



RELATIONSHIP TIPS
Actor Sambhavana Seth says a star has to leave her ego and attitude outside the house for a relationship to work
LEISURE P2



INITIATE ACTION: B'DESH PM
Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina instructs her home minister to initiate action against those who incited violence
INTERNATIONAL P10



SINDHU ADVANCE
PV Sindhu makes a winning return advancing at the Denmark Open beating Turkey's Neslihan Yigit
SPORTS P12



SC TO HEAR LAKHIMPUR MATTER TODAY
New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Wednesday the matter pertaining to the October 3 violence in Lakhimpur Kheri in which eight persons, including four farmers, were killed during a farmers' protest. A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, which had October 8 expressed dissatisfaction over the steps taken by the Uttar Pradesh government in the "brutal" murder of eight persons, would hear the matter. Ten people, including Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, have been arrested so far in connection with the case. The top court is hearing the matter after two lawyers had written a letter to the CJ seeking a high-level judicial inquiry.



US COURT JUNKS NIRAV MODI PLEA
Washington: In a major blow to Nirav Modi, a bankruptcy court in the US has rejected a petition of the fugitive diamond merchant and two of his associates, seeking dismissal of fraud allegations against them by the trustee of three companies they previously owned indirectly. The allegations were made in a New York court by Richard Levin, the court appointed trustee of three US corporations-- Firestar Diamond, Fantasy Inc and A Jaffe--indirectly owned by 50-year-old Modi previously. Levin had also sought a minimum compensation of USD 15 million for the "harm" suffered by the debtors of Nirav Modi and his associates.

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RAIN CLAIMS 42 MORE LIVES IN UTTARAKHAND

New Delhi, Oct 19: Uttarakhand reported at least 42 rain-related deaths Tuesday with many people still trapped under the rubble after landslides, while Uttar Pradesh witnessed four fatalities, even as heavy downpour in Kerala filled several dams to the brim and multiple districts were on alert.
In view of the incessant rains, Uttarakhand Chief Minister



Pushkar Singh Dhama reiterated his appeal to Chardham yatis to stay where they are and not to resume their journeys before the weather improved.
"The number of casualties in Kumaon region alone has crossed 40," DIG Nitesh Anand Bharne said. The hill state had reported five deaths Monday. Of the 42 fresh deaths, 28 people were killed in Nainital district, six each in Almora and Champawat and one each in Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar districts, the official said.
Chief Minister Dhama undertook an aerial survey of the rain-hit areas and later interacted with affected people on ground zero to make an assessment of the damages. He announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of those killed in rain-related incidents. DGP Ashok Kumar who accompanied CM on a visit to Kumaon region, said roads, bridges and railway tracks have been damaged in Kathgodam and Lalkuan in Nainital and Rudrapur.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL
I've converted mine. Now I can avoid traffic and fuel is cheaper too



MARKET WATCH

| INDEX | VALUE | VARIATION |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| SENSEX | 61716.05 | ↓ 49.54 |
| NIFTY | 18418.80 | ↓ 58.20 |
| DOLLAR | 75.41 | ↑ ₹0.08 |
| EURO | 87.39 | ↑ ₹0.10 |
| GOLD | ₹47,333 | ↑ ₹42 |
| SILVER | ₹64,900 | ↑ ₹1634 |

WEATHER

| | BHUB | CTK |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| MAX | 29.3°C | 30.8°C |
| MIN | 24.1°C | 24.0°C |
| Humidity | 95% | 88% |
| Rainfall | 2mm | 22mm |
| Forecast | Light rain | very likely |

TEACHER MAMITA MEHER MURDER CASE
High drama in Kalahandi

■ Body exhumed at Mahaling is suspected to be that of missing teacher Mamita Meher; Oppn bays for BJD mins' blood as they were allegedly involved in the case
POST NEWS NETWORK

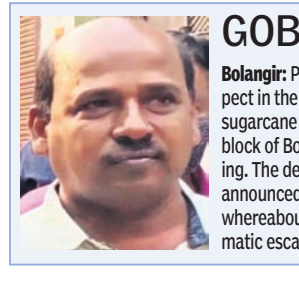


Deceased Mamita Meher (L); the place in the stadium after it was dug up and a body found
OP PHOTOS

Bhawanipatna/Golamunda, Oct 19: The mystery behind the disappearance of Mamita Meher, a lady teacher, deepened Tuesday after police recovered the decomposed body of a woman buried at an under-construction stadium at Mahaling in Kalahandi district.
Police suspect it to be the body of Meher; principal of Sunshine Public School at Mahaling under Golamunda block in Kalahandi district, before she went missing 12 days back. The police Monday night questioned the driver of a JCB that was parked at the stadium. Based on his inputs, police suspected the body was of Mamita Meher.
The stadium was sealed and policemen were deployed. An excavator was used to dig up the area following which a half-burnt body was recovered. The ground was dug up 8-ft that took nearly three hours. Ash remains, a vanity bag, gold chain, anklets, rings were also seized from the spot. Some burnt

pieces of wood and tyres were also recovered from underneath. It is suspected that miscreants might have burnt the body and buried it in the ground after killing her.
The seized articles were identified as that of Mamita by her family. They claimed she was wearing a pair of anklets and a gold chain when she left home October

8. They also alleged that Sahu was sexually harassing her. High drama was witnessed when the earth mover was excavating the ground. A team of BJP Mahila Morcha workers rushed to the excavation site and demanded the resignation of Dibyashankar Mishra, Minister of State for Home, Kalahandi ZP chief Namitarani



GOBIND SAHU NABBED
Bolangir: Police Tuesday nabbed Gobind Sahu, the prime suspect in the missing of Mamita Meher. Police traced Sahu to a sugarcane field at Budhipadar village under Bongamunda block of Bolangir district where he had been reportedly hiding. The development came shortly after the police announced a cash award of ₹1 lakh for information on the whereabouts of Sahu. Earlier Sunday, Sahu had staged a dramatic escape from the police custody at Titlagarh.

DISTRICT BANDH TODAY
JUNAGARH: The BJP has given a call for Kalahandi bandh Wednesday over disappearance and suspected murder of lady teacher Mamita Meher. The party has demanded that Dibyashankar Mishra whose name has cropped up in the case tender his resignation on moral grounds or the state government sack him.

Sahu alleged not just the home minister, but a number of other ministers such as Pratap Jena paid frequent visits to the school. Identity of the body can be established after forensic tests, police said.
Meher might have been killed to cover up the alleged sex racket operating in the school. She was in possession of some videos in her laptop for which school owner Gobind Sahu was afraid. Mamita (24), a resident of Jharni village under Turekela block in Bolangir district, went missing October 8. She left home and came to Chandatara where she met Gobind Sahu and boarded his car. The two stopped at Bhawanipatna and made some purchases which have been confirmed from the CCTV footages. Later, her mobile phone was found switched off.
MORE 3 & 5

ONLINE LEARNING A DISASTER: SURVEY

■ In rural areas, 8pc of kids study online while 37pc don't study at all. About half cannot read more than a few words
POST NEWS NETWORK



Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Schools in India have been closed for a full 17 months. During this period a small minority of privileged children were able to study online in the comfort and safety of their homes. The rest, however, were locked out of schools.
Some struggled to continue studying, online or offline. Many others gave up and spent months milling around the village. They were deprived not only of the right to learn but also of other benefits of school participation such as safe environment, good nutrition and a healthy social life.

Reetika Khara.
Presenting the report Tuesday at the National Institute of Social Work and Social Sciences in Bhubaneswar, Reetika Khara, development economist and associate professor (economics), IIT-Delhi said the survey focused on relatively deprived hamlets and bastis where children generally attend government schools. In each of the 1,362 sample households we interviewed one child enrolled at the primary or upper primary level.
The survey brings out the catastrophic consequences of school closure in the last year and half. In rural areas, only 8 per cent of kids study online regularly and 37 per cent don't study at all and about half are unable to read more than a few words. Most parents want schools to reopen as soon as possible.
Out of 1,400 household who were interviewed, about 60 per cent of sample households reside in rural areas and close to 60 per cent belong to Dalit and Adivasi communities.

BMC puja curbs

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday issued guidelines on the observance of Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja, Kartika Brata and Kartik Purnima in October and November in view of the ongoing Covid-19 situation in the state.
As per guidelines, congregation for celebration during Pujas, including associated religious and cultural congregations shall not be allowed in public within BMC jurisdiction. The committees and organisers can conduct Pujas in mandaps or pandals by adopting Covid-19 protocols such as social distancing, wearing of masks and proper sanitisation, for which they will have to obtain permission from the officer duly authorised by the Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar.
Pujas shall be conducted in indoor like condition, only for observance of rituals without any public participation, pomp and grandeur. The mandaps and pan-

dals will have to be covered on three sides, and one side will be opened for priests to perform rituals. This fourth side should be covered properly so as not to allow darshan of the idols by devotees.
The idol size in case of requirement shall be less than 4-ft. Public address system will not be used during Puja or any other time. At any point of time, there will not be more than seven persons allowed including the organizers, priests, kartas and support staff into the pandals and mandaps. All those present will have to strictly follow Covid protocols like social distancing, wearing masks, and sanitisation.
There will be no immersion procession by the organisers. The idols, if required, will be immersed in artificial ponds to be created by BMC. During the immersion, maximum 10 people should be involved given that the size and weight of the idol has been limited this time. Puja panels should ensure that all those involved in immersion are fully vaccinated and adhere to Covid appropriate behavior.

QUICK EXIT



Panic-stricken migrant labourers arrive at a railway station as they plan to leave the state, in Jammu, Tuesday
PTI PHOTO

Zomato gets roasted in TN after customer care insists on Hindi

■ In a fresh bout of controversy dogging the food delivery company, a company agent insisted a customer from Tamil Nadu speak in Hindi to get his refund, fuelling backlash from the DMK
AGENCIES

the hashtag "Reject_Zomato" trending on top at the microblogging site. In response, Zomato apologised to Vikash and also issued a statement both in Tamil and English, stressing that the company stood for diversity. However, company founder Deepinder Goyal later announced reinstating the sacked agent, saying it was "an ignorant mistake" on the part of the employee.
Earlier, Vikash tweeted he had ordered food on Zomato and complained that an item was missing. "Customer care says amount can't be refunded as I didn't know Hindi. Also takes lesson that being an Indian I should know Hindi. Tagged me a liar as he didn't know Tamil. @zomato not the way you talk to a customer," he tweeted and tagged the company



while sharing screenshots of his purported chat with the former customer care agent in question.
The Zomato agent also allegedly told Vikash that Hindi was the country's national language. In its statement in the two languages

verse culture. The termination is in line with our protocols and (the) agent's behaviour was clearly against the principles of sensitivity that we train our agents for on a regular basis," the statement uploaded on Zomato's Twitter handle said.
It said the sacked employee's statements do not "represent our company's stance towards language and diversity." Zomato further said it was building a Tamil version of its mobile app and that it had already localised its marketing communication in the local language in the state. Meanwhile, Goyal sought to defend the agent, saying most people at the call centre were young people "at the start of their learning curves."
"And remember, our call cen-

tre agents are young people, who are at the start of their learning curves and careers. They are not experts on languages and regional sentiments. Nor am I, btw." "On that note, we are reinstating the agent - this alone is not something she should have been fired for. This is easily something she can learn and do better about going forward," he added.
DMK leader and the party's Lok Sabha MP Kanimozhi said the customer care of some companies operate only in select languages. "It should be made mandatory for companies to serve their customers in their local language. A customer doesn't necessarily need to know Hindi or English. #Hindi_Theriyathu_Poda, (I don't know Hindi), she tweeted.



KIM PAYS KANYE \$3M FOR HOUSE CONTENTS

Kim Kardashian West has given Kanye West \$3 million for the contents of their home and another \$20 million for the property itself. The reality show star has agreed to buy the Los Angeles abode from her estranged husband along with all furniture, fixtures and appliances, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

UNABLE TO FIND BUYERS, JLo TAKES \$25M PENTHOUSE OFF THE MARKET

Jennifer Lopez reportedly takes her \$25 million property off the market after getting no offers. Lopez first put the Manhattan property up for sale in 2017 for \$26.5 million before giving it a \$2 million price cut in 2019 but is said to have been unable to find a buyer.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Emotions always pose obstacles. When things go wrong, life seems dispirited. But Ganesha advises you to look at the positive side of things, like the food on the dining table or the clothes in your wardrobe, and you will thank God for granting you a blessed life.

TAURUS
This day you could be wasting your time and energy in thankless activities. You are not likely to get the result you seek, says Ganesha. This is mainly because you will be trying to play the good guy and going out of your way to make everyone happy at the same time. That is not likely to happen.

GEMINI
Emotions and love will be the keywords in your life today. You will be easily swept away in a flow of feelings. You will trust others easily, and this could be harmful to you later. You are likely to be betrayed by someone close to you. You need to be wary of hidden enemies, says Ganesha.

CANCER
Will be fruitful to adopt the middle path today. Or else, you tend to take a hasty decision with your heart and not mind. That will throw up many riddles in the future. A fruitful day for artists and creative people. At the end of the day, you will be happy and jovial.

LEO
You will be in the mood to provide assistance to others, however you may not be able to succeed in your endeavour. The later half of the day will see your doubts melt away and the picture will become much more clearer. You will need to work hard to attain desired results today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Ganesha says that in all likelihood, today will see a lot of action on all fronts. Regarding business matters, it will be a fruitful day. Later in the evening, you may want to go into seclusion and refuse to meet people.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that you will finally get ready to propose to your beloved today. To attract your future life partner you will try to improve your appearance too. You will try to get emotionally closer to your loved one by sharing your past happy memories with them.

SCORPIO
Ganesha foresees that you make many positive changes in your attitude and behaviour today. And you are happy to realise that your new avatar has definitely proved to be a boon for you. In case of any doubts, ask your family and friends, who are all praises for the new you!

SAGITTARIUS
Family and friends take a back seat today as your inclination and faith in spirituality grows stronger. You may come across few unavoidable expenses, foresees Ganesha. In the evening, you may plan to visit a holy place or a temple to seek spiritual peace.

CAPRICORN
Personally as well as professionally, you'll have the best of both worlds today, assures Ganesha. Some unexpected turn of events will keep you charged up. As the day progresses, you will come across more and more such events that will keep you in a happy mood.

AQUARIUS
You have set your eyes firmly on your goal and the support of your friends and family members will help you stay motivated. At work, pressure may be mounting but you are not complaining as you have all the fire and energy it requires to deal with the load of work, feels Ganesha. Keep up the spirit; it will help you reach your destination.

PISCES
It is best to avoid speculating in the stock market today, as the risks you take today are unlikely to bear fruit. On the contrary you could end up having to face heavy losses. On the personal front, you will be busy entertaining and being entertained and will have some of the best moments of your life, says Ganesha.

TAAPSEE

hails women changemakers

Mumbai: *Rashmi Rocket* actress Taapsee Pannu, who is known to lend her voice for the cause of women's empowerment, has shared her thoughts on the importance of acknowledging the efforts of female changemakers.

The actress shared her thoughts in the foreword of the book titled *Changemakers*, written by Almas Virani and Sweta Somata. The book highlights the stories of 11 women who have been agents of change in India.

Talking about the book, which was launched here Tuesday, Taapsee said: "I got to associate with the book through sheer luck. I was asked to write a foreword and I was so amazed to read

the stories of these women who are mentioned here in the book."

She added: "I think it's the right time to acknowledge, it is because of women like these that we can actually see a better society from what we were in and we will continue to strive to make it even better."

IANS



Stardom doesn't work at home: Sambhavna



Mumbai: Actress and social media influencer Sambhavna Seth says that stardom doesn't work inside the house. A star has to leave her ego and attitude outside for a relationship to work.

Sambhavna Seth is collaborating with her husband Avinash Dwivedi for the first time on a music video titled *Chand* dedicated to *Karva Chauth*, which falls October 24 this year.

When asked if Hindi film actresses make good wives, Sambhavna said, "One should be a wife in the house; stardom doesn't work there. One must act appropriately as a wife, then only will the relationship work out, but it won't if you throw your weight around, or show your attitude. After marriage, actresses must also lead their lives the same way as regular people do."

Talking about her first music video with husband, Sambhavna said, "I was scared as Avinash is an amazing actor; he is quite a perfectionist and professional. He does his homework, he works on his look and other elements, but I am quite spontaneous, so I was scared to work with him."

Avinash turned out to be just as she had expected, Sambhavna said: "Avinash was composed during the shoot and I was nervous because emoting on-screen is difficult for me. I can dance easily, but emotional stuff is tough for me."

IANS



KJo set to debut as stand-up comic

New Delhi: Filmmaker Karan Johar is all set to debut as a stand-up comic in the second season of *One Mic Stand*, despite the fact that he doesn't laugh while listening to the scripts of comedies.

Talking about his experience of doing stand-up comedy, Karan said: "I had never actually thought about it. I am not somebody who is a laughter by nature. I just don't laugh out loud ever. Even when I am hearing the script of comedies, I don't laugh. I always give the writer, narrator that disclaimer

in advance. But I am very intrigued by it. I have always wondered how isolating it can be for the person standing on stage compelled to be funny. What if jokes don't land?"

"So I took this as a challenge. I think comedy is very evolving in today's zone of pop culture and I believe stand-up comedy is a new amazing vertical in the world of entertainment which I have always wanted to be a part of. This is the reason I gave this a thought and agreed," he added.

IANS

Kangana shares her four looks from spy thriller Dhaakad

Mumbai: *Thalaivi* is still alive in public memory and expectations are high from *Tejas*, Kangana Ranaut's upcoming film on a woman pilot in the Indian Air Force, but there's no stopping the actress. She has announced on social media that her action-packed spy thriller, *Dhaakad*, is releasing April 8, 2022.

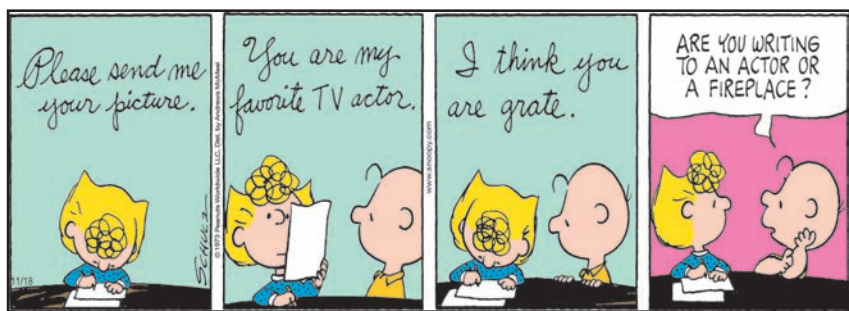
Fans have been eagerly awaiting the film since last January, when the first posters from it surfaced online. To announce *Dhaakad*, Kangana took to Instagram to share a symmetrical collage of her four looks from the film as she gave a sneak peek into the world of *Dhaakad* and what to expect from the action flick.

Kangana captioned the image with this description of her character: "She is fierce, feisty and fearless. #AgentAgni is all geared up to set the big screen on fire. Bringing to you the action spy thriller #Dhaakad that will hit theatres on 8th April 2022!"

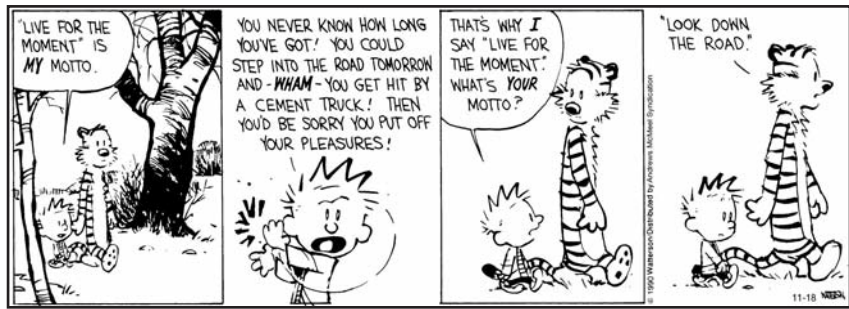
IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

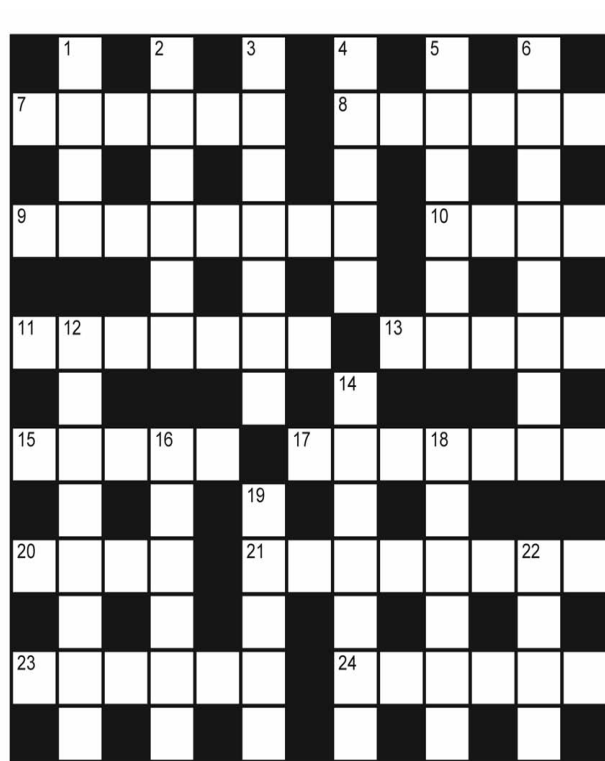


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

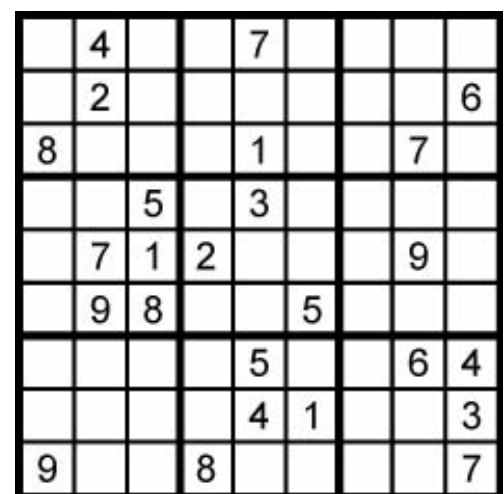


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- Across**
- 7 Cane material
 - 8 Shoat
 - 9 Kind of lifestyle
 - 10 Follow orders
 - 11 Garnish
 - 13 Deserve
 - 15 Plato's plaza
 - 17 Crowded
 - 20 Pesky insect
 - 21 Four-leaf clover
 - 23 Abrasive stone
 - 24 Ice chest
 - 3 Mermaid
 - 4 Chow
 - 5 Snub, in a way
 - 6 Broadcast
 - 12 Jason was one
 - 14 Love affair
 - 16 Not wholesale
 - 18 Lecture
 - 19 Hibachi residue
 - 22 Pool sticks
- Down**
- 1 Stalactite site
 - 2 Depth charge targets (1-5)

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

GAME BAKESHOP
O I D L R O E
R U D D E R S O A S I S
I A P A D T T
L A S S O C R E T I N S
L T E L S
A R R E S T R E P E A T
S O A S I
L O I T E R T E N O N
R S R D A E T G
U L T R A E S T H E T E
S E R V E N S E D R
H A R V E S T I N G Y P S

SUDOKU

9 6 4 8 7 5 3 2 1
3 1 5 6 2 4 8 9 7
2 8 7 9 3 1 6 4 5
1 7 2 4 5 8 9 6 3
6 5 3 7 9 2 4 1 8
4 9 8 3 1 6 7 5 2
7 3 1 2 4 9 5 8 6
5 4 6 1 8 3 2 7 9
8 2 9 5 6 7 1 3 4

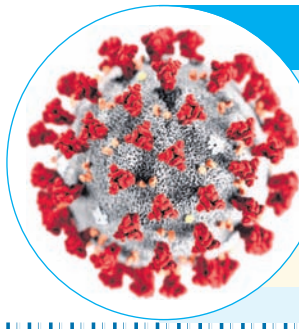
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY

Qadam-E-Rasool in Cuttack decked up on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

| | INFECTED | RECOVERED | DEAD |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World | 24,21,15,961 | 21,94,17,433 | 49,24,506 |
| India | 3,40,94,373 | 3,34,58,801 | 4,52,454 |
| Odisha | 10,35,973 | 10,23,398 | 8,294 |

Oppn wants minister's scalp in Mahaling case

MAMITA, A TEACHER OF SUNSHINE ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL AT MAHALING IN KALAHANDI DISTRICT, WAS ABDUCTED OCTOBER 8 LAST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Alleging involvement of Minister of State (MoS), Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra in the 'kidnap and murder' of Mahaling Sunshine Public School teacher Mamita Meher in Kalahandi, Opposition BJP and Congress demanded resignation of the minister.

The opposition members Tuesday staged demonstrations here and Bhawanipatna demanding immediate arrest and removal of Mishra.

Student Congress activists staged a demonstration before the official residence of the minister here and threw eggs at his residence demanding his immediate arrest.

The student and women wing of the Congress later in the evening staged demonstrations at Master Canteen demanding Mishra's removal.

Congress leader and MLA Santosh Singh Saluja alleged that a sex racket was operating in the college and girl students were exploited in the lure of awarding higher marks. He also alleged that Mishra spent several nights in the college. Saluja demanded a CBI



BJP activists during a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

probe into the incident.

"The case should be handed over to CBI for an impartial investigation and the Home minister should resign from his post immediately," Saluja said.

Bhubaneswar district unit of BJP led by Babu Singh staged a protest at Lower PMG Square demanding arrest of the minister, his removal from the ministry and a CBI inquiry into the abduction and murder of the school teacher. "The minister has good relationship with Gobind Sahu who

was detained in connection with the case. Mishra should be removed from his post as he might tamper with the evidence," said BJP MP Basanta Panda.

Meanwhile, a video that went viral showed him lavishly praising Sahu at a recent function held at Sunshine English Medium School.

BJD Spokesperson Sanjay Babu said, "We have always maintained that the law will take its own course and we hope that the victim will get justice and the culprit will be arrested."

Plan afoot to restore greenery in Puri coast

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 19: Two years after cyclone Fani caused massive devastation to the forest cover in coastal areas here in 2019, the Forest department and the district administration have initiated measures to restore the greenery by planting saplings in Balukhand sanctuary.

The Forest department has arranged around 3 lakh saplings from Andhra Pradesh to undertake plantation drive on around 400 hectare at the sanctuary, which is spreading over 8,700 hectares.

"Steps are being taken to create cashew forests at the sanctuary. This apart, we will plant saplings of certain species that can grow faster in coastal climate and check coastal erosion," said an official of the Forest department.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests had sanctioned Rs 5 crore for raising green cover on Odisha coast. A portion of the sanctioned funds is being utilised for the conservation of forests on Puri coast, sources said.

According to environmentalists, forests at Balukhand sanctuary



File photo of the Fani-hit Balukhand sanctuary

BOOSTING CALAMITY RESILIENCE

Forests at Balukhand sanctuary stretching up to 40km along the coast in between Brahmagiri and Astarang were working as a bulwark against natural calamities like cyclones. However, they suffered extensive damage by cyclonic storm Fani in 2019

The Ministry of Environment and Forests had sanctioned Rs 5 crore for raising green cover on Odisha coast

A PORTION OF THE SANCTIONED FUNDS IS BEING UTILISED FOR THE CONSERVATION OF FORESTS ON PURI COAST

stretching up to 40km along the coast in between Brahmagiri and Astarang were working as a bulwark against natural calamities

like cyclones. The forests were also acting as a barrier against tidal ingress in the coastal areas of Puri district.

More rain in store for state; rivers in spate



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday forecast more rainfall for Odisha and West Bengal, the two neighbouring states that have already been pounded by low pressure area (Lopar)-induced heavy showers over the past three days, throwing life out of gear in places.

According to the MeT department, the states will have to brace for downpour over the next two days, despite the low-pressure system having moved to Bihar. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the Bay of Bengal for the next 48 hours.

The weatherman asked the state government to brace for waterlogging, landslides or flood-like situations in the districts for which the yellow warning has been issued

The MeT Department has predicted light to moderate rain or thundershowers in both coastal and interior regions of Odisha. Under the influence of the Lopar, squally weather condition with wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph, gusting up to 60 kmph, is likely to prevail off the Odisha coast for the next 48 hours, it said.

The MeT office has issued a yellow warning for Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore Wednesday and has predicted thunderstorms in parts of Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Angul, Boudh, Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Dhenkanal. The weatherman asked the state government to brace for water-logging, landslides or localised flood-like situations in the districts for which the yellow warning has been issued.

Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena, in a letter to the district Collectors, asked them to ensure round-the-clock operation of control rooms. As per the department, Talcher received 30 mm rainfall in 24 hours till 5.30 pm Tuesday, followed by Boudh at 16mm. On the other hand, water levels in Subarnarekha, Budhabalang and Jalaka rivers in northern Odisha are on the rise, the weatherman said.

4th accused held in ₹5cr NHM fund embezzlement

The accused hacked the NHM website and generated a fake e-cheque of ₹5.01, 50,000 in the name of M/s Naturals to commit the fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch has arrested a person involved in siphoning off public funds worth over Rs 5 crore. The accused identified as Abinash Kumar Pradhan was arrested from Bhubaneswar by the EOW sleuths Monday.

According to EOW sources, prime accused Rajkishore Nayak during his term as the accountant at Swami Vivekananda National Institute of Rehabilitation Training & Research (SVNRTAR), Olatapur in Cuttack in March hatched a plan to hack the website of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) of and transfer funds from the account of National Health Mission (NHM) in Subarnapur district.

Rajkishore, who had also worked as the accountant at NHM office in Subarnapur on temporary basis between 2016 and 2020, reportedly knew the official password and other details of the PFMS system, through which all the monetary transactions take place.

Subsequently, Rajkishore in connivance with other accused persons including Abinash, hacked the website of NHM and generated a fake e-cheque of Rs 5, 01, 50,000 in the name of a private company, M/s Naturals in which

another accused, Samir Kumar Pati was an employee April 2.

They also forged the signature and seal of the ADMO and CDMO of Subarnapur and used the same on e-cheque to deceive the bank officials.

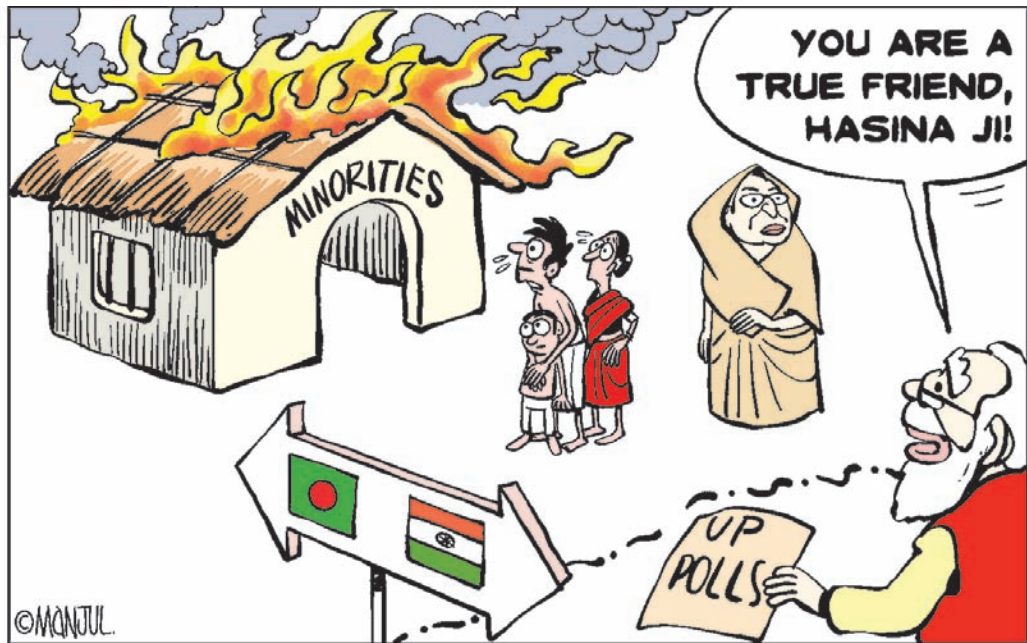
One of the associates of Rajkishore, Ananta Charan Pradhan, deposited the cheque at the local branch of SBI four days later. The next day, over Rs 5 crore was transferred from the account of Zila Swasthya Samiti to the account of M/s Naturals at Central Bank of India, Main Branch in Rourkela.

Later, Pati transferred the money to the bank accounts of other accused persons including Pradhan, who is a relative of the prime accused.

April 29, the NHM authorities came to know about the transfer of funds during the scrutiny of monthly bank statements of ZSS account. Subsequently, Nabakishore Behera, additional district public health officer lodged a case (8/21) in this regard with the EOW.

Earlier, the EOW sleuths had arrested Pati from Rourkela May 4 and Rajkishore from Bhawanipatna and Ananta Charan Pradhan from Pipili June 8. The authorities reportedly managed to freeze Rs 3.30 crore out of the Rs 5 crore swindled by the accused.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Awareness key to check cybercrimes: CP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 19: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday organised an awareness programme on cybercrimes for the senior citizens of CDA area here as part of the observance of National Cyber Safety Month.

"It is the duty and responsibility of the police to make common people aware of the cybercrimes. Since many senior citizens find it difficult to adapt themselves to the new technologies, they are vulnerable to cyber frauds. Of late, cybercrimes have become a major challenge for us. Awareness is the key to check cybercrimes," said Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi while participating as the chief guest in the event.

In the programme, a police team comprising cyber cell inspector Renubala Tripathy, sub-inspector Ganesh Sahu and constable Anil spelt out certain tips for the senior citizens to protect themselves from



CP Saumendra Priyadarshi speaks at the awareness programme OP PHOTO

A team of cyber cell inspector Renubala Tripathy, SI Ganesh Sahu & constable Anil spelt out tips for the senior citizens to protect themselves from cyber frauds

cyber frauds. The team also explained safety rules for monetary

transactions through digital mode.

Among others, DCP Prateek Singh, ACP Tapas Pradhan and Markatnagar police IIC Beauty Mohanty were present at the event.

Later, a similar event was organised at Dargha Bazar police station in the Silver City here. "We will organise awareness programmes on cybercrimes under the territorial jurisdictions of all police stations by October 30," said a police officer.

Minor from WB drowns in sea; another missing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 19: A minor boy from West Bengal drowned and a 21-year-old youth of the neighbouring state went missing while bathing at the beach here Tuesday.

According to sources, Anupam Mandal of West Bengal, along with his family, was having a bath near Sector-13 Camelia beach here around 1:50pm when he was dragged deep into the sea by strong currents. Family members informed the lifeguards who reached the place immediately. "However, the minor could not be saved. His body was fished out after a few minutes," added the sources.

On the other hand, Sanju Bhattacharya, also of the neighbour state, was enjoying at the beach near the Pink House when he too was pulled into the sea by strong currents around 2pm.

Lifeguards and Fire Services personnel could not trace the 21-year-old till the last report came in.

Fire official Dhananjay Mallick said that they have rescued at least four persons as they were about to drown in the sea here.

2 leopard hides seized in Boudh; one arrested

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police seized two leopard skins and nabbed one person on charge of dealing with illegal trade of wildlife body parts, police said.

Based on reliable information, a team of the STF conducted a raid with the help of Boudh Forest officials near Kapsira village under Manamunda Forest Range in Boudh district and nabbed the accused.



During search, two leopard skins and other materials were seized from his possession. The accused could not produce any valid authority in support of possession of leopard skins, for which he has been detained and handed over to Forest department officials for necessary legal action at their end, the STF said.

During last one year, special drive against wildlife criminals/poachers have been launched in the state and the STF has seized 18 leopard skins, nine elephant tusks, two deer skins, five pangolins and 15 kg of pangolin scales, and arrested 36 wildlife criminals.

The STF is the specialised wing of Odisha Police to curb organised crime in the state. Wildlife crime is one of the focus areas of the STF, an official said.

'Work of Manoj Das inspiration for generations'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Delhi Odia Lekhika Sansad (DOLS) Tuesday released 'Amruta Sandhani Manoj', a compilation of articles on celebrated author Manoj Das, who passed away April 27, 2021.

Speaking about the book that was released at National Archives of India here, Anita Panda, the editor of the book, said that many noted writers had written about Das and his works in the book. Panda said that Manoj Das's writing has inspired many generations.

On the occasion, Panda read out the messages sent by Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Das. The Governor said this book is a nice tribute to Das. His work will always inspire the young authors and literature lovers of all generations. He is the pride of the nation as well as the state.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik



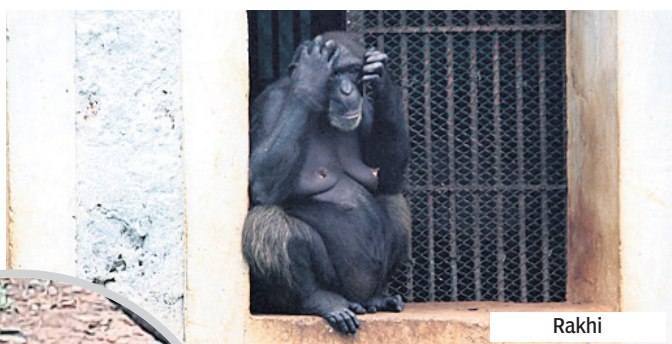
Dignitaries including Odisha Sahitya Akademi president Hrushikesh Mallick, Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy, writer Anita Panda and Padma Shri DP Patnaik releasing the book, Tuesday OP PHOTO

NZP readies to welcome new members

AS OF NOW, THE NANDANKANAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK HAS 27 TIGERS, INCLUDING TWO WHITE ONES, AND SEVEN CHIMPS—JULU, PAMPETA, DURGA, RAKHI, PURNIMA, LAXMI AND RAJU



Mousumi



Rakhi

Barang, Oct 19: Animal lovers, there is something to cheer about. If things go well, Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here will soon welcome new members with white tigress Mousumi and chimpanzee Rakhi having conceived for the first time. NZP sources said Mousumi has conceived after mating with white tiger Sahil. "A tigress gives birth to a litter, usually comprising three or four cubs, after a gestation period of 16 weeks (112 days).

Mousumi has conceived for the first time. She has completed almost 97 days of pregnancy. We can expect welcoming the new guests anytime now," said a zoo official. The zoo authorities have been taking special care of Mousumi. "She has been kept at the rear part of the feeding chamber

near enclosure-20. Special care in terms of food and medicine is being given to her. Her activities are being monitored through CCTVs on real time," said the official. Mousumi was born to Manish and Sneha at Nandankanan August

5, 2016. As of now, the zoo has 27 tigers, including two white ones, said the source. Meanwhile, chimp Rakhi is pregnant by around 180 days after mating with Julu May 11 last. "Due care is being taken to ensure Rakhi have a safe delivery. Dietary supplement containing vitamins, calcium and iron is being provided to her. Moreover, we're keeping a tab on her activities," said an official. The official added that in case of chimps, only one baby is born after a gestation period of 235 or 240



The fawn

State logs 556 new Covid cases, four fresh fatalities



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Odisha's Covid-19 tally rose to 10,35,973 Tuesday as 556 more people, 216 more than the previous day, tested positive for the infection. Four fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 8,294, a Health department official said. As many as 87 children were among the new cases recorded in 20 of the 30 districts. The infection rate among the 0-18 age group stood at 15.64 per cent. Khurda district, under which state Capital Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of new cases at 305, followed by Cuttack (41) and Sundargarh (18). Khurda alone accounted for 54.85 per cent of the new cases, the official said.

ODISHA NOW HAS 4,228 ACTIVE CASES, WHILE 10,23,398 PEOPLE HAVE RECOVERED FROM THE DISEASE SO FAR, INCLUDING 618 MONDAY. THE STATE HAS THUS FAR TESTED OVER 2.11 CRORE SAMPLES FOR COVID-19, INCLUDING 57,026 MONDAY, AND THE CUMULATIVE POSITIVITY RATE STANDS AT 4.89 PER CENT. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS FULLY VACCINATED OVER 1 CRORE PEOPLE SO FAR.

As many as 324 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 232 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing. The daily test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 0.97 per cent. Two fresh fatalities each were registered in Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur districts. This apart, Fifty-three patients have died due to comorbidities to date. Odisha now has 4,228 active cases, while 10,23,398 people have recovered from the disease so far, including 618 Monday. The state has thus far tested over 2.11 crore samples for Covid-19, including 57,026 Monday, the official said, adding that the cumulative positivity rate stood at 4.89 per cent. The administration has fully vac-

inated over 1 crore people so far. Meanwhile, the Odisha government has begun preparations to disburse ₹50,000 each to the next of kin of patients who died due to Covid-19. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Kumar Jena, while attending a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, said that as per the Supreme Court's order, the next of kin of people who died due to Covid-19 can avail the assistance irrespective of their financial condition or whether they have received benefits of other schemes. Mohapatra directed the district Collectors, Chief Medical Officers and teshildars to make the process hassle-free for the beneficiaries. The entire process of application, verification, processing, approval, and assistance will be done at district level.

IIT-Bhub convocation in hybrid mode today

Bhubaneswar: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar, will celebrate its annual convocation Wednesday in hybrid mode in which some students will participate in person while others will join online, keeping in mind the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic. During the convocation, the institute will confer degrees on 559 students.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR
Kumarshree Samman-2021 to OSCPCR chairperson, Buddha Mandir, Unit-III, 10am
BJP press meet, party office, Kharvela Nagar, Unit-III, 10.30am
Programmes/announcements for wassup today may be sent to opwassup@gmail.com for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

Kallola 2021 focuses on menstrual hygiene

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The UNICEF Odisha in collaboration with voluntary organisation Aaina Tuesday launched the seventh season of Kallola, a celebration of children's creativity and short films on child rights.

The theme of this season of Kallola is 'Period talks and menstrual health and hygiene'. Actress and ambassador of Red Dot Campaign Archita Sahu, UNICEF Odisha chief Monika O. Nielsen, jury chairman for Kallola 2021 Ananta Mahapatra, resource person Subas Das and Aaina secretary Sneha Mishra were present at the event. Kallola 2021 will focus on creativity of children and produce short films of 30, 60 and 90 second durations for the children on the above said theme. "I am happy to be associated with Kallola. The programme is



Dignitaries at the launch of Kallola 2021 in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

raising various issues related to child rights and other social issues. The future generations should not face the same problems which troubled our generation. This is the best platform where all these issues can be raised," Archita said. "This year's Kallola will give

us a platform to reach out to wider audiences on issues related to menstrual hygiene. Open discussions on menstruation, menstrual taboos and myths can be the first steps towards overcoming the fear and shame associated with menstruation,"

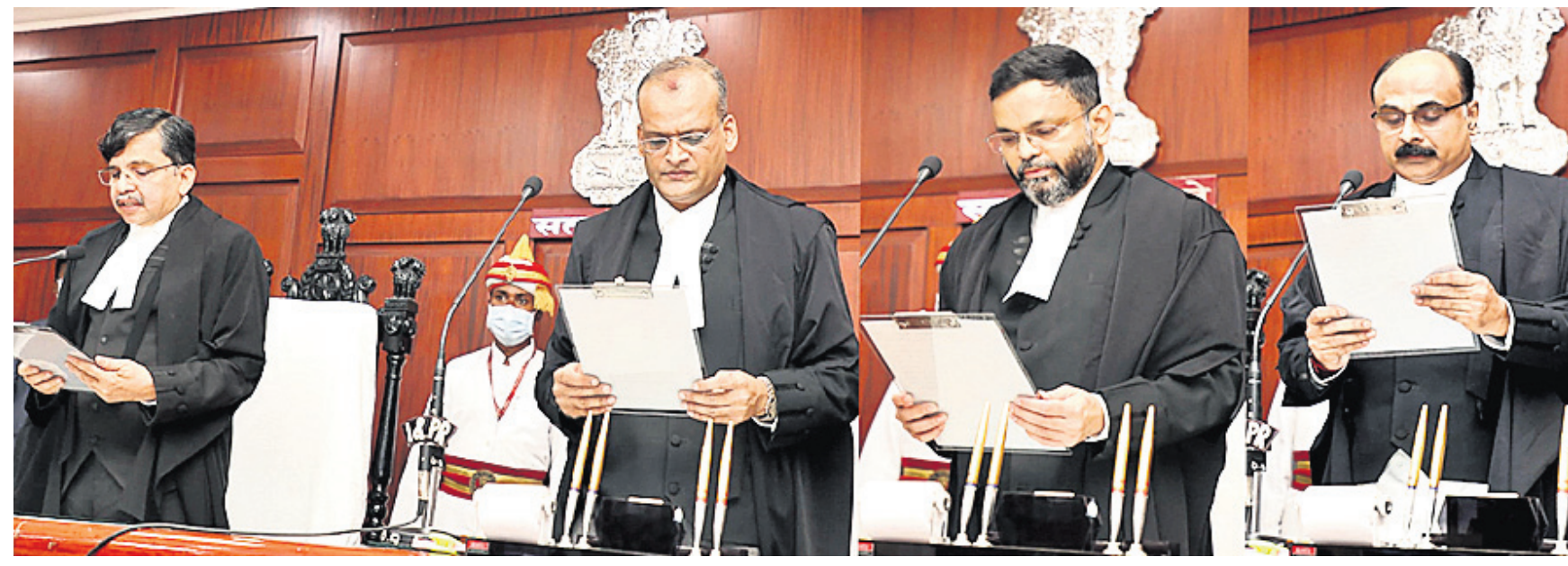
said Monika O. Nielsen. According to sources, children and adolescents will express their ideas into short films during Kallola 2021. Through workshops on film making, adolescents will learn script writing, filming and editing to express their ideas.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary Public, Purushottampur, Ganjam, I Lakshman Pradhan, S/o Gobinda Pradhan, Vill./P.O.- Badachakada, P.S.- Rambha, Dist.- Ganjam is my actual name in my relevant documents. But my Secondary Board Certificates, Bihar School Examination Board wrongly mentioned as Lakhn Kumar Pradhan, S/o Govinda Pradhan. Lakshman Pradhan, S/o Gobinda Pradhan and Lakhn Kumar Pradhan, S/o Govinda Pradhan is one and same person. I shall known as Lakshman Pradhan, S/o Gobinda Pradhan for all purpose.

By virtue of this affidavit vide SL.No. / 2021 Dated 18.10.2021 which was executed before the Executive Magistrate, Paralakhemundi, Gajapati Dist., Odisha have changed my surname from Kondara to Yeduru as per my parental surname. Henceforth, by virtue of this affidavit I will known as Yeduru Sunil and accordingly I will applied for certificate of same at every official documents.



Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar administers oath of office to Justices Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo, Radha Krishna Pattanaik and Sashikanta Mishra in Cuttack, Tuesday

3 NEW JUDGES JOIN ORISSA HIGH COURT

Cuttack: Days after two judges were transferred to the Orissa High Court, the bench was further strengthened Tuesday as three more judges joined it on elevation. Chief Justice S Muralidhar administered the oath of office to Justices Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo, Radha Krishna Pattanaik and Sashikanta Mishra following their appointments by President Ram Nath Kovind last week. The Supreme Court collegium had earlier approved the elevation of two advocates and as many judicial officers as judges of the High Court. However, appointments of only three judges were received last week. The strength of the HC has now risen to 17 against a sanctioned strength of 27. While Justice Sahoo was elevated to the bench from the Bar of the Orissa High Court, Justices Pattanaik and Mishra were senior judicial officers.

Online session on Mole Day Oct 23

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 19: 'The Uranium' is all set to celebrate Mole Day through a host of programmes online October 23, an official said Tuesday. Students can take part in the programmes, mostly related to chemistry, which will begin 6:00am and end 6:00pm. "In the first session (6am to 9am), students of Classes VIII, IX and X will join the live session through zoom link, while the second session will begin at 11am and conclude at 1pm, exclusively for Classes X, XI and XII," said the official, advising interested participants to log on to www.theuranium.org for details. Mole Day commemorates the Avogadro's Number (6.02 x 10²³), a basic measuring unit in chemistry.

Cong attacks BJP over fuel price hike, blocks road

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: Activists of Bhubaneswar District Youth Congress Tuesday blocked the Janpath near Master Canteen square to protest against the incessant hike in prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas and other essential commodities. The activists, led by youth Congress president Ranjit Patra, held both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik responsible for the hike in oil prices and burnt their effigies as a mark of protest. Patra said that the BJP had assured to keep the prices of petrol and diesel at Rs 40 per litre and was vociferously protesting against



Congress workers stage a demonstration near Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, condemning the skyrocketing fuel prices

oil price hike to blame the Congress government when Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister. He also pointed out that while

crude oil price was 120 dollar per barrel, petrol was selling at Rs 65

The Congress activists threatened to continue their agitation till the hike in oil price was rolled down

and diesel at Rs 55 per litre with cooking gas available at Rs 350 per cylinder at that time. But now, though the crude oil price came down by 30 to 80 dollar per barrel, petrol is selling at Rs 100 per litre and cooking gas at Rs 1,000 per cylinder. The Congress activists threatened to continue their agitation till the hike in oil price was rolled down.

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MAMITA MURDER MYSTERY

BJP alleges ministers' complicity



POST NEWS NETWORK

Junagarh, Oct 19: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders of Kalahandi alleged that some cabinet ministers of the state government were involved in the alleged murder of Mamita Meher (24).

"Many ministers are behind the disappearance and murder of teacher Mamita Meher of Mahaling Sunshine School in Junagarh," Kalahandi Zilla Parishad Chairperson Namitarani Sahu claimed, demanding the removal of Minister of State (Home) Dibyashankar Mishra.

"If the minister is not removed, we will take to the streets, and the state government will suffer serious consequences," the BJP leader said. The lady teacher was raped and murdered. Her body was buried in the school's under-construction stadium, she noted.

"Women are being exploited and sexually harassed in the state," she alleged. Some ministers of the government who claim to value women are engaged in an illegal and immoral conduct in an educational institution," she fumed.

"The young girls were called into the school," Namitarani told reporters outside the under-con-

struction stadium where police were digging to trace Mamita's body. "Captain Dibyashankar Mishra paid weekly visits to the school. While his constituents awaited his arrival for a variety of developmental projects or redressal of grievances, the minister remained at the school. Not just Mishra, but several other ministers, including Pratap Jena paid frequent visits here," she added.

Junagarh Constituency represented by Captain Dibyashankar Mishra, has three government colleges. Why was the minister providing government aid particularly to Mahaling Science College ignoring other educational institutions? The government should clarify it, Namitarani alleged.

"The minister used to visit the school at night. Mamita went missing under mysterious circumstances. All were aware about such visits, but nobody raised voice against it," the woman BJP leader levelled serious allegations.

FOLK CHARM



Artistes participating in training programme on 'Shohala Suanga Danda Nrutya' a folk dance at Sonepur, Tuesday. The training programme has been organized as part of a move for revival of traditional dance
OP PHOTO

Drug smuggling still on in Jaleswar

BROWN SUGAR WORTH ₹2.5 CR SEIZED



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jaleswar, Oct 19: In a major drug haul, brown sugar worth around Rs2.5 crore was seized from Jaleswar area in Balasore district late Monday night. Three persons including two women were arrested in this connection.

The arrested have been identified as Mukhtar Ali Khan, his wife and mother-in-law.

During the preliminary investigation into the latest seizure of brown sugar in this coastal town, police came to know that the arrested drug peddlers have connections with mafia of other states

According to reports, Jaleswar police were tipped off that the peddlers were negotiating with parties to sell off the contraband at a hotel. Swinging into action, the police and the excise officials conducted a raid on Hotel Diamond located at Jaleswar Station Bazaar and seized 2.4 kg of brown sugar.

"The three drug peddlers will be forwarded to court," said the police.

Notably, Jaleswar town has become a hub of drug smuggling. It is alleged that there has been a rise in such cases during the pandemic. The town's proximity to West Bengal has been blamed for

10 drug peddlers held in two days

Jagatsinghpur: Amid ongoing crackdown on drug smugglers in Jagatsinghpur district, police have arrested 10 drug peddlers and seized 75 gram of brown sugar from them in two days in various areas.

SP Akhleswar Singh said that drug peddlers have been arrested in Erasama, Katsinghpur, Tirtol, Paradip, Naugaon and Rahama areas. Cases have been registered against the 10, he added.

Despite crackdown by the excise officials and the police, drug peddling has not yet been controlled in district. The excise officials and police are constantly in the act to break the chain of the drug rackets, it is said.

this.

In the current year, police and excise officials have seized 7.43 kg of brown sugar and 15 vehicles in Jaleswar. As many as 84 cases have been registered against the peddlers and 87 people have been arrested in this connection.

However, despite raids, drug smuggling is still going on in Jaleswar. It is said that the mastermind of the drug peddling racket has not yet been arrested.

During the investigation into the latest seizure of brown sugar, police came to know that the arrested drug peddlers have connections with mafia of other states.

MGNREGS goes haywire in Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Oct 19: The Centre sponsored poverty alleviation scheme Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has failed to live up to expectations of job card holders due to negligence in its implementation and apathetic attitude of the district administration and public representatives, a report said.

This coastal district lacks mines and industries for which agriculture is the mainstay of people.

However, improper water management has shunted down the growth of agriculture in the district, reports said. Farmers here often resort to distress sale due to lack of proper irrigation facilities, training and proper incentives. This has given rise to outmigration in the district in search of jobs outside the state.

The district administration had implemented the rural job scheme with a hope that it will provide livelihood to people and check migration. However, negligence in its implementation has failed to

Naveen to visit Mayurbhanj Oct 22

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 19: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will visit Mayurbhanj October 22 to distribute smart health cards under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana to scores of beneficiaries in the district. It was stated that people covered under food security scheme can avail themselves of the healthcare facility.

The Chief Minister will attend a programme in Baripada and hand out smart health cards, apart from laying foundation stones for various projects and inaugurating some other projects.

A preparatory meeting for the programme was held and it was decided that the smart health card scheme will be broadened in the district.

The admin has planned to implement 65,326 projects in the district in this financial year. But, only 2,909 projects have been completed till now. So far, 2,93,009 people have received job cards in the district

check the outmigration.

The district administration has planned to implement 65,326 projects in the district in this financial year. But, only 2,909 projects have been completed till now. Similarly, 2,93,009 people have received the job cards. Of them, work has been provided to 61,211 job card holders. This is clear indication that the project has gone haywire in the district and failed to live up to the expectations.

According to details available from the office of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), as

TARDY IMPLEMENTATION



many as 65,326 projects like construction of Anganwadi centres, rural infrastructure projects, drought mitigation projects, Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendras, coastal development, irrigation and water conservation projects are being executed in the district under the scheme.

Out of them, construction of 2,909 projects has been completed while 24,482 projects are still under construction. Over 23,379 projects have been sanctioned for implementation while 14,556 are yet to receive the approval. It is pitiable that only 11 projects have been

completed in Garadpur block while 4,231 projects are awaiting construction.

As many as, 7,117 job card holder families in Derabish block, 6,302 in Garadpur block, 6,503 in Kendrapara block, 8,313 in Mahakalpara block, 6,033 in Marshaghai block, 7,882 in Pattamundai block, 7,177 in Rajkanika block and 6694 in Rajnagar blocks have been provided with work.

A maximum of 46,301 job card holder families have received work for more than 100 days in Ganjam district while it is only 611 in

Kendrapara district.

Farmer leaders Bidhubhusan Mohapatra, Umesh Kumar Singh, Gayadhar Dhal, senior residents Jagdish Pati, Chittarnjan Sahu and farmer Niranjan Parida said that the scheme has now become a law, but negligence of the district officials and public representatives has affected its implementation.

They alleged that the programme is marked by severe irregularities and fake work days are being created by engaging machines in the projects.

Moreover, the wages fixed for the labourers are quite low at this time of spiraling prices. The project works are not being expedited due to lack of coordination between the administrative officials and public representatives.

When contacted, Rajendra Panda, project director, DRDA said local problems are scuttling the smooth implementation of the projects while block level officials have been directed to speed up the project works and finish them on time.

Maiden eco-retreat at virgin Pentha beach

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Oct 19: The Tourism Department has decided to organise an eco-retreat festival at Pentha in Kendrapara district in a bid to give exposure to the serene beach, officials said.

The festival of this nature is being organised for the first time at the scenic beach. It will be a three-and-a-half-month long event that is scheduled to commence from November 15, a district official said.

Fifteen luxury tents will be pitched for the tourists' stay amid the lap of nature for 106 days. Cultural festivals, food festivals and trekking in the nearby mangrove forest are the added attractions of the event, Kendrapara Sub-Collector Niranjan Behera said.



The festival of this nature is being organised for the first time at the scenic beach. It will be a three-and-a-half-month long event scheduled to commence from November 15

Fifteen luxury tents will be pitched for the tourists' stay for 106 days. Cultural food festivals and trekking in the nearby mangrove forest are the added attractions of the event

Last year, the department had organised a three-month-long eco-retreat festival at Nalitapatia village, close to the Bhitarkanika National park.

The Tourism Department will

shortly begin the online booking of tents for the festival, district tourist officer Himalaya Tripathy said.

The camp is contiguous to the good-looking mangrove and casuarina forest cover. Nature lovers

will relish the picturesque beauty of the beach, an official said.

The festival is likely to generate income for the locals. A photo exhibition, seminars and an exhibition of films on Bhitarkanika and its rich flora and fauna will also be held during the fete.

Pentha is a virgin beach situated amid idyllic surroundings. In close proximity to the tranquil beach, luxuriant mangrove and casuarina forest cover adds to the attraction of the spot. It's an exciting eco-tourism spot.

Pentha beach is still unexplored as a tourist destination, Rajnagar MLA Dhruba Sahoo said.

The Tourism Department has rightly decided to organise an eco-retreat festival at Pentha to promote beach tourism at Pentha, Sahoo said.

RALLY FOR PROHIBITION



Women of self-help groups (SHG) holding lathis take out a rally demanding closure of liquor shops at Gharadhara village under Khariar block in Nuapada district, Tuesday
OP PHOTO

More complaints on ZP quota for women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Oct 19: The deadline for receiving complaints on draft list of reservation in Zilla Parishad seats in Ganjam has ended. The district administration has got most complaints on seats reserved for women.

According to reports, a total of 26 complaints have been filed on ZP seat reservation. The Collector will hold a hearing on the complaints October 22 to redress the grievances. Of the complaints, 10 are related to reservation for women. Two complaints were received on reservation of ZP zone-55.

There are 69 Zilla Parishad zones in Ganjam. Many local leaders (OBC) who nurtured aspirations to contest polls in some seats have expressed their displeasure over proposed reservation of ZP seats for women. Currently, the posts of ZP chairman and vice chairman are held by leaders of the ruling BJD. In the 2017 panchayat elections, these two posts were not reserved for women.

One dead, 15 injured as van skids off road

POST NEWS NETWORK

R Udayagiri, Oct 19: A person was killed and 15 others sustained injuries after the van they were travelling in met with an accident near Guara Gaon village under Nuagarh block in Gajapati district Tuesday. As many as eight people including two children were critically injured, sources said.

While the deceased has been identified as Dilisamani Raita (22), the seriously injured passengers have been identified as Deepak Raita (four), Pravin Sen Mandal (17), Abhiram Dalabehera (47), Monika Raita (six), Janiel Mandal (20), Methi Mandal (50), Pitas Mandal (38) and Prabhanjani Pandal (21).

According to sources, the ill-fated van was travelling from Rebidi towards Nuagarh Tuesday morning. Due to some reason, the driver lost his control on the vehicle near Guara Gaon village and it overturned to a roadside ditch, killing Dilisamani of Rebidi village on the spot.



Hearing the noise, local people rescued the injured and rushed them to Khajuripada community health centre (CHC). "After first-aid, the critically injured people have been shifted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) at Paralakhemundi," informed Dr Satyanjan Tripathy of Khajuripada CHC.

"After receiving information, we reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it for post mortem. A detailed investigation to find out what led to the mishap is underway," informed R Udayagiri police station IIC Rabintra Kumar Panda.



The path is long, but self-surrender makes it short; the way is difficult, but perfect trust makes it easy.

THE MOTHER



Tackling Taliban

India seems to be waking up, at long last, to the reality of maintaining good and workable relationships with its neighbours. Whether it is rather too late in the day or if the adage - better late than never - will hold good too the future can tell. The ruling alliance dominated by the BJP was so blinded by its domestic politics that it could not see or did not care to observe its neighbours turning hostile and choosing other allies. India's move to host a meeting sometime in the second week of November involving the national security advisers (NSAs) of all countries in the region with a stake in Afghanistan's stability is an attempt to clutch at the proverbial straw to neutralise the threat of cross-border terror strikes looming large following the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban. The move shows the desperation of the BJP-led NDA government to salvage the situation after its empty rhetoric, propelled by domestic politics of communal polarisation pushed most of its neighbours to China's embrace. India has sent out invites late last week for the in-person NSA-level meeting to Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China, and Russia to join the consultations on regional security. Turkmenistan does not join such exercises since it follows a policy of strict neutrality having common borders with Afghanistan. None of the countries have as yet confirmed participation. It may not be surprising if this late reaction does not evoke any positive response from the invitees. This may primarily happen because Pakistan would never be willing to relinquish its superficial supremacy of being the only conduit to the Taliban. On the other hand, China and, through China, Russia has already opened dialogue with the new Afghan setup. This delayed action might be a great success or it could be a total diplomatic debacle. That too, time will tell.

The meeting, a purely Indian initiative - was being planned in April when the world was getting alarmed by the prospect of Taliban take-over following the US pullout. It was hoped then that the ruling Afghan government could hold ground and an inclusive government could be formed once the US troops were out of the country. Hence, the erstwhile Ashraf Ghani government of Afghanistan was among the prospective invitees. The situation has completely changed now and the participation of a representative of the Taliban government would be construed as a great diplomatic blunder as the world has not yet recognised the Taliban government.

It is an irony that India is now wooing Pakistan to take part in the NSA talks after closing the doors of negotiation due to its politics of Pakistan-bashing that gave it electoral dividends in the country. Though Islamabad is an invitee at the NSA talks, it is still not clear whether Pakistan will send its representative at all because of its closeness to the Taliban. Apparently, it will be against Islamabad's official position to attend a meeting to deal with the situation arising out of the regime change in Afghanistan when no representative from the new dispensation is invited. In fact, it poorly reflects on the Indian government's handling of foreign policy that Pakistan can now try to bargain with India for an indirect or backdoor recognition of the Taliban government. Pakistan has been trying this for the past few months. It is believed that an informal SAARC meeting could not take place last month because of Pakistan's insistence on Taliban representation. Incidentally, Pakistan had also lobbied for the Taliban to be represented at the UN General Assembly last month in New York, though without success.

The decision to hold the NSA meeting is reported to have been taken after Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscored the need at the annual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in September for the deployment of counter-terrorism mechanisms as formulated under the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS). As India gets increasingly worried about the consequences of the Taliban takeover, New Delhi wants a strategy to be thrashed out without any further delay to deal with Afghanistan. The Taliban have already sent alarming signals to India through atrocities on a section of the Sikh population in that country. Religious fanatics across the globe are getting encouraged by the establishment of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The communal conflagration in Bangladesh by the Jamaat-e-Islami, as stated by a minister of the Sheikh Hasina government, is an indication of the shape of things to come.

India is, of course, trying to build bridges with the Taliban through back-channel talks. This is why it has confirmed it will attend October 20 Moscow Format talks where a representative from the Taliban regime will also be present. The Moscow Format talks were first held in 2017 as an attempt to resolve issues confronting Afghanistan.

Be that as it may, it will be a pipe-dream for India to expect either Pakistan or China to satisfy it by taking a tough stand on cross-border terrorism aided and abetted by the Taliban regime. For, China is already negotiating with the Taliban for including Afghanistan's participation in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India has opposed it, but the Taliban have shot down India's objection on the ground that the BRI would provide jobs to its population. The rulers of Afghanistan desperately need to stave off economic collapse. Till March, 139 countries had entered into agreements with China which has helped these nations build roads and ports under the BRI. Taliban spokesperson Suhail Shaheen has made it clear that India rather than Afghanistan needs to change its position on the matter. Hence, the NSA initiative is unlikely to bail India out of the situation complicated by its own short-sighted foreign policy vis-à-vis its neighbours.

WISDOM CORNER

People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.

ROB SILTANEN

Optimism is the one quality more associated with success and happiness than any other.

BRIAN TRACY

Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions.

DALAI LAMA

WORDSWORTH

Caparisoned

Don't be confused by the first syllable: this English word doesn't imply a head covering, though it can be used for clothing. But there is a historical link, as some experts believe that caparisoned ultimately derives from the Latin word for a cap. The original caparison wasn't for humans. It was a cloth spread over the saddle or harness of a horse. Its source - through French - was Spanish caparazón for a saddlecloth. This probably came from capa, a short cape or hood, itself from Latin cappa, a cap. Our cape is from the same Latin word, though via Provençal and French instead. The link may be the idea that a cloth on the back of a horse is equivalent to a cape for a human. Medieval caparisons could be richly decorated, though that wasn't implied by its original meaning. However, almost as soon as it came into English it was being used for any sort of splendour or expensive covering, including that of the person. It has dropped off in popularity since then and has become a semi-cliché, often preceded by words such as richly, ornately and finely. Though caparisoned is still common, caparison is rare these days, though it can have a melancholy sense that is unrecorded in dictionaries.

LOL

Hide and seek game

Newton, Pascal and Archimedes are playing hide and seek. Archimedes starts to count, Pascal hides in a bush, and Newton draws a square on the ground and steps into



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

FOCUS CHINA TIES

THE TAIWAN TRIANGLE

The relationship between the United States and China promises to do much to define this era. And what could determine this relationship might well be whether the two countries are able to continue to avoid armed conflict over Taiwan. But with signs that the chances of conflict are growing, the question facing the US and its partners is how to avoid that outcome without sacrificing essential interests. Conceptual framing is always critical to foreign policy. This is no exception. There are problems and there are situations. Problems can in principle be solved. Situations can at best be managed. Taiwan is a situation. Attempts to treat it as a solvable problem will not just fail, but most likely result in a conflict that will leave the US, Taiwan, China, and others in the region and the world much worse off. The reason is that there is no possible outcome that would be universally acceptable.



US-China relations have deteriorated sharply in recent years, but not because of Taiwan. Here I would point to China's militarisation of the South China Sea, its unfair trade practices, its growing repression at home, and its economic coercion of countries in the region



Richard Haas

OFFICIAL US POLICY HAS LONG BEEN TO EMPHASISE THE PRINCIPLE THAT IF THE STATUS QUO IS TO CHANGE, IT MUST BE DONE CONSENSUALLY AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

The good news is that the diplomatic framework that the US and China put in place four decades ago, in which the two sides essentially agreed to disagree over Taiwan, allowed them to avoid conflict and build a productive relationship that helped end the Cold War peacefully and on Western terms. The US and China went on to develop a deep economic relationship. Taiwan, for its part, became one of Asia's tigers and evolved from a one-party dictatorship into a robust democracy.

To be sure, US-China relations have deteriorated sharply in recent years, but not because of Taiwan. Here I would point to China's militarisation of the South China Sea, its unfair trade practices, its growing repression at home, and its economic coercion of countries in the region.

Now, however, there is speculation that Chinese President Xi Jinping is contemplating the use of force to absorb Taiwan in an effort to realise his goal of China's "rejuvenation" and build his legacy. He may also be trying to shape Taiwan's politics and strengthen leaders it perceives as being friendlier to the mainland. Whatever Xi's motives, we have seen increased economic pressure on Taiwan, cyberattacks, attempts to sow disinformation and interfere in its democracy, military flights near the island, the deployment of additional military

capabilities along China's coast near Taiwan, and efforts to keep Taiwan out of international organisations.

Official US policy has long been to emphasise the principle that if the status quo is to change, it must be done consensually and with the support of the people of Taiwan. The US has also consistently stated it does not support Taiwan's independence, in an effort to prevent Taiwan from triggering a crisis.

Some in the US advocate accepting what they see as the inevitability of the mainland's takeover of Taiwan. But allowing China to coerce or absorb Taiwan would undermine or even end the US alliance system in Asia. Governments would either be inclined to defer to China - an Asian version of Finlandisation - or become more autonomous, which could lead to conventional military and even nuclear proliferation. There is also the fact that nearly 24 million people would see their democracy extinguished, while China would be able to project power throughout the Pacific, control key shipping lanes, and dominate Taiwan's vital semiconductor industry. Any of these outcomes would reduce regional stability, freedom, and prosperity.

On the other side of the debate are those who believe that Taiwan is a country in all but name and ought to be treated as one. But encouraging or recognizing Taiwan's

independence in the face of mainland opposition would almost certainly result in conflict, a rupture in US-Chinese relations, or both.

This means continuing to make clear to Taiwan that it must act with caution. Some argue that this gives China too much influence. But a successful foreign policy often requires tough tradeoffs. To avoid the prospect of war and maintain a working relationship with the world's second-largest economy - a global power in a position to shape outcomes on issues ranging from climate change to world health to nonproliferation - the US does not have a free hand with Taiwan.

What is needed are policy changes appropriate to dealing with a more capable and assertive China. That includes enhancing US military capabilities in the region, building closer defense integration with Japan and Australia, strengthening Taiwan's defense capacities most relevant to slowing a Chinese invasion, and coordinating with partners and allies in the region and Europe on economic and military measures that would be taken in response to Chinese aggression.

Some of this should be communicated to China; the goal should be to reduce uncertainty about America's intentions and its ability to make good on them, while underscoring to Chinese leaders the economic and military costs of aggression. A declaration

by Congress granting the president conditional authority to use military force in response to Chinese aggression against Taiwan should be considered as well. At the same time, US President Joe Biden's administration should make clear that it is not departing from America's longstanding one-China policy. Accordingly, it "recognizes the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China," maintains unofficial relations with Taiwan, and holds that any change must not come about from the threat or use of force.

As much as China's leaders want Taiwan, they also want to maintain power and the Communist Party's political monopoly. A costly war of choice to conquer Taiwan could jeopardize this. But if Taiwan were to declare independence, or the US were to recognize Taiwan as sovereign, many on the mainland would view an invasion of the island as a war of necessity. The goal of US policy should be to deter the former and avoid the latter.

The writer, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, previously served as Director of Policy Planning for the US State Department (2001-2003), was President George W. Bush's special envoy to Northern Ireland and Coordinator for the Future of Afghanistan.
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IN JEST THIS

Who wrote the book? Don't trust the publisher



Melvin Durai

GHOSTWRITING HAS ITS PLACE IN PUBLISHING, BUT IT'S UNETHICAL AND DISHONEST TO POSE AS THE AUTHOR WHEN ALL YOU WROTE IS THE CHEQUE

Among the most popular books in Spain in recent years is a series of ultraviolet crime thrillers featuring the detective Elena Blanco. The books were written by Carmen Mola, which is a pseudonym (or pen name) used by a female professor in her late 40s, a mother of three who wrote the crime novels in her spare time. At least that's what the publisher led everyone to believe - until one of the novels won the richest literary prize in the world. Who showed up to accept the prize at the glitzy ceremony? Three men!

No, it wasn't the author's father and two brothers accepting the prize on her behalf. It was three men who had collaborated on the books and used a female pseudonym to market them.

What a scam! Next, these three men will be wearing dresses, sticking out their tummies and asking for maternity leave.

The three men, Agustin

Martinez, Jorge Diaz and Antonio Merceero, are television scriptwriters who will share one million euros as winners of the 2021 Premio Planeta literary prize. The prize is awarded to an unpublished novel on the condition that the publishing house Planeta will receive the rights to release it to the planet. Perhaps Planeta can also release the three men to the mob of angry readers who want to scalp them.

As Spanish media noted, the fictitious author's life - so different from the characters in the books - seemed to help with publicity for the books.

"It hasn't escaped anyone's notice that the idea of a university professor and mother of three, who taught algebra classes in the morning then wrote ultraviolet, macabre novels in scraps of free time in the afternoon, made for a great marketing operation." Spanish paper El Mundo wrote, according to a re-

port in The Guardian.

The three men denied that they chose a female pseudonym for marketing purposes, but the evidence suggests otherwise, as feminist and activist Beatriz Gimeno tweeted: "Quite apart from using a female pseudonym, these guys have spent years doing interviews. It's not just the name - it's the fake profile that they've used to take in readers and journalists. They are scammers."

I can only imagine the disappointment that many readers of the Carmen Mola novels must have felt. That would be like me finding out that Enid Blyton, the British author of numerous books that I loved as a child, was actually a group of men. I would have no choice but to take a flight to Britain and hunt them down, one by one.

I remember how disappointed I was when I found out that The Hardy Boys, a series of books I enjoyed as a boy, was not written by an author named Franklin W.

Dixon, but by several ghostwriters. It was all just a gimmick to sell books to unsuspecting kids.

The use of ghostwriters is more common than we think, especially when a celebrity's name appears on a book. Why sweat over a keyboard when you can just pay someone to do it?

It's all about ethics, of course. Ghostwriting has its place in publishing, but it's unethical and dishonest to pose as the author when all you wrote is the cheque. It's also unethical to write a book and then pretend that someone quite different from you is the author.

Just imagine buying a book on Indian history that has the name "Dileep Kumar" on its cover, but later finding out that the book was written by three Americans - none of them of Indian descent and none of them male.

I don't know about you, but I'd want my money back. And I'm not accepting any cheques written by Dileep Kumar.

Tough task

Sir, The spate of targeted killing of civilians continues in Kashmir with two more migrant labourers being shot dead. These incidents have prompted the J&K police to order that all non-resident labourers be taken to the nearest security camps for safety. More civilians than security forces have been killed in J&K this year, reversing the trend of the past six years. Over the past few weeks alone, a roadside vendor from Bihar, a carpenter from Uttar Pradesh, a local Hindu teacher, a Sikh school principal, and a Kashmiri Pandit chemist have been killed, among others. This has led to a climate of fear in the Valley and prompted minority communities to stay at home or contemplate leaving the Valley for good, despite condemnations of this violence and assurances of safety from the leaders. The attacks have been allegedly orchestrated by the Resistance Front, a shadow outfit of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. The outfit is said to be faceless, tech savvy and armed with tactics and recruiting and organisational styles that are different from those of other outfits. Security forces worry that the new lot of fighters is not in their radar, which is making tracking difficult and attacking easy. Thus, the tough task of ending the terror trail in the Valley is on.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Finally Dravid

Sir, Initially it was thought that the race for the coach was wide open because there were reports that Rahul Dravid had declined the offer. But now with fresh reports indicating the batting legend had agreed to steer the Indian team, speculations have been put to rest. Undoubtedly the diminishing stature of Virat Kohli as the Indian captain vis-à-vis his easing out from the T20 captaincy must have weighed heavily with Dravid, a no-nonsense man. There is little doubt about his ability to mix well with the players. Dravid has all the qualities of a great cricket coach: sharp instincts, fighting qualities and communication skills. Talks of groupism among players have emanated time and again; a non-controversial coach like Dravid should help thrash matters out because many current young Indian players who have graduated from the junior ranks have had his guidance at one point or another. The new coach will have to deftly juggle with two captains with contrasting personalities. Since Kohli and Rohit Sharma are nearly in their mid-thirties, Dravid has the enormous responsibility of mentoring the future Indian captain.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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

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RALLY FOR A CAUSE



Volunteers of National Service Scheme (NSS) participate in a cyclathon on cleanliness, bird protection and total prohibition on the concluding day of their autumnal camp held at Balugaon College, Tuesday

LACK OF DEVELOPMENT, SCAM IN TOILET CONSTRUCTION

Villagers warn of poll boycott

POST NEWS NETWORK

Aradi, Oct 19: Lack of development and alleged irregularities in construction of toilets have left people fuming at Gopalpur under Tihidi block in Bhadrak. Ahead of panchayat elections, the residents have warned of boycotting the polls. The villagers alleged that most government schemes are out of reach for the villagers while basic facilities are yet to be put in place. "We are unable to get benefits of many government schemes. The vil-

lage has no pucca road. Fresh drinking water is a dream. Not single toilet has been built in the village while the government has emphasised on Swachh Bharat. The village is far from development. We are at the receiving end," the villagers fumed. They also expressed displeasure on the bad state of village road. The road is always waterlogged. The village with a population of 350 is inhabited by 80 dalit families. "A primary school is in the village, but it has been locked due to

pandemic. In slightest rain, the village gets waterlogged. It is difficult for children to venture out for school. Owing to bad shape of the village road, patients are carried on cot up to the main road and from there, they are shifted in ambulance. They pointed out that a culvert was built on the outskirts of the village. It has broken, causing commuting woes. "Leaders come to the village with a lot of promises when elections come closer. But nothing is done later. The village



road was repaired some months ago, but it was washed away. Besides, funds provided to 40 dalit families for building toilets have been embezzled. We demand an investigation into alleged irregularities. There is need for a pucca road for the village," they said. Bhimsen Barik, a resident said that the road was repaired before

Illegal firecracker units unearthed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Oct 19: Five people have been arrested and huge quantities of firecrackers seized from their possession in Ganjam district, police said Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, police raided some houses in Kalasandhapur, Pataligida and Khandadeuli in Aska police station area in the last two days and seized 130 bags of firecrackers and explosive materials, officer-in-charge PK Sahoo said. At least five people have been arrested, while others managed to flee the spot, he said, adding it is suspected that firecrackers would have been transported to other places before Diwali. A case under sections of the Odisha Fireworks and Loudspeakers (Regulation) Act was registered and an investigation is underway, he said.

Dhenkanal admin to boost progress in 48 fringe areas



POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Oct 19: The Dhenkanal district administration has initiated efforts to push development in remote and fringe areas. As many as 48 remote and forested villages under tribal-dominated Kankadahada, Parjang, Hindol, Gondia and Odapada blocks will witness expeditious development.

These villages have long been languishing for lack of development. Initially, such developmental works will be launched in Ekul-Sekul, Kota and Puttipal villages. The administration has assigned separate officials to look after development in 48 villages.

The villages which have been in focus of the administration included Ekul-Sekul, Kota, Puttipal, Phuljhar, Phuljhari under Kankadahada block, Badanadaba, Khairasahi, Jaripal under Odapada block, Belabatat under Parjang block, Gundichanali, Majhisahi, Nuasahi, Kanaka under Hindol block, Kolha and Jamunali under Gondia block.

Basic amenities are out of reach for the people living in these forested and remote villages. Lack of proper communication has been a major issue in these villages. In most cases, people have to face tough situations when a patient needs medical services or if any village needs help of fire services.

It was decided that the delegated officials will make visits to these inaccessible villages in a phased manner and list out problems while talking to people in these villages.

These villages have long been languishing in backwardness. Initially, such developmental works will be launched in Ekul-Sekul, Kota and Puttipal villages

The administration has assigned separate officials to look after development in 48 villages. The delegated officials will visit the inaccessible villages in a phased manner and list out problems

The villages are Ekul-Sekul, Kota, Puttipal, Phuljhar, Phuljhari under Kankadahada block, Badanadaba, Khairasahi, Jaripal under Odapada block, Belabatat under Parjang block, Gundichanali, Majhisahi, Nuasahi, Kanaka under Hindol block, Kolha and Jamunali

The officials have been asked to review the developmental works which have been taken up in last one year in these areas.

It is alleged that people in all these villages have been suffering from lack of basic facilities such as healthcare, education, safe drinking water, livelihood, housing and electricity.

The officials after taking stock of the status in all the sectors will draw up a blueprint for development. Contacted, Collector Saroj Kumar Sethi said that the process has started to carry out development in 48 fringe areas. "An official has been assigned to look after development in each village. Officials will review development of Ekul-Sekul and Puttipal villages soon," he added.

Tribals suffer due to data mismatch in key documents



This has happened in Dangaguda village in Dudameta panchayat under Chitrakonda block

Man trims wife's hair over dowry

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 19: In a surprising case, a man identified as Samaresh Mandal trimmed the hair of his wife demanding dowry at MPV-22 village under Kalimela block in Malkangiri district, Monday. Mandal even forced his wife to wear male dresses and took her on his bike where he pushed her from the pillion leaving her alone at MV-19 village and fled. The victim was identified as Jayamala Mandal wife of Samaresh Mandal in the village. The matter came to fore after Jayamala visited the Malkangiri

police station and lodged a complaint of dowry torture and harassment against her husband. She was accompanied by her parents during her visit to the police station. Police registered a case over the complaint and launched an investigation.

According to the complaint, Samaresh was married to Jayamala, daughter of Jaydev Mandal, a resident of MV-42 village under Malkangiri civic body limits, four months back. Two months after, Samaresh started taunting his wife over the inferior quality of goods which her father had given her as dowry at the times of marriage. He started

abusing her and often used to assault her at different points of time on the issue demanding additional dowry.

The incident occurred when the couple had a fight over the issue, Sunday night. Enraged, he trimmed the hair of his wife and forced her to wear male dresses. He then asked her to come along with him on his bike. Unsuspecting, Jayamala accompanied her husband on his bike when he stopped at MV-19 village and pushed her out from the vehicle before absconding. On being informed, her father rescued her Monday and took her to the police station to lodge a complaint.

Jumbo tramples man to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Oct 19: In yet another incident of man-elephant conflict, a middle-aged man was killed in elephant attack at Damal village under Parjang block in Dhenkanal district in the wee hours of Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Kamal Behera of Damal village. According to sources, Behera had gone to nearby Ghodadia canal to attend nature's call. Suddenly an elephant came from nowhere, leaving little time for Behera to react. The animal caught him by its trunk and flung him into the air before trampling him to death.

Hearing his cries for help, the villagers rushed to the spot and drove away the elephant. The injured man was then rescued and rushed to Parjang government hospital. The doctors there referred him to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. But, he succumbed on the way to Cuttack.

As the news reached the village, a pall of gloom descended on it. The villagers demanded immediate compensation for the bereaved family.

LURKING DANGER



A transformer lying unprotected sans fences has endangered the lives of residents at Ghodabandha panchayat under Naria block in Kalahandi district

Defunct borewell projects distress farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Oct 19: Deep borewells have been dug in the farmlands in various parts of Bargarh district, but farmers are unable to get their benefits. Such a situation has come up as power supply has not been provided to these borewells. Farmers have alleged that the borewells are of no use to them when farming is deprived of irrigation. Farmers of Chandibhata under Jharbandh block have taken up the issue with the district administration. They submitted a memorandum to ADM Miridha Topo in the absence of Collector Manisha Banerjee. In the memorandum, they urged the administration to



ensure electricity supply to borewells to make them functional. According to reports, several borewells have been dug in farmlands of some farmers. For a long time, the projects have not been

made functional as electricity has not been supplied to them.

A contractor who has been assigned the work of borewell projects had visited the area September 2. He also assured that the projects would be functional if the villagers help in drawing of transmission wires, transformer installation, barricading and motor installation.

However, since then, the contractor has not carried out the work. On the other hand, crops in the fields have wilted for lack of irrigation, farmers alleged. They urged the administration to direct the contractor to electrify the borewell projects immediately without any further delay.

TUSKER POACHING SUSPECTED IN SAMBALPUR FOREST

Probe ordered; locals panic over jumbo menace



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 19: Foul smell is emanating in Munde-Dumberua reserve forest under Sambalpur forest division. It is suspected that an elephant has been poached for tusks and its carcass has been buried in the forest. Meanwhile, on being informed of the DFO has ordered an investigation into the matter.

According to reports, elephants have been causing mayhem in the area for a week. Various circles are agog with allegations that a tusker has been killed by

poached while tusks have been stolen Saturday night.

It was also alleged that the jumbo was burned with kerosene before its body was buried in a pit.

As the news reached the forest department, the DFO had directed the range officer to look into the issue. A team of officials has visited the spot.

It may be noted here that an elephant had been killed earlier in Padiabahal range. Its carcass had been burnt and buried. However, it was then alleged that the forest department had suppressed the matter.

DFO B Nilambar said that a order has been issued to look into the incident as alleged. "The forest department has been carrying out patrolling. The department should know the suspected incident first," he observed.

For the last few days, areas like Tharli, Bhabanipalli, Munde and Sitelpalli have been witnessing elephant menace. A herd of 26 elephants have damaged crops, paddy and other crops in the region.

Both locals and forest officials have been trying to scare away the marauding animals.

Kashmir civilian killings, a subtle terror message

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Oct 19: The selective targeting of civilians by the terrorists in recent days in Kashmir has all the telltale evidence of a sinister message.

Post August 5, 2019, the narrative of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Centre has been the total integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country.

"Every citizen of the country is equal in his/her rights and obligations before the constitution as are those living in J&K" - This is the bedrock of the narrative that Delhi has been holding to after Articles 370 and 35A were abrogated.

The return of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community was packaged as the litmus test for the success of Modi's government mantra on Kashmir.

The intent behind the abrogation of citizenship rights, reserved only for the permanent residents of J&K under Article 35A, has been that all citizens of the country can settle in J&K.

The other part of the revised national narrative on Kashmir has been peace, progress and development for J&K without any fetters like availability of land for industries, paucity of electric power for factories and the vital skilled manpower to drive the engine of the intended development of a 'Naya Kashmir' as envisioned in the post August 5, 2019 narrative.

The choice of civilian targets by the terrorists during the last 15 days leaves one in no doubt that



Special security group to lead anti-terror ops

To effectively curb the attacks on civilians in Kashmir, a specialised group of central police agencies will now lead the counter terror operations in coordination with the Indian Army and state police, government sources said here Tuesday. This group will consist of officials from the intelligence agency, National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the officials from the central security forces, who have started working on a plan to nab the terrorists who killed 11 civilians in the last 16 days.

the perpetrators of murder and mayhem have chosen to spill innocent blood in Kashmir to convey a subtle message. The killing of the reputed pharmacy owner, Makhani Lal Bindroo, who had chosen to serve the people in the Valley despite the mass exodus of other members of his community, was aimed at scuttling attempts to bring back the displaced Pandits. The despicable murder of Bindroo was

intended to warn members of the Kashmiri Pandit community - 'don't ever think of returning to Kashmir. We won't allow even the existing ones among you to live here'. The hatred was not reserved for just the local Pandits. Supinder Kour, the Sikh school principal gunned down by the terrorists inside her school premises, had been supporting an orphan Muslim girl. Sikhs did not migrate from the

Valley post 1990 eruption of violence in Kashmir. Killing Supinder Kour was intended as a message of extreme intolerance towards religious minorities. This was followed by killing non-local skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workforce that has been supporting the local economy. Barbers, painters, brick layers, masons, carpenters, electricians, Paddy sowers and fruit harvesters, all belonged to outside J&K. Most of this 2 to 3 lakh strong workforce has kept the local industry going so far. So much so that an entire town in south Kashmir Kulgam district has been known as a 'Mini Bihar'. This was because of the ubiquitous presence of Bihar labourers in the district. Calling all of them as agents of the Indian intelligence agencies is something not even the most

NIA likely to takeover probe

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is likely to hand over the probe of recent civilian killings in Kashmir to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), sources in the security set up said here Tuesday. According to sources, the investigation in these killings indicate a definite pattern leading to the terror angle, therefore, the investigation may be assigned to the national anti-terror probe agency.

credulous locals would believe. The killing of non-local workforce has, therefore, one and just one message the terrorists wanted to deliver - 'Don't ever think that the dream of a Naya Kashmir would be allowed to be fulfilled.' The very idea of employment, education, industrialisation and creation of high-end jobs for the local youth would naturally deplete the breeding grounds of terror: A youth with a better stake in life cannot be lured with the false promise of a better place in the World hereafter if he chooses to die as a terrorist.

Thus the recent killings of innocent civilians must be viewed in this backdrop. Unless the executors of such a heinous agenda are brought to justice, their planners would always be able to find more hands to shoot and kill the unprotected, innocent local and non-local civilians in Kashmir.

DAM OPENING FIASCO

VIJAYAN PLAYS SAFE THIS TIME

Shutters of Cheruthoni dam, part of the Idukki reservoir in Kerala, were opened Tuesday to create more storage capacity in anticipation of the heavy rainfall predicted in its catchment area over the next two days

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 19: Three years ago when Kerala witnessed the worst floods in a century, the Pinarayi Vijayan government came under severe flak for the dam management protocols and it even went to the court, but this time with one round of floods taking place, three shutters of Cheruthoni dam, part of the Idukki reservoir was opened Tuesday.

Incidentally Monday Vijayan held an emergency meeting and decided to hand over the responsibility of opening dams to a special committee, as in 2018, there were massive floods which submerged parts of Ernakulam and Trissur districts and the then State Electricity Minister MM Mani came under heavy criticism for the way pening of dams was undertaken. With more heavy rains predicted Wednesday and Thursday, the decision was made Monday that as a matter of abundant caution, it would be best if the shutters of the Cheruthoni dam are opened Tuesday and it was

done, when three of the seven shutters were opened and in a matter of seconds, one lakh litres of water from the reservoir ran down the pathway to the canal.

This is just the fourth time that the shutters have been lifted - first in 1981, then in 1992 and in 2018 and now. The decision to close the shutters will be taken after taking into account what happens when heavy rains across the state take place, as predicted. Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan Tuesday slammed the Vijayan government for making a mess of the way the state government handled the forecast. Meanwhile with the Kerala Assembly session all set to resume after the Puja break from Wednesday, according to a source, with the weather continuing to play havoc and more bad weather predicted, there is every likelihood that after Wednesday's session, it would be stopped again and to resume once the weather situation improves, as in most places it's the legislators who are at the forefront of relief and rescue operations.

Ker witnessed 135% extra rain this month

IMD website shows that the normal rainfall for the period of October 1 to 19 was 192.7 mm whereas the actual rainfall was 453.5 mm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi (Kerala) Oct 19: As Kerala braces for another spell of downpour from October 20, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data shows that the southern state has received 135 per cent excess rain during the period from October 1 to 19.

During the heavy spell on October 16 when the IMD issued a Red alert indicating extremely heavy rainfall, numerous incidents of landslips and other rain-related accidents were reported from southern districts of Kerala, resulting in at least 24 deaths.

There is a "large excess departure" of 135 per cent, the website says. "During October-December, through the north-east monsoon, the state receives an average rainfall of 491.6 mm, which is 16.8 per cent of the annual rainfall. This

year, the state has received 453.5 mm rain during Oct 1-19, instead of the usual 192.7 mm. This means that the state has already received over 90 per cent of this season's rainfall," a senior IMD official told PTI.

Except for Thrissur and Alappuzha, all other districts have received over 100 per cent of the usual rainfall. While Kozhikode saw the highest increase (223 per cent excess), Alappuzha saw the least increase (66 per cent) in rainfall. The official said the heavy downpour which the state witnessed recently marks withdrawal of the southwest monsoon which normally ends by September 30.

Kerala has received excess rain due to the low pressure zones that developed near Lakshadweep coast in the South-Eastern region of the Arabian Sea and in the South-Eastern parts of the Bay of Bengal.



Representational image



MATTER OF FAITH

Devotees pray while receiving a glimpse of holy relic on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), at Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

Army chief visits forward areas along LoC in Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 19: Army chief General MM Naravane visited forward areas along the LoC in Jammu region Tuesday and was briefed on the ground situation in the region and ongoing counter-infiltration operations, officials said here.

Naravane arrived in Jammu on a two-day visit on Monday amid a spurt in targeted attacks on civilians by terrorists in the Valley and an ongoing counter-insurgency operation in the forest belt of the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri, where nine soldiers have laid down their lives over the past week.

"General MM Naravane #COAS (Chief of Army Staff) visited forward areas of #WhiteKnight Corps & undertook a first-hand assessment of the situation along the Line of Control. #COAS was briefed by commanders on the ground about the present situation & ongoing counter-infiltration operations," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army tweeted. The officials said the Army chief visited the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, where a massive operation to track down terrorists hiding in the forest areas of Mendhar, Surankote and Thanamandi has been going on since October 11.

People asked to stay indoors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 19: As the counter-insurgency operation in the forest belt of Jammu and Kashmir's twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri entered the ninth day Tuesday, public announcements were made in Mendhar asking local residents to stay indoors for their safety, officials said.

Those who have gone outside were asked to return to their homes along with their animals

The people were alerted through the public address system in local mosques in Bhatta Durrian and adjoining areas as the security forces were preparing a final assault against the terrorists believed to be hiding in the forest area of Mendhar in Poonch district, the officials said.

They said the people were asked not to venture into the forest area and also keep their livestock at their homes in view of the ongoing operation.

Those who have gone outside were asked to return to their homes along with their animals, the officials said.

Sex worker-turned-author basks in glory of film award

NALINI GOT SPECIAL JURY MENTION FOR COSTUME-DESIGN FOR 'BHARATHAPUZHA'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 19: It has been over 15 years since Nalini Jameela shocked the conventional mindsets of the society and upset the patriarchy by penning a path-breaking autobiography on her daring and fruitful life as a sex worker. Since then, she has been enjoying several identities in life ranging from a best-selling author and activist to gender expert and social relationship counsellor and now at



the age of 69, she is a recipient of the prestigious Kerala State Film Awards. Jameela adjudged the spe-

cial jury mention for costume-design in the movie *Bharathapuzha*, directed by Manilal, when the state government awards were announced here Saturday. For Jameela, it was yet another unexpected twist which the life had in store for her and she was bold enough to say that the lessons she had drawn from her early life as a sex worker was her base for any new achievement. "The state award was really unexpected. It was for the first time in my life

that I did costume designing for a movie. I cherish this honour as one of the greatest achievements in my life," Jameela told PTI. Noting that experience makes a person strong and bold, she said it was plenty of her experiences - whether good or bad, that made her capable to fight all odds and reach this stage of life. *Bharathapuzha* revolves around the story of Sugandhi, a sex worker in her mid thirties, hailing from central Kerala district of Thrissur.

Migrant workers fleeing Valley through rly stations, bus stands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 19: Thousands of migrant workers fleeing Kashmir along with their families queued up outside ticket counters of railway stations and bus stops here Tuesday as targeted killing of minorities and non-locals by terrorists triggered an exodus from the Valley.

The security in and around the railway stations and bus stands in Jammu and Udhampur has been beefed up as a precautionary measure as people have been arriving in large numbers, desperate to leave ahead of schedule, and more are on the way, officials said.

Outside the railway station in Jammu, men, women and children were seen waiting on the roadside in long queues without basic facilities of water or shelter. As per rough estimates, 3 to 4 lakh



Migrant labourers arrive at a bus stand, as they plan to leave the state

PTI PHOTO

migrant labourers, most of them Hindus, from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand come to the Valley

every year in early March for skilled and unskilled jobs such as ma-

FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY

THE NON-LOCALS, ENGAGED IN APPLE ORCHARDS, AND CARDBOARD AND BAT FACTORIES, USED TO SPEND AROUND SIX MONTHS IN THE VALLEY BEFORE RETURNING HOME

ANOTHER OFFICIAL FROM THE SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT CLAIMED THAT AROUND 600 PEOPLE FROM SOUTH KASHMIR HAVE ALREADY MOVED TOWARDS SAFER PLACES

sorry, carpentry, welding and farming, and go back home before the onset of winter in November. But the selective killings have

triggered a fear psychosis among them, propelling them to flee before they had planned to.

On Sunday, two labourers from Bihar were gunned down when terrorists barged into their accommodation in Kulgam district, taking the number of civilians killed in targeted attacks in Jammu and Kashmir this month to 11. Another labourer sustained bullet injuries.

"There is grave fear and terror after the killings of labourers. This has never happened in the past. So we fled the Valley to save our lives and also our children," Santosh Kumar of Bihar's Sitamarhi district said.

A brick kiln worker in the Rajpora area of Pulwama district, Kumar said most of those fleeing are scared as there is no guarantee of their security.

national

of the day quote

India will soon create history by achieving the target of vaccinating over 100 crore people against Covid-19

BHARATI PAWAR | UNION MINISTER

The so called 'secular' government of West Bengal, which runs to Tripura and Assam at the spur of the moment when something happens there, is totally silent on the issue of Bangladesh violence. Are there not Hindus in Bangladesh?

DILIP GHOSH | BJP NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

Though JD(S) has fielded its candidates, the straight fight is between the Congress and BJP. JD(S) has not fielded a candidate with an intention to win. They have fielded to help the BJP. I'm not saying this, people are saying this

SIDDARAMAIAH | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Babul Supriyo resigns as MP

New Delhi: Former BJP leader Babul Supriyo formally resigned as an MP on Tuesday, a month after he quit the party to join the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC. Supriyo thanked the BJP leadership for the confidence it had shown in him. "My heart is heavy as I had begun my political career with the BJP. I thank the prime minister, party chief and Amit Shah. They showed confidence in me. I had left politics wholeheartedly. I thought that if I am not a part of the party, I should not keep any seat for myself," he said after meeting Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Girl raped for one year

New Delhi: A teenaged girl was allegedly raped in the national capital for the past one year, an official said here Tuesday. According to the official, the victim had lodged a complaint against a boy identified as Himanshu at the Barakhamba Road police station in the city. The victim alleged that the accused repeatedly raped her for the past one year starting from August 2020.

Dengue: Raj cancels medical staff's leaves

Jaipur: Rajasthan Health Minister Raghu Sharma Tuesday cancelled leaves of medical personnel in the wake of rising dengue cases in the state and announced to launch 'Dengue Free Rajasthan' campaign from October 20 to November 3 to control seasonal outbreak. Health officials confirmed that more than 6,500 cases of dengue have been confirmed in October in 30 districts of Rajasthan and the number has been rising continuously. Patients can be seen standing in long queues in hospitals.

2K pilgrims stranded

New Delhi: About 4,000 devotees have returned from Kedarnath out of 6,000 amidst heavy rain in Uttarakhand. The rest 2,000 pilgrims have been taken to safer places, officials said Tuesday. Heavy rain for the past three days has wreaked havoc in Nainital, Haldwani, Kathgodam, Ranikhet, Pauri, Lansdowne and Chamoli districts of the state. In Kathgodam, the railway track was washed away and fell into the river. The District Magistrate of Rudrapur said that helicopters have been pressed into service by the Army in the areas affected by heavy rain.



Modi is silent on skyrocketing fuel prices. The cost of petrol and diesel have hit the century mark, yet he has not commented on it

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

ARMY RESCUES 205 TOURISTS

The Indian Army has rescued 205 civilians stranded in the high-altitude Spiti subdivision in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district owing to untimely heavy snowfall, officials said Tuesday



'China's PLA increases exercises along LAC'

The commander also asserted that the Indian preparedness to respond to any contingency is of a "very high order"



FILE PHOTO

Rupa (Arunachal Pradesh), Oct 19: China has increased the intensity of military exercises and deployment of troops in its depth areas opposite the Arunachal Pradesh sector and India has correspondingly readied contingency plans to deal with any eventualities, Eastern Army Commander Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande said Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. Pande said both sides are attempting to develop infrastructure closer to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and that creates certain issues at times. "Since the infrastructure has come up close to the LAC, there has been a marginal increase in border defence troops," he told a group of visiting journalists. Lt. Gen. Pande said Chinese military exercises are joint operations among various arms of its defence forces that are carried out under an integrated approach and there was an increase in the intensity and duration of the drills. He said new villages have come up on the Chinese side of the border in certain areas and India has taken note of it in its operational strategy as the habitats could be used for military purpose as well. The commander overseeing the Indian Army's operational readiness along the over 1,300-km-long LAC in the eastern theatre also said its Mountain Strike Corps has now been fully operationalised and it has carried out validation and integrated training with other formations.

"All its units, the combat units, the combat support and the logistics units have been fully equipped."

Giving an account of India's overall military modernisation, Lt. Gen. Pande said that an in-principle approval has been given to new combat formations called the Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) which can mobilise fast with a more effective approach. The IBGs will comprise a mix of infantry, artillery, air defence, tanks and logistics units and the new set up is expected to revamp the Army's war fighting capabilities, particularly along the borders with China and Pakistan.

"We are looking at the IBG model for the Mountain Strike Corps essentially so that we have better option for its deployment," he said. On Chinese activities in the eastern sector, he said there has been a marginal increase in its deployment of troops in some areas. "The annual training exercise that the PLA (People's Liberation Army) carries out has seen some increase in the level of activities in the depth areas. Some of the reserve formations which the PLA mobilised continue to remain in their training areas that are in the operational depth areas," he added.

"The areas of exercise are in depth of LAC and these are their traditional training areas and the focus, as per inputs available to us, has been integrated joint operations between various arms of their defence forces."

The commander said India has taken a number of steps and the foremost among them is enhancing surveillance both close to the LAC and the depth areas by synergising all surveillance resources right from the strategic level to the tactical level.

Default bail an 'indefeasible' right: Delhi HC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 19: The Delhi High Court has held that default bail is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution and an undertrial's custody cannot be extended mechanically, even during pandemic times.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri, who was hearing the bail plea of a dowry death accused on Sunday, also issued few guidelines considering the seriousness of the issue. The court concerned shall not mechanically extend the period of custody for a maximum period of 15 days as prescribed under Section 167(2) of the CrPC, he said.

The custody shall be extended while keeping in mind the 60th, 90th or 180th day (depending on the nature of offence and applicability of any Special Act) of completing the investigation and submission of the charge sheet. If these days fall before the maximum extension period of 15 days, then the custody shall be extended only up to the 60th, 90th or 180th day. The ruling came in a dowry death case, in which the accused and his family members were booked under the Indian Penal Code's Sections 304B (dowry death) 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 34 (common intention) on January 16, 2020. As per the plea, the petitioner



as may be applicable, another guideline said.

The plea stated that from March 24 2020, when the Covid-19 lockdown was imposed, the undertrials in judicial custody could not be produced before the courts concerned, and their custody was extended by the Jail Visiting Magistrate.

However, no charge sheet was filed against the accused during these times, advocate Rajesh Anand, who represented the petitioner, argued.

The court also asked the Registrar General of the High Court as well the Director General, Prisons, on the steps undertaken so that an undertrial is informed of his right to seek "default bail" and that such right is not defeated but rather timely exercised.

It has been held to be an indefeasible part of the right to personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and such a right cannot be suspended even during a pandemic situation

DELHI HIGH COURT

tended by the Jail Visiting Magistrate.

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GIVING A SHAPE



A potter moulds clay in the shape of a lamp at his workshop, ahead of the Diwali in Ranchi

PTI PHOTO

Patient dies after doc removes kidney instead of stones

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 19: A consumer court in Ahmedabad in Gujarat directed a hospital to pay Rs 11.23 lakh as compensation with interest to the relatives of a patient whose death was caused soon after a doctor at the facility removed his kidney instead of operating on a stone in the kidney. The consumer court held the charitable trust run KMG General Hospital in Balasinar in Gujarat's Mahisagar district responsible for "medical negligence" through "vicarious liability," or "the liability of an employer for the negligent act of its employees."

It ordered the hospital to pay Rs 11.23 lakh to the complainant with 7.5 per cent interest from the date of filing of the complaint till its realization, as well as Rs 5,000 towards mental agony and cost to the complainant.



The court's order came on a plea filed by United India Insurance Company Limited challenging an order passed by District Consumer Redressal Commission at Nadiad in August, 2012 on a complaint by the legal heirs of the deceased patient Devendra Raval.

In its 2012 order, the district commission ordered the doctor, hospital and insurance company to pay Rs 11.23 lakh compensation with interest to the complainant.

Maharashtra relaxes lockdown restrictions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 19: The Maharashtra government has permitted all restaurants and eateries to function till midnight, according to a government notification issued by state's Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunte Tuesday.

The notification comes a day after Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray chaired a meeting with the state's Covid Task Force and directed officials to prepare guidelines for extending the operational hours for restaurants and shops. "... all restaurants and eateries may be allowed to function till midnight 12 AM and all other establishments that have been allowed to function by the government may be allowed to function till 11 PM," the notification said.

Meanwhile, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a circular permitting all restaurants and eateries in Mumbai to function till midnight. The BMC said the provisions mentioned in the Maharashtra government's notification under "Break the Chain" guidelines will be applicable "as it is" till further orders.

40% seats to women in UP polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 19: The Congress will give 40 per cent of its tickets to women candidates in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, party's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said Tuesday.

Gandhi told a news conference here that the decision is aimed at making women, roughly constituting half the voters, a "full-fledged partner in power."

While announcing the party's decision, Gandhi, also the party's Uttar Pradesh affairs in-charge, however, remained non-committal on contesting the UP polls herself. The Congress' decision to field 40 per cent of woman candidates in UP, however, did not go down well with its opponents BJP and BSP both terming the move a "pure election drama". Tasked with regaining the party's lost ground in the politically cru-

CONG SOUNDS POLL BUGLE



cial state, Priyanka Gandhi, said, "It's the party promise to give 40 per cent tickets to women in the coming elections."

"Had I had my way, I would have given 50 per cent tickets to them," she said, adding the decision to field more and more can-

didates would be taken forward in the 2024 polls. "There is no hidden meaning to it. We want women in politics to become full-fledged partners in power," she said. Gandhi's announcement was greeted with the bursting of firecrackers and slogan-shouting by women workers who were watching the press conference on a large screen elsewhere in the party office. Congress had won only seven seats, including two by women, in the 403-member UP house in 2017 polls. Asked if she will also contest the assembly elections, Priyanka Gandhi said, "It has not yet been decided. There is still some time for the elections. I will think about it and decide if I have to contest."

Active in the state politics for over two years now, Gandhi evaded a definite reply on whether a woman would be projected as the CM face in the state after today's announcement.

Amarinder to announce new party soon; hints at pact with BJP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Oct 19: Formally saying goodbye to the Congress which made him the Chief Minister of Punjab twice and the state party president thrice, an 'upset' Amarinder Singh Tuesday said that he would soon announce the launch of his own political party to serve the interests of the people, including the farmers who've been fighting for their rights for over a year now.

The former Punjab CM also said that he is hopeful of a seat-sharing arrangement with the BJP for next year's Assembly elections in the state, if the farmers' issues are resolved in their interest.

In a series of tweets, his media advisor Raveen Thukral quoted Amarinder Singh as saying, "The battle for Punjab's future is on. Will soon announce the launch of my own political party to serve



the interests of Punjab and its people, including our farmers who've been fighting for their survival for over a year." Without mincing words, Amarinder Singh added that he would not rest until he can secure the future of his people and his state. "Punjab needs political stability and protection from internal and external threats. I promise my people that I will do what it takes to ensure peace and security, which is today at stake," read a tweet, quoting Amarinder Singh.

Sharp rise in cyber-attacks amid pandemic

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 19: One in two Indian companies faced cyber-attacks at least once a day amid the pandemic, with 16 per cent attacked each hour, a new report showed Tuesday.

The report by global data protection tech company Acronis said that 58 per cent of IT managers and 26 per cent of employees in India have reported that they are frequently targeted by phishing attacks.

As many as 58 per cent of employees in India suffer from weak IT infrastructure and are unable to add new devices, which is twice the global average.

"Threat actors are increasingly expanding their targets, while or-



Representational image

ganisations are held back by the growing complexity of IT infrastructure," said Candid Wuest, Acronis VP for Cyber Protection Research.

"Only a small number of com-

Malware attacks are also increasing and in 2021, India has reported 46% such attacks so far

panies have taken the time to modernise their IT stack with integrated data protection and cybersecurity. The threat landscape will continue to grow, and automation is the only path to greater security, lower costs, improved efficiency and reduced risks," Wuest added.

India has the lowest adoption rates of Multifactor Authentication (MFA) technology among IT managers globally, with 50 per cent not implementing it or only using

it on some accounts.

"With employees working from home, Wi-Fi connectivity is reported a top issue for 67 per cent of remote employees in India, and this is causing remote workers to cut corners on data protection procedures," the report noted.

Malware attacks are also increasing and in 2021, India has reported 46 per cent such attacks so far, far above the global average of 36.5 per cent.

"While video conferencing attacks have decreased globally since 2020, India reports an increase in 46 per cent of its companies. In India, 26 per cent of respondents confirmed being targeted by phishing attacks monthly," the findings showed.

international

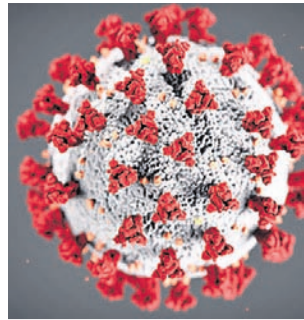


Washington should show its seriousness on the revival of the Iran nuclear deal by lifting anti-Iran sanctions

EBRAHIM RAISI | IRANIAN PRESIDENT

GLOBAL COVID-19 CASELOAD TOPS 241 MILLION

The global coronavirus caseload has topped 241 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 4.90 million and vaccinations soared to over 6.61 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University



of the day quote

We want a strong Poland in a united Europe

Ecuador has gone from being a trafficking zone to one that also consumes drugs. This is not only reflected in the amount of drugs consumed in our country, but in the number of crimes that today have a direct or indirect relationship with the sale of narcotics

We are going to support the plan President (Joe) Biden is promoting ahead of a United Nations climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, at the end of the month

SHORT TAKES

Campaigning begins

Tokyo: Campaigning for Japan's October 31 general election started on Tuesday, with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida seeking authorisation for his Covid-19 and economic policies and the opposition parties united to loosen the power of the ruling coalition.

Motorcyclist dies

Miami: A motorcycle rider died on a state highway where he was struck by a state trooper and then run over by a tractor trailer, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

Turkey summons ten diplomats

Ankara: Turkey's Foreign Ministry Tuesday summoned the ambassadors of the United States and nine other countries to protest a statement they issued that called for the release of imprisoned philanthropist and civil rights activist Osman Kavala in line with a European Court of Human Rights decision.

Russia hits another record

Moscow: Russia registered another daily record of coronavirus deaths Tuesday as rapidly surging contagion raised pressure on the country's health care system.

WHAT IS 'METAVERSE' AND WHY IS IT TAKING OFF?

REUTERS

London, Oct 19: Facebook Monday said that it will hire 10,000 people in Europe to help it build a "metaverse".

The concept of the metaverse is quickly becoming a buzzword in technology and business. But what does it mean?

Metaverse is a broad term. It generally refers to shared virtual world environments which people can access via the internet.

The term can refer to digital spaces which are made more life-like by the use of virtual reality (VR) or augmented reality (AR). Some people also use the word metaverse to describe gaming worlds, in which users have a character that can walk around and interact with other players.

There is also a specific type of metaverse which uses blockchain technology. In these, users can buy virtual land and other digital assets using cryptocurrencies. Many science fiction books and films are set in fully-fledged

metaverses - alternative digital worlds which are indistinguishable from the real physical world. But this is still the stuff of fiction. Currently, most virtual spaces look more like the inside of a video game than real life.

Fans of the metaverse see it as the next stage in the development of the internet.

At the moment, people interact with each other online by going to websites such as social media platforms or using messaging ap-

plications. The idea of the metaverse is that it will create new online spaces in which people's interactions can be more multi-dimensional, where users are able to immerse themselves in digital content rather than simply viewing it. The accelerated interest in the metaverse can be seen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As more people have started working and going to school remotely, there has been increased demand for ways to make online interaction more lifelike.

The idea of the metaverse is attracting a lot of interest from investors and companies who are keen to be part of the next big thing.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in July that the company will try to transition from being a social media company to a metaverse company in the next five years or so. The term is popular in Silicon Valley, with Microsoft also having mentioned converging the digital and physical worlds. The popular children's game Roblox, which had

its New York Stock Exchange debut in March, describes itself as a metaverse company. Epic Games' Fortnite is also considered to be part of the metaverse. Musicians can do virtual concerts within these platforms. For example, in September millions of people watched the singer Ariana Grande virtually perform in Fortnite, Epic Games said.

The world's biggest fashion companies have also experimented with making virtual clothing, which people's avatars can wear in metaverse environments.

Initiate action: B'desh PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 19: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Tuesday instructed her home minister to initiate immediate action against those who incited violence using religion as she asked the people not to trust anything on social media without fact-checking.

Attacks on Hindu temples have intensified in Bangladesh since last Wednesday after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations. On late Sunday night, a mob damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh.

During the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Prime Minister Hasina instructed Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to initiate immediate action against those who incited violence using religion. Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

CPC leader Wang to head Tibet's party unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 19: China's ruling Communist Party has appointed Wang Junzheng, sanctioned by the US, Britain, EU and Canada for his alleged role in the human rights violations against Uygur Muslims in Xinjiang, as the head of its party unit in the sensitive Himalayan region of Tibet.

Wang Junzheng has been appointed as secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Tibet Autonomous Regional Committee, replacing Wu Yingjie, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Tuesday.

Wang, 58, became China's highest-ranking official to be sanctioned in March over accusations of human rights violations during his tenure as Xinjiang's deputy party secretary and security chief, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

He served as Xinjiang's security chief from 2019 before starting his most recent role last year as political commissar of the paramilitary Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, while retaining his post as deputy party chief.

For over a year China is battling out allegations of human rights violations against Uygur Muslim population in Xinjiang where Beijing has deployed a large number of security forces to quell unrest among Uygurs over the increasing settlements of majority Han Chinese from other provinces.

The US has termed China's security crackdown in Xinjiang where thousands of Uygurs reportedly were held in detention camps as genocide.

China denies the allegations saying that its security crackdown in Xinjiang was aimed at curbing terrorism.

China accuses the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), active in the province, of carrying out numerous violent attacks in the resource-rich border region.

Wang's promotion underlines Beijing's snub of the West's response to its policies in Xinjiang as well as its growing interest in the pool of officials who have been held up as examples of competence in areas with large ethnic minority populations, the Post report said.

Observers say his new appointment also points to China's plan to keep a tight security lid in Tibet by continuing the crackdown against the Dalai Lama and his supporters, whom Beijing terms as separatists.



Sunday night, a mob damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus

Attacks on Hindu temples have intensified in Bangladesh since last Wednesday after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations

Prime Minister Hasina, who joined the meeting through video conferencing from her official residence, also urged the people of the country not to trust anything on social media without fact-checking, he added. She has instructed the home ministry to remain vigilant and take steps to prevent such incidents from recurring, Islam said.

Local media reported that six Hindus were killed in separate attacks, but the figures could not

confirm independently. "The Comilla incident is being investigated. What really happened can be known soon," he said, adding that the home ministry is working to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Hasina has announced to provide all possible assistance to the affected families. Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League party is holding 'harmony rallies' and taking out peace processions across the country on Tuesday against the recent communal violence.

MILITARY MIGHT North Korea fires missile into sea

The launch came hours after the US reaffirmed its offer to resume diplomacy on North Korea's nuclear weapons programme. It underscored how the North continues to expand its military capabilities amid a pause in diplomacy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Oct 19: North Korea Tuesday fired at least one ballistic missile into the sea in what South Korea's military described as a weapon likely designed for submarine-based launches, marking possibly the most significant demonstration of the North's military might since President Joe Biden took office.

The launch came hours after the US reaffirmed its offer to resume diplomacy on North Korea's nuclear weapons program. It underscored how the North continues to expand its military capabilities amid a pause in diplomacy.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement it detected the North firing one short-range missile it believed was a submarine-launched ballistic missile from waters near the eastern port of Sinpo, and that the South Korean and U.S. Militaries were closely analyzing the launch. The South Korean military said the launch was made at sea, but it didn't elaborate whether it was fired from a vessel submerged underwater or another launch platform above the sea's surface.



Japan's military said its initial analysis suggested the North fired two ballistic missiles and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said officials were examining whether they were SLBMs. After the launch, Kishida interrupted a campaign trip ahead of Japanese legislative elections later this month, returning to Tokyo. The leader ordered his government to start revising the country's national security strategy to adapt to North Korea's growing threats.

"We cannot overlook North Korea's recent development in missile technology and its impact on the security of Japan and in the region," he said. South Korean officials held a national security council meeting and expressed "deep regret" over the launch that came despite efforts to revive diplomacy.

Africa's rare glaciers may disappear in two decades: Report

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nairobi, Oct 19: Africa's rare glaciers will disappear in the next two decades because of climate change, a new report warned Tuesday amid sweeping forecasts of pain for the continent that contributes least to global warming but will suffer from it most.

The report from the World Meteorological Organisation and other agencies, released ahead of the UN climate conference in Scotland that starts October 31, is a grim reminder that Africa's 1.3 billion people remain "extremely vulnerable" as the continent warms more, and at a faster rate, than the global average.

And yet Africa's 54 countries are responsible for less than 4 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The new report seizes on the shrinking glaciers of Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda as symbols of the rapid and widespread changes to come. "Their current retreat rates are higher than the global average. If this continues, it will lead to total de-glaciation by the 2040s," it says.

Massive displacement, hunger and increasing climate shocks such as droughts and flooding are in the future, and yet the lack of climate data in parts of Africa "is having a

US to skip Afghanistan talks hosted by Russia



AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 19: The US will not join talks on Afghanistan hosted by Russia this week, the Department of State has said.

"We will not participate in the Moscow talks," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a press briefing Monday. "The Troika-plus has been an effective, a constructive forum. We look forward to engaging in that forum going forward, but we're not in a position to take part this week." Price was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency. He said that the US is unable to join the talks due to logistical difficulties, adding the US side supports the process. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Antony Blinken later in the day announced that US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad is leaving his post and will be replaced by his deputy Thomas West.

The departure of Khalilzad, who served as special envoy for Afghanistan came less than two months after the US withdrawal from the country.

Russian special envoy for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov said

Reopen schools, says Malala

Islamabad: Pakistani Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai has called on the Taliban leadership in Afghanistan to re-open secondary schools for girls with immediate effect. She put forward this demand in an open letter addressed to the new rulers of the war-torn nation. "To the Taliban authorities... reverse the de facto ban on girls' education and re-open girls' secondary schools immediately," Yousafzai and other Afghan women rights activists wrote in the open letter.

Friday that Russia had invited the United States to participate in the upcoming talks on Afghanistan in Moscow, which would focus on post-conflict reconstruction and humanitarian assistance. Russia has invited Taliban representatives to the meeting slated for October 20.

The Moscow-format consultations on Afghanistan were launched in 2017 on the basis of the six-party mechanism for consultations among representatives from Russia, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and China.

India, Israel, US, UAE to establish joint economic forum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Oct 19: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterparts from Israel, the US and the UAE have agreed to establish a forum for economic cooperation at a quadrilateral meeting during which they discussed possibilities for joint infrastructure projects in the fields of transportation, technology, maritime security, and economics and trade.

Jaishankar, who is currently on a five-day visit to Israel, was accompanied by his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid, during the virtual meeting Monday. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan participated virtually as the four leaders also exchanged views on shared issues of concern in the region.



External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar visits Israel's Ovda Airbase to meet IAF contingent taking part in biennial Blue Flag exercise, Tuesday

"The ministers decided to establish an international forum for economic cooperation," said a statement issued by the Israeli Foreign Ministry after the meeting.

It said the four ministers held a discussion on possibilities for joint infrastructure projects in the fields of transportation, technology, maritime security, and economics and trade, as well as for

additional joint projects.

At the end of the conversation, it was decided that each minister will appoint senior-level professionals to a joint working group that will formulate options for cooperation in the areas identified by the ministers, the statement said.

The intention is to hold an in-person meeting of the ministers in the coming months at Expo 2020 in Dubai, the statement said.



major impact" on disaster warnings for millions of people, WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas

said at Tuesday's launch. Estimates of the economic effects of climate change vary across

the African continent, but "in sub-Saharan Africa, climate change could further lower gross domestic product by up to 3 per cent by 2050," Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko with the African Union Commission writes in the report.

"Not only are physical conditions getting worse, but also the number of people being affected is increasing." By 2030, up to 118 million extremely poor people, or those living on less than \$1.90 a day, "will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat in Africa if adequate response measures are not put in place," Sacko adds.

of the day quote

They (fiscal stimulus measures) will continue. The emphasis on building health infrastructure will continue, and so will government spending on capital expenditure and infrastructure

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

Australia risks losing its advantage in the green energy revolution if its leaders don't promptly commit to cutting carbon emissions by 2050

ANDREW FORREST | FORTESCUE METALS GROUP FOUNDER

India's top gas importer, Petronet LNG, has long-term deals to buy 7.5 million tonnes per year (mtpa) of LNG from Qatar and 1.44 mtpa from Exxon's Gorgon project in Australia

AK SINGH | PETRONET LNG CEO

SHORT TAKES

P&G announces ₹500cr fund

Mumbai: Procter & Gamble India has announced ₹500 crore 'P&G Rural Growth Fund' to accelerate inclusive growth in the Indian rural market. The fund will provide external partners of the company an opportunity to collaborate with P&G on business solutions customised for meeting the needs of rural consumers. This will include solutions on communication, media outreach and go-to-market solutions like tech-enabled selling, increasing distribution and last-mile delivery.

US industrial output tumbles

Washington: US industrial production tumbled in September due to the lingering effects of Hurricane Ida and severe supply constraints, the Federal Reserve said. Total industrial production fell 1.3 per cent in September, following a revised decline of 0.1 per cent in August, the Fed said Monday. The industrial production was previously reported to have risen 0.4 per cent in August. Manufacturing output, which accounts for about 75 per cent of industrial production, fell 0.7 per cent last month, as the production of motor vehicles and parts fell 7.2 per cent due to shortages of semiconductors.

Google faces penalty in Russia

Moscow: Russia said Tuesday it would this month seek to fine US tech giant Google a percentage of its annual Russian turnover for repeatedly failing to delete content deemed illegal, Moscow's strongest effort yet to rein in foreign tech firms. Communications regulator Roskomnadzor said Google had failed to pay 32.5 million roubles (\$458,100) in penalties levied so far this year and that it would now seek a fine of 5-20% of Google's Russian turnover, which could reach as much as \$240 million, a significant increase.

Sony unveils new voice recorder

Bhubaneswar: Sony India announced a new addition to its voice recorder range with ICD-TX660, which offers high quality and reliable recording with one push and auto voice recording. The new voice recorder is available at ₹11,670. The ICD-TX660 has 16GB of built-in memory and can record and store up to 5,000 separate files. It comes with a USB Type-C port for convenient connectivity. It weighs 29 grams and has an ultra-thin design.



We are continuing with our policy of connections, and we have seen in India a very important ally for many years. India also brings with her new opportunities for cooperation

YAIR LAPID | ISRAEL'S FOREIGN MINISTER

FIXAR TIES UP WITH PARAS AEROSPACE TO ENTER INDIAN MARKET

European commercial drone and software developer FIXAR Tuesday announced its entry in the fast emerging domestic unmanned aerial vehicle market in collaboration with Paras Aerospace, a subsidiary of Paras Defence



FinMin frets over extra expenditure

THE FINANCE MINISTRY IS HAPPY WITH STRONG TAX COLLECTIONS, BUT WORRIES THAT COVID-19 RELIEF MEASURES COULD TAKE THE FISCAL DEFICIT TO 7.7 PER CENT OF GDP

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 19: The Finance Ministry has officially started the process of preparing the Union Budget 2022-23 with meetings scheduled to decide on the revised estimates for the current fiscal and demands for the next fiscal.

Policymakers in North Block are happy with the strong tax collections on the back of a sustained economic recovery, but they also worry about the mounting expenditure burden. The Covid-19 relief measures announced in the past six-and-a-half months could increase expenditure for the year by an estimated ₹2.01 lakh crore.

The expenditure budgeted for 2021-22 was ₹34.83 lakh crore. The fiscal deficit target for the year is ₹15.07 lakh crore, or 6.8 per cent of nominal gross domestic product (GDP).

"We are encouraged by the strong showing on the tax revenue front and equally concerned with the rising expenditure bill," a top government official said on condition of anonymity. "But that concern is only regarding balancing the fiscal deficit. In no way will the government compromise, whether on capital expenditure or on spending on welfare schemes and the poor."

According to a report in Money Control, this is in line with Finance



Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's latest statement that India is in no hurry to withdraw Covid-19 stimulus measures and that it will keep building the support required for economic growth.

The emphasis on building health infrastructure will continue and so will government spending on capital expenditure and infrastructure, she said in an interview with Bloomberg during her visit to the US.

On June 29, Sitharaman announced a relief package to help the economy recover from the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. This included steps to boost health infrastructure in the smaller cities, the tourism sector and easier loan access for the smallest borrowers.

BUDGET PREPARATION

The expenditure budgeted for 2021-22 was ₹34.83 lakh crore. The fiscal deficit target for the year is ₹15.07 lakh crore, or 6.8 per cent of nominal GDP

The additional outlays total up to extra expenditure of ₹2.01 lakh crore this year. Assuming all other budget assumptions remain the same, this additional spending would take the fiscal deficit for the year to about 7.7 per cent of GDP

The government pegged the size of the package at ₹6.29 lakh crore. However, most of the measures are credit guarantees and the actual extra outlay this year due to the relief measures will be ₹48,900 crore.

That same month, the policy on vaccine procurement by the Centre, the states and the private sector was withdrawn. The Central government said it would underwrite 75 per cent of the vaccine procurement in the country. This took the vaccination budget for the year to ₹50,000 crore from ₹35,000 crore. And it could rise.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also said the government would extend the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) until Diwali, undertaking to provide free grains

until the festival in November to 800 million people in the backdrop of the second Covid-19 wave.

Together, the additional outlays total up to extra expenditure of ₹2.01 lakh crore this year. Assuming all other budget assumptions remain the same, this additional spending would take the fiscal deficit for the year to about ₹17.08 lakh crore, or 7.7 per cent of GDP.

However, this may not be the revised fiscal deficit estimate because the Centre will try to adjust its savings accordingly. For the July-September quarter, the finance ministry imposed spending curbs on a number of ministries, which were withdrawn as the revenue situation improved.

Mobile connectivity poor in rural Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 19: The total mobile users in Odisha have now crossed 3.50 crore, but of the 47,677 villages in the state (as per Census 2011) over 6,000 villages still do not have mobile or Internet connectivity.

Speaking at a high level-meeting on curbing Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) recently, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had said that 6,278 villages have no mobile connectivity in India, out of the 5.97 lakh villages over 25,000 villages still do not have mobile or Internet connectivity.

As per data published by TRAI in quarterly performance indicator report as on March 2021, the wireless tele-density in rural areas of Odisha is only 62.74 per cent, while urban tele-density is 147.63 per cent.

According to the report, tele-density and Internet penetration is lower than the national average in the state. The overall tele-density of Odisha is 76.46 (as on March 2021), while the national average is 87.01.

The TRAI report claimed that the subscriber base in rural areas stood at 2.25 crore (as on March 2021), while it is 1.2 crore in urban areas. Telecom service provider Reliance Jio had 1.43 crore subscribers in the state during the same period, while Airtel subscriber base stood at 1.11 crore. The state-owned telecom company BSNL had 64.76 lakh sub-



In India, out of the 5.97 lakh villages over 25,000 villages still do not have mobile or Internet connectivity

scribers, as on March, 2021, while Vodafone had 23.64 lakh subscribers.

The Union Home Ministry has sanctioned 488 mobile towers for Odisha, recently. The state government had urged the Centre for 2,000 more mobile base stations to provide coverage to the uncovered villages in the state.

The industry sources stated that over 23,000 towers have been installed in the state as on March 2021. The sources stated that Reliance Jio had 9,300 towers in the state (as on March 2021) and Airtel had 7,817 towers. Similarly, BSNL and Vodafone installed 3,740 and 1,703 towers respectively.

Gross NPAs of banks to rise to 8-9% this fiscal: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 19: Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks are expected to increase to 8-9 per cent in the current financial year, credit rating agency Crisil said in a report.

This will be well below the peak of 11.2 per cent seen at the end of fiscal 2018. According to the agency, the Covid-19 relief measures such as the restructuring dispensation, and the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) will help limit the rise in banks gross NPAs.

With around 2 per cent of bank credit expected under restructuring by the end of this fiscal, stressed assets comprising gross NPAs and loan book under restructuring should touch 10-11 per cent this fiscal, it said.

"The retail and MSME segments, which together form close to 40 per



cent of bank credit, are expected to see higher accretion of NPAs and stressed assets this time around," the agency's senior director and deputy chief ratings officer Krishnan Sitaraman said in the report.

Stressed assets in these two segments are seen rising to 4-5 per cent and 17-18 per cent, respectively, by this fiscal end, he said.

The agency said operationalisation of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) by the end of this fiscal and the expected first-round sale of ₹90,000 crore NPAs could lead to

lower reported gross NPAs.

The report expects the corporate segment to be far more resilient. A large part of the stress in the corporate portfolio had already been recognised during the asset quality review initiated five years ago.

"That, coupled with the secular deleveraging trend, has strengthened the balance sheets of corporates, and enabled them to tide over the pandemic relatively unscathed compared with retail and MSME borrowers," it said.

This is evident from restructuring of only around 1 per cent in

Coal supply prioritised temporarily

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: State-owned CIL Tuesday said the supply of coal was prioritised temporarily to power producers to replenish their dwindling stock of the dry fuel.

The statement assumes significance in the wake of the country's power plants grappling with fuel shortages.

"In view of the low stock position at the power house end due to a spurt in economic activities during post-second wave of COVID-

19, the supply of coal was prioritised temporarily to the power sector to replenish their dwindling coal stock," Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a statement.

To achieve the same in the quickest possible time, coal companies were advised only to go slow temporarily on conducting further e-auction of coal, barring the special forward e-auction for power.

"This was a highly transitional measure to tide off the current high demand scenario in the power sector and normalcy will be re-

stored soon," the filing said.

Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi Tuesday discussed ways to improve coal stocks at thermal power plants with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Power Minister RK Singh. The Coal Minister also reviewed the performance of Coal India arm Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL), and directed it to ramp up production and load to at least 34 rakes of the dry fuel daily. Last week, Joshi said the government was making full efforts to meet the coal demand of power producers.

Sensex, Nifty end 7-day gaining streak

AGENCIES



Mumbai, Oct 19: Sensex, Nifty witnessed a volatile trading session Tuesday, ending in the red after having touched fresh all-time highs earlier in the day. S&P BSE Sensex finished 50 points or 0.08% lower at 61,716, while NSE Nifty 50 ended the day at 18,418. Broader markets fared worse than the benchmark indices. Bank nifty touched 40,000 but closed lower at 39,540. Nifty Realty index closed 4.76% lower and the Nifty PSU Bank index was 3.74% lower. Nifty IT closed with gains. Technical analysts believe investors should now wait and watch while avoiding hasty trading decisions.

The Nifty failed to close above the 18600 level, instead there was a sharp fall from the day's high. The support lies at 18200 and unless we do not break that on a closing basis, the overall trend continues to remain positive. The current scenario would be summarized as a wait and watch situation and hence hasty trading decisions should be avoided.

On the technical front, the Nifty Index has formed a long bearish candle at the top of the trend, which indicates a further reversal in the counter.

Rising commodity prices to push CAD to \$40bn this fiscal

CAPITAL ACCOUNT SURPLUS IS EXPECTED TO RISE DESPITE MODERATING FOREIGN INFLOWS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 19: Rising global commodity prices, led by crude, coal and metals, will have a lot of the current account leading to higher imports and a rise in current account deficit, which is likely to print at 1.3 per cent of the GDP or USD 40 billion, up from 0.9 per cent surplus last fiscal, according to a brokerage report.

However, the report, by the Wall Street major Bank of America Securities, said the balance of payments (BoP) is strong enough to defend any US Federal Reserve taper impacts on the rupee and the bond yields even though the BoP peak is history now.

Given the sharp increase in global commodity prices, particularly oil, concerns about current account deficit (CAD) and its serviceability have resurfaced. Potential taper by the Fed has only added to

these jitters. "But, we see FY22 CAD at 1.3 per cent of GDP or \$40 billion, up from a 0.9 per cent surplus in FY21, but still well-contained under the threshold of 2.5 per cent of GDP," BoFA said Tuesday.

On the other hand, capital account surplus is expected to rise despite moderating foreign inflows and a steady FDI on account of other sub-components faring better in FY22 than in FY21, it adds.

The June 2021 quarter current account balance was surprised with a larger-than-expected surplus of \$6.5 billion or 0.9 per cent of GDP, led by a lower trade deficit, higher-than-expected private income transfers and lower-than-usual investment income outflows.

Capital account also saw robust inflows of \$25.8 billion and accordingly, the BoP surplus for Q1 rose sharply to \$31.9 billion, from a small \$3.4 billion surplus in the March 2021 quarter.



"Despite this solid start to FY22, we believe the peak BoP surplus is behind us and going forward, trade deficit and, therefore, CAD to rise sharply as domestic demand continues to recover. Imports are also expected to rise due to higher global prices, particularly oil," it added. Supported strongly by other

flows, the capital account is set to end the year with a surplus of USD 93 billion in FY22, up from \$64 billion in FY21. While FPI inflows are expected to moderate given already-rich equity market valuations and expectations of policy normalisation, FDI inflows are expected to stay robust.

Barca seek 1st win in CL

Sindhu makes winning return

AGENCIES

Barcelona, Oct 19: Still seeking their first win and first goals of the 2021-22 Champions League, Barcelona and Dynamo Kiev prepare for battle in Wednesday's Group E clash at Camp Nou.

Ronald Koeman's side enter this game on the back of a 3-0 defeat to Benfica on matchday two, while their Ukrainian counterparts were humbled 5-0 by Bayern Munich.

A 0-3 home defeat to a side as rampant and merciless as Bayern Munich was not the end of the world for Koeman – although those inside Camp Nou made their feelings clear – and the pressure would soon pile on the Dutchman as Benfica marched to victory by the same scoreline on matchday two.

Darwin Nunez would take all of three minutes to break the deadlock before Rafa Silva doubled Benfica's advantage, and Nunez would double his tally for the evening from the penalty spot 10 minutes before the full-time whistle blew in a humiliating experience for La Blaugrana. Despite widespread speculation



Barcelona will bank on Ansu Fati (L) and Memphis Depay to score for them against Dynamo Kyiv in Champions League

that his time in the Catalan dugout may soon be coming to an end, Koeman has retained the faith of Joan Laporta for the time being and oversaw a much-needed 3-1 win over Valencia at the weekend, with Ansu Fati, Memphis Depay

and Philippe Coutinho on the score-sheet after Jose Gaya's stunner.

Victory over Los Che represented only Barcelona's second win from seven games in all competitions – simply unacceptable for a club of the Catalans' calibre – and their

TONIGHT'S MATCHES

BARCELONA v DYNAMO KYIV
Time: 10:15 pm
BENFICA v BAYERN MUNICH
MAN UNITED v ATALANTA
CHELSEA v MALMOE
ZENIT v JUVENTUS
Time: 12:30 am (Oct 22)

Champions League goal difference of -6 is the second-worst across all eight groups ahead of Malmö's -7.

Already at risk of failing to make the knockout rounds for the first time since the 2000-01 season, Barcelona must seek to reverse a miserable run of form which has seen them lose their last three Champions League games at Camp Nou, and not since November 2019 have they kept a clean sheet at home in the competition.

Furthermore, Dynamo are on a four-game losing streak against Barcelona in the Champions League, most recently losing 2-1 at Camp Nou in last season's group stage before being humbled 4-0 on home soil a few weeks later.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Odense, Oct 19: Returning to action after a break, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu saw off Turkey's Neslihan Yigit in straight games to join compatriots Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma in the second round of the Denmark Open here Tuesday.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, took 30 minutes to get across Yigit, ranked 29th, 21-12, 21-10 in her women's singles opener of the BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament.

The fourth seeded Indian, who had skipped the Sudirman Cup and Uber Cup Final after the Tokyo Olympics, will next face Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan.

Former champion Srikanth and Sameer also made winning starts to their men's singles campaigns at the USD 850,000 event.

While Srikanth, who had claimed the title in 2017, outsmarted compatriot B Sai Praneeth 21-14, 21-11 in 30 minutes, Sameer, ranked 28th, prevailed over Thailand's world no 21 Kunlavut Vitidsarn 21-17, 21-14 in a 42-minute clash.



World No.14 Srikanth will meet World No.1 and top seeded Japanese Kento Momota in the second round, while Sameer is likely to face Denmark's third seed Anders Antonsen in the next round.

Indian men's doubles players, however, had a mixed day in office. While Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated English pair of Callum Hemming and

Steven Stallwood 23-21, 21-15 in their opener, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila stunned England's World No.17 pair of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy 21-19, 21-15 to make a positive start to their campaign.

But Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy lost 18-21, 11-21 to Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin in the opening round to bow out of the competition.

PADDLER PAYAS JAIN BECOMES WORLD NO.1 IN U-17 CATEGORY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 19: Payas Jain Tuesday became the second Indian paddler to achieve a World No.1 ranking, thanks to his title-winning performances in the U-17 Boys category. The other Indian who achieved the feat was Manav Thakkar, who became the World No.1 in the U-21 category in January 2020.

Incidentally, Payas is the first Delhi paddler to reach the pinna-

cle of the ITTF world ranking and the youngest Indian to do so.

Payas has had to his credit three U-17 crowns this season besides a couple of bronze medals in U-19 in what was his first international appearance since the COVID-19 pandemic played havoc, bringing all activities to an abrupt halt.

He hit the groove with his maiden U-17 title in Slovenia in a tough final against German Tom Schweiger 3-2 in the WTT Youth Contender in Otocec. He followed it up with another crown in the second WTT Youth Contender Championships in Tunis when he outclassed Tom Closset of Belgium a week later.

In Tunisia, he added bronze as a bonus in the U-19 when he lost in the semifinals. Carrying his form to Oman, he kept his vice-like grip over the age category title last week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BERRINGTON, DAVEY SEAL SCOTLAND WIN

AL AMERAT (OMAN): Richie Berrington slammed a stroke-filled 70 while Josh Davey snapped four wickets as Scotland inched closer to the Super 12s with a comfortable 17-run win over Papua New Guinea in their Group B match of the ICC T20 World Cup here Tuesday. Scotland grabbed the top position in Group B with two wins having shocked Bangladesh in their opening game. Berrington put on 92 runs off 65 balls with Matthew Cross (45) before adding another 33 with Calum MacLeod (10) as Scotland posted a challenging 165/9 after opting to bat. Kyle Coetzer's men then produced a splendid bowling effort to skittle out PNG for 148 in 19.3 overs with Davey (4/18) emerging as the standout bowler. PNG thus made an early exit to their maiden campaign at the WT20 following the second successive loss.

BHAJJI, SRINATH GET MCC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

LONDON: India's Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath were Tuesday awarded life membership of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), joining 16 other cricketers who were given the honour this year. The MCC, based at Lord's, is the custodian of cricket laws. Harbhajan and Srinath both enjoyed fine international careers. Harbhajan is India's third-highest wicket-taker in Tests, with 417 dismissals in 103 Tests and more than 700 plus international wickets across formats. Srinath, currently an ICC Elite Panel Match Referee, is one of the greatest fast bowlers with 315 ODI wickets and 236 Test victims.

ADVANI SHINES WITH 121 POINTS BREAK

MUMBAI: Ace cueist Pankaj Advani (PSPB) neatly constructed a brilliant 121 points effort, the highest break so far in the competition, for his fourth successive win in the round-robin league matches of the GSC World Snooker Qualifiers. Pankaj started hesitantly and his opponent Dhvaj Haria cashed on the opportunities to take a 2-0 lead. But Pankaj went on to win the third and get back into the match. That three-figure break seemed to have knocked the fight out of Dhvaj as Pankaj went on to comfortably win the next three frames to complete a satisfying 29-74, 31-79, 121(121)-00, 69-14, 69-03 and 72-17 win. Meanwhile, Aditya Mehta (Men) and Vidya Pillai (Women) both suffered setbacks.

Love having Dhoni in dressing room: Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 19: Picking MS Dhoni's brain is on KL Rahul's checklist for the next few weeks as he wants to utilise every bit of advice from Team India's mentor, who, according to the opener, always instils a sense of calm into the dressing room.

Rahul, who is all set to open with Rohit Sharma in the T20 World Cup where India will start against Pakistan Sunday, said that there couldn't have been a better "mentor" than Dhoni in what promises to be a tough journey.

"Obviously, MS Dhoni (being) back with the team feels amazing because we have played under him and we have looked towards him as a mentor even when he was our cap-

tain," Rahul said during a Clubhouse session on 10 years of Red Bull Campus Cricket.

Dhoni has often been described as an emotion by the observers and fans of the game, an emotion that binds everyone and above all, the Indian dressing room.

"We loved having him in the dressing room when he was the captain. We loved the calmness. We have all looked up to him to help us out, to have him here is amazing.

"This gives us a sense of calmness, I have enjoyed spending time with him in the first two to three days and it has been a lot of fun. Looking forward to chewing his brain about cricket, captaincy and all things cricket," he added.



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