exam.
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 hold-

ing 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 (9,639) 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 four-day visit to Sri Lanka during which he will meet President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, and review the bilateral ties



of the day quote

The long-pending reform of the Security Council is a membership-driven issue
ABDULLA SHAHID
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 another
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY GENERAL

Northern Ireland's contentious post-Brexit trading arrangements could work in principle if they were "fixed"
BORIS JOHNSON | BRITISH PM

Taiwan fumes over Chinese incursion

SHOW OF FORCE



REUTERS

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 Taiwan-controlled 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 anti-submarine 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.

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 Qiuji Sakara Minto died, the Khaleej 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.

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 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



Qataris vote in legislative elections in Doha, Qatar, Saturday
AP/PTI PHOTO

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 him back to the presidency if the elected leader dies or is incapacitated for any reason.

CRISIS CONTINUES



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
AP/PTI PHOTO

SHARP DROP

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
lowest for the month in two decades, according to data from the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research.
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

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 received 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 do 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."

Rio de Janeiro, Oct 2: The number of fires in Brazil's Amazon during September dropped to 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 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 fire-fighting and prevention this year," Alencar said.

business

of the day quote

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

I remember that before Gadkari took over this 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

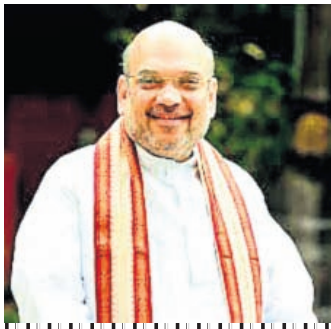
Bhubaneswar: The tech giant ASUS announced the expansion of its consumer laptop portfolio with the launch of all new VivoBook K15 OLED. This is ASUS's first VivoBook line-up with OLED display in India. The new VivoBook series runs on the latest 11th Generation Intel Core processors along with Intel Iris 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 panel, 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 all-rounder 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.



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



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.

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.

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



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 data-sharing 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.

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 Director Punit Goenka.

The company has filed a civil suit before the high court requesting to declare the requisition notice sent to it as "illegal and invalid". The development comes a day after the board of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) rejected the request of shareholders.

"The company has filed a suit before the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay High Court under the ordinary original civil jurisdiction (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 Entertainment in a regulatory update.

Invesco Developing Markets Fund along with OFI Global China Fund LLC hold 17.88% stake in ZEEL.

TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

Govt notifies rules to scrap retro tax clause

This Bill will give Cairn Energy and Vodafone Plc a window to do away with the arbitrations and settle their long-drawn tax disputes with the government

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: The Ministry of Finance October 1 notified rules that when adhered to will lead to the government withdrawing 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 timelines drawn in the rules, will take a minimum of 2-3 months.

It was passed by the Parliament in the Monsoon Session.

The Bill has amended the Income Tax Act, 1961 so as to provide 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 undertaken before May 28, 2012 - when the finance bill was passed by the Parliament in 2012.

The 2021 Act also provides

UNDER THE NORMS

The companies will have to withdraw any pending litigation or proceeding before any forum against the levy of the retrospective tax and also give an assurance that they won't pursue any further claims in the future

In addition, the companies and any other interested party will have to furnish an indemnity bond committing not to seek damage from the Indian government or its affiliates

Companies will have to file a declaration with the income tax authorities along with a board resolution or legal authorisation besides an indemnity bond

that the demand raised for off-shore indirect transfer of Indian assets made before May 28, 2012 shall be nullified on fulfilment of specified conditions, the Ministry of Finance said in a statement Saturday.

Such as withdrawal or furnishing of undertaking for withdrawal 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.

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 nominated 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 personalities of the state. Pradhan bagged this award for his relentless service to provide banking services to the remotest corner of Odisha, as the State Head of Union Bank of India.



UCO Bank celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

Bhubaneswar: UCO Bank, Zonal office, Bhubaneswar organised the 'FIT India Freedom' program under the banner of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' 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, Rasulgarni, Patia, Maitree Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, Khandagiri, AILMS, Sijua, Pokharpur, 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.



'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.



Bike rally flags off at Rohan Autoriders, Bhubaneswar



Bikers at Sanjib Autobikes, Bhadrak



Bike rally begins at Supreme Sales, Jeypore



Riders pose at JMG Automobiles, Cuttack before the rally

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' (OEMs) 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 models.

Consequently, passenger car market leader Maruti Suzuki's total sales for the month under review fell to 86,380 units from 160,442 units sold in September 2020. Total sales in the month include do-



mestic sales of 66,415 units, sales to other OEMs of 2,400 units and exports of 17,565 units, the company said in a statement.

Hyundai Motor India said that cumulative sales in September fell to 45,791 units from 59,913 dis-

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 September from 9,600 units sold

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

ROHAN GUPTA | VP, ICRA

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 by 12% to 13,134 units from 14,857

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."

