



CELEBRATING MATERNITY

Actor Neha Dhupia says motherhood has little impact on one's professional life, rather it makes women stronger

LEISURE P2



CHINA'S LONGEST MISSION

Three Chinese astronauts begin six months' stay at space station to complete its construction

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA EMERGE CHAMPS

Sunil Chhetri equals Lionel Messi in international goal scoring tally during India's SAFF Championship title triumph

SPORTS P12



LeT commander among 2 militants killed in J&K

SRINAGAR: Two militants, including Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Umar Mushtaq Khandey, were killed in an encounter with security forces in Pampore area of Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district Saturday, a senior police officer said. Khandey was allegedly involved in the killing of two policemen here earlier this year. "LeT #terrorist Umar Mushtaq Khandey who martyred our 2 colleagues SgCT Mohammad Yousef and Ct Suhail Ah in Baghat Srinagar while they were having tea, #neutralised in Drangbal, #Pampore. Amongst various other crimes of the terrorists, this stands out as most unforgivable," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said in a tweet. Another unidentified militant was also killed in the Pampore encounter, a police official said, adding that arms and ammunition were recovered from the spot.



Bhub-Jaipur direct flight from Nov 2

BHUBANESWAR: Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said direct flight services between Bhubaneswar and Rajasthan's Jaipur will commence November 2. In a letter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Scindia said IndiGo airline will operate three flights in a week on the Bhubaneswar-Jaipur route. "I hope that the connectivity between Temple City Bhubaneswar and Pink City Jaipur would not only enhance tourist footfall but would also provide a boost to economic activities in both the states," Scindia said. The state government has been demanding flight services on the route to attract tourists to the eastern state. **MORE P4**

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Fuel costlier by 35 paise

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, Oct 16: Petrol and diesel prices Saturday were hiked again by 35 paise a litre to take retail rates across the country to new record highs. In Bhubaneswar, petrol touched ₹106.42, up by 36 paise, while diesel reached ₹102.78, an increase by 38 paise. With this hike, petrol is now at ₹100-a-litre mark or more in all state capitals, while diesel has touched the 100-level in a dozen states. Diesel is nearing ₹100-a-litre mark in Goa and Bengaluru.

CITY PRICES	
PETROL	₹106.42 (+0.36)
DIESEL	₹102.78 (+0.38)

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹105.49 a litre and ₹111.43 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Since ending of a three-week long hiatus in rate revision in the last week of September, this is the 15th increase in petrol price and the 18th time that diesel rates have gone up. While petrol price in most of the country is already above ₹100-a-litre mark, diesel rates have crossed that level in a dozen states/UT including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka and Ladakh.

Mohapatra appointed OFDC chairman

BHUBANESWAR: The state government Saturday effected a minor reshuffle in the top level of bureaucracy by transferring Health and Family Welfare department Additional Chief Secretary, Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra to Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC). As per a notification issued by the General Administration & Public Grievances department, 1988-batch IAS officer PK Mohapatra has been transferred and posted as the Chairman of OFDC. He was on leave for 28 days before his transfer. When Mohapatra was on leave, Agriculture Production Commissioner RK Sharma was made Secretary (in-charge) of the Health department last month. Mohapatra has replaced his batch mate Parag Gupta, who has been posted as ACS, Public Enterprises department in place of Vijay Arora. Arora has been appointed as OSD of GA department.

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	29.4°C	30.2°C
TEMP MIN	25.6°C	25.4°C
Humidity	98%	89%
Rainfall	13.8mm	Trace
Forecast: Generally cloudy sky		



RAIN PLAYS SPOILSPORT: A boy collects harvested paddy from a farmland inundated with rainwater in Kadamakudi near Kochi, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

PANCHAYAT POLL-2022

Four ZP chief posts reserved for OBCs

The state govt has reserved 50% of all Zilla Parishad chief posts for women candidates

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Moving a step forward in conduct of Panchayat elections, the state government Saturday released the draft reservation list for the posts of Zilla Parishad chairpersons in all the districts. The government has allotted only four Zilla Parishad (ZP) president posts to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). As per the draft list published by the Panchayati Raj department, the four districts reserved for OBCs are: Angul, Keonjhar, Khurda and Gajapati. Similarly, Zilla Parishad president posts of 12 districts - Kalahandi, Kendrapara, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Nuapada, Puri, Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Sambalpur - have been put under unreserved category.

The government has reserved the ZP chief posts in Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Bhadrak districts for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates while Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates will head the ZPs in Kandhamal, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Sundargarh and Sonepur districts. Moreover, the state government has reserved 50 per cent of all ZP chief posts for women candidates. The districts are—Angul, Cuttack, Kalahandi, Koraput, Khurda, Ganjam, Dhenkanal, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Bargarh, Boudh, Bhadrak, Malkangiri, Rayagada and Sonepur. As per the modalities for reservation of seats and offices of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), candidates can file objections against the allotment of reservations till October 25 (5:30 pm) through email (dir-prod@gov.in or prsec.or@nic.in). The list will be finalised October 29 and the final list will be submitted before the State Election Commission (SEC) October 30 for approval.

Manish was killed over bar bill

Amrit and Mrutyunjaya forced Manish to pay ₹8,000 for food and drinks at the bar which he paid reluctantly, the DCP said

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The Commissionerate Police Saturday claimed to have cracked the mystery behind the suspicious death of Manish Anurag, son of senior journalist Navin Das, whose body was found in a pond in Patrapada area under Tamando police limits here October 10.

Speaking to media persons, Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash Saturday said three persons were arrested by the city police for killing Manish Anurag and trying to conceal the evidence by dumping his body in the pond. The arrested were identified as Amrit Pritam Biswal, 30, of Rajnagar in Kendrapara, Dinesh Kumar Mohapatra alias Litu, 31, and Mrutyunjaya Mishra alias Muna, 38, of Phulbani Town in Kandhamal district. The DCP claimed that the accused were arrested as they were present at the hotel with Manish and also engaged in an altercation with



(From L-R) Accused Dinesh, Mrutyunjaya and Amrit

Manish before his death. Later, they threw Manish into the pond to conceal the body and destroy the evidence. "An eyewitness who was present at the spot on the fateful night had

seen the accused in wet clothes after the incident," Dash added. According to police, the victim who had gone to meet his friend Tapas at the Guavaz shop in Patia received a phone call from his friend Amrit who coaxed him to join them for a bachelor party October 9. Manish's marriage was scheduled to be held in November. The trio travelling in a Maruti Ciaz picked up Manish from the shop in Patia. They first partied at a hotel in Laximsagar area and later went to the bar in South City Hotel at Bhagabanpur. Amrit and Mrutyunjaya forced the victim to pay the bill amount

of ₹8,000 for food and drink at the bar which he paid reluctantly. Upon his request, Manish's mother transferred the amount to his account. An upset Manish, who immediately left the hotel after the incident, was followed by his friends. They engaged in a scuffle which turned violent as the accused attacked him. Manish lost his sense and later succumbed during the tussle. The trio later threw his body inside the pond near Namrakani Temple at Bhagabanpur. The police Saturday sought a seven-day remand of the accused for further investigations.



Oil on boil: Bus fares hiked by 3-9 paise

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The state Transport department Saturday revised the bus fares for the five categories of bus services, owing to continuous rise in diesel prices. As per the notification issued by the Transport department, the fare for ordinary category has been hiked by 3 paise from the existing 89 paise per km to 92 paise. Similarly, the fare for express bus services has been hiked by 3 paise - from 93 paise to 96 paise per km. The fare for Deluxe and AC Deluxe

buses has also been increased by 6 paise. Passengers will now have to pay 135 paise/km for Deluxe and 163 paise/km for AC Deluxe category of buses. The fare for the super-premium buses has also been increased by 9 paise to 253 paise/km from the existing 244 paise/km. An order issued by the department read, "The increase in the per litre price of diesel from ₹97.25 on July 1 to ₹102.34 as on October 16, 2021, the fare for stage carriers other than town buses playing within the State of Odisha will be fixed at an increased rate."

I'm full-time, hands-on prez: Sonia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: Days after some sections within the Congress questioned the absence of an elected party chief, Sonia Gandhi Saturday asserted that she is a full-time, hands-on party president and leaders need not speak to her through the media. Without naming anyone, Gandhi, in a message to the G23, said at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting that while every member wants the party's revival, it can happen only with unity, self-control, discipline and by keeping the party's interests paramount. Her remarks came after some



leaders of the group of 23, including Kapil Sibal, who had sought organisational overhaul, recently questioned who in the Congress was taking decisions in the absence of a full-time party president. Ghulam Nabi Azad and

Sibal had also demanded an early meeting of the CWC to discuss the declining fortunes of the party in the wake of recent defections. "I am, if you will allow me to say so, a full-time and hands-on Congress president," Sonia asserted. The 74-year-old leader underscored that she has always appreciated frankness and in a veiled message to G23 leaders, including Sibal who recently questioned the decision-making process in the party, said, Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal announced that the election of the new Congress president will be held between August 21 and September 20 next year.

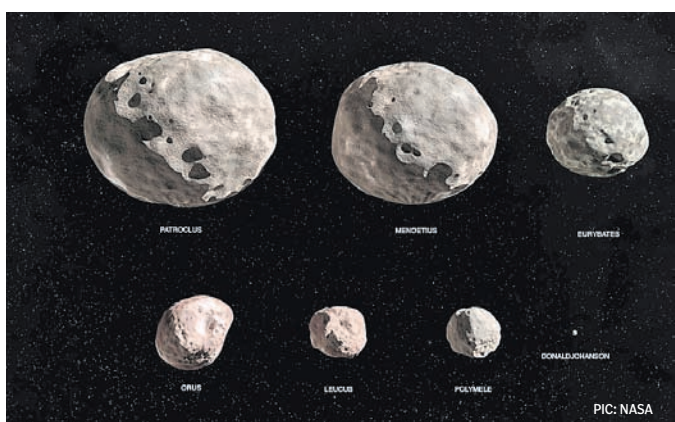
Asteroid hunter Lucy soars into sky with diamonds

Lucy will swoop past Earth next October and again in 2024 to get enough gravitational oomph to make it all the way out to Jupiter's orbit

AGENCIES

Cape Canaveral, Oct 16: A NASA spacecraft named Lucy rocketed into the sky with diamonds Saturday a 12-year quest to explore eight asteroids. Seven of the mysterious space rocks are among swarms of asteroids sharing Jupiter's orbit, thought to be the pristine leftovers of planetary formation. An Atlas V rocket blasted off

before dawn, sending Lucy on a roundabout orbital journey spanning nearly 4 billion miles (6.3 billion kms). Lucy is named after the 3.2 million-year-old skeletal remains of a human ancestor found in Ethiopia nearly a half-century ago. That discovery got its name from the 1967 Beatles song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds", prompting NASA to send the spacecraft soaring with band members' lyrics and other luminaries' words of wisdom imprinted on a plaque. The spacecraft also carried a disc made of lab-grown diamonds for one of its science instruments. The paleoanthropologist behind the fossil Lucy discovery, Donald Johanson, said he was



filled with wonder about this "intersection of our past, our present and our future". "That a human ancestor who

lived so long ago stimulated a mission which promises to add valuable information about the formation of our solar system is

incredibly exciting," said Johanson, of Arizona State University, who travelled to Cape Canaveral for the launch. Lucy's \$981 million mission is the first to aim for Jupiter's so-called Trojan entourage: thousands - if not millions - of asteroids that share the gas giant's expansive orbit around the sun. Some of the Trojan asteroids precede Jupiter in its orbit, while others trail it. Despite their orbits, the Trojans are far from the planet and mostly scattered far from each other. So there's essentially zero chance of Lucy getting clobbered by one as it swoops past its targets, said Southwest Research Institute's Hal Levison, the mission's principal scientist.

Lucy will swoop past Earth next October and again in 2024 to get enough gravitational oomph to make it all the way out to Jupiter's orbit. On the way there, the spacecraft will zip past asteroid Donald Johanson between Mars and Jupiter. The aptly named rock will serve as a 2025 warm-up act for the science instruments. Drawing power from two huge circular solar wings, Lucy will chase down five asteroids in the leading pack of Trojans in the late 2020s. The spacecraft will then swoop back toward Earth for another gravity assist in 2030 that will swing it back out to the trailing Trojan cluster, where it will zip past the final two targets in 2033.

leisure



SEAN PENN'S WIFE FILES FOR DIVORCE

Sean Penn's wife, Leila George, has filed for divorce just over a year after they got hitched. The 61-year-old actor tied the knot with the 28-year-old beauty on July 30 last year, and just over one year into their marriage, Leila has now filed to legally end their relationship.

THE PANDEMIC HAS MADE ME WANT TO TRAVEL MORE: EMILIA

Emilia Clarke, the former *The Game of Thrones* star says the coronavirus pandemic has made her want to travel more, because she wishes she'd taken advantage of the easy transport links offered by her home city of London in the years before lockdown and restrictions.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Right now you need to summon all your mental abilities as you will have to take quick, on-the-spot decisions. However, Ganeshca cautions you to take proper advice as your decisions may have a long-term impact, more so if they involve monetary matters.

TAURUS

You will not lose your cool today despite the overwhelming odds, feels Ganeshca. Rationale and reason will be the rhyme of your attitude as you diagnose the problems and uproot them successfully. Success beckons and you are ready to reach out and grab it by hook or by crook.

GEMINI

Emotions, not acidity, will be the cause of your uneasiness. Something important is going on in your life and you are nervous. It can be related to a matter concerning law, ethics, prejudice, education, or social customs. You are, however, likely to win admiration from all quarters for your fine taste in arts, says Ganeshca.

CANCER

Today, you will be at the centre of all your plans. Your responsibilities at home are likely to be unnecessary distractions for you, with your help-yourself-only attitude. However, you may feel that you are not getting enough returns of your hard work.

LEO

If you are wondering whether you'll get the carrot or the stick today, then Ganeshca has some good news for you: the day promises to bring only rewards for you. This will be especially true for your workplace, where your innate talents get recognised today.

VIRGO

A sudden bend in the journey of life is important to understand it better, says Ganeshca. Excellence will drone on throughout the day today. Top on the list are money matters and your loved ones - not necessarily in that order! Much of your time may be spent in appeasing the Gods.

LIBRA

Get a bigger wallet, since it is very likely that today shall prove to be a money-making day for you. It might be through some sort of a partnership deal that this may happen, predicts Ganeshca. Destiny lends you a helping hand and guides you in your goals. But it is your sentiments that may darken your thoughts today. Don't stress yourself out too much, and try and keep your expectations under control.

SCORPIO

Two words will define your day - eloquence and elegance. Sweet talk and compliments may take you a long way, but do not become complacent and get carried away with your success. Sometimes, saying the right thing may be more beneficial than saying what the other person wants to hear. Communicate carefully, advises Ganeshca.

SAGITTARIUS

Upholding all that is right and just will be the high-point today. You will be in the right spirits to fight injustice and discrimination. The day promises to be as splendid as your will, Ganeshca advises you to stand up and conquer all today.

CAPRICORN

Paradise is where patience leads you, success is the other terminus, says Ganeshca. Keeping your cool will benefit you in more ways than you would have imagined, so think twice before you unleash your vengeance on your foes.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will understand the value of your job. You decide to do away with everything that has been hampering your work till now. You realise you need to set some long-term goals in your career. Grab the opportunity while the intention lasts, says Ganeshca.

PISCES

Your inherent talents, competitive colleagues and supportive superiors will spur you on to great heights at the workplace, beginning today. Make sure that you do not get carried away by little victories, says Ganeshca. There is many a slip between the cup and the lip!

'Motherhood makes us stronger, not weaker'

Mumbai: Returning to *Sanak* promotions within two weeks of welcoming baby boy, Neha Dhupia is proud to be among working mothers who are redefining the industry norms.

Sanak is a typical Vidhut Jammwal fare, loaded with action. "While it's very much his film, I play a cop and have a strong

track. It was only towards the fag end of filming *Sanak* that I realised I was pregnant. I shot the film in my first trimester," says the *Julie* actress.

Taking a sabbatical was out of question for her during pregnancy. She asserts that it's essential to change societal attitude and show that motherhood has little impact on one's professional life. "They make us stronger, not weaker. We don't need to sacrifice either professional dreams or personal aspirations. I shot a movie when I was eight months pregnant. I didn't want to be in a dark and lonely space, sitting at home," says Neha.

She is proud that she pulled off two movies during her pregnancy. "It was a big win to be back on Roadies when Mehr was 45 days old, and breast-feed her through its making," adds Neha.

AGENCIES

Farah raises ₹16 cr for child with SMA

Mumbai: Ace choreographer and director Farah Khan has fulfilled her wish to help a 16-month-old baby, Ayansh Madan, in his battle against a rare genetic disorder called the Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). It has made Ayansh's throat and lung muscles so weak that he cannot talk, cough or swallow anything.

The only cure for him was the drug Zolgensma, which is the world's most expensive medicine. Farah, who was the special guest on *Kaun Banega Crorepati 13* for its *Shaandaar Shukravaar* celebrity episode, has contributed towards Ayansh's treatment.

Farah, who had appeared in the episode with Deepika Padukone September 10, had won Rs 25 lakh. She put

up a post on her social media handle the very next day in which she said: "After an overwhelming response to the *KBC* episode, everyone wanted to donate. ... no amount is small."

Now, it turns out that the Rs 16-crore mark has been met and baby Ayansh can finally be treated.

Farah Khan posted: "I am so happy that the required amount, Rs 16 crore, has been collected for Ayansh Madan's treatment. I would truly like to thank *Kaun Banega Crorepati* for giving me a platform to talk about this and reach out to people far and wide." IANS



Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy attends the audio release function of Odia movie *Chala Tike Prema Kariba* as chief guest at The Press Club of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Saturday. The cast and crew of the film, the second venture of Debaki Films, are also seen in the frame. OP PHOTO

'The Rapist' bags top honour at Busan fest

Busan: Aparna Sen's hard-hitting social drama, *The Rapist*, was declared the joint winner of the Kim Jiseok Award at the 26th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), which concluded here Friday. The film, starring Konkona Sen Sharma, had been premiered at the festival's A Window on Asian Cinema section October 7.

Describing it as one of the best works directed by the veteran filmmaker and actress, *Variety.com* says it is a gripping Indian social drama

about a middle-class academic who wants her rapist, to whom she has fallen pregnant, and who has been sentenced to death, to tell her why he committed such a crime.

The Rapist, whose highlight is a standout performance by Konkona, is "a deeply affecting portrait of personal trauma and an in-

telligent examination of social and cultural factors fueling the horrifying prevalence of sexual violence in India," according to *Variety.com*.

The film, incidentally, has been produced by Sameer Nair for Applause Entertainment, which had earlier been behind the critically acclaimed web series, *Scam 1992*. The rapist in the film is played by Tanmay Dhanania. IANS

Rashmi Rocket: More than an inspirational film

Rashmi Rocket is not a story of an underdog but that of a gifted athlete who was subjected to the trauma of gender testing, which has often resulted in social stigma and careers being ruined.

The movie has taken the lead from the lives of athletes such as Dutee Chand and Santhi Soundarajan, who were banned from participating in official competitions because they have above-average natural testosterone levels.

This standard has prematurely ended the career of dozens of athletes and threatens the journey of several world-class runners across the globe.

The film eventually blossoms into something much bigger than just an inspi-

Cast
Taapsee Pannu, Priyanshu Painyuli, Abhishek Banerjee, Supriya Pathak

Direction:
Akarsh Khurana

rational film. It works as both a meticulous presentation of the issue and emotional support to the victims of this ancient practice.

The film begins with Rashmi getting arrested from a women's hostel, accused of being a man. This sets the premise of the narrative. Getting into a flashback, we are shown the free-spirited Rashmi being brought up in rustic Bhuj, Gujarat.

How the earthquake of 2001 altered her life and how over a period of time she took part in athletic events reluctantly, after being coaxed



by her mother Bhanuben (Supriya Pathak) and Gagan Thakur (Priyanshu Painyuli), the military officer who loves her, which leads to the controversy that plagues her.

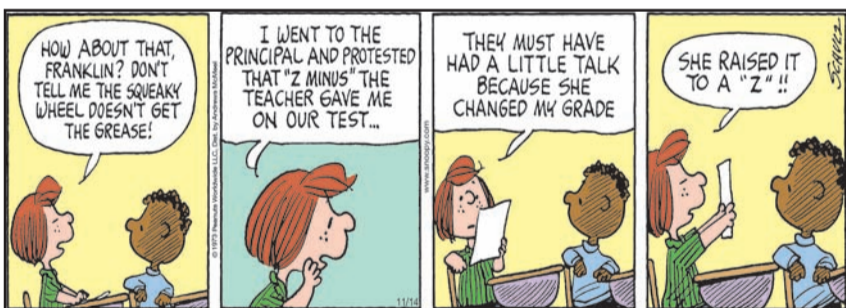
The film's second half focuses on the drama in the court of Judge Savita Deshpande (Supriya Pathak) and Manoj Joshi, as Rashmi's parents, offer nothing exceptional. IANS

Eeshit Mehta (Abhishek Banerjee) and the veteran prosecutor Mangesh Desai (Zafar Karachiwala). The film ends on a note that makes you want more. It's therefore a bit disappointing. Tapsee Pannu, who was earlier seen in a sports drama, effortlessly slips into the shoes of the ace sprinter Rashmi. She is a delight to watch, for she brings the right balance of joy, grit and pain on-screen.

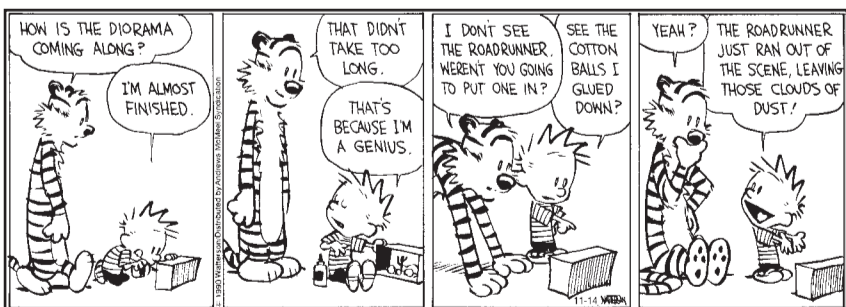
The subtle character of a considerate and fearless lover, determined in the face of injustice, was brilliantly played by Priyanshu Painyuli. Supriya Pathak, Abhishek Banerjee and Zafar Karachiwala are a refreshing change in the courtroom drama. Though minor characters, they were all well-written and well-played. They were able to add some spark in an otherwise mundane court scene. Supriya Pathak and Manoj Joshi, as Rashmi's parents, offer nothing exceptional. IANS

FUN post

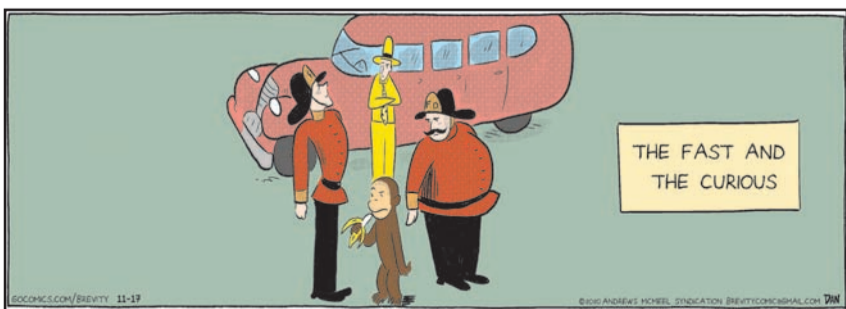
PEANUTS



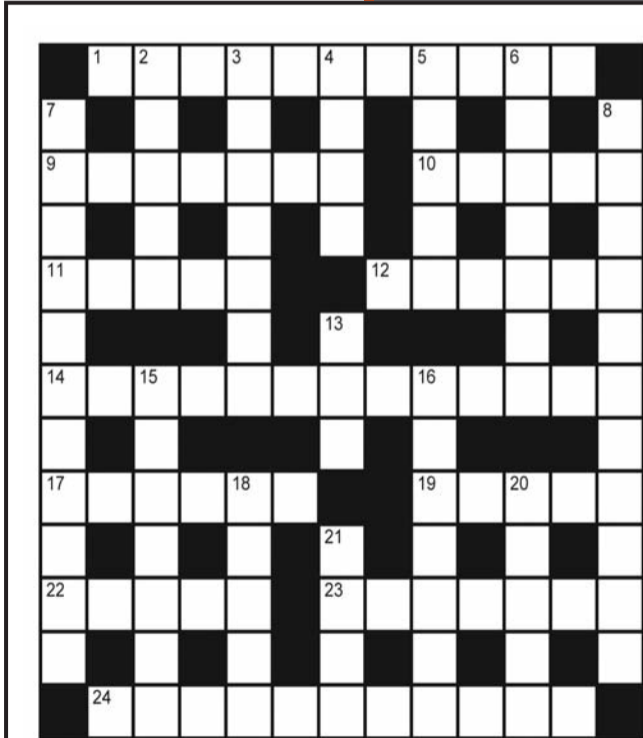
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



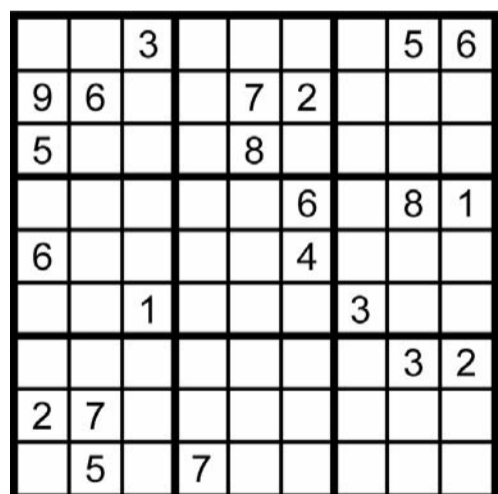
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Mentally nimble (5-6)
 - 9 Kind of comb
 - 10 Words to remember
 - 11 Tennis starter
 - 12 Eye part
 - 14 Selling points? (10,3)
 - 17 Pointless
 - 19 Channel markers
 - 22 Contents of Pandora's box
 - 23 Cupidity
 - 24 Hard labour requirement (5,6)
 - 2 Pronounce
 - 3 Ski abodes
 - 4 Feral
 - 5 Pace
 - 6 Tartu locale
 - 7 Pub offering (5,6)
 - 8 Earth's locale (5,6)
 - 13 Back of the boat
 - 15 Garden sore spot
 - 16 Hug
 - 18 Rodeo rope
 - 20 Skips
 - 21 Zingy taste

SUDOKU

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

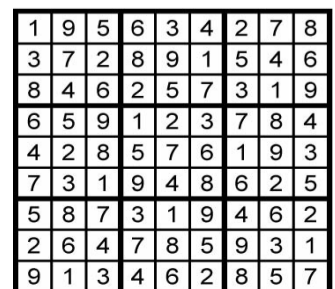


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

INVINCIBLE NAVEEN



Political novice to longest-serving CM

Born in Cuttack, Naveen Patnaik completed his BA degree from the University of Delhi and became a writer. For many years he lived mostly abroad and had no connection to politics.

Naveen returned to India shortly before his father Biju Patnaik's death in April 1997. In June Naveen – as a member of his father's party, the Janata Dal, ran for and won a by-election held for the Lok Sabha seat that fell vacant following his father's death. He was named to the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Steel and Mines.

In December 1997, he established the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) after the Janata Dal decided not to join the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a coalition of political parties that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was building to contest the Lok Sabha elections in 1998. Naveen's BJD joined the NDA and was successful in the elections. He was reelected to the Lok Sabha in 1999 and became the Minister of Steel and Mines in the NDA Cabinet.

In 2000, the BJD, in alliance with the BJP, won a majority of seats in elec-

tions to the Odisha Legislative Assembly and ousted the long-serving Indian National Congress from the state government. Subsequently, Naveen resigned from his posts in the Union Cabinet and became the Chief Minister of Odisha.

He was largely perceived as a mild and incorruptible political leader, and his first term in office was marked by his attempts to establish a transparent and corruption-free administration. In the process, he had to act against a corrupt bureaucracy and also some senior leaders of the BJD who had been implicated in corruption. His administration also initiated several programmes aimed at alleviating poverty in the state.

Naveen called for early Assembly elections in 2004, and the BJD-BJP alliance once again secured majority in the Assembly. He defeated his Congress opponent and became Chief Minister for the second time.

However, the BJD severed its ties with the BJP prior to the 2009 Assembly elections, and, contesting the polls independently, the BJD won its largest margin of victory yet and formed the government. The party again outperformed itself in the 2014 elections. The BJD gained politically while most of the country was swept by a wave of BJP victories. The BJD remained strong in the 2019 elections, helping Naveen secure a fifth consecutive term and making him Odisha's longest-serving Chief Minister.

Early in his political career, Patnaik benefitted from the reputation of his father, but he soon established himself firmly as a popular leader within the state and was lauded as an efficient and honest administrator.

For long, Odisha was infamous for its poverty, starvation, corruption and disasters. In 1999, the state was battered by the Super Cyclone which claimed over 10,000 lives. When the rest of the world was stepping into the new millennium with enthusiasm, Odisha was still picking up broken pieces. In such hopeless circumstances, Naveen Patnaik became the Chief Minister of Odisha. Little did the world then realise that this man would not only break the stereotypes, he would also emblazon on the global map the state's name as a triumphant

Naveen, who turned 76 Saturday, remains one of the longest serving Chief Ministers in India. He has consistently deployed welfare schemes and maintained clean governance by dodging controversies and following the development narrative. As a result, his party Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has garnered the faith of Odisha's majority for five consecutive terms.

No other politician in the history of Indian politics has remained undefeated after being crowned the Chief Minister of a state. After his father Biju Patnaik's death in 1997, Naveen was advised by the then Prime Minister I.K. Gujral to contest the bypolls to the Aska Parliamentary seat. From that day, he has never tasted defeat.

Over a span of 21 years, the margin of his victory as well as his popularity has increased, and the man has defied anti-incumbency despite being in power for five consecutive terms.

Naveen had stepped into politics reluctantly, as he had not lived in the state till 1997 and did not know Odia language. On his way up, he had to face the likes of late Janaki Ballabh Patnaik of Congress, and Bijay Mohapatra, Damodar Rout and Prafulla Ghadei from his own party. He did so embarrassing the political pundits who had opined otherwise and became Odisha's 14th Chief Minister in 2000.

Naveen stands away from the crowd of typical Indian politicians and has never been heard using harsh words for his rivals and cynics. Despite his poor command over Odia, he connects with his voters exceptionally well. As his speeches are carefully crafted, he has been able to refrain from making any con-

troversial remark and repenting later on.

Unlike his father, Naveen is seen to be a pragmatist, a leader who is compromising if and when required. As a result, he has maintained good relations with his political rivals – both the BJP and Congress. He is considered to be the strongest non-NDA ally of the Modi-led BJP government in the Centre, and has supported the Union government on crucial Bills in the Parliament.

He has, over the years, focused on setting new benchmarks in sectors like sports, tourism and heritage of the state. Odisha now aims at remodeling and diversifying itself as the destination for knowledge-based industries i.e. technology and financial services. The Chief Minister believes that Odisha tops the country in spending sanctioned funds across various sectors like agriculture, rural housing, sports and skilling. From being a rice-deficit state to becoming the third largest contributor of rice to the Public Distribution System in India, the state has come a long way.

Odisha has reportedly imparted skill training to over 1.1 million people between 2014 and 2019, excluding engineering colleges and other higher education institutions.

WISHES POUR IN FOR B'DAY BOY

Wishes have poured in from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Ganeshi Lal and several other dignitaries from across the country for Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on his 76th birthday, Saturday. Taking to his personal Twitter handle, PM Modi wrote, "Greetings to Shri Naveen Patnaik Ji on his birthday. I pray that he is blessed with a long and healthy life in service of the people. @Naveen_Odisha."

"Thank you Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji for your warm birthday wishes," the Chief Minister Patnaik retweeted.

Similarly, the Governor's Office wrote in a message in Odia language, "Honourable Governor has greeted and wished the Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on his birthday and also prayed for long and healthy life of Patnaik by the grace of God."

"Thanks to the Honourable Governor of Odisha for his wishes on the occasion of my birthday," the Chief Minister replied.

"Warm wishes to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on his birthday. Praying to Lord Jagannath for your long and healthy life," tweeted Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Greetings to Shri Naveen Patnaik Ji on his birthday. I pray that he is blessed with a long and healthy life in service of the people

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER



Naveen Patnaik takes oath as the Chief Minister for the fifth consecutive term May 29, 2019

GOALIE'S LOVE FOR HOCKEY

THE CHIEF MINISTER WAS A HOCKEY GOALKEEPER DURING HIS SCHOOL DAYS. NOW, HE HAS STOOD TALL BEHIND THE INDIAN HOCKEY TEAMS SINCE 2018



We continue to focus on sports development in the state. More than ₹1,000 crore worth sports development projects have been taken up, including India's largest hockey stadium in Rourkela

NAVEEN PATNAIK | ODISHA CHIEF MINISTER

THE PATNAIK GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ONLY CREATED A WORLD-CLASS HOCKEY STADIUM IN BHUBANESWAR, BUT ALSO SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED MANY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

of Birsamunda International Hockey Stadium and practice pitch in Rourkela and expansion of Kalinga Stadium.

These two stadiums would host the next edition of Men's Hockey World Cup in 2023.

Given the grit and raw talent from the tribal belt, especially Sundargarh, hockey players like former Indian hockey team captain Dillip Tirkey were essentially the torchbearers of sport from the state.

To popularise hockey in Sundargarh, the government has decided to set up 17 Hockey Training Centres in the district with a total cost of Rs 150 crore. These training centres will have synthetic hockey fields (sand dressed) and administrative/changing room building, the source said.

Odisha has also decided to develop sports infrastructure including indoor stadiums in different urban local bodies across the state with an investment of Rs 462 crore.

With all these initiatives, the state was able to send four hockey players Amit Rohidas, Birendra Lakra, Deep Grace Ekka and Namita Toppe to represent India at Tokyo Olympics.

People across the country knew Naveen Patnaik as a politician, while some others knew him as a writer. But, till recently not many were aware that he also has a soft corner for sports, especially hockey.

The Chief Minister was a hockey goalkeeper during his school days. Now, he has stood tall behind the Indian hockey teams since 2018.

The Chief Minister himself was a hockey player during his school days. He was the goalkeeper or goalie when he was studying at the Doon School. The hockey lover did not stop only with sponsoring the Indian hockey teams, but has taken all possible steps to promote hockey in the state.

When Sahara India backed out from

sponsoring the Indian hockey teams in 2018, the Odisha government-led by Naveen decided to sponsor both men's and women's teams for five year. Now, he has announced to support both the teams for another 10 years.

"Investment in sports is an investment in youth. Investment in youth is an investment in the future," a statement of the CM has now become a campaigning slogan for the development of sports in the state.

The Patnaik government has not only created a world-class hockey stadium in Bhubaneswar, but also successfully hosted many national and international matches like the Champions Trophy hockey in 2014, Hockey World League in 2017 and

Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018.

In 2019, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) presented the prestigious FIH President's Award to the Chief Minister for his government's contribution towards hockey.

On the occasion of completion of the second year of his government's fifth term May 29 this year, Patnaik had said, "We continue to focus on sports development in the state. More than Rs 1,000 crore worth sports development projects have been taken up, including India's largest hockey stadium in Rourkela."

According to official sources, the state government has estimated to invest over Rs 350 crore for development

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State records 358 new Covid cases

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 10,34,634 Saturday as 358 more people tested positive for the infection, which is 109 less than the previous day; while three fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 8,282, a Health department official said.

Of the new cases registered in 23 of the 30 districts, 209 were reported in quarantine centres, while 149 were detected during contact tracing.

Khurda district, under which state Capital Bhubaneswar falls, recorded the highest number of new cases at 186, followed by 15 in Cuttack. The district registered 51.95 per cent of the fresh cases, the official said.

Forty-seven children were among the new patients. The rate of infection in the 0-18 age group slightly dipped to 13.12 per cent from 14.13 per cent on the previous day. The fresh fatalities were recorded in Khurda, Puri and Sundargarh districts.

The state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 0.66 per cent. It was at 0.77 per cent Friday, 0.81 per cent Thursday and 0.98 per cent

The state has thus far tested over 2.10 crore samples for Covid-19, including 53,709 in the last 24 hours and the cumulative positivity rate stood at 4.92%

Wednesday. The state had registered 467 cases Friday, 521 Thursday and 615 Wednesday. Dhenkanal, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Nuapada did not record any fresh case.

Odisha now has 5,119 active cases, while 10,21,180 people have recovered from the disease so far, including 535 in the last 24 hours. Fifty-three patients have died due to comorbidities to date.

The state has thus far tested over 2.10 crore samples for Covid-19, including 53,709 in the last 24 hours. The cumulative positivity rate stood at 4.92 per cent. As many as 98.41 lakh people have been fully vaccinated so far.

FOR LORD'S BLESSINGS



Hundreds of devotees queuing up on the Grand Road in Puri to visit Srimandir, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Colleges to submit UCs worth ₹4.65cr

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The Higher Education department Saturday directed 29 government colleges to immediately submit the Utilisation Certificates (UCs) amounting to ₹4.56 crore. This amount was sanctioned to these colleges for modernisation of quality education and as infrastructure development grant during the financial year 2009-10 and 2015-16.

Earlier, the matter was reviewed during the Departmental Monitoring Committee by the Principal Secretary, Higher Education (HE) department, Saswat Mishra, who expressed displeasure over the delay in submitting the UC by the higher education Institutions. He had also written to the defaulting colleges in this regard.

As per sources, UCs worth over ₹1,000 crore regarding various schemes of HE department for the 2003-2004 fiscal are pending submission. The department has asked the colleges to submit UCs by November 15 failing which no further funds will be sanctioned.

Direct flights to Jaipur, Goa soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) authorities here, Saturday, said that Odisha will soon have air connectivity with Rajasthan and Goa as direct flights will begin from Bhubaneswar to Jaipur and Dabolim.

BPIA Director Pravat Ranjan Beuria stated that while flight services between Bhubaneswar and Jaipur will commence November 2, operations between Bhubaneswar and Goa will start from December 1.

"Budget airline IndiGo will commence direct flight service from Bhubaneswar to Goa and Jaipur. Direct flights between Bhubaneswar to Jaipur will be three days a week, while flights to Goa will operate on



all seven days," Beuria said.

Sources also said that the Jaipur-Bhubaneswar flight will operate Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. It will leave BPIA at 9:20 pm and land in Jaipur at 11:55 pm. The return flight will leave Jaipur at 6:30 pm and reach BPIA at 8:50 pm. Similarly, flights between Goa and Bhubaneswar will leave BPIA at 10:30 pm and the return flight will leave Dabolim airport in Goa at 1:35 am.

The commencement of the new flight services were announced after Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia informed the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan about the same. Earlier, Pradhan had written to Scindia in September urging the latter to start direct flight operations between Bhubaneswar and the two cities.

Notorious criminal hurt in police encounter

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 16: A notorious criminal was injured in a police encounter in Kandarpur area here Saturday.

Police have seized a gun and three live bullets from injured Rakesh Das of Balikuda in Jagatsinghpur district. Rakesh was admitted to the surgery ward of SCB Medical College and Hospital.

According to sources, Rakesh had been booked in several cases of loot, extortion and illegal firearm smuggling at various police stations.

Some miscreants had looted ₹90,000 from Khirod Chandra Sahoo of Jagatsinghpur by opening fire

at him at Athanga near Kandarpur September 9.

Police had registered a case in this regard and initiated a probe. During investigation, police came to know about Rakesh's involvement in the incident. However, they could not nab Rakesh despite multiple attempts, sources said.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Kandarpur IIC Bipin Bihari Hota intercepted Rakesh while he was on his way to Jagatsinghpur from Cuttack Saturday morning. Rakesh initially opened fire on police and tried to escape.

A bullet hit Rakesh on his right leg when police fired at him in retaliation, sources added.

NZP toy train catches fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Nearly 50 people had a narrow escape Friday as a newly introduced toy train caught fire at the Nandankanan Zoological Park here, a senior official said.

Short circuit is suspected to be the cause of the blaze in the moving toy train, he said.

It was immediately brought to a stop after smoke was seen emanating from the engine, and all the people onboard escaped unhurt, deputy director of the park, Sanjit Kumar, said.

The toy train with four bogies of 74-passenger capacity, was introduced on October 8, after a gap of several years. The project was set up at a cost of ₹3.05 crore.

RTES Ltd, a central PSU under the Ministry of Railways, is in charge of operation and track maintenance of the toy train at Nandankanan Zoo here.

Physical classes for Std XI, VIII after Puja vacation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The state government Friday announced resumption of physical classes for students of Class XI and Class VIII after the Durga Puja vacation as the state is witnessing a declining trend in Covid-19 cases, a notification of the School and Mass Education department said.

Physical classes for Class XI will begin October 21 and for Class VIII October 25 as the state is witnessing a declining trend in Covid-19 cases, it said.

Classroom teaching for students of Classes IX and XII has already resumed in the state with strict adherence to health safety guidelines.

No cooked mid-day meal will be served to the students of Class VIII and dry ration will be given to

them instead, the notification said.

Hostels for students of Classes XI and VIII will also be reopened along with the date of reopening of schools following the Covid-19 protocol and social distancing norms.

"The Covid-19 situation has been improving in the state. We will resume classroom teaching for students of Classes XI and VIII from October 21 and October 25 respectively," School and Mass Education Minister Sameer Ranjan Dash said. He, however, said no decision has been taken for reopening of schools for students from Class I to Class VII.

"A meeting will be held October 16 with all District Education Officers of the state in this regard and instructions will be issued to initiate preparations for the commencement of classes for Classes VIII and XI students," he said.

SNIPPETS

Conmen held for selling duplicate gold ornaments

BHUBANESWAR: The Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested two persons for allegedly duping buyers by selling duplicate gold ornaments. The accused were identified as Ghanashyam Solanki, 25, and Mohan Solanki, 50, of Burg district in Chhattisgarh. Currently, the accused were staying at Balianta in the capital city here. According to sources, Saheed Nagar police received information regarding some persons trying to sell gold ornaments as genuine gold to passengers waiting for Mo bus at Jaydev Vihar. A team from the police station rushed to spot and arrested the duo. The accused, during interrogation, revealed that they would lure the customer's by offering them gold ornaments at a very cheap price. They would show the victims original beads for testing with the goldsmith to win their confidence. Later, they would sell duplicate gold chains and cheat them.

CP in fix over sealing bar

BHUBANESWAR: The Commissionerate Police are in a fix after sealing the South City hotel at Patrapada for flouting Covid-19 guidelines. Sources claimed that the bar in the hotel was run by an influential policeman. The bar was in news after the death of Manish Anurag, son of senior journalist Naveen das, in the wee hours of October 10. Police, during investigation, came to know that the bar was operating till midnight flouting Covid guidelines. The brother of Prasanna Behera, the secretary of Havildar and Constable Association of Bhubaneswar, was running the bar after acquiring it on lease, sources claimed. Locals alleged that despite repeated complaints about the bar running beyond 10pm, Tamando police failed to take any action against the hotel due to the influence of Behera. Earlier, a video of Behera dancing with girls in the bar had also

2 spl trains cancelled

BHUBANESWAR: In view of poor patronisation of trains during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Railways has been decided to cancel the 08438/08437 Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special train till October 22. This apart, another train, 8428/08427 Puri-Angul-Puri Special will remain partially cancelled from both the directions up to October 22, 2021 between Talcher and Angul and will currently run between Talcher and Puri from both the directions. Meanwhile, in view of derailment of a goods train between AAP-RURA stations in Tundla-Kanpur Railway Section Friday morning blocking all lines, some ECoR-bound trains have either been diverted or cancelled. The diverted trains are 08310 Jammu Tawi-Sambalpur Special, which left Jammu Tawi and will run via Ghaziabad-Moradabad-Lucknow.

Baker makes chocolate statue of CM on b'day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: As wishes poured in from across the country on the occasion of the 75th birthday of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday, one of his admirers created a 72 kilogram chocolate sculpture as a tribute to the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president.

Patnaik had Friday announced that he would skip birthday celebrations this year to express solidarity with the people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A 32-year-old baker Rakesh Kumar Sahu of Begunia in Khurda district created a 72 kg chocolate sculpture of Patnaik, which was unveiled by the state's Sports Minister TK Behera in the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

The statue will be on display in the stadium for a certain period.

The Sports Department has decided to distribute the chocolate among disadvantaged children in ad-



joining areas after the completion of the exhibition period, Behera said. Sahu said he completed the statue in 15 days, with the help of six students of his bakery institute.

The baker, a sports enthusiast, said he came up with the idea of creating the sculpture as a tribute to Patnaik for his steadfast support for Indian Hockey over the last several

years, which resulted in a spectacular performance by the men's and women's national teams in the Tokyo Olympic Games held earlier this year. The Odisha government is the sponsor of India's national hockey teams.

"While celebrating the bronze medal win (by the men's team), I thought that I should do something special for the man who stood by the National Hockey Teams like a rock during its lowest phase - our Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik," Sahu said.

When he pitched the idea of making the chocolate sculpture to his students at his institute, they readily agreed to assist him. With help from an agency, Sahu shared his preliminary designs with Sports Department officials who also immediately showed interest in the idea.

He said he faced difficulties due to temperature variation and change in moisture levels in his workshop.

Aakash Institute student tops in JEE Advanced 2021

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Aakash Institute, the national leader in test preparatory services, has once again showed stellar performance as it produced Odisha topper in JEE (Advanced) in 2021, third year in a row.

Goutam Das from Aakash-Byju has secured 282 score with AIR 115 and topped in Odisha in JEE Advanced for 2021. The result of JEE (Advanced) 2021 was declared October 15, 2021.

Earlier, Aakash Institute had also produced Odisha toppers in 2019 (Sayantan Dhar, AIR: 51) and 2020 (Sibasish Rout, AIR: 73) and now created hat-trick.

Goutam gave credit for his outstanding performance to his parents, hard work and for continuous



support of Aakash teachers. Goutam further added that regular classes and various test series like AIATS and other Aakash practice series have helped him in achieving his goal. He praised the study material provided by Aakash - Byju's and helped him further to understand, implement, analyze concepts to crack JEE Advanced and enables him to achieve AIR - 115.

Regional Director AB Singh said,

"I am elated by the result achieved by the students in JEE Advanced 2021 despite of difficult times of pandemic COVID-19. I acknowledge the hard work put in by our faculty members who sincerely put their efforts by providing their availability 24x7 for students. Also, acknowledging administrative & support teams who not only had to take care of them but also worked hard to support the students to realize their dreams."

Other students of Aakash Institute, Bhubaneswar, from regular classroom course who has remarkably outperformed in JEE Advanced 2021 are Deepak Nanda (AIR - 848), N Anuska (AIR - 2039), Akash Ganerwal (AIR - 2066), Gauri Shankar Swain (AIR - 2672), Sudeep Ranjan Sahoo (AIR - 4464), Omm Animesh Mishra (AIR - 6077).

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UPSET OVER UNPAID LOAN

Couple jumps into sea to end lives

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gopalpur, Oct 16: The extended lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19 has a cascading effect on a couple in Silk City who committed suicide by reportedly jumping into sea over unpaid loan, police said.

The deceased were identified as L Chiranjeev Achari and his wife L Damayanti Achari of Gollundi area in the city, police said. The body of Damayanti was recovered from the sea mouth on Gopalpur beach, October 12 while Chiranjeev's body was recovered from Upulapati beach under Chamakhandi police limits, two days later.

Preliminary inquiries indicated that the couple took the extreme step after they failed to repay the loan they had borrowed to run their small shop which was their only means of livelihood during the period of Covid lockdown.

Reports said they were managing their family from the earnings made from the shop but fell into bad days due to repeated closure of the shop during the lockdown. As a result, they borrowed from outside to meet the expenses of their family.

This pushed them into distress and they decided to end their lives after money lenders started harassing them for repayment. They



left home October 12 informing their son of going out to attend some work. The couple while leaving home handed over ₹3000 to their son to use it at times of need.

They reached Gopalpur and reportedly jumped into the sea to end lives, October 12. The same evening Gopalpur police recovered Damayanti's body from the sea mouth in Gopalpur. However, police failed to identify the body and kept it in the morgue of MKCG Medical College and Hospital after conducting post-mortem.

Gopalpur police registered a case and launched a probe when Chamakhandi police recovered the body of Chiranjeev from Upulapati beach and registered a case. Later, the bodies were identified as those of the debt-ridden couple Chiranjeev and Damayanti. The bodies were handed over to the family members for cremation after a post-mortem. The actual reason behind their deaths could be ascertained only after the post-

Woman jumps into Patali river in front of hubby

Koraput: A fight between a couple led to a tragic end after the woman killed herself by jumping into Patali river from Champapat bridge under Padua police limits in Koraput district Saturday. The deceased was identified as Padma Khara, 40, wife of Jagabandhu Khara of Kukudapaksi village about five km from Padua police station in Koraput district.

Reports said the couple was on their way to attend a function at Pujaripur village Saturday afternoon when they got into a heated argument over some issues on the bridge. Enraged, the woman jumped into the river from the bridge in front of her husband. Jagabandhu raised an alarm, following which fire personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the body from the water body.

mortem reports of the couple are available to them, Gopalpur and Chamakhandi police officials added.

mortem reports of the couple are available to them, Gopalpur and Chamakhandi police officials added.

BUDDING ARTISTS



Girls giving shape to the paintings of Goddess Durga at an art workshop in Samablpur in front of the district collectorate, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Jharkhand, Bengal lure people in fringe areas: Tudu

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 16: Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti Bisweshwar Tudu alleged that the neighbouring Jharkhand and West Bengal governments had been trying to lure people into their side with promise of basic facilities in some fringe areas of Mayurbhanj district.

He blamed such a situation in fringe areas on the administration. "The district administration has neglected in making provision of good communication, drinking water, healthcare and education for people living in border areas," he observed.

He stated this while attending the 4th meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee here Saturday. Expressing concern over the issue, Tudu said officials do not make field visits and have been apathetic to the people's welfare.

The meeting was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Mohant, Jashipur MLA Ganeshram Singhkuntia, Rairangpur MLA Nabacharan Majhi, Baripada MLA Prakash Soren, Badashi MLA Sanatan Bijuli, Saraskana MLA Budan Murmu, Udala MLA Bhaskar Madhe and Collector Vineet Bhardwaj.

They reviewed the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, rural drinking water, communication and MGNREGS.

Mayurbhanj: Woman brutally gangraped

POST NEWS NETWORK

Raruan, Oct 16: In a shocking incident, a woman was brutally gang raped by two men at Sukruli in Mayurbhanj district Friday. After committing the crime, they allegedly inserted a stick in her private part before fleeing from the spot.

The incident came to the fore Saturday after a complaint was lodged in this connection at Raruan police station.

In her complaint, the survivor, aged about 50 years old, said it was when she was returning home after watching Durga puja pandals in Tangia village under Raruan police limits that the two youths on a motorcycle stopped near her and offered her a lift to her village.

Instead of taking her to her village, they forcibly took her to Bhandan river bank and took turns on her. After committing the crime, the perpetrators hit her head and before leaving the spot, inserted a stick in her private part.

Hearing her painful cries, local people came to the spot and seeing her lying on the river bed, they immediately informed the fire department.

The fire personnel rescued her and rushed her to Sukruli community health centre (CHC).



The survivor, aged about 50 years old, alleged she was returning home after watching Durga puja pandals in Tangia village under Raruan police limits when the two youths on a motorcycle stopped near her and offered her a lift to her village

According to Dr Dhananjay Soren, a doctor at Sukruli CHC, the woman was admitted to the hospital by the fire personnel at around 7 pm. She has critical in-

juries on her head and private part. The survivor said that she had been gang-raped by two men.

On being informed, a team from Raruan police station reached the CHC and recorded the survivor's statement.

When contacted, Raruan police station IIC Dayanidhi Das said two youths took the victim to a riverside place on the pretext of giving her lift to her village and gang raped her there. "We have already launched a manhunt for the accused," he added.

KJS Group chairman KS Ahluwalia no more

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: The chairman of KJS Group, Kamaljeet Singh Ahluwalia, passed away October 15. He was 78.

Ahluwalia, a self-made businessman, was among the giants of India's mining and steel industry. He dared to be different and lived a life on his terms. He rose high on the strength of his willpower and sharp mind and was a revolutionary personality.

Born February 15, 1941 in Bandikuli, Rajasthan, Ahluwalia started his journey from Barbil. Over five decades he built a nationwide industrial empire, which



Born Feb 15, 1941 in Bandikuli, Rajasthan, Ahluwalia started his journey from Barbil and built a nationwide industrial empire

included companies in iron, steel, cement, concrete, construction and real estate, infrastructure and technology sectors.

Under Ahluwalia's guidance, the KJS Group clocked a high annual turnover of about ₹5,000 crore. He was also one of the highest income tax payers in India for past five years.

Elephant tramples two to death in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairakhol, Oct 16: Tension gripped Dimirikuda village on Rairakhol town outskirts in Sambalpur district as villagers staged a demonstration following the recovery of two bodies including a five year old boy Friday. They were trampled to death by an elephant Thursday night.

The deceased have been identified as Dushasana Bhoi (26) and his nephew Latik Bhoi (five) of Dimirikuda village.

Dushasana and Latik were going on a bicycle on Ranchi-Vijayawada National Highway Thursday evening at the time of the incident, a local resident said. Friday morning, they spotted the bicycle and later found the crushed bodies in the jungle. Family members and villagers staged a demonstration.

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

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

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

ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଠିକାଦାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକ: (ଡବ୍ଲ୍ୟୁଟିପି, କଏସ୍ଆର୍ ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସଂରଚନା)

ଜୁବେରୀ ଇଞ୍ଜିନିୟରିଂ କନ୍ସ୍ଟ୍ରକ୍ସନ୍ ପ୍ରାଇଭେଟ୍ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍ କମ୍ପାନୀ WTP, ESR, UGR ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ସୋନପୁର, ରାୟଗଡ଼ା, କେନ୍ଦୁଝର ଏବଂ ବାରିପଦା ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ଅଭିଜ୍ଞ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଠିକାଦାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଇଚ୍ଛୁକ ଠିକାଦାର ଆମ ସହିତ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କରିପାରନ୍ତି ।

ମୋବାଇଲ୍ ନଂ: 8502033131, 9680333344
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Parties face many challenges ahead of Ganjam rural polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 16: The three-tier panchayat elections in the district have posed stiff challenges to all the three major political parties.

The district has 503 panchayats comprising 7,101 wards. Over 50 per cent of the seats for the posts of ward members will be reserved for women in this 2022 panchayat election. This has heated up politics in the area as all three political parties have started making preparations to win the elections.

Meanwhile, the opposition BJP and the Congress are way ahead in election preparations. While the BJP and the Congress have formed block level organisational committees, the ruling BJD is lagging behind and yet to form these committees.

District BJD leaders, however, dismissed these claims stating that very soon the new block level committees will be formed and the names of new office bearers will be announced. BJD MLAs have been given the charge of selecting candidates and conducting organisational meetings in



their respective areas.

The BJP leaders have started touring various areas and are galvanizing the party organisation. The Congress's organisation is weak for a long period.

However, Sanakhemundi Congress MLA Ramesh Chandra Jena who is the district president is learnt to be making serious preparations to challenge both the parties. He is touring various constituencies in phases and rallying the party workers.

The three parties have made elaborate plans to win the elections. The BJD is banking on central negligence, failure of the Modi government in controlling hike in fuel, LPG price and essentials while the BJP is preparing to target the ruling party on misuse of central funds, deteriorating law and order, scam in central housing scheme Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The Congress targets both the parties on

inept administration both at the centre and the state and anti-people policies of both the parties

Sources said, over 3,550 women will be elected as ward members in this election. Nominating 7,101 candidates for the posts of ward members has become a headache for all political parties in this election. The restrictions on the reservation of candidates laid down in the revised Panchayat Act have sparked resentment among party leaders and workers.

The wards will not be re-constituted at panchayat level in the coming elections. Meanwhile, the district administration has published the reservation list and fixed October 16 as the last date for filing complaints. The district administration will send a final list to the State Election Commission October 26 after making a review of the list on the basis of available suggestions and grievances. The whole process will end October 30. However, election dates are yet to be announced for posts of 69 Zilla Parishad members, 22 block chairpersons, 503 sarpanchs, naib sarpanchs and samiti members in the district.

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

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 for Enforcement of Security Interest

A Demand Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued and sent by Regd. Post with A.D. by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India, Duburi Branch (e-AB)** against the following Borrower/Co-obligant, which could not be served to the below mentioned parties. Therefore, the contents of the same including the outstanding, Loan amount and details of the secured assets are herein furnished below.

DUBURI BRANCH (e-AB) / Name & Address of Borrower/ Co-obligant	Nature / Limit	Date of Demand Notice/Outstanding	Details of Property Mortgaged
Borrower: Manzoor Aili, S/o: Abadul Satar, At/PO./P.S.: Sukinda, Dist.: Jajpur / Co-obligant: Ashutosh Dwivedy, At/PO./P.S.: Sukinda, Dist.: Jajpur	Housing Loan/ ₹18,27,000/-	07.05.2021 / ₹10,30,350/- as on 31.03.2021 together with further interest & charges thereon	3 BR Flat No.: 3/1, in the name of Manzoor Aili, 2nd Floor with super built-up area of 1472 sqft. (Ac.0.034dec.) along with proportionate share of land in Hena Apartment, Kanheipur, Jajpur Road, Over Mouza: Chandama, Khata No.: 482, Plot No.: 222, Khata No.: 611, Plot No.: 222/2324, Khata No.: 356, Plot No.: 222/2325, Khata No.: 53, Plot No.: 222/2323, Total Area: Ac.0.42dec., from Omm Builders and Developers.

As the above mentioned Borrower of the Duburi Branch (e-AB) have defaulted in repayment of the principal loan/ facility in installments/ interest/ both, the account has been classified as NPA and all of you are jointly and severally liable to pay the above mentioned amount as mentioned against the respective account with subsequent interest as per the agreement. You are hereby called upon to pay the said outstanding amount together with up to date interest within **60 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the Bank shall be constrained to take any one or more of the following measures against the properties Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the Bank detailed above, to recover the amount without the intervention of the court as provided under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (54 of 2002) i.e. 1. Take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured assets. 2. Take over the management of secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by the way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets. 3. Appoint any person (hereafter referred to as the manager) to manage the secured assets the possession of which has been taken over by the secured creditor. 4. Require at any time by notice in writing any person who has acquired any of the secured assets from the borrower and from whom any money is due or may become due to the borrower, to pay the bank, so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the secured debt. Please take notice that after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer by the way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the Bank. The charges, expenses incurred for taking the aforesaid actions shall be met out of the sale proceeds and if the sale proceeds are found insufficient to satisfy the entire amount due to the bank, for the balance amount appropriate legal action as provided in the SARFAESI Act 54 of 2002 or any other Act as deemed necessary will be taken against you, holding all of you jointly and severally liable to all costs and consequences thereof. It may be noted that under the provisions of the section 13(8) of the Act, right of redemption is available to you, by paying the dues of the Bank together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank, at any time, before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. **This notice is issued without prejudice to the rights of the bank available under any other law.**

Place: Balasore Date: 16.10.2021

Sd/- Authorised Officer Union Bank of India

U.N. COLLEGE, SORO, BALASORE QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No. 166 Date: 16.10.21
Sealed quotations are invited from different firms/dealers/distributors for supply of Books (CBCS Text Book)/Laboratory Equipment/Sports Equipment (Details available in College website: www.uncollegesoro.com) to U.N. College, Soro, Balasore. The quotations should reach the undersigned on or before 28.10.2021 at 1.00 P.M. The quotation will be opened on the same day at 2.00 P.M. Parties or their authorized representatives may remain present at the time of opening of quotations. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or quotation without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Principal
U.N. College, Soro, Balasore

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE Bid Identification No. 22 of 2021-22

No. O-830:- The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage bid through e - Procurement in single cover system according to norm of e - Procurement system in online mode for the different work in different blocks under Balangir District.

01. Nature of Work: - Construction of percolation well in different villages of Balangir District

02. Total No. of work :- 80 Nos.

03. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 24.31 Lakh

04. Eligible Class of Contractor: - "C & B Class" Contractor

05. Period of Completion :- Three months.

06. Other Details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Balangir	22 of 2021-22	Dt.18.10.2021 At 11.00 hrs.	Dt.08.11.2021 Upto 17.00 hrs.

Further details can be had in the DTCN available in the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- 07.10.2021, Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balangir
OIPR-25033/11/0015/2122

FOCUS FOOD SECURITY

DIFFICULT DILEMMA



Efforts to fight hunger have traditionally focused on producing more food – but this has come at a high environmental cost. Agriculture depletes 70 per cent of the world's fresh water and 40 per cent of its land. It has contributed to the near-extinction of around one million species. Food production generates 30 per cent of global greenhouse-gas emissions

imaging. The data collected can help to guide farmers' irrigation, planting, and fertilization decisions, and indicate the best time of the year to sell a given crop.

Governments must now work with the private sector to make these high-tech, precision-farming systems available at lower costs, especially for small farmers. The good news is that private firms are increasingly keen to promote sustainability – including through 'blended finance' schemes, which combine an initial investment from governments or multilateral financial institutions with subsequent commercial financing. This kind of approach can effectively de-risk private finance and encourage investment in improving food systems.

For example, the US and Dutch governments have been working with the German coffee company Neumann Kaffee Gruppe and three European banks to provide a \$25 million loan to small farmers in Colombia, Kenya, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, and Uganda for sustainable coffee production. The banks initially rejected the proposal because small farmers are usually shut out of financial services and thus unable to prove their creditworthiness, making them a high-risk group for commercial lenders. But the banks signed on to the scheme after the Dutch government and Neumann Kaffee Gruppe agreed to cover the first 10 per cent of losses should it not pan out, with the US government absorbing 40 per cent of the remaining losses.

Detractors will argue that individual countries should be responsible for reversing the trend of rising hunger through domestic policies. While this may be true, other problems such as GHG emissions cannot be tackled by a country or a region on its own, and must be addressed and funded globally.

Saving the planet does not have to come at the expense of feeding the poor, and vice versa. If governments get their act together, it's still not too late to wipe out hunger by 2030.

The writer is Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

In 2015, 193 countries gathered at the United Nations and pledged to end global hunger by 2030 as part of the Agenda for Sustainable Development. With less than a decade to go, prospects for achieving this goal appear bleak. Improving them will require governments and the private sector to address the global food and environmental crises simultaneously.

Food insecurity has increased in recent years as a result of conflicts and climate change, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying global economic crisis. Today, up to 811 million people suffer from hunger, including 132 million additional people who were classified as undernourished during the pandemic. Another three billion people are too poor to afford a healthy diet.

Efforts to fight hunger have traditionally focused on producing more food – but this has come at a high environmental cost. Agriculture depletes 70 per cent of the world's fresh water and 40 per cent of its land. It has contributed to the near-extinction of around one million species. Food production generates 30 per cent of global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions and is the leading cause of deforestation in the Amazon.

Policymakers seeking to eradicate hunger today thus face a difficult dilemma: preventing billions from going hungry while also saving the planet. For example, a fertilizer subsidy could boost crop yields and reduce hunger, but it could also lead to excessive nitrogen use, thus ruining the soil.

Similarly, cattle and rice farms emit methane, a more potent GHG than carbon dioxide. The most effective way to reduce methane emissions is to tax them. But this would cause food prices to rise, affect poor consumers' access to nutrition, and threaten the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers.

Countries must therefore establish an optimal level of environmental pollution that doesn't reduce agricultural productivity or undermine the social and economic well-being of the poor. We need a solution that feeds the most mouths without endangering the planet.

Finding a workable plan requires looking at food systems holistically – a major departure

from the current siloed approach. To avoid unintended consequences, it is essential to quantify any trade-offs with data. And to turn data-driven strategies into action demands a coordinated effort to boost public and private investments.

No one intervention alone can solve the hunger problem. But studies suggest that a mix of key measures aimed at increasing farm productivity and cutting food loss and waste could reduce the number of chronically hungry people by 314 million in the next decade, and also make healthy diets available for 568 million people. Expanding countries' national safety nets, including school-feeding programmes, could give an additional 2.4 billion people access to a healthy diet by 2030.

Another study shows how a series of low-cost initiatives can end hunger for 500 million people by 2030 while also limiting agricultural GHG emissions in line with the goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. These initiatives in-

clude agricultural research and development to produce food more efficiently; information services that provide farmers with weather forecasts and crop prices, literacy programmes for women – who account for almost half of small farmers in developing countries – and scaling up social protection. This can be accomplished if rich countries double their food-security aid to \$26 billion per year until 2030, and poorer countries maintain their annual investment of \$19 billion.

Automation can help to manage the trade-offs between food production and environmental protection. For example, AgBots that resemble small farm vehicles can identify and remove weeds. Because they don't use expensive chemical herbicides, robots can reduce the cost of weeding by 90 per cent and protect the soil from potentially harmful chemicals. Likewise, artificial intelligence and cloud solutions can detect pest-infested areas using drone



Maximo Torero

SAVING THE PLANET DOES NOT HAVE TO COME AT THE EXPENSE OF FEEDING THE POOR, AND VICE VERSA



Aakar Patel

With every new report coming out that shows that things are slipping, we have become creative in trying to show how everyone else is wrong

Findings are wrong

In 2015, India's ranking on the Global Hunger Index was 55. Last year, in 2020, it fell 39 places to land at 94. India went behind Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The index tracks undernourishment, child stunting (low height for age), child wasting (low weight for age) and child mortality (number of children who die before age 5).

At that time the government did not accept the data (which is collected mostly by agencies linked to the United Nations and the World Bank). In Parliament the government had an unusual defence of its performance. Then Agriculture Minister Parshottam Rupala had said that in India "whenever a street dog gives birth in our village, even though it bites, our women provide them with sheer (sweet dish). So...we should not be sensitive to such reports. As far as these surveys are concerned, even healthy and strong children are counted...there should be awareness in society, our dynamic minister Smriti (Irani) ji has started a Jan Andolan, and 13 crore events have been done."

Now this year, India has fallen another seven places to land at 101. Only 15 nations like Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen and other African countries are worse off than India. This time the government has again refuted the finding that the proportion of undernourished Indians has gone from 14 per cent to 15.3 per cent. The government has said: "The report completely disregards government's massive effort to ensure food security of the entire population during the COVID period, verifiable data on which are available. The opinion poll does not have a single question on whether the respondent received any food support from the government or other sources. The representativeness of even this opinion poll is doubtful for India and other countries."

The government appears to be saying that it is doing its job by providing free grain (five kilos of rice or wheat and one kilo of daal) to 60 per cent of the population or 80 crore people. This is true, and it has been doing this since last year. The question is why are so many Indians queuing up each month for free ration? The answer can only be that they are hungry and need it.

As I wrote last week, the Indian government's own National Family Health Survey of 2019-20 says that things have deteriorated on the malnourishment front. In fact in Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal, a higher percentage of children were wasted in 2019-20 compared to 2005-06. Meaning 15 years of progress has been ceded.

More than half the surveyed states reported every third child below five suffering from chronic malnourishment. The government survey put out data for 22 states and Union territories. Its analysis of 10 major states showed that anaemia among children was higher in all the 10 states in 2019-20 compared to 2015-16. In 7 of the 10 states analysed, a higher percentage of children were underweight (low weight for age) in 2019-20 compared to 2015-16.

This is a crisis we need to acknowledge and work on. It is a difficult problem and will require the Union, state governments and civil society, meaning NGOs, to work together. What is happening instead is that India has become defensive about every finding that shows a deterioration in governance. When The Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index showed that India had fallen 26 places from 27 to 53, the government refused to engage in Parliament. It said the issue is "very sensitive in nature" but also "trivial". The United States Commission for International Religious Freedom last year marked India as one of the 15 nations globally as "countries of particular concern." This was because Indian minorities were under assault. The government said "its biased and tendentious comments against India are not new." This year again the USCIRF has returned the same findings, retained India as a country of particular concern and recommended sanctions against Indian individuals. When Freedom House demoted India from being 'free' to 'partly free' and Kashmir from being 'partly free' to 'not free', India said "the political judgements of Freedom House are inaccurate and distorted" and "for example on the COVID-19 situation, there is a widespread appreciation in the world of our response." With every new report coming out that shows that things are slipping, we have become creative in trying to show how everyone else is wrong. When the Global Terrorism Index showed that India was stuck as the eighth most affected nation on earth, the Niti Aayog questioned how the organisation could "provide country wise national peace reports with just 24 staff members and 6 volunteers."

On four dozen indicators India has fallen since 2014. Our response in all of these has not been to engage with the facts as many other nations have done. Our response is to say that the findings are wrong because under this government India can do no wrong.

WISDOM CORNER

We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far.
SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

That which comes and goes, rises and sets, is born and dies is the ego. That which always abides, never changes, and is devoid of qualities is the Self.
RAMANA MAHARSHI

We all want to be famous people, and the moment we want to be something we are no longer free.
JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

WORDSWORTH

Picnic

There are various stories about the origins of picnic that are currently circulating that link it to black American subjugation. These are two of the versions: i) Picnic was a shortening of pick a nigger and referred to an outdoor community gathering during which families ate from box lunches while a randomly-chosen black man was hanged for the diners' entertainment; ii) The word was originally derived from the term pick-a-nig. Pick-a-nig was a gathering for slave traders and their families back in the 17th/18th centuries. They would get together after slave trading and have a big party, called pick-a-nig. Though there's no truth in these stories from an etymological viewpoint, it is very understandable how the first of these arose. Some of the historic photographs of lynchings show families with picnic baskets. This is evidence enough that a lynching was often a social occasion, but if you need further proof, you have only to investigate how often the phrase lynching bee turns up in contemporary descriptions of such events. However, there is no evidence at all for the second story. Picnic is originally a French word, pique-nique, which first appeared at the end of the seventeenth century. It later spread to Germany and other countries, but didn't become widely known in English until after 1800. It referred to a fashionable type of social entertainment in which each person who attended brought a share of the food. The first part may be from the French piquer, from which we get pick. The nique part may just have been a reiteration (as in English words like hoity-toity), but could have echoed an obsolete word meaning "a trifle" (so the term could have meant something like "each pick a bit"). The association with an outdoor meal didn't appear in English until about the middle of the nineteenth century. So there's no truth in stories that attempt to link the origins of the words with slavery.

SPECTRUM ENERGY

Global warming & power crisis

The immediate cause of the present power crisis is shortage of coal. This shortage, in turn, is due to global warming. A number of coal mines across the world including those in India, China and Australia have been flooded leading to less production at the global level and an increase in price. A number of energy-producing areas such as Louisiana and Texas in the United States have faced hurricanes leading to less production of oil. Dry climate in China has led to less production of hydropower. The wind speed has also been less, leading to less production of wind energy. The consumption of energy, on the other hand, has increased. Europe has faced a long winter last year leading to higher demand for oil for heating purposes. European countries have depleted their stocks of oil in the last winter. The coming winter is also expected to be long. These countries want to rebuild their stocks, leading to higher demand for oil in the global market. Thus global warming has led to less production of coal and elec-

tricity along with higher consumption of oil, leading to an increase in the price of energy and to the present crisis. It must be noted that the price of the three sources of energy—oil, coal and natural gas—are interconnected with each other because often the raw materials are switchable. An oil-based electricity plant can be switched on and a coal-based plant can be switched off if the price of oil is less and coal is more.

The main raw material used for the generation of electricity in India is coal. About 90 per cent of our coal is obtained from domestic sources while 10 per cent is obtained through imports. A few thermal power plants are entirely dependent on imported coal. The price of electricity produced by these plants has increased along with the increase in the price of imported coal. The electricity boards have refused to buy this expensive electricity and these plants have shut down. As a result, the production of electricity has been affected and a crisis has been created. The small reduction in electric-

ity generation due to closure of import-based plants has led to a large crisis just as a small increase in the temperature of a patient from 104 degrees to 105 degrees causes panic.

Such crises are likely to come with increased frequency in the near future. Our special problem is that we are heavily import-dependent for energy. We import 85 per cent of oil and 10 per cent of coal. The global price of these raw materials keeps moving up and down. The price of petrol, diesel, natural gas and electricity in the country goes up and down in tandem. However, the sale price of electricity is fixed by our electricity regulatory commissions on a long-term basis. Thus there arises a mismatch between the short-term cost of production and the long-term price of sale of electricity such as we are seeing at present. The solution requires action at two levels. First, we will have to reduce our consumption of energy to reduce dependence on imports and insulate our economy from the changes in the global

price of oil and coal. This requires an increase in the price of all sources of energy including electricity. Second, we will have to peg the price of sale of electricity to the price of the raw materials.

The price of petrol and diesel are changed on daily basis in keeping with the global price. The price of electricity in the country is about ₹6 to 10 per unit. This has been fixed on a long-term basis. The price cannot be increased frequently as the price of raw materials goes up and down. Therefore, we must change the price of electricity on monthly basis if not daily. It must be noted that we are not affected by the change in global price of coal so much because the price of coal in the country is fixed by the public sector Coal India Limited. At present the domestic price is stable while the international price is rising but we are facing a crisis nevertheless.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore. Views are personal.



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

SUCH CRISES ARE LIKELY TO COME WITH INCREASED FREQUENCY IN THE NEAR FUTURE

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, Rissagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Climate commitment

Sir, COP26 - the 2021 edition of the United Nations Annual Climate Change Conference is scheduled to be held in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12, 2021. World leaders who gather there will renew and strengthen commitments to the 2015 Paris agreement goal of keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. COP consists of parties that are the signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This treaty consists of 196 countries and the EU. The 26th meeting of the parties poses a big question: will it bring about important effects? The central focus of the summit will be on climate finance for action and to reduce emissions and abandoning fossil fuels. The most important agenda of the meeting is the \$100 billion climate finance commitment. Another agenda is to produce long-term strategies to achieve net-zero. Despite the fact that there is an urgent need to put the world on a path to net-zero emissions, many developed countries are falling short of their responsibilities. It must be acknowledged that the UK, the host country, is already showing leadership with clear plans to reduce emissions and reach net-zero by 2050. India's actions are more progressive compared to the largest emitters. It is a fact that climate change is affecting every region of the globe necessitating an urgent action to reduce emissions. If the countries succeed in cutting global emissions to net-zero in 50 years, there would be a great chance to limit global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius to help lessen the effects of climate change.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Mountain to climb

Sir, Covaxin is the second COVID-19 vaccine to get approved for children in India. Close to 40 crore children fall in this beneficiary group and it seems highly unlikely that one company would be able to meet the demand. Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D had been approved for children aged 12 and above but its roll-out has not yet begun. Still, Bharat Biotech is in the midst of the biggest challenge of its quarter-of-a-century existence. When will Covaxin be administered to children and how many trials will be done on Covaxin for children? Nobody knows. The studies conducted the world over have shown that children have greater resistance to coronavirus than adults. COVID-19 is an altogether different ball game, more so when there is fear of a third wave.

Anuska Panwar, UJJAIN (MP)

₹30-cr IIC project hit by land hurdle in Bolangir



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 16: The state government has taken up a number welfare schemes. However, many projects are not being executed in time. One such project is Integrated Infrastructure Centre (IIC) which has been estimated at ₹30 crore. The idea of the project was conceived by the state government in 2016 with an aim to provide accommodation to homeless, help-less, senior citizens, depression-hit people, differently abled people, mentally challenged persons, third genders, beggars, drug addicts and alcoholics. However, the project has failed to take off till date, because land has not been available to the project. According to reports, Social

The project idea was conceived in 2016 with an aim to provide shelter to homeless, senior citizens, the differently-abled and mentally-challenged

Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department (SSEPD) had directed the Collectors and RDCs to identify 25 acres of land each for setting up of integrated infrastructure centre in 30 districts in 2016. After Cabinet approval, the project has been included in 5T action plan. It was alleged that despite this, the project has failed to make any

progress. The administration has been blamed for its apathy towards the project. Five years after the state government's direction, the administration has not yet provided necessary land.

In June 2020, the Bolangir Collector had intimated the secretary of the revenue department in a letter that about 9 acres of land near Khalikan village on the outskirts of Bolangir town will be provided as 'advance possession'.

As per guidelines, the project is supposed to have 25 acres of land. Nearly ₹30 crore will be spent for the project.

The IIC will have a lot of facilities like a shelter home for beggars and homeless people, a special school for mentally challenged and depressed children, a school for the visually challenged and deaf, a quick response centre, a physiotherapy centre, a mobile health unit, district rehabilitation centre, an advance rehabilitation centre and accommodation centre for drug addicts and alcoholics.

Locals alleged that such a good project has not been executed though five years have passed. Only nine acres of land have been provided for a 25-acre project. They have cast doubts over execution of the project.



Members of a youth outfit cleaning a patch of road leading to Dharampur village under Barkote block in Deogarh district before repairing it after the administration failed to address their pleas

OP PHOTO

Man bludgeoned to death with stone; 2 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Oct 16: In a shocking incident, a person was crushed to death with a block of stone late Thursday night in Bargarh town. Police arrested two persons in this connection, Saturday. The accused were identified as Akash Bhainsa and Susubabu Bag of Bargarh.

The two have been produced in court. According to reports, police had recovered the blood-stained body of Alekh Bhuve on a road near the old building of the district headquarters hospital.

Nimai Bhoi, the son-in-law of the deceased had identified the body and alleged that his father in-law has been murdered. Following a complaint, police registered a case and started an investigation into the matter. The two - Akash Bhainsa and Susubabu Bag - were found to be involved in the murder.

However, police did not reveal the reason for the murder. Further investigation into the murder is underway. The accused is yet to disclose the reason.

Ring worm attack on paddy crop worries Binka farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Binika, Oct 16: After floods, pest attack (ring worm) on paddy has been spreading in Binika block and other areas in Sonepur district. This has left farmers worried as they are not hopeful of harvest this year in this situation.

According to reports, pest attack has been growing in some areas including Babupalli, Bankighari, Bhandar, Singhiyuba, Gulapada, Dabhala and Rahela.

Farmers alleged despite pesticides, pest attack on paddy is not being controlled. The agriculture department is doing little to contain the pest attack, they alleged.

In the current year, paddy has been grown in 18,810 hectares in the current year. It is said that *chakada* pest (ringworm) has affected 2,779 hectares till now. In Binika, over 16,000 farmers have grown paddy. They lamented the agriculture department has failed to provide effective pesticide at this juncture. On the other hand, many posts are lying vacant.



Block agriculture officer (in-charge) Rakesh Ranjan Majhi said supply of pesticides by the department has been stopped from the current year.

"Farmers have to buy pesticide online. Only five per cent subsidy will be credited into the bank accounts of farmers only after depositing purchase bills at the department," he added. He stated that ring worm usually attacks

roots of paddy. "Water should be drained out from farmlands to stop root infection. Later, farmlands need to be filled with water. There are some particular pesticides which should be applied," he explained. Farmers demanded the agriculture department should provide pesticide directly to farmers. Online purchase and paying subsidy later is a cumbersome process, they added.

Mystery shrouds agent's death

Jaleswar: Mystery shrouded the death of a life insurance agent who committed suicide by hanging at his rented house here in Balasore district, Saturday. The deceased was identified as Harihar Bhuyan, 40, a native of Aruha village. He had taken a house on rent behind the tehsil office in Nua Bazaar and stayed there with his wife and daughter. Locals and family members rushed him to the hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. Locals and family members raised doubts on his death after cut marks and bruises were found on his head. He returned home Friday from his in-law's place after attending the post death rituals of his kin. He was in a sleeping separate room.

TOP MAOIST LEADER RAMAKRISHNA DEAD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 16: Top Maoist leader Akki Raju Hargopal alias Ramakrishna died of kidney failure and other ailments Friday afternoon.

This was informed through a press release by central committee of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) faction. RK's body has also been cremated.

"Ramakrishna died while undergoing treatment in south Bastar jungle of Chhattisgarh (bordering Malkangiri district). The Maoist faction also confirmed his death and issued a press note in this regard."

Inspector General (IG) of Bastar Range Sundar Raj P said.

RK was earlier declared as the most wanted Maoist by National Investigation Agency (NIA). He had masterminded the kidnap of former Malkangiri Collector R Vineel Krishna in February 2011.

The top cadre Maoist was carrying a bounty of ₹1 crore. RK had actively taken part in raids on District Police Armoury (DPA) in Koraput town in 2004. He led an ambush on Greyhound Commandos of Andhra Pradesh Police in Balimela area of Malkangiri district June 29, 2008 leading to the death of 38 commandos in the incident.

MAN KILLS SISTER-IN-LAW; CHOPS BODY INTO 2 PARTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

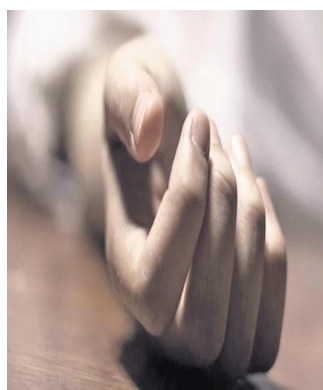
Keonjhar, Oct 16: In a shocking incident, a man brutally killed his widowed sister-in-law and chopped her body into two parts before dumping it in a river. While the incident occurred Thursday night, the matter came to the fore Saturday morning after the woman's body parts were spotted floating in the river.

The heinous incident has been reported from Amarang village in Keonjhar district. The deceased has been identified as Surathi Nayak (50), sister-in-law of the accused Shatrughan Nayak.

Immediately after spotting the lower part of the woman's body floating in the river, the villagers informed the police. Later, the police reached the spot and recovered the body parts from the water.

According to sources, Surathi had been living alone after her husband's death and marriage of her two daughters. However, her husband's elder brother Shatrughan Nayak often created nuisance and quarreled with her over some various family issues.

Thursday night was no different.



She had gone to a neighbour's house to watch TV. Shatrughan reached there and picked up a quarrel with her. Later, he dragged her out of the house and took to the riverside where he cut her from half and later dumped the body parts in the river before fleeing the spot.

The police have recovered body parts and sent them for post mortem.

Meanwhile, a manhunt has been launched to nab Shatrughan, who has been absconding since the crime came to the light.

2 killed in road mishap in Boudh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, Oct 16: Two youths were killed after the motorbike they were riding on was hit by vehicle on Khurda-Bolangir National Highway-57 near Rangamatia village under Harbhanga block in Boudh district late Thursday night. Police are trying to trace the vehicle as it fled the scene after the accident.

The deceased have been identified as Jhantu Charan Behera of Musada locality and Jhantu Bhokta of Brahmangaon village. Both were friends.

According to sources, they had arrived here on a two-wheeler for some work Thursday afternoon. After completing their work, they were returning to their residences when the accident happened. As they were nearing Rangamatia, a speeding vehicle hit them.

Boudh town police reached the spot, rescued the youths and rushed them to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here. However, they were pronounced dead on arrival by the doctors. The police have registered a case and have launched a manhunt for the driver of the vehicle involved in the accident.

3 YRS OF TITLI Admin yet to finish rehab

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Oct 16: It has been three years since cyclonic storm "Titli" struck the Odisha coast causing heavy loss of life and properties in Gajapati district, a report said. Over 50 persons in Gajapati district died in the calamity. Hundreds of domestic birds and animals in the area also perished in the cyclonic storm which struck the coast October 10, 2018.

However, many of the affected families in this calamity are yet to be rehabilitated completely. A landslide at Baraghara under Gangabada panchayat of Raigad block wreaked havoc in the area. Observers said much is required to be done in rehabilitation of the affected families as well in rebuilding of damaged infrastructures in the district.

Three years have passed since then but the administration is yet to complete the rehabilitation of the affected families and finish the reconstruction of houses and roads. Most importantly, thousands of



trees were destroyed by the calamity. However, neither the district administration nor the forest department ever thought of creation of new forests to spread of green cover.

The district headquarters of Paralakhemundi and several areas plunged into darkness for five days after the calamity snapped the power supply to the town and adjoining areas. The town plunged into darkness while road and all other modes of communication were left severely disrupted.

The district administration launched an immediate rescue operation and lessened the casualties due to timely evacuation.

Several ministers, officers and political leaders visited the district to expedite the relief and rescue operations. Reports available from the district administration said 1915.27 km stretch of road damaged by the calamity was reconstructed. Similarly 18 new villages were created where 766 houses under the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana were constructed and the affected families rehabilitated. Moreover, 78 Anganwadi centres, 101 primary schools were reconstructed. However, many affected families are yet have a roof on their head as they were found striving hard to earn a livelihood in the absence of government help, the report added.

IPL betting racket busted; 4 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 16: Cracking whips on online IPL betting, police busted a racket and arrested four middlemen in Malkangiri, Saturday. Police seized ₹9 lakh from their possession. Their bank accounts having ₹18 lakh have been frozen.

Police had earlier received allegations that some brokers from Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh used to lure youths into betting on IPL matches while transactions worth crores of rupees were done though betting in various parts of the district.

A team was formed to crack down on the betting racket.

SDPO Abhilash G, Malkangiri IIC Ram Prasad Nag and other police officials raided various places and arrested four people - identified as Srinibash, Basanth Behera, Bholanath Biswas and P Jagan Rao. Addressing a presser here, the SDPO said ₹9 lakh was seized from them while their bank accounts with ₹18 lakh frozen. Several cell phones, ATM cards and cheque books were also seized from them, he added. A case has been registered against the four.

STIR FOR RESERVATION



Members of the OBC Manch staging a demonstration outside the office of the Sub-Collector in Titlagarh over violation in reservation rules for other backward caste candidates in the upcoming three-tier panchayat elections in Bolangir district, Saturday

Villagers protest drinking water woes in Nabarangpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Oct 16: Ahead of the panchayat elections, people of Sandaibhata village in Nabarangpur sadar block staged protests over the issue of drinking water, Saturday.

According to reports, Sandaibhata village is just 1 km from the district headquarters. The village is on the banks of Indrabi river. "Our village is near Indrabi river and close to the district headquarters. Over years, we have no safe drinking water. We have been left to suffer without water. We have staged agitations in the past. Every time, the administration promises to sort out the issue, but nothing is done in reality," locals fumed. They pointed out that during elections, leaders come to the vil-



lage with promise of solving the drinking water problem, but they forget the issue later.

Upset over the problem, the villagers submitted a memorandum to ADM Bhaskar Raito Saturday, seeking to redress the problem.

Villagers say they and their local people's representatives have been exhausted from frequenting the RWSS office for provision of piped supply of drinking water. The RWSS

is doing nothing while the government spends crores of rupees in rural areas for safe drinking water.

In 2019, the villagers had also blocked NH-26 over the issue. The administration had promised to make provision of drinking water.

"Muddy water is available from tube wells in the village. The water is not fit for drinking. We will again block NH-16 for drinking water," they warned.

Targeted killings continue: Two non-locals shot dead

The killings come on a day when police claimed to have gunned down three militants in a span of 24 hours who were involved in last week's killings of members of minority communities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 16: Two non-locals were shot dead by militants in Srinagar and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, police said.

Arvind Kumar Sah (30), a resident of the Banka area in Bihar, was shot by the ultras outside a park at Eidgah in Srinagar in the evening, a police official said. He said Kumar died on the spot.

In another incident, militants fired at and critically injured Saghir Ahmad, a carpenter hailing from Uttar Pradesh, in Pulwama district, the official said.

Ahmad succumbed to injuries in a hospital, he added.

The killings come on a day when police claimed to have gunned down three militants in a span of 24 hours who were involved in last week's killings of members of minority communities.



The BJP has condemned Saturday's killings. Party spokesman Altaf Thakur said the killings of two non-locals are highly condemnable and shocking.

He urged the police to nab the killers and punish them sternly.

Former chief minister and national Conference leader Omar Abdullah also condemned the killings.

"Strongly condemn the killing of street vendor Arvind Kumar

in a terror attack in Srinagar today. This is yet another case of a civilian being targeted like this. All Arvind Kumar did was come to Srinagar in search of earning opportunities & it's reprehensible that he was murdered," Omar tweeted.

People's Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone termed the attacks as cowardly.

"This is pure terror. Yet again a non-local vendor shot and killed in Idgah. What a shame. How cowardly can it get," Lone tweeted.

Militants had shot and killed a school principal and a teacher inside a government higher secondary school in the same Srinagar area October 7.

Two days before that incident, a famous pharmacy owner, ML Bindroo, a Bihari street vendor and a taxi driver were killed by militants in a series of attacks on civilians.

Uddhav takes aim at political 'Ravanas'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 16: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Friday launched a scathing attack on the BJP and its brand of Hindutva, called for a national debate on federalism, sympathised with the farmers, and lavished praise on his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee.

Addressing the annual Shiv Sena Dussehra Rally, held virtually without break since 1966, Thackeray called for an honest discussion on Centre-State relations as the country marks the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

He said that the Constitution framed by Dr BR Ambedkar has laid down clear guidelines on the rights of the Centre and states, with autonomy to the latter, along with sovereign rights to the Centre.

"In the current scenario, the question arises whether the Centre will allow the states to survive... In their thirst for power, they keep harassing the non-BJP ruled states, try to topple their governments. The Constitution says if the Centre interferes in the state's affairs, it would be unconstitutional," Thackeray declared.

Dwelling on BJP's pet theme, Thackeray said that Hindutva is under risk from those who used it as ladder to climb to power.

"There was a recent RTI reply in

which the Centre said there is no threat to Hindutva. But Hindutva faces a threat from the 'neo-Hindus' propped up by the BJP. They will drive a wedge in society and adopt the British strategy of 'divide and rule' to grab power. We must be on our guard always," he stressed.

Touching on the recent fracas of Veer Savarkar raised by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, he said people who have no connections or participated in the freedom struggle are talking about Mahatma Gandhi and Savarkar.

"The people who are spreading lies about these personalities, are not even worthy of uttering the names of Gandhiji and Savarkar," he said.

Referring to 'Lal, Bal, and Pal' (Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab, Bal Gangadhar Tilak of Maharashtra and Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal), he said even now these three states are at the forefront of the fight against the BJP.

"I compliment Mamata Didi for not bowing before the Delhi rulers and West Bengal fulfilled its duty... Maharashtra is the same, we will not bend before Delhi. They shout 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' at the slightest opportunity. Now, we will show them what 'Har Har Mahadev' really means," Thackeray roared.

Hammering the BJP for constantly targeting the Maharashtra



They shout 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' at the slightest opportunity. Now, we will show them what 'Har Har Mahadev' really means

UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CM

government after the Sena joined hands with Nationalist Congress Party-Congress in November 2019, he said the Shiv Sainiks and the people of the state will not tolerate it.

"They are hounding us and even our families through the probe agencies like IT, ED, CBI. We are not scared. They are trying to break and topple our government - I chal-

lenge them to bring us down. They will not succeed," the CM asserted.

He said that he had become the Chief Minister to fulfil a promise made to his father, and the Shiv Sena founder, the late Balasaheb Thackeray, and he was not some 'fakir' to run away with his 'jhola' from responsibilities to the people.

NSG cover for Jammu, Srinagar IAF bases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurgaon, Oct 16: Counter-terrorism commando force National Security Guard has been deployed at the IAF stations in Srinagar and Jammu to provide anti-drone security cover to these vital installations, the force's director general MA Ganapathy said Saturday.

The first-ever drone attack took place June 27 at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jammu where two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which came from across the border, dropped bombs, injuring two airmen and damaging a portion of a building.

The two IAF facilities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are located close to the Pakistan border and are categorised as 'sensitive' installations.

The National Security Guard (NSG) chief said the federal counter-terrorist and counter-hijack commando force is enhancing its 'counter-terrorism profile' and preparing itself to meet emerging security challenges.

He said the forces' bomb disposal teams had neutralised improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and tiffin bombs, including those that were brought by drones from



COUNTER-TERRORIST FORCE

The NSG was raised as a federal counter-terrorist force in 1984 to undertake surgical commando operations to neutralise terrorist and hijack threats

It is also a special squad that provides armed security cover to at least 13 high-risk VIPs at present

The NSG has five hubs in the country, apart from its main garrison here, and in each of them, a team of commandos is stationed in readiness 24x7 to respond to any threat situation within a 30 minute mobilisation timeframe

Pakistan and dropped in Indian territory. The director general (DG) was speaking during the 37th raising day celebrations of the force, also known as the 'black cats', at its garrison in Manesar here.

Ganapathy said the NSG 'has been deployed' at the Srinagar and Jammu IAF stations to provide security cover to the facilities keeping in mind drone attacks and added that this system is working 'successfully'.

A senior officer added that this deployment "will continue till a full-fledged and independent counter-drone system is deployed

at these two bases." The NSG has an array of anti-drone equipment, radars, jammers and drone killer guns that essentially work for perimeter security, the officer said.

Soon after the drone attack on the Jammu IAF base, he said, an NSG 'technical surveillance' team was sent to the station and it deployed its equipment there.

Later talking to the media, DG Ganapathy said drone warfare is a 'new challenge' and all the security forces need to upgrade their capabilities and technology against such attacks. "Drones are an easy way to create mischief, to drop

bombs and payload like weapons and ammunition," he said.

All the security forces need to upgrade themselves vis-a-vis counter-drone technology and "I think we are capable to tackle this threat," the NSG DG said.

Asked why was the specially trained force not being involved in counter-terrorist operations being carried out in the Kashmir Valley, Ganapathy said the NSG has expertise in house intervention, hostage rescue and counter-hijack tasks and as and when they are requisitioned, the force will respond.

FRAUGHT WITH RISK



Women walk near the site of an encounter between security forces and militants at Pampore area of Pulwama district in Jammu & Kashmir, Saturday. Two militants, including Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Umar Mushtaq Khandey, were killed in the gun battle

Is NCB spreading terror in film industry, asks Nawab Malik

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 16: In a fourth stinger attack in the past 10 days, NCP Minister Nawab Malik Saturday asked whether the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is willy-nilly targeting film personalities to instil terror in the Hindi film industry with the help of some outsiders.

Malik revealed details of a NCB witness Fletcher Patel who claims to be a family friend of the agency's Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede and has posted pictures on social media with a woman he calls 'Lady Don'.

"Who is this Fletcher Patel and the other woman, 'Lady Don'? How come this Fletcher Patel, who's close to Sameer Wankhede figuring as a Witness (Pancha) in at least three NCB cases. Is it ethically correct and what does it reflect on the credibility of the NCB's operations against drugs," demanded Malik.

Again accusing NCB of carrying out fraudulent raids on prominent personalities to grab publicity, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) National Spokesperson said in the past one year alone, Fletcher Patel was a Witness in CR No 38/20, CR No 16/20 and CR No 02/21, and his team was collecting more information on other cases.

"After we exposed the two persons linked with the BJP, the NCB last week said that they did not know any of the 'Independent Witnesses' they had taken on record in the cruise ship raids. Then how come the same Witness Fletcher Patel appears in multiple NCB cases in



the past one year, known to the NCB chief," Malik asked.

Later, Fletcher Patel and the alleged 'Lady Don' Yasmeen Wankhede, said to be a relative of the NCB chief, appeared on certain media channels and denied Malik's allegations.

"I have been saying from the beginning that the NCB is carrying out fake raids on film personalities but now with the involvement of Wankhede's friends and family members emerging as witnesses in official case, what is the real motive behind these operations. As in the past, the NCB must hold a

press conference and clarify," Malik demanded.

He again questioned if the so-called NCB raids are 'pre-planned' in advance with close friends like Fletcher Patel taken in as 'witness' in multiple cases, violating the laws.

"Also, who is this 'Lady Don'. It has come to light that she is a lawyer and connected with one political party. So what are their motives and links with the NCB chief? What is the real racket going on in Bollywood with these people. The NCB must reply to this," Malik asked.

Geelani's grandson sacked from service for aiding terror acts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 16: The grandson of pro-Pakistan separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani and a teacher from Doda were two fresh Jammu and Kashmir government employees who were dismissed from service for allegedly aiding terrorist activities in the Union territory, officials said Saturday.

With the sacking of the grandson, Anees-ul-Islam, and the teacher, Farooq Ahmed Butt, the total number of employees dismissed in the last six months has gone up to 27.

They were sacked when the Lt Governor was satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the cases and on basis of the information available that the activities of these employees were such as to warrant their dismissal from service under the provision of Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution.

Under this provision, the sacked employees can only approach the Jammu and Kashmir High Court with their plea. According to a dossier against Anees, who is the son of Altaf Ahmed Shah alias Altaf Fantoosh, he is alleged to be in close contact with three suspects based in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, the officials said. His father has been in Tihar Jail since 2017 after being arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a terror funding case. Anees was appointed as a research officer in the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in late 2016 during the tenure of the then chief minister of the erstwhile state, Mehbooba Mufti.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 16: The BJP's Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis - whose political bark is considered worse than his bite - also uses the pen, literally, to bulldoze the Maha Vikas Aghadi 'auto rikshaw' government, no-holds-barred.

Not content with regular jibes at the ruling Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress alliance in general and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in particular, Fadnavis also regularly pens his pricks and pains, at the MVA - quite frequently.

As per an RTI reply from the Maharashtra CMO, in around 22 months Fadnavis has shot off - on record - various issues to the CMO vide a whopping 231 letters.

"In the 22 month period from November 2019 - September 2021, this comes to roughly 10 letters every month or nearly three for a working week..." said RTI activist Prafull Sardar.

Sardar had penned the RTI query to the CMO, seeking, among other things, the number of letters sent by the Leader of Opposition (Fadnavis) to the Chief Minister (Thackeray), and got the revealing letter-in-reply.

"This is more than 7 times the number of published letters that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had penned to his doting minor daughter Indira (Priyadarshini) Nehru while he was incarcerated in jails during the Independence



Movement, later published as a literary masterpiece, 'Letters From A Father To His Daughter' (1929)," Sardar pointed out.

Sources say that usually Fadnavis writes about mostly state-related or political issues to the Chief Minister, and in the initial days, his letters rattled the fledgling MVA ministers and officials. Later, the old economic theory came into play - 'the more you have of something, the less you want, the more of it', with Fadnavis' letters averaging one-to-three pages, becoming less awesome, plus the government's response is not known. With time Fadnavis' painstakingly printed letters, both in email and hard-copy on the glittering Leader of Opposition' letterhead - where his name is proclaimed in larger size than the august post he holds - came to be treated as 'routine', not ruffling the officialdom.

Official sources wonder, if the Leader of Opposition has indeed written so many letters in such a short period, "it may be a record of sorts," with each letter winking - "Mee Punha Yaen (I will return)" - a la Fadnavis!

To Fadnavis' credit, some of the letters he penned, mostly in Marathi, few even in English and Marathi for the larger audiences, many posted on social media, raised pertinent current issues and even garnered huge media publicity, ensuring he remained in the spotlight. But, in some dark moments, he grabbed the limelight by unilaterally proclaiming - "I feel I'm still the CM" - to drive the entire state into splits, with MVA leaders urging the BJP to ensure proper treatment for mental problems, hallucinations, or trauma of his defeat two years ago which he still cannot digest.



The public health education system should not just be at par with the international level, but it should also be able to respond to public health issues at local levels in the country
MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

MANMOHAN SINGH DIAGNOSED WITH DENGUE

Former Prime Minister Manamohan Singh has been diagnosed with dengue, but his health condition is gradually improving, an AIIMS official said Saturday



of the day quote

The National Security Guard is a part of the independent security policy of the country, brought by Prime Minister Narendra Modi



NITYANAND RAI | MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

Every inch of the Cellular jail is a testimony of the freedom struggle, which inspires every Indian to serve the nation



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The continued attacks on innocent fishermen of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan navy are a matter of grave concern



M K STALIN | TN CM

SHORT TAKES

One killed

Patna: Immersion of Durga idols turned ugly in Patna Saturday after two groups clashed in which one person was killed and several others were injured. The incident occurred in Chowk police station in Patna city near Janata hotel, when the two groups on way for immersion of Durga idols in river Ganga, had an altercation over a trivial issue. The altercation took an ugly turn and they started firing at each other. One of the bullets hit a 23-year-old youth Vikky Chaudhary in his chest.

4 jawans injured

Raipur, New Delhi: Four CRPF jawans were injured when an ammunition fuse box exploded when it was being loaded on a train at the Raipur station Saturday, according to an official statement. Saturday morning, the 211 Company of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was in the train when ammunition was being loaded, it said. "Boxes of arms and ammunition were being loaded on the train by Head Constable Vikas Lakshman and other jawans. The ammunition fuse box exploded in Lakshman's hand near the toilet of the train's compartment," the CRPF statement said.

Man arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police arrested a man for raping a minor girl in Kotla Mubarakpur area of South Delhi. A woman had lodged a complaint at the K.M. Pur police station that around 2 months ago when she came back to Delhi from her native village in Uttar Pradesh, her 15-year-old daughter told her that while she was alone at home one afternoon, she was raped by her cousin.

Woman murdered

Chikkaballapur (Karnataka): In a horrifying incident, a woman was allegedly murdered by contractual killers her son had hired in Karnataka's Chikkaballapur district, police sources said Saturday. According to the police, the incident took place when the victim, Nalini, returned to her residence after attending puja on Friday night at 9:30 p.m.

4 brothers held

Hyderabad: Police in Hyderabad have arrested four brothers for killing a Dubai-based NRI businessman, it was revealed Saturday. The accused have been identified as Raees Jabri, 23, Adil Jabri, 32, Saad Saleh Jabri, 29 and Saeed Saleh Jabri, 34. They allegedly wanted to take revenge after the victim, Hamed Bin Ali Zubaidi, 45, refused to compensate for losses suffered by one of them following his arrest at Hyderabad Airport while carrying his gold parcel.

SINGHU BORDER LYNCHING

VICTIM'S FAMILY DEMANDS PROBE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sonipat (Hr)/Amritsar (Pb), Oct 16: A second member of the Sikhs' Nihang order was arrested Saturday and two more "surrendered" before Sonipat Police in connection with the lynching of a Dalit labourer at a farmers' protest site even as the victim's family questioned the attackers' claim that he committed sacrilege and demanded a high-level probe.

The mortal remains of Lakhbir Singh were cremated at his native village in Punjab's Tarn Taran amid tight security in the presence of his family members. No Sikh priest was present to perform Ardas (Sikh religious prayer) and no one from his village, Cheema Kalan, attended the last rites.

Sarabjit Singh, arrested Friday for the brutal killing of Lakhbir Singh, was produced before a Sonipat court in Haryana and remanded in police custody for seven days. Hours later, Narain Singh, who is also a Nihang, was arrested by the Amritsar Rural police at Amarkot village in Amritsar district, police said. Late Saturday evening, two more belonging to the Nihang order, who hailed from Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib, "surrendered" before the Sonipat police in Kundli in connection with the gruesome killing. They interacted with the media at the Singhu border before "surrendering". Sources said that police will question them in connection with the case before making a formal arrest which is expected later in the night. After this, the number of those arrested

in the case will go up to four.

In Amritsar, Narain Singh claimed he had informed the police that he was surrendering. Talking to the media before his arrest, he was unrepentant and said that Lakhbir Singh had been "punished for sacrilege". He said that the accused in the Bargari sacrilege incident in Punjab were yet to be arrested, but now if somebody will commit "such a heinous crime he would be punished on the spot".

Narain Singh was given a robe of honour and a garland of currency notes by some people when he paid obeisance in the Amarkot Gurdwara before his arrest. According to police, Sarabjit Singh claimed the involvement of a few more people in the killing, which has sparked outrage and triggered calls for action to clear the protest sites on Delhi's borders where farmers have been camping since last November to press for the scrapping of the Centre's three agri laws.

Haryana's Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala and senior BJP leader Rattan Lal Kataria said the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, which is leading the farmers' agitation, cannot escape responsibility for what happened at their protest site.

"It was a barbaric crime. Police are already at the job conducting investigations into the case... But 40 leaders (SKM leaders) cannot escape from their responsibility," said Chautala, who is the leader of the JJP, a coalition partner of the ruling BJP in Haryana. National Commission for Scheduled Caste Chairperson Vijay Sampla said the protesting farmers cannot wash their hands off such incidents.



Chhattisgarh BJP seeks judicial probe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

JASHPUR INCIDENT

Jashpur (Chhattisgarh), Oct 16: The Chhattisgarh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unit Saturday demanded a judicial probe into the Jashpur incident in which one person was killed and more than 15 others were seriously injured as a speeding car ploughed into people proceeding to immerse a Durga idol.

Chhattisgarh BJP President Vishnu Dev Sai, along with local party leaders, met families of the deceased and the injured. During the meeting, Sai alleged that the Congress government in the state has given a free hand to drug peddlers.

"I would directly blame the Congress government for this horrific incident. We used to see such

incidents in movies only but it happened in reality in Jashpur district. 'Shanti Samiti' (peace committee) had held a meeting before the people gathered for Durga idol immersion. What is more surprising is that there was no deployment of police personnel despite the committee having informed the district police. Had the police barricades set up there, such an incident would not have occurred," said told reporters.

Meanwhile, he also blamed district police and demanded suspension of Jashpur Superintendent of Police (SP). Sai said that there seems to be a "planned conspiracy" behind the incident.

PROWESS ON DISPLAY



A National Security Guard commando shows his skill to counter terrorist operations on the occasion of NSG 37th Raising in Gurugram

PTI PHOTO

JCO among two soldiers killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 16: Two more soldiers, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were killed as the massive search operation to track down terrorists continued for the sixth day in the forest areas of Jammu and Kashmir's twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri Saturday, officials said.

With the latest killings, a total of nine Army personnel, including two JCOs, have laid down their lives in the ongoing counter-insurgency operation that began in Surankote forests of Poonch on Monday and later spread to nearby Thanamandi in Rajouri and Mendhar in Poonch.

The officials said bodies of the JCO and the soldier were recov-



Security personnel near the site of an encounter with militants at the Nar Khas forest area in Poonch, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

ered near the scene of Thursday's gunfight with terrorists in the Nar Khas forest in Mendhar, taking the number of Army per-

sonnel killed in the operation to four. Riflemen Vikram Singh Negi and Yogambar Singh, both from Uttarakhand, were con-

firmed dead earlier.

A defence spokesman identified the JCO as Ajay Singh and another soldier as Naik Harendra Singh and said they were part of search operations launched by the security forces to flush out terrorists hiding in the densely forested area on Thursday. "After a fierce firefight with terrorists, the communication with the two soldiers was disrupted. Relentless operations continued to neutralise the terrorists and to reestablish communication with them," the spokesman said.

Earlier on October 11, five Army personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were killed when terrorists attacked a search party in Poonch's Surankote forest.

Jaishankar to visit Israel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Israel beginning Sunday during which he will hold talks with his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

This will be Jaishankar's first visit to the country as External Affairs Minister.

The Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Saturday that Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Israel from October 17-21 at the invitation of Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Lapid.

He will hold a bilateral meeting with Lapid.

Sidhu withdraws resignation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 16: Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu who resigned as the chief of party's Punjab unit last month met former party president Rahul Gandhi at his residence here following which he withdrew his resignation. Congress Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat was also present in the meeting.

After the meeting that took place on Friday evening, it is believed that the political situation in Punjab will become normal now. During the meeting that lasted for about an hour, Rahul Gandhi took feedback from Sidhu.

After the meeting, Harish Rawat said: "Sidhu has assured Rahul Gandhi that he will discharge his

responsibilities properly... and he will continue as the Punjab state president. He told Rahul Gandhi that he has withdrawn his resignation."

"He (Sidhu) shared his concerns with Rahul Gandhi. We have told him that his concerns will be taken care of here," Rawat said. Sidhu had reached Delhi Thursday and met organization general secretary KC Venugopal and Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat at the Congress headquarters.

On the instructions of the Congress High Command, Sidhu arrived here on Thursday evening and held a meeting with both the leaders. This was the first meeting held in Delhi after Sidhu's resignation. The Gandhi family is said to be angry with the manner in which Sidhu had resigned.

Dozens injured in AP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Oct 16: Dozens of people were injured in the violence during traditional fight with sticks during Dasara celebrations in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district.

Hundreds of villagers of divided in two rival groups attacked each other with sticks during Banni festival at Devaragattu village in Holagonda mandal late Friday night. Police said more than 40 people were injured in the clashes but unconfirmed reports have put the number at 100.

The injured were admitted to hospitals at Adoni and Alur. The condition of four of them is stated to be critical. A police officer said the violence broke out during the traditional fight on a hillock at Mala Malleshwaraswamy temple. Though large number of policemen were deployed to prevent the fight, villagers defied the orders to organise the fight.

As part of the annual celebrations, people from different villages divide in two groups to fight with sticks to secure the idols of the deity. Villagers from Neraniki, Neraniki Tanda and Kottapeta villages fight with devotees of Arikera, Arikera Tanda, Suluvai, Ellarhi, Kurukunda, Bilehall and Virupapuram.

Legend has it that Lord Shiva took the form of Bhairava and clobbered two demons, Mani and Mallasura, with sticks. The villagers enact the scene on Vijaydashami day. Group of villagers from demons' side try to snatch the idols from the other group, called God's team. They fight with sticks for the idols.

Thousands of people from various parts of Kurnool and surrounding districts and even neighbouring Telangana and Karnataka gather at the village to watch the traditional ritual, a part of Dasara celebrations.

The fight results in injuries to several people every year but devotees consider these injuries as a good omen.

NATURE'S FURY

RAIN WREAKS HAVOC IN KERALA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kottayam/Idukki, Oct 16: At least six people died and a dozen were missing Saturday as heavy rains pounded south and central Kerala causing flash floods and landslides in many parts, prompting the state government to seek the assistance of the defence forces for rescue operations.

Several people have been injured and displaced in rain-related incidents in the southern state where dams in many districts are nearing its full capacity and small towns and villages in the hilly areas are totally cut off from the outside world.

Many hilly areas of Kottayam, Idukki and Pathanamthitta are experiencing almost similar to that of the situation the state faced during the time of devastating floods of 2018 and 2019 but authorities said everything was under control and there was no need for any panic.

However, the rescue teams of

the state police and fire force could not reach the affected areas due to floods and adverse weather conditions prevailing there. "The situation is serious", Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said. He, however, said the latest weather forecast indicates that the situation is not going to get worse.

Officials said personnel of the Army, Airforce and the Navy were on the way to Koottickal and Peruvanthanam—the two hilly villages falling under Kottayam and Idukki districts respectively—where an overflowing river swept through houses, displacing and isolating many.

State Cooperation Minister V N Vasavan, who reached the neighbourhood of these landslide-hit villages, said bodies of two women and a child who died, were recovered while search was on to recover the body of a man who also lost his life in the incident. He said at least 12 people are missing from



A man carrying his pet dog wades through the flooded Vellayani Kakkamoola road during heavy rain in Thiruvananthapuram, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

these villages.

In a separate rain related incident, a man and a woman—both 30-years-old—died as their car was swept away in the flood waters in Kanjar in Idukki district, police

said. Their bodies have been recovered, they said.

According to a defence spokesperson, Mi-17 and Sarang Helicopters are already in standby mode to meet the requirements

but they could not start operations as the weather at Kottayam is still bad. Air Force assets are still at Sullur in a standby mode, she said.

"All the bases under Southern Air Command have been put on high alert in view of the prevalent weather situation at Kerala," the spokesperson said in a statement. "The Indian Army has already deployed army personnel to the flood affected areas. One column consisting of One Officer, 2 JCOs and 30 other ranks of army personnel already moved to Kanjirappally, Kottayam District from Pangode Military Station..." she said.

The Southern Naval Command of the Indian Navy said it is fully ready for assisting local administration in rescue operations. "Diving & Rescue teams are ready to be deployed at short notice. Helicopters stand-by to be launched once weather is conducive for Air Ops," it said in a tweet.

international



As I speak to you today, millions of girls of secondary school age are missing out on education for the 27th consecutive day. Any day that we wait - it's a day lost for those girls that are out of school
OMAR ABDI | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNICEF

'VAXATHON' IN NZ

New Zealand administered a record number of vaccine jabs Saturday, holding a festival aimed at getting more people inoculated against the coronavirus. By late afternoon, more than 120,000 people had gotten shots, eclipsing the daily record of 93,000 set in August



of the day quote

The fire accident that happened in the Cheng Chong Cheng building resulted in many injuries and deaths. Everyone is feeling deeply sad and torn with separation
TSAI ING-WEN | PRESIDENT, TAIWAN

We have reached the stage where we are ready to open up vaccination for children between the age of 12 and 17
JOE PHAAHLA | HEALTH MINISTER, SOUTH AFRICA

Fortifying our electricity grids and allowing the further integration of renewables in our respective energy mix, enhancing the security of our energy supply and enabling us to become exporters of energy, are but a few of the tangible benefits
NATASA PILIDES | ENERGY MINISTER, CYPRUS

SHORT TAKES

Bali quake kills 3

Bali: Three people were killed and seven others injured with another one still buried under rubble of a building that collapsed after a 4.8-magnitude quake struck Indonesia's resort island of Bali Saturday. The epicentre of the quake, which occurred at 3.18 am with a depth of 10 km, was located 8 km northwest of Karangasem district, the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said, adding the tremors were felt until nearby Lombok Island. The jolt triggered no tsunami.

China renews cold wave alert

Beijing: China's National Meteorological Centre (NMC) Saturday renewed a blue alert for a cold wave, forecasting low temperatures and gales in vast regions of the country. From 8 am Saturday to 8 am Monday, temperatures are expected to drop by 6 to 10 degrees Celsius in parts of the northern, northeastern, central, eastern, southern and southwestern regions, Xinhua news agency reported citing the Centre as saying.

11 kids drowned in Indonesia river

Jakarta: Eleven students drowned and 10 others were rescued during a school outing for a river cleanup in Indonesia's West Java Province, officials said Saturday. Local officials said 150 students from an Islamic junior high school were participating in the cleanup Friday along the banks of the Cileueur river bank when 21 of them slipped into the water. "The weather was good and there was no flash flood," said Deden Ridwansyah, chief of the Bandung Search and Rescue Office. "Those children who drowned were holding each others' hands. One of them slipped and the others followed," Ridwansyah said.

Russia: Daily Covid toll passes 1000

Moscow: Russia's daily death toll from Covid-19 has exceeded 1,000 for the first time as the country faces a sustained wave of rising infections. The national coronavirus task force on Saturday reported 1,002 deaths in the previous day, up from 999 Friday, along with 33,208 new confirmed COVID-19 cases, more than 1,000 higher than the day before. Although the record for daily COVID-19 deaths in Russia has been repeatedly broken over the past few weeks, the Russian government is reluctant to toughen restrictions.

Top 10 hackers behind \$5.2bn Bitcoin theft: FinCEN

THE REPORT CAME AFTER MORE THAN 30 COUNTRIES THIS WEEK PLEDGED TO WORK TOGETHER TO COMBAT THE GROWING THREAT OF RANSOMWARE ATTACKS IN A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE US

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, Oct 16: Top 10 hacking groups have executed ransomware attacks worth a whopping \$5.2 billion in Bitcoin over the past three years, according to a US treasury report.

The report, released by the US Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) Friday, found that ransomware-related transactions totalled around \$590 million from January 2021 to June 2021, exceeding the \$416 million reported for entire 2020.

The FinCEN analysis of ransomware-related suspicious activity reports (SARs) filed during the first half of 2021 indicates that ransomware is an increasing threat to

the US financial sector, businesses and the public, the report said.

The number of ransomware-related SARs filed monthly has grown rapidly, with 635 SARs filed and 458 transactions reported between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021, up 30 per cent from the total of 487 SARs filed for the entire 2020 calendar year, it added.

The report analysed 177 unique convertible virtual currency wallet addresses used for ransomware-related payments associated with the 10 most commonly-reported ransomware variants in SARs during the review period, reports ZDNet.

The report analysed the massive growth in ransomware payments in the first half of 2021 by looking at suspicious activity re-



ports from financial institutions.

FinCEN identified Bitcoin as the most common ransomware-related payment method in reported transactions. Bitcoin was trading at over \$60,000 per coin Saturday.

FinCen found a total of 68 different ransomware variants. The report lists the most commonly reported variants, which are REvilSodinokibi, Conti, DarkSide, Avaddon and Phobos, among others.

FinCEN identified Bitcoin as the most common ransomware-related payment method in reported transactions

The report came after more than 30 countries, including South Korea, Japan and the UK, this week pledged to work together to combat the growing threat of ransomware attacks in a virtual conference hosted by the US. The White House-led meeting came after a series of recent ransomware attacks on US businesses that have crippled their systems by infiltrating them and locking them up until a ransom is paid.

OBSERVER STATUS TO ISA

India introduces draft resolution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Oct 16: Underlining that the International Solar Alliance will usher in a new era of "green energy diplomacy", India introduced a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly for granting Observer Status to the global initiative that would help provide for regular cooperation between ISA and the United Nations, benefiting global energy growth and development.

The ISA was jointly launched by India and France in 2015 at the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held in Paris.

"It is my honour to introduce the draft resolution...For granting Observer Status for the International Solar Alliance on behalf of India and France" and about 80 co-sponsors, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti said Friday.

The granting of Observer Status to ISA in the General Assembly would help provide for a regular and well-defined cooperation between the Alliance and the United Nations that would benefit global energy growth and development, he said.

The co-sponsors include Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

MAJOR REBUKE

ASEAN downgrades Myanmar presence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, Oct 16: Southeast Asian foreign ministers have agreed to downgrade Myanmar's participation in an upcoming summit in their sharpest rebuke yet of its leaders following a Feb 1 military takeover.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations will invite a non-political representative instead of Myanmar's military leader, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the grouping's chair Brunei said Saturday.

The 10-member bloc has been under intense international pressure to do more to force member state Myanmar to halt the violence that has left more than 1,100 civilians dead and free scores of political figures, including ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

ASEAN foreign ministers held an emergency meeting late Friday after Myanmar refused to cooperate with the bloc's crisis envoy, Brunei Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof. He was appointed in August to mediate in the crisis but abruptly cancelled a trip to Myanmar this week after he was told he would not be able to meet with Suu Kyi and others as he wanted.

Myanmar contended Erywan could not meet with people facing legal proceedings such as Suu Kyi and deposed President Win Myint or with entities that have been declared illegal, Brunei said in a statement.

Scotland Yard probes Islamist terror link to British MP's stabbing



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 16: Scotland Yard Saturday said its Counter Terrorism Command is leading the investigation into the killing of Conservative Party parliamentarian David Amess as they probe a potential Islamist terrorism link to the fatal stabbing at Leigh-on-Sea in Essex Friday.

A 25-year-old British man, believed to be of Somali heritage, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder and remains in custody at a police station in Essex, south-east England.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Opposition Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer laid flowers at Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, the scene of the stabbing, together Saturday morning.

"Senior National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon formally declared the incident as terrorism. The early investigation has revealed a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

"A 25-year-old British man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder. He is currently in custody at a police station in Essex. As part of the investigation, officers are currently carrying out searches at two addresses in the London area and these are ongoing," it said.

"It is believed that he acted alone, and we are not seeking anyone else in connection with the incident at this time. However,

PM Boris Johnson laid flowers at Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, the scene of the stabbing, Saturday morning

enquiries into the circumstances continue," it added.

The investigation is being led by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, alongside the Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit (ERSOU) and Essex Police, and the police have urged any witnesses to come forward to assist their inquiries with any video footage.

UK Home Secretary Priti Patel has announced a security review of members of Parliament. Patel, also an MP from Essex like Amess, paid tribute to her late party colleague as a man of the people, saying he was absolutely there for everyone and was killed doing a job he loved.

We are all struggling to come to terms with the fact that David Amess has been so cruelly taken away from all of us, she said.

Johnson earlier paid tribute to the late Tory MP as one of the kindest, nicest, most gentle people in politics. Sir David Amess, 69, represented Southend West in Essex and was holding a constituency surgery - where voters can meet their elected MP and discuss concerns - at the church on Friday when he was attacked. He had been an MP since 1983 and was married with five children.

Communal unrest mars Dussehra fete in B'desh

Four people were killed and scores of others injured during clashes between Muslim bigots and the police at Hajiganj sub-district in central Chandpur Wednesday and Thursday, prompting the government to call out paramilitary forces to maintain law and order across the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 16: The Durga Puja celebrations have concluded in Bangladesh even as another Hindu devotee was found dead Saturday amidst days of communal unrest and violence unleashed by unidentified Muslim bigots who vandalised temples over alleged blasphemy, leading to the deployment of paramilitary forces in more than half of administrative districts.

Authorities overnight imposed a nationwide security vigil while officials said that initial investigations



have thrown up crucial evidence against the perpetrators of violence against the minority Hindu community's Durga Puja. The paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has expanded the vigil from 22 to 34 out of 64 administrative districts.

The elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) said it expects to arrest some of the key perpetrators of the sporadic violence which took place in the past three days. Voicing optimism over the investigation, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told reporters that he expect developments of the investigations in the next one or two days.

The police, meanwhile, said that they have recovered the body of a Hindu devotee from a pond near a

Death toll during the Durga Puja celebrations across the country has reached five

temple in southeastern Begumganj sub-district of Noakhali.

According to a Hindu community leader, the deceased was a victim of bigot attacks on devotees Friday. With the latest killing, the death toll during the Durga Puja celebrations across the country has reached five. On Thursday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina promised to bring to justice the culprits behind the violence, saying anyone involved in the attacks on Hindu temples and Durga Puja venues in Comilla will not be spared.

LITTLE AMAL



People attend the Little Amal show at Trocadero in front of the Eiffel Tower Paris, France. The Little Amal, a giant puppet (3.5 meter-tall) of a young Syrian refugee girl is part of The Walk, an art initiative that will travel 8,000 kilometers from Syria to the UK to focus attention on the urgent needs of young refugees

3 Chinese astronauts begin record stay at space station

THEY WILL STAY IN THE SPACE STATION FOR SIX MONTHS TO COMPLETE ITS CONSTRUCTION -- THE LONGEST MANNED MISSION IN CHINA'S HISTORY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 16: Three Chinese astronauts, including a woman, on board the Shenzhou-13, have entered the space station core module Tianhe Saturday, the country's space agency said, hours after the spaceship was successfully launched for a record six-month mission.

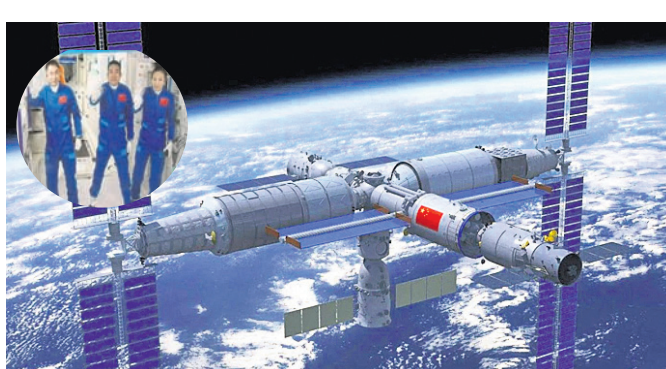
The three astronauts - Zhai Zhigang, 55; Wang Yaping, 41; and Ye Guangfu, 41 -- successfully docked with the under-construction space station, which is composed of the core module Tianhe and the cargo crafts Tianzhou-2 and Tianzhou-3.

The spaceship, launched early Saturday morning, completed

orbital status and conducted a fast-automated rendezvous and docking with Tianhe at 6:56am (Beijing Time), forming a complex together with the cargo crafts Tianzhou-2 and Tianzhou-3. The whole process took approximately 6.5 hours, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said. The spaceship, atop a Long March-2F carrier rocket, was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in north-west China's Gobi Desert.

Crew commander Zhai said the length of the mission - which is twice as long as the previous mission - was the biggest challenge for the astronauts.

"The six-month stay in space without gravity is an unpre-



cedented test for the astronaut's physical and psychological health, and the reliability of the equipment," Zhai said before lift-off.

The space agency will have another spacecraft on standby for

launch at short notice in case of an emergency at Tiangong, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

In addition to doing hundreds of aerospace medicine and

Wang is the first Chinese woman astronaut to visit China's space station

physics experiments during their stay, the astronauts will also do two to three spacewalks and install new robotic arms to help with future construction operations, the report said.

This is the second manned mission for China's space station, which is under construction. Earlier three other astronauts Nie Haisheng, Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo returned to earth September 17 after a successful three-month stay in the space station module during which they carried out several

tasks to build it. Billed as the most prestigious and strategically important space project for China after the country's recent Mars and previous Moon missions, the low orbit space station would be the country's eye from the sky, providing round the clock bird's-eye view on the rest of the world. The space station is expected to be ready by next year.

Once ready, China will be the only country to own a space station while the ageing International Space Station (ISS) is now a collaborative project of several countries. It is expected to be a competitor to the ISS and perhaps may become a sole space station to remain in orbit once the ISS retires.

of the day quote

After the difficult phase of the coronavirus pandemic, the Indian economy has recovered very fast. The world is hopeful about India because of this recovery

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Our strategic partnership with Manish Malhotra is anchored on our immense respect for his craft and our deep commitment to Indian art and culture. Being an entrepreneur, Manish, the man behind the brand, has always been nimble and ahead of his times

ISHA AMBANI | DIRECTOR, RELIANCE RETAIL VENTURES LTD

Treasury is helping to stop ransomware attacks by making it difficult for criminals to profit from their crimes, but we need partners in the private sector to help prevent this illicit activity

WALLY ADEYEMO | DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY, US

SHORT TAKES

Forex reserves rise by \$2.039bn

New Delhi: The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.039 billion to \$639.516 billion in the week ended October 8, according to RBI data. In the previous week ended October 1, the reserves had dipped by \$1.169 billion to \$637.477 billion. The reserves had surged by \$8.895 billion to a lifetime high of \$642.453 billion in the week ended September 3. During the reporting week ended October 8, the rise in the reserves was on account of an increase in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly data released Friday showed.

Bitcoin hits \$60K on US ETF hopes

Washington: Bitcoin hit \$60,000 for the first time in six months Friday, nearing its all-time high, as hopes grew that US regulators would allow a futures-based exchange-traded fund (ETF), a move likely to open the path to wider investment in digital assets. Cryptocurrency investors have been waiting for approval of the first US ETF for bitcoin, with bets on such a move fuelling its recent rally. The world's biggest cryptocurrency rose 4.5 per cent to its highest level since April 17, and was last at \$59,290.

Gems, jewellery exports rise 29%

Mumbai: Gems and jewellery exports rose by 29.67 per cent to ₹23,259.55 crore in September 2021 compared to ₹17,936.86 crore in the year-ago month, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). In September 2019, the shipments were worth ₹23,491.20 crore. For the April-September period, the shipments surged by 134.55 per cent to ₹1,40,412.94 crore compared to the same period in 2020. The overall gems and jewellery exports stood at ₹59,864.55 crore during April to September 2019, following Covid related disruptions, GJEPC said Saturday.

Realme launches all new GT series

Bhubaneswar: Realme introduced the newest addition to its GT series — Realme GT NEO 2 5G. Realme GT NEO 2 5G is powered by Qualcomm Snapdragon 870 5G processor and features a 120Hz E4 AMOLED display, 65W super dart charge, 5000mAh large capacity battery, 64MP AI triple camera, 16MP front camera with 7GB dynamic RAM expansion.



One third of the price of petrol that consumers pay is a tax to the central government, so, a 33 per cent taxation on any commodity is extortion

P CHIDAMBARAM | FORMER FINANCE MINISTER

APPLE REGAINS 2ND PLACE

Apple regained second place in the global smartphone market with 15 per cent share in the third quarter (Q3) this year, thanks to strong early demand for iPhone 13. Samsung was the leading smartphone player with 23 per cent share. Xiaomi took 14 per cent share for the third place, while vivo and OPPO completed the top five with 10 per cent share each, according to global market research firm Canalis



Climate financing area of worry: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that climate financing continues to be an area of worry as she flagged India's concerns over funding mechanism and technology transfer.

Her remarks came ahead of the upcoming COP26 Summit to be held at Glasgow in the United Kingdom. Leaders of nearly 200 countries, including India, will gather at the high-level summit on climate change, scheduled to be held from October 31 to November 12, to discuss the way forward to tackle climate action and submit their updated targets.

"From my side, of course, one of the issues that I did raise and it is also something which many people do take cognisance of, is we actually don't know if there were any measures given to measure if money spent on a particular project by somebody will be part of that \$100 billion," Sitharaman said after the conclusion of her meetings at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank here Friday.

"So, what constitutes \$100 billion? How do we measure if actually \$100 billion has been given or only some of them has been given? So, not just that \$100 billion per year is coming or not but how do we measure that it is indeed coming or not, is also one of the issues," she said.



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN SAID IT IS UNCLEAR HOW THE \$100 BILLION PER YEAR COMMITMENT GIVEN IN THE WAKE OF COP21 HAS BEEN EXTENDED

SITHARAMAN SAID SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS, BOTH IN THE IMF AND WORLD BANK MEETINGS, HIGHLIGHTED THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE

THE FINANCE MINISTER SAID SUSTAINABLE DEBT FUNDING WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETINGS

"So funding is continuing to be a question of worry for many countries, as much as even the transfer of technology," she said.

"The issue is, again, as much as it is in the fund, do we know which technology that we are asking for

transfer? Do we know which are those things which have to be considered for the debate and transfer of technology," Sitharaman said.

Responding to a question, the finance minister asserted that her view on this was not a reflection of her dissatisfaction. "I'm not stating it's a statement of this dissatisfaction because India's commitments are fulfilled. There are only six countries which kept the nationally determined commitments.

"India has more than done it, and also submitted a report to show that this is what we have done. What has to be achieved by 2030, we have achieved already...almost achieved, and now we've scaled up our expectations on renewable (energy), we are touching 450 GW (gigawatt)," Sitharaman said.

She also expressed concern over growing oil prices.

Steel, chemical industries to gain from China's loss

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 16: China's energy crisis is expected to give cost and production advantage to India's chemicals and steel companies in domestic as well as international markets.

Notably, China's worsening energy situation has impacted its industrial segments and forced factories to cut production. It is also threatening to impact the growth of the country's vast economy and place increased strain on global supply chains.

Globally, the increased coal prices, high logistics costs and logistical challenges have led to a rise in raw materials costs across sectors.

However, the order books of Indian manufacturers would witness growth on account of lower supply by Chinese counterparts, said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

Moreover, the increase in raw material prices has led to a rise in the prices of the exported goods, and the resultant adverse impact on the terms of trade (export price to the input price) is one of the reasons for dollar strengthening against the rupee. However, the increased coal prices have pushed up manu-



facturing costs globally, and the agency believes producers across sectors will pass the increased costs to the end-user industries, thereby leading to inflationary pressures, which could eventually trickle into the Indian economy as well.

According to the report, China's energy crisis and resultant likelihood of shutting down of Chinese companies or intermittent curbs on manufacturing would prove advantageous to Indian companies, as the demand for their products is bound to rise in both domestic and international markets.

Furthermore, the agency opines that the domestic end-user industries for chemicals, such as dyes and pigments, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and others, will pass on the overall increase in costs to consumers, thereby maintaining their profitability.

AAI urges Centre to resume supply

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Amid the coal supply crunch, the Aluminium Association of India (AAI) has again drew the attention of the Central government and urged Coal India to immediately resume continuous coal supply to the aluminium industry to prevent closure of the sector.

"Indian aluminium plants are grappling with critically low levels of coal stock, with no recourse or alternative means to meet their power needs and keep the plants operational. If coal supply is not restored immediately, it would lead to an irrevocable collateral damage of these national assets," said AAI. The association claimed that any power outage in aluminium plant will lead to catastrophic impact and complete shutdown. The industry will take minimum 12 months of recovery, resulting in job loss of over 8 lakh people and also

COAL CRISIS

banks will have debt exposure of over ₹1 lakh crore and additional national forex loss of ₹90,000 crore.

To meet severe and continuous power demand, aluminium industry has set up in house captive power plant of 9,400 MW (9.4 GW i.e. 34% of thermal CPP capacity of the country) with an investment of ₹50,000 crore.

Uninterrupted power requirement of 9.4 GW of aluminium industry is 6% of the total country's demand (145 GW) and 123% of total energy traded at the Indian Energy Exchange (7.6 GW in 2021). Therefore, it is not feasible to get this massive power from the power grid.

So, aluminium industry cannot import power and can only meet their power requirement through CPPs for which aluminium industry requires 1.5 lakh tonne of domestic coal daily.

JAPANESE INVESTORS HOLD MEETING WITH STATE GOVT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: An investors' delegation from Japan along with India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla Thursday held a meeting with the state government on potential partnerships on steel, chemical and various other industries, an official said.

Industries Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra urged the Japanese firms and investors to come to Odisha and see its offerings, and promised that the state is ever ready to facilitate and handhold investors for their proposed investments. Mishra thanked Japan for being the country partner in the 2nd edition of 'Make in Odisha'.

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra said, "The officials operating at different levels are part of Odisha's growth story and we would ensure all kinds of proactive support to the Japanese investors, not only from



initiation to commissioning of projects, but also for their continued smooth operation."

Principal Secretary in the Industries Department, Hemant Sharma, highlighted the industry-specific infrastructures and opportunities to the Japanese delegates.

"We have natural advantage in mineral-based industries and we have been able to attract investment to the tune of ₹4 lakh crore in the last two years. Because of the huge investment in infrastructure, ports, rail, roads, power and skill development, we are a preferred destination for diversified industries," said Sharma.

Japan has been a treasured partner of India and Odisha. Our state is committed to build an everlasting relationship with Japan, both in industrial and cultural spheres

DIBYA SHANKAR MISHRA | INDUSTRIES MINISTER

Shringla said, "The case for Japanese investment in Odisha is well made. The robust infrastructure, strong political will and enabling bureaucracy coupled with natural resources are great strengths of Odisha."

Satoshi Suzuki, a member of the Japanese delegation, appreciated Odisha's efforts in attracting investments from foreign countries, including considerable Japanese companies. The number of Japanese companies in Odisha has increased by 5 times in the last 10 years, he said.

Electricity demand picks up in Oct as coal crunch lingers

AGENCIES

Chennai, Oct 16: India's electricity demand grew 4.9% during the first half of October, with supply falling short of demand by 1.4% despite a 3.2% rise in coal-fired generation and 30% rise in solar output, a government data showed.

Increased economic activity after the second wave of the coronavirus has driven up electricity demand, resulting in a supply deficit due to a coal shortage that has forced northern states to cut power this month for up to 14 hours a day.

The rapid surge in power demand and high global coal prices have left utilities scrambling for coal — India's dominant source of power generation — despite record supplies from state-run Coal India.

Coal's share in India's electricity generation jumped to nearly 70% during the first fifteen days of October, compared with an average of 66.5% during the whole of September, an analysis of data from federal grid regulator POSOCO showed. Nearly three-fifths of India's coal-fired capacities currently have coal inventories that would last three days or less, federal power ministry data shows. The average coal inventory held by power plants would last four days, two-thirds lower than an average of 12 days.

The energy hungry nation's power minister had in early September asked officials to consider diverting coal to power plants with extremely depleted stocks, and reduce inventory targets to 10 days from 14 days, to allow coal to be moved to areas of greatest shortage.

A reallocation in coal supplies over the last two months has led to an increase in the number of power plants with 1-3 days of fuel, while the number of power plants with over a week of stock has declined, the power ministry data shows.

D-Mart Q2 profit rises two-fold



NEW DELHI: Avenue Supermarts Ltd, which owns and operates retail chain D-Mart, Saturday reported a twofold increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹417.76 crore for the second quarter ended September 2021. The company had posted a net profit of ₹198.53 crore in the July-October quarter a year ago, Avenue Supermarts said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations was up 46.79 per cent to ₹7,788.94 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹5,306.20 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal. Total expenses were at ₹7,248.74 crore, up 43.63 per cent in the second quarter of 2021-22 as against ₹5,046.69 crore of the year-ago quarter. "Total Revenue for H1FY22 stood at ₹12,972 crore, as compared to ₹9,189 crore in the same period last year," the company said.

HDFC Bank Q2 net profit rises 18%

NEW DELHI: HDFC Bank Saturday reported an 18 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit at ₹9,096 crore for the second quarter ended September 2021. The country's biggest private sector lender had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹7,703 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Total consolidated income during the quarter under review rose to ₹41,436.36 crore from ₹38,438.47 crore in July-September 2020, HDFC Bank said in a statement. On a standalone basis, after providing ₹3,048.3 crore for taxation, it earned a net profit of ₹8,834.3 crore, an increase of 17.6 per cent over the quarter ended September 30, 2020. The bank had earned a net profit ₹7,513.1 crore on standalone basis in the same quarter a year ago, the statement said. Total income (standalone) grew to ₹38,754.16 crore in the second quarter of FY2022 from ₹36,069.42 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Malabar unveils Diwali offers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 16: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the leading golds and diamonds jewellery retail chains in the country, has launched 'Bangles & Chains Festival' in Bhubaneswar store. The festival was launched to celebrate the Dhanteras and Diwali.

Under the fair price promise commitment, the customers will get jewellery collection with reasonable making charges. The making charges range starts from 4.9% onwards. The festive offers will be available till October 24, 2021.

During this festive season various offers have also been announced. Under such offers, assured gold



coin with every purchase of gemstone and diamond jewellery worth ₹50,000 and more will be provided. Customers can also get free silver coins if they book gold in advance in this Dhanteras. Also, there are special privileges for wedding purchases. Customers can book their jewellery by paying minimum 5% onwards in advance and get the jewellery at the booked rate of prevailing rate whichever is lower.

FUEL PRICES SKYROCKET

Cars with higher fuel efficiency to gain more traction

Citing the example of Maruti Suzuki's Swift petrol, the report said for a compact passenger vehicle fuel now accounts for around 40 per cent of the vehicle's life-time cost compared with 30 per cent in mid-2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 16: With fuel prices going up by 35 per cent over the past 15 months thereby impacting overall vehicle running costs, cars that have higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs are expected to gain higher traction among buyers in India, especially in the sub-Rs 10 lakh category, according to a report.

Considering the fact that 70 per cent of the passenger vehicles market in India is still accounted for by vehicles costing less than ₹10 lakh, the development augurs well for market leader Maruti Suzuki India

Ltd (MSIL), said the report by HSBC Global Research.

"Over the past 15 months, fuel prices have gone up 35 per cent, impacting overall vehicle running costs...Our channel interactions suggest that customers are increasingly becoming considerate of the recent rise in fuel prices," it said.

Citing the example of Maruti Suzuki's Swift petrol, the report said for a compact passenger vehicle fuel now accounts for around 40 per cent of the vehicle's life-time cost compared with 30 per cent in mid-2020.

"In the current environment, we believe cars that have higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance



costs should gain relatively higher traction among buyers, especially in the less than ₹10 lakh category,

which is still 70 per cent of the market in India," it said. Stating that MSIL continues to

score well in that regard, HSBC Global Research said. "In our analysis, both in absolute terms and relative to competition, MSIL remains the market leader in fuel efficiency and total cost of ownership (TCO)." MSIL's competitive positioning should remain compelling given the fact that it has around 65 per cent market share in the less-than-Rs 10 lakh price category, it added.

The report also pointed out that MSIL's fuel efficiency has improved by 15-30 per cent in the past 10 years, citing the examples of fuel efficiency of Swift Dzire, which was 18 km per litre (kmpl) nearly 10 years back to 23.3 kmpl.

DRAVID all set to coach India



stalwart had refused to become the coach in the current team set-up as Virat Kohli still remains the Test and ODI captain. It is learnt that bigger names were wary of coaching a team where Kohli had mostly called the shots till the Australia tour earlier this year.

The dynamics have changed ever since as the team out-manoeuvred a stronger Australia in the absence of Kohli, who was on paternity leave at that time.

Shastri was in charge of the side at a fee of ₹3.5 crore and it is understood that the BCCI is offering Dravid a significant hike, which will be more than his NCA remuneration as well as Shastri's current pay cheque.

Also Dravid, who had in earlier years said no because of his young family, is expected to contribute in a broader manner. Dravid's elder son Samit has made a name for himself as a batter in the Karnataka's age-group circle.

The basic idea behind having the Dravid-Mhambrey combination in the Indian team set-up is to ensure that in another two years, when the transition in the current team happens, the changing of nucleus is smooth.

"Rohit will be 35 next year, Virat is days away from his 33rd birthday. Apart from them Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, and Ajinkya Rahane are all fantastic players but at some point during next two years, they will be phased out.

"The players who are set to come in are mostly from the U-19 set-up. So it's imperative that Dravid is appointed," the source said.

Also the fact that BCCI always wanted someone of real stature. There could have been none better than India's second highest run-getter in Test cricket (13,288 runs), who also has nearly 11,000 (10,889) runs in ODI cricket.

It is expected that BCCI will complete the formalities of his appointment before the start of the New Zealand series in India from November 17.

bowling coach while Vikram Rathour is likely to continue as batting coach.

However, it is understood that the BCCI will nonetheless give an advertisement for the position to ensure that due process is followed. The Board has to form a Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which would be mandated to complete the process as prescribed by the Lodha reforms.

The Board mandarins are mulling on how to make the best use of Dravid's vast knowledge of talent resource in Indian cricket and his role may be a more holistic one rather than just being confined to the chief coach of the national team.

While India A or U-19 teams would have their respective coaches, the BCCI could well make Dravid, the head of all coaches, to whom all the cricketing departments, along with the NCA staff, report.

When Ganguly took charge of BCCI, he had spoken to the media about the synergy he wanted between the national team, age-group team as well as NCA which is the centre of excellence.

Having seen incumbent Ravi Shastri achieve a lot of success, the BCCI was always keen on appointing an Indian coach but there were only a few of stature. Shastri's tenure ends with the T20 World Cup.

One former Indian captain and

Chhetri equals Messi, India win SAFF C'ship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male (Maldives), Oct 16: Talisman Sunil Chhetri equalled the iconic Lionel Messi with his 80th international strike as an inspired India blanked Nepal 3-0 for their eighth SAFF Championship title here Saturday.

India extended their domination in the regional tournament thanks to second half goals from Chhetri (49th minute), Suresh Singh (50th) and Sahal Abdul Samad (90th).

With his strike, the 37-year-old Chhetri equalled Messi and became the second highest goal-scorer in international football among active players.

Sahal made it 3-0 when he dribbled past a few defenders after receiving the ball on the left flank at the stroke of the final whistle.

This is the Indian football team's first title triumph under head coach Igor Stimac, who faced criticism in recent times for his side's inability to win enough games. However, when it mattered the most in this edition of the regional tournament,



Stimac's players delivered the results the team's fans had been waiting for: Stimac also became the third foreign coach after Jiri Pesek (1993) and Stephen Constantine (2015) to clinch the title with the Indian team.

Chhetri gave India the lead after he charged in to neatly head in a delivery from Pritam Kotal on the right flank, leaving the Nepalese goalkeeper with no chance to come to his team's rescue.

Barely a minute after Chhetri's opener, another attack by India caught Nepal completely off-guard as Suresh found the back of the net.

Their tails up after two quick strikes, India pressed hard for more but could not add to the tally for a while before Sahal found the back of the net with his solo effort.

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Their tails up after two quick strikes, India pressed hard for more but could not add to the tally for a while before Sahal found the back of the net with his solo effort.

Mbappe last-gasp penalty helps PSG edge past Angers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 16: Runaway French leader Paris Saint-Germain needed a late penalty from striker Kylian Mbappe to come from behind and scrape a 2-1 win against Angers.

PSG, who were without Lionel Messi and Neymar, won their opening eight games but was soundly beaten by Rennes in their last game and looked out of sorts again.

PSG had needed injury-time goals despite an armada of attacking talent and a huge squad, and produced another late winner at home. Mbappe slotted in from the spot in the 87th minute after midfielder Pierrick Capelle was adjudged to have handled the ball even though PSG striker Mauro Icardi appeared to knock him off balance when he handled.

After a video review, Mbappe sent goalkeeper Paul Bernandoni the wrong way. Mbappe set up the equaliser in the 69th when midfielder Danilo Pereira headed in his cross.

Angers were unlucky to lose considering they played better in the first half and took the lead in the 36th when Angelo Fulgini turned in fellow midfielder Sofiane Boufal's low cross from the right.

Foxes hunt down Red Devils



Jamie Vardy (No.9) rejoices his goal with teammates, including Patson Daka (R)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leicester, Oct 16: Leicester consigned Manchester United to a first away loss in the English Premier League in nearly two years thanks to late goals by Jamie Vardy and Patson Daka in a wild 4-2 victory Saturday.

United had just made it 2-2 in the 82nd minute through fit-again

Marcus Rashford, on as a substitute for his first appearance of the season, when Vardy scored within seconds of the restart with a fierce shot into the top corner.

Daka bundled home his first Premier League goal in stoppage time to seal United's first loss in 30 away games in the top flight, a record streak dating to January 2020.

United went ahead in the 19th

through Mason Greenwood's long-range strike that flew in off the post, only for Yuri Tielemans to equalise with an exquisite chip into the far top corner after Harry Maguire was dispossessed.

Caglar Soyuncu put Leicester in front for the first time with a close-range effort to spark a frantic finale that saw four goals scored in 13 minutes.

Elsewhere at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester City rode on goals by Bernardo Silva and Kevin De Bruyne to bag three points against Burnley.

Earlier in the day, Mohamed Salah's goal overshadowed his teammate Roberto Firmino's hat-trick in Liverpool's 5-0 rout over Watford. Salah's 54th-minute solo goal started just inside the area where he was surrounded by three Watford players. Salah somehow managed to extricate himself out of the situation with marvellous footwork – including the foot-roll that was a feature of the goal against City – before cutting back onto his left foot and curling into the far corner.

Sadio Mane opened the scoring for the Reds, courtesy a brilliant exquisite pass from Salah off the outside of his left boot before Firmino doubled the advantage. Post the break, Firmino scored either side of Salah's strike to complete the rout.

SUPER KINGS REIGN SUPREME

Chennai Super Kings secured their fourth IPL title outmaneuvering Kolkata Knight Riders in the final in Dubai, Friday. Faf du Plessis' (86, 59b, 7x4, 3x6) guiding knock helped CSK post 192/3 after being invited to bat first. In response, KKR fell 27 runs short (165/9) of CSK total despite a splendid start by their openers – Shubman Gill (51, 43b, 6x4) and Venkatesh Iyer (50, 32b, 5x4, 3x6). Shardul Thakur (3/38), Josh Hazlewood (2/29) and Ravindra Jadeja (2/37) were stars with the ball for the champions

A milestone to remember



MS DHONI
"Still I haven't left behind (a legacy in the 12 seasons for CSK)"
Fourth title: We had match winners coming game after game and doing really well. Every final is special, if you look at stats, we may say we're the most consistent team to lose the final too. I feel it's important to come back strong, especially in the knockouts

CSK skipper MS Dhoni Friday became the first player in world cricket to captain a team in 300 T20 games across various competitions during his side's IPL summit clash against KKR. The 40-year-old former India captain, playing his 10th IPL final (ninth for CSK as captain), has now led the 'Yellow Brigade' in 214 games (including 23 matches of the now defunct Champions League T20). He has also captained Rising Pune Supergiants in 14 games during one IPL season apart from leading India in 72 matches, in-



cluding six World Cups. His crowning glory would certainly be leading India to the T20 World Cup title in South Africa back in 2007. "It's been a long time. We started T20 in around 2005-06 and most of the games have been franchise cricket and in the last five years there have been a lot of T20 games in inter-


national cricket as well," Dhoni said at the toss of tonight's game when asked about the milestone. Second in the list is Darren Sammy, who has led in 208 games (for West Indies and various franchises). Interestingly, both Dhoni and rival captain Eoin Morgan are playing their 347th T20 game.

ON next season's retention: Again I've said it before, it depends on BCCI. With two new teams coming in... We have to decide what is good for CSK. It's not about me being there in top-three or four. It's about making a strong core to ensure the franchise doesn't suffer. The core group, we have to have a hard look to see who can contribute for the next 10 years
EOIN MORGAN: We are extremely proud of the fight we have shown. The character and fight is trademark. Guys fought incredibly hard and performed. Congratulations to Super Kings, and their leaders. Just an amazing journey, and some things we can remember for a long time. When you fall at final hurdle, there is always a sense of what if... The way the guys stepped up and performed – particularly the young Indian guys. Big shout out to the owners, they give us immense support


STEPHEN FLEMING (CSK coach): There was criticism about the age of our squad but it's rewarding to finish the four-year cycle with the trophy. Experience is important, guys who have been there and done it before add so much. We don't get too deep into analytics and numbers, we go with gut feel and developing relationships with players. It's old school but it works for us. It is very hard to rank them (the titles).
BRENDON MCCULLUM (KKR coach): It's a shame that we fell short, but we were outplayed by a very good CSK side. There is a lot of experience there and they did not have the greatest of tournaments and that can happen at times. But again I am just really proud of all the guys for their efforts and what a story it was to go as close as we did after being under the pump half way through the season.

DWAYNE BRAVO: It's about the belief in the squad from management, owners. After last season, I was really disappointed. We owed it to the franchise, the fans to come up with a better performance. Experience beats youth any day.
MOEEN ALI: I can't describe how I'm feeling. To do it with this franchise is great. I could've been dropped a couple of games ago. It's a grounded and humble team.
RAVINDRA JADEJA: That catch of Venkatesh Iyer changed it for us. Mr DJ Bravo is going to entertain us all night. It's time for him to change his name from 'Champion' to 'Sir Champion'.
ROBIN UTHAPPA: I've voiced over and over again that in this team, there's secure atmosphere, lot of communication between players and support staff. I believe it's the players who aren't playing in the XI that make the atmosphere within the group.

SEASON HONOURS



Orange cap
RUTURAJ GAIKWAD (CSK)
635 runs



Purple cap
HARSHAL PATEL (RCB)
32 wickets

Most Valuable Player (MVP) : Harshal Patel (RCB)
Emerging Player of the Season : Ruturaj Gaikwad (CSK)
Perfect Catch of the Season : Ravi Bishnoi (PBKS)
Game Changer of the Season : Harshal Patel (RCB)
Power Player of the Season : Venkatesh Iyer (KKR)
Super Striker of the Season : Shimron Hetmyer (DC)
Fairplay award : Rajasthan Royals (RR)

* All the award winners got cash rewards of ₹10 lakh each (beside the Fairplay award)

NUMBERS GAME

60 Matches	18,622 Runs
4 Centuries	68 Half centuries
716 Wickets	687 Sixes (6s)
1,548 Fours (4s)	5,019 Dot balls

SPECIAL MENTIONS (2021 SEASON)

- **DEVDUTT PADIKKAL (RCB)** scored the quickest century – 51 balls
- **ISHAN KISHAN (MI)** scored the quickest half century – 16 balls
- **RUTURAJ GAIKWAD (CSK)** hit the biggest six – 108m
- **HARSHAL PATEL (RCB)** took the only hat-trick of the season against MI
- **LOCKIE FERGUSON (KKR)** bowled the fastest delivery – 153.63 km/h
- **KKR** registered the biggest win (batting first) – 86 runs (v RR)
- **RCB** registered the biggest win (batting second) – 10 wickets (v RR)
- **IPL 2021** witnessed 4 last-ball finishes and only one Super Over finish

Fritz, Nikoloz in semifinals at Indian Wells

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian Wells, Oct 16: Taylor Fritz beat No.3 seed Alexander Zverev 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(7-3) to reach the semifinals of the BNP Paribas Open in front of a hometown crowd, scoring the biggest win of his young career.

Fritz rallied from a 5-2 deficit in the third set by winning four of five games — when Zverev held two match points — to force the tiebreaker. He raced to a 6-1 lead and won it on his third match point when Zverev's forehand landed beyond the baseline.

Fritz was the clear favorite at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, where 83-year-old Hall of Famer Rod Laver looked on. Fritz, the 23-year-old son of retired Top-10 player Kathy May, grew up in the San Diego area and attended the tournament as a youngster.

Fritz had five previous wins over Top-10 players in 2019, including No. 5 Dominic Thiem at the Laver Cup. Now, he's bagged his biggest by beating World No.4 Zverev.

Fritz's semifinal opponent Saturday is 29th-seeded Nikoloz Basilashvili, who ousted No.2 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 2-6, 6-4. The other semi features No.21 Cameron Norrie against No.23 Grigor Dimitrov, who earlier knocked out top-seeded Daniil Medvedev in three sets.

Zverev, the gold medalist at the Tokyo Olympics, had been the highest remaining men's seed in the combined ATP and WTA tour event that was moved to the fall from its usual March date because of the coronavirus pandemic. Upsets knocked out several top players in a tournament that has lacked both its usual crowds and biggest stars, including Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, Naomi Osaka and Serena Williams.

The women's semifinals Friday night featured Victoria Azarenka against Jelena Ostapenko and Ons Jabeur against Paula Badosa.