



## EXPLORING NEW GENRE

Actor Divya Agarwal is all set to appear in the upcoming film 'The Box' which highlights mental health issues

LEISURE P2



## S'PORE ALLOWS INDIANS

Singapore Saturday announced the removal of India and five other South Asian countries from its Covid travel restriction list

INTERNATIONAL P10



## INDIA FACE PAKISTAN

Virat Kohli's men begin their World T20 campaign today when they lock horns with their arch rivals Pakistan

SPORTS P12



## Monsoon retreats from Odisha

**BHUBANESWAR:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday said that coastal, south and south interior districts of Odisha saw above normal maximum temperature with the prevalence of dry weather marking the end of monsoon in state for this year. "The southwest monsoon has further withdrawn from remaining parts of the state today and thus has withdrawn from entire state," said IMD. According to the weatherman, the prevalence of dry weather after the monsoon withdrawal in state has triggered the onset of winter. However, some coastal, south and south central districts recorded 'above-normal' maximum temperature, which is appreciable as per IMD.

MORE P4



## Faizabad junction renamed Ayodhya Cantt

**LUCKNOW:** The Yogi Adityanath government Saturday decided to rechristen Faizabad junction as Ayodhya Cantt, as per a tweet shared by the Chief Minister's office. Earlier, the government had renamed Faizabad district as Ayodhya and Allahabad as Prayagraj. After becoming Chief Minister of the state in 2017, Yogi Adityanath renamed Mughalsarai Junction railway station. Adityanath's proposal to change the name of the station was approved by the Central government and in 2018 it was rechristened as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction. The Yogi Cabinet also renamed Mughalsarai tehsil as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Tehsil.

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

## WARMING UP!



Arun Haryani (right) has painted his body with Indian Tricolour while Anil Ladvani is seen with a Pakistan national flag painted on his body during a photo op ahead of India-Pakistan T20 World Cup match at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Saturday

# Mamita's family wants Gobinda to hang

Mamita was sole breadwinner of the family and her death has dealt a heavy blow to their financial condition, the aggrieved family members pleaded before OSCW

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Oct 23:** Reeling under shock over the gruesome murder of Mahaling school principal Mamita Meher, the agitated family members Saturday demanded death penalty for the main accused, Gobinda Sahu, and his associate while meeting the chairperson Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) at their Jharni residence under Turekela block in the district.

Sahu is the president of the residential school at Mahaling in Kalahandi district where the deceased Mamita Meher was working as a principal. Sahu, during interrogation by police, has confessed that he had killed Mamita. The family members made this

statement when a four-member team led by the OSCW chairperson Minati Behera visited Jharni village and condoled the death of Mamita while interacting with the family members.

Mamita's father Suchandra Meher, mother Tulasi Meher, elder sister Mamata Meher and younger brother Bunty were present during the discussion when Behera met the family members. Suchandra said that all they want is justice and arrest of all the accused involved in the case and capital punishment should be awarded to Gobinda.

The family members said Mamita was the sole breadwinner of the family and her death has dealt a heavy blow to their financial condition. They demanded a job for their son and financial assistance to the family. Behera assured the family of taking necessary steps in this regard. She also informed them about her discussion with the Bolangir SP she had Friday. Behera said that the SP had assured to complete the probe soon while he has been advised to ensure

## Sahu's college availed govt funds, says Cong

**BHUBANESWAR:** Gobinda Sahu's institution had received government funds worth crores with the help of MoS Ditya Shankar Mishra, alleged Congress leader Satya Prakash Nayak here Saturday. Addressing a presser here, Nayak alleged that Sahu had a strong relationship with Mishra apart from many BJD leaders and government officials for which his private institution had received funds from Western Odisha Development Council and PMGSY. Nayak, the Pradesh Congress Committee media cell convener, said a road was built under PMGSY up to Mahaling College. Later, the CAG raised objections to the road construction, he said.

that the accused do not go scot free. She also assured that steps will be taken to conduct the trial of the matter in a fast-track court.

Meanwhile, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has sought an action-taking report from Bolangir SP regarding allegations of sexual exploitation of minor girls at Mahaling public school. The NCPCR asked the SP to conduct an enquiry in the matter under PCO Act and send a detailed report to the commission within five days.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Thanks to your excellent leadership, Covid has been controlled, sir! New deaths are caused by dengue!!

## MANISH ANURAG DEATH

# Suspended cop, 2 others held for illegally running South City Hotel

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** The Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested three persons including the suspended constable Prasanna Behera for illegally running South City Hotel in Patrapada area. The police came to know about violation of norms at the bar of South City Hotel while investigating the murder case of Manish Anurag, son of senior journalist Navin Das.

The police had earlier sealed the hotel which was found operating till late hours. The bar was being run on lease by the brother of Behera, who is also the secretary of Bhubaneswar Havildar and Constable Association.

Apart from Behera, the cops Saturday arrested Pradyumna Kumar Jena, owner of the hotel and Sovit Kumar Jena, the bar manager, for storing liquor bottles without valid licence, running the bar without renewing the licence, lapsed



since September 30, and operating bar till late hours violating Covid-19 guidelines. They were also accused of terrorising the customers and extorting money from them with the help of local goons.

A team of the Commissionerate Police Friday raided the hotel and seized liquor bottles, DJ music sets and several bundles of fake ₹10 and ₹50 notes from the bar. Sources claimed that the fake notes were being flung at the bar girls. A case has been registered in this regard.

# Central agencies warned of action

Despite repeated requests, central agencies like Central Ground Water Board, MoEF&CC, CGWA, GSI and others are not providing requisite documents to Odisha and Chhattisgarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Odisha and Chhattisgarh have filed applications seeking coercive action against Central agencies which, despite repeated requests, have not provided the documents related to Mahanadi river basin sought by the two riparian states.

A three-judge bench of the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) headed by Supreme Court judge Justice AM Khanwilkar Saturday asked the agencies to supply the documents to the riparian states and observed that if they fail to provide documents to both the states before the next hearing scheduled for December 18, coercive action would be initiated against them and they would be summoned.



## MAHANADI WATER DISPUTES

The bench also comprising Justices Ravi Ranjan and Indermeet Kaur hinted that the next hearing of the tribunal is likely to be in physical mode in December. The tribunal has been holding proceedings in virtual mode since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. The MWDT also expressed willingness to hold sittings in both Odisha and Chhattisgarh in future.

Why can't be sittings held in Odisha and Chhattisgarh in future, the bench observed orally.

Meanwhile, both the states have filed statements of admission and denial in respect to documents submitted by them in support of their applications in Mahanadi tribunal. Additionally, the state of

Chhattisgarh has also filed further documents in the tribunal to which Odisha will file its response within a week.

The officials said that Chhattisgarh filed an application seeking splitting of Shivnath sub-basin of Mahanadi Basin. The tribunal asked Odisha to file its reply on the same within a week.

It is to be mentioned here that the MWDT September 4 had asked its Registrar to arrange further meetings between technical teams of Odisha and Chhattisgarh and the officers of around eight central agencies to hold discussions on the documents and studies requested by the riparian states. However, the two states are yet to receive the requisite documents from Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Central Ground Water Authority, Geological Survey of India, Nabard, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, National Remote Sensing Centre and Survey of India.

# PETROL UP ₹36 IN 18 MONTHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Petrol and diesel prices were hiked for the fourth consecutive day Saturday by 35 paise per litre, pushing the total increase in rates on petrol to ₹36 per litre and on diesel to ₹26.58 since early May 2020 when taxes on the two fuels were raised to record levels. Petrol in Delhi now costs ₹107.24 a litre and diesel comes for ₹95.97, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

CITY PRICES	
PETROL	₹108.19 (+0.35)
DIESEL	₹104.70 (+0.38)

The latest increase that follows the unrelenting hike in international oil prices has pushed pump rates across the country to their highest-ever levels. While petrol is above ₹100-a-litre-mark in all major cities, diesel has crossed that level in more than a dozen states.

The total increase in petrol price since May 5, 2020 decision of the government to raise excise duty to record levels now totals ₹35.98 per litre. Diesel rates have during this period gone up by ₹26.58 per litre.

The government had raised excise duty on petrol and diesel to mop up gains that would have otherwise accrued to consumers from international oil prices crashing to as low as USD 19 per barrel. While international prices have since recovered to USD 85, excise duty has remained at ₹32.9 per litre on petrol and ₹31.8 on diesel.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Friday equated demand for cutting excise duty to 'axing one's own feet', saying such levies funded government schemes to provide free COVID-19 vaccines, meals and cooking gas to millions amid the pandemic.

# Law minister on stage, CJI picks holes in judicial infra

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said almost 20 pc judges in the country have no place to sit and 42 pc courts have no toilets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Aurangabad, Oct 23:** Highlighting major concerns over judicial infrastructure in the country, Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana Saturday made some shocking revelations, including how almost 20 per cent of the judicial officers in the country don't even have proper courtrooms to sit.

Of the total sanctioned strength of 24,280 judicial officers in India, there are only 20,143 court halls, including 620 rented premises, and 26 per cent of the court premises have

no separate toilets for women and 16 per cent do not even toilets, while only 54 per cent courts have purified drinking water facility.

In the computer era, only 27 per cent of the courtrooms have computers on the judges' dais with videoconferencing facility, only 51 per cent courts have a library, 32 per cent have a separate record room and only 5 per cent have basic medical facilities, the CJI revealed.

"Good judicial infrastructure for courts in India has always been an afterthought. It is because of this mindset that courts in India still operate from dilapidated structures making it difficult to effectively perform their function," he said.

Inaugurating the Bombay High Court Aurangabad Bench's Annex Building's B and C wings along with Chief Minister Uddhav



Thackeray, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju and other dignitaries, CJI Ramana said good judicial infrastructure is important to improve access to justice and meet the rising demands of the people who

are more aware of their rights and developing economically, socially and culturally.

Citing a global research of 2018, he said that "failure to deliver timely justice can cost the country as much as 9 per cent of the annual GDP" and without adequate infrastructure for courts, "we cannot aspire to fill this gap". In his address, Thackeray said he would soon allot land for the extension of the Bombay High Court and invited the CJI to come and perform the ground-breaking ceremony for it.

Stating that delivering justice is not the responsibility of the courts alone but all of us, he said the world's largest democracy has been nurtured by the executive, judiciary, legislature, and the media.

"There are pressures on it but if these columns weaken, they will col-

lapse and it will be difficult to make them stand again. I feel the only solution is what I can do as the government to ensure speedy justice," Thackeray pointed out.

With the Law Minister also on the dais, CJI Ramana urged him to ensure a proposal to set up the National Judicial Infrastructure Authority is taken up in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament. Rijiju said that there is "no politics" when it comes to the judiciary, and "we are just different organs of the system but we are a team".

Referring to delays and "tarikh pe tarikh" (date after date) that burdens the common man, he said justice must be ensured as soon as possible, but it is also necessary to create a society free of crime so that the courts can be empty.

With the Law Minister also on the

dais, CJI Ramana urged him to ensure a proposal to set up the National Judicial Infrastructure Authority is taken up in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament. "I have sent the proposal. I am hoping for a positive response soon and the Union Law Minister will expedite the process," he said.

Responding in his speech, Rijiju said that there is "no politics" when it comes to the judiciary, and "we are just different organs of the system but we are a team". The CJI affirmed that Indian courts have repeatedly upheld the rights and freedoms of individuals, have stood up whenever people or society at large are at the receiving end of the executive's excesses and assured that the seeker of justice, however weak, "need not worry about the might of the state".





## DIESEL WALKS PAUL WALKER'S DAUGHTER DOWN THE AISLE

Action star Vin Diesel walked down his late *Fast and Furious* co-star Paul Walker's daughter Meadow down the aisle. Meadow posted pictures from her beachside wedding on Instagram. In one image, Diesel, who is her godfather, is seen walking alongside Meadow.

## SALMA HAYEK BELIEVES EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Actress Salma Hayek had given up hope of landing a role as a superhero, but after nabbing the part in *Eternals*, she believes "everything is possible". Hayek, who plays spiritual leader Ajak in the Marvel film, had dreamt her whole career of landing such a role in a 'big blockbuster' reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

#### ARIES

Today the stars advocate that you concentrate on money matters and how to save some, and in this purpose you will remain engrossed. However, Ganesh advises you not to neglect domestic duties lest you encounter a morose spouse. So carry on and make a dash for that movie as planned. Don't cancel it.

#### TAURUS

You are likely to turn excessively self centred today, says Ganesh. This could cause you to be very insecure. You will have a tendency to control and dominate others. There is a likelihood that you may, thereby, jeopardize important relationships. You are advised to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of all those you come across. Do not allow your selfishness to get the better of you, leading you to alienate those who matter.

#### GEMINI

Ganesh opines that today you might feel a little blue and under the weather. You may harbour feelings of loneliness today. Your repressed emotions and yearnings as well as your intellectual leanings will likely come to the fore today, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

Your ideas today are source of your energy. A situation may arise, which will force you to take hard decisions later. A new business or venture may prove beneficial. Your magical touch will bestow success in every endeavour. Ganesh is with you.

#### LEO

There are chances of conflict on the home front today. However you will be able to solve these problems owing to your understanding nature. However, these conflicts would likely not have cropped up if you would have paid more attention to your family. You appreciate the wonderful things in life today, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

Keep an open mind and give vent to your imagination. You will feel very creative today, and will pursue your innovative ideas. Luck will favour you, and some things on which you took some risk will bear fruits. You will be very energetic and enthusiastic about all the work you do. Ganesh says it is an auspicious day to arrange social gatherings.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says that your social status will increase now. Today is an auspicious day for venturing in new business or changing your profession. For those involved in the fields of interior designing, or running beauty parlours, now is an especially bountiful time for making progress in your business.

#### SCORPIO

A cheerful day lies ahead of you especially for the business community. It's a clincher, as good deals not only come to your door step, but yield good business. Feel, that you are the king of the world; bring out the best in you and you are bound to succeed.

#### SAGITTARIUS

You are in a dilemma today. You may find yourself standing at crossroads, and your decision power does not seem to help you much, says Ganesh. You are likely to become controversy's favourite child; this may add fuel to the fire. Be wise, and take guidance of experienced people.

#### CAPRICORN

God helps those who help themselves, likewise, your sincere efforts will be paid off well, today. If you're dealing with shares and stocks, it may be your day, today. Your life partner will proved to be lucky for your success, so give him/her the credit he/she deserves, suggests Ganesh.

#### AQUARIUS

You always see the larger picture, and desire to channelise all your energies towards making things better. Such positive approach makes you an excellent team player, and enables you to bring novel ideas and effective solutions to the table, says Ganesh. You will be the life of every party you will go to today.

#### PISCES

This day promises to be filled with much romance, laughter, and fine dining, says Ganesh. You will seem irresistible to the opposite sex. You might also find yourself falling for someone. A breathe of fresh air could waft into old relationships, or new ones could be formed. However, this is likely to be a drawn out process. You could find yourself dining out with friends, later on in the evening.

# IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK: Divya on mental health



**Mumbai:** Actress Divya Agarwal is all set to appear in the upcoming short film titled *The Box*, which highlights mental health issues.

The script is also written by Divya. Divya, who received attention for her multiple roles in *Cartel*,

feels that people are not open about their mental health. However, this short film may help them to discuss it.

She said: "The concept of mental health has been spoken about quite recently. While many speak about it, there is no clear route where one can get out of the situation."

"This film is going to be all about that and many more.

I have always believed in the phrase, it is ok to be not ok and this short film will justify the answer."

She talked about the seriousness of this issue and says that mental health is not like any other illness. It needs proper treatment.

"This can only be solved once you reach out for help," she concluded.

## RK LAXMAN@100

# Reminiscing the Common Man

*Laxman's Common Man, clad in dhoti and checked coat, only observed because he was as dumb as 'aam admi'. But his helpless gaze was reflected in the mirror of conscience of the nation*



BUDDHADEV NANDI

**B**orn October 24, 1921, Rasipuram Krishnaswami Laxman, an Indian cartoonist, by his daily comic strip *You Said It* chronicled Indian politics and life through the eyes of his unique creation Common Man for more than five decades since 1951. The reticent but observant Common Man was omnipresent and the embodiment of aspiration, apprehension, joy, sorrow, disappointment of the common Indians.

Poverty, price rise, corruption, housing problem, traffic problem, hunger and almost all the everyday troubles faced by the commoners were within the purview of the iconic Common Man. RK Laxman in his doodles had spared no class of the society including political leaders, religious leaders, self-proclaimed god-men, business tycoons, bureaucrats and so on. His Common Man perhaps believed that silence is the best eloquence. Therefore, the ubiquitous Common Man, clad in dhoti and checked coat, only observed because he was as dumb as 'aam admi'. But his helpless gaze was reflected in the mirror of conscience of the nation.

Laxman's Common Man drew both delectation and disdain from influential politicians. After the Sino-Indian War in 1962, Nehru was caricatured by Laxman. Nehru instead of responding exasperat-

edly said to Laxman, "Mr. Laxman, I so enjoyed your cartoon this morning. Can I have a signed enlarged copy to frame?" But Morarji Desai's reaction in repercussion to Laxman's one cartoon was quite antipathetic. His cartoon on the earthquake in Gujarat in 2001 brought tears to the eyes of Karan Singh, a renowned politician. But, the nuclear scientist-cum-the President of India APJ Abdul Kalam had high esteem for Laxman as a cartoonist whose Common Man he considered as antidote for hard times and hard lives. However, the Common Man had to face the scissor of censorship during Emergency when the government exercised zero tolerance on all criticism of the state.

The Indian Postal Service released a commemorative stamp featuring the Common Man to mark the 150 years of *The Times of India*. The Symbiosis Institute has erected a 10-feet high bronze statue of the Common Man at Pune and his another statue stands at Worli Sea Face, facing the sea sans speaking, just observing the state of affairs silently. The Common Man has been made the mascot for Air Deccan, India's low-cost airline, since 2005.

Laxman's masterful strokes in the space of a couple of inches were thirstily waited by the fans of the Common Man every morning over five decades.

# Saif puts on weight to play railway TC

**MUMBAI:** Saif Ali Khan had put on several kilos to play the role of a railway ticket collector named Rakesh for his upcoming film *Bunty Aur Babli 2*.

Talking about his character, Saif said: "Not a day goes by without Rakesh missing the thrill he felt when he was the legendary common man Bunty. Though he has kept his identity a secret and enjoys his marriage with Vimmy (Rani Mukerji's character), he misses the action, misses strategising for cons that became the talk of the nation. Suppressing who he truly is and wants to be, impacts his health."

Saif as Bunty has retired from being a conman and has settled



Rani Mukerji and Saif Ali Khan in a scene from *Bunty Aur Babli 2*

into family life with Babli also known as Vimmy, played by Rani.

Despite being in love with his wife and appreciating his family to the core, Rakesh is bored. The slow life in a small town has impacted his fitness. He craves thrill, he craves the adrenaline rush he felt while pulling off incredible cons across India.

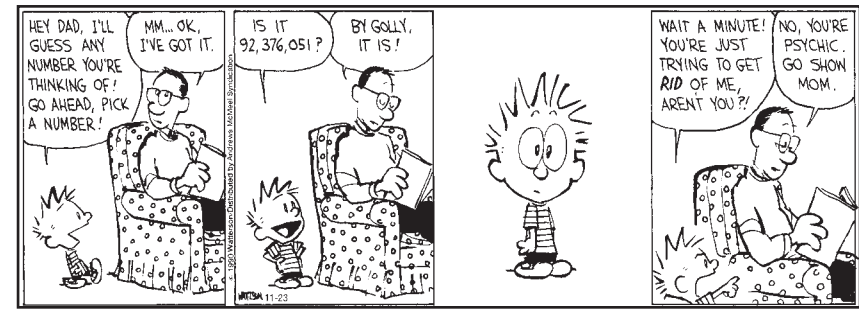
Saif added: "I had to put on several kilos and then lose it quickly because of my packed shooting schedule. Now, when I look back, I'm glad I went through the process because Rakesh aka the OG Bunty looks believable in the film."

The YRF is set to release November 19.

### PEANUTS



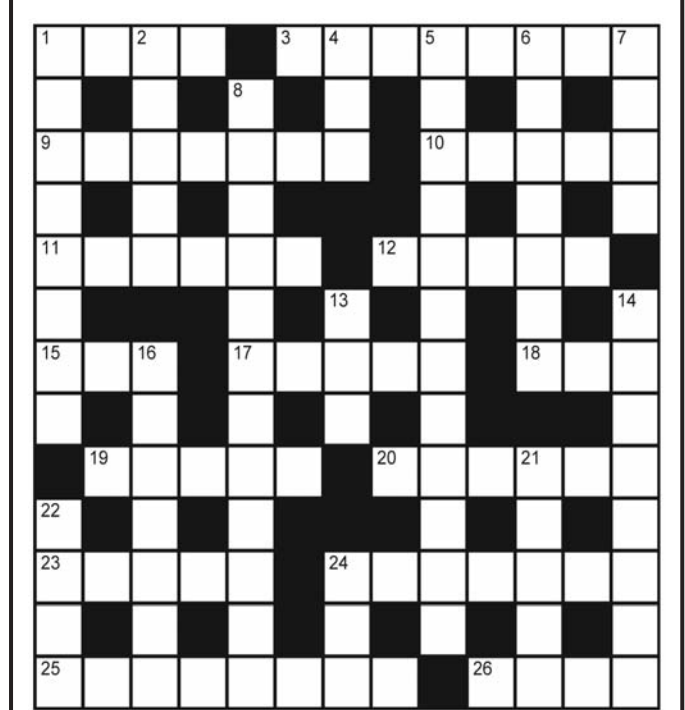
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



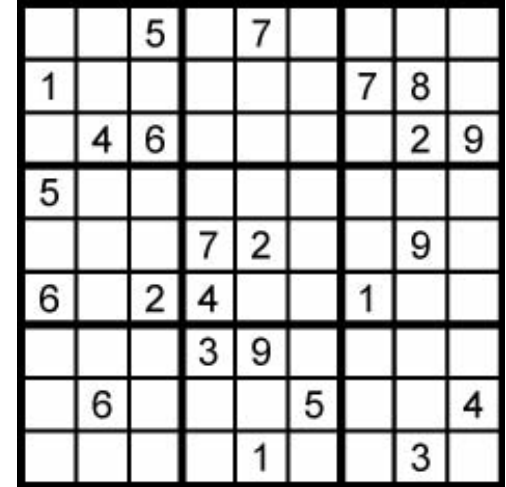
## FUN post CROSSWORD



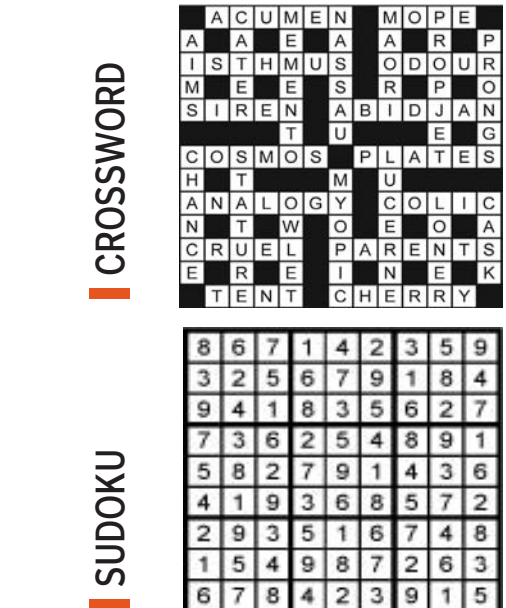
- Across**
- 1 Stocking stuffers
  - 3 Happy-go-lucky
  - 9 Heavy lifter
  - 10 Patriarch
  - 11 Eye adornments
  - 12 Bloodhound's clue
  - 15 Hit head-on
  - 17 Duties
  - 18 Lady's man
  - 19 Queen topper
  - 20 Acquire
  - 23 Cousin of a giraffe
  - 24 Airport action
  - 25 Chao Phraya locale
  - 26 Quartz variety
  - Down**
  - 1 Little tykes
  - 2 Noblemen
  - 4 Arctic bird
  - 5 Gym peddler (8,4)
  - 6 Chinchillas
  - 7 Neutral color
  - 8 Attempt (4,2,1,5)
  - 13 Bring to bear
  - 14 Spellbind
  - 16 Sweet Italian wine
  - 21 Squirrel's stash
  - 22 Bearded animal
  - 24 Crayola color

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



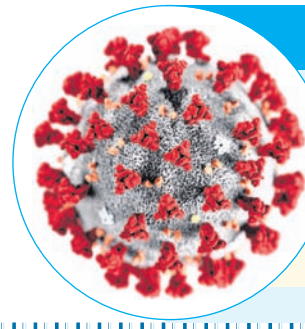
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## FESTIVAL AHEAD

Earthen lamps on display at a stall at Dolamundai in Cuttack ahead of the Diwali festival, Saturday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	243,914,013	221,009,506	4,956,436
India	3,41,58,772	3,35,24,450	4,53,742
Odisha	10,37,964	10,25,507	8,305

## DEMAND FOR MISHRA'S REMOVAL

# Oppn keeps Mamita case on the boil

MEMBERS OF THE BJP MAHILA MORCHA CLASHED WITH POLICE WHEN THEY WERE STOPPED FROM MARCHING TO NAVEEN NIWAS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** Pressing hard for the removal of MoS DS Mishra in connection with the murder of lady teacher Mamita Meher, hundreds of BJP Mahila Morcha activists Saturday marched to the Chief Minister's residence, Naveen Niwas, here.

The BJP workers took out a mock funeral procession from the party office to Naveen Niwas here. Carrying posters and placards and shouting slogans, women activists of the BJP also demanded dismissal of the Minister of State (MoS) for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra from the Council of Ministers for his alleged role in the murder case.

The Mahila Morcha activists had a scuffle with the police near the Sishu Bhawan Chhak as the police deployed there did not allow them to proceed to Naveen Niwas.

BJP general secretary Lekhashree Samantsinghar said that since the allegation is against the Minister of State for Home, the victim's family would not get justice unless the minister is sacked and the case is handed over to the CBI.

She alleged that several Mahila Morcha activists were injured during their march to Naveen Niwas. "While the government is allowing the accused to roam free outside, we are facing an attack here," she said.

The BJP leader questioned as to why the Chief Minister is silent on this case. BJP Mahila Morcha National president Vanathi Srinivasan too demanded that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sack Mishra immediately in connec-



BJP women wing activists try to break police barricade on their way to gherao Naveen Niwas

tion with the case.

The victim's family has raised serious charges against Mishra and his alleged involvement in the sex racket run by the accused from the school premises, she said. There seems to be a clear effort on the part of Mishra to protect and shield the accused, Srinivasan said.

Members of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) staged a demonstration in front of the Kalahandi SP office Saturday, demanding Mishra's resignation. During the agitation, a scuffle broke out at the spot between the police and the BJYM activists.

BJYM state unit president, Irasis Acharya said that the state government will be responsible for any deterioration in the law and order situation if the minister does not resign soon. Senior Congress leader and lawyer Narsingha Mishra said he is willing to fight for justice in the court on behalf of the victim's family, if the latter approaches him in this regard.

Speaking at a meeting organised in memory of Mamita in Jarasingha under Deogaon block of Balangir district, Mishra said the alleged murder of Mamita is a politically sensitive case. If it is not investigated properly, the entire state will rise against the state government, he added. He further said as the case involved leaders and ministers of the ruling party, they will definitely try to mislead the investigation, which will deprive the bereaved family of justice. All the suspects should be interrogated



Activists of Left parties during a demonstration at Master Canteen Square

and the accused brought to book irrespective of the posts held by them, he added.

Four Left parties - CPI, CPIM, CPI(ML) and Forward Block also held a demonstration at Master Canteen area in the heart of the capital city demanding the dismissal of the minister and a High Court-monitored SIT probe into the murder of the lady school teacher.

The Left leaders demanded that the Chief Minister dismiss the minister and pay a compensation of Rs 1 crore to the family members of the deceased school teacher.

BJD spokesperson Elna Das, however, dismissed the allegations against the minister describing them as baseless. She said the prime accused in the murder case has been arrested and the BJP Mahila Morcha is unnecessarily politicising the issue.

Another BJD leader Ipsita Sahoo said that the BJP is politicising the issue even after knowing the truth. BJP Mahila Morcha is doing cheap politics over Mamita Meher's case even after the arrest of accused persons. BJD also wants justice for Mamita's family, but the BJP is playing politics over it, she added.

## COLLOQUIUM ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

# HOUSE OBSERVES SENSE OF PRIVACY IS AT STAKE



PRSI Bhubaneswar chapter chairman Amar Jyoti Mahapatra speaks at the colloquium as Orissa POST and Dharitri Editor Tathagata Satpathy and other dignitaries listen attentively

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** What's common between Russia's Dmitry Muratov and Maria Ressa of the Philippines who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize this year? Both have been recognised for their unflinching journalism amidst rising authoritarianism in their respective countries.

Discussing along these lines, a colloquium on 'Freedom of expression and peace' was organised by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Bhubaneswar chapter, and the Press Club of Odisha, Saturday. The seminar, wherein dignitaries from different media houses of the state participated, witnessed conversations on an assortment of topics such as government interference in media, sedition and abuse of authority.

Highlighting the works of Maria and Dmitry, who have been called representatives of all journalists,

Amar Jyoti Mahapatra, Chairman of PRSI Bhubaneswar Chapter, said, "We have made an effort to further independent media. These two (Maria and Dmitry) have shown how the pillar of journalism can remain intact with undying courage and strength in the face of tyrannical misuse of power."

Introducing an intriguing observation, Tathagata Satpathy, Editor, Orissa POST and Dharitri, said that the 'Freedom of Expression' is a very modern concept for India, where, in actuality, the sense of privacy is at stake. "Algorithms are now transforming our thought processes. Governments and laws keep on changing. While discussions on freedom of speech are important, it's absolutely necessary to observe how our mindset is changing while compromising and adjusting with our privacy."

Bringing in the judiciary's observation on the same, Siddhant

Mohanty, an advocate said, "Governments have tried to interfere with the press freedom earlier and continue to do so presently. However, the Supreme Court, which has a duty to uphold this freedom, must also ensure that the restrictions, if any, imposed by a law on the media must be reasonable and unbiased."

It may be mentioned that India, which ranks 142 among 180 countries in World Press Index 2021, is placed along with countries like Brazil, Mexico and Russia. In its report, the Reporters Without Borders described India as a "bad" place for journalism and termed the country as one of the most dangerous nations for journalists trying to execute their jobs properly.

The event concluded with a question and answer session followed by the official vote of thanks. Among the other signatories, professionals of the PRSI also attended the event.

Life ki nayi innings ko Mutual Funds se shuru karna Sahi Hai.

Apne Mutual Fund Distributor ya Investment Advisor se baat karke jaanein ki Mutual Funds aapke liye kyun Sahi Hai.

• Visit [mutualfundssahihai.com](http://mutualfundssahihai.com)

Follow Mutual Funds Sahi Hai on:

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

# MUTUAL FUNDS

Sahi Hai



**Betel leaf trader's murder still a mystery**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 23:** The Commissionerate Police is yet to solve the murder case of betel leaf trader Khirod Bhoi and arrest the accused despite one-and-a-half years having passed since the incident.

Though the police had examined the CCTV footage and sought the help of a scientific team and sniffer dog to collect clues regarding the murder case, they are yet to make any headway in this regard.

After making several rounds to Jagatpur police station, the family members of the deceased betel leaf trader have virtually lost all hopes of getting justice, sources said.

Some miscreants had killed Bhoi at his shop near Paga-Gopinathpur bypass in the late hours of February 18 last year. Jagatpur police had seized the CCTV footage, but they could not identify the murders as the recording was hazy due dense fog, sources said. Bhoi, a resident of Laxminarayanpur, was supplying betel leaves to various shops and people by procuring the same from Niali area. It was suspected that he had been killed over business rivalry.

The police had interrogated at least 70 people after examining the CDR of Bhoi. But, they have failed to collect any evidence in connection with the case.

"The police had visited our village several times as part of their investigation into the case. We have also visited the police station time and again to get justice. But, the case is yet to be solved. Our family was dependent on our father's income. Now, we three brothers are working as daily labourers to eke out a livelihood," said the deceased betel leaf trader's son Shankarsan Bhoi.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh said, "Our officials are probing the murder case. We hope that we will nab the accused soon. We will not reveal much at this moment."

**Scindia urged to start direct flights between City, Dehradun**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** Senior BJD leader AU Singh Deo Saturday urged Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to commence direct flight services between Uttarakhand's Dehradun and Bhubaneswar to promote tourism in the two states.

Bhubaneswar is among the most visited destinations in eastern India, while Dehradun is the gateway to the Himalayan region, he said.

"Kindly instruct officials to do needful for starting a direct flight between Dehradun and Bhubaneswar, which will be of great support for devotees and tourists as well," the former Odisha tourism minister said in a letter to Scindia.

Both the cities are needed to be connected with direct flights as such services in more than 350 new routes have been introduced by the Aviation Ministry, Singh Deo claimed.

**WASSUP TODAY**

- PURI**
- Odisha State Football Championship, Puri beach, 9 am
- Presser by Odisha Pragati Dal, Annapurna Theatre, 11.30 am

Programmes/announcements for wassup today may be sent to opwassup@gmail.com for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

**CLASSIFIED**

**LOST**

Since 12.09.2021 HDFC Bank ID Card No.210305292200256 is lost. If the said ID Card found please return to G.P. Combines Pvt. Ltd., 155, Bapuji Nagar, Phone No. 0674-6677777.

**WINTER IS COMING**

**Post-monsoon chills in Odisha**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Saturday said that coastal, south and south interior districts of Odisha saw above normal maximum temperature with the prevalence of dry weather marking the end of monsoon in state for this year.

The monsoon had already withdrawn from several parts of India around October 15 except from eastern region due to formation of two back-to-back low pressure systems over Bay of Bengal. The development had triggered widespread rainfall activities over Odisha and nearby states earlier this month.

By October 15, only the eastern region of India was under the shadow of monsoon due to the two successive low pressure systems formed over the Bay of Bengal, while the rest of the country was witnessing withdrawal of monsoon



soon. Odisha and adjoining coastal states received rainfall owing to the low-pressure areas.

"The southwest monsoon has further withdrawn from remaining parts of the state today and thus has withdrawn from entire state," said IMD.

According to the weatherman, the prevalence of dry weather after the monsoon withdrawal in state has triggered the onset of winter. However, some coastal, south and south central districts recorded

By October 15, only the eastern region of India was under the shadow of monsoon due to the two successive low pressure systems formed over the Bay of Bengal, while the rest of the country was witnessing withdrawal of monsoon

According to the IMD, the prevalence of dry weather after the monsoon withdrawal in state has triggered the onset of winter

Puri recorded the highest temperature at 35°C among the temperature chart put out by various stations, while the lowest temperature was reported from Phulbani at 15.2°C

'above-normal' maximum temperature, which is appreciable as per IMD. Noticeably, many parts of the states are reporting sharp decline in minimum temperature. Puri

recorded the highest temperature at 35°C among the temperature chart put out by various stations. However, the lowest temperature was reported from Phulbani at 15.2°C.

"There will be no large change in the maximum and minimum temperature over the districts of Odisha in the next 4 to 5 days. The maximum and minimum temperature in Bhubaneswar in the next 24 hours is likely to be around 32°C and 21°C respectively," predicted the weatherman.

**IN MEMORIAM**



People from various walks of life pay homage to Communist ideologue and revolutionary writer Bhagabati Charan Panigrahi on his death anniversary at Satichaura cremation ground in Cuttack, Saturday

**Conman tries to sell ITDC hotel in Puri, arrested**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch has arrested a businessman of ₹50 lakh on the pretext of selling Nilachal Ashoka Hotel of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) in Puri.

The fraud devastated the life of the victim Tapan Kumar Mohanty, who lost his speech, memory and became paralysed due to a severe brain stroke after he came to know about the fraud.

Earlier, the EOW had registered a case (13/21) against the accused under various Sections of the IPC on the basis of a complaint filed by Tapan's wife, Bijayini Mohanty of Puri.

The EOW arrested one of the accused, Anikesh Sahu, who impersonated as a contractor working with different projects of ITDC. Sahu was arrested from Buxi Bazaar in Cuttack Friday and produced before the SDJM court



- The EOW of state Crime Branch arrested one Anikesh Sahu for allegedly trying to sell Nilachal Ashoka Hotel in Puri
- The conman and his accomplices duped a businessman, Tapan Kumar Mohanty, of ₹50 lakh
- The fraud had devastated Mohanty, who suffered a severe brain stroke and became paralysed

here Saturday.

The prime accused Chandan Akash Mohanty along with two others, including Sahu, hatched a conspiracy to cheat the couple. The accused contacted Tapan, the owner of T.K. Egg and Chicken Centre in January last year.

During January 2020, Sahu, Mohanty and another person approached Tapan, introducing themselves as a contractor, senior officer of ITDC and a clerk of ITDC respectively. They persuaded Tapan

to purchase ITDC's Nilachal Ashoka Hotel in Puri for ₹15 crore, including ₹3 crore as under-the-table payments.

The accused persons collected ₹30 lakh from Tapan in cash and asked him to deposit another ₹20 lakh in the official account of ITDC to win the victim's trust. However, when Tapan did not receive any communication from ITDC Limited, he smelled a rat. Upon verification, he realised that he had been duped. He requested the trio to return his

money, but they kept evading refund, citing different reasons.

Notably, Chandan Akash Mohanty was arrested earlier for cheating a special class contractor Dhanurdhara Champatiray by impersonating as an OTDC official and issuing fake work orders, purportedly issued by OTDC, Bhubaneswar, and collecting more than ₹3 crore from Champatiray.

Police said that efforts are on to arrest other individuals involved in the case.

**Below 500 nCoV cases for 2nd day**

OF THE 441 FRESH CASES, 253 WERE RECORDED IN QUARANTINE CENTRES AND THE REMAINING 188 WERE DETECTED DURING CONTACT TRACING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** As many as 441 people, including 75 children, tested positive for Covid-19 in Odisha, taking the tally in the state to 10,37,964, while four fresh fatalities pushed the death toll due to coronavirus infections to 8,305, a Health department official said Saturday.

The daily rate of infection among people below 18 years of age stood at 17 per cent as against 18.41 per cent on the previous day, he added. The positivity ratio among the residents in the age group was 15.64 per cent Thursday and 12.70 per cent Wednesday.

The single-day caseload in Odisha remained below 500 for the second consecutive day as the state had reported 467 new cases Friday.

Of the 441 fresh cases, 253 were



recorded in quarantine centres and the remaining 188 were detected during contact tracing. Khurda district registered the highest number of new cases at 205, followed by Cuttack (37). Four districts - Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi and Subarnapur, did not report any new case.

Of the four fresh fatalities, two were recorded in Khurda while Angul and Puri reported one fatality each. Fifty-three other Covid-19 patients have also died due to comorbidities, the Health official said.

The coastal state currently has 4,581 active cases, while 603 people were cured of the highly infectious disease Friday, taking the total number of recoveries to 10,25,025.

Odisha has thus far conducted over 2.14 crore sample tests, including 69,414 in the last 24 hours, and the cumulative positivity rate stands at 4.88 per cent.

Of the 441 fresh cases, 253 were recorded in quarantine centres and the remaining 188 were detected during contact tracing

Khurda district registered the highest number of new cases at 205, followed by Cuttack (37)

Four districts - Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi and Subarnapur did not report any new case

**MADHUKUNJ PARK CRIES FOR ATTENTION**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 23:** Lack of proper amenities and maintenance work at Madhukunj Park at Tulasipur here has caused resentment among the locals.

The locals urged the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) to take immediate steps to improve facilities at the park coming under Ward no. 11 of the Silver City.

The CMC had set up the park close to Barabati fort in 2004 and renovated it under the AMRUT scheme in 2018. The park has facilities like jogging tracks, swings and an open-air gym to attract visitors. However, the civic authorities are yet to arrange drinking water for the visitors or illuminate the open-air gym.

"Hundreds of people usually visit Madhukunj Park in the morning and evening for recreation. However, the park is yet to have drinking water



facility. The fountain at the park has been lying defunct while the lavatories are in a poor condition. A portion of the boundary wall has caved in. Several light posts have been damaged due to poor maintenance work," said a local. CMC Deputy Commissioner Ajay Mohanty said the civic body has allocated funds for repair of the damaged boundary wall at Madhukunj Park. "We will soon look into the other issues and take appropriate steps," he added.

**DENIZENS SATIATED WITH RAJASTHANI FOOD FEST**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 23:** Foodies of Capital city have something to cheer about as Hotel Swosti Premium has Thursday begun its festival 'Padharo Mhareadesh' that would serve Rajasthani delicacies on the platter.

The theme of the event is traditional Rajasthani service, wherein platters of snacks are placed in the middle of the table. Guests can also enjoy a variety of dishes from the buffet and live kitchen.

This apart, the whole decoration of the premises is done with Rajasthan style theme. Also, all the associates can be seen in traditional Rajasthani attire that includes Rajasthani turban, colorful Jodhpur kurta, white shirt,



The Rajasthani Food Festival at Hotel Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar

black trousers and jooti (shoes). The menu includes famous

Rajasthani dishes and drinks like Raab, Thandai, Jangli Murgh Tikka,



OP PHOTOS

Murgh Tikka Kali Mirch, Mutton Seekh Kebab, Pyaz Kachori, Stuffed

The spice content in Rajasthani dishes is quite high as compared to cuisines from other Indian states, but the food is absolutely scrumptious. This is not merely a food festival, but a celebration of the vibrant and regal culture of Rajasthan

GAYASUDDIN SHAIK | AGM OF SWOSTI PREMIUM

Papad Roll, Jodhpuri Mirchi Wada, Pofli Samosa, Achari Paneer Tikka, Dahi Ke Kebab and deserts such as Ghevar, Balushahi, Churma, Sheera, Imarti, Rabdi, Kesar Malai and Stick Kulfi among others.

The festival also offers the state's traditional recipes such as Dal Bati Churma, Ker Sangri, Gatte Ki Sabzi, Jaipuri Mewa Pulao, Papad Ki Sabzi, Laal Maans, Malpua and much more.

"Rajasthani food is well known for its spicy curries and delicious sweets. The spice content is quite high as compared to cuisines from other Indian states, but the food is absolutely scrumptious. This is not merely a food festival, but a celebration of the vibrant and regal culture of Rajasthan," said Gayasuddin Shaik, AGM of Swosti Premium. The food fest has garnered appreciation from the guests. Getting to taste the delicacies of a faraway state while enjoying its ambience is leaving visitors satisfied and smiling.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

- Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260997560, Khandagiri-Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.



# Sambalpur varsity to have modern research facility



AGENCIES

**Sambalpur, Oct 23:** A common instrumentation facility will come up at the Sambalpur University in Odisha, to boost research, and development programmes in basic and applied sciences by using modern analytical instruments, an official said.

Non-availability of sophisticated instruments is a major hindrance for research and innovation culture

in the university. Researchers and scientists have to rush to cities in search of instruments to carry out scientific research of high quality, the official said.

Work on the building for the CIF on the premises is underway and the process to purchase the instruments has also begun, Vice-Chancellor Sanjiv Mittal said.

The CIF will house sophisticated instruments for different science disciplines. The main objective is

to strengthen the technological infrastructure to carry out advanced research in various science disciplines under one roof, he said.

A total of ₹6.5 crore will be spent for the establishment, including ₹2 crore on the construction of the building and ₹4.5 crore on purchase of different instruments, according to Mittal.

The CIF will be set up from the World Bank fund, which has provided ₹19 crore to the university. A target has been set to make the CIF functional by next October, Mittal said. The Vice-Chancellor underlined that the university could also get different projects from the industries after the CIF was formed.

The authorities will appoint a coordinator once the CIF becomes operational. The head of the various departments will approach different industries of this region and bring projects. The faculties and the scholars will carry out research works using the sophisticated instruments at the CIF, he added.



With winter approaching, Daringbadi in Kandhamal district is enveloped in mist. A farmer takes out his bullocks to farmland in the misty morning, Saturday

## Containment zone in Rayagada district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Oct 23:** Amid a spurt in Covid-19 cases, Rayagada district administration has announced a containment zone at Jhodia Sahi near DFO Colony in Rayagada town.

The district administration announced the area a containment zone after 27 people from Jhodia Sahi tested positive for the disease.

While the village has been barricaded, 27 families have been advised not to venture out of the village. Similarly, entry of outsiders to the village has been prohibited. The affected families have been advised to follow all the Covid-19 norms strictly to win the battle against the virus.

Meanwhile, health officials and various outfits have been carrying out awareness campaign in remote rural pockets. Notably, Rayagada district Saturday reported 10 new cases of Covid-19.

With this, the district's tally has increased to 20,175. While 19,964 patients have so far recovered from the disease, 44 are currently undergoing treatment.

The disease has so far claimed 167 lives in the district. Meanwhile, the state Saturday registered 441 new Covid-19 cases including 75 patients below 18 years. The state also reported four new fatalities.

# Vig to submit probe report soon

### TROUBLE BREWS FOR OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE STONE LOOT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Oct 23:** As directed by the Lokayukta, the Vigilance department, investigating illegal stone mining and the extent of mineral loot at Bichhakhandi hill in Dharmasala area of Jajpur district, will submit its report to the Lokayukta October 28, it was learnt.

Some officials involved in the loot of minor mineral are likely to get entangled in the case. "Some former tehsildars, a sub-collector and an ADM (revenue) and other officials will be exposed," claimed RTI activist Sarbeswar Behura.

Before the Vigilance submits its report, Behura, a complainant on the mineral loot issue, has submitted the details of the alleged irregularities at the Vigilance Directorate Saturday.

It may be noted that the chairperson and members of the Lokayukta had held a hearing on the mineral loot from Bichhakhandi hill with regard to case-12/2021 filed by Behura. The Lokayukta had directed the Vigilance, Cuttack, to look into the mineral loot and file a preliminary report within two months.

For the last several months, the Vigilance had conducted an investigation in the hill area, but it was

## MINERAL LOOT IN BICHHAKHANDI HILL



DSP, VIGILANCE CELL (CUTTACK), PK DWIVEDI HAD ASKED JAJPUR COLLECTOR TO DIRECT THE OFFICIALS OF DHARMASALA TEHSIL TO DEMARCATHE THE LEASE AREA ON THE BICHHAKHANDI HILL. AS THE COLLECTOR INTERVENED IN THE MATTER, THE DEMARCATION PROCESS WAS COMPLETED

alleged that the tehsil administration of Dharmasala did not cooperate in the probe. Thereafter, DSP Vigilance Cell (Cuttack) PK Dwivedi had asked Jajpur Collector to direct the officials of Dharmasala tehsil to demarcate the lease area on the Bichhakhandi hill. With intervention of the Collector in the matter, the demarcation process was completed.

Then, the Vigilance officials intensified the investigation with the

help of officials of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board, mines and forest departments. Vigilance officials visited the hill seven to eight times. After this, the Vigilance has prepared its preliminary probe report and is going to submit it to the Lokayukta.

Of 890 acres of forest land on the hill, forest has been destroyed in 75 acres due to mining. Huge quantities of stone were excavated. Besides, stone crushing units have

THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE LOKAYUKTA HAD HELD A HEARING ON THE ALLEGED MINOR MINERAL LOOT AT BICHHAKHANDI HILL WITH REGARD TO CASE-12/2021 FILED BY SARBESWAR. THE LOKAYUKTA HAD DIRECTED THE VIGILANCE, CUTTACK, TO LOOK INTO THE MINERAL LOOT AND FILE A PRELIMINARY REPORT WITHIN TWO MONTHS

FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE VIGILANCE HAD CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION IN THE HILL AREA, BUT IT WAS ALLEGED THAT THE TEHSIL ADMINISTRATION OF DHARMASALA DID NOT COOPERATE

been set up on the forest land.

In 2020, two labourers had died while working in stone mines. Their death had been suppressed, it was alleged. The RTI activist alleged stone mining is being carried out in the hill with the help of the administration over last ten years.

Dharmasala tehsildar Swagat Das was contacted over phone on the issue, but he could not be available.

# Bhograi MLA grabs govt land; HC asks tehsildar to probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasure, Oct 23:** Ex-minister and present Bhograi legislator Ananta Das, a resident of Padhuanpada in Balasure town, has allegedly encroached upon government wasteland in the locality.

A petition was filed in the Orissa High Court in this regard. In response to the petition, vacation Judge K R Mohapatra has directed the petitioner to file a fresh plea with the tehsildar within 15 days.

It has been alleged that the Bhograi legislator has occupied plot No-457/991 and 457/954 under Khata 387 under Padhuanpada Mouza. These two plots are stated to be government wasteland.

Seeking interference, some intelligentsia had complained to Sadar tehsildar in this regard, but no steps were taken against the legislator. Similarly, a petition was filed with Balasure District Magistrate September 6, 2019, but to no avail.

Later, in response to a petition in this regard, vacation Judge K R Mohapatra has directed the petitioner to file a fresh plea



The legislator has allegedly occupied plot no 457/991 and 457/954 on govt wasteland in Padhuanpada Mouza

to the tehsildar within 15 days.

The tehsildar has also been directed to look into the allegation within four weeks and evict the encroacher, if the allegation is proved to be true.

Notably, it has been alleged that the lawmaker grabbed several plots in different locations during his tenures as Sadar tehsildar, BDO and executive officer of the municipality.

## STOCK TAKING



Members of the Assembly House Committee reviewing expansion work of Samaleswari temple in Sambalpur OP PHOTO

# NARASINGHA OFFERS TO PLEAD FOR VICTIM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Oct 23:** In the sensational murder case of teacher Mamita Meher, senior Congress leader Narasingha Mishra has offered to fight the case in court on behalf of the deceased's family.

The octogenarian Bolangir MLA, who used to be a lawyer by profession, Saturday told the bereaved family that he would don the black coat once again, if they ask.

"If the family wishes and gives me the charge of the case, I will take it up and fight in the courtroom to deliver justice to the family," he said, adding that he has told the family that he is not into practice. But if required, he can fight their case.

Mishra said, "If this happens, the first thing I would do is to file a PIL in the court."

At the same time, the veteran leader added that he had advised Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra to resign on his own for his alleged involvement in the case.

Notably, Mamita Meher was a resident of Jharni village under Turekela block in Bolangir district. She worked as a teacher at Sunshine English Medium School at Mahaling area in Kalahandi district.

Mamita went missing October 8 and was found dead subsequently. Prime accused Gobinda Sahu was arrested October 19. During interrogation, he confessed to have murdered the lady teacher.

## MAMITA MURDER

# Remains of Buddhism, Jainism cry for exploration

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 23:** Sculptural remains of Buddhism and Jainism are found scattered at Chakratirtha, Gadachandi and Podasingidi under Anandapur sub-division in Keonjhar.

Most of the ancient remains are lying neglected in forested parts. Culture lovers and locals have demanded preservation and protection of the ancient remains. They have battled for intensive research to explore the cultural history of the area.

As these three places are tourist places, there is a need for museums to keep the ancient sculptures. The administration should come out for preservation of the ancient sculptures to attract more tourists to these places, they observed.

Since the 1999 Super Cyclone, the road to Chakratirtha has been closed following landslide.

Chakratirtha is known as a Shaivite shrine, ensconced in scenic natural setting on the foothills of Baula hill ranges in Kathakata panchayat. The place is enriched with many old temples, mutts and waterfalls.

As the place is inside a deep forest, the state government has declared the area as an elephant corridor and a biosphere reserve.

According to historians, the place had once flourished as a hub of Jainism. A wild stream flows by the Chakreswar Shiva temple here and later it forms a waterfall.

According to local legends, Chakratirtha was named after Chakrabhedha (striking with wheels). Lord Vishnu had stuck his divine wheel at the place. Centuries ago, the serene and forested place was inhabited by followers of Jainism. Jain saints used to do penance in deep forests for their enlightenment.



There are two water bodies at the place - Garuda Kunda and Akash Ganga. It is believed that taking a dip

in these water bodies can get divine blessings. Similarly, ancient Gadachandi temple is on a side of the

Baula hill range. It was a seat of tantric cult of Buddhism. Devi Chamunda was worshipped inside a cave. Later, a temple was built for the deity. A local outfit is looking after the upkeep of the place.

In 1998, the place was recognised as a tourist centre. A wild stream flows by the temple in a scenic setting. Scores of sculptures belonging to tantric Buddhism have been recovered and preserved at different places.

The added attraction of the place is Ramchandi temple. Podasingidi is near this place. It has rich sculpture of Jainism and tantric Buddhism. Most of the sculptures are buried. Locals observed that the place needs to be explored for archeological research. Researcher Dr Krushnachandra Nayak said the state archeology department should take up excavations to ferret out history of the place.

# BJYM members break barricade, scuffle with cops

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, Oct 23:** Tension prevailed in Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi as members of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the BJP, gheraoed the SP office here and staged a demonstration demanding resignation of Minister of State for Home, Dibyashankar Mishra, Saturday.

A scuffle broke out at the spot between the police and the BJYM activists as the latter broke the barricade and tried to barge into the SP office during the demonstration. The party members took out a rally from Maa Manikeshwari temple covering a distance of 3-km before staging a demonstration there.

Police tried to stop them from

entering the office when irate party members broke the barricade.

Later, SP Sarvana Vivek reached the spot and assured stringent action against the culprits stating that a probe is underway. Then the agitators relented. BJP members accused that Mishra is involved in Mamita Meher's abduction and murder. Irasis Acharya, president of BJYM, said the state government will be responsible for any law and order situation if the minister does not resign.

Meanwhile, the Biju Janata Dal refuted all the allegations raised by the BJP, terming them as baseless. The party leaders said the BJP is colouring Mamita's case politically without having any proof against Mishra.

# Ailing tusker dies in Dhenkanal forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Gondia, Oct 23:** Alleged delay in treatment of an ailing tusker by forest officials cost its life at Dhaniajali jungle under this block in Dhenkanal district, Saturday.

Reports said the seven-year old animal was suffering from septicemia after a nail pierced its front leg. It was also suffering from dislocation of a bone on its right side. Villagers alleged that the forest officials were aware of the sufferings of the animal for a fortnight but started its treatment late. The animal had grown weak due to lack of food and finally died, the villagers said.

The wound of the animal had become septic and it was limping for a fortnight. The forest officials were informed about this but failed to trace the elephant. Later, they traced it October 21 and started its treatment. However, by then it was too late as the animal succumbed to its injury Saturday.

They claimed the animal could have survived had they traced it early and tranquilized it for treatment. Later, a post-mortem was conducted on the carcass.

Contacted, ACF Rashmi Ranjan Swain said they had been informed about the tusker but its treatment was delayed as the animal had become violent.



FOCUS CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

# HOLDING MNCs ACCOUNTABLE



Advanced-economy governments routinely proclaim their commitment to the principle that businesses have a duty to prevent human-rights abuses, but they have done little to hold corporations accountable. Supporting a new UN treaty would go a long way toward restoring these countries' credibility

The proposed UN treaty is explicit about the legal responsibility of parent or controlling companies. Under the draft's provisions, controlling companies in a chain or network may be liable for the harm caused by commercial associates whose activities they control or supervise, or for failure to prevent those associates from harming workers, indigenous people, women, and children. The treaty also would strengthen the international framework governing social and environmental sustainability in global business operations.

The largest trade-union confederations and other civil-society organisations support the proposed treaty, but major developed countries such as the US and EU member states are largely ignoring it. The problem is that policymakers in these countries prefer the old model of limited regulation and maximum freedom for their multinational corporations – and for themselves. The token participation of EU members in the treaty discussions so far is surprising, given these countries' stated commitments to multilateralism and human rights.

This treaty is an opportunity for the EU to show policy coherence and leadership in this field, following the milestone national legislation in France and Germany and the groundbreaking jurisprudence in the UK and the Netherlands. The same goes for the US, which is attempting to reaffirm its leadership in a rules-based international order.

These countries' governments routinely proclaim that respect for human rights is a fundamental value. And yet they seem content with old formulas and empty models that lack legally binding obligations. As the next round of treaty negotiations approaches, their credibility depends on showing they are serious about holding corporations accountable for human rights under international law.

The writer is Senior Legal Adviser at the International Commission of Jurists.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

At the end of October, an intergovernmental working group will meet again to push for an international treaty governing multinational companies' responsibility for upholding human rights. The working group, created in 2014 by the UN Human Rights Council, holds annual sessions that are attended faithfully by a large cohort of human-rights advocates, environmentalists, and members of social-development organisations. But, while many countries, mostly from the Global South plus China, send representatives to the meetings, the United States, Canada, Australia, and Japan ignore them, while the EU sends a token delegation and makes no substantive contribution to negotiations. That needs to change.

The treaty on business enterprises and human rights would be the first of its kind under the auspices of the United Nations, and has been a decade in the making. In 2011, the UN Human Rights Council approved a set of Guiding Principles that declared commercial enterprises "have a responsibility to respect human rights." Business associations supported the principles and committed to comply with them – in part because it was not legally mandatory to do so. The principles were non-binding, and adherence to them was impossible to monitor or enforce. States were expected to prevent and punish human-rights abuses by corporations as part of their existing duties under international law.

In 2017, France became the first country to adopt a law requiring large multinational companies operating on French territory to conduct due diligence on human rights throughout their global operations. Earlier this year, Germany adopted a similar law that will go into effect in 2023, and the European Commission is preparing a directive on the issue that will cover the entire bloc. The drafts of the treaty also contain provisions on corporate due diligence, now with public monitoring and enforcement. If approved, this respon-

sibility would become a worldwide obligation, raising the bar for global business.

The Guiding Principles also declared that states should investigate and sanction corporate human-rights violations and provide remedies to victims. Recourse to an effective judicial remedy is a fundamental principle of international human-rights law and should be included in any treaty covering corporate responsibility. But legal redress often has failed to materialise in the context of global business operations with complex value chains. The rights of workers and indigenous groups, in particular, are often disregarded.

Recently, courts in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands issued groundbreaking judgements in cases concerning major multinationals, including Vedanta Resources and Royal Dutch Shell.

These decisions made it clear that workers and community members in all regions where subsidiaries operate have a right to access the courts in the parent company's home country.

These decisions sent shockwaves across the business world and alarmed corporate lawyers, and for good reason: Corporate accountability advocates and academics view this new jurisprudence as a key component of a nascent legal framework to hold parent companies responsible for the abuses committed in their global value chains. But these judgments are unlikely to have the necessary broader effect unless the principles they set out are further developed and embedded in both domestic and international law. The European Parliament is proposing to do this with draft legislation on responsible business.



Carlos López

**IN 2017, FRANCE BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY TO ADOPT A LAW REQUIRING LARGE MNCs OPERATING ON FRENCH TERRITORY TO CONDUCT DUE DILIGENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THEIR GLOBAL OPERATIONS**



Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.

THE MOTHER

## 'Vaccine Guru'

India has administered one billion or 100 crore doses of vaccine and this is a fine achievement. Where did this 100 crore doses come from and what was the role of government in procuring them? This needs to be understood. August 7, 2020, the Serum Institute of India (SII), the country's largest private vaccine manufacturer, signed an agreement with the global vaccine alliance GAVI and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to supply vaccine to 92 poor countries by the first half of 2021. The total number of vaccines SII would produce in 2021 of Covishield would be 100 crore (1 billion) doses. This would be distributed among the 92 nations with a total population of 4 billion. The alliance said that: "A founding principle of COVAX (Covid Vaccine Global Access) is that access will be equitable. That doesn't just mean ensuring that all countries get fair access to COVID-19 vaccines, it also means having an allocation mechanism, driven by the World Health Organisation (WHO), to guide how vaccines are distributed within countries and territories." The GAVI alliance would also sell the vaccine produced by SII to rich nations, and use that money given upfront to ramp up production in India.

September 26, 2020, Modi told the United Nations General Assembly that India would deliver vaccines to the world: "As the largest manufacturer of vaccines in the world, I want to assure the world that India's vaccine production and delivery capacity will be put to help pull out all of humanity from this calamity. India would also help other nations with cold chain and storage facilities." After this speech the media called Modi the world's 'Vaccine Guru'.

By September 30, 2020, SII had been given \$300 million (a little more than ₹2,500 crore) by GAVI to set up the infrastructure to deliver these doses. The same week, SII's owner, Adar Poonawalla, tweeted to Prime Minister Modi: "Quick question; will the government of India have 80,000 crores available over the next one year? Because that's what @MoHFW\_INDIA (the health ministry) needs, to buy and distribute the vaccine to everyone in India. This is the next concerning challenge we need to tackle. @PMOIndia." He then added: "I ask this question, because we need to plan and guide, vaccine manufacturers both in India and overseas to service the needs of our country in terms of procurement and distribution." If India wanted to vaccinate its population in 2021, it would need to procure the vaccines from somewhere. The government did not do anything.

Till February 2021, India had ordered only 11 crore doses while it required 200 crore doses for the eligible population or 270 crore doses for all Indians including those under 14, assuming there was no wastage. Compare India's 11 crore to the numbers ordered and paid for by Canada (33 crore), the US (120 crore), UK (45 crore), Brazil (23 crore), African Union (67 crore), Indonesia (19 crore) and the European Union (180 crore). India ordered fewer doses than even Australia (12 crore), which has a population smaller than India's National Capital Region.

At the end of March 2021, as the second wave began, India unofficially blocked SII from exporting vaccines to GAVI that had already been paid for and grabbed them. Soon after, SII owner Adar Poonawalla fled to London because of threats from India's 'most powerful' people.

In May, the Wall Street Journal summed it up: "Most of the world's poorest nations were left highly dependent on a single vaccine, produced by a single manufacturer in a single country. In a cruel twist, that supplier—the Serum Institute of India—ended up engulfed by the world's worst COVID-19 outbreak." Because of this, GAVI, which had already paid upfront for the vaccines, did not get its deliveries. In a letter to 92 developing nations, GAVI's head wrote, "Dear Participant, we regret to inform you that, given the heightened COVID-19 crisis in India, Covax no longer expects deliveries..." When asked whether the strategy to depend on India was flawed, he said: "We hear a lot of criticism, and the truth is, we've tried to do something that we think is the right thing. Hindsight's 20:20. Should we have not invested in India? Well, that was the fastest way to get there." Not only was it not the fastest way, it turned out to have sabotaged the global fight because of the mess India was in by April. SII was due to ship 14 crore doses by this time but was stopped by the government after it had sent fewer than 2 crore.

Far from being Vaccine Guru and saving the world, India disrupted what others had planned for, paid for and organised. This month, the government said it would now allow SII to resume exports. This is then the story of the 100 crore vaccines. We should be relieved that we got the doses but we must also know where they came from and who was and who was not responsible for this achievement.



Aakar Patel

We should be relieved that we got the doses but we must also know where they came from and who was and who was not responsible for this achievement

### WISDOM CORNER

- Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold. **BOB MARLEY**
- When you've seen beyond yourself, then you may find, peace of mind is waiting there. **GEORGE HARRISON**
- You don't need anybody to tell you who you are or what you are. You are what you are! **JOHN LENNON**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Piggyback

This started out in the sixteenth century as pick pack, carrying something on the back or shoulders. Pick is a medieval version of pitch, so it meant a load that was pitched on to a person's back for carrying. A little later, pickpack meant a ride on somebody's shoulders. After that, matters began to get muddled. Pack was changed into back through the obvious associations. Then it became pick-a-back. Finally, the pigs came along, in the nineteenth century, by a confusion between pick and pig, an obvious-enough change, not least because pick made no more sense to people in the word in those days than it does today. Piggy-back came along later in the century, with piggyback a modern loss of the hyphen. We're not sure in what country the pigs were introduced – some writers say it was in north America, others in Britain. There's lots of evidence from English regional dialects of pig being part of the phrase by the early to middle part of the nineteenth century, which suggests it may originally have been British. Pig-a-back is known from the US no later than the 1860s but from Britain rather earlier – it appears in The Life of Beau Brummell, published in London in 1844, and in A Dialogue in the Devonshire Dialect of 1838 whose glossary explains, "Pig-a-back, said of schoolboys that ride on one another's backs, straddling, as an Irishman would carry a pig."

### LOL

#### Too tired to walk home

A police car pulls up in front of grandma Bessie's house, and grandpa Morris gets out. The polite policeman explained that this elderly gentleman said that he was lost in the park...and couldn't find his way home.



"Oy Morris," said grandma, "You've been going to that park for over 30 years! So how could you get lost?" Leaning close to grandma, so that the policeman couldn't hear, Morris whispered, "I wasn't lost...I was just too tired to walk home."

### SPECTRUM ENVIRONMENT

# Perils of human-caused climate change



Vinod Thomas

**LIKE THE TOBACCO COMPANIES THAT SOUGHT TO HIDE THE DATA CONNECTING TOBACCO USE AND CANCER, BIG POLLUTERS ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO INJECT DOUBT INTO THE SCIENCE ON GLOBAL WARMING**

Scientific evidence can now link specific weather disasters to human-induced climate change. This connection should finally dispel the misconception that nature's wrath alone is to blame for these disasters, and make it possible to hold industries and governments that are hooked on fossil fuels accountable for their actions.

Climate data clearly show that high-carbon energy is responsible for the atmospheric shifts that cause more extreme floods, droughts, and wildfires. But much of the global public has yet to connect these disasters to climate change – much less recognise the role of big polluters in causing them. Media reporting on disasters also does not highlight the strong connection between these events and global warming. For example, an analysis by the news-monitoring organisation Media Matters revealed that cable news in the United States largely ignored the role of climate change when covering last year's wildfires along the West Coast.

Scientific research directly linking smoking to cancer played a major role in changing public opinion about tobacco use. Something similar must happen to encourage

meaningful action to combat climate change.

The growing body of evidence making the connection between global warming and natural disasters is becoming harder to ignore. According to the World Weather Attribution initiative, a global collaboration of climate scientists, climate change made this summer's floods in Belgium and Germany significantly more likely to occur. The initiative also determined that the heatwaves in the Pacific Northwest and Siberia would have been "almost impossible" without human-caused climate change.

Like the tobacco companies that sought to hide the data connecting tobacco use and cancer, big polluters are doing their best to inject doubt into the science on global warming. The oil industry has known about its contribution to greenhouse-gas emissions since the 1970s, but has downplayed the repercussions. Major oil companies have spent millions of dollars in the European Union and the US to mislead the public about the climate impact of burning fossil fuels. Meanwhile, the global incidence of climate-related disasters has risen sharply since the 1970s. There has not been a similar increase in natural disasters that are not influ-

enced by climate change, like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Many governments contribute to the problem through politically popular fossil-fuel subsidies, which the International Monetary Fund estimates amount to \$5 trillion per year. In 2019 and 2020, governments spent 20 per cent more on financing fossil-fuel projects than they did on reducing emissions. China is the largest public financier of coal-fired power plants globally, and Japan and the US are close behind. In 2020, the nine major multilateral development banks, including the World Bank and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, together provided \$3 billion for fossil-fuel projects.

This financing continues even though the danger global warming poses to the environment and the economy has been recognised for decades. In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and former US Vice President Al Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to raise awareness about "man-made climate change." And economist William D. Nordhaus won a Nobel Prize in 2018 for "integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis." But that work seriously understated the need for

climate action, because it did not recognise exponential damages, tipping points, and the irreversibility of certain losses.

Overall, mainstream economics has not factored in the daunting challenge posed by climate change. The discipline's leading scholarly journals rarely publish research on environmental and climate constraints on economic growth and well-being. A 2019 review found that the Quarterly Journal of Economics had not published any articles on climate change and the quantitative journal Econometrica had published only two. Economists either have been largely silent on the issue or have applauded growth even when it is based on burning fossil fuels. Climate scientists have done their part to sound the alarm about global warming, but we have yet to see sufficient action to address the issue. The evidence connecting climate change to weather disasters creates an opening to engage the public, demand accountability from industries and governments, and take decisive steps toward mitigation.

The writer is a former senior vice president at the World Bank.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

### Celebration & caution

Sir, India has administered one billion COVID vaccine doses. This is not a mean feat and all those who have contributed to this success deserve compliments. The milestone comes at a time when the new infections are at the lowest levels since early March. This presents an impressive outlook of India's battle against COVID, and must be celebrated. But there's more to be done in the country's battle against the virus. Most experts believe that the vaccine drive will hit a ceiling around the 75-80 per cent level. This is because those who wanted to get shots have by now done so, and those who still remain away are the ones hesitant. This has been the reason why even Western countries have been unable to hit 100 per cent coverage. It may well be time then for the country's health policymakers to start thinking of a similar drive for those under the age of 18 years, and, subsequently booster shots for the most vulnerable sections of the population. India is one month away from the half-year mark of the peak of its second wave – the point from where experts believe natural immunity starts to wane. This means vaccination-induced immunity will soon be the only weapon to prevent a third wave in the country.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Space milestone

Sir, Russia takes great pride in its achievements in space technology. The Soviets launched the first satellite Sputnik and sent into orbit the first animal, the first man, and the first woman. Now Russia has made a remarkable achievement in space technology – filming the first movie in space. It is indeed a milestone in the country's space technology. A Russian film crew returned to Earth after wrapping up scenes for the first movie shot in space. After completing the film 'Challenge', the crew left the International Space Station and landed in Kazakhstan. The plot of the film has not been detailed. Actress Yulia Peresild, film director Klim Shipenko and cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov completed the mission and their achievements have made Russia proud. This will add to a long list of firsts for Russia's space industry. This successful mission will energise the Russian space industry that lacks innovation and faces setbacks. In fact, Russia is behind others in the global space race. It faces tough competition from the US and China.

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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

### OrissaPOST

B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# Decomposed carcass of tusker found in Angul

## Jumbo tramples man to death

**Pallahara, Oct 23:** The decomposed carcass of a tusker was found Saturday from a farmland under Pallahara forest division in Angul district. The adult pachyderm had wounds on its body, an official said. According to sources, some Pallahara locals noticed the carcass lying in a paddy field near a village this morning. Later, they informed the forest officials about it. A team of personnel from the department reached the spot and recovered the tusker's carcass. Forest department officials initiated a probe to ascertain the cause of the adult elephant's death. "There is a deep wound on its head. The reason behind the tusker's death can only be known after the postmortem report comes in, the senior official in Pallahara division added.



**SUNDARGARH:** In yet another incident of man-elephant conflict, an elephant trampled a man to death at Tentulidhara village under Talasara police limits in Sundargarh district Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Nicholas Jojo, a resident of Tentulidhara village. According to sources, a herd of elephants had strayed into

Tentulidhara village Friday night. The animals went on a rampage and damaged standing crops, destroyed standing crops in the area. The incident occurred while the villagers were trying to drive away the elephants in the wee hours of Saturday. Unfortunately, one of the elephants caught Nicholas and trampled him to death. Police and forest department officials recovered the body and sent it for post mortem. The villagers demanded compensation to the bereaved family. The forest department has promised assistance.

In another incident, an ailing tusker died while undergoing treatment in Lahada B reserve forest under Sarangi range of Dhenkanal Saturday. The ele-

phant was suffering from septicemia, an official informed. Its tissue sample was sent to the Centre for Wildlife Health to ascertain the cause of death.



People thronging a Covid vaccination centre in Rourkela, throwing social distance and safety guidelines to the winds, Saturday

# Bolangir woman sold for ₹1L by hubby in Rajasthan rescued

**Bolangir, Oct 23:** A woman who was allegedly sold for Rs 1 lakh in Rajasthan by her husband was rescued by a team of police from Belpada police limits in this district, a senior official said Saturday. The police team has also arrested the victim's husband in this connection, he added. The accused husband has been identified as Rajesh Rana from Sulekela under Belpada police limits in the district. According to sources, the woman was in a relationship with Rajesh before the couple eloped and got married three months ago. Post their marriage, both of them were working at a brick kiln in Raipur to eke out their living. Citing financial crises, the accused took his wife to Rajasthan a few days ago and sold her there, the Belpada police official stated. The incident came to the fore when parents of the victim lodged an FIR with Belpada police suspecting a foul play by the husband. Belpada police initiated an investigation and rescued the woman from Rajasthan. They arrested Rajesh and forwarded him to court. "My spouse (Rajesh) recently took me to Rajasthan and sold me for Rs 1 lakh. I had to work as a domestic help," the woman alleged. Rajesh has clarified, saying he only mortgaged his wife for Rs 60,000 as he was badly in need of money to treat his heart ailments. He never sold the woman.

# Villagers warn of poll boycott

**Bant, Oct 23:** Residents of Talabanka, a tribal hamlet under this block in Bhadrak district, have warned of boycotting the upcoming panchayat elections citing lack of road connectivity to their village, a report said. The issue acquired prominence after a pregnant woman had to walk all the way to an ambulance as the vehicle failed to come near her house due to bad condition of the road, the report said. The incident is suggestive of how bad roads adversely affect people in regard to their health as well as in countless other ways and thus push them into untold sufferings. Reports said family members of Buduni Munda, 25, wife of Nath Munda of Adivasi Sahi in the village called an ambulance after she experienced labour pain Thursday morning. The vehicle came near their village but stayed on the main road about 2-km from her house. Left with no options, the woman was made to walk for 2-km to get into the ambulance supported by an ASHA worker and family members by her side. Later, she arrived at Bant primary health centre (PHC) where she reportedly delivered a child. Chatters were abuzz after reports about the pain and sufferings of the woman were spread. Sources said a stretch of 2.5 km of road from Balgadhia RD road connecting the Talabanka village had deteriorated to such a level



**BAD ROAD CONDITION** that travelling on it is a commuter's nightmare. The road has been un-repaired for last 10 years and gets filled up with mud and slush during rainy season making it difficult even for pedestrians to walk. The village is inhabited by 500 people out of which 200 are members from

# Locals seething over commuting woes

**BHADRAK:** Ahead of panchayat elections, people of various areas have raised issues related to their locality in various parts of Bhadrak district. People of Mahapokhari village under Bhandaripokhari block have warned of boycotting elections over bad shape of the road, a report said. Locals alleged that they had been suffering from commuting woes. The village road has not been repaired for a long time, even though they apprised the district and the block administration for the urgent repair. "We have been running from panchayat office to block and the district administration appealing for reconstruction of the 1-km-long road, but nobody is paying heed to it. Hence, we oppose the official ap-

the scheduled tribe community. The village has a primary school and an Anganwadi centre but lacks proper road connectivity. Things have come to such a pass that vehicle carrying polling party members during election time fail to get inside the village. Peeved over the development, villagers Nanda Kishore Barik, Kanhu Charan Nayak, Tima Munda, Shankar Munda and Madhu Munda have warned to boycott the upcoming panchayat elections if the road is not repaired before the elections. When contacted, Nishikanta Khuntia, ABDO, said steps are being taken to repair the road. "When our plight is not addressed by the administration and local people, what is the use of taking part in voting. We have again drawn attention of the district administration for renovation of the road. If our demand is not met well before the elections, we will refrain from participating in elections," they lamented.

# Body of minor girl found in Keonjhar, murder suspected

**Keonjhar, Oct 23:** The naked body of a minor girl was recovered Saturday by Keonjhar Sadar police from Haladiagan village in the district. The identity of the minor has not been ascertained yet. The girl had gone to witness a musical programme being held in nearby locality on the occasion of Laxmi Puja October 20. The girl did not return home and went missing, a senior official in the Sadar police station stated. Family members of the deceased carried out a frantic search at all locations, but in vain. Later, an FIR was lodged by the family at local police station stating that the girl had gone missing. According to an eyewitness, the minor's body was found by locals in the backyard of an isolated house located at the end of Haladiagan village in the morning. Later, police were informed. Sadar police immediately reached the village and recovered the body. Police have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe. The minor's body was sent to hospital for post-mortem. Prima facie evidence suggests that it is a case of murder. However, a post-mortem report would help to proceed further in investigation and nab the person involved in the death of the minor; the official said. In another incident Saturday, a man allegedly thrashed his wife to death at Parjanpur village in Keonjhar district. The accused man was identified as Sukra Munda and the deceased as Soubhagini. An altercation erupted between Sukra and his wife Friday night. Things took an ugly turn and the husband severely beat the woman. As a result of which she became unconscious and succumbed. Palasapanga outpost police got information about the incident and rushed to the spot. The accused was taken into custody. Police seized the woman's body from a pool of blood and sent it for post-mortem. A detailed investigation is underway, an official informed.



# Merumath likely to get funds for development

**Saraskana, Oct 23:** Mayurbhanj district is endowed with many places of tourism importance. Some have got tourism tag while others have been left neglected and far from public sight. Merumath is one of the tourist places in the district. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Nirajan Pujari visited Merumath, a place on the banks of the Subarnarekha river under



**Finance Minister Nirajan Pujari visited Merumath, a tourist place on the banks of the Subarnarekha river in Saraskana block** Baripada and 8 km from Jharpokharia block. The state government has accorded tourism tag to the place February 25, 2016. It was alleged that despite tourism status, the place has not been

provided funds for its development. During distribution of smart health cards Friday, the Finance Minister visited the place. He was accompanied by Saraskana tehsildar Lalatendu Singh, BDO Karunakar Dhinda and former MLA Bhadab Hansda. "During the visit, the Finance Minister has assured funds for development of Merumath," said Baba Sanjay Das, the priest looking after the place.

# Farmers seek drought package

**Padmapur, Oct 23:** Most parts of Padmapur sub-division in Bargarh district have been affected by drought due to erratic rainfall. Paddy and other crops have been damaged. Various farmers' outfits have demanded that the state government declare the area as drought affected zone, a report said. "The government has not yet noticed the plight of the farmers in Padmapur after drought robbed us of our crops. The government should consider our demand urgently," they fumed. Hundreds of farmers affiliated to Rajbodasambar Krushak Sagathan and Jai Hind Krush Sangathan have already staged protests over the issue. Several other farmers' associations have also sought drought package for the affected farmers.

# AVIAN PROTECTION



Students of Balugaon College in Khurdha taking out a bicycle rally to create awareness on safety of birds thronging Chilika

# Dengue acquires alarming proportions in Ganjam dist

**Berhampur, Oct 23:** Dengue has acquired an alarming proportion in Ganjam district with no let up in the spread of the disease, the report said. Meanwhile, the number of positive patients has gone up to 195. The disease is spreading fast and affecting the young and the old alike despite the health department undertaking a series of measures to contain the spread of the disease. Health officials are visiting the residence of the affected persons and destroying the larvae growing in stagnant water near their houses. As many as 12 persons including a child tested positive for the disease Friday and Saturday. While four persons tested positive Friday, the blood samples of eight persons tested positive Saturday. Among them, a 35-year old woman of Gosaninugaona, a 23-



The number of positive patients has gone up to 195. The disease is spreading fast and affecting the young and the old alike despite measures by the health department. year old youth from Lanjipali, a 29-year old youth from Bijipur and a 23-year old woman from MKCG Medical College and Hospital campus under the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMc) limits tested positive for the disease, Saturday. Similarly, a 38-year old woman of Sana Aryapalli under Chhatrapur block, a 26-year old woman of Brahmanchhai under Shergad block, a 32-year old of K Subani under Chikiti block and a six-year old girl of Golabandh under Rangeilunda block have been affected by the disease, Saturday. A 28-year old woman of Golapalli Sahi under the BeMc limits, a 23-year old youth from Kulagarh under Shergad block, a 16-year old girl of Lathi village under Kukudakhandi block and a 36-year old youth from Pratapur village under Jagannathprasad block tested positive for the disease, Friday.



# Shah reiterates roadmap for J&K statehood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Oct 23:** In his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the repeal of Article 370, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday met the kin of victims of terror killings and promised stern action against those who disrupt peace, while reiterating that elections would be held after the delimitation exercise which will be followed by restoration of statehood.

Terrorism decreased, corruption and dynastic politics ended and an era of peace, development, prosperity started August 5, 2019, said Shah as he reached out to the youths in the Valley urging them to stand up to disruptive elements and become ambassadors of peace.

Shah started his busy day with a visit to the residence of slain police officer Inspector Parvaiz Ahmad Dar and gave orders for a government job to his wife Fatima Akhtar.

He also met the families of nine victims of recent terror attacks including Makhan Lal Bindroo, a Kashmiri Pandit and the owner of a popular medical store in



Union Home Minister Amit Shah visits the residence of martyr J&K Police Inspector Parvez Ahmed who was killed by terrorists last month, and met his wife Fatima Akhtar in Nowgam, Saturday.

Srinagar, and school principal Supinder Kour. Shah, who is visiting the Valley amid a spurt in killing of civilians including non-locals by terrorists, chaired a security review meeting during which he was informed about the steps taken to eliminate terrorism from the Valley, officials said. Addressing youth

clubs, the home minister said he has come to seek support of youths of Kashmir in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a peaceful and developed Jammu and Kashmir. "I have come here to forge friendship with the youth of Kashmir. Join hands with Modi ji and Government of India and be-

come partners in the journey to take Kashmir forward," Shah said. Defending the BJP-led NDA government's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Shah said August 5, 2019 is written in golden letters in the history of Kashmir. Shah said some people used to claim that terrorism

will increase in Kashmir but it has reduced and stone pelting is not seen anymore.

"We will deal strictly with those who want to disturb the peace of Jammu and Kashmir. It is our commitment that no one will be able to stop the journey of development," Shah said addressing the gathering at SKICC here.

Shah said that some of the local politicians were creating hurdles in completing the process of delimitation. The home minister said he has made a promise in Parliament that the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir would be restored after the Assembly elections. "Elections will happen. (Politicians from Kashmir want that the) Delimitation be stopped. Why? Because it hurts their politics. Now, such things will not stop in Kashmir."

The youth of Kashmir will get opportunities, so a right delimitation will be done, which will be followed by elections and then the status of the statehood will be restored. I have said this in the country's Parliament and this is the roadmap," he said.

# 'Pretending normalcy in Valley is like walking on the path of suicide'



*Panun Kashmir reiterated its demand for the creation of a homeland north and east of river Jhelum for permanent rehabilitation of all migrated Hindus and separation of Jammu for peace in the region*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Oct 23:** In the aftermath of the recent killings, a representative body of migrant Kashmiri pandits - Panun Kashmir - Saturday said pretending normalcy and belittling the gravity of the situation in the Valley will be "like walking on the path of suicide."

It reiterated its demand for the creation of a homeland north and east of river Jhelum for permanent rehabilitation of all migrated Hindus and separation of Jammu for peace in the region.

Eleven persons, including two teachers, a prominent Kashmiri pandit pharmacy owner and five non-local labourers, were killed in a series of separate attacks by terrorists in the Valley this month.

"Government of India should understand the situation in Jammu and Kashmir without the blinkers of appeasement and wishful thinking. What has been happening in Jammu and Kashmir is not a law and order problem. It is not merely a problem of terrorism," Panun Kashmir chairman Ajay Chrungeo told reporters here.

He claimed that whatever is happening is a "clear expression

of a 'jihad' (holy war)." "Pretending normalcy and belittling the gravity of situation has already cost the nation immensely and continuing to do so will be like walking on the path of suicide," he said.

Referring to thousands of Kashmiri migrant pandits who got jobs under an employment package in the Valley, Chrungeo said, "They are like caged pigeons and threatened at all times."

"Government policy with regard to them is a policy of making them hostages to a Muslim fascist communal order. They are the frontline victims of a denial of genocide policy besides the direct targets of jihadi war," he said, disapproving a link between the employment package and the return and rehabilitation of the migrant pandits in the Valley.

For defeating the 'jihadi war' in Jammu and Kashmir and for reversing Hindu genocide further, Chrungeo said the 'reorganisation of J-K is a critical necessity'.

"Takeover of Afghanistan by Taliban has created an imperative necessity and urgency to divide Kashmir. Creation of a Panun Kashmir north and east of river Jhelum for permanent rehabilitation of all Hindus expelled from Kashmir and separation of Jammu are critical requirements for peace in the region," he said.

He also demanded declaration of Pakistan a "terrorist state". "Jihad has become like an agricultural enterprise in Jammu and Kashmir and terror crops are being grown from inside as well. Destroying terror agriculture should be the foremost priority of government of India rather than merely killing terrorists which is like cutting the leaves and leaving the poisonous plant intact," he said.

# Cosmetic steps don't address actual problem: Mehbooba

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Oct 23:** Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti Saturday slammed the Centre over Union Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day J&K visit.

"HM inaugurating international flights from Srinagar & laying foundation of new medical colleges isn't new. Half a dozen medical colleges were sanctioned by the UPA government & are functional now. Post Article 370 abrogation & an engineered crisis, J&K has been thrown into chaos," she tweeted.

She wrote on Twitter that instead of reaching out to the people, the government has opted for cosmetic steps that don't address the actual problem. She said that steps like releasing of prisoners and ending 'harassment' of people would have provided a sense of relief.

"This crisis is of GOIs making & instead of reaching out they opted for cosmetic steps that don't address the actual problem. Ideally HM's visit should have been preceded by following up on PM's assurances post the all party meeting," Mehbooba tweeted.

"CBMs (confidence building measures) such as lifting the siege that J&K has been put under since 2019, releasing prisoners, ending the harassment people here face



on a daily basis, taking tangible steps to revive the economy esp horticulture would have provided a sense of relief."

She said just before the Home Minister's visit 700 civilians were detained, booked under PSA and added that "Normalcy acrobatics" are in full swing while reality is denied and obfuscated.

"Prior to his visit, 700 civilians were detained, booked under PSA & many shifted to jails outside Kashmir. Such oppressive steps further vitiate an already tense atmosphere. 'Normalcy acrobatics' are in full swing while reality is denied & obfuscated."

# Protest against redevelopment of Sabarmati Ashram gathers steam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, Oct 23:** A protest march against the planned redevelopment of the renowned Sabarmati Ashram that started in Sevagram in Wardha in Maharashtra reached Ahmedabad in Gujarat Saturday after covering a distance of around 800 kilometres.

The protesters, comprising some 50 Gandhians who had gathered at Gujarat Vidyapith here, said they would not allow the Centre and the state government to 'defile' the Mahatma's memorial through this redevelopment plan.

The protest march will formally conclude at the Sabarmati Ashram here Sunday morning with a prayer meet. "We are here to tell the world we do not want the Ashram to be redeveloped into a world class monument. No sir, this idea of yours is not acceptable to us," said Gandhian Uttam Parmar.

The protesters said they are prepared to "stand up to the tyranny" and face bullets but won't allow the government to tamper with the Gandhian monument.

"We reject the government's proposal, and won't be misled. We have seen what they did with Jallianwala Bagh by converting it into a selfie point...History is being rewritten,



and the redevelopment project is an attempt in the same direction," said Gandhian Sanjiv Singh, also the convener of the 'Sevagram Sabarmati Sandesh Yatra'.

Gandhian Asham Bothra said India is faced with a period that is reminiscent of the pre-Independence era, when the British pitted people against each as part of their divide and rule policy, adding that the misuse of Gandhi for personal benefits would not be tolerated.

Groups such as Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation, Sarva Seva Sangh, Sevagram Ashram Pratishthan, Sarvodaya Samaj, Nai Talim Samiti, Rashtriya Yuva Sangathan, National Gandhi Museum, Jal Biradari, Maharashtra Sarvodaya Mandal and Sarvodaya Organisations of Gujarat took part

**We are here to tell the world we do not want the Ashram to be redeveloped into a world class monument. No sir, this idea of yours is not acceptable to us**

UTTAM PARMAR | GANDHIAN

in the march.

The government project to redevelop Gandhi Ashram at Sabarmati in Ahmedabad, where the Mahatma lived from 1917 till 1930, envisages expansion of the area from five acres to 55 acres by bringing together various heritage buildings as a unified whole and enhancing facilities for tourists by adding more attractions such as museums, amphitheatres, etc. It is estimated to cost ₹1,200 crore.

# GUJ HC MIFFED OVER SABARMATI POLLUTION



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Gandhinagar, Oct 23:** The Gujarat High Court has reprimanded the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) for the pollution on the Sabarmati riverfront and admonished that those officials accountable for the functioning of the sewage treatment plant (STP) laboratories, which failed to keep a check on polluted waters dumped into the riverfront will be suspended.

The High Court also observed that the root of the cause of the riverfront pollution issue was lack of accountability of the authorities.

The court also instructed the government and concerned authorities to hold everyone accountable.

The bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and Vaibhavi Nanavati was hearing the case of the suo motu cognisance of the Sabarmati riverfront pollution after media

**The bench was hearing the case of the suo motu cognisance of Sabarmati riverfront pollution after media reports about the sorry state of the river, which is not flowing at all**

reports about the sorry state of the river, which is not flowing at all, according to the Joint Task Force (JTF) constituted by the Gujarat HC for the issue.

"The root of the cause is that nobody is accountable and everybody is doing whatever they feel like. Hold them accountable. Accountability is something which is lacking... Nobody is answerable to anyone... you must hold people accountable, why not?" Justice Pardiwala observed on Thursday, addressing the AMC.

Justice JB Pardiwala said if the Ahmedabad Municipal Commissioner was watching this live streaming, then we request him to hold accountable each person that spreads pollution.

Only this way will we make a headway in cleaning up Sabarmati. "The moment you start doing this, it will create fear and they will think twice (before doing anything wrong). We are not doing this for anyone, we are doing this for the people," Justice Pardiwala said while hearing the suo motu petition.

A report by the JTF brought out several flaws in the running of sewage treatment plants. Through the JTF, the court learnt that the laboratories inside the STP across the city, which were supposed to keep a check on the water dumped into the Sabarmati river were almost non functional.

"So if they are not functioning then those official needs to be suspended. We will suspend them," said Pardiwala.

The JTF and the Amicus Curiae Hemang Shah, both found that the Sabarmati Riverfront was in a poor state due to the 'legal' as well as the illegal releasing of untreated industrial effluents and sewage water into the Sabarmati river in Ahmedabad.

Citing the example of the recent heavy floods lashed out in Uttarakhand which was the nature's reply to mankind for disrupting it, Justice Pardiwala remarked that "nature won't forgive for the damage we are causing it."

"Look at what is happening in Uttarakhand..." Pardiwala said.

# SEASON'S FIRST



Tourists play with snow during the season's first snowfall at a ski resort at Gulmarg in Baramulla district, Saturday.

PTI PHOTO

# India's first IVF buffalo calf born in Guj

AGENCIES

**Ahmedabad, Oct 23:** For the first time in India, using the in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) technique, a calf was born to a buffalo from a breed named 'Banni' at a private farm in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district.

The country's first IVF buffalo calf was born out of six Banni IVF pregnancies that were established at the doorstep of the farmer, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said in a statement Friday.

The process was carried out to enhance the number of genetically



superior buffaloes to increase milk production. "Happy to share the good news of the birth of the first #IVF calf of Buffalo breed namely -#BANNI in the country This is the

first #IVF Banni calf born out of 6 Banni IVF pregnancies established at the doorstep of the farmer Vinay L Vala of Sushila Agro farms," the ministry tweeted Friday.

Banni buffalo is known for its resilience and higher milk producing capacity in an arid environment. The breed had achieved six pregnancies from 18 recipient buffaloes at his farm, which were implanted with embryos through IVF technology, and the process was carried out by JKBovagenix of NGO JK Trust, a social initiative of Raymond Group, dairy farmer Vinay Vala said. The embryos of Banni donors

were implanted in 18 recipient buffaloes, from which one calf was born Friday morning, and a few more will be born in the next few days, he said. "I decided to shift to Banni and Murrah breeds, as the milk yield in desi buffaloes was low and uneven. Around eight of my Banni buffaloes gave a really good result with 9-12 litres of milk per time in a consistent manner with limited intake," Vala said.

Producing calves by deploying ART will pave the way for rapid multiplication of superior animals at a much faster pace, said Shyam Zavar, the CEO of JK Trust.





**People of Goa are unhappy with the state government under Pramod Sawant's leadership as his dispensation failed to deliver on various fronts during its term**  
MANISH SISODIA | AAP LEADER

## DELHI RECORDS ZERO DEATH

Delhi Saturday recorded zero death due to COVID-19 and 40 fresh cases with a positivity rate of 0.07 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department



## of the day quote

Delhi is now very close to winning the battle against dengue

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM



NCB zonal director Sameer Wankhede should take "necessary action" so that NCP leader Nawab Malik realizes the "consequences"

CHANDRAKANT PATIL | MAHARASHTRA BJP CHIEF



The ruling DMK government in Tamil Nadu must include construction materials in essential commodities list and make them available to people at a fair price

K. PALANISWAMI | AIADMK JOINT COORDINATOR



# Priyanka flags off 'Pratigya Yatras'

AGENCIES

**Lucknow, Oct 23:** Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Saturday flagged off her party's "Pratigya Yatras" from Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki with seven promises, including loan waiver for farmers and jobs to 20 lakh people if voted to power in next year's Assembly polls.

The party also promised purchase of wheat and paddy at Rs 2,500 per quintal and Rs 400 per quintal for sugarcane. Besides jobs to 20 lakh people, the Congress leader said if voted to power in the state, her party will halve electricity bill of all.

She also said her party will bring a separate manifesto for women, reiterating that the Congress will give 40 per cent tickets to women in the elections. The party also reiterated that it will give smartphones to Class 12 pass girls and e-scooters to graduate girls if voted to power.

The party said it will give Rs 25,000 to families who faced financial crunch due to the Covid crisis. Priyanka promised a separate manifesto for women in a week's time and stressed that their participation in politics is necessary. "Till they do not move forward and participate in politics, they will not be able to fight their battles," she said. Priyanka said providing smartphones and scooters to girls is a way to make them empowered.

"Smartphones can help in their safety and scooter will facilitate their movement," she said. Referring to farmers, the AICC general secretary said they are helpless in the state. "All have seen how farmers were killed brutally by the son of a minister in the Modi government. This in itself



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra flags off 'Pratigya Yatra' in Barabanki, Saturday

proves how much importance is being given to farmers," she said referring to the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

"How long it took to arrest the accused and his father, who is saving him, is still in the Modi government and not dismissed," she said. "Farmers know what all they have been facing since the past a few years. It is because of this that we have decided to waive their loans. Earlier too, the Congress had waived loans worth Rs 72,000 crore," she said.

Priyanka said on the lines of Congress-led Chhattisgarh government, which is purchasing paddy at Rs 2,500 per quintal, here

too wheat and paddy will be purchased at the same price if her party was voted to power. Farmers will get Rs 400 per quintal for sugarcane, she added.

On electricity bills, she said during the coronavirus crisis, small traders were worst affected and yet had to pay their power bill. "So, it has been decided to waive the bills of coronavirus period besides halving the bills of all," she said.

She said Rs 25,000 will be given to poor families to help them overcome their financial losses during the coronavirus crisis.

Priyanka said they will also regularise services of teachers, health

## Cong membership requisites

**New Delhi:** Anyone wishing to take up the primary membership of the Congress will have to make a declaration of abstention from alcohol and drugs and give an undertaking to never criticise the party's policies and programmes in public forums. According to the grand old party's membership form, new members have to give a declaration that they will not own any property in excess of ceiling laws and will undertake tasks including "manual labour" prescribed by the party. "This is an old form and is part of our party constitution. And we expect all Congress members, including new ones, to follow these norms," said Madhusudan Mistry, the chairman of the Central Election Authority of the Congress. The Congress will launch a membership drive on November 1 and it will continue till March 31 next year before organisational elections.

workers and others if voted to power.

Faced with the Herculean task to improve the party's tally in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress had in the last Assembly polls won only seven seats.

The party's yatras will be taken out on three different routes - Barabanki to Bundelkhand, Saharanpur to Mathura and Varanasi to Rae Bareilly - from October 23 to November 1 with the slogan, "Hum Vachan Nibhayenge". The party intends to reach out to women, farmers and unemployed in Uttar Pradesh, where Priyanka has been working to regain the party's lost ground.

# PM meets Covid vaccine makers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Indian COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers Saturday, within two days of the country achieving a key milestone of administering 100 crore doses of the jabs, official sources said.

During the meeting, Modi discussed various issues including furthering the vaccine research, sources said. Representatives from seven vaccine makers - Serum Institute of India, Bharat Biotech, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Zydus Cadila, Biological E, Gennova Biopharma and Panacea Biotech - participated in the meeting.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar were also present in the meeting. The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has exceeded 101.30 crore, according to the latest health ministry data.

October 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, resulting in celebratory events across various parts.

More than 75 per cent of India's adult population has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, with nine states and union territories administering the first dose to all eligible people.

Over 31 per cent of the country's around 93 crore adults have been administered both doses, according to health ministry officials.

So far, all adult population in nine states and union territories - Andaman and Nicobar Islands,



## Govt issues Covid advisory

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre has asked states and Union Territories to ensure that upcoming festivals are celebrated in a safe and cautious manner with "utmost precautions" in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a letter to states and UTs, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said standard operating procedures issued last month for curbing any spike in cases must be followed. "No mass gathering should be allowed in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting more than 5 per cent COVID-19 test confirmation rates," Bhushan said in the letter.

Chandigarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Dadra and Nagar Haveli - have received at least one dose of the Covid vaccine.

## SHORT TAKES

### Six Myanmar nationals held

**Silchar:** Six Delhi-bound Myanmar nationals, including a woman, were detained by the Assam police at the state's border with Mizoram, police said. The six Myanmarese, aged 19 to 23 years, were arrested at Lalapur on the Assam-Mizoram border along Cachar district on Friday night from a car. They had planned to go to Guwahati and then to Delhi by train. A police official said that during the preliminary interrogation they confessed that they recently entered Mizoram from Myanmar's Chin state through the Champhai border and now they were going to Delhi via Guwahati in search of jobs. Police recovered ₹40,000 in Indian currency from them and also arrested the Indian driver of the car they had hired to go to Guwahati.

### Jawan arrested

**Amritsar:** The Punjab Police Saturday claimed to have busted an espionage network with the arrest of an Army jawan. The State Special Operation Cell, Amritsar arrested Army jawan Krunal Kumar Baria, a resident of Gujarat, police said. He was presently serving at Ferozepur Cantt, they said. Police claimed that the jawan was in touch with various Pakistan-based ISI agents through social media applications. Taking advantage of his deployment in the IT cell, he had allegedly been passing highly sensitive and classified information about the Army to his Pakistan-based handlers. He was paid money for the same, they said.

### Drugs seized

**Aizawl:** The Border Security Force (BSF) have apprehended a person in northern Mizoram's Kolasib district and recovered heroin valued at Rs 6 crore from him, officials said Saturday. A BSF spokesman said acting on a tip-off, the para-military soldiers on Friday evening laid a trap at Chhinluang village along National Highway-306 and detained the 47-year-old drug peddler Ramneithanga and recovered 808.6 gram of heroin contained in a bag from his possession.

### Prisoners shifted

**Agra:** As many as 38 prisoners linked to terror cases were shifted from Jammu and Kashmir to the Central Jail in Agra Saturday amidst high security. "On Saturday, 27 prisoners were shifted from Kashmir and 11 prisoners were shifted from Jammu," Senior Superintendent at Central Jail, Agra, BK Singh said. There are a total of 56 prisoners at Central Jail from Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

# Witness who saw accused once during crime weak evidence: SC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** Identification of an accused in the court by a witness who has seen him for the first time during the crime is a weak piece of evidence, especially when there is a large time gap between the dates of the incident and recording of his evidence, the Supreme Court has said.

The observation came on an appeal filed by four people convicted under Section 55(a) of the Kerala Abkari Act for transporting spirits. The allegation of the prosecution was that the four people transported a total quantity of 6,090 litres of spirits in 174 plastic cans in a truck with fake registration number plates and without authorisation.

The apex court discarded the testimony of a witness as he had said that he was not able to identify

## The observation came on an appeal filed by four people convicted under Section 55(a) of the Kerala Abkari Act for transporting spirits

any persons whom he had seen 11 years back. However, he had identified the two accused though he had seen them for the first time more than 11 years back on the date of the incident.

"The identification by a witness of the accused in the Court who has in the first time seen the accused in the incident of offence is a weak piece of evidence especially when there is a large time gap between the date of the incident and the date of recording of his evidence,"

a bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Abhay S Oka said.

The apex court said in such a case, test identification parade (process to identify accused) may make the identification of the accused by the witness before the Court trustworthy. The top court in its order dated October 22 said it is well settled that the test identification parade is a part of investigation and it is not substantive evidence.

However, the absence of test identification parade may not be ipso facto sufficient to discard the testimony of a witness who has identified the accused in the Court, the bench said. In a given case, there may be otherwise sufficient corroboration to the testimony of the witness, it said.

"In some cases, the Court may be impressed with testimony of the prosecution witnesses which is of sterling quality. In such cases, the testimony of such a witness can be believed. In the present case, PW13 (witness) accepted that he is not able to identify any persons whom he had seen 11 years back.

"However, he asserted that he can identify the accused Nos. 2 and 4 though he had seen them for the first time more than 11 years back on the date of the incident. Therefore, in the facts of the case, the evidence of PW13 as regards the identification of the accused Nos. 2 and 4 in the Court cannot be accepted," the bench said.

## FINAL TOUCH



An artist gives finishing touches to an idol of Goddess Lakshmi ahead of Diwali, in Kolkata

## HC refuses to allow doc to sit for exam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 23:** The Delhi High Court has refused to allow a doctor, who is pursuing a super-specialty course, to sit for his end-term examination by condoning his "excessive leaves" on account of contracting COVID-19 while treating patients, saying that the requirements of training and attendance in professional courses of this nature are beyond its remit.

Justice Prateek Jalan dismissed the petitioner-doctor's plea for condonation of leaves and said that the court's decision did not emanate

from a lack of gratitude for the service rendered by doctors during the pandemic, but from the limitations under the regulations governing the course.

The petitioner was working with the burns and plastic surgery department of a medical institute here and pursuing the three-year M.Ch. Degree course.

Since a candidate was permitted to take only a total of 102 days as leave during the three years, the petitioner was rendered ineligible to sit for the end-term examination after he availed 226 days of leave, 194 days being medical leave due to COVID-19.

## Transactions of accused under scanner: NCB official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 23:** The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is scrutinizing the financial transactions of all the arrested accused including actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan in the cruise ship drugs seizure case, an official said on Saturday.

He also said that the agency would oppose the bail plea of Aryan Khan before the Bombay High Court, scheduled for hearing on October 26. The NCB has so far arrested 20 persons after raiding a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast on October 2 and allegedly seizing narcotic drugs.

The probe team has already collected transaction records of some of the accused from whom 'commercial' or large quantity of drugs (which attracts harsher punishment under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act) had been seized, the official said.

The agency is also checking the accused persons' sources of income. The investigating team is extracting deleted messages and WhatsApp chats from mobile phones, laptops and other electronic gadgets of the accused and checking if they used any other social media platforms for communicating with each other, the official said.

The NCB had allegedly found MDMA from some of the accused during the raid.

# Life expectancy dropped by two yrs due to Covid: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 23:** The coronavirus pandemic, which has affected the lives of people at different levels, has also caused a drop in the life expectancy of the country by almost two years, a statistical analysis by scientists of the city-based International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS) has revealed.

The analytical report, which points out the drop in life expectancy at birth in both men and women due to the pandemic, has been published in a journal 'BMC Public Health' recently. IIPS professor Suryakant Yadav has authored the report.



"The life expectancy at birth in 2019 was 69.5 years for men and 72 years for women, which came down to 67.5 years and 69.8 years, respectively, in 2020," the report said.

The life expectancy at birth is calculated on the basis of the average number of years a newborn is expected to live if mortality patterns at the time of the birth of the infant remain constant in future.

## The analytical report, which points out the drop in life expectancy at birth in both men and women due to the pandemic, has been published in a journal 'BMC Public Health' recently

The study undertaken by professor Yadav also included a factor termed 'length of life inequality' and found that COVID-19 has claimed

maximum lives of men in the age group of 39-69.

"The 35-79 age group had excess deaths caused by COVID-19 in 2020 as compared to normal years and it is this group that has contributed immensely to the drop," Yadav said. This study was conducted to look at the burden repercussions of the COVID-19 on mortality patterns in the country.

IIPS director Dr K S James said, "Every time we are affected with some epidemic, the life expectancy at birth figures dwindle. For instance, after the HIV-AIDS epidemic in African nations, the expectancy had dropped. Once it was brought under control, the life expectancy recouped as well."



# international



The arrival of the Carrier Strike Group in India this weekend represents the UK's Indo-Pacific tilt in action. This is a true symbol of Global Britain, working closely with like-minded partners like India  
LIZ TRUSS | FOREIGN MINISTER, UK

## TANDEN NAMED WH STAFF SECY

Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden, a close confidant of US President Joe Biden, has been named White House staff secretary, eight months after Republican lawmakers scuttled her nomination to another key post



### of the day quote

India is an absolutely critical part of the solution for the pandemic, given that it is a vaccine powerhouse  
DAVID MARCHICK | HEAD OF US DFC

Given that we are inside NATO, everyone should know that the search for various alliances outside of it will both cause harm to NATO and our bilateral relations, and shake confidence  
HULUSI AKAR | DEFENCE MINISTER, TURKEY

'Autonomy' means understanding our chokepoints and rectifying them. 'Indispensability' means securing the chokepoints of others  
AKIRA AMARI | SECY GEN, LDP, JAPAN

# Amid the Capitol riot, Facebook faced its own insurrection

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 23: As supporters of Donald Trump stormed the US Capitol January 6th, battling police and forcing lawmakers into hiding, an insurrection of a different kind was taking place inside the world's largest social media company.

Thousands of miles away, in California, Facebook engineers were racing to tweak internal controls to slow the spread of misinformation and inciteful content. Emergency actions — some of

which were rolled back after the 2020 election — included banning Trump, freezing comments in groups with a record for hate speech, filtering out the "Stop the Steal" rallying cry and empowering content moderators to act more assertively by labeling the US a "Temporary High Risk Location for political violence."

At the same time, frustration inside Facebook erupted over what some saw as the company's halting and often reversed response to rising extremism in the US. "Haven't we had enough time

to figure out how to manage discourse without enabling violence" one employee wrote on an internal message board at the height of the Jan 6 turmoil. "We've been fueling this fire for a long time and we shouldn't be surprised it's now out of control."

It's a question that still hangs over the company today, as Congress and regulators investigate Facebook's part in the Jan 6 riots. New internal documents pro-



Frustration inside Facebook erupted over what some saw as the company's halting and often reversed response to rising extremism in the US

vided by former Facebook employee-turned-whistleblower Frances Haugen provide a rare glimpse into how the company ap-

pears to have simply stumbled into the Jan. 6 riot. It quickly became clear that even after years under the microscope for insufficiently polic-

ing its platform, the social network had missed how riot participants spent weeks vowing — on Facebook itself — to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's election victory.

The documents also appear to bolster Haugen's claim that Facebook put its growth and profits ahead of public safety, opening the clearest window yet into how Facebook's conflicting impulses — to safeguard its business and protect democracy — clashed in the days and weeks leading up to the attempted Jan 6 coup.

# Thousands of Islamists marching to Islamabad

The group began their journey Friday with the goal of reaching the capital Islamabad to pressure the government to release Saad Rizvi, the head of the Tehreek-e-Labiak Pakistan party

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lahore, Oct 23: Thousands of supporters of a banned radical Islamist party Saturday departed the eastern Pakistan city of Lahore, clashing for a second straight day with police who lobbed tear gas into the crowd, a party spokesman and witnesses said.

The group began their journey Friday with the goal of reaching the capital Islamabad to pressure the government to release Saad Rizvi, the head of the Tehreek-e-Labiak Pakistan party. Rizvi was arrested last year amid demonstrations against France over the publication of caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

Violent clashes erupted between security forces and Islamists in Lahore leaving at least two police and two demonstrators dead Friday.

Sajid Saifi, spokesman for Rizvi's party, said supporters spent the night near the Ravi River bridge and in the early



morning started again toward Islamabad amid heavy tear gas. Saifi said the huge crowd removed barricades and exited the city limits but again faced security forces near the town of Kala Shah Kako.

Saifi said "many" party supporters were injured by tear gas canisters as they attempted to leave Lahore. Witnesses said the rallygoers were on foot but some vehicles moving alongside them

to took the injured to hospitals and to bring food and water.

Rizvi's party gained prominence in Pakistan's 2018 elections, campaigning on a single issue defending the country's blasphemy law, which calls for the death penalty for anyone who insults Islam. It has a history of staging violent protests to pressure the government to accept its demands.

# Singapore removes India from Covid-19 travel restriction list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Oct 23: Singapore Saturday announced the removal of India and five other South Asian countries from its travel restriction list as the island-state continues to adjust border measures in response to the global Covid-19 situation.

All travellers with a 14-day travel history to Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore from Wednesday, the health ministry said.

However, travellers from these countries will be subjected to the tightest of border measures, which involve a 10-day, stay-home notice period at a dedicated facility, it said. The ministry said in a release that it has reviewed the Covid-19 situation in the six South Asian countries it was previously closed off to.

Addressing a virtual press conference, health minister Ong Ye Kung said the situation in these countries has stabilised for some time.

"There is no longer a need for strict rules that prevent travellers



All travellers with a 14-day travel history to Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be allowed

from these countries from landing here," the Straits Times quoted Ong as saying.

The health ministry said changes that come into effect on Wednesday include the loosening of measures for travellers from Singapore's closest neighbours, Malaysia and Indonesia.

As of Friday, Singapore has reported a total of 165,863 COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic. The disease has claimed 294 lives so far in the country.

### SHORT TAKES

#### 16 militants, 2 soldiers killed

Quetta: Pakistan's security forces say they killed 16 militants in separate shootouts during raids against extremists and separatists Saturday, with two soldiers killed in the process. One raid was conducted in the Mastung area of Baluchistan province, the provincial counterterrorism department said in a statement. Earlier in the week, a bomb attack killed a police officer and wounded 19 others in the same area. The statement said militants opened fire on police triggering a gun battle that left nine "terrorists" dead.

#### Al-Qaida leader killed in US strike

Washington: The US military says it killed a senior al-Qaida leader in an airstrike Friday in northwest Syria. Army Major John Rigsbee, a spokesman for US Central Command, said in a statement that Abdul Hamid al-Matar was killed by a drone strike. Rigsbee said the killing of al-Matar will disrupt al-Qaida's "ability to further plot and carry out global attacks threatening US citizens, our partners, and innocent civilians." He said al-Qaida "uses Syria as a base for threats reaching into Syria, Iraq and beyond."

#### B'desh: attack on madrasa claims 7

Dhaka: Seven persons have been killed and several others injured in an attack on a madrasa at a Rohingya camp in Bangladesh's Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar district, officials said. The militants on Friday attacked Darul Ulum Nadwatul Ulama Al-Islamia Madrasa, 8th APBN deputy captain Kamran Hossain told IANS. Among the injured, three died on the way to hospital, he said, adding that a person named Mujib was detained in this connection.

#### 17 dead in fire at explosives factory

Moscow: A total of 17 people were killed in a blast and the ensuing fire at an explosives factory in Russia's Ryazan region Friday, the TASS news agency reported. At the time of the incident, there were 17 people in the one-story workshop of the 'Razryad' company that produces industrial explosives, and rescuers have retrieved all the bodies under the debris, Xinhua reported. The fire that covered an area of 160 square meters has been extinguished. The factory building was completely destroyed in the blast.

# Baldwin was told it was a 'cold' gun

AGENCIES

Santa Fe, Oct 23: As a film crew and actors in Western garb prepared to rehearse a scene inside a wooden, chapel-like building on a desert movie ranch outside Santa Fe, assistant director Dave Halls stepped outside and grabbed a prop gun off a cart.

He walked back in and handed it to the film's star, Alec Baldwin, assuring him it was safe to use because it didn't have live ammo.

"Cold gun," Halls yelled. It wasn't, according to court records made public Friday. Instead, when Baldwin pulled the trigger Thursday, he killed cinematographer Halyah Hutchins and wounded director Joel Souza, who was standing behind her.

The tragedy came nearly three decades after Brandon Lee, the son of martial arts legend Bruce Lee, died in a similar case, and it prompted horrified questions about how it could have happened again. The executive producer of ABC's police drama "The Rookie" announced Friday the show would no longer use "live" weapons because the "safety of our cast and crew is too important."

# B'DESH VIOLENCE Second key suspect held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 23: Bangladesh's security agencies Saturday arrested a man in his 30s, who is believed to be the second key suspect behind the recent slew of violence against Hindus and mob attacks on temples in Bangladesh during the Durga Puja festivities, police officials said.

Shaikat Mandal, one of the masterminds behind the October 17 mayhem in Pirganj sub-district of northwestern Rangpur, and his accomplice was arrested from Gazipur, on the outskirts of Dhaka Saturday, Elite anti-terror Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) officials said.

Mondol had gone live on Facebook, which incited people and triggered a wave of violence, a RAB official said. At least 70 houses and shops of the Hindus were torched in attacks at Pirganj following Mandal's Facebook post October 17.

Mandal's arrest comes a day after police had nabbed Iqbal Hossain, 35, the key suspect from Cox Bazar area, and the man who had allegedly placed the Quran at a Durga Puja venue in Cumilla.

# Covid cases on the rise in China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 23: Authorities in the Chinese capital are ramping up measures like testing and restricting hotel bookings as the total number of coronavirus cases climbed to nine on Saturday, while other parts of the country reported 38 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases, according to the National Health Commission.

Five persons who tested positive in Beijing had travelled to Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Shanxi Province from Oct 12 to Oct 15, and returned to Beijing Oct 16.

Another person was a close contact, according to the municipal health commission. This is in addition to the 32 cases reported nationwide Friday.

The spike has prompted health officials in Beijing and other provinces to step up with measures like testing, isolation of communities, cancelling hotel bookings, and the use of sanitisers and masks.

The current spike in cases has



been attributed to an elderly couple from Shanghai who flew to several cities including the tourist city of Xian, and tested positive for COVID-19, sending officials on a leather hunt to trace scores of people who came in contact with them.

Within three days of an announcement that the couple had tested positive in Xian on Saturday, hundreds of close contacts of the couple and their five travel companions, who later tested positive, had been identified.

During this period, several cities

had rolled out mass testing, a land port stopped operating and popular locations visited by the group were closed for disinfection, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

Such cases causing periodic outbreaks presents considerable logistical and economic challenges to China despite administering vaccines to three quarters of its population.

On Saturday, China said more than 2.243 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered in the country so far.

# Saudi Arabia pledges 2060 target of net-zero emissions

The kingdom's oil and gas exports form the backbone of its economy, despite efforts to diversify away from reliance on fossil fuels for revenue

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Oct 23: One of the world's largest oil producers, Saudi Arabia, announced Saturday it aims to reach "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions by 2060, joining more than 100 countries in a global effort to try and curb man-made climate change.

The announcement, made by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in brief scripted remarks at the start of the kingdom's first-ever Saudi Green Initiative Forum, was timed to make a splash a little more than a week before the start of the global COP26 climate conference being held in Glasgow, Scotland.

The prince vowed Saudi Arabia



will plant 450 million trees and rehabilitate huge swaths of degraded lands by 2030, reducing 200 million tons of carbon emissions and attempting to turn the landlocked city of Riyadh into a more

sustainable capital.

The kingdom joins the ranks of Russia and China on their stated net-zero target date of 2060. The United States and the European Union have aimed for 2050.

## The COP26 summit starting Oct 31 is expected to see a flurry of new commitments from governments and businesses to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases

In transitioning domestically, the kingdom could also take the oil and gas that it subsidizes locally and allocate it as a more lucrative export to China and India, where demand is expected to grow in the coming years.

Although the kingdom will aim to reduce its emissions, Prince Mohammed said the kingdom would do so through a so-called "Carbon Circular Economy" approach. That approach focuses on still unreliable carbon capture and storage technologies over efforts to actually reduce global reliance on fossil fuels.

The announcement only pertains to Saudi Arabia's efforts within its national borders, and does not impact its continued aggressive investment in oil and exporting its fossil fuels to Asia and other regions.

"The transition to net zero carbon emissions will be delivered in a manner that preserves the king-

dom's leading role in enhancing the security and stability of global energy markets, particularly considering the maturity and availability of technologies necessary to manage and reduce emissions," a statement by the Saudi Green Initiative forum said.

The kingdom's oil and gas exports form the backbone of its economy, despite efforts to diversify away from reliance on fossil fuels for revenue. The global summit COP26 starting Oct 31 will draw heads of state from across the world to try and tackle global warming and its challenges. It is being described as "the world's last best chance" to prevent global warming from reaching dangerous levels.





Goa is a key centre of India's tourism and thus, in India's economy. In the last few years, we have given every form of support to promote tourism and hospitality  
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

## A MATCHBOX TO COST ₹2 AFTER 14 YEARS

The price of a matchbox is set to double from ₹1 to ₹2 from December. The hike in price of a matchbox is seen after a gap of 14 years, last time it was revised from 50 paise to ₹1 in 2007. Manufacturers pointed out that most of the 14 raw materials used are much costlier now. Red phosphorus now comes at ₹810/kg instead of ₹425/kg and wax at ₹80/kg instead of ₹58/kg



## of the day quote

India is a leader. India has a strong voice in the WTO and if we have to have a successful MC12, India's leadership is very important

NGOZI OKONJO-IWALA | CHIEF, WTO

We are delighted that HGS is growing in Northern Ireland and are looking forward to attracting more people from Northern Ireland. The area has a high volume of very talented candidates and offers a strong infrastructure, one which we're proud to be supporting

ADAM FOSTER | CEO OF HINDUA GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, UK

At Tata Power, our focus has always been around bringing ground-breaking and sustainable technologies in the power sector. We are glad to partner with IIT Delhi, an Institution of Eminence

PRAVEER SINHA | CEO & MD, TATA POWER

# Power ministry sets rules for sustainability of sector

The ministry notified rules for the sustainability of the electricity sector and promotion of clean energy to meet India's commitment towards climate change, a statement said



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 23: The Ministry of Power Saturday announced new rules to sustain economic viability of the sector, ease financial stress of various stakeholders and ensure timely recovery of costs involved in electricity generation.

Investors and other stakeholders in the power sector had been concerned about the timely recovery of the costs due to change in law, curtailment of renewable power and other related matters. The rules notified by the Ministry of Power under Electricity Act, 2003 are in the interest of the electricity consumers and the stakeholders, it added.

The rules include Electricity (Timely recovery of costs due to Change in Law) Rules, 2021. The other rule is Electricity (Promotion of generation from renewable sources of energy by addressing Must Run and other matters) Rules, 2021.

The ministry explained timely recovery of the costs due to change in law is very important as the investment in the power sector largely depends upon the timely payments. A formula has been provided to calculate adjustment in the monthly tariff due to the impact of change in law. "At present, the pass through under change of law takes time. This influences the viability of the sector and the developers get financially stressed. The rules

The ministry said the rules will help in achieving the targets of RE generation. This will ensure that the consumers get green and clean power and secure a healthy environment for the future generation

The rules also provide that a must-run power plant shall not be subjected to curtailment or regulation of generation or supply of electricity on account of merit order despatch or any other commercial consideration.

In the event of a curtailment of supply from a must-run power plant, compensation shall be payable by the procurer to the must-run power plant at the rates specified in the agreement for purchase or supply of electricity

would help in creating investment friendly environment in the country," it stated.

"The energy transition is happening across the globe. India has also made commitments to bring about energy transition. India has also announced international commitment to set up 175 GW of RE capacity by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030," the ministry said.

The electricity generated from a must-run power plant may be curtailed or regulated only in the event of any technical constraint in the electricity grid or for reasons of security of the electricity grid. For curtailment or regulation of power, the provisions of the Indian Electricity Grid Code shall be followed.

The RE generator is also allowed to sell power in the power exchange and recover the cost suitably. This helps in realisation of revenue by the generator and also the power is available in the electricity grid for use of consumers.

# Housing sector, infra spend to boost FY22 cement demand: BWR



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 23: Faster-than-expected recovery in the Housing sector along with government's thrust on infrastructure spending is expected to boost cement demand by 10-12 per cent in FY22.

Pent-up demand and low interest rates have driven the realty sector amid the pandemic, and, the government's push towards big-ticket infrastructure projects has increased the growth momentum for the highways sector, said ratings agency Brickwork Ratings (BWR).

An improvement in these two sectors, which are among the largest consumers of cement, indicates a strong recovery path for the cement sector. According to the agency, growth momentum is likely to continue, and production is expected to grow by lower double digits in FY22.

A strong demand recovery shall support cement prices as the prices of raw materials such as limestone and pet coke have already witnessed an upward trend. Furthermore, with an increase in power, freight and logistics costs, BWR expects overall cement prices to increase by 6-8 per cent year-on-year.

As per the agency, limestone

The growth comes after cement demand declined in FY20 by 1 per cent and 11 per cent in FY21

price account for around 60 per cent of the total raw material cost.

As of August 2021, limestone prices had increased by 30-32 per cent in FY22 from FY21 levels. Apart from these overheads, the increase in fuel, power and freight costs has also weighed on the profit margins.

The recent increase in diesel and pet coke and coal prices has had a major impact on cement companies' Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortisation (EBITDA) margins.

Besides, in FY22, BWR expects the EBITDA margins for cement players to contract by 40-60 bps on account of the rise in input costs for the companies.

Although the companies have also raised cement prices, the increase in these prices is not in the same proportion as the input costs; the companies are, therefore, taking a hit on the margins to safeguard higher volumes.

# Gold Bond VII set to be issued at ₹4,765 per gm

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 23: The issue price for Sovereign Gold Bonds has been fixed at ₹4,765 per gram of gold. According to the Ministry of Finance, the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 (Series VII) will be opened for subscription during the period October 25-29, and the settlement date has been set at November 2.

"Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow discount of ₹50 per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment is made through digital mode," it said.

"For such investors the issue price of 'Gold Bond' will be ₹4,715 per gram of gold."

The SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. Besides, they are substitutes for holding physical gold. Under the scheme, investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.

For those subscribers who are investing in the gold bonds scheme online - in which the payment is done through any of the digital methods, a discount of ₹50 per unit is applicable, according to the Reserve Bank of India.

# Monsoon to rescue agriculture in FY22

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 23: The recently concluded normal monsoon season will provide a much-needed cushion to both India's agriculture and inflation in 2021-22, said India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) in a report. According to the report, the arrival of the new kharif output in the market, along with a cut in the import duties for edible oils, will help in keeping food inflation benign.

However, the agency expects the retail prices of edible oils to stay elevated as nearly 56 per cent of the domestic demand is met by imports. Thus, Ind-Ra expects the average retail inflation for 2021-22 to remain under 6 per cent, the report said.

In 2021, the country witnessed 99 per cent of its long period average (LPA) rainfall in the monsoon season of June-September; although there were significant variations across months and different regions. The rainfall for the country as a whole was 110 per cent of LPA in June; 93 per cent in July; 76 per cent in August and 135 per cent in September.

Region wise, East and Northeast India and Northwest India received lower rainfall, whereas Central India and South Peninsula India received higher than the normal rainfall during the monsoon period.

## SHORT TAKES

### Greaves Electric acquires BAPL

New Delhi: Greaves Electric Mobility Saturday said it has fully acquired Bestway Agencies Pvt Ltd (BAPL) which sells e-rickshaws under the ELE brand. The company, which is the e-mobility arm of Greaves Cotton Ltd, has acquired 100 per cent stake in BAPL. Last year in July, Greaves had acquired 74 per cent stake in the company. "With this strategic acquisition, we have strengthened our position to become one of largest players now catering to 85 per cent of the last mile mobility segment," Greaves Cotton Group CEO and MD Nagesh A Basavanthalli said in a statement.

### ICICI Bank Q2 profit up 25%

Mumbai: ICICI Bank Saturday reported 24.7 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹6,092 crore for September quarter 2021-22. The private sector lender had posted a net profit of ₹4,882 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year. Total income however grew marginally to ₹39,484.50 crore in the quarter from ₹39,289.60 crore in the same period of 2020-21, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing. On standalone basis, the net profit jumped 30 per cent to ₹5,511 crore during the quarter, as against ₹4,251 crore. Income was up at ₹26,031 crore from ₹23,651 crore.

### ICRA appoints Krishnan as MD

Mumbai: Icra Saturday announced the appointment of Ramnath Krishnan as the company's Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer. Krishnan, who will assume the new charge with immediate effect, has a proven record of leadership, gained during the course of a career spanning more than three decades in banking and finance in India and abroad, Icra said in a statement. He joined Icra in 2020 and is currently President - Ratings and Chief Rating Officer of the company.

### Myntra CEO resigns

New Delhi: Amar Nagaram, the chief executive officer of Myntra, has put in his papers after three years of leading the fashion e-commerce platform, and will pursue his own venture. According to an email by Flipkart CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy to employees, Nagaram will be at Myntra till December-end to ensure a smooth transition, and will continue to be associated in an advisory role.

# Evos Buildcon launches Sea Roses project in Puri



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: Evos Buildcon, one of the leading property and real estate developer of Odisha, launched new holiday homes project 'Sea Roses' in Puri near sea beach Saturday. The project will offer 249 units of luxurious sea facing 1-BHK and studio apartments.

The Sea Roses project is situated at 10 minutes drive from Lord Jagannath Temple, 15 minutes from railway station and 15 minutes away from Puri bus stop. The project offers amenities like community hall, swimming pool, gym, spa and open cafeteria.

As a launching offer, customers can get a gold coin weighing 5-gram on booking of a flat

till October 25, 2021. The promoter also offered ₹300 per square foot discount on MRP for early comers.

Kalinga Keshari Rath, Founder of Evos Buildcon said, "Our new project Sea Roses will provide an excellent opportunity to customers and investors to stay nearer to adobe of almighty Lord Jagannath. Investors can make money by renting the property and can create endless moments of life with family and friends."

Rath added that the estimated cost for the total project is ₹62 crore and is being built in an area of 2 acres. The apartments will be handed over to the buyers by 2024. The founder also stated that the cost of 1-BHK apartments will start from 34.2 lakh to the buyers.

## BIZ BUZZ

### PNB holds review meeting

Bhubaneswar: Punjab National Bank (PNB) organised a review meeting under the chairmanship of Chief General Manager (CGM), Saturday. Sanjeev Bhardwaj, Zonal Head, Circle heads and Branch Managers of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack circle were also present during the meeting. They reviewed the progress of business of the branches and discussed the strategy to be adopted in the coming quarters to achieve the business targets.

### CB0I organises walkathon

Bhubaneswar: Central Bank of India (CBoI) organised a walkathon at Suryanagar, Bhubaneswar on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week, 2021, Saturday. The walkathon was conducted to spread social awareness of corruption free India. The walkathon was headed by PK Samantary, Senior Regional Manager, Bhubaneswar Region and accompanied by staff members of Central Bank. More than 100 participants were present in the event and contributed in the noble cause following all the Covid-19 safety guidelines.

# Crude oil throughput rises 2.9% in Sept

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 23: Refiners' crude oil throughput in September edged higher from the previous month, government data showed Friday, as refineries boosted output to meet surging demand.

Refiners processed 4.45 million barrels per day (bpd) (18.21 million tonne) of crude oil last month, up from the 4.36 million bpd in August, which was the lowest in 10 months.

"Refiners have been boosting throughput in order to meet demand during the festive season.

## FIRM DEMAND



Demand is expected to increase compared to previous months, as people travel more during festivities."

## Pvt refiners to work with state-run peers

New Delhi: Private oil refiners are willing to work with state-run peers to bargain collectively for better oil import deals, oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Friday, as the nation looks to cut its import bill. "The outcome of the meeting between private and state-run (refiners on a joint oil procurement plan) was very encouraging," Puri said in a news conference at the India Energy Forum industry event. He said the private companies are "enthused" by the plan.

Refinitiv analyst Ehsan Ul Haq said.

On a year-on-year basis, refiners' crude oil throughput in September rose about 2.9 per cent, while crude oil production fell about 1.7 per cent to around 600,000 bpd (2.44 million tonnes), the data showed.

"Coal shortages are also resulting in some fuel switching to oil-related products, which is encouraging refiners to boost runs. However, continued high oil prices have the potential to lead to some demand destruction," Ul Haq said.

# JSW contributes highest revenue to Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 23: India's leading integrated steel producer Jindal Steel Works Limited (JSW) has paid the highest revenue to the state government among all mine owners during the period of April to September, 2021.

The company's revenue share is 46.3 per cent at ₹6,019.42 crore against the state's total collection of 12,976.17 crore. Earlier, the company had contributed ₹1,377.66 crore to the state's revenue during January to March, 2021, which is also the highest for the said period. JSW has continually been



We truly believe the wealth of Odisha belongs to the people of Odisha, and as the highest revenue generator for the state, we are proactively giving it back to people

RANJAN NAYAK | COO, JSW STEEL

the highest revenue payer among the top steel players and iron ore producers in Odisha. The state registered a 221

per cent growth in mineral revenue collection by September 30, surpassing its budget estimate collection for the 2021-22 fiscal. Odisha's mines have a direct impact

JSW paid ₹6,019.42 crore against the state's total revenue collection of 12,976.17 crore during April-Sep, 2021

ODISHA IS NOW PROJECTED TO BE THE 'STEEL CAPITAL OF INDIA' AND WOULD BECOME THE PRINCIPAL PROVIDER TO INDIA'S TARGETED 300 MILLION TONNE STEEL CAPACITY BY 2030.

on India's economy and global trade. Steel output in India is expected to double by 2031, con-

tributing approximately 2.1 per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and it is expected to exceed 3 per cent in the next decade, thanks to Odisha's mines.

With such mineral reserves in its possession, Odisha is now projected to be the 'Steel Capital of India' and would become the principal provider to India's targeted 300 million tonne steel capacity by 2030.

The state has the potential to cater to at least half of the additional requirement of steel in India by 2031 and JSW is eyeing to play a pivotal role in catapulting Odisha towards this three-digit growth in production of steel.

The state government has set a goal of achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2030. To achieve the goal,

mining sector would play great role. Being a leading steel manufacturer, JSW Steel would contribute its part to achieve the goal. The company is setting up a world class steel plant in Paradeep of Jagatsinghpur district. The state government would reap significant profits from the company's latest project.

JSW's current operations in Odisha include a subsidiary 3MT steel plant, 30MT iron ore mines, 5MT cement plant and 50MT iron ore/coal terminal at Paradip port. The company's vision includes proposed expansion of its 'Brownfield Project' from 3MTPA to 10MTPA as well as setting up of a world class 12MTPA 'green field facility', along with a captive port at Paradeep.



Virat Kohli's India begin their 2021 World T20 campaign against Babar Azam-led Pakistan in the much-awaited face-off

# ARCH RIVALS SET FOR 'THE MATCH'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 23: The most sought-after megastars of the current generation are primed to show their might against a bunch of enigmatic cricketers as India and Pakistan engage in an ICC T20 World Cup face-off, something that transcends the 22-yard strip.

The sensitive nature of cross-border relationship between the neighbours has led to minimal sporting engagements and cricket has always become the vehicle of one-upmanship for the fans on both sides.

In terms of numbers, India have an all-win record against their arch-rivals in the T20 World Cup since its inception in 2007.

Incidentally, all the matches were won under the one and only MS Dhoni, who will be there on skipper Virat Kohli's ears with his 'diamond crusted info-nuggets', which might lead to Babar Azam tearing a hair or two in exasperation.



**NUMBERS GAME**

**7** No. of wins registered by India against Pakistan in 8 T20s they have played, losing only once

**5** Wins scripted by India against Pakistan in 5 matches at World T20s

**192/5** Highest total in an Indo-Pak T20 game (scored by India at Ahmedabad, 2012), while 157/5 by India in the 2007 edition final is still the highest total in World T20s

**83** Lowest total in an Indo-Pak T20 game (scored by Pakistan at Dhaka in 2016 Asia Cup), while 118/5 by Pakistan in the 2016 edition is the lowest total in World T20s

**254** Runs scored by Virat Kohli in 6 matches, most in the matches between the two sides, and he is followed by Pakistan's Shoaib Malik (164 in 8 matches)

**In games like these, some unnecessary stuff happens on the professional point from outside that. It's fine as long as it stays outside our controlled environment, we just focus on what we need to do as cricketers and hence it's no different from other games of cricket that we play**

**VIRAT KOHLI**

**To be honest, we don't want to focus on the past. We are looking forward to this World Cup. We will focus on our strength, ability and apply that on the day. It is important to keep things simple and stick to the basics. We will try to play good cricket and try to produce better results**

**BABAR AZAM**

Yet, this is a match that everyone awaits in the global event – the fans because of its novelty factor, the ICC and the broadcasters for filling up the coffers. Everyone is invested in it emotionally, like the fans, or materially, like the other stakeholders.

Be it Sunil Gavaskar or Sourav Ganguly, everyone who understands the game would tell you that this is the one format where the margins are thinnest and qualitative difference matters the least, as any one performer can win it for

his side on a given day.

The players may say that it's just 'another game of cricket' but even they know that in this day and age of retro videos and offensive memes, a not-so-great performance stays forever.

It is also about how global cricket perceives Pakistan which England and New Zealand refuse to tour the country. Over the years, Pakistan cricket have faced an existential crisis and a good game against India will give them some breathing space.

# Australia edge out SA in Super 12 opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 23: Australia endured some anxious moments before edging out South Africa by five wickets after their bowlers set it up with a clinical display in an ICC T20 World Cup match here Saturday.

Needing eight runs in the final over, Marcus Stoinis (24 not out) hit Dwaine Pretorius for two vital fours and completed the job with two balls to spare. This was after Australia were reeling at 81/5 in the 16th over.

Defending a modest target of 119, South Africa got the start they were looking for when Anrich Nortje (2/21) dismissed opposition skipper Aaron Finch for a duck in the innings' second over. Kagiso Rabada (1/28) cut short David Warner's (14) promising start. Mitchell Marsh fell for 11 as South Africa left Australia struggling at 38/3 in the eighth over.

A partnership ensued between Steve Smith (35) and Glenn Maxwell (18) but their 42-run association



Josh Hazlewood (R) celebrates with Matthew Wade after getting a wicket

for the fourth wicket ended when the former was sensationally caught in the deep by a sprinting Aiden Markram.

Left-arm chinaman bowler Tabraiz Shamsi (1/22) then cas-

ted Maxwell to put Australia under the pump. However, Marcus Stoinis (24 n o) and Matthew Wade (15 n o) got the job done for the Aussies with two balls to spare.

Earlier, Australia's bowlers

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

**SL v BAN**  
Time: 03:30 pm

**IND v PAK**  
Time: 07:30 pm

**TELECAST**  
Star Sports channels & Hotstar

scythed through South Africa's top and middle-order batting lineup to restrict them to 118/9. Josh Hazlewood (2/19), Adam Zampa (2/21) and Mitchell Starc (2/33) did most of the damage, even as Aiden Markram battled his way to a 36-ball 40. Had it not been for Kagiso Rabada's 19, South Africa would have got less.

**BRIEF SCORES**

South Africa 118/9 (Aiden Markram 40; Josh Hazlewood 2/19, Adam Zampa 2/21, Mitchell Starc 2/33) lost to Australia 121/5 (Steve Smith 35, Marcus Stoinis 24 n o; Anrich Nortje 2/21) by 5 wickets.

# Mount treble helps Chelsea rout Norwich

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 23: Chelsea coped just fine without their injured strikers – Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner. The Premier League leaders romped to a 7-0 win over last-place Norwich Saturday, with Mason Mount scoring a hat-trick.

Mount, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Reece James scored in the first half, before Ben Chilwell's strike, an own-goal by Max Aarons and two more goals from Mount – one from the penalty spot – completed Chelsea's biggest win of the season.

Norwich center back Ben Gibson was sent off in the 65th minute when the score was 5-0.

Earlier, goals from Thomas Partey, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Emile Smith Rowe helped Arsenal beat Aston Villa 3-1 late Friday night. Jacob Ramsey pulled a late goal back for Villa.

# England humble Windies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 23: Spinners Moeen Ali (2/17) and Adil Rashid (4/2) demolished the West Indies batting line up to shape England's comfortable six-wicket win over the defending champions in a Super 12 Group 1 match of the T20 World Cup here Saturday.

Both the spinners were ably supported by the pacers – Tymal Mills (2/17), Chris Jordan (1/7) and Chris Woakes (1/12) – as they kept the pressure on with their tight lines.

It was expected to be an exciting battle between the West Indies' flair and a capable England attack but was reduced to a no-contest following a horrendous batting display by the defending champions, who were skittled out for just 55 runs in inside 15 overs.

The West Indies batters only looked for big shots and that became their undoing as they seemed to have forgotten that rotating the strike was important when boundaries were difficult to come by.



ADIL RASHID

England bowlers were persistent with their line and length and were rewarded as West Indies managed their second lowest T20 total after 45 they made against the same opponents in 2019.

It was also the third lowest total in T20 World Cup behind 39 and 44 (both by Netherlands). England knocked off the required runs in 8.2 overs but not before they too lost wickets in cluster.

Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein (2/24) made a good impression with his quick balls and excellent fielding. Jos Buttler (24 n o) and skipper Eoin Morgan (7 n o) saw England through and ensured there was no more drama in the contest.

Earlier, West Indies batters kept looking for boundaries and they fell by the way side one after another. Chris Gayle (13) was the only batter who got to the double digits.

**Brief scores:** West Indies 55 (Chris Gayle 13; Adil Rashid 4/2, Moeen Ali 2/17, Tymal Mills 2/17) lost to England 56/4 (Jos Buttler 24 n o; Akeal Hosein 2/24) by 6 wickets.

**HONDA**

**India's Two Wheels**

**ACTIVA**

We, the people of India, never give up, never back down, we believe in moving forward. This is why our country is standing up on its feet again. So let us all become the two wheels of India and show the world that our country is not just rising up but also flying with its wings wide open.

**You and Activa, India's Two Wheels.**

For More Information give a Missed Call on 7230032200

	<b>INTEREST RATE</b> 5.99%* ONWARDS	<b>PROCESSING FEE</b> 0*	<b>FINANCE UP TO</b> 100%*	<b>CASHBACK UP TO</b> 5000*	<b>INSURANCE WORTH</b> 5 LAKHS*		For dealer details WhatsApp on 7230032200 or Scan the QR Code	<b>BOOK ONLINE NOW!</b> www.hondatwoweelsindia.com
--	--	-----------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	--	--	---

\*Finance Scheme offers are available through select preferred finance partners on select models for select profile of customers at their sole discretion and is subject to Finance Company Policy. No two offers can be clubbed together. Cashback offer mentioned is 5% Cashback up to Rs.5000 per card on Minimum Transaction of Rs.50000, applicable only on EMI transaction via select SBI Credit Cards, once per month during the offer period. Scheme validity from 1st September to 30th November 2021. Schemes & offers available at select Dealerships only & can be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. #Rs.5 Lakh Personal Accident Cover applicable on purchase of Honda Joy Club Loyalty membership. All Claims will settle as per policy & guidelines of insurance company. For more details, please call on HJC helpdesk 18005322555. \*Terms and conditions apply. The images of various professions used in the creative are for representation purpose only. Product shown in the picture may vary from the actual product available in the market. Accessories shown in the product are not part of the standard equipment.