ENRICHING EXPERIENCE

Actor Mrunal Thakur says her upcoming war film 'Pippa' taught her a glorious chapter of Indian history LEISURE P2



TENSIONS INTENSIFY

China shows a new intensity as it continues to harass Taiwan by violating air space of the latter

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIANS WIN IT ALL

Indian men and women's hockey teams bag most prizes at the FIH Awards, Belgium federation expresses displeasure

SPORTS P12

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BENGALURU DELHI MUMBAI DUBAI **9937438896**

1st malaria vaccine approved by WHO



Geneva: The World Health Organization (WHO) endorsed Wednesday the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine, the first against the mosquito-borne disease that kills more than 400.000 people a year, mostly African children. The decision followed a review of a pilot programme deployed since 2019 in Ghana,

Kenva and Malawi where more than two million doses were given of the vaccine. first made by pharmaceutical company GSK in 1987. The WHO said it was recommending widespread application of the vaccine among children in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions with moderate to high malaria transmission.

78 days' bonus for over 11 lakh Railway staff



BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 | 2021

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved Wednesday productivity linked bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for the financial year 2020-21 for all eligible nongazetted railway employees, excluding the RPF and the Railway Protection Special Force personnel. Information and

Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said that the financial implication of payment of 78 days' PLB to railway employees has been estimated to be ₹1984.73 crore. A total of 11.56 lakh non-gazetted employees will be benefited.



Mystery woman traced to Pak in espionage case

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: The Odisha Crime Branch said Wednesday that the IP address of the mysterious woman in the DRDO espionage case has been traced to Pakistan. So far, five workers of DRDO have been arrested in the case for allegedly passing on vital information through this woman to foreign agents.

Speaking to mediapersons, Crime Branch ADG Sanjeeb Panda said that the woman had used four Facebook accounts to contact the five accused. Panda informed that all the four accounts were being operated from Pakistan - three from Islamabad and one from Rawalpindi – when the five were trapped.

"The woman used proxy IPs of the US, India and Germany to keep her location secret. However, still now some of the accounts are functioning and they have a number of $new\,chat\,boxes, "informed\,Panda.$

"Most of the time they were using proxy IP addresses of Pakistan. But at times the IPs of India, the US and Germany were used," Panda added without divulging whether any other staff of DRDO is still in contact with the mysterious 'operative'.

Panda informed that the first phase interrogation of the five accused is underway and the Crime Branch is collecting all technical data from different agencies. "Once we collect all the data, we may bring them to our remand again, said Panda.

'Jawad' threat looms large

■ *The month of October is* notorious in Odisha for cyclones. The Super Cyclone (1999), Phailin (2013), Hudhud (2014) and Titli (2018) have all hit the state in October

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: A fresh low pressure area is very likely to form over north Andaman Sea around October 10 and it is likely to become more marked and move towards south Odisha and north Coastal Andhra Pradesh, the IMD said Wednesday. The IMD added that the low pressure area may turn into a cyclonic storm in the next three-four days. In a bulletin, the India

Meteorological Department said the low pressure area, after formation, is likely to become more marked and move west-north westwards towards south Odisha and north coastal Andhra Pradesh in 4-5 days. If the storm takes shape it will be titled 'Cyclone Jawad', the IMD informed.

According to various models and local weather experts, another $\,$ low pressure area will form around

October 12 and after that both sys-

tems are likely to get merged and turn into a very severe cyclonic storm around October 14.

As per current estimation if the cyclone takes shape, it is likely to make landfall between south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh around October 15 or 16. The wind speed of the cyclone may be around 130 to 140 kmph, sources said.

Under its impact, the districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Nayagarh and Kandhamal will face high wind speeds and heavy rainfall. If the situation turns bad, it will

certainly dampen the festive spirit of the people as Dussehra is on October 16.

However, the IMD has not made any specific prediction whether the system will finally take the shape of a cyclonic storm.

Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre director HR Biswas said, "So far, our forecast says that a low pressure area is likely to be formed over north Andaman Sea around October 10. The picture will be clear in the next three to four days. There are possibilities that the system will be more marked and intensify further.

THE LOW PRESSURE AREA IS EXPECTED TO TAKE SHAPE OCTOBER 10

IF IT TURNS INTO A CYCLONE, IT WILL HAVE **LANDFALL OCTOBER 15-16**

Similarly, local weather expert Sarat Sahu said the detailed forecast of the possible cyclone can only be known around October 10. If the system converts into a cyclone, it would hit either Odisha or Andhra Pradesh coast and its intensity will be more than 'Cyclone Gulab' The low pressure area can turn into a severe to very severe cyclone, added Sahu. Due to the present development, the withdrawal of south west monsoon from Odisha will be delayed.

Recently, cyclonic storm Gulab pummeled through north Andhra and south Odisha coast before making landfall near Srikakulam with a wind speed of 70 to 80 kmph gusting up to 90 kmph. Several parts of south coastal and south Odisha suffered extensive damages to properties due to the storm.

It should be stated here that cyclones in Odisha in the month of October have become a common affair for the past few years

No let-up in fuel prices

LPG is slowly inching towards the ₹1,000 per cylinder-mark with a fourth hike in rates since July

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 6: Cooking gas LPG price was hiked Wednesday by ₹15 per cylinder while petrol and diesel rates saw their steepest increase in recent weeks, pushing prices to all-time high levels across India. Rates of both subsidised and non-subsidised LPG were hiked, taking the total increase in rates since July to ₹90 per 14.2-kg cylinder. Cooking gas now costs ₹899.50 per cylinder in Delhi and Mumbai, and ₹926 in Kolkata, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. A five-kg LPG cylinder now costs ₹502 while the price of a 14.2kg cylinder in Bhubaneswar will now also be ₹926.

This is the fourth increase in LPG prices since July. Rates were increased by ₹25.50 per cylinder in July, followed by hikes of ₹25 each August 17 and September 1.

To add more woes to consumers' pockets, petrol price was increased by 30 paise per litre and diesel by 35 paise a litre.

Petrol price in Delhi rose to its



FUEL PRICES

Petrol Diesel ₹103.84 (+0.31) ₹99.72 (+0.39)

highest-ever level of ₹102.94 a litre and to ₹108.96 in Mumbai, the notification showed. Diesel rates too touched a record high of ₹91.42 in Delhi and ₹99.17 per litre in Mumbai.

The seventh increase in fuel rates since the ending of a nearly three-week hiatus has sent petrol prices above ₹100 a litre in most major cities of India. Similarly, the 10th increase in prices has shot up diesel rates above ₹100 mark in several cities in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Day of high drama

Priyanka was released from detention of over 48 hours as the *UP* government finally allowed political parties to meet families of the deceased

AGENCIES



released Priyanka from detainment. This was confirmed by Sitapur Sub-Divisional Magistrate Ours is a perfect match parents can't object to. (Sadar) Pyarelal Maurya. Your family name was in Panama papers and Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit today mine has figured in Pandora papers! Singh Channi and his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel accompanied the two in another car,

VARIATION

176.30

1 ₹0.50

1 ₹0.12

1 ₹69

Surjewala and Deepender Singh Hooda travelled in a separate vehicle. Their first stop was home of deceased farmer Lovepreet Sigh in Palia tehsil. From there, they left for the native place of journalist Raman Kashyap, who was one of the victims, in Nighasan tehsil.

while Congress leaders Randeep

since Monday morning. Earlier in

the day, the UP government had

The Congress leaders' visit came after Uttar Pradesh permitted politicians to travel to Lakhimpur Kheri but not more than five people at a time.

Earlier in the day, a high-voltage drama played out at the airport here where Rahul staged a dharna briefly to protest the administration's decision to take him to Lakhimpur in a police vehicle instead of his own. Later, the administration relented and the former AICC president reached Sitapur guest house in his own vehicle on his way to Lakhimpur Kheri.

"We want to go in our own vehicles, but they want that we should go in their cars. First, I was told that I can go in my own vehicle,

COGNISANCE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has taken cognisance of the Lakhimpur Kheri incident in which eight people were killed in violence during a farmers' protest, with a bench headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana scheduled to hear the matter Thursday. According to the causelist uploaded on the apex court website, a three-judge bench comprising CJI Ramana and justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli would hear the matter titled 'In re violence in Lakhimpur Kheri (UP) leading to loss of life' Thursday. It has been alleged that Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish was responsible for mowing down farmers.

now you are saying that you will go in a police vehicle. They are doing some mischief," Rahul told reporters.

Rahul said he or Priyanka being sent to jail was irrelevant as the main question was 'people being crushed by criminals', referring to the Lakhimpur Kheri episode.

Before, the high-level Congress team reached Lakhimpur, a delegation of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) landed at Dhaurahra tehsil, home of farmer Nachatar Singh. Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also spoke to the family of Nachatar Singh over phone and expressed deepest condolences. He assured all

help to the bereaved family. The BJP meanwhile stated that the Congress and the other political parties were trying to get mileage out of the tragedy at Lakhimpur Kheri. BJP leader Sambit Patra alleged alleged that the Gandhi family had nothing to do with either farmers or any other section of society. "They are not even concerned about the Congress. All they want is that their fortunes should not be scuttled," Patra said. With Rahul claiming that farmers have been 'systematically attacked' by the government, Patra said they have been 'systematically uplifted', citing a number of pro-farmers



GROOMING

Artisans give finishing touches to idols of goddess Durga and others in Old Town locality of Bhubaneswar ор РНОТО

Containment zones return

■The last time BMC had marked containment zones was in July. So the new development is a worry with festivities on the anvil

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: Following a gap of nearly three months, 'containment' zones have again returned to the state capital ahead of the festive season. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) declared Rajendra Vihar Apartment in the Forest Park area as a containment zone following detection of multiple Covid-19 cases.

In a notification, the civic authority said that about 20 positive cases were detected out of 11 households in the large building complex. Sources said that the cases were found during contract tracing. With more than 350 people residing in the complex the au-



thorities are expecting more new cases to come up. So containment orders were given

"Outsiders shall not be allowed to move into the containment zone and inhabitants will not move out. All the inhabitants within the containment zone shall strictly remain at home. BMC will supply essentials and ensure medical requirements for the inhabitants. All government and private institutions located within the boundary of the containment zone is hereby closed forthwith." the BMC said in the notification.

The last time the BMC had marked a containment zone within its jurisdiction was in July. Then a residential building in Khandagiri and the block of an apartment complex in Rasulgarh were declared as 'micro-containment' zones.

While this is the only containment zone at present, the BMC has in the past weeks clamped on buildings violating Covid-19 norms. Earlier in September, the offices of Bhubaneswar sub-collector and tehsildar were sealed after several tested positive. Similarly several kalyan mandaps and bars and restaurants were also sealed for operating during shutdown hours.

The fresh announcement of containment zones came on a day when Odisha reported 593 new Covid-19 cases, 140 more than the number reported Tuesday. Eighty of the new patients are children and adolescents.

Chemistry Nobel for List, MacMillan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stockholm, Oct 6: The Nobel Prize for chemistry has been awarded to German scientist Benjamin List of the Max Planck Institute and Scotland-born scientist David WC MacMillan of Princeton University

They were cited for their work in developing a new way for building molecules known as 'asymmetric organocatalysis'. The winners were announced Wednesday by Goran Hansson, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The Nobel panel said List and MacMillan in the year 2000 independently developed a new way of catalysis.

"It's already benefiting humankind greatly," Pernilla Wittung-Stafshede, a member of



MacMillan

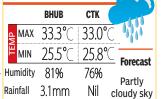
the Nobel panel, said. Speaking after the announcement, List said the award was a 'huge surprise'. "I absolutely did-

n't expect this," he said. The Nobel winner added that he was on vacation in Amsterdam with his family when the call from Sweden came in. List said he did not initially know that MacMillan was working on the same subject and figured

his hunch might just be a 'stupid idea' until it worked. "I did feel that this could be something big," stated List. The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and 10 million

Swedish kronor (over USD 1.14 The prize money comes from a

bequest left by the prize's creator,-Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895.



MARKET WATCH

SENSEX **59189.73** 🖊 555.15

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₹46,826

₹60,755

INDEX

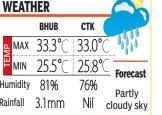
VIFTY

EURO

GOLD

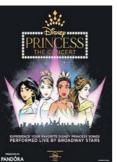
SILVER

DOLLAR **75.17**





leisure

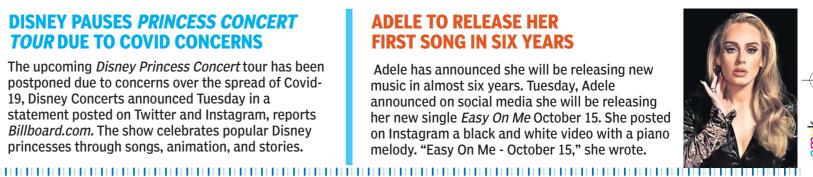


DISNEY PAUSES PRINCESS CONCERT TOUR DUE TO COVID CONCERNS

The upcoming *Disney Princess Concert* tour has been postponed due to concerns over the spread of Covid-19, Disney Concerts announced Tuesday in a statement posted on Twitter and Instagram, reports Billboard.com. The show celebrates popular Disney princesses through songs, animation, and stories.

ADELE TO RELEASE HER FIRST SONG IN SIX YEARS

Adele has announced she will be releasing new music in almost six years. Tuesday, Adele announced on social media she will be releasing her new single Easy On Me October 15. She posted on Instagram a black and white video with a piano melody. "Easy On Me - October 15," she wrote.





You will understand that being generous with your knowledge is a very satisfying thing. Ganesha says when you give something, it will be returned to you nine fold in the future. Since you have decided to be more open-minded and considerate you will gain a lot by way of respect.

TAURUS

It is quite possible that today you will enjoy your responsibilities at the home front, says Ganesha. You may not get the best of the support from your subordi nates. The value of something is the amount of effort you have put in to get it.

GEMINI

Family comes first for you, and today will be no different. You will be preoccupied by thoughts of providing comforts and luxuries to your family members, says Ganesha. At the workplace, your ability to take initiatives will benefit you. A grand dinner with those close to you is also on the cards.

The day proceeds lazily. But your work will pick up pace later in the day. Ganesha cautions about your health. As chance of stomach upset is likely, be careful of what you eat or drink. Do not neglect any ailent and contact doctor promptly

LEO

Champagne, anyone? Well, Ganesha seems to favour a good celebration today as you give a major boost to your reputation in your chosen field. You will bring success and glory to all your associates. Do not be misled by the initial stress of you workplace, as it shall fade away with the passage of day. Let love and affection of your loved ones be the highlight of your day, says Ganesha.

Reap and harvest the good things in your life. You may seem to arrive at your wits' end today. Ganesha predicts that you will probably sort all of it when you sit down with your better half and discuss the issues at hand.

Ganesha says that you shall be attracted to the opposite sex today. Today during the afternoon, you will meet people who share the same ideas and thoughts as you do and you will be able to share your feelings with them. You will be interested in knowing new things on various topics

SCORPIO

Your far sightedness will make you realise the importance of financial security. Thus, you are in a mood to make long term investments. Social recognition awaits you in the evening. Ganesha feels that people look up to you as a wise person and thus seek high values from you.

SAGITTARIUS

It's raining money, literally as your bank accounts swell. When it comes to financial security, now, you are a happy man. However, Ganesha advises you to stay away from pessimistic people who may adversely affect your future

CAPRICORN

You have pulled up your socks and geared up to finish off all pending work. You'll want to do proper planning and go through the right route to minimise the chances of errors and wastage of time. even if it means spending the whole day for it, predicts Ganesha.

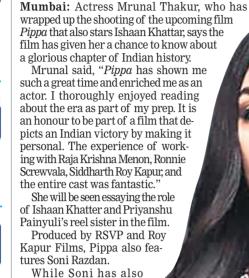
AQUARIUS

Financially, you are on a stable ground today, so make the most of it. You will give a tough fight to your competitors, and leave them far behind in the race as not many can beat you in your own game Beware of those green-eved people around, alerts Ganesha, as they are waiting for you to make a mistake and get off the track.

PISCES

Do not make or take any decision or activity lightly today, says Ganesha. For decisions taken today could have farreaching consequences. You will be forced to compromise on certain issues today. But owing to your adaptability, the day should pass by peacefully enough, says Ganesha.

Pippa taught me a chapter of Indian history: Mrunal



Painyuli will continue shooting for the Raja Krishna Menon directorial. Based on The Burning Chaffees written Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta, Pippa is a heroic tank battle film that underlines

wrapped up her portion of

the shoot, Khatter and

the bravery of the war veteran of the 45th Cavalry tank squadron who. along with his siblings, fought on the eastern front during the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971, which led to the liberation of India's neighbour Bangladesh



Discovery+ ropes in Madhavan for *India's Space Odyssey*

Streamer Discovery Plus Wednesday announced their new original documentary, titled India's Space Odyssey that captures the nation's six decade long journey in space exploration.

Set to premiere October 7, the documentary has been narrated by actor R Madhavan in Hindi. *India*'s Space Odyssey features different experts from ISRO as well as space historians, researchers and ISRO's former chairman Dr G Madhavan Nair.

The experts speak about their challenging yet wholesome journey working in the India's Space Programme and through the documentary they will highlight the country's most revolutionising space developments.

India's Space Odyssey as he believes the documentary will inspire the future generations. "I thank Discovery India for this wonderful learning opportunity, and I feel honoured to have lent my voice to a project that could in-

Madhavan said he is honoured to have narrated for

quest to explore space,"the actor said. ISRO Chairman Sivan, said they are delighted to collaborate with Discovery for the documentary

BAGGED 50 AWARDS

AT SEVERAL FILM

THE GLOBE IN A

CALENDAR YEAR

FESTIVALS ACROSS

spire future generations to embark on their

Divya's second book Stars In My Sky out

experiences with some legends like Amitabh Bachchan, Irrfan Khan, and Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra among others who played an important role in her jour-

ney as an actor. She added: "Though I feel that a new journey has started when it comes to my career. with some really exciting roles; through this book, I am happy to

share with my readers, my expe-

riences with peo-

ple I connected

heautifully

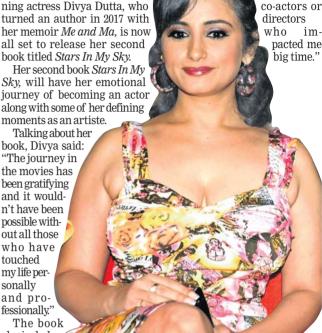
with, be it my

Mumbai: National Award-winning actress Divya Dutta, who turned an author in 2017 with her memoir Me and Ma, is now all set to release her second book titled Stars In My Sky. Her second book Stars In My

Talking about her book, Divya said: "The journey in the movies has been gratifying and it wouldn't have been possible without all those who have touched my life per sonally

fessionally." The book also includes her interac-

tions and



JAJPUR-BASED MOVIE Odia filmmaker eyes **KUMAR SARANGI HAS** India Book of Records

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Odia filmmaker Hitesh Kumar Sarangi, after bagging 50 awards at various film festivals across the globe in a year, is all set to enter India Book of Records, one of the top curators and custodians of Indian

While Hitesh's three short films Maa Pari Kie Heba, Vijayini and Sapnabagged six awards at the recently concluded Covid International Film Festival, his documentary film Shri nours at Roshni International Film Festival held at Aurangabad. Similarly, his musical film Jayatu Jayatu Bharatam of seven-minute



international and national awards. Hitesh, who attributes his success to his teammates, says. "I was bitten by the acting bug when I was a kid.

I used to participate in drama and plays organised in our school and made my debut in an Odia film Asibu Kebe Tu Saji Mo Rani when in college. Though I launched a production house in 2009, full-fledged work began in 2014. Apart from 84 documentaries and shorts. I also did a few corporate

films. If all goes

ducted into the

India Book of

Records soon.'

5 9

8

6

Hitesh with some of his awards

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.

9

8

8

SUDOKU

9 3 6

5

SOLUTIONS

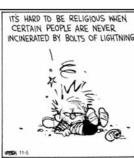
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES







BREVITY

I REALLY DON'T BELIEVE YOU WHEN YOU CALL ME A NARCISSIST. DOCTOR. BUT YOU MUST, PLEASE ADDRESS ME AS BEST NARCISSIST EVER.



FUN DOST

CROSSWORD Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com

19 Refinement

21 French buddy

overstuffed

24 Part of an act

(4.3)

(4,5)

22 It's usually

Across

- 1 Some soccer players
- 5 Heroic tales
- 8 He was found in Hamelin (4,5)
- 9 Large snake 10 They're found on 25 Nappies wearer
- feet
- 12 Bookstore section

17 Fool around (4,3)

- 13 Motley fool 14 Rap session?
- Down
- 1 Stares
- - 2 Wonderment 3 Stalemate

4 Top of the line

- 15 Tempted 16 Kind of printer

tropical America

5 Take a powder

6 Rant and rave

11 Modify an auto,

13 Large spotted

felines of

7 Kind of cat

maybe

- 18 Corpulent plus
- 20 Miscue 23 Feel fluish

SUDOKU

LETTERS

3 4

9

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



PAYING HOMAGE

People offer Tarpan to their ancestors near the North Gate of Srimandir in Puri on the occasion of Mahalaya, Wednesday

BJD slams Centre for fuel price hike

BJP SAYS THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IS BEING SPENT ON COVID MANAGEMENT AND ASKS STATE TO CUT VAT ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: Senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader and Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain Wednesday slammed the Union government for continuous rise in prices of petrol and diesel.

Speaking to reporters here, Swain said fuel prices are totally controlled by the Centre and they are using it as a political tool.

"Whenever there is an election in any state, the Centre controls the petrol and diesel prices. Once the election is over, it again starts exploiting the consumers," Swain said.

Citing an example, he said there was no rise in fuel prices for 20-25 days ahead of the West Bengal polls but it started rising from the very next day when



The prices of petroleum products

In 2014, excise duty on petro-

FOUNTAIN ON ROAD

The prices of petroleum deregulated. However, the benefit or money that would have come to the consumer is being appropriated by the Centre

RANENDRA PRATAP SWAIN | FOOD

"Moreover, now on the alibi of

Covid-19, the Centre has imposed

cess on petroleum products. The

states are now deprived of getting

the share of the money that was

going to the divisible pool," he stated.

around ₹34, he said,

leum products varied between the polling was over. ₹3.50-3.85. It has now been hiked to

have been deregulated. However, the benefit or money that would have come to the consumer is being appropriated by the Central government since 2014 till today, the min-

The minister also said that the fuel price hike also has a cascading effect on the prices of essential commodities. It has affected the financial condition of states and the people as well, he added.

"Farmers are the worst-hit by the price rise while they don't get the minimum price for their produce," Swain said.

Reacting to Swain's statements, state General Secretary of BJP Prithiviraj Harichandan said the money collected from the petroleum products is being spent on Covid-19 management including vaccination, free treatment of the patients.

"Instead of blaming the Centre, the state government should reduce its tax for an interim period in view of Covid-19 pandemic,"

Missing Assamese man found from **Olatpur in Cuttack**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantapada, Oct 6: A 40-year-old man from Assam who went missing on his way to Bangalore for job was found from Khandiaripur under Olatpur police limits here.

Sijoy Basumatary of Kokalabari under Simla police station in Baksa district of Assam was handed over to his relatives Wednesday, sources said.

Basumatary had left home for Bangalore August 21 this year. However, he went missing in the midway after losing mental balance.

Some locals initially spotted Basumatary roaming in a market at Bagalpur near Olatpur.

Later, the 40-year-old took shelter near a flourmill at Khandiaripur. The owner of the flourmill somehow collected the address of Basumatary and contacted the latter's family members. His elder brother Ajoy and brother-in-Chandrakant reached Khandiaripur and convinced him to return home, sources said.

DATA SOUGHT UNDER RTI DENIED

Works dept blank on road expansion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack Sadar, Oct 6: The tall claims of the state government about transparency in governance have come in for question as data sought under Right to Information (RTI) Act regarding a road expansion project by the Works department was denied citing lack of information.

According to sources, Manoj Kumar Debata, a resident of Jhinkiria under 42 Mouza here, had August 12, 2021 approached the PIO-cum-AEE (Estr) Cuttack (R&B) Division-II seeking details, including the expenditure, of proposed expansion of 42 Mouza Main Road (15.6 km Jhinkiria-Chanduli Road) under RTI Act.

In response, the PIO-cum-AEE (Estr) Cuttack (R&B) Division-II September 18, 2021 asked Debata (letter No-4468) to deposit ₹3,000 with the office towards expenses for photocopies. Accordingly, Debata deposited the amount.

However, the applicant was taken aback to receive a letter (No-4718) October 4, 2021 informing about the refund of the deposited amount by the Office of the Executive Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division-II citing 'nonavailability of record'.

"It's shocking! If the office had no record on the proposed road expansion project, how could it estimate the expenses towards photocopies?" Debata asked, asserting that he would approach the first appellate authority in this regard.

Notably, locals of 42 Mouza are in a tizzy as the proposed road expansion would see eviction of many shops

NABARD SANCTIONS ₹303CR FOR 24 BRIDGES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) Wednesday said it has sanctioned an assistance of ₹303 crore to the Odisha government for construction of 24 bridges in the state.

The rural infrastructure projects will improve connectivity for 24.13 lakh people in 823 villages across

These projects have been approved under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Nabard said in a state-

The assistance is on the basis of priority fixed by the state govThe rural infrastructure projects are expected to improve connectivity for **24.13** lakh people in 823 villages across 13 districts

Water gushes out of a breach in the supply line underneath the Ring Road near Raja Bagicha in Cuttack, Wednesday

ernment for developing rural infrastructure for drinking water supply, irrigation and connectiv-

The bridge construction projects will play a key role in supporting the rural economy by improving the livelihoods of people.

The cumulative sanction under the RIDF 2021-22 has reached $\overline{1}$ 1,796 crore so far, it added.

sugar worth ₹27L

Bhubaneswar: Commissionerate Police Wednesday claimed to have arrested three inter-district drug peddlers and seized 268 gram of brown sugar worth ₹27 lakh from their possession during a raid at Jail Field under Dargha Bazar police limits in Cuttack. Acting on a tip-off, the police raided the Jail Field and arrested the accused Tuesday. The accused are: Bapi Navak, Gopinath Patra and Bibekananda Jena. Two scooters, ₹1.20 lakh in cash and four mobile phones were recovered from them. "The accused were supplying brown sugar to the dealers in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Jagatsinghpur after procuring the contraband from Balasore's Jaleswar," said a police official.

3 held with brown 3,000 rotten eggs on way to bakery seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 6: The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Wednesday seized around 3,000 rotten eggs from an auto-rickshaw in Bajrakabati Road area here. The eggs were being transported to a bakerv unit in Saanta Sahi.

Acting on a tip-off, a special squad of the civic body waylaid the autorickshaw in Bajrakabati Road area and seized the rotten eggs packed in 10 boxes.

"After inspection, we concluded that the eggs were unfit for consumption. The vehicle's driver told us that the eggs were being ferried

to a bakery at Saanta Sahi in the Millennium City. Later in the evening, we raided the bakery and sent samples of the items being manufactured in the unit to a laboratory for examination. The bakery has been sealed," said CMC city health officer Satyabrata Mohapatra.

Mohapatra added that the autorickshaw has brought the consignment from Bali in Athagarh area. "There's a hatchery at Bali and we've summoned its owner. Further action will be taken after the hatchery owner appears before the CMC,' Mohapatra pointed out. Locals expressed their dismay over the state of food safety in the Silver city.

OTDC launches 2nd season of cooking competition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: The Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) in association with Odisha Tourism Wednesday unveiled the second season of traditional pure Odia food cooking competition 'Ama Ghara Ama Handishala' at recently inaugurated Nimantran Odia cuisine restaurant here

On the occasion, OTDC Chairperson Shreemayee Mishra said, "We decided to launch the second edition of 'Ama Ghara Ama Handishala' after witnessing the success of first season, which was widely acclaimed by the people of the state last year amid the Covid pandemic."

Mishra mentioned that the worldfamous handishala of Lord Jagannath called Ananda Bazaar is the largest handishala (kitchen) in the world. Also, in Odia culture, there is a saying that 13 festivals are celebrated in 12 months in Odisha, during which many a spe-



OTDC Chairperson Shreemayee Mishra and other dignitaries unveil Ama Ghara Ama Handishala Season 2 at Nimatran restaurant in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

cial Odia cuisine associated with the festivities are prepared.

OTDC MD and Director of Tourism department Sachin Ramachandra Yadav said OTDC organised this Odia food cooking competition to bring the talent of housewives to the forefront. The

second edition of the competition is being launched to promote Odia food. The terms and conditions of the competition remain the same as

This year, the top 40 contestants will prepare dishes at several tourist destinations which will be broadcast live on TV channels

they were last year with a slight

This year, the top 40 contestants will prepare dishes at several tourist destinations of the state which will be broadcast live on TV channels. Interested women candidates have to send their videos of recipes online for selection

Mishra added that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik supports the competition like he did last year and he always tries to promote Odia food among other politicians. He had also expressed his love for Pakhala many times in the past.

25 293

Private

Private

Government Basti

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भारत का राजपुत्र

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The Gazette of India सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ. - 17082021-229064 CG-DL-E-17082021-229064

EXTRAORDINARY भाग II - खण्ड 3 - उप-खण्ड (ii) PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, अगस्त 16, 2021/ श्रावण 25, 1943 NEW DELHI, MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021/SRAVANA 25, 1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS **NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 16th August, 2021

S.O. 3342(E). - In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafte referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of Newly Proposed Raipur Vishakhapatnam Economic Corridor in the stretch of land from Km. 238.2 to Km. 363.32 (O/o Tahasildar, Boriguma, Dist - Koraput) in the District of KORAPUT in the state of ODISHA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under subsection(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority namely, Tahasildar cum Land Acquisition Officer, Boriguma in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling Newly Proposed Raipur Vishakhapatnam

| Survey/Plot Number uk: Borigu age: Bena 158 165 166 167 168 215 222 | | Nature of Land Basti Dhana/1 Dhana/1 Dhana/1 Dhana/1 | Area (in Local Unit) 0.2421000(Hectare) 0.3686000(Hectare) 0.2667000(Hectare) 0.1941000(Hectare) | |
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| age: Bena 158 165 166 167 168 215 222 | Government Private Private Private Private Private | Dhana/1 Dhana/1 Dhana/1 | 0.3686000(Hectare) 0.2667000(Hectare) | 0.3686000 0.2667000 |
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| | | Pond | 0.1052000(Hectare) | 0.1052000 |
| 223 | Private | Dhana/2 | 0.1050000(Hectare) | 0.1050000 |
| | Private | Dhana/1 | 0.5728000(Hectare) | 0.5728000 |
| 224 | Private | Dhana/1 | 0.3954000(Hectare) | 0.3954000 |
| 228 | Private | Dangara/1 | 0.2103000(Hectare) | 0.2103000 |
| 229 | Private | Amba Tota | 0.0836000(Hectare) | 0.0836000 |
| 230 | Private | Dhana/3 | 0.0808000(Hectare) | 0.0808000 |
| 231 | Private | Dangara/1 | 0.1971000(Hectare) | 0.1971000 |
| 232 | Private | Dangara/1 | 0.1431000(Hectare) | 0.1431000 |
| 233 | Private | Dangara/1 | 0.1259000(Hectare) | 0.1259000 |
| 234 | Private | Dangara/2 | 0.1771000(Hectare) | 0.1771000 |
| 237 | Private | Dangara/1 | 0.1209000(Hectare) | 0.1209000 |
| 238 | Private | Dangara/1 | 0.0053000(Hectare) | 0.0053000 |
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| 240 | Government | Rasta | 0.0076000(Hectare) | 0.0076000 |
| 241 | Private | Dangara/1 | 0.0522000(Hectare) | 0.0522000 |
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| 1 | 5 | Government | Pathar Chatan | 0.6368000(Hectare) | 0.6368000 | | |
| 2 | 6 | Private | Dangar/2 | 0.0045000(Hectare) | 0.0045000 | | |
| 3 | 7 | Private | Gharabari | 0.0213000(Hectare) | 0.0213000 | | |
| Village: Keraput | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 229 | Private | Amba Tota | 0.0188000(Hectare) | 0.0188000 | | |
| 2 | 234 | Private | Dhana/1 | 0.1777000(Hectare) | 0.1777000 | | |
| 3 | 234/625 | Private | Dhana/1 | 0.9334000(Hectare) | 0.9334000 | | |
| 4 | 235 | Private | Dhana/2 | 0.0109000(Hectare) | 0.0109000 | | |
| 5 | 236 | Private | Dhana/1 | 0.0040000(Hectare) | 0.0040000 | | |
| 6 | 237 | Private | Dangara/3 | 0.0102000(Hectare) | 0.0102000 | | |
| 7 | 238 | Private | Dhana/1 | 0.0460000(Hectare) | 0.0460000 | | |
| 8 | 239 | Government | Gochara | 0.0120000(Hectare) | 0.0120000 | | |
| 9 | 240 | Private | Dangara / 1 | 0.0527000(Hectare) | 0.0527000 | | |
| 10 | 254 | Private | Dhana/1 | 0.0675000(Hectare) | 0.0675000 | | |
| 11 | 255 | Private | Dangara / 1 | 0.1714000(Hectare) | 0.1714000 | | |
| 12 | 256 | Private | Dangara/3 | 0.0597000(Hectare) | 0.0597000 | | |
| 13 | 258 | Government | Smasan | 0.1306000(Hectare) | 0.1306000 | | |
| 14 | 259 | Private | Dangara/2 | 0.3247000(Hectare) | 0.3247000 | | |
| 15 | 260 | Private | Dangara/2 | 0.0079000(Hectare) | 0.0079000 | | |
| 16 | 261 | Private | Dangara/3 | 0.0476000(Hectare) | 0.0476000 | | |
| 17 | 262 | Private | Dangara/2 | 0.1232000(Hectare) | 0.1232000 | | |
| 18 | 264 | Private | Dangara/2 | 0.0950000(Hectare) | 0.0950000 | | |
| 19 | 265 | Government | Pathara gada | 0.0863000(Hectare) | 0.0863000 | | |
| 20 | 266 | Private | Dangara/2 | 0.8698000(Hectare) | 0.8698000 | | |
| 21 | 267 | Private | Dangara/2 | 0.3640000(Hectare) | 0.3640000 | | |
| 22 | 268 | Private | Dangara/2 | 0.0351000(Hectare) | 0.0351000 | | |
| 23 | 269 | Private | Dangara/2 | 0.0019000(Hectare) | 0.0019000 | | |
| 24 | 280 | Government | Rasta | 0.1271000(Hectare) | 0.1271000 | | |
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Dangara/2

Dangara/2

14.5247 [F. No. NHAI/11013/LA/PIU-Sambalpur, Odisha/ Newly Proposed/Notification.(3a)/Koraput/3A 1]

RAJESH GUPTA. Director

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0.1099000(Hectare) 0.1099000

Pradhan wants LHB coaches for Tapaswini

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged the Railways for conversion of Puri-Hatia Tapaswini Express to Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) design coaches.



This important train, which passes through the heart of Odisha and Jharkhand connecting Puri and other areas, has been running since 1996 and is much used by commuters, he said.

"On my recent visit to Odisha,

I had the pleasure of travelling from Bhubaneswar to Redhakhol on Puri-Hatia-Puri Tapaswini Express and interacting with many of my co-passengers, who mentioned their long-pending demand for LHB rakes on the train," Pradhan said in a letter to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Tuesday.

He said LHB rakes have enhanced safety features with modular interior and fittings, more seating capacity with less noise and other attributes like high-capacity cooling, improved suspension system for a hassle-

'Keeping in mind the welfare and comfort of the train commuters, I seek your personal intervention for conversion of the Puri-Hatia-Puri Tapaswini Express to LHB rakes as early as possible," Pradhan, the Union Minister for Education and Skill Development, added.

LAKHIMPUR AFTERMATH



Congress workers stage a sit-in at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, protesting the alleged murder of farmers at Lakhimpui

Naveen to visit Brahmagiri today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 6: The Puri district administration has made elaborate arrangements for the scheduled visit of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to Brahmagiri Thursday.

Ahead of Patnaik's visit, Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain and State Planning Board Deputy Chairman Sanjay Das Burma Wednesday inspected the meeting venue at Kerandia and held discussions with Collector Samarth Verma and Superintendent of Police (SP) Kanwar Vishal Singh.

As per the schedule, the Chief Minister will reach Kerandia by a chopper at 4pm and distribute smart health cards under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). He will also review some developmental projects through virtual mode before returning to Bhubaneswar at 4:50pm.

ECoR AWARD CEREMONY

Khurda Road div bags overall efficiency shield

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Wednesday organised the 66th annual award ceremony at the Railway Auditorium here with strict adherence to Covid protocols. Khurda Road division received the overall efficiency shield for its remarkable performance across different fields.

ECoR General Manager (GM) Vidya Bhushan graced the occasion as chief guest. ECoR Additional General Manager (AGM) Sudhir Kumar was also present at the award ceremony.

While Khurda Road division received the overall efficiency shield for its remarkable performance across different fields, Brahmapur railway station won the best major clean station shield and Handapa station received the best minor clean station shield.

This apart, several departmental units and employees were felicitated for their meritorious work.

Khurda Road division bagged civil engineering, operations and commercial efficiency shields. Waltair division received finance, best coaching depot and personnel efficiency shields. Similarly, Sambalpur division received energy management and mechani-

TPR up as state logs 593 more nCoV cases

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: The state Wednesday reported 593 new Covid-19 cases, 140 more than the previous day, with the tally rising to 10,29,412, a Health department official said.

Four more fatalities took the coronavirus death toll to 8,227,

0.82 per cent, marginally up from 0.77 per cent on the previous day, as the fresh cases were detected from 71,749 sample tests in the last

The infection rate among people below 18 years of age is at 13.49 per cent as 80 new patients are children and adolescents, the offi-

ported from quarantine centres and the remaining 247 detected during contact tracing. Khurda district, which com-

Of the fresh cases, 346 were re-

prises the state capital of Bhubaneswar, registered the highest number of new cases at 290, followed by Cuttack (84). Khurda and Cuttack districts

together accounted for 63.06 per cent of the 593 fresh patients, he

SJTA deposits 500kg

Puri: The Shree Jagannath Temple

Administration has deposited 500

for storing it till the next Rath Yatra

in 2022, when the metal would be

used for refurbishing an inner door

temple would be coated with 2.500

was donated by a Mumbai-based

of 500 kg of silver is kept in 11

kg of silver ingots, of which 1,300 kg

devotee, SJTA sources said. "A total

boxes, both in shape of plates and

the designed format. The metal will

be brought to the temple during the

next Rath Yatra for renovation of

the 'Kalahata Dwar'," an official

the temple, it will be difficult to

undertake the silver plating work

during normal days," he added.

Diamond jubilee fete

Bhubaneswar: The Psychology

department of Utkal University

organised the diamond jubilee

of UU Psychology dept

said, "Since the deities are inside

of the shrine. Eight gates of the

silver in treasury

Gajapati, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Rayagada - did not report any new case in the last 24 hours.

and Cuttack succumbed to the infection during the period, the official

tients have so far died due to co-

The daily positivity rate stood at 0.82 per cent, marginally up from 0.77 per cent on the previous day, as the fresh cases were detected from 71,749 sample tests in the last 24 hours

The infection rate among people below 18 years of age is at 13.49 per cent as 80 new patients are children and

Khurda and Cuttack districts together accounted for 63.06 per cent of the 593 fresh patients

At least 557 people were cured of the disease since Tuesday, taking the total number of recoveries to 10.16.165, he said. Odisha now has 4,967 active cases

over 2.03 crore sample tests, and the overall positivity rate stands at 5.05 per cent. Altogether, 90,41,213 people have

The state has thus far conducted

received both doses of the Covid vaccines, the official said.

Meanwhile, the state government has asked the district Collectors and municipal commissioners to form committees for

BMC revises Covid-19 norms for weddings

Revising its Covid-related guide-line amid protests, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said maximum 50 people are allowed to be present at functions such as weddings and funerals at any given point of time

Earlier, the BMC capped the number of attendees at 50, but this modification would help guests go to such functions in batches with a maximum of 50 people at the venue at any given point of time, officials said.

In a closed space only 50% of the hall capacity will be allowed for use subject to maximum ceiling of 50 persons at any given point of time, the new order issued Tuesday said. The ceiling of 50 per-

tificates to family members of the

deceased for disbursal of com-

nounced that it would provide a financial assistance of Rs 50,000 to the next of kin of each of those

sons will be applicable to other of-

ficial or business-related func-

tions in the city as well, it said.

will be in place till October 31.

The BMC stated that the order

The civic body said the modi-

As per the Covid-related

guidelines for October, the state

government has allowed the

participation of 250 people in

such functions across the state.

The BMC, however, restricted

The revised order was issued

after tent houses, florists, deco-

rators, band party owners and

others associated with the sec-

tor staged a demonstration in

front of the BMC office here.

fication was made to obviate some

confusion in the earlier order.

The state government had anissuance of Covid-19 death cer-Odia flicks to be screened at Dubai Expo

it to 50.

The 35th World Expo was inaugurated in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, September 30 and will be open to the

world till March 31, 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: Odisha Samai UAE (OSUAE) - the association of non-resident Odias across the Middle East and North Africa region in collaboration with internationally-acclaimed film producer, promoter and curator from Odisha, Jitendra Mishra is going to organise a one-of-its-kind film festival 'Cine Odisha - Timeless Cinema of Odisha' during the prestigious World Expo 2020 in Dubai, UAE from October 22 to 23.

The objective of the festival is to promote Odisha's rich art, culture, language and heritage values through handpicked films from the state that include national and international award winning films like 'Maya Miriga' (Nirad Mohapatra, 1984), 'Neeraba Jhada' (Manmohan Mahapatra, 1984) 'Lavanya Preeti' (Apurba Kishore

While Cine Odisha intends to celebrate 85 years of Odia cinema. the festival will also pay tribute to the legendary film personalities whom the state has lost during last two years of Covid

While Cine Odisha intends to celebrate 85 years of Odia cinema, the festival will also pay tribute to the legendary film personalities whom the state has lost during last two years of Covid pandemic.

During the two-day fest, multiple panel discussions and industry forums are also scheduled: several dignitaries from the industry are expected to be a part of this unique event.

"We at OSUAE have been trying to promote Odia culture in Dubai for many years through various cultural events and social ac-

BOOKING STATIONS

Kumar Mishra, President of the Odisha Samaj, UAE.

Jitendra Mishra, curator of Cine Odisha fest said, "Odisha is a storied land of rich art, culture, values and cinema. This land has given birth to numerous great storytellers who have always made us proud through their incredible work at national and international platforms. At the same time, we also have several young talents with outstanding ideas in the state film industry who have high potential in global markets.'

The 35th World Expo was inau-

The daily positivity rate stood at

said. Eight districts - Boudh,

Two patients each from Khurda

Barang, Oct 6: The authorities of

(NZP) here are all set to resume

the toy train service for the visitors

during the celebration of 67th

National Wildlife Week October 8.

Bikram Keshari Arukha will ded-

icate the refurbished toy train to the

The minister will also lay stone

Forest and Environment Minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

visitors, sources said.

Fifty-three other Covid-19 pa-

NZP toy train to start chugging Oct 8

apart, the tracks and station of the toy train service have also been refurbished. "The toy train has five buggies which can accommodate 72 people for a jovride. The train has a battery-operated engine to check

for the ropeway facility at the zoo. pollution," said a zoo official. The toy train service at NZP was On the other hand, a private company from Kolkata has been roped in by the zoo authorities to resume ropeway facility at NZP. Around Rs 13 crore would be spent on the project. Notably, the ropeway facility

discontinued in 2014. As per the recommendation of the Indian Railways, Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) has repaired and renovated the engine and buggies of the toy train. This was discontinued at NZP in 2011.

an undergraduate department by

Mo Sarkar office at **Puri Collectorate**

celebration of the department virtually Wednesday. A logo Puri: District Collector Samarth commemorating the 60 years of Verma inaugurated a Mo Sarkar the department was also unveiled office at the Collectorate here on the occasion. The department Wednesday, Around six specially was declared a Centre of abled women have been deployed Advanced Study in Psychology in at the office. Sources said that 1980, the first such centre in the Mo Sarkar office would store psychology in the country. It has feedback from people visiting the ample of experience on block and Collector's offices conducting studies on childhood about the implementation of development. This Centre also different schemes and services of takes help of the other the government. As many as 225 departments in the university to services of 27 departments have with a database of at least 2 crore people. The Puri Collector also inaugurated a few other offices, including that of the

additional Collector and district child protection officer, on the

Odia lad Subham brings glory from Tashkent

Bhubaneswar: Odia body builder Subham Mishra has bagged bronze medal in World Bodybuilding Championship at Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan. Subham participated in the mixed pair group under athletic category at Tashkent after his national-level selection in Chandigarh. He has been participating in bodybuilding competitions at state and national level and has been awarded two national and other commissioner Srimanta Mishra

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR

pandemic Bir ,1993) 'Indradhanura Chhai' (Susant Misra, 1993), 'Tara' (Bijaya De, 2016), The Lord Of The Universe Jena / Dolly Jena, 1992), 'Jatra Jeevan Jeevan Yatra' (Kapilash Bhuyan, 2006), 'Kathantara' regional competitions. Subham is

conduct studies on diversified so far been included in Mo Sarkar (Shibu Prusty, 2016), 'Kalira Atita' tivities, we are proud to organise gurated in Dubai, United Arab issues related to childhood development. The department (Nila Madhab Panda, 2019), 'Sala this first-of-its-kind film event at Emirates, September 30 and will be was established in 1953 at (Himanshu Sekhar Khatua, 2006), Budhar Badla' (Sabyasachi world's biggest exhibition platopen to the world from October 1 the younger son of BMC's deputy form Expo 2020 Dubai," said Amiya Ravenshaw College in Cuttack as 'Samayara Chhaire' (Shankhajeet Mahapatra, 2019) among others. to March 31, 2022.

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

Covid curbs leave Ganjam Jajpur: Hard coke plants run sans SPCB nod orchid farmers high 'n' dry Acute pollution in dharmasala; students worst hit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 6: Even as orchid flowers have a high demand in the national market, farmers in Ganjam district growing orchid flowers face loss due to stiff restrictions imposed in the aftermath of spread of Covid-19, a report said.

The flower is cultivated in the district with the assistance of the district horticulture department. The flower to bloom depends on the moisture content present in the atmosphere. Farmers said the temperate climate prevailing in the district is favourable for the cultivation of the flower.

However, farmers in the district are facing loss over the last two years due to stiff restrictions imposed following the spread of the pandemic.

Farmers usually sell the flower for ₹5 to ₹10 per piece but their profit margin and the demand have gone down after the imposition of Covid-19 curbs in the state. Farmers do not get the volume of orders they got in the past. The flower is in high demand during marriage, Bratopanayan and other celebrations

The flower is transported to Bangalore, other parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and to state capital Bhubaneswar. An examination has confirmed that the quality of flowers cultivated in Ganjam district is better than the flowers produced in Tamil Nadu. This has pushed its demand in the markets in other parts of the



The annual turnover from the flower business in the distrcit is more than ₹1 crore. Keeping its profitability in mind, the district horticulture department promotes self-help groups (SHGs) to get involved in the orchid cultivation. The district horticulture department has been providing 70 per cent subsidy to the SHGs taking up orchid cultivation.

Prompted by this move, a women self-help group at Bhikaripalli under Chhatrapur block took up orchid farming on an experimental basis and has reaped success. This has motivated others to come forward as Balakumari, Singhasini and Bhairavi SHGs have taken up this farming

Sarat Chandra Behera, deputy director of district horticulture department said orchid cultivation was undertaken in the district on an experimental basis in 2012. The harvest and business was quite well in 2017-18. Orchid

saplings that cost ₹56 a piece are brought from Pune.

The yellow, white and pink varieties are cultivated in Ganjam. Currently, the cultivation is being done on 12 to 14 units in Rangeilunda. Humma. Sanakhemundi, Kabisuryanaga, Chhatrapur and Pursottampur blocks. The cultivation is spread more in Humma block where the best quality orchid is produced, he added.

Sanjeev Purohit, a farmer of Sanakhemundi, said ₹15 lakhs to ₹17 lakhs is required for cultivation of the flower and coconut coir ropes for an area of 1000 square metres, covered by a plastic net.

He added that the ropes are sprinkled with water through which the saplings receive moisture from the atmosphere. The saplings take around six months to grow. The flower produced is sold at ₹10 a piece in the market.

Jaipur, Oct 6: Even as the state government has announced stringent measures to check industrial pollution, it continues unabated in the district much to the chagrin of residents, a report said. The state government announced it will hold the revenue divisional commissioner responsible for any aberration on pollution control, the re-

Two hard coke plants -- Pure Hard Coke Pvt Ltd and Krishna Hard Coke -- operate in the district by encroaching on 50 acres of government land in Anjira mouza under Dharmasala tehsil. They don't have consent of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB).

Locals alleged the SPCB is not ignorant of the development, but has chosen to remain silent on the issue. The functioning of the two plants without adhering to pollution control norms has led to air and water pollution in the area.

Black fumes could always be seen emanating from the chimneys of these plants polluting the surrounding areas. The fumes choke the residents of adjoining Bali Sahi, Bhejigotha, Shaymsundarpur, Godipatia, Mukundpur, Muraripur, Alasaganda, Burusahi, Anjira and Gambharia villages.

Students are worst affected by pollution as Anjira residential school, a primary and high school at Balisahi and a government health centre are situated close by. These plants have not created a green cover around their premises as per SPCB norms.

Black dust particles emanating



Locals alleged the SPCB is not ignorant of the Black fumes could always be seen emanating from the it. They added that the functioning of the two has led to air and water pollution in the area

pollution issue, but has chosen to remain silent on chimneys of the plants polluting the surrounding areas. The fumes choke the residents of adjoining Bali Sahi, Bhejigotha, plants without adhering to pollution control norms Shaymsundarpur, Godipatia, Mukundpur, Muraripur, Alasaganda, Burusahi, Anjira and Gambharia villages

from these plants have enveloped the area. Black dense fog covers the area from morning till late in the day. A thick layer of black dust could be seen settled on houses, trees, leaves, land and water bodies. The black dust could also be seen on the clothes of people while water in the wells and nearby water bodies has become unfit for consumption, locals alleged.

The pasture land can also be found covered with black ash for which domestic animals often fall ill. The pollution has triggered an unprecedented situation in the area. However, the SPCB authorities remaining silent on the issue instead of taking action against the two firms has surprised many.

Sources said, the Pure Hard Coke plant has been operating in the area by encroaching on 25 acres of government land in Anzira plot nomouza on 6368/6344/6336/6316/6345/633/6317 of Sabak khata no-416 and Hal khata no-1728.

Locals alleged the law enforcement agencies fear to take action against the plant as its owner who is from outside the state runs the plant with the help of influential political persons.

Reports said, Anjira hill has several black stone quarries and the district and SPCB officials often visit the hill to check illegalities. However, none of them has thought to pay a visit to the two

REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE 3rd Floor, Asis Plaza, OT Road, Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001 [RULE 8(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES - 2002] Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches 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 Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Guarantors 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/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties 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/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, Concerned Branches 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.

Liabilities due as

per Notice (in ₹)

plants and review their function ing. Similarly, another hard coke plant namely Krishna Hard coke is operating by encroaching upon over 20 acres of government land.

Villagers alleged no public hearing has been held prior to the establishment of these plants. Moreover, they have not received any consent to operate. Residents demanded the authorities take immediate action against the illegalities failing which they will resort to agitation.

When contacted, Pramod Kumar Behera, regional officer of SPCB at Kalinganagar said action will be taken against the two hard coke plants if any complaint is lodged

Description of

Properties

Residential belonging to

freehold homestead in

name of Mr. Nabakishore

No. 290/981.



Artistes displaying swords at an annual workshop on traditional Khanda dance of Gond community at Balipokhari village in Keonjhar district, Wednesday

Borrower: Shree Travels & Transport, Prop: Shri Devishankar Ray Mohapatra Guarantor: Shri Tarakanta Ray mohapatra, S/o: Maniklal Ray Mohapatra, both are At: Jagannathpur, Po: Jagannathpur, Dist: Bhadrak-756116

BRANCH

Name and Address of

Borrowers / Guarantors

यूनियन बैंक 🕥 Union Bank

BHADRAK-3 BRANCH /

BHADRAK-3 BRANCH /

Borrowers: 1) Mrs. Sasmita Mishra, W/ Via: Simulia, Dist: Balasore - 756134

No. 59, measuring Ac. 0.050 Dec with Jalasraya Kissam at Jagannathpur, Po/PS/Dist: Bhadrak, Odisha ₹36,91,037/- 07.05.2021 1) Land and Building as on 31.03.2021 o: Late Kamala Kanta Mishra, 2) Shri + interest thereon 04.10.2021 Late Sadananda Sandeep Kumar Mishra, 3) Shri Sanjeet Mohanty & Late Satyabhama Mohanty, Khata No. 375, Kumar Mishra both are S/o: Late Kamala Plot No.: 924, Measuring Area: Ac.0.10 dec., At: Nua, Kanta Mishra, All are At: Nua, PO: Antara, P.O.: Antara, Via: Simulia, Dist.: Balasore, 2) Land and building in the name of Late Kamala Kanta Mishra, S/o. Late Sadananda Mohanty bearing Khata No.: 431/212, Plot No.: 167/1948, Measuring Area Ac.0.20 dec. with Gharabari Kisam, At/Vill: Nua, P.O.: Antara, Via: Simulia, Dist.: Balasore

₹10,30,129/- 30.09.2020 Plot No. 9/1284, Khata

+ interest thereon 01.10.2021 corresponds to RF Khata

No. 290/113, Plot No.: 9, Area: Ac.0.06 dec. out of Ac.0.610

dec. towards south eastern Side, Mouza: Jagannathpur

PS/Dist: Bhadrak, Bounded by: North: Laxmidhar Sahoo

South: Plot No. 10, East: Plot No. 16, West: Private Road

₹1,44,90,000/- 08.06.2021 1) Existing EM of

Notice / Date

07.05.2021

+ interest thereon | 01.10.2021 | Shri Tarakanta Ray

Mohapatra, S/o: Late Maniklal Ray Mohapatra, bearing Khata No. 290/755, Plot No. 60 measuring Ac. 0.070

Dec with Gharabari Kissam and Khata No. 290/755, Plot

₹11,11,243/- 07.05.2021 Land and Building BHADRAK-3 BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Maa Budhi Jagulai Variety Store, Prop. Mrs. Sasmita as on 31.03.2021 + interest thereon 04.10.2021 Madhusudan Moharana Mishra / Guarantor: Madhusudan S/o: Bhikari Charan Moharana, bearing Khata No.: 320 Plot No.: 1634, Measuring Area: Ac. 0.08 Dec., Plot No. 1636, Measuring Area: Ac. 0.02 Dec. and Plot No.: 1637 Measuring Area: Ac. 0.08 Dec. (Total Area: Ac. 0.18 Dec.)

Maharana, S/o: Bhikari Charan Moharana, All are At: Nua, PO: Antara, Via: Simulia, Dist: Balasore - 756134 at Mouza: Nua, P.O.: Antara, Via: Simulia, Tahasil: Khaira, No.: 153, Dist.: Balasore.

BHADRAK-1 BRANCH / Borrower: All the Legal Heirs of Borrower Late Prafulla Kumar Nayak are: 1) Sneha Prabha Nayak, 2) Amar Kumar Nayak, 3) Samar Kumar Navak, 4) Bhamar Kumar Nayak all are At: Sabarang, PO:

Atto, Dist: Bhadrak, Odisha BHADRAK-1 BRANCH / Borrower: Dharitri Trading Agency, At:

as on 31.05.2021 + interest thereon | 04.10.2021 | the name of Mr. Pawan AK-163, Saltlake City, Near Tank No. 08, Sector-2, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, Kumar Bagaria, over MS Khata No. 433, Plot No. West Bengal, Partners: Mr. Pawan 830, Ac. 0.03 dec land and G+3 storied building, Kumar Bagaria, S/o: Late Nandlal Mouza: Isafpur (Chandan Bazar), Bhadrak, 2) Existing Bagaria, Mrs. Gayatri Devi Bagaria, EM of freehold homestead land in the name of Mr.

W/o: Late Nandlal Bagaria, both are At: **Pawan Kumar Bagaria** & 848 sq.ft RCC building, Chandan Bazar, PS: Puruna Bazar, Po/ Khata No. 660/16 and Plot No. 960 & 961 of Area 4.3 Dist: Bhadrak-756100, Odisha dec at Mouza: Muruna, Dist: Balasore, **3)** EM of land /

Building held in the name of **Mrs. Gayatri Devi Bagaria** over Khata No. 410/31, Plot No. 844, 876,877 of Area Ac. 0.041 dec, Mouza: Isafpur (Chandan Bazar), Bhadrak, 4) EM of freehold land in the name of Late Santosh Kumar Bagaria at Khata No. 410/636, Plot No. 839,846, 847, 848, Area Ac. 0.23 dec, Mouza: Isafpur (Chandan Bazar), Bhadrak

as on 09.08.2020

BARUAN BRANCH Borrower: Mr. Jagabandhu Mallick. (Prop. of M/s. Laxmi Bhandar), At: Brahmanbachpur, PO: Haripur, Dist: Jajpur, Odisha-755009/ Guarantor: Mr. Nabakishore Mallick, S/o: Arjuni Mallick, At: Brahmanbachpur, PO: Haripur, Dist: Jajpur, Odisha-755009

KARANJIA-2 BRANCH /

Borrower: (All Legal Heirs of Borrower Late Anil Kumar Agarwalla, Prop. of M/s. Krishna Body Builders), 1) Smt. Sarita Agarwalla, W/o: Late Anil Kumar Agarwalla, 2) Sri Ashu Agarwalla, S/o: Late Anil Kumar Agarwall, 3) Sri Alok Agarwalla, S/o: Late Anil Kumar Agarwall, All are At: Ward No. 1, NH-49, Karanjia NAC, Dist: Mayurbhanj, Odisha-

Mallick, At: Brahmanbachpur, PO: Haripur, Dist: Jajpur, Odisha-755009, Area Ac. 0.095 Dec, Sabak Khata No. 214, Sabak Plot No. 428, Hal Khata No. 92, Hal Plot No 548, Mouza: Brahmanbachpur, Tahasil/Dist: Jajpur, Bounded by North: Bhagaban Sahoo, South: Rest of this Vendor, East: Nala, West: Madhusudan Patra ₹ 90,23,267.59 | 10.08.2020 | 1) Hypothecation of Stock as on 10.08.2020 / and Book Debts, Plant interest thereon 01.10.2021 and Machinary and fixture

and furniture, 2) EMG of Factory Land and Building at

₹6,71,253/- 25.11.2020 Land and Building in the

interest thereon 04.10.2021 Mallick, S/o: Arjuni

Plot No.853/1311, Khata No. 105/323, Kissam: Gharbari Area: Ac 0.46 dec at Mouza: Sarubali, SRO: Karanjia Tahasil: Karanjia, PS No. 49, District: Mayurbhanj in the name of Late Anil Kumar Agarwalla. Bounded by: North: Jaykrushna Mohanta, South: Kshetra Mohanta, East: NH Road, West: Road. 3) EMG of Land, Plot No.1621, Khata No.150/56, Area: Ac 1.34 dec Kissam: Gharbari

Bounded by East: Plot No.1622, West: Plot No.1620, North: Govt Land, South: Radhashyam Mohanta (Plot No. 1623), Mouza: Kenjhara, Tahasil: Jashipur, PS: Jashipur, Thana No. 32, SRO: Karanjia, Dist: Mayurbhanj in the name of Late Anil Kumar Agarwalla, 4) EMG of Land, Plot No.1517, Khata No.150/56, Area: Ac 1.00 dec Kissam: Gharbari, Bounded by East: Kalia Nayak & others, West: Agnu Mohanta, North: Surendra Parial and South: Govt Land, Mouza: Kenjhara, Tahasil: Jashipur, PS: Jashipur Thana No. 32, SRO: Karanjia, Dist: Mayurbhanj in the name of **Late**

Place: Balasore, Date: 06.10.2021

Sd/- Authorised Officer

DISTINCT DURGA PUJA

POST NEW NETWORK

Balasore, Oct 6: An influential family of Barabati locality in Balasore district has kept alive a 224 year old tradition of 'Ghata puja. But the family has been worshipping idol of Goddess Durga for 160 years. This is said to be the oldest Durga puja in the district. People lovingly have christened the ritual as 'Karghara Durga puja.

It is said that the process of worship observed by the Kar family here has its own distinct tradition and character.

Legend has it that ancestors of Kar family were from Mayapur and Burdwan in West Bengal. They were a mercantile family. Their ancestors were upset over the oppressive and tyrannical administration by Muslim subedars and Marathas and decided to shift elsewhere. Panchanan Kar, a member of the Kara family was a resident of Sahajabad in West Bengal. In 1697 he went into maritime trade with boats and barges. He had commercial interests with Barabati locality in the district. So he took a decision to leave Bengal for good and settle down with his family in Barabati. With time, the maritime business grew with countries like Indonesia and Brahmadesh (now Myanmar).

The family grew prosperous. In 1798, the Kar family initiated the ghata puja (worshipping pitchers as representative form of Goddess Durga) at their Devibadi building in Barabati area. As time passed by they became one of the most influ-

ential business families in the town. The family spread the business interests in other areas like Soro, Bhadrak, Chandbali, Chhanua and Chatrukhunta. They bought vast plots of land and soon came to be known as 'zamidars'. The family



had 20 boats and barges operating on the seas. By 1822, the Kar family was owner of 14.500 acres of land at different places. Under their zamindari, they had 27,000 farmer tenants working for them.

The family believed that their huge business empire and massive property required protection of divine power. They decided to conduct Shakti puja. They consulted with priests and seers in this regard. In 1822, the family bought idols of Hara, Parbati, Laxmi, Saraswati, Ganesh and Kartik - all made of brass. They started observing puja with much pomp and splendour. With the passage of time other reputed families of this town like the Debs, Das's and Mandals ioined the Kars in worshipping the deities.

In 1862, pitchers and brass idols of other deities and Goddess Durga were worshiped on the verandah of the residence of the Kar family. However, then a feud broke out between the Kar family and the others and they parted ways

Unique puja style

Devi Durga is worshipped along with Hara-Parbati. Other deities like Ganesh, Kartik, Saraswati and Laxmi are also worshiped along with Goddess Durga. Soil is collected and idol making starts on an auspicious day.

On Saptami, pitchers of water are lifted from Budhabalanga river for the puja. Seven priests (Pradhan acharya, Pustakacharya, Chandi, Hota, Japa, Tulasi and Pujak) are engaged in the water lifting ritual.

Ashtami and Sandhi Puja are observed with pomp. A total of 50kg of rice, five quintal of wood and 20kg of pure ghee are used during the Sandhi Puja.

A new ritual has been added to those already being observed in the last few years. Women of the family now indulge in 'sindoor khela' (application of vermillion on the face and hair) after immersion of the idols in the river. As per tradition, even if Bijaya Dashami falls on a Thursday, the family immerse the idol that day itself.

STF seizes leopard hide, one arrested

POST NEW NETWORK

Baliguda, Oct 6: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch Wednesday seized a leopard hide following a raid near Siptiguda village under Baliguda Wildlife Range in Kandhamal district. The STF also arrested a trader who dealt in wild animal

The anti-smuggling squad had received reliable inputs that the accused was negotiating with a party to sell the leopard hide. Swinging into action, the STF personnel conducted a raid with the help of forest department of-

ficials of Baliguda in the morning. The arrested man was identified as Bidyadhar Nayak from Hatapada Sahi under Baliguda block in Kandhamal district, an official said. Following a thorough search, several incriminating instruments were seized from the possession of Bidyadhar. As the accused could not produce any valid document in support of possessing the leopard skin, he was handed over to the forest department for due legal action.



Later in the day, Bidyadhar was produced in local court. During a special drive that started in 2020 against wildlife criminals and poachers, the STF has so far seized 16 leopard hides, nine elephant tusks, two deer hides, four live pangolins and 15 kilogram of pangolin scales and arrested 33 wildlife criminals, the official informed.



We must watch over our thoughts. A bad thought is the most dangerous of thieves

THE MOTHER



Daron Acemoglu

When economic

opportunities

are so scarce,

get-rich-quick

especially alluring

schemes

become

Bitcoin fountainhead

ith the price of Bitcoin reaching new highs, and El Salvador and Cuba deciding to accept it as legal tender, cryptocurrencies are here to stay. What implications will this have for money and politics? Money depends on trust. It is accepted in exchange for goods and services only because people can confidently assume that others will accept it in the future. This is as true for the US dollar as it is for gold. To argue that cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin are merely a confidence game – or a speculative bubble, as many economists have emphasised – is to ignore their

And yet, cryptocurrencies lack the stable institutional foundations needed to bolster the public's trust in them. Trust thus ebbs and flows, making them fragile and volatile, as Bitcoin's wild gyrations have amply demon-

Moreover, with Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies that rely on 'proofof-work' mechanisms, transactions must be continuously verified and logged in a decentralised ledger (in this instance based on blockchain). This requires millions of computers to operate continuously to update and verify transactions - work that is incentivised by the opportunity to be rewarded with newly minted Bitcoin.

The energy consumed in these 'mining' operations now exceeds that of a medium-sized country like Malaysia or Sweden. Now that the world has awoken to the dangers of climate change (and to the paltriness of our response to it so far), this massive waste should make Bitcoin highly unattractive.

And yet, despite its volatility, fragility, and massive carbon footprint, five factors have conspired to make Bitcoin an attractive proposition to many people: its political narrative; the criminal activities it enables; the seigniorage it distributes; the techno-optimism of the current age; and the desire to get rich quick at a time when few other economic opportunities beckon. Let's consider each in turn, going in reverse order.

We live in an era of dwindling economic prospects. Even workers with a college degree can no longer count on securing a stable job with good and rising pay. When economic opportunities are so scarce, get-rich-quick schemes become especially alluring. Not surprisingly, there is now an entire industry dedicated to telling people that they, too, can strike gold by investing in Bitcoin. Money has been pouring into the cryptocurrency because millions

of people in the United States and around the world think they can realise significant returns from it.

The narrative of massive returns for amateur and retail investors from a cryptocurrency is in keeping with our technology-obsessed age. We are constantly being told that technological ingenuity is creating a brighter future. And on the surface, there is no denying that Bitcoin is a marvel of technological innovation. It took genuine creativity and mastery to create such an intricate decentralised system, capable of functioning without any oversight or government enforcement.

Seigniorage, or the additional purchasing power conferred (typically to governments) by control of the money supply, is another factor in Bitcoin's appeal. When the US government puts new currency into circulation, it can use it to purchase services or pay its debt. The prospect of gaining seigniorage is very attractive, and probably helps to explain why there are now more than 1,600 listed cryptocurrencies. In the case of Bitcoin, the absence of a centralised authority means that seigniorage is distributed, thus providing an incentive for mining efforts (which are now being conducted by more than a million people around the world).

A dedicated source of demand can help a new currency establish a reliable footing. For cryptocurrencies in general, and for Bitcoin in particular, this anchor is planted firmly in the criminal world. In its early days, demand for Bitcoin was boosted by dark-web sites such as Silk Road, which enabled all sorts of illicit transactions. To this day, criminal activities account for almost half of Bitcoin transactions, by some estimates.

Each of these four factors has boosted Bitcoin artificially. Obviously, our society's economic ills will not be solved by people making money from Bitcoin. Nor has the prevailing techno-optimist mood been borne out in the real world. And whatever benefits there are from distributing seigniorage via mining, they are more than offset by the massive waste of energy. That leaves the political argument for Bitcoin. Will it liberate us from undue state power over the economy? Not really.

True, the US Federal Reserve sometimes acts in mysterious ways, and the Wall Street bailout during the 2008 financial crisis was rightly seen as an inside job that benefited banks and bankers at the expense of ordinary people. The desire to reduce politicians and policymakers' excessive power is

But Bitcoin is not the answer. It appeals to a puerile libertarian ideology in which a lone genius battles an overweening state to liberate individual excellence. Indeed, the real-world person – or persons – who designed Bitcoin and wrote its inspiring manifesto under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto is even more deserving of the 'visionary' label than the fictional John Galt (the hero of Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged).

Yet the vision itself is pure fantasy. The risk of Western governments producing runaway inflation or undermining the international monetary system is vanishingly small. The real existential threat today lies in political polarisation, the unraveling of democracy, and democratic political systems' inability to keep economic elites and authoritarian politicians in check.

A new currency will not solve these problems. What are needed are measures to ensure that politicians, bureaucrats, and Silicon Valley and Wall Street tycoons act responsibly This requires democratic participation and active civic engagement. Gimmicks like Bitcoin are a distraction from the real work that must be done

The writer is Professor of Economics at MIT.

WISDOM CORNER

The true delight is in the finding out rather than in the knowing.

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can

A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes

Shoplifter caught

and we forget about this?'

shoplifter was caught red-Ahanded trying to steal a watch from an exclusive jewellery store. "Listen," said the shoplifter, "I know vou don't want any trouble either. What do you say I just buy the watch



agreed and wrote up the sales slip. The crook looked at the slip and said, "This is a little more than I intended to spend. Can you show me something less expensive?"

FOCUS ODISHA

DISMAL STATE OF FARMERS



Mosharaf Hossain

BOOSTING THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE IS INDISPENSABLE TO IMPROVE THE FOOD SECURITY OF THE STATE

eleased this September by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the NSS 77th round on the Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households (SAS) survey results are insightful for the farm sector in many ways; more so for a state like Odisha where agriculture makes about 18 per cent contribution to the state's GDP. The survey findings put on the table several facets of sectoral challenges. The last such assessment was exercised in 2013.

The survey found that in Odisha, the percentage of farm households as a share of total rural households is 59 per cent and about 48.5 per cent of rural households are self-employed in agriculture that includes crop production, livestock, and other agricultural activities. However, crop production remains the main avenue for self-employment and a negligible proportion of selfemployment in livestock (0.9 per cent) and other agricultural activities (0.1 per cent) indicates a slow-paced farm diversification. Landholding size is an important determinant of farm income but 93.9 per cent of agricultural households reported owning land of up to just two hectares. The average landholding size in the state in 2015-16 was 0.89 ha, significantly lower from 1.89 ha in 1970-71. The diminishing landholding size explains the trend of a growing number of landless labourers and a falling landowner count.

Doubling farmers' income is an ambitious development agenda and also a high-pitched slogan but the average monthly income of a farm household is just ₹5,112, registering a minuscule increment from ₹4,976 in 2013 and such low oncome paints a worrying picture as the average size of a farm household is 4.2. Moreover, it doesn't compare well with other agriculturally progressive states like Punjab (₹26,701), Haryana (₹22,841). Incomes from wages



The meagre farm income and unavoidable fragmentation of landholdings give a clarion call for augmentation of crop diversification, non-crop farming, and collectivised production and marketing arrangements

(51.8 per cent) and crop production (31 per cent) constitute a major portion of the monthly income. In comparison to Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra. the farming of animals in Odisha contributes considerably less (8.8 per cent) to the household income. Such statistics cast apprehension on achieving the aspirational goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

Timely credit availability at a reasonable interest rate is an enabler of farm growth. Though the average amount of outstanding loan per agricultural household in the state is one of the lowest in the country (₹32,721), the proportion of indebted agricultural households is 61.2 per cent (57.5 per cent in 2013) as against the national average of 50.2 per cent. Exasperatingly, 37.5 per cent of this outstanding loan was sourced from non-institutional sources which are usually exploitative in nature. Interestingly, 82.6 per cent of agricultural households with 4-10 ha of land are indebted compared to 67.2 per cent of those who own up to 2 ha land, contrasting the usual notion that higher indebtedness is specific to smaller farmers. While commercial banks and cooperatives are the dominant credit sources for all categories of farmers, marginal and small farmers consider SHGs as another major credit source.

MSP is a mechanism to pledge farmers a reasonable price for their produce. However, only 65.5 per cent of farm households are in the know of this price-guarantee scheme for paddy—the principal cereal crop in Kharif season, and 42.8 per cent households have the knowledge about designated procurement agency for sale, but barely 21.4 per cent of them could manage to sell at MSP. Crop diversification with the promotion of pulses is a policy priority of the

state government, though just 20-30 per cent of farm households are aware of the MSP for pulses. Sadly, none of those households have been able to sell pulses through a procurement agency. This glaring issue warrants an appropri ate resolution as the state aspires to become self-reliant in pulses.

To provide farmers a safety net in the event of crop damage resulting from climatic vulnera bility, the flagship programme— Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being keenly implemented in the state. However, during July-December, 2018, 87.1 per cent of paddy-growing households were left out of insurance cover and 10.7 per cent were insured only when they received farm-loan. The three major reasons for this poor coverage are: farmers are not aware of insurance, have no knowledge about from where to receive the facility, and their lack of interest in crop insurance. Among those insured paddy-growers just 40.8 per cent got insurance documents, rais ing concerns over the transparency of the process.

With 83 per cent of rural population and 62 per cent of 17.5 million workforce engaged in agriculture, it is a policy imperative that the farm sector in the state evolves and improves at an accelerated pace. The meagre farm income and unavoidable fragmentation of landholdings give a clarion call for augmentation of crop diversification, noncrop farming, and collectivised production and marketing arrangements. Enhanced access to MSP and PMFBY are important provisions but should serve the sector in a farmer-centric system. Boosting the economic viability of agriculture is indispensable to improve the food security of the state. It is high time we act on this fact.

> The writer is a Bhubaneswar-based agricultural economist. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM GOVERNANCE

The least bad option for Afghanistan



Richard Ponzio

TO HEAD OFF A **HUMANITARIAN** CRISIS, THE UN **SHOULD FACILITATE CONSENSUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE** TALIBAN, GLOBAL LEADERS, **REGIONAL POWERS, AND**

DONORS

General Assembly meeting in New York last month, the UN is being asked to take on an outsize role in Afghanistan. The Taliban are eagerly seeking international legitimacy, and global and regional powers should extend it but only when certain political and humanitarian conditions are met, in line with recent official statements and UN Security Council resolutions on Afghanistan.

The UN is well-placed to facilitate this process. During the past four decades of nearly continuous war in Afghanistan, the UN remained engaged. Thousands of dedicated UN staff assumed extraordinary risks to alleviate human suffering and, in the late 1990s, facilitate negotiations between the Taliban and their rivals. Today, given the West's almost non-existent political leverage with the group, the UN must resume its central role in promoting reconciliation, providing humanitarian aid, and encouraging development.

These functions will require additional structures, staffing, and resources. September 17, the Security Council approved a sixmonth extension of the current mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and asked UN Secretary-General António Guterres to provide "strategic and operational recommendations" for the mission's future by January

fter the United Nations 31, 2022. Looking ahead, the UN's role in Afghanistan should be expanded in at least five key areas.

First, in support of the Security

Council's recent call for "an Afghanled. Afghan-owned process of national reconciliation," the UN must provide its good offices to all of the conflicting parties. The UN can serve as an impartial and experienced adviser in the effort to form a more diverse, broad-based government, owing to its long track record of working with governments and non-governmental peacemaking organisations in the region. The UN's role in implementing the Bonn Agreement to form a new government in Afghanistan in 2001-05 offers a framework that can guide this process. Guterres Personal Envoy on Afghanistan and Regional Issues, Jean Arnault, was a deputy to renowned UN troubleshooter Lakhdar Brahimi, who played a central role in the Bonn Agreement negotiations

Second, to head off a humanitarian crisis, the UN should facilitate consensus and constructive engagement between the Taliban, global leaders, regional powers, and donors. The recent wars in Afghanistan all have had a prominent international component, and basic security and stability - not to mention something resembling a durable peace – are unlikely without the cooperation of the country's neighbours and the permanent members of the Security Council. Third, the UN mandate should

include regular monitoring and reporting to the Security Council on critical human rights issues. nition and aid for Afghanistan that they reportedly desire, the Taliban will need to comply with a set of internationally agreed political and humanitarian conditions. These conditions could include progress toward an inclusive and representative government, measures to prevent the return of international terrorist organisations, and steps to protect civilians. Fourth, the UN can help coor-

dinate medical relief, food aid, and other donations. In her briefing to the Security Council in August, UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Deborah Lyons noted that 18.5 million Afghans - nearly half of the country's population require humanitarian assistance. Recognising this alarming trend, which is compounded by drought and the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN convened a high-level ministerial meeting on Afghanistan's humanitarian situation in Geneva September 13 at which governments pledged more than \$1.2 billion in aid.

Finally, the UN has a critical role in organising the international development assistance that will be key for building Afghanistan's future. The goal of this assistance

should be maintaining the delivery of basic public services, including healthcare, education, and power generation. With bilateral aid likely to decline, the UN could serve as a To receive the international recog- chief oversight body and conduit of international assistance through emergency trust funds.

In reflecting on his UN leadership role in overseeing the Bonn Agreement, Brahimi remarked: 'One of my own biggest mistakes was not to speak to the Taliban in 2002 and 2003 ... we should have spoken to those who were willing to speak to us." The international community must not make this mistake again. Even the Taliban know that the country they now control is far different from the one they ruled until 2001.

With some encouragement from the UN, perhaps the Taliban can be persuaded to work with a new, educated generation of Afghans to embark on a development path that leads away from brutal violence, exploitative corruption, and widespread deprivation. In the near term, such an approach represents the least bad option for the international community and, above all, for the Afghan people.

The writer is Director of the Global Governance, Justice & Security Programme at the Stimson Centre.

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TO THE EDITOR

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

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Plutocrats exposed

Sir, After Panama Papers and Paradise Papers, now emerged the Pandora Papers. The Pandora Papers is a leak of almost 12 million documents that reveal hidden wealth, tax avoidance and, in some cases, money-laundering by some of the world's rich and powerful. The data was obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) in Washington DC, which has been working with more than 140 media organisations on its biggest ever global investigation. The files expose how some of the most powerful people in the world including more than 330 politicians from 90 countries - use secret offshore companies to hide their wealth. According to the report, many of the accounts were designed to evade taxes and conceal assets. Names of more than 300 wealthy Indians, including businesspersons, have figured in the Pandora Papers. The findings by the ICIJ and its media partners highlight how deeply secretive finance has infiltrated global politics and offer insights into why governments and global organisations have made little headway in ending offshore financial abuse. Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Festival care

Sir, Ever since the pandemic broke out, Indians have been sceptical about performing festival rituals; the anxiety and apprehension stemming from the possibility of overcrowding. Fortunately, Ganesh Chaturthi went off uneventfully. As compared to last year, a few states had relaxed their lockdown norms, so paying obeisance to the deity wasn't that tough. Similarly, a few states had eased rigid restrictions on the conduct of the festival. In Maharashtra, where Ganapati festival is observed with pomp and gaiety, it helped that the public pandals were banned because that way people gathering together at a place was averted. However, at some places, there was a mad rush to buy idols of the deity. Fortunately, these small congregations have not acted as super-spreaders. Coming to Dussehra and Diwali, maintaining social-distancing is quite tough during these festivities. Children, who are allured by firecrackers, are at the risk of contracting infections if adequate caution is not exercised by parents. Having said all this, the major worry during the festival season lies in travel. All modes of transport will be teeming with people. It is here that the authorities have to tighten their grip on proper scrutiny. The general idea that the virus has lost its steam has emboldened some states to allow more than that is required for a safe and secure life. A few months of caution is all that is required to secure lives. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

2 Dhenkanal reserve forests in Satkosia sanctuary soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Oct 6: A proposal has been submitted to the state government to include Kandhara and Nandinia reserve forests (under Hindol range) as part of Satkosia tiger corridor in Angul district. Besides, an initiative has been taken to start a safari in Kapilash

A proposal has been sent to the government to include Kandhara and Nandinia reserve forests of **Dhenkanal in the Satkosia** sanctuary. Safari programme will be launched in Kapilash sanctuary soon while vehicles will be arranged for

PRAKASH GOGINENI I DFO, DHENKANAL

According to reports, if the state government approves the proposal, the two reserve forests will be made part of the Satkosia sanctuary. The forest department has identified

CONSERVATION OF BIG CATS



the reserve forests as a tiger

Sources from Dhenkanal forest division said, in order to ensure safety and give big cats a wider range for movement, the Satkosia divisional forest officer has given this proposal to the state government.

Meanwhile, the forest department has initiated the process for

counting of tigers in Dhenkanal district in the current year. It was learnt that there are seven leopards in different reserve forests of the district.

Pictures of big cats and their movement have been captured in trap cameras fixed in various forests. As many as 60 trap cameras have been installed in reserve forests. However, three of the cameras have been stolen. It is suspected that poachers might have stolen the trap cameras to carry on their illegal activities without any

The forest department has started an investigation into the matter. Meanwhile, the forest department has started its first phase of training progamme for forest officials to be engaged in the tiger census. It was said after all preparations are put in place, the tiger census will be started from next year.

The forest department has been working to provide safe and wider

The forest department has initiated the process for counting of tigers in Dhenkanal district in the current year. It was learnt that there are seven leopards in different reserve forests of the district

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environment for growth of tigers and other wildlife population in the district. As part of this exercise, the department has started work on measures to increase population of herbivorous animals, which are major source of food for big cats. Varieties of grass will be grown in forests for herbivores to proliferate.

Besides, before summer the department will dig up ponds and water bodies inside reserve forests to ensure water for wildlife. n the

other hand, the forest department

intensified patrolling in forested

areas to ward off poaching activ-

ities while trap cameras are being checked for pictures every month.

In Kapilash sanctuary, the department will make arrangements for tourists to visit the area spread over 10 sq/km inside the Kapilash sanctuary.

DFO Prakash Gogineni said a proposal has been sent to the government to include Kandhara and Nandinia reserve forests of Dhenkanal in the Satkosia sanctuary. He also added that safari programme will be launched in Kapilash sanctuary soon while vehicles will be arranged for the purpose.



Youth critical in LPG cylinder blast

Baripada, Oct 6: A youth sustained critical burn injuries in an LPG cylinder blast at Bhanjapur under Baripada Town police limits in Mayurbhanj on Wednesday.

The injured was identified as Sritam Panigrahi in the area. On being informed, neighbours rushed him to Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and hospital in the town. Doctors said he has sustained over 90 per cent burn injuries and is under observation after administration of treatment

Sources said, Sritam was cooking on a gas stove in the morning. Meanwhile, the cylinder burst all of a sudden. As a result, he sustained critical burn injuries in his body Police registered a case and launched an investigation at the spot



The campus of the North Odisha

University is spread over 14.50

acres at Keonjhar. Post graduation

and MPhil programmes in Odia,

English, Sanskrit, Geology and

Physics are offered to students

the campus are operated from

Baripada. "Commuting on buses

from Keonjhar to Baripada is not

convenient while the travel time is

eight to 10 hours. Students and the

college authorities have been fac-

ing a lot of problems while dealing

they are not working properly.

In view of all such problems,

all the colleges in the district should

be brought under a university.

Hence, there is a need for a tribal

university as one third of the pop-

ulation of the district are tribals,

lished, students will pursue higher

studies and research. Recently, a

BJP delegation sought a central

university in the district.

If the tribal university is estab-

they pointed out.

Father denies Avin's role in rave party

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 6: After the names of two Odias -- Manish Udaya Rajgaria, 26, from Rourkela and Avin Dinanath Sahu, 30, of Raghunathpalli of Sundargarh district -- surfaced in the sensational rave party in a cruise ship involving Aryan Khan, son of Hindi film actor Shah Rukh Khan in Mumbai October 2, Sahu's father Dina Sahu Wednesday denied his son's involvement in the drug party.

Avin has a jewelry shop at Ringroad Taxi Stand in Rourkele while Manish Udaya Rajgaria has a sponge iron plant at Raghunathpalli.

Avin's father said, "As festival season set in, his son had gone to Mumbai two weeks ago to purchase jewelry. He travels to Dubai. Mumbai, Amritsar and other places to buy jewellery items.

His father and other family mem-

His family members claimed that Avin did not take drugs. While in Mumbai, Avin was accompanied by some of his friends to attend a separate bachelors' party in the cruise ship

bers claimed that Avin did not take drugs. "While in Mumbai, Avin was accompanied by some of his friends to attend a separate bachelors' party in the cruise ship. When he came to know that Aryan is in the ship, he was waiting to take a selfie with Aryan. At this time, NCB team conducted a raid all off a sudden. Avin and Manish were caught in the mess," his

He also said that as his son was



caught without any base, he would take legal recourse.

Similarly, Udaya Rajgaria, father of Manish Udaya Rajgaria, said his son had gone to Mumbai several times in the past to attend bachelors' parties.

The NCB lawyer reportedly

Abina were on the cruise as guests. The NCB officials seized 2.4 grams of ganja from the possession of Manish while Sahu confessed to have consumed ganja twice on board.

The arrest of the two has set various circles abuzz about their alleged drug consumption.

varsity for Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 6: Five legislators of tribal-dominated Keonjhar district have demanded establishment of a tribal university in the district. They have drawn attention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to their demand in a letter.

They stated there are 48 colleges in the districts which were under Utkal University. In 1998, these colleges were brought under North Odisha University at Baripada which is 180 km from the district headquarters.

As distance became a problem for students, the second campus of the North Odisha University was set up in Keonjhar in 2015.

They said the second campus of the north Odisha university be made a full-fledged university.

Ghasipura MLA Badrinarayan Patra, Telkoi MLA Premananda Nayak, Anandapur MLA Bhagirathi Sethi, Patana MLA Jagannath Navak and Champua MLA Minakhi Mohant have cited various problems faced by students in the absence of a full-fledged university.

Legislators seek tribal Ripples of scam in farm ponds

POST NEWS NETWORK

Badagaon, Oct 6: Lakhs of rupees have allegedly been misappropriated by showing old farm ponds in Barangakachhar panchayat under Badagaon block in Sundargarh district, a report

soil conservation department had sanctioned a farm pond to Kumarmani Sa of Mundagoan in 2010. This pond was shown as a new project in official papers while wags of the job card holders have been embezzled.

with official works by traveling to As per information available the distant place," they observed. from the website on MGNREGS. Rs 41,886 has been paid to labour-They also said that courses via ers engaged in the farm pond of distance education are offered, but Kumarmani.

When asked about it, Kumarmani, the farm pond beneficiary, said the pond sanctioned by the soil conservation department was dug up 10 years ago.

"A few days ago, two officials came to my pond and got the banks of the pond cleaned. Then, they took my photograph near the pond. I heard that the farm pond was sanctioned in my name again. Wages of labourers have

As per information available from the website on MGNREGS, Rs 41,886 has been paid to labourers engaged in the farm pond of Kumarmani

Many other labourers whose names have been enlisted in the muster roll have denied working in the excavation of the farm pond

n another case, Rs 98, 646 sanctioned for a farm pond in the name of another beneficiary Janmejay Rautia has been embezzled in February, 2021

been embezzled even though the pond has not been excavated,' he added. Manoj Chudia, a resident of Mudangoan, has been enlisted as a daily wager in the muster roll prepared for Kumarmani's farm pond excavation.

When asked about it, Manoj said he has never worked in the pond excavation. Wage was credited into his account, he said, adding that Prakash Nayak of his village withdrew wage from his account after paying him

only Rs 200. Many other labourers whose names have been enlisted in the muster roll have denied working in the excavation of the farm pond. In another case, Rs 98, 646 sanctioned for a farm pond in the name of another beneficiary Janmejay Rautia has been embezzled. The project was sanctioned in February, 2021. The amount was shown as wages of labourers engaged in the pond excavation.

It was learnt that wages of 24 days in the name of Kruti Dharua; 12 days in the name of Dhanu Dharua and 24 days in the name of Prafulla Dansana have been misappropriated.

When asked about the wages, all the daily wagers denied having worked in any pond excavation. When contacted, Dhaneswar Munda, an official of the watershed department, said the matter will be investigated.

Teacher held for rape of minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairangpur, Oct 6: Police arrested a teacher on charge of outraging_ the modesty of a minor girl on pretext of marriage under Rairangpur Rural Police limits in Mayurbhani district. Wednesday.

The accused was identified as Ariun Kumar Soren, 30, of Barang village under Ramchandrapur police limits in Keonjhar district, SI Madhusudan Dutta of Rairangpur Rural police station said. Soren was arrested over a complaint by the survivor's family. A case was registered in this connection and the accused produced in court after a medical examination was conducted on him and the survivor.

Police said Soren came in contact with the girl and expressed his love for her. Later, he forced for physical relationship on the pretext of marriage. However, he soon went back on his promise and tried to evade the girl, the SI added.



Human skeleton recovered, murder suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, Oct 6: Police recovered a human skeleton in Gandhalpada forest under Rugudi police limits in Keonihar Wednesday. The skeleton was sent to forensic medicine department in Cuttack for post mortem. It is suspected that the man might have been killed and his body dumped in the forest

However, the identity of the deceased has not been established.

It was learnt that a person of Gulai Chhak was missing a month ago. His family members were called to the forest to identify the body. However, the family members failed to confirm his identity on the basis of his trousers and belt. Given circumstantial evidence, police suspected it to be a murder and started an investigation after registering a case.

Five planning to rob filling station held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 6: Police have averted a major robbery bid in Berhampur by arresting five people Tuesday night. At a desolate place near Gurunthi Road Panimahabrabhu, the five were planning to commit the robbery

Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid in the area in the wee hours of Wednesday. They arrested the five- identified as K Mohana Rao (35), Tarini Das of Lochapada Ramkrsuhnanagar, Druba Sahu (23) of Jhadankuli, Kuna Gouda (25) of Lathi Gouda Sahi, Ajit Swain (21) of Digapahandi.

In a press note, ASP Prabhat Routray said police seized two swords, two iron rods and four bombs from them.

A case had been registered against the five. The accused were produced in court Wednesday.

Police said, there are several cases pending at different police stations against them. During interrogation, the accused admitted that they were planning to rob a petrol pump.



Mayurbhanj Collector Vineet Bhardwaj (extreme left) and senior civic body officials distributing food to sanitary workers and Swacch Sathis at a programme to ensure better cleanliness in Baripada town, Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

civilians by terrorists.

Pandit community and some

Jammu-based outfits staged anti-

Pakistan protests here Wednesday

over the killing of businessman

Makhan Lal Bindroo and two other

They demanded enhanced se-

curity for the Kashmiri Pandit

community. Activists of the Youth

All India Kashmiri Samaj (YAIKS)

led by its president RK Bhat staged

a protest in Jammu over the killings

and raised slogans against Pakistan.

punishment for culprits. This is a

move to scuttle the plan of return

and rehabilitation of Kashmiri

Hindus back in the valley," Bhat told

He said that Pakistan is the epi-

reporters here.

"We demand justice. We demand

Kashmiri Pandits hold

3 CIVILIANS KILLED IN 3 HOURS

Message killings not acts of frustration

IN THE BACKGROUND OF THESE MESSAGE KILLINGS. IT IS CLEAR THAT UNLESS THE SECURITY OF THOSE LIVING IN THE VALLEY IS ENSURED. TRYING TO WOO THE KASHMIRI PANDIT MIGRANTS BACK WOULD BE ASKING FOR TOO MUCH

Terrorists entered the shop and

Doctors at the hospital said he

had sustained four critical bullet

wounds and had died en route to the

Bindroo's murder is no ordi-

nary revenge killing. This brazen

act of terrorism has occurred at a

time when the government of India

has announced an ambitious plan

to retrieve the properties of

Kashmiri Pandits who had sold

these properties in distress while

For the time during the last 30

years something tangible was being

done to bring back the migrant

fleeing the Valley.

fired at him from close range.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 6: Three civilian killings in less than three hours of each other in Kashmir Tuesday cannot be dismissed as yet 'another act of frustration by terrorists'.

These are message killings whose import on the developing security and political situation in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be wished away.

Charity must begin at home. So must the safety of innocent citizens in Kashmir before we intend to bring back thousands of Kashmiri Pandits who were forced out of their homes nearly 31 years ago through terror acts like those of

Makhan Lal Bindroo was a re spected and trusted man for all those who bought medicines from his shop, 'Bindroo Medicate' near the Iqbal Park in Srinagar city.

When the majority of Bindroo's community including his relatives and friends migrated out of the valley in early 1990s, Bindroo stood his ground.

He continued to sell medicines at his shop which was then located at the top end of the Hari Singh High street in Srinagar.

There was a security force bunker some distance away from Bindroo's shop. Militants hurled grenades and fired at the bunker more than a dozen times during militancy. Bindroo remained undeterred.



Family members of ML Bindroo grieve near his body in Srinagar, Wednesday. Bindroo was shot dead by militants near his shop Tuesday.

He was a common Kashmiri who was living a normal life without messing around with anything else. Long years of having lived and survived normally added to Bindroo's confidence that he had nothing to fear.

He shifted his business to a bigger shop outside the Iqbal Park in Srinagar: His wife started assisting him during peak hours to dispense medicine to the needy.

His doctor son had also set up a clinic in the first floor of the same shop where he treated patients.

It was a rather dull, sleepy autumn Tuesday evening when Bindroo was behind his counter with hardly a customer around.

By murdering an innocent Kashmiri Pandit, who had neither migrated nor cast his lot with thousands of his community members terrorists intended to send a powerful message to the community.

How the government restores an already shaken confidence of the migrant community will have to be

The second civilian killing Tuesday was of a street vendor belonging to Bihar. The poor fellow sold Bhelpuri by the roadside in the Lal Bazaar area of Srinagar.

He was killed by the terrorists to assert their nefarious design of not allowing outsiders to settle in Kashmir after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. The third civilian killing happened in north Kashmir Bandipora district.

Muhammad Shafi Lone of Shah Mohalla was killed by the terrorists within less than three hours of Bindroo's murder.

Lone was a taxi driver who had recently been chosen as the president of Sumo taxi drivers union.

Rumours in the area said some years back there had been an encounter at Lone's home in which some terrorists were killed.

Rumours said the terrorists suspected Lone to have tipped off the security forces about the presence

Whether the rumour is credible or not, there is hardly any doubt

'Fake narrative of normalcy in tatters'

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Wednesday said the recent spate of civilian killings in Kashmir lays in 'tatters' the Centre's 'fake narrative' of normalcy in the Valley. Three civilians, including Kashmiri pandit Makhan Lal Bindroo, owner of Srinagar's prominent pharmacy, were shot dead by suspected militants Tuesday in separate incidents in Srinagar and Bandipora districts of Jammu and Kashmir. "With the recent spate of civilian killings in Kashmir GOIs fake narrative of normalcy lies in tatters. An utterly desensitised govt that has devalued human lives & pushed J&K into further peril & chaos by its ruthless policies of collective punishment all in the garb of security," Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.

about why the terrorist killed Lone. Killing on mere suspicion has been the hallmark of terrorists in Kashmir.

In the background of these message killings, it is clear that unless the security of those living in the Valley is ensured, trying to woo the Kashmiri Pandit migrants back would be asking for too much.

anti-Pakistan protests protest and demanded justice for the Bindroo family. They alleged Jammu, Oct 6: Several organisathat several members of the comtions representing the Kashmiri munity were killed by terrorists in

> but the government has failed to protect them. Bindroo, a Kashmiri Pandit, was gunned down by terrorists at his

pharmacy in Srinagar Tuesday.

Kashmir in the past few months,

Activists of the Shiv Sena and the Dogra Front took out rallies in Jammu in protest against the killings. They raised anti-Pakistan slogans and burnt a flag of Pakistan.

"The government must deal with terrorists, their supporters within Kashmir with an iron hand before dealing with Pakistan. Justice should be delivered," Shiv Sena leader Ashok Gupta said. These terror attacks are aimed at derailing the plan of the government to resettle Kashmiri Pandits back in the Kashmir Valley, he said.

centre of terrorism in Kashmir and it needs to be dealt with sternly. Activists of the Rashtriya Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits Bajrang Dal and the KP Sabha also held protests.



'Every day we have to hear Delhi govt matters only?': SC

New Delhi, Oct 6: The Supreme Court reacted sharply as the AAP government Wednesday sought again an urgent hearing on its plea against the amended Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act, passed by the Parliament in March this year.

As senior advocate AM Singhvi, representing the Delhi government, submitted before a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli that the plea may be listed for hearing, the court said that the day before, a lawyer mentioned the Delhi-Centre case

Every day, we have to hear the Delhi government matter only? We will list it, Mr Singhvi, leave it

The bench said it will put the matter before an appropriate bench. The Delhi government plea also challenges some provisions of the Transaction of Business Rules. which allegedly hands over more power to the Lt Governor.

Singhvi cited the distinction between the case mentioned by him



and the other matter which was mentioned Tuesday by senior advocate Rahul Mehra, saving that he was referring to writ petition which pertains to Article 239AA (status of Delhi under the Constitution) and challenged the GNCTD Act and 13 Rules of the Transaction of Business of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993.

September 13, the top court had agreed to list the matter. The Delhi government has moved the top court seeking quashing of the four amended sections of the GNCTD

grounds, arguing that the amended sections violate the doctrine of basic structure, separation of power, as the Lt Governor has been bestowed with more authority than the elected government.

The Delhi government, Tuesday, had sought urgent hearing on another plea, arising out of a 2019 split verdict on the contentious issue of who should control administrative services in Delhi. The top court had said that it would constitute a bench for it after Diwali vacation.

Delhi's peak power demand inches past that of 2019, 2020

APART FROM THE UNLOCKING AND RESUMPTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES. WEATHER ALSO HAS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE CITY'S POWER DEMAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: With phased unlocking and resumption of economic activities, Delhi's peak power demand inched past that of 2020, discom officials said.

This year, between July and September, Delhi's peak power demand was 53 per cent higher in comparison with the corresponding days of 2020 and 34 per cent more than 2019, discom officials said.

The process to resume economic activities that were shut down due to the second wave of COVID 19, began in Delhi by the end of May, allowing manufacturing and construction work with certain guidelines

In the following days, transport facilities, shops, markets, offices and other such activities were restarted in a phased manner by Delhi government in view of the impact of the Covid-induced lockdown on

Apart from the unlocking and resumption of economic activities, weather also has had a profound impact on the city's power demand,



Analysing on a monthly basis, Delhi's peak power demand was 70 per cent higher than on corresponding days in 2020.

On the other hand, on account of the rainy season, the peak power demand in September 2021 has been lower than that of September 2020 on most corresponding days, officials said.

Earlier July 2 this year, Delhi's peak power demand had clocked this season's highest at 7,323 MW. In fact, this was only the third year in Delhi's power history that the

Quantum leap for J&K's culture, tourism & economy

peak power demand crossed 7,000 MW. they said.

In 2018, the peak power demand had crossed the 7,000 MW for the first time, clocking 7,016 MW.

In 2019, it reached 7,409 MW. In 2020, Delhi's season's highest peak power demand had only clocked 6,314 MW.

The peak power demand in August 2021 was 14 per cent more than the peak power demand of August 2020 and 1.18 percent more than the peak power demand of August 2019, they added.

This year, between July and September, Delhi's peak power demand was 53 per cent higher in comparison with corresponding days of 2020 and 34 per cent more than 2019

The BSES discoms are fully geared-up and sourcing adequate electricity to meet the power demand to serve over 4.5 million consumers and 18 million residents in South, West, East and Central Delhi, including essential services such as hospitals, labs, quarantine centres, vaccination centres, said a spokesperson of the discom.

Apart from a robust distribution network and accurate loadforecasting, BSES discoms have also made proper arrangement, including long-term power purchase agreements and banking to meet the electricity demands of Delhi, he added.

Delhi to run anti-dust campaign from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Oct 6: Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai Wednesday said the city government will run a campaign from October 7 to 29 to curb dust pollution. The minister also said the gov-

ernment will launch a web portal for monitoring compliance of dust control guidelines Thursday. Rai said 31 teams, including 17 of the Delhi Pollution Control

Committee and 14 of green marshals, have been constituted to conduct inspections at construction sites and monitor the situation. The Delhi government had ear-

lier issued 14-point guidelines for construction and demolition agencies to curb dust pollution

"The project proponents found

violating the norms will be issued a show-cause notice. Action will be taken against them if they fail to reply within two days. A stop work order will be issued if they continue to violate the norms," Rai said.

According to the National Green Tribunal's guidelines, a fine ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹5 lakh can be imposed for violation of rules at construction sites.

Under the 14-point guidelines, construction sites should be covered from all sides using tin sheds. The sites measuring more than 20,000 square metres will have to deploy anti-smog guns.

Vehicles carrying construction material should also be covered. There should be no collection of construction and demolition (C&D) waste on the roadside.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 6: Jammu and Kashmir is home to a blend of rich and diverse cultures. People of multi-religious, ethnic, lingual identities live here. The UT prides itself on its fairs and festivals which have great cultural, traditional, and religious significance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a special interest in bringing Jammu and Kashmir to the mainstream and integrating it with the rest of India.

One rather famous fair of this season is the Mela of Sudhmahadev, known as the Kudd of Sudhmahadev, a four-day long major cultural event of Chenani (Udhampur, J&K). The traditions of Chenani are closely linked with its cultural and religious heritage. The festival begins with a series of religious rituals called Jattars. Kudd is the folk dance of the region performed around a bonfire at night during the harvest season to pay regard to the Kul Devi -Devtas (local deities).

Back in the day, the Kings of Chenani used to participate in this Kudd, as Sudhmahadev was their summer camp office. With them, Kudd was popularized far and wide. The season is very pleasant at this time with large fields of maize and seasonal crops ready to be cut. It is



said some evil entities called Zogans and Dyans harm the crops through rain, wind, storm, and unfavorable climate. To rid themselves of ill-effects the farmers show their gratitude to the Gods for the ripened crop and offer male sheep or goats in the hope to please Kul Devtas for prosperity and good yield of crops and protection from natural calamities. The picturesque Sudhmahadev and glories of Lord Shiva's blessings on the locals at Sudhmahadev are also a reason for celebration.

September 10, 2021. Celebration processions are car-

This year Kudd was held on

ried through the villages with leaders carrying symbolic Iron made weapons of deities on their shoulders. The followers carry burning wood torches, Jagara, in their hands through dense maize fields. plains, and hilly slopes of the village in darkness shouting "Hos -Dayo - Hos - Dayo" without stopping till they reach Sudhmahadev.

While the main procession starts from Chorat, two other processions start from Kuna-Laid and Batal area towards Sudhmahadev. The leaders of the procession and tantriks called Dawala ease villagers' concerns on

safety and prosperity. They are continuing a tradition of centuries started by their ancestors in Rudhar area of Doda District. It is also the symbol of unity among the people in villages.

The Kudd of Sudhmahadev is held after all the Jattars are successfully wrapped up. It is unique in its setup and rituals and the Peer of Shri Shool Panishwar Shiv Ji Sudhmahadev Temple is honored greatly. The community dresses in the typical Dogra dress and Kudd dance is performed in a circle on different tunes of Dhol and Bansuri, along with Dogri singing, through the night under the open sky. The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL),

owned by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, are also eager to bring Udhampur in limelight as construction for an International Yoga Centre at Mantalai is underway.

But the region's most awaited construction is the Zojila tunnel and the Z-Morh tunnel. The Zojila tunnel (between Baltal and Minamarg on the Srinagar-Leh section of the NH-1), will be Asia's longest (14.15 km) and highest bidirectional all-weather tunnel on completion and will surpass the Atal tunnel at 11,575 feet above sea level. It will reduce travel time from 3.5 hours to just 15 minutes! Currently, the Chenani-Nashri tunnel is the longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia standing at 10.89 km. The Z-Morh, another bi-directional 6.5 km tunnel, will allow allweather access between Srinagar and Kargil (between Gagangir and Sonmarg).

Both projects are being built to the highest safety standards with provisions for escape tunnels under NHIDCL, and are expected to be completed by December 2023. These tunnels will further boost tourismand convenience and put the region on the world map.

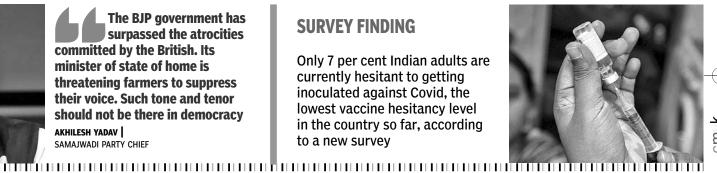
national



The BJP government has surpassed the atrocities committed by the British. Its minister of state of home is threatening farmers to suppress their voice. Such tone and tenor should not be there in democracy AKHILESH YADAV SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

SURVEY FINDING

Only 7 per cent Indian adults are currently hesitant to getting inoculated against Covid, the lowest vaccine hesitancy level in the country so far, according to a new survey



The SVAMITVA scheme establishment of clear ownership of areas, has enhanced strength of the rural economy and it will write a new chapter of development of villages in

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Supreme Court, there was no YouTube, no social media. The Supreme Court acted suo motu on the basis of news in the print media. It heard the voice of the

KAPIL SIBAL | CONGRESS LEADER

A Welfare Board for Nonwould be set up and a total allocation of ₹20 crore shall be



M K STALIN TN CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Heroin seizure: NIA takes over probe

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday took over the probe into the seizure of 2,988 kg narcotic at the Mundra port in Gujarat, an official said. In pursuant to a Ministry of Home Affairs order issued on Wednesday, the NIA has taken up the investigation of the case under sections of the IPC, the NDPS Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against Machavaram Sudhakaran, Durga PV Govindaraju, Rajkumar P and others, the agency official said.

Boy drinks acid Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh):

A 17-year-old boy allegedly consumed acid after his father refused to buy him a motorbike. Mughalpura Station House Officer (SHO) Amit Kumar said, "The boy was rushed to the Moradabad district hospital, from where he was referred to a private facility in the city in view of his critical condition." According to reports, the boy on Tuesday had an argument with his father who is a brass trader and when the latter refused to buy him a bike, the boy consumed acid in a fit of rage.

Soldier injured

Srinagar: An Indian Army officer and soldier were injured in a road accident in J&K's Anantnag district Wednesday, police said Police said a Casper vehicle of 19 Rashtriya Rifles fell into a gorge in Upper Hallan village of Verinag in Anantnag, injuring two.

One hurt

New Delhi: A 40-feet long and 10-feet high wall collapsed in the national capital, injuring one person, official sources said here Wednesday. A fire department official said they received a call at about 7.55 a.m. that a wall located at Rajender Marg near a petrol pump in the Tis Hazari area of the city has collapsed. Unknown people contacted the fire department after the incident and three fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

One killed

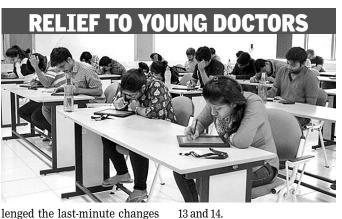
Hyderabad: One person was killed and 11 injured when a TSRTC bus fell off the road after collision with a car in Telangana's Peddapalli said. The accident occurred near Battupally in Manthani mandal when the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) hus collided with a car coming in the wrong direction.

NEET SS revised exam pattern to be implemented in 2022: Centre

New Delhi, Oct 6: In a relief to thousands of young doctors pursuing higher specialisation courses, the Centre Wednesday told the Supreme Court that in the interest of students, it has decided to implement changes in the pattern of the NEET-Super Speciality (NEET-SS) examination from the academic

The government indicated that it may defer the examination for the academic year 2021-22 by a couple of months as they have to start the process all over again.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas of 41 post-graduate doctors and others who had chal-



A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Vikram Nath, and BV Nagarathna recorded the submission of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati and disposed of a batch of pleas of students who have challenged the Centre's decision to implement changes in the examination pattern of NEET-Super Speciality from this year.

Bhati said, "In the interest of the students, who have prepared in line with the old scheme, the government in consultation with the two expert bodies (National Medical Commission (NMC) and National Board of Examination (NBE)) has decided that this revised scheme of NEET-SS will be implemented from 2022"

She said that this will mean that the current NEET-SS-2021 will be held in accordance with the norms

that were there in the NEET-SS-2020. The bench recording the sub-

missions said, "The Union of India states that a decision has been taken by it in consultation with the NMC and the NBE to the effect that having regard to the interest of the body of students, who would have commenced preparations for the ensuing NEET-SS-2021 examination before the change in the pattern was notified, the modified pattern shall be given effect to only from the academic year 2022-23".

During the brief hearing, Bhati said that she wanted to allay the apprehension which the court has expressed on Tuesday about an attempt being made to fill private medical college seats.

UNITECH CASE

SC directs suspension of Tihar officials

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 6: After a stormy hearing, the Supreme Court Wednesday ordered immediate suspension and a full-fledged probe against some Tihar Jail officials, who were identified by the Delhi Police Commissioner in a report for extending undue assistance to ex-Unitech promoters Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra.

On August 26, the top court had ordered shifting of Chandra brothers, in a money laundering case involving Unitech company, to separate jails in Mumbai. The Delhi Police informed the top court that a criminal case has been lodged against the jail officials under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

A bench comprising Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah, against the backdrop of Delhi Police chief's report, said prima facie, it appears jail officials have connived with the accused; therefore, they should be placed under suspension.

The order was passed after Delhi Police chief Rakesh Asthana, in his report, sought permission for a full-fledged criminal investigation against "the person mentioned and also against the unknown persons who are not mentioned". "We direct those officials of Tihar Jail, who were prima facie found to be complicit, will be suspended for the time being till the pendency of proceedings," the order said.

Meanwhile, senior advocate Vikas Singh, representing Chandra brothers, urged the top court to provide them access to forensic auditor Grant Thornton's report, which is necessary for the accused to defend themselves.

ART AND DEVOTION





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 6: The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) alleged Wednesday that the NCB's raid on a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast on October 2 was "fake", and no narcotic drugs were found

The party also questioned the presence of two persons along with the NCB team during the raid, and alleged that one of them was a BJP member. The BJP said in its reaction that had there been no evidence, the court would have granted bail to Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan in the case. The Narcotics Control Bureau also termed the allegations as baseless.

The NCB has so far arrested 17 people, including Aryan Khan, after allegedly seizing drugs from the Goa-bound ship on Saturday. "The drama (the raid) was fake. They did not find drugs on the ship, NCP spokesperson and Maharashtra Minorities Affairs Minister Nawab Malik claimed. He also released a few videos, purportedly of the raid.

A man named 'Gosavi' who is seen escorting Aryan Khan in one of the videos was not an NCB official, and his social media profile

Bengal flood: Mamata writes to PM

three days, the Chief Minister alleged that DVC (Damodar Valley

Damodar region before the festive season".

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging for an immediate and permanent

solution to the recurring flood situation in the state. In a four-page letter

written to the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister terming the flood as "man-

made" alleged that the "unplanned discharge of water from DVC dams at

Panchet and Maithon has led to unprecedented deluge in many districts of

the state". Giving a detail of releasing more than 5 lakh cusecs in a span of

Corporation) authorities did not pay heed to IMD warnings of heavy rainfall,

and "kept the water discharge from the dams at a low level and when there

was heavy rainfall, it discharged about 10 lakh acre-feet of water between

September 30 and October 2, which caused serious devastation in lower

states that he is a private detective based in Kuala Lumpur, the NCP leader alleged. Further, two men are seen escorting Arbaaz Merchant, also arrested in the case, in another video, and one of them is a member of the BJP. Malik alleged.

made to the syllabus after the no-

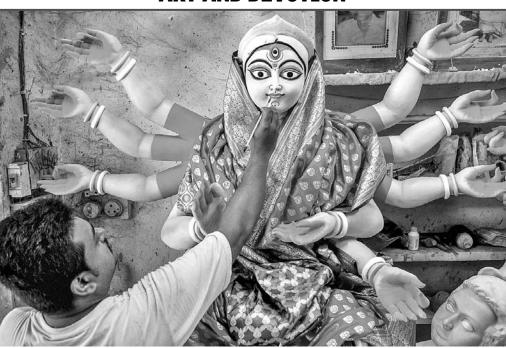
tification was issued on July 23 for

the test to be held on November

"If these two men are not officials of the NCB, then why were they escorting two high-profile people (Khan and Merchant)," he asked. The man seen with Merchant was in Gujarat on September 21-22 and could be connected to the seizure of about 3,000 kilograms of heroin at Mundra Port, Malik claimed, asking the BJP to come clear on this person's credentials.

"The entire NCB is being used by the BJP to malign the Maharashtra government and Bollywood," he said, alleging that the anti-drug agency was targeting those who are against the saffron party. Notably, Malik's son-in-law Sameer Khan had been arrested by the NCB on January 13, 2021, in an alleged drug case. He got bail in September. In a statement, Deputy Inspector General of NCB Gyaneshwar Singh said "some allegations" leveled against agency were baseless, and might have been made "in retaliation against earlier legal actions" carried out by it. Its procedure "has been and will continue to be professionally and legally transparent and unbiased. the statement said.

"Individuals named as Prabhakar Sail, Kiran Gosavi, Manish Bhanushali, Aubrey Gomez, Adil Usmani, V Waigankar, Aparna Rane, Prakash Bahadur, Shoib Faiz and Muzammil Ibrahim were associated with NCB as independent witnesses (panchas), "the agency said.



An artist gives final touches to an idol of Goddess Durga ahead of Durga Puja, in Nadia district, Wednesday РТІ РНОТО

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: The withdrawal of the Southwest monsoon commenced Wednesday and it receded from some parts of West Rajasthan and adjoining Gujarat, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

This is the second-most delayed withdrawal of the Southwest Monsoon since 1975. Monsoon withdrawal from northwest India in 2019 started on October 9, according to R K Jenamani, senior forecaster with the National Weather Forecasting Centre of the IMD.

The withdrawal of the Southwest Monsoon from northwest India usually begins from September 17. The wind system is expected to retreat from Delhi in three to four days. "In view of the establishment of an anti-cyclonic circulation in the lower tropospheric levels over western parts of northwest India and substantial reduction in moisture content and rainfall, the withdrawal of the Southwest Monsoon has commenced," the IMD said in a statement.

The Southwest Monsoon has withdrawn from some parts of West Rajasthan and adjoining Gujarat, it said.

Southwest monsoon withdrawal begins 'US appreciates India's concerns'



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 6: India's security concerns will be the "first and foremost" and at the "front and centre" for Washington, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman said Wednesday on New Delhi's apprehensions about the spillover of terrorist activity from Afghanistan.

Sherman, who held talks with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and NSA Ajit Doval, also said that India and the US have "one mind and one approach" on developments in Afghanistan.

Noting that the US appreciates India's concerns over spread of terrorism from Afghanistan, she told a select group of reporters that Washington is putting together a robust programme for "over-the-horizon" (OTH) capability for Afghanistan but did not elaborate on it.

The US Deputy Secretary of State said both India and the US have a similar approach on the way forward in Afghanistan that included the Taliban ensuring an inclusive government and that Afghanistan must not become a safe haven for terrorists.

She also emphasised safe and orderly travel for those who want to leave Afghanistan and called for the need to ensure respect for human rights. The senior US official said that the Taliban must act, and not just speak words and that no country is in a rush on recognising the dispensation in Kabul or giving legitimacy to it. She said that there

Will resolve differences, says Sherman

NEW DELHI: US Deputy

Secretary of State Wendy Sherman Wednesday hoped that the US and India will be able to resolve the differences over New Delhi's procurement of a batch of S-400 air defence missile systems from Russia. Sherman told a group of select journalists that any decision on possible sanctions on the S-400 deal will be made by President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Her comments came while replying to a question on the issue. Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhary on Tuesday said that the first batch of S-400 missile defence system will arrive in India by this year. "We've been quite public about any country that decides to use the S-400. We think that is dangerous and not in anybody's security interest. That said, we have a strong partnership with India," Sherman said.

was a need to help the Afghan people. Sherman arrived here on Tuesday on a three-day visit.

COMPREHENSIVE CARE

845 Covid orphans approved for benefits under PM-CARES Fund

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE STATE/UT IMPLEMENTING THE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES SCHEME SHALL BE THE NODAL DEPARTMENT FOR THE SCHEME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: A total of 845 children who were orphaned during the pandemic have been approved as eligible for benefits under the PM-CARES for Children scheme till now, a senior official said Wednesday.

Of the 3,915 applications received for support under 'PM-CARES for Children' scheme, applications of 845 children have been approved, the Women and Child Development Ministry official said.

The ministry has come out with guidelines for the scheme in which responsibilities at all the levels have been fixed. Ministry of Women and Child Development shall be the nodal Ministry for execution of the scheme at the central level. The department of Women and

Child development or the department of Social Justice in the State/UT implementing the Child Protection Services scheme shall be the nodal department for the scheme. Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary of the department shall be the State Nodal Officer for implementation of PM CARES for Children Scheme.

The official said currently a monthly stipend of ₹2000 is being given which would be increased to ₹4000. According to the guidelines, the lump sum amount will be transferred directly in the post office account of beneficiaries upon opening and validation of the account



of the beneficiaries. A pro-rata amount will be credited upfront in the account of each identified beneficiary such that the corpus for

each beneficiary becomes Rs. 10 lakh at the time of attaining 18 years of age

"Children will receive monthly

stipend once they attain 18 years of age, by investing the corpus of ₹10 lakh. The beneficiary will receive stipend till they attain 23 years of age. They will receive an amount of Rs. 10 lakh on attaining 23 years of age," the guidelines said.

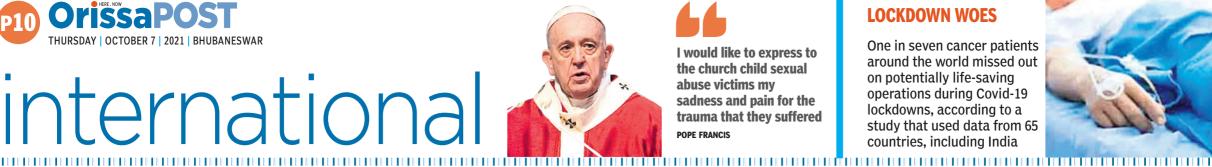
The PM-CARES for Children scheme aims at ensuring comprehensive care and protection of children who have lost their parent(s) to Covid pandemic. The scheme inter alia provides support to these children through convergent approach, gap funding for ensuring education, health, monthly stipend from the age of 18 years, and lump sum amount of Rs. 10 lakh on attaining 23 years of age.

All children who have lost both parents or surviving parent or legal guardian/adoptive parents/single adoptive parent due to COVID-19 pandemic shall be entitled to benefits under this scheme.

The guidelines said that the district magistrate shall anchor the scheme in the district. "The DM (by designation) shall act as the guardian of these children, under this scheme, for all practical purposes. The DM shall identify the beneficiaries with the assistance of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and District Child Protection Unit (DCPU). After satisfying themselves regarding the authenticity of the beneficiary, she/he will verify and confirm the details of the child on the PM-CARES for Children portal," according to the guidelines.

district on Wednesday, police

international



I would like to express to the church child sexual abuse victims my sadness and pain for the trauma that they suffered

LOCKDOWN WOES

One in seven cancer patients around the world missed out on potentially life-saving operations during Covid-19 lockdowns, according to a study that used data from 65 countries, including India





America's still the largest economy in the world, we still have the most productive workers and the most innovative minds in the world, but we're at risk of losing our edge as a nation

The world is

JOE BIDEN US PRESIDENT

one millimetre away from a deal on global corporate taxes and an agreement could be signed in



United Nations

and the world community to act to humanitarian catastrophe that's about to happen in the middle of Europe



SHORT **TAKES**

Student opens fire at Texas high school

Arlington (Texas): A student opened fire inside a Dallasarea high school during a fight, injuring four people before he fled, authorities said Wednesday. The shooting happened at Timberview High School in Arlington, which is part of the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Two people were shot and two others had unspecified injuries, Arlington Assistant Police Chief Kevin Kolbye said at a news conference.

New strategic transmission line

Kathmandu: With the Indian soft loan, Nepal has constructed a 220 KV Double Circuit Koshi Corridor power transmission in eastern Nepal and handed over to Nepal Electricity Authority, a semiautonomous body to oversee the power generation and distribution in Nepal. With the construction of the new strategic transmission line, Nepal can evacuate power up to 2000 mw, said officials, which will also ease power evacuation and distribution in eastern Nepal. The strategic power corridor was built with the soft loan of India's Exim Bank

Taliban arrest 4 IS militants

Kabul: The Taliban arrested four members of the rival militant Islamic State group north of the Afghan capital, their spokesman said Wednesday, and witnesses said two Taliban fighters were shot and killed in the country's east, raising the specter of a widening conflict. Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, said an operation was carried out Tuesday night by the Taliban in Kabul province in which documents and weapons were seized. He provided no additional details.

FB's confession

London: The global outage that knocked Facebook and its other platforms offline for hours was caused by an error during routine maintenance, the company said. Santosh Janardhan, Facebook's vice president of infrastructure. said in a blog post that Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp going dark was "caused not by malicious activity, but an error of our own making." The problem occurred as engineers were carrying out day to day work on Facebook's global backbone network: the computers, routers and software in its data centers around the world along with the fiber-optic cables connecting them

China-Taiwan tensions intensify WHO nod to world's

Top diplomatic advisers to Biden and Xi met for talks Wednesday in Switzerland as the US looks to improve communications at a time of rising tensions between the global powers

Taipei, Oct 6: With record numbers of military flights near Taiwan over the last week, China has been showing a new intensity and military sophistication as it steps up its harassment of the island it claims as its own and asserts its territorial ambitions in the region.

China's People's Liberation Army flew 56 planes in international airspace off the southwest coast of Taiwan Monday, setting a new record and capping four days of sustained pressure involving 149 flights. The actions came as China, with growing diplomatic and military power, faces greater pushback from countries in the region and as Taiwan pleads for more global support and recognition.

At the same time as the flights, the US stepped up naval maneuvers in the Indo-Pacific with its allies, challenging Beijing's territorial claims in critical waterways.

Taiwanese Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng told legislators Wednesday that the situation "is the most severe in the 40 years since I've enlisted." While most agree that war is not imminent. Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen warned that more is at stake if Beijing makes good on past threats to seize the island by force if necessary.

"If Taiwan were to fall, the consequences would be catastrophic for regional peace and the democratic alliance system," she wrote in an impassioned op-ed in Foreign Affairs magazine published



Chinese Air Force personnel march past a J10C fighter and JH-7A2 fighter-bomber during 13th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, on Sept. 29 in Zhuhai in southern China's Guangdong province. China has stepped up its military flights near Taiwan recently

Tuesday. "It would signal that in today's global contest of values, authoritarianism has the upper hand over democracy.

China regularly flies military aircraft into Taiwan's "air defence identification zone." international airspace that Taiwan counts as a buffer in its defense strategy, although previous flights have usually involved a handful of planes

Perhaps more significant than the number of planes was the constitution of the group, with fighters, bombers and airborne early warning aircraft, said Euan Graham, a defense analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Singapore.

Controlling Taiwan and its air-

space is key to China's military strategy, with the area where the most recent sorties took place also leading to the west Pacific and the South China Sea.

The latest maneuvers bring the total number of flights to more than 815 as of Monday since the Taiwanese government started publicly releasing the numbers a little more than a year ago.

China has been rapidly improving and strengthening its military, and the most recent flights demonstrate a greater level of technical expertise and power, said Chen-Yi Tu, a researcher at the Institute for National Defence and Security Research in Taiwan. It's a marked contrast from 20, 30 years ago, when Chinese forces couldn't

refuel in the air, or fly across the water, said Oriana Skylar Mastro, a fellow at Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University and non-resident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.

A few days earlier, the British frigate HMS Richmond transited through the Taiwan Strait, announcing its presence on Twitter and angering China, which condemned the move as a "meaningless display of presence with an insidious intention."

The international actions are an attempt to counter China's frequent claim that its own actions are in response to American moves, and demonstrate that democracies intend to defend established marlaws and norms, Graham said.

"When the UK sends a ship through the Taiwan Strait for the first time since 2008 and it sailed down the median line, the point that it's making is that they know China knows where that line is," he said. "In order for the status quo to be meaningful, it has to be upheld and the most emphatic way to do that is to physically demonstrate with a government asset like a warship."

Australia, which also spoke out against China's recent flights. last month announced a deal with the US and Britain to obtain nuclearpowered submarines, which was seen as a strong statement it planned to play a greater role.

first malaria vaccine

WHO decision followed a review of a pilot programme deployed since 2019 in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi where more than two million doses were given malaria vaccine

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Geneva, Oct 6: The World Health Organization (WHO) said Wednesday the only approved vaccine against malaria should be widely given to children in Africa, potentially marking a major advance against a disease that kills hundreds of thousands of people annually.

The decision followed a review of a pilot programme deployed since 2019 in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi where more than two million doses were given of the vaccine, first made by the pharmaceutical company GSK in 1987. After reviewing evidence from those countries, WHO said it was "recommending the broad use of the world's first malaria vaccine", the agency's director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

The WHO said in a statement it was recommending the widespread application of the vaccine among children in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions with moderate to high malaria transmission.



Many vaccines exists against viruses and bacteria but this was the first time that the WHO recommended for broad use a vaccine against a human parasite.

"From a scientific perspective this is a massive breakthrough," said Pedro Alonso, Director of the WHO Global Malaria Programme.

The vaccine acts against plasmodium falciparum -- one of five parasite species and the most deadly.

Malaria symptoms include fever, headaches and muscle pain, then cycles of chills, fever and sweating. Every two minutes, a child dies of malaria, according to the World Health Organization.

Before the newly recommended vaccine can reach African children, the next step will be funding. "That will be the next major step... Then we will be set up for scaling of doses and decisions about where the vaccine will be most useful and how it will be deployed. said Kate O'Brien, Director of WHO's Department of Immunization, Vaccines and

Vatican court absolves former altar boy in sex abuse trial

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican City. Oct 6: A Vatican tribunal absolved a former altar boy of charges that he molested a younger boy in the Vatican's youth seminary, ruling Wednesday in the first clergy sexual abuse trial to be heard by the pope's criminal court.

The three-judge panel acquitted Rev. Gabriele Martinelli of some charges and ruled others couldn't be punished or allegedly occurred too long ago. The former rector of the seminary, the Rev. Enrico Radice, was similarly ab-In a statement, the tribunal said

it had essentially confirmed that there had been a sexual relationship between Martinelli and the alleged victim, L.G., but no proof that L.G., who was just seven months younger, had been forced into it.

The case concerned the closed world of the St. Pius X youth seminary, a palazzo inside the Vatican walls just across the street from where Pope Francis lives. The seminary is used as a residence for boys aged 12 to 18, who serve as altar boys at papal Masses in St. Peter's Basilica.

The scandal over alleged abuse in the residence erupted in 2017 when former altar boys went public with allegations of misconduct by Martinelli and cover-up by the seminary superiors.



People gather outside a government passport office recently re-opened after Taliban announced they would be issuing a backlog of applications approved by the previous administration in Kabul, Afghanistan

Pak army replaces ISI chief in surprise reshuffle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 6: In a surprise military shake-up, the Pakistan Army Wednesday announced that the powerful spy agency ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed has been appointed as Peshawar Corps Commander - a crucial position in view of the Taliban's takeover of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum was appointed as the new Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in place of Lt Gen Hameed, who was transferred as Peshawar Corps Commander, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the Pakistan Army.

The ISI chief is appointed by the Prime Minister but as part of a tradition he executes this power

in consultation with the Pakistan Army chief.

The post of ISI chief is considered one of the most important in the Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 73 plus years of existence and has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Initially, the Army said in a

statement that Lt Gen Hameed was posted out but his replacement on the key post of the ISI chief was not immediately announced.

Lt Gen Anjum, who belongs to the Punjab Regiment of the Pakistan Army, has served as Karachi Corps Commander as well as the commandant of Command and Staff College Quetta.

After ban on Chinese fertiliser, SL turns to India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Colombo, Oct 6: Following the ban on importing organic fertiliser from China after detecting harmful bacteria, Sri Lanka will import it from India instead. Last month, Sri Lanka cancelled

the plans to import 99,000 metric tonnes of organic fertiliser at a cost of \$63 million from China's Qingdao Seawin Biotech Group Co Ltd. Agriculture Minister

Mahindananda Aluthgamage said in Parliament on Tuesday that laboratory tests conducted on the organic fertiliser samples sent from India have confirmed that they were suitable for the use in Sri Lanka. Responding to an opposition question raised on the ongoing fertiliser crisis, he said the National Plant Quarantine Service had approved the fertiliser from India.

"If there is a delay, a decision has been reached to import the nano-nitrogen fertilizer from India using air freight," Aluthgamage said. The opposition had questioned the Minister as to how the government was going to solve the problem of farmers who are waiting for fertiliser to start the major cultivation season.

The government had to drop the plans to import the Chinese organic fertiliser after scientists, activists, and political parties strongly objected the move following the detection of a harmful microorganism identified as 'Erwinia' September 17.

UN agency warns of looming global water crisis

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Geneva, Oct 6: The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN), has warned that climate change increases the global risk of waterrelated hazards like floods and droughts, and the number of people affected by water scarcity is also expected to soar.

In its new report entitled "The State of Climate Services 2021: Water," the WMO said Tuesday that 3.6 billion people globally had inadequate access to water at least one month per year in 2018, and by 2050 this number is expected to exceed five billion, Xinhua news agency reported.



The WMO's data show that water-related hazards have increased in frequency over the

lated disasters have risen by 134 per cent compared with the two

previous decades, while during the same period the number and duration of droughts also increased 29 per cent.

situation is Most drought-revorsening by the lated deaths ocfact that only 0.5 curred in Africa. indicating a need per cent of water on the Earth is useable for stronger endto-end warning WORLD METEOROLOGICAL for systems drought in that region. Most of the

flood-related deaths and economic losses were recorded in Asia, while Africa was hit the most by drought-related deaths.

"Increasing temperatures are resulting in global and regional precipitation changes, leading

to shifts in rainfall patterns and agricultural seasons, with a major impact on food security and human health and well-

being," says WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas. Last year saw a

continuation of extreme water-related events, which displaced millions of people and killed hundreds across Asia,

while in Africa more than two billion people still live in water-stressed countries and suffer lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, ac-

cording to the WMO chief. Underlining the important role of water resources management in reducing water-related disasters, the WMO recommends that countries, especially small island developing states and least developed countries, increase investment in integrated water resources management and in drought and flood early warning systems

The WMO also urges countries to fill the capacity gap in collecting data for basic hydrological variables, which underpin climate services and early warning systems, and national level stakeholders to co-develop and operationalise climate services with information users to bettersupport adaptation in the water sector.

business



At this stage, we are very close to arriving at something in terms of the specifics of the two-pillar proposition. We already had a conversation and agreed to a framework... We are in the last stages of finalising the details NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

XIAOMI SELLS 20L PHONES IN 5 DAYS

Xiaomi India Wednesday announced that it has sold over 20 lakh smartphones in 5 days of the festive sale across channels. In the premium segment, Xiaomi 11 Lite NE 5G, and Mi 11X Series received maximum demand, followed by Redmi Note 10S and Redmi Note 10 Pro, and Redmi 9 Series in the mid value segment





retained its relevance is only Because 2023 will be economies will hopefully be going ahead of the pre-COVID level and bringing prosperity to us

RAJIV KUMAR VC, NITI AAYOG

Globally, equities tanked as risk sentiment soured amid growing worries over increase in government bond yield, rising inflation and soaring energy prices to multi-year highs

FINANCIAL SERVICES

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | MOTILAL OSWAL

Steel in India at present is in the range of ₹50,000-Rs 55,000 a tonne. Shortage of coal has led to an increase in its prices



V R SHARMA MD, JSPL

SHORT **TAKES**

Cleanliness drive by TPWODL members

Burla: On Gandhi Jayanti, the employees of TPDOWL organized a cleanliness drive at a picnic spot to Zero Point with the aim to spread cleanliness at places of public interest and its vicinity. A total of 37 employees took part in the drive with full dedication and enthusiasm. Approximately 75 full bags of waste was collected and safely disposed. This initiative was the first of its kind at TPDOWL as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility and would be followed by many similar initiatives in future.

tokenisation service

services in India in line with the recently issued guidelines by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to secure customers financial data. Visa's card tokenisation service is currently available with ecommerce platforms such as Grofers, Bigbasket and CoF tokenization services in over 130 countries globally, we are confident of the technology's ability to build a safe, secure and seamless environment for digital payments," said TR Ramachandran, Group Country Manager, India and South Asia.

Honda Cars rolls out festive offers

New Delhi: Honda Cars India Wednesday said it has rolled out festive offers, ranging up to ₹53,500, on its entire model line-up till the end of this month. With the onset of the auspicious period of 'Navratri'. customers can avail a host of attractive offers while purchasing Honda cars across all authorised company dealerships till October 31. 2021. The company is offering festive offers worth ₹53,500 on the 5th Generation City, up to ₹22,000 on 4th Generation City, up to ₹18,000 on Amaze, up to ₹40,100 on WR-V and up to ₹45.900 on Jazz. it added.

New Delhi: Tata Steel Wednesday reported a 7 per cent rise in consolidated steel output to 7.78 million tonnes (MT) for the July-September period this year. The company's consolidated steel production was 7.25 MT in the same period last year, Tata Steel said in a statement. Tata Steel's consolidated sales during the quarter under review fell around 6 per cent to 7.4 MT, from 7.87 MT in the same period of the preceding fiscal.

CoinSwitch Kuber becomes second Crypto unicorn

CoinSwitch Kuber said it will utilise the funds for onboarding 50 million Indians on its platform and introduce new crypto products

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 6: Leading crypto platform CoinSwitch Kuber Wednesday said it has raised over \$260 million in its Series C funding round from Andreessen Horowitz (a16z), Coinbase Ventures and existing investors, and will scale its India operations, including hiring across verticals.

With more than 10 million users,

CoinSwitch Kuber has become a new unicorn, and the most valuable crypto company in India valued at \$1.9 billion.

'We wanted to remove all the complexities in crypto trading, educate consumers and give them a simplified experience of one-click buy and sell in crypto," said cofounder and CEO Ashish Singhal.

With CoinSwitch Kuber. American venture capital form

PM MITRA SCHEME

Govt okays 7 textile

parks; one in state

The scheme aims to establish holistic integrated textile processing regions across the

country, which would integrate the currently scattered value chain of textile products



a16z is making its first investment in an Indian start-up. Existing investors Paradigm, Ribbit Capital, Sequoia Capital India, and Tiger Global also participated in the new funding round. The company said that it plans to design ways of simplifying the investment journey of Indians, and, in the process, offer multiple avenues of investment for them through different products and asset classes

"We are incredibly excited about the crypto market opportunity in India, and with its breakout growth, CoinSwitch has emerged as the leading retail platform in the country," said Andreessen Horowitz General Partner David George.

Started in 2017 by Singhal, Govind Soni and Vimal Sagar. CoinSwitch launched its India operations in June 2020. The Indian cryptocurrency market has been growing exponentially and is expected to reach up to \$241 million by 2030 in India and \$2.3 billion by 2026 worldwide.

Bank guarantee for telcos slashed by 80%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: The Department of Telecom has slashed performance and financial bank guarantee requirement of telecom operators by 80 per cent, according to a licence amendment note issued Wednesday.

Under the amended norms, telecom operators will be required to provide a performance bank guarantee of up to ₹44 crore for each service for the telecom licence compared to ₹220 crore mandated under the old rule.

Telecom operators will need to provide a financial bank guarantee of maximum ₹8.8 crore per circle now, against the previous requirement of ₹44 crore.

The rule will not be applicable



in cases where bank guarantees (BG) have been furnished due to any court order or are subject to any litigation, the licence amendment note said.

The rules will not apply to telecom operators, who are currently going through the liquidation process. The move will unblock the cash of telecom operators that they keep with banks to furnish BGs

DPIIT NOTIFIES 100% FDI IN TELECOM

The government Tuesday notified its decision to permit 100 per cent FDI under automatic route in the telecom services sector. In a press note, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said foreign investment in telecom services will be subject to the condition of Press Note 3 of 2020. Accordingly, cases requiring prior government approval under the provisions of Press Note 3 will continue to be in place. As per the Press Note 3, an entity of a country, which shares a land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such coun try, can invest only under the government route.

LIBERALISED REGIME

BPO market to hit \$8.8bn by 2025

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 6: As India reopens, the enterprise spending on business process outsourcing (BPO) services in India is set to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.8 per cent to reach \$8.8 billion by 2025, driven by huge push for outsourcing knowledgebased and vertical-specific processes, a new report showed Wednesday.

According to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company, the BPO market in India is now supported by the country's efforts to liberalise regulatory guidelines for the BPO industry in recent times to ward off competition from countries like the Philippines, Malaysia, Mexico, and Canada.

In June this year, the government liberalised guidelines for voice-based BPO firms (classified under other service providers (OSP)) by removing distinction between domestic and international service centres and allowing interconnectivity between all types of OSP centres

Besides, providing ease of work for their employees who relocated to remote areas after the pandemic and enabling them to work from anywhere will also help BPO firms to improve scale and speed of serv-

ment had simplified BPO and ITES guidelines to ease the compliance burden on service providers and establish the 'Work-From-Home' and 'Work-From-Anywhere' framework. The new guidelines will go a

In November 2020, the govern-

long way in enabling ease of doing business for the industry and establishing the country as the most preferred hub for BPO services in the world, said Tarasia.

Enterprise spending on finance and accounting BPO segment, on the other hand, will grow at a fastest CAGR 9.6 per cent during the forecast period.

Visa launches CoF

New Delhi: Digital payments firm Visa Wednesday launched Card-on-File (CoF) tokenization MakeMyTrip. "Having launched

Tata Steel's output grows 7% in Jul-Sep

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel parks including one in Odisha with a total outlay of ₹4,445 crore for five years to position India strongly on the global textiles map.

Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) parks were announced in the Union Budget for 2021-22. The parks will be set up at greenfield or brownfield sites located in different willing states.

Proposals of state governments having ready availability of contiguous and encumbrance-free land parcels of 1,000 plus acres along with other textiles related facilities ecosystem are welcome, said an

total outlay of ₹4,445 crore for five years has been allotted to position India

extiles Minister Piyush Goyal said the parks will create direct employment for 7 lakh people and indirect employment

strongly on the global

he parks will offer an opportunity to create an ntegrated textiles value chain right from spinning, weaving, processing, dyeing and printing

Under PM MITRA, 50 per cent area will be developed for per cent area for utilities, and 10 per cent of the area for commercial development

official release.

Giving details about the decision taken at the Cabinet meeting,

said 10 states have already shown interest in setting up the parks. The states are Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana. Maximum Development Capital

Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal

Support (DCS) of ₹500 crore to all greenfield parks and a maximum of ₹200 crore to brownfield ones will be provided for the development of common infrastructure (30 per cent of the project cost). Also, ₹300 crore of Competitiveness Incentive Support (CIS) will be provided to each park for the early establishment of textiles manufacturing units.

The release further said the parks will be developed by a special purpose vehicle (SPV), which will be owned by the state government and the central government in a public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

The Master Developer will not only develop the Industrial Park but also maintain it during the concession period. Selection of this Master Developer will happen based on objective criteria developed jointly by State and Central Governments, the release said.

This will enhance the competiiveness of the textiles industry, by helping it in achieving economies of scale and will create huge job opportunities for millions of people the release said. Leveraging economies of scale, the scheme will help Indian companies to emerge as global champions, it added.

Benz posts nearly 100% domestic sales growth

MUMBAI: German premium car maker Mercedes-Benz Wednesday reported nearly 100 per cent growth in sales at 4.101 units in the domestic market in September of the



Indian market in the July-September period of 2020. With this robust Q3 sales performance, Mercedes-Benz India sold 8,958 units in the January-September 2021 period, a growth of 78 per cent over 5,007 units sold in the same period last year, backed by a completely new product portfolio and resurgent customer sentiment, the company said.

Moody's raises ratings for 18 firms, banks

Godrej enters baby care unit NEW DELHI: Leading FMCG major Godrej Consumer

Products Ltd (GCPL) has made a foray into the baby care segment by launching a premium range of certified products made from organic ingredients under brand 'goodnessme'. "The company is targeting the rapidly growing online baby care market, which is estimated to be around ₹500 crore," said GCPL CEO Sunil Kataria. Goodnessme,

an organic baby care brand. will be a digital native brand and the company is taking the direct-to-consumer route through its brand's website along with online



stores of its several e-commerce channel partners.

25% road tax cut for vehicles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: The Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry Wednesday said the states and union territories (UTs) will provide up to 25 per cent rebate on road tax for vehicles that are purchased after scrapping old vehicles under the new National Automobile Scrappage Policy.

"As an incentive for scrapping, concession is stipulated in the motor vehicle tax for a vehicle registered against submission of Certificate of Deposit, which is issued by a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility. This concession is up to 25 per cent, in case of

SCRAPPAGE POLICY

non-transport (personal) vehicles, and up to 15 per cent, in case of transport (commercial) vehicles," said the ministry in a press note.

The press note further said the concession shall be available up to eight years, in case of transport vehicles, and up to 15 years, in case of non-transport vehicles.

The road transport and highways ministry in a notification said that these new rules may be called the Central Motor Vehicles (Twenty fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021, and they shall come into force with effect from April 1, 2022.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: Moody's Investors Service Wednesday raised the rating outlook for 18 Indian corporates and banks, including Reliance Industries, Infosys, SBI and Axis Bank, to 'stable' from 'negative'.

This follows the upgrade by the US-based rating agency in India's sovereign rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative' Tuesday. The agency had affirmed the sovereign rating at 'Baa3'.

The nine companies whose rating outlook has been revised upwards are RIL, TCS, Infosys, ONGC, Petronet LNG Ltd, UltraTech



Cement, Oil India, Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).

The agency also affirmed the rating on privatisation-bound Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), but maintained the 'negative' outlook.

The nine banks whose outlook has been revised to 'stable' are SBI, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank,

Stabilization in asset quality and improved capital are the main drivers of this rating action, Moody's said

ICICI Bank, PNB, Union Bank and

Also, the rating outlook has been revised to 'stable' from 'negative' on 10 Indian infrastructure issuers, including NTPC, NHAI, PGCIL, Gail, Adani Transmission and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ).

Saudi Aramco hits \$2tn valuation on back of higher oil prices

DEMAND FOR ENERGY IS PICKING UP, DESPITE THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC'S CONTINUED TOLL ON TRAVEL AND OTHER KEY GAS-GUZZLING SECTORS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riyadh, Oct 6: Saudi Arabia's oil company Aramco reached a \$2 trillion valuation as it hit near record levels Wednesday during trading hours. It comes as crude oil prices climb to over \$82 a barrel, the high-

est in seven years. Aramco was trading at around 37.6 riyals a share, or a few cents over \$10 a share, by midday Wednesday before dipping to 37.2 riyals a share, or around \$9.92 a share. It remains to be seen whether it can hold this rally until trading closes.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed



ts market cap value puts Aramco just behind Microsoft and Apple as the world's most

Demand for oil is forecast to hit 99 million barrels per day by the end of the year, and a little over 100 million per day next year

Aramco is mostly owned by the government of Saudi Arabia, with just under 2% of the company publicly listed on the Saudi Tadawul stock

bin Salman was the architect behind the effort to publicly list a sliver of Aramco in late 2019, touting it as a way to raise capital for the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund to then develop new cities and mega-projects across the country that create needed private sector jobs for young Saudis. The crown prince has long sought the mammoth \$2 trillion valuation for Aramco.

Despite fluctuations in Aramco's yearly earnings, the company has stuck to its promise to pay an annual dividend of \$75 billion until 2024 to shareholders, the biggest of which is the government.

The oil carter and other allied major oil producers this week are maintaining a gradual approach to restoring production levels that had been slashed during the pandemic, agreeing to add only 400,000 barrels per day in November.

Aramco raked in a net income of around \$47 billion in the first half of 2021, double what it earned over the same period last year when the coronavirus grounded travel and pummeled global demand for oil. This put Aramco back squarely where it was before the pandemic struck and sunk earnings.

BELGIUM EXPRESS DISPLEASURE AFTER INDIAN HOCKEY TEAMS' MEMBERS WIN IT ALL AT FIH AWARDS

Clean sweep for India

LIST OF WINNERS (MEN)



HARMANPREET SINGH Player of the Year

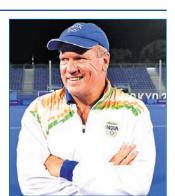


PR SREEJESH Goalkeeper of the Year



VIVEK SAGAR PRASAD Rising Star of the Year

ODISH



GRAHAM REID Coach of the Year

LIST OF WINNERS (WOMEN)



GURJIT KAUR Player of the Year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lausanne, Oct 6: India swept the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) annual awards on Wednesday, Punia won the best goalkeeper claiming all the top honours based awards in the men's and women's on a voting system which was lamsection, while young striker basted as a "failure" by men's Olympic champions Belgium, prompting the FIH to say that it best rising stars. would try to figure why some associations did not cast their ballot.

The men's hockey team had won a bronze, its first in 41 years, in the Tokyo Olympics, while the women's side had finished an unprecedented fourth in the showpiece.

Harmanpreet Singh won the



Goalkeeper of the Year

Gurjit Kaur was recognised as the

best player in the women's section.

Veteran PR Sreejesh and Savita

Sharmila Devi (women) and Vivek

Sagar Prasad (men) were adjudged

Men's team coach Graham Reid

and women's coach Sjoerd Marijne

were also voted the best. While

Reid is still with the team, Marijne's

tenure ended after the Tokyo Games.

to the announcement of the win-

ners and questioned the process as

Hockey Belgium reacted sharply

SHARMILA DEVI Rising Star of the Year men's 'Player of the Year' award and none of their Tokyo Games cham-

> Votes from National Associations – represented by their respective national captains and coaches - accounted for 50 per cent of the overall result, while fans and players (25 per cent) as well as media (25 per cent) made the other half of the votes.

pions managed to win an award.

It is to be noted that only 19 associations from the 42-strong European bloc cast their votes, compared to 29 out of 33 in Asia.

"Hockey Belgium is very disappointed with the outcome of @FIH_Hockey Star Awards. A gold winning team with multi-



SJOERD MARIJNE Coach of the Year

ple nominees in all categories but doesn't win a single award demonstrates failure of the voting system. We will work with FIH to ensure a fairer system in the future," the Belgian association tweeted.

The sentiment was shared by the team's official handle as well. 'We fully agree! This is not normal! The credibility and image of our sport is once again facing hard times. It's a pitty (sic) @FIH," stated the Red Lions.

Following Belgium's objection. FIH issued a statement to clarify its stand and promised a review if

SRH dent RCB's bid Anshu creates to get top-two finish

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 6: Royal Challengers Bangalore made a mess of their run chase as bottomplaced Sunrisers Hyderabad dented their hopes of a top-two finish with a narrow four-run win in a lastover IPL thriller, here Wednesday.

After putting on board a modest 141/7, SRH returned to limit RCB to 137/6 for only their third win in the league. Chasing the total, Devdutt Padikkal (41) and Glenn Maxwell (40) scored bulk of the runs but RCB kept losing wickets and faltered in the end.

Defending 18 off last two overs, Jason Holder bowled a superb over, giving away just five runs for one wicket. AB de Villiers smashed a six in the fourth ball of the final over bowled by Bhuvneshwar Kumar but couldn't take the team home as the South African could not pull off a six the team needed in the last ball.

Earlier, opener Jason Roy (44) shared a 58-ball 70 run stand with skipper Kane Williamson (31) to set the platform but SRH lost three quick wickets for two runs in seven balls to eventually end up with a below-par total.

RCB were dealt an early blow in their chase when Bhuvneshwar trapped Virat Kohli in the first over. The decision to promote Dan Christian at No.3 also didn't work as he was deceived by a slower delivery by Siddarth Kaul.

At 18/2, Srikar Bharat joined hands with Padikkal and produced two handsome shots for a six and a four to take RCB to 37/2 in six overs. New pace sensation Umran Malik then struck in his fifth delivery, removing Bharat as RCB slipped to 38/3.

New-man in Maxwell made his intent clear, clobbering Rashid Khan for a maximum. He repeated the treatment again, sending the Afghan spinner over long-on and then sweeping him for another four.

But with Malik clocking 150km plus consistently, RCB decided to target the other bowlers. However, a poor call by Padikkal ended with Maxwell being runout, while the for-



Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowled a brilliant final over against RCB

mer too was caught at the boundary line as RCB further slumped to 109/4 in 16.5 overs.

Needing 29 off 18 balls, Shahbaz Ahmed smashed two fours to bring the equation down before being dismissed by Holder in the 19th over.

For RCB, Harshal Patel (3/33) and Christian (2/14) did the maximum damage after skipper Kohli opted to bowl. Spin duo of Yuzvendra Chahal (1/27) and Ahmed (0/21) kept things in check, while George Garton conceded 29 runs in two overs for his one wicket.

BRIEF SCORES: SRH 141/7 (Jason Roy 44, Kane Williamson 31; Harshal Patel 3/33, Dan Christian 2/14) beat RCB 137/6 (Devdutt Padikkal 41, Glenn Maxwell 40; Umran Malik 1/21) by 4 runs.

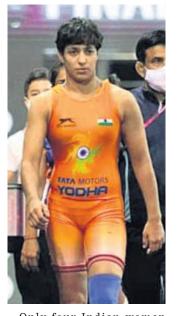




PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Oslo (Norway), Oct 6: Anshu Malik Wednesday created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the World Championship final when she outclassed junior European champion Solomiia Vynnyk but Sarita Mor lost her semifinal and will fight for a bronze here.

The 19-year-old Anshu, the reigning Asian champion, controlled the semifinal from the beginning and won by technical superiority in the 57kg category to go into history books.



Only four Indian women wrestlers have won medals at the Worlds and all of them - Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhanda (2018) and Vinesh Phogat (2019) - have clinched bronze.

Anshu also became only the sixth Indian ever to make the Worlds gold medal match after Bishambar Singh (1967), Sushil Kumar (2010), Amit Dahiya (2013), Bajrang Punia (2018) and Deepak Punia (2019).

India has only one world Champion in Sushil till date and Anshu can create another history Thursday. Anshu's win also ensured India's first medal from this edition of the event



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