



## SAMANTHA SLAMS SOCIETY

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu shared a post slamming society for setting different standards for men and women

LEISURE P2



## FRESH TENSION

Expressing concern over a US submarine sustaining damage in the SCS, China demanded that US must reveal the details of the incident

INTERNATIONAL P10



## MBAPPE LIFTS FRANCE

Kylian Mbappe scores one and sets up another to help France beat Belgium in the Nations League semifinal

SPORTS P12

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## Dozens killed in Af blast

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kabul, Oct 8:** An Islamic State suicide bomber struck at a mosque packed with Shiite Muslim worshippers in northern Afghanistan Friday, killing at least 46 people and wounding dozens in the latest security challenge to the Taliban as they transition from insurgency to governance.

In its claim of responsibility, the region's IS affiliate identified the bomber



as a Uygher Muslim, saying the attack targeted both Shiites and the Taliban for their purported willingness to expel

Uyghers to meet demands from China. The statement was carried by the IS-linked Aamaq news agency.

The blast tore through a crowded mosque in the city of Kunduz during Friday noon prayers. It was the latest in a series of IS bombings and shootings that have targeted Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers, as well as religious institutions and minority Shiites since US and NATO troops left in August.

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## SKY-HIGH GLORY

Indian Air Force's flag bearing skydivers of the Akash Ganga team perform during an air display on the occasion of 89th foundation day of the force, at Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad, Friday.

PTI PHOTO

## Clean chit to DFO, Bidya booked

**Crime Branch probe concludes Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra died in 'accidental' fire and finds no evidence in support of DFO's alleged relationship with Bidya Bharati**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** The state Crime Branch Friday gave a clean chit to the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Gajapati, Sangram Keshari Behera, in the sensational death of Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) of Paralakhemundi Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra.

Addressing a presser, ADG, Crime Branch, Sanjeeb Panda said the team investigating the mysterious death of the ACF found no evidence in support of Behera's involvement in the death of Soumya.

The team after examining the statements of the witnesses, CDR analysis, Soumya's diary, his dying declaration, polygraph test reports of DFO and Bidya Bharati found no evidence on DFO's alleged relationship with Bidya Bharati.

The Crime Branch also denied the involvement of Manmath Kumbha, the cook of the deceased ACF, in the case. "Following the allegations of the family members, the crime branch team went about the probe by taking it as a murder. But the team did not find any evidence on homicidal death nor suicidal death of the ACF. Based on the information and evidence fetched during investigation, it can be concluded as an accidental death," the ADG said.

He claimed that the dying declaration of Soumya also corroborates the fact that his death was 'accidental'. Panda claimed in his dying declaration, Soumya informed that 'while he was burning papers by pouring kerosene his leg accidentally slipped and the kerosene poured on him leading to him catching fire'.

"On a deeper analysis of the facts and circumstances, statements of material witnesses such as ACF Bhaskar Rao, collector Gajapati, cook Manmath and others, the statement of the deceased in his dying declaration, the psy-



ACF DEATH

chological analysis of the writings of Soumya Ranjan in his diary and the polygraph report, prima facie evidence proves that the fire which caused Soumya Ranjan's death was accidental," the crime branch press note claimed.

However, the Crime Branch asserted that Bidya, who was present at the spot, did not take any action to douse the fire and save her husband's life.

As per the Crime Branch, "She has stated in her examination that she fetched water in a bucket from the tap in the back side of the house and in a hurry and panic she slipped and could not succeed to shower water on the body of the deceased. This statement of hers was found to be deceptive in polygraph test."

The Crime Branch said it has submitted the chargesheet against Bidya at Paralakhemundi SDJM court charging her under Sections 304-A (causing death by negligence) and 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter) of IPC.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, Partha Sarathi Nayak, advocate for Soumya's family, said, "We were expecting exactly similar findings by the Crime Branch and have requested the High Court for a CBI probe. Slapping of Section 304-A against Bidya is just an eyewash."

## Tatas back in AI cockpit

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** Salt-to-software conglomerate Tatas have won the bid to acquire debt-laden state-run Air India offering ₹18,000 crore for acquiring 100 per cent shareholding, a senior government official said Friday.

An SPV of Tata Sons - the holding company of conglomerate - has emerged as successful bidder, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, secretary to the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) - the government department responsible for privatisation - said.

Tata Sons beat SpiceJet promoter to bag Air India. The DIPAM secretary said Tatas' bid of ₹18,000 crore comprises taking over of ₹15,300 crore of debt and paying the rest in cash.

Both bidders had quoted above the reserve price, he said adding the transaction is planned to be closed by December. He said a group of ministers comprising Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has cleared the winning bid for Air India October 4.

This marks the return of Air India to the Tatas. JRD Tata founded the airline in 1932. It was called Tata Airlines then. In 1946, the aviation division of Tata Sons was listed as Air India. In 1953, Air India was nationalised.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Now I know why our stars never talk about prices, unemployment, corruption, etc. They have a different set of problems

## State hikes DA by 11%, extends GIS benefits

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** As a Durga Puja gift, the Odisha government Friday announced an 11 per cent hike in dearness allowance (DA) for its employees and pensioners effective from July 1 this year, officials said.

The enhanced DA will benefit around 4 lakh regular employees and 3.5 lakh pensioners, a release issued by the Chief Minister's Office said, adding that the DA on the salary of the government staffers has now gone up to 28 per cent from 17 per cent.

The employees will get their increased salary from October and they will also get the three months' hiked DA in cash.

In another development, the state government, in its bid to extend more financial benefits to its employees in case of death while in service, has effected changes in the Group Insurance Scheme (GIS).

Under the revised plan, the employees in grade pay up to ₹ 4,800, who have been paying ₹7,500 for the GIS, now have to pay ₹20,000. The family of such employees, who

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY FROM OCT 10-20

**Bhubaneswar:** All schools of the state will be closed for Durga Puja, Dussehra and Kumar Purnima from October 10 to 20. The school and mass education department released the notification to all educational institutions. The classes for Class-IX, X and XII will resume from October 21 with the same timings as issued by the government and the same SOP will be followed in view of the pandemic.

were getting ₹1.5 lakh in case of death, would now get ₹4 lakh.

Similarly, the GIS payment for the staffers getting ₹5,400 and above has been increased from ₹12,000 to ₹30,000. Their families would get ₹6 lakh under the revised scheme instead of ₹2.5 lakh previously. The increased GIS amount will be deducted from the salaries of the employees in 10 instalments as before, the CMO release said.

This apart, the state government has also increased the funeral allowance from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 for both the grade pay.

## Jagadev sent to jail



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** Chilika MLA Prashant Jagadev was remanded to judicial custody Friday after his bail petition in connection with an assault case was rejected by the Additional District Judge's Court in Khurda.

The lawmaker underwent a health examination before he was sent to jail. The MLA had been suspended from BJD after he allegedly attacked BJP's Balugaon Mandal president Niranjana Sethi last month. The lawmaker had surrendered before the Khurda court after his anticipatory bail was rejected by the Orissa High Court October 5. The HC had directed him to remain present in the lower court Friday and had also directed the lower court to hear the bail plea of the accused.

## Apex court raps UP over farmers' killing

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** The Supreme Court Friday said it was not satisfied with the steps taken by the Uttar Pradesh government in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case in which eight persons were killed October 3 and questioned it for not arresting the accused against whom FIR has been lodged.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana criticised the UP government for its lethargic approach in arresting the son of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra and asked the state counsel whether the same way they treat other accused of such serious crimes. "We are not satisfied with the steps taken by the state government. It's a brutal murder of eight people. Law must take its course against all accused. The highest police officer in the state will be informed to protect evidence in the case," the court said.

The bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli ruled out the option of handing over Lakhimpur Kheri case to

## MINISTER'S SON DOESN'T SHOW UP BEFORE POLICE

**Lakhimpur:** Uttar Pradesh Police issued a fresh notice to Union minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra asking him to appear before it by 11 am Saturday in connection with the violence that killed eight people, including four farmers, after he missed his 10 am deadline Friday. Hours later, the minister told reporters his son was not well and that "he will appear before the police tomorrow and give his statement and evidence as he is innocent." A notice pasted outside Ajay Mishra's house Friday afternoon, warned legal action will be initiated against Ashish Mishra if he fails to appear before the investigators Saturday.

CBI citing "obvious reasons." The SC asked the UP government to explore options of a suitable agency to hand over the case.

"We are not interested in giving this case to CBI. We don't want to say anything for the obvious reasons you know. Because of the people involved in it," the bench said.

## FUEL PRICES HIKED AGAIN

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** Petrol price in Bhubaneswar Friday increased by 30 paise a litre and diesel by 38 paise per litre as domestic fuel prices witnessed possibly the largest rally in rates. In the state capital, petrol cost 104.44 while diesel cost 100.48.

CITY PRICES	
Petrol	₹104.44 (+0.30)
Diesel	₹100.48 (+0.38)

The price of petrol in the national capital rose to its highest-ever level of ₹103.54 a litre and to ₹109.54 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Diesel rates too touched a record high of ₹92.12 in Delhi and inched closer to the ₹100-a-litre mark in Mumbai.

## Nobel Peace for journalists from Philippines, Russia



AGENCIES

**Oslo, Oct 8:** The 2021 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to journalists Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee cited their fight for freedom of expression, stressing that it is vital in promoting peace.

"Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda," said Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Nobel committee.

Ressa in 2012 co-founded Rappler, a news website that has focused "critical attention on the (President Rodrigo) Duterte regime's controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign," the Nobel committee said.

Muratov was one of the founders of the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta in 1993. "Novaya Gazeta is the most independent newspaper in Russia today, with a fundamentally critical attitude towards power," the Nobel committee said.

## 'Some started leaving': Kashmiri Pandits fear 1990 rerun

**With 7 targeted killings in 5 days, members of the community who were provided employment under the PM's rehabilitation programme in 2010-11 fear terror groups would target them too**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

employees from the minority community, official sources said.

A woman principal and a teacher were shot dead at point blank range inside a government school in the heart of the city 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.

"Around 500 people or more have started leaving from different areas like Budgam, Anantnag and Pulwama. There are some non-Kashmiri Pandit families who have also left. It is 1990 revisited," says Sanjay Tikku, president of Kashmiri Pandit Sangarsh Samiti (KPSS).

"It may seem invisible but migration is going on and I was an-

tipicating this. We had requested appointment from the Lt Governor's office in June, but have not been given time till now," Tikku, who has never migrated out of the valley, said.

He said such developments are noticed much these days due to social media, and "we are aware of who all have left."

The KPSS says it is now evidently clear that the confidence building measure of providing employment to the Kashmiri migrants is not appreciated by the anti-minority forces. He also slammed the administration.

Vessu migrant camp in Qazigund area of South Kashmir which houses around 380 families became an epicentre of administrative actions Friday morning when Anantnag Deputy Commissioner Piyush Singla along with police

officers pleaded the families not to leave the transit camp.

"He assured us complete security and requested us not to move to Jammu," said Sunny Raina, president of Vessu camp package employee association.

The organisation, which has 4,284 employees, had written a letter to the chief secretary expressing fear for their lives.

"In a state of extreme fear and panic, we bring to your kind notice that the whole of the minority populace of Kashmiri Pandits dispensing their duties in Kashmir feels scared of the emerging grave, anti-minority situation in Kashmir. Due to recent brutal and gruesome selective killings of members of Hindu community, all employees who belong to the same community feel insecure and frightened," they wrote.

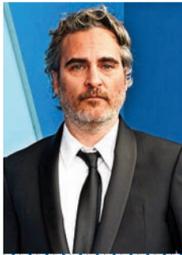
**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	60059.06	↑ 381.23
NIFTY	17895.20	↑ 104.90
DOLLAR	74.95	↑ ₹0.15
EURO	86.88	↑ ₹0.24
GOLD	₹46,991	↑ ₹164
SILVER	₹61,817	↑ ₹59

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	34.4°C	35.0°C
MIN	25.6°C	24.0°C
Humidity	87%	76%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky



## JOAQUIN PHOENIX HINTS AT JOKER SEQUEL

Oscar-winning actor Joaquin Phoenix has suggested that a sequel to *Joker* is possible as there are more things to 'explore' with the villain. The 46-year-old star won the Best Actor Oscar for his role as Arthur Fleck/Joker in the 2019 movie, which serves as an origin story to the iconic *Batman* villain.

## JEFFREY WRIGHT PRAISES ROBERT PATTINSON'S TAKE ON BATMAN

Actor Jeffrey Wright, who has been cast Gotham City Police Commissioner James Gordon in Matt Reeves' *The Batman* which has *Twilight* star Robert Pattinson make his debut as the superhero, believes audiences will be impressed by the latter's take on the character.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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#### ARIES

Ganesh will play Cupid with you today. You will be seized by temptations, and may even forget that your desires are one-sided. If in a troubled relationship, you may get insights into some unresolved matters, says Ganesh.

#### TAURUS

Lady luck is generous with any activity you undertake today, says Ganesh. Generous to such an extent that you will surpass your own expectations in the results you achieve. You will display your ability to be flexible and fit it, no matter how and where.

#### GEMINI

You will break free of your routine work today and spend the day having fun with your family and friends. Plans for dinner or for a picnic with your loved ones are strongly indicated, and should see you filled with enthusiasm. Waiting for a couple of days before proposing to that special someone should net you a favourable response, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

You will take advantage of your ability to influence people, predicts Ganesh. At work, your power to communicate will receive widespread approval. You will enjoy social activities later in the day. Meditation will help you relieve your tension in the evening, suggests Ganesh.

#### LEO

Ganesh foresees that today, you will be gripped by the desire to shop till you drop, even if it means having to spend a small fortune from your hard-earned savings! You have no problem with that, especially if all the money-spending is being undertaken to please your sweetheart.

#### VIRGO

All you have to do is start what you intend to do, and its success will automatically fall in. Such is the day today for you, says Ganesh. Financial transactions will be rewarding. However, the day may not be as exciting as you expect. But then again, don't expect - just go with the flow, says Ganesh.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says that today you should not only look after your outward appearance but also your inner self. You shall be in demand in the office or at social gatherings. Today you will be spending money on entertainment. You will also be getting some form of good news from relatives or friends abroad which will make you happy.

#### SCORPIO

The day begins with challenges at work, predicts Ganesh. But, don't you worry as you have all the zest to tackle your career front. Evenings will be full of social exchanges and attending parties and dinner with friends is on the cards.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Today, your actions are definitely going to be louder than your words, predicts Ganesh. Your focus today would be on personality development and self-improvement, and you succeed to achieve what you want, to some extent. Good luck!

#### CAPRICORN

You are in for a windfall, predicts Ganesh. Patience is the key for you. Your patience and composure will enable you to put yourself in others' shoes and understand their problems. If you're a student or planning to enrol yourself for a course, Ganesh ensures tremendous growth for you in that direction.

#### AQUARIUS

You'll go on a cleanliness drive, today! Cleaning up the mess will bring clarity to your mind and you will have an idea about what needs to be done at the earliest and what can be put on the back burner. With the wit and intelligence you possess, you will be able to solve problems in minutes, foresees Ganesh.

#### PISCES

You will implement abstract ideas into practice with the all the finesse of a feverish modern-day artist today. The evening will find you satisfied with and questioning about your place in the universe; you will also acknowledge God for the small mercies he gifts you on an everyday basis, says Ganesh.

# Sam slams society's double standards for men, women

**Hyderabad:** Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has shared a post slamming the society for setting different standards for men and women on social media.

The south star quoted author Farida D on her Instagram Story days after split with Naga Chaitanya. She wrote "Good morning" over the post.

The quote read: "If matters are constantly morally questionable when done by women, but not even morally questioned when done by men - then we, as a society, fundamentally have no morals. - Farida D."

The actress posted her first picture on social media Thursday since her split with Naga Chaitanya.

Samantha had written an Instagram post that she and Chay had decided to separate October 2.

She wrote: "To all our well wishers. After much deliberation and thought Chay and I have decided to part ways as husband and wife to pursue our own paths. We are fortunate to have a friendship of over a decade that was the very core of our relationship which we believe will always hold a special bond between us."

"We request our fans, well wishers and the media to support us during this difficult time and give us the privacy we need to move on. Thanking you for your support." **IANS**



# Shilpa finds judging Super Dancer 4 rejuvenating

**Mumbai:** The dance reality show *Super Dancer Chapter 4*, judged by Geeta Kapur, Anurag Basu and Shilpa Shetty, will air its finale episode titled 'Nachpan Ka Maha Mahotsav' Saturday, October 9.

Shilpa Shetty Kundra, who has been associated with the show for quite a long time, describes how it has impacted her life. She said: "Every year, these kids blow your minds with their unparalleled talent and dedication. Watching this younger generation of talent capture the stage inspires me to reinvent, unlearn, and relearn."

The top five finalists will showcase their talent and compete with each other as they vie for the top prize. They are Florina Gogoi, Sanchit Chanana, Pruthviraj Kongari, Esha Mishra and Neerja Tiwari. "They make me believe in the process and in divinity even more," Shilpa said. "It assures me that the craft and the future of India are in the best hands."

Florina Gogoi shared her experience

of being on the show and said it was a great feeling to reach this point and she was willing to give it her best.

"It is a very big achievement for me to be a part of 'Nachpan Ka Maha Mahotsav', she said. "I am experiencing all kinds of emotions and am elated to have reached the top five ladder. The goal is yet to be achieved, but I will give it my all."

Sanchit Chanana added that although he was excited, he was anxious too about the finale. He gave the credit to Vartika, his choreographer and guru.

He said: "I have mixed emotions right now. I am both excited and anxious at the same time as this has been a long journey for me. I have been practising constantly with Vartika 'didi' for my finale act to give a power-packed performance." **IANS**



# 'I take decisions based on my gut feeling'

**New Delhi:** Actor Pratik Gandhi, who became an overnight sensation with his powerful performance in the web series *Scam 1992*, has talked about how he decides projects he wants to star in or not.

The actor said: "It is a simple approach for me I read the script and I also want to have a narration from the director to understand his vision. If it matches with me and I feel connected and feel it from within then I say yes."

It's all about the gut feeling for Pratik, who is gearing up for the release of his next film *Bhavai*.

"I take my decision absolutely based on my gut (feeling). It is all in the gut feel. I don't see the size of the project or names that are involved. It does not make sense to me," he said.

Pratik also talked about the pros and cons of being famous. **IANS**

# Journaling for mental wellness

**New Delhi:** In a world dominated by technology, the joy of putting pen to paper is almost entirely lost. The older we get, the larger the gap between writing things down and digitization becomes. While the global pandemic cast a heavy shadow on many, it also had its advantages - one of which was how people turned inwards to find serenity, strength, and peace.

More light was shed on mental health, its importance, and methods that helped people achieve that. Many turned to pursue their creative interests (including writing, drawing, and painting) far more seriously than they had ever done before, leveraging pens, paper, and stationery. Similarly, journaling was one of the main elements that supported people through those testing times.

To mark World Mental Health Day October 10, the importance of putting pen to paper, particularly through journaling, is important to an individual's well-being. Here are a few key benefits of journaling:

- Helps manage stress and anxiety: Keeping a journal often helps us put our thoughts in order and reduce the chaos of everyday life. Journaling not only helps us relive

memories and experiences, but provides us with a platform to get to know ourselves better and reveal our deepest fears, passion points, thoughts, and feelings.



Helps draw on and learn from personal experiences: It is scientifically proven that writing using pen and paper helps retain information better than when using mobile phones or tablets. Writing down affirmations, achievements, and learnings helps us take in information, and learn from the past.

- Improves mood and enhances sleep: Generations, including millennials and Gen Z, work very differently from previous groups. They have shorter attention spans and store bits and pieces of information. Their minds resemble a computer with various open tabs, which

makes shutting their brain down challenging. Journaling encourages people to let things out keeping them sane and uplifted and making a good night's sleep possible.

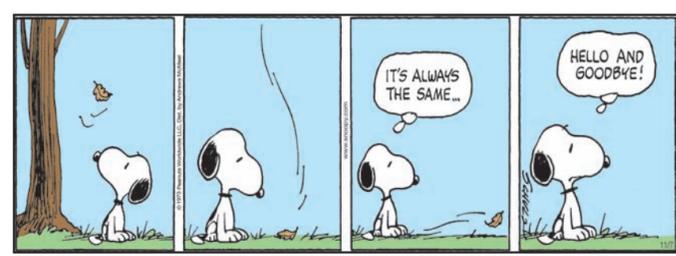
- Boosts creativity: Journaling sets the brain free as it provides us with an opportunity to doodle, draw,



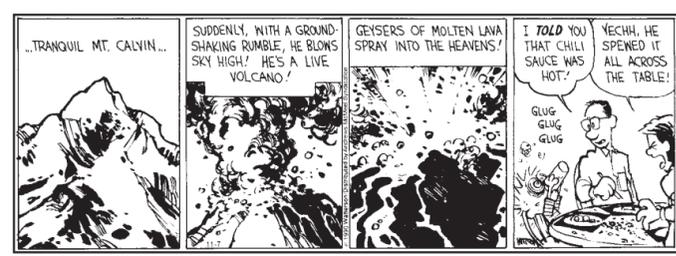
write, illustrate, and colour in a personal space without any judgment.

- Helps build a stronger immune system: Several studies around the world show that regular journaling leads to sound sleep, a stronger immune system and IQ.

### PEANUTS



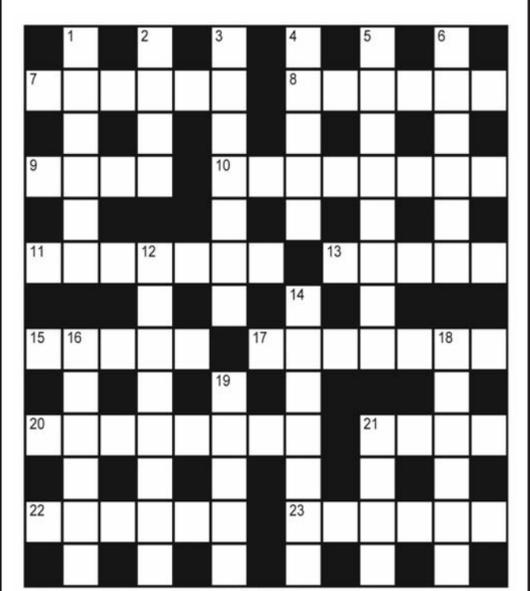
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



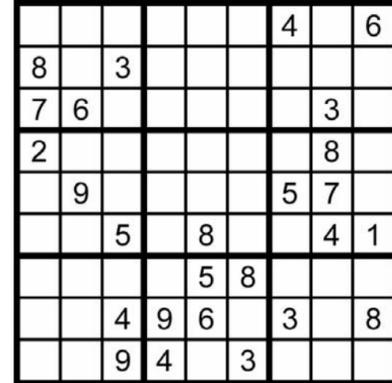
### FUN post CROSSWORD



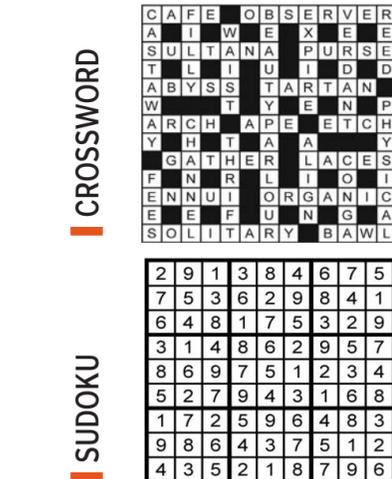
- Across**
- 7 Consecrate
  - 8 Exactly right (4,2)
  - 9 Before lore, dance or art
  - 10 Natural covering
  - 11 Walk or tramp about
  - 13 Itty-bitty
  - 15 Gemstone
  - 17 Watch part
  - 20 Amphitheatre
  - 21 Story
  - 22 Appraised
  - 23 Opulence
  - 3 Let loose
  - 4 Employment
  - 5 Large Scottish lake (4,4)
  - 6 Evil spirit
  - 12 Plot
  - 14 Collapse
  - 16 Worldwide
  - 18 Tempt
  - 19 Buttonlike
  - 21 Hack
- Down**
- 1 Protective cover
  - 2 War machine

### 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



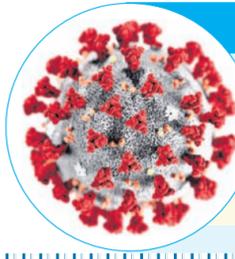
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## DESTROYER OF EVIL

Goddess Gada Chandi adorned with *Bagala Beshha* ahead of the Dussehra festival in Cuttack, Friday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,77,66,278	21,48,27,370	48,52,608
India	3,39,15,569	3,32,25,221	4,50,127
Odisha	10,30,518	10,17,714	8,238

# Market linkage key to agri growth: CM

The Chief Minister says it is now evident that agriculture sector is a silver lining amid the Covid-19 pandemic

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday stressed upon linking the farmers directly to market and removing intermediaries with the objective to ensure better return for farm produce.

Inaugurating the Odisha Agri Conclave 2021 on virtual platform, Patnaik said the state government is giving importance to raise the income of farmers.

"We must respond to the dynamics of the market. We need to streamline their connectivity to the aggregators and processors to play the role as producers. We need to remove intermediaries who don't add value to the supply chain," he said.

The main objective of the Agri Conclave 2021 is to link the farmers of Odisha to organised national market. On the occasion, the Chief Minister invited the top agri-business leaders to be partners in scripting the growth story of agribusiness in Odisha.

Stating that Odisha has a conducive policy environment, the Chief Minister said the state aspires to become the investment destination of choice by continuously creating and delivering outstanding opportunities for business growth and fostering all-round socio-economic development for the state and its people. Agriculture and allied sectors of the state are now open to national and global players, he stated.

"The farmers lay the foundation of our nation's economy. It is on this foundation, we build the pillars of a vibrant economy. Development of agriculture and empowerment of



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and 5T Secretary VK Pandian during the inauguration of Odisha Agri Conclave 2021 through virtual mode, Friday. Other dignitaries present at the launching ceremony are also seen

farmers is my priority," Patnaik said.

Patnaik further stated that Odisha's farmer-centric approach backed by various schemes and programmes have started yielding results. "There are considerable evidences of local surplus of agriculture and horticulture produce. We can work in tandem with agri players so that appropriate pre-harvest and post-harvest protocols are followed by the farming community," he said.

The Chief Minister put emphasis on the use of advanced technology by the farmers. Citing challenges of frequent natural calamities like droughts, cyclones and floods, Patnaik said his government has introduced all possible measures to ensure uninterrupted growth of agriculture sector. "It is now evident that agricul-

ture sector is a silver lining amid the Covid-19 pandemic," Patnaik said.

He also said the state has achieved self-sufficiency in food production and it is now the third largest contributor to the nation public distribution system.

Odisha is one of the leading producers of cereals, vegetables, fruits, spices, fishes, seafood and poultry products. "Today, Kandhamal turmeric, Similipal honey, Koraput coffee have created their own brand values across the globe for their exceptional qualities," he added.

Speaking on state's policy framework for various sectors, Patnaik said Odisha has introduced a separate budget for agriculture. Besides, the state has a robust policy for agricultural sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Minister Arun Sahoo said Odisha is a pioneer in promoting agriculture enterprises through ease of doing business. Mukhya Mantri Krushi Udyog Yojana has been a great support to the farm sector, he added.

Sahoo highlighted the advantages of schemes like Kalia and Balaram for the farmers. He praised the vision of the Chief Minister for raising the income of farmers in state. Among others, principal advisor to Chief Minister Asit Tripathy, Development Commissioner PK Jena, NAFED MD Sanjeev Chadha and Agriculture secretary Suresh Vasishth were present on the occasion. The Chief Minister also released two books on agriculture at the conclave.

# Draft reservation list for panchayat elections out

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** As per instruction of the state government, draft lists of reservations for the upcoming three-tier panchayat elections were published Friday.

The draft lists have been published in panchayats, blocks and districts for reservation of seats for ward member, sarpanch, panchayat samiti member, block chairman, zilla parishad member and ZP chairperson across the state, said Panchayati Raj Minister Pratap Jena.

Candidates willing to object to the allotment of reservation for the posts of ward member, sarpanch, samiti member and block chairperson can file claims by October 16, he said.

The disposal of the claims shall be done by the Collectors at the district level by October 21 and the final list of reservation will be out October 26,

The draft lists have been published in panchayats, blocks and districts for reservation of seats for ward member, sarpanch, panchayat samiti member, block chairman, zilla parishad member and ZP chairperson across the state

Candidates willing to object to reservation for the posts can file claims by Oct 16 which would be disposed of by Oct 21

the minister further said.

Similarly, he said, objections against the reservation in the draft list for zilla parishad posts can be filed by October 18. After examining and hearing the claims and objections, the Collectors shall publish the final reservation list by October 29. The exercise will be completed by October end and the election will be con-



ducted on time, Jena assured. The state government will also publish the draft reservation list for the ZP chairperson posts October 16. The list will be finalized on October 29 and the final list will be submitted before the SEC by October 30.

State Election Commission (SEC) Secretary Rabin Nath Sahoo said the process for preparation of voter lists will be initiated after finalisation of the reservation process. The entire process for preparation of the voter list will take around one to two months, said Sahoo.

# STF rescues pangolin, nabs 2

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police Friday rescued a pangolin and arrested two persons in connection with smuggling of animals in the state, police said.

Acting on reliable inputs about transportation/sale of pangolins by wildlife criminals, an STF team conducted a raid on the service road of National Highway-16 between Gurujanga-Pitapali in Khurda. The accused were identified as Kailash Khosala of Tujung area in Kalahandi district and Chaitanya Bhatra of Palapu in Nabarangpur district, they said.

During search, one pangolin was seized from their possession. The accused persons



The scaly mammal is a Schedule-I protected animal under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972

Schedule-I provides absolute protection - offences under these are prescribed for the highest penalties

could not produce any valid proof of authorisation in support of the possession of pangolin, for which they have been arrested, the police said.

A case was registered under various sections of the Indian

Penal Code (IPC) and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1973.

The pangolin will be handed over to Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Khurda Wild Life Warden for safe custody, police said. The Indian pangolin (*manis crassicaudata*), also called thick-tailed pangolin, scaly anteater and bajrakata in Odia is a solitary, shy, slow-moving and a nocturnal mammal. It is a Schedule-I protected animal under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. Schedule-I provides absolute protection - offences under these are prescribed for the highest penalties.

During last year, the STF has seized 16 leopard skin, nine elephant tusks, two deer skin, five live pangolins and 15 kg pangolin scales, and arrested 35 wildlife criminals.

# OCS-2019 results out; Aswini Panda topper

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** Bringing an end to the long wait of the applicants, the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) declared the final results of the Odisha Civil Services Examination (OCS) 2019 Friday.

In total, OPSC recommended 153 candidates for appointment in Group A and Group B services. Aswini Kumar Panda

topped the list of successful candidates while three women candidates secured positions in the top 10 ranks.

There were 30 posts vacant in Odisha Administrative Service, 9 posts in Odisha Forest Service, 7 in Odisha Police Service, 5 in Odisha Customs Service, 82 in Odisha Revenue Service (Group-B) and 20 in Odisha Taxation & Accounts Service.

**In total, OPSC recommended 153 candidates for appointment in Group A and Group B services**

As many as 47,719 applicants had applied for OCS-2019 Examination. A total of 25,780 appeared for the Preliminary

Examination held March 15, 2020. 1,880 candidates qualified for Main Examination and out of them, 1,610 wrote the examination which was held Dec, 2020.

A total of 307 candidates were called for personality test, which was conducted for nine days beginning from September 22 to October 5, 2021 excluding Sundays and public holidays.

# SC hearing on Panigrahi DA case adjourned till Nov

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** The Supreme Court Friday adjourned hearing of a special leave petition (SLP) filed by the Odisha Lokayukta against the order of the Orissa High Court that restricted the anti-corruption ombudsman to order a Vigilance probe against ex-BJD MLA Pradeep Panigrahi in a disproportionate asset (DA) case.

A two-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and Abhay S Oka adjourned the hearing till November. During the Friday's hearing, senior advocate Ravindra Shrivastava, appearing for Odisha Lokayukta, submitted that the counter affidavit and rejoinder have been filed in the court.

The Supreme Court October 4 declined to entertain a writ petition filed by Panigrahi seeking registration of a criminal case against Odisha Lokayukta on charges of forgery. A two-judge bench of the SC comprising Justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna disposed of the writ petition observing that there cannot be parallel proceedings on the same issue.

Significantly, the Odisha Lokayukta had filed the SLP in the SC challenging the orders of the Orissa HC which ruled that the ombudsman cannot order preliminary enquiry against Panigrahi by the Vigilance department as the latter is the complainant in the matter.

The SC had April 23 stayed the HC order restraining the Vigilance department from conducting enquiry against Panigrahi in a corruption case.

Notably, the Odisha Lokayukta in December last year had directed the state Vigilance department to investigate the corruption charges made against Panigrahi. The Lokayukta had also asked the Vigilance Directorate to conduct a preliminary inquiry against Panigrahi and submit a report within two months.

The Lokayukta issued the direction after accepting the recommendation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in connection with the corruption charges levelled against Panigrahi December 7 last year.

**Regional Office: Rayagada**  
1st Floor, Hansini Towers, Ainthapalli, Sambalpur-768004

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

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

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

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

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

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgages / Co-obligant	Description of Properties to be Auctioned	Total Dues (in ₹)	Reserve Price/EMD / Bid increment
1.	<b>NABARANGPUR - 2 BRANCH/</b> Borrowers: 1) Mrs. Nibedita Mahapatro, W/o: Gopal Krishna Mahapatro, 2) Mr. Purno Chandra Mahapatro, S/o: Gopal Krishna Mahapatro, Both are At: Gadba Street, Nabarangpur, Dist.: Nabarangpur, Odisha-764059/ Co-obligant: Mr. Bana Bihari Dash, S/o: Gopal Krishna Mahapatro, At: Gadba Street, Nabarangpur, Dist.: Nabarangpur, Odisha-764059	All that Residential Land & Building in the name of Mrs. Nibedita Mahapatro (owner of the Property) over Khata No.: 579, Plot No.: 66/1701, Ward No.: 14, Nabarangpur, admeasuring Ac.0.060 Dec., Kissam: Gharbari situated at Gadaba Guda, Near UP School, Mouza: Sadasivpur, Dist: Nabarangpur, Odisha, Bounded by East: T. Suryanarana, West: Monika Gadaba, North: Goli Road & Kalia Gadaba, South: Nabarangpur Mouza, Abhimanya Padhi	₹3,20,583.20 as on 31.08.2021 + interest and charges thereon	₹16,07,000/- / ₹1,60,700/- + interest and charges thereon
2.	<b>KORAPUT - 2 BRANCH/</b> Borrower: M/s Maa Mutyalumaa Enterprises, Proprietor: Amit Kumar Patra, S/o: Bhairab Patra, Gandhinagar, Koraput, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha-764020/ Mortgage/ Guarantor : Mr. Haripriya Patra, W/o: Amit Kumar Patra, Gandhinagar, Koraput, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha-764020	EMD of Residential Land & Building in the name of Mrs. Haripriya Patra (Owner of the Property) over Khata No.: 91/147, Plot No.: 776/903, admeasuring Ac.0.48 Dec., situated at Mouza: Manabar, Tahasil: Koraput, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha, Bounded by Layout Plot No.: 01, Extent Ac.0.04,	₹24,63,737.16 as on 31.08.2021 + interest and charges thereon	₹54,20,000/- / ₹5,42,000/- + interest and charges thereon
3.	<b>KORAPUT - 2 BRANCH/</b> Borrower: Mr. Pradip Kumar Jena, S/o: Natabar Jena, At: Aurobindo Nagar, Janiguda, Koraput, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha-764020/ Mortgage/ Guarantor : Mr. Dilip Kumar Jena, S/o: Natabar Jena, At: Aurobindo Nagar, Janiguda, Koraput, Dist.: Koraput, Odisha	EMD of Land and Building in the name of Mr. Dilip Kumar Jena (Owner of the Property), over Plot No.: 195/1099, 195/1099/1, 195/1100, Khata No.: 48 (Old), 125/379 (New), admeasuring Ac. 0.865 cents, At Janiguda, Tahasil: Koraput, Dist.: Koraput, Bounded by East: Road, West: Land of Dilip Kumar Jena & Pradip Kumar Jena, North: Drain, South: Land of Parbati Jena	₹57,14,144.41 as on 31.08.2021 + interest and charges thereon	₹15,77,000/- / ₹1,57,700/-

**Date and Time of Inspection of Property for Intending Purchasers : 30.10.2021 during Banking Hours**

**Details of encumbrances if any : NIL**

For registration and login and bidding rules visit <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>, [www.unionbankofindia.co.in](http://www.unionbankofindia.co.in)

**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/ RULE 9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002**

This May also be treated as notice u/r 8(6) / Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

**Place: Sambalpur, Date: 08.10.2021** **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India**

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

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

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

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

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

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgages / Co-obligant	Description of Properties to be Auctioned	Total Dues (in ₹)	Reserve Price/EMD / Bid increment
1.	<b>SATHIPUR BRANCH /</b> Borrower: M/s. Shyamshree Industries, Prop.: Mrs. Manaswini Dhal, W/o: Manoj Dhal, Brajanagar, Rudhia, Jajpur-755043 / Co-obligant/Guarantor: Mrs. Menaka Kumari Dhal, W/o: Shyam Sunder Dhal, Brajanagar, Rudhia, Jajpur-755043 / Guarantor: Mr. Manoj Dhal, Brajanagar, Rudhia, Jajpur-755043	Factory Land and Building belonging to Mrs. Manaswini Dhal bearing Khata No.: 89, Plot No.: 188, Area: Ac.0.160 Dec. & Vacant Plot belonging to Mrs. Menaka Dhal bearing Khata No.: 89, Plot No.: 310, Area: Ac.0.11 dec., Total Area: Ac.0.270 Dec., Kissam: Gharbari, Mouza: Brajanagar, P.S.: Jajpur, Tahasil: Jajpur, Dist.: Jajpur, Plot No.: 188 is Bounded by North: Plot No.: 179, 189 & 190, South: Plot No.: 187 & 181, East: Plot No.: 191, West: Road, Plot No.: 310 is Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 187 & 181, East: Plot No.: 309, West: Plot No.: 308 & 311	₹ 11,25,951/- as on 31.03.2019 + interest thereon	₹ 11,25,951/- / ₹ 1,12,591/- + interest thereon
2.	<b>SATHIPUR BRANCH /</b> Borrowers/Co-applicants: 1) Mr. Gopal Bal, S/o: Makar Bal, At: Tarpada, P.O.: Tarakote, Dist.: Jajpur, 2) Mrs. Snehalata Samal, W/o: Harekrushna Samal, At: Damodarpur, P.O.: Kumbhiragada, Jajpur-755025, 3) Mr. Dilip Kumar Bal, S/o: Gopal Chandra Bal, D.No.: 8-8-130, Kattedhan, TNGOs Colony, Hyderabad, 4) Mrs. Swarna Prava Dhal, W/o: Prabhu Dhal, At: Nerada, P.O.: Bhandaripokhari, Jajpur-755025, 5) Bidyadhar Bal, At: Tarpada, P.O.: Tarakote, Dist.: Jajpur-755025, 6) Santana Bal, S/o: Makar Bal, At: Tarpada, P.O.: Tarakote, Jajpur-755025	Immovable Property i.e Land and Building belonging to Gopal Bal, Bidyadhar Bal, Santana Bal, Swarna Prava Bal, Snehalata Bal situated at Plot No.: 346, Khata No.: 65, Area: Ac.0.09 Dec., Mouza: Tarpada, SRO: Dolipur, P.S.: Korai, Dist.: Jajpur Bounded By North: Road & Nilakanteswar, South: Gouranga Bal, East: Gobinda Bal, West: Own Land Plot No.: 345	₹ 4,66,785.75 as on 03.03.2020 + interest thereon	₹ 4,66,785.75 / ₹ 46,678.57 + interest thereon
3.	<b>JAJPUR ROAD BRANCH-3 /</b> Borrower: Mr. Bhagyadhar Dalei, S/o: Rangadhar Dalei, At: Nimapatna, P.O.: Odisho, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha-755008, Co-borrower: Mr. Rangadhar Dalei, S/o: Mr. Chaitan Dalei, At: Nimapatna, P.O.: Odisho, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha-755008, Guarantor: Mr. Prasant Kumar Nayak, S/o: Mr. Adikanda Nayak, At: Khandahata, P.O.: Rachhipur, Via: Jajpur Road, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha-755019	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building situated at Khata No.: 338/140, Plot No.: 464 (Area: Ac.0.32 dec.) of Kissam: Gharbari as per the mutation ROR dttd. 15.07.2014, Mouza: Karanjari, Thana No.: 115, Tahasil: Rasulpur, Kuakhia, P.S.: Kuakhia, Dist.: Jajpur, Odisha, Registered Owner- Mr. Bhagyadhar Dalei, Property Bounded by North: Village Road, South: Rangadhar Dalei, East: Sridhar Dalei, West: Maheswar Dalei	₹ 27,10,902/- as on 07.01.2020 + interest thereon	₹ 27,10,902/- / ₹ 2,71,090.20 + interest thereon
4.	<b>BHADRAK BRANCH-3 /</b> Borrowers: 1) Creambell Ice Cream, Prop.: Sk Imran, Chhadak Mohalla, Puruna Bazar, Bhadrak-756100, 2) Mr. SK Imran, S/o: Sk Khairat Ali, Mirzapur, Chhadak Mohalla, Puruna Bazar, Bhadrak-756100 / Guarantor: Mr. SK Arfan, S/o: Sk Khairat Ali, Mirzapur, Chhadak Mohalla, Puruna Bazar, Bhadrak-756100	Land and Building - Residential belonging to SK Arfan, S/o: Late SK Puruna Bazar, Bhadrak-756100, 2) Mr. SK Imran, S/o: Sk Khairat Ali, Mirzapur, Chhadak Mohalla, Puruna Bazar, Bhadrak-756100 / Guarantor: Mr. SK Arfan, S/o: Sk Khairat Ali, Mirzapur, Chhadak Mohalla, Puruna Bazar, Bhadrak-756100	₹ 12,51,884/- as on 31.03.2021 + interest thereon	₹ 12,51,884/- / ₹ 1,25,188.40 + interest thereon
5.	<b>SAHADA BRANCH /</b> Borrowers: 1) Maa Kantimangala Variety Store, 2) Mr. Nihar Nutan Das, Both are At: Nuanand, P.O.: Serapur, P.S.: Thihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756126 / Guarantor: Mrs. Sanjukta Das, At: Nuanand, P.O.: Serapur, P.S.: Thihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak-756126	Land and Building belonging to Nihar Nutan Das @ Niranjan Mallik, Measuring Area: Ac.0.110 dec., situated at Plot No.: 557 of Khata No.: 609, Mouza: Nuanand, P.S.: Thihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak.	₹ 6,53,330/- as on 31.03.2021 + interest thereon	₹ 6,53,330/- / ₹ 65,333.00 + interest thereon

**Place: Balasore, Date: 08.10.2021** **Sd/- Authorised Officer**

# Health dept asks people to stay vigilant till Dec end

State Health Services director says the rate of infection in the Capital city has always been a cause for concern



## NOTE OF CAUTION

ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE COVID-19 SITUATION ACROSS THE STATE, KHURDA AND CUTTACK CONTINUE TO REMAIN AS POINTS OF CONCERN AS THEY TOGETHER ACCOUNT FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE DAILY NEW DETECTIONS

THE STATE'S DAILY TEST POSITIVITY RATE WAS 0.78 PER CENT AS 525 CASES GAVE POSITIVE RESULTS FROM AMONG 66,724 SAMPLES PUT FOR EXAMINATION THURSDAY

fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,238, a Health department official said.

Though there has been significant improvement in Covid-19 situation across the state, two coastal districts - Khurda and Cuttack - continue to remain as points of concern as they together account for the majority of the daily new detections.

Of the 524 new cases Friday, Khurda and Cuttack reported 325 fresh infections, which is 62 per cent of the total cases reported during the day. While 306 cases were from quarantine centres, the remaining 218 were local contact cases.

Six districts - Bargarh, Boudh, Gajapati, Jharsuguda, Nabarangpur and Subarnapur - did not report any new cases, the Health official said, adding that Boudh district is now "Covid-19 Free" as it has no active case. Odisha had registered 582 cases Thursday and 593 Wednesday.

The state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.78 per cent as 525 cases gave positive results from among 66,724 samples put for examination Thursday.

The TPR was 0.75% Thursday, 0.82% Wednesday, and 0.77% Tuesday.

The Health and Family Welfare department informed that with four fresh fatalities, one each from Cuttack, Nayagarh, Kandhamal and Sundargarh districts, the state's Covid-19 death toll mounted to 8,238.

Odisha currently has 5,111 active Covid-19 cases while 10,17,116 patients including 522 Thursday recovered from the highly infectious disease.

The state has thus far conducted over 2.05 crore sample tests while its positivity rate stands at 5.02 per cent.

Over 91.95 lakh people have so far been fully inoculated with double dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

els in December, Mohapatra said, adding that if people do not stay vigilant, positive cases will further increase.

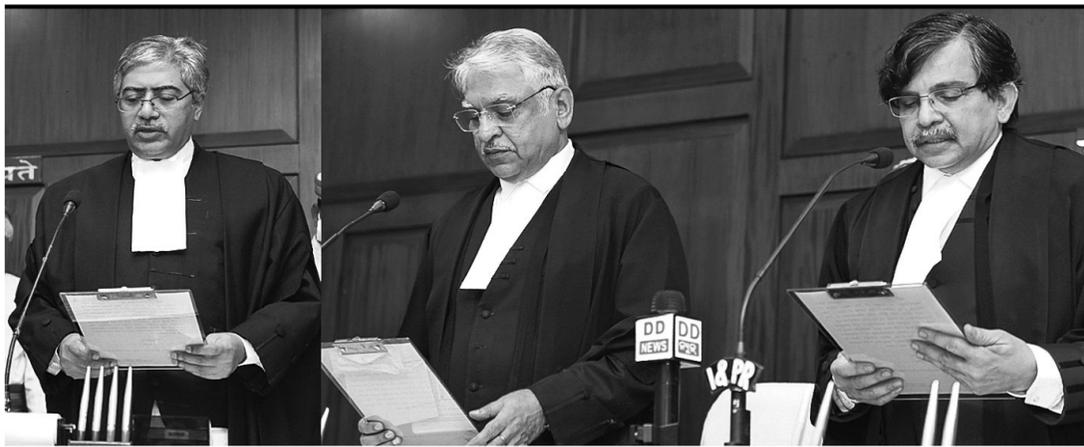
On the Covid situation in Bhubaneswar, the health services director said that the rate of infection in the Capital city has always been a cause for concern.

Every day, 200 to 400 infections are being detected in the City. The Covid graph in the state capital is fluctuating.

Therefore, people should strictly adhere to Covid appropriate behaviour in order to prevent the transmission of the virus, he said.

Meanwhile, the state Friday registered 524 new Covid-19 cases including 75 children taking the state's caseload to 10,30,518. Four

## OATH-TAKING CEREMONY AT ORISSA HC



Justices Jaswant Singh (C) and Arindam Sinha (L), who had been transferred to Orissa High Court from Punjab & Haryana High Court and Calcutta High Court respectively, being administered the oath of office by Chief Justice S Muralidhar in Cuttack, Friday

# 326 coastal villages to be made tsunami ready

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** After winning international accolades on cyclone, flood and lightning management, the state government Friday decided to take measures to make at least 326 coastal villages in the state tsunami ready.

In a virtual state executive committee meet held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, it was decided that around Rs 7.17 crore will be provided for projects that would help 326 villages become tsunami ready.

Development Commissioner PK Jena appraised the meeting about two villages - Noliashi in Jagatsingpur and Venkatraipur in Ganjam district - which received the UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)'s recognition as first tsunami-ready Indian villages in the Indian Ocean region.

Meanwhile, considering the erratic rainfall pattern in recent years, Mahapatra also proposed to develop the capacity for urban flood management. He also directed



An awareness campaign organised by Odisha State Disaster Management Authority on tsunami in progress at Niladri beach in Puri, Friday

the officials to prepare for handling of fire and other emergency accidents in high-rise buildings. He suggested for strengthening of the disaster fighting arm of the state with high-tech equipment and capacity building training on multi-hazard responses.

The committee also decided to develop special urban flood management unit in the ODRAF. It was also decided that the fire service units would be strengthened with hi-tech equipment and training to manage the fire and other accidents in high-rise buildings, particularly in urban industrial

areas of the state.

Moreover, discussions were also made to enhance the disaster fighting arms from village to state level.

Sources said while the committee sanctioned around Rs 15.74 crore for training of around 40,700 shelter level volunteers and 20,350 maintenance and management volunteers, around Rs 1.27 crore was provided for training of women self-help group (WSHG) members.

Further, it was decided to sharpen the capacity of ODRAF and fire service units and about Rs 1.28 crore was sanctioned for the purpose.

## HC gets two new judges

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 8:** Justices Jaswant Singh and Arindam Sinha took oath as judges of the Orissa High Court here Friday.

Chief Justice S Muralidhar administered the oath to the new judges at a ceremony, which was attended by other judges of the court, the Advocate General and a few members of the bar, among others.

Justice Singh was transferred from the Punjab and Haryana High Court, while Justice Sinha from the Calcutta High Court.

With the new joining, the strength of the High Court went up to 14, against a sanctioned strength of 22, although the Law Commission suggested having 27 judges.

Justice Sanjay Mishra was given a warm sendoff Thursday upon his transfer to the Uttarakhand High Court.

## Take steps to run Talcher med college early: Das to Centre

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** State Health Minister Naba Kishore Das Friday wrote to his counterpart at the Centre, Mansukh Mandaviya, for early operationalisation of the Medical College and Hospital at Talcher in Angul district.

In his letter, Das said Angul district in Odisha is the hub of coal mining activity, which is providing energy security to the country. The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Central PSU Coal India Limited (CIL), had proposed to establish a medical college and hospital in the district as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) commitment for the district, he mentioned.

The MCL had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the state government in 2014 to establish a 500-bed and 100-seated medical college and hospital at Talcher. The state government had provided 20 acres of land at zero cost for the project, he said.

The initial commitment of MCL was to operationalise the medical college in 2016-17. The construction of the campus was completed in 2019-20. The infrastructure has remained idle for the last two years, he further said. Das urged the Union minister to take suitable steps for early functioning of the medical college and hospital.

## Sakhigopal Temple gets ₹3L donations

**Sakhigopal:** The Sakhigopal Temple here has received Rs 3,07,850 by way of donations in the past 23 months, a temple official said as they reopened the donation box Friday. Temple's executive officer Basanta Kumar Pradhan, block development officer Khirod Kumar Behera, Endowment inspector J Sahoo and priest body's chief Ramachandra Mohapatra were present when the donation box was reopened. The money has been deposited with the bank account maintained by the shrine, said the official.

PNN/ AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** The state government Friday cautioned people to remain alert for the next three months in order to prevent the transmission of the novel coronavirus.

Informing the reporters about the caution that the people should adopt for the next three months, Director of Health Services Bijay Mohapatra said, "October, November and December are crucial and people should avoid crowded places and unnecessary travel during this period."

He mentioned that December is a month with many holidays and people visit several destinations during this period. However, they should avoid trav-

## CLASSIFIED

### LOST

Deed No.2945 Dt.24.04.92 & rectified Sale Deed No.6469 Dt.04.09.92 has been lost somewhere 4-5 days back. The Sale Deed is belong to Late Mr.Baikunth Nath Pattanaik, situated at Gadakana Mouza, Unit No.39. I will not be responsible if it will be misused by anybody and it would be void. If found please return to me.

**Amaresh Kumar Pattanaik**  
S/o Late Baikunth Nath Pattanaik  
Tigiria, Cuttack

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Jaleswar on dated 28.09.2021, I Sri Sangram Keshari Panigrahi S/o Laxmi kanta Panigrahi of Vill. Kismat Paschimbad, P.O.- Paschimbad, P.S.- Jaleswar, Dist.- Balasore do hereby declare that I have lost my B.Farm Degree Certificate and all semester Certificate obtained from BPUT University on 24.09.2021 on the way of Paschimbad to Jaleswar road. Further I make this declaration for the purpose of obtaining duplicate B.Farm Degree Certificate and all Semester Certificate from BPUT University.

Sd./- Sangram Keshari Panigrahi

## AFFIDAVIT

I have changed my name from Manish Kanakbhai Sheth to Manish Sheth for all purpose.

## Contempt case: HC seeks response from City DCP

**Cuttack:** The Orissa High Court Friday sought an affidavit from the Bhubaneswar DCP in connection with a contempt case. The court scheduled the hearing for October 28. Sudhanshu Rout, a web journalist, had approached the police, including the Bhubaneswar DCP, alleging sprinter Dutee Chand of abusing him over a petty issue. After receiving a cold shoulder from the men in khaki, Rout moved the HC. The HC had, August 11 this year, directed the Bhubaneswar DCP to initiate action against Dutee within four weeks.

## Raja's plea against CP's move rejected

**Cuttack:** The Orissa High Court Friday rejected the plea of notorious gangster Raja Acharya challenging the move of the Commissionerate Police to book him under stringent National Security Act (NSA). A division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BP Routray rejected Acharya's plea. Then twin city police commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi had December 18 last year slapped NSA against Acharya. The commissioner's move got the Home department's nod December 28.

## HC shut till Oct 25

**Cuttack:** The Orissa High Court will remain shut till October 25 on account of Durga Puja, official sources said Friday. The vacation bench of the HC will, however, hear 'urgent cases between 11am and 3pm October 11, 18 and 21, they added. While Justices B Mohanty and KR Mohanty will hear division bench cases October 11, Justice BR Sarangi will hear single judge and civil writ matters. Justice S Ratho will hear single judge criminal matters on the day. On October 18, Justices B Mohanty and KR Mohapatra will hear division bench cases, while Justice B Mohanty will hear single judge criminal matters thereafter.

# Nandankanan toy train back on track after 7 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** The seven-year-long wait for toy train service at Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here came to an end with Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha inaugurating the refurbished facility during the 67th State-level Wildlife Week celebrations at the nature's paradise Friday.

Sources said the toy train service at Nandankanan was discontinued in 2014. The Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES), under the Indian Railways, has overhauled the toy train's engine and bogies. This apart, the tracks and station of the toy train service have also been refurbished.

With a battery-operated engine, the toy train has five bogies which can accommodate 72 people for a 3.2km joyride. Of the capacity, two seats have been reserved for the differently-abled. Around Rs 3.05 crore has been spent on the overhaul, said a senior zoo official. The Forest Minister also laid the foundation stone for the ropeway facility.

Sources said that Kolkata-based



The renovated toy train at Nandankanan Zoological Park

OP PHOTO

Damodar Ropeway Infra Limited (DRIL), which has been roped in by the Nandankanan authorities to build, operate and maintain the ropeway facility, is likely to start the construction of the much-awaited project by this month.

The ropeway facility (Mono Cable Pulsated Aerial Ropeway) is expected to be made functional

## The ropeway facility - Mono Cable Pulsated Aerial Ropeway - is expected to be made functional within 18 months

within 18 months, it was learnt. Around Rs 13 crore would be spent on the project. Notably, the ropeway facility was discontinued at NZP in 2011. On the occasion, Arukha declared the winners of the online quiz and photography competition.

Biju Patnaik Award 2021 was conferred on Nanda Kishore Bhujabal for his outstanding contribution to wildlife protection and conservation by curbing bird hunting at Mangalajodi.

Addressing the gathering, the Forest Minister highlighted various schemes of the government for improvement of habitat and initiatives taken for the successful

implementation of the schemes in community participation.

Arukha described the benefits of 'Nature Tourism' managed by the forest fringe schedule caste/tribe people in their livelihood and the improvement of forest and wildlife in the area. He also highlighted the benefits of 'Anukampa' portal developed by Odisha Space Application Centre for the expeditious payment of compassionate grant to the victims for the life and property damage due to wildlife.

According to Arukha, the state government has approved 'Jana Suraksha, Gaja Raksha' programme, an initiative to prevent the entry of jumbos to crop fields by using solar fencing. Fixation of solar powered streetlight and engagement of 'Gajabandhu' and 'Gajasathi' in high conflict villages will be implemented to prevent man-animal conflict, he pointed out. The State-level 67th Wildlife Week has been observed at various forest divisions in Odisha from October 2 to 8.



Forest and Environment Minister laying foundation stone for the ropeway

OP PHOTO

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# Prioritise local industries in coal supply: UCCI to CM

Odisha faces coal shortage despite its abundant coal reserves - about 25% of the country's deposits - and MCL producing about 150 million tonnes of coal



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** The Utkal Chamber of Commerce & Industry Ltd (UCCI) sought personal intervention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to address the critical coal crisis being faced by the state's coal industries.

The state's booming industrial sector now stares at a possible shutdown if the precarious coal shortage is not addressed immediately through state intervention, the industry body said in a press statement.

In the letter, the UCCI requested the state government to urgently communicate with the Ministry of Coal to direct Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and Coal India Limited (CIL) to step up the crucial supply of the material to the local industries in Odisha so that stocking out of coal is avoided and a safe level of coal stock is maintained in critical units to prevent any eventualities in operations.

The coal supply shortage remains acute as Odisha-based power plants (15,000 MW) require 75-80 million tonne coal per annum, which is 50 per cent of the state's coal production for cost-effective sustainable industry operations.

The current diversion of coal supply is depriving the state of domestic value addition while threatening local jobs and MSMEs within Odisha.

Acute coal shortage in the state is jeopardising the manufacturing sector in the state, dampening its reputation among global investors

Surprisingly, Odisha faces coal shortage despite its abundant coal reserves (about 25 per cent of the country's deposits) and MCL producing about 150 million tonnes of coal.

In the current situation, over 65 per cent of Odisha's coal is being supplied to power plants in other states while Odisha-based local industries are facing severe coal deficit and are being forced to import coal/power as they are getting less than 35 per cent of the state's coal production,

the letter read.

The coal supply shortage remains acute as Odisha-based power plants (15,000 MW) require 75-80 million ton coal per annum, which is 50 per cent of the state's coal production for cost-effective sustainable industry operations.

"It is, thus, of utmost importance that Odisha's coal requirements be met first before diversion of critical coal supply to other states. The state of Odisha needs to supply the coal produced within the state to cater to the requirement of local industries and enhance its global cost-competitiveness," the UCCI said.

Odisha's coal requirement must be met 100 per cent through self-production of the state. This shall spur growth opportunities in the state by creating millions of jobs, huge revenue and development of thousands of MSMEs within the state, thus boosting the prosperity of its people. This will also attract huge global investments for setting up large scale industries in Odisha.

The current diversion of coal supply is depriving the state from domestic value addition while threatening local jobs and MSMEs within Odisha. Importantly, the acute coal shortage in the state is jeopardising the manufacturing sector in the state, dampening its reputation among global investors, the UCCI warned.



Artists perform Ghudka dance at the state-level Lokakala Gramya Mahotsav organised by Odia Language Literature and Culture Department at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

## Death of Odia jawan in Assam; murder suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sonepur, Oct 8:** Pratap Kumar Naik, a CRPF jawan was found dead near railway tracks in Assam recently. His family members alleged that Pratap was killed elsewhere else and his body dumped on the railway tracks to give it a colour of suicide.

Pratap's body was found at Lumding in Hojai district October 2. Pratap, a resident of Majhipada village in Sonepur district, was posted at Nagaland.

He was coming home to attend

the death anniversary of his mother.

The CRPF authorities at Nagaland informed Pratap's family about his death Thursday. His younger brother, Pradeep Kumar Naik said Pratap boarded a train at Dimapur railway station October 1 and was to reach Bhubaneswar October 3.

Pratap had spoken to his family till 12.30 am October 1. His family members tried to contact him on his phone several times, but no answer came. He was suspected to have been killed by robbers during the train journey.

## CUSTODIAL DEATH

### Locals seek action against cops

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, Oct 8:** Hundreds of residents and members of the Bahujana Milita Mancha, a local outfit, here took out a procession Friday demanding action against police involved in the recent custodial death in Bargarh.

A large number of people congregated at Loka Mandap in the morning and marched to the district collectorate and the SP office. Tension over the custodial death has been prevailing in the town for last one week over alleged custodial death, a protester said.

Gobind Kumbhar, 25, a resident of Ward No-21 of Tora panchayat on this town's outskirts, had died September 25.

Gobind's family members including his wife Ruby and other residents of the locality alleged that Town police picked up the youth late Friday night (September 24) and tortured him in the lock up. The deceased is survived by two children.

Gobind was an accused in an assault case and lodged with a Town police. Suspecting that he may run away, the police picked him up from his home. Bargarh Superintendent of Police Rahul Jain had earlier written to the ADG, HRP and DIG (North) requesting them to conduct a probe on the basis of an FIR lodged by the deceased's wife Ruby. Police officials said the probe is already underway.

## Pradhan urges Gadkari to expedite NH-55 work

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan urged his Cabinet colleague Nitin Gadkari to expedite the expansion work of National Highway (NH)-55, earlier called NH-44, in Odisha. The National Highway expansion work is divided into two sections - Cuttack-Angul and Sambalpur-Angul.

Pradhan wrote to Gadkari after receiving a petition from the villagers of Boinda in Angul district regarding the inordinate delay in expansion and improvement of the highway. "In their petition, they have said that the foundation of NH-55 was laid in December 2018 and it was decided to complete the work by September 2020. Further, they have said that the expansion work of NH-55 has been entrusted to M/s Gayatri Projects Ltd, whose work is not up to the mark as the company doesn't carry out the work properly, causing road accidents regularly," the Union Education Minister said in his letter.

Around 600 lives have been lost in several road accidents in this area during the last four years while construction of two bridges at Panimahar and Chandan Pokhri has not yet been completed, he added.

Pradhan also mentioned in his letter that the construction of seven elephant underpasses is also pending



**PRADHAN MENTIONED IN HIS LETTER THAT CONSTRUCTION OF 7 ELEPHANT UNDERPASSES IS ALSO PENDING AND THE LAND COMPENSATION AT THE REVISED RATE HAS NOT BEEN PAID TO LAND LOSERS**

ing and the land compensation amount at the revised rate has not been paid to the land losers in many places.

"I take this opportunity to request you to look into the matter at your personal level for a favourable consideration of the above demand for the well-being of people of this area," the Union Minister added.

## NHM funds remain idle; farmers deprived of sops

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, Oct 8:** The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) is being implemented for farmers to take up fruits and other income-generating farming in the country, but the benefits of the scheme are still out of reach of many farmers in Nayagarh.

Funds have been provided by the horticulture department under this mission to the district, but funds have remained unutilized, a report said.

According to the report, the district was provided Rs 3.53 lakh for banana farming in 2021-22. The target was to take this up across 11.50 hectares. Till date, its work has not been started. Similarly, Rs69 lakh was provided to the district for papaya farming in 7.50 hectares. This fund has not been allocated to beneficiaries.

The district has received Rs 1.15 lakh for guava farming, Rs 2.64 lakh for pineapple farming, Rs 54,000 for jackfruit farming, Rs 27,000 for blackberry farming, Rs 90 lakh for hybrid vegetable farming, Rs 20.01 lakh for mushroom farming and Rs 69,000 for marigold farming (for small and marginal farmers). All these funds have been left idle in the district.

However, mango and guava farming has been promoted in some



cases. It is claimed that mango farming has been done in 189.1 hectares.

Moreover, funds to the tune of lakhs of rupees provided for honey bee keeping, vermin compost preparation, natural fertiliser, farm ponds, spices farming and sapling nursery have not been allocated to beneficiaries.

Simanchal Swain, a farmer of Gania area said, "The government is attaching much importance on horticulture to enhance income of farmers. We heard lakhs of rupees are being provided for horticulture, but farmers are unaware of this. The department is not creating awareness about the schemes."

He also alleged that horticulture activities are shown in papers. There is a need for review and audit on the implementation of the scheme in the district.

Uddhab Sahu, a farmer of Ranpur, said the government is

providing funds to promote fruit and vegetable farming, but farmers do not have any idea about it. "Farmers are not being sensitized. A few farmers are handed out funds and in some cases funds are embezzled through false bills. Farmers are getting no benefits," he added.

Zilla Parsihad member Nasir Ahmed said the horticulture department is not doing its work properly. Irregularities are being committed in some projects. Investigations can unearth the facts, he added.

When contacted, deputy director of horticulture department, Muralidhar Behera said the department is doing its work properly for welfare of farming and farmers. "If farmers come out with allegations of irregularities, they will be investigated. We are taking several steps to utilize the funds provided by the government," he added.

## DIARRHOEA IN BORIGUMA KILLS FIVE, 25 AFFECTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Boriguma, Oct 8:** Consumption of contaminated water has allegedly played havoc in Sashahandi panchayat under this block in Koraput district. Diarrhoea is spreading in Bamuniaguda village. In the last 15 days, five people in the village have died of diarrhoea while over 25 people have been affected, a report said.

According to the report, people who have died of the disease were identified as Sambhari Muduli (62), Ramdas Jani (65), Banka Muduli (70), Makar Santa (62) and Damu Bhumia (28).

However, the administration had denied the number of casualties due to this disease. It claimed that only two people have died.

Locals alleged that diarrhoea has been spreading due to negligence by the health department. Villagers said Bamuni health centre has not taken steps to contain



FILE PHOTO

the disease when it broke out. Locals said 45 people are under treatment but the administration denied the number of affected people. It put the number of affected people at 25.

A medical team from the district level visited the village and started treatment of people.

The health workers have cleaned sources of drinking water with bleaching powder. People are being made aware of other preventive measures.

At a local primary school, the health department has made

arrangements of 20 beds for patients. About 165 families of SC and ST communities live in the village, but they do not have any tube well in the village.

Handloom and Textile Minister Padmini Dian visited the village and talked to them. She assured that safe drinking water will be provided.

Officials like CDMO, PD, BDO, WEO, the medical officer of Boriguma health centre, tetsildar, CDPO and several health officials visited the village. The health officials have been looking into causes for the diarrhoea.

## Criminal held three years after escaping from police custody

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Oct 8:** A notorious criminal who had given a slip to Mayurbhanj police three years ago was arrested by Sambalpur police Friday. Two of his accomplices were also arrested. The accused was identified as Dhaneswar Jhankar of Badmal village.

The others were identified as Pramod Kumar Behera and Rabindra Dharua of Badmal village under Jujumara police limits.

Addressing a presser here, SP Batula Gangadhar said police have recovered laptops, tablets, 10 phones and Rs 4000 from the accused.

The SP also stated that Dhaneswar had been involved in various criminal activities over last ten years in Sambalpur and other districts. He was also involved in extortion cases. He was arrested in 2018 on charges of extorting people at gunpoint.

However, he managed to give a slip to Mayurbhanj police who were taking him in remand. He remained untraced for three years and police

of four districts had lost sleep over his absconding.

According to police, Dhaneswar used to stay in a forest and often came to his house. It was difficult for police to arrest him.

A police team was keeping a watch on him and took a house on rent at his village.

Thursday night, police got a tip-off about Dhaneswar visiting his house. Police swung into action and arrested him.

According to police, several criminal cases are pending against him at Sadar, Jujumar, Dhama, Sasan, Mahulapalli, Thelkoti, Ainthapalli, Rairakhol, Bolangir police stations, apart from cases in police stations in Jharuguda, Bolangir and Mayurbhanj districts.

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Advertised Value (₹): 25,25,012.69,  
Cost of Tender Document (₹): 3,540/-,  
Period of Completion: 24 Months.  
Bidding Start Date: 13.10.2021,  
Date and time of closing of tender: 1500 hrs of 27.10.2021.  
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Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner, PR-462/W/21-22 Khurda Road

**भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर**  
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**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVOCATION**  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation of the Institute will be held on **20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021** at Institute campus, Argul, Khordha. Shri N. R. Narayana Murthy, Founder of Infosys has kindly agreed to grace the occasion as Chief Guest. Degree recipients are requested to visit the Institute website and follow the link <https://www.iitbbs.ac.in/convocation2021> for further information, updates and to complete the requisite formalities for attending the convocation. **Registrar**

Tender Ref. No: 134/WSN/2021-22  
Date: 07/10/2021  
**WASSAN**  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
Sealed & signed tender papers are invited from eligible bidder with super scribe on the top of envelope "Tender call notice for fabrication & installation of café at Koel Nagar, Rourkela, Odisha-769014". The tender paper will be available under **tender section of www.milletsodisha.com from 07/10/2021**. The sealed tender paper should reach to the undersigned on or before **29/10/2021, 3:30 PM** through **Registered Post/Speed Post/Courier** and will be opened on **same day 4:00 PM**. The undersigned reserve the rights to cancel the whole or part of the tender at any stage without assigning the reason thereof.  
Sd/-  
State Coordinator, Odisha Millets Mission

FOCUS GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

# A SECOND CHANCE

Second chances are not common in this world, but one is arriving now. The scope and scale of government support for businesses and workers during the COVID-19 crisis of the last 18 months have swept aside entrenched policy dogmas. This has generated political momentum across advanced and developing economies to change the balance of power between the state and the market, and thereby foster a new consensus for achieving more equitable and sustainable growth. By building on this impetus, we can avoid repeating the policy mistakes of recent decades.

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested governments' responsiveness and the resilience of economic systems everywhere, and changed social behaviour and personal habits in previously unthinkable ways. There has also been cause for genuine hope amid the suffering. The dedication of essential workers has been inspiring, while the global scientific community has harnessed the power of collaborative research and public money to develop safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines at breakneck speed.

A global economic recovery began in the second half of 2020, as countries found less draconian ways to manage the pandemic's health risks and launched vaccination programs. Global growth is expected to reach 5.3% this year, the highest rate in almost a half-century. But the outlook beyond 2021 is uncertain, given disparities in countries' financial resources, the prospect of new coronavirus variants, and highly uneven vaccination rates.

If we are not careful, these challenges - like governments' misguided embrace of fiscal austerity after the 2008 global financial crisis - could slow the momentum for meaningful change. Moreover, the pandemic has revealed how unprepared even the wealthiest countries are for unexpected shocks - a fact underscored by extreme weather events this year - and how divided the global economy has become.

A return to the pre-pandemic policy paradigm, which delivered the



**Progress will depend on improved policy coordination among major economies as they push to maintain the recovery's momentum, build resilience against future shocks, and address the increasingly urgent climate crisis. But better coordination will not be enough to build back better**

weakest decade of global growth since 1945, would be a disaster. This is especially true for developing countries, where the economic damage caused by COVID-19 has exceeded that resulting from the global financial crisis a decade ago - in some cases by a considerable margin.

The new US administration's wide-ranging economic initiatives, if complemented by similar actions in other developed countries, could restore the global economy to a sounder footing. Moreover, the US backing for the recent \$650 billion allocation of International Monetary Fund special drawing rights (SDRs), as well as for a global minimum corporate tax rate and a waiver of COVID-19 vaccine-related intellectual-property rights, suggests a possible renewal of multilateralism. The global economy's existing asymmetries, and the interlocking economic and environmental crises these have caused, should top the multilateral agenda.

Progress will depend on im-

proved policy coordination among major economies as they push to maintain the recovery's momentum, build resilience against future shocks, and address the increasingly urgent climate crisis. But better coordination will not be enough to build back better. Above all, developing countries need renewed international support. Many of them face a spiraling public-health crisis owing to the pandemic, even as they struggle with an increasing debt burden and face the prospect of a lost decade of economic growth.

Similarly, high-income countries' donation or on-lending of unused SDRs, including a larger chunk of the recent \$650 billion allocation, could help fund developing countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite recent setbacks, UN Secretary-General António Guterres recently emphasized that "we have the knowledge, the science, the technology, and the resources" to get the SDGs back on track. "What we need is unity of

purpose, effective leadership from all sectors, and urgent, ambitious action."

The US Marshall Plan that enabled Europe to rebuild after World War II has rightly been evoked as a blueprint for such efforts. But what is missing today is a bold, human-centered narrative that abandons outdated free-market tropes and instead connects shared global policy challenges to improvements in the everyday lives of people, whether they live in Bogotá, Berlin, Bamako, Busan, or Boston.

That implies creating more jobs that guarantee a secure future for working people and their families. It means not only expanding fiscal space but also ensuring that the taxes people pay result in adequate public services and social protection. Besides responsible sovereign borrowing, policymakers should ensure that the debts people acquire to put a roof over their heads or send their children to school are not a lifelong burden. Lastly, governments must not only price carbon appropriately but also preserve the natural environment for future generations.

Forty years ago, the UN Conference on Trade and Development's first Trade and Development Report called for a new paradigm "to take explicit account of the fact that issues concerning the management of the world economy, on the one hand, and long-term development objectives on the other, are intermingled." Instead, policymakers have since placed far too much faith in market forces to make that connection. This approach has failed. Worse, the corrosion of public services, state capture by special interests, and deregulation of labour markets over the last four decades have taken their toll on citizens' trust in their political representatives.

*The writer, a former Vice President of Costa Rica, is Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.*

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Rebeca Grynspan

**A RETURN TO THE PRE-PANDEMIC POLICY PARADIGM, WHICH DELIVERED THE WEAKEST DECADE OF GLOBAL GROWTH SINCE 1945, WOULD BE A DISASTER**

## Mamata takes a cue from Centre

buoyed by her thumping win in the Bhabanipur byelection, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is now mulling on introducing lateral entry into the state government a la the Central government. Sources say that the state government is hoping to get domain specialists in senior positions such as special secretary and joint secretary. Lateral entry will enable these specialists to get posted to different state departments as advisors.

DKB has learnt that the state Home Secretary BP Gopalika is preparing the final proposal to be submitted to Mamata Didi for her final nod. Those in the know say that the proposed appointments will be contractual and lateral entrants will need a minimum of 15 years of relevant experience. The pay and perks are being worked out by the Home Department and the Administrative Reforms Department.

Apparently, the government is looking for entrants with expertise in civil aviation, commerce, and economic affairs and their age should not be less than 40 years.

However, observers do point out that the Centre's lateral entry scheme, first announced in 2018, has not been the runaway success everyone expected. But the Centre is ploughing on, and earlier this year advertised 30 posts at the level of joint secretaries and directors for lateral recruitment.

**Curious goings-on at ED**

In a puzzling development, the Ministry of Finance has reportedly turned down the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) proposal seeking extension of the tenure of Satyabrata Kumar, who is currently working as Joint Director in ED.



**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

Sources inform DKB that the ministry's Department of Revenue has advised ED to take immediate action for relieving Satyabrata Kumar. The ministry also refused the directorate's proposal for placing the candidature of Satyabrata Kumar before the committee headed by CVC for his promotion to the rank of Additional Director. It said that, if needed, ED may approach the Supreme Court for the same.

Those in the know say that while such orders are uncommon, but a special mention of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's approval makes this a rare case indeed. Curiously, it is learnt that Kumar, an IRS officer, was not even aware of his repatriation. Interestingly, another ED officer Sushil Kumar who was Special Director (Mumbai) had been repatriated to his parent cadre in July this year.

**A babu's unusually long innings got longer**

Rare is the babu who has survived in the same post into the second tenure of the NDA government, but LC Goyal, CMD of the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), has done it. Last month, Goyal was given an unprecedented fifth continuous extension which takes his tenure well into next year. The former Union Home Secretary and retired 1979-batch IAS officer of the Kerala cadre was named ITPO chief back in 2015.

The longevity of Goyal's tenure is often the subject of discussion among Delhi's babus. Except for the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Goyal may well be the only babu who has enjoyed a consistent and stable run in the same post. But the simple answer is that Goyal heads a pet project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In terms of aspirational value, it is at par with the Central Vista project.

Goyal is in charge of redeveloping the International Exhibition and Convention Centre at Pragati Maidan, which was among the first announcements made by Modi as PM. What makes him tick with Modi, sources say, is that he maintains a low profile and is known in babu circles as a no-nonsense officer with undoubted integrity. Modi wishes the convention centre to be a unique symbol of his New India, and Goyal has to ensure that it does.

*Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.*

**WISDOM CORNER**

- You can either experience the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. The choice is yours.** UNKNOWN
- Magic is believing in yourself. If you can make that happen, you can make anything happen.** JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE
- If something is important enough, even if the odds are stacked against you, you should still do it.** ELON MUSK

**WORDSWORTH**

**Campaign**

Campaign comes down to us from the Latin *campania*, "open field; plain; level countryside". This passed into Old French as *champaigne* in its broader sense of "open country", a name that was given in particular to a region of eastern France. It also passed into English in the fourteenth century in the form *champaign* with the same meaning (though it was stressed on the first syllable, unlike the French), a word which is now archaic. Champagne was later re-borrowed in that spelling to mean the characteristically bubbly drink made in that region of France. In Italian, the form was *campagna*. It, too, was used as a name for a stretch of open countryside and in particular for the Campagna di Roma, that rich and flat province of Italy lying south-west of the Tiber. Until modern times, armies normally only did battle in the summer months, because the bad weather of winter made movement difficult or impossible. In winter they stayed in camp, and only when the weather improved did they venture out into "the field", into the *campagna*. This specialised use of the word moved into French and then in the seventeenth century into English in the modern spelling *campaign*. At first it was used for all the senses of its predecessor *champaign*, but was soon applied solely in the military sense. From there, it broadened a little to mean any sustained military operation, at whatever time of year, and from the early nineteenth century took on the sense that last weekend's demonstrators meant, an organised set of actions intended to mobilise public opinion. Some of those who marched would describe themselves as champions of the countryside, another word which derives from the same Latin source as *campaign*. The root Latin word for both was *campus*, "open field; arena", which could also mean "a place of battle". Those who fought in staged battles in the arena were called in Latin *campiones*, which is the source of our English word, again via French. In Latin, by the way, it meant anyone who took part, not just the winners - a sense in English that only dates from the 1730s.

**LOL**

**Hide and seek game**

Newton, Pascal and Archimedes are playing hide and seek. Archimedes starts to count, Pascal hides in a bush, and Newton draws a



square on the ground and steps into it. Archimedes finds Newton first, of course, but Newton replies, "Nope. One Newton on one square meter is equal to one Pascal."

**SPECTRUM POSTAL SERVICES**

## India Post's role in financial inclusion



Bruhaspati Samal

**INDIA POST IS CONSTANTLY BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE POST OFFICES TO ENABLE IT TO DIVERSIFY THE RANGE AND QUALITY OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR BROADER FINANCIAL INCLUSION**

Having a vast network of 1,56,721 post offices, India Post, the largest postal network in the world, completed its glorious journey of 167 years October 1, 2021. Due to its widespread presence in rural and poor areas, it has not only protected national unity, social cohesion, secular and federal structure and democratic ethos of this sub-continent, but has played a leading role in ensuring access to appropriate financial products and services needed by all sections of the society.

The Government of India introduced Post Office Savings Bank April 1, 1882 to provide access to useful and affordable financial products and services, and promote canvassing of savings of the people so that a poor citizen, even with lowest income, can get an opportunity to transact and save. Going from manual to digital, Core Banking Solutions (CBS) was introduced in all the 25,487 departmental post offices for providing anywhere, anytime and any branch banking. Banking solution through mobile application and hand-held devices are also provided to the 1,31,113 Gramin Dak Sewak Post Offices. To be more citizen-centric, India Post Payments Bank Limited

(IPPB) came into existence with effect from September 1, 2018 in 650 branches and 3,250 access points with the objective to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man, to spearhead the financial inclusion agenda by removing the barriers for the unbanked and to reduce the opportunity cost for the under-banked populace through assisted door step banking. The facilities of ATM, Internet and mobile banking have been provided to POSB customers.

To attract the poor and weaker sections of the society for greater financial inclusion POSB General SB account is offering maximum rate of interest @ 4% per annum without any change since December 1, 2011. There is no change in rates of interest in all other National Small Savings Schemes since April 1, 2020 till date. Even the Central government has declared no change in the rates of interest in various National Small Savings Schemes for the present quarter ending December 2021, which is attracting the vulnerable groups to financial inclusion and the section of the society whose financial status has been seriously affected during the COVID-19 pandemic. During lockdown 1.0, India Post has carried

out over 23 lakh AePS transactions valued at ₹452 crore, 74.6 lakh DBT payment valued at ₹700 crore, 2.3 crore POSB transactions worth ₹33,000 crore, 1 crore IPPB transactions worth ₹2,600 crore and 31.05 lakh Money Orders worth ₹355 crore have been paid at the doorstep of the customers. The red motor van of India Post has been a beacon of hope for the homeless and to the needy in slums, migrant labourers and daily wage earners.

Ensuring accessible and acceptable methods starting from opening of account to closure and hassle-free death claim settlement, now the POSB, having transactions in all its 1,56,721 post offices, is the biggest and the oldest savings bank organisation in the country.

To accelerate the financial inclusion in a better way, India Post has also played an important role in providing access points to various financial services. International Money Transfer Service through the post offices in India enables instantaneous remittance of money from 195 countries. The electronic Money Order (eMO) facilitates transmission of ordinary money orders from all the computerised post offices through electronic media without any extra charge. ePayment

is a 'Many to One' service through which bills and taxes etc. are paid by customers in thousands of identified computerised post offices. ECS scheme facilitates depositors to get MIS interest automatically transferred and credited into their SB account on the due dates at the designated bank of their choice. Post office also acts as a Point of Presence - Service Provider (POP-SP) for National Pension System.

With an objective to leverage the strength of the postal network and skills, India Post has started retailing mutual funds and bonds. It is discharging the responsibility to disburse the wages to MGNREGS beneficiaries through Post Office SB accounts. In collaboration with NABARD, it is providing the facility of micro-credit to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through identified post offices. India Post is constantly building the capacity of the post offices to enable it to diversify the range and quality of the marketing and financial services for broader financial inclusion.

*The writer is the all-India organising general secretary of National Federation of Postal Employees' Central Head Quarters, New Delhi.*

**Firecrackers or not**

Sir, People of Delhi and Rajasthan are sore with their respective governments for banning firecrackers for a specified period. Delhi government has banned storage, sale and use of firecrackers. Bursting of crackers, the ensuing emission of pollutants into the air, and the enormous damage they can do to the respiratory system is known too well. An interesting explanation offered by the Rajasthan government is the "effect on immunity" by the smoke of firecrackers. As is known, immunity plays a large role in prevention as well as recovery of diseases, including Covid-19. The Supreme Court's prohibition on sale of firecrackers through its famous 2018 judgement has still not sunk in on the common man. The court had, instead, allowed green crackers. It had said that a fine balance between public health and worker livelihood was essential. People of Delhi and the rest of NCR will vouch for the terrible "gas chambers" their cities are turned into during and after Diwali - October to November. Nevertheless, the debate on right to live versus right to occupation will continue unabated. Diwali is a festival of lights, not days of celebration with crackers. People tend to ignore the chronic effects of acute and sustained air pollution by providing themselves temporary relief from the acute problems.

**Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

**Pandora Papers leak**

Sir, The leaked Pandora Papers unveil how the world's ultra-rich shelter their fortunes from the prying eyes of tax authorities. Routing funds through tax havens involves operating within the letter, but not following the spirit of the law. Although having ring-fenced offshore assets might not sound illegal, using a complex network of shell companies to move around money and assets is the perfect way to hide ill-gotten gains. To improve tax authorities' ability to detect and disrupt tax evasion, there is need for global tax reforms in determination of residential status, cross-border sharing of spontaneous exchange of information, reporting of foreign assets (including any beneficial interest) in income tax return, review of tax treaties between countries, implementation of international standards on tax transparency, inclusive framework on BEPS, wider jurisdiction of global forum and enhanced authority of OCED. There should be Global Minimum Tax Rate and norms for piercing of corporate veil to end up the kingdom of tax havens.

**Sagar Gambhir, NEW DELHI**

## Letters

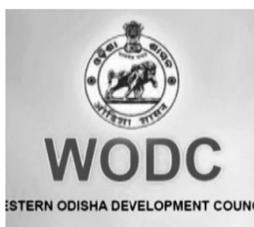
**TO THE EDITOR**

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

**ORISSA POST**  
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

# WODC focus on devp of food processing units

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Jharsuguda, Oct 8:** The Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) has turned its focus on promoting small and medium scale industries in Jharsuguda district. During his recent visit to the district, chairman of the WODC, Asit Kumar Tripathy, reviewed progress of various developmental works. He observed that since the district lacks big industries, there is a lot of scope and prospects for small and medium scale industries related to food processing. He directed the officials to make provision for a special land bank to promote small and medium scale industries in the district. It was learnt that the climate of the district is conducive for farming of ginger, chilli, vegetables, oil seeds, fruits, flowers and short-term duration crops. The officials of the agriculture and hor-



iculture department have been asked to prepare draft proposals for promotion of food processing industries. The district administration was asked to encourage people and entrepreneurs to set up industrial units for procurement, processing and marketing of farm produce post-harvest time. The WODC has underscored the need for making educated youths and women employable by imparting them various skill development programmes.

# Youth shot dead with arrow over cattle grazing

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Keonjhar, Oct 8:** In a shocking incident, a youth was shot dead with an arrow following a dispute over cattle grazing in a farmland at Kodakala under Bansapal block in Keonjhar district, Friday. The deceased was identified as Nila Giri (28). Meanwhile, police arrested the accused, Chasa Dehuri, and produced him in court. Nila and some other villagers were grazing cattle in a nearby forest Thursday afternoon. Some cattle fed on black gram plants on the farmland of Chasa Dehuri. This led to arguments between Chasa and the cattle grazers. Infuriated, Chasa picked up an axe and chased Nila and others. Others managed to flee into forest. Then, dropping the axe, Chasa picked an arrow and bow and shot at Nila. The arrow pierced into Nila's stomach and he died instantly.



Schoolchildren taking part in an awareness campaign on protection of wildlife in Rajnagar area in Kendrapara district, Friday  
OP PHOTO

# Poll boycott buzz over bad roads

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Kendrapara, Oct 8:** The three-tier panchayat elections are expected to be held in February next year. But poor road connectivity or lack of roads in many villages in Kendrapara district has become an issue. In various social media platforms, they have been venting out their dissatisfaction over poor connectivity. Some have warned of boycotting the polls if roads to their villages are not made, a report said. Meanwhile, political parties have now ventured out to broaden base and started making strategies to woo voters. People's representatives at the grassroots level have to face the fury of people over connectivity in coastal pockets where roads have been in bad shape due to floods and rains in August and September. In many villages, roads are in such a mess that ambulances and fire tenders have remained inaccessible, causing people to suffer during emergency time. Pictures and videos of bad road condition and ambulances stuck in muddy roads are posted on social media. It is said that due to pandemic restrictions, various road and in-



COMMUTING WOES IN COASTAL VILLAGES

Political parties have started making strategies to woo voters. People's representatives at the grassroots level have to face fury of people over connectivity in coastal pockets

IN MANY VILLAGES, ROADS ARE IN SUCH A MESS THAT AMBULANCES AND FIRE TENDERS HAVE REMAINED INACCESSIBLE, CAUSING PEOPLE TO SUFFER DURING EMERGENCY TIME. PICTURES AND VIDEOS OF BAD ROAD CONDITION AND AMBULANCES STUCK IN MUDDY ROADS ARE POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

IN THE CURRENT YEAR, IT WAS LEARNT THAT NEW ROAD PROJECTS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN MARSAGHAI AND PATTAMUNDAI AREAS. LOCALS ALLEGED THAT DUE TO BAD ROADS AND LACK OF CONNECTIVITY, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AREAS AND PEOPLE HAVE LAGGED BEHIND

rastructure projects in the district have stuck midway. According to information available from the panchayatiraj department, as many as 13,573 rural roads in 249 panchayats are awaiting construction. Of them, 5225

road projects are yet to receive administrative approval while work on 3421 projects has not started despite approval. It is said that construction of 4927 roads is at different stages. In the current year, it was learnt

that new road projects have been undertaken in Marsaghai and Pattamundai areas. Locals alleged that due to bad roads and lack of connectivity, social and economic development of areas and people have lagged behind.

Bibhuti Bhusan Rout, a member of Mahakalpara Youth Club, said panchayatiraj, works, water resources, rural developments have neglected the rural connectivity. Due to bad roads, patients and pregnant women are unable to avail of emergency medical services. Some of them die, he lamented. Goutam Behera of Bhateni village said commuting problem has plagued the coastal pockets in Mahakalpara, Rajkanika, Aul and Rajnagar blocks. In these areas, people face a lot of difficulties in communication due to creeks and rivers lacking bridges. Following heavy rains and floods, scores of roads at Badakula, Batighar, Bijaynagar, Baliapal, Dasipur, Radhanagar, Koyarbanka and Guludia panchayats are in bad shape making them a cause of discontent among people. In these areas, people warned of boycotting polls as roads have not been repaired. PD, Rajendra Kumar Panda said the issue of road connectivity has been raised at meetings. Various departments have been asked to carry on road construction. From April, roads are being built under MGNREGS, but floods and rains have thrown a spanner into it, he pointed out.

# JUMBO SAFETY

## Forest officials, Tata Power staff talk safety measures



**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Bhanjanagar, Oct 8:** The forest department is concerned about protection of elephants in Bhanjanagar area in Ganjam district. Precariously hanging electric wires have caused death of elephants in various parts of the district in the past. Keeping this in view, forest official held a meeting with the staff of Tata Power here Friday. They discussed various measures to be taken by the power distribution company so that elephants may not face any danger while moving in forested areas. It was alleged that forest officials working in the field in North Ghumsar and South Ghumsar forest divisions were not serious about the safety of animals as they were not discharging their duties properly. Given the recent death of an elephant due to electrocution, staff of the power company do not seem to be concerned about safety of elephants. It is often seen that elephants stray into Bhanjanagar town and moving on its outskirts. On June 7, a tusker came in contact with a hanging wire in north Ghumsar division and died. It was reported that poachers are on the prowl to kill elephants with live wire in both the forest divisions. Over last few days, forest officials have seized guns from poachers. Such activities have pointed to a possibility of further mishaps. Considering such risk factors, officials of both forest divisions and Tata Power held a coordination meeting at north Ghumsar office. It was decided that a joint patrolling will be conducted in forests to keep poachers at bay. The company will draw electric wires at safe height so that elephants will not come in contact with wires. It is said that inadequate patrolling and breakdown of supervision and monitoring by senior officers has made it easy for the poachers to wipe out elephants. Lack of action against electricity distribution companies had led to multiple electrocution cases by overhead sagging naked wires, electrified fences and wild boar poaching wires. It was learnt that the company will set right electric infrastructure at 153 places in the two forest divisions. It may be noted here that the state government has provided Rs 445.75 crore to power distribution companies to prevent elephant deaths to increase the ground clearance of electrical networks and replace bare conductors in elephant corridors and movement areas. The overhaul is aimed at preventing elephant deaths due to electrocution. According to the energy department, 79,000 interposing poles have been erected and more than 2,300 circuit bare conductors replaced by covered ones. At a recent meeting with Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, the companies and the forest department have been asked to interact regularly to achieve zero casualties of elephants. Mohapatra had directed officials to involve the local community in elephant protection and come up with a scheme of rewarding the villagers, who would give information about illegal hooking for poaching wild animals. He laid emphasis on remaining extremely vigilant during harvest seasons and undertaking regular joint patrolling to prevent illegal hooking in elephant corridors and movement areas.

# SANITATION DRIVE



CRPF jawans conducting a sanitation drive in Bolangir district  
OP PHOTO

# Boy hurt following blast at house

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Berhampur, Oct 8:** A minor boy sustained grievous injuries following a high intensity explosion that took place Thursday afternoon at his uncle's house in Medinipur under Kodala police limits of Ganjam. According to police sources, the eight-year-old boy was identified as Vibekanda Sahoo. The minor is the son of Binayaka from nearby Phasi village under Kodala tehsil in the district. Vibekanda had been to his uncle's house at Medinipur earlier in the day. The boy had lunch at his uncle's house and then went to a room on the first floor to take rest. An explosion was heard from the room just a few minutes after the boy went upstairs leading to the fatal mishap, the official stated.

# Farmers not seen in Barabati veg market

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Rasulpur, Oct 8:** Barabati vegetable haat, a major hub of vegetable trading on National Highway-16 in Jajpur district looks desolate these days, a report said. This has happened after incessant rainfall which lashed the district in September due to low-pressure in Bay of Bengal destroyed their crops. The haat was set up in the past to provide marketing facilities to farmers for their harvested vegetables. In their absence, the control and management of the haat has slipped into the hands of traders while consumers have been deprived of getting freshly harvested vegetables and has to depend on outside traders to meet their vegetable needs for kitchen. The prices of vegetables have skyrocketed while traders are reaping windfall profit due to the development. The rising price has forced consumers to spend extra



bucks to buy vegetables either for their kitchen or for arranging community feast in the festive season. Taking advantage of the situation, traders procure hundreds of tonnes of vegetables from outside of the state to meet the demand of consumers. They are keeping a close watch on the price

index of outside markets and determine the prices of vegetables in Barabati haat. They procure vegetables at cheap prices during lean period and sell them at exorbitant rates during festivals and celebrations. Things have come to such a pass that no vegetables are sold in the haat at below

Rs 50 per kg. Residents have demanded the district administration or the local authorities to intervene and curb the increasing prices of vegetables. Reports said Rasulpur block in Jajpur district has carved a name for itself in cultivation of vegetables. Farmers here cultivate types

of vegetables throughout the year to earn their livelihood as well as to meet the requirements of the local consumers and commuters passing by the way on the National Highway. After meeting the demands of the local consumers, farmers dispatch the rest of the vegetables to various locations in the state and outside of the state. Keeping these things in mind, this year also farmers cultivated cauliflowers, long beans, pumpkins, pointed gourds and spine gourd (kankada) on their farmlands. However, their cultivation was affected after the area experienced 200 millimeter of rainfall last month. The incessant rainfall destroyed their cultivation on the farmlands as well as on their backyards. When contacted, a trader requesting anonymity said he is forced to sell vegetables at a higher price as he has to pay a similar rate while procuring them from outside of the state.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, KEONJHAR-758001**  
Ph. No. 06766-254096, e-Mail: eepkhjr@gmail.com  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
Invitation for Bids (IFB) No. SEPHKJR-32/2021-22 dt. 04.10.2021  
No.C-1097:-

1. Name of the Work	: Water Supply to Government Engineering College at Jamunalia Keonjhar.
2. Estimated Cost	: Rs.40.29 Lakh
3. Period of Completion	: 90 Days
4. Date & Time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal	: 10 hours of dt.09.10.2021 to 17 hours of dt.24.10.2021.
5. Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal	: dt.24.10.2021 at 17 hours
6. Date and time of opening of bids	: dt.25.10.2021 at 11 hours
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: The Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Keonjhar-758001, Odisha. Ph. 06766-254096 e-Mail: eepkhjr@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
Sd./ Superintending Engineer, Public Health Division, Keonjhar  
OIPR-13054/11/0011/2122

# Revolt brewing against Vijayan in CPI-M

DEPLETING COAL STOCK

## TN thermal power stations face crisis

Vijayan continues to reign supreme both in the government and party, while all eyes are on what his strategy would be at the subsequent Party Congress scheduled at Kannur next year



AGENCIES

**Chennai, Oct 8:** The thermal power stations of the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd (Tangedo) are facing a crisis following the depletion of coal supply.

The state government-run Power Corporation has already approached both Coal India Ltd as well as the Ministry of Power to overcome this crisis that is looming large over the state.

According to the Tangedo officials, the state has coal stock for only four days of generation of power and this would lead to an unprecedented crisis in power generation and the department has requested Coal India to supply a minimum quantity of the raw material for power generation.

There has been a shortage in the coal supply since the last week of September in Tamil Nadu and

Tangedo's five power stations in Mettur, Tuticorin and North Chennai are reeling under shortage of coal, the raw material for power generation in the thermal sector.

The consumption of coal, according to a senior Tangedo official, on Wednesday was 60,265 tonnes in all the thermal power stations, the supply was only 36,255 tonnes. The balance stock, according to the official, was only 1.92 lakh tonnes and will last only for four days at the maximum if half the present quantity of coal is used for power generation.

The state's hydropower generation has increased to 12 million units Wednesday and renewable energy sources are also being tapped to generate power.

The Tangedo official said the department was expecting a supply of coal in the days to come and the state government has already requested the Union Ministry of Power.



cial move when he decided to make his 'new' son-in-law PA Mohammed Riyas, a minister.

This decision ruled out a ministerial post for Shamseer.

And since then, he has been

blowing hot and cold, especially in the floor of the Assembly and Shailaja also, who won more accolades from the Opposition benches than from the ruling benches, when at times she found

**Three leaders, who seem to have deviated from the hallowed line of discipline, include former Health Minister KK Shailaja and two-time young legislator AN Shamseer, not to mention veteran leader P Jayarajan, a former legislator and district secretary of Kannur**

fault in the way her successor Veena George handled the pandemic and also the way Education Minister V Sivankutty was running his department.

Meanwhile, Jayarajan has been cut up ever since he was asked to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls from Vadakara in Kozhikode, which he lost and after that, he felt he was being sidelined in the party, especially at Kannur, from where Vijayan also hails. There were instances when Vijayan failed to even take notice of the presence of Jayarajan at public venues.

Jayarajan suffered another jolt when he was not allowed to con-

test the Assembly polls on the grounds that he had contested the previous Lok Sabha polls, but present state Cooperation Minister VN Vasavan, however was given an exemption.

Meanwhile Vijayan continues to reign supreme both in the government and party, while all eyes are on what his strategy would be as crucial party meetings are being held to the run-up to the state conference and the subsequent Party Congress which is being held at Kannur next year.

A media critic said there is no doubt that Vijayan continues to reign supreme and hence it is bad news for anyone who tries to raise their head.

"In the CPI-M there are ways to silence those who create noise and unfortunately for those who do this, at the moment, their organisational meetings to elect new committees are going on. It is at these meetings the CPI-M weeds out 'trouble makers' and since their organisational structure is strong and perfect, if they want to sideline any they do it and once done, then it is difficult for such people to get back. So one will have to wait and see, what happens at these ongoing party meetings. At the moment Vijayan is on a winning wicket," the critic said.

# TN on high alert after Covid cases detected in school

In the Coonoor school, Covid tests were conducted on 592 people on the campus, and eight students and a teacher were detected positive

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Oct 8:** The Tamil Nadu state health department has taken measures to report immediately on the Covid-19 positive cases being reported in schools. This was after a private school in Coonoor shut down following eight students and one teacher testing positive.

Coonoor is a high-altitude station in Tamil Nadu and is home to several prestigious private schools. The closing down of the private school has led to the state health department planning periodical examination and checks in all schools. In the Coonoor school, Covid-19

tests were conducted on all the 592 people on the campus, and eight students and a teacher were detected positive.

The district health officers are being alerted and a communicate to this effect has already been forwarded to all the District health officers to conduct inspection and check-ins in schools in their respective districts with the support of the district education department.

Sources said that the government does not want any loopholes regarding the Covid-19 detection and take even minor risks as schools for all other classes are scheduled to be opened from November 1.

The State Health Minister, Ma Subramanian while speaking to this news agency said, "We have directed all the district Health Department officials to be on alert regarding school children, teachers, and support staff testing positive. The health department does not want to spoil the good work that we have done with the relentless efforts of the Chief Minister and the officials concerned."

The state Health Department has already inoculated five crore people and with a 70 per cent sero survey report, was heaving a sigh of relief. However, with the school students and teacher-testing positive, the state health department is not leaving any chance and is conducting inspections and testing if some cases are reported in districts, said an official.

## COVID PRECAUTION



A medic administers a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a woman during a door-to-door vaccination drive in Chennai, Friday

PTI PHOTO

# Kerala court drops COFEPOSA charges against accused

# Police seek custody of rape accused IAF officer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, Oct 8:** The Kerala High Court Friday set aside the preventive detention imposed on Swapna Suresh, prime accused in the sensational gold smuggling case, under the COFEPOSA (Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act).

The Division Bench of the High Court comprising justices AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and



Mohammed Nias CP gave the order in a plea filed by Suresh's mother seeking to quash the continuous detention of her daughter under the COFEPOSA.

## GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

However, she will continue to remain in jail as she has not secured bail in the case registered by the National Investigation Agency.

She had been undergoing continuous jail term since her arrest by the NIA in connection with the case of gold smuggling allegedly using diplomatic channel.

The Customs probing the gold smuggling case had invoked pro-

visions of the COFEPOSA against her in October last year.

The national advisory board of the COFEPOSA had approved the proposal submitted by the Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate probed the case.

The NIA, the ED and the Customs conducted separate investigations into the racket that was busted with the seizure of gold worth ₹15 crore from the diplomatic baggage of the UAE Consulate at Thiruvananthapuram airport July 5, 2020.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Coimbatore, Oct 8:** Seeking custody of the rape accused IAF Flight Lieutenant; the city police has filed a revision petition in the Principal District Court here.

Flight Lieutenant Amitesh Harmukh was arrested September 25 on charges of raping a woman colleague September 10. The Additional Mahila Court had September 30 ordered police to hand over the accused to IAF to carry out a court martial under the IAF Act.

The All Woman police had taken the action, based on the complaint by the woman officer, who alleged that IAF authorities had failed to act on her complaints and as a last resort she approached the Commissioner of police, who directed the station to register an FIR, following which Amitesh was arrested and was in police custody.

Citing the IAF Act, Air Force authorities had sought the custody of Amitesh to conduct court martial and said police had no jurisdiction on the defense issue. Additional Mahila Court Judge

(In-charge) Thilageswari then ordered that he be handed over to the officer to IAF.

The City police has filed the revision petition to regain the custody of Amitesh and also seeking to revoke the Mahila Court order in the Principal District Court here Thursday, police said Friday.

Stating that the woman officer had levelled serious charges against IAF authorities, including conducting the banned two finger test on her and also to withdraw the complaint, the petition said that Amitesh should be in their custody.

# Belgian varsity scientists 'successful' in cloning coconut trees

THE DISCOVERY IS EXPECTED TO HELP COCONUT FARMERS IN COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES IN THE SECTOR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 7:** Coconut palms grow slowly and are difficult to clone, but scientists at a top Belgian university have claimed a breakthrough in cloning the sixth most cultivated fruit on earth.

The discovery of scientists at KU Leuven and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (The Alliance), multiplying seedlings faster and conserving coconut genetic resources for the long-term, is expected to help coconut farmers in countries like India address the challenges in the sector, including lethal Yellowing Disease, climate change, rising sea levels and outdated plantations.

"This will help preserve coconut palm biodiversity and meet

increasing demand for coconuts and derived products", the scientists said in a statement.

"Nobody thought we could do it. But we persevered", said Bart Panis of the Laboratory for Tropical Crop Improvement (KU Leuven) and the Alliance.

Panis and PhD student Hannes Wilms did it, drawing inspiration from another fruit variety: the banana. From his work on banana plants, Panis suspected that a certain plant hormone could also be successful in coconut palms.

"Coconut plants do not form side shoots. They put all their energy into one shoot that has to grow as fast and as tall as possible. This makes it very difficult to clone and store the plants," Panis said.

For their research, the scientists first extracted the coconut



palm embryo from the coconut. They then applied the plant hormone to the meristem - or growing point - contained in the four month old plantlets. In this way, they succeeded in having the plantlet form not only one shoot, but several side shoots. They managed, in turn, to split these shoot clusters and allow

new side shoots to grow on them as well. Their findings were published in Scientific Reports in its September edition.

In an e-mail interview to PTI, Wilms, the co-author from KU Leuven, said cloning the coconut palms is not as easy as one may think.

"But our research found that with

the right treatment, the palm can be forced to branch," Wilms said. The researcher said the palm does not grow in Belgium, but since "we are the laboratory of tropical crop improvement; we have a lot of experience working with tropical crops". The project was initially presented as something challenging, "which we

of course wanted to tackle."

"The initial aim of our project was to develop a cryopreservation protocol for the safe long term preservation of coconut genetic resources. For this we need, however, a lot of coconut shoots. Since there are no coconut shoots available in Belgium, we had to develop a clonal propagation technique. And the coconut was presented to us as a challenging crop which was not cloneable via classical methods. But my promoter who helped start the project said we'll accept the challenge", Wilms said.

On the application's advantage to coconut growers, he said the method they developed now would be very interesting for the micro-propagation of hybrid palms or rare coconut palms.

# Newborn stolen from TN hospital

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Oct 8:** A woman allegedly made away with a newborn baby from a government hospital in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur Friday, and a search is on for her, police said.

The baby girl was born Monday at the Government Raja Mirasudar Hospital, Thanjavur. Her mother, Rajalakshmi, told police that a woman had approached her a couple of days before, stating that she was an attendant of a patient and would help her if she required anything.

On Friday, Rajalakshmi went out of the ward for a short time and when she came back, the child was missing and a search for her throughout the hospital was in vain. Rajalakshmi then informed her husband Gunasekharan and they lodged a complaint with the Thanjavur West police.

## of the day quote

Please follow all Covid guidelines, wear masks while moving around pandals



MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

The presence of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Trinamool Congress in Goa's electoral arena would not have much of an impact on the fortunes of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) because these parties would wilt away after elections



PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

Everyone has a right to hold protest in a peaceful manner but only thing is that no one should cross the limit. No one should be harmed, vehicles should not be damaged



MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Medical student shot dead

**Gurugram:** In a shocking incident, a medical student was killed by a fellow law student at the SGT Medical university campus in Gurugram Friday. The deceased was identified as Vineet, who hailed from Uttar Pradesh. The incident took place at 1.30 p.m. when the victim was present in the SGT university campus located in Budeda along the Gurugram-Farrukhnagar road.

### Massive blaze engulfs godown

**New Delhi:** A massive fire broke out at a cloth godown in the early hours of Friday in the national capital, a fire department official said. The senior fire department official said they received a call about the fire incident around 03.51 a.m. in a factory at 118 Sanjay Colony near Harkesh Nagar Okhla phase 2, after which as many as 18 fire tenders were immediately pressed into the service.

### Dozen pilgrims injured in Dhanbad

**Dhanbad:** At least a dozen pilgrims including women were injured after a West Bengal-bound bus carrying them fell into a ditch in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district Friday, police said. The pilgrims were returning to West Bengal after about a week-long tour to Ayodhya, Vrindavan and Varanasi. The incident is said to have occurred at Debli on GT Road under Govindpur police station around 22 km away from district headquarters at about 2 am Friday.

### PM Modi speaks to new Japan PM

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday spoke to the newly elected Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida, and said he looked forward to working with him to further strengthen India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Japan's parliament had elected Kishida as Prime Minister Monday.

### Terrorist killed

**Srinagar:** A terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire with the police here who retaliated after the ultras fired on them in Natipora area of the city, officials said Friday. "Terrorists fired upon Srinagar Police team. Police also retaliated. During ensuing chance encounter, one terrorist got neutralised but one escaped," Kashmir Zone Police wrote on its official Twitter handle. The police said arms and ammunition were also recovered from the site.



**The attack on Kashmiri sisters-brothers is painful and condemnable. In this difficult time we are with our Kashmiri sisters-brothers. The Central government should immediately take steps to provide security to all the citizens**

PRIYANKA GANDHI | CONG GENERAL SECRETARY

## POWER CRISIS LOOMS OVER UP

The Uttar Pradesh government has admitted to a looming power crisis in the wake of shortage of coal and growing electricity demand following high humidity levels



## BORDER DISPUTE

# India, Chinese troops face-off in Tawang



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a brief face-off near Yangtse in Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh last week and it was resolved within few hours following talks between commanders of the two sides according to established protocols, people familiar with the development said Friday.

The people cited above indicated that there were some "physical engagement" between the two sides.

When asked to comment on news reports about Indian troops detaining a few Chinese military personnel after crossing the border last week, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhou Lijian said in Beijing that he was not aware of it. "I am not aware of relevant information," the official said. The fresh incident of the face-off came weeks after around 100 Chinese troops transgressed the LAC in Uttarakhand in the Barahoti sector in Uttarakhand.

"The India-China border has not been formally demarcated and hence there is a difference in perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the countries. Peace and tranquillity in these areas of differing perceptions have been possible by adherence to existing agreements and protocols between the two countries," said a source.

It said both sides undertake patrolling activities up to their line of perception. "Whenever patrols of both sides physically meet, the situation is managed according to established protocols and mechanisms agreed by both sides," the source said. The incident came to light days before another round of high-level military talks between the two sides on the eastern Ladakh row. The Corps Commander level talks are likely to take place within the next three-four days, said a source. Last month, close to 100 soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) transgressed the LAC in the Barahoti sector in Uttarakhand.

It is learnt that the face-off took place around 10 days ago when nearly 100 Chinese army personnel tried to enter the Indian territory but were forced back

Top government sources said the face-off between the two sides lasted for a few hours and was resolved as per the existing protocols

There was no damage caused to the Indian defences during the engagement

tor in Uttarakhand. The transgression took place on August 30, and the Chinese troops returned from the area after spending few hours. The incident in Tawang came in the midst of continuing stand-off between Indian and Chinese militaries in several areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh for nearly 17 months. India has significantly bolstered its military deployment in all sensitive areas along the nearly 3,500-km LAC including in the Tawang sector following the eastern Ladakh standoff. The border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year in eastern Ladakh following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry. As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in the Gogra area in August.

## RAVE PARTY RAIDS ROW

# Aryan, two others' bail pleas rejected

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 8:** In a major setback for megastar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, a Mumbai court Friday rejected his bail plea, and of two others who were among the 8 arrested accused in the raid on an alleged rave party on a luxury cruise ship.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate RM Nerlikar rejected the bail applications of Aryan, Arbaaz Merchant, and Munmun Dhamecha, on grounds of "maintainability", upholding the contentions of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) legal team.

Shortly after the verdict, lawyers for some of the accused told the media that though the detailed reasoning for the ACCM's order will come later, they plan to apply to the Sessions Court for bail Monday.

The developments came a day after all the eight accused were sent to judicial custody, and they shifted to the regular prisons from the NCB lockup.

The two women accused - Munmun Dhamecha and Nupur



Sarika - were shunted to the Byculla Women's Jail, and the others - Aryan, Arbaaz Merchant, Vikrant Chhoker, Ismeet Singh, Mohak Jaswal, and Gomit Chopra were sent to the ARCJ.

Earlier, for the past one week since their detention and subsequent arrest, they were kept in the NCB lockup in south Mumbai.

This morning, all the eight accused youngsters underwent medical and RT-PCR tests at the Sir JJ Hospital, and after they tested negative for the latter, were taken by the NCB under tight security to the jails, where they are lodged in the quarantine wards.

## UPHAAR FIRE TRAGEDY

# Delhi court convicts Ansal brothers for tampering evidence

PRESS TURST OF INNEDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** A Delhi court Friday convicted real estate barons Sushil and Gopal Ansal for tampering with evidence in the 1997 case of Uphaar Cinema fire which claimed 59 lives.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma also held a former court staff Dinesh Chand Sharma and two other people, P P Batra and Anoop Singh, guilty in the case. The court is likely to hear arguments on quantum of sentence Monday. The convicts may face a maximum term of life imprisonment. The court also sought income certificates of all the convicts by Monday to decide compensation for the victims and their kin. The fire had broken out at Uphaar Cinema during the screening of the Hindi film 'Border' June 13, 1997, claiming 59 lives. The Ansals were convicted and sentenced to 2-year jail term in the main case by the Supreme Court. It released them however taking into account the prison time they had done on the condition that they pay Rs 30 crore fine each, to be used for building a trauma centre in the national capital.

The last rites of Supinder Kaur - the slain principal of the government school in Eidgah locality were performed by the family and relatives at a cremation ground in Karan Nagar area in Srinagar. Hundreds of members of the Sikh community assembled at the residence of Kaur in Aloochoi Bagh area and took out a protest march from there, carrying her mortal remains on a stretcher.

The protesting members of the community - both old and young alike - covered the distance from Aloochoi Bagh to Jehangir Chowk on foot, shouting slogans demanding justice for the victim shot dead by militants at the school along with her colleague Deepak Chand.

Chand was laid to rest at the Shaktinagar cremation ground in Jammu. A pall of gloom had descended as Chand's mortal remains arrived from Srinagar at his Patoli home around midnight with hundreds of people waiting outside.

Kaur and Chand were shot dead at point blank range, taking to

## FUN TIME



Tourists take rafting in the Beas river near Manali

PTI PHOTO

# Protests in J&K over killings of civilians



People from Sikh community shout slogans during the funeral of Satinder Kaur

AGENCIES

**Jammu/Srinagar, Oct 8:** A woman principal and a teacher who were shot dead inside their school in Srinagar were given a tearful adieu Friday as protests erupted in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir over the recent spate of killing of civilians while Opposition leaders alleged that the "worsening" situation in the union territory was due to the Centre's "wrong measures".

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**The situation is worsening day by day and the BJP government is responsible for it. Its wrong steps and measures taken since August 5, 2019, (abrogation of Article 370) and before that as well, are directly responsible for the fast worsening situation in Kashmir**

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

seven the number of civilians killed by militants in Kashmir Valley in five days.

On Tuesday, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit Makhana Lal Bindroo and a vendor Virendra Paswan from Bihar were killed in Srinagar and civilian Mohammad Shafi Lone in Bandipora. Militants shot dead Majid Ahmad Gojri in Srinagar and Mohammad Shafi Dar at Batamaloo Saturday.

As the spate of targeted killings of minorities rocked Kashmir, a Kashmiri Pandit organisation said some employees from the community, who were provided government jobs under a rehabilitation package in 2010-11, have started moving to Jammu quietly fearing for their life, alleging the administration was unable to provide them a secure environment.

The administration, meanwhile, has given a holiday of 10 days to employees from the minority community, official sources said.

# Gurmeet Ram Rahim convicted in murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Oct 8:** A special CBI court in Panchkula Friday convicted Dera Sacha Sauda sect chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh for the murder of former Dera manager Ranjit Singh in 2002.

The sect chief has been in jail since his conviction in 2017 for raping two disciples. The special court convicted Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and four others - Krishan Lal, Jasbir Singh, Avtar Singh and Sabdii - for the murder. CBI special prosecutor H P S Verma said over phone.



**Ram Rahim was sentenced in August 2017 to 20 years of imprisonment in connection with raping two of his women followers and the murder of a journalist**

One more accused in the murder case had passed away a year ago. Recently, the Punjab and Haryana High Court had dismissed a petition seeking the transfer of the Ranjit Singh murder case from the special CBI court in Panchkula to any other special CBI court in Punjab, Haryana or Chandigarh.

Former Dera manager Ranjit Singh, who was also a follower of the sect, was shot dead in 2002. He was murdered for his suspected role in the circulation of an anonymous letter, which narrated how women were being sexually exploited by the sect head at the Dera headquarters.

According to the CBI charge sheet, the Dera chief believed that Ranjit Singh was behind the circulation of the anonymous letter and hatched a conspiracy to kill him.

# CBI CAN DIRECTLY REGISTER CASE: TOP COURT

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** The Supreme Court Friday held that it is not mandatory for the CBI to launch a preliminary enquiry (PE) in all cases of corruption or other offences, and instead it can register a regular case upon the satisfaction of a cognizable offence.

A bench, headed by Justice DY Chandrachud and comprising Justices Vikram Nath and BV Nagarathna, said: "We hold that in case the information received by the CBI, through a complaint or a 'source information', discloses the commission of a cognisable offence, it can directly register a regular case instead of conducting a preliminary enquiry, where the officer is satisfied that the information discloses the commission of a

cognizable offence."

The top court, however, added this does not take away from the value of conducting a preliminary enquiry in an appropriate case, and conducting a preliminary enquiry would not take away from the ultimate goal of prosecuting accused persons in a timely manner. "However, we once again clarify that if the CBI chooses not to hold a preliminary enquiry, the accused cannot demand it as a matter of right," it added.

The bench added that precedents of the top court and the provisions of the CBI manual make it abundantly clear that a preliminary enquiry is not mandatory in all cases which involve allegations of corruption. "The decision of the Constitution Bench in Lalita Kumari case holds that if the in-



formation received discloses the commission of a cognisable offence at the outset, no preliminary enquiry would be required," it added, in its 64-page judgment.

The bench said since the insti-

tution of a preliminary enquiry in cases of corruption is not made mandatory before the registration of an FIR under the CrPC, the Prevention of Corruption Act, or even the CBI manual, for it to issue

## Hybrid mode not working: SC

The hybrid mode of hearing cases is not working, the Supreme Court observed Friday and said that normalcy has to return and courts have to function physically as virtual hearing of cases can't become a norm. "Sitting here in the court and looking at the screens is not giving us happiness," said a bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai. The bench said it wants the courts to open for the public and justice accessible for all the citizens. The apex court said that virtual hearing becomes the norm then that would mean that the building in which judges are sitting in right now should be closed.

such a direction "will be tantamount to stepping into the legislative domain".

The bench also pointed out that registration of a regular case can have disastrous consequences for the career of an officer, if the allegations were proved to be wrong.

On February 11, 2020, the high court had said, among other rea-

sons, the CBI should have conducted a preliminary enquiry into the matter in accordance with its manual, before registering an FIR. The CBI moved the top court challenging the high court saying the court has breached the domain of its jurisdiction, and virtually conducted a trial in an effort to absolve the accused.

# international

## of the day quote

The police must carry out a comprehensive investigation into the alleged violence against migrants at the country's border with Bosnia and Herzegovina

ANDREJ PLENKOVIC | CROATIAN PM

I thank Angela Merkel for playing a "decisive role" in shaping the future of the European Union

MARIO DRAGHI | ITALIAN PM

Iran and Lebanon have agreed to strengthen bilateral ties in various ways

HOSSEIN AMIR ABDOLLAHAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### UK eases curbs

London: The UK government Friday eased travel advisory restrictions for 51 further countries and territories, no longer advising against all but essential travel to popular holiday destinations such as the Bahamas, Seychelles and Jamaica. The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the change means people will be able to travel to even more destinations with greater ease, covered by travel insurance. "These updates make travel abroad easier - boosting trade, tourism and reuniting friends and families. I am delighted that the safe reopening of travel allows people to exercise personal responsibility and visit more destinations across the globe," said UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss.

### Nepal PM Deuba expands Cabinet

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba Friday expanded his Cabinet by inducting 17 ministers and two ministers of state from the five-party ruling alliance, three months after he assumed office. With this, the government's strength has now reached 25, including 22 ministers and three ministers of state. Earlier, there were only six members in the Cabinet, including the Prime Minister and one state minister.

### Biden to restore three monuments

Washington: President Joe Biden will restore two sprawling national monuments in Utah that have been at the center of a long-running public lands dispute, and a separate marine conservation area in New England that recently has been used for commercial fishing. Environmental protections at all three monuments had been stripped by former President Donald Trump. The White House announced the changes Thursday night ahead of a ceremony expected Friday. Utah Governor Spencer Cox, a Republican, expressed disappointment in Biden's decision to restore Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments, which the Trump administration downsized significantly in 2017.

### One dead

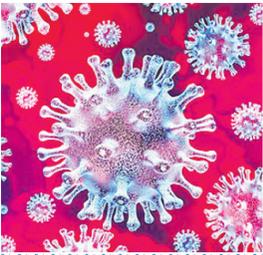
Hong Kong: One worker died and others were trapped Friday when a major rainstorm blew traditional bamboo scaffolding off the side of a building under construction in Hong Kong, officials and reports said. The southern Chinese city was battered by heavy rain and high winds as other parts of the country also experienced dangerous weather conditions.



Nothing is more pressing right now than solidarity with Taiwan  
TONY ABBOTT | AUSTRALIA'S FORMER PM

## WHO MISSION

The WHO has announced an initiative to vaccinate 40% of the population of every country against Covid-19 by the end of 2021 and 70 per cent by mid-2022, by prioritising vaccine delivery to low-income countries



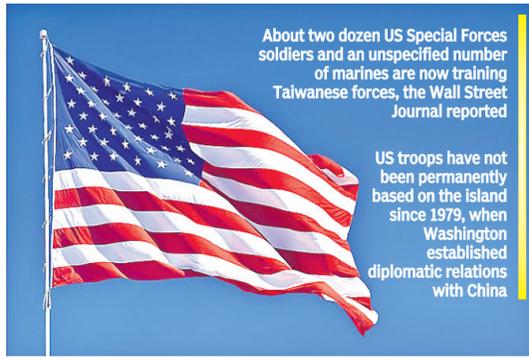
## NEW REPORT

# US secretly training Taiwan forces

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 8: The US has been secretly maintaining a small contingent of military trainers in Taiwan for at least a year, according to a new report, the latest sign of the rising stakes in US-China rivalry, the Guardian reported.

About two dozen US Special Forces soldiers and an unspecified number of marines are now training Taiwanese forces, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. The trainers were first sent to Taiwan by the administration of former President Donald Trump but their presence had not been reported until now. The report came as President Tsai Ing-wen said Friday that Taiwan will "do whatever it takes to defend its freedom and democratic way of life". "Taiwan does not seek military



The trainers were first sent to Taiwan by the administration of former President Donald Trump but their presence had not been reported until now

confrontation," she told a security forum in Taipei. "It hopes for a peaceful, stable, predictable and mutu-

ally beneficial coexistence with its neighbours. But Taiwan will also do whatever it takes to defend its free-

dom and democratic way of life." US troops have not been permanently based on the island since 1979, when Washington established diplomatic relations with China. Pentagon spokesman John Supple would not comment directly on the report, but noted that "our support for and defense relationship with Taiwan remains aligned against the current threat" from China, the Guardian said.

"It is an important step but it's intended primarily not to be provocative but actually improve the defence capability of Taiwan's forces," said Jacob Stokes, a fellow of the Indo-Pacific security programme of the Centre for a New American Security. "There's always this balance between symbolism and substance, and I think by doing it quietly it's meant to be more substance."

# US holds talks with Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 8: Pakistan and the US Friday discussed regional security issues, including the situation in Afghanistan, and bilateral economic cooperation as America's Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman held talks with the country's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

In a tweet, Sherman said that she met Qureshi "to discuss Afghanistan's future and the important and long-standing US-Pakistan relationship". "We look forward to continuing to address pressing regional and global challenges," she said.

Sources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Sherman visited the Foreign Office for talks with Qureshi on the pressing issue of Afghanistan. During the detailed talks, the two sides agreed to work together for a durable peace in Afghanistan.



Shah Mahmood Qureshi

In another tweet, the US diplomat said that she also met National Security Advisor Moeed Yusuf to "discuss Afghanistan and areas of cooperation in the US-Pakistan relationship." The US embassy here said in a statement on Friday that Sherman, who met Yusuf on Thursday, "discussed developments

During the detailed talks, the two sides agreed to work together for durable peace in Afghanistan

## 100-yr-old former Nazi camp guard to go on trial

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Oct 8: A 100-year-old man is going on trial in Germany, accused of being an accessory to murder for serving as a Nazi SS guard at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Berlin during World War II.

The trial of the defendant, who is charged with 3,518 counts of accessory to murder, is being held at the Neuruppin state court, which moved the proceedings to a prison sport hall in Brandenburg for organisational reasons.

The court has not disclosed the name of the suspect. He is alleged to have worked at the Sachsenhausen camp between 1942 and 1945 as an enlisted member of the Nazi Party's paramilitary wing. Authorities say that despite his advanced age, the suspect is considered fit enough to stand trial, though the number of hours per day the court is in session may have to be limited.

# PM Kishida vows to lead with 'trust and empathy' to fix Japan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Oct 8: In his first policy speech, new Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida promised Friday to strengthen the country's response to the coronavirus pandemic in case of another resurgence and revive its battered economy while bolstering defenses against threats from China and North Korea.

Kishida also spoke on Friday by telephone with Chinese President Xi Jinping and raised concerns about China's escalating activities in disputed maritime territories and human rights problems in Hong Kong and the Xinjiang region, he said. Tasked with the crucial mission of rallying public support for the governing party ahead of national elections expected Oct. 31, Kishida promised to pursue politics of "trust and empathy."

He was elected by parliament and sworn in Monday as Japan's

100th prime minister, succeeding Yoshihide Suga, who left after only a year in office. Suga's perceived high-handed approach in dealing with the coronavirus and insistence on holding the Tokyo Olympics despite rising cases angered the public and hurt the governing Liberal Democrats. "I will devote my body and soul to overcome the national crisis together with the people to pioneer a new era so we can pass a beautiful Japan to the next generation," Kishida said.

He promised to be more attentive to public concerns and needs, and prepare virus measures based on "a worst-case scenario." That includes taking advantage of a drop in infections to improve crisis management before the weather turns cold, approving drugs for treatment of COVID-19 by the end of December and the digitalization of vaccine certificates as Japan gradually expands social and economic activities, Kishida said.



Balloons float in the sky over grounded members of the Special Shapes Rodeo at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque

## DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE

# At flooded restaurant near Bangkok, the special is a splash

THE RESTAURANT, IN NONTHABURI NEAR BANGKOK, OPENED IN FEBRUARY IN A RIVERSIDE LOCATION THAT PERFECTLY COMPLEMENTS ITS ANTIQUE ARCHITECTURE AND DÉCOR

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nonthaburi (Thailand), Oct 8: A flood-hit riverside restaurant in Thailand has become an unlikely dining hotspot after fun-loving

foodies began flocking to its waterlogged deck to eat amid the lapping tide.

Now, instead of empty chairs and vacant tables, the Chaopraya Antique Café is as full as ever, offering an experience the canny owner calls "hot-pot surfing." If you like your food washed down with plenty of water, this is the place for you.

Shortly after the water tops the parapet, the first diners arrive. Before long, the deck is crammed with carefree customers happily tucking in as if dining in a deluge is the norm. The wait staff — some clad in rubber boots — step gingerly through the swirl that quickly rises to more than 50 centimeters (20 inches).

The restaurant, in Nonthaburi



near Bangkok, opened in February in a riverside location that perfectly complements its antique architecture and décor. But a

cent severe tropical storm and heavy monsoon rains combined to raise the river's water level. Add in the tides and the result

has been daily inundation. Coming straight after a month-long coronavirus shutdown, it could have spelled disaster. Instead — boosted by publicity in the Thai media — it's now so popular that customers need to make reservations.

"This is a great atmosphere. During this flood crisis this has become the restaurant's signature attraction. So I wanted to challenge myself and try out this new experience," 24-year-old Siripoj Wai-inta said as he munched his food with the water creeping up his shins.

The owner has dubbed the experience "hot-pot surfing." When a passenger boat motors past you find out why. The delighted scramble to avoid a soaking from the

wave is the moment everyone waits for, and with one passing every 15 minutes, no one goes home disappointed.

It's TV presenter Titiporn Jutimamon's first restaurant venture. He says he was worried that would happen when the floods came. "It turns out the customers have a great reaction. They are happy. We can see the atmosphere of customers enjoying the experience of eating in the water. So a crisis has turned into an opportunity. It encourages us to keep the restaurant open and keep customers happy." Best of all, he says, it means he can keep his staff happy by keeping them employed. So, even amid harsh economic times, the only thing that needs a bailout is the restaurant itself.

## of the day quote

I have told Tesla that don't sell electric cars in India which your company has manufactured in China. You should manufacture electric cars in India, and also export cars from India. Whatever support you want, will be provided by our government

**NITIN GADKARI** | UNION MINISTER

I think there is a need for re-negotiating the existing trade relationship, trade barriers, relooking at our FTA with ASEAN and focusing on new rules to eliminate the misuse of the FTA

**PIYUSH GOYAL** | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

With regard to climate risk, I think it is at the nascent stage and a debate is going on among the regulators as well as the government whether it should be within the domain of the government or the regulator

**M K JAIN** | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK

## SHORT TAKES

### Govt directs fert cos not to up prices

**New Delhi:** Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has directed all manufacturers not to increase retail prices of DAP and other phosphatic fertilisers as part of the government's efforts to ensure the availability of crop nutrients at affordable prices during the ongoing Rabi season, according to sources. The government, which increased subsidies on DAP and some other non-urea fertilisers, is unlikely to hike subsidies on non-urea fertilisers, they added. According to the sources, the minister has said the government will not tolerate price "cartelization". In June, the Union Cabinet had raised the subsidies for DAP and some other non-urea fertilisers by ₹14,775 crore to keep the price of crop nutrients for farmers low despite the rising costs.

### TCS Q2 net profit up 28.75% at ₹ 9,624cr

**New Delhi:** Software exporter Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) Friday reported a 28.75% rise in its second quarter (Q2) profit -- ended September 30 -- of the current financial year 2021-22 (FY22), boosted by a pandemic-led demand for digitisation from businesses. In a notification to the exchanges, TCS said that its consolidated net profit rose to ₹9,624 crore against ₹7,475 crore posted in the same period last year.

### Govt to auction 40 new coal mines

**New Delhi:** The government Friday said it will begin next week the next round of auction process for 40 new blocks for the sale of coal. As the coal ministry has entered into a rolling auction mechanism, the blocks rolled over from the previous tranche will also be on offer, according to an official statement. The government, it said, is on a continuous journey to reform the coal sector and unlock value for the nation's economy. Union Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi will be the chief guest of the launch event

### Samsung expects record sales in Q3

**Seoul:** Samsung Electronics Friday said that it is expected to post record sales in the third quarter of the year, apparently buoyed by its semiconductor business. In its earnings guidance, the South Korean tech giant estimated its sales at 73 trillion won for the July-September period.



If you examine history, democracy creates chaos and forces people to think and act. Therefore, skills and democracy are the main drivers of sustainable growth. It is most needed

**RAKESH JHUNJHUNWALA** | ACE INVESTOR

### MOBIKWIK GETS SEBI NOD TO FLOAT IPO

MobiKwik has received markets regulator Sebi's approval to launch an initial public offering, through which it plans to raise up to ₹1,900 crore. Out of the total, ₹1,500 crore will be mopped up through fresh issue of shares, while ₹400 crore-worth stocks will be offloaded through the Offer-for-Sale (OFS) route by existing shareholders



# RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 4%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 8:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking for growth signs to become entrenched and show signs of durability and closely 'watchful' of evolving dynamics, its Governor Shaktikanta Das said Friday. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Friday left the repo rate unchanged at four per cent.

The Committee also decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.

"We are looking at the growth signs to become entrenched and show signs of durability. We are closely watchful of the evolving dynamics," said Das during the post-policy call with the media.

For the current financial year, the RBI Friday retained its projection for real GDP growth at 9.5 per cent. He said growth has revived in certain segments and there is an uptick in some high-speed indicators. However, a few segments are still facing growth impediments.



## MONETARY POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

The RBI's inflation forecast for the current financial year was lowered to 5.3 percent vs 5.7 percent earlier	A NEW SCHEME ON RETAIL DIGITAL PAYMENTS SOLUTIONS IN THE OFFLINE MODE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED	All new payment acceptance infrastructure, including PoS machines and QR codes, to be geo-tagged
The projection for real GDP growth is at 9.5 percent for the ongoing financial year		The ceiling for transactions via IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) has been raised from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh

**RBI STOPS G-SAP BOND BUYS BUT WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS AS NEEDED**

RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said, "We would look for signs that the recovery is getting solidly entrenched and that the

inflation rate is moving in the desired direction that is towards the target. I must hasten to add that we are not looking at destinations

# Centre eases export ban norms for state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** The centre has relaxed export ban for Odisha to ship 810.1894 MT (tonnes) of red sanders wood in log form. According to a notification of the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT), the state's forest, environment and climate change department, will finalise the modalities for export of the respective quantity within 12 months.

Prohibition on export of red sanders wood in log form has been relaxed for export of 810.1894 MT (tonnes) of red sanders wood in log form by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha, it said.

In 2017, the government prohibited the imports of red sanders, an endangered species of wood. This wood is an endangered species of flora protected under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna. It is illegal to possess and sell the same.

Red sander is found mainly in the Seshachalam hill ranges spread across Kadapa, Chittoor and



The relaxation was given for red sanders wood in the form of logs fallen due to cyclone, from Paralakhemundi forest division in Odisha

Kurnool in the Rayalaseema region and parts of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh. The wood has huge demand abroad, especially in China and Japan, where it commands a good price. It is a valued item in traditional medicines and woodcraft across China, Myanmar, Japan and East Asia.

# Ruchi-Frozit to unveil biggest multi-utility food outlet in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 8:** Frozit, a unit of Ruchi, is coming up with the biggest multi-utility food outlet of the state at Mahanadi Vihar in the Silver City here, an official said Friday.

Addressing the media here, Ruchi Director Rashmi Sahoo said, "The biggest multi-utility of Odisha will be inaugurated at 4pm on October 10, 2021 at Mahanadi Vihar in Cuttack."

Ruchi Managing Director Sarat Kumar Sahoo said that the outlet, which would be unique in its approach, meets international standards.

According to the official, the units of Ruchi have been serving ready to eat, ready to cook, fresh bakery, beverages, premium and health products to its customers. Frozit now has eight outlets in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar where



customers can get quality and delicious food.

The new outlet will also offer customers with dine-in facilities at Frozit Restaurant. Customers can also purchase all types of Ruchi products ranging from spices, pasta, vermicelli, noodles and organic items, added the official.

Odia actors Archita Sahu and Subhasis Sharma will unveil the outlet. Customers visiting the outlet on the day will get a special offer, said the official. The outlet will also provide different traditional food items during festivities to its customers.

# India expected to grow by 8.3%: WB

On March 31, the World Bank said India's real GDP growth for fiscal year 21-22 could range from 7.5 to 12.5%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Oct 8:** Buoyed by an increase in public investment and incentives to boost manufacturing, India's economy is expected to grow by 8.3 per cent in the fiscal year 2021-22, less than the previous projection early this year before the country was hit by the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Bank has said in its latest report.

World Bank Chief Economist for the South Asia Region Hans Timmer told PTI here that when one looks at the high frequency



data, they see that as a result of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, the recovery paused, and some indicate that the recovery

actually declined briefly. "We project for this fiscal year 8.3 per cent (growth rate for Indian economy) that is less than

we projected early in the year before the health crisis caused by the second wave.

"Given the sharp contraction of the economy last year, it might not look like a lot, but in my view, that is actually very positive news, given the violent second wave and the severity of the health crisis," he said Thursday.

According to Timmer, what is remarkable and what is the positive part of that number is that the pause was short lived, and the hit on the economy was by far enough, not even comparable as large as a year earlier.

# CEA Subramanian to step down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) K V Subramanian will be leaving the finance ministry and returning to academia on completion of his three-year term.

The government had appointed Subramanian, an ISB Hyderabad professor, as the CEA in December 2018. He had succeeded Arvind Subramanian, who quit the position close to a year ahead of his extended tenure.

Subramanian's three-year term would have come up for renewal in December but he decided to return to academia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tweet wished him the very best for his future endeavours, saying, "It's been a delight to work with



@SubramanianKri. His academic brilliance, unique perspectives on key economic as well as policy matters and reformist zeal are noteworthy."

Another important task before the new CEA would be to prepare the Economic Survey to be tabled in Parliament on the last working day of January.

In a statement, K V Subramanian thanked the Prime Minister as well as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for their support and inspiring leadership.

"I have decided to return back to academia following the completion of my 3-year fulfilling tenure as the Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India," he said.

Subramanian, who authored three Economic Surveys, said, "In close to three decades of my professional life, I am yet to encounter a more inspiring leader than the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. His intuitive understanding of economic policy combines with an unmistakable determination to use the same to elevate the lives of common citizens."

# OECD reaches deal on global minimum corporate tax rate

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington, Oct 8:** Nearly 140 countries have agreed on a tentative deal that would make sweeping changes to how big, multinational companies are taxed in order to deter them from stashing their profits in offshore havens where they pay little or no tax.

Under the agreement announced Friday, countries would enact a global minimum corporate tax of 15% on the biggest, internationally active companies. US President Joe Biden has been one of the driving forces behind the agreement as governments around the world seek to boost revenue following the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Today's agreement represents a once-in-a-generation accomplishment for economic diplomacy," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement.

The agreement was announced by the Paris-based Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development, which hosted the talks that led to it.

The deal is an attempt to address the ways globalization and digitalization have changed the world economy. Alongside the minimum tax, it would allow countries to tax part of the earnings of companies whose activities, such as online retailing or web advertising, don't involve a physical presence.

Anti-poverty and tax fairness advocates have said the bulk of new revenue would go to wealthier countries and offer less to developing countries that are more dependent on corporate taxes. The G-24 group of developing countries said that without a bigger share of revenue from reallocated profits, the deal would be "sub-optimal" and "not sustainable even in the short run."

The deal must clear several more hurdles. It will be taken up by the Group of 20 leaders at a summit in Rome October 30-31.

## TRAVEL THRUST

# Air traffic surges as vaccinations ease concerns

The industry reported a healthy growth in domestic passenger numbers during Aug-Sept 2021, supported by higher demand coming from Tier-I and II cities



ket share, told IANS.

On average, bookings during this period rose by 20 per cent year-on-year in the domestic sector and 25 per cent for international flights. At present, international travel to and from India are allowed only with the 28 countries with whom India has a 'Bubble Agreement' in place.

Observers expect the upturn to continue during the festive season. The reason for the growth in recent travel bookings is a mix of visiting friends and family (VFF) as well as leisure travel, said Alope Bajpai, co-founder and Group CEO, ixigo, the AI-based online travel portal.

Growing travel confidence has also resulted in a shift in advance purchase pattern trends, Bajpai said, adding that Ladakh, Kashmir, Goa and Jaipur are some of the pop-

ular leisure destinations being booked for festive travel this year. For international leisure travel, we have seen a 15-20 per cent increase in search queries for destinations such as Dubai, Maldives and Russia for the festive season, Bajpai continued, pointing out that attractive rates are encouraging travellers to make advance bookings.

At present, on average, a Delhi-

Goa one-way ticket is priced at ₹4,400 for travel in the first week of October, if booked 30 days in advance. The same ticket, if booked seven days before departure, will cost ₹7,600.

In addition, Suprio Banerjee, Vice President and Sector Head at the rating agency ICRA, said: With the easing of Covid-19 infections and local restrictions, and the growing pace of vaccination, leisure travel picked up swiftly after the second wave of the pandemic.

The same trend is visible in a healthy ramp-up in domestic air travel (which inched up to 6.8-6.9 million passengers in September 2021) and a pick-up in the occupancy levels and ARRs (average room rent) in hotels. In select markets, the ARRs are now above pre-Covid levels, Banerjee pointed out.

He added in H1 FY2022, domestic air passenger traffic stood at 29.5 million, compared with 11.1 million in H1 FY2021. But it is still 58 per cent lower vis-a-vis H1 FY2020.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

# Brazil beat Venezuela, Argentina share points



Brazil's Gabriel Barbosa (No.21) reacts after scoring against Venezuela

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Sao Paulo, Oct 8:** Leaders Brazil and second-placed Argentina had uninspiring performances in their World Cup qualifying matches, but gained key competition points as they try to secure their direct spots for Qatar next year.

Playing without suspended Neymar and injured Casemiro, Brazil won 3-1 at Venezuela, and Argentina had a goalless draw at Paraguay.

Brazil trailed at the same time bottom-of-the-table Venezuela until the 71st minute, when Marquinhos leveled the match in Caracas. Gabriel Barbosa scored the second goal from the spot in the 85th minute and substitute Antony scored the third from close range in added time.

Lionel Messi was not enough for Argentina to break Paraguay's powerful defensive line. The two goalkeepers, Argentina's Emiliano Martinez and Paraguay's Antony Silva, were the best on the pitch.

Brazil lead with 27 points and Argentina has 19 in nine matches — their clash in September was suspended after seven minutes due to COVID-19 protocols.

Ecuador and Uruguay have 16 points after 10 matches, but the Ecuadorians have more wins and hold third place after a 3-0 win against Bolivia. All goals in the match came between the 14th and the 19th minutes; the first with Michael Estrada and then two by Enner Valencia. Hours earlier the Uruguayans

had been held to a 0-0 draw at home with Colombia, which is in fifth place in the 10-team round robin competition with 14 points.

The top four teams secure a spot at next year's World Cup in Qatar. The fifth-place team will enter a playoff against a team from another confederation.

Venezuela's goal came in the 11th minute, when Yeferson Soteldo crossed from the right towards Eric Ramirez. Two Brazilian defenders, Fabinho and Marquinhos, slipped and gave the Selecao to become more dynamic in the second half.

Raphinha took the corner kick that landed on Marquinhos' head to level the scoring in the 71st minute. He then started the play that ended in Barbosa being fouled in the penalty box. And then he gave the low cross that allowed Antony to score near the final whistle.

Also Thursday, Peru beat Chile 2-0 to keep alive their hopes of returning to the World Cup. Christian Cueva in the 35th minute and Sergio Pena in the 64th scored for the winners. Come Sunday, Brazil's next match will be at Colombia, while Argentina face rival Uruguay. Paraguay will take on Chile, Venezuela face Ecuador and Peru lock horns with Bolivia.

Mbappe inspires comeback as Les Bleus come from behind to beat World No.1 Belgium 3-2 to set up UEFA Nations League title date with Spain

# FRANCE BREAK BELGIAN HEARTS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Turin, Oct 8:** Kylian Mbappe redeemed himself with a goal and an assist as France came from two goals down to beat Belgium 3-2 and reach the Nations League final.

Theo Hernandez scored the last-minute winner to complete the comeback and send World Champion France through to Sunday's final against Spain. It was only his second appearance for his country and came the day after his 24th birthday.

Two quickfire goals at the end of the first half had given Belgium a seemingly comfortable lead but Mbappe, who became the youngest player to reach 50 caps for Les Bleus, set up Karim Benzema's goal in the 62nd minute and converted a penalty seven minutes later.

The 22-year-old Mbappe was made somewhat of a scapegoat for France's failure at the European Championship after missing

the decisive penalty in the shootout in France's loss to Switzerland in the round of 16.

For Belgium it was another disappointing failure for a team that has entered the past few major tournaments as one of the big favorites but hasn't reached a big final since Euro 1980.

Even the official twitter account of the Belgian national team seemed confident of victory at halftime, tweeting "Well, that's a comfortable lead!" — before gently mocking itself after the final whistle.

Theo and his brother Lucas Hernandez were named in the starting line-up for France, in midfield and defense. It was the first time two brothers had played together for Les Bleus since Herve and Patrick Revelli in 1974.

Belgium were looking to avenge their semifinal defeat to France at the 2018 World Cup and it almost got off the perfect start.

Belgium took control shortly before halftime. Yannick Carrasco broke the deadlock in the 37th minute when he cut inside from the left, turned a defender and drilled into the near bottom corner. De Bruyne provided the assist for that goal, spotting Carrasco's run.

The Man City midfielder did the same four minutes later as he threaded a through-ball to Lukaku, who collected with his back to goal before turning, racing clear of Lucas and firing into the roof of the net.

France upped the pressure at the start of the second half and nearly pulled a goal back in the 58th minute when Mbappe cut in from the right and rolled the ball across to Antoine Griezmann, who fired just wide of the post.

France did reduce the deficit four minutes later as Mbappe again danced his way past defenders before finding Benzema, who managed to squeeze in a swiveling shot despite being surrounded by red shirts.

And Didier Deschamps' side was level shortly afterwards when Mbappe drove a penalty kick into the top right corner after Youri Tielemans was adjudged — with the help of video review — to have fouled Griezmann.

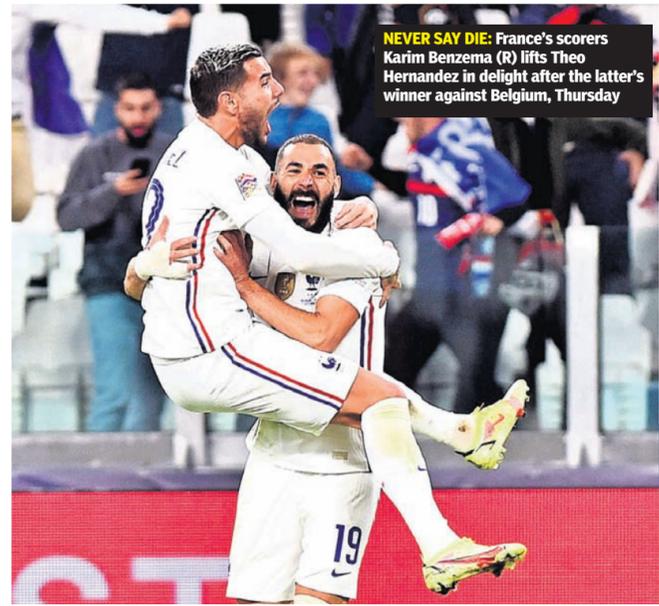
Lukaku thought he had scored a late winner but it was ruled out for offside. Instead it was France which snatched victory as Theo curled into the far side of the net following a good team move. Paul Pogba had sent a free-kick off the crossbar moments earlier for Les Bleus. Those incidents came in quick succession in a frenzied finale.



KYLIAN MBAPPE

To be capable of doing what we did, and you shouldn't forget the team we did it to, the top-ranked team in the world at the moment, it's fantastic what the team of France managed to do. I don't think there were many people who thought we could at halftime. All credit to the players. The pride and character that they showed, added to the quality, ensured we did it

DIDIER DESCHAMPS / FRANCE HEAD COACH



NEVER SAY DIE: France's scorers Karim Benzema (R) lifts Theo Hernandez in delight after the latter's winner against Belgium, Thursday

# MI win, but fail to qualify for playoffs Rhythm, Vijayveer shoot gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Abu Dhabi, Oct 8:** Defending champions Mumbai Indians beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 42 runs in a high-scoring game here Friday but their spirited effort was not enough to take them to the IPL playoffs.

After amassing 235/9, MI needed to limit SRH to 65 or less to qualify for the playoffs ahead of KKR but expectedly that did not happen. SRH ended with 193/8 with stand in captain Manish Pandey (69 n o, 41b, 7x4, 2x6) being the top scorer.

It is for the first time in three seasons that five-time champions MI have not entered the last four after lifting the trophy in the past two editions.

Ishan Kishan (84, 32b, 11x4, 4x6) and Suryakumar Yadav (82, 40b, 13x4, 3x6) struck whirlwind fifties as MI meant business from the onset. But it was not to be for MI as they failed to restrict SRH to their desired target, even though they won the match comfortably.

Delhi Capitals and CSK will face each other in the Qualifier 1 Sunday, while KKR will be up against RCB in the eliminator October 11.



Chasing 236, Jason Roy (34) and Abhishek Sharma (33) got SRH off to a flier, stitching 64 runs in 5.2 overs. But SRH lost their plot soon after the dismissal of the openers with Jimmy Neesham (2/28) striking twice. Pandey and Priyan Garg (29) shared 56 runs for the fifth wicket before Jasprit Bumrah (2/39)

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**MI 235/9**  
(Ishan Kishan 84, Suryakumar Yadav 82; Jason Holder 4/52, Abhishek Sharma 2/4)  
**beat SRH 193/8**  
(Manish Pandey 69 n o, Jason Roy 34, Abhishek Sharma 33; James Neesham 2/28, Jasprit Bumrah 2/39) **by 42 runs.**

dislodged the stand. Earlier, MI openers — Kishan and skipper Rohit Sharma (18) meant business and showed the intent from the onset. Kishan, especially, was in belligerent mood as he went hammer and tongs and brought up his fifty in just 16 balls. MI reached 100 in 7.1 overs.

After Kishan's dismissal, SRH pulled things back. Yadav then took the onus of guiding MI innings after Kishan's dismissal.

**POINTS TABLE**

Teams	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
DC	14	10	4	+0.481	20
CSK	14	9	5	+0.455	18
RCB	14	9	5	-0.140	18
KKR	14	7	7	+0.587	14
MI	14	7	7	+0.116	14
PBKS	14	6	8	-0.001	12
RR	14	5	9	-0.993	10
SRH	14	3	11	-0.545	6

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lima, Oct 8:** The Indian pair of Rhythm Sangwan and Vijayveer Sidhu clinched the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Mixed Team gold medal as the country's total haul soared to 23, consolidating its position at the top of the table in the ISSF Junior Shooting World Championships here.

Sangwan and Sidhu defeated Thailand's Kanyakorn Hirunphoem and Schwakon Triniphakron 9-1 to fetch India's 10th gold of the ongoing event.

The country also claimed the bronze medal in this event with Tejaswani Sawant and Anish Bhanwala triumphing 10-8 against another Thai team in Chawisa Paduka and Ram Khambaeng.

In the junior women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions, Prasadhi Mahant, Nishcal and Ayushi Podder clinched the silver medal after going down to the American trio of Elizabeth McGhin, Lorraine Zaun, and Carolyn Tucker. The Indians were beaten 43-47.

Friday, the Indian duo of Ayushi and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the silver medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team event.

and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the silver medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team event. Ayushi and Aishwary shot 17 in the gold medal match as against the 31 shot by the German pair of Max Braun and Anna Janssen. The Indians had topped the qualifications with a world record equalling score of 590 with the eventual gold medallist finishing in second spot.

India's total haul now stands at 10 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals. USA is second with 6 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze.



(From L): Rhythm Sangwan, Vijayveer Sidhu, Anish Bhanwala and Tejaswani Sawant pose for a photo after their event

# INDIAN EVES' HOCKEY TEAM TO PLAY IN FIH PRO LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lausanne, Oct 8:** India and Spain will play in the upcoming women's Hockey Pro League as replacement teams only for this season after pull-outs by Australia and New Zealand, the international Hockey Federation (FIH) said Friday.

The third season of the women's FIH Hockey Pro League begins October 13 with Olympic and world champions the Netherlands taking on Belgium.

"FIH is glad to announce that the women's national teams of India and Spain will join the FIH Hockey Pro League — "Hockey at its Best" — for Season 3," the International Hockey Federation said in a statement.

"Both teams will replace — for this season only — Australia and New Zealand ... However, Australia and

New Zealand will join Pro League again for Season 4," it said.

Last month, Australia and New Zealand pulled out of the league as well as from the upcoming FIH Hockey Junior World Cups and the FIH Hockey Indoor World Cup due to COVID-related international travel restrictions put in place by their own respective governments.

The FIH said whenever possible, the women's squads of India and Spain will play on the same dates and venues as their men counterparts, who are already part of FIH's global home-and-away league.

HI president Gyanendro Ningombam said the country's participation will not only give the players an opportunity to compete against the best in the world but will also help increase the fanbase for the team.

# Bharat's last-ball six helps RCB beat DC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Oct 8:** A last-ball six by Srikar Bharat (78 n o, 52b, 3x4, 4x6) powered Royal Challengers Bangalore to a seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in a thrilling finish to their IPL match that shifted this way and that here Friday.

Bharat was ably supported by Glenn Maxwell (51 n o, 33b, 8x4). Needing 15 to win from the final over, it all came down to 5 runs off the final ball. And Bharat had the last laugh as he smoked Khan's full toss over long-on for a six to seal the game in his team's favour.

Pacer Anrich Nortje (2/24) had bowled a brilliant penultimate over, conceding just four runs even. The match-winning 111-run fourth-wicket partnership between Bharat and Maxwell gave RCB a rather unexpected win over Delhi Capitals.



Srikar Bharat plays a shot, while Rishabh Pant looks on, Friday

Earlier, RCB rallied to stop Delhi Capitals at 164/5 thanks to a spirited effort from the bowlers, especially Mohammed Siraj (2/25). The table-toppers frittered away a strong 88-run opening partnership provided by Shikhar Dhawan (43) and Prithvi Shaw (48) with the other batsmen unable to build on it.

Shimron Hetmyer (29) hit two big sixes to go with two boundaries and ensured the Capitals go past the 150-mark after the batters appeared to struggle in the middle overs.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**DC 164/5**  
(Prithvi Shaw 48, Shikhar Dhawan 43, Shimron Hetmyer 29 n o; Mohammed Siraj 2/25)  
**lost to RCB 166/3**  
(Srikar Bharat 78 n o, Glenn Maxwell 51 n o; Anrich Nortje 2/24) **by 7 wickets.**

# ONTHHPC win, top group in Sub Junior Nationals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, Oct 8:** Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre (ONTHHPC), Olympian Vivek Singh Hockey Academy, Raja Karan Hockey Academy, and Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy earned victories in their respective matches on the fifth day of the 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Men Academy National Championship here Friday.

In the first match of the day, ONTHHPC registered a clinical 3-0 win against Naval Tata Hockey Academy Jamshedpur to finish on the top of Pool A. Premdayal Giri (fourth minute), Ricky Tonjam (19th), and Aryan Xess (32nd) scored a goal each for the Odisha.