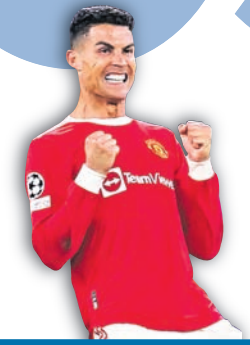




STARTLING DISCLOSURE
Actor Freida Pinto has revealed that she secretly got married to her fiancé Cory Tran
LEISURE P2



FRESH CHINESE THREAT
China has been an aggressor against India along the Himalayan border, top US diplomat Nicholas Burns said
INTERNATIONAL P10



RONALDO LIFTS MAN U
Late Cristiano Ronaldo goal helps Manchester United overcome stubborn Atalanta 3-2
SPORTS P12



Farmers have right to agitate: SC
New Delhi: The Supreme Court said Thursday farmers protesting at Delhi borders against the three farms laws have the right to agitate but cannot block roads indefinitely. However, the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) said barriers at the Ghazipur protest site have been put up by the Delhi police and not farmers. Earlier a bench headed by Justice SK Kaul said, "Farmers have right to protest but they cannot block roads indefinitely. People have right to go on roads and it cannot be blocked," the bench also comprising Justice MM Sundresh said.
MORE P3



India achieves 1bn vax milestone
New Delhi: India achieved a major milestone in its vaccination programme against Covid-19 as the cumulative vaccine doses administered in the country surpassed the 100-crore mark Thursday. Officials said 75% of the eligible adult population has been administered the first dose, while around 31% have received both doses of the vaccine. India is the second country after China to achieve the one billion vaccination feat. The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out January 16 with healthcare workers being the first beneficiaries.
MORE P9

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

Training for vax of 2-18 yrs group commences today

Both Covaxin and Zydus Cadila's needle-free vaccine ZyCoV-D will be used to inoculate children

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: The Odisha government said Thursday that the process to train health workers for vaccination of children between the age group of two years to 18 years will begin Friday. Health and Family Welfare department Director Bijay Panigrahi told mediapersons that the central team will train health officials on virtual mode and the knowledge then will be passed on to officials at the district level.

Panigrahi said that besides Covaxin, children in the above mentioned age group will be given Zydus Cadila's needle-free Covid-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D. This will also need special training and the same will be imparted. "The Odisha government is ready and fully prepared. The vaccination drive for children will commence as per the Centre's guidelines once the vaccines arrive," Panigrahi said.

Odisha has a population of 1.40 crore in the two to 18 years age group. However, the Centre is yet to clarify if everyone in the age group will be vaccinated at one go. Panigrahi further stated that Odisha has so far administered 3.48 crore vaccine doses. "Around 24 lakh people are yet to take the second dose even after their due date. We are urging them to quickly take the second dose," appealed Panigrahi.

Earlier this month, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin received emergency use approval for children in the age group of two to 18 years from the DCGI.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL
Celebrate 1 Billion Vaccine Doses
Jashn-e-Riwaaz is not a part of our ethos. We believe only in Riwaaz-e-Jashn!



REMEMBERING A WARRIOR: NCC cadets take out a rally Thursday in front of the Netaji Museum located in Odia Bazar area of Cuttack to mark the anniversary of the Azad Hind government's formation by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1943

Gobind aide Radhe held in Mamita murder case

The school teacher who threatened to expose Gobind was brutally killed and her body was chopped into pieces

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 21: Radheshyam Chandi alias Radhe, an associate of Gobind Sahu, the main accused in the Mamita Meher murder case, was arrested Thursday by the police for his alleged involvement in the crime. He was produced before the Bangomunda JMFC court and remanded to police custody. Police also said that two others, who were detained in connection with the incident, have turned approvers. They are Puskar Bhoi, the driver of the JCB who had dug the pit at the under-construction stadium at Mahaling and Munsu Guptheswar Tandi, a staff of Sunshine English Medium School.

In a separate development, Kalahandi SP Bibek M informed Thursday that the IIC of K Gaon police station, Damu Parija has been suspended for dereliction of duty. He had turned away the family members of Mamita when they had come to the police station to lodge a 'missing complaint', October 8.

Meanwhile, police continued their search for Mamita's mobile phone which was allegedly thrown



Accused Radheshyam Chandi

away by Gobind inside the under-construction stadium after he disposed of her body. A large posse of policemen with metal detectors searched for her phone in the presence of DIG (Northern Range) Deepak Kumar and Bolangir SP Kusalkar Nitin Dagdu. They also searched areas in the close vicinity of the stadium.

The gruesome crime continued to draw attention all over the state as police informed that Mamita's body had been chopped into pieces after she was allegedly strangled to death by the accused Gobind. An official of the forensic team investigating the case informed that the gruesome act was carried out as the chopped parts could be burnt easily. Police also said that Gobind couldn't have committed such an act alone and so they are still trying to ascertain the identity of others behind the crime. Meanwhile normal life was af-

PIL IN ORISSA HC SEEKS CBI PROBE

Cuttack: A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed with the Orissa High Court (HC) Thursday seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the sensational murder of Mamita Meher at Mahaling in Kalahandi district. In the PIL, Bharatiya Vikas Parishad (BVP) chairperson Surendra Panigrahi has also urged the HC to direct the Odisha government for facilitating ₹50 lakh as compensation to the victim's family. A total nine parties including DGP Abhay and Bolangir SP have been made as respondents in the PIL. According to Panigrahi, investigation into the case by Odisha Police or the Crime Branch would not help deliver justice to the victim owing to political pressure. "Probe by a premier agency like CBI can help unveil the truth and punish the culprits," he said.

affected in the district Thursday due to a bandh called by BJP over the murder of the 24-year-old teacher. Business establishments remained closed and few vehicles plied the roads in this town due to the 12-hour bandh that began at 6.00am. A similar bandh was observed Wednesday in Kalahandi district, where the body of the woman was found. The saffron party demanded the resignation of Dibya Shankar Mishra, Minister of State for Home and a CBI inquiry into the incident.

Rayagada triple murder: Death sentence upheld

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Oct 21: A local court here Thursday upheld the death sentence of nine convicts in a triple murder case over suspected sorcery and witchcraft. The verdict was earlier awarded by the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Gunupur, April 13, 2018. District and Sessions Judge Bikram Keshari Patnaik heard the matter and upheld the death sentence of the nine convicts awarded by the Gunupur court. The case relates to the brutal murder of a couple and their daughter,

September 9, 2016. The accused had beaten up the deceased mercilessly. After they fell unconscious they were administered pesticide-laced injections and buried alive. The incident took place at Kitum village under Gunupur block and Putasingh police limits in Rayagada district. The accused in this case are Dengun Sabar, 37, Dushunta Sabar, 27, Ajanta Sabar, 27, Padhantu Sabar, 34, Dalsa Sabar, 30, Malku Sabar, 38, Bubuna Sabar, 38, Lakiya Sabar, 34 and Iru Sabar, 24. The nine convicts will appeal against the verdict, sources said.

New test format for Class IX

The Summative Assessment exams will be conducted in two sittings. The first session will be from 9am to 10am and the second from 11am to 12 noon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: Officials of the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) released Thursday the schedule for the Summative Assessment examination of Class IX students. As per the schedule released, the first exam will begin November 22. The exam will be conducted in two sittings. The first sitting will be from 9am to 10am and while the second will be from 11am to 12 noon.



The assessment will carry total 40 marks: 20 each for subjective and objective questions. The assessment will be conducted in the respective schools of the students whereas the answer scripts will be sent to other schools for evaluation, BSE officials informed. As per the schedule announced, in the first session, the students

FUEL PRICES HIKED AGAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 21: There was no respite for the consumers as petrol and diesel prices Thursday were hiked by 35 paise per litre each. This was the second consecutive day of increase that took pump rates across India to record high levels. The price of petrol in the national capital rose to its highest-ever level of ₹106.54 a litre and ₹112.44 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. In Mumbai, diesel now comes for ₹103.26 a litre, while in Delhi, it costs ₹95.27 per litre.

This is the second consecutive day of fuel price hike. There was no change in rates October 18 and 19, prior to which prices were hiked by 35 paise per litre each on four straight days. Petrol has already breached the ₹100/litre mark in



CITY PRICES

PETROL	₹107.48 (+0.35)
DIESEL	₹103.93 (+0.38)

most cities in India. Diesel has touched that level in over a dozen states and is trending towards the three-figure mark in Srinagar and Chennai. Diesel now costs ₹99.14 a litre in Srinagar while it is priced at ₹99.59 in Chennai.

This is the 18th increase in petrol price and the 21st time that diesel rates have gone up since the last week of September when rate revisions began.

CAUTIOUS DAD GOES TO MEET SON

The Aryan Khan case took a new turn with the name of actor Ananya Pandey popping up in his chats following which the latter was summoned for questioning

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 21: High drama was witnessed in this city Thursday in the Aryan Khan drugs bust case. First Shah Rukh Khan went to the Arthur Road prison in the morning to meet Aryan for the first time since the arrest of the latter October 8. Following this development a team of officials from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) visited 'Manna' the house of the superstar, leading to speculation that it had been raided. NCB officials later clar-



Shah Rukh Khan leaves the Arthur Road prison after meeting son Aryan, Thursday

ified that it was not a raid, but they had come to collect some documents pertaining to Aryan and that SRK had been informed beforehand.

As if that was not enough, another NCB team then arrived at actor Ananya Pandey's residence and handed her the summon to

face questioning Thursday itself. The team also seized her digital equipment including laptop and mobile phone. Ananya reached the NCB office here around 4.00pm with father Chunky. After a two-hour questioning, NCB officials asked her to return at 11.00am Friday.

And in the end, all hopes of Aryan's early return to home on bail was quashed as a special NDPS court Thursday extended his judicial custody till October 30. The only hope for Aryan now is the bail plea that will be heard October 26 by the Mumbai High Court.

The NCB decided to record the statement of Ananya after it came across her name in some of the chats with Aryan. In the chats she has been referred to as 'Annie'. However, it should be stated here that Ananya and

Aryan are part of a group of star kids who have been known to socialise together. They have a common circle of friends and Ananya and Aryan's sister Suhana are best friends.

Even though the NCB did not clarify why Ananya has been called for questioning, the probe agency clarified that she is still not an accused. However, it did not clarify as to why she has been called again.

Meanwhile in the morning, SRK met his son as per prison rules and spent about 15 minutes together. As per a report published in 'India Today' the superstar asked his son to eat properly. When Aryan told him that he did not like prison food SRK asked officials if his son could have home-made stuff. Officials told the superstar that he would require court permission for that.

Jr World Cup on schedule, says HI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: Hockey India (HI) said Thursday that the Junior World Cup slated to be played at the Kalinga Stadium here will be held as per schedule. This development came late in the night after Odisha Sports Minister Tushar Kanti Behera had said that the tournament may be deferred due to the pandemic situation in the state. The tournament is to be played November 24 to December 5.

HI said that it has received the clearance from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to hold the event and that no

participating teams will have to undergo quarantine on arrival to the Odisha Capital. All the participating teams, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, Egypt, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, USA, Canada, Chile, Argentina and hosts India will be exempted from quarantine, the letter from the Health Ministry said.

Earlier Behera had said that some of the participating countries have already pulled out and a few more are expected to do so which will lead to the postponement of the event. The countries that have pulled out are England and Belgium. However, England have been replaced by Poland.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	60923.50 ↓ 336.46
NIFTY	18178.10 ↓ 88.50
DOLLAR	74.88 ↓ ₹0.08
EURO	87.16 ↓ ₹0.03
GOLD	₹47,453 ↓ ₹46
SILVER	₹65,149 ↓ ₹458

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.8°C	34.0°C
TEMP MIN	24.4°C	24.0°C
Humidity	79%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

leisure



RUBY CLAIMS MISCONDUCT ON BATWOMAN SET LED TO EXIT

Former *Batwoman* star Ruby Rose aired several allegations of wrongdoing on the set of the show, which she says led to her exit in May 2020. In a series of Instagram posts Wednesday, Rose claimed she was forced to continue work on the DC series shortly after suffering a neck injury on set.

BADGLEY REACTS TO BIZARRE REQUEST FROM YOU FAN

Actor Penn Badgley has reacted to an outrageous request from *You* fans. Replying to a fan, who asked to be kidnapped, the actor, who plays Joe Goldberg on the hit series, said that he's "not mad". Tuesday, he took to his Twitter account to reply to a tweet from his fan that read, "Ayooooo kidnap me."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
You will exhibit your worth in ample measure today. You will probably chalk out great plans and ideas at work, and this will be very beneficial. But despite this, Ganesh says, if you don't get the deserved recognition, don't lose heart. Learn to take setbacks without getting disappointed.

TAURUS
You may face conflicts on the personal front and find your thoughts leaning towards aggression today, says Ganesh. There is a possibility of suffering losses due to loved ones. Exercise restraint in arguments with relatives and siblings, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
It will not be hard for you to complete your tasks successfully and without any delays or obstacles in your path, only if you first seek to fully understand and acquire the learning required to perform it. The fruits of your labour will keep you happy and satisfied, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Today looks set to be a day full of extremes, especially when it comes to your shifty moods. However, you will need to keep reminding yourself of not getting overly emotional or impractical. Otherwise you may end up being in complicated situations, warns Ganesh.

LEO
Today there is a chance that you will meet that special someone that you have been waiting for all your life. You may possibly give your partner a beautiful gift. You will be more inclined towards the arts and will be able to exhibit this new-found appreciation to the max, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
All the work done in the past will reap rich rewards today, says Ganesh. You'll direct things your own way, and in no way would you take orders from anyone. But don't go overboard with all the authority and keep a cool, calm head.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will be more conscious about your beauty and outward appearance and try to enhance it by going to a beauty parlor or by purchasing expensive cosmetics. To enhance your appearance and personality you may also go on a shopping spree for clothes.

SCORPIO
The day does not begin on a very good note as you seem to be in a belligerent mood. Be calm and patient as your hot temper may spoil a good deal. Limit your conversations and discussions with colleagues and friends, advises Ganesh. Practising meditation and yoga will bring you some respite towards the end of the day.

SAGITTARIUS
No pains, no gains. So, when you go through a lot of turmoil and toil hard for your work, the rewards are definitely going to be fruitful, says Ganesh. Time for get together and soiree with family and friends! In a nutshell, a day with lot of fun activities.

CAPRICORN
Your hands are full with plenty of projects and assignments. Finish them off as soon as you can and spend rest of the day refreshing your mind. Communicating with people of all walks of life will make you enhance your horizon of knowledge, feels Ganesh. Talking about personal life, you will feel free to conduct yourself as per your wish.

AQUARIUS
It's an uphill struggle today! But the heavens are on your side, and you will be saved from being swindled. Otherwise, it's an eventful day at work. You may initiate big business deals and new projects as well. It will take all your energy, and Ganesh suggests you hit the deck early.

PISCES
Ganesh warns that your expenses could be twice as much as your income or profit. You need to be more careful in money matters. It is not an auspicious day for any new work, new deal or any new beginnings. Ganesh indicates that things will look up after two days or so.

Freida opens up on her secret wedding



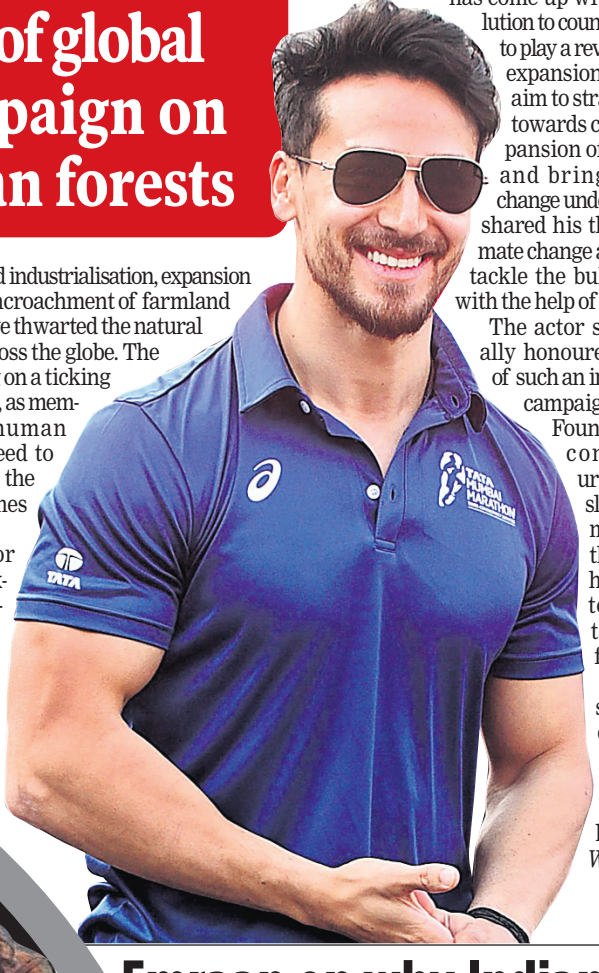
New Delhi: Freida Pinto and Cory Tran are all set to embrace parenthood. Earlier this year in June, the actress posted some pictures on her Instagram account and flaunted her baby bump, announcing her pregnancy. She has now revealed on *The Kelly Clarkson Show* that she secretly got married to her fiancé as she didn't want a big fat wedding. When the host asked her about her wedding plans, here was her reply, "Oh excellent. We're already married!" "I wasn't planning a big fat Indian wedding. It was just going to be something pretty

and simple... But then COVID happened and it's still happening and we just realised we were going to be planning this for the rest of our lives and probably never doing it," added the actress. She also revealed that the couple went to Honda Center in Anaheim, California, to get married. "Honestly, I have to say if any of you have planned a wedding, you probably know this, I do not want stomach ulcers from planning my own wedding. This was perfect! We got married and then we got to go home and take an afternoon nap," she quipped.

Tiger becomes face of global campaign on urban forests

Mumbai: Rapid industrialisation, expansion of cities and encroachment of farmland and forests have thwarted the natural balance all across the globe. The world is sitting on a ticking time bomb and, as members of the human species, we need to act now before the damage becomes irreversible. Recently, actor Tiger Shroff extended his support to Bhamla Foundation for the cause of urban afforestation.

The initiative is supported by Norwegian diplomat Erik Solheim. Bhamla Foundation has come up with a unique solution to counter the problem, to play a reverse card on the expansion of cities. They aim to strategically work towards creation and expansion of urban forests and bring the climate change under control. Tiger shared his thoughts on climate change and how we can tackle the bull by its horns with the help of this campaign. The actor said, "I feel really honoured to be a part of such an important global campaign with Bhamla Foundation because conserving the urban forests and slowing down climate change is the need of the hour if we want to build a sustainable future for us all." The road to salvation will emerge from the change in our lifestyles and consuming habits, feels the *War* actor.



Tamannaah among 10 most influential social media stars

Hyderabad: With her alluring personality and mesmerising presence, Tamannaah has gained a vast section of fandom. Her social media profiles indicate the kind of followers the actress has gained over the years. In a recent survey by Forbes India, Tamannaah stands in the tenth position in the list of the most influential social media stars (South India). Forbes India has released the results of their recent survey, by calculating the Instagram influence using various metrics. They released the list of Top 30 Most Influential South Actors on Social Media. Tamannaah, who topped as the tenth most influential social media star, expressed her happiness over achieving the feat. The actress also shares the credit with her fans and followers, who she thinks is the main reason behind her success. Forbes India considered the Instagram activity of celebrities from Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam film industries over the most recent 25 posts. The influence is represented through Qoruz Score, using a digital tool which calculates the score based on the likes, number of followers, video views, and other social media activity.

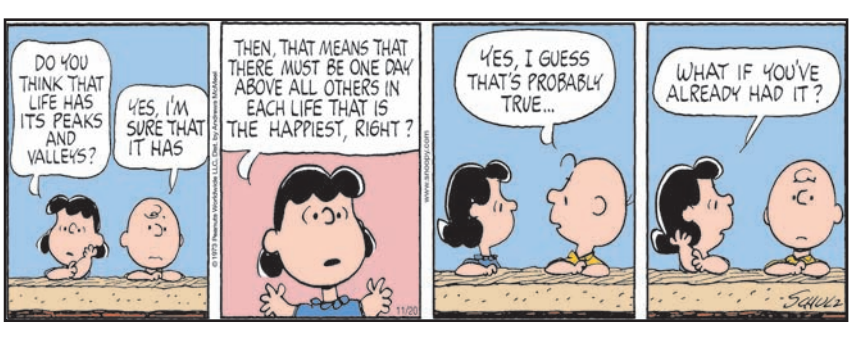


Emraan on why Indian horror films haven't done well

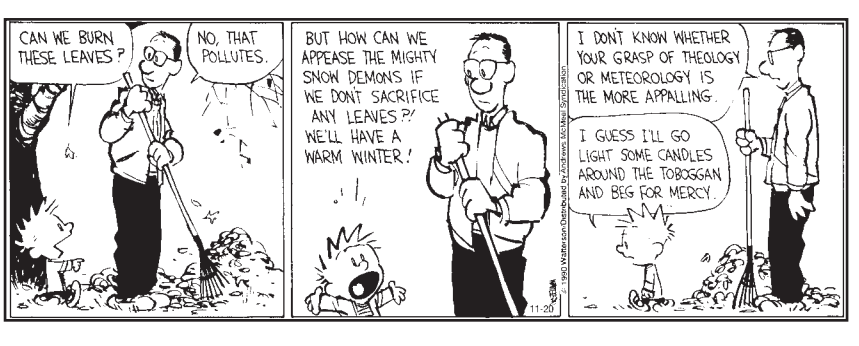
New Delhi: Actor Emraan Hashmi, who is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film *Dybbuk: The Curse is Real*, has spoken about why horror films in India are not up to speed like other genres. "(It's) because not too many people have worked in the genre. Not too many people have explored it. Not too many filmmakers have been daring to do something new and different and it is a genre that people have not been able to tap good aesthetics... but when done well, the audience has sat up and noticed," Emraan said during an interview. The film marks Emraan's return to his favourite genre as he'll be seen leading the film with Nikita Dutta and Manav Kaul in key roles. The film helmed by Jay K is the official remake of the blockbuster Malayalam film *Ezra*. T-Series and Panorama Studios have joined forces to produce the film. Asked as to why he wanted to star in a horror film again, he said: "After *Raaz* I wanted to take a pause from the genre but the story of *Dybbuk* and the way Jay had constructed the narrative and how he wanted to really revamp the horror genre for our country got me excited. That's why I wanted to revisit the genre." *Dybbuk* is all set to premiere on Amazon Prime Video October 29.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

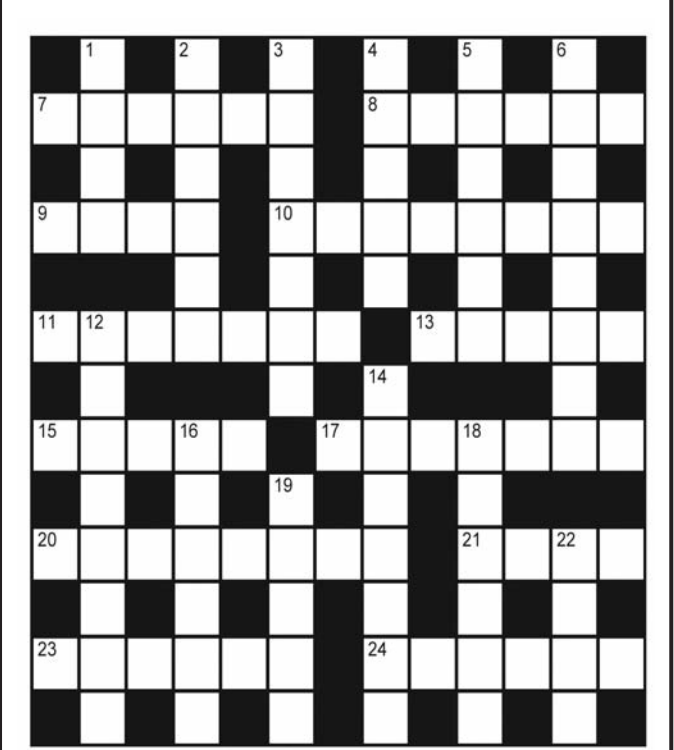


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 It can be coined
 - 8 Floral arrangement
 - 9 Little row
 - 10 Germane
 - 11 Supervise
 - 13 Frock wearer
 - 15 Musical exercise
 - 17 Combats
 - 20 Orchestra member
 - 21 Skillful
 - 23 Slip away
 - 24 Peers
 - 4 Hunky-dory
 - 5 Loom user
 - 6 Prehistoric culture (5,3)
 - 12 Sing
 - 14 Blabs
 - 16 Lasso
 - 18 Boredom
 - 19 Building addition
 - 22 Experienced
- Down**
- 1 After lamb or pork
 - 2 Trade
 - 3 Pie fillers

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**
- PATE EGG SWAP
A E A A C A L
R I N G S U P O P I N E
L E P B T A
O B T A I N A B S E N T
U R A L R
R O B A M P L E S A C
E T E S H
B O W T I E S T A T U E
I I O O R E
T I T A N C O N T E S T
E C S O E A A
S O H O L Y E I T C H
- SUDOKU**
- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 6 |

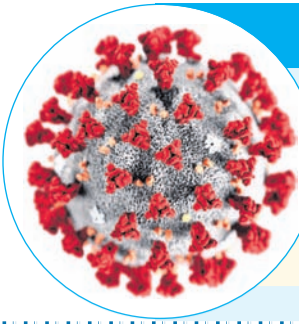
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



PATRIOTISM IN THE AIR

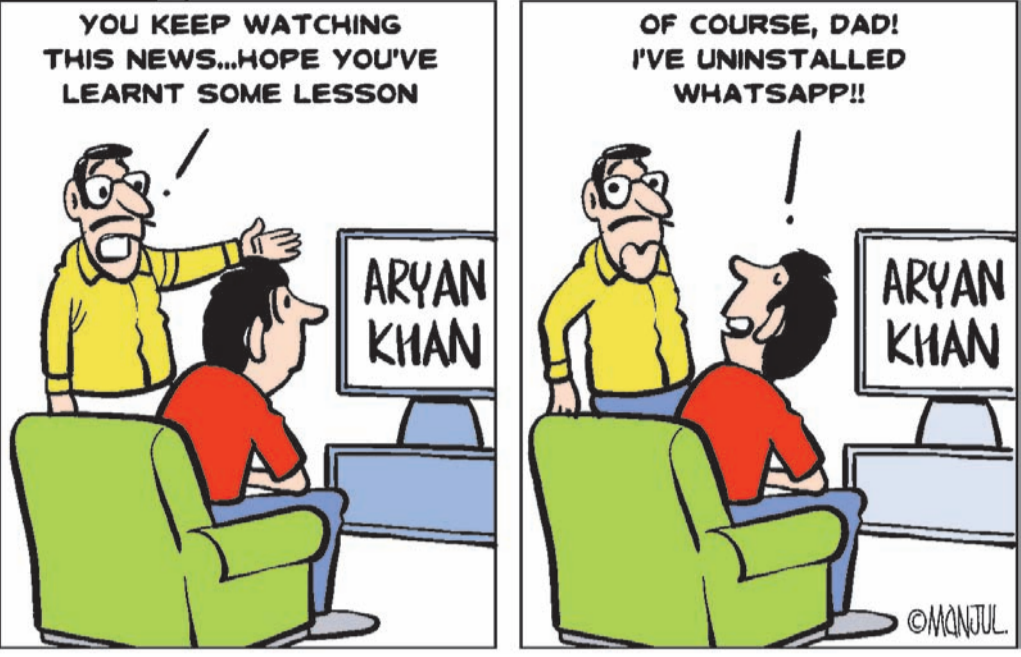
Odia Language Literature and Culture department holds play *Mu Subhas* at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, to observe the anniversary of Azad Hind Government's formation in the pre-independence era



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	24,29,99,234	22,02,30,166	49,41,060
India	3,41,27,450	3,34,95,808	4,52,811
Odisha	10,37,056	10,24,422	8,298

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Early release for 20 prisoners

Bhubaneswar: The state Prisons department Thursday issued a notification announcing premature release of 20 prisoners lodged in various jails across the state following the state government's approval. Sources claimed the selected prisoners are likely to be released from the respective jails Friday. As many as seven convicts from Dhenkanal jail, four from Koraput, two from Choudwar and one each from the jails at Behrahmpur, Baripada, Jamujhari Open Air prison, Athamallik, Sundargarh, Bhadrak and Sambalpur have been selected for the premature release over their good conduct.

HC breather for Jagadev

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 21: The Orissa High Court (HC) Thursday allowed conditional bail to Chilika MLA Prasanta Jagadev, who has been arrested in connection with a case registered against him by Balugaon police in Khurda. The HC allowed the bail upon conditions that Jagadev would cooperate with the investigating officials and would not provoke the witnesses in the case. Sources said Jagadev was accused of attacking BJP's Balugaon

circle chairman Niranjan Sethi September 8. The Chilika MLA had allegedly abused and slapped Sethi in full public view. He had also allegedly snatched away the cell-phone from a journalist present at the spot. Following the incident, Sethi lodged a complaint with police while another complaint was filed against Jagadev by the journalist at Balugaon police station. The BJD legislator was suspended from the ruling party following reports of his alleged hooliganism.

BROWN SUGAR WORTH ₹1CR SEIZED; 1 HELD

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: The Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch has arrested an alleged interstate drug peddler from Tangi area in Cuttack district and seized brown sugar worth Rs 1 crore from his possession. Acting on a tip-off, the STF sleuths seized 1.04 kg brown sugar from accused Shafikul Sk alias Khokan, hailing from West Bengal's Murshidabad district. He was nabbed from the National Highway 16 near Tangi Wednesday, a statement read. Khokan has been booked under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and he will be produced before the court of Special Judge cum District and Sessions Judge, Cuttack. Preliminary investigations revealed that the accused often visits Odisha to supply the contraband in different areas across the state. The STF has started investigation to arrest other accused having links with Khokan. The STF has seized 41 kg heroin and brown sugar, and 86.81 kg marijuana so far this year and arrested over 100 drug dealers and peddlers. Notably, The Excise sleuths had earlier seized brown sugar worth over Rs 2.50 crore from Jaleswar area a few days ago.

SC backs farmers' stir but opposes blockade for long

SENIOR ADVOCATE DUSHYANT DAVE REPRESENTING FARMER ASSOCIATIONS SAID ROADS WERE BEING BLOCKED BY THE POLICE AND NOT FARMERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 21: The Supreme Court Thursday said farmers protesting at Delhi borders against the three farm laws have the right to agitate but they cannot block roads indefinitely. A bench headed by Justice SK Kaul, while hearing a plea against the blockade of roads connecting the national capital by farmers in protest against the three contentious farm laws, observed that some solution has to be found and the public roads cannot be blocked for an indefinite period like this. "We are not against right to protest even when legal challenge is pending. But roads cannot be blocked like this," the bench said. The apex court's Thursday's remarks are contrary to the observation made by another bench of Supreme Court headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar a few weeks ago. The bench of Justice AM Khanwilkar had October 4 observed that since the cases pertaining to farm laws have been sub judice, the farmers should not hold protest on the same issue. The bench had also said that it would decide if the right to protest is an absolute right.



The apex court's Thursday's remarks are contrary to the observation made by another bench of Supreme Court headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar a few weeks ago

The bench of Justice AM Khanwilkar had October 4 observed that since the cases pertaining to farm laws have been sub judice, the farmers should not hold protest on the same issue

"Once the party approaches the court challenging the validity of the Act, after that where is the question of protests? Once you challenge the executive action, then matter is sub judice. Then how can you protest? Protest against whom," the bench of Justice Khanwilkar had observed. During the hearing Thursday, senior advocate Dushyant Dave representing farmers' associations said that roads were being blocked by the police and not farmers. "They are blocked by the police. After stopping us, the BJD

MAHALING MURDER

Oppn mounts pressure on govt to sack Mishra



A BJP delegation approaches the OHRC while NSUI activists block the NH near Vani Vihar in Bhubaneswar as part of their agitation over the lady teacher murder case

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: Opposition BJP and Congress Thursday continued their agitation seeking removal of Minister of State (MoS) for Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra, for his alleged involvement in the kidnap and murder of lady teacher Mamita Meher. Mamita, a teacher of Sunshine English Medium School at Mahaling in Kalahandi district, was allegedly abducted and killed October 8. Her half-burnt body was exhumed from a stadium near the school October 19. "It was alleged that the minister was visiting the school frequently, but the police have not brought him under the purview of investigation so far," said Samantsinghar. The BJP leader expressed apprehensions that the ruling BJD would destroy the evidence and deprive the family members of Mamita of getting justice. "The BJP is determined to ensure justice to Mamita's family. We would intensify our agitation if the state government does not take stern action against the guilty," she said. The BJP leader alleged that the police shielded Law Minister Pratap



Jena in Mahanga double murder case. They also helped minister Bikram Keshari Arukha in connection with the death of Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soumyaranjan Mohapatra. "People have lost their faith in Odisha Police and they have an impression that the police cannot conduct an impartial inquiry into the Mamita murder case," she added. Meanwhile, the women wing of Congress party staged a protest before the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) and sought an impartial probe into the murder case. Members of the NSUI also blocked the National Highway at Vani Vihar Square and sought Mishra's removal from his post. A five-member delegation of the Mahila Congress led by its state unit president Bandita Parida visited Mahaling and Jharani, the native village of Mamita, and interacted with her family members. Parida pleaded for capital punishment to prime accused Sahu. Senior Congress leader Bhakta Das also alleged the involvement of Mishra in the incident and asked the police to arrest the latter. "Met Mamata Meher's family at Jharani. Due to his close association with the accused, MoS Home should resign and ensure a fair investigation. We find it rather appalling that BJD is citing Lakhimpur Kheri incident now after their stoic silence over the issue," senior Congress legislator Narasingha Mishra said in a tweet. Meanwhile, Tourism Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi came up with a clarification regarding his visit to the school in Mahaling. "Usually ministers visit different places as per the invitations. Therefore, I had visited the school for a programme," Panigrahi said.

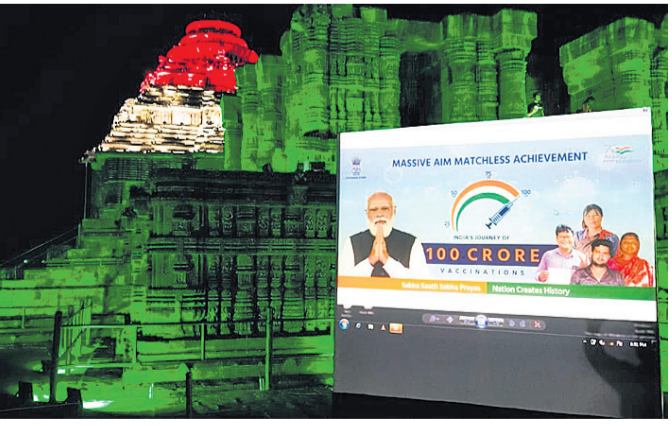
Physical classes resume for Class XI students



The induction of Class-XI students underway at BJB Junior College in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: After remaining suspended for several months, the classroom teaching for Class XI students began Thursday. On the first day, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash reviewed the situation at some higher secondary schools. "Students are keen to attend physical classes. We had resumed classroom teaching for Class X and XII earlier and now we are doing the same for Class XI and VIII. We are monitoring the situation so that we can take decision on reopening of other classes systematically," Dash said. On the first day, Class XI students of Arts, Science and Commerce streams attended counselling sessions. Earlier, the S&ME department had written to the principals of all Higher Secondary Schools (HSS) to strictly follow the standard operating procedures (SOP) and guidelines laid down for reopening of Class XI for the academic year 2021-22. In the letter, S&ME Secretary Satyabrata Sahu wrote that students coming to HSS from far-off places for the first time after admission need to be welcomed and counselled regarding the academic, curricular and co-curricular activities. The fresher shall be informed about the brief history of the institution, its rules and regulations, and the importance of higher secondary classes in a student's career, Sahu said in his letter.

CELEBRATING 1 BN VAX DOSES SUN TEMPLE ILLUMINATED



The illumination is taking place as a mark of respect and gratitude to corona warriors who have fought the battle tirelessly, said a statement from the Ministry of Culture.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: To mark the achievement of 100-crore Covid-19 vaccination milestone, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ministry of Culture Thursday illuminated 100 monuments in the country including the Sun Temple in the colours of the national flag.

According to the Ministry of Culture, the illumination is taking place as a mark of respect and gratitude to corona warriors who have fought the battle tirelessly

in Tamil Nadu; St Francis of Assisi Church in Goa; Khajuraho, the forts of Chittoor and Kumbhalgarh in Rajasthan; the excavated ruins of the ancient Nalanda University in Bihar; and Dholavira in Gujarat. Meanwhile, Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi president and internationally acclaimed sand artist Sudarshan Patnaik also celebrated the occasion of crossing 100 crore vaccination doses milestone by creating sand art at Puri beach Thursday.

GRACEFUL MOVES



Artistes perform during the 54th Kumar Utsav at Puri open-air theatre, Thursday

State to train 30k people to curb road fatalities



GOLDEN HOUR CARE

Around 30,000 people, including those at eateries, small repair shops, fuel stations and police personnel, along the national and state highways will be trained on providing pre-hospital trauma care to mishap victims

The state government has sanctioned ₹2 crore for the noble initiative, a six-month drive beginning November 8 this year

The state aims at repairing all road signage and traffic lights as per the global standards within the next two years

noble initiative, a six-month drive beginning November 8 this year," said Transport Commissioner Arun Bothra at a webinar 'Enforcement innovations for road safety' organised by the International Road Federation's India Chapter (IRF-IC). The senior IPS officer said around 350 black spots are usually identified on national and state highways every year. "The state has deputed a dedicated team, comprising experts, to remove the black spots. This apart, a two-way training and education system has been made mandatory for obtaining a driving licence. The state government has tied up with Red Cross for imparting the training, including for first aid," Bothra added.

He said the state aims at repairing all road signage and traffic lights as per the global standards within the next two years.

According to IRF-IC president Satish Parakh, India accounts for more than 11 per cent of the global road fatalities, mainly due to absence of safety measures. "Many fatalities and serious injuries on Indian roads could have been saved if recommended road safety actions had been implemented. United Nations has set a global 'Decade of Action' plan for road safety which aims to reduce road fatalities by 50 per cent till 2030. Transport Minister Nitin Garkari has set year 2025 as target for reducing road fatalities by 50 per cent," Parakh pointed out.



TRIBUTE TO MARTYRS

The 62nd Police Commemoration Day being observed at the headquarters of Odisha police in Cuttack, Thursday

OP PHOTO

2 yrs on, elderly couple's murder still a mystery

Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi says 30% murder cases across the world could not be solved for one reason or other

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 21: The Commissionerate Police is yet to solve the murder mystery of an elderly couple at Beleswar New Colony in Madhupatna area here even though nearly two years have elapsed to the incident.

Some unknown miscreants had killed Srinath Samal and Bidyutlata Samal in their residence December 13, 2019. Initially, police suspected that the miscreants might have killed the couple to rob their valuables.

However, it was found that the miscreants did not make away with the ornaments and cash kept in a cupboard at the couple's house.

Soon, the investigating officers turned their attention to past enmity angle to the murder case. They suspected that the couple was killed over dispute regarding their ancestral property at Jajpur.

Sources in the Commissionerate Police had also claimed that the Samals were involved in money lending business which could have been the reason behind the murder.

The police had interrogated several people in the locality and elsewhere to get clues on the murder case but all were in vain.

"The police had tracked the mobile phones of several people in the locality as part of their investigation. However, they are yet to solve the case. No one is residing in the couple's house now. Their children are staying outside Cuttack," said a local.

Many locals are still unwilling to say anything about the incident. "A sense of fear is still gripping us. The police could not solve the case despite utilising modern tech-



File photo of deceased Srinath Samal and Bidyutlata Samal

nologies," said Subhprakash Mahapatra, another local.

Lawyer Gyan Ranjan Mohanty said common people are slowly losing faith in police as the latter have failed to solve many sensational cases. "We can blame police for their inefficiency to solve the couple's murder case and arrest the accused," he added.

When contacted, Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi said, "At least 30 per cent murder cases across the world could

not be solved for one reason or other. Even, investigating officers were unable to collect evidence in 25 per cent murder cases in Scotland. Policemen cannot solve all cases. They are not god. There are many instances when the murder accused were nabbed many years after they committed the crimes."

Priyadarshi further said that the investigation into the couple's murder is still on and he hopes that the incident would be solved in the near future.

City whiz kid among 50 national winners

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: Maanav Prusty, a 10-year-old student from the state Capital, has been adjudged as one of the top 50 winners of 'WhiteHat Jr Swasth Bharat Tech Champs'.

The young tech genius has received national recognition for developing an app 'Make It Green' that aims to spread awareness about various environmental issues. The initiative was launched as part of a national level programme 'Dettol Banega Swasth India' initiated by Reckitt, a leading global consumer health and hygiene company. More than 10,700 students in the age-group of 6-18 years from more than 700 cities participated in the event.

The winners explored ideas like waste management, Covid care and vaccination, community and personal health, mental health and menstruation. They were awarded a scholarship of ₹50,000 each by Reckitt with the opportunity to engage with Superstar Amitabh Bachchan.

2 hurt in group attack

Bhubaneswar: Two youths sustained severe injuries after a group of around 20 people attacked them with sharp weapons at CRP Square here Thursday. One of the injured youth was identified as Binay Acharya while the identity of the other is yet to be ascertained. Sources claimed that the accused, who belong to Unit-VIII area, had earlier engaged in a heated argument with some youths of the CRP area over a road accident. Subsequently, the accused persons reached near Laxmi Puja Mandap area near CRP Square and started ransacking the Mandap. The miscreants attacked the injured when they tried to resist them. The injured were rushed to Capital hospital for treatment. Police have started an investigation into the matter.

MANISH ANURAG MURDER CASE Polygraph test for accused



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: The Commissionerate Police has decided to go for polygraph test to demystify the death of Manish Anurag, son of senior journalist Navin Das, as the smokescreen keeps getting thicker due to mismatch in the statement of the three accused.

The three accused individuals - Amrit Pritam Biswal, Dinesh Kumar Mohapatra and Mrutyunjay Mishra - were brought on a 4-day remand by the Infocity police here for interrogation over different aspects of the incident including payment of hotel bill on the out-

skirts of the City.

Speaking to media, Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police Umashankar Dash revealed that the accused will be brought from Jharpada jail again for the test due to mismatch in their statements during the interrogation.

Meanwhile, the Commissionerate Police also received the post mortem report of Manish from the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) authorities, and informed the mourning family about the same. Sources in the police claimed that the investigating officials would discuss findings of the autopsy report with the doctors, seeking some clarifications.

Spl expo on Azad Hind Fauj at State Museum

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of Azad Hind Fauj foundation day and as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Odisha State Museum here organised an exhibition on pamphlets and poster of Netaji's National army Thursday. The exhibition was inaugurated by Suresh Chandra Dalai, Secretary of Odia Language, Literature and Culture department. The pamphlets were primarily distributed under the instruction of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose during war. These pamphlets carried signature of 'Azad Hindustan' and were appealing to fellow Indian in several languages to join the cause of Independence said Bhagyalipi Malla, director of the museum. These pamphlets and posters included propaganda cartoons depicting Indians kicked by Britishers.

Above 500 cases for 3rd consecutive day

Khurda district recorded the highest number of new cases at 254, accounting for almost 49 per cent of the fresh infections, followed by 66 in Cuttack

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: Odisha Thursday registered more than 500 fresh Covid-19 cases for the third consecutive day.

The state's coronavirus tally rose to 10,37,056 as 524 more people, including 82 children, tested positive for the infection; while two fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 8,298, a Health department official said.

The coastal state had registered 559 cases Wednesday, 556 Tuesday and 340 Monday. The infection rate in the 0-18 age group stood at 15.64 per cent, higher than 12.70 per cent Wednesday.

As many as 308 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 216 infections were detected during contact tracing, the Health official said, adding that the daily test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 0.74 per cent.

Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded the highest number of new cases at 254, accounting for almost 49 per cent of the fresh infections, followed by 66 in Cuttack. Six districts did not register any new case. The fresh fatalities were recorded in Khurda and Sundargarh. Fifty-three patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

Odisha now has 4,856 active cases, while 10,23,849 people have recovered from the disease to date, including 451 Wednesday.

The state has thus far tested over 2.13 crore samples for Covid-19, including 69,919 Wednesday, he said, adding that the cumulative positivity rate stood at 4.86 per cent. The coastal state has fully vaccinated over 1.02 crore people to date.



City bizmen pin hope on Diwali sales

Bhubaneswar: Traders of the state Capital got a sigh of relief as the extended night curfew hours imposed ahead of the festive season came to an end Thursday.

In a bid to check the spread of Covid during the festive season, the Odisha government had decided to extend the duration of the night curfew in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack by two hours. Earlier, the night curfew used to be from 10pm to 5am. However, it was extended to 8pm to 5am from October 11 to 20.

While the curtailed hours meant to ensure no mass gatherings at Durga Pandals, malls and restaurants, it also meant limited business hours for the traders. "Much of our sales happen during this one week of Durga Puja. However, yet another year has passed where we could not make any profit as compared to normal years," said Somnath Sahoo, an electrical appliance dealer here at Bomikhal. However, traders are hopeful for

a boost in business with the coming Diwali season. "We see about 20-25 per cent increase in our sales during Diwali. If no further restrictions are imposed, we can expect to make up our losses which we have suffered during the lockdowns," said Sambit Nanda, an automobiles dealer here at Satya Nagar.

Meanwhile, the twin city authorities have put a ban on the sale and use of firecrackers across the state for the entire month. District and municipal administrations have been authorised to impose restrictions on the entry of devotees to places of worship depending on the local conditions. "The fear of Covid still looms large and we cannot be complacent. There has been no drop of cases in state Capital and daily cases have hovered between 200-300 ranges. If people do not comply with Covid norms, we will be forced to issue fresh orders that may impose further restrictions," said a BMC official.

MATTER OF FAITH



Elderly women perform the Rai-Damodar puja on the first day of holy month of Kartika in Puri, Thursday

OP PHOTO

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BOLANGIR BANDH HITS NORMAL LIFE



AGENCIES

Bolangir, Oct 21: Normal life was affected in Bolangir district Thursday due to a bandh called by opposition BJP over the murder of a 24-year-old teacher. Business establishments remained closed and a few vehicles plied on the roads in Bolangir town due to the 12-hour bandh that began at 6 am. A similar bandh was observed Wednesday in Kalahandi district, where the body of the woman who hailed from Bolangir was found. The saffron party demanded the resignation of Dibya Shankar Mishra, Minister of State, Home, and a CBI inquiry into the incident.

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Mahila Morcha activists of BJP under the leadership of Bolangir MP Sangeeta Kumari Singhdeo staged a demonstration before the SP office and burnt an effigy of the minister

stration before the office of the Superintendent of Police and burnt an effigy of Mishra.

The saffron party's district president Sibaji Mohanty demanded that Mishra be dismissed due to his close association with the main accused. Agitations were held in other parts of the state including Bhubaneswar. A BJP delegation led by its state general secretary

Lekhashree Samantsingar submitted a memorandum to the Odisha Human Rights Commission demanding a thorough probe into the incident. The woman, who hailed from Jharni village in Turekela block of Bolangir district, was working as a teacher in a school in Mahaling in Kalahandi district.

As per the police, the accused, who was the president of the managing committee of the school, had asked the deceased to come to the educational institution for some official work October 8. He had given her a lift in his car from Chandotara in Bolangir district, following which she was untraceable.

The woman's family filed a police complaint after failing to contact her over the phone. Her half-burnt and mutilated body was later found in a pit on the school premises Tuesday, following which the accused was nabbed.

Though the accused claimed he had thrown the teacher's mobile phone into the pit, it is yet to be found. Police said that the mobile phone might contain some vital evidence. Northern Range DIG Deepak Kumar, who visited the spot along with Bolangir SP Kusalkar Nitin Dagud Thursday, had earlier said that the accused had killed the woman as she had threatened to expose his extra-marital relationships.



Youths taking part in a training programme on Taekwondo on Raghunarayana ground at Markona in Balasore, Thursday

OP PHOTO

9 girls being trafficked to AP rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 21: As many as nine girls including six minors were rescued by the Plant Site police from the local bus stand here in Sundargarh district while they were being trafficked to work as migrant labourers in Andhra Pradesh Wednesday night.

The Plant Site police have also detained two middlemen in this connection. Later, the nine rescued girls were handed over to their respective families.

According to an official, a group



of girls was spotted at Rourkela bus stand along with two young men late Wednesday night. They were waiting to board a bus for

Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. The middlemen had promised them to provide jobs at a prawn factory in the neighbouring state.

Plant Site police were carrying out routine patrolling near the bus stand when certain activities of the middlemen raised suspicion. After enquiry, it was ascertained that the girls were to be trafficked.

The girls were first taken to the police station for their safety. All of them including the minors belong to Bonai and Koida. A detailed probe into the incident is underway, the official informed.

Girl alleges sexual abuse by father

ROURKELA: Police detained a man here after his 15-year-old daughter alleged that he was sexually abusing her, a senior police officer said. In a written complaint to police, the girl has accused her father of sexually abusing her for the past seven months. Everything was happening in the knowledge of her mother, she has alleged. Her father works as a doctor in a private hospital in Rourkela. The girl was staying at one of her friend's house for the last two days. She was kept at the Rourkela Government Hospital for medical examination.

Community participation brings in development



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 21: A partnership between rural communities and government institutions has ushered in integrated development in a nondescript village of Sambalpur district, a report said.

The partnership has brought in visible changes in the lives of villagers by providing them with livelihood opportunities and ushered in green cover on a hill near the village that was once bereft of any trees. The villagers have become self-reliant by involving themselves in government schemes and projects.

Reports said the state government is implementing various plans for the financial and social growth of women and rural communities. The schemes are being implemented in active partnership of various de-

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project adopted Salesingh village in 2018 to bring in changes in the lives and livelihood of people and usher in green cover on Sugulia Sika hill that had lost its greenery

partments of the state government and the rural communities.

The successful implementation of the partnership between the rural communities and the government departments has been witnessed in Salesingh village under Maneswar block of Sambalpur district.

Sources said the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP) adopted this village in 2018 with an aim to bring in changes in the lives and livelihood of people and usher in green cover on Sugulia Sika hill that had lost its greenery.

The going was tough but with a will to triumph the target has been achieved. The hill which was once devoid of any trees has turned green while most of the villagers have been enrolled in various plans are reaping the benefits of the scheme.

The villagers who were earlier without any work have been earning for their families by taking up mushroom cultivation, fish farming, poultry and farm pond excavation under poverty alleviation scheme MGN-REGS. Village women Runu Mallik, Jyoti Seth said this has helped them achieve financial and social growth

and lead a better life.

Earlier, they had to face innumerable hurdles in managing their families. The hill near their village does not have any trees. However, their good days came after the forest department adopted their village. Three years back, forest officials explained to them about the benefits of various welfare schemes.

Later, fisheries, animal husbandry departments, Krushi Vigyan Kendra, Mission Shakti and State Bank of India imparted their training on various livelihood programmes.

A majority of the families joined the programme and have started reaping the benefits of the same. Around 42 families are involved in poultry while five self-help groups have been formed with provision of financial assistance.

Similarly, members of the Shibani SHG, involved in fish farming, are earning around Rs 2.5 lakhs from the cultivation. This has boosted their confidence and now they are no longer facing problems in earning

their livelihood.

The hill which had turned into a scrub forest now abounds with green cover. The forest department has spent over Rs 20 lakh in planting trees on the hill during last three years. The members of the forest protection committee are looking after its upkeep and protection.

Fruit saplings like guava, Jamun and Amla have been planted on 32 acres of the hill while trees have been planted on six hectares to meet the requirement of fodder and firewood of the villagers. The villagers confirmed their development stating that growth will be accelerated in the village if other government institutions join hands with them.

When contacted, B Nilambar, divisional forest officer, Sambalpur said various programmes have been adopted for the social and economic development of the villagers. The villagers should come forward and involve themselves in the government programmes to reap the benefits of the schemes, he added.



Winged guests throng Chilika ahead of winter



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balugaon, Oct 21: With the winter season yet to arrive this year, a number of migratory birds have already flocked to Chilika lake. Starting from the second week of October till Wednesday, more than 22,000 birds belonging to 62 distinct species have thronged the Ramsar site in the first phase. This was informed Thursday by a senior official of Balugaon Wildlife division.

According to sources from the department, as many as 5,127 migratory

birds belonging to 55 different species have already arrived at Nalabana.

Out of the total number, 300 Wood Sandpipers and Eurasian Wigeons, 280 Plovers, 250 Northern Pintails, 200 Shovelers, 140 Common Coots, 120 Common Red Storks and 100 Golden Flamingoes were identified. Several migratory birds were also seen in Tangi, Satapada, Chilika and Rambha ranges, the official stated.

The region also witnessed arrival of over 10,000 inland birds so far.

Starting from the second week of October till Wednesday, more than 22,000 birds belonging to 62 distinct species have thronged the Ramsar site in the first phase

As many as 5,127 migratory birds belonging to 55 different species have already arrived at Nalabana

The region also witnessed arrival of over 10,000 inland birds so far

Usually, the birds of passage come to Chilika by the beginning of October every year. Despite delay in onset of winter, the winged visitors have already

reached the lagoon this year. The birds prefer to stay in Nalabana and Mangalajodi under Tangi range, the official added. The birds come from distant places like Siberia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, America and Canada, including Ladakh in India.

In view of bird hunters remaining active during this season, Balugaon Wildlife division has taken certain proactive measures. At least 21 camps have been set up along with a mobile squad for the purpose of surveillance in the lake region to protect the migratory birds from poachers.

Tangi range has the maximum number of 11 camps for effective vigil on illegal hunting activities. Balugaon range has four camps at Nalabana, Satapada has two, Rambha two and Chilika one.

Water routes will be covered by motorised boats. The mobile squad will shuttle on the land route between Balugaon and Tangi and raid different hotels and dhabas randomly, ACF Sarat Mishra said.

As per a census conducted last year, as many as 12,42,000 migratory birds belonging to 190 different species had come to Chilika Lake and its nearby areas. Seven criminal cases were registered against 15 bird hunters and more than 50 carcasses were seized from their possession along with arrest of the offenders, the ACF expressed.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO.-I, BERHAMPUR
Phone/Fax: (0680) 2233683, e-mail: eernb1_bam@yahoo.com

"e"-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. E.E. (R&B) Divn. No. 1 Bam. 42/2021-22
Lr. No. 9322 Dated: 18.10.2021

Name of Work : Electrical Work
No. of Works : 4 (Four) Nos.
Estimated Cost : Approximately Rs.9.58 to Rs.19.15 lakh
Period of Completion : Twelve Calendar Months
Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 10.00 hours of 26.10.2021 to 16.00 hours of 05.11.2021
Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Upto 16.00 hours of 05.11.2021

Name and address of the : Executive Engineer, Ganjam
Officer Inviting Bid : (R&B) Division No. I, Berhampur
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
Ganjam (R&B) Division No. I, Berhampur
OIPR-34109/11/0007/2122

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BHADRAK (R&B) DIVISION
e-mail: bhadrakrnbdivision@gmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. EE (R&B) BDK-22/2021-22
No.B-494:- No.4325/ Dt.11.10.2021

1. Nature of work	: Road and Building works
2. Number of works	: 9 (Nine) Nos. of Road, Building works
3. Amount put to tender	: Rs.39,14,325/-, 38,93,089/-, 39,14,325/-, 37,81,991/-, 39,63,416/-, 38,96,251/-, 37,73,515/-, 37,82,801/-, 7,27,011/-
4. Class of contractor	: 'D', 'C', 'B'
5. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: Dt.28.10.2021 at 10.00 A.M.
6. Last date / time of receipt of bid in the portal	: Dt.03.11.2021 upto 05.00 P.M.
7. Date of opening of bid	: Dt.05.11.2021 at 11.30 A.M.
8. Name & address of the office inviting bid	: Superintending Engineer, Bhadrak (R&B) Division
9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in." All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.	

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Jagannath Road, At/P.O./Dist.: Dhenkanal For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **UCO Bank** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) of SARFAESI Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrower/guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest at contractual rate together with incidental expenses & costs within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **UCO Bank** for an amount plus applicable interest, cost & charges thereon.

Name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand Notice/ Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
Borrower: Mr. Bharat Kumar Debata, S/o. Sh. Natabar Debata, At: Meena Bazaar, Dist.- Dhenkanal, Odisha. Guarantor: Smt. Pravati Debata, W/o. Mr. Bharat Kumar Debata, At: Meena Bazaar, Dist.- Dhenkanal, Odisha. Mr. Debasish Debata, S/o. Mr. Bharat Kumar Debata, At: Meena Bazaar, Dist.- Dhenkanal, Odisha	11,06,295.46 as on 31.03.2021 + Interest + Expenses thereon	30.06.2021 / 16.10.2021	All that part and parcel of the immovable property consisting of land and building in the name of Mr. Bharat Kumar Debata, S/o. Natabar Debata, Khata No. 2180, Mouza: Dhenkanal Town, Tahsil: Dhenkanal, Plot No. 4987/9410, Area: 0.036 Dec., Dist.- Dhenkanal

Place: Dhenkanal, Date: 21.10.2021 **Authorised Officer, UCO Bank**

Let us offer our work to the Divine; this is the sure means of progressing. Go and prepare yourself and the best preparation is to be useful to the Divine's work.

THE MOTHER



Managing the China threat

When US President Bill Clinton backed China's accession to the World Trade Organisation, he suggested that the move would spark profound changes "from the inside out." By joining the WTO, China would not simply be agreeing to import more American products; it would be "agreeing to import one of democracy's most cherished values, economic freedom." And "the more China liberalises its economy," Clinton predicted, "the more fully it will liberate the potential of its people."

Reality has turned out to be far more complicated. The notion that free trade leads inexorably to democracy did not begin with Clinton. His predecessor, George H W Bush, operated under the same assumption: "No nation on Earth has discovered a way to import the world's goods and services while stopping foreign ideas at the border."

Two decades after China's WTO accession in 2001, its economy has reached the expected milestones. But it is nowhere near becoming a democracy, and American leaders have not only lost confidence in the presumed relationship between economic and political freedom, but now fear that Western democracy is vulnerable to Chinese influence.

As then-US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned last year, the free world should "change China, or China will change us." Likewise, following last summer's G7 summit, US President Joe Biden defined the struggle between Western democracies, led by the US, and China as "a contest with autocratic governments around the world." In an echo of Cold War logic, the assumption now seems to be that there is room for only one political system in town.

To some extent, China seems to subscribe to a similar worldview. It views Western efforts to uphold human rights as a direct threat to its domestic political stability. China's national sovereignty and "national dignity" come first.

In any case, the US should be careful what it wishes for. China is a global power, with an economy that has fueled growth and prosperity worldwide. If it were to experience a profound political transformation, the process might not be particularly peaceful, in which case the consequences would reverberate globally. Of course, such a transformation will never come if the Communist Party of China can help it. The CPC has obliterated all such efforts, including the New Citizens' Movement, headed by figures like the late intellectual Liu Xiaobo, who won the Nobel Peace Prize while in prison for promoting a Tiananmen charter. In 1989, Liu famously kept vigil to protect protesters at Tiananmen Square from another CPC action aimed at crushing a pro-democracy movement.

As uncomfortable as it may be for Westerners to admit, the CPC has successfully led China through one crisis after another: the 2002-03 SARS epidemic, the 2008 global financial meltdown, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Of course, other Asian states that are not authoritarian also managed these crises well. Still, given China's size and economic weight, these episodes could have been far more destabilizing than they were.

This is not to say that no changes to China's political system would be positive. Nor is it to suggest that the CPC will always manage to prevent change, or manage a crisis well (as its mishandling of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic suggests). Still, political systems are inherently dynamic and open to evolution. China's economic success – which belies Max Weber's assessment that Confucian cultures were incompatible with capitalism – is proof of that.

So far, the CPC has managed to build a version of capitalism that aligns with – and advances – its priorities, including the persistence of its political monopoly. Economic growth and development have given the one-party regime what the late political scientist Samuel Huntington called "performance legitimacy." But this could turn out to be the CPC's downfall, if China faces a sharp enough economic slump.

Even continued economic success could prove problematic for the CPC. Clinton and Bush were not totally off-base in their belief that economic liberalisation can weaken a dictatorship: that is what happened to Francisco Franco's regime in Spain. Increased prosperity and exposure to the outside world can breed resentment in authoritarian countries. That is why the CPC continues to resist full liberalisation and protect the state sector, despite high costs. It is also a major reason why the Party has ramped up its investment in internal security, with annual spending more than tripling since 2007. In 2017, China's spending on internal security stood at CN¥1.24 trillion (\$196 billion), higher by about CN¥20 billion than its spending on military defence.

All this investment makes a revolution highly unlikely. Even dictatorships without such resources – think of Cuba or Iran – have often proved highly resilient. And even if, say, an internal coup occurred in China, there is little reason to think that it would bring anything close to Western-style democracy.

Russia did not become such a democracy after the collapse of the Soviet Union; on the contrary, President Vladimir Putin's tenure has proven that authoritarian forces can easily survive "democratic transitions." Russia's experience (and enduring imperial ambitions) also puts the lie to the notion that regime change would spur China to stop challenging the US and its allies.

That challenge must be taken seriously. By advancing his imperial designs in East Asia, Chinese President Xi Jinping has virtually abandoned China's long-touted promise of a "peaceful rise." He has also established a personality-driven neo-Maoist dictatorship. What the US does not do to mitigate the security threat posed by China is as important as what it does. The Biden administration should continue building on recent progress in creating collective security arrangements, such as the AUKUS pact with the United Kingdom and Australia and the so-called Quad with Australia, India, and Japan. What it should not do is perpetuate a Cold War-style zero-sum game aimed at forcing regime change in China.

The writer, a former Israeli Foreign Minister, is Vice President of the Toledo International Center for Peace.

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Shlomo Ben-ami

Two decades after China's WTO accession in 2001, its economy has reached the expected milestones. But it is nowhere near becoming a democracy



Rajat Ray

AFTER INDEPENDENCE, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU DID NOT TAMPER WITH THE EXISTING ARCHITECTURE. NEHRU'S VISION OF A CONTEMPORARY CITY, ONE THAT UNITED SOCIAL CLASSES AND ACCEPTED MODERNITY, WAS CHANDIGARH

It would not be out of line to see New Delhi as a physical representation of colonial India. The body of the city was laid out with the magnificent Viceregal Palace set in a park on the hill with two voluminous secretarial blocks on its immediate flanks. These formed the monumental 'Capitol' or the 'head' on the western end of a long avenue running like a spine. Interestingly at the opposite end of the avenue on the east are an assembly of smaller palaces of the kings of the Indian princely states, who were subjugated to the crown. These edifices were arranged in a multi-layered ring around a sprawling hexagonal lawn in the middle, called the 'Princes' Park. Eventually in the centre of that hexagon a towering statue of King George V was placed within the cupola already standing tall in anticipation. This completed the Princes Park as a picture of surrender of the Indian rulers to the King of England standing at the focal centre of a vast monument of victory.

That widest avenue of the city, a ceremonial showpiece boulevard with its tree-lined landscape, acted as the central axial spine about which the city was spread out symmetrically to the North and the South. This axis represented power; military troops paraded up and down this place and a band would perform 'beating the retreat' in front of the Capitol. Before the statue was placed in the Cupola, on this axis was erected the all-India War Memorial Arch. This grand monument of "remembrance" of the soldiers killed in the World War I is now the India Gate. Farther on the axis, near the Viceregal lodge, stood the column commemorating the coronation of George V, in whose name the avenue was called the Kingsway. Perpendicular to the Kingsway intersecting it right in the middle was laid the other axis called Queensway presumably honouring Queen Victoria's memory. This axis connected the Connaught Circus Market in the north, the functioning symbol of 'trade and commerce'; and the proposed New Delhi Cathedral in the south, sym-



Some philosophically-oriented architects and practicing architects have been fighting losing battles protesting against Central Vista and other changes in historical structures. They keep borrowing weaponry from environmentalists and lawyers, but are not able to locate or reach specific targets

bolising 'religion'; two arms of the Victorian colonial grip. Such disposition would not be accidental but could only be inspired by the ideology of the Empire.

If this was one monumental representation of the substance of colonial India, concurrently there was yet another within the same field and in fact at the heart of it. At the crossing of these two axes is 'Oriental' India with its four pillars. Documents and Records, Scriptures and Knowledge, Archaeology and History and Ethnography and Culture – the lenses through which the colony was defined, in the form of the four oriental institutions: the Archive, the Library, the Museum and the Theatre, the respective four corners created by the intersection. With all that the Kingsway would be the 'Central Vista' from the imperial perspective.

The layperson does not have access to structural readings and may not understand the symbolic meaning of European neo-classical architecture to denigrate or appreciate it. The less read in this area, may, however, experience the grandeur and relate to the beauty of good architecture.

After Independence, the Jawaharlal Nehru-led government did not tamper with the existing architecture. Nehru's vision of a contemporary city, one that united social classes and accepted modernity was Chandigarh. A symbol of new India, the Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier implemented a modern city in Chandigarh according to Nehru's vision.

But, the new 'Central Vista Redevelopment', does not belong to this class. It's a quick and cheaper alternative of making a new capital. Not quite any big vision, it is a collection of a number of large and small projects. A new Parliament off the axis, and new government office buildings on the axis, each approximately the same size of the new Parliament in perimeter, one convention centre, two new very large adaptive, reuse projects, make the new Central Vista core. From the North Block and the South Block, ministers and officers are released from their huddle and lined up along the Raj Path in larger new blocks, making it into a modernised "Mantri & Babu Path". This is celebrating the legacy of post-Independence governance and pampering the bureaucracy in

service of the State. This is accomplished by demolishing those houses of History and Culture and Records in the centre, and vestiges of the 'orientalist project' are removed in the process. This echoes the current regime's tendency to rewrite the history of India by shuffling both fact and evidence. Collections of the museum that would be demolished will be taken to the vacated North and South blocks and rearranged.

We don't know the proportion of the contribution of the client and the architects in determining this configuration. While Lutyens and company could not stick to their deadline of four years that rolled into two decades, architects in this case have to meet deadlines; they have to be champions of delivery. They are not George's Lutyens or Nehru's Le Corbusier. They may not even have been given a totally free hand, but have taken up this unprecedented challenge. While pushing the latest technology to the forefront, they appear to have intelligently reduced the daunting task of making designs, working, drawing and construction to a reasonably comfortable level by creating one clean block that is repeated twelve times, and replicating a circle into a triangle by stretching corners. There goes a victory against fancy imagination!

Some philosophically-oriented architects and some practicing architects have been fighting losing battles protesting against Central Vista and other changes in historical structures. They keep borrowing weaponry from environmentalists and lawyers, but are not able to locate or reach specific targets. So, New Delhi may give in and go the way the present government wishes. But will Lutyens' Delhi, the Delhi that British architect Edwin Landseer Lutyens built, become any other architects' Delhi?

The writer is a professor at the University School of Architecture and Planning, Indraprastha University, Delhi.

THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM AIRCRAFT CARRIER

A reality check for Indian Navy

Much newsprint has been devoted to a naval exercise undertaken between the USA and India. The exercise was designated a two day "passage exercise", and, arguably contributed to strengthening bilateral cooperation and military coordination.

Apart from the myriad advantages accrued, the exercise also threw up a somewhat worrying aspect, i.e. the stark disparity in the two naval forces participating. While the US Navy fielded a full 'Aircraft Carrier Strike Group' with USS Ronald Reagan, India was represented by two ships and shore based aircraft, and aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

Earlier, in March this year, the two navies had undertaken a similar exercise. Then too, while the US Navy had a full carrier strike group participating, India sent a single ship and shore-based aircraft.

Apart from these bilateral exercises, the Indian Navy also took part in a French Navy led multi-lateral exercise named La Perouse in April, where two ships and shore-based aircraft were deployed, though in this instance other participating nations did not field an aircraft carrier. Evidently, with its sole aircraft

carrier being under maintenance, the Indian Navy is constrained in operating across all dimensions at sea, including during such exercises that bear the potential for valuable lessons and experience to be gleaned. Exacerbating the situation further is the fact that given the size and complexities of a large ship like an aircraft carrier, its maintenance durations are likely to be of an extended nature.

Consequently, the naval fleet remains hamstrung in undertaking operations related to maritime air power in such periods. Orchestrated deployment of shore-based aircraft over the seas is unlikely to fructify or indeed be available during a live conflict, where there will be concurrent requirement of air operations on land as well.

Clearly, here and now air capability at sea will have to manifest from the sea itself. This operational reality has motivated all significant navies of the world to include aircraft carriers in their forces levels.

Military experts across the world are unanimous that aircraft carrier operations are a skill learnt and perfected through sustained practice and long experience. This is borne out by the fact that China, despite

having inducted its first aircraft carrier nearly a decade back, is still figuring out carrier operations.

The UK, with its return to being an aircraft carrier navy, has also been dependent on USA to assist in re-learning the ropes of such operations. Does a long lay-off period for the Indian carrier then not have an effect on India's ability to protect its interests at sea?

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently during his visit to Kochi in end June to review the progress of construction of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier or IAC, had highlighted the historical fact that all major powers in the world have boasted powerful navies. In the present day, as evident from China's focus on building aircraft carriers and UK's U-turn on doing away with its carriers, it is clear that any navy will need to have such capability if it hopes to be a serious contender on the global or even regional stage.

While the minister's pronouncement indicates a clear understanding about this aspect within the government, ancillary agencies and organisations appear to be stuck in a state of flux. The abysmally slow progress on the IAC project is a case in point.

In case the ship had been built and delivered in a timely manner, the Navy would have been able to keep one of the two ships operationally available.

Whatever be the past, unless the relevant agencies wake up and smell the coffee at least at this point, the Indian Navy is staring at a bleak operational capability for the near future.

A reality check is long overdue and the problem is fast approaching critical mass. An attitude of business-as-usual is unlikely to get the second ship inducted any time soon. Every possible effort needs to be channelised into the project, including working round the clock, imposition of stringent penalties on every source of delay, daily monitoring at the PMO itself, etc. India needs to act now lest we are left behind because China is acting with a clear aim.

We also need to think about what lies in the future – 15 to 20 years down the road. What happens when the existing carrier gets de-inducted? Given the long lead time to build carriers, how will India retain her edge as a major naval power? Well, the answer is obvious.

IAN5

WISDOM CORNER

- All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them. **WALT DISNEY**
- Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts. **WINSTON CHURCHILL**
- I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination. **JIMMY DEAN**

LOL

Ignore the 'H'

An English teacher told his students that when pronouncing a word beginning with the letter "H" they should ignore the "H" as in hour, honor, and honest. That day when leaving for class, he left a note for his assistant, "Please



heat my rice for me." When the teacher returned to his office, he met an empty bowl. He asked the assistant, "Where is my food?" The assistant replied, "You said I should heat the rice for you, but you also instructed us to ignore the 'H'."

Fuel of the future

Sir, The last two years have witnessed increased momentum for green hydrogen, with many countries around the world implementing national hydrogen strategies. India is moving ahead with its hydrogen policy too. Green hydrogen is being hailed as a potential miracle fuel that could help India's polluting industries to reduce carbon emissions. The environmental impact of using green hydrogen is anticipated to be tremendously positive. Hydrogen, a zero-carbon fuel and a promising alternate to fossil fuel, is found abundantly and gives off no emissions. It can make a real contribution to the fight against climate change. Though we have various renewable energy sources, the perfect one to use for vehicles is hydrogen. Hydrogen, when used in a fuel cell, the only exhaust it emits is mere clean water. A big advantage of hydrogen and fuel cells is that the cycle is fully sustainable. It exhibits high energy yield, renewable, non-toxic, and is environmentally friendly. It is a much safer choice compared to other fuel sources. Hydrogen-based technologies will inevitably involve risks associated with possible hazardous situations posing threats to safety, public health, or the environment. Green hydrogen may be ideal for the future but there are still lots of problems to overcome.

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Tackling calamities

Sir, Torrential rains have caused large-scale destruction in parts of north India and coastal areas of western India. Though the southwest monsoon is withdrawing from the country, unpredictable rain continues to cause destruction and disrupt normal life. Floods in Uttarakhand and torrential downpour in Kerala caused widespread destruction and great loss of lives. Unscientific constructions, deforestation, quarrying and other land uses adversely affect ecology. Expert committees had warned of the consequences of causing damage to ecologically sensitive areas, but they were ignored and now people are paying a heavy price for it. Infrastructure developments in the Himalayas and the Western Ghats must be carried out only in a scientific and meticulous way. Given that more extreme weather events are likely to occur in future, urgent measures must be taken to deal with them. Long-term measures must be taken to prevent climate-related disasters. There must be substantial investment in disaster management system. All development activities in hilly regions and ecologically sensitive areas must be restricted and regulated.

Venu GS, KOLLAM

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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FOREST PROTECTION WITH 'THENGAPALI'

217 villages await certificates on community forest rights

UPSET OVER NEGLIGENCE, TRIBALS TO PROTEST AT COLLECTORATE TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Oct 21: Tribals in 217 villages under Ranpur block of Nayagarh district have set an example in the matter of forest conservation and protection. However, they alleged the state government has neglected them in the matter of their rights on forests and its resources. They alleged that they had been deprived of certificates on community forests rights.

People of these villages have decided to stage protests at the collectorate Friday over the issue.

"As long as we are not assured of certificates on community forest rights, we will be carrying out protests," they fumed.

In Ranpur area, people of these villages have long been protecting forests with practice of thengapali (guarding forests with lathis in hand).

They have formed a community forest resources management committee (CFRMC) to for-

In Ranpur area, people of these villages have long been protecting forests by forming a community forest resources management committee. They also reclaim the forestlands that they have been protecting for generations

mally reclaim the forest lands that they have been protecting for generations. They have sought ownership of community forest resources (CFR) under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

They believe this will empower them with rights for protection, regeneration, conservation and management of forest resources.

They observed that due to their efforts, forests in thousands of

hectares had been protected and some forests were regenerated.

Arakshita Sahu, secretary of Maninag Jungle Surakhya Parishad, said out of 217 village community forests, 24 villages in Balabhadrapur, Talkani, Kulasar, Surukabadi and Bajrakot panchayats have rights to get certificate on rights and ownership of community forest resources.

"A division level committee has granted its approval for certificates in this regard. But certificates are not being issued by the forest department," he added.

Hence, people of 217 villages have decided to stage agitation near the Collector's office.

Tribals have demarcated the traditional boundary of forests and demanded rights over community forest resources.

They said their ancestors had been protecting forests. And they have a right to continue with the legacy in the forest conservation, they said.



INDUCTION CEREMONY



With colleges reopening after Covid restrictions were eased, a fresher introduces herself at the induction ceremony at Panchayat Higher Secondary School in Bargharh, Thursday

36 WOMEN TO BE ELECTED IN GANJAM

ZP chief reserved for women after 24 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Oct 21: As many as 36 women will be elected to Ganjam Zilla Parishad which is of immense political significance in the three-tier panchayat elections.

The election allows candidates to contest as zone members for the Zilla Parishad in their respective party symbols. Ganjam has 69 Zilla Parishad zones—the highest in the state. However, the post of chairperson has been reserved for unreserved or general category women 24 years after the formation of Zilla Parishad in the district.

This has been clarified in the government notification published for 2022 election. The publication of the notification has sent the chatters abuzz as to which party will project whom for the post of chairperson in this election.

The hectic parley among various political parties has heated up the politics in the district.



Sources said the new Zilla Parishad was formed four decades after the abolition of Ganjam Zilla Board. This happened when Biju Patnaik led Janata Dal ruled the state in 1997. In the first election, the post of chairperson of Zilla Parishad was reserved for women. Renubala Pradhan, daughter of late CPI leader Goura Chandra Pradhan, was elected to the Zilla Parishad as a Janata Dal candidate from one of the zones under Digapahandi Assembly segment.

The party lacked majority to make its candidate as the chairperson of Zilla Parishad. However, the late CPI leader tried to unite all parties to make his daughter the chairperson of Ganjam Zilla Parishad.

He succeeded in his efforts in forming a political coalition comprising elected members representing the Communist, BJP and Janata Dal in the district. The late CPI leader also succeeded in bringing Narayan Sahu, a former MLA of Khallikote, who had won as an independent under the coalition.

As per the arrangement, Renubala was appointed as the chairperson while Dharakote queen Shanti Devi representing the BJP was appointed as the deputy chairperson of the Zilla Parishad.

The coalition completed its five-year tenure in the Zilla Parishad. Later, in 2002, 2007, 2012 and 2017 elections, male candidates representing the ruling Biju Janata Dal were appointed as the chairperson of

Zilla Parishad. Starting from 1997, 24 years later the post of the chairperson of the Zilla Parishad has been reserved for women.

The post of chairperson had been reserved for candidates of general category in 2017 elections. But in an aberration, Subhash Chandra Behera who won from zone no-19 on a BJD ticket was made the chairperson of the Zilla Parishad. He had to resign from the post after he was fielded by the party in 2019 general elections and won as an MLA from Chhatrapur Assembly segment.

A maximum of 64 candidates were elected from the BJD from 69 zones in the 2017 panachayat election. Only four from BJP and one from Congress were elected to the Zilla Parishad.

The ruling BJD played all tricks to humiliate the opposition but two from the BJP won from Rangelunda and Kukudakhandi block belying all speculations.

Tribals' land grabbed with forged signatures Man-made mangrove at Sartha resists cyclones

Tribals' land grabbed with forged signatures

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Oct 21: Lands of tribal residents have allegedly been grabbed by a company through fraudulent means in Birikela panchayat under Joda block of Keonjhar. This has left tribal residents fuming as the administration is accused of not resolving the issue.

According to reports, two complaints have been filed at Joda police station in this regard. The complaints were filed by Bijay Munda and Shyam Munda of Bhagalpur. In their complaints, they alleged that a company operating in Bileipada area has grabbed their land (750 decimal belonging to khata-62 and one acre and 450 decimal belonging to khata-35) in Bhagalpur area with their forged finger prints and signatures.

The two showed records that they had purchased the land in 2018. They pointed out that the land fraud was done when the land was demarcated and acquired by the company. It was also alleged that land of some other tribals had been acquired that way in the area.

Several others who have been



TWO COMPLAINTS WERE FILED BY BIJAY MUNDA AND SHYAM MUNDA OF BHAGALPUR AGAINST A FIRM

duped in this way had apprised Union Tribal Affairs Minister Bisweshwar Tudu about the issue.

The Minister had asked Champua sub-collector Pratap Pritimaya to redress the land fraud.

The sub-collector had assured the tribals of looking into the issue, but no step has been taken till date, it was alleged. Local tribals are up in arms over the issue and warned of agitation if the land fraud is not sorted out early.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Oct 21: A man-made mangrove forest has turned out to be a deterrent against cyclones and tsunamis for scores of villages near Sartha river mouth on the Balasure coast, a report said.

According to the report, the mangrove forest has been generated over 25 hectares of land. Nearly 4 lakh plants of 21 varieties of mangrove have been planted. This is not the work of the forest department.

A Delhi-based organisation Nabdanya has generated this forest with funds provided by an organization based in Germany. Generation of mangrove plants has been successful by the efforts of environmentalist Dr Bandana Shiva and Balasure-based environmentalist Ashok Kumar Panigrahi.

Some local people have been engaged for maintenance of the forest. Significantly, two helpless women have become part of the team guarding the forest.

It is said that this mangrove forest plays host to many wildlife species in the area, apart from being instrumental in promoting local ecology, soil conservation, flood control, disaster resistance and giving a source of livelihood for



some local people.

It is claimed that during the 1999 Super Cyclone, the impact of the disaster along the coast in Kendrapara was comparatively less due to mangrove forests. Jagatsinghpur was worst affected by the cyclone in the absence of mangrove cover.

Balasure coast was also badly affected by the Super Cyclone.

The fishing jetty and a village near Sartha river mouth were destroyed by the billowing waves.

Dr Panigrahi thought of creating mangroves at Sartha river mouth and along Subarnarekha banks. He sought help of the forest department, but no help came.

Finally, a German-based organisation extended its helping hand to provide financial assistance. The Delhi-based organization also came forward to help.

After carrying out a survey on the presence of fluvial mud along the coast and river mouth, a suit-

able place was chosen for mangrove generation.

Panigrahi also got approval of the panchayat for the project. With the help of local people, Panigrahi started planting mangrove saplings at Sartha river mouth in 2006.

21 varieties of mangrove species were planted. But five species could not survive. In next two years, 16 mangrove species mushroomed and it has spread over 75 hectares now.

Seeds of mangroves are usually

The impact of 1999 Super Cyclone along the Kendrapara coast was comparatively less due to mangrove forests

collected in August and September when sea water carries seeds ashore. Some local youths were engaged to collect seeds.

Locals said the mangrove has mitigated the severity of the cyclones that had taken place after 2013 in the area.

Ranindra Kumar Nayak, a researcher on mangroves, said that thick mangrove cover used to exist along coast of Balasure about 200 years ago, particularly near Chandipur. Over years, it has vanished.

Mangroves have survived at Talsari and Bichitrapur to some extent. There is a need for more mangroves like Sartha along the coast to protect people from natural disasters, Nayak said.

On the other hand, the state government has initiated efforts to create mangrove on vacant places along the coast. If local communities are roped into such exercise, mangroves can be generated along the coast, he noted.

Rich tributes paid to Captain Tucker

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 21: Stewart School, Cuttack conducted a special assembly to commemorate the 94th birth anniversary of first Ashok Chakra awardee of the state and former student of the school Captain Eric James Tucker, Thursday.

Captain Tucker laid down his life while fighting the Naga insurgents August 2, 1957. The President of India posthumously awarded him with Ashok Chakra.

In a virtual meeting, Rajat Mathur, Major General of Indian Army, Arun Thakur, Commanding Officer and Colonel of the Indian Army and Yashwant Tucker, son of the late Captain spoke on the bravery and supreme sacrifice of Captain Tucker. Bishop and Rt Reverend SK Nanda, all members of the management, FC North, principal of Stewart School, D Martina, coordinator as well as all teachers and students of the school paid their tributes to the brave heart.

Dad slices girl's genitals over mom's fidelity

BHADRAK: A man sliced the private part of his three year old daughter following a heated brawl with his wife suspecting her fidelity at Mallik Sahi under Kasimpur panchayat and Dhusuri police limits in Bhadrak district, Thursday. Villagers rescued the girl in critical condition and admitted her to the district headquarters hospital. Police have detained the accused father Chandan Mallik and are questioning him in this connection. The incident has spread shockwaves in the area as residents demanded stringent punishment for the accused for the heinous crime. Police said, the couple was not on good terms as Chandan always used to doubt the fidelity of his wife. He often used to pick quarrels with his wife and constantly abused and assaulted her. The issue cropped up again Wednesday when the couple had a fight with each other. In a fit of rage, Chandan picked up a blade and sliced the private part of his daughter. Hearing the minor scream, villagers rushed inside the house and found the girl profusely bleeding from her private parts. They rushed her to the district headquarters hospital and tied up Chandan in iron chains before informing the Dhusuri police. Police reached the spot and brought Chandan to the police station.

Man's blood-soaked body found near Ib

JHARSUGUDA: The blood-soaked body of a man was spotted near Ib river at Budhipadar area under Sadar police limits in Jharsuguda district Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Pankaj Kumar, a native of Lakhisarai district in Bihar. Local residents spotted the body and informed the police. A team from Sadar police station along with a scientific team reached the spot. Later, Jharsuguda SP Bikash Chandra Dash also reached the spot to take stock on the investigation. After recovering the body, the police sent it for postmortem. The police said they have launched an investigation and are awaiting the autopsy report. SP Das said the case would be cracked. According to sources in the police, preliminary investigation suggests that Kumar was shot dead.

Spurt in deer population worries forest dept

DEPT HAS PROPOSED PCCF FOR RELOCATION OF 150 ANIMALS FROM KAPILASH MINI ZOO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Oct 21: The population of deer in Kapilash Wildlife Park has been increasing. This is a good sign but the forest department is worried over the rise in deer population.

In fact, keeping a large number of deer in a limited space of the park has been a headache for the department. It has thought of relocating some deer to other places.

Meanwhile, the forest department has sought permission of the principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) to shift deer from the park in a wildlife sanctuary in a phased manner.

The deer park, located at the foothill of Kapilash hill is an added attraction for tourists coming to Kapilash shrine. It was set up on five hectares of forest land in 1979. Later, the park was renovated and the area was expanded to 26.64



hectares. In 1986, it was declared as a mini zoo while it got recognition of Central Zoo Authority of India April 1, 1995.

Now, the park plays host to about 300 wild animals including deer, sambar, elephants, bear, crocodile, various bird species and reptiles. But deer population has increased. In 2019, the park had 160 deer

(65 males and 95 females) and four sambars. The number of deer has touched 200 and sambar to 5.

Female deer are kept in a special enclosure in the park. Animal keepers take care of the animals. It is often found that deer fight with each other in a limited space. Many of them get wounded in fights. This has increased the task of animal keeper and veterinarians.

In fact, the zoo is capable of accommodating a maximum of 30 deer, but it now accommodates deer seven times more than its capacity.

Earlier, two to three deer died for various reasons every year. A veterinary doctor has been engaged for the care of deer.

Space constraint has been a problem for deer; the department has decided to shift 150 deer in a wildlife sanctuary.

However, wildlife activists observed there is a need for proper planning before relocation of the deer. "It is to be seen if the deer grown up in captivity can survive in the natural habitat," they noted.

DFO Dr Prakashchand Gogineni said as per zoo guidelines, nearly 30 deer can stay in the park. "As their number has gone up to 200, the PCCF has been suggested for relocation of 150 of them to Kapilash wildlife sanctuary," he added.

Army inducts L70 anti-aircraft guns along LAC

THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS IS PART OF A SERIES OF MEASURES THAT THE ARMY HAS TAKEN TO BOLSTER ITS OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS IN THE FACE OF THE 17-MONTH STANDOFF IN EASTERN LADAKH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Oct 21: In a major boost to its fire power, the Indian Army has deployed a sizeable number of upgraded L70 anti-aircraft guns in the high mountains along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh in addition to its existing M-777 howitzers and Swedish Bofors guns, officials said Wednesday.

The deployment of the anti-aircraft guns having a range of 3.5 km in the treacherous region is part of a series of measures that the Army has taken to bolster its operational preparedness along the over 1,300-km LAC in eastern sector in the face of the 17-month standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The Army has already positioned a significant number of M-777 howitzer guns that were first received three years ago.

As part of a high state of preparedness to deal with any eventuality, the Army units including those of the "integrated defended locality" have been undergoing strenuous physical training and military drills on a daily basis. The "integrated defended locality" is a specialised unit comprising various arms of the Army including infantry, air defence, and artillery.

Military officials said the upgraded L70 guns were deployed around two-three months ago in several key locations in Arunachal Pradesh.



BOLSTERING OPERATIONS

Military officials said the upgraded L70 guns were deployed around two-three months ago in several key locations in Arunachal Pradesh

The guns can bring down all unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned combat aerial vehicles, attack helicopters and modern aircraft

Pradesh in addition to other sensitive positions along the entire LAC and that their inductions have significantly enhanced the Army's overall fire power.

"The guns can bring down all unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned combat aerial vehicles, attack helicopters and modern aircraft. The gun has enhanced target acquisition and automatic target tracking capability under all weather con-

ditions with high-resolution electro-optical sensors comprising a daylight television camera, a thermal imaging camera and a laser range finder," said Capt Sarya Abbasi of the Army Air Defence.

"The gun is also equipped with a Muzzle Velocity Radar for enhancing the accuracy of fire. The gun has the ability to be integrated with tactical and fire control radars which give it more flexibility in

its deployment," she said. Capt Abbasi said the legacy gun has now been transformed into a sophisticated air defence gun.

Another official said the upgraded gun system that operates along with high-end Israeli radar can be counted among the best available air defence guns in its class globally.

In the last few months, the Army has also deployed a good number of easily transportable M-777 ultra light howitzer guns which are at times moved from one place to another in Chinook helicopters depending on operational requirement. "The addition of upgraded L70 air defence guns to the existing Bofors guns and recently inducted M-777 howitzers significantly enhanced the Indian Army's overall operational capability," said a senior official on condition of anonymity.

The L70 guns were originally manufactured by Swedish defence firm Bofors AB in 1950s and India has started inducting over 1,000 of them in the 1960s. The legacy guns have been upgraded by state-run Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

Following the escalation in tension in eastern Ladakh standoff, the Army has taken a series of measures to boost its operational capabilities in the eastern sector bordering China that included procurement of all terrain vehicles, precision guided ammunition, high-tech surveillance equipment,

radars and weapons. Officials said enhancing combat capability is a continuous process and it will go in sync with operational requirements and overall security situation.

They said an equal amount of focus has been given to enhancing operational capability in the northern as well as eastern sector. The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The tension escalated following a deadly clash in Galwan Valley June 15 last year. As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in the Gogra area in August and in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in February.

The last round of military talks October 10 ended in a stalemate following which both sides blamed each other for the impasse.

In a strong statement after the 13th round of talks, the Indian Army said the "constructive suggestions" made by it at the negotiations were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor could Beijing provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

Where is the promised peace, development, asks Farooq Abdullah

Farooq said National Conference always worked for the betterment of all, irrespective of their caste, creed and religion in Jammu and Kashmir



Migrant labourers wait outside a railway station as they leave for their hometowns, in Jammu, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 21: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah launched a scathing attack on the BJP over the targeted killings in Kashmir and said it should give an answer to the people over the claims of restoration of peace in the valley.

He also said that the National Conference was never a pro-Pakistan party and always worked for the betterment of all, irrespective of their caste, creed and religion.

"They (BJP) used to say after abrogation of Article 370 (in August 2019) that they have restored peace in J&K... Where is the promised peace and development? Give answers to the people," Abdullah said addressing party workers in Ramban district.

Eleven civilians, including two teachers, a pharmacy owner and five non-local labourers, were killed in targeted attacks by terrorists in different parts of the Kashmir valley this month.

Without naming the BJP or the central government, the former chief minister said the recent killings have shattered all the claims made in the aftermath of the August 5, 2019, development.

"They are talking about 'Ram Rajya' but the fact is that they do not know anything about it. In 'Ram Rajya', there were no discrimination and all the people whether Muslims, Hindus, Sikh or Christians are treated equally," he said.

Referring to the statement of former prime minister AB Vajpayee "you can change friends but not neighbours", Abdullah said friendship between India and Pakistan

'BJP has taken J&K back by decades'

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday alleged that the BJP government's policies on Jammu and Kashmir have taken the Union territory "back by decades". The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister made the remarks in response to photographs and videos on social media in which security forces are seen frisking women and minors during surprise checking in Lal Chowk and other commercial areas of the city. "This sums up the current situation in Kashmir where women & even children are suspects now. This is what BJP has brought J&K to. Their policies have taken us back by decades," she said in a tweet.

holds the key to peace in the region. However, he said the National Conference has never been a pro-Pakistan party.

"The aim of National Conference is to serve the people of all faiths without any discrimination, provide better living to them, ensure they educate their children and bring laurels to J&K and the country," he said.

"Our enemies have always conspired against us but they never succeeded in the past nor will they succeed in future. We will live and die here," the NC president said.

He also slammed the Central government for price hike of essential commodities and said the rates of petrol and diesel are touching the sky, making the lives of the commoners miserable.

IED detected, defused in J&K's Baramulla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 21: An improvised explosive device (IED) was detected and defused by the security forces on Thursday in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir thereby averting a major tragedy.

Police said troops of 32 Rashtriya Rifles recovered an IED from a passenger shed near Saidpora village in Ratiabad area of Baramulla district Thursday.

Police said, "An IED planted by militants near Saidpora village was recovered and the bomb disposal squad was deployed to defuse it." "Timely action by the alert security forces has helped in averting a major tragedy as the passenger shed is often used by security forces for security purposes".

To target convoys of the security forces and the VIP cavalcades, militants have been using remote triggered IEDs in J&K. Road opening parties (RoPs) of security forces equipped with metal detectors and sniffer dogs are deployed with the first light to secure highways and roads used by security force convoys and VIP cavalcade.

ON WAY BACK HOME



A shepherd walks with a herd of goats near Jara Wali Gali in Poonch district

PTI PHOTO

VHP rally against attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh

A procession by about 10,000 activists of the outfit was taken out in Agartala which joined a public meeting held outside the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, Oct 21: Viswa Hindu Parishad took out rallies here and in other districts of Tripura Thursday as a mark of protest against the alleged persecution of Hindus and vandalisation of Durga puja pandals and idols in Bangladesh recently and demanded immediate steps by the neighbouring country to book the perpetrators and protect minority Hindus in the neighbouring country.

A procession by about 10,000 activists of the outfit was taken out in Agartala which joined a public meeting held to protest against the occurrences in the neighbouring country outside the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh here. A six-member delegation of VHP, headed by its Tripura unit president Chandrasekhar Kar submitted a

memorandum to Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina through that country's Assistant High Commissioner Jobaid Hossain. West Tripura district VHP secretary Shankar Sarkar, who was a member of the delegation, said, On Sunday political parties and civil society organisations in Tripura had condemned the recent vandalisation of Durga Puja temples and marquees and attack on Hindus in Bangladesh, with which the state shares an 856-km-long border. Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb had expressed hope that appropriate action would be taken against the miscreants behind such acts by the Hasina government. Officials said that Deb had Saturday telephoned the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Vikram K Doraiswami to know what exactly happened in Bangladesh.

REMOVE ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS FROM KAZIRANGA: SC TO ASSAM

THE APEX COURT HAD ALSO DISALLOWED ALL KINDS OF MINING ON THE ANIMAL CORRIDORS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Oct 21: The Central Empowered Committee (CEC), set up by the Supreme Court, has asked the Assam government to take immediate action to remove illegal construction undertaken in nine identified wildlife corridors of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

An Assam Forest Department official said that the CEC's Member-Secretary Amarnatha Shetty, in a letter to Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah, asked for an action taken report within four weeks.

"It is requested that immediate action be taken to remove all constructions made in violation of the Supreme Court order of April 12, 2019 and not to permit any new constructions along the nine identified animal corridors," the letter said.

The CEC has also referred to the inspection report submitted September 10 by Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry's Integrated Regional Office, Guwahati, head Hemen Hazarika, which enclosed the report of Deputy Inspector General of Forest (Central) Lactitia J. Syiemiong, on "Violation of the Supreme Court order of April 12, 2019". The official said that the



Supreme Court earlier barred new construction on private lands that form part of the nine identified animal corridors of Kaziranga, which is home to more than 2,400 one-horned Indian rhinos.

The apex court had also disallowed all kinds of mining on these animal corridors.

Accompanied by Kaziranga Director, Karmashree P Sivakumar, Syiemiong had studied the construction activities on eight of the nine corridors in August. The CEC letter said that inspection was done at the field level after traversing the entire eight of the nine stretches of the animal corridors, where it was found that there has been illegal construction all along.

"Apart from illegal constructions, the greatest eye-sore and

also a threat to the animals of KNP & TR is the presence of trucks, etc. In the recent past it has been observed that trucks, tankers and other vehicles are stopping to park in road sides from Jakhlabandha to Bokakhat and creating unnecessary hindrance to wild animal movement from the national park to Karbi Anglong Hill side. Because of this, the number of hotels and dhabas are increasing day by day and during checking, it found that these dhabas are chopping firewood from the trees of Karbi Anglong Hill side illegally," the letter said.

It also said that there were more than 500 trucks and vehicles, during the inspection, that were utilising water from streams and rivers and rivulets originating from Karbi-

Anglong Hill ranges for bathing by drivers and handymen and washing of vehicles, polluting the water flowing into the Kaziranga national park.

"Oil and grease from automobiles garages, waste water from vehicle washing stations, sewage water coming from dhabas and hotels is entering into the Difallo River which is the lifeline of Kaziranga. Dumping of garbage on the animal corridors and noise pollution due to movement of vehicles is deteriorating the environment of the park. As per the Central Empowerment Committee's 2019 report submitted to the Supreme Court, parking of all types of vehicles on the nine animal corridor areas of NH-37 of Kaziranga National Park is strictly prohibited," the letter said.

It also said that in the Haldhibari Corridor in Golaghat district, there is a temple and adjoining shops have sprouted and a private hotel is running.

"A government property belonging to Karbi Anglong District Council has also been constructed in violation of Supreme Court order. There was a particular house near an old tea garden that was newly constructed after 2019," the CEC letter said.

J&K DCs authorised to transfer agri land for non-agri work

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 21: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has authorised the District Collectors to alienate agricultural land to a non-agriculturist for extending the primary activity on a larger commercial scale.

"The Administrative Council (AC), which met here today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, authorised the District Collectors to grant permission to an agriculturist to alienate land to a non-agriculturist subject to certain conditions and procedure for extending primary activities on larger commercial lines and reap benefits under economy of scale," an official spokesman said here.

The spokesman said there have been multiple demands by Mahajans, Khattris and Sikhs for right of sale-purchase of agricultural land for investment in agriculture and allied activities.

"Their resentment existed on the statutory provision that defined certain section of the society as agriculturist class who alone were eligible to own agricultural land under J&K Land Alienation Act SVT.1995," he said.

The spokesman said the decision fulfils the long pending demands from the civil society, seeking rights for sale-purchase of the agriculture land for investment in agriculture and allied activities.

national

of the day quote

People should continue wearing face masks until experts say that they are no longer required

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER

The Modi government subscribes to pluralism in the world but supports majoritarianism in India

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

It is a matter of pride for us that WHO has commended the vaccination drive of India, and congratulated our prime minister, scientists, health workers and others. But what is the situation in our state? The vaccination drive is being conducted in a haphazard manner, and unlike other states, common people are not getting inoculated extensively and freely. The Mamata Banerjee government only believes in tall talks

DILIP GHOSH | BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

SC restores KCOCA charges

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday restored the charges under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) against one of the accused in the journalist Gauri Lankesh murder case by setting aside the high court order which had quashed the charge sheet for alleged offences under the stringent law. A three-judge bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar allowed the two separate appeals filed by the state and Kavitha Lankesh, the sister of Gauri Lankesh, who have challenged the April 22 order of the Karnataka High Court. The apex court said the conclusion reached by the high court in partly allowing the plea filed before it by accused Mohan Nayak N was "manifestly wrong" and "cannot be countenanced".

Woman found dead

Noida: A woman was allegedly murdered by her distant relative in Noida, an official said Thursday. According to the official, they had received information on Wednesday evening about a woman found in a flat at Paramount Golf Villa society. "A forensic team also inspected the spot to find any clue about the murder," DCP Central Noida, Harish Chander said.

UP minister booked

Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh): The additional sessions judge (ADJ) of the MP-MLA court in Bulandshahr has found Uttar Pradesh Minister of state for environment, forest and climate change Anil Sharma guilty of forging documents to illegally encroach upon the land of a private factory. The minister has been booked for forgery under IPC section 420 among others, following the court's order. The court has also summoned the minister to appear before it in person in the next hearing on November 10.

Six arrested

Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh): The Chandauli police busted a gang involved in cheating aspirants seeking jobs in the army and arrested six of its members from Dhanapur, police said Thursday. Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar said that on the inputs regarding the presence of kingpin of the gang, who had been booked in a case by the Jabalpur police, a joint team of special weapons and tactics (SWAT) surveillance cell and Dhanapur police cordoned the Chahania-Dhanapur road and intercepted an SUV carrying four imposters in army uniform Wednesday.

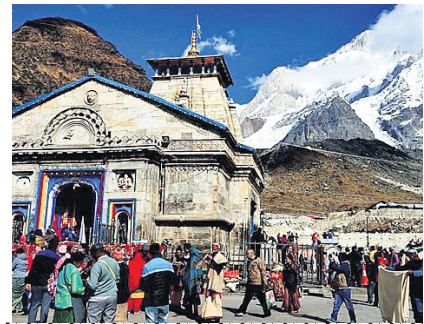


Young officers are the architects of new India and they should work hard in the next 25 years to make the country a frontline nation of the world

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

CHAR DHAM YATRA RESUMES

The Char Dham Yatra, which was temporarily suspended due to incessant rains in Uttarakhand, resumed in Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri after the rains stopped Thursday



INDIA ACHIEVES 1BN VACCINE MILESTONE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 21: India achieved a major milestone in its vaccination programme against COVID-19 as the cumulative vaccine doses administered in the country surpassed the 100-crore mark Thursday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the landmark reached in little over nine months time since the countrywide vaccination drive was launched January 16 as a triumph of Indian science, enterprise and collective spirit of 130 crore.

Modi also visited the vaccination centre at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here after the achievement and interacted with hospital staff and some of the beneficiaries. He was accompanied by Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

In a tweet, Mandaviya congratulated the country on achieving the feat, and said it was the result of the able leadership of Prime Minister Modi, whom he described as a visionary. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus congratulated Modi, scientists, health workers and cit-

izens of India for equitable vaccine distribution.

"Congratulations, Prime Minister @narendramodi, the scientists, #healthworkers and people of #India, on your efforts to protect the vulnerable populations from #COVID19 and achieve #VaccinEquity targets," he said in a tweet.

A series of events were held to mark the milestone including launch of a song by singer Kailash Kher and an audio-visual film at the Red Fort, while the largest khadi tricolour in the country, weighing around 1,400 kg, was displayed at the iconic Red Fort Thursday.

The same tricolour with dimensions 225 feet by 150 feet was unfurled on Gandhi Jayanti in Leh.

An announcement was made at railway stations across the country hailing the completion of administering 100 crore doses and congratulating frontline and health-care workers for their efforts during the crisis.

SpiceJet unveiled a special livery on its Boeing 737 aircraft at the Delhi airport to celebrate the milestone.



A child looks at her mother's hand after she received a dose of COVID vaccine as India crossed the 1 billion Covid vaccine dose milestone, in Bangalore

IAF aircraft crashes, pilot ejects safely

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Oct 21: A Mirage 2000 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Madhya Pradesh's Bhand district Thursday.

The incident occurred at Mankabagh village near Barauli area of Bhand, which is around 500 km from state capital Bhopal. The aircraft was being flown by lieutenant Abhilash. A video taken by a local shows pilot gliding down smoothly with the help of a parachute. However, he received minor injuries.

Soon after the crash, the plane caught fire, however, the pilot was ejected safely with minor injuries, said a police official in Bhand district. "Villagers spotted the aircraft and informed local police. A team rushed to the spot and started rescue operation," said a senior police official.

The aircraft had taken off from Maharajpura airbase in Gwalior in the morning, a senior airport official said. "An IAF Mirage 2000 aircraft experienced a technical malfunction during a training sortie in the central sector this morning. The pilot ejected safely," IAF said adding that an inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the crash.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Oct 21: Five tourists have died in Kapkot in Uttarakhand's Kumaon, officials said Thursday as the death toll in the state battered by the recent rains rose to 65.

The confirmation about the death of tourists stranded near Kapkot's Sunderbunga glacier in Bageshwar district came on a day when Union Home Minister Amit Shah conducted an aerial survey of the rain damage, pegged by the state government at ₹7,000 crore.

Earlier, the official count of the dead was 60. Apart from the five dead, one tourist was missing, officials said. Four were rescued. About 65 tourists had been trapped on the higher reaches of Bageshwar and rescue teams were at work to bring those still remaining there to safety, officials said.

Amit Shah told reporters at the Jollygrant airport here that the alertness of the Central and state government agencies helped contain the damage in Uttarakhand. Relief and rescue operations continued in the worst-hit Kumaon region amid efforts to restore connectivity and evacuate people from vulnerable areas.



United Kingdom Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir Nick Carter inspects Guard of Honour on the lawns of South Block in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

PRIYANKA'S ANOTHER POLL PROMISE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 21: After promising 40 per cent tickets to women in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections next year, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra announced Thursday that all Class 12 pass girls will be given a smartphone while all graduate girls will get an electric scooter if her party forms a government in the state.

"Yesterday I met some girl students. They said they need smartphones for their studies and their security. I am happy that today the UP Congress has decided, with the consent of the manifesto committee, that it will provide smartphones to inter-pass girls and electronic scooters to graduate girls on forming its government," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

Calling it another important decision and second commitment of the party after announcement of



CONGRESS SPOKESMAN ANSHU AWASTHI SAID THE MOVE IS AIMED AT EXTENDING RESPECT AND SECURITY TO THE DAUGHTERS OF THE STATE

UP ASSEMBLY POLLS

giving 40 per cent tickets to women in the coming elections, Congress spokeswoman Anshu Awasthi said the move is aimed at extending respect and security to the daughters of the state.

Priyanka Gandhi, who is the Congress national general secretary and in charge of party affairs in UP,

also attached with her tweet a video of a group of school/college girls interacting with mediapersons. The girls said they got pictures clicked with her.

One of the students is saying that Priyanka Gandhi asked them if they had phones for clicking selfies. "We said we neither have phones nor are they

allowed in colleges. She then asked us if she should get it announced that girls should get phones and we said what more can we ask for our safety," the student said in the video.

"She asked us to study hard. I want that she continues to meet and talk to us like this," another student is seen saying in the video. The girls said Priyanka Gandhi has also told them about the Congress slogan "Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon".

Tuesday, the Congress leader had announced that her party will give tickets to 40 per cent women in the coming assembly elections in UP to make women, roughly constituting about half the electorate, a full-fledged partner in power.

The move, she claimed, is aimed at empowering every woman who wants justice, change and unity of her state and also against the efforts to divide them into caste and religion that is stopping them from emerging as a force.

₹7,000 cr loss to U'khand due to floods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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Amit Shah told reporters at the Jollygrant airport here that the alertness of the Central and state government agencies helped contain the damage in Uttarakhand. Relief and rescue operations continued in the worst-hit Kumaon region amid efforts to restore connectivity and evacuate people from vulnerable areas.



National Disaster Response Force personnel carry out rescue operations in a landslide-affected area following heavy rains in Dungree village of Chamoli district

PTI PHOTO

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that three days of incessant rains - which began Sunday night - have caused damage of ₹7,000 crore in the state. Restoring the network of damaged roads and bridges and evacuating people to safety is the priority at the moment, he said. At 28, Nainital district has reported the maximum number of deaths.

Shah said a heavy rain alert was issued well in advance and led to

precautionary steps like halting the Char Dham Yatra. "The damage could have been more if this was not done. Timely mobilisation of search and rescue teams and arrival of IAF helicopters to assist in rescue operations helped minimise the potential damage," the home minister said. He did not announce any immediate relief package for Uttarakhand and said a detailed estimate of the loss needed to be made first. He said the state was

given ₹250 crore a month ago considering its vulnerability to natural disasters and that can take care of the relief and rescue measures currently underway.

The Centre is with the state government and will give all support to Uttarakhand in its rehabilitation efforts, the Union minister said. He said all blocked roads in the affected areas have been cleared, except three which suffered nearly 25-metre breaches.

CCEA okays PM GatiShakti NMP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 21: The Union Cabinet Thursday approved PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, including implementation, monitoring and support mechanism, for providing multi-modal connectivity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, October 13, had launched a ₹100 lakh crore national master plan for multi-modal connectivity to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

It targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time. "The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, including the institutional framework for rolling out, implementation, monitoring and support mechanism, for providing multi-modal connectivity," an official statement said.

An Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGOS) headed by the Cabinet Secretary and secretaries of 18 ministries as members, among others, will be set up.

62.2% death row prisoners have at least one mental illness: Study

The findings of the study titled "Deathworthy: A mental Health Perspective of the Death Penalty" presented empirical data on mental illness and intellectual disability among death row prisoners in India and the psychological consequences of living on death row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 21: A study on the mental illness and intellectual disability among death row prisoners has shown that over 62 per cent had at least one mental ill-

ness, half of them contemplated suicide in jail and experienced adverse childhood and traumatic life experiences.

Project 39A, a criminal justice program at the National Law University Delhi, conducted a study on 88 death row prisoners, three female, and 85 male, and their families across Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh.

The findings of the study titled "Deathworthy: A mental Health Perspective of the Death Penalty" presented empirical data on mental illness and intellectual disability among death row prisoners in India and the psychological consequences of living on death row.

The report which was released after five years of research also established correlations between conditions of incarceration and ill-health. The report stated that it



was found that an "overwhelming" majority of death row prisoners interviewed - 62.2 per cent, had a mental illness and 11 per cent had an intellectual disability.

This proportion is overwhelmingly higher than the proportion in the community population, it said. "51 death row prisoners (62.2 per cent) were diagnosed with at least one mental illness. 35.3 per cent

were diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), 22.6 per cent were diagnosed with Generalised Anxiety Disorder and 6.8 per cent screened positive for psychosis," the report said.

The study showed that 19 out of the 88 prisoners who were interviewed were ultimately acquitted and the sentence of 33 prisoners was commuted to various terms of life

imprisonment.

"13 out of the 19 prisoners who are now acquitted were diagnosed with at least one mental illness, three had attempted suicide in prison. Of the 30 prisoners diagnosed with depression, 17 are now no more on death row," Maitreyi Misra, the lead author of the study, stated in the report.

The report added, "Of the 34 prisoners who had been at risk of suicide, 20 are not on death row anymore. Half of those who were actively contemplating suicide around the time of the interview is not on death row anymore." Almost 9 out of 83 death row prisoners were diagnosed with intellectual disability. Over 75 per cent of prisoners were found to have deficits in intellectual functioning.

"While international law prohibits the imposition of the death

sentence on persons with mental disabilities, in the case of these nine prisoners, their disability was not even brought to the attention of the courts," Misra added.

Besides this, 34 death row prisoners, over 50 per cent, out of the 63 prisoners who volunteered information on suicidal behaviour and ideation spoke about contemplating suicide at least once in prison.

According to the report, one man spent 14 years on death row in solitary confinement and reported having heard voices, seen a goddess, and even attempted to kill himself. Eight prisoners had attempted suicide in prison, the study stated, adding that these numbers and proportions are alarmingly high when compared to the proportion of those at high risk of suicide among the general prison population and in the community.

international

of the day quote

Poland has seen an explosion of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past two days, and the government will have to take drastic measures if the trend continues

The relations between India and Israel have evolved and reached such a high level of comfort that it has gone beyond personalities

I have decided to run for the leadership of the movement and I will contribute with all my strength to make it strong again

SHORT TAKES

Syria executes 24 over wildfires

Damascus: Syria executed 24 people Thursday after charging them with igniting wildfires last year that left three people dead and burnt thousands of hectares (acres) of forests, the Justice Ministry said. Executions are common in war-torn Syria, but the number of those put to death Thursday is larger than usual. Wildfires broke out in several Middle Eastern countries in October 2020 amid a heat wave that was unusual for that time of the year, leaving Syria particularly hard-hit.

Gas explosion rocks Chinese city, 4 killed

Beijing: At least four people were killed and 47 others injured in a gas explosion Thursday at a restaurant in Shenyang, the capital of northeastern China's Liaoning province, local authorities said. All those injured in the blast have been hospitalised. Over 100 firefighters were mobilised for the rescue operation at the scene. Video footage shared online shows the massive destruction of a three-story building.

Volcano: Hundreds more evacuated

Madrid: Hundreds of people were evacuated during the night on the Spanish island of La Palma as a river of molten rock crept deeper into a coastal town during a protracted volcanic eruption, authorities said Thursday. Emergency services helped some 500 people leave their homes, the mayor of Tazacorte, Juan Miguel Rodriguez, told public broadcaster RTVE.

Qureshi, ISI chief in Kabul

Islamabad: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi travelled to Kabul Thursday along with spy agency ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed to hold talks with Afghanistan's interim government led by the Taliban. During the day-long visit, the Pakistani delegation will hold talks with Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and call on leadership of the interim government in Kabul and other Afghan leaders, according to Foreign Office.

Quake jolts Japan

Tokyo: An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale struck Utsunomiya city in Japan's Tochigi prefecture Thursday. According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the tremor struck at 5.37 p.m. (local time), with its epicentre at a latitude of 32.1 degrees north and a longitude of 138.5 degrees east, and at a depth of 380 km, reports Xinhua news agency.

COP26: Predictable climate finance in focus for India



Representational image

London, Oct 21: India will be looking for promises on consistent and predictable climate finance as it goes in with "full commitment" to the UK-hosted COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, according to Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

Speaking just as the government confirmed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the summit scheduled between October 31 and November 12, the Foreign Secretary highlighted India's climate action in meeting its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) related to the United Nations agreement.

"We are perhaps the only G20 country to have fulfilled our NDCs and outperformed them," said Shringla, addressing the India Global Forum in London virtually from New Delhi Thursday.

"Our Prime Minister has said that India will not only meet its targets but exceed them. And, he has spoken to Prime Minister Boris Johnson. We intend to go in with a strong message, with full commitment to COP26," he said.

"In order to meet these ambitious targets, developing countries will need access to climate financing, green technology. We need more than commitments, we need promises - predictable and consistent financing," he said.

The Foreign Secretary went on to elaborate on India's move away from fossil fuels towards renewable sources of energy, especially solar power.

"Since 2017, we have had more renewable energy in the energy mix in India than fossil fuels," said Shringla. "In the last six years, we have increased our renewable energy capacity by two and half times and solar energy has increased 13 times. We have announced a hydrogen energy mission which will generate energy from green sources," he said. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, dubbed COP26, will be hosted by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who will welcome leaders including Modi and US President Joe Biden for the World Leaders' Summit scheduled for November 1 and 2 for the start of the negotiations. It will be followed by a series of sessions across different areas such as Energy, Finance and Transport, to be attended by ministers and officials from different countries and steered by UK Minister for COP26 Alok Sharma. Meanwhile, the Kremlin announced that Russia's president Vladimir Putin will not attend the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. No reason was given for the decision not to attend, the outlet explains, but a Kremlin spokesperson said that climate change was one of Russia's "most important priorities".

Pak to remain on FATF 'grey list', Turkey new addition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad/New Delhi, Oct 21: Pakistan will continue to be on the 'Grey List' of the FATF as it needs to "further demonstrate" that action is being taken against UN-designated terrorists like India's most wanted Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar, the global body against terror financing said Thursday.

Turkey, Jordan and Mali have been added to the 'Grey List' while Mauritius and Botswana have been taken off the list, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) president Marcus Pleyer said while addressing a virtual press conference from Paris. Pakistan continues to remain on the "increased



monitoring list", he said. The increased monitoring list is another name for the 'Grey List'. Inclusion in the 'Grey List' implies "strategic deficiencies" detected in a jurisdiction's policies to prevent money laundering and terror financing, according to an IMF working paper. It makes it difficult for a country to get financial aid from international organisations like the IMF. Not as severe as black

'China has been aggressor along Himalayan border'

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 21: China has been an aggressor against India along the Himalayan border, a top American diplomat nominated by President Joe Biden as his next envoy to Beijing has told lawmakers, stating that the US must hold the Chinese government accountable for failing to play by the rules.

Nicholas Burns told members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his confirmation hearing on Wednesday that the US will challenge China where it must, including when Beijing takes actions that run counter to America's values and interests; threaten the security of the United States or its allies and partners; or undermine the rules-based international order.

"Beijing has been an aggressor against India along their Himalayan border; against Vietnam, the Philippines, and others in the South China Sea; against Japan in the East China Sea; and has launched an intimidation campaign against Australia and



Representational image

Lithuania," Burns said.

China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea. Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims.

Beijing is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. It has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region. Both areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources and

TRUMP'S NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM

Former US President Donald Trump has announced plans to launch a new social media network, called TRUTH Social, media reports said



We advise Nicholas Burns to be keenly aware of the overall trend of world development and people's aspiration, learn the real situations of China objectively, view China and China-US ties in a rational manner and avoid underestimating the strong resolve, determination and capability of the Chinese people to defend their rights

WANG WENBIN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

policy, he said. The US will cooperate with China where it is in its interest, including on climate change, counter-narcotics, global health and non-proliferation, he told members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED



South Korea Thursday failed to put a dummy satellite into orbit with its first homegrown rocket, dealing a setback to the country's decade-long project to join the elite global space club

POTENTIAL MIRACLE

Docs planted a pig's kidney into a human

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Oct 21: A US medical team has succeeded in temporarily attaching a pig's kidney to a person, a transplant breakthrough hailed as a "potential miracle" by the surgeon who led the procedure. The surgery, carried out September 25, involved a genetically modified donor animal and a brain dead patient on a ventilator whose family had given permission for the two-day experiment, for the sake of advancing science.

"It did what it's supposed to do, which is remove waste and make urine," Robert Montgomery, director of the transplant institute at New York University (NYU) Langone, told AFP in an interview. Critically, the organ was able to reduce the level of the molecule creatinine, a key indicator of kidney health that was elevated in the patient prior to the transplant.



Montgomery carried out the surgery with several colleagues over the course of around two hours.

They joined the kidney to blood vessels on the top of one of the patient's legs, so that they could observe it and take biopsy samples.

The patient had wanted to be an organ donor and their family was initially disappointed when told their loved one's organs were not suitable, said Montgomery. But "they felt a sense of relief that this was another opportunity for donation," he said. The patient was taken off the ventilator and passed away following the 54-hour test.

Death toll reaches 104 as rains lash Nepal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Oct 21: The death toll from flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains in Nepal climbed to 104 Thursday after 16 more fatalities were reported from various parts of the country, officials said.

Forty-one people have gone missing and the same have been injured in the incidents so far, according to the latest data published by the ministry's Disaster Management Division.

According to a Home Ministry statement, the highest number of fatalities, 62 were reported from Province No. 1, followed by Sudur Paschim Province with 31 fatalities and Karnali Province with seven fatalities. At least 104 people lost

their lives in the recent incidents of flood, landslides and inundation that hit different parts of the country, following incessant rains over the past three days, health ministry officials said.

Three persons were killed in Lumbini province and one in Bagmati province.

In Province 1, where the death toll has reached 62, 20 have been injured and 13 have gone missing. Of the total 62 fatalities, 14 were reported in Ilam, 26 in Panchthar, seven in Dhanu, eight in Sunsari, two in Udayapur, and one each in Morang, Solukhumbu and Bhojpur. The natural disaster hit 20 districts of Nepal.

However, weather conditions have started improving from Thursday, the officials said.

PLASTIC, PLASTIC EVERYWHERE

How airborne microplastics affect climate change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Copenhagen, Oct 21: (The Conversation) Little pieces of plastic can now be found everywhere: from table salt, drinking water and food, to the deep seas, far deserts and most remote mountains. While it's not surprising to find plastics and microplastics in urban environments where they're used every day, their appearance in uninhabited corners of the planet is deeply disturbing.

These tiny plastic fragments, many consisting of fibres less than 5mm wide, are lightweight enough to be carried on the wind: a new explanation for the widespread presence of these particles.

A new study published this year has found microplastics in soils

Researchers are uncovering how microplastic particles are carried in wind, rain and snow to remote regions of our planet

collected from sand in the Kavir and Lut deserts of Iran, with an average abundance of about 0.02 microplastic particles per gram of sand. Given little evidence of any large plastic objects in these areas, the particles were probably deposited in the desert by the wind.

Last year, researchers collected hundreds of wet and dry environmental samples from the most isolated areas in the US, such as the



Grand Canyon.

They found that 98% of all samples contained microplastics, and that nearly 70% of those microplastics were transported to these remote locations by rain and

Svalbard and Greenland, to look for microplastics. They were successful, confirming the contamination of the Arctic atmosphere. So far, although comparatively little research overall has been done on airborne microplastics, studies like these consistently highlight that atmospheric transport of plastic particles is a major contributor to the ubiquity of plastic around the world. Globally, it has been estimated that up to 33.76 tonnes of atmospheric microplastic fibres can be generated in a year. And this amount is only going to grow as plastic production increases. This spells bad news for the health of our environment.

EFFECTS ARE NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD
We have already spent over two

decades studying microplastics in the sea and on land, but the data we've gathered is still just a drop in the ocean. That means many uncertainties remain about the true impact of microplastics.

What we do know is that even pristine rain and snow now contain a cocktail of different types of microplastics, chemicals, natural and artificial particles.

Although the reported amount of microplastics in the air appears to be relatively low, we can't predict all of the potential ecological and health risks posed by long-term exposure to microplastics, especially in combination with other illness-causing airborne pollutants such as nitrogen and sulphur oxides already found in the environment.



Economic growth is accelerating. India is poised for growth to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25 and \$10-trillion economy by 2030
HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA HOLDS CREDIT CAMP
Central Bank of India organised a mega credit camp 'Cent Pahal' at Phuljhar branch under Sambalpur Region. Bal Krishna Swain, Chief Manager, Sambalpur Region distributed loan sanction letters to 41 beneficiaries with an amount of ₹1,52, 32, 000. Swain addressed the customers and informed that the bank is going to organise such camps in each district every month to augment credit to Agriculture, MSME and Retail sectors



of the day quote

The disinvestment of Air India will lead to further growth of the airline in a professional manner, with upgradation of in-flight services such as in-flight entertainment and Wi-Fi facilities, among others
RAJIV BANSAI | CIVIL AVIATION SECRETARY

The government should keep monitoring the key elements of the economy to see whether any pain points are emerging. First is to ensure inflation doesn't become widespread and second is to keep a finger on the pulse of consumption and the underlying demand
SANJIV MEHTA | CHAIRMAN, HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LTD

Our 'better than new' buying experience is driving tremendous demand with over 5,000 cars already sold in our first full month of operation. We are rapidly expanding to 100 cities in the coming months
ARUN SIRDESHMUKH | CEO, OLA CARS

CRIPPLING CRUNCH

Power Secy harps on strategic fuel reserves

Addressing the South Asia Power Summit 'Moving Towards Sustainable Energy Security', organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry, Alok Kumar, India's Power Secretary, said the higher price of coal, especially imported, was the main reason for this coal crisis in the country

AGENCIES

Chennai, Oct 21: India is considering maintaining strategic reserves of natural gas and imported coal to address future supply shocks, a senior power ministry official said Thursday, as the energy hungry nation battles a severe coal shortage. A surge in power demand combined with a fall in imports due to high global coal prices have led to supply disruptions and power cuts lasting up to 14 hours a day despite record supplies from state-run Coal India, the world's biggest coal miner. Alok Kumar, India's Power Secretary, said countries increasingly meet their own needs first when there is a supply crunch, citing the example of Russia curtailing supplies to European nations because they wanted more gas locally. "So let us start thinking and discussing about keeping a strategic reserve of gas and imported coal, so that economies are able to tide over these supply shocks for about a month or so," Kumar said at the



Most of India's 135 coal-fired power plants have fuel stocks of less than three days. Coal accounts for over 70% of India's electricity generation

India, the world's second largest coal importer with the world's fourth largest reserves, must also compete for supplies with China, which too is under pressure to ramp up imports amid a severe power crunch

South Asia Power Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. "High prices will make energy security very challenging if we don't have a well thought out strategy," Kumar said. He further said, "We would never be able to insulate ourselves from these supply shocks of the im-

ported fuel. We have 17,000 MW capacity based on imported coal and if imported coal prices go high... that capacity is out. India has 24,000 MW of gas power plants. They are also virtually out. So, the high prices will make energy security very challenging if we don't have a well thought out strategy."

State's four TPPs face acute shortage

Bhubaneswar: Four thermal power plants (TPPs) in Odisha are again in a critical stage category due to lack of coal supply to the plants. According to data available in National Power Portal, four TPPs — Darlipali STPS, Ib Valley TPS, Kamalanga TPS, Sterlite TPP need immediate attention as the coal stock left in these plants will last for only few days. As per data, the coal stock left in Darlipali super thermal power plant (central govt owned) will last only 3 days while Ib Valley TPS (state-owned) has coal stock for 5 days. On the other hand, Sterlite TPP (private owned) and Kamalanga TPS has 6 days of coal stock left with them. Talcher STPS (central govt owned) has only 11 days of coal stock left. Derang TPP has coal stock left for 31 days. The normative stock each TPP should have ranges from 15-20 days. According to report, Odisha's peak demand had risen from roughly 5062 megawatts in September to around 5344 megawatts October 10. The total installed capacity in Odisha is approximately 8594 MW. Thermal (coal-fired power plants) accounts for more than 68 percent of the total.

It was not immediately clear if potential strategic reserves would be primarily for power plants or would also address coal demand from consumers such as steel plants and aluminium smelters.

The country mainly imports coal from Indonesia, Australia and South Africa. India's Adani

Enterprises-owned Carmichael mine in Australia has said it is on track to export its first coal in 2021. India on an average imported nearly 21 million tonne of thermal coal every month before the coronavirus pandemic, out of which the power sector directly accounted for about 6 million tonne.

ICRA SEES Q2 GDP AT 7.7%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 21: With half of the 15 high-frequency indicators recovering to the pre-pandemic levels in the second quarter, the economy finally looks nearly out of the pandemic woods, helping the Q2 GDP print at 7.7 per cent, according to a report.

"While continued base normalisation, emerging supply-side constraints and excess rainfall have dampened the year-on performance of most of the 15 high-frequency indicators in September, the economic recovery has widened in Q2 as the crisis wrought by the second wave has abated, with a larger number of sectors bettering their pre-pandemic performance, relative to Q1." Icria Rating chief economist Aditi Nayar said in a note Thursday.

The annualised performance of 14 of the 15 high-frequency indicators, except non-food bank credit, have worsened in September compared to August. Accordingly, Nayar projects real GDP in Q2 to have mildly trailed the level of Q2 of FY2020, at 7.7 per cent, compared to 2.21 per cent in Q1, led by the continued subdued performance of the contact-intensive sectors.

However, the September print was not as good as the quarter, indicating that the recovery remains uneven, Icria added

Despite the widened recovery in Q2 with a larger number of sectors bettering their pre-pandemic performance, the revival is multi-speed, with a considerable variation in the pace of growth across sectors, Nayar said.

There is also the growing evidence of a K-shaped recovery, as is evidenced by the sharp disparity in the performance of the stock markets, robust growth in direct tax collections and improved business sentiment, juxtaposed with the continued pessimism displayed by urban households in the RBI's latest consumer confidence survey.

The low performance in September was mainly on account of a combination of factors such as continued base normalisation (especially for motorcycles and scooters, domestic airline passenger traffic, and generation of GST e-way bills), supply-side constraints (non-availability of semi-conductors particularly for passenger vehicles) and excess rainfall.

SHORT TAKES

Bank credit grows 6.48% to ₹110.13L cr

Mumbai: Bank credit grew by 6.48 per cent to ₹110.13 lakh crore and deposit by 10.16 per cent to ₹157.56 lakh crore in the fortnight ended October 8, RBI data showed. In the year-ago fortnight ended October 9, bank advances were at ₹103.43 lakh crore, and deposits were at ₹143.02 lakh crore, according to RBI's Scheduled Banks' Statement of Position in India as October 8, 2021 data, released Thursday. In the previous fortnight ended Sept 24, 2021, bank credit had grown by 6.67 per cent and deposit by 9.34 per cent. In FY2020-21, bank credit had grown by 5.56 per cent and deposit by 11.4 per cent.

Samsung brings dishwasher range

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India's consumer electronics brand, has announced the launch of its dishwasher range in India. Samsung's new range of dishwashers comes in stainless steel silver and white colors and will be available in four models at a starting price of ₹39,500. Samsung's dishwasher effectively clean Indian cookware such as Cooker, Kadhai and come with 13 place settings that can accommodate a large variety of dishes of different sizes in one wash cycle.

Keva Industries unveils Keva Acai

New Delhi: Keva Kaipo Industries launched Keva Acai, formulated with the concentrated blend of 21 exotic rejuvenating Super fruits, including Acai berry, extracted based on the latest American technology to create natural health products, hence adding yet another revitalizing addition to the healthcare range. Dr Karan Goel, MD of Keva Kaipo Industries said, "Keva Acai is an expertly formulated blend of 21 nutritious Super Fruits that support human body's nutritional needs & improve one's overall health."

Income Tax refunds over ₹92,961 crore

New Delhi: Refunds amounting to more than ₹92,961 crore have been issued to taxpayers during the current financial year, the CBDT said Thursday. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) frames policy for the Income Tax Department. This figure includes income tax refunds of ₹23,026 crore in 61,53,231 cases and corporate tax refunds of ₹69,934 crore in 1,69,355 cases.

Court asks Zee to call for EGM

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 21: An Indian court Thursday asked Zee Entertainment Enterprises to call a meeting of shareholders, as sought by top investor Invesco which is pushing for the removal of the TV network's CEO and a board revamp. Any resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting will be put on hold, however, until the Bombay High Court decides on the legality of the Invesco's request for such a meeting. Invesco, which owns nearly 18% of Zee via two funds, wants a shakeup at the Indian TV network over corporate governance concerns at a time when the company is planning a merger with the local unit of Japan's Sony Group. That move is set to create India's biggest broadcaster but

Invesco has raised concerns about options given to Zee's founding family, which includes its CEO Punit Goenka, to raise their stake in the merged company to 20%. Zee's founder and Goenka's father Subhash Chandra has accused Invesco of plotting a hostile takeover. Invesco has denied the charge but said that earlier this year it tried to forge a deal between companies owned by Reliance Industries, controlled by billionaire tycoon Mukesh Ambani, and Zee. "In my view, we should not belittle this dispute as a dispute for control by Invesco," said Mohit Saraf the founder of Saraf & Partners law firm, which is not involved in the case. "This dispute will set the litmus test for enforceability of shareholding rights in this country."

GOVT HIKES DA BY 3%

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both dearness allowance and dearness relief would be ₹9,488.70 crore per annum

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 21: The Union Cabinet Thursday hiked dearness allowance and dearness relief by 3 per cent to 31 per cent, which will benefit about 47.14 lakh central government employees and 68.62 lakh pensioners. This was informed by Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur. The Cabinet gave approval to release an additional instalment of dearness allowance (DA) to central government employees and dearness relief (DR) to pensioners with effect from July 1, 2021, representing a 3 per cent increase over the existing 28 per cent of the basic pay/pension, to compensate for price rise, an official release said. This increase is in accordance



with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission. Earlier in July, the government had restored the dearness allowance and dearness relief and increased the rate of allowance from 17 per cent to 28 per cent.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the central government had frozen the three additional instal-

ments of the DA and DR, which were due from January 1, 2020, July 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021. The rise in wages could boost consumer spending as it comes ahead of the Diwali festival, which this year falls in early November and marks the country's busiest shopping season for consumer goods. India's retail inflation eased to a five-month low of 4.35% year-on-year in September, amid softer food prices and demand, while rising petrol, cooking gas and other manufacturing prices have dampened consumer sentiment. However, the majority of workers in small businesses and farm sector - which represents 90% of the country's total workforce - have faced a fall in wages and job losses since the pandemic began last year.

Q2 RESULTS

JSW Steel Q2 net profit grows over four-fold

New Delhi: JSW Steel Thursday posted an over four-fold jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹7,179 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, mainly driven by higher income. In a BSE filing, the company said it had reported ₹1,595 crore net profit in the July-September quarter of the previous fiscal. Its total income in the quarter under review soared to ₹33,449 crore from ₹19,416 crore in the year-ago period. The company's expenses stood at ₹24,261 crore against ₹16,958 crore a year ago. JSW Steel Ltd is the flagship company of the diversified \$13 billion JSW Group, which has a leading presence in sectors such as steel, energy, infrastructure, cement, sports, among others.



TVS Motor Q2 net jumps 29%

New Delhi: TVS Motor Company Thursday posted a 29.19 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹234.37 crore for the second quarter ended September. The company had reported a net profit of ₹181.41 crore in the July-September period of the previous fiscal. Revenue from operations rose to ₹6,483.42 for the second quarter as compared to ₹5,254.36 in the year-ago period, TVS Motor Company said in a regulatory filing. For the six months ended September 30, the company posted a consolidated net profit of ₹219.65 crore. It had posted a net loss of ₹1.38 crore in the same period of 2020-21. Revenue from operations climbed to ₹11,172.76 crore in the April-September period this fiscal, from ₹7,194.01 crore in the year-ago period.



GAIL to build largest green H2 plant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 21: State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd will build India's largest green hydrogen plant in the next 12-14 months, as it looks to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel. Speaking at the India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK, GAIL Chairman and Managing Director Manoj Jain said the company is looking at building a 10-megawatt (MW) electrolyzer capable of generating 4.5 tonne of green hydrogen daily. The firm has already floated a global tender to buy the electrolyzer



and is hoping to get delivery in 12-14 months. It will take 12-14 months to put the plant, he said adding that the company has finalised 2-3 sites for the unit including one at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh, where the com-

pany has a gas processing plant. Hydrogen is the latest buzz for meeting the world's energy needs. Hydrogen can be produced in three different ways — through coal gasification (brown hydrogen), deriving it from methane in natural gas (blue hydrogen) and using renewable energy to produce green hydrogen. Green hydrogen is the cleanest of all with zero carbon emission. Jain said the plant planned is for 10 MW capacity, the largest announced so far in the country. It will be double the size of the one announced by state electricity producer NTPC.

Smartphone market falls 5% in Q3, Xiaomi leads

THE THIRD QUARTER MAKES FOR A TOUGH YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARE, DUE TO PENT-UP DEMAND LAST YEAR. SHIPMENTS IN Q3 2021 WERE 47 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN Q2 2021



New Delhi, Oct 21: As smartphone vendors struggled with supply issues for low-end mobile handsets, the shipments in India fell 5 per cent (on-year) in the third quar-

ter (Q3) this year, a new report showed Thursday. In Q3 2021 (July-September period), 47.5 million units were shipped and the market was one again led by Xiaomi at 24 per cent share (down 2 per cent from the year-ago quarter), followed by Samsung

at 19 per cent (down 1 per cent from the year-ago period) and Vivo at 17 per cent (also down 1 per cent), according to data by market research firm Canalisys. "From the end of June, a surge in demand has swept India, which is set to persist during the festive

Fest season may see record sale

New Delhi: At a time when the global smartphone industry is facing component and chip shortages, the festive season in India is set to witness a record smartphone sales at \$7.6 billion (nearly ₹56,880 crore), with the retail average selling price (ASP) growing by 14 per cent to reach its highest ever at \$230 (a little over ₹17,000), a new report showed Thursday. According to Counterpoint Research, the festive season is seeing higher trade-ins and aggressive EMIs that increase device affordability and help consumers bypass multiple price barriers. This has helped drive the sales of mid-to-high tier (more than \$200) smartphone models and, subsequently, the overall ASP. The overall consumer sentiment has been positive going into the festive season. Many consumers have decided to spend from their accumulated savings for something that is more personal. This trend will drive a faster smartphone upgrade during the festive season, said Research Director Tarun Pathak.

season. Smartphone vendors have seized the opportunity to push the older stock into the channel ahead of the holiday period," said analyst Sanyam Chaurasia.

But low-end model supply constraints mean shipments have been restricted, and brands have been forced to use promotions to make their high-end models more ap-

pealing, Chaurasia added. These challenges will persist into Q4, and high component and logistics costs, together with container shortages will result in longer lead times and higher retail prices. Xiaomi maintained its lead in the quarter by shipping 11.2 million units. Samsung remained second with 9.1 million units and vivo came third with 8.1 million shipments. Realme remained in fourth place with 7.5 million units, while OPPO finished fifth with 6.2 million units. "The fight for market share intensifies further in India. Smartphone vendors are using a range of strategies, from extending their product mix to boosting their channel coverage, to increase shipments and value," said research analyst Jash Shah.

CR7 SAVES RED DEVILS' NIGHT

Manchester United come from two goals down to beat Italian club Atalanta 3-2 in their Champions League match at Old Trafford



DOING CAPTAIN'S JOB: Skipper Harry Maguire wheels away in celebration after scoring Manchester United's equaliser against Atalanta, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Oct 21: Cristiano Ronaldo fell to his knees at the final whistle and looked to the sky as Manchester United's fans sang his name. The Portugal star had saved his team again in the Champions League.

The greatest scorer in the competition's history soared to head in an 81st-minute winner as United erased a two-goal halftime deficit to beat Atalanta 3-2 in a wild match at Old Trafford Wednesday.

Ronaldo's record-extending 138th goal in the Champions League came three weeks after he scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time to snatch a victory over Villarreal in the second round of games.

This time, the goal came earlier — and was a trademark header with hang time and unerring ac-

curacy after meeting a cross from Luke Shaw that was whipped in from deep on the left.

There was the surprising loss to Young Boys in the first game, after Aaron Wan-Bissaka's first-half red card. Then a come-from-behind 2-1 win against Villarreal after being outplayed for large parts at Old Trafford.

Now this comeback against Atalanta, which moved United into first place in Group F — two points above the Italian side and Villarreal.

Atalanta took a two-goal lead thanks to goals by Mario Pasalic — a tap-in in the 15th minute after United's defense was caught off guard by a quickly taken free-kick — and Merih Demiral's header from a corner in the 29th.

United, who came into the game with just two wins from its last seven games in all competitions, was jeered off the field at halftime.

However, Solskjaer's team showed a different side in the second half, laying siege to Atalanta's goal as Marcus Rashford — on his first start this season after injury — reduced the deficit in the 53rd with a calm finish following a delicious outside-of-the-foot pass behind the defense by Bruno Fernandes.

Maguire, who was partly at fault for Atalanta's goals, swept in the equaliser in the 75th after Fernandes' cross made its way past a number of players and to the back post where the England defender was lurking.

Ronaldo had the final say, not just through his goal — his sixth in eight games since returning for a second spell at United — but also through his last-ditch clearance in the final seconds that sparked a roar from the home fans. Ronaldo was playing his 300th game for the club.

Pique keeps Barca alive in CL



BARCELONA: It took one of Barcelona's veterans to keep the Catalan club from facing an early elimination in the Champions League.

Gerard Pique's first-half goal equaled a Champions League scoring mark for defenders and helped Barcelona edge Dynamo Kyiv 1-0 Wednesday to end their losing streak and get back in position to advance to the knockout stage of the European competition.

Pique scored his 16th Champions League goal to secure the crucial win for Barcelona, which had opened with consecutive 0-3 losses to Bayern Munich and Benfica and

were in danger of not getting past the group stage for the first time since 2000-01.

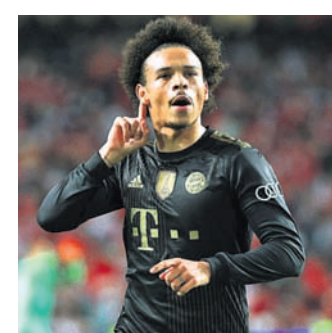
The win put the Catalan club in third place in Group E, two points in front of Dynamo and one behind Benfica, who lost 0-4 to leader Bayern later Wednesday. Bayern reached nine points from three matches.

It was Barcelona's second win in a row after they had won only once in six matches in all competitions. They had been winless in five straight Champions League games, its longest run without a win since 1997. It had lost its last three Champions League matches at

Fati's new contract has 1bn euro release clause

BARCELONA: Barcelona and teenage forward Ansu Fati have agreed on a contract extension to 2027 that includes a buyout clause of 1 billion euros (USD 1.17 billion). The club's announcement came after its 1-0 home win over Dynamo Kyiv in the group stage of the Champions League Wednesday. A signing ceremony and press conference were scheduled for Thursday. Salary details were not immediately revealed. Last week, Barcelona set a buyout clause of 1 billion euros on 18-year-old midfielder Pedri Gonzalez's new contract. Born in Guinea Bissau, the 18-year-old Fati has been in Barcelona's youth squads since 2012. He has been wearing the No.10 jersey left by Lionel Messi after the Argentina great left for PSG this season.

Sane show lifts Bayern



LISBON: Bayern Munich kept up their winning start to the Champions League as Leroy Sane scored twice and set up one in a 4-0 win over Benfica, but coach Julian Nagelsmann wasn't there to see it.

Bayern didn't open the scoring until the 70th minute after two disallowed goals, but once Sane had put Bayern in front, Benfica crumbled.

Sane stepped up to take a direct free-kick outside the penalty area and blazed the ball over the wall and into the net with such power that Benfica custodian couldn't get there in time to stop it.

Bayern went 2-0 up in the 80th with an own-goal by Benfica as Serge Gnabry's cross bounced off winger Everton's head and in. Two minutes later, it was 3-0 when Sane turned defender Nicolas Otamendi and laid the ball off for Lewandowski to score. Sane added the fourth in the 85th off an assist from substitute Josip Stanisic.

LUKAKU, WERNER INJURED IN CHELSEA WIN

LONDON: Injuries to strikers Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner marred Chelsea's 4-0 win over Malmö in the Champions League.

Lukaku sustained a twisted right ankle getting fouled for a penalty that was converted by Jorginho for the second goal in the 21st minute, adding to the opener volleyed in by Andreas Christensen in the ninth minute for his first goal for Chelsea.

The Belgium international initially tried to play on but before long Lukaku was signaling to be substituted. Werner, the strike partner of Lukaku, then had to come off with a hamstring injury just before halftime at Stamford Bridge.

Kai Havertz came on as the replacement for Lukaku and lifted a deft finish over the goalkeeper for



Jorginho shoots from the spot for a goal against Malmö

the third goal in the 48th minute at the end of a breakaway led by fellow substitute Callum Hudson-Odoi.

Jorginho eschewed his trademark penalty routine — the hop,

skip and side-foot shot — for his first-half penalty and he repeated that with another spot-kick in the 57th minute to make it 2-0 after a foul on Antonio Rudiger.

Sindhu in quarters, Srikanth goes down



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Odense (Denmark), Oct 21: India's PV Sindhu has reached the women's singles quarter-finals of the Denmark Open Thursday, beating Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan in three well-fought games at the Odense Sports Park here.

However, India suffered a setback as Kidambi Srikanth could not progress beyond the second round in men's singles, going down to top seed and World No.1 Kento Momota after putting up a tough fight in the first game. Srikanth lost 21-23, 9-21 to the Japanese star in a match that lasted 43 minutes.

Sindhu won the first game but lost the second before prevailing over the Thai player in a close decider to win in 67 minutes in the second round encounter.

The 26-year-old Indian from Hyderabad, who is seeded fourth here, eventually won 21-16, 12-21, 21-18 to reach the last-eight stage where

she will take on South Korea's fifth-seeded An Seyoung. The Korean player beat Russia's Evgeniya Kosetskaya in two games, 21-9, 21-11.

Sindhu is ranked seventh in the world while Busanan is 13th. The Indian started aggressively against the 25-year-old from Nonthaburi, Thailand, and established an early lead. She kept up the pressure as the Thai player tried to keep up with the pace and strokes of Sindhu.

The Indian won eight consecutive points at one stage as she wrapped up the game on her second game point. The second game went the Thai player's way from the start as she jumped into the lead and maintained her advantage throughout. Sindhu made some unforced errors which allowed the Thai player to take control of the game.

The decider was a lot closer and both players fought for each point before Sindhu opened up a four-point lead. She maintained the edge and went on to seal victory at 21-18.

QUOTES ON T20 WORLD CUP

I feel leadership will be key in the coming match (India v Pakistan) as conditions in UAE leave very little margin for error and there are dogfight conditions out there. There will be additional pressure on him (Babar Azam) as captain and batsman because he will be targeted and everyone will be wanting to, like they say, put him in their pocket. Babar has command and presence and he needs to fulfill that role in a batting sense and captain — **MATTHEW HAYDEN**

They're (India) a terrific side, they have got all bases covered and some serious match winners in there. They've obviously been playing in these conditions during the last couple of months with the IPL so they'll be used to that — **STEVE SMITH**

I wouldn't say it's a problem — it's a shame. It's definitely a shame, not having those two (Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer) here but you know they're on the same path of getting fit and healthy again. (But) if you look at our depth of the squad now, the players we have, and it's still extremely impressive. The boys showed that they have done well in the warm up game, and they've been training extremely hard, so I don't think it's a worry at all — **JASON ROY**

We have not had a lot of success in this format — it is time we changed it and we do have a side that can take it all the way. It obviously won't be easy, especially when you look at how strong teams like England, India and New Zealand are. But this Australian side is loaded with talent and for me, the key is David Warner — **BRETT LEE**

Mandhana lauds Indian bowlers for dominating show Down Under

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hobart, Oct 21: The series was lost but star opener Smriti Mandhana feels the Indian women's cricket team gained quite a lot from its recent tour of Australia, the biggest positive being the visiting bowlers' lion-hearted performance in the multi-format rubber. India lost the series 5-11 after going down in the white-ball leg and drawing the lone Test.

"We had a lot of positives. Everyone did well, especially the bowling. It was one department where we were better than the Aussies which is a huge thing for the Indian team," Mandhana said during a Clubhouse session on 10 years of Red Bull Campus Cricket during which its first ever women's edition was announced.

"To come to Australia and outplay their bowlers and outplay



their pacers was so amazing to watch, the way Jhulan di (Goswami) bowled, Pooja (Vastrakar) bowled and Renuka (Singh) and Shikha di (Pandey) bowled in the T20 format.

"It was amazing to watch our

bowlers dominating the Australian batters, that was the biggest positive," Mandhana added.

The stylish southpaw, who had one of her best away series where she scored 86 in an ODI followed by a majestic 127, her first ton in Tests, and then a 52 in the final women's T20I, added that had rain not played spoilsport, the series could have gone India's way.

"If results would have gone differently it would have been even more better for India. Rain played spoilsport in the Test match and the first T20 which we were in a very good position to win.

"Not blaming the rain but things would have maybe been different had the rain not happened but there were so many positives from the series," said Mandhana, who is currently playing for Sydney Thunder in the Women's Big Bash here.

Shakib takes B'desh to WT20 Super 12s



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Al Amerat, Oct 21: All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (46, 37b, 3x6; 4/9) decimated minnows Papua New Guinea with a superb all-round performance as Bangladesh qualified for the 'Super 12s' of the T20 World Cup with a crushing 84-run victory Thursday.

Bangladesh, with a net run rate of +1.733 and four points in the

kitty ensured a place among the elite teams after a shocking opening game defeat against Scotland.

The 'Tigers' first posted an imposing 181/7, as they rode on skipper Mahmudullah's blazing 50 off 28 balls (3x4, 3x6) and Shakib's aggressive knock.

Shakib then showed why he is Bangladesh's greatest ever cricketer with a brilliant four-over spell as Papua New Guinea were all-out for 97 in 19.3 overs.

Chasing 182, Papua New Guinea was never on-course for a comfortable chase. They lost openers Lega Siaka (5) and skipper Assad Vala (6), cheaply, as they slipped to 13/2.

It was a procession for PNG batters, as Shakib, the wily-old fox, snared two wickets in the 5th over, as Bangladesh was eyeing a massive victory after reducing the opposition to 14/4.

While Shakib scalped another two, he was well complimented by young off-spinner Mahedi Hasan (1/20), as the inexperience of PNG batters came to the fore and they were reduced to 29/7. The lower order did resist the inevitable but by then Bangladesh had booked their Super 12s berth.

BRIEF SCORES
Bangladesh 181/7 (Mahmudullah 50, Shakib Al Hasan 46, Kabua Morea 2/26, Assad Vala 2/26)
beat Papua New Guinea 97 (Kiplin Doriga 46 n o; Shakib Al Hasan 4/9, Taskin Ahmed 2/12) **by 84 runs.**