



THOROUGH PROFESSIONAL

Actor Taapsee Pannu says she saw many videos of sprinters for her role in 'Rashmi Rocket'

LEISURE P2



CURBS EASED

The US will reopen its land borders to non-essential travel next month, ending a 19-month freeze due to the pandemic

INTERNATIONAL P10



KNIGHTS IN IPL FINAL

Rahul Tripathi's crucial six helps KKR enter IPL-2021 final with a three-wicket win over Delhi Capitals

SPORTS P12

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DOUBLE LIFE SENTENCE IN SNAKEBITE CASE

Kollam (Kerala): A Sessions court in Kerala Wednesday awarded double life sentence in the Uthra murder case to a man for killing his wife using a cobra. The court held husband Sooraj S Kumar, a snake-handler guilty of murder, poisoning and destruction of evidence in the case where he used a venomous cobra to bite his wife while she was asleep in May last year. A lawyer informed that the judge considered the age of the convict and decided to hand life sentence instead of death penalty.



TOP JeM COMMANDER KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

Srinagar: Top commander of terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) Sham Sofi was killed Wednesday in an encounter with security forces in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Acting on specific inputs about the presence of terrorists in Tilwani Mohalla locality, security forces had launched a search operation. The encounter started after the terrorists opened fire, an official informed. In the exchange of fire, the JeM militant was killed, the official added. The slain terrorist has been involved in a number of attacks on police and civilians IGP (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar informed.



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DMK seeks Naveen support

Since 3 aspirants died last month, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has demanded the abolition of NEET as it deprives promising students



DMK leader Kanimozhi handing over MK Stalin's letter to Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, Wednesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Amid stiff opposition to NEET in Tamil Nadu, the ruling DMK's deputy leader in Parliament, Kanimozhi met Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here Wednesday. She was here apparently to seek his support to stop the Centre's alleged interference in admissions to medical colleges set up by state governments.

Kanimozhi was in Odisha as part of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's outreach to chief ministers of non-BJP states on the issue. She handed over the letter written by Stalin to Patnaik and explained to him the problems faced

by students from rural areas and poor households in clearing the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to MBBS courses, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. In his letter, the Tamil Nadu CM

drawn the attention of Patnaik to the problems faced by students in clearing NEET (undergraduate) examination and also stressed on the need to make the examinations inclusive, the statement said. Several candidates appearing

for NEET have ended their lives in Tamil Nadu over the years due failure to clear the nationwide entrance examination. It prompted the State Assembly to pass a bill to dispense with NEET.

While a delegation of DMK MPs met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Kanimozhi was sent to meet Patnaik, who had earlier raised the issue with the Centre and stressed the importance of making national examinations inclusive, including those for admission to the IITs and those that are conducted by the UPSC.

There was however, no official word on whether the Patnaik and Kanimozhi discussed politics.

Sources said, Kanimozhi harped on the fact that even though states built the infrastructure for medical colleges and pay salaries to the professors, their own students get deprived from getting admission to the same institutions.

COVID-19 SPIKE WORRIES BABUS

Khurda district with more than 2,300 active cases may again get the 'Red Zone' tag soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: With the spike in daily Covid-19 cases especially in the state capital, Khurda district was once more declared a 'Red Zone' category Wednesday morning. However, the district briefly returned to 'Yellow Zone' category with the recovery of 164 patients in the evening. It is certain to be declared 'Red Zone' when new cases are reported again Thursday morning.

The moment a district has more than 2,500 active cases it is declared as a 'Red Zone'. Khurda district currently has 2,371 active cases (the highest among all districts in Odisha) followed by

Cuttack (515).

As predicted by health experts, Odisha has been seeing a spike in the number of Covid-19 cases with the advent of the festive season. Odisha reported 447 new cases October 1, which increased to 453 October 5 and crossed 600 October 10, according to the state Covid-19 dashboard. The state reported 615 new positive cases Wednesday.

The Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET) Chief Dr CBK Mohanty expressed concern over the rise in Covid-19 positive cases. He stated the cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack are seeing a high number of cases due to the floating population which is visiting the two cities during the festive season. Mohanty asked people to adhere to Covid-appropriate behaviour and take precautions.

DUSSEHRA GREETINGS

To all our readers, advertisers and well-wishers

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices and press of Orissa POST will remain closed October 14 and 15 on account of Dussehra. Hence, there will be no edition of the paper October 15 and 16. However, OP Web edition will be available to readers on both the days.

UGC recognition for MS Law university

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Madhusudan Law (MS Law) University, Cuttack, has been included in the list of varieties established according to section 2 of the UGC Act, 1956 which will allow it to receive financial assistance from the central government, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Wednesday.

"Happy to share that Madhusudan Law University, Cuttack has been included in the list of Universities established as per section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956. The University will soon be able to receive central assistance under the section 12(b) of the UGC Act," Pradhan, who hails from Odisha, tweeted.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides financial assistance to eligible colleges which are included under Section 2(f) and declared fit to receive central assistance (UGC grant) under Section 12(B) of UGC Act, 1956 according to approved pattern of assistance under various schemes.

Two surrender in Manish death case



One of the suspects Mrutyunjaya Mishra

Adding a fresh twist to the case, a new video shows Manish walking alone on the road behind a woman who is a few metres away

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Two friends of deceased Manish Anurag, son of senior scribe Navin Das, surrendered Wednesday before the police in Phulbani. The two have been identified as Dinesh Mohapatra alias Litu and Mrutyunjaya Mishra alias Muna. They

had gone to Hotel South City here with Manish, Saturday night.

Police said that both Dinesh and Mrutyunjaya will be brought to the state capital very soon. "The suspects are being questioned and a police team from Bhubaneswar will also be quizzing them," the SDPO of Phulbani, Mahendra Murmu informed. The Twin City Police Commissionerate had earlier detained five people for questioning.

The police have been able to confirm by examining the CCTV footage that both Dinesh and Mrutyunjaya were in the hotel with Manish. Even though the two have claimed they left before Manish, police are trying to verify the same.

Police sources informed Wednesday that the emergence of a new video has added a fresh twist to the case. The deceased Manish is reportedly seen walking alone on the road in the night. More importantly, a woman is seen a few metres ahead of him. Police are now trying to find the identity of the woman hoping she can provide them with clues to solve the mystery.

The body of Manish was recovered under mysterious circumstances from a pond at Patrapada on the outskirts of this city Sunday afternoon. He had reportedly gone missing from a location under Infocity police limits Saturday.

Gold rescues cash-strapped Indians

Unemployment and cash crunch due to Covid-19 have forced many families to sell off their jewellery ahead of festive season

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 13: In the jewellery bazaar here, Kavita Jogani gingerly places her wedding bangles on the shopkeeper's scales, one of the thousands of Indians parting with their most cherished asset - gold.

It was not an easy decision. However, Jogani is desperate after her garment business took a severe hit in the past year-and-a-half with multiple coronavirus lockdowns. Jogani found it difficult to pay bills and the salaries of her 15 employees, many of who have since left. The headline growth num-

bers suggest Asia's third-largest economy is rebounding from the economic crisis unleashed by Covid-19, but there is no end yet to the financial pain for many Indians.

"I don't have any other option than selling gold," said Jogani as she waited nervously for the shop owner to make her an offer. "I bought these bangles before my wedding 23 years ago," the 45-year-old added.

Business closures and job losses have pushed more than 230 million Indians into poverty in 2020 according to a study by Azim Premji University. Their difficulties have been compounded in recent weeks by soaring prices for electricity, fuel and other items.

Desperate for cash, many families and small businesses have been putting up gold jewellery - their last resort - as collateral to secure short-term



loans to tide them over.

Banks disbursed 'loans against gold jewellery' worth ₹4.71 trillion in the first eight months of 2021. It is a whopping 74 per cent jump year-on-year, RBI data showed. And many of these loans have gone sour with borrowers unable to keep up with repayments, leaving lenders to auction off the gold.

Indians bought 315.9 tonne of gold-use jewellery in 2020,

almost as much as the Americas, Europe and the Middle East combined, according to the World Gold Council. Only China bought more. Indian households are estimated to be sitting on 24,000 tonne - worth \$1.5 trillion - in coins, bars and jewellery.

Kumar Jain, 63, whose family has run a shop here at the historic Zaveri Bazaar for 106 years, said he has never seen so many people coming to sell gold. "It wasn't like this before the pandemic," he informed.

Jain added that predominantly women - have sold a vast array of personal jewellery in recent months including gold bangles, rings, necklaces and earrings. "The worst part is when they sell their mangalsutra," he said. "It makes me cry when they take it off their neck," he added.

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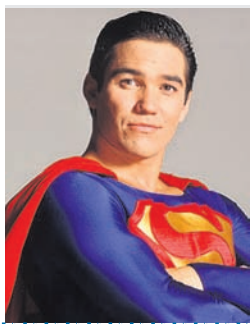


KYLIE DROPS NEW SINGLE A SECOND TO MIDNIGHT

Pop star Kylie Minogue has dropped her new single titled *A Second to Midnight*, co-written and recorded with band *Years & Years*. "Thank you *Years & Years* for joining me on this song!," said Minogue.

DEAN CAIN UNIMPRESSED WITH BISEXUAL SUPERMAN

Actor Dean Cain, who played Superman in *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* from 1993 to 1997, is unimpressed by the news that the superhero Clark Kent's son Jon Kent will be bisexual, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ganesh sees a wonderful time ahead for you. Today, you will meet many people who will prove reliable and trustworthy in the future. You aim to think and work perfectly. For that, says Ganesh, you will have to remain your practical and head-on-shoulders self.

TAURUS
Today, you will strike a great balance between your professional and personal life, predicts Ganesh. You will save your money from being swindled by others. You may be lagging in the race to catch up with your goals, but will not be disappointed by what you achieve.

GEMINI
Today, you will have a tendency to remain possessive about your personal belongings, says Ganesh. You are likely to join personality development courses to achieve your ultimate goals. An unpleasant occurrence is likely to throw you off guard.

CANCER
You may have a way with words, but women somehow always have their way with you. Your problem is that while you may use your words to pull some strings, the master puppeteer, in most cases, will be a woman. So, to keep yourself happy, you may have to make the concerned woman happy.

LEO
You may not have a halo around your head, but that most certainly does not deter you from playing the spiritual card today, says Ganesh. On this auspicious day, it is through religious scriptures that you satiate your desire to attain the intangible.

VIRGO
Don't dilly-dally when it comes to matters of health, says Ganesh. You look lean and mean to take on those old wounds today. But peace and prosperity are the flavours of the day. Ganesh advises you to invest time in fun and entertainment today - just to get those batteries charged.

LIBRA
A wistful day lies ahead of you, says Ganesh. This day, just like 'on the summer day that we flew kites', may be the standard when it comes to wanting to have a better future. Ganesh expects a sea of change in your outlook, thanks to your sweetheart's noble gesture today.

SCORPIO
Dear friends and soul mates will bring you much relief and calm today, says Ganesh. Spend as much time as possible with them. Romantic escapades with your beloved will be heaven in itself. Blood relations will stand true and strong in matters of importance, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Tempers will fly today, warns Ganesh. Rein in your anger by the leash of control and restraint. But the buck will stop somewhere! When it does, dig your feet in and battle the crunch situation, advises Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Your outstanding intellectual ability will not only yield exciting results for you, but will also help your close associates who will have progressed a great deal in their career because of your valuable advice, says Ganesh. Scores of problems may come your way, but you will have nothing to worry about.

AQUARIUS
A romantic liaison is headed towards you. Quite naturally, you don't want to be caught dead in a ratty old tee. Today, you want to keep everyone happy and amused, both at home and at work. And you manage wonderfully, says Ganesh.

PISCES
'Love thy neighbour' is a commandment you may just end up implementing, literally, considering how religious scriptures provide you food for thought today. Spiritual pursuits will keep you occupied. You may also find yourself visiting places of religious significance, says Ganesh.

Taapsee reveals how she prepped for athlete's role

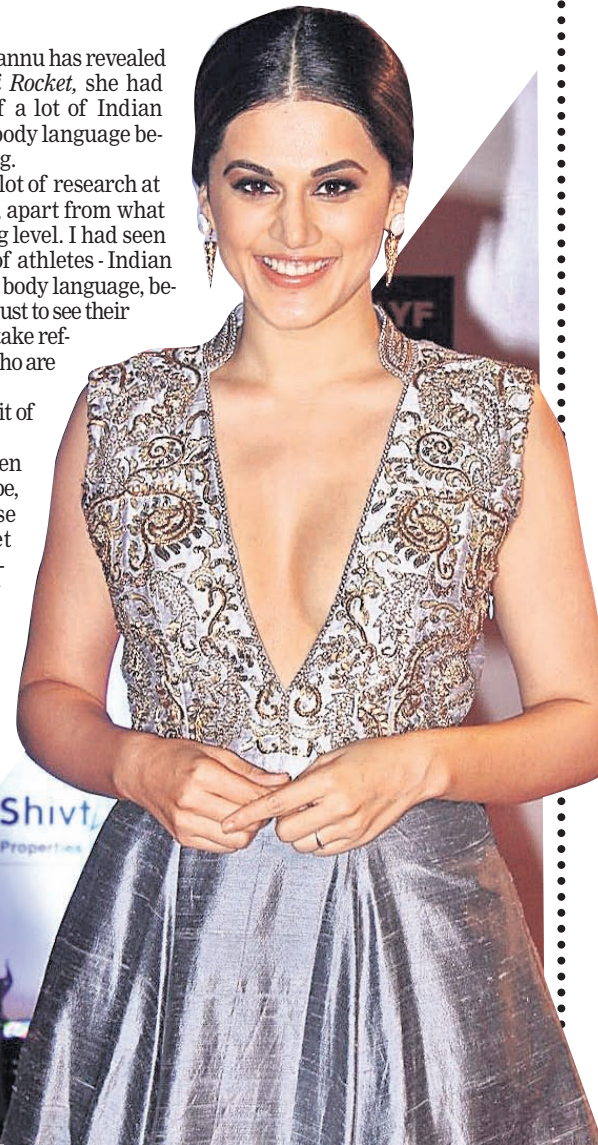
Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu has revealed that for her role in *Rashmi Rocket*, she had seen pictures and videos of a lot of Indian and international athletes' body language before, after and while running.

Taapsee said: "Yes, I did a lot of research at my level for *Rashmi Rocket*, apart from what was going on at the scripting level. I had seen pictures and videos of a lot of athletes - Indian and international - to see the body language, before, after and while running, just to see their body types, because I had to take reference of athletes especially who are of my build and height."

Taapsee said she did that bit of the research.

"Of course, I have never seen my body in that kind of a shape, so you are in for a surprise when you are trying to get those muscles to pop out because you want to see how they look on you. I had no idea how they'll end up looking on me, if I'll look similar to those references that I had taken or no. So, it was a dive of trust that I did with my training and I am glad that it ended up looking very authentic," added the *Judwa 2* actress.

The movie is set to premiere on ZEE5 October 15. IANS



Britney Spears to sing for Chiranjeevi's Godfather!

Hyderabad: Telugu megastar Chiranjeevi has an attractive slate with multiple interesting movies lined up. As Chiranjeevi's *Acharya* helmed by Koratala Siva is gearing up for release soon, his other projects are progressing well too.

The official remake of Malayalam super hit *Lucifer* is titled *Godfather*. This Mohan Raja directorial is to feature Chiranjeevi, who would reprise Mohanlal's role.

If reports are to be believed, the makers of *Godfather* are planning to bring Hollywood's pop sensation Britney Spears on board to croon a racy song for Chiranjeevi. Salman Khan too may make a cameo appearance in this movie, adds the report.

But there is no official confirmation regarding Britney Spears' song for *Godfather* and Salman's appearance as well.

Touted to be an intense political drama, Thaman S will compose the music for *Godfather*. IANS



Being a producer has made me a humble actor: Avika

Mumbai: Actress Avika Gor has wrapped up the shoot of her first and as yet-untitled production venture. She says being a producer has made her a more humble actor.

Avika was shooting in Goa for the maiden production venture and called it an "amazing experience".

"It's been an amazing experience as it's my first production. We shot in Goa for over 10 days and the whole vibe was so different," said the actress, who rose to fame with her role as Anandi from the television show *Balika Vadhu*.

The 24-year-old actress did not divulge much about the film or the cast.

She shared: "I think being a producer has made me a more humble actor and it has also helped me grow as a person. I feel extremely proud of myself and can't wait to get this movie completed and released soon." IANS



K-drama Squid Game becomes Netflix's biggest series launch



ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE POPULARITY OF THE SHOW IN SOUTH KOREA LED TO A SURGE OF NETWORK TRAFFIC WHICH CAUSED SK BROADBAND TO FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST NETFLIX

Streaming platform Netflix Wednesday confirmed that its Korean language show *Squid Game* has become its biggest series launch till date after the survival drama hit the mark of 111 million views in less than a month since its debut.

The show, directed by Hwang Dong-hyuk, premiered on the streamer September 17.

Squid Game has surpassed the record set by Netflix's Regency era series *Bridgerton*, an English language series, which stood at 82 million accounts in its first 28 days.

Squid Game has officially reached 111 million fans - making it our biggest series launch ever! a tweet on Netflix's official account read.

The nine-part show follows 456 people struggling with debt in Seoul who sign on to play a series of deadly competitions based on Korean children's games, the winner of which will receive 45.6 billion won (USD 38 million). It stars Lee Jung-jae, Park Hae-soo, Wi Ha-jun, Jung Ho-yeon,

O Yeong-su, Heo Sung-tae, Anupam Tripathi, and Kim Joo-ryoung.

Last week, Ted Sarandos, co-CEO of Netflix, said *Squid Game* was on its way to becoming the biggest show in Netflix history.

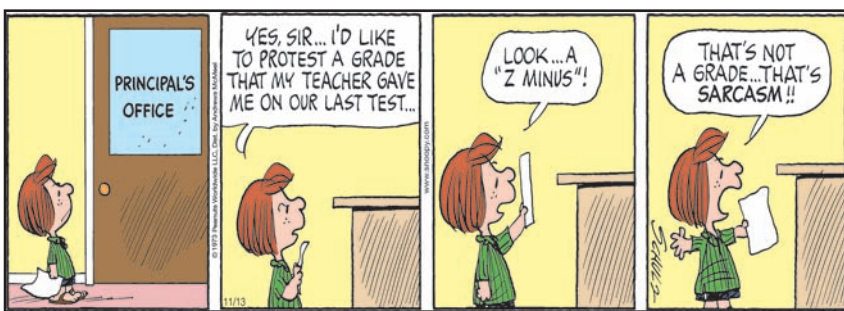
Just like the Oscar-winning Korean language film *Parasite*, directed by Bong Joon-ho, the show has been lauded for highlighting the widening gulf between the 'haves' and 'have nots'.

According to reports, the popularity of the show in South Korea led to a surge of network traffic which caused SK Broadband to file a lawsuit against Netflix, seeking monetary damages to pay for increased broadband usage and maintenance costs associated with the show.

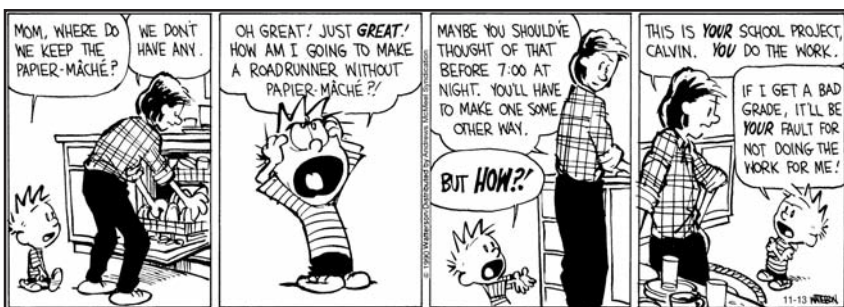
A phone number used in *Squid Game* belonged to a private resident who reportedly receiving up to 4,000 calls each day from people. After the user raised this issue, Netflix stated they would edit the show to remove the number, reports said. PTI

FUN post

PEANUTS



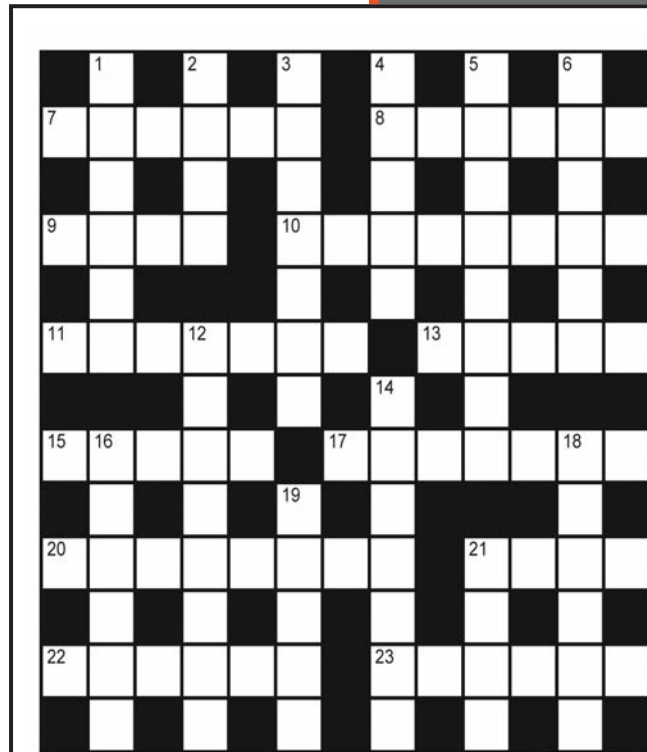
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



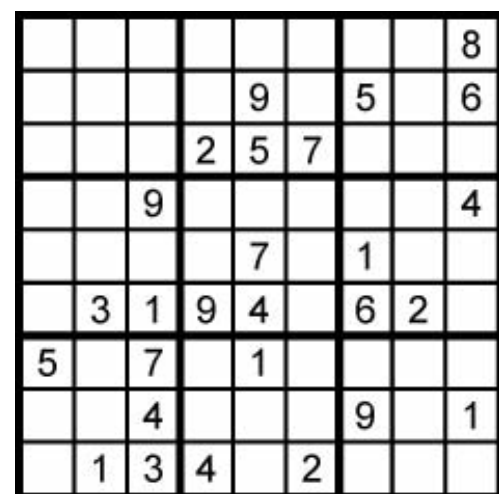
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Know-it-all
 - 8 Weather map line
 - 9 Rainbow goddess
 - 10 Resident
 - 11 Arabian Nights boy
 - 13 Secret supply
 - 15 High-strung
 - 17 Tan provider
 - 20 Review, of sorts (6-2)
 - 21 Fencing sword
 - 22 Hindu incarnation
 - 23 Horseshoes score
 - Down**
 - 1 Oceanic bird
 - 2 Tops
 - 3 Baltic Republic
 - 4 Get rid of
 - 5 Health facility
 - 6 Pleasure trips
 - 12 Barren
 - 14 Claim
 - 16 Develop
 - 18 Posted
 - 19 They hold water
 - 21 Locate

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



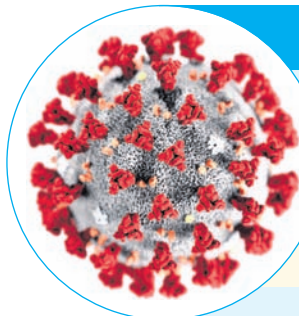
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



DEVOTION IN THE AIR

A priest offers prayers at Balubazar-Binod Bihari puja mandap in Cuttack on the occasion of Mahashtami, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,96,86,086	21,70,17,206	48,85,126
India	3,40,01,743	3,33,42,901	4,51,189
Odisha	10,33,288	10,20,168	8,268

Congress Bhawan in City attacked twice in 12 hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: The state headquarters of the opposition Congress came under back-to-back attacks Wednesday as separate groups of miscreants ransacked the office twice within a span of 12 hours.

The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC), however, did not file a police complaint thus far, fuelling speculation that the attacks were carried out by workers of the party.

Many in political circles claimed that the attacks are fallout of internal squabbles in the Congress.

Miscreants, numbering around eight, ransacked the youth wing office inside the Congress Bhawan Wednesday morning, while another group of men later pulled down names plates of OPCC chief and Mahila Pradesh Congress president, besides breaking glass windows and other furniture.

A Youth Congress leader said that he was not sure about the involvement of any out-



sider and the morning break in was perhaps carried out by some dissatisfied members of the youth wing.

Allegations are rife that Odisha Youth Congress president Smruti Ranjan Lenka may have rubbed some party members the wrong way when he chose to interact and meet with only a selected few, ignoring the rest.

The youth Congress leaders stated that the attackers vandalised his office, after not having found him there.

Lenka, on his part, said he was not aware of who ransacked his office.

Expressing concern over the incident, senior Congress MLA Suresh Routray said, "This seems to be a chronic disease

in Odisha. In the past, too, people have set fire inside the Congress Bhawan. Today's incident warrants stringent action against the wrong-doers, especially if they belonged to the Congress."

The Jatni MLA suspected that a conspiracy was hatched to carry out the attacks.

"I think some Congress leaders hatched a conspiracy with the ruling BJD and opposition BJP to tarnish the image of the party in the state," he said.

Routray further said that top Congress leaders including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi must take note of the two attacks and initiate action against the miscreants.

OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik was not available for comment.

On October 3, after the declaration of Pipli bypoll results, a group of dissident party workers had staged an agitation outside Congress Bhawan, demanding removal of the OPCC president for the dismal performance of the party's candidate.

Unsolved murder cases put Cuttack cops in tight spot

A retired cop says publicity-hungry police officials are busy arresting petty criminals and holding pressers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 13: The Commissionerate Police remaining clueless about half a dozen murder cases in the Silver City during the past two years is an indication how the law enforcement is on the wane in the twin city.

As per sources, an elderly couple was found murdered at their residence at Beleswar New Colony under Madhupatna police limits in the city December 13, 2019. Police initially suspected loot as the motive behind the murder, but the theory was ruled out as cash, jewellery and valuables at the crime scene were found untouched.

"Later, police claimed that the murder was fallout of a dispute over their property at Jajpur. Besides, police also claimed that the couple was into lending money. And that could be one of the reasons behind their gruesome murder," said a source, adding that at least a dozen of suspects were interrogated. Nearly two years have passed into the bone chilling murder, but police are still groping in the dark.



Khirod Bhoi, a betel shop owner at Paga Laxminarayanpur under Jagatpur police limits here, was killed inside his shop late February 18, 2019. Police recovered the footage of a few CCTVs installed near Bhoi's shop. However, a precious little could be done as footage was hazy due to foggy weather in the winter.

"As Bhoi was selling betel leaves to local sellers after procuring the item from Niali area, police suspected a possible business rivalry behind the murder. On the basis of Call Details Record, around 60 people were grilled in connection with the incident. Suspecting some love affair, police also interrogated a few women, but the exercise did not yield any result," added the source.

On July 23, 2019, Kodand Rout, a daily wager from Dhenkanal, was found murdered in Raniha Canal Road area. Police sat silent after registering a case.

Similar is the fate of Ramesh Bhoi's murder. Bhoi, a daily wager of Bhairpur under Jagatpur police limits, was found dead under mysterious circumstances at a nearby canal July 7, 2021. On the basis of a complaint lodged by Bhoi's family, police regis-

tered a case under Section 302 of the IPC. Although more than three months have passed, Bhoi's family is yet to get justice.

It was August 15 this year when Sangram Nayak, a DMLT student of SCBMCB here, went missing. "A bicycle and a pair of slippers belonging to Nayak were found near Jobra. Soon after, an ODRAF team launched a search operation for Nayak. Although two months have passed to Nayak's missing, police are still scratching their heads. Nayak's father has so far approached the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, Mo Sarkar and Cuttack DCP, but to no avail," the source pointed out.

About the cops' cluelessness, a retired senior police official, requesting anonymity, said the men in khaki are busy holding press conferences by solving petty crimes while murders are having a field day.

"The publicity-hungry police officials arrest accused of petty crimes, like pickpocketing, snatching and ganja peddling, and hold press conferences just to gain attention of the public and hide their failures in cracking sensational cases like murders," he added.

Class IV girl saves kid from drowning

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang: Subhashree Rout, a Class IV girl of Raghunathpur here, has won applause from several quarters for saving a five-year-old child from drowning in a pond.

According to villagers, a few days ago, Khushi Rout of Sikharchandisahi was drifting into deep waters of the pond while bathing when Subhashree jumped into the water and threw her stole towards Khushi. Once Khushi picked up the stole, Subhashree pulled her to safety saving her life.

Although Subhashree did not know swimming, she saved the child from drowning with her courage and presence of mind, said the villagers.



WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 33.2°C	34.2°C
MIN 25.4°C	25.5°C
Humidity 84%	76%
Rainfall Nil	Nil
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky	

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	60737.05 ↑ 452.742
NIFTY	18161.80 ↑ 169.80
DOLLAR	75.49 ↓ ₹0.10
EURO	87.11 ↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹47,561 ↑ ₹363
SILVER	₹62,384 ↑ ₹798

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Compensation eludes Fani-hit coconut farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kakatpur, Oct 13: Coconut farmers of Kakatpur block in Puri district, who had been affected by the cyclonic storm Fani in 2019, are still awaiting compensation from the state government.

Moreover, the Horticulture department is yet to provide better quality coconut seedlings to the farmers even though around two and a half years have elapsed since the storm caused massive devastation in several districts of Odisha.

According to the farmers, hundreds of coconut trees were either uprooted or damaged by the cyclonic storm that made a landfall near Puri May 3, 2019.

The summer storm had taken a heavy toll on the livelihood of coconut farmers of Puri district, including those in Kakatpur block, sources said.

Soon after the cyclone, the state government had announced compensation package for the affected coconut farmers. As per the package, the state government would provide a compensation of Rs 500 for each damaged or uprooted coconut tree. And a farmer can avail the compensation for a maximum of 25 coconut trees.

"We are yet to get the compensation announced by the state government. We do not find any official present at the Horticulture department office at Kakatpur to raise the issue," said a coconut farmer.

According to sources, the Horticulture department had promised to provide better quality coconut seedlings to the cyclone-hit farmers. However, the department is yet to keep its word.

"The coconut trees which survived Fani are under the grip of certain diseases. The fruit bearing capacities of these trees have been compromised. We need advanced seedlings to raise production," said another farmer.

Jaa Devi Sarva-Bhutessu Vrtti-Ruupenna Samsthitaa

Salutations to the female divinity manifest in our activity and intent

Serving Odisha on the track to A Trillion-Dollar economy

Resource rich Odisha has the potential to leverage its mineral wealth and propel the State economy to greater heights. Fortunately, a robust policy framework along with stable government and sound governance ring true for the state and rationalized natural resource exploration would transform into **Better Everyday** for the people of this region. Odisha government scores high on transparency and ensuring peace in the region with focus on growth enablers such as infrastructure, health and nutrition. To aid this effort, we as Industry leaders have joined in with technology innovations for minerals and metals.

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JSW family wishes ajoyous Durga Puja celebrations complete with fun and festivity to thevalued readers of OrissaPOST!

Odisha. With Focus on Corporate Social Responsibility, JSW has come forward to shape the dream of **Better Everyday** through its contributions toward strengthening Public Health delivery system, water and sanitation measures and strengthening education infrastructure in its mining project area and proposed ISP site. JSW Foundation and Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) are leading concerns of JSW group and Sports is high on our agenda. Special initiatives are being taken up to tap the sporting potential of Odisha especially in the districts of Keonjhar & Sundergarh. High Performance Sport Centres at locations across the state are in the making for a **Better Everyday**.

Advt.

BMC crackdown on Dandiya Night; banquet hall sealed

5T Secy takes stock of Puri stadium work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian Wednesday visited the Puri stadium project site and reviewed the ongoing work.

Pandian directed the officials concerned to expedite the project work. He mentioned that it is the dream of the Chief Minister to transform Puri into a world-class heritage city with all suitable amenities.

He discussed development of sports in Puri district. Puri town has a strong culture of Akhadas and there is a lot of scope for development of sports like wrestling, weightlifting, body building, yoga, gymnastics, boxing and others. The 5T Secretary asked the officials present to explore ways to support the Akhadas for development of sports.

He further directed the officials that residential cricket academy and wrestling academy be established in the new sports complex.

The project is a part of Abadha scheme - Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture-which intends to transform Puri into a



5T Secretary VK Pandian, Sports Secretary R Vineel Krishna, Puri Collector Samarth Verma and others at the Puri stadium project site, Wednesday
OP PHOTO

The new sports complex, which will mainly have the cricket stadium with practice nets, is being built at an expenditure of ₹40 crore

pose indoor hall with facilities for boxing, wrestling, table tennis and gymnasium and 100-seated sports hostel.

Sports secretary R Vineel Krishna, Puri Collector Samarth Verma and officials from various executing agency were present during the review.



The stadium project site

world-class heritage city. The new sports complex is being constructed at an expenditure of ₹40 crore.

The complex will mainly have the cricket stadium with practice nets and other facilities which will enable organising first-class cricket matches including Ranji Trophy. The complex will also have 50-metre swimming pool, multi-pur-



THE ORGANISERS HAD ALLEGEDLY PLANNED TO HOLD DANDIYA RAAS NIGHT AT 9TH STREET BANQUET HALL, NEAR NICCO PARK AT ACHARYA VIHAR DURING NAVRATRI, OCTOBER 13 AND 14

ALL KINDS OF SOCIAL, CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMES AND FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN BANNED IN ODISHA AS PER THE RECENTLY RELEASED COVID-19 GUIDELINES BY THE SRC FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON AND THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ansuman Ratha said. It can be mentioned that, all kinds of social, cultural, religious programmes and functions have been banned in Odisha as per the recently released Covid-19 guidelines by the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) for the festive season and the month of October.

Sources at the BMC also said that while the extended night curfew and ban on public gatherings near pandals during Durga Puja and Dussehra have been able to check crowding at markets after 8pm, constant violations of social distancing is being observed at public places between 5am and 8pm.

Although 13 enforcement squads have been deployed in the three zones of the capital, the civic body has only managed to seal a single restaurant ahead of the festival season. As a result, the state capital last week saw first micro containment zone after a gap of nearly three months. The BMC had restricted entry to Rajendra Vihar apartment at Forest Park after several residents were found positive.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Amid rising Covid-19 cases in the state capital, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has started acting tough against blatant violation of norms during the festival season.

The smart city, which is recording an average of 200 cases on a daily basis, has seen a 37.7 per cent jump in the virus cases in last four days as compared to a week ago. Observing this, the civic body here has decided to intensify enforcement activities so as to regulate the festive rush at market-places, malls and shopping outlets and penalise the violators.

As per sources, the BMC Wednesday sealed a restaurant's banquet hall in Acharya Vihar area for organising DJ Dandiya Night without necessary permissions. BMC officials said the organisers had allegedly planned to hold Dandiya Raas Night at 9th Street banquet hall, near NICCO Park at Acharya Vihar during Navratri, October 13 and 14.

The entry tickets for the event were sold using various social media platforms and were priced at ₹649 each. A team of the civic body's south-east zone enforcement squad reached the spot after getting information about the proposed Dandiya Raas Night and sealed the banquet hall

ANSUMAN RATHA | BMC ZONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

"The entry tickets for the event were sold using various social media platforms and were priced at ₹649 each. A team of the civic body's south-east zone enforcement squad reached the spot after getting information about the proposed Dandiya Raas Night and sealed the banquet hall," Zonal Deputy Commissioner (ZDC)

3 judges appointed to Orissa HC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: President Ram Nath Kovind Wednesday appointed three Orissa High Court judges apart from appointing 11 other judges in Telangana and Kerala High Courts.

Advocate Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo, Judicial Officer Radha Krishna Pattanaik and Judicial Officer Sashikanta Mishra have been appointed as judges to the Orissa HC.

The judges were appointed in consultation with the Chief Justice



of India. The Department of Justice in the Law Ministry issued a list of the latest set of appointments.

CM's Puri visit cancelled

Puri: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's visit to Puri scheduled for October 18 has been cancelled due to bad weather forecast by the MeT department. The MeT department has predicted heavy rain accompanied by gusty winds for the day. Taking into account the weather report, the Chief Minister's scheduled visit to Puri to lay stone for the Srimandir heritage corridor project has been cancelled, said sources in the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA). A fresh date for the foundation-laying ceremony would be finalised later, added the temple sources.

PUJA IN COVID TIMES



Devotees offer prayers to Goddess Durga on the occasion of Mahastami at Basanti Durga Temple in Rasulgarh area of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

Centre for Japanese Language to be inaugurated at KIIT, KISS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: Ambassador of Japan to India Satoshi Suzuki; foreign secretary of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India Harsh Vardhan Shringla; Chairman & Managing Director of Mitsubishi Corporation India Pvt Ltd Yoji Taguchi and Managing Director of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries India Pvt Ltd Shusuke Suto are on a visit to KIIT and KISS to inaugurate a center for Japanese language, Centre of Excellence, Internship and Mitsubishi CSR Programme for Sports 14th October 2021. This will be a one-of-its-kind facility in Odisha.

The Japanese language center will promote understanding and appreciation of Japanese language and culture, particularly among students, and contribute to further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries. Under the internship arrangements, Mitsubishi Group, a 150-



year-old multinational company, will accept meritorious KIIT students, who have achieved a certain level of proficiency in the Japanese language, as interns. Mitsubishi Group will also extend support to Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) students as part of their CSR activities.

The initiative of the Embassy of Japan, Mitsubishi Group of Companies and KIIT & KISS will provide a new impetus to the people-to-people exchanges between Japan and India, as the two countries are set to celebrate the 70th an-

iversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, said Prof Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS.

Among others, senior officials from the embassy of Japan in India, Ministry of External Affairs, Mitsubishi Group; Prof Hrusikesh Mohanty, VC, KIIT Deemed to be University; Prof Sasmita Samanta, Pro-VC; Prof Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT Deemed to be University and senior officials of KIIT and KISS will attend the inaugural ceremony, which will be held in hybrid mode.

Huge croc rescued from canal

Kendrapara: A 10-feet long estuarine crocodile was rescued by forest personnel from an irrigation canal in Kendrapara district Wednesday. The croc had sneaked into the canal at Padmanabhpur village near Bhitarkanika national park, a forest department official said. After spotting the reptile in the irrigation canal, locals informed personnel of the Forest department who rescued it in a swift operation. "The department is prioritising the safety of local people. People need to remain watchful and vigilant. They should ensure their safety by keeping a safe distance from crocodile-infested water bodies. The bathing ghats in the river-side villages have been covered with protective bamboo barricades. Advisories have been issued to people to take bath in the barricaded areas," said Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division, JD Pati.

Ministers release spl covers of 6 unsung heroes of Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

THE EVENT WAS ORGANISED AS PART OF 'AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV' CELEBRATIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF POSTS, WHICH IS CELEBRATING NATIONAL POSTAL WEEK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 13: On the occasion of National Philately Day, Wednesday, Union Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister of Communication & Railways, IT Ashwini Vaishnav virtually released six special covers of unsung heroes (martyrs) of the state -Jayee Rajguru, Bajji Rout, Parbati Giri, Chakra Biso, Chakhi Khuntia and Buxi Jagabandhu.

The event was organised as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations by Department of Posts which is celebrating the National Postal Week from October 11 to 17. The Postal department also released 103 special covers of unsung heroes of our freedom movement. On the occasion, both the Union



Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnav and Dharmendra Pradhan release the special covers of six freedom fighters from Odisha
OP PHOTO

ministers also interacted with the family members of the five martyrs from Odisha through video link. Pradhan reminded the present generation of their duties to up-

keep the values and path shown by these eminent personalities. On the occasion, Vaishnav said that these six people had made immense contribution to the freedom

movement and are part of the local folklore.

Jayee Rajguru, born October 28, 1739 in Puri district, was a great freedom fighter of Odisha. A princely priest by profession at the court of the Khurda kingdom, Rajguru revolted against the British Raj in the province.

Bajji Rout (1926-1938) was the youngest Indian Sanatani freedom fighter and martyr having been killed at the age of 12 only. He was born October 5, 1926. Rout, who was a boat boy, was shot by British police when he refused to ferry them across Brahmani River on the night of October 11, 1938 at Nilakanthapur Ghat in Bhuban of Dhenkanal district.

Parbati Giri was born January 19, 1926 and died August 17, 1995. She was the daughter of Dhananjay

Giri. Known as the Mother Teresa of Western Odisha, Parbati was a prominent female freedom fighter from Odisha. The women freedom fighters from Odisha played a significant role in the Indian freedom struggle, the minister said.

Chakra Biso was the legendary tribal leader, who spearheaded many a rebellions against British rule during the first half of 19th century. Chakhi Khuntia (20 January 1827 - 1870) was a Jagannath Temple priest in Puri and a poet who participated in the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

Buxi Jagabandhu was the commander of the forces of the king of Khurda. He is one of the earliest freedom fighters of India. The great Paika rebellion in 1817 was under his leadership. The BJB College in Bhubaneswar has been named after this great personality.

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90 pc fall in Kendrapara's jute crop

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 13: Rampant use of plastic coupled with lack of government support has led to a drastic fall in jute cultivation, which has been a major livelihood source for the residents in this district. According to a report, jute cultivation is sharply declining in the district as farmers are not showing much interest in jute due to increasing demand for plastic and lack of sponsorship on part of the state government.

Barring a few farmers, many have withdrawn from jute cultivation as in the absence of government sponsorship they need to spend more to buy seeds from the open market. As a result, jute cultivation in the district has dropped by 90 per cent this year compared to last year, farmers said. Reports said Kendrapara district, which lies on the coastline of the state, is known as an industrially backward district. It does not have any mine and adequate infrastructure for establishment of agro-based industries.

There was a time when the district was known for jute cultivation and a major hub for jute trade. Sensing the potential, the state government had established a jute research centre at Jajanga under Sadar block to promote cultivation of the cash crop and make the farmers self-reliant.

After its establishment, the research centre produced three new varieties of jute seeds and helped farmers become financially independent through



better harvests. The research centre now exists only on paper.

Farmer leader Bidhu Bhusan Mohapatra said jute cultivation was carried out on 2,152 hectares in 2005. It was extended to 8,000 hectares in 2010 as the climate was conducive for the crop. This prompted the state government to establish a jute research centre on 46 acres at Jajanga on the outskirts of the town.

The centre started developing various types of jute seeds following which jute cultivation was extended to 14,000 hectares in 2014.

However, the situation worsened as the Centre stopped selling jute seeds to farmers for last four years. Farmers said the district requires 30 quintals of seeds for jute cultivation annually, but received only two quintals of seeds in 2018. That was the last time the

Centre provided seeds to farmers. The sales counter at the research centre has now stopped selling jute seeds. Now, farmers interested in jute cultivation have to buy seeds from open market at exorbitant prices, resulting in a 90 per cent drop in jute cultivation this year, the farmer leader added.

Haladhar Dhal of Derabish said farmers are turning away from jute cultivation due to lack of government sponsorship. He said the state and Centre have announced they would promote jute sacks instead of plastic sacks to discourage plastic use. However, despite a favourable atmosphere for jute cultivation, farmers have failed to get any support. This has forced them to take up cultivation of other crops, he said.

Niranjan Parida, a farmer from Kansar panchayat who has cultivated

There was a time when the district was known for jute cultivation and a major hub for jute trade. Sensing the potential, the state government had established a jute research centre at Jajanga under Sadar block to promote cultivation of the cash crop and make the farmers self-reliant

In the absence of government sponsorship farmers spend more to buy seeds from the open market. As a result, jute cultivation in the district has dropped by 90 per cent this year compared to last year

jute on 12 acres this year, said the soil in Kendrapara district is ideal for jute cultivation. Earlier, he was earning good amount by transporting his harvest to Kolkata. However, things have changed as he was forced to buy jute seeds from the open market as seeds were not available with the agriculture department.

Saraswati Samal of Paripangara village said a jute-based industry was managed by 60 women self-help groups here. Now, they purchase jute from outside due to lack of availability of the fibre in the local market.

When contacted, Siba Prasad Mallick, Deputy Director, Agriculture, said the Centre and the state government have been laying stress on jute cultivation and have given subsidies on seeds and other implements. Jute cultivation in the district will be promoted from next year, he added.

Kotia: Pottangi MLA, AP officials face off

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Oct 13: Pottangi MLA Pritam Padhi had a face-off with Andhra officials over repeated incursions by the latter in Kotia panchayat under this block in Koraput district, Wednesday. A heated exchange of words took place between the legislator and Andhra officials Wednesday amid the long-pending border dispute over Kotia panchayat and territorial jurisdiction claim of

The Andhra Pradesh officials reportedly left the place after the situation turned tense

the latter in the area.

The incident occurred when Parbatipuram PA-ITDA Kormanath was holding discussions with villagers of Phagusineri on identifying land for construction of an Anganwadi building in the village and to

boycott the upcoming panchayat elections in Odisha. On being tipped off, Padhi reached the spot and criticized the move by the neighbouring state. He enquired on holding such a meeting in the territory of Odisha and asked AP officials to leave soon. He also sought to know why the AP administration is not obeying the order of the Supreme Court on maintaining status quo in the area. The officials reportedly left the place after the situation turned tense.

DM, officers working as BJD agents: Union min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Baripada, Oct 13: Two days after Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officers held a protest against alleged rude behaviour of Union Minister Bisheshwar Tudu towards them, the BJP MP claimed that the ruling BJD was "using them" to settle scores with his party.

He claimed that Collector of Mayurbhanj, Vinit Bhardwaj, was functioning as the "district president of the ruling BJD". The officers, October 11, had worn black badges and protested against the alleged derogatory remarks made against them by Tudu recently.

In a resolution, the Mayurbhanj district OAS Officers' Association said that the minister used "unparliamentary" language against one of its members.

It also accused the minister of verbally abusing him.

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ATTACK ON MLA'S CAR

Accused identified; arrest soon: DIG

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 13: Police have identified the accused who had hurled a bomb at the car of Keonjhar MLA Mohan Majhi. Police have got enough evidence against the attackers.

"The accused will be arrested soon," said Rourkela DIG Jaynarayan Pankaj to our correspondent, Wednesday.

Pankaj visited the place where the legislator was attacked with a bomb. He also checked CCTV footage in the area and held talks with police in this regard.



MARTIAL ARTS



Artistes performing traditional sword game, a form of martial art, on the occasion of Durga Puja and Dussehra festival in Balasore, Wednesday

DGP Abhay lauds DVF, SOG for recent encounter of 3 Maoists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 13: Odisha Police DGP Abhay Wednesday lauded the District Voluntary Force (DVF), Special Operation Group (SOG) personnel and officials for the recent encounter of three Maoists in Malkangiri.

During his visit to the district following the anti-Maoist operation, DGP Abhay held a review meeting with senior police and SOG officials and discussed strategies to deal with the ultras.

Search operation was intensified in the area surrounding Tulasi hills under Mathili police limits in Malkangiri following the encounter. The combing is still underway. A blueprint has been prepared to curb Maoist activities in the state, the police chief informed.

Abhay also appealed to other Maoists who are active these days to shun violence and join the mainstream of society for a better life.



Addressing a presser, the DGP said, "Maoist activities in the area have been on a downtrend for some years. I again request them to shun the path of violence, surrender before police along with their arms and ammunition and return to the mainstream. They should avail benefits of the generous surrender policy of the state government."

"The Indian democracy has place for all, even for those who oppose the ways of the government. But there is no place for violence," said Abhay.

As for the seizures during the en-

counter, DIG (SWR), Rajesh Pandit said, "One SLR rifle with three magazines, an INSAS with a magazine, a separate AK magazine, 59 rounds of SLR ammunition, 21 INSAS ammunitions, Maoist kit bags, walky-talkies, electronic equipment, detonators, IEDs, remote controllers for IEDs, some medicines and Maoist literature have been recovered from them."

Intelligence Director Lalit Das, Intelligence IG Amitabh Thakur, Special Intelligence Wing DIG Anirudh Kumar Singh and Southern Range DIG Rajesh Pandit along with other officials accompanied the DGP.

The three Maoists killed in the encounter were of high-ranks. The cadres namely Mukha Sodi was in ACS rank and carried a bounty of ₹5 lakh and its member Soni carried cash reward of ₹4 lakh on head respectively. Likewise, the ultra Chinna Rao carried a reward of ₹1 lakh on head, Abhay stated during his official visit.

Chhatar Yatra held amid Covid curbs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna/Junagarh, Oct 13: The annual Chhatar Yatra of the presiding deity Manikeswari was organised at the shrine of the god-

dess in Bhawanipatna town of Kalahandi district amid Covid-19 restrictions Wednesday.

However, prohibitory orders under Section 144 had been clamped starting from 8.00 pm Tuesday till

4 pm Wednesday.

To effectively prevent a law and order situation during the rituals, entry points to the town had been sealed and 10 platoons of force deployed. In order to contain a prob-

able spread of Covid-19 infection, the procession of Manikeswari was taken out sans devotees this year.

"We have deployed senior police officials in all parts of Bhawanipatna town to keep strict vigil and also urge local denizens not to indulge in any animal sacrifice," Kalahandi SP Saravana Vivek M said.

It is pertinent to mention here that as per the shrine's age-old tradition, Goddess Manikeswari is taken out of her abode on the eighth day of Shukla Pakshya (Ashtami Tithi) in the month of Ashwina every year.

The presiding deity is taken to Jenakhala located on the outskirts of Bhawanipatna at midnight following the Shodasa Puja rituals.

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When two persons quarrel, always both are in the wrong.
THE MOTHER



The Real Rot at IMF

There are many reasons to be critical of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but the legitimacy crisis now confronting both institutions is not based on any of them. Instead, it has arisen for the wrong reasons, and this is serving to reinforce the real problems that have plagued the Bretton Woods institutions' functioning.

The current controversy stems from the World Bank's alleged manipulation of its annual Doing Business index in order to improve the rankings of China and Saudi Arabia. It threatens to claim the scalp of IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, who was the World Bank's CEO at the time of the alleged improprieties.

The World Bank appointed a US law firm, WilmerHale, to investigate the matter. But its report relies on innuendo rather than evidence, prompting the Nobel laureate economist and former World Bank chief economist Joseph E. Stiglitz to describe it as "a hatchet job" and part of an attempted coup against Georgieva. The investigation also conveniently focused primarily on China, thereby underplaying the possible role of World Bank President David Malpass in influencing the ranking of Saudi Arabia, which was surprisingly declared the world's top reformer in the 2020 Doing Business report.

The WilmerHale report is manna from heaven for Republicans in the US Congress, who are demanding that Georgieva resign. But the current moralistic fervour about data manipulation overlooks the fact that the Doing Business index - which has now been discontinued - was deeply flawed and overtly political from the beginning. Unfortunately, it became hugely influential in driving investors' perceptions and policymakers' choices.

The problems were legion. For starters, the indicators it used emerged directly from an orthodox "Washington Consensus" economic-policy approach, irrespective of its validity or applicability in different contexts. As the Columbia University historian Adam Tooze has noted, Doing Business was always "a rickety and unpredictable construction shot through with discretion and complex judgments." My own critique centered on how the index viewed any government regulation as costly and undesirable, and treated taxation only as a cost rather than as a means of ensuring the infrastructure, institutions, and educated workforce that businesses need in order to function.

In 2018, Paul Romer, then the World Bank's chief economist, said that right-wing ideology at the Bank played a critical role in methodological changes that altered countries' rankings, and apologised to Chile's left-wing government for the artificial lowering of its rank. A more recent independent academic evaluation pointed out that the index measures only de jure rules rather than their de facto implementation, and "sometimes rewards policies that benefit business at the expense of broader social objectives."

Georgieva's fate will be decided at this month's annual meeting of the IMF Board. But even if she remains in her post, the Doing Business controversy has damaged her stature and influence (which may have been the point). More important, this episode must not be allowed to obscure the real problems with the functioning of the Bretton Woods institutions: the disproportionate power of the US; the IMF's deeply procyclical approach to countries that seek its support, which contradicts its original mandate; and the G7 advanced economies' unwillingness to enable multilateral institutions to address global problems.

When the IMF was established in 1944, it fell far short of John Maynard Keynes' vision of an international clearing union that would treat all countries equally. Instead - and unsurprisingly - the institution reflected countries' relative power at the time. The US secured a decisive share of voting rights and quotas, and, together with Western European countries, could determine the IMF's policies, programmes, and allocations.

Despite significant changes in the global economy since then, that internal power structure has remained essentially unchanged. Even after the most recent reallocation, in 2016, the US retains a 16.73% voting share, while the OECD countries have a combined share of more than 60%. During Donald Trump's presidency, the US blocked a fresh quota allocation that, among other things, would have increased China's share. The US and the European Union can exercise veto power over any IMF decision. And under a longstanding transatlantic "gentleman's agreement," the World Bank chief is appointed by the US, while the head of the IMF is from a European country.

But perhaps the most damning criticism of the IMF relates to how its programmes function. The Fund's loans not only remain inadequate for countries facing balance-of-payments problems, but also come with so many adverse conditions, including severe budget cuts, that most countries seek to avoid them. Despite this, the IMF even imposes interest surcharges on countries that are forced to borrow heavily from the Fund over a prolonged period, thereby worsening economic outcomes.

The IMF's focus on fiscal austerity has been much criticised, including by its own economists, but has persisted during the COVID-19 crisis. This betrays the IMF's original raison d'être: providing countercyclical lending to countries in distress so that their economies could recover with less harm to their people.

To her credit, Georgieva has sought to increase the IMF's non-conditional financing through a new \$650 billion allocation of special drawing rights (the Fund's reserve asset). She has also called for less austerity in recovery packages and for reform of the international debt architecture. Perhaps this is why those who are trying to remove her also happen to oppose any progressive change at the Bretton Woods institutions.

Such efforts are not only unjust but also short-sighted. If an international organisation like the IMF cannot deliver basic global public goods or address global public bads like the pandemic and the climate crisis, then it is not fit for purpose. The G7 has already shown itself to be unequal to the task of global leadership, and yet its leaders are trying to subvert the use of multilateral institutions to address the enormous transnational challenges we face. Future historians will wonder why today's rich countries shot themselves in the foot in this way.

The writer, Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates, is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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Jayati Ghosh

When the IMF was established in 1944, it fell far short of John Maynard Keynes' vision of an international clearing union that would treat all countries equally



Dhanada K Mishra

INDIAN CITIES ARE MORE LIKE URBAN SPRAWLS THAT GROW HORIZONTALLY INSTEAD OF VERTICAL CITIES LIKE HONG KONG, BUILT ON A COMPACT LANDMASS

The typhoon Lion Rock made landfall in the Hainan island more than 400 km south-west of Hong Kong in mainland China. Yet, it caused much damage in Hong Kong due to wind gusts up to 147 km/hr and heavy down-pour causing extensive flooding. Unfortunately, a large bamboo scaffolding erected to renovate a tall building in the Happy Valley area collapsed, injuring several persons and killing one worker. Such incidents, especially loss of lives, were relatively rare in Hong Kong, even during strong typhoons in the past. This raises a lot of questions about the safety and resilience of the impressive world-class built infrastructure of the city. Other cities around the world, especially in India and China, can learn from Hong Kong in this regard.

Hong Kong holds many unique distinctions as a global metropolis. The most well known is being home to the most number of skyscrapers. The city has over 9,000 high-rise buildings, of which over 4,000 are taller than 100 m (328 ft), with 553 buildings above 150 m (492 ft). The tallest is the 118-floor International Commerce Centre, which stands 484 m (1,588 ft) and is the 12th tallest building globally. Hong Kong is not only home to the highest number of skyscrapers in the world, but unlike other cities with skyscrapers such as New York, Dubai, Shanghai, London or Toronto, almost three-quarters of them are used for residential purposes. Therefore, it is not surprising that more people live at the height of the 15th floor or higher than any other city in the world.

Consequently, it is variously called the world capital of tall buildings, a vertical city, and the tallest city, among others. With limited land supply and almost 70 per cent of the land reserved for nature in country parks and reservoirs, there is no option but to build vertically. While the dense skyline of tall structures lining either side of the Victoria Harbour represents a marvel of modern civil engineering, it also poses unique safety and sustainability challenges.

FOCUS VERTICAL CITIES

SAFER, GREENER, SMARTER



The future of sustainable cities is more vertical than horizontal as pressures of climate crisis force us to rethink the development model

The buildings of Hong Kong account for 90 per cent of its electricity consumption and 60 per cent of its greenhouse gas emissions. With the Paris agreement requiring net-zero emissions by 2050, Hong Kong has its task cut out to ensure its buildings achieve the required energy efficiency. The best available technology must be deployed to achieve safety and sustainability goals, using the latest developments in the fields of robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), big data analytics, and cloud computing, among others. They are the backbone of the emerging smart city management actively pursued by global cities, with Hong Kong and Singapore competing at the forefront.

One of the critical areas where these technologies have come to play a significant role driven by energetic start-ups is inspection and monitoring of built infrastructure such as tall buildings, roads, bridges, tunnels and towers. This domain is vital for ensuring the safety of our city infrastructure. At the same time, continuous monitoring helps to extend its service life beyond the design target, which would reduce the lifecycle carbon footprint. At the same time, continuous monitoring with the help of IoT sensors makes it possible to implement smart building man-

agement to enhance sustainability. Inspection of tall buildings is fraught with safety risks to inspectors, takes a long time and is expensive, thereby making asset owners reluctant to carry out such activities and city governments unable to enforce the same. Lack of an adequate number of trained, registered, and experienced professionals results in an inadequate number of buildings being inspected in a given period. In Hong Kong, due to the risks of falling objects hurting bystanders, the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme was introduced in 2012, requiring all buildings taller than three stories and older than 30 years to undergo inspection. While Hong Kong has 1,200 registered building surveyors, more than 20,000 buildings need to be inspected under this scheme. Thus only around 150 buildings are issued statutory notice for inspection, which is a fraction of the number to be covered.

In this context, introducing autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles or drones for building inspection becomes a game-changer. With the rapid development of robotic drones, it has become easy to conduct a detailed survey of the building envelopes using high resolution visual and thermal cameras. The resulting data can then be uploaded on cloud servers and

analysed by AI-powered big data analytics algorithms to identify building defects and assign them severity to prioritise corrective action.

Recently, there has been a lot of interest in Odisha to bring together the substantial non-resident Odia community working in AI and ML to apply these technologies for the massive challenges of development faced by our state. It is heartening to know that several young entrepreneurs from Odisha have been highly successful in Bangalore and Hyderabad, building successful unicorn start-ups. As an aspiring smart city, Bhubaneswar must leverage these opportunities and attract the talent we need to create an ecosystem for innovation in finding the correct application of these technologies. For example, a straightforward use case could be to build a database of built infrastructure - especially residential buildings along the Odisha coast that faces increasingly frequent cyclones of increasing ferocity. To build resilience in these valuable assets and avoid repetitive repairs after each disaster, AI and ML can be deployed to identify systemic issues that make a particular type of structure vulnerable - be it electric power poles of a specific design or housing built without adequate lateral resistance against wind forces. Using GIS, 3D modelling and drone mapping, it would be possible to construct such digital maps and strategies.

Indian cities are more like urban sprawls that grow horizontally instead of vertical cities like Hong Kong, built on a compact landmass. However, the future of sustainable cities is more vertical than horizontal as pressures of climate crisis force us to rethink the development model. Thus building safer, greener and smarter cities using the latest technology becomes an unavoidable imperative.

The author, a civil engineer, academician & technologist with a strong interest in sustainability of the built environment, is currently working with RaSpec Intelligent Inspection, a start-up in Hong Kong.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Developing countries & net-zero

The recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that the planet will warm by 1.5° Celsius by 2040 unless urgent measures are taken to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions. After the report's release, UN Secretary-General António Guterres aptly called it "a code red for humanity." Global warming is becoming an increasingly urgent problem, and all countries have a role to play in combating it. But as government officials from around the world prepare to set sustainability targets at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow next month, they cannot ignore developing countries' economic distress.

The climate crisis is occurring at a time when governments and businesses in the developing world are wrestling with the impact of COVID-19. As the global economy begins to emerge from the pandemic, it is obvious that developing countries will recover at a slower rate. And the pace of vaccine delivery will complicate the economic situation further.

So, while acknowledging that addressing climate change is a long-term imperative, the immediate priority for developing countries should be economic growth - revitalising their economies, reduc-

ing poverty, and creating jobs. Building a greener future will yield rewards eventually, but hungry households need food and jobs today.

In preparation for the COP26 summit, the G7 and G20 are expected to unveil ambitious plans, which most likely will include a demand for all countries to agree to a unified deadline to reach net-zero emissions by 2060. Large investors and NGOs are demanding that financial institutions immediately cease funding fossil-fuel and forestry projects and decarbonise their operations, and regulators are tightening environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards. All of these initiatives are welcome, but they fail to consider the challenges facing the developing world.

Of course, developing countries must move toward a greener future and net-zero emissions. But the expected pace of change is unrealistic. A better approach would be for wealthier countries to ease the transition by providing emerging economies three resources: time to adapt, financial support, and policy assistance.

First, while the G20 should rally behind a unified set of global standards, it must provide poorer countries with the time they need to meet these standards by relying on staggered deadlines based on

development and income levels. While we must not dilute or abandon these standards, we must recognise that the developing world is starting at a disadvantage and deserves time and resources to implement climate plans. These plans even may require the continued transitional use of fossil fuels while policymakers prepare a pathway to renewable energy. Meanwhile, the United States, European countries, and China, which continue to be the largest global emitters of greenhouse gases and have the capacity to begin moving toward a green future, should start doing so now.

Second, rich countries should fulfill their pledges of financial support for poorer countries' efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. As part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, the developed world agreed to provide \$100 billion in annual assistance to developing countries until 2020. But an independent report issued last December estimated that only a fraction of that assistance materialized. As the developing world struggles to deal with the economic costs of the pandemic, this support is even more critical for pushing the climate agenda forward. To be credible, any new commitments from developed countries should include enforceability mech-

anisms, unlike past promises. Such commitments could be guaranteed by a multilateral institution such as the IMF or the World Bank against developed countries' allocations of special drawing rights, the IMF's unit of account.

Finally, in addition to financial support, developing countries need policy advice and help with capacity building. Such guidance could include best practices for phasing out expensive fuel subsidies, gaining access to technology, and building the institutions and incentives to attract green capital. These resources will set developing countries on a sustainable path to a low-carbon future. The transition to a green economy is vital to the future of developing countries. After all, these countries will be the ones most affected by climate change. But one-size-fits-all policies to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions will not work. Unless developed countries recognise the challenges confronting developing and emerging economies and take appropriate steps to help them achieve net-zero emissions, we will all be worse off.

The writer is co-founder and CEO of Gateway Partners, a private equity firm that invests in emerging markets.

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V Shankar

THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY IS VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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

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

Rising above barriers

Sir, Norway's Nobel Committees that rose above the barriers of prejudice and stereotype and chose the Nobel Prize winners in keeping with the era must be commended. These social evils bring social inequalities. These inequalities are often reflected even in the choice of the Nobel Prize winners, especially winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Above all, the fields to which the quality of the work applied also makes this year's Nobel Prizes special. Over the years, arguments have arisen over gender inequality in the choice of the Nobel Prize. In fact, very few women had won the Nobel Prize until a few years ago. So the Committees had to strive harder to bring gender equality. This apart, criticisms were levelled against the Committees for showing favouritism towards American and European writers in the choice of winners for Literature Nobel. At a time when news dissemination faces challenges such as restrictions on reporting news against the rulers, fake news, misinformation and so on, conferring the Peace Nobel on Maria Ressa of the Philippines, co-founder of an online news portal which has shown extreme bravery in reporting news is indeed in line with the needs of the era. Similarly, Dmitri Moratov of Russia who became the co-winner of the Peace Nobel spent terrible time in Russia as a journalist where speaking truth against those in power brings punishment and even death. And the most suitable choice for Nobel Prize for Literature was Abdulrazak Gurnah, a UK-based Tanzanian writer. He won the Nobel for his uncompromising and compassionate depiction of the effects of colonialism and the fate of refugees. As for the seven winners of the Nobel Prizes in science, the choices were made taking into account the fields to which the quality of their work applied. Issues such as climate change and environmental conservation were taken into consideration for awarding the coveted prizes.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Happy flying

Sir, The government's move to allow airlines to operate 100 per cent of their pre-Covid flights from October 18 is welcome. This is the first time the government has lifted the cap on the number of flights airlines can operate since the resumption of domestic flights May 25, 2020. At present, airlines may operate 85 per cent of the pre-Covid flight schedule approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. However, allowing domestic flights to operate with no capacity restriction could witness demand skyrocket.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

WISDOM CORNER

- The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions. **LEONARDO DA VINCI**
- Yesterday is but today's memory, and tomorrow is today's dream. **KAHLIL GIBRAN**
- Everything you can imagine is real. **PABLO PICASSO**

LOL

Testing a new recruit

Police chief: As a recruit, you'll be faced with some difficult issues. What would you do if you had to



arrest your mother? New recruit: Call for backup!

Politics hots up over mega drinking water projects

CONGRESS, BJP TERM PROJECTS AS POLL GIMMICK, CAST DOUBTS OVER EXECUTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 13: Ahead of panchayat elections, the state government has given approval to two mega drinking water projects in Ganjam.

However, politics is hotting up over the mega drinking projects in the district. Opposition parties have slammed the government for announcing the project ahead of the elections while the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has welcomed the step.

According to reports, the state cabinet has approved a plan outlay of ₹325.75 crore for the two projects. It was decided that the two projects will be completed within next two years – in 2024 well ahead of the general elections.

The two drinking water projects are aimed at providing safe drinking water to people in 304 villages under Rangeilunda, Chhatrapur, Ganjam and Khallikote blocks.

These projects will be carried out on a private public partnership (PPP) mode. A Mumbai-based construction firm will build the project.

Following approval of the project, BJD's district unit president Rameshchandra Chyau Patnaik held a meeting of party workers and thanked



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for making a provision of safe drinking water to thousands of people.

When contacted, Chyau Patnaik said the sites of the two projects have not been identified. "It is not known when it will be started. However, since the projects have got the Cabinet approval, they will be constructed definitely. Long-awaited dream of people in the four blocks will be realized," he said.

The BJD's meeting to welcome the state government for these projects has

not gone down well the BJP and the Congress in the district. The district unit of the BJP is skeptical about the execution of the projects.

The BJP has issued a statement saying that the Chief Minister had announced several projects for Ganjam in the past, but many have not been executed. These mega drinking water projects are under cloud.

Slamming the state government, Congress-backed labour union INTUC has dubbed the announcement of the

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two mega drinking water projects as a political gimmick ahead of the panchayat and the general elections.

"Two and a half years have passed since Janibila mega drinking water project was inaugurated. The project is still incomplete. Announcing two more mega drinking water projects at this time is only a farce," the INTUC said.

Nayagarh villagers reclaim ownership over forests

On entering this village comprising 50 homes mostly marginalised tribal and Dalit families, one encounters a cement plaque displaying the words – "Villagers protect and manage these forest resources"



AGENCIES

Nayagarh, Oct 13: In January 2020, a few villagers in Mitukuli village in Nayagarh were patrolling the forests – a practise popularly known as thengapalli – when they found nearly 225 well-grown trees cut down by the forest department. Infuriated at the sight, they put forth the issue before the Community Forest Resources Management Committee (CFRMC) (Gosthi Jangala Sambala O. Parichalana Committee), formed by the villagers.

This kickstarted the process to formally reclaim the forest lands that they have been protecting for generations, and legally petition for the ownership of Community Forest Resources (CFR) under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. Believing that this will empower them with rights for protection, regeneration, conservation and management of forest resources, the inhabitants of eight villages (including Mitukuli) in Dasapalla block in the district met with the Welfare Extension Officer (WEO) on August 16 to submit the petition.

"Ame ama janglara sima nirdharana karichu aau ame chahunchu amaku ama jangala upare adhikar milu (we have demarcated the traditional boundary of our forest and demand our rights over CFR)," said Laxmi Mallick (54), pointing to the forest behind Mitukuli village. On entering this village, comprising 50 homes, mostly belonging to marginalised tribal and Dalit families, one encounters a cement plaque displaying the words – "Villagers protect and manage these forest resources".

The final straw

Last January, the day after the villages found the fallen trees, they noticed officials from the Forest Department, Forest Development Corporation and a few labourers bringing in a truck to remove the trees. The villagers protested the entry of the vehicle. "We didn't allow them to lift the wood; we sat on the timber. We protested because after all, we are protecting our forest but without informing us, they cut down our trees," Pramila Jani, a committee member, said.

Initially, the department didn't agree and tried to forcibly take away the timber. But the villagers were firm in their refusal to move. To diffuse the situation, the District Forest Officer, Ranger and other officials agreed to a negotiation.

"We demanded our share of the timber and asked them to not cut any more trees without taking permission from the committee," said Subhas Chandra Jani,

President of the CFRMC. Finally, the forest department decided on a compromise and assured to pay the villagers ₹87,700 against the trees they had cut down. The amount is yet to be transferred to the CFRMC account, but villagers are happy to have claimed their share for the first time. This incident built confidence among the villagers, and they decided to redraw the traditional forest boundaries to claim control over their entire CFR area.

Reimagining borders

"Our ancestors have been protecting this forest, and now we continue their legacy. If we establish the boundary, it will empower us to restrict the entry of outsiders," Dhaneswar Jani, an active member of Mitukuli CFRMC and representative of the Adivasi Cell in Nayagarh district, said. This already includes timber thieves and smugglers, against whom women like Mallick protect their forests, stick in hand. "But many times the department itself cuts down and takes away timber in the name of making rath for Lord Jagannath, cutting down siali creepers just to clean the forest and plant trees which benefit them. They never thought to consult us or take our permission," said Mallick.

Ironically, it's the villagers who had to worry about being arbitrarily pulled up for forest guards for venturing into the forest.

The community sat together to redraw the traditional boundary line so they can use the resources and impose restrictions. They also invited neighbouring villagers, the Revenue Inspector and officials from the forest department for joint verification and to avoid any conflict in future.

"We have considered the cattle grazing land, barren land, streams, types of trees, forest deity and places our ancestors used to visit while preparing the outline of the traditional forest area," said Bhubaneswar Jani, Secretary of the Mitukuli CFRMC. He added that once they finished the blueprint, each family contributed to buying lime powder to mark the boundaries.

"Before beginning this divine effort, we performed a puja before our village deity and ventured into the jungle. Since then, we have been awaiting the official claim certificate over CFR," the secretary said with a confident smile.

Nirman, a non-profit organisation, took steps to empower villagers about information surrounding community forest rights. Narayan Parida, Programme Officer at Nirman oversaw regular meetings and sensitisation programmes with community leaders, women and youth to

guide them about the process.

Reliance on forest produce

Bankataila is one of the seven other neighbouring villages that was inspired by Mitukuli to petition for rights over CFR. With a population of 160, Bankataila began as a satellite village and was sharing forest land with the neighbouring village of Munduli. Laxmidhara Muduli, President of CFRMC, Bankataila, said, "When we heard Munduli was demarcating their forest area, we found they had taken away most of our forest land." But the villagers from both the villages were able to sit down together and amicably redraw the forest borders.

"Ame kaani pati bhikhya magilu, ama jangala amaku diya (We begged and requested them to give us our forest land to survive). This touched the hearts of the village elders, and they returned the portion of the land to Bankataila," he said.

In Mitukuli, the villagers barely have about two acres of cultivable land on average where they generally grow paddy. To supplement their income and nutrition, they collect sal, siali and tendu leaves, mushroom, fruits, jhuna, honey, mahul, palua, satabari and odanga from the forest. It is estimated that each family makes at least ₹10,000-15,000 from forest produce yearly which can be substantially augmented if they have stronger rights over these resources.

Dhaneswar said, "In 1999 and 2000 when we faced drought-like conditions, our forest saved us from starvation. Women ventured into the forest to collect siali leaves and stitch them, while men sold these in the market to buy rice for their families. Besides tubers, different types of spinach, potatoes and mushrooms helped us survive." This year too, they expect the sporadic rainfall to produce a below-average yield. "But we are hopeful that our forest will help us," he said.

They also believe the restrictions on outsiders will help protect the forest from fires. "Last year, our sanctuary went up in flames. We toiled into the night to extinguish the fire. Though the reason is still unknown, we believe restrictions on access will protect the forest," said Muduli.

Consolidating community efforts

Though these eight villages in Dasapalla are waiting for recognition of CFR, they have started following the rules formed by their respective committees. Each committee has 15 members with equal participation of women. If villagers require timber or bamboo for the construction of homes or any other purposes, they will have to obtain permission from the committee.

"The committee will decide on which trees can be cut and the villager will have to pay for it," said Sukanti Behera, secretary of the Bankataila CFRMC, showing the receipt book. Till now, the Committee has received ₹1,800 from villagers. "But the food from the forest has been exempted and we don't charge for it," she added.

The Bankataila CFRMC hopes to be able to spend the funds collected on the development of the village and community. "We have planned to start a seed bank to collect seeds from the forest. Before the monsoons, we will plant them for the growth and regeneration of the forest," said Nandi Bhoi, a member.

If the eight villages fail to get the CFR title in the next three months, they will bring this issue before the Collector. Dhaneswar Jani echoed their common belief, "After all, we are protecting our forests, so we rightfully deserve ownership over forest resources."

Mystery shrouds HM's death in Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh/Ambabhona, Oct 13: Mystery shrouded the death of a headmaster whose body was found hanging from a tree at Kutharpalli village under Ambabhona police limits in Bargarh district, Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Pralhad Das, 57, the headmaster Budhipalli Primary School under Ambabhona police limits in Bargarh district. Das had been a good volleyball player and trained youths in the game by forming a volleyball team in the area.

A pall of gloom descended on the area after reports of his death spread. Ambabhona police registered a case and sent the body for post-mortem to Bargarh. Locals have demanded quick action against the culprits.

Police are probing whether he committed suicide or was killed elsewhere and later his body was hanged from the tree to give it a shape of suicide.

Revival of Bijayananda Sugar Mill sought

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogaon, Oct 13: Locals, members of the Villagers' India Party (VIP) and activists of the Adivasi Adharkar Mahasangh have been continuing their sit-in protests over last 42 days near Bijayananda Co-operative Sugar Mill at Deogaon in Bolangir demanding revival of the mills.

Notably, the sugar mills are not operational since 2014. Addressing the press meet, Bipin Kusulia, president of the party, said that the district administration had not paid heed

to their demand for the revival of the only agro-based industry in the district.

"As the government is apathetic towards reviving the sugar mills, we will intensify our agitation in days to come," he said.

Special meetings will be held in villages and the villagers will be told about the need to revive the sugar mill. Employees of the sugar mills will be involved in the agitation.

Thousands of sugarcane farmers, employees, transporters and traders in Sonepur, Bolangir, Boudh and Nuapada

districts earned their living directly or indirectly from this sugar mill. A delegation of agitators submitted a memorandum to general manager of the sugar mill, Satadal Mishra, demanding the revival of the mills.

As the sugar factory has not been functioning, electric supply to the mill was disconnected in August 2013.

Notably, the Bolangir sugar factory came under the state government's control in 2003 after its owner-promoter Ponnai Sugar decided to sell it.

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BJP will never act against Ajay Mishra: Akhilesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamirpur (UP), Oct 13: Lashing out at the BJP, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav Wednesday said the saffron party would never act against the Union minister whose son has been arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur killings as it 'stands with criminals', who are the happiest under the current regime.

In an indirect reference to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he used the term 'chillumjeevi'. 'Chillum' is a smoking pipe often used by 'sadhus'.

On his 'Vijay Rath Yatra' here, Yadav said Adityanath has a liking for two things - the bull and the bulldozer -- but the people of Bundelkhand have decided that the steering of the bulldozer, which is in their hands, will be snatched from him in next year's Assembly election.

"They will run the bulldozer of votes on the BJP in the coming polls," he said.

Yadav was apparently referring to the stray cattle menace in Uttar Pradesh and the government's drive to raze buildings, the plans



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav addressing party workers during Samajwadi Vijay Yatra in Lucknow, Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

for many of which were not approved, in various parts of the state.

"The BJP will never act against the (Union) minister because it stands with criminals. If criminals are the happiest anywhere, it is under the BJP government," he said, replying to questions from reporters on the Lakhimpur Kheri incident.

Eight people, including four

farmers and a journalist, were killed in the October 3 violence that erupted during a farmers' protest in Lakhimpur Kheri. Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra is among those arrested in connection with the incident.

Without taking any names, Yadav said the 'chillumjeevi' is out to distribute tablet computers among students now and wondered why

such an initiative was not taken in the last over four years.

He warned the people against the 'chillumjeevi' and asked them if they had understood who was he referring to.

The SP president was apparently referring to the chief minister distributing tablet computers and smartphones among youngsters recently.

Addressing a public meeting later, Yadav said, "When farmers protested against agriculture laws, they were crushed under the wheels of vehicles."

Hitting out at the ruling BJP over three contentious farm laws of the Centre, he said, "I want to tell the farmers of Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh and the country that the manner in which the BJP has brought the three black laws, it will crush you like the (four) farmers were crushed and killed in Lakhimpur Kheri."

"As of now, farmers and laws have been crushed, and the Constitution might also be crushed. So the BJP needs to be removed on the strength of votes," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister added.

HOMAGE TO MARTYR



Martyr Naib Subedar Jaswinder Singh's daughter Harnoor salutes him during his funeral, at Mana Talwandi village in Kapurthala district, Wednesday. Jaswinder Singh died in a militant attack in J&K's Poonch October 11. PTI PHOTO

Akal Takht accuses missionaries of forced conversions of Sikhs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar, Oct 13: Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh has accused Christian missionaries of running programmes for forced conversion of Sikh families in border villages, a charge vehemently denied by the Bishop of Diocese of Amritsar.

The Jathedar further alleged that several members of the Sikh community were being lured with money for conversion.

"Christian missionaries are carrying out massive programmes for forced conversions of Sikh families and Scheduled Caste Sikhs in the border belt of Punjab. Missionaries are using money and all possible means to force Sikh families of the border belt to adopt Christianity," alleged the Jathedar of Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs.

He said, "Conversion of innocent Sikhs into Christianity fold is a direct attack on internal matters of the Sikh community and this is intolerable."

Singh further said the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has received many complaints in this regard.

He laid emphasis on taking some steps for prevention of alleged



Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh

forced conversions.

The SGPC has taken a serious view of it and has recently launched a 'Ghar Ghar Andar Dharamshah' to stop forced conversions, said Singh.

"Sikh preachers have been given the task to visit all the bordering villages of Punjab to distribute Sikh religious literature, including historical books and other materials free of cost. Besides, all gurdwaras (Sikh shrines) in the border villages are also being extended help to counter the conversion mission of Christian missionaries," he said.

When contacted, Bishop of Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India, Pradeep Kumar

Samantary rejected the claims as "baseless."

"This is absolutely wrong and baseless allegations. Christians never believe in forced conversions as it is against the principles of Christianity. We are open to criticism, but I asked them to come forward with facts and even quote any single example of forced conversion," he said.

"If anything is found, the matter is to be investigated by any independent agency or NGO. Every religion has a right to preach and many people including Sikhs and non-Sikhs with their own sweet will join us, but we never force or pressurise them to adopt Christianity," he added.

There are 150 educational institutions being run by Christianity and anybody can visit there to enquire from any student about the conversion, according to Samantary. "Yes, we definitely give free education to whosoever approaches for the same. We help people to give them education irrespective of caste and creed," he said.

He also said: "The SGPC is talking about the bordering belt of Punjab but we are helping people all over the state to extend free education in our schools, whether they are Sikhs or non-Sikhs."

Punjab polls: Kejriwal woos industry

DELHI CHIEF MINISTER PROMISES TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN FOCAL POINTS AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES IN PUNJAB TO FACILITATE THE INDUSTRY IF VOTED TO POWER IN THE STATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jalandhar, Oct 13: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday promised end of 'inspector raj' and 'red-tapism' plaguing the trade and industrial sector if his party is voted to power in the 2022 Punjab assembly polls.

Kejriwal, who is on a two-day visit to Punjab, also promised the formation of a trade and industry body and its decisions will have to be implemented by the state government.

He stated this while address-



In Punjab, we will ensure 24-hour electricity. We know how to do it. ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

ing traders and industrialists of Jalandhar after hearing their grievances.

Addressing the gathering, the Delhi chief minister assured the trade and industry sector to resolve their grievances and take steps to boost their businesses.

He also assured to provide round-the-clock power to the sector and gave an example of his government in the national capi-

bling of tax revenue at Rs 60,000 crore.

It happened because the government trusted the traders, he said. He also promised to end 'hafta system and goonda tax' in the state.

Kejriwal further assured the businessmen to disburse their pending value added tax refunds, saying he received similar complaints from traders of Ludhiana.

He also promised to clear the pending VAT refunds within three to six months as he underlined that capital is essential for running a trade or business.

The Delhi CM promised to improve infrastructure in focal points and industrial zones in Punjab to facilitate the industry if voted to power in the state.

Replying to another issue raised by the traders, he said the industrialists pointed out to him that former CMs Parkash Singh Badal and Captain Amarinder Singh had promised to resolve it after elections.

"My request (to you) is once ask Kejriwal - 'Ek mauka saanu vi' (Give us a chance too). I assure you that you will forget others," Kejriwal said as he urged people to chose his party over others in the next state polls.

He also laid stress on promoting small traders and micro, small and medium enterprises, saying these sectors generate more employment.

Math, history, science now compulsory in UP madrasas

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

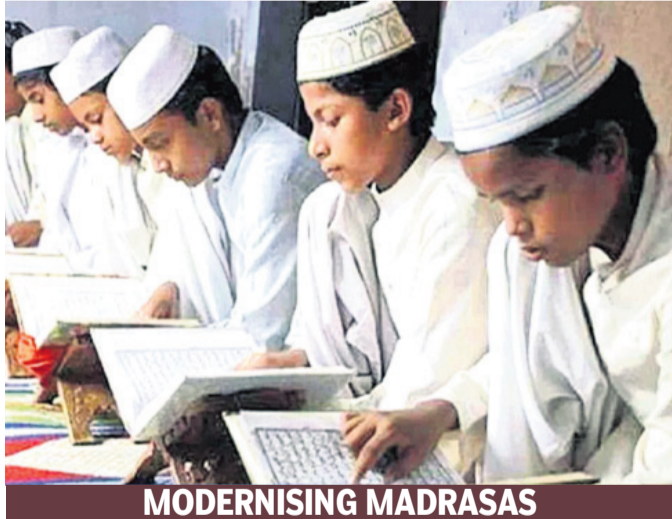
Lucknow, Oct 13: In order to bring madrasa education at par with education in other schools, the students of recognised madrasas in Uttar Pradesh will be taught elementary mathematics, history, elementary sciences and civics as mandatory subjects as per the NCERT syllabus from the next academic session.

The decision has been taken by the UP Board of Madrasa Education (UPBME). These subjects are currently optional, but henceforth, students will be taught these subjects on the pattern followed by the CBSE till the senior secondary level.

The board also decided to hold the final year examination of Kamil (graduation) and Fazil (post graduation) students in offline mode from October 25 to October 30.

According to RP Singh, registrar of the newly constituted UP Board of Madrasa Education, "There was a recurring demand to include modern subjects in the syllabus to fulfil the basic requirements of present times. All students, right from the beginning to senior secondary level, will be taught these subjects now on the CBSE pattern and NCERT books."

The examinations of third year Kamil students and second year Fazil students, whose number is around 14,000 to 15,000, will be conducted in offline mode amid Covid protocols, including social distancing, sanitisation and wearing masks.



MODERNISING MADRASAS

The UP Board of Madrasa Education has also decided on establishment of a dedicated IT cell for document digitisation, passport verification and other digital tasks

There are about 16,000 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, including 560 government-aided ones. Around 18 lakh students are enrolled in these institutions

There was a recurring demand to include modern subjects in the syllabus to fulfil the basic requirements of present times. All students, right from the beginning to senior secondary level, will be taught these subjects now in the CBSE pattern and NCERT books

RP SINGH | REGISTRAR, UP BOARD OF MADRASAS EDUCATION

The UP Board of Madrasa Education (UPBME) has also decided on establishment of a dedicated IT cell for document digitisation, passport verification and other digital tasks. It was also decided to constitute a syllabus committee, affiliation committee, examination committee and results

committee at the earliest.

In 2017, the board had decided to introduce modern and standardised NCERT books in Urdu besides re-vamping the madrasa syllabus and the changes were incorporated from the academic session of 2018-19. There are about 16,000 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh.

Lakhimpur incident has no impact on party in Punjab: BJP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 13: The BJP leadership believes that the Lakhimpur Kheri incident has no major impact on the party in Punjab assembly polls. It was believed that in Punjab the violent incidents will adversely affect the BJP in Punjab, where the party is already facing strong opposition from farmers since last one year.

BJP national general secretary and Punjab in-charge, Dushyant Gautam told IANS that farmers protest was politically motivated and the Lakhimpur Kheri incident had no impact on the polls in Punjab or Uttarakhand in the area bordering Uttar Pradesh.

"There are only two per cent farmers misled by leftists and other political parties trying to disturb the peaceful environment in the state. Lakhimpur Kheri incident has no impact either in Punjab or Uttarakhand," Gautam said.

"All the incidents of violence or attacks on BJP leaders in Punjab were politically motivated and done by a handful of anti-social elements. Political parties are misleading farmers over new farm laws with vested interest. Everyone understands that the Modi government brought the new farm laws for the benefit of farmers, but opposition parties misleading people by creating doubts in their mind. Now, they are trying to politicise the Lakhimpur Kheri incident but they will not succeed in their mischievous intention," a BJP leader said.

BJP claims in Punjab only 2-3% of farmers are participating in agitation against the Centre.

BJP in UP makes a pitch for Muslim votes in every booth

MINORITY OUTREACH

AS PER AN ESTIMATE, OUT OF OVER 1.63 LAKH BOOTHS IN UTTAR PRADESH, APPROXIMATELY 50,000 ARE THE ONES WHERE MINORITY VOTES SWING ELECTION RESULTS

THE PRESIDENTS OF THESE BOOTHS AND SENIOR BJP MINORITY CELL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONVINC AT LEAST 100 VOTERS EACH FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE BOOTHS TO SUPPORT BJP CANDIDATES

Nearly 30% of the beneficiaries of various schemes, including free ration distribution and houses for all, are from the minority community. The idea is to tap support from these beneficiaries through various outreach programmes

BASIT ALI | UP BJP MINORITY CELL PRESIDENT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 13: Even as non-BJP parties in Uttar Pradesh make a pitch for soft Hindutva, the BJP is trying to woo Muslim minorities in every assembly constituency.

BJP workers have been given the target of ensuring support for the party from minority-dominated booths. Party workers up to booth level have been assigned specific targets this time.

As per an estimate, out of over 1.63 lakh booths, approximately 50,000 are the ones where minority votes swing results.

The presidents of these booths and senior BJP minority cell members have been asked to convince at least 100 voters each from their respective booths to support BJP candidates.

Sources said that directives have been issued by the secretary of UP BJP organisation, Sunil Bansal.

UP BJP minority cell president Basit Ali, claimed that the target to get at least 100 minority votes from each booth has been set this time.

"Nearly 30 per cent of the beneficiaries of various schemes, including free ration distribution and houses for all, are from the minority community. The idea is to tap support from these beneficiaries through various outreach programmes," he said.

He added that programmes would also be organized to win over intellectuals among Muslims and other minority communities.

The party has minority cell structure at the grass roots which

will play a key role in getting minority votes.

"This structure formation will help in reaching out to minority youths, women and beneficiaries of the schemes launched by Narendra Modi government at the Centre and Yogi Adityanath government in the state," Basit Ali said.

The BJP is making efforts to end the division of votes on the basis of caste and religion, Ali said.

The party is trying to win the support of all, irrespective of caste and religion, in the name of development and public welfare schemes, he added. The party workers have also been asked to dispel the misinformation campaign being run by Opposition parties, Ali said.

national

of the day quote

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh uttered a lie that it was on Mahatma Gandhi's request that Savarkar wrote mercy petitions to the British

ASADUDDIN OWASI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

We should maintain social harmony and there has to be morality in the society

BASAVARAJ BOMMALI | KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

I am sorry to say that you (Arvind Kejriwal) have been doing things to continuously hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community and you are guilty of headline Muslim appeasement in Delhi. Through the ban on Chhath you have hurt the sentiments of the Hindus

MANOJ TIWARI | BJP MP

SHORT TAKES

Manmohan Singh admitted to AIIMS

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here Wednesday evening after he complained of weakness following a fever, sources said. They said the 89-year-old Congress leader had a fever Monday and had recovered, but he turned weak and was on fluids. The former Prime Minister was admitted to the cardioneuro unit of the AIIMS and is under the care of a team of cardiologists led by Dr Nitish Naik, Singh's personal physician for years.

Protest outside Delhi Police HQs

New Delhi: Various civil society groups Wednesday protested outside the Delhi Police headquarters here against the alleged sexual assault of two women students by police personnel during a recent protest. The Left-affiliated All India Students' Association (AISA) Tuesday alleged that two women students were sexually assaulted by Delhi Police personnel while they were part of a protest outside Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence October 10.

Terror conspiracy case: 4 arrested

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested four persons and conducted raids at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a terror conspiracy case, an NIA official said here Wednesday. The arrested accused have been identified as Waseem Ahmed Sofi, a resident of Chattabal, Srinagar; Tariq Ahmed Dar, a resident of Shergarhi, Srinagar; Bilal Ahmed Mir, a resident of Srinagar and Tariq Ahmed Bafanda, a resident of Rajauri Kadal, Srinagar.

LAKHIMPUR VIOLENCE CASE

Ashish Mishra denied bail, 2 more arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), Oct 13: Two more persons were Wednesday arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur violence, while a court here denied bail to the main accused, Ashish Mishra, son of Union minister Ajay Mishra.

Ankit Das and Latif alias Kale, who appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT), were taken in custody after questioning and produced in court which sent them in judicial remand for 14 days, official sources said.

With this, the total number of people arrested in connection with the mowing down of four farmers here October 3 has gone to six. While the police sought their custody for interrogation, their lawyer opposed it saying no recovery is to be done from them. The court reserved its order on the application for police remand of the two, they said.

Ashish Mishra, who was arrested on October 9 by the special investigation team after 12 hours of questioning, had been sent to three days in police custody from Tuesday. Two BJP workers, a driver of the minister and a journalist were among those killed in the violence.

NCB accuses Aryan of 'illicit drug trafficking'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 13: In a sensational claim, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Wednesday alleged that Aryan Khan, son of Shah Rukh Khan, along with others, was prima facie involved in "illicit drug trafficking, procuring and distribution of contraband" banned under the NDPS Act.

The agency also accused Aryan Khan of being in touch with some persons abroad who could be part of an international illegal drug syndicate and it is continuing further investigations to unearth his links to contact the foreign agency through proper channels.

The NCB's statement came during a hearing of the bail applications of Aryan Khan, Arbaz Merchant, Munmun Dhamecha, Mohak Jaswal, Nupur Satija, Aachit Kumar, Shreyas Nair and Avin Sahu before Special NDPS Judge VV Patil. Khan's lawyers, senior advocates Amit Desai and Satish Maneshinde argued that Aryan Khan was not present during the rave party raid on the cruise ship, had no cash to buy drugs, nor had any narcotics on him.

The NCB's allegations came in its reply opposing the bail applications of Aryan Khan, Merchant, and Dhamecha. Meanwhile, after a hearing that started late in the afternoon, the court said Aryan Khan's bail request would be taken up tomorrow (Thursday).

He has been in a Mumbai jail since Friday.

VICE PRESIDENT'S ARUNACHAL VISIT

India rejects China's objection

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Beijing, Oct 13: India Wednesday strongly rejected China's objection to a recent visit to Arunachal Pradesh by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, asserting that the state is an "integral and inalienable" part of India.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said objecting to the visit of Indian leaders to a state of India "does not stand to reason and understanding" of Indian people.

"We have noted the comments made today by the Chinese official spokesperson. We reject such comments. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India," Bagchi said.

He was responding to a question on comments by a spokesperson of the Chinese foreign ministry objecting to Naidu's visit to Arunachal Pradesh over the weekend.

"Indian leaders routinely travel to the state of Arunachal Pradesh as they do to any other state of India. Objecting to the visit of Indian leaders to a state of India does not stand to reason and understanding of Indian people," Bagchi said. At a media briefing in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, in response to a question about Naidu's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, said China has never recognised the state.

"China's position on the China-India boundary issue is consistent and clear-cut. The Chinese government has never recognised the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' established unilaterally and illegally by the Indian side and firmly



China has been objecting to the visits of Indian leaders to Arunachal Pradesh, saying it is a part of South Tibet. The fresh war of words between the two sides came three days after the 13th round of military talks on the 17-month eastern Ladakh standoff ended in a stalemate

opposes the Indian leader's visit to this above-mentioned area," he said in a statement.

"China urges the Indian side to earnestly respect China's major concerns, stop taking any action that would complicate and expand the boundary issue, and refrain from undermining mutual trust and bilateral relations. It should instead take real actions to maintain peace and stability in the China-India border area, and help to bring China-India relations back onto the track of sound and steady development," Zhao said in a statement.

"Further, as we have mentioned earlier, the current situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas has been caused by unilateral attempts of the Chinese side to alter the sta-

AIMING HIGH

The source said that the government will procure over 28 crore vaccines in October. It includes 22 crore Covishield vaccine shots, six crore Covaxin and 60 lakh DNA vaccine.

Centre to allow abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy

The new rules will be applicable to women and minors who have suffered sexual assault, rape, or incest

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 13: The government has notified new rules under which the gestational limit for termination of a pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks for certain categories of women.

According to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021, these categories include survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest, minors, women whose marital status changes during an ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce) and those with physical disabilities.

The new rules also cover mentally ill women, cases of foetal malformation that has a substantial risk of being incompatible with life or if the child is born it may suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities to be seriously handicapped and women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations as may be declared by the government. The new rules come under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021 passed by Parliament in March.

Earlier, abortion required the opinion of one doctor if it is done within 12 weeks of conception and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks. According to the new rules, a state-level medical board will be set up to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of foetal malformation and if the foetal malformation has a substantial risk of it being incompatible with life or



Earlier, abortion required the opinion of one doctor if it is done within 12 weeks of conception and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks

if the child is born it may suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities to be seriously handicapped.

The function of the Medical Board shall be to examine the woman and her reports if she approaches for medical termination of pregnancy and provide the opinion with regard to the termination of pregnancy or rejection of a request for termination within three days of receiving the request.

The Board has also been tasked to ensure that the termination procedure, when advised by it, is carried out with all safety precautions along with appropriate counselling within five days of the receipt of the request for medical termination of pregnancy. Poonam Muttreja, the Executive Director of the Population Foundation of India (PFI), said given the advancements in scientific and medical technology, the extended 24 week gestation period should apply to all women and not just 'special categories of women'.

Minor alleges rape by father, SP, BSP leaders

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 13: In a shocking incident, a 17-year-old girl has accused 28 persons, including her father and leaders of Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party of raping her over the past few years.

Based on her complaint, the Lalitpur police Tuesday filed an FIR in this regard.

The accused include her father, Samajwadi Party (SP) district president Tilak Yadav, SP city president Rajesh Jain Joghia, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) district president Deepak Ahirwar and others.

They have been booked under sections 354 (outraging modesty),

UP HORROR



The 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped by 28 men, including her father, over the course of several years

376-D (rape), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation), and other sections of the IPC and Section 56 of POCSO Act.

In her complaint, the girl has alleged that when she was in Class 6, her father tried to lure her into a physical relationship by showing

her obscene films but she did not oblige. Later, her father bought her new clothes and took her for a ride on a motorbike on the pretext of teaching her how to drive. He took her to a desolated farm and raped her while warning her to keep quiet or he would kill her mother.

Later, this continued and each time, a new man raped her in hotel rooms. All along she was threatened with dire consequences. She further said in her complaint that Tilak Yadav also raped her and said that it was her father who had brought her to him.

He told her that her mother would also come to him.

The girl has further alleged that when she had visited her maternal uncle's house, she was raped by four of her uncles along with cousins.

Meanwhile SP district president Tilak Yadav has issued a statement on social media, claiming that he and his brothers were being falsely implicated in the case.

India resumes vax exports

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 13: India has resumed a small amount of exports of Covid-19 vaccines and will increase exports significantly in the next few months as domestic stocks build up and most of its own large population is inoculated, officials said Wednesday.

One million shots of Covaxin produced by Bharat Biotech were shipped to Iran last week, the Indian embassy in Tehran said.

Vaccines have also been sent to Nepal, a government source said, adding that the effort is focused on neighbouring nations.

So far about 4 million shots have been exported, the source said, a small amount in proportion to the expansive vaccine diplomacy Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government launched this year before a second wave of infections forced a halt.

But now that three-quarters of the adult population have had one shot and a third have had both shots, India is poised to play an important role in meeting foreign nations' vaccine requirements, said VK Paul, who heads the government's task force on Covid-19.

"As India's needs are met, going forward there will be a generous stock-

pile of vaccines," Paul told reporters. The Serum Institute is producing 220 million shots of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine per month, up from 150 million in August, and Bharat Biotech is supplying 30 million shots of its home-grown vaccine which is set to rise to 50 million next month, he said.

With a few other locally developed vaccines moving closer to production or clearing regulatory approvals, India is expected to be producing 300-320 million shots a month by early next year -- more than the average 210 million doses it administers to its people each month, the officials said.

India withdraws Covid travel curbs for UK nationals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The government has withdrawn a travel advisory that added Covid-19 related additional checks and restrictions on those arriving from the UK after the British government ordered discontinuation of mandatory testing and quarantine norms for those vaccinated with Covishield travelling from India.

In an official memorandum issued October 11, the health ministry said that based on the evolving scenario, it has been decided that the revised guidelines stand withdrawn and the earlier guidelines on international arrival issued on February 17 shall be applicable to all travellers arriving in India from the UK.

According to the travel rules from February 17, airlines need to ensure negative RT-PCR before allowing passengers to board in case of those coming from the UK.

On arrival, they need to give a sample at Indian airport and exit. In case of a positive result, they need to be isolated and treated. For negative results, they need to be in home quarantine for 7 days and get re-tested.

On October 1, India had imposed a new rule that British nationals arriving in India, irrespective of their vaccination status, will have to undergo 10 days of mandatory quarantine from October 4 as part of the reciprocal actions initiated by the government following the vaccine certification row between the two countries.



Representational image

India decided to impose reciprocal curbs against all British nationals arriving in the country as the contentious issue relating to the UK not recognising Indian vaccine certificates could not be resolved despite holding a series of

technical-level talks. The UK recognised Covishield vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India but retained the 10-day quarantine period for fully vaccinated travellers from India. However, the move did not provide

NEW RULES

■ The travel advisory that imposed additional checks and quarantine on those arriving from the UK has been relaxed by the Union Health Ministry, an official statement said

■ The UK last week decided to scrap tough Covid-19 quarantine travel rules for 47 destinations, including India

■ Following this, India also withdrew the added Covid checks, restrictions on those arriving from the UK

any relief from quarantine rules for Indian travellers vaccinated with two doses of Covishield. Later, British officials said the UK has issues with India's vaccine certification process and not with the Covishield vaccine.

National Innovation Foundation - India
Autonomous Body of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India
Grambharti, Amrapur, Mahudi Road Gandhinagar, Gujarat-382650
Tel: 02764 261134/ 35/ 36/ 37/ 38; Web: www.nif.org.in

Advt. No. 01/2021
National Innovation Foundation - India (NIF) invites applications from highly motivated and eligible professionals for engagement as i) JRF/SRF/RA/Project Associates in the area of Agriculture/ Natural Science/ Pharmaceutical Science/Veterinary/ Ayurveda/ Engineering (Mechanical, Agricultural, Electronics, Mechatronics)/ Computer Applications/ Information Technology/ Mass Communication/ Business or Entrepreneurship Development/ Intellectual Property Protection/ Social Science ii) Finance and Administrative Managers/Associates.
The engagement is purely on temporary and contractual basis. The detailed advertisement is available at <http://www.nif.org.in/join.us>. The last date for receipt of applications: 5th November, 2021
davn 36118/11/0001/2122 S/D Director

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BARGARH
Email: eerwss_bgh@nic.in, Ph (O): 06646-233220, FAX: 06646-234626 No. 4068 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Dt.07.10.2021

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 01 Dt.07.10.2021 of 2021-22
No. O-814: The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites tenders from the valid licensed holder contractors of class 'C' or 'B' registered with any Department of State Government or equivalent class of Central Govt. etc. to be eventually drawn up in F2 contract form for the work as per terms and conditions noted below.

- Name of the work : Construction of Divisional Laboratory of RWSS Division, Bargarh
- Approx. Estimated Cost : Rs.25.55 lakh
- Cost of Tender Paper : Rs.6000.00
- Time of Completion : 6 (Six Months)
- Date and time of availability of document in the portal : Dt.22.10.2021 to Dt.08.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt.08.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date & time of Opening of Tender : Dt.09.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Inviting Bid, Bargarh, Dist. Bargarh

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tenders.orissa.gov.in".
The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bargarh
OIPR-25157/11/0002/2122

international

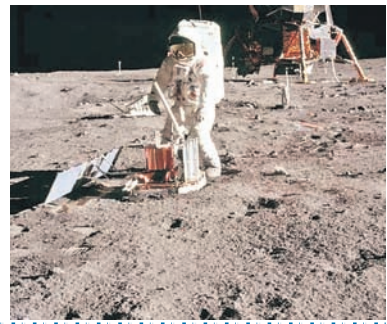


For countries emerging from the horrors of conflict and looking to a better future -- indeed for all countries -- diversity must not be seen as a threat. It is a source of strength

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

JOINT EFFORT

Australia has agreed to build a 20-kilogram semi-autonomous lunar rover for NASA to take to the moon as early as 2026 in search of oxygen



of the day quote

The government will prepare for a gradual return to normalcy from the Covid-19 pandemic amid a higher vaccination rate



KIM BOO-KYUM | SOUTH KOREAN PM

The coronavirus pandemic has shown that humans are very good at responding to an immediate crisis



JAMES SHAW | NEW ZEALAND'S CLIMATE CHANGE MINISTER

VT-4 Tank is another symbol of Pakistan-China strategic cooperation and defence collaboration, and its induction will boost strike capabilities of our formations



GENERAL QAMAR JAVED BAJWA | PAKISTAN CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

SHORT TAKES

250 prisoners on hunger strike

Ramallah: At least 250 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel have begun a hunger strike to protest their relocation to isolated cells, officials said Wednesday. The hunger strike, led by the militant Islamic Jihad group, comes amid heightened tensions in Israeli detention facilities following the escape of six prisoners from a high-security prison last month. All six were recaptured within a couple of weeks, but the escape embarrassed Israeli authorities and was hailed as a stroke of defiance by Palestinians. Israel is currently holding more than 4,600 Palestinians in connection with the Mideast conflict. The prisoners range from senior militants convicted of deadly attacks against Israelis to political activists who took part in demonstrations and teenagers detained for throwing stones at Israeli soldiers.

Three killed

Memphis (US): Three US Postal Service workers who died in a shooting spree at a Tennessee sorting facility included a supervisor, a manager and a letter carrier temporarily assigned to the postal annex, relatives and co-workers said. Two workers were fatally shot Tuesday by a third who died from a self-inflicted gunshot, authorities said. The FBI and U.S. Postal Service didn't immediately name those involved. Laquita Benjamin, president of the local branch of the National Association of Postal Supervisors, told media outlets that those killed were a carrier, a supervisor and a manager.

Bodies recovered

Tripoli: Libyan authorities have recovered 25 unidentified bodies from five newly discovered mass graves in the city of Tarhuna. Located some 90 km south of the capital Tripoli, Tarhuna was once the eastern-based army's main military operation center during the war against the former UN-backed government in and around Tripoli, Xinhua news agency reported. One grave contained 10 bodies, the second contained 9, the third contained 4, and each of the remaining two graves contained one body, the General Authority for Research and Identification said.

Five killed

Mogadishu: At least five people were killed and six others injured in a suicide bombing in the Somali capital Mogadishu Tuesday, police said. A police officer said that a suicide bomber walked into a restaurant near the Fagah intersection and blew himself up, resulting in the death of five people and injuring several others.

BRIDGING BARRIERS

India, Armenia discuss using Chabahar port to boost ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Yerevan (Armenia), Oct 13: Stressing on the need for enhanced connectivity, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Wednesday proposed that the strategic Chabahar Port in Iran be included in the North-South Transport Corridor that has the potential to bridge connectivity barriers, as he agreed on a roadmap for future course of cooperation and exchanges during bilateral talks with his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan.

Jaishankar was speaking at a joint press meet with Armenian Foreign Minister Mirzoyan following their meeting here. Jaishankar Tuesday arrived in Armenia on the last leg of his three-nation tour to Central Asia with an aim to further expand bilateral ties and discuss key regional issues including the developments in Afghanistan. It is the first-ever visit by an External Affairs Minister to Armenia.

"Both India and Armenia are members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which has the potential to bridge the connectivity barrier. So Minister Mirzoyan and I discussed the interest which Armenia has shown in utilisation of the Chabahar Port in Iran and being developed by India," Jaishankar said in his remarks.

"We also proposed the Chabahar Port be included in the International North-South Transport Corridor; we welcome the use of the Chabahar Port and any other initiative that will encourage regional connectivity," he said.

The Chabahar port in the Sistan-Balochistan province in the energy-rich nation's southern coast is easily accessible from India's western coast and is increasingly seen as a counter to Pakistan's



External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar meets Foreign Affairs Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan

Jaishankar Tuesday arrived in Armenia on the last leg of his three-nation tour to Central Asia with an aim to further expand bilateral ties and discuss key regional issues including the developments in Afghanistan

The Chabahar port in the Sistan-Balochistan province in the energy-rich nation's southern coast is easily accessible from India's western coast and is increasingly seen as a counter to Pakistan's Gwadar Port located at a distance of around 80 km from Chabahar.

The first phase of the Chabahar port was inaugurated in December 2017 by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, opening a new strategic route connecting Iran, India and Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.

The Chabahar port is being considered as a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries, besides ramping up trade among the three countries in the wake of Pakistan denying transit access to New Delhi.

On asked about India's interest in developing the Chabahar Port, Jaishankar said, "we are inter-

ested because if we develop more ports in Iran and then connectivity from those ports to northwards of Iran, it opens up more trade routes which are land-based, which are more efficient than these sea-based routes.

"So the key today to economic progress is to be more competitive in terms of movement of goods and that is why this is important and, at least, I mentioned Chabahar to the minister because it is a port in Iran which India is developing and for us it opens up a pathway at least one side to the Caucasus (intersection of Europe and Asia), opens up a different pathway to Central Asia and it is an initiative that we are working with the Russians very closely."

Jaishankar said that about the regional security situation in light of the developments in the Caucasus regions since last year, India's position has been consistent. "Since the beginning of the hostilities, we have been calling for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in diplomatic means. We have expressed support for the resolution of dispute under the USC Ministry. We have supported the bilateral ceasefire of November 9-10, 2020. India has always been in favour of peace and stability in this region," he said.

India, Lanka hold talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Oct 13: Indian Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane met Sri Lanka's top civilian and military leadership Wednesday and discussed steps for further enhancing the excellent defence cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. Gen Naravane, who arrived here Tuesday on a four-day visit at the invitation of his Sri Lankan counterpart Gen Shavendra Silva, called on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, and discussed issues of mutual and strategic cooperation, the

BOOSTING TIES

Indian Army said in a tweet.

"Gen MM Naravane #COAS #IndianArmy called on President HE @GotabayaR to seek his guidance on strengthening bilateral defence linkages further. #SriLanka's leading role as a partner in #security was appreciated including within the Colombo Security Conclave initiative," the Indian High Commission here tweeted.

The Indian Army chief also called on Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at his official residence, the Temple Trees, Wednesday morning. "Between the two armed forces, we have an excellent relationship," Gen Naravane told Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, further noting that this positive interaction will also help cement the bilateral relations between the two countries at all levels, including people-to-people connections, Sri Lanka's News 1st channel reported.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa expressed his appreciation for the assistance provided by the Indian Armed Forces to Sri Lanka throughout the years, especially in the area of training, it added. Gen Naravane also called on Foreign Secretary Admiral (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation.

PATH OF DESTRUCTION

SPAIN LAVA FORCES 800 TO EVACUATE

The lava has destroyed over 1,400 buildings, including homes, farms and other structures, and covered 656 hectares (1,621 acres), including 90 hectares (more than 200 acres) dedicated to the growth of plantains

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aridane (Spain), Oct 13: Hundreds of people on La Palma in Spain's Canary Islands awoke on Wednesday fearing for their homes and property after a new lava stream from an erupting volcano threatened to engulf another neighborhood on its way toward the Atlantic Ocean.

Island authorities ordered the evacuation of around 800 people from a section of the coastal town of Los Llanos de Aridane Tuesday after the lava took a new course and put their homes in its probable path of destruction.

Around 6,000 people were immediately removed from the area in the hours after the initial Sept. 19 volcanic eruption when their homes and farms were directly below the path of the volcano's initial lava stream.

No new mass evacuations had been necessary in the following three weeks. But on Tuesday, volcano scientists advising authorities found that a new lava flow to the

north of the main river of molten rock had branched off and was heading toward an inhabited area outside what had previously been the evacuation zone.

"A part of the neighborhood had already been evacuated, but given the evolution of the lava stream it was deemed necessary to clear this specific zone," Los Llanos de Aridane mayor Maria Garcia told Spanish state broadcaster TVE.

Residents of the La Laguna neighborhood had a few hours to gather up their most precious belongings and leave.

Volunteers helped staff at a school in the neighborhood salvage educational materials, while others loaded up cars and trucks with furniture.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez will travel to the island on Wednesday, his fourth visit since the eruption. La Palma is part of Spain's Canary Islands, an Atlantic Ocean archipelago off northwest Africa whose economy depends on the cultivation of the Canary plantain and tourism.



A house is burnt by the lava on the Canary island of La Palma, Spain, Wednesday

Artist wants HK sculpture back

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong, Oct 13: A Danish artist is seeking to get back his sculpture in Hong Kong memorializing the victims of China's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown as a deadline loomed for its removal Wednesday.

Jens Galschiot said in an emailed statement that he had hired a lawyer and hopes he will be able to transport the sculpture out of Hong Kong "under orderly conditions and without it having suffered from any damage."

Hong Kong University last week demanded the removal of the "Pillar of Shame" sculpture by 5 p.m. (0900 GMT) Wednesday. The university lawyers sent a letter to an activist group, the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, saying the sculpture would be deemed abandoned if it were not taken away by that time.

Galschiot loaned "Pillar of Shame" to the group, which disbanded last month amid a crackdown on independent political activism in the semi-autonomous city. The sculpture has been in Hong Kong for 24 years.

DEADLINE LOOMS



The Pillar of Shame statue, a memorial for those killed in the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown, is displayed at the University of Hong Kong, Wednesday

China's leaders sent in the military to end pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989. Killing hundreds, if not thousands, of people. The ruling Communist Party has squelched any public discussion or memorializing of the events in mainland China. For years, the only major memorial on Chinese soil was an annual candlelight vigil in Hong Kong, but authorities have banned the gathering for the past two years, citing COVID-19 concerns.

CURBS EASED

US to reopen land borders

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 13: The US will reopen its land borders to nonessential travel next month, ending a 19-month freeze due to the COVID-19 pandemic as the country moves to require all international visitors to be vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Vehicle, rail and ferry travel between the U.S. and Canada and Mexico has been largely restricted to essential travel, such as trade, since the earliest days of the pandemic. The new rules, announced Wednesday, will allow fully vaccinated foreign nationals to enter the US regardless of the reason for travel starting in early November, when a similar easing of restrictions is set to kick in for air travel into the country. By mid-January, even essential travellers seeking to enter the U.S., like truck drivers, will need to be fully vaccinated.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said he was "pleased to be taking steps to resume



Vehicle, rail and ferry travel between the US, Canada and Mexico has been largely restricted to essential travel, such as trade, since the earliest days of the pandemic

regular travel in a safe and sustainable manner" and lauded the economic benefits of it. Both Mexico and Canada have pressed the U.S.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Afghans marry off underage girls in exchange for weapons

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 13: Poverty, unemployment and severe economic problems in Ghur province of Afghanistan have led to child marriages, and a number of families are letting their underage girls marry middle-aged men in exchange for money, weapons or livestock, Raha Press reported.

Some shocking stories have come to light where families have sold their one-year-old daughters for money, livestock and weapons, the report said. The buying and selling rate of an underage girl is usually between 100,000 and 250,000 Afghanis in the province. According to sources, if the



buyer does not have cash, he will give the girl's family weapons or livestock in return. According to the report, such incidents occur more in the remote districts of the

province than in the national capital.

Buying and selling of girls or child marriage in exchange for money were common before, but

after the fall of the Afghanistan government and the ensuing economic turmoil, more families are forced to take this route.

Habiba Jamshidi, a women's rights activist in the west of the country, said women form half of the society's population and they should not be treated inhumanely or in a non-Islamic manner. Jamshidi said the families that are ignorant about girls and women's statutes, abuse them.

Jamshidi emphasised that one of the reasons of child marriage is the lack of proper awareness of the role and position of women, the report said. Taliban officials in Ghor province refused to comment on the issue.

Nirmala takes a swipe at Amartya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Boston, Oct 13: It is worrying that scholars can be now "influenced" and become "imprisoned" by their own likes and dislikes rather than comment on the basis of facts, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, as she took a swipe at Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen for his views about the BJP government.

During a conversation organised by the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government on Tuesday, Sitharaman was asked by Harvard Professor Lawrence Summers that "number of people in our community", notably economist Sen has expressed "rather strong reservations" about the BJP government.

He said there's a feeling that the legacy of tolerance "has been very much called into question" and that the attitude taken by "your government to the Muslim population is something that comes between the United States, given our values of universalism and inclusion, and India."

During the conversation at Harvard Kennedy School, Sitharaman said that even the issue of violence in states not governed by the BJP "will be at the doorstep of the prime minister because that suits my narrative."

Sitharaman said she respects "Dr Amartya Sen, who you mentioned," and "I would think for every one of us," "he goes to India, moves freely around and finds out what's happening. That itself would help us to know, particularly a scholar, who is talking based on facts."

"No. It's worrying that scholars can be now influenced more by their personal likes and dislikes rather than comment on the basis of facts. It's really worrying that scholars can become imprisoned by their own likes and dislikes, rather than be equanimous, look at the facts and data before them, and then speak," she said. "It's one thing to have a view and totally another to base it on facts. If opinions become my prejudice, there's no way in which I can counter it," Sitharaman said.



As regards the growth of India, we are looking at near close to double-digit growth this year and this would be the highest in the world. And for the next year, on the basis of this year, (the) growth would definitely be somewhere in the range of eight (%)

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

CARDEKHO DRIVES INTO UNICORN CLUB

Car search platform CarDekho Wednesday said it has raised \$250 million, taking its valuation to \$1.2 billion and becoming the 31st unicorn of 2021 in the country. The fresh round of funding included \$200 million Series E equity and \$50 million debt in its pre-IPO round



of the day quote

The climate crisis is worsening daily, prompting many to call for increased climate finance. We are taking action to meet this call by elevating our ambition to \$100 billion in cumulative climate finance from our own resources by 2030

MASATSUGU ASAKAWA | PRESIDENT, ADB

We expect the coal availability to improve gradually during October month with expected ramp-up in both coal production & dispatch levels, also given the seasonality in energy demand moderation expected from November month

SABYASACHI MAJUMDAR | ICRA

With their long history and expertise in the motorcycle market, Gilera is the ideal partner for Hero MotoCorp in Argentina as we introduce our technologically-advanced and globally benchmarked products and services here

SANJAY BHAN | HERO MOTOCORP

SHORT TAKES

PNB reduces gold loan interest rates

New Delhi: State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) Wednesday slashed the interest rate on loans against gold jewellery and Sovereign Gold Bond by 145 basis points or 1.45 percentage points as part of its festive offer. PNB now offers loans against Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) at 7.20% and loans against gold jewellery at 7.30%, the bank said in a statement. Additionally, it said, PNB has slashed the home loan rate which now starts from 6.60%, while customers can avail car loans starting from 7.15% and personal loans from 8.95%.

Cement production to jump 12% this FY

New Delhi: India's cement production in the past five months has jumped 44% on a year-on-year basis and two per cent as compared to the pre-pandemic April-September 2019 period, to 142 million tonnes (MT), according to a report by rating agency ICRA. The agency expects the pan-India cement production to be up by around 12% to 332 MT in the current financial year and 358 MT in 2022-23.

Men of Platinum's latest collections

New Delhi: Platinum Guild India's Men of Platinum joined hands with ace cricketer KL Rahul to launch a new collection of exquisitely crafted platinum jewellery for men. It offers a wide range of intricately designed pieces that include platinum chains, rings and wrist wear. The collection's design language includes distinctive emblems, crests in solid forms and aerodynamic elements.

TAFE starts tractor service campaign

Bhubaneswar: Indian tractor manufacturer Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) launched a mega nationwide tractor service campaign Massey Service Utsav to ensure a hassle-free cultivation season for the farmers. The main objective of the Utsav is to benefit farmers by reducing the cost of maintenance and providing them with best-in-class service offered at over 1500 authorised workshops under the guidance of 3000 highly skilled and well-trained mechanics across the country. Maintenance services ensure 25 to 44 points check-up of each tractor to deliver high performance during the season.

NEW HIGH Global debt soars to \$226tn in 2021: IMF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 13: Due to Covid-19 and policies put in place to respond to it, the global debt has jumped to a new high of \$226 trillion with India's dues projected to rise to 90.6 per cent in 2021, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Wednesday.

"Because of Covid-19 and policies put in place to respond to it, debt levels increased fast and reached high levels. High and rising levels of public and private debt are associated with risks to financial stability and public finances," IMF Director of Fiscal Affairs Department Vitor Gaspar told reporters during a release of the 2021 Fiscal Monitor Report.

"The debt of governments, households and non-financial corporations added up to \$226 trillion in 2020 - \$27 trillion above 2019. This increase is, by far, the largest on

record," he said. This figure includes both public and non-financial private sector debt.

In its 2021 Fiscal Monitor report, the IMF said India's debt increased from 68.9 per cent of its GDP in 2016 to 89.6 per cent in 2020. It is projected to jump to 90.6 per cent in 2021 and then decline to 88.8 per cent in 2022, to gradually reach 85.2 per cent in 2026.

Constraints on financing are particularly severe for poorer countries, Mr Gaspar said. Noting that in 2020, fiscal policy proved its worth, he said the increase in public debt, in 2020, was fully justified by the need to respond to Covid-19 and its economic, social and financial consequences. But the increase is expected to be one-off, he said.

Debt is expected to decline this

2021 FISCAL MONITOR REPORT

INDIA'S DEBT INCREASED FROM 68.9% OF ITS GDP IN 2016 TO 89.6% IN 2020 AND IT IS PROJECTED TO JUMP TO 90.6% IN 2021 AND THEN DECLINE TO 88.8% IN 2022



ADVANCED ECONOMIES AND CHINA CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN 90% TO THE ACCUMULATION OF WORLD-WIDE DEBT IN 2020. THE REMAINING EMERGING ECONOMIES AND LOW-INCOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTED ONLY AROUND 7%

IN ITS REPORT, THE IMF SAID RISKS TO THE FISCAL OUTLOOK ARE ELEVATED. A SCALING UP OF VACCINE PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY, ESPECIALLY TO EMERGING MARKETS AND LOW-INCOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WOULD LIMIT FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

year and next - by about 1 percentage point of GDP per year. After that, it is projected to stabilise at about 97 per cent of GDP. These debt dynamics are driven by a strong contribution from nominal GDP growth, accompanied by a much more gradual reduction in the primary deficit, he said.

"On the downside, new variants

of the virus, low vaccine coverage in many countries, and delays in some people's acceptance of vaccination could inflict new damage and increase pressures on public budgets. The realisation of contingent liabilities - including from loan and guarantee programmes - may also lead to unexpected increases in government debt," it said.

NLC making efforts to boost coal output

PNN/AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 13: State-owned NLC India is making efforts to ramp coal output from one of its mines in Odisha to up to 10 million tonnes per annum this year. The company aims to increase the coal production to up to 20 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) from next year onwards, according to a regulatory filing.

In a late evening filing Tuesday, NLC India said has taken steps to achieve the target of 6 MTPA from its original schedule of four MTPA during the current year. Considering the high demand of coal, the company is taking all out efforts to augment the coal production of Talabira Mine up to 10 MTPA for the current year and up to 20 MTPA from next year onwards.



This will not only provide fuel security to end use plants but also make available coal in the market, it added.

NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Navratna PSU's Talabira II and III opencast mine in Odisha has crossed 2 million tonne coal production till date during its first full year of operation. NLCIL has taken steps to achieve the target of 6 MT per year from its original schedule of 4 MT during the current year.

The coal produced is being transported to its one of the end use plant, NLC Tamil Nadu Power Ltd's 2 x 500 MW plant at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. This is a subsidiary of the company. The entire generated power is catering to the requirement of Southern states and major share goes to Tamil Nadu.

Amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act on Mineral Concession Rules by the coal ministry October 1 has enabled sale of excess coal after meeting the coal requirement of end use plant.

INFRA BOOST PM unveils ₹100L cr Gati Shakti plan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: Launch of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for the multi-modal connectivity will help improve global competitiveness, promote manufacturing and modernise infrastructure in the country, according to experts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday launched a ₹100-lakh-crore PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity in the country.

Describing it as a historic event for the country's infrastructure landscape, the Prime Minister's Office said the GatiShakti project will break departmental silos and institutionalise holistic planning for the stakeholders across major infrastructure projects.

GatiShakti is based on the six pillars of comprehensiveness, prioritisation, optimisation, syn-



PM Gati Shakti targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time

The plan looks to make a centralized portal comprising of all existing and planned infrastructure initiatives of as many as 16 central ministries and departments

chronisation and being analytical and dynamic, the PMO added.

Arguing that infrastructure creation in India had suffered for decades from multiple issues, the Modi government has been pointing to a major lack of coordination between different departments as a prime reason. The master plan is expected to generate large-scale employment opportunities, cut down logistics costs, improve supply chains and make local goods

competitive globally.

Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) Additional Director-General Vijay Kumar Gauba said Gati Shakti is the culmination of the vision of a new India. He added that the seamless connectivity between rail, road, ports and civil aviation, along with the integration of states, local bodies, corporates, through a geospatial digital platform, will thrust manufacturing and exports besides job creation.

Oct power supply deficit worst since March 2016

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 13: The power supply in India fell about 750 million units short of demand during the first 12 days of October, largely due to a coal shortage, a deficit of 1.6 per cent that was the worst since March 2016, data from grid regulator POSOCO showed.

The October shortfall was already the biggest in absolute terms for a single month since November 2018, even with 19 days of October still left. Increased economic activity after the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic has driven up demand for coal, leading to a supply shortage, forcing northern states such as Bihar, Rajasthan and Jharkhand to cut power for up to 14 hours a day.

The government has asked power producers to import up to 10 per cent of their coal needs to blend with domestic coal and has warned states of electricity supply curbs if they are found selling on

power exchanges to cash in on surging prices.

India's dependence on coal-fired power increased to 69.6 per cent in October from 66.5 per cent in September, the data showed, exacerbating the coal shortage amid a decline in output from other sources such as wind and hydro.

The share of output from renewable energy so far in October fell to 8.34 per cent from 11.33 per cent in September, while hydro energy output fell by 1.3 percentage points, the data showed.

Wipro Q2 consolidated profit up by 17%

NEW DELHI: IT company Wipro posted a 17 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to ₹2,930.6 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2021. The company had posted a net profit of ₹2,484.4 crore in the same period a year ago. Wipro said that it has surpassed \$10 billion (around ₹75,300 crore) annualised revenue run rate. The consolidated revenue of Wipro increased by about 30 per cent to ₹19,667.4 crore during the quarter compared to ₹15,114.5 crore it registered in the corresponding quarter of 2020-21. "The Q2 results demonstrate that our business strategy is working well. We grew at over 4.5 per cent organic sequential growth for a second quarter in a row, resulting in a 28 per cent YoY growth in the first half of this financial year," Wipro CEO and MD Thierry Delaporte said in a statement.



Tata Motors shares jump over 20% post TPG deal

NEW DELHI: Shares of Tata Motors Wednesday jumped over 20 per cent after the company said it will raise \$1 billion (Rs 7,500 crore) in its passenger electric vehicle (EV) business from TPG Rise Climate at a valuation of up to \$9.1 billion. The stock jumped 20.43 per cent to settle at ₹506.75 on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 23.56 per cent to its 52-week high of ₹519.95. It jumped 20.44 per cent to settle at ₹506.90 on the NSE. The company's market valuation also jumped ₹28,538.6 crore to ₹1,68,256.60 crore on the BSE. In traded volume terms, 89.05 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 19.79 crore shares at the NSE during the day.

Q2 RESULTS

Infosys Q2 profit up 11.9%, raises revenue forecast

NEW DELHI: India's second largest IT services company Infosys Wednesday said its consolidated net profit grew by 11.9 per cent to ₹5,421 crore for the September 2021 quarter. Infosys had clocked a net profit of ₹4,845 crore in the same period last fiscal, according to a regulatory filing. The Bengaluru-based company saw its revenues rising by 20.5 per cent to ₹29,602 crore in the quarter under review (Q2FY22) from ₹24,570 crore in the year-ago period. Infosys increased the FY22 revenue growth guidance to 16.5-17.5 per cent. Previously, the company had guided to 14-16 per cent growth in constant currency terms for the fiscal ended March 2022.



'Flying taxis to take to the sky in mid-2020s'

The biggest challenge for Vertical is certifying its aircraft, which Fitzpatrick said it is on track to do by the end of 2024, funded by new money from the merger

AGENCIES

London, Oct 13: Fed up with traffic jams? Imagine a world where your taxi takes to the skies and lands on top of your office building, recharges and sets off afresh. That's the vision of Stephen Fitzpatrick, founder and CEO of Britain's Vertical Aerospace, which is set to raise \$394 million in a merger with a blank-cheque New York-listed company, and who says his aircraft will be flying by the mid-2020s.

And he's not alone. Some of the world's most high-profile engineers and airlines believe Vertical is onto something with its plan for zero-emission mini-aircraft to

almost silently take four passengers through the skies for up to 120 miles (193 kms).

American Airlines, aircraft lessor Avolon, engineers Honeywell and Rolls-Royce, as well as Microsoft's M12 unit are investing in the merger, which is expected to complete by the end of the year.

Fitzpatrick, who also set up OVO Energy, Britain's number 3 energy retailer, said Vertical flights between London's Heathrow airport and its Canary Wharf financial district will take 15 minutes and cost 50 pounds (\$68) per passenger.

That potential is attracting airlines' attention. More than 1,000 VA-X4 aircraft have been pre-



THE PROCESS OF CERTIFYING THE AIRCRAFT IS KNOWN. THE TECHNOLOGIES ARE NEW, BUT THE STEPS WE NEED TO GO THROUGH ARE RELATIVELY SIMILAR TO OTHER AIRCRAFT, SAID FITZPATRICK, WHO HAS RECRUITED SENIOR ENGINEERS FROM BOTH AIRBUS AND ROLLS-ROYCE

dered by customers. Interest in the zero-emission aircraft comes at a time when aviation compa-

nies are under mounting pressure from investors to help decarbonise the sector and boost their envi-

VA-X4 AIRCRAFT

■ The VA-X4 is still in construction and will start test flights early next year. Stephen Fitzpatrick, founder and CEO of Britain's Vertical Aerospace believes Vertical's partnerships will help it emerge as a winner

■ Using battery technology from the car industry, and tried and tested electrical propulsion units and motors, and backed by Honeywell's electronics, Fitzpatrick has no doubt that the VA-X4 will fly

ronmental, social and governance scores.

"We are going to sign deals.

We're finding the appetite and the demand from airlines to be really strong," Fitzpatrick told agencies.

Fitzpatrick first had the idea back in 2015 when he sat for hours in 10 lanes of gridlocked traffic in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Back then, there weren't many competitors, he said, but today analysts estimate there are more than 100 companies working on rival electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

As for convincing passengers, that's where airlines come in. I think the brand association with trusted airlines is really going to help passengers embrace the new technology, he said.

KKR pull off thrilling win, sail into IPL final

SHARDUL REPLACES AXAR FOR WT20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: Fast bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur Wednesday replaced Axar Patel in India's squad for the T20 World Cup to be held in the UAE and Oman from October 17.

The 29-year-old Thakur has impressed with his 18 wickets in the ongoing IPL for CSK. "The All-India Senior Selection Committee after a discussion with the team management has added Shardul Thakur to the main squad. All-rounder Axar Patel, who was part of the 15-member squad will now be on the list of stand-by players," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

With Hardik Pandya not bowling

during the IPL because of fitness issues, the selectors wanted a cover for him. India will open their campaign October 24 against Pakistan.

THE SQUAD

Virat Kohli (C), Rohit Sharma (vc), KL Rahul, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Rahul Chahar, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Varun Chakravathy, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar & Mohammad Shami.

STAND-BY: Shreyas Iyer, Deepak Chahar & Axar Patel.

NET BOWLERS: Avesh Khan, Umran Malik, Harshal Patel, Lukman Meriwala, Venkatesh Iyer, Karn Sharma, Shahbaz Ahmed & K Gowtham.

NEW TEAM INDIA JERSEY UNVEILED



NEW DELHI: Claiming to be inspired by the fans, the Indian cricket team's jersey for the upcoming T20 World Cup was unveiled Wednesday, days before the country opens its campaign with a much-awaited clash against arch-rivals Pakistan in Dubai. The new shirt, called the 'Billion Cheers Jersey', has been inspired by fans and was unveiled by MPL Sports, the official kit sponsor of the Indian men's, women's, and U-19 teams. "This is the first time in the history of Indian cricket that fans have been memorialised on a jersey. It carries their chants and cheers from iconic past matches, transformed into unique soundwave patterns," stated a release from ML Sports. The jersey comes in shades of prussian blue and royal blue. The jersey will be available in stores for Rs 1,799. Along with this, over 10 variations, including a player edition jersey and skipper Virat Kohli's signature number 18 jersey, have been launched.



VENKATESH IYER

Sent in to bat, DC batters struggled on a sluggish pitch. Opener Shikhar Dhawan (36, 39b, 1x4, 2x6) was the top scorer while Shreyas Iyer remained not out on 30 (27b, 1x4, 1x6).

Lockie Ferguson (1/26) and Shivam Mavi (1/27) got one wicket each while the other bowlers also bowled brilliantly.

DC reached 65/1 at the end of 10th over. With odd ball skidding low, it was getting difficult to get runs and DC were dealt a blow when

Mavi got rid of Marcus Stoinis (18). Dhawan fell in the 15th over while going for a big shot. Captain Rishabh Pant (6) disappointed in a crucial match. DC managed to score 36 runs in the last three overs.

BRIEF SCORES

DC 135/5 (Shikhar Dhawan 36, Shreyas Iyer 30 n o; Varun Chakravathy 2/26) lost to KKR 136/7 (Venkatesh Iyer 55, Shubman Gill 46; Kagiso Rabada 2/23, R Ashwin 2/27) by 3 wickets.

India men reach Thomas Cup quarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Aarhus (Denmark), Oct 13: The Indian men's badminton team hammered Tahiti 5-0 to enter the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup for the first time since 2010 but the women's team suffered a crushing 0-5 defeat against a strong Thailand in its last group match here.

It was the first defeat for Indian women after beating Spain (3-2) and Scotland (4-1). The women's team are already in quarterfinals.

The men's team, Tuesday, recorded their second straight 5-0 win, having beaten the Netherlands

with an identical margin Sunday. The team is now in last-eight stage and the last time Indian men made the quarterfinals of the tournament, they had lost to Indonesia.

In the Uber Cup, Malvika Bansod lost the opening women's singles 15-21, 11-21 to Pornpawee Chochowong. Ashwini Ponappa and Sikki N Reddy went down fighting 16-21, 12-21 to Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai. Aditi Bhatt lost 16-21, 21-18, 15-21 to Busanan Ongbamrunphan. Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand then lost 17-21, 16-21 to Puttita Supajirakul and

Sapsiree Taerattanachai. Tasnim Mir then went down 19-21, 15-21 to Supaninda Katethong.

In the Thomas Cup, B Sai Praneeth began the proceedings with a 21-5, 21-6 win over Louis Beaubois. Sameer Verma made it 2-0 with an easy 21-12, 21-12 victory over Remi Rossi. Kiran George sealed the tie for India with a 21-4, 21-2 thrashing of Elias Maublang.

The pair of Krishna Prasad and Vishnu Vardhan achieved a 21-8, 21-7 win before Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat Maublang and Heiva Yvonet 21-5, 21-3.

CR7 treble lifts Portugal; Danes qualify for WC

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 13: Another hat-trick for Cristiano Ronaldo, another win — and qualification for the World Cup — for Denmark. And yet more crowd trouble in a game between England and Hungary.

Ronaldo extended his men's record tally of international goals to 115 by scoring the 58th hat-trick of his career for club and country in Portugal's 5-0 win over Luxembourg.

Denmark became the second European nation to qualify for next year's tournament in Qatar, after Germany Monday, by securing an eighth straight win in group play by beating Austria 1-0.

England were held to a 1-1 draw by Hungary at Wembley Stadium. Events on the field were overshadowed by clashes between police officers and Hungary supporters at the start of the match, sparked — according to police — by a visiting fan making 'racially aggravated' comments toward a steward.

Sweden climbed above Spain into first place in Group B with a 2-0 win over Greece, and Switzerland moved level on points with Italy in Group C with a 4-0 win over Lithuania.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drall leads WPGT 10th leg

CHANDIGARH: Amandeep Drall lived up to her top billing with a flawless 4-under 68 that put her on top of the leaderboard at the end of the first round in the 10th leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour (WPGT) here Wednesday. After day one at the Chandigarh Golf Club, Amandeep was one shot ahead of the highly rated amateur Avani Prashanth (69), who had four birdies against one bogey. Kapurthala golfer Amandeep leads the combined Order of Merit for 2020-21 despite missing out on the last few legs of the Tour because of busy schedule in Europe. Avani was the winner of the third leg and runner-up in the seventh leg in 2021. Seher Atwal and Jahanvi Bakshi also carded under par rounds of 1-under 71 each to be Tied-third.

Upsets at BNP Paribas Open

INDIAN WELLS (US): Upsets dominated the fourth round at the BNP Paribas Open, with three top-five seeds getting dismissed in straight sets. World No.2 Iga Swiatek, the highest remaining women's seed, lost to No.24 Jelena Ostapenko 4-6, 3-6 Tuesday. Top-seeded Karolina Pliskova was upset a day earlier, when she lost to Beatriz Haddad Maia 3-6, 5-7. American Jessica Pegula routed No.5 Elina Svitolina 6-1, 6-1 to reach the quarterfinals for the first time at Indian Wells. US Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez lost to Shelby Rogers 6-2, 1-6, 6-7(4-7). On the men's side, American Taylor Fritz beat No.5 Matteo Berrettini 6-4, 6-3, while Karen Khachanov defeated No.12 Pablo Carreno Busta 6-0, 6-4.

OCA names squad for T20 meet

CUTTACK: Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) Wednesday announced a 21-member squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament. Rajesh Dhuper has been named skipper for the event, beginning October 29. This will be first major assignment for head coach Wasim Jaffer. Odisha will face Goa (Nov 4), Tamil Nadu (Nov 5), Maharashtra (Nov 6), Punjab (Nov 8) and Pondicherry (Nov 9) in their Elite-A Group matches in Lucknow. Prior to this, Odisha will play practice matches against Chhattisgarh in Raipur October 22, 23, 25 and 26. **The squad:** Rajesh Dhuper (C & wk), Gourav Choudhary, Anurag Sarangi, Anshuman Rath (wk), Sandeep Pattanaik, Subhranshu Senapati, Abhishek Yadav, Pratik Das, Govinda Poddar, Rajesh Mohanty, Tarini Sa, B Shiva, Ashish Rai, Debabrata Pradhan, Sarbeswar Mohanty, Prayas Singh Thakur, Pappu Roy, Harshit Rathod, Bikash Rout, Jayanta Behera & Abhishek Rout.

Odisha side finish as runners-up

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy (MPHA) beat Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre (ONTHHPC) in the shootout (3-1) after the score remained at 3-3 at the end of the regulation time, to clinch the 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Men Academy National Championship here Wednesday. Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy beat SGPC Hockey Academy 5-1 to clinch the third place.



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