



## LIBERAL IDEOLOGY

Malaika Arora says freedom is the core of her being and women should be emotionally and financially independent

LEISURE P2



## TIME TO ACT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed on preventing Afghan from becoming the source of terrorism

INTERNATIONAL P10



## DC TO FACE KKR

Delhi Capitals take on Kolkata Knight Riders in the second qualifier for a place in the IPL final

SPORTS P12

**USHA TRAVELS**  
OFFER PRICE  
BHUBANESWAR

KOLKATA	2533/-*
HYDERABAD	3533/-*
BENGALURU	3533/-*
DELHI	3633/-*
MUMBAI	3733/-*
DUBAI	10,333/-*

9937438896

## Amit Khare named advisor to PM

**NEW DELHI:** Former bureaucrat Amit Khare, who last month retired as higher education secretary, has been appointed as advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for two years on contract basis, a personnel ministry order issued Tuesday said. Khare, a 1985 batch (retired) IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, had superannuated September 30. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Khare as advisor to the prime minister in Prime Minister's Office, in the rank and scale of secretary to government of India, on contract basis.

## Minor killed in leopard attack

**RAIGHAR/UMERKOTE:** A six-year-old boy was killed in a leopard attack near a temple in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Abinash Markam, a resident of Turudihi village under Raigarh block in Nabarangpur district. The family had been to Sitala temple at Sihawa in Chhattisgarh to offer puja on the occasion of Navaratri festival. The animal suddenly pounced upon the boy and snatched him away in front of his parents. He was rushed to Sihawa hospital in critical condition where a doctor declared him brought dead. P5

## Normal flights from Oct 18

**NEW DELHI:** Airlines can operate domestic flights without any capacity restriction from October 18 onwards, the ministry of civil aviation announced Tuesday keeping in mind the "passenger demand for air travel". The carriers have been operating 85 per cent of their pre-COVID domestic services since September 18, according to the ministry's order. The capacity cap stood at 72.5 per cent between August 12 and September 18, 65 per cent between July 5 and August 12 and 50 per cent between June 1 and July 5. On October 9, the Indian carriers operated 2,340 domestic flights.

**JSW Cement**  
The Leaders' Choice  
1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

# NOD TO COVAXIN FOR KIDS

Subject expert committee on Covid-19 has recommended Covaxin for emergency use in children aged between 2 and 18

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** The Hyderabad-based pharma major Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has got the emergency use approval for children in the age group of 2 to 18 years from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). The Subject Expert Committee on Covid-19 gave the approval for the emergency use in the children. The expert panel said in a statement, "After detailed deliberation, the committee recommended for grant of market authorisation of the vaccine for the age group of 2 to 18 years for restricted use in emergency situation." Bharat Biotech had submitted the trial data of phases 2 and 3 of



## VAX FOR KIDS

- Bharat Biotech needs to submit safety data with due analysis every 15 days for the first two months and monthly thereafter
- Remarkably, the global health body World Health Organisation has not granted the emergency use authorisation to Covaxin

Covaxin on children in the beginning of this month to the apex body - DCGI at the start of this month. The vaccine will be administered in two doses with 20 days of interval. However, Bharat Biotech needs to submit safety data with due analysis every 15 days for the first two months and monthly thereafter.

Remarkably, the global health body World Health Organisation has

not granted the emergency use authorisation to Covaxin. The World Health Organisation said last week that it will carry out the risk and benefit assessment next week with experts and take a final decision on the much awaited EUL to Covid vaccine Covaxin.

The WHO said in the last meeting, "WHO & an independent group of experts are scheduled to meet next week to carry out the risk/benefit

## India eyes 100cr vax target Oct 14

**NEW DELHI:** India is all set to touch the target of 100-crore vaccine doses October 14 and the government has started preparing for a 'mega event', a top Health Ministry source said. The source told IANS that the target of 100 crore vaccine doses will be achieved October 14 and the feat will be celebrated as India's triumph over Covid 'evil spirit' much like the 'Vijayadashami' festival.

assessment and come to a final decision whether to grant Emergency Use Listing to Covaxin". Meanwhile, India continues to show the declining trends in the daily trajectory of Covid caseloads. India Tuesday reported 14,313 fresh Covid cases in the last 24 hours, lowest recorded cases in the 224 days.

# ULB poll notification out

Political atmosphere in the state has started hotting up as decks were cleared for the much delayed urban elections

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** Paving way for the urban polls, the state government issued a gazette notification on the Odisha Municipal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 to keep the overall reservation in urban local bodies (ULBs) within 50 per cent.

The law department issued the notification after necessary amendments to Sections 11 & 47 of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950 and Sections 7 & 14 of the Odisha Municipal Corporation Act, 2003. The limit of quotas has been kept at 50 per cent for SCs, STs and backward class citizens in ULBs, Law Minister Pratap Jena said.

Seats will be reserved in favour of backward class of citizens (BCC) in every NAC, municipality and



municipal corporation to an extent not exceeding 27 per cent subject to ceiling limit of 50 per cent of the total number of seats including seats reserved for SCs, STs and backward class taken together. The reservation of seats will be made as per the population of the concerned ULB.

The government will first give priority to ST and SC population in reservation and the balance seats, if left, will be reserved for backward class citizens with a maximum ceiling of 27 per cent.

Political atmosphere heated up in the state as decks were cleared for the delayed urban elections.

The poll was delayed due to a court's order to limit quotas within 50 per cent. Following pressure from various political parties and court's order, the government is readying to go for urban polls, said Congress legislator Mohammed Moquim. He urged the government to complete the reservation process in a transparent manner.

BJP leader Prithviraj Harichandan said the game of the government, which is knowingly delaying the poll, has come to an end. BJD lawmaker Ananta Jena said urban elections will be conducted as per the process and the government is taking all steps in this regard.

This time, there will be direct election for the posts of mayor and chairperson in the ULBs.

In 2013, the High Court had observed that upper ceiling limit of reservation of seats for SCs, STs and BCCs shouldn't exceed 50% in accordance with the judgment passed by the Supreme Court in the K Krishna Murthy case.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



China is not willing to withdraw. Get ready for another surgical strike on Chinese apps!

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	33.2°C	34.2°C
MIN	25.0°C	25.2°C
Humidity	82%	73%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	60284.31	↑ 148.53
NIFTY	17992.00	↑ 46.00
DOLLAR	75.60	↑ ₹0.11
EURO	87.11	↑ ₹0.03
GOLD	₹47,290	↑ ₹239
SILVER	₹61,674	↓ ₹70

## RESCUE MISSION



A resident is pulled along a rope as rescuers wait on the other side of a swollen river caused by heavy rains from tropical storm Kompasu in Gonzaga town, Cagayan province, northern Philippines. A number of people have been killed and others reported missing in landslides and flash flood set off by a storm that barreled through the tip of the northern Philippines overnight, Tuesday. PFI PHOTO

## Denied to play mobile games, minor ends life

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, Oct 12:** In a replay of an incident September 30 when a 14-year-old boy had killed himself after he was stopped from playing games on mobile phone by his mother in Ghasipura, a similar incident has happened at Goutamnagar in Koraput town Tuesday. B Manohar (13), son of Srinibas Rao, killed himself when he was barred by his mother to play games on his mobile phone.

According to reports, like other students, B Manohar was given a smartphone to take online classes. But most of the time, his family members found him engrossed in playing games. They had earlier advised him not to do so.

He was also warned Tuesday against playing games. Infuriated, he bolted himself inside a room and hanged himself with a saree from the ceiling fan.

However, his family members managed to break open the door and rescued him from there. His condition was critical. He was rushed to Koraput medical where he was declared dead on arrival.

The body was sent for post mortem. Police registered a case of unnatural death and started an investigation. An investigation is underway, said sub-inspector Sudarshan Adhikary.

# 3 Reds killed in Malkangiri ANURAG DIED OF ASPHYXIATION; 5 DETAINED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** At least three suspected Maoists, including two women, were gunned down in an exchange of fire in Tulasi Forest Range in Malkangiri district, a top police officer said Tuesday.

Acting on intelligence inputs, a joint team of the special operation group and Malkangiri district voluntary force had launched a combing operation in the area, DGP Abhay said.

Upon learning about the presence of jawans in the forest near Kerimithi village along the border of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, they opened fire and the security personnel retaliated, he said.

All the three Maoists died on

the spot, he said, adding, their bodies have been recovered along with two guns. As per the information available so far, we have received dead bodies of three Maoists, of which two were women. The DGP said the combing operation is still underway as about 30-40 Naxals are suspected to be holed up in the area.

In 2020, 16 members of the banned CPI (Maoist) were killed in gun-battles with security forces in Odisha. Seven civilians and two policemen had also lost their lives in Naxal violence last year, officials said.

The security personnel have also recovered two guns from the spot of the encounter. Combing and search operations are underway in the forest, he added.

Police have detained one of the two friends who were with Anurag in the hotel. The autopsy report showed Anurag was suffocated to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** The commissionerate police Tuesday detained one of the two friends of the deceased, Manish Anurag Das, son of senior scribe Navin Das, who was with him in the party on the fateful day.

Sources said the youth, one of the two friends, had picked up Anurag from Galaxy Garden in Infocity area Saturday night.

The police have been interrogating the accused to elicit details of the events that culminated in the death of Anurag. Sources, however, claimed four more persons involved in the case have been detained.

A senior police official told this newspaper that investigating officers suspected foul play as the persons present with Anurag at South Sea Hotel in Patrapada are still absconding. The white car (OD 02X 9696) in which the deceased traveled with his friends has been seized.

Meanwhile, an AIIMS spokesperson said initial reports of the postmortem suggest that Anurag died of asphyxiation. However, the reports of diatom



A CCTV grab of Anurag walking out of the hotel alone at 3.30 am, Sunday

test and other scientific examinations would reveal whether any external force or drowning led to the suffocation. The spokesperson also claimed that doctors failed to find any sign of external injuries on Anurag's body.

Police claimed it is difficult to

conclude at this stage whether he accidentally fell into the pond and died of suffocation or someone killed him by asphyxiation and later threw the body into the pond.

CCTV footage Tuesday showed the deceased was walking out of the hotel alone at around 3.30am

Sunday. The hotel staff informed media persons that Anurag's friends had left half an hour before he left.

Earlier, father of the deceased, while posing faith in the police investigation, alleged in a video message that his son had been murdered by his friends who called him to attend a feast Saturday night. He said the commissioner of police, Saumendra Priyadarshi, has assured him of apprehending the persons involved in the murder of his son.

According to Das, his son told him over phone- the last call from him at 4:11am- that he was being beaten up by the abductors who allegedly demanded ransom for his release.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

**GaneshSpeaks.com**  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
Believe it, life is good sometimes; today is one such day. Things will not be hectic, even though you remain occupied, both at work and in your personal life. With no troubles brewing, what more can you ask for? Perhaps, Ganesh is trying to impart the crucial lesson of contentment.

**TAURUS**  
Though this day appears to be like all other normal days it will be a very hectic one. Ganesh sees you buried under files and papers, trying hard to cope up with the overload, getting completely drained out and, possibly and falling sick. There is nothing wrong in staying active and occupied. But overdoing is bad strategy.

**GEMINI**  
Unlike the last few days, today will be hectic and demanding. You will need to attend a few social get-togethers and functions. Socializing with friends and relatives is on the cards. However, you need to be careful about your health. Expenses on medicines are indicated, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
An auspicious day to begin new ventures, which will be of long duration and also profitable. You may buy a new house or a car. Gain is also likely through your friend circle. Students may excel and may be able to concentrate well on their education.

**LEO**  
You will be worried on account of issues related to your business. You need to work in the right direction to solve these issues. You will be able to put an end to your concerns with the right attitude. You will be unable to finish your tasks unless you concentrate fully upon your projects, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
You will gain a lot by way of goodwill by helping your mates at work. Besides, your work will make your seniors supremely happy. Your interaction with colleagues and friends will hold a special value for you. And, Ganesh says, you will enjoy your association with people you love.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says those of you in the field of art will find immense success. You will be able to please your beloved with your presence and also shower them with gifts. You may buy something expensive as a gift today. You will also focus on a long-term goal today. Ganesh showers you with his blessings always.

**SCORPIO**  
Everything is fair in love and war, however, make sure your love story does not turn into a cold-war. It may happen that romance may make you altogether a different person. By the end of the day, you may solve the differences that lead to a cold-war between you and your beloved, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You get your rivals and competitors thinking for your sheer smartness in the professional field. It's time to clink glasses as you have the knack to survive the cut-throat competition. Evening will be spent rejoicing with near and dear ones at a social gathering.

**CAPRICORN**  
You are practical and wise. With your worldly wisdom and intellect at display, you will be able to guide your near and dear today, says Ganesh. Your belief of working in a harmonious environment will inspire you to spread the message of love, peace, and joy.

**AQUARIUS**  
You possess a nice quality of eloquence. Today, you will make a speech/presentation or conduct a discussion forum where everyone will love to hear your opinions. Your communication skill will help you get through the heart of someone you like. But, don't blow your own trumpet all the time, advises Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
The day will start off on a sour note for you. But as the day progresses you will find your mood elevated. If you wish to progress in life, you need to stop minor setbacks from upsetting you disproportionately. Keeping your emotions in check will be vital for taking critical decisions and in meeting your deadlines today, says Ganesh.



## WHEN KRISTEN STEWART COULDN'T OPEN HER MOUTH

Actress Kristen Stewart, who portrays Princess Diana in *Spencer*, says it was a nerve-racking experience, and the anxiousness led her to develop a pain in her jaw. "I had my jaw stay shut to the point where I was like, completely locked up," she said.

## SQUID GAME IS A GLOBAL HIT, BUT HOLLYWOOD IS YET TO CALL ITS STAR

Top South Korean star Lee Jung-jae, who is currently enjoying the global success of *Squid Game*, Netflix's survival game TV series, says that Hollywood has not called him yet for work. "No proposals or requests have come my way," Jung-jae told *Variety*.



## 'Independence is at the core of my being'

**Mumbai:** Actress Malaika Arora is going to be in the judge panel along with Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur in the upcoming dance reality show *India's Best Dancer*.

Malaika who herself is an actor, model, skilled dancer and a fitness enthusiast talks about why is it important for her to be an independent and a self-sufficient woman.

"I believe independence is the core of my being! Moreover, in my line of work, I am very happy and fortunate to meet people who give me the right backing, the right push to do something," says the actress.

She adds: "Before starting out anything new and unexplored, I don't just go on a whim. I do a lot of research, I consult a lot of experts and understand where they are coming from and then I collaborate and associate with them. I am very headstrong like that. And, I think all women should be emotionally and financially independent."

*India's Best Dancer* will start from October 16 on Sony Entertainment Television.

IAN S

## Bani J, Sayani share their ideas of 'happily-ever-after'

**Mumbai:** Actress Sayani Gupta and VJ-turned-actress Bani J, who believe that portrayals of love, romance and 'happily-ever-after' somewhere influence our minds in real life, shared their ideas of the same.

Asked about her idea of happily-ever-after, Bani said, "The way I'm living my life right now is my happily ever after. I have people that I care about and who care about me, and we can express that love and appreciation for each other. I can travel, spend time with people that I really want to, create projects that I care about and be a part of projects that really fulfill me creatively, which I think is the best thing in the world."

Sayani on the other

hand said that in a relationship, she is the 'romantic' one.

She said, "I'm quite the romantic and I would love to believe that there's someone I could live happily ever after with."

It's not like I'm waiting for the one but maybe someday I'll find someone. My idea of 'happily ever after' is that it has to be a partnership, and that doesn't come without quarrels or differences or disagreements.

Rather, you figure things out and there's enough love and humour in the relationship to take it forward."

Both of them were conversing as part of the chat show series titled *Dating These Days 2.0*, which is a part of the Bumble dating app. *Dating These Days 2.0* releases on the YouTube channel of Bumble.

IAN S



## Oscar-nominated Moti Bagh wins big at ALT-EFF

**Mumbai:** Oscar-nominated film *Moti Bagh*, a directorial of Nirmal Chander, has won the Best Indian Feature at the second edition of All Living Things, Environmental Film Festival (ALT-EFF).

The ALT-EFF is India's first and only environment cinema-based festival. Speaking on the occasion, Oscar nominee Nirmal Chander congratulated the team of ALT-EFF for creating a platform that allows environmentalists and filmmakers to work together to form a unified voice for the environment.

Talking about his film, Nirmal said, "In a world where there is no dearth of content anymore, it is sometimes difficult to get people to notice your work. The battle is all the more difficult if one is not catering to pop culture. *Moti Bagh* was not an easy process. It is an honest depiction of the plight of the villages in Uttarakhand."

He is happy the jury at ALT-EFF believed in his work and the world will now know about it because of his Oscar nomination. It just makes things a lot easier, says the elated Oscar nominee. The festival has roped in a great jury this year including internationally acclaimed photographer and filmmaker Michael Snyder, six-time National Award-winning filmmaker Anand Patwardhan and Amin Hajee.

IAN S



## Sara Tendulkar in spotlight

**Mumbai:** Legendary India batsman Sachin Tendulkar's daughter Sara Tendulkar is getting the spotlight for all the right reasons. Her Instagram pictures are causing much excitement among her friends and fans, even as her rumoured friendship with Team India and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) batsman Shubham Gill is the subject of much speculation.

Sara recently shared a glamorous picture on Instagram. In the image, she is seen standing in a balcony and flashing a beautiful smile.

The picture caught the eye of chocolate boy Kartik Aaryan and singer Armaan Malik, who have liked the photograph. "All smiles in the city," Sara captioned the image, which currently has 348,000 and 1,927 comments on the photo-sharing website. She is very active on Instagram and currently enjoys a fan following of 1.4 million.

There have been rumours that Sara is dating cricketer Shubman Gill. However, the two have neither confirmed nor debunked the rumours.

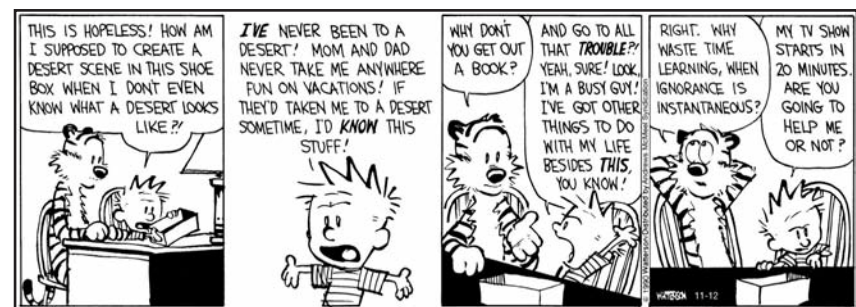
IAN S



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

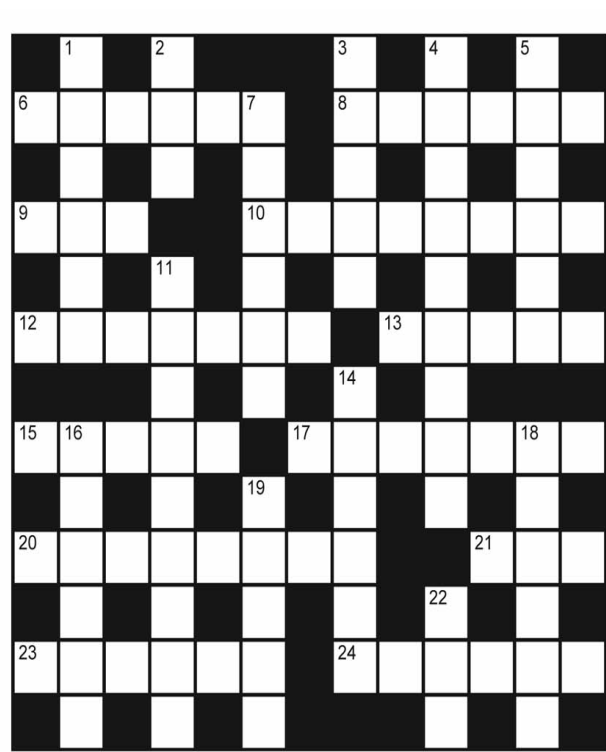


## BREVITY



## FUN post

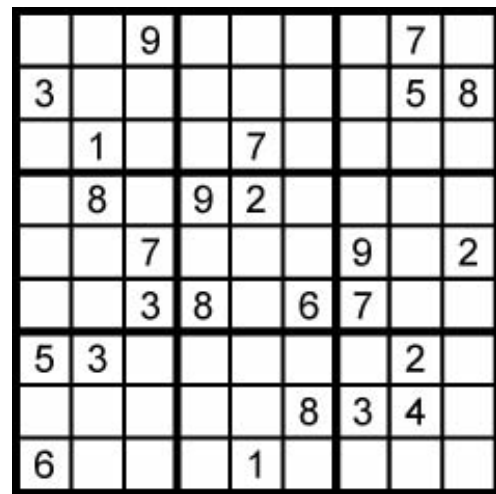
## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 6 Chinese temple
  - 8 Relative
  - 9 Diminish
  - 10 Real
  - 12 Retaliate (3,4)
  - 13 Tableau
  - 15 Hard to pin down
  - 17 Andean animals
  - 20 Money holder
  - 21 Gullible one
  - 23 Imp
  - 24 Mull over
- Down**
- 1 Trinket
  - 2 Slough
  - 3 Cupcake topper
  - 4 Prudent
  - 5 Cereal grass
  - 7 Song of devotion
  - 11 Irritability
  - 14 Clean house (4,2)
  - 16 Overseas
  - 18 Proverbs
  - 19 Cunning
  - 22 Octopus's defense

## SUDOKU

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



## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



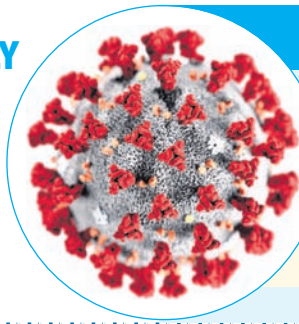
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## BLACK CAT CAR RALLY

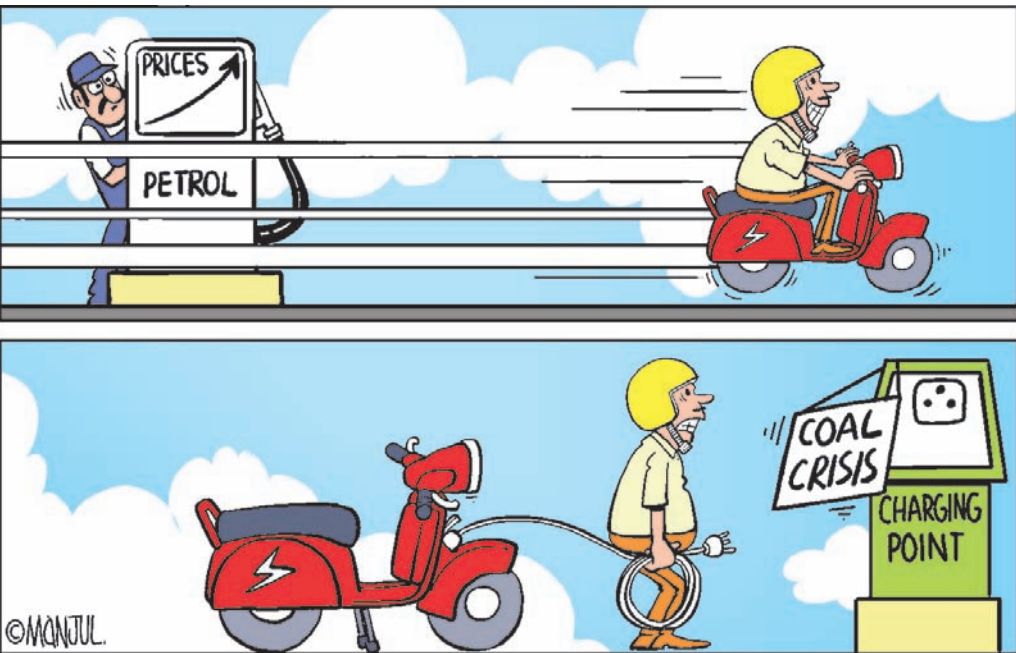
DGP Abhay welcomes the *Sudarshan Bharat Parikrama* of the NSG commandoes at Police Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,91,79,695	21,64,28,251	48,75,950
India	3,39,85,920	3,33,20,057	4,50,963
Odisha	10,32,673	10,19,764	8,261

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Vigilance detects SPCB officer's 5 more plots

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 12:** More skeletons have tumbled out of the closet as Vigilance sleuths Tuesday claimed to have further traced huge amount of cash and landed properties belonging to one of the three Class-I officers who have been arrested on corruption charges.

According to the Vigilance Directorate, the anti-corruption wing of the state police has found Rs 6,35,723 more in cash at the residence of State Pollution Control Board's (SPCB) Balasore regional officer Narottam Behera. With the fresh detection, the state Vigilance has found around Rs 16.50 lakh in cash from Behera's possession. The Vigilance has also zeroed in on five more plots—one at Cuttack's Dolamundai and four at Chhatrapur in Ganjam—belonging to Behera.

Sources said that acting on a tip-off about illegal gratification, the Vigilance sleuths intercepted superintending engineer of Baitarani



THE ANTI-CORRUPTION WING OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO ZEROED IN ON FIVE MORE PLOTS—ONE AT CUTTACK'S DOLAMUNDAI AND FOUR AT CHHATRAPUR IN GANJAM— BELONGING TO BEHERA

irrigation division (Salapada in Keonjhar) Bidhan Chandra Sahu in Jajpur Town while he was proceeding towards Cuttack October 9. The sleuths recovered Rs 10.07 lakh from Sahu which he could not account for satisfactorily. Vigilance sleuths carried out searches at the Cuttack residence of Sahu and found cash worth Rs 64,000. A total of Rs 10.71 lakh cash has been seized from Sahu.

On the same day, the Vigilance sleuths intercepted SPCB's Panposh

Vigilance has found around Rs 16.50 lakh in cash from the possession of SPCB, Balasore's regional officer Narottam Behera

regional officer Prakash Kumar Mohapatra in Bhubaneswar and recovered over Rs 1.75 lakh in cash from him. The sleuths had intercepted Narottam Behera near Tangi while he was proceeding towards Cuttack. The anti-corruption wing officials recovered Rs 89,000 in cash from him. The Vigilance later recovered Rs 9.25 lakh from Behera's house at Satya Nagar in Bhubaneswar. The Vigilance has so far claimed to have recovered Rs 28,97,443 in cash from the trio.

## SKM pays tribute to farmers killed in UP's Lakhimpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) held a candlelight march here Tuesday observing the Farmers' Martyrs Day to pay homage to four farmers and a journalist killed at Lakhimpur Kheri of Uttar Pradesh allegedly by Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra.

Earlier, several farmers' outfits and political parties had also taken to the streets to vent their anger over the incident. They condemned the violence that broke out in Lakhimpur Kheri September 3. Altogether eight people were killed in the violence that erupted during a farmers' protest ahead of a visit by the Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Four farmers were among those killed. Meanwhile, Ajay Mishra's son is in remand and is facing murder charges. The BJP is rallying behind the minister with senior leaders pointing out that he has denied his son's involvement and that UP Police have not found any evidence to indicate otherwise.

## Jagadev moves HC for bail

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 12:** Chilika MLA Prasanta Jagadev, who has been arrested in an assault case, has approached the Orissa High Court for bail.

Earlier, the HC had refused to grant him anticipatory bail and directed him to appear before the lower court and seek regular bail.

However, the lower court rejected Jagadev's bail plea and sent him to jail.

Jagadev has been accused of assaulting BJP's Balugaon unit president Niranjan Sethi and made casteist remarks against the latter during the disbursement of pensions among beneficiaries September 8. A complaint in this regard was filed with Balugaon police. Jagadev was suspended from BJD following the allegation.

## Beach shack plan challenged

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 12:** The Tourism department's plan to open beach shacks at several places on Odisha coast has been challenged in the Orissa High Court.

Bharatiya Vikash Parishad president Surendra Panigrahi has filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the HC urging it to direct the Tourism department to halt the plan.

Panigrahi has made Tourism department principal secretary, Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) Managing Director and Collectors of Ganjam, Balasore, Jagatsinghpur and Puri parties to the case.

The petitioner claimed that the Tourism department has planned to open five beach shacks at Talsari-Udaipur and Chandipur in Balasore, three at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur,

five at Puri-Konark and seven at Gopalpur and Patisonapur in Ganjam to attract tourists. The department has also invited tenders in this regard.

The petitioner informed the court that the state government would collect Rs 1.5 lakh as licence fee from each beach shack at Puri-Konark, Rs 1 lakh each from those at Gopalpur and Rs 75 each from the ones at Chandipur, Paradip and Patisonapur. This apart, each beach shack will pay Rs 1 lakh as users' fee to the state government.

There is every possibility that the proposed beach shacks will cause damage to the environment and lead to a spurt in crimes in the localities, Panigrahi said in his petition.

Notably, the beach shacks can serve liquor to the tourists as per the Excise Policy-2021 of the state government.

## INDRAJIT MAHANTY SWORN IN AS TRIPURA HC CHIEF JUSTICE

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar/Agartala, Oct 12:** Justice Indrajit Mahanty from Odisha was sworn in as the sixth Chief Justice of Tripura High Court in a simple ceremony at Agartala Tuesday, an official said.

Governor Satyadeo Narain Arya administered the oath of office to Justice Mahanty at the Raj Bhawan, maintaining Covid protocols, said the official.

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, his council of ministers, leaders of various political parties, judges of the High Court and senior bureaucrats were present on the occasion.

Justice Mahanty was serving as the Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court before being transferred to Tripura High Court as Chief Justice. He succeeded Justice Akil Kureshi, who was transferred to Rajasthan High Court as Chief Justice.

Justice Mahanty is the sixth Chief Justice of Tripura after the establishment of a separate high court in 2013. The full fledged High Courts in Meghalaya and Manipur were also set up in 2013.

Based on the recommendation of the Supreme Court collegium, the Law Ministry has recently transferred chief justices of five high courts besides elevating eight judges as chief justices of various high courts.

Born to Barrister Ranjit Mahanty and advocate Shakuntala Mahanty November 11, 1960 in Cuttack, he completed LLM from the University of Cambridge (England).

## Monsoon withdraws from 11 dists

A low pressure area is likely to form over East Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Andaman sea in the next 48 hours



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** The southwest monsoon has withdrawn from 11 districts of Odisha, said the regional Meteorological Centre here Tuesday.

The withdrawal line of the southwest monsoon now passes through Lengpui (Mizoram), Kolkata, Baripada, Malkangiri, Hanamkonda (Telangana), Aurangabad and Silvasa. Thus, the monsoon has withdrawn

from Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Nuapada, Boudh, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts, said the weatherman.

The monsoon has also withdrawn from most parts of Angul and Kandhamal districts and some parts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj dis-

tricts, added the MeT department.

The southwest monsoon had arrived in Odisha June 10.

Meanwhile, the cyclonic circulation over north Andaman Sea and its neighbourhood persists and now extends up to 4.5 km above the mean sea level, said the weather department.

Under the influence of this cyclonic circulation, a low pressure area is likely to form over East Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Andaman sea in the next 48 hours.

The system is likely to move west northwestward and reach south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts during the subsequent 24 hours, added the weather department.

## DEATH IN OPEN DRAIN

# Plea in NHRC seeks ₹45L aid to Jyoti's kin

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** A Puri-based rights activist has lodged a petition in the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) urging it to direct the authorities to pay Rs 45 lakh compensation to the family members of Jyoti Prakash Behera, a Class X student of Palamandap area at Baramunda, who died after falling into an open drain in the Capital city September 19, 2021.

Rights activist Arun Kumar Samantray, who filed the petition based on a news report published in *Orissa POST*, has also requested the commission to direct the officials of the Smart City, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Commissioner, Principal Secretary to the state Housing Urban Development department and Police Commissioner to submit action-taken report regarding the unfortunate death of the minor allegedly due to the negligence of BMC.

Rights activist Arun Samantray has requested the NHRC to direct the officials concerned to submit an ATR regarding the unfortunate incident

He demanded stringent action against erring officials responsible for the incident.

Notably, Jyoti left home for tuition telling his parents that he was going to collect Sanskrit notes from the teacher's residence at Saubhagya Nagar Lane-7 around 2pm Sunday afternoon.

On his way to the teacher's house, Jyoti lost his balance over the bicycle and fell into an open drain. His body was found the next day near Panchasakhanagar, around 10 km from the spot where he fell into the drain.

**Utkalika**  
61 Years of Excellence 1959

ଶାରଦୀୟ ଉତ୍ସବ ମହଲୟା, ନବମି ଓ କୁମାର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ

**ଉତ୍କଳିକା**

ତରଫରୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ

**ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତ**

ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ଉପରେ **୧୦% + ୨୦%** ଏବଂ ହସ୍ତଶିଳ୍ପ ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ଉପରେ **୧୦%** ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ରିହାତି ଉପଲବ୍ଧ

**ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସୁଯୋଗ**

ତା: ୨୮.୦୯.୨୦୨୧ ଠାରୁ ତା: ୨୦.୧୦.୨୦୨୧ ରିଶ୍ଟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ

ଆପଣଙ୍କର ପ୍ରିୟ ସାମଗ୍ରୀ ଘରେ ବସି ପାଇବାର ଏକ ମାତ୍ର ମାଧ୍ୟମ

**ଉତ୍କଳିକାର ଷ୍ଟେସାଇଟ୍**

[www.utkalikaodisha.com](http://www.utkalikaodisha.com)

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ରାଜ୍ୟ ସମବାୟ ହସ୍ତଶିଳ୍ପ ନିଗମ ଲିଡି

ଜୟଦେବ ଦାଦିକା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ, ଖଣ୍ଡଗିରି, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର-୭୫୧୦୩୦, ଫୋନ୍: ୦୬୭୪-୨୯୭୫୩୧୦

For online shopping please visit [www.gocoop.com](http://www.gocoop.com) and [www.flipkart.com](http://www.flipkart.com)

Hearty wishes from **Union Bank of India** to all the people of Odisha on the occasion of **Holy Dussehra**

**@ 6.80%\* Rate of Interest**

**0% processing Charge\***

**Union Bank of India always at your service...**

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India**

କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ମହାପ୍ରबंधକ कार्यालय, भुवनेश्वर / FGM OFFICE, BHUBANESWAR

**INTRODUCING**

Invest in LIC's Jeevan Akshay **VII**

Invest in lifelong Happiness

- Plan: Single Premium Immediate Annuity Plan
- Multiple Options: 10 Annuity options to choose from
- Flexible Annuity Payments: Monthly, Quarterly, Half-yearly or Yearly
- Age Eligibility: Min. Age at Entry: 30 years (Completed) Max. Age at Entry: 100 years (Completed) for option F, 85 years (Completed) for all options except option F

Sample Illustration: Age - 50, Annuity payable - Yearly, Mode - Offline

Purchase Price*	25 Lac	50 Lac	1 Crore	5 Crore
Option A	1,70,000	3,40,750	6,82,500	34,12,500
Option F	1,34,250	2,69,250	5,39,500	26,97,500
Option J	1,33,750	2,68,250	5,37,500	26,87,500

\*Not applicable tax as per rates. Figures in Rupees

**LIC'S JEEVAN AKSHAY VII**

A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual Immediate Annuity Plan

UIN-512N337V01 Plan No. 857

Also Available Online

Download LIC Mobile App "MyLIC" Visit: [licindia.in](http://licindia.in) Call Centre Service (022) 6827 6827

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

Beware of spurious phone calls and fictitious/fraudulent offers. (IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint.)

For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

Follow us: LIC India Forever IRDAI Regn No.: 512

**LIC**  
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम  
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA  
Har Pal Apke Saath

# Odisha records 529 new Covid-19 cases

Of the six fresh fatalities, two were reported from Khurda while Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Balasore reported one death each



**Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, registered the highest number of new cases with 274 persons testing positive for the disease**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** In the last 24 hours, Odisha recorded 529 new Covid-19 cases, of which 62 were in the age group of 0 to 18 years, taking tally in the state to 10,32,673, a Health official said Tuesday.

The coastal state's active caseload currently stands at 5,141, he added.

Odisha also reported six new fatalities in the last 24 hours, pushing the Covid fatality in state to 8,261, as per a tweet of the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) de-

partment Tuesday morning.

Out of the 529 new infections, 308 were reported from quarantine centres while 221 persons contracted the virus locally. The state had registered 652 cases Sunday and 448 cases Monday.

Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, registered the highest number of new cases with 274 persons testing positive for the disease. It was followed by Cuttack with 37 new infections.

Other districts that reported fresh Covid-19 cases are

Mayurbhanj (23), Balasore (20), Jajpur (15), Puri (13), Kendrapara and Sambalpur (11 each), Sundargarh (10), Jagatsinghpur (8), Keonjhar and Nayagarh (7 each), Ganjam and Nuapada (6 each), Bhadrak and Gajapati (3 each), Jharsuguda (2), and Balangir, Deogarh, Dhenkanal and Rayagada (one each).

The State Pool reported 63 new cases. These are persons who have come from outside Odisha and have tested positive.

A total of 2,07,65,245 swab samples have been cumulatively tested so far. The number of recoveries in the last 24 hours stood at 469. As many as 10,19,218 people have recovered so far from the highly infectious disease in Odisha. Of the six fresh fatalities, two were reported from Khurda while Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Balasore reported one death each.

Police Monday arrested Babulu by registering a case (90/21) in this regard.

## MAN ARRESTED FOR KILLING RAG PICKER



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** The Government Railway Police has arrested a person for killing his partner over dispute related to the sharing of profit. The accused identified as Babulu Jena, 30, of Balasore has been residing in the city for the last few years.

Sources claimed that the deceased Amiya and Babulu were friends and used to earn their living through rag picking in Railway station area here. However, Amiya and Babulu engaged in heated argument after the deceased allegedly did not give the accused his share of profit few days ago. A livid Babulu who had harbored a grudge against the victim killed him October 2 when he was asleep out the station.

Police Monday arrested Babulu by registering a case (90/21) in this regard.

## IRCTC unveils special tourism package

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** The Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) here Tuesday unveiled a Special Tour Package - 'Pilgrim Special Tourist Train' - for Western India.

As per sources, after successful operation of its first Pilgrim Special Tourist Train towards Varanasi, Gaya and Prayagraj, the second such train will cover Dwaraka, Somnath Temple, Nageswar, Bet Dwaraka (an island at Gulf of Kutch), Ahmedabad and Statue of Unity in November 2021.

The special train will start November 28 from Visakhapatnam and end December 8 - 10 nights and 11 days. This train will have boarding points at Berhampur, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Talcher Road, Angul, Sambalpur and Jharsuguda. Tourist and religious destinations like Statue of Unity, Dwarakadhish Temple, Nageswar Jyotirling, Somnath Jyotirling, Kirti Mandir, Akshardham Temple will be covered under the package.

For single occupancy, the pack-



**The special train under the tourism package will start November 28 from Visakhapatnam and end December 8 - 10 nights and 11 days**

age cost will be Rs 10,400 in standard package (Sleeper Class) and Rs 17,330 in comfort package (AC-3 Tier). The package includes night accommodation (Dormitory for Sleeper Class and 3 Star Hotels for AC 3 Tier), sightseeing, vegetarian meals for breakfast and dinners/lunches, tour escorts and unarmed security arrangements, travel insurance and parking & toll charges among others.

The passengers of this region may avail the above tourist package to visit religious places and tourist destinations from the boarding points from the above stations

from Odisha towards Gujarat with a minimum price, says the release issued by the IRCTC.

Apart from this, IRCTC Regional Office at Bhubaneswar is also offering the most affordable domestic air packages to various parts of India like Kashmir, Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and South India - Rameswaram, Madurai, Kanyakumari and Trivandrum. These packages will be available on group departures and customised on the basis of requirement.

Earlier, The East Coast Railway had made elaborate arrangements to run some additional special trains towards different destinations for the convenience of the passengers to clear extra rush of passengers during the forthcoming festive occasions.

## LOW-KEY DUSSEHRA IN TWIN CITIES



**VARIOUS PUJA COMMITTEES IN THE TWIN CITIES OF BHUBANESWAR AND CUTTACK ORGANISE A MUTED DUSSEHRA FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE PANDALS LACK LAVISH DECORATIONS AND CONGREGATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT**

## Parasar Mohanty first Odia to bag INSA award

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** Bringing glory to the state, Parasar Mohanty, a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, became the first Odia to receive the prestigious Indian National Academy of Sciences Teachers Award (INSA)-2021.

Mohanty is adept at maintaining a proper balance between research and teaching. While a large number of students have earned PhDs and become teaching professionals in major institutions under his supervision, he says that he was particularly inspired by his Guru Professor Swadhin Patnaik.

Notably, INSA is working towards quality assessment of teaching by recognising the quality of teachers in Indian colleges, universities and various educational institutions.

The academy recognises the outstanding work of teachers who have inspired and encouraged their students to pursue careers in science and technology.

## 5 villages seek road, mobile connectivity

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, Oct 12:** People of five villages in Dasmanthpur block in Koraput district have been facing innumerable sufferings owing to lack of road connectivity and telephone network.

Fed up with the apathy of the authorities, they took up the issue with the Koraput district administration Tuesday.

The villagers alleged that the road connectivity from Pajhar to Biriguda is in a bad shape. Consequently, people of the five villages are deprived of emergency services such as healthcare even during disasters.

"The existing road is full of craters. When we go to get rations and kerosene from pachayat offices or retailers, we face difficulties. Ambulance and fire tenders fail to reach our villages due to the bad shape of the road," they said.

The villages which have been deprived of basic facilities are Kusumpur, Panjhar, Tamkiguda, Kanyajhola and Chhendiguda.

They demanded that the road be included in the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana.

Mobile network too is poor in the area, as a result of which they fail to communicate in critical times.

They submitted a memorandum to Collector Abdaal M Akhtar.

## Webinar held on EMF radiation

**Bhubaneswar:** Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Odisha License Service Area (LSA) Tuesday organised a webinar on electro-magnetic field (EMF) radiation with an aim to build a new Atmanirbhar Bharat by ensuring a robust telecom network with state-of-the-art technology and the best service. The session helps in making aware the general public about the need for mobile towers and disproving theories of harmful radiation from mobile towers to address unfounded fears of citizens by presenting credible scientific evidence. T Vara Prasad, DDG (Compliance), Odisha LSA said, "To provide the best quality of telecommunication service to the customers, the expansion of mobile network including tower infrastructure are inevitable. The webinar will clear doubts about EMF radiations and their effect on health."

## 85th birth anniv: NFAI pays homage to Khoka Bhai

**EMINENT PERSONALITIES, INCLUDING CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE REVERED ARTISTE, ALSO KNOWN AS KHOKA BHAJ BY HIS ADMIRERS**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** Marking the 85th birth anniversary of legendary Odia composer and singer

Akshaya Mohanty, the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), the media unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Tuesday paid tribute to the late composer-singer by sharing his songs on its social media accounts.

The NFAI said, "Akshaya Mohanty is a prominent name in Odia music and cinema, with soulful film music, bhajans, folk songs and ballads, his contribution is immense." Eminent personalities, including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, paid tribute to the revered artiste, also known as Khoka Bhai by his admirers.

Chief Minister tweeted, "My tribute to Akshaya Mohanty, the legendary figure of the Odia music world. His contribution to the composition of Odia hymns and modern music is incomparable. The imprint he left on the world of



**My tribute to Akshaya Mohanty, the legendary figure of the Odia music world. His contribution to the composition of Odia hymns and modern music is incomparable. The imprint he left on the world of music through his unique performance style will always make him memorable.**

**NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER**

music through his unique performance style will always make him memorable."

**Cuttack October 12, 1936.** He had no formal training in music. At the age of 22 in 1956, he joined government services at his home town Cuttack, but quit after seven years in 1963. He became an approved lyricist in the All India Radio, Cuttack in 1956. By 1959 he had become an approved composer in the All India Radio.

Akshaya recorded his first song 'Gadiala Bhai Dharichhi Sura Re' in 50s. His first song as a playback singer was 'Gori Gori Gori' in the 1959 Odia movie 'Maa'. He has sung songs in 129 Odia films and composed music in 75 films.

This apart, Akshaya won numerous awards including Jayadeva Award, the highest State Award in movies, State Award for best playback singer seven times and State Award for best composer twice.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

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

AGRI-PROMOTION



Artistes perform during the launch of a 'Krusha Rath' for promotion of agriculture in Dharakote of Ganjam district, Tuesday

OAS officers protest against Union min's 'offensive' remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Baripada, Oct 12: The Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officers of Mayurbhanj district have launched a black badge protest against Union minister Biswaswar Tudu's alleged rude behaviour and "derogatory remarks" towards state government officials during his recent visit.



OFFICERS OF MAYURBHANJ DISTRICT HAVE LAUNCHED A BLACK BADGE PROTEST AGAINST UNION MINISTER BISWASWAR TUDU'S ALLEGED RUDE BEHAVIOUR AND "DEROGATORY REMARKS" TOWARDS STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Tudu, who is the Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs, rejected the allegation and instead claimed that he was humiliated by a section of officers who allotted him a sub-standard room in the Circuit House in Mayurbhanj district.

scolded the ADM and Collector, Mayurbhanj. His language was so obscene and uncalled for which cannot be written in the proceedings (of a meeting)," the association said in a statement.

coming Union minister, the officials allotted me a sub-standard room in the Circuit House just to humiliate me. Instead, an officer in the state's ST&SC department was given a special suite. This is a clear case of breach of privilege," Tudu, a BJP leader, told PTL.

Hirakud Mahotsav on Mahanadi bank on cards

THE FESTIVAL WILL BE ON THE LINES OF THE KONARK DANCE FESTIVAL AND DHAULI-KALINGA MAHOTSAV WITH AN AIM TO DRAW TOURISTS TO WESTERN ODISHA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Oct 12: In a bid to boost the tourism potential of the western region of Odisha, which is full of natural beauty, the state government has planned a festival on the lines of the Konark Dance Festival and Dhauili-Kalinga Mahotsav at Hirakud Dam Reservoir here in February next year, an official said.



FILE PHOTO

invited to take part in the Hirakud Mahotsav. An official of the tourism department said, apart from the golden triangle, Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark, there is huge potential for tourism in western Odisha also, and the state government is now laying focus on western Odisha to boost tourism.

Leopard kills minor in front of parents

The incident occurred when the family members were returning from Sitala temple at Sihawa in Chhattisgarh after paying obeisance to the deity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Raigarh/Umerkote, Oct 12: In a tragic incident, a six-year-old boy was reportedly killed in a leopard attack near a temple in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, Tuesday.



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

Later, the Forest department personnel and Sihawa police with the help of locals rescued the minor boy in critical condition lying on a rock. He was immediately rushed to Sihawa hospital where a doctor declared him brought dead.

Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE. Includes details of borrowers, liabilities, and property descriptions for various branches in Bhubaneswar.

Man impregnates daughter, detained in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 12: Police detained a man for allegedly raping and impregnating his mentally challenged daughter at MV-13 village in Malkangiri district, Tuesday.

Reports said, the detention followed a complaint lodged by mother and brother of the victim. Police sent the victim for medical examination. The accused had reportedly married off his mentally challenged daughter to a youth. But His

daughter was staying at her parental house. He used to rape her often. The misdeed of the man came to the fore when the victim was found to be six-month pregnant. The victim later revealed what happened to her. An investigation into the matter is on.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110608 EXAMINATION SECTION. ADMISSION NOTICE NO.132/2021. Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) for admission to PG Courses for January 2022 session.

Man is a transitional being. He is not final. The step from man to superman is the next approaching achievement in the earth evolution. It is inevitable because it is at once the intention of the inner spirit and the logic of nature's process.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Bun in Oven

If anyone has any doubt about the RSS being the nerve-centre of BJP governance, be it in the states or at the Centre, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks October 10 on conversion of Hindus should dispel it. Those controversial harangues and different appraisal of India's history are no off the cuff exercise, but a cool, calculated effort to shore up BJP's prospect of retaining power in UP which will go to polls in a few months from now.

Bhagwat chose the organisation's meeting at Haldwani in Uttarakhand apparently to set the electoral agenda of the BJP in the coming UP polls and enthrone RSS cadres to go all-out for a high pitched campaign with strong communal overtones. The Yogi Adityanath government's atrocious track record in the past five years and inept and insensitive handling of the COVID-19 pandemic have put the BJP in the back foot. It is increasingly becoming apparent that the saffron brigade is desperate to once again play the communal card and whip up communal passions to ensure it can retain power in UP.

The tone and tenor of the RSS chief's pontification is that conversions of young Hindu girls and boys are wrong and that there is a need to instil pride in their own religion and traditions. According to his diagnosis, reflecting the RSS' core tenets, conversions are taking place because Hindu girls and boys adopt other religions for 'petty selfish' gain such as marriage. He condemns those who marry Moslems, but doesn't blame them outright as in his opinion more than them it is their parents who are to blame for it. He questioned the ways Hindu parents are bringing up their children. His prescription for setting the 'wrong' right is that 'values' are to be imparted to the children at home. "We need to instil pride in them for ourselves, our religion and respect towards our tradition of worship," he told RSS cadres present at the meet. However, parents might face an uphill task when trying to instil a so-called pride for any religion. Religions are supposed to be a part of life and daily living. Instead of 'pride', there should be love for one's own chosen path to Divinity. In the modern world, getting stuck in religious beliefs and tenets is proving harmful for society. Like social growth cannot alone be measured by the growth of GDP of an economy, similarly, pride for any particular religion has been proven not to be the path for creation of better human beings. If pride alone was the sole reason, then Islamist jihadists, willing to kill and die themselves, could be considered epic examples of pride for their religion. It would, therefore be unjust to condemn Taliban violence and condone Hindu lynching of Moslems. Similarly, it would be improper to condemn Hindu mob violence against Moslems but keep quiet about Islamic terror killings.

When someone of the stature and importance enjoyed by Mohan Bhagwat publicly speaks against inter-religion marriages, his utterances would set afire many a violent mind against couples for whom love has overpowered religion. This situation also raises an important issue of respecting personal choices of individuals in a democratic and free country. It should also be borne in mind that Hindu society itself is highly fragmented. In a state like Odisha, unlike some North Indian states, there is very less likelihood of inter-religion liaisons but much more possibilities arise of inter-caste marriages. When an opinion or thought is extrapolated across this sub-continent, the result could be disastrous. In simpler words, Mohan Bhagwat's intention to bolster BJP's sagging image in UP by drawing from the well of communalism may have negative impact on Hindu society in other parts of the country. This implies, parents of young girls and boys should not be faulted for the choice of a life partner by their children. We in India have to remember that while winning elections could be temporarily extremely important for politicians who themselves are not permanent, every word we utter and every action we take will be casting a shadow on society. If it has a positive impact at one place, it can also have a very negative fallout at another. There is a saying 'If you have never had a bun in the oven, do not give baking advice.'



Brahma Chellaney

**BEYOND COMPROMISING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN A CRUCIAL REGION, A CHINESE TAKEOVER OF TAIWAN WOULD UPEND THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE INDO-PACIFIC**

China's coercive expansionism may be taking its most dangerous turn yet. Recently, record-breaking numbers of Chinese military planes have entered Taiwan's "air defense identification zone," where the island's authorities assert the right to demand that aircraft identify themselves. China's muscle-flexing sends a clear message: it is serious about incorporating the island – and 'reunifying' China – potentially by force.

Though the international community has been reluctant to challenge the Chinese claim that Taiwan has 'always been' part of China, the claim is dubious, at best, and based on revisionist history. For most of its history, Taiwan was inhabited by non-Chinese peoples – Malayo-Polynesian tribes – and had no relationship with China. Geographically, Taiwan is closer to the Philippines than to the Chinese mainland.

It was not until the seventeenth century that significant numbers of Chinese began to migrate to Taiwan, encouraged by the island's Dutch colonial rulers, who needed workers. Over the next 100 years, the ethnic Chinese population grew to outnumber Taiwanese natives, who were increasingly dispossessed, often violently. During this period, Taiwan came under the Qing Dynasty's control. But it was not until 1887 that Taiwan was declared a province of China.

Barely eight years later, China ceded Taiwan to Japan in perpetuity, following its defeat in the Sino-Japanese War. Taiwan remained under Japanese colonial rule until 1945 – Japan officially renounced its sovereignty over it in the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty – and has been self-governing ever since. In other words, for the last 126 years, Taiwan has been outside China's lawful control.

Today, Taiwan has all the attributes of a robust independent state, and most Taiwanese want it to stay that way. But Chinese President Xi Jinping appears eager to annex the island, as Mao Zedong's regime did to Tibet in the early 1950s, in the name of 'reunification.' A Chinese invasion of Taiwan would constitute the biggest threat to world peace in a generation. Beyond compromising freedom of navigation in a crucial region, a Chinese takeover of Taiwan would upend the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, not least by enabling

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

# SAVING TAIWAN



**The US does not seem particularly committed to preventing a Chinese takeover of Taiwan and the subsequent collapse of the half-century-old Asian security order. This is exactly what Xi is counting on. Successive US administrations have let him get away with countless expansionist manoeuvres – from militarising the South China Sea to demolishing Hong Kong's autonomy – as well as cultural genocide in Xinjiang. Why should Taiwan be any different?**

China to break out of the 'first island chain' that runs from the Japanese archipelago, through Taiwan, the Philippines, and on to Borneo, enclosing China's coastal seas. It would also irreparably damage America's reputation as a reliable ally. If the United States cannot (or will not) prevent Taiwan's subjugation, why should anyone else count on US protection?

The risks are particularly acute for Japan, whose southernmost islands are adjacent to Taiwan. As then-Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso observed in July, "Okinawa could be next." Unable to rely on the Americans, Japan would likely remilitarise and even acquire nuclear weapons. Other US allies – such as South Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand – would likely be brought into China's sphere of influence.

Yet the US does not seem particularly committed to preventing a Chinese takeover of Taiwan and the subsequent collapse of the half-century-old Asian security

order. This is exactly what Xi is counting on. Successive US administrations have let him get away with countless expansionist manoeuvres – from militarising the South China Sea to demolishing Hong Kong's autonomy – as well as cultural genocide in Xinjiang. Why should Taiwan be any different?

US President Joe Biden's recent shift to a more conciliatory approach toward China has probably bolstered Xi's confidence further: Xi currently may be focused on China's 17-month-long military confrontation with India in the Himalayas, where Chinese territorial encroachments have triggered a massive buildup of forces along the inhospitable frontier. But, if some resolution can be found that reduces tensions in the Himalayas, it would free up Chinese capabilities to deal with the fallout of any Taiwan-related operation.

At that point, the only thing that would deter China from attempting to recolonise Taiwan

would be the knowledge that it would incur high concrete – not just reputational – costs. Biden must therefore make it crystal clear to Xi that the US would mobilise its own military resources to defend Taiwan.

But will he? The US Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific – a policy document declassified by President Donald Trump's administration before leaving office – recommends that America help Taiwan develop 'asymmetric' capabilities against China. Such a strategy has recently been backed by some former American government and military officials. As retired Admiral James Stavridis puts it, just as a porcupine's quills protect it from larger predators by making it difficult to digest, weapons like anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles would turn any invasion of Taiwan into a bloody, protracted, and costly guerrilla campaign. It is true that bolstering Taiwan's defenses is crucial to avert Chinese amphibious and airborne operations. But even if the US and Taiwanese governments reached an agreement on an asymmetric strategy, it would take several years to build a 'porcupine Taiwan' capable of choking the Chinese dragon. This process would include training a large civilian corps to mount sustained guerrilla attacks on invaders.

Until then, in keeping with the central paradox of deterrence, the only way to discourage aggression by a revisionist power is for the status quo power to threaten to go to war: That is how the US kept West Berlin – which had a political status even more precarious than Taiwan's – free throughout the Cold War.

The worst stance the US could take would be to oppose a Chinese takeover of Taiwan without credibly signaling a genuine willingness to defend the island militarily. Such an approach could encourage Xi, who has grown accustomed to acting with impunity, to order a surprise invasion. With that, the Indo-Pacific order would be overturned, dealing a mortal blow to America's global preeminence.

*The writer, Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin, is the author of several books.*  
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity. The creative mind plays with the objects it loves.

CARL JUNG

We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. But we can understand the Universe. That makes us something very special.

STEPHEN HAWKING

WORDSWORTH

Picadil

A picadil is an applied shape on the edge of clothing, especially a collar. Such shapes were common on medieval and Renaissance clothing. They were made of pieces of cloth that were cut, folded and sewn on, forming shapes such as scallops, tabs, or oak leaves. The spelling of the word was (and still is) rather variable, with forms such as pickadil and piccadill also appearing. Around the beginning of the seventeenth century, the word was applied to the deeply scalloped edges of the wide and elaborate collars, usually with a broad laced or perforated border, that were then in fashion. The claim of the word to our attention and immortal fame is mainly through a tailor named Robert Baker, who had a shop in the Strand in London around the end of the sixteenth century and the beginning of the seventeenth. He generated a large fortune from making and selling picadils, much of which he spent buying up a large tract of what was then open country to the west of London. Around 1612 he built a country house there. This was nicknamed Piccadilly Hall, either from the source of the tailor's wealth, or because it was at the edge of his property, as the picadils were at the edge of items of clothing. The nickname stuck and gave its name to the street in London that leads out of Piccadilly Circus, and by extension to all the other instances of the name in Britain and elsewhere. By the way, picadil is not a relative of peccadillo. The latter came into English from the Spanish peccadillo, a little sin, from Latin peccare, to sin. And circus in British usage is a rounded open space in a town at which several streets converge, a sense that goes back to the classical Latin meaning of a roughly circular arena.

Picayune

Something picayune is of small value, petty or worthless. To judge from a hunt around in newspaper files and such, this word might now seem to be rare, though I am reliably informed that it is by no means defunct. All the recent examples, without exception, refer to one or other of the American journals whose names include it, in particular the New Orleans Times-Picayune. An odd name for a newspaper, you may feel. But when its precursor, the New Orleans Picayune, began life 25 January 1837, the main sense of the word was that of a small coin. It was at first applied in Florida and Louisiana to the Spanish half-real, worth just over six cents; in the early nineteenth century it was transferred to the US five-cent piece. The proprietors of the new newspaper gave it that name because that's what a copy cost. The Beeville Bee-Picayune in Texas took its name from the New Orleans newspaper more than a century ago as a sort of homage. Could this be true also of other journals that include the word in their titles? The town of Picayune, Mississippi, was given its name by Eliza Jane Poitvent Nicholson, the owner and publisher of the New Orleans Daily Picayune, who grew up in nearby Pearlinton. Scholars are less than totally certain about where the word came from, though the immediate origin is the French picailon for an old copper coin of Savoy (in modern French, picailons is a slangy term for money). In turn that derived from Provençal picaioun.

IN JEST THIS

## My dog, thankfully, never travels business class



Melvin Durai

**MY DOG, LULU, WILL NEVER GET TO FLY BUSINESS CLASS. BUT SHE IS QUITE HAPPY DOING HER BUSINESS ON THE GROUND**

Around Christmas last year, my wife and I adopted a dog named Lulu from a pet shelter. She had been found on the street, but her condition indicated that she had a previous owner. She was extremely skittish—any loud sound made her jump—and we also noticed that she was nervous about travelling in our car. She had obviously had a bad experience with cars. Perhaps she had to dodge them while crossing a busy road—or perhaps she had made one too many trips to the vet.

Whatever the reason, her fear of cars has not subsided, even after living with us for almost a year. She's a big dog—a Siberian Husky—and getting her into our car is like getting an elephant into a suitcase. It's such a struggle that we prefer to just leave her at home when we go anywhere.

If Lulu can barely travel in our

car, you can bet that we'd never be able to take her on a plane. As a big dog, she would need to be placed in a crate in the cargo hold. We'd have to give her a tranquiliser of some sort, but the noise of the plane might still send her into a frenzy. I can't imagine putting her through the stress.

Perhaps if we had a lot of money to spare, we could buy her a seat in business class, like the Indian woman who recently took an Air India flight from Mumbai to Chennai. According to news reports, this wealthy lady didn't just buy a seat in business class for her pet Maltese, she booked the entire business class cabin.

The plane was an Airbus A321 with 12 business class seats, each of them costing about Rs 20,000. That means that the woman spent almost Rs 2.5 lakh, just so she and her pooch could enjoy the business class cabin in peace. All I can

say is, "Lucky dog!"

I've never flown business class, but perhaps in my next life, I'll be a dog. Of course, most dogs never get to fly on a plane, not even SpiceJet. But many do enjoy travel in various forms. A few years ago, a video went viral online showing a Delhi man taking his three dogs on his scooter with him. The middle-aged man was riding a silver scooter with one dog on his lap and the other two balanced on the seat behind him. The dogs looked extremely relaxed, enjoying the ride and the breeze. They were like three kids going to the park with their dad, except with no cell-phones in their paws.

"I see this sardar ji very often," one Facebook user commented. "Every morning he drives with his pets from Laxmi Nagar fly-over towards ITO Bridge for last many years."

While these pets go on the flyover,

other pets are flying over. They're reserved from the window of an Air India flight, saying to themselves, "Ha ha. Those poor dogs have to travel by scooter!"

Air India is apparently the only domestic carrier in India that allows pets in the passenger cabin, no more than two pets per passenger. About 2,000 pets flew Air India between June and September last year, according to a news report. I'm not sure if they were offered any refreshments, but if not, it was a missed opportunity for Air India to boost pet revenue.

I'm fairly certain that the woman who reserved the entire business class cabin ensured that her pooch had a good drink on the trip, if not champagne then at least a bowl of well-chilled Fanta.

My dog, Lulu, will never get to fly business class. But she is quite happy doing her business on the ground.

## 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)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Fuel on fire

Sir, Fuel price in the country has been sky high for a while. Almost every Indian household has a vehicle and the rising price of fuel has been a reason for the economic exploitation of every poor and middle-class Indian. The people have never experienced spending such a sizable amount of their income on fuel before. The COVID-19 pandemic has already affected the livelihood of people. If this situation prevails, then it would be even tougher for Indians to bounce back from the situation they faced during the lockdowns. The rising fuel price is also making transportation expensive which results in price hike of other commodities. Taxation management and right policy will help us out of this situation.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Protect rhinos

Sir, Assam's Kaziranga National Park is home to the one-horned rhinoceros. These animals are on the brink of extinction. It is common knowledge that poaching is the biggest threat to any animal, endangered or otherwise. The horns of rhinoceros are thought to be of medicinal use, and the one-horned rhinos are considered exclusive to India. Recently, nearly 2500 horns of rhinos that were stored by the Assam government's treasuries were burnt by the authorities in Kaziranga, and the event was given wide publicity. Rightly so because apparently the government wanted to send a message to the poachers that if it can burn so many rhino horns at one go then it only means the horns have no medicinal or ornamental value whatsoever. These horns were seized from poachers and from deceased rhinos. Countries like China have revoked the ban on the use of 'medicinal parts' of rhinoceros long ago. The problem lies in India's close proximity to China. The whole northeast and northern part of West Bengal are always on high alert because of their international borders. Rhinoceros poaching is quite common in India with a rare tribe of northeast meticulously going about the killing of rhinoceros. Preserving the rhino habitat and taking protective measures conducive for the rhino population to flourish have paid dividends. Translocation of rhinos from Kaziranga has been happening. No need to reiterate on warding off the man-animal conflict. Celebrities have batted for rhino preservation efforts. Rhinoceros, one of the five endangered species of odd-toed ungulates, should be conserved at any cost.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

# Two airstrips in Keonjhar awaiting development

While one airstrip is beside the National Highway -20 at Raisuan under Sadar block, another is located at Tanto under Joda block along the National Highway-720

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 12: Residents of mineral-rich Keonjhar district are disgruntled as the two age-old airstrips here have been lying in a neglected condition without any development or expansion. At a time when several airstrips in the state are being developed under the Udan scheme of the Central government, no effort has been made to revive these old airstrips, locals alleged.

According to reports, while one airstrip is next to the National Highway-20 at Raisuan under Sadar block limits from the bygone royal era in this district, another is located at Tanto under Joda block along the National Highway No-720. The mines of Keonjhar have given the state a special identity. The district has been on the radar of various mining corporations, both domestic and international, due to its rich reserves of high quality iron ore and other valuable minerals. Every now and then, representatives and officials of numerous companies fly to this district in helicopters and aircraft. Thus, the need to develop these airstrips is of an essential nature. It will open up ways for further development of transport and communication in this area and people from all walks of life will be benefitted, the locals argued. Often road transport



becomes risky and time-consuming as hundreds of trucks carrying iron ore ply on these roads. These airstrips, if revived, could be a boon to the people in cases of emergency, they added. Sources said that these airstrips have been lying obsolete for almost 50 years, while the demand for minerals has been on the rise worldwide. Although expansion of these airstrips is much more necessary and reasonable, development took place only at the Jharsuguda airport which has been made fully operational. The step-motherly attitude towards this district has left the locals upset.

The airstrip at Raisuan is constructed on 38 acres and is under the Civil Aviation Ministry. The runway here is almost 920 metres long and 30 metres wide and in a good condition. High-level officials of many mining companies and top-notch government officials, ministers and VIPs frequently land on this runway. This run-

way is managed by the Works department. The charge of repair and management of the second airstrip at Tanto has been given to a private mining company. The length of this airstrip is 1,112 metres, while it is 80-metre wide. The runway here is 1,063-metre long.

The capital Bhubaneswar is almost 300 km from Keonjhar district headquarters. That is why these airstrips could be very useful for transporting passengers, especially patients. If these were developed, the government also can earn additional revenue, Patana MLA Jagannath Nayak said.

There are more than 100 mines in this district producing iron ore, manganese, chromite, pyrophyllite etc. Also the presence of valuable minerals like gold, platinum and bauxite has been detected here. As a result, the district is attracting the world's attention. If developed, these airstrips have the potential to be the state's most important airport, said renowned industrialist of Keonjhar, Debabrata Behera.

Deputy Collector of Keonjhar Santosh Nayak said that the residents of the district would benefit a lot if these airstrips were revived. He assured that the administration will make its utmost effort if any such proposal is received.

# FIRE BREAKS OUT IN TARA TARINI TEMPLE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purusotampur, Oct 12: A major fire broke out at the Tara Tarini shrine here in Ganjam district Tuesday afternoon when a large number of devotees had gathered inside the temple premises on the occasion of Maha Saptami. However, no casualties were reported during the mishap, sources said.

Sources said that the fire broke out in a room called 'Dipagraha' (a place for lighting earthen lamps) where the devotees observing penance for the Shola puja and Navaratri festivals had lighted lamps. No major loss of property was reported, except for the doors and windows that caught fire and were destroyed.

On being informed, fire personnel from Purusotampur led by fire officer Uma Charan Bhattamishra reached the spot and doused the fire before it could spread further. According to the devotees, the fire could be



a bad omen and may have occurred owing to some mistakes during the rituals in the temple. Purusotampur tehsildar Nitish Kumar Tripathy visited the spot and took stock of the situation.

# Chiliguda Chhatar Yatra held amid Covid curbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koksara, Oct 12: Chhatar Yatra for Maa Sarbamangala was organised Tuesday at Chiliguda under Koksara block in Kalahandi district amid Covid restrictions. Though the celebration was solemnised as per tradition, the turnout of devotees was low, a report said.

Considering the Covid situation, devotees were not allowed during the celebration. Maa Sarbamangala is the presiding deity of Koksara.

As per tradition, the idol of the presiding deity is taken to the village headman Binod Bihari Singh at dead of night before the Chhatar Yatra. On the following day, the deity is taken in a procession accompanied by beating of drums and Banabadi folk dance from the village headman's house to the temple. Thousands of devotees stand alongside the path to have a glimpse of the deity. Devotees offer puja and materials for fulfillment of their wishes.

# On run for 11 yrs, murder accused nabbed in Bengal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 12: A 33-year-old man, who was accused of killing a person in Kendrapara and on the run for almost 11 years, was arrested from West Bengal, police said Tuesday. The man had worked as a mason and allegedly stabbed to death a work supervisor of a construction site in Kendrapara town in April 2010.

Acting on a tip-off, a special team of the Odisha Police had Monday apprehended him from West Bengal's Murshidabad where he was earning his livelihood as a construction worker. He was brought to the state and produced before a local court which remanded him to 14-day judicial custody.

# VAMSADHARA BRIDGE IN BAD SHAPE Locals demand better connectivity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gunupur, Oct 12: The bridge across Vamsadhara river at Gunupur in Rayagada district is in bad shape and its condition is worsening by the day. This bridge is a lifeline for thousands of people commuting every day to the district headquarters and some areas in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

According to reports, former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik had inaugurated the bridge May 17, 1994. Twenty-seven years have passed since then. Locals have demanded a second bridge across Vamsadhara to facilitate communication. They alleged, "Hundreds of vehicles ply on the bridge every day. It is in precarious condition as the Works

department has failed to undertake its repair and maintenance work."

Instead of undertaking repairs, the Works department only carries out colouring of bridge's guard walls and repairs blacktopping every year. There are big craters on the bridge, while iron rods are protruding out, posing life threat to commuters. Whenever heavy vehicles pass on the bridge, it vibrates vigorously, triggering apprehension regarding a possible disaster, they added.

In 2007, Gumuda bridge was washed away by floodwater. For 12 years, people of Rayagada and Ganjam could not commute on that route and instead they took a detour of 30 km, locals pointed out.



Before there is a disaster, the Works department should do something to ward off communication glitches on the Vamsadhara bridge, as was seen in case of the Gumuda bridge, they said.

Moreover, with each passing day, the bridge has to bear increasing load of heavy vehicles. They observed that the government should consider build-

ing another bridge on the river. The second bridge will ease the load of the existing bridge and help in avoiding a disaster.

Raghunath Gamang, Gunupur MLA, said that he would take up the issue of the second bridge across Vamsadhara with the government. Akshay Das, a social activist of Gunupur, said that the bridge was weak. "Earlier, fewer vehicles were plying on the bridge. However, their number has gone up manifold these days," he added. Bijay Mishra, the junior engineer of Works department (Gunupur), said that it is an old bridge and it has been proposed that the state government start construction of a second bridge.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/21-22/E-Tender/63, Dt.11.10.2021. Tender Notice No. e-Tender-East-KUR-171-2021, Dt.07.10.2021. DESCRIPTION: NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS.5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION JENAPUR (EX) TO CUTTACK (EX), KAPILAS ROAD TO GURUDUJHATIA (EX) AND NERGUINDI - SALAGAON UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ CUTTACK FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2022. Approximate Cost of the work (₹) : ₹ 62.01 Lakhs. Completion Period of the work: 07 (Seven) Months. Date and time of closing of tender : At 1500 hrs on 29.10.2021. No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. NOTE: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. Complete information including e-tender documents is available in website http://www.irggs.gov.in. Divisional Railway Manager(Engg.) PR-470/M/21/22 Khurda Road

## Requirement for CIVIL Contractor: (WTP, ESR & other civil structure)

Zuberi engineering construction Pvt Ltd, is having requirement of experienced CIVIL contractor for construction of WTP (water treatment plant), ESR/OHT, UGR in SONEPUR, RAYAGADA, KEONJHAR & BARIPADA District. Interested contractor may contact us at

Mobile No: 8502033131, 9680333344 Email: iqbal@zuberiengg.com, faisal.zuberi@zuberiengg.com, zuberi@zuberiengg.com

ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଠିକାଦାର ଆବେଦନକ: (ଡବ୍ଲ୍ୟୁଟିସି, କଏସ୍ଆର୍ ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସଂରଚନା)

ଜୁବେରି ଇଞ୍ଜିନିୟରିଂ କର୍ପୋରେସନ୍ ପ୍ରାଇଭେଟ୍ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍ କମ୍ପାନୀ WTP, ESR, UGR ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ଯୋଗାଯୁଗ, ରାଜସ୍ୱାଦା, କେନ୍ଦୁଝର ଏବଂ ବାରିପଦା ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ଅବିଭକ୍ତ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଠିକାଦାର ଆବେଦନକ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । କର୍ତ୍ତୃକ ଠିକାଦାର ଆମ ସହିତ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କରିପାରିବେ ।

ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ନଂ: 8502033131, 9680333344 ଇମେଲ୍: iqbal@zuberiengg.com, faisal.zuberi@zuberiengg.com, zuberi@zuberiengg.com

REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE 3rd Floor, Axis Plaza, OT Road, Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001. POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Table with 4 columns: BRANCH/ Name and Address of Borrower / Guarantor, Liabilities due as per Notice (in ₹), Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession, Description of Properties. Includes details for Jajpur Road Branch-2 and Babaji Charan Samal.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE. Includes Indian Bank logo, Zonal Office Sambalpur details, and a table listing 5 auction items with details on branch, description, date, and price.

# 'Polarisation is fuelling disharmony'

AGENCIES

**Srinagar, Oct 12:** With Kashmir still recovering from the shock of last week's minority killings by terrorists, Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) living in the Valley fear that representative organisations blaming the majority community for being a silent spectator and indulging in polarisation on social media could sow the seeds of communal disharmony.

They said there is bonhomie between the two communities and the representatives of Kashmiri Pandit organisations are not aware of the ground realities.

After terrorists of the Resistance Front gunned down Makhan Lal Bindroo, a Kashmiri Pandit who owned a popular chemist chain, school principal Supinder Kaur and schoolteacher Deepak Chand last week, social media was flooded with posts by several Kashmiri Pandit organisations accusing the majority community of not doing anything to protect the minorities.

"It is not just now, they have been indulging in polarisation for the last 32 years. They use us for their vested interests and use the flag of nationalism before the masses for their petty gains and not for the community," says Tiku, who stayed back in Kashmir even as a large number of members of his community chose to leave after militancy peaked in the 1990s.



He warned that "bedroom jihadis" on both sides are pushing Jammu and Kashmir towards communal tension. "Any tech-savvy person, from either the Muslim community or the pandit community, sitting in his bedroom has the potential to trigger communal tension in the union territory," he said.

Tiku said that there are 3,545 Kashmiri Pandits and around 4,000 families of government employees who have been staying in the Valley and have faced every turmoil together with their Muslim neighbours. "The government is on the job, the civil society is on the job, we are on the job and I have appealed to the majority community to use their mosques to assuage the fears of minorities so that no one moves out of the Valley," he said.

with them nor spoken in one voice. "One's misfortune becomes their political fortune and they are seen on the roads protesting. That is what they have been doing for the last 30 years. I believe that thousands of Muslims have cried on the killing of Bindroo saheb, who was a forgotten entity for Kashmiri Pandits," says a Kashmiri Pandit who runs a business on the outskirts of the city.

President of Vessu employee's association Sunny Raina, who provided a job under the Prime Minister's employment package in 2010, feels that polarisation makes their life more difficult. "This has been happening with us all the time. Those sitting in Delhi or Mumbai and those who sit in studios of news channels, who will never come to Kashmir, when these people talk about the ground reality, it has an effect on us. "No one asks us and these people pontificating on news channels are unaware about the ground realities. This way our relations (with majority community) will turn bad again," said Raina.

Leaders of mainstream political parties like the National Conference concurred, saying that "conflict merchants on prime-time" news have always put the lives of minorities at risk. "No doubt it is a difficult time for the minority community but it is equally challenging for the majority community in Kashmir."

Like Tiku, there are around 10,000 other Kashmiri Pandits who chose to stay back in the Valley during the 1990 exodus. Many of these families, who chose to remain anonymous, feel that none of the Kashmiri Pandit organisations have ever held any discussions

# 'No need for more troops at LoC'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Oct 12:** There is no requirement for additional troops or lessening their numbers at the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian Army is vigilant and will not allow any infiltration into the valley, a senior Army officer said here Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here after the send-off ceremony for 300 students from Jammu and Kashmir who will attend various courses in the Mewar University in Rajasthan under Operation Sadbhavana, General officer Commanding (GoC) of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lt Gen. D P Pandey said militants across the border will try to make last-ditch efforts to infiltrate into the Indian side before the onset of winter.

"This is a last-ditch opportunity for our inimical agents across (the LoC) to ensure that they can push terrorists and terrorist groups. We have been getting inputs. There have been two infiltration attempts in Uri and Rampur sectors, which were not only foiled, but they were neutralised and eliminated.

"The inputs will keep on coming and I can assure you that we are absolutely vigilant on the LoC. We will not allow any infiltrators to come through. One or two who will come



"I do not think that there is a requirement to push in more forces or take out any forces (from the LoC). I have got enough forces to ensure it (stop infiltration)," the GoC said

through, will be eliminated with the help of the people of Kashmir inside the Kashmir valley," Lt Gen. Pandey said. He said counter-infiltration mea-

asures are already in place along the LoC and there is no need for additional forces or lessening their numbers for keeping infiltration under check.

"I do not think that there is a requirement to push in more forces or take out any forces (from the LoC). I have got enough forces to ensure it (stop infiltration)," the GoC said. Referring to the recent encounters between security forces and militants, the senior Army officer said the operations going on for the last few days are standard ones based on intelligence and are not connected to the spike in civilian killings by militants of late.

# SDMC bans cross-gender massage at spa centres

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** The South Delhi Municipal Corporation has implemented a new license policy for spa and massage centres under which cross-gender massage will not be allowed in such facilities, the civic body said in a statement on Monday.

According to the statement, the civic agency has framed and implemented general and technical guidelines in connection with issuing licence for spas and massage centres. "In addition to previous ones, new conditions have been added in which cross gender massage will not be allowed in SPA and Massage Centres. Male and female centres will be in different sections and Massage Centres can remain open only between 9 am and 9 pm," the SDMC said in a statement. Last month, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) had also banned cross-gender massage at spas under its jurisdiction. According to SDMC estimates, there are about 300 spas and massage parlours in south Delhi. The municipality further said that police verification of the owner and manager of the establishment will be mandatory before issuing license. "There will be a mandatory provision for production of ID cards of all customers," it said. The policy has been approved by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, the civic

The municipality said that failure to comply with any of the guidelines may entail legal action against the defaulters, including revocation of the license

body said. In addition to this, the SDMC specified that the permission will be granted in areas coming under the category of commercial, local commercial, notified commercial and mixed land use areas. "In residential areas, new SPA and Massage Centres, will not be allowed," the statement said.

The civic body further said that the spa premises should be structurally sound and the structure stability certificate should be signed by a structural engineer.

"Proof of payment of conversion charges, parking charges and registration charges must be submitted. If the applicant is the owner then he/she will have to submit proof of payment of property tax. Medical fitness certificate of masseur has also been made mandatory," the SDMC said.

As far as technical guidelines are concerned, the minimum floor area of premises should be 900 square feet and the minimum height of premises should be 9 feet or 8 feet for air conditioned premises.



Representational image

# PROTEST TURNS UGLY



Police personnel use water cannon on BJP workers to disperse them as they stage a protest against Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

# NO POWER CRISIS IN DELHI

## Centre directs NTPC, DVC to use quota under PPAs

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** Keeping in view the Declared Capacity (DC) offered to the Delhi DISCOMs in last 10 days, Ministry of power has issued instructions on NTPC and DVC to secure power supply to Delhi.

This will ensure that distribution companies of Delhi will get as much as power as requisitioned by them as per their demand.

The central power utilities, NTPC and DVC have been directed to offer the normative declared capacity (DC) to the Delhi DISCOMs as per their allocations made to them under respective PPAs, from their coal based power stations. Both NTPC and DVC have committed to provide as much electricity to Delhi as demanded by DISCOMs of Delhi.

Besides, NTPC will also offer the normative declared capacity (DC) to the Delhi DISCOMs as per their allocations from gas based power plants as per the terms of PPAs.

The gas available from all sources including SPOT, LT-RLNG etc may be included while offering the DC to Delhi DISCOMs, a power ministry statement said.

Under these guidelines, the States have been requested to use the unallocated power for supplying electricity to the consumers of the State; and in case of surplus power, the States are requested to intimate so that this power can be re-allocated to other needy State.

# Muted Durga Puja celebrations in Delhi

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** For the second year running, Durga Puja celebrations in the national capital have turned into a low-key affair amid the threat of a possible third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bhaves Chandra Saha, the manager of Chitraranjan Park Kali Mandir Society that organises one of the prominent pujas in the area, told IANS that only a symbolic puja will be held this year with an idol in a small pandal, without any visitor.

"The second Covid wave snatched away many lives in our society, including some committee members. People are also unwilling to move around this time due to the looming Covid threat," Saha said, added that the puja committee is following all the Covid guidelines and will allow only 50 people inside at a time with proper sanitisation



and mask. "We are going virtual this year and no physical 'pushpanjali' will be allowed. We have made arrangements for offering puja online this year," said Saha. Chitraranjan Park has been a major attraction for decades for the pujas organised there. The manager of

# COVID SHADOW

Accordingly, most of the pujas in Delhi have taken the virtual route this year, even though the Delhi government has allowed Durga Puja celebrations following all the Covid protocols

As managing the crowd visiting the pandals is a concern for the puja committees, they have decided to allow people inside only on invitation'

Chitraranjan Park Bangiya Samaj, Shyamal Mukherjee, told IANS that last year, no pre-puja fairs were organised in the area. This year, symbolic fairs were allowed following all the Covid protocols.

Around 40 to 50 per cent business during the pujas has been affected

here, he said. A handloom exhibition is held every year at the Chitraranjan Park Bangiya Samaj premises where many state government stalls and other private parties showcase their products. This year, six stalls from Bangladesh are showcasing their products.

The Luv Kush Ramleela Committee of Red Fort has managed to present the Ramleela live on many channels this year due to the Covid threat. Arun Kumar, secretary of the Ramleela committee, said, "We have managed to go live on around 15 channels and are encouraging the people to see the Ramleela on TV. We are allowing devotees only on invitation to manage the crowd. When asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's annual visit to the Red Fort on Vijya Dashami, Kumar said, "We have sent an invitation to the PMO and are awaiting its confirmation."

# Kashmiri music: An instrument of integration

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Oct 12:** Music is deep-rooted in the living paradise of Kashmir. It signifies its cultural glories and not just as means of entertainment and leisure, but as a central part of heritage.

Its divine music is like food for the soul - birthed in the congregations of Saints and Sufis that would surpass the physical world into the metaphysical through music.

It is a gift of nature - heard through winds in the trees, countryside calm, willow orchards, and shades of Chinar through seasons. Trees in Kashmir have granted a natural sense of rhythm to artists; it is said with the changing atmosphere and moods of the Valley, the wind carries emotions passing through a variety of trees,

paving way for music that only true artists can hear.

Lately, many music studios are coming up in Kashmir. Once again like the early Bollywood era, artists are choosing Kashmir as their video shooting destination. Perhaps this is the new beginning, the revival of the Kashmiri music and culture that we have been waiting for: AR Music Studios, a Mumbai-based Music Record Label aims to revive the eternal appeal in music by blending traditional melody with modern demands. The founder, known by a popular Kashmiri song 'Harmukh Bartal', Jaan Nissar Lone from north Kashmir's Baramulla has created waves in Bollywood for his forte, Sufi tradition meets modern acoustics. Their Sufi super hit soundtrack 'Allah Teri Kya Shaan Hai' was even cho-



Representational image

sen as the best Sufi song of the year by Mirchi Music Awards! He has established himself as a Bollywood music director, producer, and singer, lately having composed music and sung for the hit OTT series 'The Family Man' Season-1. Jaan Nissar has also taken a

hands-on initiative, a live project like Coke Studio, the first of its kind in Kashmir where Kashmiri singers will sing in Kashmiri with guests artists from South Asian countries to create fusions with languages like Pashto, Persian, etc. Such upcoming studios are in-

# SOUL HEALER

Kashmiri music is gaining popularity in the mainstream as artists across India are taking interest in Kashmiri folk music and language

The Valley has a history of traditional musical instruments like Tumbaknar, Sarang, Rabab, Noet, Nai, Santoor, Sitar, Saz-e-Kashmir, etc

They were given a center stage in Hindi movies like 'Fitoor', 'Haider', and 'Raazi'

spiring the new generation to choose music as their profession. Many Kashmiri music composers are collaborating with non-Kashmiri singers across India, and

are earning international acclamation. A few of these songs are 'Peer Myanio', 'Khodaya', 'Jugni-Az Rouz Saane', 'Rouvmut Dildar', 'Katyu Chukh Nundbaane', 'Salaam e Wazwane', 'Maenzi Raath', all sung by outsiders, who barely understand the language but are quite keen learners!

Kashmiri being a Dardic language hardly resembles any other Indian language in terms of accent, intonation, vocabulary, etc., but young artists are not shying away from this language barrier.

Rani Hazarika, from the renowned Hazarika Dynasty of singers from Assam, has sung Kashmiri songs: 'Salaam e Wazwane' (a tribute to Wazwan, the Kashmiri cuisine), 'Maenzi Raath', and 'Katyu Chukh Nundbaane', among others.

# 'Tourist village' project in Udhampur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Oct 12:** The Jammu and Kashmir government Monday launched its first "tourist village" project in the mountainous belt of Panchari in Udhampur district for development of tourism.

Divisional Commissioner of Jammu Raghav Langer launched the tourist village at Panchari under the tourism development programme launched by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Langer said 75 villages in the union territory will be developed as model tourist villages.

During their visits to these villages, tourists will be able to learn about the Dogra culture and enjoy its simple living styles and cuisines.

Panchari block will become one of the best tourist destinations of the UT in the near future, he said, and asked the deputy commissioner to personally monitor the development work in the area to ensure better road connectivity, water, power provisions etc.



# national

of the day quote

People never made me feel that I am not the chief minister. I still feel that I am chief minister as I have been roaming in the state over the last two years. The love and affection of people has not receded

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | BJP LEADER

India aims to reach the kind of economic growth that the advanced economies have reached in the past through their heavy industrialisation patterns but India may not necessarily follow that path of development as we are aware of the environmental cost

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

The central government continues with its relentless looting of India's national assets. The iconic national flag carrier, Air India, has been sold to the Tatas. This sale is tantamount to giving a free gift to the Tatas by the Modi government. This is daylight highway robbery of national assets. The Tatas will inherit ₹15,300 crore of debt, which will surely be restructured, paying the central government a mere ₹2,700 crore for the national carrier, with all its core assets

SITARAM YECHURY | CPI(M) GENERAL SECRETARY

## SHORT TAKES

### 3 HCs get 17 judges

**New Delhi:** In a record of sorts, 17 new judges were Tuesday appointed to three high courts. This is the third set of appointments after the Supreme Court collegium recommended various names last month to the government. Those appointed as judges to the Allahabad, Madras and Gauhati high courts include 15 advocates and two judicial officers. While eight judges were appointed to the Allahabad High Court, five were appointed to the Gauhati High Court. Four judges were appointed to the Madras High Court. Separately, three additional judges of the Gauhati High Court were elevated as permanent judges.

### Sentencing deferred

**Chandigarh:** A special CBI court in Panchkula Tuesday deferred till October 18 the pronouncement of quantum of punishment to Dera Sacha Sauda head Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh and four others in a murder case. Friday, the special court had convicted them in the murder case of a dera manager, Ranjit Singh. The other convicted for the crime are Krishan Lal, Jasbir Singh, Avtar Singh and Sabdil. Arguments on the quantum of sentence were completed by the CBI and a defence counsel concluded arguments. The counsel for some convicts sought time, saying they want to go through the things put up by the prosecution side.

### Malabar drill begins

**New Delhi:** The second phase of the high-voltage Malabar exercise featuring the navies of all four Quad countries -- India, the US, Australia and Japan -- began in the Bay of Bengal Tuesday. The US has deployed its nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier Carl Vinson for the four-day mega wargame. The first phase of the exercise took place off the coast of Guam in the Western Pacific from August 26-29.

### One arrested

**Lakhimpur Kheri (UP):** Police here Tuesday arrested one more person in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and produced him in a court, which sent him to 14-day judicial custody. Senior prosecution officer SP Yadav said they have sought 14-day police custody of Shekhar Bharti and the hearing in this regard will take place Wednesday.



The BJP has crushed farmers and if they come back to power, they are all set to crush the Constitution. Therefore, the Samajwadi Vijay Rath will go to people and throw the BJP out of power

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

## SC RAPS LAWYERS

It is "unprofessional" and "unbecoming" for a lawyer to refuse to attend the court due to a strike or boycott by the Bar Associations as they cannot disrupt court proceedings and put the interest of their clients in jeopardy, the Supreme Court has said



# 5 terrorists killed; two cases solved

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Oct 12:** Five terrorists, including the one involved in the recent killing of a non-local street hawkler here, were gunned down in two separate encounters with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district, police said Tuesday.

A police spokesperson said two of the four recent cases of target killings in Srinagar and Bandipora have been solved with the elimination of the terrorists involved in these incidents. "In the last 24 hours, based on specific inputs about the presence of ter-



Security personnel during an encounter with terrorists at Thanamandi in Rajouri, Tuesday

## Pak ultra sent to 14-day police custody

**NEW DELHI:** The suspected Pakistani terrorist who was arrested by the special cell of Delhi Police in the national capital was sent to 14-day police custody Tuesday. The suspected terrorist was arrested from the Laxmi Nagar area of the city at around 9 p.m. Monday, an official said. Delhi Police in the court demanded custody of the accused so that they can unearth the whole conspiracy of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to carry out terror strikes in the national capital during this festive season.

rorists in the twin villages of Shopian -- Tulran and Feeripora -- two anti-terrorist operations were carried out, resulting in the elimination of five ultras. The slain terrorists include Mukhtar Shah, who was involved in the targeted killing of a non-local vendor at the Lal Bazar area of Srinagar," he said.

According to the spokesperson, acting on specific inputs, the security forces launched cordon-and-search operations in the two villages in south Kashmir.

At Tulran, the terrorists were

given repeated opportunities to surrender. However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated, leading to an encounter, the spokesperson said.

"Due to darkness, the operation was suspended, but the cordon was kept intact. In the wee hours, repeated announcements were again made asking the terrorists to surrender, but they again fired on the joint search party and it was retaliated," he said.

In the ensuing encounter, three terrorists were killed and their

bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter, the official added. He identified the slain terrorists as Danish Hussain Dar, a resident of Ray Kapren in Shopian, Yawar Hussain Naikoo, a resident of Pahlipora, and Mukhtar Ahmed Shah, a resident of the Sindbal area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

The official said the three slain militants were affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF) -- a shadow outfit of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). "According to police records, the slain terrorists had links with proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF) and remained part of groups involved in several terror crime cases, including attacks on security establishments and civilian atrocities.

"It is pertinent to mention that Mukhtar Shah was involved in the target killing of a non-local vendor in the Lal Bazar area of Srinagar and had shifted to Shopian after committing the crime," he said.

Virendra Paswan, a "chaat" vendor from Bihar, was shot dead in the Lal Bazar area of Srinagar on October 5, immediately after famous chemist M L Bindroo was killed near his pharmacy.

Terrorists also killed Mohammad Shafi Lone, president of a local taxi stand, in the

## CBI raids residence of ex-advisor to J&K L-G

**SRINAGAR:** A week after his unceremonious exit as the advisor to the Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor, the CBI Tuesday searched the residence of Baseer Ahmed Khan, alongside those of two other serving IAS officers in a case related to arms licenses being issued in the erstwhile state on fake and forged documents. A CBI spokesperson said the agency conducted searches at around 41 locations including in Srinagar, Anantnag, Banihal, Baramulla, Jammu, Doda, Rajouri, Kishtwar (Jammu and Kashmir), Leh, Delhi and Bhand (Madhya Pradesh). The searches included the officials and residential premises of around 14 serving and retired officials from the IAS and Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS), who were posted as district magistrates.

Naidkhai area of Bandipora district on the same day.

Meanwhile, the police spokesperson said the search operation at Feeripora also remained suspended throughout the night and was resumed in the wee hours of Tuesday. Contact was established with the terrorists and they were given ample opportunities to surrender, he added.

# 'Selective approach harmful for democracy'

Modi said that his government has always thought of the last person in the queue and strived hard to ensure that no one, not even those who are unaware of their basic human rights are left out



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** Without referring to any incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned that a selective view of human rights violation through a political lens is dangerous for democracy and will affect the country as a few have modified the definition of human rights as per their own convenience.

Prime Minister Modi was addressing the 28th National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) foundation day programme Tuesday through video conferencing. He said India always upheld human rights, saying his government has provided new rights to Muslim women who were demanding laws against Triple Talaq and freed them from the compulsion of 'Mahram' and as a chaperone, a male family member accompanying them during haj.

Stressing on empowerment of women, he said India is providing paid maternity leave of 26 weeks to career women, aiming to protect the basic rights of newborn children. Highlighting the strict law and order, Modi said his government has

established 650 fast track courts and introduced death penalty for the heinous offence of rape.

The fare gender can get all in one facility for temporary accommodation, counselling and medical help etc. "By amending the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, our government has paved way for safer and legal abortion option," he added.

Modi said that his government has always thought of the last person in the queue and strived hard to ensure that no one, not even those who are unaware of their basic human rights are left out. "This is why we came up with schemes like Jan-Dhan Yojna, Ujjwala Yojna and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. These schemes and campaigns have dignified the lives of those who had never dreamt of getting a gas cylinder at their doorsteps. Similarly, people are no longer forced to defecate in open and under 'Saubhagya' scheme we have ensured that every household gets electricity," the prime minister said.

Modi also emphasised the steps taken by his government for the upliftment of specially-abled, saying, "Nationwide, thousands of institutes, public spaces, including buses and railways, 700 websites and even currencies have been made differently-abled friendly." "For the transgender community, Transgender Persons' Protection of Rights Act has been introduced," he pointed out, adding that all these steps will help eradicate injustice.

## HERE WE GO



Ice skaters make a formation during the reopening of ISKATE ice skating rink at Ambiance Mall in Gurugram, Tuesday

# US, INDIA HOLD TALKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** Chief of US naval operations Admiral Michael Gilday Tuesday held extensive talks with Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh with a focus on boosting overall bilateral maritime security cooperation in the backdrop of growing Chinese muscle-flexing in key waterways including in the Indo-Pacific.

Admiral Gilday is on a five-day visit to India from October 11 to 15. Officials said a range of issues including the regional security scenario, the situation in the Indo-Pacific and ways to further expand bilateral maritime cooperation figured in the talks.

After laying a wreath at the National War Memorial, the top American naval commander said India has a "long and distinguished record" of contributing to global se-



Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh (R) during a meeting with US Navy Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Michael Gilday in New Delhi

curity. "Thank you Admiral Singh and the @indiannav for hosting me during my visit to India. We are committed to operationalizing our #USIndiaDefense partnership, including through enhanced information-sharing, regional security, and exercising at sea together,"

Admiral Gilday is on a five-day visit to India from October 11 to 15

Officials said a range of issues including the regional security scenario, the situation in the Indo-Pacific and ways to further expand bilateral maritime cooperation figured in the talks

Admiral Gilday tweeted.

He is also scheduled to visit Indian Navy's Western Command in Mumbai and Eastern Command at Visakhapatnam where he is scheduled to interact with the respective Commander-in-Chiefs. "Admiral Gilday is also scheduled to embark the US Navy's Carrier Strike Group off the East Coast of India along with an Indian delegation," Indian Navy Spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

## MEGA CELEBRATION

# INDIA EYES 100 CRORE VAX TARGET OCT 14

THE MEGA CELEBRATION WILL INVOLVE FRONTLINE WORKERS, HEALTHCARE STAFF AND COVID WARRIORS, WHO DIED OF THE INFECTION PLAYING A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ACHIEVING THE TARGET OF 100 CRORE DOSES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** India is all set to touch the target of 100 crore vaccine doses October 14 and the government has started preparing for a 'mega event', a top Health Ministry source said.

The source said that the target of 100 crore vaccine doses will be achieved October 14 and the feat will be celebrated as India's triumph over Covid 'evil spirit' much like the 'Vijayadashami' festival, which signifies the victory of good over evil.

"The day will be celebrated as the victory of India over the evil spirit of Covid," the source said. The government is pushing its boundaries to achieve the target of 100

crore doses by that day, he added. The Health Ministry has planned to celebrate this in a grand manner on 'Vijayadashami' to symbolically register the victory over Covid. All the concerned departments have been instructed to be prepared in advance to disseminate the achievement via media to make people aware about it. The mega celebration will involve frontline workers, healthcare staff and Covid warriors, who died of the infection playing a pivotal role in achieving the target of 100 crore doses.

The world's largest vaccination drive against Covid-19 is being conducted in India, "and it will be a special occasion to celebrate when we complete administering 100 crore



doses of vaccines", said the source. "It is most likely that Prime Minister Narendra Modi may address the nation after the country achieves the remarkable feat of 100 crore doses," the source further said, adding that the Prime Minister may also make an announcement for the

Covid warriors, who died while fighting the pandemic and saving lives.

So far, India has administered 1, 03, 75,424 first dose of vaccines and 90, 36,583 second doses of vaccines to the Healthcare workers. The frontline workers have received 1,

83, 59,259 first dose and 1, 53, 98,857 second dose vaccines till Tuesday morning. In the age group of 18-44 years, the first doses have been given to 38, 68, 20,261 people and 10, 40, 73,546 have got both doses.

In the age group 45-59 years, the first doses have been administered to 16, 61, 56,424 and 8, 38, 76,362 have got their second dose as well. For the elderly people over 60 years, 10,48,69,202 vaccines have been administered as the first dose and 6,00,12,131 vaccines as the second dose, as per the data shared by the Health Ministry till Tuesday morning.

Till Tuesday morning, India has administered over 95.89 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine with 68.86

## Priyanka takes part in 'antim ardas' of deceased farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), Oct 12:** Farmers from Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring states Tuesday offered "antim ardas" -- the final prayers in the Sikh tradition for the protesters killed in the recent violence, with their leaders vowing to intensify the agitation against the Centre's new agril laws.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rashtriya Lok Dal leader Jayant Chaudhary were part of the large gathering near Tikonia village, close to the spot where eight people were killed October 3. Four of them were farmers allegedly mowed down by cars carrying BJP workers. Three others were BJP workers allegedly lynched later by angry farmers.

A local journalist was also among the dead. His family too sat on the dais, along with members of the families of the four farmers, displaying their framed photographs. Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait repeated the schedule of protests planned by the farmers' unions over the coming days, as they demand the repeal of the laws and the resignation as well as the arrest of Union Minister of State Ajay Mishra.

The junior home minister's son Ashish Mishra, alleged to be in one of the cars that knocked down the protesters, and three others have been arrested by a Special Investigation team. Two others have approached the court, seeking to surrender. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) said farmers from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and other states attended the "ardas".

Priyanka Gandhi bowed to the Guru Granth Sahib and offered flowers before the stage which had a poster with the pictures of the dead farmers.

## Delhi HC junks plea against Asthana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** The Delhi High Court ruled Tuesday that there was no irregularity, illegality or infirmity in the appointment of Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner and dismissed a PIL challenging his selection.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh said that the procedure adopted for appointment of the 1984-batch IPS officer was being followed for "nearly over a decade" and some "free movement of joints" has to be given to authorities in such matters in view of the unique requirements of the national capital.

"As many as 8 erstwhile Police Commissioners in Delhi, have been appointed by the Central Government since 2006 prior to the appointment of Respondent No.2 (Asthana), following the same procedure as has been followed for appointment of Respondent No.2 herein. There has never been any objection to the said appointments... Either by UPSC or any other party," the court stated in its 77-page judgement.

# international



**The Biden administration is now bullying many private entities into imposing Covid-19 vaccine mandates, causing workforce disruptions that threaten Texas' continued recovery from the Covid-19 disaster**  
GREG ABBOTT | TEXAS GOVERNOR

## LET'S VISIT THAILAND

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has announced a plan to allow fully-vaccinated visitors from "low risk" countries and regions to visit the Southeast Asian nation without having to quarantine from next month



## of the day quote

The US withdrawal from the agreement during the Trump era, and it was surprising that the world did not react well to the US move

MOHAMMAD BAQER QALIBAF | SPEAKER OF IRAN'S PARLIAMENT

The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan has opened a new chapter in relations with the international community by sending a message of good ties to the world

AMIR KHAN MUTTAQI | ACTING TALIBAN FM

Iran is convinced that relations between Tehran and Riyadh can be one of the pillars of peace and stability in southwestern Asia

SAEED KHATIBZADEH | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

# Prevent Afghan from becoming source of terror: Modi at G20

PM MODI ALSO CALLED FOR URGENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHAN CITIZENS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday called on the international community to forge a unified response to bring about desired changes to the situation in Afghanistan and said its territory must not become a source of radicalisation and terrorism, regionally or globally.

In a virtual address at the G20 Extraordinary Summit on Afghanistan, Modi also pressed for "urgent and unhindered" humanitarian assistance to Afghan citizens and underlined the need for having an inclusive administration that includes women and minorities, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Modi said that every Indian feels the pain of Afghan people facing hunger and malnutrition and that a "unified international" response based on the UN Security Council Resolution 2593 is necessary to improve the situation in Afghanistan.

"Participated in the G20 Summit on Afghanistan. Stressed on preventing Afghan territory from becoming the source of radicalisation and terrorism. Also called for urgent and unhindered humanitarian assistance to Afghan citizens and an inclusive administration," he tweeted. "A unified interna-



tional response based on UNSC Resolution 2593 is necessary to improve the situation in Afghanistan," he said.

The UNSC resolution, adopted on August 30 under India's presidency of the global body, talked about the need for upholding human rights in Afghanistan, demanded that Afghan territory should not be used for terrorism and that a negotiated political settlement should be found out to the crisis. "The prime minister called on the international community to forge a unified international response without which it would be difficult to bring about the desired change in Afghanistan's situation," the MEA said in a statement.

Prime Minister Modi also pitched for an inclusive administration in Afghanistan which in-

cludes women and minorities in order to preserve the socio-economic gains of the last 20 years and to restrict the spread of radical ideology, it said.

The summit was convened by Italy, the current chair of the G20 that comprises 20 of the world's major economies.

The Prime Minister conveyed support for the important role of the UN in Afghanistan and called for a renewed backing of the G20 for the message contained in the UNSC resolution on Afghanistan.

It said Modi underlined the need to ensure that Afghan territory does not become a "source of radicalisation and terrorism", regionally or globally.

The MEA said Modi highlighted the centuries-old people-to-people ties between India and Afghanistan.

# 32 killed in Nepal road accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Oct 12: A passenger bus enroute to Gangadhi in Nepal's Mugu district skidded off the road and fell 300 metres down into a river, killing at least 32 people and injuring many others, a media report has said.

The bus heading towards Gangadhi from Nepalgunj fell into the Pina Jhyari river in the Chhayanath Rara Municipality, My Republica website reported.

## A Nepal Army chopper was dispatched from Surkhet for carrying out rescue work at the accident site

"The latest death toll from the accident stands at 32," the report said. Many passengers on the bus were returning home from various parts of the country to celebrate the Vijaydashami festival.

The In-Charge of Nepalgunj Airport Security Guard, said 10 persons who received deep injuries on their head were taken to Kohalpur Medical College and five others were sent to a Nursing Home in Nepalgunj for treatment. Mugu is famous for the beautiful Rara lake, which lies 650 km North-West of Kathmandu.

# Kim vows to build 'invincible' military

In recent weeks, North Korea has sent mixed signals toward its rivals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Oct 12: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reviewed a rare exhibition of weapons systems and vowed to build an "invincible" military, as he accused the United States of creating tensions and not taking action to prove it has no hostile intent toward the North, state media reported Tuesday.

In an apparent continued effort to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul, Kim also said his drive to build up his military isn't targeted at South Korea and that there shouldn't be another war pitting Korean people against each other.

Kim gave the speech Monday at the "Defense Development Exhibition Self-Defense 2021," an event meant to mark the previous day's 76th birthday of the ruling Workers' Party. The event featured an array of new weapons, including intercontinental ballistic missiles that North Korea has already test-launched or displayed during a military parade.

"The US has frequently signalled it's not hostile to our state, but there is no action-based evidence to make us believe that they are not hostile," Kim said, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. "The US is continuing to create tensions in the region with



its wrong judgments and actions." Calling the United States a "source" of instability on the Korean Peninsula, Kim said his country's most important objective is possessing an "invincible military capability" that no one can dare challenge.

Kim accused South Korea of hypocrisy because it criticizes North Korea's weapons development as provocations while spending heavily to increase its own military capabilities, including purchasing advanced US Stealth fighters. But he still said his military doesn't target South Korea.

North Korean state media photos showed Kim, clad in a dark suit, walking on a red carpet lined with big missiles mounted on trucks, passing by a multiple rocket launch system and watching jets flying in a formation.

## SHORT TAKES

### US health experts warn of 'twindemic'

Washington: Health experts in the US have warned against what they called a "twindemic" of Covid-19 and flu this coming winter season, according to a news report. Millions of American children get sick with the flu every year and tens of thousands are hospitalised with respiratory syncytial virus or RSV.

### PIO cardiologist killed in plane crash

New York: A small plane owned by a prominent Indian-origin cardiologist has crashed in the US state of California, killing two persons, including the physician, and causing a major fire that engulfed nearby homes and left a swath of destruction, according to media reports. Dr Sugata Das, who worked as an Interventional Cardiologist at Yuma Regional Medical Center (YRMC) in Arizona, owned the twin-engine Cessna C340 aircraft, media reports said.

### Tropical storm batters Philippines

Manila: At least nine people have died and 11 others were reported missing after severe tropical storm Kompasu triggered flash floods and landslides in the Philippines, the government said Tuesday. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said the victims were residents of northern Philippine provinces and Palawan, an island located off Luzon island.

### 'Big mistakes in nCoV handling'

London: The UK government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic combined some "big achievements with some big mistakes", a Parliament panel concluded in a report published on Tuesday. The 'Coronavirus: lessons learned to date' joint inquiry by cross-party MPs from the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee and Science and Technology Committee is highly critical of the government's early response to the pandemic and concludes that thousands of lives were lost due to delays by ministers and their scientific advisers.

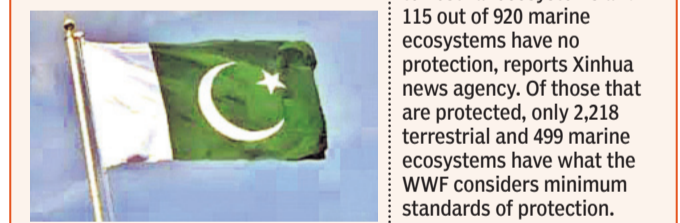
### Quake jolts Greek island

Athens: A strong earthquake jolted the Greek island of Crete Tuesday, two weeks and a day after another tremor killed a man and damaged hundreds of buildings. The earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.3 and occurred at 12:24 pm local time (9:24 am GMT) off the island's eastern coast.

## TIDBITS

### Pakistan lags India in Digital Quality of Life

Islamabad: Pakistan was ranked among the worst countries in Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2021, slipping 14 places since last year and standing at the 97th spot among 110 countries, The Express Tribune reported. The DQL survey was conducted by cyber security company Surfshark which evaluates countries based on a set of five fundamental digital wellbeing pillars — internet affordability, internet quality, electronic infrastructure, electronic security and electronic government. The study shows that Pakistan is lagging behind India and Iran in DQL but performing better than Bangladesh.



### Millions in US still in hunger

Washington: Hunger and food insecurity across the United States have dropped measurably over the past six months, but the need remains far above pre-pandemic levels. And specialists in hunger issues warn that the situation for millions of families remains extremely fragile. A review of bulk distribution numbers from hundreds of food banks across the country revealed a clear downward trend in the amount of food handed out across the country, starting in the spring as the vaccine rollout took hold and closed sectors of the economy began to reopen. "It's come down, but it's still elevated," said Katie Fitzgerald, CEO of Feeding America, a nonprofit organisation that coordinates the efforts of more than 200 food banks across the country and that provided the AP with the national distribution numbers.



### United Nations/New Delhi, Oct 12: In the run up to the Glasgow climate talks (COP26) and the ongoing UN biodiversity summit, a new report on Tuesday blamed China, the world's biggest maker and user of coal, cement and steel, for climate change across the Tibetan Plateau, the world's 'third pole'.

The report, by Tibetan Centre of Human Rights and Democracy, provides evidence that using the Tibetan Plateau to offset China's carbon footprint has not translated into eco-compensation for rural Tibetan landholders for their provisioning of ecosystem services. China distorts the concept of payment for ecosystem services by dislocating Tibetan nomadic communities, and forcibly removing them off their lands, says the report by the NGO committed to advancing human rights and democracy. China's eco-compensation policy raises questions of human rights and sustainable development, and of nature's contribution to humanity, with global impacts and consequences. The Tibetan Plateau is close to two per cent of the planet's land surface, the size of Western Europe, and with as much global importance as other comparable geographies, perhaps more since the elevation of the Plateau has a global impact on jetstream, monsoon dynamics, and the water cycle of the entire northern hemisphere. What China means by eco-compensation is at best vague, mak-

## FREEZING THE MOMENT



A woman poses for a selfie at the waterfront of Victoria Harbour in strong winds while a typhoon approaches Hong Kong

## UK, EU head for new Brexit fight over N Ireland

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Oct 12: It was late last Christmas Eve when the European Union and Britain finally clinched a Brexit trade deal after years of wrangling, threats and missed deadlines to seal their divorce.

There was hope that now-separated Britain and the 27-nation bloc would sail their relationship toward calmer waters. With Christmas closing in again one thing is clear — it wasn't to be. Britain's Brexit minister Tuesday accused the EU of wishing failure on its former member and of badmouthing the UK as a coun-

try that can't be trusted. David Frost said during a speech in Lisbon that the EU "doesn't always look like it wants us to succeed" or "get back to constructive working together." Under the most delicate and contentious part of the Brexit deal, Northern Ireland remains inside the EU's single market for trade in goods, in order to avoid a hard border with EU member Ireland. That means customs and border checks must be conducted on some goods going to Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, despite the fact they are part of the same country. Never short of a belligerent metaphor, 2021 has already brought a "sausage

war," with Britain asking the EU to drop a ban on processed British meat products such as sausages entering Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland's British Unionist community, says the Brexit deal undermines the 1998 Good Friday peace accord — which sought to protect the rights of both Unionist and Irish Nationalist communities — by weakening Northern Ireland's ties with the rest of the UK. The bloc has agreed to look at changes to the Protocol, and is due to present proposals. Before that move, Britain raised the stakes again, with Frost demanding sweeping changes to the way the agreement is governed.

# Climate change in Tibetan Plateau impacts livelihood: Report

TIBETAN NATURE'S CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY IS EXCEPTIONALLY BIG

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

United Nations/New Delhi, Oct 12: In the run up to the Glasgow climate talks (COP26) and the ongoing UN biodiversity summit, a new report on Tuesday blamed China, the world's biggest maker and user of coal, cement and steel, for climate change across the Tibetan Plateau, the world's 'third pole'. The report, by Tibetan Centre of Human Rights and Democracy, provides evidence that using the Tibetan Plateau to offset China's carbon footprint has not translated into eco-compensation for rural Tibetan landholders for their provisioning of ecosystem services. China distorts the concept of payment for ecosystem services by dislocating Tibetan nomadic communities, and forcibly removing them off their lands, says the report by the NGO committed to advancing human rights and democracy. China's eco-compensation policy raises questions of human rights and sustainable development, and of nature's contribution to humanity, with global impacts and consequences. The Tibetan Plateau is close to two per cent of the planet's land surface, the size of Western Europe, and with as much global importance as other comparable geographies, perhaps more since the elevation of the Plateau has a global impact on jetstream, monsoon dynamics, and the water cycle of the entire northern hemisphere. What China means by eco-compensation is at best vague, mak-



ing little mention of local beneficiaries recompensed to stay on their lands and continue with practices conducive to biodiversity protection and delivery of ecosystem services, claims the report.

At worst, and commonly practiced, most transfer payments badged as eco-compensation never reach local communities, or are paid for nomads to relocate away from their lands, for their subsis-

## MATTER OF CONCERN

CLIMATE CHANGE GREATLY IMPACTS LIVELIHOODS, EVEN THOUGH CUSTOMARY MODES OF PRODUCTION GENERATE VERY LITTLE OF THE EMISSIONS THAT CAUSE CLIMATE CHANGE

HOWEVER, CHINA MAKES GREAT USE OF TIBET TO MITIGATE ITS CLIMATE IMPACT BY DECLARING HUGE WATERSHEDS TO BE NATIONAL PARKS, THUS OFFSETTING ONGOING AND STILL RISING EMISSIONS, AND REPAIRING REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE

the UN Convention on Biodiversity that convened online on Monday in Kunming in China should prioritise defining its Target 9 for 2020 through 2030, on the benefits for people through sustainable management.

Indigenous and traditional local communities with long records as sustainable land managers must be the primary beneficiaries, and legally defined recipients of eco-compensation, as CBD Article 8(j) has long insisted, says the report. At the 26th UN climate change conference (COP26) in Glasgow to be held from October 31 to November 12, the world's core concern will be the great gap between China's rhetoric and its actual plans to build many more coal-fired power stations.

## of the day quote

I assure all the stakeholders and even people of the country that whatever coal is needed for power generation, that coal will be provided from the coal ministry

**PRALHAD JOSHI** | UNION COAL MINISTER

Our response to the pandemic needs to ensure equitable access to vaccines and other COVID-19 related health products by ensuring quick resolution of the supply side constraints. One of the ways to demonstrate this is by accepting the TRIPS waiver proposal

**PIYUSH GOYAL** | MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Ethanol can be the tool to empower our rural and backward areas where we can increase employment and bring prosperity into the lives of our farmers

**NITIN GADKARI** | ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### MobiKwik turns unicorn

**New Delhi:** IPO-bound fintech firm MobiKwik has turned unicorn after a recent secondary ESOP sale round led by former Blackstone India head Mathew Cyriac, sources aware of the development said Tuesday. MobiKwik employees exercised their ESOPs (Employee stock ownership) in a recently opened window by selling part of their shares in a secondary sale. "The secondary round was led by ex-Blackstone India Head, Mathew Cyriac, who topped up his holding at almost double of his previous price," the sources said. The transaction size could not be ascertained. MobiKwik did not respond to the email query sent in this regard. "The transaction in the round took place at an enterprise valuation of around USD 1 billion," the sources said. The last valuation shared by MobiKwik was USD 720 million in May 2021, after USD 20 million stake purchase by UAE's sovereign wealth fund Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. The company, under its ESOP 2014 Scheme, has reserved 4.5 million equity shares for creating a pool of ESOPs for the benefit of the eligible employees.

### GSK expands its oral care portfolio

**New Delhi:** GSK Consumer Healthcare has expanded its Sensodyne oral care portfolio in India with the launch of the Sensitivity & Gum toothbrush and toothpaste in the country. Sensodyne also launched a toothbrush simultaneously with the paste. Sensodyne Sensitivity & Gum toothpaste will be available in a pack size of 70 g at ₹185. The toothbrush will be available in singles pack at ₹100 and multipack (Pack of 3) at ₹200.

### Itel most popular brand: CMR report

**Bhubaneswar:** As per the Cyber Media Research (CMR) report, the smartphone brand Itel has emerged as the most popular brand in sub ₹7,000 smartphone category. Itel has made rapid gains in India and leads the competition in this smartphone segment. Itel has the highest NPS (60%) followed by Realme (58%) and Xiaomi (54%). Arijeeet Talapatra, CEO of Transsion India, said, "Itel has been able to build the highest brand consideration in the ₹7,000 segment from our discerning consumer base. Consumers have shown strong affinity towards Itel consistently and this has led to us being most popular brand."



Advanced countries need to deliver on their earlier promises of mobilising USD 100 billion of annual climate financing for developing countries

**GITA GOPINATH** | CHIEF ECONOMIST OF THE IMF

## BMW'S SCOOTER TAGGED AT ₹9.95 LAKH

BMW Motorrad, the two-wheeler arm of luxury German carmaker, said it has launched premium midsize scooter BMW C 400 GT in India priced at ₹9.95 lakh (ex-showroom). The all-new scooter will be available as a completely built-up unit and can be booked at all BMW Motorrad India dealerships from Tuesday onwards, the company said.



# Centre asks utilities to import coal

REUTERS

**Bangalore, Oct 12:** India has asked power producers to import up to 10% of their coal needs amid fuel shortages and has warned states that federal companies will curb their power supplies if they are found selling electricity on power exchanges to cash in on surging prices.

India is the world's second largest coal producer, with the world's fourth largest reserves, but a steep surge in power demand that has outstripped pre-pandemic levels means state-run Coal India's supplies are no longer enough.

Increased economic activity after the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic has driven up demand for coal leading to a supply shortage, forcing north Indian states like Bihar, Rajasthan and Jharkhand to undertake power cuts for up to 14 hours a day.

Tuesday, the power ministry asked utilities, reliant on local coal, to import up to 10% of coal needs to blend with the domestic grade to meet increased power demand, a power ministry note reviewed by Reuters said.



The move could push up already high global coal prices. These power plants usually only import small amounts of coal. Over half of India's 135 coal-fired power plants, which supply around 70% of the country's electricity, have fuel stocks that will last three days or less.

Centre-controlled power producers such as NTPC Ltd and Damodar Valley Corp, sign long-term power purchase agreements with distribution companies for the sale of most of their power output. But 15% of their power is controlled by the Union government, which sells this so-called "unallocated" power to the states.

The ministry said if any state had a surplus of power, it should inform the Union government which would allocate that electricity to states that needed it. Some states, instead of supplying electricity to their consumers, are imposing rolling power cuts and selling power at higher prices to energy exchanges, the ministry said in a statement, without giving details.

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to complain about the rising prices on power exchanges. He said prices had trebled to 15 rupees for a unit of power from mid-September to Oct. 8. Day-ahead power prices at Indian

Exchange, for example, have surged to 20 rupees a unit, its website showed Tuesday.

Reddy asked for an increase in the supply of coal, a copy of his letter, reviewed by Reuters, said.

In a series of tweets on Tuesday, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) announced staggered power cuts across the city, with most of the cuts scheduled for over ninety minutes in the afternoon.

BESCOM managing director Rajendra Cholan said Bangalore, home to the technology operations of hundreds of global companies, including Amazon and Infosys, has sufficient power and a scheduled outage is for laying underground power cables in the parts of the city.

Other southern states, such as Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, have warned that they may have to have power cuts if the shortages continue.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Saturday warned of a power crisis because of the coal shortage that has already brought electricity cuts in some eastern and northern states.

# Bank FD to fetch negative real interest with elevated inflation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** Senior citizens and others depending upon income from bank fixed deposit (FD) schemes will be at the receiving end with the retail inflation exceeding the interest rates.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its latest monetary policy review has projected retail inflation at 5.3 per cent for the current financial year. Last week, the RBI said that the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation is now projected to be at 5.3 per cent for 2021-22 with risks evenly balanced.

At this level, the fixed deposit for one year with the country's largest lender State Bank of India would rather earn negative interest. The real interest rate would be (-)0.3 per cent for the saver. Real rate of interest is card rate minus inflation rate. The retail inflation for August stood at 5.3 per cent. Even for higher tenure 2-3 years, the interest rate earned is 5.10 per cent lower than expected inflation for the current fiscal.

In the private sector, the market leader HDFC Bank offers 4.90



per cent interest rate for 1-2 year fixed deposits while 5.15 per cent for 2-3 years. However, small savings schemes run by the government offers better return compared to fixed deposit rates of banks. For term deposits 1-3 years, the interest rate offered is 5.5 per cent higher than inflation target. There is natural advantage of moving money from bank FD to government saving schemes as rates are slightly higher. Thus, the real rate of interest is in the positive territory.

Experts said that it is a usual phenomenon that real returns are negative in a crisis and post-recovery world, given the way fiscal stimulus to overcome difficulty. India is no exception and in fact, new asset allocation patterns would need to emerge, with more allocation to real assets from financial assets.

# AI sale kicks off major drive, next up LIC listing

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** The sale of national carrier Air India to conglomerate Tatas has opened the way for faster privatisation of state firms and the government is on track to list Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) early next year, a top government official said Tuesday.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, spearheading the drive to sell state enterprises or shut them down, said the government hoped to complete the valuation exercise of LIC by November-December before filing

the draft red herring prospectus for the IPO planned by March.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is trying to reinvigorate the economy after its deepest contraction in decades through market-oriented changes and hoping to lure investment away from China and other countries.

Pandey said the deal with Tatas to sell Air India for \$2.4 billion was complex and long in the making but provided confidence for the divestment of other state assets. A previous attempt in 2017 to sell the carrier that has been losing a billion dollars a year had failed.



"It has now come to fruition, it will give a fillip to privatisation going forward," he said, adding that government managers were building expertise and experience

to handle state sales.

"Selling state assets is not easy," he said. Several previous attempts at privatisation had only made fitful progress, caught up in bureaucratic tangles and resistance from politicians and unions.

But the Modi government had now fully embraced privatisation because it did not have the fiscal space to sink billions of rupees into loss-making state enterprises while trying to meet demands to build infrastructure and step up social welfare funding, he said.

"We feel the private sector has come of age, also the broader phi-

losophy is it is not the business of government to be in business," he said, adding that technology was changing too fast and companies constantly required funds for growth.

The government is expected to sell a 5-10% stake in LIC and raise around 900 billion rupees in what could be India's biggest listing. The company has long been considered a strategic asset, commanding more than 60% of India's life insurance market with 36 trillion rupees of assets under management.

"This is going to be a major piece of reform," Pandey said.

# PFC is now a 'Maharatna'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** The government has accorded the 'Maharatna' status to state-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a move that will pave the way for the company's greater financial and operational efficiency, according to a company statement.

"Government of India accorded the prestigious 'Maharatna' status to state-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), thus giving PFC greater operational and financial autonomy," the company said in the statement. An order to this effect was issued Tuesday by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the Ministry of Finance.

Incorporated in 1986, PFC is the largest infrastructure finance company dedicated to the power sector under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power. The grant of 'Maharatna' status to PFC will impart enhanced powers to PFC's board while taking financial decisions.

# Esplanade One gears up for Puja



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** Esplanade One, Odisha's most preferred shopping destination, is all geared up for this festive season.

With some exclusive deals from over 100 brands, the upcoming weekend will be full of surprises and lots of gratification for all shoppers. The mall is also decked up in the traditional festive décor and ready to host back all the patrons. Even during these festivities, the Esplanade One management is ensuring all the safety

measures are in place to deliver a safe shopping experience.

The shoppers will also take home assured prizes for shopping at the mall during this festive season. For anyone who shops worth ₹10,000 will win assured gift vouchers and the gratification keeps getting bigger with the bill value.

Over the last three years, Esplanade One has redefined the shopping experience in Odisha. With the best of national and international brands, Esplanade One is the place to go to for your festive shopping.

# IIP GROWS 11.9% IN AUG ON LOW-BASE EFFECT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** Industrial production grew 11.9 per cent in August mainly due to a low-base effect and good performance by manufacturing, mining and power sectors that surpassed the pre-COVID level.

The manufacturing sector, which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 9.7 per cent in August, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) Tuesday.

The mining sector output rose 23.6 per cent in August, while power generation increased 16 per cent.

In August 2021, the IIP stood at 131.1 points compared to 117.2 points in the same month last year. The index stood at 126.2 points in August 2019, as per the NSO data.

The data showed that industrial production recovered and surpassed the pre-pandemic level of August 2019.

The IIP had contracted by 7.1 per cent in August 2020. Industrial production plunged 18.7 per cent in March last year following the COVID outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020.

With the resumption of economic activities, factory output



**Data showed industrial production recovered and surpassed the pre-pandemic level of August 2019**

rose 1 per cent in September 2020 and grew 4.5 per cent in October. In November 2020, the factory output fell 1.6 per cent and then entered the positive territory with a 2.2 per cent growth in December 2020.

The IIP had recorded a contraction of 0.6 per cent and 3.2 per cent in January and February this year, respectively. In March, it grew

24.2 per cent.

For April, the NSO held back the release of complete IIP data.

In May 2021, the IIP rose 27.6 per cent, and in June, it grew 13.6 per cent. The factory output grew 11.5 per cent in July this year.

The second wave of the pandemic started in the middle of April this year, and many states imposed restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus infections.

"The growth rates over the corresponding period of the previous year are to be interpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020," the NSO said in a statement.

# India needs 5630GW solar capacity to attain net-zero by 2070

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** India should increase its solar power capacity to 5630 gigawatt in order to become a net-zero emissions nation by 2070, according to a study.

At present, India has 100 GW of installed renewable energy capacity, of which solar comprises 40 GW, the study released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) Tuesday said. The government has set an ambitious target to scale up its total renewable energy capacity to 450 GW by 2030.

"India's total installed solar power capacity would need to increase to 5630 GW if it were to commit to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emission by 2070," the

study titled 'Implications of a Net-zero Target for India's Sectoral Energy Transitions and Climate Policy' said. The country would also need to develop the requisite recycling capacities to handle the solar PV (photovoltaic) waste generated, it said. The study further said that to achieve net-zero target by 2070, usage of coal especially for power generation would need to peak by 2040 and drop by 99 per cent between 2040 and 2060.

Further, the consumption of crude oil across sectors would also need to peak by 2050 and fall substantially by 90 per cent between 2050 and 2070.

Vaibhav Chaturvedi, Fellow, CEEW, said, "As we move towards a net-zero future, energy prices could rise in the short run and



workers that are a part of the fossil-fuel economy could lose jobs. Hence, developed countries should offer generous financial and technological support to the developing ones to help them set ambitious goals regarding emissions reduction

while ensuring a just transition." Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, CEEW, said, developed economies should significantly advance their target of achieving net-zero and not wait till 2050. This will give developing countries room to pursue a just

and sustainable energy transition, the CEO said. To meet the target, India should also co-invest and co-develop new green technologies in partnership with other countries to create new jobs and markets. Green hydrogen is one such technology that could replace coal in the industrial sector, Ghosh said.

According to the CEEW study, in 2070, electric or battery-driven passenger vehicles would comprise 84 per cent of total cars sold in the country.

Around 79 per cent of all trucks would run on battery-electric technology and rest on hydrogen. Households across the country would also have to use electricity as the primary cooking fuel. CEEW is a not-for-profit policy research institution.

# 'Embrace best tech to boost jewellery sector'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 12:** The chairman of TIE India Angels, Mahavir Pratap Sharma encouraged women entrepreneurs to adopt best technologies available around the world to boost the jewellery sector. "China is making numerous jewellery pieces through technology interventions to become hub of the world. Artisans of Odisha are brilliant in their work and they have the potential to replicate the success of China in India. For this, we have to work collectively and need to embrace best technologies available around the world to boost our business. Entrepreneurs have to do more work on marketing and branding. It will make Odisha a hub for jewellery business in India," Sharma said.

Sharma was speaking at an even jointly organised ICC Women Entrepreneurship Committee and MSME Development Institute, Cuttack, on MSE-CDP Scheme and Investor Awareness Programme.

Sukirti Patnaik, convener of IWEC, said, "We intend to start cluster development for jewellery sector. Women entrepreneurs can set up manufacturing units and can take Odisha to greater heights. Registered MSMEs can participate in it. We are now evaluating various possibilities."

PK Gupta, joint director and HoD, MSME-DI, Cuttack, urged the players of jewellery, tourism, saloon and wellness centres to come forward to set up common facility centres for their respective sectors.

"These centres will train the manpower engaged in these sectors thereby reducing the cost for the companies. Main objective of cluster development programme scheme is to fulfill various requirements of entrepreneurs. Government of India is providing funding up to ₹20 crore," Gupta said.

# KKR TEST AWAITS DELHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sharjah, Oct 12:** Eyeing a maiden IPL title, the fancied Delhi Capitals will face another litmus test in the form of a Kolkata Knight Riders unit brimming with optimism when the two sides lock horns in the second qualifier here Wednesday.

Delhi Capitals failed in their first big test when they lost to Chennai Super Kings in the first qualifier and another defeat will mean there will be no more examination for the strong squad, led by India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant.

Two-time winners KKR will no doubt take confidence from their victory against Royal Challengers Bangalore in Monday's eliminator that dashed Virat Kohli's hopes of winning an IPL title with his longstanding franchise.

If the emphasis is on momentum and peaking at the right time then KKR will definitely fancy their chances in their next outing, notwithstanding their opponents' resources and depth in lineup.

DC, who topped the league stage with as many as 10 wins for a total of 20 points, are well aware of the task that awaits them.

Since Australian great Ricky Ponting took over as their coach, Delhi Capitals have grown from strength to strength as they finished second runners up in the 2019 edition before reaching the summit clash last year.

This year their aim is to do one better and win the title. They are one of the most balanced sides in the tournament with a formidable batting line-up and a potent pace attack that is aided by seasoned spinners including Ravichandran Ashwin.

In Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw and Shreyas Iyer, Delhi boast of a solid top order. Pant, along with Shimron Hetmyer, look after the middle order, even as they missed the injured Marcus Stoinis' prowess.

Dhawan (618) was the second highest run-scorer in 2020 and has already raked up 551 this season. His opening partner Shaw is also coming off a good game against CSK. On the bowling front, the South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (2020 purple cap winner) and Anrich Nortje has proved to be a dream pair, having scalped 52 wickets together in 2020.

Then there is speedster Avesh Khan, who has taken 23 wickets so far in this season of the tour-



nament, and he will back himself to add to his tally against KKR.

DC have posted five wins in the UAE leg of the tournament but one of their defeats here has come against KKR, and what better opportunity for them to exact revenge than in the IPL playoffs.

It is easier said than done though, with Eoin Morgan's side enjoying a massive reversal of fortunes in the Gulf after enduring a disastrous first half in India earlier this year.

They just about managed to

sneak into the playoffs at the expense of five-time defending champions Mumbai Indians, thanks to their better net run-rate.

Things changed for the better after the Kolkata-based side landed in the UAE and if their performance against RCB is any indication, KKR is raring to go and will want to do more than just end their campaign in the playoffs.

On a pitch offering turn, KKR's spin duo of Varun Chakravarthy (16 wickets so far) and Sunil Narine, who is on a high after his superb

all-round performance against RCB, will look to test the formidable Delhi batting lineup.

Batting hasn't been KKR's biggest strength this season and DC will look to capitalise on that. Up against a potent bowling attack, the likes of Shubman Gill, Venkatesh Iyer, Rahul Tripathi (team's top-scorer this season with 393 runs so far) and Morgan himself will need to rise to the occasion if KKR is to make the final, where MS Dhoni's three-time winners Chennai Super Kings await.

# Avesh Khan set to join Team India as net bowler

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 12:** Delhi Capitals speedster Avesh Khan has been asked by the BCCI to stay back in the UAE after the IPL to join India's T20 World Cup squad as a net bowler.

The 24-year-old is the second fast bowler, after Kashmiri pace sensation Umrain Malik, who has been asked to join the team and if BCCI sources are to be believed, the lanky fast bowler could well make it to the standby list by the time World Cup starts on Sunday. India will open their campaign October 24 against Pakistan.

"The national selectors have decided to also include Avesh in the mix. As of now, he will be a net bowler but if the team management feels, he can be upgraded," a BCCI source close to the selection committee told this agency Tuesday.



Avesh bowls at an express pace and in this edition of the IPL, he has picked 23 wickets for the Capitals with DC still alive in the competition. He is second in the list of wicket-takers with Harshal Patel leading the pack with 32 scalps.

"Avesh bowls at an average speed of 142 to 145 clicks, earns disconcerting bounce from the flattest of decks and has been on support staff's radar for some time," the source said.

Avesh was in England with the Test squad as a standby but a freak finger fracture during India's match against Combined Counties cut short his tour. Many believe that Avesh had a good chance of playing had he got into the squad and all five Tests were held in England.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya will be staying with the Indian team but is expected to play purely as a batter in the T20 World Cup as his back is still not in a condition to take the stress of fast medium bowling.

It is learnt that KKR's rising opener-cum-seam bowler Venkatesh Iyer will be asked to stay in the bubble as cover.

# Maxwell, Christian face online abuse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sharjah, Oct 12:** Glenn Maxwell, teammate Dan Christian and his pregnant partner Jorgia Dunn were subjected to online abuse after their IPL team Royal Challengers Bangalore's ouster from the ongoing edition of the lucrative league.

A fuming Maxwell slammed the online trolls, calling them "garbage" and "absolutely disgusting", even as Christian requested that his partner be kept out of it.

"Great season by RCB, unfortunately we fell well short of where we thought we should be. Doesn't take away from an amazing season. Some of the garbage that has been flowing on social media is absolutely disgusting," Maxwell wrote in a post on his Twitter handle. "We are human beings who are giving out best each and every day. Try being a decent person maybe instead of spreading abuse," he added.

Maxwell's statement came after perennial underachievers RCB crashed out of the T20 league after losing by four wickets to Kolkata Knight Riders in the eliminator here Monday night.

The star Australian all-rounder thanked the "real fans" for their love and support during RCB's journey this season. "Thank you to the REAL fans that shared love and



appreciation for the players giving their all. Unfortunately, there is some horrible people out there that make social media a horrible place to be. It is unacceptable. Please don't be like them," he added.

Maxwell's Australian teammate Christian too alleged that his pregnant partner Jorgia Dunn was subjected to abuse on social media after he had an

off day at work for RCB. Christian scored only nine runs and went wicket-less with the ball, conceding 29 runs from 1.4 overs at an economy rate of 17.40.

"Check out the comments section of my partner's Instagram post. I didn't have a great game tonight, but that's sport. However please leave her out of it," Christian wrote on Instagram.

## BLUE TIGERS STARE AT WORST SHOW SINCE 2003 AT SAFF CHAMPIONSHIPS

# India face Maldives in must-win tie



Indian players go through their training drill ahead of Maldives match

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Male, Oct 12:** Unbeaten still but hugely disappointing so far, a beleaguered India face hosts Maldives in their last round-robin league match of the SAFF Championships here Wednesday. Knowing well that nothing less than a win will save them from elimination.

A draw or a loss will send India out of reckoning for the final of the regional tournament and that will be the worst result for India in recent memory, which could also raise questions about head coach Igor Stimac's continuation at the

helm of affairs.

The worst performance for seven-time champions India before this edition was the third-place finish in 2003 and the country has either won or finished runners-up in 11 previous editions.

All the four top sides in the five-team tournament remain in contention for the October 16 final. With five points from two draws and one win, India are currently at third place below Maldives (six points from three matches) and Nepal (six points from three matches). Nepal play Bangladesh (fourth place with four points) in

an earlier match Wednesday. Two-time and defending champions Maldives have never been easy opponents for India in the history of this regional tournament though the island country sits 51 ranking points below India in FIFA chart at 158th.

The side led by veteran Ali Ashfaq, one of the best strikers in the region, have regrouped themselves after losing their opening match against Nepal, beating Bangladesh 2-0 and Sri Lanka 1-0.

India felt the absence of experienced Sandesh Jhingan in deep defence as they could not defend a 1-0 lead against 10-man Bangladesh who scored a late equaliser despite numerical inferiority.

In the second match against 205th-ranked Sri Lanka, Indian forwards, including Chhetri, had an off day as they could not create enough chances and also failed to finish whatever few scoring opportunities they had for a 0-0 draw.

Sunil Chhetri came to the rescue of the team once again against Nepal, scoring the decisive goal to equal the legendary Pele in the previous match, but the question is how long the country will keep relying on a 37-year-old warhorse to find the opposition net.

Germany became the first country to qualify for the 2022 World Cup, their former U-21 team coach was crying tears of joy after his first win in charge of Turkey.

Stefan Kuntz was unable to keep his emotions in check after Burak Yilmaz's penalty in the ninth minute of injury time earned Turkey a dramatic 2-1 win in Latvia to keep its qualification hopes alive.

Germany booked their place Monday with an error-strewn 4-0 win in North Macedonia. The goals all came in the second half as the home team tired, and the win went some way to atoning for Germany's surprise 2-1 loss to North Macedonia in Duisburg in March.

That was the only blip in an otherwise perfect qualifying campaign with seven wins from eight games in Europe Group J.

In Rotterdam, Memphis Depay scored twice, had two assists and missed a penalty as the Netherlands overpowered Gibraltar 6-0 to remain on course for qualification, two points ahead of Norway and four points ahead of Turkey in Group G. Croatia and Russia are assured of at least a playoff place after their respective results in Group H.

# Germany qualify for World Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Berlin, Oct 12:** As Germany became the first country to qualify for the 2022 World Cup, their former U-21 team coach was crying tears of joy after his first win in charge of Turkey.

Stefan Kuntz was unable to keep his emotions in check after Burak Yilmaz's penalty in the ninth minute of injury time earned Turkey a dramatic 2-1 win in Latvia to keep its qualification hopes alive.

Germany booked their place Monday with an error-strewn 4-0 win in North Macedonia. The goals all came in the second half as the home team tired, and the win went some way to atoning for Germany's surprise 2-1 loss to North Macedonia in Duisburg in March.

That was the only blip in an otherwise perfect qualifying campaign with seven wins from eight games in Europe Group J.

In Rotterdam, Memphis Depay scored twice, had two assists and missed a penalty as the Netherlands overpowered Gibraltar 6-0 to remain on course for qualification, two points ahead of Norway and four points ahead of Turkey in Group G. Croatia and Russia are assured of at least a playoff place after their respective results in Group H.



Germany scorers Timo Werner (No.9) and Kai Havertz (R) celebrate a goal against North Macedonia, Monday

goal against Gibraltar was his 13th of the year for Oranje, breaking the Dutch record of 12 in a calendar year by Patrick Kluijvert.

The Netherlands moved to two points ahead of Norway, who defeated Montenegro 2-0 without injured star striker Erling Haaland.

**GROUP H**  
Croatia midfielder Luka Modric scored from a free kick to salvage a 2-2 draw with Slovakia, and Russia capitalised with a 2-1 win over old rival Slovenia to move top of the group.

Dropping points means 2018 World Cup runner-up Croatia is likely to need a win over Russia next month to qualify automatically for the World Cup. Slovakia needed a win to keep their qualifying hopes alive and can no longer qualify.

**GROUP J**  
Germany booked their place at next year's tournament in Qatar despite a tough game against the a rival that pushed it hardest in qualifying.

Kai Havertz broke the deadlock in the 50th minute before Chelsea club mate Timo Werner's quickfire double sealed the result. Jamal Musiala got the fourth goal for Hansi Flick's team in the 83rd, set up by fellow substitute Karim Adeyemi.

# Uber Cup: India eyes qualify for quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Aarhus (Denmark), Oct 12:** Indian women team progressed to the quarterfinals of the Uber Cup with a convincing 4-1 victory over Scotland as shuttlers Aditi Bhatt and Tasnim Mir registered confident singles wins, here Tuesday.

India are now sitting second in Group B with two wins from as many matches. The Indian team had beaten Spain 3-2 Sunday when top player Saina Nehwal was forced retire from her match due to a

groin issue. Taking the court first, Malvika Bansod lost to Kirsty Gilmour 13-21, 9-21 before Aditi got the better of Rachel Sugden 21-14, 21-8 to level the scores.

The doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Rutaparna Panda then beat Julie Machperson and Ciara Torrance 21-11, 21-8 to hand India a 2-1 lead. Tasnim sealed the tie in India's favour by defeating Lauren Middleton 21-15, 21-6.

In the reverse doubles, the young Indian pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, daughter of



Tanisha Crasto (L) and Rutaparna Panda acknowledge the support after their match

national coach Pullela Gopichand, fought hard before getting the better of Gilmour and Eleanor O'Donnell 21-8, 19-21, 21-10 in an exciting clash that lasted for 55 minutes.

The Indian team will taken on a strong Thailand Wednesday India have reached the semifinals twice (2014, New Delhi and 2016, Kunshan) in the tournament.

Earlier Monday, the men's team blanked lower-ranked Netherlands 5-0 in their opening Group C tie to make a winning start at the Thomas Cup Final.

# Odisha, MP academies to meet in Sub-Junior Nat'l final

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, Oct 12:** Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High-Performance Centre defeated Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy 5-2 to set up a clash with Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy, who beat SGPC Hockey Academy 3-1, in the final of the 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Men Academy National Championship here Tuesday.

In the first semifinal, Odisha side registered a comfortable 5-2 win against Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy to seal a spot in the

summit clash of the inaugural edition of the tournament.

Ricky Tonjam (14th and 47th minutes) and Aryan Xess (30th & 33rd) starred with two goals each, while Premdayal Giri (52nd) chipped in a goal in Odisha academy. Gursewak Singh (36th) and Lovenoor Singh (58th) were the goalscorers for Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy, Hockey India informed in a press release.

The final will be played Sunday morning with the third/fourth Place match has been scheduled before that.