



ACTING TIPS

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia says understanding the script and role before going on floors make things easier

LEISURE P2



LITERATURE NOBEL FOR GURNAH

UK-based Tanzanian writer Abdulrazak Gurnah wins the Nobel prize for Literature

INTERNATIONAL P10



SUPERB MAVI SHOW

Shivam Mavi's superb bowling (4/21) puts KKR closer to the play-offs with an 86-run win over RR

SPORTS P12

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Militants kill 2 teachers in Srinagar



Srinagar: Two government school teachers, including a woman, were shot dead Thursday by militants in Eidgah area of the city amid increasing attacks on civilians in Jammu and Kashmir, police said. In the last five days seven civilians have been killed in the Kashmir valley by militants, officials informed. The deceased have been identified as Supinder Kour, a resident of Alochi Bagh area here, and Deepak Chand, a resident of Jammu. They were working at the Government Boys' School, Sangam. Sources said the militants are trying to disrupt communal harmony by such targeted killings. P9

Doors opened for foreign tourists from Oct 15



New Delhi: India has decided to allow foreign tourists into the country, beginning with granting of tourist visas to those travelling by chartered flights from October 15 and those by regular planes from November 15. The Union Home Ministry announced Thursday that the restrictions placed on visas and international travel since March 2020 due to coronavirus has been eased due to the overall pandemic situation. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all visas granted to foreigners were suspended last year. Protocols for foreign tourists will be soon announced, the Home Ministry said.

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Britain removes Covishield ban

POST NEWS NETWORK

London, Oct 7: The UK government Thursday added India to its vaccine-eligible countries list, which would mean Covishield vaccinated Indians will no longer be required to quarantine on arrival from October 11. They will be treated the same as returning fully vaccinated UK residents, so long as they have not visited a red list country or territory in the 10 days before arriving in England, the UK Department for Transport said.

"The UK has further opened up international travel and will recognise India's vaccine certification system from October 11. The decision was taken after close technical cooperation between our ministries taking public health factors into account," said a spokesperson of British High Commission in India.

SC questions UP govt

UP police have arrested 2 persons in connection with the violence at Lakhimpur Kheri which left 8 people dead. They were among the 7 named in FIR

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 7: The Supreme Court had Thursday some tough questions for the Uttar Pradesh government four days after a group of farmers were run over by a Union Minister's car in Lakhimpur Kheri. The Supreme Court demanded to know 'how many of the accused have been arrested' and asked the UP government to file a status report by Friday.

The Lakhimpur Kheri incident has triggered a major political storm in the country with the opposition parties accusing the BJP government in UP of shielding the culprits. The case was heard by a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana as a suo motu (on its own) case. The court asked the UP government to file a status report and



Police drag away a Congress worker protesting against the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in Lucknow, Thursday

specify action taken against the accused and details of the eight who were killed Sunday during a protest against Union Minister Ajay Mishra's visit.

"In the status report also tell us about the eight persons who have been killed; farmers, journalist etc. Tell us whom you registered FIR against. How many have you ar-

rested," the bench questioned.

The Uttar Pradesh government told the court that an FIR had been filed and an inquiry by a former judge would look into the allegations. "The grievance is that you are not registering a proper FIR and a proper investigation not taking place," the bench also comprising justices Surya Kant and Hima

1-MEMBER PANEL TO PROBE INCIDENT

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government has constituted a one-member judicial commission to probe the Lakhimpur Kheri incident in which eight people including four farmers were killed October 3. Retired Allahabad High Court judge Pradeep Kumar Srivastava has been named to enquire into the eruption of violence Tikonia-Banbirpur road in Lakhimpur Kheri district. However, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the case should be probed by a sitting Supreme Court or high court judge, and not a retired person. The UP government said the commission has been given two months' time to complete the probe.

Kohli observed.

The apex court bench also termed the incident 'unfortunate' which left eight people dead. "These are unfortunate incidents in which different persons have been murdered. So we want reports of action taken," the bench said.

Lawyer Garima Prasad, appearing for the UP government said she can get all the details in the status report by Friday. "You also tell us about the status of the PIL before the Allahabad High Court in the case... Tomorrow we are listing. Get all the instructions," the bench observed orally.

An FIR under section 302 of IPC (murder) has been registered against Ashish and others in the incident in Tikonia police station. Police informed that two persons - Luvkush Rana and Ashish Pandey - have been arrested. However, Ashish still remains untraceable.

Meanwhile IGP, Laxmi Singh said in Lucknow: "If Ashish Mishra does not abide by the summons, legal procedure will be adopted."

A notice has also been pasted at the minister's house in Lakhimpur city under section 160 of the CrPC Thursday asking his son to present himself at 10.00am Friday at the Crime Branch office in police lines in Lakhimpur city to present any oral, written or digital evidence, added Singh.

Diesel breaches ₹100/litre mark in Bhubaneswar

The latest hike in petrol prices means that there are only 4 state capitals where the rate is less than ₹100 per litre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: There was no relief for consumers as petrol and diesel prices across India soared to all-time high levels Thursday as rates were hiked again. This is the third successive day when the prices have witnessed a high spike. With the latest increase, diesel prices breached the ₹100/litre mark for the first time in Bhubaneswar.



CITY PRICES	
Petrol	₹104.14 (+0.30)
Diesel	₹100.10 (+0.38)

Petrol price was increased by 30 paise per litre and diesel by 35 paise a litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers issued Thursday. The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹103.24 a litre and to ₹109.25 per litre in Mumbai, the notification showed. Diesel rates too touched a record high of ₹91.42 in Delhi and inched closer to the ₹100-a-litre mark in Mumbai. It currently costs ₹99.55 a litre in Mumbai.

The increase Thursday pushed rates to a new record high. Petrol crossed the ₹100-a-litre mark in Lucknow and Gandhinagar - the last of the handful of state capitals that had rates less than that. The only state capitals where petrol now is less than ₹100/litre are Dehradun, Chandigarh, Guwahati and Ranchi.

As there has been no respite from surging international prices, oil marketing companies (OMCs) started to increase the retail selling price of petrol and diesel with effect from September 28 and September 24, respectively. Since then, diesel rates have gone up by ₹3.15 paise per litre and petrol price has increased by ₹2.15.

Officials said that at present there is no chance of a reduction of prices in the near future.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We have thrown the corruption out, it is now residing in offshore accounts!

Mystery shrouds death of Bolangir MBBS student

This is the 2nd incident of a student's unnatural death in Bolangir in little over a month. A polytechnic student was found dead September 4

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 7: Mystery surrounds the death of a third year MBBS student of Santha Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (SBBMCH) in this district. The 20-year-old was found hanging from the window of her hostel room late Wednesday night. The deceased was identified as Nirupama Nanda.

Sources said that before she was found dead, one of the mates of Nirupama had received a call. The unidentified caller wanted to know if Nirupama was well.

Sources said that Nirupama and some of her friends were watching an IPL game on the mobile. However, after some time she went back to her room, stating she was hungry and tired.

"At around 11.30pm, one of Nirupama's friends staying in an-

other room of the ladies hostel got a phone call from an unknown person. The person asked the latter to ascertain if Nirupama was well," Dean of SBBMCH, Professor Sabita Mohapatra informed.

"After getting the phone call, Nirupama's friend went to her room and knocked on the door. When she did not get any response, she informed others immediately," Mohapatra added.

As there was no response, the door was broken. Nirupama was found hanging from the window with a scarf tied to her neck, the dean informed. She added that the smell of a strong chemical was emanating from the room.

Nirupama was rushed to the hospital where she was declared dead on arrival. Police and Nirupama's family members were also informed. The family members said they suspect foul play behind Nirupama's death and the police have launched a probe, sources stated.

The father of the deceased has said that there was no reason for his daughter to commit suicide. He alleged that it is a case of murder.



Women dressed in colourful attire groove to the beat of drums in Rajasthan's Beawar town to mark the beginning of the nine-day Navratri festival, Thursday

FEELING GROOVY

Six women in Forbes' India rich list

Some of the Indian women entrepreneurs have proved that they are no less than their men counterparts in wealth-making

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 7: Six women entrepreneurs have made it to the Forbes' list of 100 richest people in India. They have shown that they have the acumen and talent to compete with their men counterparts when it comes to garnering of wealth.

The list for women is headed by Savitri Jindal of the OP Jindal Group. She is the richest Indian woman with a total wealth of USD 18 billion (roughly ₹13.46 lakh crore). In the last one year, her

wealth has achieved a jump of over \$13 billion (nearly ₹9.72 lakh crore). However, in the overall list she is placed seventh.

The second richest woman entrepreneur on the list is Vinod Rai Gupta, 76, of Havells India. She is ranked 24. Her wealth doubled to \$7.6 billion (nearly ₹5.68 lakh crore) this year. The next spot is with Leena Tewari, 43, of USV Private Ltd, a pharmaceutical and biotechnology major based in Mumbai. Her overall rank is 43rd and net worth is \$4.4 billion (nearly ₹3.28 lakh crore).

With an overall rank of 47th, Byju's co-founder Divya Gokulnath, 35, is the next woman entrepreneur on the list. After the pandemic shut schools and a large



Savitri Jindal

number of education institutions moved online, digital platforms like Byju's grew rapidly. Gokulnath's wealth grew \$1 billion (nearly ₹7,477 crore) in the past year to \$4.05 billion (nearly ₹3.02 lakh crore).

Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, 68, is in the fifth place among women. Overall among the richest Indians, she is ranked 53rd. However, her wealth decreased in the last one year: In 2020 Shaw was worth USD 4.6 billion (nearly ₹3.43 lakh crore), but this year her net worth depleted to \$3.9 billion (nearly ₹2.91 lakh crore).

Mallika Srinivasan of the Amalgamations Family, the owners of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE), is

next. Her net worth is \$2.89 billion (nearly ₹2.16 lakh crore). She is overall in the 73rd position.

Forbes India compiles a list of the richest businesspersons for India, every year. As expected the list is again topped by Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani. He has stayed the wealthiest Indian on the list for the 14th consecutive year. He has added USD 4 billion (nearly ₹2.99 lakh crores) to his net worth in 2021.

In this bumper year, more than 80 per cent of the Indian listees saw their fortunes increase, with 61 adding \$1 billion or more. Forbes in its report also said that India's richest increased their cumulative wealth by 50 per cent in the second year of the pandemic.

'JAWAD' MAY AFFECT DUSSEHRA FESTIVAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Private weather forecasting agency 'Skymet' said Thursday the low pressure area which will form in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) around October 10 will turn into a cyclone with severe intensity. It will be called 'Cyclone Jawad'.

A cyclonic circulation is likely to form over Northeast Bay of Bengal, in the proximity of Gulf of Martaban and coastal Myanmar, October 9. This will reorganise and transform into a low pressure area over the subsequent 36 hours, the Skymet said in its bulletin.

"The low pressure area in the

BoB will enjoy a favourable environment to intensify further. As such, these weather systems have very high potential to develop into severe cyclonic storms," it said.

Weather scientist of OUAT, Tushar Ranjan Mohanty said the cyclone is likely to cross the south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coast around October 14 or 15. Under its impact, heavy rainfall would occur in south Odisha districts including Ganjam and Gajapati.

Another weather expert, SC Sahu said, "As per various models, the low pressure will turn into a cyclone and intensify into a severe to very severe cyclone. It cyclone may cross over land around October 16 to 17."



BRITNEY BLASTS FAMILY OVER CONSERVATORSHIP

Britney Spears has accused her entire family of not supporting her throughout her 13-year conservatorship after her father Jamie was suspended as the supervisor of her estate last week, reports *Billboard.com*. L.A. County Superior Court September 29 granted Spears' petition to immediately suspend her dad as conservator of her estate.

CRUISE LEARNING TO FLY WORLD WAR II PLANE

Hollywood star Tom Cruise has reportedly been learning to fly a World War II military plane for dogfight scenes in *Mission: Impossible 8*. The 59-year-old star has been spotted flying a 1943 Boeing Stearman Model 75 at the Duxford Airfield in Cambridgeshire in the UK, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
If you get a chance to display your presentation skills, don't lose it, says Ganesh. Your eloquence may receive wide acclaim. Your children too may give you reason to be proud. Do remember to take time out for the elderly in your family.

TAURUS
You may have a tendency to feel frustrated when the results are not the way you expected, feels Ganesh. You must still work hard and finish whatever you undertake today. You will discuss some vital issues with a close friend and relive cherished secrets with your life partner.

GEMINI
Today, your enthusiasm for sports and outdoor activities is palpable. According to you, variety is the spice of life. You will keep on jumping from one venture to another. You will establish a good rapport with your bosses and colleagues. It's time to taste success in your immediate and interim objectives.

CANCER
Those around you have always thought that there is something different about you, but could never put their finger on what exactly it was. You always knew. You are better than them, and today is the day to make them realise that. How? The best course of action is to do your job in the best possible manner. You will be appreciated and may even be seen as a future leader by some of your colleagues.

LEO
Forget the weather. Today, the only thing shining bright are your chances of spending some quality time with your near and dear ones. Going along these lines, Ganesh wonders how long has it been since you last did the same. So, make the most of this lucky day. Chances are that you shall make new friends, who might turn out to be very supportive in the future. Ganesh wishes you the very best on this eventful day.

VIRGO
Sense and sensibilities will prevail today as you address relationships. On the emotional front, you may be unclear and oscillate between what you feel and what you really expected of you. But in the end, you may well end up following your inner voice than depend on others. Your intuition is invincibly strong, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
The theatrical you comes to the fore. Ganesh expects you to put up a show in all that you do today, be it a display of devotion to your work, or dedication to your family. You may give the best in the business a run for their money as you prove to be the perfect choice for all tasks assigned to you. A great day at work, and the right amount of affection towards your spouse and children back home — you sure are perfect today!

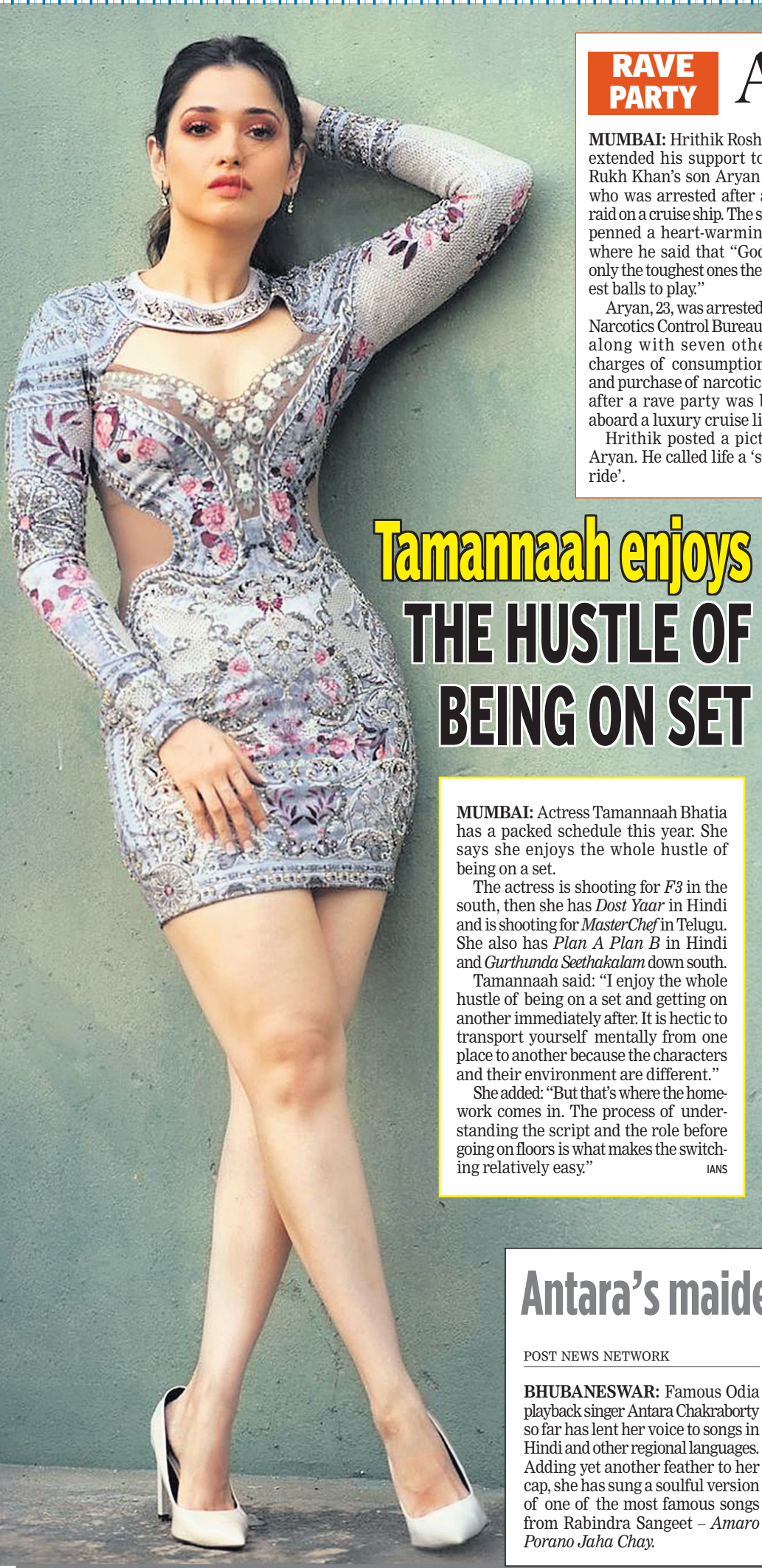
SCORPIO
Today, you must spend most of the time in meditation and introspection. If you do not meditate, you will be surrounded by negative thoughts and bitterness for others. According to Ganesh, this may hinder your progress and growth in career. Simple living and high thinking may make things easier for you.

SAGITTARIUS
Your stars are mighty today and plan a pleasant day for you, says Ganesh. You are a thorough professional and garner compliments for this attitude. You also have a knack to sail through all the troubles at work. This approach of yours is sure to win hearts of people and add some names in your friends' list.

CAPRICORN
It's time to party, whether or not you have no reason for it. Friends and even acquaintances will be invited to take part in the celebrations; you will be all charged up to have a blast of a day, says Ganesh. For those engaged in business, profits may come but it won't be the result of the efforts you put in. Any dealings related to real estate and construction will yield good results.

AQUARIUS
You may be sorely disappointed today. With no support from family, and the kids driving you up the wall, you need to keep your cool. Family feuds are highly likely, and neighbours may attempt to interfere. For now, all you need is to remain unruffled, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Your expenses are likely to soar and you will need to draw a line between your needs and your desires if you are to keep them in check. There is a strong possibility that you will undergo a spiritual experience today. You may also pursue meditative techniques for your peace of mind, says Ganesh.



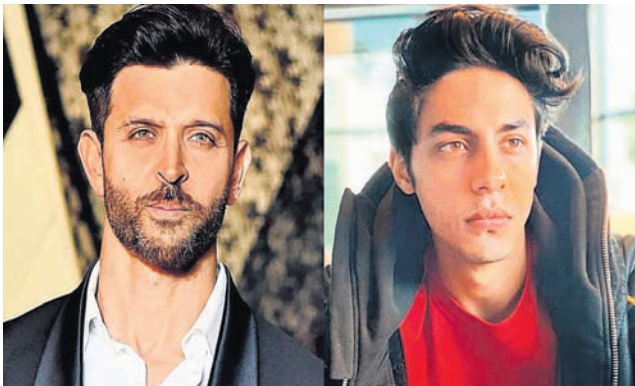
Tamannaah enjoys THE HUSTLE OF BEING ON SET

MUMBAI: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia has a packed schedule this year. She says she enjoys the whole hustle of being on a set.
The actress is shooting for *F3* in the south, then she has *Dost Yaar* in Hindi and is shooting for *Master Chef* in Telugu. She also has *Plan A Plan B* in Hindi and *Gurthunda Seethakalam* down south.
Tamannaah said: "I enjoy the whole hustle of being on a set and getting on another immediately after. It is hectic to transport yourself mentally from one place to another because the characters and their environment are different."
She added: "But that's where the homework comes in. The process of understanding the script and the role before going on floors is what makes the switching relatively easy."
IANS

RAVE PARTY

Aryan gets Hrithik's support

MUMBAI: Hrithik Roshan has extended his support to Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, who was arrested after a drug raid on a cruise ship. The star has penned a heart-warming note where he said that "God gives only the toughest ones the toughest balls to play."
Aryan, 23, was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) along with seven others on charges of consumption, sale, and purchase of narcotic drugs, after a rave party was busted aboard a luxury cruise liner.
Hrithik posted a picture of Aryan. He called life a 'strange ride'.

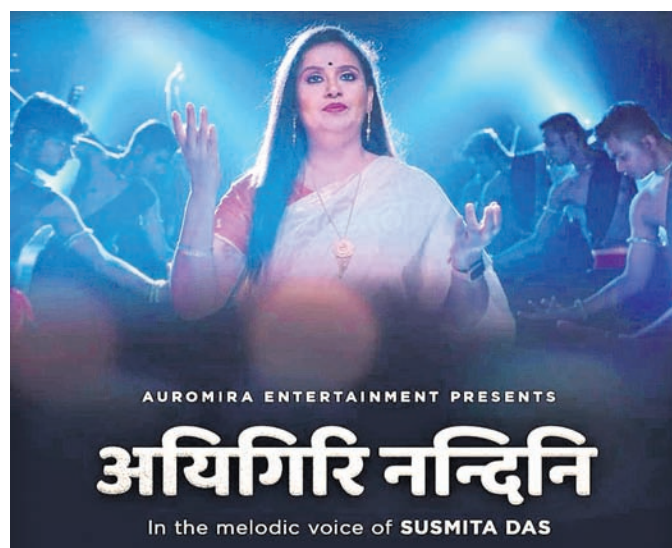


Hrithik wrote: "My dear Aryan, Life is a strange ride. It's great because it's uncertain. It's great cause it throws you curve balls, but God is kind. He gives only the toughest ones the toughest balls to play."

The star added: "You know you are chosen when amidst the chaos you can feel the pressure to hold your own. And I know you must feel it now. The anger, the confusion, the helplessness. Aaah, the very ingredients that are needed to burn the hero out from inside you. But be wary, those same ingredients could burn away the good stuff... the kindness, the compassion, the love."
Several celebs such as Suchitra Krishnamoorthi, Pooja Bhatt and Hansal Mehta also came out in support of Shah Rukh and his son Aryan.
IANS

Susmita's Aigiri Nandini released in Hindi now

BHUBANESWAR: Singer Susmita Das has launched the Hindi version of music video *Aigiri Nandini* (Durga Stotram) Wednesday on the occasion of Mahalaya which marks the beginning of Navaratri and Durga Puja.
Earlier, she got its Odia version symbolising women empowerment released on the occasion of International Women's Day.
Talking about the Hindi edition, Susmita says, "The song became so popular in Odia that I was flooded with offers to make a Hindi version to reach out to the national listeners. I thought Durga Puja would be the right occasion to go national."
Susmita, who has delivered popular music videos like *Prithvi Manthan* and *Nua Thikana Ku*, loves producing songs on contemporary social issues to sensitise people as she believes that music is the most powerful



medium to create awareness on certain issues.
"I am grateful to Dev Meher for conceiving the visuals. Suryamayee has very effectively translated his ideas into visual presentation.
Rendition of Abhijeet Mishra has captured the theme of the song very nicely. Anup Agarwal has beautifully penned the lyrics. I am thankful to the whole team", Susmita signs off.

Antara's maiden Rabindra Sangeet album out

BHUBANESWAR: Famous Odia playback singer Antara Chakraborty so far has lent her voice to songs in Hindi and other regional languages. Adding yet another feather to her cap, she has sung a soulful version of one of the most famous songs from Rabindra Sangeet — *Amaro Porano Jaha Chay*.

It was her first Rabindra Sangeet album which was released October 3 at Phani Bhusan Mach, Kolkata. She has sung two songs in the album. Music of these melancholic love songs, written and composed by Rabindranath Tagore, was scored by Pandit Biplab Mandal. The event was organised by Akash Music and attended by many celebrities including Srikumar Chakraborty,

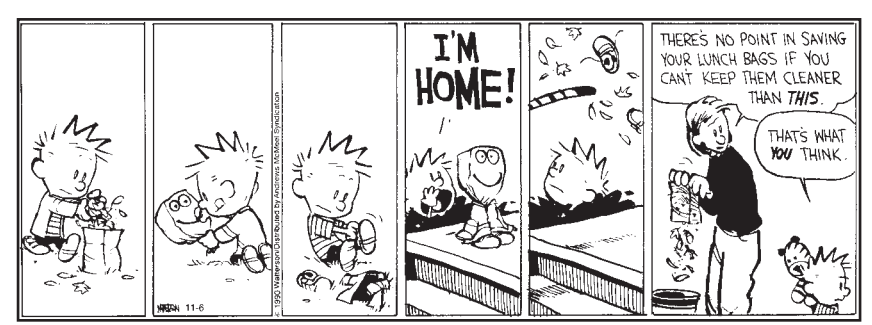
Bhaskar Bhattacharya, Amit Dey and Chinu Kanjilal.
Speaking about her maiden Rabindra Sangeet album, Antara said, "The songs of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore express all ranges and categories of human emotion. Therefore, it is a huge honour to be part of this project and I look forward to get more such opportunities."



PEANUTS



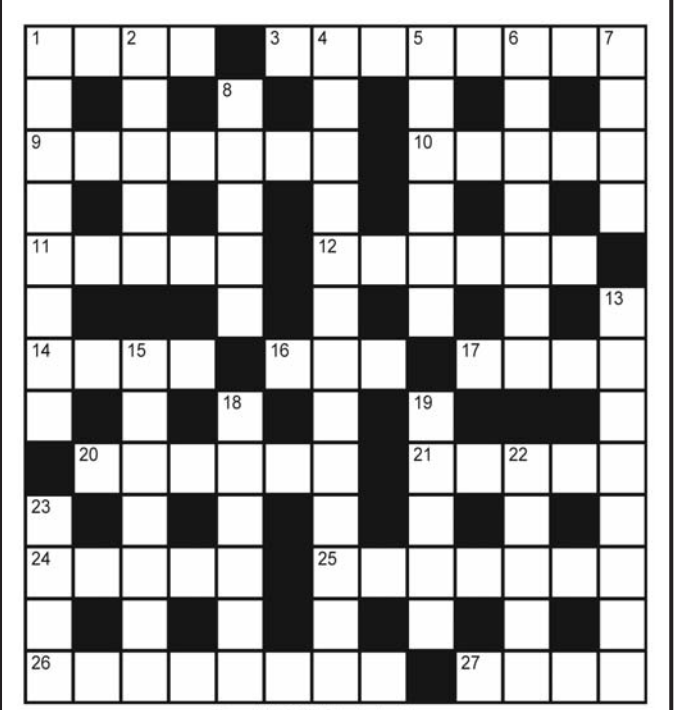
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



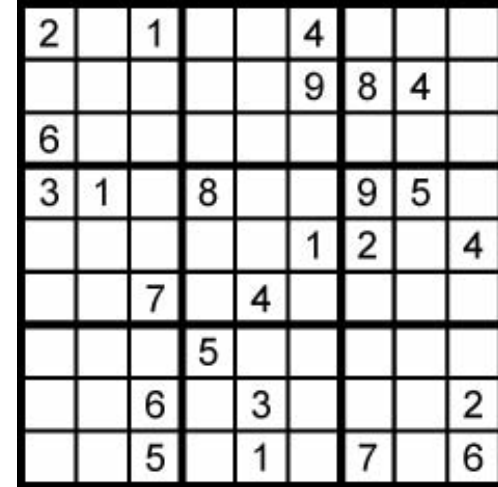
FUN post CROSSWORD



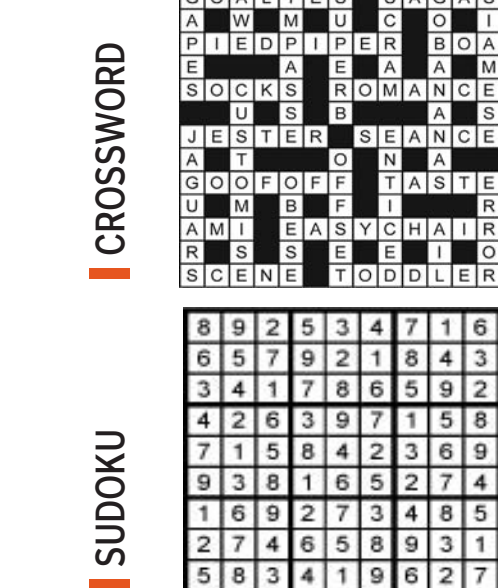
- Across**
1 Bistro
3 Spectator
9 Seedless raisin
10 Prize money
11 Vast chasm
12 Plaid
14 Part of the foot
16 Barbary beast
17 Use acid
20 Collect
21 Shoestrings
24 The blabs
- Down**
25 Kind of farming
26 Kind of confinement
27 Wail
1 Shipwreck survivor
2 Foal's kin
4 Permanent place (6,7)
5 Cash in one's chips
6 Like many gardens
7 Marsh growth
8 Cumberbund's place
13 Type of therapy
15 Harbour feature
18 Frugality
19 Set straight
22 Latin dance
23 Lawyers' charges

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



GLORIOUS MOMENT
Artistes perform during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Puri beach to commemorate 75 years of India's independence

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,72,26,725	21,43,65,850	48,43,505
India	3,38,94,312	3,32,00,258	4,49,856
Odisha	10,29,994	10,17,116	8,234

State gets ₹1617.65 cr for GST compensation shortfall

POST NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi, Oct 7: The Centre Thursday released ₹1617.65 crore to Odisha under the back-to-back loan facility to meet the shortfall in Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation.
The Union Ministry of Finance released ₹40,000 crore to states and union territories (UTs) with legislature to meet the shortfall in GST compensation. Earlier, the ministry had released ₹75,000 crore.
So far this fiscal, the Centre has released ₹1,15,000 crore as back-to-back loan for GST compensation. This is in addition to the normal GST compensation being released every two months out of actual cess collection, said the Finance Ministry.
Significantly, the Centre had decided that it would borrow ₹1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22 fiscal and release it to states and UTs with legislature on a back-to-back basis to meet the resource gap due to lesser release of compensation on account of inadequate amount collected in the compensation fund.
This amount of ₹1.59 lakh crore to be provided to states as back-to-back loan would be over and above the compensation in excess of ₹1 lakh crore based on cess collection that is estimated to be released to



MONEY MATTERS
The Union ministry of Finance released ₹40,000 crore to states and union territories with legislature to meet the shortfall in GST compensation. Earlier, the ministry had released ₹75,000 crore.

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agement of Covid-19 pandemic and a step-up in capital expenditure, all States and UTs have a very important role to play. For assisting the states/UTs in their endeavour, the Ministry of Finance has front-loaded the release of assistance under the back-to-back loan facility during 2021-22 fiscal of ₹1,15,000 crore (more than 72 per cent of the total estimated shortfall for the entire year). The balance amount will be released in due course. It is expected that this release will help the states/UTs in planning their public expenditure, among other things, for improving, health infrastructure and taking up infrastructure projects," said the ministry.

states/UTs with legislature during the current financial year. "For effective response and man-

Road mishap claims 20-yr-old at Janla

POST NEWS NETWORK
Janla, Oct 7: A 20-year-old girl died after being knocked down by a speeding illegal stone-laden truck near Pitapali Square here Thursday.
The incident took place around 9am when the victim, Baisakhi Jena of Gramadiha village here, was pedaling to her computer classes. "A speeding stone-laden truck from Kumarbast knocked down Jena, leaving her critically injured. A profusely bleeding Jena was rushed to a healthcare facility in Khurda where she was declared 'dead on arrival'," said an eyewitness on condition of anonymity.
Biren Paikray, a biker, chased and intercepted the erring vehicle near Gohira Square. Paikray handed over the vehicle and its driver to Janla police outpost officials.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



'Jumbo died of cardiac shock, not drowning'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The elephant that was found dead near Jobra a couple of days after the last September 24 boat tragedy at Mundali barrage in Mahanadi, had died due to cardiac shock and not due to drowning.
S Panda, head of the Pathology department of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology



(OUAT), said as per the preliminary post-mortem report, the tusker died due to cardiac or cardiogenic shock after remaining stuck in

water for a long time. He said that the elephant did not die due to drowning. It drowned after the cardiogenic shock. The pachyderm got stuck in Mahanadi river near the Mundali barrage while on its way towards Dampara forest from Athagarha forest September 24. As it could not get out and reach the bank due to the strong current of the river despite its best efforts,

a rescue operation was launched to help the elephant. During the operation, a boat of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) team, deployed to rescue the elephant, capsized near Mundali barrage. A journalist and a member of the ODRAF team died following the mishap. The elephant was swept away and its carcass was found near Jobra a couple of days later.

51 teachers selected for refresher course

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Around 51 teachers have been selected to participate in the UGC approved online refresher course in Chemistry. The course is scheduled to be held from October 18 to 31 this year.
The Higher Education (HE) department in a letter Thursday directed the teachers to visit the web portal of the Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC), Savitribai Phule Pune University and submit relieving order. The details regarding timing of online refresher course will be communicated directly via email/SMS by the university.
Rajesh Sahoo, Deputy Director of the HE department directed all the principals of the government aided degree colleges and government junior colleges to issue relieving order to the participating teachers.

Naveen launches BSKY smart health card distribution in Puri

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SRIMANDIR AND PURI CITY IS THE SACRED RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT, SAYS THE CHIEF MINISTER



CM Naveen Patnaik hands over the smart health card to a beneficiary of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana at Brahmagiri in Puri, Thursday. ST Secretary VK Pandian is also seen

to have 'Drink from Tap' facility. The Holy City has joined the league of cities like London and New York in terms of supply of drinking water," Patnaik added.
Speaking on the smart healthcare programme of the state government, Patnaik said it will benefit around 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families in the state. The scheme will ease health-care-related financial burden on people, he said.
"People often sell their landed properties and gold to meet their healthcare expenses. Some of them even stop sending their children to schools due to financial crunch. Now, the beneficiaries of BSKY can avail health services by using this card in more than 200 hospital chains of the country, including Odisha," Patnaik said.
The Chief Minister also inaugurated various infrastructure projects on the occasion.
Speaking at the event, BJP MLA from Brahmagiri Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra urged the Chief Minister to rise above the politics and implement the Centrally-sponsored Ayushman Bharat scheme in Odisha.
Countering Mohapatra, BJD MP Pinaki Misra said, "Soon, the Centre and all other states will replicate the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana of Odisha."

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday launched the distribution of smart health cards to the beneficiaries of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) in Puri district.
On the occasion of the Independence Day, Patnaik had announced the distribution of smart health cards to the BSKY beneficiaries in state. He has already launched the distribution of smart health cards in Malkangiri, Sundargarh, Bolangir and Gajapati districts in four phases.
Patnaik distributed the smart health cards to a few beneficiaries at an event at Brahmagiri in Puri. At least 1.64 lakh families in Puri district would be benefitted by the health card scheme, sources said.
Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said, "The people of Puri district have always extended their sup-



The BSKY beneficiaries with the smart health cards

RU Sociology dept holds int'l webinar

POST NEWS NETWORK
Cuttack, Oct 7: The Department of Sociology at Ravenshaw University (RU) here Thursday conducted an international webinar on 'In Defence of the Ordinary: Exploring Everyday Sociology'.
Anna Romanowicz from Jagiellonian University in Poland, Mumbai-based writer and entrepreneur Koral Das Gupta, Jey Sushil from Washington University and Dev Nath Pathak from South Asian University in New Delhi were the panellists in the webinar.
Head of Ravenshaw Sociology department, Bikram Kesari Mishra, introduced the concept note. According to the panellists, much of our everyday life and social reality can be best understood and explained by sociological enquiry.

Jhoti Chita competition to boost creativity



POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: To encourage creativity among women, the Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi, in collaboration with the district administrations, is organising Jhoti Chita competitions in state.
At least 108 women participated in the competition organised in Koraput district Thursday.
"Jhoti Chita is a traditional art of Odisha. It is very much popular in rural areas of the state. Women in rural areas usually draw Jhoti Chita by using rice paste. The beautiful

patterns of the traditional art have also their imprints on sari designs," said Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi president Sudarshan Patnaik.
Jhoti Chita is drawn not merely with the intention of decorating the house, but also to establish a relationship between the mystical and the material, he added.
Manaswini Biswal won the Jhoti Chita competition in Koraput while Shantilata Khemunda got the second prize. Annapurna Khemunda secured the third prize, Akademi sources said.
"The main purpose of this competition is to create interest and passion for such art among the people," Patnaik said.
The Akademi had earlier organised Jhoti Chita competition in Malkangiri district and it will continue to do so in other districts of Odisha, Patnaik added.

OJEE releases B.CAT entrance results

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) published the result of the entrance examination for B.CAT (Cinematic Art and Technology) Course Thursday.
Starting for the first time from the academic session 2021-22, the Biju Pattanaik Film and Television Institute of Odisha (BPFITIO), Cuttack, is going to offer a 4-year degree programme in Cinematic Art and Technology in three prime disciplines such as Cinematography, Sound Recording and Sound Designing, and Editing.
The entrance examination for this programme was conducted September 30 in two shifts in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode at centres in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Balasore. Out of the total 157 registered candidates, 97 candidates appeared the test. 37 appeared for Cinematography and Sound Recording & Sound Designing where as 60 candidates appeared for



Film Editing. All these candidates have been allotted ranks in their corresponding courses as per their performance in the examination.
The candidates can download their rank cards from the OJEE website (www.ojee.nic.in). All the candidates, who have been awarded ranks, can take part in OJEE counseling for admission to B. CAT Course in BPFITIO corresponding to their rank and other qualifying criteria, information and schedule for which will be published later on.
Candidates are advised to visit the official websites of OJEE (www.ojee.nic.in) and of BPFITIO (www.bpfio.org) regularly for updates.

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KHURDA, CUTTACK SHARE 56.35% OF FRESH CASES

THE STATE'S ACTIVE CASES FURTHER INCREASED TO 5,113, THURSDAY, WITH THE ADDITION OF 582 NEW CASES



PRESS TRSUT OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: As many as 582 people, including 83 children and adolescents, tested positive for Covid-19 Thursday, pushing the tally to 10,29,994, while seven fresh fatalities took the coronavirus death toll to 8,234, a Health department official said. The rate of infection of children and adolescents in the age group of 0 to 18 years now stands at 14.26 per cent against the previous day's 13.49 per cent, he added. Of the 582 new cases, 337 were reported from quarantine centres and the remaining 245 were local contact cases. Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest 282

zone after detection of multiple cases of Covid-19. BMC sources revealed that more than 300 people reside in the apartment. Around 20 residents of 11 households were found infected. The BMC is continuing contact tracing and testing for Covid, which is a mandatory process, they said. The Health and Family Welfare department informed that 7 patients in five different districts such as Cuttack and Sundargarh (2 each), Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur and Mayurbhanj (1 each) have succumbed to the infection taking the state's Covid-19 death toll to 8,234. This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients have also so far died due to comorbidities, the official said.

The state's active cases further increased and currently stand at 5,113 while as many as 10,16,594 patients including 429 Wednesday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease. The daily test positivity rate (TPR) Thursday stood at 0.75 per cent as 582 people tested positive out of the 76,717 samples tested Wednesday. The TPR was 0.82 per cent Wednesday, 0.77 per cent Tuesday, 0.62 per cent Monday and 0.76 per cent Sunday. The coastal state has thus far conducted over 2.04 crore sample tests including 76,717 Wednesday. Odisha's cumulative positivity rate stands at 5.03 per cent.

new cases followed by Cuttack (46). Khurda and Cuttack district together accounted for 56.35 per cent of the state's freshly detected cases. Five districts - Boudh, Malkangiri, Nuapada, Rayagada and Angul - did not report any new cases in the last 24 hours. There has been steady increase of Covid-19 cases in Bhubaneswar even as the rate has substantially come down in comparison to the previous month, said CBK Mohanty, Chief of the Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET). Meanwhile, authorities of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday declared Rajendra Vihar Apartment of ward no-52 in the Forest Park area here as a micro containment



People throw social distancing norms to the wind at Unit-II market in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

NEWS SNIPPETS

EOW arrests insurance agent for ₹1.18cr fraud

BHUBANESWAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch arrested Thursday a LIC agent on the charge of misappropriating ₹1.18 crore by making claims from policies issued in the names of dead persons, police said. The arrested LIC agent was identified as Kabiraj Behera of Jhadakata under Kanas police limits in Puri district. He was arrested based on a complaint filed by Ramakant Parida, the senior branch manager of LIC's Khurda branch. Investigation revealed that Behera had fraudulently managed to get 23 policies in the names of four dead persons, falsely showing them as alive, between 2013 and 2019. Police said since Behera was working as an agent, he was aware of all the rules and regulations. The police said Behera used to pay premium amount for each policy from his pocket for a stipulated period. Then he claimed the amounts using fake death certificates. He applied for the claims in favour of nominees in the LIC office in Khurda and attempted to avail the financial benefits/death claims against those 23 policies.

MLA fined for parking car in no parking zone

BHUBANESWAR: Byomakesh Ray, a Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA, was fined ₹2,000 after his car was found parked in a no parking zone near the Jagannath Temple in Puri. According to police sources, Ray's vehicle was parked near Srimandir Wednesday. A video of the parked car went viral on social media. After being informed about the violation, the Puri police Thursday imposed a fine of ₹2,000 on Ray. An e-challan was issued on Ray's name for violating traffic rules and parking his vehicle in no parking zone, said traffic inspector Dillip Dhal. On the other hand, Ray said that he was not present in the vehicle during the incident and his driver had gone with the car to bring 'Abadha' from the temple. However, when the police stopped the vehicle near the temple, he returned. "I have paid the fine," said the MLA.

Probe ordered into 'torture' of minor at City PS

BHUBANESWAR: City Deputy Commissioner of police (DCP) Umashankar Dash Thursday directed the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) for Zone V to initiate a probe into the alleged third degree torture meted out to a minor boy at the Mancheswar police station here Wednesday. The DCP ordered probe into the incident after reports in this regard were published in the media. The PCR staff attached to Mancheswar police station Wednesday picked up the boy, a rag picker, in connection with an alleged theft case. The policemen reportedly dragged the minor to the police station and thrashed him during investigation into the theft case.

Boy killed, 2 critical in Pipli road mishap

PIPLI: A 14-year-old boy died and at least two others suffered grievous injuries after being knocked down by a speeding car near the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) in Kausalyaganga area here Thursday, an official said. According to eyewitnesses, the incident occurred in the evening when three boys—Raja, 14, of Pubasana village, Satyam, 15, and Sanmaya, 16—were chitchatting near CIFA. "Suddenly, a speeding car (OR02-AF-1011) hit the trio before ramming into another stationary car (OD02-DJ-3564) nearby. Locals rushed the profusely bleeding trio to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar. While Raja succumbed to the injuries, the condition of two others was stated to be critical," said a police official.

Odisha Agri-Conclave starts today

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha Agri-Conclave, 2021 is all set to be held October 8 at the new Convention Hall at Lok Seva Bhawan Bhawan. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will grace the event virtually and release Agri-Knowledge papers. The event aims to create new avenues for market linkages of state agriculture produces and open up new horizon in agri-market. About 50 big companies working in agriculture and allied sectors will attend the conclave. Also, 24 companies have registered their name online and 41 companies have consented on web link. The inaugural session will be aired live by I&PR department and will be given live coverage on Facebook. The second part of the event will be divided into four business sessions to discuss on agriculture and allied fields.

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LOST

It is notified for the information that, the Original Regd. Sale Deed bearing Number 11661301217 dated 06.09.2013 in respect of the property bearing Khata No. 377/58, Plot No. 94, Ac. 0.370 dec. of Mouza: Kharjura, P.S.-Sonepur, Tahasil & Dist.-Sonepur has been lost. Lalita Rice Mill Pvt. Ltd., Managing Director.

AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Angul do hereby declare that, Balia Maharana and Balaram Maharana, S/o. Sukru Maharana At: Katada, P.S.: Jarapada, Dist.- Angul are the one and same person. Hence this affidavit I shall be known as Balia Maharana for all purpose

I, Khusiram Naik (29 years), S/o. Ugresan, Occupation: Army Service vide No. 15733689Y, Rank-NK, Resident of Village Chicholic (Prakashpur), P.O.- Bhukta, P.S./Tah.- Ambabhona, Dist.-Bargarh, Odisha solemnly affirm before the Executive Magistrate, Ambabhona that both the name of his brother Gobinda Naik and Govinda Naik is the name of same and single person in all purposes.

I have changed my name from Manish Kanakbhai Sheth to Manish Sheth as per Aadhaar Card No. 942462383619 and affidavit.

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I Pritam Pattanaik declare that my minor daughter surname is misspelt as PATTNAIK instead of PATTNAIK. Henceforth, she will be known as TRISHA PATTNAIK for all purpose.

ECoR observes 37th RPF Raising Day



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of East Coast Railway (ECoR) celebrated its 37th Raising Day at its headquarters here Thursday. The Raising Day is celebrated to commemorate the valiant efforts of RPF in various fields connected with security. ECoR General Manager Vidya Bhushan exchanged ceremonial salute with the RPF contingent and reviewed the parade. Addressing the RPF personnel on the occasion, praised their dedication in performing duties and saving Railway property and human values and advised them to strive towards ensuring foolproof safety and security of the passengers. Inspector General and Principal Chief Security Commissioner of

RPF (ECoR) Raja Ram elaborated upon the performance and activities of RPF under the jurisdiction of ECoR. He said that despite adverse situation and additional burden during the Covid-19 pandemic, RPF Jawans were able to meet the challenges very courageously and with due sincerity while performing their duties for the safety and security of passengers and protecting Railways property. ECoR Additional General Manager Sudhir Kumar, twin city Commissioner of Police Soumenendra Priyadarshi, CRPF DIG at Bhubaneswar Pokhraj Jaipal, Aviation Coast Guard DIG Satish Bisht, and NDRF Senior Commandant Jacob Kispota were also present on the occasion. Bravery awards and merit certificates with cash prizes were distributed to RPF personnel.

CoE in advanced welding in Mayurbhanj dist soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Directorate of Technical Education and Training (DTET), which works under the Skill Development & Technical Education Department, signed an agreement with KEMPPPI India Private Limited Thursday to setup Centre of Excellence (CoE) in advanced welding at TTI Takatpur in Mayurbhanj district at a cost of ₹5.29 crore. The agreement was signed between DTET Director Reghu G and KEMPPPI India Pvt Ltd Managing Director Ajay Trikha in the office of DTET. This CoE will have advanced welding equipment like robot



welding, laser welding, pipe welding, and heavy fabrication welding among others. In addition to this, welding machines used in World Skill Competition will also be set-up to train students for the global event. Non-destructive testing equipment will also be placed to perfect the skill

trainees. Modern electro static precipitators will be set-up with fume extraction system. This CoE will also produce industry-ready employable trainees from the district. KEMPPPI will provide training to 10 students from Government ITI/Polytechnics of Odisha at their training centres

This CoE will have advanced welding equipment like robot welding, laser welding, pipe welding, and heavy fabrication welding among others. In addition to this, welding machines used in World Skill Competition will also be set-up to train students for the global event. Non-destructive testing equipment will also be placed to perfect the skill trainees for one month. Technical experts from KEMPPPI will provide 15 months training at TTI Takatpur

HITTING THE STREETS



People under the aegis of many outfits like AITUC stage a demonstration at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, condemning the demonetisation by the BJP government

Infrastructure, staff crunch mar Aadhaar services at post offices

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack Sadar, Oct 7: People approaching the sub and branch offices under the Cuttack City Postal Division for Aadhaar-related services and returning empty-handed has become a regular scenario, thanks to the staff and infrastructure crunch at the offices. Sources said that an updated Aadhaar, a 12-digit unique identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India and containing demographic as well as biometric details, has become the need of the hour as it is a must to avail many welfare schemes facilitated by the Centre. Apart from a few other institutions, post offices across the country have been providing services to



apply a new Aadhaar or update the existing one. However, many sub and branch post offices under the Cuttack City Postal Division have failed to deliver the desired services. While many sub post offices are bearing the brunt of slow internet and staff crunch, branch post offices are yet to get the login credentials required to provide Aadhaar related services, said a source. "It takes at least an hour to update an Aadhaar at any of the sub

post offices under the Cuttack City Postal Division. Slow internet and manpower crunch are the reasons to be blamed for: On the other hand, whenever someone approaches a branch post office, the postmasters there brush helplessness saying they are yet to get the login credentials," said a source, highlighting that approaching the offices under Cuttack City Postal Division for availing Aadhaar-related services is a waste of time as people have to return empty-handed. Under such circumstances, it has become a Herculean task for the postal staff to entertain customers other than those approaching for Aadhaar-related services within a stipulated time, the source added. Asked, Cuttack City Postal Division head Debi Prasad Dash declined to comment.

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23 supply officials siphon off rice worth ₹2.21 crore

OSCSC managing director orders immediate action against corrupt officials



Taking note of the delay in action, Biswajit Keshari Das, managing director of Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation has written to district managers of civil supplies department to act against these officials within the deadline, October 1. He said if action is not taken within the deadline then it will be presumed that attempts are being made to cover up the wrongdoings of the officials

On the basis of the report, the OSCSC has written several times to the district civil supplies department to submit necessary papers in this regard. However, the district civil supplies department is yet to submit the report due to a connivance between the DMs and these officials

Department to submit necessary papers in this regard. However, the district civil supplies department is yet to submit the report due to a connivance between the DMs and these officials.

Das has sought action against those officials who have retired from service. He asked for a list of errand officials for taking disciplinary action.

Draft charges against these officials have been made over ten times during last three years. However, the order is yet to be implemented. Taking note of the delay, Biswajit Keshari Das, managing director of Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC) has written to district managers (DM) of civil supplies department to take action against these officials within the deadline, October 1. He said if action is not taken within the deadline, then it will be presumed that attempts are being made to cover up the wrongdoings of the officials.

On the basis of the report, the OSCSC has written several times to the district civil supplies de-



Farmers under the aegis of Zilla Krushak Surakshya Sangathan attending a meeting in Sambalpur demand withdrawal of farm laws, Thursday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 7: A major scam has unfolded where 23 officials of the civil supplies department in Jajpur, Bhadrak, Ganjam and Nabarangpur districts have allegedly siphoned off government rice to the tune of ₹2.21,046,948, a report said.

The matter came to the fore after a special audit indicted the officials for their involvement in the scam. The report has indicated the involvement of civil supplies inspectors (CSIs), marketing inspectors (MIs) and civil supplies officers (CSO) in this scam. Among them, 19 of the officials are from Ganjam district alone.

EXPLOSIVES SEIZED NEAR BLACK STONE MINES IN JAJPUR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 7: Acting on a tip-off, police have seized a huge cache of explosives during a raid in villages near the black stone mines under Jenapur police limits and Dharmasala tehsil in Jajpur district, police said Thursday.

The team raided an illegal explosive godown at Satamana village under Jenapur police limits October 4 and recovered over five quintals of ammonia nitrate and 300 packets of gelatin sticks weighing 25 kg. However, police failed to nab any person in this connection as the godown owner Raghunath Sahu and his son Akshaya Sahu fled the scene before the police could arrive.

Similarly, police raided another illegal godown at Lunibara village near the black stone mines October 5 night and recovered 45 bags of ammonia nitrate and 180 packets of gelatin sticks buried under the ground. Godown owner, Rangadhar Sahu, fled the scene before the police could arrive. Police Wednesday stumbled upon a huge quantity of explosives buried under the ground near the Gangeiduburi stone quarry. Details are awaited as raids also continued Thursday.

IIC Sravan Kumar Moharana got information from a reliable source that the explosives were buried in an open field. Swinging into action, the IIC along with a police team immediately reached the spot and launched a probe.

A huge quantity of explosives like ammonium nitrate and gelatin sticks were recovered during the raid in the area.

Police said over 15 persons are involved in this illegal trade of explosives. A probe has been launched in this connection. The IIC said that the open field where explosives were buried is a government land. A local resident had illegally taken possession of the land.

SAMBALPUR FARMERS FACE SPECTRE OF SCRUB TYPHUS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 7: Farmers in Sambalpur district have been struggling to save their crops from various insects with application of pesticides, but in this process most of them get infected with scrub typhus disease, a report said.

Many patients infected with scrub typhus are now being treated at VIMSAR. According to reports, paddy farming is affected by a number of diseases and insects. The farmers apply pesticides on paddy in their farmlands at this time. A kind of insect resembling spiders has posed danger to farmers.

During application of pesticides, these insects bite farmers. Due to their bites, farmers are being infected with scrub typhus. Keeping this danger in view, the agriculture department has started an awareness drive on its prevention in the district.



According to experts, these insects are found on green leaves of the paddy. Besides farmers, forest officials and people dependent on forests also face a danger from these insects found in forests too. If a person is bitten by this insect, its poison goes into the bloodstream of the person. He/she gets down with fever with symptoms of malaria. The infected persons suffer from fever, stomach pain, headache and urine choking.

People are advised to visit doctors immediately if such symptoms are

found in them.

It is said that if the level of infection goes up, the affected persons may have high blood pressure, kidney failure and heart attack.

It was alleged that many farmers in western Odisha have died of the disease. A few days ago, a farmer of Tamparasara in Bargarh district died of the disease. Officials of the agriculture department advise farmers to completely cover their bodies as a preventive measure while going to the farmlands.

Prof Lalit Meher, director of VIMSAR, said the disease is more harmful than malaria. "Red rashes develop at the places of the body after this insect bites. Later, it infects other parts of the body," he added.

Now, many scrub typhus patients are coming to VIMSAR from various parts of Sambalpur. In the last four months, many patients have been treated at VIMSAR, he claimed.

Bonda tribals seek milk, not satttu for kids

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 7: The state government has taken a host of measures including 'sattu' for Anganwadi children to ward off malnutrition. Malnutrition cases are found among tribal children in Malkangiri. Bonda tribals, however, demanded that milk be provided to their children to keep malnutrition at bay.

According to reports, the state government spends crores of rupees towards development of Malkangiri, but there has been little improvement in curbing malnutrition cases among Bonda kids in Bonda ghati area under Khairput block.

It was alleged that kids of Bonda and Didai tribal communities are deprived of proper nutrition from sattu



as provided to Anganwadi centres in the district.

In order to deal with malnutrition, the Didai Development Agency has come forward to deal with malnutrition. The agency with the help of an SHG has distributed milk to over a hundred Bonda children on an experimental basis. The SHG will ensure quality milk to children and keep a watch on their health.

The SHG members are taking care of children, ensuring kids put on

clean dress and maintain sanitation.

The SHG members have set up special camps at Kirsaniapada, Badapadar, Badhaguda and Padalguda in Mudulipada panchayat where they fed milk to children Thursday.

The parents of the children were explained about the importance of child care, nutrition and sanitation.

Most guardians at these camps observed that their kids should be provided with milk instead of sattu in the morning and evening. Thereby, their children will be physically and mentally fit to carry on their activities and studies, they said.

Director of Didai Development Agency Debasish Patra and other officials said that the agency will focus on providing more milk to the children on a priority basis.

Sec 144 imposed ahead of annual Kalua Yatra

AGENCIES

Berhampur, Oct 7: The Ganjam district administration has imposed prohibitory orders in an area here to prevent crowds during the annual Maa Kalua Yatra, an official said.

Section 144 of the CrPC was enforced from the Kalua temple to a pandal in Gosani Nuagaon, the official said Wednesday. The prohibitory order has been imposed as there were apprehensions of possible spread of Covid-19 infection, Berhampur Sub-Collector Keerti Vasan said.

The makeshift structure was erected by the festival organisers to install the idol via Kalua Sahi and Bada Sahi from Tuesday evening till further order, Vasan said. The 16-day festival will end on the day of Kumar Purnima October 20.

During the festival, a huge procession is conducted in the route from Kalua temple to the temporary pandal every night as the Goddess visited the streets.

On the first day of the festival Tuesday night, several people par-



ticipated in a procession when the deity was brought from the temple to the makeshift pandal.

It is in accordance with the guidelines of the government for celebration of Durga Puja and similar festivals till November, said Vasan. The administration, however, allowed the organisers to conduct the traditional festival without public participation.

Like the Durga Puja, the makeshift pandal for the festival should be

indoor-like with covering from three sides. There will be no public address or entertainment programme during the period.

A maximum of seven persons will be allowed in the pandal, including the priests and organisers, to perform rituals. All of them have to follow Covid guidelines like wearing masks, maintaining social distance and hand wash, the order said.

Any person violating the order will be booked under Section 188

Section 144 of the CrPC was enforced from the Kalua temple to a pandal in Gosani Nuagaon, the official said Wednesday. The prohibitory order has been imposed in view of possible spread of Covid-19 infection, Berhampur Sub-Collector Keerti Vasan said

The makeshift structure was erected by the festival organisers to install the idol via Kalua Sahi and Bada Sahi from Tuesday evening till further order, Vasan said. The 16-day festival will end on the day of Kumar Purnima October 20

(disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code, as well as under the Disaster Management Act and the Epidemic Diseases Act, he warned.

SUNDARAM HOME Regd Office: No. 21, Pattulos Road, Chennai - 600 002. Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai - 600 014.

Branch Office: A/108, 1st Floor, Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007. Phone: 0674 - 254 4677

POSSESSION NOTICE

Rule 8(2) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas the authorized officer of **SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.**, formerly known as SUNDARAM BNP PARIBAS HOME FINANCE LTD., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower, Co-Borrower and Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notices. The Borrower, Co-Borrower and Guarantor having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Co-Borrower, Guarantor and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The borrower's attention is invited to provision of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower, Co-Borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.**

Sl. No.	File No.	Borrower's, Co-Borrower's & Guarantor Name and Address	Date of Demand Notice/Publication	Notice Amount	Date of Possession	Total Outstanding
1	6620091	Mr. Dillip Kumar Nayak (Borrower) 270/A, Sahid Nagar Khurda Bhubaneswar - 751007. Mrs. Ranjita Nayak (Co-Borrower)	01 June 2021	Rs. 30,19,970/-	4th Oct., 2021	Rs. 31,62,935/-
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All that piece & parcel of property situated at Flat no. 503/B1, 5th floor, category-4 bedroom flat, having super builtup area of 2290 sqft. To be constructed as per the approved plan by the Block Development Officer (BDO), Distkhordha, Tehsil - Bhubaneswar, P.S. Baliaanta, under the jurisdiction of D.S.R.O. Khordha, Bhubaneswar appertaining to khata no.359/497, 359/500, 359/ 501, Sthitiban plot no. 255, 256 & 265 respectively. Dimensions: Super B/UP area: 2290 Sq.ft. Built up area:1947 Sq.ft. Saleable area: 1832 Sq.ft. Boundaries of the property: North: part of revenue plot 244 & 246. South: Road. East: Rest part revenue plot. 256 & 242. West: Revenue plot 250, 253 & 265.						
2	6620150	Mr. Asit Kumar Mohanty (Borrower) , C/O-N. K Patnanaik, Plot No-582/834 Kalunanda Nagar, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar-751020 M/S Creative Solution (Co-Borrower) Mrs. Santilata Mohanty (Co-Borrower)	01 June 2021	Rs. 27,42,527/-	4th Oct., 2021	Rs. 29,34,346/-
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of immovable property admeasuring an area Ac.0.100 dec under Khata no.03, Plot no.598/1222, KISSAM: Gharabari (Homestead), situated at Mouza/Revenue village, Bhanapur, under Tahsil: Nimapara, No.50, District: Puri in the state of Odisha and bounded as under: On towards North by Raghua Sahoo, On towards South by Road, On towards East by Pratap Routray, On towards West by Nepal Mohapatra.						
3	BBR20180027	Homebase Estates Pvt Ltd. (Borrower) Panchamukhi Greens, Plot No 256 255 243, Atala, Ps Baliaanta, Khurda, Bhubaneswar-752101. Dillip Kumar Nayak (Guarantor) Krupananda Choudhry (Guarantor) Alikanta Baral (Guarantor) Prasanna Kumar Sahoo (Guarantor)	01 June 2021	Rs. 1,64,01,147/-	4th Oct., 2021	Rs. 1,76,28,540/-
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: Item 1: All the peace and parcel of the property with land & building situated in District Khurda, SRO- Baliaanta Village, Mouza-Atala, Tahasil-Baliaanta, Khata No. 253, 359/379, 131, plot no. 255,256, 243, Area Ac.2.750 decimal having home stead status & the plot is duly approved by panchayat samiti office Baliaanta Vide No.713 dated 29.03.2011 on existing S+7 namely "Panchamukhi Greens" having 6 blocks with total 203 units with i.e.4 to 5 units in each floor. With BUA ground floor parking space, Flat situated in Block A1 i.e. Flat no. 703 (area 1675 sqft). Item 2: All the peace and parcel of the property with land & building situated in District Khurda, SRO- Baliaanta Village, Mouza-Atala, Tahasil-Baliaanta, Khata No.253, 359/379, 131, plot no.255,256, 243, Area Ac.2.750 decimal having home stead status & the plot is duly approved by panchayat samiti office Baliaanta Vide No.713 dated 29.03.2011 on existing S+7 namely "Panchamukhi Greens" having 6 blocks with total 203 units with i.e.4 to 5 units in each floor. With BUA ground floor parking space, Flat situated in Block A2 flat no. 601 (area 1375 sqft). Item 3: All the peace and parcel of the property with land & building situated in District Khurda, SRO- Baliaanta Village, Mouza-Atala, Tahasil-Baliaanta, Khata No.253, 359/379, 131, plot no.255,256, 243, Area Ac.2.750 decimal having home stead status & the plot is duly approved by panchayat samiti office Baliaanta Vide No.713 dated 29.03.2011 on existing S+7 namely "Panchamukhi Greens" having 6 blocks with total 203 units with i.e.4 to 5 units in each floor. With BUA ground floor parking space, Flat situated in block A2, flat no. 705 (area 1375 sqft). Item 4: All the peace and parcel of the property with land & building situated in District Khurda, SRO- Baliaanta Village, Mouza-Atala, Tahasil-Baliaanta, Khata No. 253, 359/379, 131, plot no.255,256, 243, Area Ac.2.750 decimal having home stead status & the plot is duly approved by panchayat samiti office Baliaanta Vide No.713 dated 29.03.2011 on existing S+7 namely "Panchamukhi Greens" having 6 blocks with total 203 units with i.e.4 to 5 units in each floor. With BUA ground floor parking space, Flat situated in block A2, flat no. 705 (area 1375 sqft). Item 5: All the peace and parcel of the property with land & building situated in District Khurda, SRO- Baliaanta Village, Mouza-Atala, Tahasil-Baliaanta, Khata No.253, 359/379, 131, plot no.255,256, 243, Area Ac.2.750 decimal having home stead status & the plot is duly approved by panchayat samiti office Baliaanta Vide No.713 dated 29.03.2011 on existing S+7 namely "Panchamukhi Greens" having 6 blocks with total 203 units with i.e.4 to 5 units in each floor. With BUA ground floor parking space, flat situated in Block B1 i.e. flat no. 701 (area 1235 sqft). Item 6: All the peace and parcel of the property with land & building situated in District Khurda, SRO- Baliaanta Village, Mouza-Atala, Tahasil-Baliaanta, Khata No.253, 359/379, 131, plot no.255,256, 243, Area Ac.2.750 decimal having home stead status & the plot is duly approved by panchayat samiti office Baliaanta Vide No.713 dated 29.03.2011 on existing S+7 namely "Panchamukhi Greens" having 6 blocks with total 203 units with i.e.4 to 5 units in each floor. With BUA ground floor parking space, flat situated in Block B1, flat no.702 (area 1235 sqft).						

Date: 04-10-2021 for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD Authorised officer

FOCUS ECONOMY

MADE-IN-CHINA CRISIS



Since the 2008 global financial crisis, the Chinese financial system has grown to become systemically important. Yet it is not clear that the international financial safety net has the resources to protect the world from the associated risks

assume that China will intervene to manage Evergrande's collapse. But the episode will nonetheless leave two major scars on China's economy.

First, as foreign investors will not be sheltered, confidence will take a bit hit, especially in China's offshore credit market, which is particularly exposed to Evergrande risks. Yields on China's junk dollar bonds have jumped to approximately 15%, their highest level in about a decade.

Since its establishment in 2010, the offshore market has been central to China's strategy for making the renminbi a liquid and freely usable international currency, because it enables the circumvention of domestic capital controls. But foreign investors have been extremely cautious about trading renminbi-denominated assets in this market. The Evergrande saga will reinforce their misgivings, at least for now, forcing China to rethink its renminbi strategy.

The second scar will be on China's real economy. The real-estate sector accounts for nearly 30% of China's GDP, compared with 19% in the US. And real-estate value added contributes about 6.5% to China's GDP (if indirect contributions, such as fixed-asset investment, are considered, the sector's contribution to Chinese growth is even larger.)

The Evergrande implosion could therefore have serious consequences for jobs and growth. If it

triggers a drop in stock and real-estate prices – housing comprises 78% of Chinese assets, compared to 35% for the US – consumer confidence, and thus consumption, may also take a hit.

The question is whether China will be able to contain the Evergrande crisis and prevent its consequences from spilling over to global financial markets. So far, the expectation seems to be that China will succeed in ring-fencing the problem. Even if Evergrande collapses, the logic goes, China's banking and financial system is robust and resilient enough to withstand it. Furthermore, the policy response to any instability would most likely be effective, matching in speed and scale the Fed's move in 2008 to backstop the US banking system. Several policy tools, including monetary and fiscal easing, are available.

But there is no guarantee that the policy response will not lag behind events, with political considerations potentially impeding action. In that case, the rest of the world would feel the effects.

Since the 2008 global financial crisis, China's financial system has expanded to become one of the world's largest, with financial assets amounting to nearly 470% of GDP. And it has become more integrated with the rest of the world through investment flows and direct lending. But while the Chinese financial system is now systemically important, it is not

clear that the international financial safety net – provided by multilateral financial institutions, notably the IMF – has expanded adequately to accommodate this.

That safety net is currently estimated to amount to about \$2.7 trillion (based on immediately available financial resources, not including pre-committed resources). This is less than China's foreign-exchange reserves – currently around \$3.2 trillion. Would this be enough to stave off disaster in the event of a made-in-China systemic crisis? Would the US – the IMF's main shareholder – even agree to the Fund extending adequate assistance and resources to backstop such a crisis?

Fortunately, this scenario still seems unlikely. But it should not be dismissed out of hand. After all, how many low-probability events have come to pass over the last two decades? At the very least, the Evergrande crisis should shake us from our complacency regarding global financial risks. We need to be building resilience, not politicizing the multilateral financial architecture. And if a systemic financial crisis does hit China, we need to know who will step in to rescue the rest of the world – and how.

The writer is Professor of International Economics at the University of London's Queen Mary Global Policy Institute, is the author, most recently, of 'The Cost of Free Money.'

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As the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank prepare for their annual meeting next week, all eyes are on Evergrande, China's second-largest property developer, which apparently cannot repay about \$300 billion it currently owes to banks, bondholders, employees, and suppliers. With the property giant teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, the world is being forced to contemplate a scenario it had never seriously considered: a made-in-China financial crisis.

Observers have been quick to draw parallels between the Evergrande debacle and past crises. Some compare it to the 2008 crash of the US investment bank Lehman Brothers, which triggered a massive banking and financial crisis. Others recall the near-collapse of the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management in 1998, which was staved off only by a bailout from the US Federal Reserve to protect financial markets. Still others invoke the collapse of Japan's real-estate bubble in the 1990s.

In all of these cases, the combination of excessive leverage and overvalued assets triggered instability. But none really offers much insight into the situation at Evergrande, owing to the peculiarities of China's banking and financial system, which is driven by policy, not markets.

Whereas a country like the United States may provide a bailout when financial collapse seems imminent, China intervenes in capital markets regularly and tolerates few risks to financial stability. China's monetary authorities are thus well-versed in managing the financial troubles of domestic firms, shielding the distressed ones from contagion, ensuring low borrowing costs, and providing selective bailouts.

In engineering such rescues, the Chinese authorities are unlikely to agonize over the question of whether a firm really is "too big to fail," as the US authorities did in the days before the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy. China would much rather risk moral hazard than jeopardize financial stability. Given this, it is probably safe to



Paola Subacchi

CHINA WILL SUCCEED IN RING-FENCING THE PROBLEM. EVEN IF EVERGRANDE COLLAPSES, THE LOGIC GOES, CHINA'S BANKING AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM IS ROBUST AND RESILIENT ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND IT

Education in an age of displacement

The ongoing flood of refugees from Afghanistan – now some 2.6 million strong – is sadly no isolated tragedy. Indeed, if all of today's 82.4 million refugees and forcibly displaced persons were gathered into a single state it would be the world's twentieth largest country by population. If current trends continue, and climate change adds substantially to the numbers as the World Bank predicts, the number of refugees and displaced persons by mid-century could exceed the population of Brazil, and nearly that of Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and France combined. With sea levels rising, some forecasters suggest that the world's displaced population – already the largest recorded in human history – could exceed one billion.

Long before we heard anything about a novel coronavirus, the rising number of refugees was being driven by the pathogens of war and ethnic and religious hatred, and by our collective inability to feel others' pain. Refugee "camps" have become permanent cities, but most refugees are dispersed in hovels, huts, and rented accommodation, where they have been living for almost 20 years on average, with no end in sight.

Tragically, among the millions suffering from this disruption is a lost generation of young people with little access to education and employment. Think of the talent that would be lost, the ability squandered, and the potential untapped if a country's entire youth population was denied these opportunities.

Among today's displaced youth are potential leaders – the future Albert Einsteins, Jessye Normans, JK Rowlings, and Tim Berners-Lees – with the capabilities and drive to make the world a more prosperous and less dangerous place. But what chance is there for a young person trapped in a besieged town in Syria or Afghanistan to show their genius? Or for a child in the midst of the conflict in Yemen, Chad, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, or Libya, or in the South Sudanese refugee camps on the Ugandan border?

The refugee problem is now so widespread that even in wealthy Europe; thousands of young people in the Moria camp in Greece – until it burned down in 2020 – were receiving no formal education.

Two summers ago, three adolescents in Moria – aged 12, 13, and 14 – reached such levels of despair that they attempted suicide.

Yes, hope dies when a refugee boat capsizes, a food convoy can't reach hungry people, and a hospital has no doctors to treat patients with COVID-19. But hope also dies when a young person cannot prepare for the future and is unable even to dream of a different life. This happens when they are denied the education all young people need to bridge the gap between who they are and what they can become.

There is no single-shot vaccine that will end the exploding refugee crisis. But amid the chaos, efforts are underway to provide life-changing educational opportunities to young people currently living without the advantages of more stable, supportive environments.

For school-age refugee children and youth, new hope dawned in 2016 with the launch of Education Cannot Wait, a United Nations global fund. Since its inception, the initiative has not only reached an estimated 4.6 million children trapped in some of the world's worst humanitarian crises, but it has also acted as the catalyst for aid agencies to help millions more.

For university-age students, the Institute of International Education's online Platform for Education in Emergencies Response offers pathways to continue formal and informal higher education. These include the University of the People, a tuition-free online university accredited in 2014 that counts 7,000 refugees among its 1,06,000 students. The university has promised the United Nations that it will enroll 25,000 refugee students by 2030.

We now need to expand the circle of opportunity by providing a similar opportunity at the graduate level for refugee and displaced students. That means building the equivalent of the Fulbright, Churchill, or Marshall programmes, which have found and developed individual talent for decades.

Such scholarship programs do much more than that. The Harkness Fellowships have built a collaborative international network of health-policy researchers and practitioners. The Kennedy Scholarships spur closer transatlantic relations between future leaders. The Schwarzman Scholars are forging a network that will foster stronger ties between China and the rest of the world. The Mandela Rhodes Scholarship is equipping young Africans to become visionary leaders who will transform the continent and advance equality, freedom, and human rights. Extending hope and opportunity to young people at risk of being left behind is a powerful way to advance these values, foster peace and stability, and bring about a transformative and durable solution to the refugee crisis. We know that we can find young potential leaders among the most disadvantaged group of all – the displaced – and give them access to advanced education. An innovative, competitive programme would provide refugee and displaced students with fellowships for two full years of graduate study, in any field, within the country where they have found refuge or anywhere in the world. If this initiative can attract the funding it needs to be successful, it will take its place alongside other respected, enduring, and high-impact scholarship programmes, and, like them, over time it will take thousands of young people from where they are to what they can become.

Gordon Brown, a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, is United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity. Allan Goodman is President of the Institute of International Education.

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WISDOM CORNER

- Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway. **EARL NIGHTINGALE**
- If you work on something a little bit every day, you end up with something that is massive. **KENNETH GOLDSMITH**
- The big secret in life is that there is no secret. Whatever your goal, you can get there if you're willing to work. **OPRAH WINFREY**

WORDSWORTH

Captology

This word captology is still relatively unusual outside a group of researchers in the Persuasive Technology Lab at Stanford University. The group studies the theory and design of the ways computing technology can be used to influence people. If you think that sounds a bit Big Brotherish, you are not altogether in error. The emphasis is on influencing people for good, for example to encourage healthy living or improve road safety, but the group is aware such methods could just as well be used for baser ends, such as persuading you to buy things, or to hand over personal data that could then be misused. To that end the group, led by Professor BJ Fogg, is also studying the implications of the unreasonable trust that many of us put into computers because they are wrongly thought of as being unaffected by human agency. The word was coined by Professor Fogg in 1996 as a partial acronym – from the initial letters of Computers As Persuasive Technology.

SPECTRUM GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Deceptive economic growth

GDP data for the first quarter (April-June) of the 2021-22 fiscal caught the attention of many stakeholders. GDP is accepted as the single most important indicator to capture economic activity. Even though it falls short of providing a suitable measure of people's material well-being, policy architects take pride and celebrate as if sufferings of the masses caused by pandemic are well addressed through this figure. In fact, this high rate of growth in GDP is helped by low base effect. Since the same quarter of the last financial year was washed out due to Covid pandemic and many of the macroeconomic indicators were worse due to massive lockdown throughout the country, the economy witnessed huge contraction. The nature and composition of this high growth indicate massive supply side interventions have made very little change on the well-being of the masses. The contribution of Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), which is a prime driver to increase the demand for production, has declined.

Data released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) shows that GDP for the Q1 of 2021-

22 is at ₹32.38 lakh crore as against ₹26.95 lakh crore in Q1 of 2020-21 – a growth of 20.1 per cent as compared to contraction of 24.4 per cent in Q1 2020-21. The GDP growth is less than 4 per cent from the same quarter of 2019-20. However, comparing this with the Q4 of 2020-21 gives us a different picture, indicating contraction of the economy. GDP in Q4 of 2020-21 was estimated at ₹38.96 lakh crore, as against ₹32.38 lakh crore in Q1 of 2021-22, showing a growth of 1.6 per cent.

However, comparison of these two consecutive quarters shows that there is a decline of 17 per cent over the Q4 of 2020-21, showing that the economy is yet to recover from the current pandemic-induced stress. There is a perennial question whether the nature and composition of growth in the GDP has positively impacted on the well-being of masses who are living in the lowest wealth quintiles.

The growth of GDP in this quarter is primarily attributed to the significant increase in the proportion of export from 20.5 to 23.7 per cent and import from 19.2 to 25.7 per cent. Signs of recovery are also observed in the sale of private and commercial vehicles, consumption

of steel, cargo handled in the airports etc. These are the sectors which have consumers belonging to high income groups, and thus do not contribute to the well-being of the bottom strata of the population. In terms of sectoral contribution to the Gross Value Added (GVA), it has been found that while agriculture and allied sector has increased by only 4.5 per cent, the manufacturing, construction and trade, hotel and transport sectors dominate the current growth. Signs of recovery could have benefited the masses more if it had shown an increase in the Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE). But this growth does not commensurate with the increase in confidence among the consumers. Consumer confidence for the current period weakened further as shown in the survey conducted by RBI in May 2021, reflecting the decline in the private final consumption expenditure from 55.4 to 55.1 per cent. The private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) is the expenditure incurred by the resident households and non-profit institutions serving households on final consumption of goods and services. Increase in the PFCE indicates enhancement of spending

capacity of the households, which indirectly indicates increase of confidence among the consumers. Though there is an increase of 19.3 per cent of PFCE, a sharp fall of 17.4 per cent is observed in this quarter in comparison to the 4th quarter of 2020-21. Fall in the PFCE is also significantly visible in the 1st quarter of 2018-19. While the total PFCE was at ₹20.21 lakh crore during the first quarter of 2019-20, it was ₹18.82 lakh crore during the 1st quarter of 2018-19 and in 2021-22 the figure stands at ₹17.83 lakh crore. A sharp fall in PFCE also indicates a decline of standard of living of people of India in general and, a possible rise in poverty. Hence, high growth in the Q1 will not benefit for the people unless it is translated into more jobs and income of the households. Sectors which are responsible for the current growth in GDP hardly create positive impact on the income and spending capacity of the households in lowest wealth quintile. Thus, this deceptive growth rate cannot be considered as the revival of household economy.

The writer is an independent economist working on development economics and public finance. Views expressed are personal.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Pandemic deaths

Sir, It has been estimated that there have been around 16 million pandemic-related deaths worldwide. It indicates that the global toll of the pandemic is more than three times the official toll of Covid-19 deaths. Experts estimate that India's pandemic deaths could be a little under 3 million to around 5 million, that is, India could account for around a quarter of global pandemic deaths. In India, around 9 million people die during normal times each year. An additional 3-5 million deaths indicate that India is one of the hardest hit countries in the world. The estimate points to the fact that India has experienced its greatest mortality since the Independence. Official Covid-19 deaths do not give explicit information about the grim reality of the pandemic. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare says that some of the estimates are speculative and erroneous. According to the ministry, missing out on deaths is unlikely. It claims that Civil Registration System (CSR) accurately registers all births and deaths in the country. Wide disparity between official Covid-19 deaths and excess deaths brings into sharp focus overall poor surveillance of pandemic deaths. It must be understood that lack of real information will hinder researches on pandemics, preventive measures, the government's welfare measures and future preparations to combat diseases.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Noise pollution

Sir, Noise pollution is a danger we often laugh off. We think that it's not that serious of a problem but a slow poison which only grows with each passing day. We believe that the our blood pressure problems, stress and ever-growing cases of heart disease are all because of diet and sedentary lifestyle of the city dwellers and we often forget about noise pollution. Noise pollution is a very big contributor to heart diseases, high blood pressure, intense stress and irregular sleep patterns. The cases of high blood pressure and heart disease in children is very common in today's time as children are often hooked to games where high pitched sounds take a toll on their health. The administration in all the cities across the country can take steps to reduce noise pollution by restricting vehicles on road after midnight because it has been seen that a motorcycle engine on road produces about 95 decibels, and sounds above 70 decibels over a prolonged period starts damaging our hearing ability. These steps should be taken at the earliest or else we are looking at a disease-ridden future.

Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR

FLOOD HAVOC IN NORTH BALASORE

Farmers demand fresh survey on crop damage



FLOODS FROM SUBARNAREKHA HAD LEFT LARGE TRACTS OF FARMLANDS IN JALESWAR, BHOGRAI AND BALIAPAL BLOCKS INUNDED

THE PROBLEM WAS THE FLOOD WATER REMAINED STAGNANT FOR DAYS TOGETHER, CAUSING PADDY PLANTS TO ROT. FARMERS LAMENTED THAT THE FLOODWATER DID NOT DRAIN OUT INTO THE SEA AS BACKWATER FROM WEST BENGAL BECAME A HURDLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, Oct 7: Farmers in north Balasore have been left high and dry after back-to-back floods played havoc to kharif paddy. Affected farmers have demanded re-assessment of crop damage in the district, a report said.

According to reports, floods from Subarnarekha had left large tract of farmlands in Jaleswar, Bhograi and Baliapal blocks inundated.

The problem was the flood water remained stagnant for days together, causing paddy plants to rot. Farmers lamented that the floodwater did not drain out into the sea as water from West Bengal became a hurdle. Repeated floods completely damaged the paddy farming in the north Balasore. Farmlands are still waterlogged.

The extent of damage could be known only after floodwater recedes from these areas.

Official sources said, paddy was cultivated in 20,055 hectares of land in Jaleswar. Owing to low-pressure induced rains and floods, 3500 hectares of farmlands remained submerged under water for a long time.

Following repeated demands by the flood affected people for assessment of the crop damage, the agriculture and revenue departments had jointly carried out survey.

Assistant agriculture officer Rajlaxmi Mohanty said 941 hectares of farmland has suffered less than 33 percent damage while over 33 percent damage was recorded in 555 hectares.

According to the agriculture department, 9650 hectares of land

remained submerged under floodwater for over 10 days. Paddy plants in the farmlands have been damaged.

District agriculture officer Chandra Sekhar Padhi said non-paddy crops in 113 hectares have also suffered damage due to floods.

In Baliapal, paddy farming in 200 hectares has been completely damaged. However, many farmers in all the three blocks alleged that the survey report as submitted by the agriculture department was faulty and far from reality.

They have demanded further survey on the extent of damage to paddy farming in the flood-affected areas. If properly assessed, the extent of damage will exceed the damage shown by the department, they added.



STUDENTS' STIR

Students along with locals staging a sit-in in front of Padiabahal school in Sambalpur over irregularities by teachers, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Camp court identifies Covid orphans

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 7: A special camp court was organised in Korukonda block headquarters in Malkangiri district Thursday to identify children who have lost their parents to the Covid pandemic in order to make provisions for their rehabilitation. From various panchayats under the block, Covid orphans identified by the Anganwadi workers were brought to the camp court by their relatives.

The death-related documents of the deceased parents of more than a hundred children were verified and it was decided by the court to rehabilitate the children by pro-



Students along with locals staging a sit-in in front of Padiabahal school in Sambalpur over irregularities by teachers, Thursday

viding them educational and financial assistance. In this mobile camp court headed by Ashok Patnaik, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (Malkangiri), child protection officer Narayan Chandra Das, legal consultant Satyajit Panda, ADEO Rajalaxmi Pradhan, CDPO Nilima Mandal and supervisor Annapurna

Sahu were present.

As per the order of the Supreme Court of India to identify and rehabilitate children orphaned by the Covid pandemic, Malkangiri Collector Vishal Singh had directed the child protection and welfare officers to do the identification.

Four kids meet watery grave

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boinda/Paradip, Oct 7: In separate tragic incidents, four minor children including three girls drowned in Angul and Jagatsinghpur districts in last 24 hours.

Two minor girls drowned in a pond at Kurum Chakka under Thakurgarh police limits in Angul district Thursday. The minor girls are aged about 10 years. According to reports, a cowherd who was passing by informed the villagers about the mishap. The deceased were identified as Barsha Sahu and Jyoti Pradhan of Kurum village.

On being informed, Thakurgarh police have rushed to the spot and have launched an investigation.

In another incident, two toddlers met with a watery grave when they ventured into Taladanda canal at Atharabanki locality of Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district Wednesday morning.

According to an eyewitness, the two children who belonged to a nearby slum were playing near Taladanda canal, unaware of the danger. The duo accidentally slipped into the canal while playing and drowned.

The toddler duo went missing for quite a long time. Later, their family members carried out a frantic search in the nearby locality, but failed to trace them.

However, the bodies were spotted by some locals while floating in water.

Local residents immediately rushed the toddlers in critical condition to a nearby health facility, but doctors at the hospital declared them 'brought dead', a senior official in the local police station said.

WODC urged to allot 60% DMF for mining-hit areas



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Oct 7: Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) has been urged to ensure that 60 percent of the funds from District Mineral Foundation be spent on various developmental works in mining-affected areas in Sundargarh district.

Zilla Parishad member of Hemagiri Purabi Nayak has submitted a memorandum to Asit Kumar Tripathy, chairperson of the WODC during the latter's visit to the district Wednesday.

In the memorandum, it was stated that cases of child deaths due to malnutrition and kids in distressed conditions often come to the fore in mining-affected areas.

Hemagiri is a mining-affected area where health, education and drinking water sectors are in a mess and the livelihood of people needs to be improved.

The people of this area have the right to live with dignity. But they are deprived of basic amenities. Ambulance services are still inaccessible to many villages, it was stated.

The WODC chairman was informed about the ailing health care at Bileimunda hospital. Despite repeated demands, a digital x-ray machine has not been provided to the hospital. The hospital is plagued by absence of specialist doctors and reeling under severe staff crunch. The area has been witnessing frequent power cuts while poor mobile network has affected online education of children and emergency communication, it was stated.

Keeping all this in view, the WODC has been requested to allocate 60 percent of the DMF fund to improve infrastructure and development works in the mining-hit areas.

BJP FACES FACTIONAL WAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Saraskana, Oct 7: Ahead of panchayat elections, all major political parties have started exercise to strengthen their base in all areas, but the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is reportedly caught in a factional war in Saraskana Assembly constituency in Mayurbhanj district.

After Sapan Kumar Padhi took over as the BJP president of this area, some party workers have vented their discontent on social media platforms. They have opposed his organizational responsibility.

The two other parties like Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Congress have started their organizational strategies for the forthcoming panchayat polls in the Assembly segment.

Saraskana is important for the BJP and the BJD. For many years, the Assembly segment was under the BJD. In the 2019 general elections, the BJP acquired the seat. BJP can-



SARASKANA ASSEMBLY SEAT

didate Budan Murmu was elected as MLA. After election was over, there was discontent among the BJP cadres for various reasons.

The BJP's Jharpokharia zone president Manoj Mohant was removed from his post while many senior and frontline leaders were sidelined. Some BJP workers alleged that workers from opposition parties were inducted and the organization was split.

A few days ago, the party observed the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Posters for the celebration were pasted everywhere, but party workers were not informed and invited for the celebration. Some senior leaders have opposed it.

Various circles observed that if the BJP's organizational factionalism is not set right ahead of the panchayat polls, the BJP

will receive a severe jolt.

Rajendra Bindhani, a member of Saraskana BJP zone, said there has been no meeting of party workers at Saraskana zone-56 since the BJP won the seat. He accused the MLA and the zone president of ignoring the old party workers. "Some BJP contractors have been inducted into the party. As a result, old and senior party workers have been pushed to corners," he noted.

As for party organization, Jaleswar Nayak, another BJP worker said he has been in the party for a long time. "Party's Zilla Parishad candidate had to face defeat by a huge margin in the last bye-election as the MLA had sidelined the party workers," he said.

BJP zone president Sapan Padhi said since the 2019 general elections, only one or two programmes of the party were organized. Workers' meeting has not been held. Hence, workers have not been invited, he explained.

3 OF FAMILY KILLED BY ELECTRIC SHOCK

Paradip: Three members of a family including a six-year-old girl were electrocuted to death after their house in Jagatsinghpur district was somehow charged with electricity, police said Wednesday. A neighbour who tried to save the three was also seriously injured in the incident that occurred at Banito village under Tirtol police station. The deceased were identified as Pintu Swain (31), his wife Kamini (28) and their daughter Papali (6). The injured neighbour is now under treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, police said.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION



Forest officials, social activists and local residents take part in an awareness drive on wildlife protection in Dabugaoon area of Nabarangpur district

Government of India Ministry of Rural Development Department of Rural Development (Training Division) Core-4B(UG), India Habitat Center, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003 Recruitment Notice

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad is an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of Rural Development. NIRD&PR undertakes training, research, action research and consultancy functions in rural development. It provides an inter-disciplinary academic environment, backed by an excellent infrastructure and state-of-art research and computer facilities. The Ministry invites applications in prescribed format for the post of Deputy Director General in NIRD&PR, Hyderabad.

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Pay Band and Grade Pay (6th CPC), Method of Recruitment, Tenure, Age limit for Direct Recruits, Age limit for appointment by Deputation.

Applications in the prescribed format should be sent through the Cadre Controlling Authority/Department to the Under Secretary (Training), Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development, Core-4B(UG), India Habitat Center, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003. Details regarding qualifications and experience along with application form may be downloaded from www.rural.nic.in or www.nird.org.in

LAST DATE: 31-10-2021 Advt. No. 1/2021 (K-15017/04/2021-Trg) Sd./- (Sanjay Kumar) Under Secretary to the Govt. of India dadv 35101/11/0005/2122

EAST COAST RAILWAY HIRING OF VEHICLE. Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2021-T-124/TN, Dt.04.10.2021. NAME OF WORK : ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH (i) PROVISION OF MID-SECTION CONNECTIVITY TO BPSL SIDING OF M/S BHUSAN POWER & STEEL LTD. FROM BRUNDAMAL-LAPANGA BLOCK SECTION ON DEPOSIT WORK BASIS (ii) PROVISION OF 2ND FOOT OVER BRIDGE AT BAGBAHARA & KHARIAR ROAD STATION. Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 3,05,368.55. Completion Period of the work : 120 Days. Date and time of closing of tender : At 1600 hrs of 26.10.2021.

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice e-mail ID- rw_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in; Phone No. 0663-2401850 No. 3941, dated. 05.10.21

Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR-10 OF 21-22 No.O-808- 1. Name of the work : Building Works as per DTCN available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in 2. Total No. of Work : 05 (Five) Nos. 3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.6.19 lakhs to Rs.26.55 lakhs 4. Period of Completion : 01 (One) to 02 (Two) Calendar months 5. Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding : 08.10.2021 at 11.00 A.M. to 18.10.2021 upto 5.00 PM 6. Date and time of opening of Tender : 21.10.21 at 11.00 AM 7. Name and address of the officer : E.E.R.W. Divn. Sambalpur inviting bid (1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in (2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sambalpur OIPR-25078/11/0012/2122

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, GUNUPUR Email ID: eomun-gunupur@gov.in No.2394 Date: 07.10.2021 NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No.C-1086- Sealed tenders, in conformity with the detailed tender call notice are invited from the intending Registered Firms/Contractors (A, B & C class contractors only) Regd. in Govt. PWD/M.I/Irrigation and other Government Department of Odisha/ Regd. Private Companies satisfying the eligibility criteria as per NIT for execution of providing, cleaning & sanitation work from Ward No. 1 to 10, 12 to 15 & Marathiguda of Gunupur Municipality so as to reach the Executive Officer, Gunupur Municipality through registered post / speed post/ courier service only upto 5.00 P.M. on 27.10.2021 and tender will be opened at Gunupur Municipality on 28.10.2021. The details of works, purchase of tender documents, scope of work, eligibility criteria & submission of tender can be purchased from office of the undersigned from 7.10.2021 to Dt.27.10.2021. Tender form can also be downloaded from website: www.gunupurmunicipality.com, https://rayagada.nic.in but it should be accompanied Bank Draft (Only SBI payable at Gunupur) of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) in the name of Executive Officer, Gunupur Municipality, payable at Gunupur along with Bank Draft of EMD, at the time of submission. Details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours on working days. Sd./- Executive Officer, Gunupur Municipality OIPR-13104/11/0010/2122

Mamata pens subtle message for Cong

Writing in the TMC mouthpiece 'Jago Bangla', Mamata Banerjee has argued that the Congress must accept the reality that it failed to defeat the BJP in two consecutive Lok Sabha elections

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Oct 7: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee gave the Congress a strong message through an op-ed article in the Durga Puja special edition of 'Jago Bangla', the Trinamool Congress's (TMC) mouthpiece. Titled, 'Delhi r Daak' (Delhi calling), the article speaks about the reality of the Congress of not being able to take the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the national stage.

Mamata Banerjee, however, said there could not be a united Opposition front without involving the Congress for taking on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Mamata Banerjee, on the other hand, pointed out that the TMC successfully defeated the BJP in the West Bengal Assembly election, proving that the party was becoming the face of the political fight against the BJP on the national stage.

"All opposition parties should unite. We have to unite in the interest of the country. Alternative platforms need to be strengthened. That platform will be based on policies, on the basis of programmes. We have not thought of the stage without the Congress,"



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhanekar after she takes oath as MLA in Kolkata, Thursday

said Mamata Banerjee in the article. She said, "But the reality is that in the recent past, the Congress has failed to confront the BJP in Delhi. The last two Lok Sabha elections have proven this."

Without mincing words, Mamata Banerjee said the onus was now on the TMC to take on the BJP. She said the TMC had won the faith of people after its victory not just in the West Bengal Assembly election in May but also in the Bhabanipur by-poll. Mamata Banerjee won the

Bhabanipur seat by a margin of more than 58,000 votes.

"The BJP has failed to digest its defeat in the assembly polls and is pursuing vendetta politics. Right now, there is a new challenge before the TMC - the 'Call of Delhi'. The people of this country want respite from the anti-people policies and politics and defeat of the fascist forces," Mamata Banerjee said.

She said that the people were dreaming of a new India with the TMC as a pivotal force. Mamata

Banerjee said, "The people of the country are now dreaming of a new India around the TMC. Crossing the boundaries of Bengal, the TMC is getting calls from various states.

"They want Bengal to lead the fight for a new India. That is why we are saying we have to respond to people's calls. We have to fulfil the wishes of the people and bring together all anti-BJP forces on one platform."

Mamata Banerjee visited Delhi in July in her bid to cobble up unity among the Opposition parties arguing that they needed to come together to fight the BJP in polls. Mamata Banerjee had then met Congress President Sonia Gandhi among others.

Former Goa Chief Minister Luizinho Falerio recently switched over from the Congress to the TMC. Sushmita Dev, the former All India Mahila Congress president and former Lok Sabha MP from Assam joined the TMC in August.

The TMC is not hiding its national aspirations. It is spreading its wings to different states make a strong case as the true challenger to the BJP at the national level, shedding its credentials as a regional force in West Bengal.

UP govt teams up with Wheebox for online exams

Wheebox has offered Futuristic Online Proctoring Solutions to recognise candidates and track their facial movements for any malpractice that can be conducted by them

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 7: With the increasing role of technology in examinations during the pandemic, the government of Uttar Pradesh has roped in Wheebox, a Global Online Assessment Solutions leader to digitise its entire examination process.

The students took exams from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) and the Board of Technical Education Uttar Pradesh (BTE) for the online exams. These AI-Based Remote Proctored Exams offered robustness, scalability, seamlessness, and anti-cheating prowess. Wheebox also ensured credible and secured exams.

Dedicated teams were deployed by the Universities and Technical Board, along with Wheebox specialists for the execution and monitoring, ensuring a secured exam.

More than 3,000 remote proctors were deployed across the state to invigilate the candidates.

Wheebox has offered Futuristic

Online Proctoring Solutions, with features such as Face Recognition and Face Tracking tool to recognise candidates and track their facial movements for any malpractice that can be conducted by them.

Features such as Object detection are also used to check if a candidate has prohibited objects in their premises. The Wheebox Online Proctoring Solutions also capture the candidate screen and archive it in real time for insightful evaluations.

The secretary of Board of Technical Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh said, "The smooth deployment of online testing using

Artificial Intelligence and Human Proctors have ensured not only the delivery of exams but the online process ensured that results are declared within stipulated time."

According to Nirmal Singh, the founder and CEO - Wheebox, "The pandemic has enhanced our shift towards Remote Proctored Examinations, which will provide the educational institutes with accuracy, flexibility, cost-effectiveness, security, scalability and quicker evaluations. In last one year, we have partnered with more than 130 premier Academic institutions with a smooth transition of online examinations."

He added that this collaboration between UP Government has helped millions of students get evaluated on merit and become future-ready for the competitive world.



Steps taken to prevent lone wolf attacks in J&K: CRPF DG

The CRPF DG admitted that there have been problems in a few places and the force is strengthening the intelligence gathering there

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Meerut (UP), Oct 7: Central Reserve Police Force Director General Kuldeep Singh Thursday said that three incidents of lone wolf attacks happened in Jammu and Kashmir recently but steps have been taken to prevent such attacks and the security situation in the valley is under control.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event to mark the 29th Foundation Day of the CRPF's Rapid Action Force, he said that after these attacks, the security situation in the valley has been reviewed and it should not be felt that the situation



there has deteriorated.

The CRPF DG admitted that there have been problems in a few places and the force is strengthening the intelligence gathering

there. "I can say that security situation in Jammu and Kashmir is under control and there has not been any increase in the terror attacks there."

Speaking about the special teams of the RAF, Singh said that a total of 30 units with 60 personnel in each unit, have been trained as first responders for natural or manmade disasters like flood rescue operation, earthquake rescue management, chemical, biological, nuclear disaster rescue operations. They will be deployed in all 15 battalions of the RAF across the country.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2020 had suggested that

all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPP) should have trained and specialized teams within the force to respond in case of any natural disaster. These teams will initiate rescue operations in case of any disaster because of their presence in most parts of the country, the DG added.

Talking about the RAF Academy for Public Order (RAPO) in Meerut, the DG said that this is the first and only academy in the country where special training has been imparted to all Central Armed Police Forces personnel for managing violent crowds and riot like situations and protecting human lives. So far, this

academy has trained the security personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force and police personnel of states like Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tripura and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi.

Apart from these, the security forces of Myanmar and Zimbabwe had been trained in this academy. The Rapid Action Force is a specialised wing of the Central Reserve Police Force to deal with riot and crowd control situations and help the state administration to maintain law and order.

More BJP MLAs in Bengal may switch to TMC

The BJP had won 77 seats in the 2021 Assembly polls, but now its number of MLAs is 70

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 7: The exodus of BJP lawmakers to West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress is not going to stop easily. After speculations of Sabhasachi Dutta leaving the party, there are strong indications that four more legislators are likely to switch camps, compelling BJP president JP Nadda to intervene.

The four MLAs are Hiran Chattopadhyay from Kharagpur in West Midnapore district, Niraj Jimba from Darjeeling, Sukumar Roy from Cooch Behar (North) and Dibakar Gharami from Sonamukhi in Bankura district. They have not only been absent from different party programmes but had also skipped the important meeting of the legislators last week where state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar was present.

The BJP's West Bengal unit had organised a felicitation programme for the newly appointed state president and the party's national vice-president, Dilip Ghosh, where all lawmakers were directed to be present, but these four did not, leading to speculations that they might have got some kind of indication from the Trinamool leadership.

The BJP, however, dismissed the speculations.

"They could not attend the programme because of some personal reasons. However, at some places, the Trinamool is trying to put pressure on our MLAs and also spreading rumours about them. None of



the BJP legislators are quitting the party. These are all baseless rumours propagated by Trinamool Congress," a senior BJP legislator said.

Meanwhile, party MP Locket Chatterjee has also been absent in several party programmes.

In the 2021 elections, 77 BJP legislators got elected. But soon the number came down to 75, as Nishith Pramanik and Jagannath Sarkar chose to remain Lok Sabha members. The number further declined to 71 following the resignation of four BJP legislators.

Another legislator Krishna Kalyani recently left the party, bringing down the number to 70. He has not joined the Trinamool yet, but he is likely to do so soon.

Now, if the BJP loses more MLAs, it will pose problems for the party. Sources said that if the number of MLAs slipped down below 69, then the BJP's prospects in Rajya Sabha polls from the state will suffer. With the present strength, the BJP can send two members to the Upper House of the Parliament.

15 killed in UP road accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barabanki (UP), Oct 7: A bus collided with a sand-laden truck near Baburi village in the district here Thursday, leaving 15 people dead and 21 others injured, police said.

The bus carrying 70 passengers was going to Bahraich from Delhi when the accident took place, Barabanki Superintendent of Police Yamuna Prasad said, adding that the collision took place as the bus driver tried to avoid hitting a stray cow. While nine persons were killed on the spot, 27 people were injured in the incident and rushed to hospital where six more died during treatment, police said.



Mangled remains of a vehicle after it collided with a truck in Barabanki district, Thursday

While 11 patients are undergoing treatment in the trauma centre of King George's Medical University in Lucknow, four are being treated in the district hospital while the rest were discharged after being provided first-aid.

Those killed were identified as Salauddin (37), Anisur Rahman (45), Raman (22), Vinod Kumar (32), Dragpal (19), Abdul Rehman (42), Kadir (49), Dwarka Prasad (38), Noor Ali (42), Saiba Begum (25), Zara (2), Ajay Kumar (12), Yashmeen (28), Raju (15) and one victim is still to be identified.

President Ram Nath Kovind said he was deeply saddened to hear about the loss of lives in the road accident. "I am deeply saddened to hear about the death of many people in a horrific road accident in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh. I express my condolences to the families of the deceased and wish the injured a speedy recovery," Kovind tweeted in Hindi.

SHOW OF SOLIDARITY



Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel participate in a parade during the 29th anniversary of RAF 108 Battalion in Meerut, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Covid, economic slowdown dim lights on Durga Puja in Bengal

NOT JUST SMALL-BUDGET PUJAS, EVEN BIG-TICKET DURGA PUJA COMMITTEES IN KOLKATA HAVE CURTAILED THEIR SPENDING BY NEARLY 30-40 PER CENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 7: The Covid-19 pandemic and economic slowdown have dimmed the lights on West Bengal's biggest festival, Durga Puja, for the second consecutive year as organisers slashed their budgets and scaled down celebrations due to shrunken sponsorship.

Not just small-budget pujas, even big-ticket Durga Puja committees in Kolkata have curtailed their spending by nearly 30-40 per cent, mainly compromising on marquee decoration, organisers said.

Some major Durga Puja organisers, however, felt that although the present situation is far from normal, it is better than last year as many sponsors are willing to spend, albeit lesser than previous years.

College Square Durga Puja Committee spokesperson Bikash Majumder told PTI that its budget has been slashed by at least 40 per cent as compared to the 2019 spending

of ₹50 lakh as there are fewer corporate sponsors and also because of a COVID-induced overall downturn in the market.

"The illumination on the water body next to our marquee will have lesser glitz and frills while the pandal will be open on all sides, enabling the revellers to see the idols from a distance," he said, adding that the Durga idol height has been shortened to around 12-14 feet.

"But we can't stop the festivities altogether as the livelihood of many people depends on our puja," he said.

Echoing similar sentiments, a member of Suruchi Sangha, another popular puja that has attracted lakhs of visitors for years, also decided to cut down its budget by around 30-40 per cent.

"We have curtailed our budget by around 30-40 per cent due to lack of sponsors. We have also decided to spend around 50 per cent of the funds collected by our puja committee towards providing financial assistance to around 10,000



Representational image

children and their families in our area. The remaining amount will be spent on idol and marquee," puja committee spokesperson Swarup Biswas said.

He said the celebrations will be minimalistic due to the paucity of funds. Medium and big pujas in the state spend between ₹12 lakh and

₹30 crore on theme-based marquees packed with safety arrangements and basic necessities.

Mohammad Ali Park Durga Puja committee general secretary Surendra Kumar Sharma said that their budget has been slashed to around ₹12-13 lakh from ₹60 lakh in the pre-COVID times.

Organisers have also cut down on promotional activities due to the shrunken budgets.

The Calcutta High Court has ordered that all Durga Puja pandals in the state be made no-entry zones for people, like last year, to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Forum for Durgotsab president Kajal Sarkar said that sponsors who have expressed willingness to invest have curtailed the amounts.

"Donations, subscriptions and retail advertisements cover around 30 per cent of the expenses, while the rest is usually taken care of by corporate funding, which was negligible last year. Although the situation has improved this year, the sponsors have cut down the amount," he said.

However, corporate houses said they are excited to participate in Durga Puja this year as the COVID impact has reduced, and it has been long since the firms directly connected with consumers through physical advertising.

"Enquiries were higher this year

but advertisers finally did not proceed very aggressively due to the uncertainty over foothall at pandals. The advertising inventory, which comprises physical advertisements and sponsorships to puja committees, of all major firms in pre-COVID times was a total of ₹200 crore.

"However, this year it has dipped to 50 per cent (Rs 100 crore), and last year, it was 25-30 per cent," Amit Mitra, a senior official of a multinational advertising firm, told PTI.

Emami Agrotech said that overall spending could have been higher if the corporate firms and media planners had clarity over the scale of the celebrations.

"We were apprehensive about the situation, so had to delay our planning. Our spending could have been more if we had clarity on the situation. We are focusing more on digital content, for which we have allocated around 60-70 per cent of our budget," Emami Agrotech president (marketing) Debabish Bhatnagar said.

national



Incidents of violence are increasing in Kashmir. Terrorism has neither stopped due to demonetisation nor after the abrogation of Article 370 - the central government has completely failed to provide security
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

RLYS EXTENDS COVID SOP

The Railways will keep imposing fines of up to Rs 500 on those found without face masks on its premises, the Railway Board said Thursday, extending the practice which began in view of the coronavirus pandemic



of the day quote

Evil forces will not be allowed to hijack the atmosphere of peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir
MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | UNION MINISTER

I congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on completing 20 years of public service as the head of a state government and the central government
AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Those named in the FIR should go to jail. Government should take immediate action and the matter should be probed by a sitting judge of the High Court. There are videos clips, statements of eyewitnesses, the statement (of minister) in which he is threatening. As he (accused Ashish Mishra) is the son of the MoS, action has not been taken yet
AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

FESTIVE SPIRIT



Devotees dressed as Lord Hanuman take part in a procession to mark the Navratri festival, in Amritsar, Thursday

Varun, Maneka out of top BJP panel

While Varun Gandhi has been vocal in prodding the government to talk with the agitating farmers and has voiced their concerns and sought action in the recent case of violence in Lakhimpur Kheri, Haryana leaders Rao Inderjit Singh and Birender Singh have not been enjoying the best of relations with the BJP establishment in their state



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The BJP announced its 80-member national executive Thursday with the likes of Varun Gandhi and Birender Singh, who have taken a sympathetic stand with the farmers protesting against three agri laws, and Varun Gandhi's mother Maneka Gandhi being among those replaced with a new crop of leaders.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, many Union ministers, including heavyweights like Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and Nitin Gadkari, and veterans like L K Advani and Murlidhar Joshi, both of whom being also former party chiefs, are the expected presence in the list released by BJP president JP Nadda. Union ministers Rao Inderjit Singh and Prahlad Patel, Subramanian Swamy, known for his strong views on a host of issues, Suresh Prabhu, Dushyant Singh, who is the son of former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje, Vijay Goel, Vinay Katiyar and S S Ahluwalia are among those who have not found a berth in the new list while Union minister V K Singh is no longer a regular member and has been named as a special invitee.

Union ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia, who left the Congress to join the BJP, Ashwini Vaishnav and

Delhi MP Ramesh Vidhura are the new names on the list where leaders like Piyush Goyal and Nirmala Sitharaman have kept their position.

The decision to drop Varun Gandhi, Rao Inderjit Singh, Swamy and Birender Singh is seen as an indication of the party leadership's unhappiness with them over their views on a number of issues.

While Varun Gandhi has been vocal in prodding the government to talk with the agitating farmers and has voiced their concerns and sought action in the recent case of violence in Lakhimpur Kheri, Haryana leaders Rao Inderjit Singh and Birender Singh have not been enjoying the best of relations with the BJP establishment in their state.

In a recent rally, Rao Inderjit Singh's remarks were seen as a dig at some of his party colleagues. Union minister Smriti Irani, who was not in the last national executive, has made a comeback while Harsh Vardhan, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Prakash Javadekar, who were recently dropped as Union ministers, have retained their place.

Six leaders from West Bengal, including actor Mithun Chakraborty, Dinesh Trivedi and Swapan Dasgupta, have made it to the key organisational body of the party with as many of them being made special invitees.

SII to send vaccines to Nepal, Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: The government has permitted Serum Institute of India (SII) to export 10 lakh Covishield doses each to Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh, while Bharat Biotech will provide Iran with 10 lakh doses of Covaxin under the 'Vaccine Maitri' programme in October, official sources said Thursday.

The Pune-based pharma company SII has also been allowed to supply bulk Covishield vaccine, which is equivalent to around 3 crore doses, to AstraZeneca in the UK, they said. According to the sources, Prakash Kumar Singh, director (government and regulatory affairs) at SII had sought permission from Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in August to supply bulk concentrated solution of Covishield to AstraZeneca citing contractual obligation with the UK-based firm.

Mandaviya had announced that India will resume export of surplus COVID vaccines in the fourth quarter of 2021 under the 'Vaccine Maitri' programme.

SEVEN CIVILIANS KILLED IN FIVE DAYS

Militants gun down two teachers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 7: A woman principal and a teacher were shot dead at point blank range inside a government school in the heart of the city on Thursday, taking to seven the number of civilians killed by militants in Kashmir Valley in five days.

Of the seven, four were from minority communities and six of the deaths took place in Srinagar, the main urban centre of the Valley. Supinder Kaur, the principal of the Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Eidgh in downtown Srinagar, and Deepak Chand, were gunned down around 11.15 am just when school had settled down to another day of on-line classes. There were no students in school.

As news of the deaths spread and a kind of fear settled over the city and parts of the Valley, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said the targeted killing of civilians, particularly minorities, in Kashmir is aimed at creating an atmosphere of fear and damaging age-old communal harmony. "Darindigi, vaishat aur daishat ka mel (This is about barbarism and terror)," Singh told re-

porters at the school, a sprawling complex of vast grounds and three single-storey buildings but no CCTV. Those who are targeting humanity, brotherhood and local ethos and values will be unmasked soon, Singh said. He described the back-to-back attacks as an attempt to defame the Muslim community of Kashmir and alleged that terrorists are "acting on the directions of Pakistan" to put hurdles in the way of peace in the Valley.

Supinder Kaur, a Srinagar-based Sikh, and Chand, a Hindu from Jammu, were killed two days after The Resistance Force, a shadow outfit of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility for the deaths of three people on Tuesday. Makhan Lal Bindroo, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit and owner of Srinagar's most famous pharmacy was shot dead at his shop that evening. Minutes later, a 'chaat' vendor, Virendra Paswan from Bihar, was gunned elsewhere in the city. Almost simultaneously, another civilian, Mohammad Shafi Lone, was killed at Naidkhai in Bandipora.

Three days before that, militants shot dead Majid Ahmad Gojri, at Srinagar's Karan Nagar locality. Later that Saturday night, they gunned down Mohammad Shafi

Dar at Batmaloo. For many people in the Valley, the spate of civilian killings - the worst since Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 was revoked in August 2019 - recalled the 1990s when terrorists would pick and choose their targets at whim. This led to the exodus of minorities, particularly Kashmiri Pandits, from the Valley.

"The incidents of targeting civilians in Kashmir since a few days are barbaric. Innocent people who are working for society and have nothing to do with anyone are being targeted. This is an attempt to create an atmosphere of fear and to give it a communal colour so as to damage communal harmony in Kashmir," DGP Singh said. "We regret the back-to-back attacks in which civilians have been killed. We are working on the previous cases. The Srinagar police has got many clues and we will soon get the people behind such terror and barbaric attacks..." he said.

Describing the killings as a conspiracy to target those who have come here to earn their bread and butter, he expressed the hope that the people of Kashmir would not let the conspiracy succeed. "We will work together and defeat their purpose," he said.



A family member of Deepak Chand, a teacher who was killed during a militant attack, being consoled by relatives in Jammu, Thursday

SHORT TAKES

Aryan's bail hearing today

Mumbai: A court here Thursday sent Aryan Khan, the son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, and seven others in 14-day judicial custody in connection with the alleged seizure of banned drugs from a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast. Their bail applications will be heard Friday, the court said. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had sought an extension of their NCB custody, but the request was not granted.

Weapons recovered

Jammu: The BSF foiled a weapon smuggling attempt across the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba sector and seized a cache of arms and ammunition, officials said Thursday. "The BSF Jammu today foiled a weapon smuggling attempt from across the International Border in Samba area and seized a big cache of Arms and Ammunition," the BSF said.

Gangsters held

New Delhi: Gangsters Tillu Tajpuriya and Naveen Balli have been arrested in connection with the killing of Jitender Gogi in a shootout inside a courtroom in Delhi's Rohini last month, officials said Thursday. A few days ago, the Crime Branch had taken jailed gangster Tillu Tajpuriya -- one of the prime conspirators -- in its custody to grill him about Gogi's killing. Followed by his interrogation, jailed gangster Naveen Balli was also taken into custody on Tuesday for two days in connection with the incident. According to police, Balli was involved in the conspiracy to kill Gogi.

MULTI-DISTRICT OPERATION

I-T raids Ajit Pawar's kin

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



sisters in Pune and Kolhapur.

Confirming the raids, Pawar said the IT Department has raided a few firms connected with him and it is their right but denied any wrongdoings. "I am not sure whether they were conducted for political purposes or for getting more information. We have been

Confirming the raids, Ajit Pawar said the I-T Department has raided a few firms connected with him and it is their right but denied any wrongdoings

paying all taxes promptly," Pawar told media persons.

Pawar, the nephew of NCP President Sharad Pawar, also expressed "pain" at the manner in which his sisters are being targeted by the IT Department, and said that the motive behind the action is still not clear. "My sisters have been raided, one in Kolhapur and two in Pune. If they are targeted because they are related to me, then the people of the state must consider the levels to which the central agencies are being misused to target us," he said.

PM inaugurates 35 oxygen plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rishikesh, Oct 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday made a pitch for people's support to the BJP in the upcoming assembly elections in Uttarakhand, saying his government has been extending all help to the "new team" in the state and the "double engine" of development will take the hilly region to new heights.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating 35 pressure swing adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants, established under the PM CARES fund, across 35 states and Union Territories in an event at AIIMS Rishikesh, he also said that only a few states had AIIMS till six to seven years back but work is now on to take India's foremost medical college and hospital to every state.

"It is also the goal of the government that there must be at least one medical college in every district of the country," he said. Modi told people of Uttarakhand that this is the right time to think of where the state will be heading when it completes 25 years in the near future and to get together to work in that direction.

"Yahi samay hai, sahi samay hai (This is the time, this is the right time)," he said, adding that the shared efforts of the Centre and the state government are a big basis for realising the dreams of people and cited a number of development measures undertaken in Uttarakhand, which was carved out of Uttar Pradesh in 2000. The state will face assembly polls early next year along with four other states.

Patting Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's back twice during the event, Modi addressed him as "my friend" and described him as an enthusiastic CM. He said Dhami, who is the son of a soldier, told him that people of Uttarakhand have benefited from the implementation of 'one rank, one pension scheme'.

Covid graph plateauing, but challenge not over yet: Govt

ASSERTING REPEATEDLY THAT THE SECOND WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC IS NOT OVER, THE GOVERNMENT SAID THAT THOUGH THE SITUATION IS PLATEAUIING, THE COUNTRY IS STILL REPORTING AS HIGH AS 20,000-ODD NEW INFECTIONS EVERY DAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: "Please watch your October, November, December," a senior Health Ministry official warned people Thursday about the threat of COVID-19 resurgence during the coming festival and wedding season, and advised them to avoid crowded places and celebrate festivals virtually.

Asserting repeatedly that the second wave of the pandemic is not over, the government said that though the situation is plateauing, the country is still reporting as high as 20,000-odd new infections every day.

"We cannot take the current stable situation for granted. We have to be mindful of the fact that the pandemic is going on and can take an untoward turn if we are not careful," an official said at a joint media briefing. Warning people about the threat of COVID-19 resurgence during the coming festival and wedding season, Health Ministry joint secretary Lav Agarwal said, "Please watch your October, November, December."

He advised people to avoid crowded places and unnecessary travel and to stay home, celebrate festivals virtually and explore online modes of shopping. The gov-



ernment said that Kerala recorded 50 per cent of the total coronavirus cases in the country last week.

Kerala has over lakh active cases currently and the figure in four

other states is ranging between 10,000 and 50,000. It said five states -- Mizoram, Kerala, Sikkim, Manipur and Meghalaya -- are reporting a weekly positivity rate of

over five per cent. Thirty-four districts across nine states and union territories are reporting a weekly positivity rate of more than 10 per cent, according to the government. Twenty-eight districts across 12 states and UTs are reporting a weekly positivity rate between 5 and 10 per cent.

The government said 71 per cent of India's adult population has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while 27 per cent have got both doses. Listing its preparations to tackle any surge in coronavirus infections, the government said 8.36 lakh hospital beds are currently available in the country for COVID-19 patients, in addition

to nearly one million isolation beds in dedicated care centres. It said 4.86 lakh ICU beds are available. "We are prepared to face a daily surge of 4.5-5 lakh COVID-19 cases," an official said.

The official said there is no issue of vaccine availability in the country now. With 22,431 people testing positive for coronavirus infection in a day, India's total tally of COVID-19 cases rose to 3,38,94,312, according to the Union Health Ministry's data updated on Thursday. The death toll climbed to 4,49,856 with 318 fresh fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 am.

international

of the day quote

The relationship between NATO and Russia is at its lowest point since the end of the Cold War. That's because of the Russian behaviour. We have seen their aggressive actions, not least against Ukraine, but also the significant military buildup and violations of important arms control agreements

JENS STOLTENBERG | NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL

The current hike in gas prices is not beneficial for Russia, and the country could increase gas supplies on the market in a cautious way

VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

Ethiopia has no right to expel UN staff and it is violating the international law in doing this

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

SHORT TAKES

Pfizer asks US to allow vax for kids

Washington: Pfizer asked the US Government Thursday to allow use of its Covid-19 vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 in what would be a major expansion that could combat an alarming rise in serious infections in youngsters and help schools stay open. If regulators give the go-ahead, reduced-dose kids' shots could begin within a matter of weeks for the roughly 28 million US Children in that age group.

Powerful quake shakes Tokyo

Tokyo: A powerful earthquake registering a preliminary magnitude 6.1 shook the Tokyo area Thursday night, but officials said there was no danger of a tsunami. The Meteorological Agency said the quake was centered in Chiba prefecture, just east of Tokyo, at a depth of 80 kilometers (48 miles).

New mission centre for China

Washington: The CIA announced a number of structural changes Thursday, including a new mission center for China, the result of a months-long review and a reflection of the intelligence community's view of China as the greatest long-term threat to the United States, CNN reported. The new China Mission Center "will further strengthen our collective work on the most important geopolitical threat we face in the 21st century, an increasingly adversarial Chinese government," CIA Director William Burns said.

Pak faces crisis as LNG prices soar

Islamabad/New Delhi: A gas crisis is brewing in Pakistan as the spot price of liquefied natural gas (LNG) has shot up beyond affordable levels and touched an all-time high of \$56.3 per million British thermal units (mmbtu) in the Asian market ahead of the winter season. Pakistan has already imported two cargoes of LNG from the spot market in September at the then record high price of slightly above \$20 per mmbtu, Express Tribune reported.

Russia invites Taliban for talks

Moscow: Russia has invited representatives of the Taliban to meet in Moscow as part of the efforts to open diplomatic channels with Afghanistsans de facto new government, Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy for the country has confirmed, Russia Today reported.



Australians are beginning to get their lives back after extended coronavirus lockdowns as the rate of vaccination against the virus is increasing

SCOTT MORRISON | AUSTRALIA PRIME MINISTER

US DISCLOSES SIZE OF NUCLEAR STOCKPILE

For the first time since 2018, the US State Department has disclosed the number of nuclear weapons in the country's stockpile



China upbeat over talks with US

AGENCIES

Beijing, Oct 7: China Thursday presented an upbeat picture of the talks between its top diplomat Yang Jiechi and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Zurich, saying both sides have agreed to take action and work together to bring bilateral ties back to the right track.

The consensus was reached during talks between Yang, member of the Political Bureau of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), and Sullivan, state-run CGTN-TV reported.

The two sides, in a candid manner, had a comprehensive and in-depth exchange of views on tense China-US relations as well as international and regional issues of common concern. The meeting was described as constructive, and conducive to enhancing mutual understanding, the report said.

The talks which covered a whole gamut of the ties between the world's top two economies was held amid record number of 150 air sorties by the Chinese air force jets in the Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) of Taiwan since the start of China's National Day holiday on Friday last.

The US voiced "concern" over the air exercises, saying the drills are provocative.

China claims the estranged is-



lands of Taiwan as part of it and President Xi Jinping has vowed to integrate it with the mainland.

"I've spoken with Xi about Taiwan. We agree ... We'll abide by the Taiwan agreement. We made it clear that I don't think he should be doing anything other than abiding by the agreement," US President Joe Biden earlier said, referring to his recent phone talks with Xi.

Taiwan's Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said on Wednesday that China could be capable of mounting a "full-scale" invasion of Taiwan by 2025.

Citing China's large-scale air drills, he said, "with regards to staging an attack on Taiwan, they currently have the ability. But



Biden, Xi set to hold virtual summit: WH

US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are scheduled to hold a virtual meeting before the end of the year, a senior administration official of the White House has said.

[China] has to pay the price," CNN reported. By 2025, that price will be lower - and China will be able to mount a "full-scale" invasion, he said.

Observers said unlike their first meeting in Alaska in March, the Yang-Sullivan meet-

ing appeared more cordial and less rancorous.

Striking a conciliatory tone, Yang told the US official that when China and the US cooperate, the two countries and the world will benefit; when they are in confrontation, the two and the world will suffer seriously.

Whether China and the US can handle their relations well bears on the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples, as well as the future of the world, he added.

The US expressed its adherence to the one-China policy, the official media reports said.

The two sides also exchanged views on climate change and regional issues of common concern and agreed to maintain regular dialogue and communication on important issues.

The meeting follows several important discussions between the two sides including, the September 10 phone call between President Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi.

The US side needs to have a deep understanding of the mutually beneficial nature of China-US relations and correctly understand China's domestic and foreign policies and strategic intentions, Yang said, adding that Beijing opposes defining China-US relations as "competitive."

Pak should face isolation for terror support: Ex-US NSA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 7: Asserting that Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan must be held accountable for his comments after the fall of Kabul in August, a former US national security advisor has said that the Pakistani leadership should be confronted with international isolation for their support for jihadist terrorists, who are threats to humanity, including the Haqqani network, the Taliban, and groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

It was during the Trump Administration that the US had blocked all security assistance to Pakistan. The Biden Administration has not resumed the security aid yet

Testifying before a powerful Congressional committee on Afghanistan, Gen (ret'd) H R McMaster also said it is delusional to think that any of the money that would go to the Taliban or through the Taliban for humanitarian purposes would immediately be used by the insurgent group to solidify their power and to become an even greater threat. "So, we're in a situation where we're facing a really extraordinary dilemma that it's going to be tough for us to mitigate the humanitarian crisis without empowering the Taliban," he said in response to a question Wednesday. "I don't think we should give any assistance to Pakistan at all. I think Pakistan should be confronted with its behaviour over the years that has actually resulted, I think, in large measure in this outcome," said Mr McMaster, who served as national security advisor during the Trump Administration.

FLYING HIGH



Egrets are seen at a beach in Capital Governorate, Kuwait

UNI PHOTO

QUAKE JOLTS PAK 20 DEAD, OVER 300 INJURED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Karachi, Oct 7: At least 20 people were killed and over 300 others injured after an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale jolted Pakistan's Balochistan on Thursday morning, according to provincial authorities.

According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre of Pakistan, the 5.9-magnitude quake struck at 3.01 a.m. with focal depth of 15 km and the epicentre located near the Harnai district.

It added the quake had a longitude of 67.96 east and a latitude of 30.08 north. Tremors were felt in Quetta, Sibbi, Pishin, Muslim Bagh, Ziarat, Qila Abdullah, Sanjavi, Zhub and Chaman, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority said in its initial report. It further



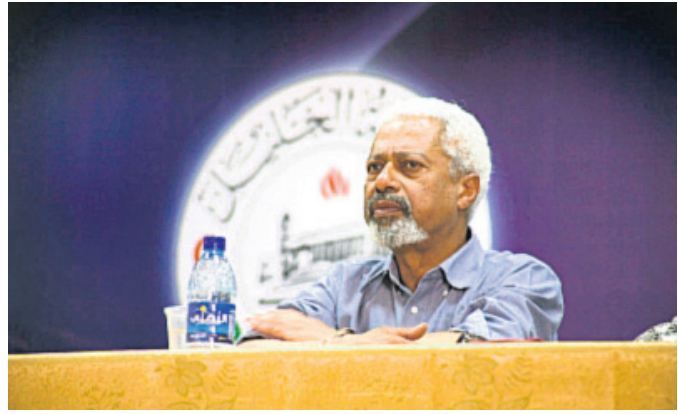
said the "exact damage" has not yet been confirmed, Dawn news reported. The death toll was also confirmed by Deputy Commissioner of Harnai District Sohail Anwar Hashmi. He said six children were also among the deceased. Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani shared that assistance and evacuation ef-

forts were under way.

"Blood, ambulances, emergency assistance, (helicopters) and rest all things are placed... All departments are working on it," he tweeted.

Nine critically injured patients were airlifted to Quetta in Pakistan Army helicopters, according to a statement by the army's media wing Inter Services Public Relations

Tanzanian Gurnah gets Literature Nobel



Beginning with "Memory of Departure" (1987), his 10 novels include the Booker and Whitbread-nominated "Paradise" (1994), with the most recent being "Afterlives" (2020). He has also a collection of short-stories titled "My Mother Lived on a Farm in Africa" (2006) to his credit

AGENCIES

London, Oct 7: Tanzania-born UK-based post-colonialist novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, whose oeuvre mainly deals with the physical and mental disruptions faced by refugees, was on Thursday conferred the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2021.

Announcing the award - the first to a non-European writer since Japan-born Kazuo Ishiguro in 2017 - the Swedish Academy cited his "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents".

Born in the Indian Ocean island of Zanzibar in 1948, Gurnah reached the UK as a refugee at the end of the 1960s. After his PhD in 1982, he began his academic career with teaching at a Nigerian university and is currently a Professor and Director of Graduate studies at the UK's University of Kent. His focus

is on postcolonial writing and in colonial discourse, with focus on Africa, the Caribbean and India.

Beginning with "Memory of Departure" (1987), his 10 novels include the Booker and Whitbread-nominated "Paradise" (1994), with the most recent being "Afterlives" (2020). He has also a collection of short-stories titled "My Mother Lived on a Farm in Africa" (2006) to his credit. Last year's prize went to American poet Louise Glück. Glück was a popular choice after several years of controversy: In 2018, the award was postponed after sex abuse allegations rocked the Swedish Academy, the secretive body that chooses the winners. The awarding of the 2019 prize to Austrian writer Peter Handke caused protests because of his strong support for the Serbs during the 1990s Balkan wars. On Monday, the Nobel Committee awarded the prize in physiology or medicine to Americans David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian for their discoveries into how the human body perceives temperature and touch. The Nobel Prize in physics was awarded Tuesday to three scientists whose work found order in seeming disorder; helping to explain and predict complex forces of nature, including expanding our understanding of climate change.

Benjamin List and David W.C. MacMillan were named as laureates of the Nobel Prize for chemistry Wednesday for finding an easier and environmentally cleaner way to build molecules that can be used to make compounds, including medicines and pesticides. Still to come are prizes for outstanding work in the fields of peace and economics.

WHO SHIPS COVID MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO NORTH KOREA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Oct 7: The World Health Organisation has started shipping Covid-19 medical supplies into North Korea, a possible sign that the North is easing one of the world's strictest pandemic border closures to receive outside help.

WHO says it has started the shipment of essential Covid-19 medical supplies through the Chinese port of Dalian for strategic stockpiling and further dispatch to North Korea. WHO representative told AP the items included emergency health kits and medicine. The country still claims to have a perfect record of fighting the virus. It recently turned down some Sinovac vaccines offered via the UN-backed program. It had severely restricted cross-border traffic and trade for the past two years despite the strain on its crippled economy.

Covid infection plus vax gives 'greater protection'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 7: Recovery after a previous Covid infection followed by being double vaccinated increases an individual's protection against Covid-19 to as much as 94 per cent, a new real-world UK study revealed Thursday.

The ZOE Covid Study, a not-for-profit app-based initiative that has been studying real-world data in the UK on Covid-19 since last year, found two doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine - administered in India as Covishield - provided 71 per cent protection against infection up to six months after vaccination. That protection was increased to

as much as 90 per cent among those who previously tested positive for Covid-19. "The good news this week is our latest research shows having a natural Covid-19 infection before double vaccination means greater protection," said Professor Tim Spector, lead scientist on the ZOE Covid Study app. "This is really positive news for overall immunity levels in the UK and means that large numbers of people will have effective and long lasting protection from Covid-19," he said.

"The evidence supports the need for vaccination, even for those who have already had Covid-19. We need to be less complacent and without restrictions much more focus needs



Representational image

to be put on getting everyone vaccinated before winter to keep up

with other countries' efforts," he added.

According to the ZOE prevalence data, it is estimated one in 30 children aged between 10-19 currently have Covid

Two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech mRNA vaccine, the other vaccine being administered in the UK, gave 80 per cent protection up to six months after vaccination, which increased even further to 94 per cent with a previous Covid-19 infection.

The findings also note that the number of daily new cases con-

tinues to increase rapidly in the under-19 age group, with cases rising in the 30-49 age group at a slower rate. According to the ZOE prevalence data, it is estimated one in 30 children aged between 10-19 currently have Covid.

"While Covid may be less severe in children, allowing Covid to run rampant among them is a real gamble," notes Professor Spector. "Without vaccination or restrictions in this group, we can only hope that some kind of herd immunity will kick in and cases will drop," he said, warning of long-term effects unless the spread in children is monitored closely after schools reopened fully in recent weeks.



Extending sectors like tyres and steel under the ambit of PLI scheme would further help link India to global value chains, encourage exports, give companies a competitive edge in the global market and make India a global manufacturing hub in the coming times
PRADEEP MULTANI | PRESIDENT, PHDDCI

BENZ ROLLS OUT HOMEMADE CAR AT ₹1.57CR

German premium car maker Mercedes-Benz Thursday rolled out the new locally-produced S-Class from its Chakan facility in Pune at price starting from Rs 1.57 crore. With an overwhelming response to the CBU (completely built unit) launch edition of the S-class, Mercedes-Benz is offering Indian customers the locally manufactured version, the company said



of the day quote

A global shortage of semiconductors has affected parts procurement in the auto sector. Due to the shortage, Nissan is adjusting production, taking necessary actions to ensure recovery
RAKESH SRIVASTAVA | MD, NISSAN MOTOR INDIA

The Saath-Saath helpline is a collaborative effort that offers an opportunity to people living with serious illnesses to find the right connects to get care that is responsive to their needs, at any point in their ailment journey
RUMANA HAMIED | MANAGING TRUSTEE, CIPLA FOUNDATION

The projects being implemented in Tamil Nadu is our first large scale wind power project. We look forward to working with GE to achieve our energy transition and growth targets
PRASHANT JAIN | CEO, JSW ENERGY

SC settles SEBI-CERC dispute

The Power Ministry mentioned that the power sector had been waiting for the big reforms for more than 10 years which were held up due to the jurisdiction issues between the two regulators

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Resolution of the jurisdiction issue between market regulator SEBI and electricity regulator CERC, will further deepen the power market and pave the way for the introduction of longer duration delivery-based contracts on exchanges, the Power Ministry said Thursday.

The statement came after the Supreme Court disposed of the long-pending matter between the SEBI and the CERC regarding regulatory jurisdiction of electricity derivatives.

10 years long pending jurisdictional issue related to power market between CERC (Central Electricity Regulatory Commission) and SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) resolved by Supreme Court, the Ministry said in a statement.

It had recommended that All Ready Delivery Contracts and Non-Transferable Specific Delivery (NTSD) Contracts as defined in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 (SCRA) in electricity, entered into by members of the power exchanges, registered



POWER REFORMS

The move will deepen the power market from the present level of approx. 5.5% of the volume to the targeted volume of 25% by 2024-25

This will also bring newer products in the power commodity exchanges and attract increased participation from Genco, Discoms, large consumers etc which will eventually deepen the power market

The judgement has opened the gate for introduction of longer duration delivery-based contracts on the power exchanges which has been currently restricted to only 11 days due to the pendency of the case

under CERC (Power Market) Regulations, 2010, shall be regulated by CERC subject to some conditions.

These conditions includes that the contracts are settled only by physical delivery without netting.

Besides the rights and liabilities of parties to the contracts are not transferable.

It also provided that no such contract is performed either wholly or in part by any means whatsoever, as a result of which the actual de-

livery of electricity covered by the contract or payment of the full price therefore is dispensed with.

It also provided that no circular trading shall be allowed and the rights and liabilities of parties to the specific delivery contracts shall not be transferred or rolled over by any other means whatsoever.

The conditions also provided that all information or returns relating to the trade, as and when asked for, shall be provided to the CERC, who shall monitor the performance of the contracts entered into on the power exchanges.

The committee had also recommend that Commodity Derivatives in electricity other than Non Transferable Specific Delivery (NTSD) Contracts as defined in SCRA shall fall under the regulatory purview of SEBI.

Based on the recommendations of the Committee both SEBI and CERC have come to an agreement that CERC will regulate all the physical delivery based forward contracts whereas the financial derivatives will be regulated by the SEBI. The power ministry issued the suitable order July 10, 2020.

Fitch cuts FY22 GDP growth hope to 8.7%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 7: Fitch Ratings has cut India's economic growth forecast to 8.7 per cent for the current fiscal but raised GDP growth projection for FY23 to 10 per cent, saying the second Covid-19 wave delayed rather than derail the economic recovery.

In its APAC Sovereign Credit Overview, Fitch Ratings said India's 'BBB-Negative' sovereign rating balances a still-strong medium-term growth outlook and external resilience from solid foreign-reserve buffers, against high public debt, a weak financial sector and some lagging structural factors.

The projections for 2021-22 fiscal compares to a contraction of 7.3 per cent recorded in the last financial year and a 4 per cent growth in 2019-20. High-frequency indicators point to a strong rebound in the second quarter of the current fiscal (April 2021-March 2022), as business activity has again returned to pre-pandemic levels. Fitch, however, saw a wider fiscal deficit. We forecast a 7.2 per cent of GDP

The 'Negative' outlook, reflects uncertainty over the debt trajectory following the sharp deterioration in India's public finances due to the pandemic shock

(excluding disinvestment) central government deficit in FY 22, it said. The government June 28 this year announced a fiscal package worth about 2.7 per cent of GDP. Much of this consists of loan guarantees, with only 0.6 per cent of GDP in higher on budget spending. However, buoyant revenue performance largely offsets the higher spending and should help contain the fiscal deficit, it said. Domestic rating agency Icria last month had projected economic growth at 9 per cent for this financial year, while British brokerage firm Barclays had in May projected India's growth at 9.2 per cent.

SHORT TAKES

PEL to demerge

Bangalore: Indian conglomerate Piramal Enterprises Ltd said Thursday it was demerging its pharmaceutical business and listing it as a separate entity as part of a move to simplify its corporate structure. Piramal's pharma business will now be demerged and consolidated under its unit Piramal Pharma. Piramal will also merge its shadow lending unit PHL Fininvest with itself to create a large non-banking financial company, with a focus on retail and wholesale financing and a consolidated loan book of 650 billion rupees.

Auto sales drop by 5.27% in Sept

New Delhi: Automobile retail sales in the country witnessed a 5 per cent year-on-year drop last month amid a decline in two-wheeler and tractor dispatches during the period. As per automobile dealers' body FADA, total retail sales last month stood at 12,96,257 units, down 5.27 per cent, from 13,68,307 units in September 2020. While two-wheeler and tractor dispatches declined, other segments like passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and three-wheelers saw an increase in retail sales last month, as compared to the same period a year ago.

Ola starts vehicle commerce platform

New Delhi: Ride-hailing platform Ola Thursday announced the launch of its vehicle commerce platform that will enable customers to buy new and pre-owned vehicles through the Ola app. Ola Cars will offer a bouquet of services to customers, beginning with purchase, vehicle finance and insurance, registration, maintenance, including vehicle health diagnostics and service, accessories and finally, resale of the vehicle back to Ola Cars, it said in a statement.

7-Eleven stores to open from Sat

Mumbai: Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, through its wholly owned subsidiary, 7-India Convenience Retail Limited, has entered into a master franchise agreement with 7-Eleven, Inc (SEI) for the launch of 7-Eleven convenience stores in the country. The first 7-Eleven store is set to open Saturday in Andheri East, Mumbai. With the launch of the 7-Eleven stores, RRVL proposes to offer a superior shopping experience and compelling value proposition.

BPCL PRIVATISATION

SEBI unlikely to clear open offers for Petronet, IGL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 7: The privatisation plan of public sector oil refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd may get expensive for the investors as the new owners are unlikely to get regulatory exemption to participate in open offer of two other entities - Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL) and Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL).



Sources privy to the development said that market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is not in favour of giving exemption to the BPCL from making open offer in the PLL and the IGL where it already holds substantial stake as it would go against the interest of minority shareholders.

The BPCL holds 12.5 per cent of the shareholding in India's largest liquefied natural gas importer, Petronet, and a 22.5 per cent stake in city gas retailer, IGL. The strategic buy of the BPCL would also change the ownership structure of these two entities, triggering the takeover code and need to launch and open offer for purchase of additional 26 per cent equity each in the two entities.

Sources said that this would add up another Rs 20,000 crore to the acquisition cost of the BPCL where the strategic buyer would pick up governments 52.98 stake at about Rs 50,000 crore and spend another Rs 25,000 crore for making open offer for additional 26 per cent of the BPCL stake in the two.

State govt to empower rural entrepreneurship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: MSME Minister, Dibya Shankar Mishra, Thursday said that the Odisha government is giving more priority to rural entrepreneurship development in the state.

During e-Conclave MSME - Banking & Finance, Mishra said, "The state government is providing training facilities, marketing linkages and skill development locally. The government is also creating awareness among the rural to support entrepreneurs."

Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Odisha in association with Department of MSME and Finance offered the MSME and Finance

MD Sadique Alam, director of the Industries department, said that the



non-availability of financing sources has become the crucial factor to promote MSMEs in the state.

"MSME financing has become a priority now for reviving the entrepreneur's activities. The MSME department has been working continuously to resolve the issues and challenges faced by the state MSMEs in terms of entrepreneurship de-

NTPC, EDF set to explore potential power projects

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 7: In a significant development for the global power sector, Electricite de France SA (EDF), one of the world's leading power sector companies headquartered in Paris, and NTPC Ltd, India's largest energy integrated company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore potential power project development opportunities in the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Africa.

NTPC is ranked as the number 2 Independent Power Producer (IPP) in Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings.

The MoU was signed by Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya, Director (Projects) from NTPC side in the presence of Jawed Ashraf (Ambassador of India to France) and Emmanuel Lenain (Ambassador

of France to India).

The MoU will bear witness to the cooperation between EDF, France and NTPC for exploring power project development opportunities around regions of mutual interest like the Middle East, Europe and Africa. The two companies will also collaborate for knowledge sharing, R&D, technical services and consultancy assignments globally.

NTPC expressed optimism about its collaboration with EDF and said the collaboration will further increase their competitiveness in the international markets.

This MoU supports our roadmap for the development of clean energy projects worldwide. We believe this alliance will bring multiple mutually constructive investment opportunities in the global markets, NTPC said in a statement.

Titan m-cap soars past ₹2L cr mark



New Delhi: Shares of Titan Thursday jumped over 9 per cent, with its market valuation crossing Rs 2 lakh crore mark, after the company said it has witnessed a strong recovery in demand in the July-September quarter. The stock zoomed 9.39 per cent to its 52-week high of Rs 2,348.45 on BSE. On NSE, it jumped 9.30 per cent to its 52-week high of Rs 2,347.40. Following the jump in its share price, the company's market capitalisation climbed to Rs 2,08,026.05 crore on BSE. From the Tata group firms, Tata Consultancy Services was the first company to attain this milestone of reaching Rs 2 lakh crore market valuation mark.

BIZ BUZZ

XUV700 garners 25K bookings in 57 min

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Thursday said its new offering XUV700 garnered 25,000 bookings in just 57 minutes of the commencement of the process. The company had announced introductory prices, ranging between Rs 11.99 lakh and Rs 22.89 lakh (ex-showroom) for the first 25,000 units of the new product. The next round of bookings, with new pricing, would now open at 10 AM October 8. The vehicle is now priced between Rs 12.49 lakh and Rs 22.99 lakh.



TVS Motor rolls out TVS Jupiter 125



features such as the largest under-seat storage, segment-leading longest seat, masculine styling and unrivalled mileage.

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company Thursday said it has expanded the Jupiter range with the launch of a 125cc version of the scooter, with price starting at Rs 73,400 (ex-showroom Delhi). The company already sells a 110cc version of the scooter and Jupiter 125 expands the product portfolio. As per the company, the new model is bigger, more spacious with industry-first features such as the largest under-seat storage, segment-leading longest seat, masculine styling and unrivalled mileage.

WORLD FOOD PRICES HIT 10-YEAR PEAK: FAO

FAO's food price index, which tracks international prices of the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 130.0 points last month, the highest reading since September 2011

AGENCIES

Paris, Oct 7: World food prices rose for a second consecutive month in September to reach a 10-year peak, driven by gains for cereals and vegetable oils, the United Nations food agency said Thursday.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also projected record global cereal production in 2021, but said this would be outpaced by forecast consumption. The FAO's cereal price index rose by 2.0 per cent in September from the previous month. That was led by a near 4 per cent increase for wheat prices, with the UN agency citing tightening export availabilities amid strong demand.

"Among major cereals, wheat will be the focus in the coming weeks as demand need to be tested against fast rising prices," FAO Senior Economist Abdolreza Abbassian said in a statement. World vegetable oil prices were



up 1.7% on the month and showing a year-on-year rise of about 60%, as palm oil prices climbed on-

burst import demand and concerns over labour shortages in Malaysia, FAO said. Palm oil futures have

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR BASIS, FOOD PRICES WERE UP 32.8 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER

WORLD VEGETABLE OIL PRICES WERE UP 1.7% ON THE MONTH AND SHOWING A YEAR-ON-YEAR RISE OF ABOUT 60%

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY PRICES HAVE RISEN STEEPLY IN THE PAST YEAR, FUELLED BY HARVEST SETBACKS AND CHINESE DEMAND

rallied further in early October to hit record highs as a surge in crude oil markets has lent further support to vegetable oils used in biodiesel. Global sugar prices rose 0.5% in September with concern over ad-

verse crop weather in top exporter Brazil partly offset by slowing import demand and a favourable production outlook in India and Thailand, according to FAO. For cereal production, FAO projected a record world crop of 2.800 billion tonnes in 2021, up slightly from 2.788 billion estimated a month ago. That would be below world cereal use of 2.811 billion tonnes, a forecast revised up by 2.7 million tonnes from a month earlier mainly to reflect increased wheat use in animal feed, FAO said in a cereal supply and demand note. Global cereal stocks were expected to ease in 2021-22 but would still be at a comfortable level, FAO added.

Enrique's men end Italy's record unbeaten run to enter UEFA Nations League final

Torres, Oyarzabal lift Spain

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, Oct 7: Spain ended Italy's record unbeaten run of 37 matches by beating the European champion 2-1 in the Nations League semifinals after Roberto Mancini's team was reduced to 10 men.

Ferran Torres scored two goals in the first half for Spain, the second coming after Leonardo Bonucci was sent off for a second yellow card three minutes before the break.

Lorenzo Pellegrini pulled one back for Italy late on as the Azzurri threatened an improbable comeback. In the end though, Mancini's side fell to its first loss in more than three years, since being beaten by Portugal in September 2018. Their unbeaten streak was a world record in international football.

In Milan, Italy was in the hunt for more silverware while Spain was looking for revenge after losing to the Azzurri on penalties in the Euro 2020 semifinals.

Barcelona teenager Gavi Paez started, making the 17-year-old the youngest player to make his Spain debut. Gavi, who only made his first-team debut for Barcelona a month ago, broke the national record set by Angel Zubietza in 1936.

The match in front of a passionate, sell-out crowd of 37,000 at the San Siro was played with a high tempo from the start, with chances coming at both ends.

Federico Chiesa was the first to test the goalkeeper as Spain's Unai Simon saved his effort from distance in the fifth minute and then denied Italy center-back Alessandro Bastoni moments later.

Bastoni then made a decisive block at the other end in the 13th to deny Mikel Oyarzabal following an attack down the left wing.

Spain had been probing that left flank and it provided the opener in the 17th minute as Oyarzabal's cross from the left was volleyed into the bottom right corner by Torres.

Spain almost immediately doubled their lead as Gianluigi Donnarumma fumbled Marcos



SPLENDID DISPLAY: Ferran Torres (L) celebrates one of Spain's goals against Italy with Mikel Oyarzabal (No.21), Marcus Alonso (R) and Gavi Paez (No.9) at San Siro, Wednesday

Alonso's shot, and the ball came out of his hands and off the left post before Bonucci managed to clear the rebound off the line.

It was a rare mistake from the Italy goalkeeper, who was voted the player of the tournament at Euro 2020. But his every touch was getting loudly booed by the majority of the Italy fans at San Siro, which is also the home of AC Milan — the club Donnarumma left in the off-season on a free transfer to PSG.

Italy had chances to level the match and its best opportunity came 10 minutes from halftime as first Federico Bernardeschi's shot

was turned onto the post by Simon before an unmarked Lorenzo Insigne turned Emerson's cross wide from a great position.

Italy's chances then took a blow just before the break as Bonucci was shown a second yellow card for jumping with his elbow raised on Sergio Busquets. The Italy captain had received a first booking on the half hour, for dissent.

Spain immediately made the extra man count as it doubled their lead on the stroke of halftime, with a very similar goal to its opener. This time Torres headed Oyarzabal's cross from the left back across goal and into the bottom left corner.

Despite being a man down, Italy continued to press and Chiesa hit the right post after a good run from the Juventus forward. The offside flag was up but it would have been a tight decision.

Oyarzabal almost got on the scoresheet himself in the 63rd but he headed a cross from Jeremy Pino wide of the post.

Donnarumma also saved a low shot from Alonso before Italy pulled one back seven minutes from time. Chiesa sprinted forward from inside his own half to the penalty area, drew Simon and then unselfishly rolled across for Pellegrini to tap into an empty net.

Rahul, bowlers crush CSK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 7: KL Rahul (98 n o, 42b, 7x4, 8x6) saved his best for the last as his unbeaten knock, which for a change was full on intent quotient, helping Punjab Kings crush Chennai Super Kings by six wickets in an inconsequential IPL encounter Thursday.

Chasing 135 for victory, the Punjab team stormed to victory in 13 overs as the CSK skipper MS Dhoni could not find answers to stop Rahul's onslaught.

Skipper Rahul was on the attack from the word go, launching into the CSK bowlers. The stylish right-hander clobbered eight sixes to go with seven boundaries. He finished it in style with a big six off Shardul Thakur (3/28).

The Punjab skipper had been panned for his approach in some of the earlier matches where he dragged the game deep but Punjab Kings failed to finish on the winning side. Rahul's strike-rate had been panned often during this edition and finally the flair was back in his batting.

Alas, it came when the horse has bolted the door. Thakur was CSK's best bowler on a day when the other bowlers including Deepak Chahar (1/48), Josh Hazlewood (0/22) and Dwayne Bravo (0/32) looked clueless in the face of Rahul's stylish onslaught.

Rahul kept hitting boundaries and sixes at will even as the other batters didn't come up with any meaningful contribution. Anything on his legs was whipped between fine leg and mid-wicket with utter disdain.

The skipper and Mayank Agarwal (12) put on 46 in just 4.3 overs before he dominated another partnership with Shahrukh Khan (8) for the third wicket, adding 34 runs in four overs.

None of the CSK bowlers was able to stop a marauding Rahul as Punjab Kings went on the offensive in a bid to win quickly and boost their net run-rate. Despite the easy win, Punjab's NRR did not go past fourth-placed Kolkata Knight Riders with both teams on 12 with the latter set to play later in the night.

Earlier, Punjab Kings limited CSK to 134/6 despite Faf du Plessis' (76, 55b, 8x4, 2x6) quality half cen-



KL RAHUL

the CSK innings towards the end. Ravindra Jadeja remained not out on 15.

BRIEF SCORES

CSK 134/6
(Faf du Plessis 76; Chris Jordan 2/20, Arshdeep Singh 2/35, Mohammed Shami 1/22, Ravi Bishnoi 1/25)
lost to PBKS 139/4
(KL Rahul 98 n o; Shardul Thakur 3/28) by 6 wickets.

TODAY'S MATCHES

SRH v MI

RCB v DC

Time: 07:30 pm
TELECAST
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

Anshu settles for silver at World Championship



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Oslo (Norway), Oct 7: India will have to wait for their first woman World Champion in wrestling as teenager Anshu Malik settled for a silver medal after losing her 57kg final to 2016 Olympic champion Helen Lousie Marouli here Thursday.

Coming into the match after becoming India's first-ever woman finalist at the World Championship, the 19-year old began in an aggressive fashion with positive in-

tent. She led 1-0 at the breather but the bout changed in dramatic fashion in the second.

Marouli got Anshu in her arm grip and pulled her down to complete a take-down move to take a 2-1 lead. She kept Anshu's right arm under a tight grip and kept twisting to get an 'exposure' point, making it 4-1.

Anshu, the reigning Asian Champion, was in terrible pain but the American did not loosen her grip and had Anshu's back on the mat to win by fall. Anshu needed medical help immediately after the bout as she was almost in tears.

Nevertheless, it was a heroic performance from the Nidani wrestler, who became the only fifth Indian woman to win a world's medal and so far the best one. Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhandla (2018) and Vinesh Phogat (2019) have won a bronze each.

Meanwhile Divya Kakran (72kg) lost her repechage round in the morning session to Mongolia's Davaanasan Enkh Amar and expectedly, the Greco Roman wrestlers put up a disappointing show.

Sandeep (55kg), Vikas (72kg), Sajjan (77kg) and Harpreet Singh (82kg) bowed out of the competition. Only Sajjan managed to win one bout while the other three lost their respective openers.

KKR a step closer to playoffs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Oct 7: Kolkata Knight Riders produced a clinical performance to beat Rajasthan Royals by a massive 86-run margin and take a huge step towards securing their playoff berth in the Indian Premier League here Thursday.

With three playoff spots — Delhi Capitals, CSK and RCB — already sealed, KKR consolidated their position for the fourth and final playoff spot, finishing their round-robin engagements with 14 points from 14 games with an impressive net run rate of 0.587.

With 12 points from 13 matches, defending champions Mumbai Indians are the only team still in the playoff race but they will need to register a big win over SRH in their last game Friday to dislodge KKR from the fourth spot.

Shubman Gill (56, 44b, 4x4, 2x6) hit a second consecutive fifty as KKR registered the highest score at the venue this season, posting a competitive 171/4 after being put into bat.

Gill and Venkatesh Iyer (38) got KKR's innings to a rollicking start, stitching 79 runs for the opening stand. Rahul Tripathi (21), Dinesh Karthik (14 n o) and skipper Eoin Morgan (13 n o) also played good hands towards the end to take KKR to past the 170-run mark.

RR had a horrible start to their chase, losing their best batter of the season Yashasvi Jaiswal to Shakib Al Hasan (1/1) in the third ball of the



SHUBMAN GILL

innings. If that was not enough, skipper Sanju Samson departed in the first delivery of the next over.

Back into the side after recovering from an injury, Lockie Ferguson (3/18) struck twice in his first over — first removing Liam Livingstone and then accounting for young Anuj Rawat a ball later.

Shivam Mavi (4/21) then struck twice in the eighth over — disturbing the timbers of Glenn Phillips and Shivam Dube with his brute pace as RR kept losing wickets at



SHIVAM MAVI

regular intervals. Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy then dismissed Chris Morris.

Rahul Tewatia (44, 36b, 5x4, 2x6) took the attack to the opposition having no pressure on his back which allowed RR to reach 85. Mavi dismissed Tewatia to finish things off.

BRIEF SCORES
KKR 171/4 (Shubman Gill 56, Venkatesh Iyer 38; Rahul Tewatia 1/11) beat RR 85 (Rahul Tewatia 44; Shivam Mavi 4/21, Lockie Ferguson 3/18) by 86 runs.

Menon lone Indian among WT20 umpires

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 7: The ICC Thursday announced the appointment of 20 match officials for round one and Super T2 phase of the upcoming men's World T20 (WT20), with Nitin Menon being the lone Indian named among the umpires.

Seasoned South African umpire Marais Erasmus and England's Chris Gaffaney will be the two on-field umpires for the high-profile India versus Pakistan game October 24 while Richard Illingworth will be the TV official. David Boon will be the match referee.

The 16 umpires and four match referees finalised for the 45-match tournament include three umpires who will be officiating in their sixth men's T20 World Cup — Aleem Dar, Erasmus and Rod Tucker.

Former India pacer Javgal Srinath is one of the four match referees named for the tournament, being played in Muscat (Oman), Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Dubai (UAE) from October 17 to November 14.

The match officials for the semifinals and final of the tournament in the UAE and Oman will be named in due course.

The ICC said a 20-strong group of match officials meant that for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be neutral umpires for

'Batter' to replace 'batsman' from T20 World Cup onwards

Dubai: The ICC Thursday decided to replace 'batsman' with gender-neutral term 'batter' in all its playing conditions starting with this month's men's T20 World Cup, describing the move as a "natural and overdue evolution" in the sport. Last month, the Marylebone Cricket Club announced it would be replacing the word 'batsman' with 'batter' in the Laws of Cricket. That change will now be reflected across all ICC playing conditions going forward. The ICC said over the past four years it has been moving away from the word 'batsman', with 'batter' implemented regularly in commentary and across the organisation's channels. The body's acting CEO Geoff Allardice said the MCC's decision to move to 'batter' in the laws of the game was one they 'welcomed'.

all matches of the tournament.

Match Referees: David Boon, Jeff Crowe, Ranjan Madugalle, Javagal Srinath.

Umpires: Chris Brown, Aleem Dar, Kumar Dharmasena, Marais Erasmus, Chris Gaffaney, Michael Gough, Adrian Holdstock, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Nitin Menon, Ahsan Raza, Paul Reiffel, Langton Rusere, Rod Tucker, Joel Wilson, Paul Wilson.

INDIA BAG GOLD AT JUNIOR WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lima, Oct 7: The Indian women's team of Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan and Naamya Kapoor struck gold in the 25m pistol event to continue the country's domination at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) Junior World Championship here.

The Indian team beat USA 16-4 in the gold medal match. The country's 20th medal came in the men's trap team event in which the Indians secured a silver, going down to Italy 4-6.

The trio of Bakhtyaruddin Malek, Shardul Vihan and Vivaan Kapoor had qualified for the match

after being placed second out of seven teams in qualification, with a combined score of 473 out of 525. Italy was strong throughout the competition having topped qualification with a huge 486.

Earlier, Bhaker secured her fourth gold of the competition to go with one bronze, while it was the 14-year-old Kapoor's second gold of the championship. She had become the newly-crowned world junior champion in the individual 25m pistol event.

India also picked up a silver medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event when Adarsh Singh lost to USA's Henry Turner Leverett in the six-man final.

At the end of day eight of the championship Wednesday, India topped the medal tally with nine gold, seven silver and three bronze. USA were second with five gold and a total of 16 medals.

The trio of Manu, Rhythm and Naamya, faced little competition throughout as they took a commanding lead of 10-4 before the beginning of the eighth series of rapid-fire shots and then closed out at 16-4.

India are on top of the medals tally with nine gold, eight silver and three bronze medals already in their kitty. The USA are second with six gold, eight silver and five bronze medals.



GOLDEN TROIKA: (From L) Rhythm Sangwan, Naamya Kapoor and Manu Bhaker hold the Tricolour on the podium

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rain plays spoilsport

GOLD COAST: The first T20I between the Indian women's cricket team and Australia was abandoned due to heavy rain here Thursday. Invited to bat, India were 131/4 in 15.2 overs when rain disrupted the proceedings, leading to the match being eventually called off. Jemimah Rodrigues was not out on 49 and giving her company was Richa Ghosh (17 n o). Both sides got one point each from the abandoned match. Tahlia McGrath and Hannah Darlington were making their T20I debuts for Australia. For India, Renuka Singh was handed a debut while it was a maiden T20I appearance for Yastika Bhatia. The second T20I of the three-match series is scheduled to be played Saturday at the same venue.

Webb to step down

NEW DELHI: Indian men's cricket team's strength and conditioning coach Nick Webb will be stepping down from his position after the upcoming T20 World Cup as the New Zealander is no longer keen on being on the road for five to eight months a year. "In saying this, I have recently informed the BCCI that I will not be seeking an extension of my contract following the T20 World Cup," Webb wrote on his Instagram page with details of his reason to quit the high profile job after two years. It has become difficult for him to stay away from his family for too long in this post Covid World. He said that he has decided to put his family first with stringent health protocols in place for NZ citizens wanting to enter the country.