

# PM AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION

## Largest Ever Scheme to Scale-up Health Infrastructure



### Prime Minister Narendra Modi

has ensured a transformation in healthcare in the past seven years

**Ayushman Bharat PMJAY & Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centers**

brought scale while

**Ayushman Bharat - Digital Mission** brings technology to healthcare



“Every Indian deserves accessible, affordable and high-quality healthcare. We have worked to ensure this through multi-dimensional interventions.”

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

## Rs 64,000 crore

to be invested in building healthcare infrastructure

# PM AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE MISSION

### Multi-dimensional and Multi-modal Interventions

- Focus on critical and primary care
- Network of 29,000 Health and Wellness Centers
- Specialized Critical Care Hospital Blocks in all districts with 37,000 beds with ICUs, ventilators and oxygen support
- Over 4,000 Block & District level Public Health Units & Labs
- Full range of diagnostic services in all districts
- IT-enabled disease surveillance system

### Institutional Approach to Holistic Healthcare

- National Institution for One Health
- 4 New National Institutes for Virology
- Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region
- 15 Biosafety Level 3 Labs
- 5 New Regional National Centre for Disease Control
- Public health units at 50 international entry points preventing public health emergencies and disease outbreaks

# A HEALTHY FUTURE BECKONS!



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



Know about PM Modi's transformative vision for healthcare in his own words by scanning this QR code

# leisure



## ANGELINA ON PLAYING THENA IN ETERNALS

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie, who is playing superhero Thena in the upcoming MCU movie *Eternals*, has talked about what makes her character so interesting. "I was attracted to this project for many reasons. I am a fan of MCU as well as Chloe (Zhao, director). Then, it was the cast," said Jolie.

## RUST PRODUCTION ON HOLD TILL COMPLETION OF PROBE

The producers of the movie *Rust* are pausing production while sheriffs investigate the circumstances of the death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins that occurred when a gun handled by veteran star Alec Baldwin discharged Thursday.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
A favourable day as any can be, says Ganesh. You are happy and content with what you have, and you've planned and are working towards what you want. A romantic date may prove interesting or throw up a controversy - decide where you want to take it.

**TAURUS**  
There is every possibility that you will enjoy a good rapport with people around you, predicts Ganesh. You will think with your stomach today, craving for delicacies. Such a feeling might be because of repressed hunger.

**GEMINI**  
Your highly competitive nature will push you to perform better and better. You don't even know what being second best means. Getting in touch with like-minded people will only make you resolve stronger.

**CANCER**  
Ganesh believes that today you may have to take certain financial decisions at home as well as at work. If you are in-charge of a certain project, you will trust the judgement of those working on it, mostly because they have been hand-picked by you.

**LEO**  
Motivating people through your own actions is one way; the other is to let your words do the talking. Both are equally effective, says Ganesh. With a bit of help from the stars, today, it is your words that shall hold more weight than your actions, as you make optimum use of your presentation skills.

**VIRGO**  
You will remain engrossed in personal matters at the cost of professionalism. Solve your problems today by taking them head-on. Ganesh warns you not to let your emotions suppress your enterprising spirit, especially in the evening.

**LIBRA**  
Trivialities should be the least of your concerns today. Do not let the small things faze you out. Remember that it is the overall picture that matters, and not one small stroke of the brush. Bear this in mind, since you may come under some pressure from subordinates at your workplace.

**SCORPIO**  
You will live the day in two dominant shades, feels Ganesh. One part of your day will be tinted in nostalgia and thinking, while the other will be spent in making up for the time you lost while star gazing and ignoring your work. Do not let the ghosts of your past haunt you because some things are best left behind while making a new beginning, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You will discover a flair for flirting as you puppet words to your romantic will with ease and grace. Most of today will be spent in the company of a loved one, perhaps a picnic for two, or a day-long romantic date. Stay prepared for the worst as this may not necessarily blossom into a long-lasting relationship, warns Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
It will be one of those mundane days with nothing remarkable happening on any front. But don't be disheartened, advises Ganesh; planetary movements indicate there may be a change coming soon, most likely a good one. So, perk up and look forward to tomorrow.

**AQUARIUS**  
You do have a way with words and today, you may succeed with your gift of the gab! But Ganesh says that your confused feelings may come in the way of your triumphant achievement. Also, sentiments may lead to a disastrous outcome. Sounds familiar?

**PISCES**  
The fount of your creativity spurts today like there is no tomorrow. For lesser mortals, it takes inspiration, perspiration and a lot of desperation to come up with something creative. You, on the other hand, keenly remember the lessons from your past efforts, and use them today to scale new heights, says Ganesh.

# Nat'l awards for three Odia films

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** As many as three Odia films were conferred with national awards for the year 2019. The awards were presented by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu here at Vigyan Bhawan, Monday, on the occasion of 67th National Film Awards.

*Shrikshetra-Ru-Sahijata*, a non feature film, was awarded as the best Art and Culture film. The director and producer of the film Ashutosh Pattnaik was given a Rajat Kamal and cash award of Rs 50,000.

Similarly, *Sala Budhar Badla* and *Kalira Atita* were selected in Best Odia Film category. Eminent filmmaker Sabyasachi Mohapatra directed *Sala Budhar Badla* (The revenge of the old man) while *Kalira Atita* (Yesterday's Past), a film on climate change, was directed by national award winning film director Nila Madhab Panda. Both films were awarded with Rajat Kamal and a cash prize of Rs one

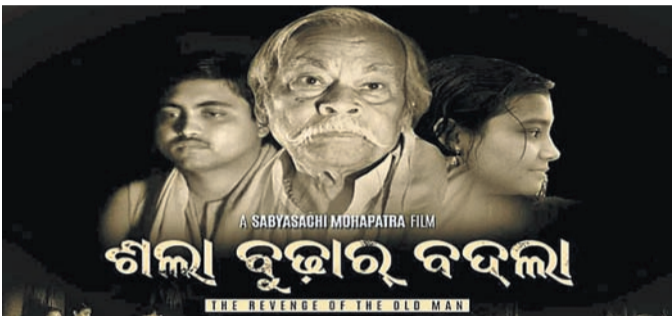


Nila Madhab Panda's *Kalira Atita*, a movie on climate change



A poster of non-feature film *Shrikshetra-Ru-Sahijata*

lakh each. Set in the backdrop of early 1960s in a quaint village of western Odisha, *Sala Budhar Badla* follows the life of 'Sala Budha' who is set to take revenge. On the other hand, Panda's *Kalira Atita* is about a man who returns to his native village hoping to reunite with his family, only to find it under water due to a cyclone. Pattnaik's *Shrikshetra-Ru-Sahijata* highlights the rich culture of Holy City Puri.



*Sala Budhar Badla*, a revenge drama by Sabyasachi Mohapatra

## Still interested in telling a unique story: RGV

**Mumbai:** While Indian cinema and its lovers are thankful to Ram Gopal Varma for discovering some fine talents like Manoj Bajpayee, Urmita Matondkar, Kay Kay Menon and presenting films like *Shool*, *Rangeela*, *Satya* and *Sarkar*, among many others - it is the same audience that wonders why the fire is missing in RGV in the last couple of years as several of his films failed at the box office.

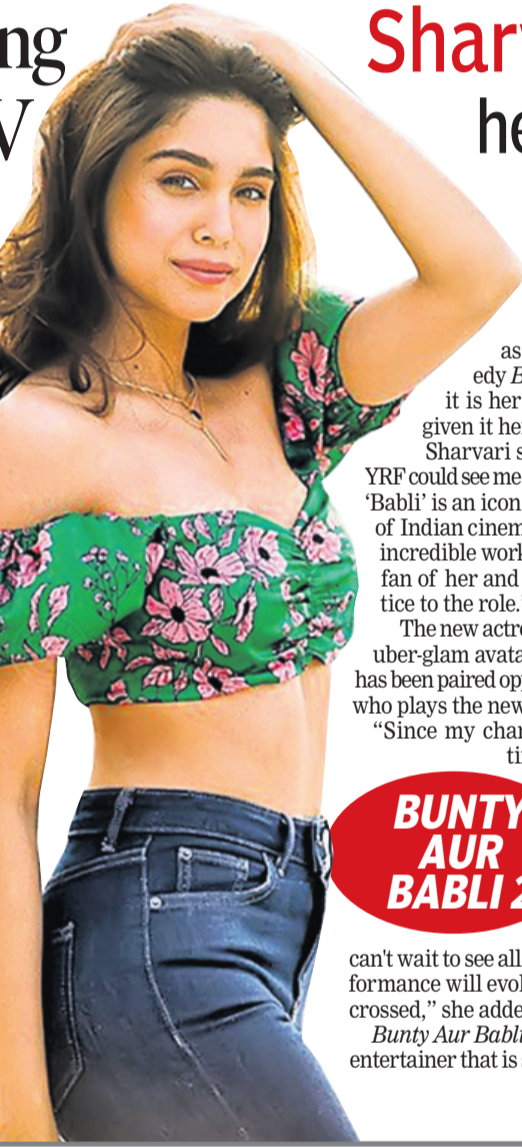
The National Award-winning filmmaker, who is gearing up for his next release titled *Dangerous*, in a conversation shares his thoughts.

Varma said: "Look, I am the same filmmaker who

is interested in telling a story that intrigues me at that point of time to make a film out of it. Why should I invest my energy and involve so many people in the project to tell a story thinking it will not be appreciated by the audience. But the fact is, their reaction is not in my hand, but my next story is. So basically I am the same filmmaker who is telling a unique story, and quite unfazed by the success or failure or any kind of reaction coming from the audience."



## Sharvari has her fingers crossed



**Mumbai:** Debutante Sharvari Wagh will be seen as the new Babli in the comedy *Bunty Aur Babli 2*. She says it is her big screen debut and has given it her all.

Sharvari said, "I was honoured that YRF could see me as the new Babli in the film. 'Babli' is an iconic character in the history of Indian cinema, thanks to Rani ma'am's incredible work in the first film. I'm a big fan of her and hope that I have done justice to the role."

The new actress is being presented in an uber-glam avatar in the film in which she has been paired opposite Siddhant Chaturvedi who plays the new 'Bunty'.

"Since my character is based in today's times, I have tried to play it in my own way and I only hope that Rani ma'am and the audiences will love my effort. This is my big-screen debut and I have given it my all. I can't wait to see all the responses that my performance will evoke. I'm keeping my fingers crossed," she added.

*Bunty Aur Babli 2* is an out-and-out family entertainer that is set to release November 19.

**BUNTY AUR BABLI 2**

## From bus conductor to Phalke Awardee

Forty-five years ago, few including the plain-looking, swarthy young Rajinikanth himself, would have imagined that the most prestigious cinematic award of the land would be his

As the recipient of the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the superstar of Tamil cinema Rajinikanth crosses yet another milestone in a career that spans 45 years and continues to go strong.

However, bracketing Rajinikanth as a Tamil movie star would be a grave injustice to the legions of fans and admirers he has acquired across regions and languages - Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi - he has acted in all the movie industries. His popularity breaches regional and national boundaries too. There was a time, when Rajinikanth was a big time craze in faraway Japan.

His life itself is reminiscent of some of the rags to riches roles he has successfully portrayed on the big screen. Born in erstwhile Mysore state as Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, in a middle-class Marathi family of Bangalore, young Rajinikanth took up several odd jobs before landing a job as a bus conductor in the Karnataka capital.

The acting bug caught him pretty young, and egged on by his bus-driver friend Raj Bahadur, he took off to then

Mecca of south Indian cinema - Madras, now Chennai.

Interestingly the 70-year-old superstar who has held sway over the silver screen for several decades, began his career as the quintessential bad man on screen. Legendary director K. Balachander's find, Rajinikanth made his debut with a small role in *Apoorva Raagangal* in 1975. Thereafter, a series of negative roles in a succession of movies ensured he became a known face to movie-goers. His inimitable style quotient included mannerisms such as popping a cigarette and lighting it, or rocking on his heels while rattling off long dialogues, with a sneering smile plastered across his face.

The poor young man with a heart of gold, who wins over the rich and mighty is a recurring theme in many of his movies, and something that fans relate to everytime he appears on screen.

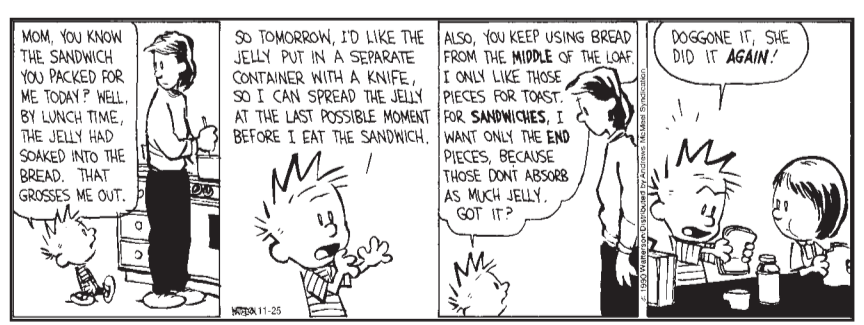
Forty-five years ago, few including the plain-looking, swarthy young Rajinikanth himself, would have imagined that the most prestigious cinematic award of the land would be his.



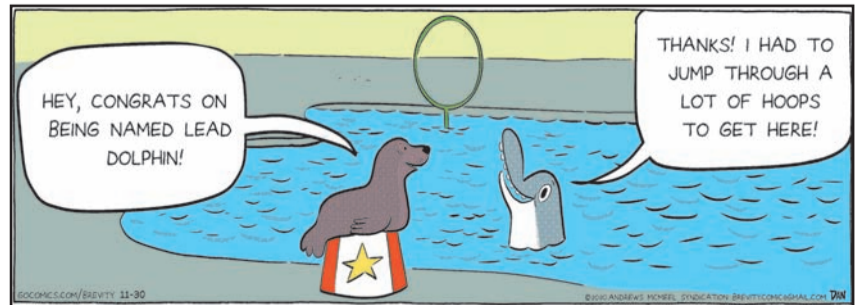
### PEANUTS



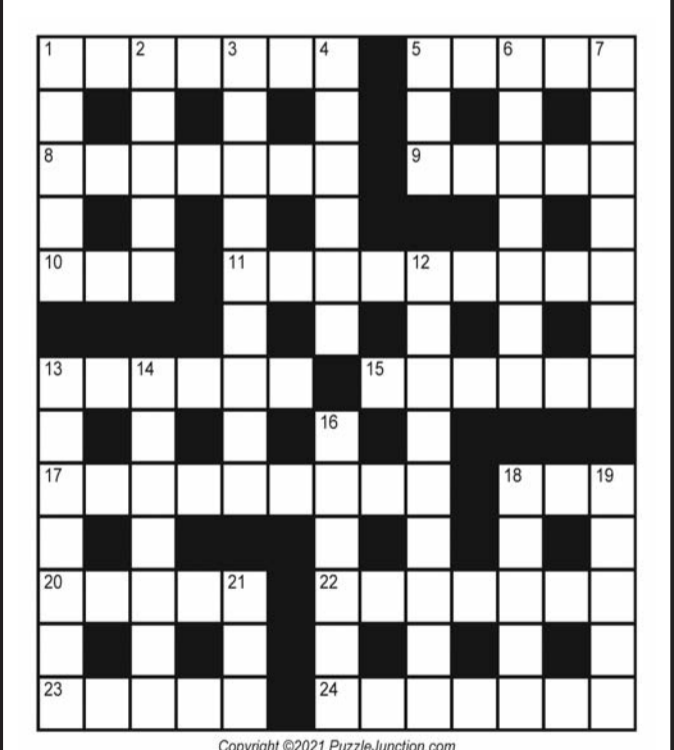
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



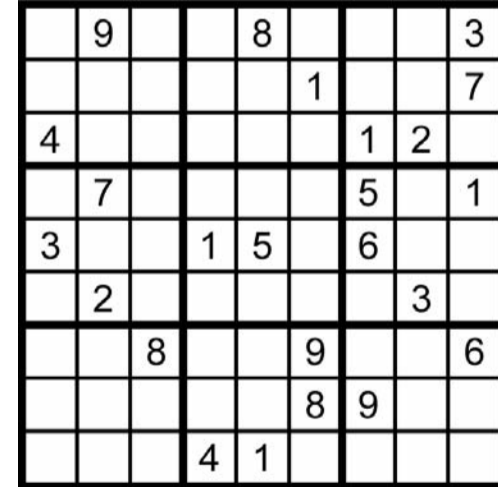
### FUN post CROSSWORD



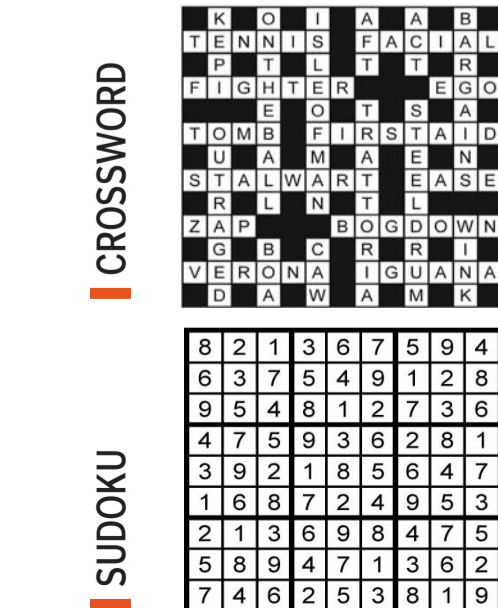
- Across**
- 1 Wasp's defense
  - 5 Fable writer
  - 8 Novice
  - 9 Arena sound
  - 10 Flock member
  - 11 Infamous
  - 13 Off the mark
  - 15 Moved on
  - 17 Type of steak
  - 18 Vatican vestment
  - 20 Marsh growth
  - 22 Effusively emotional
  - 23 Oranjestad's island
  - 24 Shake with fear
  - 5 Pendulum's path
  - 6 Try to find (4,3)
  - 7 Examined
  - 12 Saloon
  - 13 Salzburg site
  - 14 Walden author
  - 16 Fate
  - 18 Off-the-cuff remark (2-3)
  - 19 Pig out
  - 21 Jacuzzi

### 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



## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Actor Sharvari Wagh says she can't wait to see the viewers' responses to her debut film *Bunty Aur Babli 2*

LEISURE P2



## FB UNDER THE LENS

Whistleblower Frances Haugen told lawmakers that the company is making online hate and extremism worse

INTERNATIONAL P10



## NEW IPL FRANCHISES

RP-SG Group claims the Lucknow franchise, while CVC Capital wins the bid for Ahmedabad as two new IPL teams

SPORTS P12



## Ayushman Bharat Health Infra launched

**Varanasi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a ₹64,000 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, one of the largest pan-India schemes to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure, from his parliamentary constituency Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh Monday. He also inaugurated various development projects worth around ₹5,200 crore for his constituency. The mission will strengthen the health infrastructure of Uttar Pradesh as well as of the country, help in preparations to face future pandemics and bring confidence and self-reliance in the health sector, Modi said. The prime minister said 'arogya' (overall wellbeing) is considered the base of all 'karma' and investments made to keep the body healthy has always been considered the best investment.



## Military coup in Sudan

**Cairo:** Sudan's leading general declared a state of emergency Monday, hours after his forces arrested the acting prime minister and disrupted the internet in an apparent coup as the country was nearing a planned transition to a civilian leadership. In a televised address, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan announced that he was dissolving the country's ruling Sovereign Council, as well as the government led by PM Abdalla Hamdok. He said quarrels among political factions prompted the military to intervene but he pledged to complete the democratic transition, saying a new technocrat government would lead Sudan to elections.

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## Covid-19 has entered endemic stage in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** The state has entered the endemic stage of Covid 19 and there is a need for booster dose of COVID vaccine, a top health department official said Monday. Director Health Service, Bijay Mohapatra said there are around 500 new cases daily in the state.

"Odisha is now in endemic stage of Coronavirus. The study report of a technical committee formed by the government on administration on booster dose is awaited," he said. The DHS said that in the capital city of Bhubaneswar COVID-19 transmission has reached a plateau phase with fluctuation in daily cases. "The city may not witness staggering situation caused by the virus in the coming days," he told reporters.

Mohapatra said as the state continues to report around 500 new cases and Bhubaneswar accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the cases, health experts have proposed booster dose of vaccines amidst apprehensions of more COVID-19 transmission due to a new Delta Plus variant in the country. The final decision will, however, be taken by the technical committee of the state.

The chief of the directorate of medical education and training, Prof. CBK Mohanty said the mutant of the Delta variant of COVID-19 has been found in some states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The new variant may infect 10 times more people than the previous ones and as the mutant has been just detected it has been tagged as under investigation. Mohanty said.

The director of health services said 425 people tested positive for the contagion during the day taking the caseload in the pandemic in the state to 10,38,836.

# Govt gears up for urban polls

■ Collectors told to complete delimitation of wards and reservation of seats by Dec 13. The exercise for Bhub, Cuttack and Berhampur civic bodies to end by January 20

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** After its preparations for the three-tier Panchayat elections were wrapped up, the state government has initiated the process for the much-delayed elections to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

The Housing & Urban Development (H&UD) department has asked all Collectors to complete delimitation of wards and reservation of seats in the ULBs by December 13. However, the commissioners of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur municipal corporations have been directed to complete the exercise by January 20, 2022.

Director of Municipal Administration (DMA) Sangramjit Nayak wrote a letter to all Collectors in this regard, Monday. "I am directed to inform you that consequent upon amendment to the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, after careful consideration the government has been pleased to decide that the delimitation of wards & reservation of seats for the general election to municipalities and NACs of the state shall be made afresh," Nayak said.

All the previous communications made by the H&UD department about the urban polls are hereby cancelled and actions taken thereon have become inoperative, he said.

The DMA said the five-year term of councils of 101 ULBs and six month period in case of newly-constituted four NACs have already been completed.

"The State Election Commission (SEC), Odisha has desired that necessary steps may be taken immediately by the government for issue of schedule for delimitation of wards & reservation of seats at the earliest, so as to enable the SEC to take steps for preparation of electoral roll and conduct of election," Nayak wrote.

Accordingly, as a part of the action plan, the Collectors have been directed to take necessary steps to divide the municipal areas into wards and to reserve seats for SC, ST, BCC and women as per the amended Act.

While dividing a municipal area into wards, equitable distribution of population, as published in 2011 census report, among different wards and compactness of area shall be taken into consideration in accordance with the Act, he told the Collectors.

Further, Collectors are directed to forward the received appeal petitions against the notification on the delimitation of the wards to the state government for hearing of appeal and final decision.

The draft notification will be issued November 11 while November 18 has been set as the last date for receipt of objections and suggestions. The final notification at district-level relating to the delimitation of wards and reservation of seats will be out, November



■ DMs have been directed to take necessary steps to divide municipal areas into wards and to reserve seats for SC, ST, BCC and women

■ The draft notification will be issued November 11 while November 18 has been set as the last date for receipt of objections and suggestions

■ People can file petitions against the notification before the H&UD dept, which will be heard between Nov 29 and Dec 13

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Similarly, municipal commissioners of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur have been asked to issue draft notifications December 10 while people can submit objections and suggestions by December 19. The final notification will be published January 20, 2022.

## EATING GRASS IN PROTEST



Gaon Sathi workers put grass in their mouths as they stage a protest demanding hike in their wages and permanent status in Bhubaneswar, Monday. PTI PHOTO

# NCB ORDERS PROBE AGAINST WANKHEDE

■ The plot around the arrest of SRK's son by the NCB and the allegations of graft against Wankhede thickened Monday with the agency ordering a vig probe into the allegations

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) ordered a vigilance inquiry into the claims made by a witness in the cruise drugs case of an extortion bid of ₹25 crore by some agency officials, including its Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede, and others for letting off accused Aryan Khan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan.

The inquiry will be conducted by Gyaneshwar Singh, the NCB deputy director general of northern region based at its headquarters here. Singh is also the chief vigilance officer of the federal anti-narcotics agency. Prabhakar Sail, an independent witness in the cruise drugs case, had Sunday claimed in an affidavit that ₹25 crore was demanded by an NCB official and some other people linked to the case to let off Aryan from this probe.



Sail said he was the bodyguard of another witness in this case, KP Gosavi, who is absconding after the NCB raids that were conducted October 3 at the cruise terminal on Mumbai's coast leading to the arrest of as many as 20 people, including Khan. Sail also claimed that he saw Gosavi meeting Shah Rukh's manager and that he was asked to sign "9-10 blank pages" in the presence of Wankhede after the cruise raids. "We have received the affidavit and a report from our DDG (south-west region) and the NCB director general has taken cognisance of this report. He has marked it to the vigilance section for inquiry. "We are a professional organisation and we are open for inquiry against any allegation against our staffers," Singh said.

## BLOW TO NCB, ZONAL HEAD

**Mumbai:** In a huge setback for the Narcotics Control Bureau, a Mumbai special NDPS court Monday rejected a plea by the agency and its zonal director Sameer Wankhede seeking directions not to take cognisance of "panch-witness" Prabhakar Sail's allegations pertaining to the cruise rave party. The special judge said it cannot pass "blanket orders" to bar courts from taking cognisance of Sail's affidavit in which he has alleged extortion bid from Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan by the NCB to release his son Aryan. Disposing of the plea, the Special Judge noted the matter is sub judice before the Bombay High Court.

# RAJINIKANTH RECEIVES PHALKE AWARD

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Monday conferred superstar Rajinikanth with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award and honoured the other winners of the 67th National Film Awards, including actors Manoj Bajpayee, Dhanush and Kangana Ranaut at a ceremony here.

The National Film awards were announced in March this year honouring the best in cinema in 2019. "I'm very happy to be here and I congratulate all the winners and everyone associated with these films," the VP said. Union I&B minister Anurag Singh Thakur also addressed the gathering.



The ceremony was attended by all the winners including Rajinikanth, son-in-law Dhanush who, along with Bajpayee, was given the best actor honour for "Asuran". Bajpayee was awarded for his performance in "Bhosle". Rajinikanth thanked his mentor, late filmmaker K Balachander, in his speech. "I'm extremely happy to receive this award... I dedicate this to my guru, my mentor K Balachander sir. I thank my brother Sathyanaarayana Rao, he is a father figure in my life, for giving me great values..." he said. Bajpayee, who has previously won the National Award for "Satya" and "Pinjar", said it feels great to be recognised. Ranaut, the winner of the best actress award for her performance in "Manikarnika" and "Panga", paid tributes to her parents after getting her fourth National Award.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	60967.05 ↑ 145.43
NIFTY	18125.40 ↑ 10.50
DOLLAR	75.09 ↑ ₹0.20
EURO	87.17 ↓ ₹0.16
GOLD	₹48,217 ↑ ₹420
SILVER	₹66,209 ↑ ₹553

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	31.2°C	31.8°C
TEMP. MIN	21.2°C	21.0°C
Humidity	80%	74%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

# Global panic as greenhouse gas levels hit record

■ A report by the World Meteorological Organization shows carbon dioxide levels surged to 413.2 parts per million in 2020, rising more than average rate over last decade

AGENCIES

**Geneva/Glasgow, Oct 25:** Greenhouse gas levels hit a record last year and the world is "way off track" on climate goals, the UN weather agency said Monday showing the scale of the task facing governments scrambling to avert dangerous levels of warming.

A report by the World Meteorological Organization showed that carbon dioxide levels

surged to 413.2 parts per million in 2020, rising more than the average rate over the last decade despite a temporary dip in emissions during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said the current rate of increase in heat-trapping gases would result in temperature rises "far in excess" of the 2015 Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average this century.

"We are way off track," he said. "We need to revisit our industrial, energy and transport systems and whole way of life," he added, calling for a "dramatic increase" in commitments at the COP26 conference beginning Sunday.

The Scottish city of Glasgow was putting on the final touches be-



fore hosting the climate talks, which may be the world's last best chance to cap global warming at the 1.5-2 degrees Celsius upper limit set out in the Paris Agreement.

The stakes for the planet are huge - among them the impact on

economic livelihoods the world over and the future stability of the global financial system.

Saudi Arabia's crown prince said the world's top oil exporter aims to reach "net zero" emissions of greenhouse gases, mostly produced by

burning fossil fuels, by 2060 - 10 years later than the United States. He also said it would double the emissions cuts it plans to achieve by 2030. Australia's cabinet was expected to formally adopt a target for net zero emissions by 2050 when it meets Monday to review a deal reached between parties in Prime Minister Scott Morrison's coalition government, sources said.

The ruling coalition has been divided over how to tackle climate change, with the government maintaining that harder targets would damage the A\$2-trillion (\$1.5-trillion) economy. In Berlin, officials were set to present a plan about how rich countries can help poorer nations finance the overhaul needed to address climate change.

# Mamita murder: BJP youth wing's stir at SP offices begins today

# Lacunae in user fee norms bleed CMC of crores

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 25:** Private bodies in the Silver City are availing the civic amenities for free, owing to the loopholes in the users' fee collection guidelines, resulting in loss of revenue worth crores to the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) every year.

The CMC had decided to collect monthly users' fee from marriage mandaps/halls, hotels, private hostels, private hospitals and religious places. The users' fee, ranging from Rs 200 to Rs 4,000 per month, was meant to be collected against the areas occupied by these institutions and the amount of waste generated by these entities. The CMC had estimated annual collectable revenue to the tune of Rs 3 crore to Rs 4 crore from these bodies.

However, things did not translate into action as several bodies have been enjoying the services without paying users' fee, putting a dent on the exchequer. The city has more than 180 nursing homes. The CMC has laid provisions for monthly fee collection from these nursing homes. However, the civic body does not collect fees from these private health facilities as they



**I am concerned with licensing. Those who have been licensed are paying the fees. The unlicensed bodies should be fined duly. That's not our task. The enforcement team should scrutinise & penalise these institutions**

**The onus is on licence section as they have their own enforcement squad. Their squad can get the job done. However, if they bring out a list of such erring bodies, we will cooperate**

LATASHREE BAG | CMC DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SECRETARY

ABINASH ROUT | CMC DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

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However, things did not translate into action as several bodies have been enjoying the services without paying users' fee, putting a dent on the exchequer

The licence section and the enforcement team of the CMC are busy shifting the blame on each other

remain unregistered due to lack of fire safety certificates. Yet, garbage is being collected from these hospitals regularly. Same is the case with private hostels, hotels, marriage mandaps and religious places. CMC's hands are also tied as there is no guideline for stringent action in such cases except fines, a CMC official revealed. He also hinted at the lack of coordination between the officials regarding fee collection.

The licence section and the enforcement team are busy shifting the blame on each other. On the other hand, the apparent free-of-cost services have left the erring bodies unwilling to pay the users' fee. "I am concerned with licensing. Those who have been licensed are paying the fees. The unlicensed bodies should be fined duly. That is not the task of licence section. The enforcement team should scru-

tinise and penalise these institutions," said CMC Deputy Commissioner, Secretary Latashree Bag.

When asked, CMC Deputy Commissioner Abinash Rout said, "The onus is on licence section as they have their own enforcement squad. Their squad can get the job done. However, if they bring out a list of such erring bodies, we will cooperate."

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**The demonstrations would be held October 26 and 27 in front of all the SP offices demanding a CBI inquiry into the murder**

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** The state unit of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the BJP, will hold demonstrations in front SP offices across the state for two days demanding dismissal and arrest of Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra for his close link with prime accused in Mamita Meher murder case.

Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the murder of Kalahandi English Medium Public School Mamita Meher, has already been arrested by the police and he had confessed to the crime of strangulating the lady teacher to death, burnt her body and later buried it inside a stadium close to the school.

State BJYM president Irasis Acharya told newsmen here Monday that the demonstrations would be held October 26 and 27 in front of all the SP offices in the districts demanding a CBI inquiry into the murder.

Acharya said as per the allegations made by Mamita's family

members, the minister had close links with Gobinda Sahu and that several ministers, MLAs and ruling party members had been visiting the school and indulging in illegal activities.

The BJP youth wing president regretted that despite the allegations against the minister, he has neither been removed from the Council of Ministers nor brought under the purview of the investigation process.

Acharya alleged that the state government is shielding the minister and described it as very unfortunate.

The murder of Mamita is not the first case.

Earlier also many incidents including Madhavi Lata, Itishree, Pari, Beбина, Smitarani and

Mahanga double murder have happened and no action has been taken against the BJD leaders for their involvement.

The BJP leader said police under the pressure of the ruling BJD are deliberately helping the minister to escape.

He also alleged that despite repeated allegations made by the family members of Mamita about the involvement of MoS, Home in the illegal activities run by Gobinda Sahu, the statement of the accused has not yet been recorded before a Magistrate.

Mamita worked as a teacher at Sunshine English Medium School in Mahaling area of Kalahandi district.

She went missing October 8 and was found dead subsequently.

Sahu was arrested from a sugarcane field at Budhipadar village under Bangomunda block October 19 after the police tracked his two mobile phones.

During interrogation, he confessed to have killed Mamita Meher, a resident of Jharni village under Turekela block in Bolangir district.

# Sex racket running in 'placement firm' busted

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** The Commissionerate Police has busted a sex racket running under the garb of a job consultancy firm at Satya Vihar under Mancheswar police limits here.

The cops have arrested the kingpin and rescued four girls including the complainant during a raid late Sunday night.

The arrested was identified as Laxminarayan Pattanaik, 38, of Padhi Basti in Rourkela of Sundargarh district who has been staying at Satya Vihar here.

A victim, who succeeded in escaping from the clutches of Pattanaik, revealed before the police about the flesh trade racket.

She alleged that the accused used to lure job seekers who contact Pattanaik's consultancy firm Laxmi Consultancy into prostitution. Due to some family disputes, the victim left home and came to Bhubaneswar seeking job in July 2021. She came across Laxmi Consultancy in Mancheswar area and contacted its owner Pattanaik. The accused assured her to arrange a suitable job for her and asked her to stay at a mess in the same

building. The victim was later forced into prostitution and forced to go different places with customers by Pattanaik. The other three girls staying along with the victim were also forced by Pattanaik to engage in flesh trade.

The accused never allowed the victims to step out alone. However, the victim mustered courage and fled the mess with help of other victim girls here Sunday. She later narrated her ordeals before Mancheswar police who carried out a raid at the firm and arrested Pattanaik by registering a case (346/21) in this regard.

Police sources claimed that they could not find any document or things related to consultancy firm. Pattanaik also confessed to have been running sex racket there for around one year.

Pattanaik was produced before the court that sent him to judicial custody Monday.

Speaking to the media, DCP Umashankar Dash said the IIC of Mancheswar police station has been asked to probe all the aspects into the issue. He also said the commissioner of police would be urged to declare the building as brothel too, if needed.

# Job, ₹5L for Covid-hit KIIT employees' kin

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta Monday provided special Covid assistance of Rs 5 lakh each and a job to the family members of the employees who died of the disease.

KIIT Group of Institutions had declared a special assistance package for the families of Covid-deceased employees of KIIT Group of Institutions in 2020.

Samanta had announced that the family of each staffer, who died of Covid-19, would get financial aid of Rs 5 lakh along with a job to one of the family members in KIIT and KISS as per his/her educational qualification. This apart, their children will get free education in KIIT-DU as per their eligibility. Samanta handed over cheques of Rs 5 lakh each to the bereaved family members at a special programme held here Monday.

Samanta said, "We take various welfare initiatives for the employees from time to time. The entire world has been severely affected by the deadly Covid-19."

Among others, Vice Chancellor of KIIT Deemed to be University Hrusikesh Mohanty, Pro VC Sasmita Samanta, Registrar Jyana Ranjan Mohantay and other senior officials of KIIT Group of Institutions were also present.

# Health Minister unveils 2 OPDs at SCBMCH



Health Minister Naba Kishore Das inaugurates the Liver Transplantation OPD at SCBMCH in Cuttack, Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 25:** People with end-stage liver diseases won't have to visit hospitals outside Odisha and cough up huge amount of money on the procedure as Health Minister Naba Kishore Das Monday inaugurated a Liver Transplantation OPD at SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here.

Sources said the state government had set up a liver transplantation unit at the Trauma Complex of SCBMCH in 2013. The unit has been upgraded to the Liver Transplantation OPD and started functioning at the Super Speciality Outdoor Complex of SCBMCH here.

The state government has developed the modern facility at a cost of Rs 22 crore, which includes equipment worth around Rs 12 crore, they added.

As there was no state-run liver transplantation facility in Odisha, people had to visit places like Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore and New Delhi to get the procedure done which usually involves an expenditure of Rs 25 to 30 lakh. The new facility will give much solace to the needy, said a source.

"Now, people with end-stage

liver diseases do not need to visit hospitals outside Odisha. Patients can get the medical procedure done at the new Liver Transplantation OPD at SCBMCH," Das said while inaugurating the facility.

On the occasion, the Health minister registered the first patient—Bichitrnanda Khuntia of Rourkela—to the OPD. Sources said Bichitrnanda's son has volunteered to donate his liver to give a new lease of life to his father.

Das also inaugurated the Paediatric Allergy, Asthma and Lungs OPD at the Super Speciality Outdoor Complex of SCBMCH and a parking lot on the premier hospital's premises.

Choudwar-Cuttack MLA Souvic Biswal, SCBMCH Dean and Principal Dattesar Hota, Superintendent Lucy Das, Medicine head of the department (HoD) Jayanta Kumar Panda, Pulmonary Medicine HoD Manoranjan Pattnaik, Surgery HoD Bana Bihari Mishra, Administrative Officer Kalpataru Behera, Emergency Officer Bhubanananda Moharana and hospital Manager Soumya Mohanty were among those present on the occasion.

# MoU signed for 21st century teaching skills

**Bhubaneswar:** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Mo School and Quest Alliance Monday to help the teachers of government and non-government aided schools learn about 21st century technology and teaching style.

As per the MoU, around 20,000 teachers and 16 lakh students of 4,000 high schools of the state will be trained during the next three years. This apart, both Mo School and Quest Alliance will focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) study for the students. The special team of Quest Alliance will give career counselling in the government and non-government aided schools. In each school, two teachers will be given training so that they can impart training to other teachers and students.

# RELIGIOUS FERVOUR



Devotees in large numbers throng Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar on the first Monday of the holy month of Kartika

# Gangster's girlfriend nabbed for extortion

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 25:** Commissionerate Police has arrested gangster Sakil's girlfriend Manasi Nayak alias Baby on charges of extortion from a builder here. Police said several cases have been pending against Baby at different police stations in Cuttack.

In 2015, she was sent to jail in a murder case. Subsequently, she came across Sakil and had been working on behalf of him. The woman was under police radar for past few months.

# Govt mulls incentives for big ticket investments in textiles

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** The state government is in discussions over a special incentive package for mega investments in the textiles and apparel sector, said Industries Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra Monday.

Addressing a national-level seminar on 'Making Odisha the Textiles Hub of the East' organised at Lok Seva Bhawan Monday, Mishra said, "Our government has prioritised

this sector and is seeking mega investments from major textiles and apparel players. The government is in discussions over a special incentive package for mega investments in the textiles and apparel including technical textiles sector."

Stressing the industry readiness of Odisha, he said, "We have more than 1.5 lakh acres of land, ready to be used by the industries coming to Odisha. Not only in recent times, but Odisha also has a long history

in textile and global trading." He appealed to the industry leaders across India to come to Odisha and assured them of all kinds of support from the government.

Ministry of Textiles Secretary Upendra Prasad Singh elaborated the new schemes of the Centre and pointed out the areas where India based industries can focus on. Industries Secretary Hemant Sharma highlighted the recent growth of the state primarily driven

by the push towards industrial growth. He has also elaborated the strong driving factors of Odisha making it the manufacturing hub of the East such as the strategic location of Odisha in the ASEAN region, the industrial infrastructure, highly skilled manpower and especially the proactive governance.

Leading national and global players like Shahi Exports, Aditya Birla Fashion, Page Industries and Wild Lotus participated in the seminar.

# Schools reopen for Class VIII students with Covid riders

PNN/AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** Schools in Odisha reopened for Class VIII students Monday in adherence to Covid-19 protocols.

According to a notification issued by the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department, both government and private schools reopened for Class VIII students and the classes were held between 9am and 12:30pm.

On the first day, Class VIII students attended counselling sessions. As per standard operating procedure (SOP), there are no classes on the day as teachers and managing committee members

held discussions with the students. Special examinations will be held October 27, 28 and 29 and attempts will be made to develop amiable environment in schools, said sources.

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said, "Students are keen to attend physical classes. We had resumed classroom teaching for Class X and XII earlier and now we are doing the same for Class XI and VIII. We are monitoring the situation so that we can take decision on reopening of other classes systematically."

Classroom teaching for classes X and XII had started July 26 and the same for Class XI had com-



Class VIII students of the Government Girls' High School in Unit-I area of Bhubaneswar enter the institution in compliance with Covid protocols, as the school reopened Monday

menced October 21. While the on-line mode for teaching will continue, students can attend offline classes in consultation with their parents. Due to the onset of the pandemic, classroom teaching had been suspended since March last year.

The SOP emphasised the need for maintaining social distancing and queue management inside and at the entrance of the school premises, besides making markings on the floor or ground at a gap of six feet.

It also said that students should be allotted seats at a safe distance from each other inside the classrooms and fixed seating arrange-

ments should be made. A particular seat should be earmarked for each student. Referring to mid-day meals provided in government schools, the SOP said that the students will be provided dry food instead of cooked meals in the school. There will be a special examination October 27, 28, and 29 and attempts will be made to develop a fearless environment in the school, the notification said.

The school authorities were asked to make adequate arrangements for soap and running water in washrooms. Hand sanitisers for teachers, students, and staff must be available in each classroom, it said.

# FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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# 'Sluggish' police probe raises several questions



FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Oct 25:** It has been over 18 days since Mamita Meher, the principal of Sunshine Public School at Mahaling in Kalahandi district, was kidnapped and murdered allegedly by Gobinda Sahu, the president of the school managing committee, but the police have failed to make any significant progress in the case.

So far, the police probe is mired in controversy. It is alleged that the police are making all out efforts to destroy the evidence in the case. In fact, the actions of the police as well as the investigation process have come under scanner.

## MAMITA MURDER

The case is becoming murkier by the day as the prime accused in the case Gobinda Sahu is said to be a trusted aide of Odisha Minister of State (Home) Dibyashankar Mishra. According to reports, the police are more inclined to destroy evidence in the case than conducting a proper inquiry to unravel the mystery behind the murder.

Various political parties have demanded an impartial probe into the case and the resignation or dismissal of the minister. Their cadres have been staging agitations at various places since last few days. However, a close scrutiny of police probe throws up several questions related to the case. Reports said that the deceased's

brother Bunty Meher had lodged a complaint regarding Mamita's kidnapping at Sindhekela Police Station October 12, following which the police picked up Gobinda Sahu and brought his car to the police station. Gobinda was questioned on this issue and later he was taken to the Titilagarh police barrack, October 17. There he was kept under detention, guarded by three constables and a police officer.

However, despite the tight security, Gobinda gave slip to the police and escaped from the barrack. Forty hours after this, he was nabbed from his sister's sugarcane field at Budhipadar village under Bongomunda police limits in this district.

Immediately after his arrest, DIG (North) Deepak Kumar organised a press conference stating that Gobinda strangled Mamita Meher to death inside his car as he was apprehending that Mamita might disclose his extra-marital affairs before others. Kumar also

said that Gobinda, after killing Mamita, went to Mahaling and buried her body in an under-construction stadium, where a pit was dug before.

Later, police arrested Gobinda's close aide Radheshyam and picked up five persons for questioning. Two others, a JCB driver Pushkar Bhoi and Munsu Gupteshwar Tandi were given clean chits after they agreed to turn approvers in the case.

Apart from recovering some pieces of bones, a gold chain, a pair of anklets, a key ring, a bag and some hair, the police had failed to recover the body of Mamita or her mobile phone. Police and the family members of the deceased have claimed that Mamita's mother had identified these articles as those of the victim. The DIG had said that the recovered skeletal remains and hair would undergo DNA test for which police have collected the blood samples of her parents.

However, police are yet to tell what other proof they have collected regarding the case during the last 13 days. Police have said that Gobinda was in an extra-marital relationship with a girl student but are yet to provide details on the issue.

Police said Gobinda has admitted to the crime after being taken on remand. The DIG and SP personally visited the stadium to collect more evidences. However, police are tight-lipped on the Room No. 20 of the ladies' hostel at Sunshine English Medium School, which has added to the mystery. Intriguingly, while all other rooms in the hostel had similar locks, only this room had a different lock. It is alleged that police are not taking this aspect seriously.

Moreover, the DIG and SP are reportedly giving different statements before the media regarding the case. The way Gobinda Sahu was taken back to the judicial custody in the wee hours of Monday after his police remand ended has only added to the mystery. Gobinda was taken to the reserve police barrack through the rear gate of the SP office at 4 am, Monday and later produced at Bongomunda JMFC court.

## SOCIAL WORK



CRPF jawans cleaning the premises of famous Harishankar temple under Khaparakhol block in Bolangir district as part of a cleanliness drive, Monday

## Couple charred to death in house fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 25:** A couple was charred to death, while their children sustained minor burn injuries after their house caught fire following a blast in the refrigerator at Balada village under Bamebari police limits in Keonjhar district Sunday night.

The cause of the fire is stated to be short circuit in the refrigerator kept in the house.

The deceased were identified as Purnachandra Dehury, 35 and his wife Laxmi Dehury, 33.

They were fast asleep with their two children, Rathi Dehury and Tarun Dehury, when the fire broke out. The injured children have been admitted to a Joda hospital.

A pall of gloom descended on the village as the report of their death spread. Police sent the bodies for post-mortem to Barbil Government Hospital and started an investigation.

## Vig arrests CDPO in graft case

THE ACCUSED HAD RECEIVED ₹1,00,000 BRIBE TO APPOINT A LADY AS ANGANWADI WORKER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, Oct 25:** A team of Vigilance officials Monday arrested child development project officer (CDPO) Puspanjali Rath for allegedly demanding and accepting bribe to the tune of ₹1,00,000. At the time of her arrest, Rath was working at Th Rampur block in Kalahandi district.

According to an official, Rath demanded the bribe from complainant Bira Singh for appointing the latter's spouse as an Anganwadi worker. The anti-corruption officials laid a trap leading to Rath's arrest. The entire bribe amount has been recovered from Rath, informed the official.

CDPO Rath works under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) project in the district. Based on earlier alle-



The anti-corruption officials laid a trap leading to CDPO Rath's arrest. The entire bribe amount has been recovered from Rath, informed an official

gations, Vigilance sleuths also searched her residence at Badapada in this town.

Subsequently, a case was registered in this connection at Koraput police station by the Vigilance department. Simultaneous raids were carried out at places related to the CDPO. "The Vigilance team raided the

CDPO's property at one place in Bolangir district and two localities in Kalahandi district. Further investigation is still underway, the official informed.

The anti-corruption team comprised Nabarangpur DSP Kalabati Bag, Malkangiri DSP Sushant Biswal and some other officials.

## Siblings held for duping youth of lakhs for rly job

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, Oct 25:** Police have nabbed three siblings from Jharsuguda for duping a youth of ₹14 lakh on promises of getting him a job in the Indian Railways, Monday.

As per sources, the trio had allegedly duped one Manas Ranjan Patel of Chichinda village in Brajarajgarh on promises of offering him employment in the Indian Railways.

The arrested have been identified as Jharana Badi (32), Rajesh Badi (30) and Rajkumari Badi

(19). An amount of ₹12.96 lakh has been seized from their home while a car, one laptop, three mobile phones and other incriminating articles have been recovered from the possession of the accused persons, Jharsuguda SP Bikash Das said.

Patel had given ₹14 lakh to the siblings at a hotel in Jharsuguda, October 17. However, they remained incommunicado after getting the money, Patel's complaint read.

The accused have been booked in a fraud case and remanded in judicial custody.

## Kangaroo court thrashes, fines youth

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sajanagarh, Oct 25:** A youth accused of harassing minor girls was Monday brutally thrashed by villagers and subsequently fined and ousted from the village by a kangaroo court in Panabandh village of Sajanagarh panchayat under Nilagiri police limits in Balasore district.

The accused named Gopi, who hails from Rajasthan, had been staying in a rental house in Panabandh village working as a labourer engaged in pipe connection work of the Megha project.

According to reports, a number of minor girls were allegedly harassed by the youth Saturday, triggering

## PUNISHMENT FOR EVE-TEASING



tension in the area. The villagers Sunday took the law in their hands and organised a

kangaroo court where Gopi was tied and roughed up by the villagers. He was subsequently fined and ordered to leave the village.

It has been alleged that the matter was decided upon by the illegal village court instead of taking up the issue with the police or other competent authorities.

Although harassment of girls is a serious offence and needs to be dealt with strictness, thrashing of the youth and the 'verdict' of the kangaroo court have created a buzz in the area. No FIR was lodged at the Nilgiri police station in this connection till the time of writing this report.

## CONSTRUCTION OF HOCKEY STADIUM

# Admin razes forest sans permission



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, Oct 25:** Clearing a forest near National Highway-49 here for construction of a hockey stadium without the permission of Forest department has sparked sharp resentment among the local residents, a report said.

The incident has come at a time when the Forest department is sensitising people not to cut trees and work towards protection of forests. However, the Forest department has failed to check mindless tree felling as hundreds of trees in a

forest have been chopped down illegally for construction of a hockey stadium in this district.

Sources said the district administration had directed to clear a forest opposite PKSS College adjoining NH-49 near Hansamura-Kantapali in Jharsuguda for construction of a hockey stadium. The cutting of trees started Wednesday, following which hundreds of valuable trees like Acacia and Eucalyptus have been chopped down. It is alleged that the district administration has ordered clearing of the forest without obtaining the permission of the



The seized excavator

Forest department. On being informed, a forest guard Anjali Rath rushed to the spot and

The district admin had directed to clear a forest opposite PKSS College adjoining NH-49 near Hansamura-Kantapali in Jharsuguda for construction of a hockey stadium

Environmentalists have alleged that the district administration has not sought prior permission from the Forest department to cut down the trees, which it is doing in violation of norms

A local environmental outfit Jharsuguda Anchalik Parivesh Suraksha Manch has opposed such illegal tree felling and demanded a high-level inquiry into the irregularities

seized a JCB machine engaged in tree felling. However, she had to release the machine after the Jharsuguda block development officer (BDO) Prasanna Pandey, who was supervising the operation, intervened. Later, she informed her higher-ups about the illegal tree cutting in the forest.

When contacted, Pradipta Kumar Mohanty, Forest Ranger, said he has not received any application

regarding cutting of trees in the forest. BDO Pandey said that a hockey stadium will be constructed in the area. The tree felling for construction works has started after the District Collector had a discussion with the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), he added.

However, environmentalists have alleged that the district administration has not sought prior permission from the Forest department to cut down the trees, which it is doing in violation of forest norms.

A local environmental outfit Jharsuguda Anchalik Parivesh Suraksha Manch has opposed such illegal tree felling and demanded a high-level inquiry into the irregularities. Notably, the Revenue department has allotted 40 acre of land adjoining the NH-49 near Hansamura-Kantapali for construction of the hockey stadium. A compound wall is under construction on one part of the land while the rest of the work is yet to begin.

Work has remained halfway since long years. Recently, an additional five acres of the Forest department, opposite of the highway, has been allotted and hundreds of trees have been chopped down to make space for the construction of the stadium.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-531  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**SUNDARGARH IRRIGATION DIVISION, SUNDARGARH**  
E.mail ID: irreesng@yahoo.in/irreesng@gmail.com  
**'e' Procurement for Civil Works**  
Bid-Identification No. SID-04/2021-22 (Online) Dt. 21.10.2021  
No. 5556 Dt. 21.10.2021

1. No. of works : Eight (08 Nos.)
2. Estimated Cost : Rs. 5.81 lakh to Rs. 36.27 lakh
3. Period of Completion : Five (05) Calendar Months
4. Date & time of availability : Dt. 27.10.2021 at 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 09.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
5. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt. 09.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.
6. Date and time of opening of tender : Dt. 11.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
Sundargarh Irrigation Division, Sundargarh  
OIPR-32134/11/0002/2122

**F. No. 2(30)/2016-P&L**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Policy & Law Division**  
Level-III, Jal Wing,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi - 110 003

**NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR CONSULTANT (LEGAL)**  
**Subject: Advertisement for the engagement of Senior Consultant (Legal) on Contractual Basis in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**

Applications are invited for engagement of One (01) Senior Consultant (Legal) in the Legal Monitoring Cell under Policy & Law Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on payment of a consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs. 1,25,000/-.

2. Complete details of the advertisement along with Application Form can be downloaded from the Ministry's website [www.moef.gov.in](http://www.moef.gov.in). Eligible candidates may send their applications in the format prescribed in the advertisement, along with all supporting documents to the below mentioned address.

**The Director,**  
**Policy & Law Division, Level-III, Jal Wing,**  
**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,**  
**New Delhi - 110 003**

A soft copy of the duly filled Application Form along with all supporting documents may also be sent to email id [policyandlaw-mef@gov.in](mailto:policyandlaw-mef@gov.in) within the prescribed time limit.

3. The last date for receiving applications in the prescribed format along with supporting documents is 15 November, 2021.

davp 13101/11/0013/2122



One of the chief obstacles to the establishment of a progressive harmony is our eagerness to prove to an opponent that he is wrong and we are right.

THE MOTHER



## Leakages

What is happening in India from Kashmir to Mumbai is a spine-chilling crime thriller – shady corporate-bureaucrat-political nexus, swinging deals and money-spinning rackets through devious routes. This is the inescapable conclusion one can reach going by allegations by high profile persons of the likes of a former governor of Jammu & Kashmir; a BJP top leader; a key witness in the cruise drug party in Mumbai and a zonal director of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

First, to take up the Mumbai case that turns the country's financial capital into a veritable extortion capital, if there is truth in what one of the prime witnesses says in a five-page statement notarised by a lawyer about the infamous rave party on board a cruise vessel in which Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan, was arrested along with seven others. The witness, Prabhkar Sail, in the alleged drugs case, claimed October 24 that investigators had made him sign on 10 sheets of blank paper at the NCB's office on the day of their raid on the cruise ship. He also stated he had heard KP Gosavi, alleged private investigator who accompanied NCB officials on the raid in the cruise vessel, say that Rs 8 crore would have to be given to the NCB's Mumbai-based Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede. Gosavi, who too is an NCB witness in the case against Aryan and others, is missing. Sail fears he would be killed. The NCB has denied his allegations and ordered a vigilance enquiry into the matter as of now.

Sail, a resident of Andheri in Mumbai who offers personal bodyguard services, claims to have been employed by Gosavi July 22. According to him, on the morning of the drug party, Gosavi had asked him to come to the NCB office in Mumbai. The party on board the Empress, the luxury cruise vessel owned by Cordelia Cruises, was supposed to be held that evening off the Mumbai coast.

The way Gosavi allegedly operated along with NCB officials and Sail will beat any crime thriller by the finest authors. For, he tallied the photographs sent by Gosavi to him by WhatsApp with persons joining the party and was later told by Gosavi that all those people were arrested. Then, followed a murky tale of collection of cash by Gosavi, which Sail handed over to a person allegedly recommended by the NCB official at a hotel. Thereafter, Gosavi went missing, which has prompted Sail to suspect he might have been killed for knowing too much about the nefarious deal. Sail now fears the same fate is awaiting him too for which he recorded his version of the shady operation signed by a notary.

Immediately after that, the NCB's deputy director issued a statement questioning the admissibility of Sail's account as legally valid evidence on technical grounds. He claimed the zonal director of the NCB Wankhede has categorically denied Sail's allegations. It is obvious that when an allegation is made against any person, the initial reaction is denial. Therefore, Wankhede's denial should be naturally unacceptable.

There was another twist in the case when Wankhede himself sent a complaint October 24 to the Commissioner of Mumbai Police seeking protection from 'unknown persons' who he said were trying to frame him in a false case. This means things are turning murkier with some key leaders of the Maharashtra government demanding probe into the whole episode.

On the other hand, BJP and RSS leader Ram Madhav October 24 demanded an investigation into files cleared and 'deals' struck during the tenure of Satya Pal Malik as Governor of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir. The demand follows allegations a week before by the former Governor that he had been offered a bribe of Rs 300 crore for clearing files belonging to 'Ambani' and a senior 'RSS functionary' during his tenure from August 2018 to October 2019. Malik is now the Governor of Meghalaya. Madhav had served as the BJP in-charge of J&K. He issued a veiled threat to take legal action against Malik for dragging his name into the 'false case', thus making it clear that the RSS leader whom Malik had not named was obviously Ram Madhav himself.

Though it is difficult at this stage to establish the truth about such allegations and counter-allegations, one thing that lends credence to apparent corruption at high places is that this time a top politician and a government functionary are trading charges against each other. It may also be presumed that Malik, as a serving Governor appointed by the BJP government, cannot afford to lie while naming such important persons and companies. There is no reason to disbelieve Malik.

The two high profile cases show how widespread the web of corruption has spread during the Modi government. Being a cohesive unit, unlike the Congress, the BJP government does not permit leakage of information regarding corruption at high places. However watertight one may try to make the system, the leakages are obviously opening up.

### WISDOM CORNER

Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility.  
SIGMUND FREUD

We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.  
TS ELIOT

The way you see people is the way you treat them, and the way you treat them is what they become.  
JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

### WORDSWORTH

#### ■ Piss-poor

An item circulating online under the title Interesting History claims, "They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were 'piss poor'." This screams of folk etymology. It certainly might be a folk etymology, except that the piece is in its intention merely a mischievous attempt to deceive its readers. However, as with other tongue-in-cheek suggestions about origins, a grain of truth exists in it. Urine has been widely used in many parts of the world in the preparatory stages of tanning, in particular to help remove the hair from hides before applying tanning agents. The Romans, for example, collected urine for this purpose systematically and even put a tax on it. The most famous taxer was the emperor Vespasian in the first century AD. The long-gone French public pissoirs were given the name vespasiennes as a direct link to him. Vespasian's son is said to have objected to the disgusting origin of the tax revenues, to which in legend his father replied pecunia non olet, money doesn't smell, a tag that from time to time is still employed to argue that money isn't tainted by its origins. However, the expression piss-poor is recent and has nothing to do with tanning. The current state of research suggests that it may have been invented during the Second World War, because the first examples in print date from 1946. Though it is still classed as low slang by dictionaries, its mildly unpleasant associations have become blunted by time and familiarity. The origin is straightforward. Piss began to be attached to other words during the twentieth century to intensify their meaning. Ezra Pound invented piss-rotten in 1940 (distasteful or unpleasant, the first example on record) and we've since had piss-easy (very easy), piss-weak (cowardly or pathetic), piss-elegant (affectedly refined, pretentious), piss-awful (very unpleasant) and other forms. Piss-poor began life in a similar figurative sense for something that's third-rate, incompetent or useless, as it does in this recent example: Larkin's letters, wrote Philippe Auclair, writer and broadcaster, were "very funny, very beautiful, and very sad; the grace of an angel, the precision of a geometer, and the short-sighted, intolerant piss-poor idées fixes of a provincial buffoon" (The Spectator, 27 November 2010). Americans who know the idiom so poor he didn't have a pot to piss in, sometimes in the fuller form ... or a window to throw it out of, might wonder if this is the origin.

# BRACE FOR A NASTY SPIKE

### FOCUS INFLATION

The month of October is when most companies which are listed on the stock exchange report their quarterly results, for the quarter ending September. The good news is that corporate profitability, at least of the large companies is improving dramatically. Profits are rising because of higher demand, and higher prices being commanded. This is true for companies across sectors like FMCG, white goods like washing machines and toasters, home furnishing and improvement, fashion, and even commodity sectors like metals, cement, construction materials, chemicals. Sales are booming on e-commerce sites. Fintech companies are recording higher sales, and higher valuations. Even banks seem to be doing well, with ICICI bank reporting the highest ever quarterly profit. The automotive sector is also perking up, although the demand for high-end vehicles is rising more steeply whereas demand for two-wheelers is slow. This reflects a K-shaped recovery. The upper leg of the K signifies goods and services consumed by the higher income, urban bracket, and the lower leg of the K signifies lower income households and rural areas. The upper leg of the K is also representative of the segment of the population which has hugely benefited from the rise in stock market wealth.

Even though retail participation in stock markets is increasing, especially through mutual funds, it still represents the higher income brackets. The value of all securities held in the National Securities Depositories Limited (NSDL) recently crossed 4 trillion dollars, which is one-third bigger than the size of the GDP. This is a new peak. All this surging demand and shopping frenzy is prior to the next quarter which is when the festival buying push will be truly felt. If indeed the economic momentum is good, then even this Diwali and Christmas quarter should fetch good profitability.

But there is a looming worry. And that has been expressed by many company officials report-



The gap between CPI and WPI based inflation is too wide, and is bound to narrow. This means consumer price inflation will surely rise

ing their handsome profits of the quarter ending September. The telling remarks were by the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever, which is a leading manufacturer of all sorts of consumer goods from shampoos to detergents to ice-creams. He warned that the pace of input cost escalation is the steepest in more than a decade. This sentiment is echoed by many other companies too. The input cost escalation is best captured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation which has been running at double digits for several months. It includes energy and logistics costs (of oil, petrol, diesel, coal), of raw materials including metals and chemicals, and of costs imposed by supply chain disruptions which are being felt globally. The gap between consumer (CPI) and WPI based inflation is too wide, and is bound to narrow. This means consumer price inflation will surely rise. Companies like Asian Paints have indicated that the third quarter may see steep increase in prices of their products. This is likely to be emulated by other companies in many sectors.

The price of a matchbox was doubled, the first price hike of this humble product in the past seven years. Price revisions in

shampoo bottles or noodles, toothpaste or edible oil, all of it is sure to lead to consumer inflation. Indeed, the RBI itself is unsure of reaching its own target of consumer inflation of 4 per cent before 2023. For nearly two years India's CPI inflation has been at or above the 6 per cent mark, which is the top end of the band allowed by the RBI. America too is experiencing record consumer inflation of about 5.5 per cent, and so is Europe. The cost of gas used for home-heating in the winter, and also oil has spiked up. The Food and Agricultural Organisation says that the global food price index is the highest in the past seven years. The Bloomberg Commodity Price Index which captures energy, metals, fibres and chemicals has also risen sharply. Ocean freight costs are still very high and will persist. All of these are called 'input costs' but sooner or later will feed into consumer inflation.

To add to input cost pressure, are high fiscal deficits which need higher taxes (such as on petrol and diesel in India) which can only aggravate inflation. A good agriculture harvest cannot offset these high costs. Inflation can suddenly spike up like the second wave of COVID. It does not rise steadily and predictably. And if

we get into a wage cost spiral (the government has already revised the DA rates) then putting the inflation genie back into the bottle might not be easy. Inflation fears have already made stock markets somewhat nervous. Some downward correction has started.

The inflation expectations as captured by RBI's survey shows near double digit expectations. It is difficult to bring down, once it is stuck at higher levels. Another indicator of inflation anxiety is when people start buying more gold. If gold prices start climbing that too indicates demand arising from a desire to hold on to something which is a hedge against rising prices. But this is by a wealthier and smaller section of the population. On the other hand, there have been a number of distress sales of gold. And as such gold loans have gone up by a whopping 62 per cent in the past year or so. This indicates the distress of inadequate incomes. Gold loans are often used to finance consumption spending, such as children's education, weddings, and illness or to even meet household expenses.

If growth in income, that is, GDP keeps pace with relatively higher inflation, then nominal GDP will rise faster and so will tax revenues. This may have a salutary effect on the fiscal situation. But if growth slows down, and inflation remains high then we stare at a stagflation kind of situation. Chances are that demand drivers are still strong to avoid stagflation. The leading indicator is growth in bank credit. And a lagging indicator of a rising economy is growth in hiring and recruitment, quality jobs and labour force participation. This is something that must be closely watched. If the infrastructure spending, and labour-intensive exporting sectors, software and IT see massive job growth, some of the pinch of inflation can be lessened.

The writer is an economist and Senior Fellow, Takshashila Institution.

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### SPECTRUM PANDEMIC RESPONSE

# Are schools ready to welcome back kids?

After nearly two years of harrowing times because of the pandemic, normalcy is slowly being restored. Education is the one sector that adversely impacted children in many ways because schools remained closed for almost two years and virtual teaching was effectively accessed by merely a fraction of school-goers. This will have far-reaching consequences on impacted children. According to the UNESCO, over 800 million learners around the world have been affected and over 102 countries had ordered nationwide school closures for a prolonged period.

Since the threat of the third wave is not looming large at this point and the clearance for vaccination of 2-18 age-group has been given, schools in different parts of the country are slowly reopening. Several states have taken measures to reopen schools and colleges for all. However, many states are yet to prepare an operational guideline for school reopening. There is incremental growth in COVID-19 cases among children and adolescents over the past few months in India. Odisha reported infection up to 20 per cent among children in September; however, schools need to resume physical classes to

avoid further loss of teaching days. Therefore, the most vital consideration should be to maintain appropriate hygiene behaviour among children at schools.

WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) is a critical service for the prevention of contamination from infectious diseases like COVID-19. Availability of water is important to maintain personal and environmental hygiene in schools. As per the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report published in August 2020, in India, 68 per cent of schools have access to basic drinking water services (drinking water from improved sources available throughout the year), around 25 per cent of schools have limited water access (drinking water sources available but not for whole year) and around 7 per cent of schools were found without a drinking water source (that means 23 million children with no water access at school). This indicates that access to water for drinking, hand-washing and other uses is still a major issue for more than 32 per cent of schools in India.

Though toilet use is not directly linked with COVID infection prevention, the availability of functional and private school toilets can positively impact health and re-

strict students from going for open defecation which can prevent infections. As per the JMP report, 64 per cent of schools have toilet facilities for both girls and boys, whereas 20 per cent of schools have limited toilet access (no separate toilet for girls and boys or toilets don't function throughout the year), and around 16 per cent of schools have no access to toilets. Having a functional toilet is not sufficient but the availability of water and hand-washing facility at or near the toilet is a critical aspect, which is lacking in most of the schools.

Hand-washing has strong links to health, particularly in public or institutional settings such as schools. This has been considered as one of the important COVID hygiene behaviours. As per the JMP report, 53 per cent of schools in India have a basic hygiene service – hand-washing facilities with soap and water – but the coverage varied widely among states. Whereas 22 per cent schools have hand-washing facilities without soap and rest 25 per cent schools don't have any kind of hand-washing facility. Because of the lack of hygiene monitoring behaviour at schools, half of the students don't practice hand-washing even when having such facilities. During school reopening, there

is need for skilled teachers in sufficient numbers who will be responsible to maintain COVID-appropriate hygiene behaviour. But, a very few states have started teachers' orientation in this context. Thus the reopening depends on the ability of schools to put in place basic and functional hygiene conditions.

Investing in sustainable WASH services in schools in a short span requires joint efforts and collaboration among different sectors, including water and sanitation, education, and health. School sanitation interventions are essential to create an enabling environment for safe return of students to schools. Therefore, local institutions should invest and make schools equipped on a priority basis. Promotion of innovative and low-cost models is also essential to promote safe COVID hand hygiene and to address the infrastructure gap. Accelerating progress with the lowest coverage of WASH in schools will therefore be critical to improving school safety during the pandemic and beyond.

The writer is Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Person, WaterAid India. Views are personal.



Shoumyakant Joshi

SCHOOL SANITATION INTERVENTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SAFE RETURN OF STUDENTS TO SCHOOLS

## 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)

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### Dampening news

Sir, Global Hunger Index (GHI), the yearly multidimensional, review system to measure the hunger levels in the world, and undertaken by the International Food Policy Research Institute from 2006, has indicated a decreasing level of hunger in the world but still there are countries which have 'moderate' hunger; 'serious' hunger; 'alarming' hunger and 'extremely alarming' hunger indices. The dampening news is India's situation is serious. In GHI, countries are ranked on a 100-point-scale (0 being the best and 100 being the worst). The proportion of the undernourished as a percentage of population, wasting of children under five, stunting of under-five children and under-five mortality are the four parameters that are used to rank the countries. This year, India ranked 101 out of 116 countries as compared to 94 out of 107 in 2020. Ironically, India is the second largest food producer in the world. Therefore, it is obvious that hunger is unrelated to food production considering India's GHI is 24.5 points and the body has termed it 'serious' though considering 38.8 in 2020, the country seems to have done well. Importantly, absorption of food, linked to sanitation and water, seems to have affected nutrition. Successive governments have claimed the country is blessed with a robust public distribution system. But statistics do not reflect well on the reachability of PDS to the needy children. The National Food Security Act 2013 that aims to provide subsidised food to the population through Integrated Child Development Services appears to have laid more thrust on staple diets with less-than-satisfactory focus on the nutritious coarse grains and pulses. That is why hunger has to be fine balanced with nutrition for India to better its GHI rankings.  
Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### Revive Doordarshan

Sir, We have hundreds of channels today to toggle through but back in the 1990s and early 2000s we only had the Doordarshan which used to be our downtime companion. Doordarshan used to telecast a plethora of programmes ranging from animated series like Bongo and Meena to famous sitcoms like Hari Mirch Lal Mirch and Soni Mahiwal and children and teen series like Galli Galli Sim Sim and Shaktimaan. It used to have programmes for all age groups which made Doordarshan everyone's favourite. After the surge of cable TV and dish TV, Doordarshan seemed like a rudderless boat and did nothing to survive. I urge the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to take steps to revive Doordarshan's former glory.  
Noopur Baruah, TEZPUR (ASSAM)

# Staff crunch hampering developmental projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasure, Oct 25:** With 42 per cent posts in most departments in this district lying vacant for a long period, the several development projects of the government, for which lakhs of rupees have been sanctioned, are hardly being implemented successfully.

Both the Central and state governments are laying emphasis on rural development. As a result, the panchayats are receiving funds worth crores of rupees every year to carry out various developmental projects. The panchayat executive officers (PEOs) are responsible for ensuring successful implementation of various projects. But many PEO posts are lying vacant in the district, affecting the projects.

There are 360 panchayats in the district. Of them, 138 panchayats don't have PEOs. Since the posts are not being filled up, one PEO has

**The number of sanctioned posts in the Revenue department is 420, but there are only 210 officers and staff**

to manage work in two to three panchayats. It is learnt that in some cases, the gram rozgar sevak (GRSs) are also managing the show. They look after the panchayat's development.

Similarly, the most important department - the Revenue department - is also running with 50 per cent strength. The number of sanctioned posts in this department is 420. But it has only 210 officers and staff. As many as five officers, nine senior assistants, 106 junior assistants, 38 RIs, 25 ARIs, 41 amins and 24 driver posts are presently lying vacant. This apart, post of eight additional

tehsildars, three deputy collectors and two assistant collectors are also vacant. Because of such staff shortage, people are facing problems. It is alleged that people from far and near visit the RI and tehsil offices for various works, but many have to return as the officers are not there. In order to provide immediate services related to the Revenue department, 45 new RI circles have been opened recently. With this, the total number of RI circles in the district has gone up to 130.

When contacted, ADM Nilu Mohapatra said that the state government has already been informed about the posts of officers and staff lying vacant in the district. "The process of appointment of RIs in newly opened revenue circles has been started. Meanwhile, the examinations conducted for the same is over. The result will be out November 1 and subsequently the new RIs will be appointed," he informed.

## ARMS TRAINING



NCC cadets undergoing training on firing at the annual training camp held at Ankushpur in Berhampur, Monday

OP PHOTO

# Fishermen fume over illegal fishing by outsiders

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khandapara, Oct 25:** The demand for fresh water fish is growing by the day in the state with the varieties of fish available in Mahanadi in Nayagarh district being the most preferred among the denizens, a report said.

However, decline in fish population in the Mahanadi has left the fishermen community here worried, especially due to rampant and illegal fishing by outsiders in the river. This has threatened their survival as they feel that rampant fishing in the river might rob them of their livelihood. They have demanded that the district administration should intervene and stop the outsiders from fishing in Mahanadi. They warned that if the authorities failed to initiate any action to solve the problem, they would resort to an agitation.

Reports said that the state government has been providing various incentives to support and aid fish cultivation in the state. However, these plans remain only on paper and are yet to be implemented. As



Decline in fish population in the Mahanadi has left the fishermen community here worried, especially due to rampant and illegal fishing by outsiders in the Mahanadi river

Expecting to become rich overnight, these outsiders are allegedly using illegal methods like poison to catch fish from the river

They have demanded that the district administration should intervene and stop the outsiders from fishing in the river

a result, people in the state have to depend on fish supplies from Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal

to meet the requirements. Over 700 fishermen and Tiar communities residing in the ri-

parian villages of Chhamundia, Badamula, Ishwarpur, Bentapada, Rasanga, Routpada, Dashipur, Belpada Patna, Kishore Prasad, Paturia, Balaram Prasad, Sidhamula, Banpur, Kanitilo, Madhabpur, Hanumanprasad, Padmabati, Karabar, Badabara and Manipur villages under the Gania, Khandapara and Bhapur in Nayagarh district eke out their living by catching fish in the Mahanadi river.

The demand for freshwater fish and prawn available in Mahanadi river is very high due to their delectable taste. The prawn available in the river sells at over ₹500 per kg, while freshwater fish like rohu, bhakar, koshala and mir sell for ₹200 per kg. The fishermen here harvest around five to seven quintals of fish daily.

However, recently the catch has gone down sharply in Mahanadi due to the foray of outsiders into the area to catch fish in the river. Expecting to become rich overnight, these outsiders are allegedly using illegal methods like poison to catch fish from the river. These outsiders

have adopted this method as it involves minimum expenses and labour to catch fish. Such illegal activities have often led unpleasant situations among the fishermen and outsiders.

The use of poison had led to decline in fish population in the river. Hundreds of people from the district and outside are thronging the area on daily to catch fish in the river. They are using angles and nets for the purpose. The main food of the fish is fungus growing on stones and water weeds. The food for fish declines during the winter as the outsiders throng the area during this season and catch fish by using poison laced food as bait.

This has hit the livelihood of the local fishermen, alleged Suresh Chandra Dalai and Shatrughna Behera, president and secretary of Kantilo Kaibarata Samaja respectively, and Pradip Kumar Kar, sarpanch of Banpur panchayat. They have demanded that the district administration impose a ban on such illegal fishing, failing which they will resort to agitation in coming days.

# Work on Rairakhol water project moves at snail's pace

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Oct 25:** Work on the Rs 96 crore mega drinking water supply project in Rairakhol block of this district has started with an aim to provide safe drinking water to over 15,000 families.

The project was scheduled to be inaugurated by December 2021, well before the panchayat elections but the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) department has extended the deadline to December 2022.

While the department is citing reasons like Covid-19 restrictions and land acquisition problems for the delay, actually the project is running behind schedule owing to the negligence of the contractor firm and the department. So far, 80 per cent of pipe-laying work has been completed. Of 14 overhead water tanks, only four are completed till date. Similarly, 40 per cent of intake well is yet to be completed.

The pace at which the project's work is progressing, it is feared that the project will again miss its deadline. Because of this, villagers who have been eagerly waiting for



the project to be completed are unhappy. The inordinate delay has affected people of 115 villages of nine panchayats.

It is said that if the project was completed before panchayat elections, it would fulfill the promise of the government and have benefited the ruling party at the hustings.

When contacted, SDO of RWSS department Manas Ranjan Parida said, "We encountered with several problems like scarcity of labourers due to Covid-19 restrictions resulting in the delay. Besides, there were problems related to land acquisition for the water treatment plant. Delay is getting green signal from the Forest department was another reason for the project's delay. Now the work is moving at a fast pace and it will end by December 2022". Notably, the government has sanctioned Rs 96 crore for the project.

# Seized materials to be sent for forensic test: DIG

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Oct 25:** All materials seized by police in connection with the probe into the Mamita Meher murder case will be sent to a laboratory for a forensic examination, informed Northern Range DIG Deepak Kumar while speaking at a press meet, Monday.

He said that the arrested accused Gobinda Sahu and Radheshyam Chandi are involved in this murder case. The latter assisted Sahu in the crime. Gobinda, who was produced at the Bongomunda JMFC court after completion of his five-day remand period, has confessed to his crime during interrogation.

The DIG said that efforts are on collect credible evidence in the case and, if needed, Radhe will also be taken on remand.

Kumar added that police have seized two bags - a half-burnt bag was recovered from the scene of crime, which has been identified by the victim's family members. The second bag was found from the driver's house, but it is yet to be identified, he said. The police have also recovered a mobile phone, which Gobinda said, belongs to somebody known to him in his educational institution. A burnt device will also be sent for forensic examination. Another mobile phone has been seized from him when arresting from the sugarcane field at Budhipadar village. Meanwhile, a special case has been registered against Gobinda for absconding from the Titlagarh police barrack, where he was detained, he added.

## MAMITA MURDER

Fire services will not be disrupted during the bandh," the party's district unit president Girish Patel said at a press conference Sunday evening.

Besides, students going to schools,

to meet the requirements. Over 700 fishermen and Tiar communities residing in the ri-

# BJP CALLS 12-HOUR SAMBALPUR BANDH TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Oct 25:** Demanding the scalp of Minister of State for Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra, for his alleged nexus with the key accused Gobinda Sahu in school teacher Mamita Meher murder case, the district unit of BJP will observe a 12-hour Sambalpur bandh Tuesday (October 26).

"BJP also seeks CBI probe into the case. Sambalpur bandh will begin at 6.00 AM and vehicular movement will not be allowed. However, emergency services like ambulance, milk, water, medicines and

Fire services will not be disrupted during the bandh," the party's district unit president Girish Patel said at a press conference Sunday evening.

Besides, students going to schools,



colleges and other educational institutions for admission-related work or appearing in examinations will not be detained during the 12-hour bandh, Patel further said.

"BJP protests the rape and brutal murder of the lady teacher Mamita Meher. We appeal to the people of Sambalpur to extend their support to the cause and make the bandh a grand success," Patel added.

Workers of the party have accordingly been instructed to ensure that marketplaces, roadside shops, malls and commercial establishments, including government and private organizations, remain closed.

It is pertinent to mention here that the civic life, including vehicular movement, was disrupted in several parts of Mayurbhanj as

## Bandh hits normal life in Mayurbhanj

**BARIPADA:** Normal life was affected in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district Monday due to a 12-hour bandh called by Opposition BJP over the abduction and murder of a 24-year-old teacher Mamita Meher. Civists of the saffron camp staged a demonstration at Palabani Chhak on National Highway-49 in Baripada, disrupting traffic movement to Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh and also to Kharagpur in West Bengal. The agitators also stopped vehicles at Udala, Karanjia and Rairangpur towns in Mayurbhanj district. The BJP intensified its protest against the school teacher's murder and demanded the resignation of a minister for allegedly patronising the prime accused in the case. The saffron party had observed bandh in Bolangir district from where the woman hailed and in Kalahandi where her body was found. Opposition parties have been mounting pressure on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to dismiss Minister of State for Home DS Mishra for his alleged patronage to the main accused - the president of the managing committee of a private English medium school in Kalahandi district where the teacher used to work.

hundreds of BJP workers agitated during a 12-hour bandh in the district Monday. Hundreds of workers, mostly from the party's women wing, picketed at Palabani Chhak

on NH-49 in Baripada town of Mayurbhanj district. The agitators completely disrupted traffic movement on the route. Many BJP supporters also staged

## DEMO FOR RESERVATION



Demanding 27 per cent reservation for OBC candidates in the upcoming panchayat elections, members of Other Backward Caste (OBC) community staging a demonstration during Kalahandi bandh, Monday

# Political activities gain momentum

WHILE THE BJD HAS ALREADY STARTED PROPAGATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ITS GOVT, THE OPPN IS LITERALLY ON THE JOB OF DIGGING UP DIRT ON THE GOVT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, October 25:** With the government starting preparations for the coming panchayat election, the political atmosphere in the villages of Ganjam district is getting charged up.

The three major political parties in the state - BJD, BJP and Congress - have started chalking out their strategies to garner votes. While the ruling party has already started propagating the achievements of the Naveen Patnaik-led government, the Opposition is literally on the job of digging up dirt on the government.

With the aim of not to losing women's votes, the BJD is said to have reserved 50 per cent of the entire seats in the Panchayat raj institutions for women. Similarly, in a bid to please SHGs, facilities are in place to provide crores of rupees to SHGs through Mission Shakti. While the Opposition parties are al-

## PANCHAYAT POLLS



leging that these are being done so strategically to get political mileage, the ruling party is leaving no space to counter them.

From the present situation, it is quite evident that in the coming days, the political atmosphere in the rural areas will be reverberating with allegations and counter allegations.

If the present situation is taken

into consideration, the BJD seems to be lagging behind in the process in Ganjam district. The party is yet to declare the 22 block committees and workers. According to the BJD district president, the list of organisational committees of blocks under 10 Assembly constituencies have already been prepared and sent to the state party office for approval. In the next phase,

the lists of more three constituencies will be prepared.

However, the delay has displeased many party workers. "Believing that Naveen charisma will see them through in the panchayat elections, the formation of block committee has been delayed despite the fact that the election is just round the corner. It will definitely have a negative impact on the party's performance," maintained some BJD leaders, requesting anonymity.

Similarly, though the BJD has always been giving importance to women, the party's district women's committee has not been formed as yet. While only the district women committee's leader has been appointed, the names of other workers are yet to be announced. At the same time, block and urban committees have also not been formed, resulting in displeasure among the women workers who are aspiring to get positions.

## SKM will oppose BJP in UP polls: Rakesh Tikait

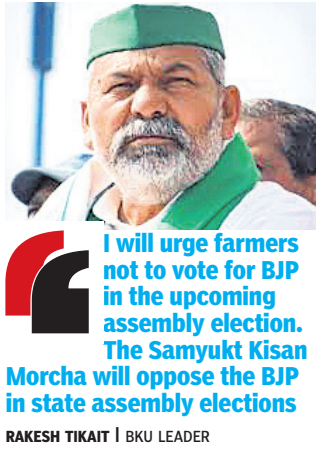
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agra, Oct 25:** Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait Monday visited the family of Arun Narwar who was allegedly killed in police custody in Agra in Uttar Pradesh and demanded a compensation of ₹40 lakh and government job to his kin.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Narwar's family members, Tikait said, "The state government is discriminating while giving compensation. It has given compensation of ₹40-45 lakh in Lakhimpur Kheri and Kanpur, while in Agra the government has given a compensation of ₹10 lakh."

"The state government should give compensation of ₹40 lakh to the family of Arun as well. The government should not have discriminated," he said.

He also demanded a government job for a member of Narwar's family and a judicial probe into his death. Narwar was accused of stealing ₹25 lakh from the Jagdishpura police station here and died in police custody after his health deteriorated during interrogation October 19, officials had said.



RAKESH TIKAIT | BKU LEADER

**I will urge farmers not to vote for BJP in the upcoming assembly election. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha will oppose the BJP in state assembly elections**

Targeting the BJP government over farm laws, Tikait said, "I will urge farmers not to vote for BJP in the upcoming assembly election. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha will oppose the BJP in state assembly elections." "We will not field our candidates nor support any political party in the assembly election," he added. He said their agitation against the Centre's three farm laws will continue till the matter is resolved and added "we are also ready to talk to the central government."

## New Akhara Parishad chief calls for re-electing Yogi as CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Prayagraj, Oct 25:** Newly elected chief of Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad, Mahant Ravindra Puri, Monday called for a second term to Yogi Adityanath as Uttar Pradesh chief minister to save the Sanatan Dharma.

Puri, the secretary of Niranjani Akhara, made this call soon after his election as the president of the all-important apex Hindu religious body of 13 monastic orders of the country at a meeting of seers here. The post of the Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP) president was vacant since the death of Mahant Narendra Giri, the chief of Prayagraj-based Baghambrai Math. He had allegedly committed suicide September 20.

The meeting to elect the new ABAP chief was convened on the call of ABAP general secretary Hari Giri, the chief patron of the Juna Akhara. Out of 13 akharas of the country, the representatives of seven akharas had participated in the meeting while the Nirmohi Ani Akhara had sent its letter of support for Puri's election as ABAP chief. Giri told reporters after the meeting held in the premises of Niranjani Akhara, located at Mori



New chief of Akhil Bhartiya Akhara Parishad, Mahant Ravindra Puri

Gate in Daraganj area of the city.

Giri said Puri, the mahant of Mansa Devi temple has over a 20-year-long experience of running several engineering and medical colleges of the country. He was considered the fittest person to head the ABAP and that's why his name was proposed for his election as the president of the all-important apex body, said Giri.

The president of ABAP happens to have a tenure of five years but as this election was a mid-term one after the death of Mahant Narendra Giri, Puri term will end in 2025, said Giri.

Addressing reporters after his election as ABAP president, Ravindra

Puri said the biggest concern of the All India Akhara Parishad today is to protect the Sanatan Dharma and bringing back the Yogi Adityanath government in the 2022 assembly election is a prerequisite for it.

"If we do not re-elect the BJP back to power, the government of any other party will stop the construction of the Lord Ram temple. The construction of the Ram Temple can be completed only by a BJP government," he said.

Maintaining that his biggest mission is to re-install the Yogi government in UP, he said for this purpose he would also appeal to all seers of the state to spread this message among their devotees.

## Zika virus detected in UP, Centre sends team

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** The Union Health Ministry Monday sent a high level multi-disciplinary team to Uttar Pradesh where a Zika virus case was reported in Kanpur.

A 57-year-old man from Kanpur had tested positive for the virus October 22.

The multi-disciplinary team comprising an entomologist, public health specialists and a gynaecologist has been sent to take stock of the ground situation and follow containment measures.

The health experts from National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, National Centre for Disease Control and Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in New Delhi has been deployed by Union Health Ministry to assist state authorities for the control and containment measures of the Zika virus.

The team will assess whether the Ministry's action plan for Zika



virus management is being implemented. It will also recommend necessary public health interventions for management of the virus in Uttar Pradesh.

The team shall work closely with the state health department, take stock of the situation on the ground and assess whether the Union Health Ministry's Action Plan for Zika Management is being implemented.

The team will also recommend necessary public health interventions for management of Zika in the state, the statement said.

## Jharkhand focuses on solar-based irrigation

INITIALLY, THE GOVERNMENT IS INSTALLING THIS FACILITY IN THOSE PARTS OF THE STATE WHERE WATER IS NOT AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR IRRIGATION DUE TO INHOSPITABLE TERRAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Oct 25:** The Jharkhand government Monday said it is focusing on adopting renewable energy to boost income of farmers and curb their migration to other states.

With this, over 6,000 families have already benefitted in the state. "With farmers at the centre of the development process, Jharkhand is working tirelessly to ensure availability of year-round irrigation facilities across the state. Given this, the state government is installing solar-based lift irrigation facilities in the districts," a statement issued by the state government said.

Initially, the government is installing this facility in those parts of the state where water is not available throughout the year for irrigation due to inhospitable terrain, the statement said.

The examples of Bokaro, Latehar, and Simdega districts were cited in the statement.

The Bokaro district administration has brought 500 acres of land under the solar lift irrigation facility, benefitting about 480 farming households.

The statement said apart from



Picture used for representative purpose

employment at the local steel plant as daily wage labourers, a substantial part of the population in Bokaro district is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

Since a major part of farmland is used only during the rainy season for paddy cultivation, the administration has installed many solar lift irrigation pumps in the district, therefore, ensuring year-

round availability of water for irrigation, it said. Forty-eight pump sets, with a capacity of 5HP each, are being installed to cover 500 acres of land.

Deputy Commissioner, Bokaro, Kuldeep Chowdhary said it is a mineral-rich area and one of the most industrialised districts of Jharkhand, but with a substantial part of the population also de-

pendent on agriculture, the land yields only one crop a year due to the unavailability of modern irrigation facilities. The official said to ensure multi-crop farming in the district, the administration is installing 48 solar pump units for the lift irrigation facility out of which over 20 units are functional, and work for the remaining part will be done in due course.

Since a major part of farmland is used only during the rainy season for paddy cultivation, the administration has installed many solar lift irrigation pumps

"Also, we are working on the implementation of solar-based mobile irrigation units across different parts of the district. This will help marginal farmers, farmers who work in small clusters or hilly terrain. Apart from this, we are also working on the utilisation of abandoned mines for irrigation purposes," the Bokaro deputy commissioner was quoted as saying in the statement. Latehar and Simdega districts have also adopted the same technique to benefit farmers and promote multiple crop cultivation.

In Latehar, more than 1,000 acres of land have been covered under a solar lift irrigation facility with 100 units whereas over 105 solar-based lift irrigation systems have been installed in Simdega helping almost 5,000 families, the statement said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ranchi, Oct 25:** The Jharkhand government plans to develop a new industrial corridor spread over 500 acres along the highway connecting Govindpur to Sahibganj in the city of Dhanbad.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren has directed the authorities to use the land on both sides of the road connecting the highway for this project.

The secretaries of the Industries, Revenue and Land Reforms departments have been asked to prepare a report after assessing the prospects, availability of land and other resources.

The road connecting Govindpur to Sahibganj in Dhanbad is 311 kms long. Dhanbad is the hub of coal production while the state's only port at Sahibganj was started in 2019. There is ample potential for industrial development along this highway and its surrounding areas.

This highway will also prove to be significant for Industry for transportation of raw materials to the finished product. At present, it is two-lane expressway and work on this project is expected to start soon converting it into a four-lane road.

The state government plans to build an industrial economic corridor within 50 km of the road which will create employment opportunities for more than 50,000 people. Hemant Soren has directed the officials to use the land for setting up industries as well as for housing.

For this project, the state government has directed the Deputy Commissioners of all the districts in the Santhal Pargana division. Officials have been asked to assess the compensation and other facilities etc. to be given in lieu of acquisition of farmers' land.

In order to develop the Govindpur-Sahibganj Road as an industrial corridor, several connected spur roads will be constructed so that industrial units to be established around this road could be connected with the main road. Firms willing to set up industries will be provided land.

Later, this road will also be connected to the Ganga river at Sahibganj and the Ganga bridge being built there which will ease connectivity to Bihar and the north-east. This will also expand the scope of businesses.

## Rickshaw puller gets I-T notice for ₹3 crore



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mathura, Oct 25:** A rickshaw puller has approached the police in Mathura district after he was served a notice by the Income Tax (I-T) department, asking him to pay over ₹3 crore.

Pratap Singh, a resident of Amar Colony in Mathura, submitted a complaint at the Highway police station, claiming fraud, after he received the notice from the I-T department.

Station House Office (SHO) Anuj Kumar said no case was registered on the basis of Singh's complaint, but the police will look into the matter.

Singh also uploaded a video clip on social media in which he narrated the sequence of events.

According to him, he applied for a PAN card at the Jan Suvidha

Kendra in Bakalpur in March this year after his bank asked him to submit the same.

Subsequently, he got a coloured photocopy of the PAN card from one Sanjai Singh of Bakalpur.

Since he is illiterate, he could not differentiate between an original PAN card and a coloured photocopy of the same, the rickshaw puller said in the video clip.

He had to run from pillar to post for about three months to get his PAN card.

Singh said he got a call from IT officials October 19 and was served a notice, asking him to pay ₹3,47,54,896.

He said the officials told him that someone had impersonated him and obtained a GST number on his name for running a business and the turnover of the trader for 2018-19 was ₹43,44,36,201.

## Hazaribagh's megalith sites give insight into prehistory

A FLUTE-LIKE INSTRUMENT UNEARTHED AT A MEGALITHIC SITE INDICATES PREHISTORIC HUMANS MAY HAVE HAD KNOWLEDGE OF MUSIC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ranchi, Oct 25:** Did humans in prehistoric times have knowledge of music and use musical instruments? Jharkhand's archaeologists and historians are considering this after unearthing a flute-like instrument at a megalithic site in Hazaribagh which may contain other artefacts of ancient civilisation.

Archaeological researcher Subhashish Das says that carbon dating of the flute-like object indicates several findings may emerge from the archaeological evidence.

More than five megalithic sites have been discovered around Hazaribagh and its surrounding areas, and many evidences of ancient civilisation have been collected from there.

Das has written "The Archaeoastronomy of Few Megalithic Sites of Jharkhand", based on his research, where he has tried to decode the antiquities and evidences found here.

Das told IANS that he found the flute-like instrument, made from the bones of a human or any other animal, in Hazaribagh's Chano village under Sadar block.

It is possible that in ancient times, bones were used to make instruments, and Das says that extensive research is needed to ascertain this. He has also developed



One of the megalithic sites discovered in Hazaribagh

a private museum in Hazaribagh where this flute-like object, and other objects and evidences have been preserved.

The megalithic sites and other archaeological findings discovered by Das were visited and inspected by many scholars, archaeologists and astronomers from abroad and are being considered extremely significant from the

point of view of decoding the civilisations of Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods.

About the megalithic site located in Chano village, Das said this place is mentioned on the map during British rule as 'sacred mount', which could mean the local people visit it because of ancient beliefs and worship etc.

Black and red pottery with

unique lustre have been found from this place, and Das says that these date back to 700-500 B.C.

On getting information about the research conducted by Das, former Jharkhand Chief Secretary VS Dubey himself inspected this site and directed excavations to be done under the supervision of experts of the Allahabad University. However, the excavation has not

### Archaeological wonder

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHER SUBHASHISH DAS SAYS THAT CARBON DATING OF THE FLUTE-LIKE OBJECT INDICATES SEVERAL FINDINGS MAY EMERGE FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

THE MEGALITHIC SITES AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS DISCOVERED BY DAS WERE VISITED AND INSPECTED BY MANY SCHOLARS, ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND ASTRONOMERS FROM ABROAD AND ARE BEING CONSIDERED EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF DECODING THE CIVILISATIONS OF PALAEO-LITHIC AND NEOLITHIC PERIODS

BLACK AND RED POTTERY WITH UNIQUE LUSTRE FOUND FROM THIS PLACE DATE BACK TO 700-500 BC

been started yet and this megalithic site has been damaged by the local villagers due to lack of awareness.

Das is quite unhappy over this development and said despite his repeated attempts to draw the government's attention towards the condition of these megalith sites, no steps have been taken to protect these.



# national

## of the day quote

The people of the state are facing daily threats to their constitutionally mandated rights... State-sponsored terror has reached unimaginable level of heights threatening democracy, institutions and the very fabric of the state

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | TDP CHIEF

A new directive has come from New Delhi that all those who are above 17 years of age can now take the COVID-19 vaccine. I urge you to ensure that all our boys and girls between 17 to 18 years take the vaccine now

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

A mass movement is needed to create awareness among people regarding cyber crimes and prevent them from falling victim to online frauds

BHUPENDRABHAI PATEL | GUJARAT CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Explosives seized

**Pakur:** Police have seized a vehicle carrying a huge amount of illegal explosives in Jharkhand's Pakur district, an officer said. Police arrested the driver of the vehicle which was coming from West Bengal and seized 29 sacks of explosives from the vehicle at Nasipur Cheknaka in Pakur district Saturday, the officer said Sunday. Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Ajit Kumar Vimal said police is investigating the matter.

### Four found dead

**Patna:** Four persons died in mysterious circumstances in Bihar's Siwan district on Monday morning, police said. The police suspect that they may have consumed spurious liquor. The incident happened in the Balori and Balor villages under Guthni block. District Magistrate Amit Kumar, Superintendent of Police Abhinav Kumar and other officials rushed to the two villages and investigated the matter.

### Man arrested

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) has arrested a suspended accounts officer in the education department who was accused of issuing fake appointment letters to teachers. The accused, Jagdish Prasad Srivastava, was absconding and carried a bounty of Rs 25,000. Inspector (STF) Satya Prakash Singh, who led the operation, said Jagdish was arrested from traffic trisection in Gorakhpur Sunday.

### Dhankhar hospitalised

**New Delhi:** West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Monday afternoon, after being diagnosed with malaria. Admitted in the old private ward at AIIMS, he is being treated by Dr Neeraj Nischal, Professor of Medicine, with a team of doctors.

### KCR re-elected TRS president

**Hyderabad:** Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababhu Naidu Monday unanimously re-elected as the President of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). Rao was elected unopposed to the post for a ninth consecutive term. TRS General Secretary M. Sreenivas Reddy, who was the election officer, announced Rao's re-election at the party plenary attended by 6,000 delegates from across the state.



**India's defence exports have grown by 334 per cent in the last five years and the country is exporting to more than 75 countries**

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

## SOUTHWEST MONSOON WITHDRAWS

The southwest monsoon withdrew from the entire country Monday, making it the seventh-most delayed retreat since 1975, according to the India Meteorological Department



# Congress attacks FB, seeks probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** The Congress Monday accused Facebook of "influencing" India's elections and "undermining" democracy and demanded a joint parliamentary committee probe into it.

"Facebook has reduced itself to a Fakebook," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said while raising the purported leaked internal reports of the social media giant on not initiating action against hate speech posts on its platform in India.

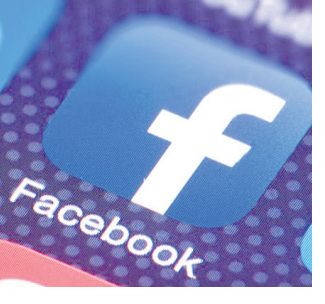
The Congress leader also alleged that Facebook was acting as an ally of the ruling BJP and pushing its agenda. He referred to research documents by whistleblower Frances Haugen, who has worked at Facebook, and alleged that it took no decisive action against the perpetrators of such hate posts in Hindi and Bengali.

A Facebook company spokesperson here said it is improving enforcement. "We've invested significantly in technology to find hate speech in various languages, including Hindi and Bengali. As a result, we've reduced the amount of hate speech that people see by half this year.

"Today, it's down to 0.05 percent. Hate speech against marginalised groups, including Muslims, is on the rise globally. So we are improving enforcement and are committed to updating our policies as hate speech evolves online," the spokesperson said.

Khera alleged that Facebook's internal reports identified fake accounts with over a million impressions, yet it did nothing about it. "We demand a JPC probe to look into the role of Facebook in influencing our elections," he said. He alleged that Facebook was trying to "compromise and undermine our democracy in trying to shape through fake posts the opinions of people."

He alleged that BJP workers and those of its affiliates have infiltrated into the structure and functioning of Facebook. "What right does Facebook have to push



"FACEBOOK HAS REDUCED ITSELF TO A FAKEBOOK," CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON PAWAN KHERA SAID WHILE RAISING THE PURPORTED LEAKED INTERNAL REPORTS OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA GIANT ON NOT INITIATING ACTION AGAINST HATE SPEECH POSTS ON ITS PLATFORM IN INDIA

THE CONGRESS LEADER ALLEGED THAT FACEBOOK WAS ACTING AS AN ALLY OF THE RULING BJP AND PUSHING ITS AGENDA

a particular ideology through fake posts, pictures and a narrative. "It is shocking how only 0.2 percent of hate speech is removed by Facebook, which despite making the most money from India, does not have the mechanism to filter posts in Hindi or Bengali," he said.

Khera said just nine percent of users in India are in English and yet they do not have systems to filter the posts of regional languages. Alleging that the role of Facebook during Delhi riots and West Bengal elections has been under suspicion, he said "The role of Facebook can no longer be dismissed as an error of omission as they are knowingly furthering the agenda of the ruling party and its ideology which is hate-filled, bigotry and dividing society."

"Why should we not accuse Facebook of interfering in our elections by influencing the voting behaviour of its consumers? This is serious election fraud and this is serious interference in our elections by a foreign company," he alleged.

## Farmers' stir today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Noida, Oct 25:** Farmers protesting against the central farm laws will hold a countrywide protest Tuesday to demand the sacking of Union Minister Ajay Mishra 'Teni', whose son is an accused in the Lakhimpur Kheri episode in which eight people, including farmers, were killed.

The call for the protest has been made by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), a farmer unions' collective leading the anti-farm laws stir since November 2020 at Delhi's borders, the Bhartiya Kisan Union, which is part of the movement, said. "Demonstrations would be held at administrative headquarters in every district of the country. A memorandum will be submitted to the government with a demand that the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra be removed from his post," BKU media in-charge Dharmendra Malik said. "The pan-India protest will be supported by all farmer groups associated with the movement against the contentious farm laws," Malik said.

# Shah responds to Abdullah's advice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Oct 25:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah Monday said the government would rather hold talks with the youth and "brothers and sisters" of the Valley than Pakistan as suggested by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah.

He also said the only intention behind repealing Article 370 was to put Kashmir and Jammu on the path of development, and people will see the "fruits of our efforts by 2024". The home minister, who arrived in Jammu and Kashmir Saturday for his first visit since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, remotely inaugurated several development projects and laid the foundation stone of some.

Before beginning his 38-minute-long speech at a function here, the home minister got the bullet proof glass shield for the speaker removed. Later, he told the audience that he likes to have a "mann ki baat"



Union Home Minister Amit Shah being greeted on his arrival for a public meeting in Srinagar, Monday

(talk straight from his heart) with the people. "I was cursed and criticised bitterly and today, I wish to talk to you with an open heart without security and without any bullet proof glass. And, here I am in front of you," Shah said while speaking

at a heavily guarded Shere-Kashmir International Convention Centre. "Friends, today I saw the newspapers where Farooq (Abdullah) Saheb has suggested to me that the government should engage in talks with Pakistan. Well, he is a seasoned politician, who has been the



veillance in vulnerable areas, better intelligence networks and strong patrolling on roads and highways around the cities to prevent entry

## Before beginning his 38-minute-long speech at a function, the Home Minister got the bullet proof glass shield for the speaker removed

chief minister of (erstwhile) state, and this is his suggestion, but I would like to tell Farooq Saheb that if talks are to be held, I would like to hold it with brothers and sisters of the Kashmir Valley and the youth of the Kashmir Valley," the home minister said.

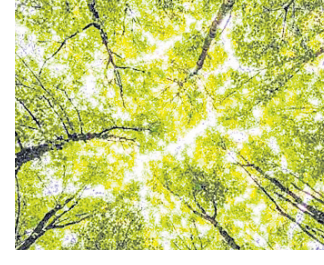
On the abrogation of Article 370, he said repealing it had only one 'pakeeza' (pious) intention that is to put Kashmir, Jammu and newly created Union Territory of Ladakh on the path of development. "You will see the fruits of our efforts by 2024," Shah, who donned a traditional Kashmiri pheran, said.

## 'NE sees 76% greenery loss during 2001-20'

AGENCIES

In what has raised serious environmental concerns, the north-east region of the country has lost about 1.45 million hectares (Mha) of green cover between 2001 and 2020 - around 76 per cent of India's total tree cover - according to a global study.

As per a research conducted by the University of Maryland's Global Land Analysis & Discovery (GLAD) laboratory, in partnership with Google, and released by Global Forest Watch (GFW), India lost 1.93 Mha of tree cover in 2001-20, equivalent to 5 per cent decrease in tree cover since 2000. The research data revealed that Assam had the highest share of the greenery loss during the period - around 14 per cent. Assam has lost 269 kilohectare (kha) of tree cover from 2001 to 2020, equivalent to 9.8 per cent decrease since 2000.



Among other northeastern states, Mizoram lost 247 kha, Nagaland 225 kha, Arunachal Pradesh 222 kha, Manipur 196 kha, Meghalaya 195 kha and Tripura 102 kha tree cover over the 20-year period, said the study which used more than a million satellite images.

The top five states in the list with the maximum tree cover loss are from the northeast. The seven-sister states are also among the 10 worst performers in terms of tree cover loss. Odisha, with 115 kha greenery loss, ranks seventh while Kerala (72.6 kha) at ninth and Chhattisgarh (46.3 kha) at 10th spot, the data showed.

# New security system to prevent attacks in Kashmir Valley soon

**UNDER THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE, DRONE GRIDS ARE BEING SET UP IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THE NON-KASHMIRI AND THE MIGRANT LABOURERS HAVE BEEN LIVING AND IN SOME PLACES MORE CCTV CAMERAS ARE GETTING INSTALLED**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 25:** In wake of the targeted killings, a new integrated security system will be in place in Kashmir Valley soon in coordination with the Indian Army and the central security agencies, the sources said here Monday.

The sources also said that Jammu and Kashmir Police will be in the lead role in preventing attacks in coordination with other security stakeholders and they have been asked to strengthen the human intelligence gathering on the ground. The J&K Police made a presentation during a high level security meeting chaired by Union Home Minister on October 23. Round the clock electronic sur-

a government source said. Under the electronic surveillance, drone grids are being set up in those areas where the non-Kashmiri and the migrant labourers have been living and in some places more CCTV cameras are getting installed.

Under the drone grid system, a round the clock control room has been set up to closely monitor the movement of suspicious elements and on identifications of any such movement in the areas, the security personnel on the ground will be alerted soon on a real-time basis. This will be manned by the J&K police and other security forces personnel. The sleuths from intelligence agencies and National Intelligence Agency have been working to pin-

point the real conspirators who activated the hybrid terrorist network to execute the recent killings in Kashmir.

The security agencies have also been keeping eye on over 80 families whose youngsters have left home and are absconding since long as they believe that these youths might be used by the terrorist organisations to execute these killings.

An official in the government set up said that during the review meeting on October 23, the Union Home Minister asked the officials why the dual threats of radicalisation and home-grown terrorism were on the rise despite massive presence of the forces and extensive outreach effort made by the government.

# international

## of the day quote

Although Israel wasn't allowing foreign tourists to stay overnight in the city of Bethlehem, the city is now ready for local and international tourism

MOHAMMED ISHTAYE | PALESTINIAN PRIME MINISTER

The main indicator for the unity of Muslims is the issue of Palestine, and the more seriousness is spent on the restoration of the rights of the Palestinians, the stronger the Islamic unity will become

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER

The low-lying Netherlands could face higher sea level rises than previously forecast as well as the threat of extreme rainfall and other dangerous weather events caused by climate change

STEVEN WEYENBERG | DUTCH STATE SECRETARY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER

## SHORT TAKES

### Climate protesters resume campaign

London: Environmental protesters pressuring the British government to insulate all homes within a decade resumed a road-blocking campaign in London Monday ahead of the United Nations' annual climate conference. As commuters headed to work, demonstrators from the Insulate Britain campaign obstructed a major artery into Canary Wharf, a major financial center in east London that is home to some of the world's biggest banks. Other roads into the British capital's traditional financial center, the City of London, which is a few miles west of Canary Wharf, were also blocked.

### Tokyo lifts Covid curbs on eateries

Tokyo: Tokyo and the three surrounding prefectures of Kanagawa, Saitama, and Chiba, as well as Osaka Monday lifted the Covid-19 restrictions on eateries following an ongoing downward trend in infections across Japan. Containing measures on the serving of alcohol and the operating hours in restaurants in the capital and Osaka was first lifted in 11 months, reports Xinhua news agency.

### Portugal: Political storm brewing

Lisbon: A political storm is brewing in Portugal, where the minority Socialist government is finding it hard to win support for its state budget from other left-of-center parties. The Portuguese Communist Party announced Monday it won't vote in favor of the government's spending plan. The Left Bloc, another party which historically has sided with the Socialists, traded barbs with the government during recent days of tense negotiations, making the chances of the 2022 budget receiving parliamentary approval appear slim.

### Spanish volcano more active

Madrid: The eruption drove a volcanic ash cloud high over the island off northwest Africa. Residents watched to see what direction the new lava flow would take, and authorities prepared to move more people from their homes. Prompt evacuations have so far avoided casualties from the eruption, though the lava has totally or partially destroyed more than 2,000 buildings, mostly homes, and covered more than 900 hectares (2,200 acres) of mostly farmland.

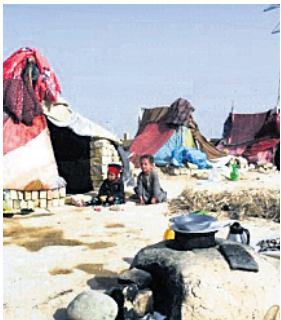


I condemn the ongoing military coup in Sudan. Prime Minister Hamdok & all other officials must be released immediately. The UN will continue to stand with the people of Sudan

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

## HARD TIMES

More than half of the population of Afghanistan, or a record 22.8 million people, will face acute food insecurity from November, according to the latest report issued by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster of Afghanistan



## SUDAN 'COUP'

# World shocked, says 'utterly unacceptable'

SUDAN BEGAN A TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY AFTER A POPULAR UPRISING AND THE OUSTER IN APRIL 2019 OF PRESIDENT OMAR AL-BASHIR



AGENCIES

Cairo, Oct 25: Sudan's military seized power in a coup Monday, while youths opposed to the takeover barricaded streets and gunfire was heard as demonstrators clashed with the security forces. World leaders and human rights groups have condemned the detention of several high-ranking Sudanese officials in what appears to be a coup attempt, as a senior military official dissolved the government.

The United States says the leaders of the military coup underway in Sudan are undermining the country's transition to democracy and should "stand down."

The U.S. Embassy in Sudan said on Twitter Monday it was "gravely concerned" after Sudan's leading general declared a state of emergency and dissolved the ruling body that had been jointly over-

seen by military and civilian leaders. In the statement the embassy calls on "all actors who are disrupting Sudan's transition to stand down, and allow the civilian-led transitional government to continue its important work to achieve the goals of the revolution."

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron has added his voice to the growing global concern over the military coup underway in Sudan.

Beijing: China is urging a dialogue between Sudanese factions as an apparent military coup roils the nation. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Monday that China wanted all parties in Sudan "to resolve their differences through dialogue so as to maintain peace and stability of

the country." China is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and major investor in Africa.

Germany: Germany has demanded an immediate halt to the apparent military coup underway in Sudan. German Foreign Minister Heiko Mass condemned the attempted takeover in the vast east African country and called the news "dismaying." Thousands of Sudanese protesters have flooded the streets as fears of a military coup grip the country two years after mass protests ousted autocrat Omar al-Bashir, who ruled Sudan with an iron fist for three decades. Since 2019, Sudan has been navigating a fragile transition to democracy.

### What are the disagreements over?

One point of tension is the pursuit of justice over allegations of war crimes by the military and its allies in the conflict in Darfur from 2003. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is seeking trials for Bashir and other Sudanese suspects. The cabinet has signed off on handing over suspects, but the Sovereign Council has not.

Another is an investigation into the killings of pro-democracy protesters June 3, 2019, in which military forces are implicated. Activists and civilian groups have been angered by delays in making the investigation's findings public.

## Pak govt surrenders to TLP, releases activists



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lahore, Oct 25: In what appears to be another total surrender before the protesters marching towards Islamabad, the Pakistan federal government has released more than 350 activists of the banned Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), besides announcing that the cases against others would be withdrawn by Wednesday, Dawn news reported.

The government also assured the TLP leaders of reviewing the Fourth Schedule list containing their names and working on a plan to release their jailed chief Saad Rizvi, the report quoted Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed as saying while speaking at a news conference Sunday.

The Minister, who addressed the presser after leading a government team in negotiations with representatives of the TLP, including its detained chief, in Islamabad, later tweeted: "We have released 350 TLP workers up to now and we are still waiting to open both sides of road of Muridke as per the decision with the TLP."

Another round of talks with the TLP will be held at the Ministry of Interior in Islamabad on Monday according to Rashid who said the protesters had agreed not to march towards the capital and stay at Muridke, some 33 km from Lahore, till Wednesday.

# Sukarno's daughter to convert to Hinduism



AGENCIES

Jakarta, Indonesia, Oct 25: Sukmawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's former President Sukarno, will undergo the ritual of converting from Islam to Hinduism 26 October, CNN Indonesia reported.

According to the report, a ritual ceremony will be held at the Sukarno Center Heritage Area in Bale Agung Singaraja, Buleleng Regency, Bali, Tuesday.

Sukmawati Sukarnoputri, 70, is the third daughter of Sukarno and the younger sister of former President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

In 2018, headline Islamic groups filed a blasphemy complaint against Sukmawati Sukarnoputri, accus-

ing her of reciting a poem insulting Islam. According to *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the daughter of Indonesia's former President had apologised. Islam is the largest religion in Indonesia. The Southeast Asian nation has probably the largest Muslim population in the world. As per reports, the head of the Sukarno Center in Bali, Arya Wedakarna, has been entrusted by Sukmawati Sukarnoputri herself for the smooth conduct of the event. However, it remains unknown whether she will settle permanently in Bali. She had often attended Hindu rituals in Bali when she used the visit the region.

Sukmawati Sukarnoputri had earlier attended several Hindu ceremonies and held talks with religious heads in Hinduism. Her decision to convert found the support of her brothers, Guntur Soekarnoputra, and Guruh Soekarnoputra, and sister Megawati Soekarnoputri.

Even her children, namely, Muhammad Putra Perwira Utama, Prince Haryo Paundrajarna Sumautra Jiwanegara, and Gusti Raden Ayu Putri Siniwati have accepted her decision.



## TIDBITS

### FB, Instagram grapple with ageing user base

New York: Facebook and Instagram are losing young users at an alarming rate as the millennials and Gen Z now opt for more immersive social game platforms like TikTok, Snapchat, Fortnite, Roblox and more, the media reported Monday. Teenage users on Facebook in the US are projected to drop 45% over the next two years, driving an overall decline in daily users in the company's most lucrative ad market, reports *The Verge*. "Young adults between the ages of 20 and 30 were expected to decline by 4% during the same timeframe," the report noted, quoting internal Facebook documents.



### China goes for strict lockdown

Beijing: Fearing another Covid wave, China has imposed lockdown-like restrictions in its Ejin county as the region has witnessed an increased number of cases of contagious disease.



The county lies in the Mongolia region in the country where the administration has asked thousands of citizens to stay home and warned for civil and criminal action against those not following protocols, according to *Bloomberg*. In another development, a retired Chinese couple who tested positive for Covid-19, days after they went on a travel spree across the country, has been blamed for the latest spike in cases in the country, raising questions about the efficacy of China's Zero-Covid policy.

### South Korea to begin 'living with Covid-19' scheme

Seoul: South Korea will gradually phase out coronavirus restrictions starting next month to embrace a new scheme of returning to normal life backed by the rising rate of vaccinations, health authorities said Monday. A government-led committee announced a draft roadmap meant to get people's lives back to normal on a gradual basis, reports *Yonhap News Agency*. The move came as 70.1 per cent of 52 million South Koreans were fully vaccinated in eight months after the country kicked off its nationwide inoculation campaign.



# CHINA'S NEW LAND BORDER LAW EXPLAINED

The law that will, reportedly, come into effect January 1, 2022, "stipulates that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China are sacred and inviolable"

AGENCIES

Beijing, Oct 25: China has for the first time enacted a national law on the "protection and exploitation" of the country's land border areas with the timing of the move significant given that it continues to be at loggerheads with India over the Line of Actual Control (LAC) that separates the two countries.

### WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

According to the *China Daily* the law states requires the Chinese government to take measures to

"strengthen border defence, support economic and social development as well as opening-up in border areas." Towards that end, it calls for improvements in public services and infrastructure in such areas to "encourage and support people's life and work there". This can be read in the context of China looking to settle disputed frontier areas through heavy investment in infrastructure.

On the issue of resolving border disputes, the law says: "The state shall, following the principle of equality, mutual trust, and friendly consultation, handle land border related-affairs with neighbouring countries through negotiations to properly resolve disputes and longstanding border issues."

China's Parliament, the National People's Congress, Saturday, passed a first-of-its-kind law aimed at strengthening land border protection even while tensions between India and China remain high at the Line of Actual Control. The law will, reportedly, dictate how Beijing protects the 22,000-



The law requires the state to "take measures to strengthen border defence, support economic and social development as well as opening-up in border areas, improve public services and infrastructure in such areas, encourage and support people's lives and work there, and promote and coordinate between border defence and social, economic development in border areas"

Article 22 of the law notes that the PLA "shall carry out border duties" including "organising drills" and "resolutely prevent, stop and combat invasion, encroachment, provocation and other acts"

Article 7 reads, "Under the leadership of the Central Military Commission, relevant militia organs shall organise, guide and coordinate the defence and control of land borders, maintain social stability, handle emergencies and cooperate in border defence and other related work"

km long border it shares with 14 countries including India, Bhutan, Russia, North Korea, and Mongolia.

The law designates the various responsibilities of the military: the State Council or Cabinet, and

provincial governments in managing the security and economic issues in border areas. Article 2 of this Law shall apply to the delimitation and demarcation of land borders of the People's Republic of China, the defense, management and construction of land borders and borders, and international cooperation in land border affairs.

Article -5 The State exercises unified leadership over land border work. Article -6 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall be responsible for foreign-related affairs of land borders, participate in the management of land borders, take the lead in foreign negotiations, contracting, compliance and international cooperation, and deal with problems that need to be resolved through diplomatic channels, organize the maintenance and management of national boundaries and landmarks. Article 7- Under the leadership of the Central Military Commission, the relevant military agencies organize, guide, and coordinate the defense and control of land borders and borders, maintain social stability, han-

dle emergencies, border defense cooperation and related work. Article 43 of the law says: "The state supports the construction of border towns, improves the system of border towns, improves the functions of border towns and strengthens the construction of supporting capacity"

Article 61- A landmark is a sign erected on or on both sides of a land border, marking the direction of the land border on the ground, and whose geographical coordinates have been determined and recorded in a boundary survey treaty or a joint inspection treaty, including basic landmarks, auxiliary landmarks, guides and buoys.

**THE BACKGROUND**  
The passage of the law in China's Parliament arrives amid an enduring 17-month standoff between Indian and Chinese forces at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The actions of the PLA last summer, India has stated, violated four previous border agreements that have been critical in maintaining peace at the Indo-China border since the inking of a 1993 pact.

# business

## of the day quote

Iraq is an important market for us. This association with them is a significant step towards further expanding and bolstering the company's market presence in Iraq

All of our feasibility studies with suppliers are already done successfully. Now actual offshore development is being done in Japan. You can see the actual model within the next financial year

Jio's vision for India resonates with that of Google. Pragati OS - Pragati stands for progress - is powered by Android, is a result of this passionate effort bringing together best minds at Jio and Google

## SHORT TAKES

### Toyota all set to test H2 engines

Washington: Toyota said Monday it is testing hydrogen combustion engines in race cars as it works toward using the technology in commercial products. Such engines burn hydrogen as fuel instead of gasoline, much like rockets. The Japanese automaker said testing the technology in race cars will allow it to collect data and try to fix problems on-site. "We want to propose multiple options to meet regional needs," Naoyuki Sakamoto, chief engineer of the hydrogen-powered engine Corolla model, said in an online news conference.

### PXIL to launch ESCerts trading

New Delhi: The Power Exchange India Ltd Monday said trading of ESCerts under the Perform, Achieve and Trade scheme - cycle II will commence from October 26. The company had conducted a mock trading session October 8, 2021, which received encouraging reception, PXIL said in a statement. 'ESCerts' are the Energy Savings Certificates issued by the Central Government in the Ministry of Power to the Designated Consumer under sub-section (1) of section 14 (A) of Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

### JSW Group to set up plant in J&K

Mumbai: JSW Group Monday said it will invest ₹150 crore to set up a 1.2 lakh metric tonne color coated steel manufacturing facility in Jammu and Kashmir. The plant will be set up by group company JSW Steel, JSW Group said in a statement. "JSW has committed to setting up a state of the art color coated steel manufacturing facility of capacity 1,20,000 metric tons per annum along with special lines," it said. Steel sandwich panels and steel doors will be manufactured at the unit for the local market in Jammu and Kashmir, the statement said.

### ICICI shares zoom

Mumbai: Shares of ICICI Bank Monday jumped over 14 per cent after the company reported its highest ever quarterly profit on standalone basis at ₹5,511 crore for September quarter 2021-22. The stock zoomed 12.36 per cent to its 52-week high of ₹853 on BSE. On NSE, it jumped 14.18 per cent to its 52-week high of ₹867. ICICI Bank Saturday reported its highest ever quarterly profit on standalone basis at ₹5,511 crore for September quarter 2021-22.



By providing unbiased and objective assessments of whether public resources are managed responsibly and effectively to achieve the intended results, a fair and impartial audit instils confidence among citizens and stakeholders

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK

## AIRTEL ACCEPTS GOVT'S MORATORIUM OFFER

Bharti Airtel has informed the government that it will opt for the four-year moratorium on payment of AGR and spectrum dues, a source said. Airtel has told the government that it will take the four-year moratorium on AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) and spectrum dues with the option of prepaying as per NIA (Notice Inviting Applications) norms, the source said



## AMID COAL CRISIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Power Minister R K Singh Monday exuded confidence that there will be no power shortage in the country amid the ongoing low coal stocks at power plants and stressed on timely payments by distribution companies to the plants for electricity supplied to them.

After the virtual launch of the green day market for sale of renewable energy on exchanges, Singh assured, "There won't be any back down... There was no (power) outage yesterday. There was no (power shortage) and it did not happen even before. If there is some outage, then that is because of our own (states') constraints." According to the latest report

# No power crunch: Minister



of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) which monitors 135 plants with over 165GW capacity, thermal projects had 8.1 million tonne of coal October 23, 2021, which is sufficient for four days (for these

135 plants). Besides, the report showed as many as 49 non-pithead plants had less than four days or supercritical stock of dry fuel on Saturday compared to 62 such plants a week ago

THE MINISTER INFORMED THAT POWER PLANTS IN THE COUNTRY HAVE MORE THAN 8 MILLION TONNE OF COAL AT PRESENT

THE MINISTER ALSO DREW ATTENTION TOWARDS INEFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF CAPTIVE COAL MINES BY THE STATES

October 16. This shows gradual improvement in the coal stock situation at thermal power plants in the country.

About huge outstanding towards Coal India, he said, "There is around ₹16,000 crore which has not been paid to Coal India... unless and until discoms pays genscos (power generating firms) for the power supplied to them, the genscos would not be able to pay for coal."

He further informed, "The dues of all generating companies (excluding states owned) are ₹75,000 crore. How do you expect those generation companies to pay for coal or railways? This is not sustainable. Every state has to understand that electricity is not free."

About the gas shortage, the minister said, "If you (states or power generators) have an agreement with GAIL (for gas supply) why don't you renew that... People should not go scare mongering (about power outages)."

## BREAKING RECORDS

# Global VC investment soars past \$170 billion

As per the report, IPO activity was also very strong in India in July-Aug quarter of 2021, with indications that Oct-Dec period will be even stronger

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 25: This year's healthy level of Global VC investment showed no signs of stopping in Q3, 2021, setting a record for the third-straight time with \$171.7 billion across 8,682 deals.

An incredible amount of dry powder, increasing participation by less traditional VC investors, and robust exit opportunities helped keep the VC market very healthy according to the Q3, 2021 edition of Venture Pulse - a quarterly report published by KPMG Private Enterprise on VC trends globally and in key jurisdictions around the world.

Closer at home, India also saw a record 498 VC deals during the quarter - up from 376 the previous quarter with investors outside traditional VC firms taking part

in a number of deals in Q3, 2021 - including traditional PE firms, which have not historically been active in consumer tech deals in India.

Nitish Poddar, Partner and National Leader, Private Equity, KPMG in India said, "The money pouring into consumer tech companies, D2C companies, fintech companies and others here in India is only going to get stronger."

Amarjeet Singh, Partner KPMG in India says, "Over the last few quarters, we've seen big companies focusing on investing in and acquiring other companies and start-ups in different areas. They are slowly trying to move into the area of something called the super app an app that fits all the purposes that a consumer might need."

At the global level, during Q3, a record 11 deals at or over \$1 billion during the quarter helped propel VC investment to the new high. Global exit activity remained robust - with \$292 billion in exit value across 780 deals in Q3'21. This helped propel YTD totals over \$1 trillion - more than double the previous high of \$468 billion (set in 2020) with one quarter left in the year, said the report.

## Over 5K SMEs staring at huge losses

New Delhi: The Indian Industrial Value Chain Council (IIVCC), an organisation representing the interests of enterprises involved in the industrial production and consumption supply chain activities across the country, Monday flagged that more than 5,000 SMEs who are part of the aluminium value chain are at the risk of suffering huge losses if the present coal crisis confronting the primary aluminium industry is not urgently addressed. There are about 1,000 SMEs who are part of the supply chain and ancillaries of large aluminium producers and related input manufacturing industries, and about 4,000 SMEs who are involved in downstream aluminium manufacturing and distribution activities. Any major disruption in the market dynamics for aluminium in India will have an immediate severe financial impact on these smaller players. There is strong economic recovery and a sudden surge in demand across industries in the post pandemic period. At this juncture an acute shortage of coal on the back of supply constraints is hitting aluminium manufacturing hard and the industry is struggling to sustain operations with alarmingly depleted coal stocks of only 1.5-3 days as compared to the prescribed level of 15 days.

## SBI holds credit outreach programme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: As a part of the credit outreach programme phase II, State Bank of India in association with other banks organised an event at Kasturba Nari Mahal in the city.

The event was inaugurated by CS Setty, Managing Director (Retail & Digital Banking) of SBI and Ananta Narayan Jena, Central MLA was the Guest of Honour.

Setty applauded the bankers for stepping up lending process to agriculture, MSME, SHG and other priority sectors for empowerment of women. He said that higher credit off-take will help economic growth in the country. He urged bankers to augment focus on various sectors in the state for financial inclusion.

The participated banks showcased the products during the programme including housing, vehicle and other personal loans facilities. According to the official, over 6,500 borrowers were sanctioned loans to the tune of ₹397



crore during second phase. During the first phase of the credit outreach programme, 21,342 loans amounting to ₹869 crore were sanctioned in Odisha. Out of total, around ₹221 crore of loans were sanctioned to 4,408 applicants in Khurda district.

Vidya Krishnan- Chief General Manager, SBI Bhubaneswar Circle, C Udayabhaskar, Chief General Manager of NABARD, Pragyanmita Sahoo, Director of Institutional Finance, Odisha government, and Arupananda Jena, GM UCO Bank were present at the event.

# Govt notifies PLI scheme rules for specialty steel

THE FIVE CATEGORIES OF SPECIALTY STEEL WHICH HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PLI SCHEME ARE COATED/PLATED STEEL PRODUCTS, HIGH STRENGTH/WEAR RESISTANT STEEL, SPECIALTY RAILS, ALLOY STEEL PRODUCTS, STEEL WIRES AND ELECTRICAL STEEL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: The government Friday said it has notified guidelines for the recently announced Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for spe-



cialty steel.

July 22, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved the ₹6,322-crore PLI scheme to boost production of specialty steel in India, attract additional investment of about ₹40,000 crore and generate fresh 5.25 lakh job opportunities.

In a statement, the Ministry of Steel said that guidelines for an

effective operation and smooth implementation of PLI Scheme have been notified October 20, 2021 on the website of the ministry. Guidelines offer clarity on operational aspects of the scheme such as the application, eligibility, disbursement of incentive and so on.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Vice President Subhrakant Panda

said, "Odisha is now the hub of steel manufacturing in India. Given a conducive business environment, I am sure the state will benefit from PLI Scheme for specialty steel with existing and new investors looking to move up the value chain."

According to the guidelines available on the website of the steel ministry, a company looking to avail the benefits of the scheme should be registered in India under the Companies Act. As per the ministry statement, it is expected that the specialty steel production in India will become 42 million tonne by the end of 2026-27.

This will ensure that approximately 2.5 lakh crore worth of specialty steel will be produced and consumed in the country which would otherwise have been imported. Similarly, the export of specialty steel will become around 5.5 million tonne as against the current 1.7 million tonne.

## DoT amends telecom licence norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: The government Monday amended the telecom licence norms to reduce the tax burden on telecom operators by exempting all non-telecom revenues, income from dividends, interest, property sale and rent, among others, for calculation of levies like licence fees and spectrum usage charges.

The amendment forms part of the telecom package announced recently by the Centre.

The old definition of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) upheld by the Supreme Court had led to a burden of around ₹1.47 lakh crore on operating telecom service



providers, including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, and pushed the sector into deep financial crisis.

The exempted sources of revenue earned by telecom operators will be deducted from their gross revenue to calculate applicable adjusted gross revenue

(ApGR), as per amendments published by the Department of Telecom (DoT) Monday.

Thereafter, already exempted categories under old rules like roaming revenues, interconnection charges and goods and services tax revenue will be deducted to arrive at the final AGR on which the government calculates its share of revenue.

According to a latest report by sector regulator Trai, telecom operators' gross revenue declined by 3.08 per cent to ₹64,801 crore in April-June 2021 quarter but their AGR, on which levies are imposed, increased by 16.33 per cent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis to ₹51,335 crore, as per the old formula.

# Govt inks SPA with Tata Sons for Air India divestment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: The government Monday signed the share purchase agreement (SPA) with Tata Sons for the sale of national carrier Air India for ₹18,000 crore. Earlier this month, the government had accepted an offer by Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of the holding company of the salt-to-software conglomerate, to pay ₹2,700 crore cash and take over ₹15,300 crore of the airline's debt.

Following that, October 11 a Letter of Intenet (LoI) was issued to the Tata Group confirming the government's willingness to sell its 100 per cent stake in the airline.

Share Purchase Agreement signed today by Government with Tata Sons for strategic disinvestment of Air India, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management



(DIPAM) Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted. Air India Director - Finance Vinod Hejmdai, Civil Aviation Ministry Joint Secretary Satyendra Mishra and Supraprakash Mukhopadhyay from the Tata Group signed the share purchase agreement (SPA).

Tatas will also take over the capitalised lease liability on account of operating leases of ₹9,185 crore. Besides, some of these 141 planes are grounded due to maintenance issues. Also, there is an obsolescence factor as many of these aircraft are

NOW, VARIOUS REGULATORY CLEARANCES, INCLUDING FROM THE COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA (CCI), WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY TATA SONS BEFORE THE ACTUAL HANDOVER OF THE AIRLINE BY DECEMBER-END

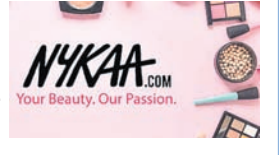
THE GOVERNMENT IS DIVESTING ITS 100% OWNERSHIP OF AIR INDIA AND AIR INDIA EXPRESS ALONG WITH ITS 50 PER CENT STAKE IN GROUND-HANDLING COMPANY AISATS

not fuel efficient.

While this will be the first privatisation since 2003-04, Air India will be the third airline brand in the Tatas' stable -- it holds a majority interest in AirAsia India and Vistara, a joint venture with Singapore Airlines Ltd.

## Bankers' comment on the future of AI

New Delhi: After the privatisation of Air India, the real question arises whether this move can turn around the government owned flag-carrier Indigo. Some investment bankers shed light on what is the real value of Air India and what other assets under the Maharaja can work in its favour. "To turn around an old legacy airline that has never made a profit is a challenging job even for the smartest owners... unless given a free hand to make changes, the airline is untouchable," says Nirmalya Kumar, a former senior executive with the Tatas and now a professor at Singapore Management University and INSEAD Emerging Markets Institute. Veteran investment banker Ajay Garg, founder and MD of Equirus Capital, feels Air India should have been privatised with its market share intact. "In a high operating cost business, once you lose market share it is difficult to come back. Air India should have been privatised when the aviation sector was opened up." Nitin Bhasin, head of research at Ambit Equity, says the sheer value of Air India's fully owned planes would be ₹20,000 crore. Its other assets can take its value up to ₹30,000 crore. There is no one way of valuing some intangible assets like prime landing slots at top airports across the world. While these slots can be sold, value would differ if taken as a bunch or individually, he added.



## BIZ BUZZ

### Starbucks eyes faster growth with new formats

New Delhi: Starbucks aims to hasten its India expansion with smaller stores and drive-through outlets, the CEO of its local partner said Monday, signalling the American coffee chain's bullish plans as the Covid-19 slowdown abates in the country. Launched in India in 2012, Tata Starbucks - a joint venture between Starbucks and India's Tata Consumer Products operates 233 outlets across 19 Indian cities. Both the partners "are driving Tata Starbucks to be far more aggressive in store openings, new formats, and in entering new cities," Sunil D'Souza, CEO of Tata Consumer Products, said Monday.



### Nykaa price band set at ₹1,085-1,125/share

New Delhi: FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd, which operates online beauty e-commerce platform Nykaa, Monday said it has fixed a price band of ₹1,085-1,125 per share for its initial public offer (IPO) that opens for subscription later this week. The IPO will open for subscription October 28 and conclude on November 1. It comprises of equity shares aggregating up to ₹630 crore and an offer for sale of up to 41,972,660 equity shares being offered by the selling shareholders (offer for sale or OFS), a statement said. The company is reportedly seeking a valuation of over \$7 billion. Existing investors like such as TPG Growth IV SF Pte, Lighthouse India Fund and others are expected to offload their shares in the IPO.

# Shami faces online abuse, gets support

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

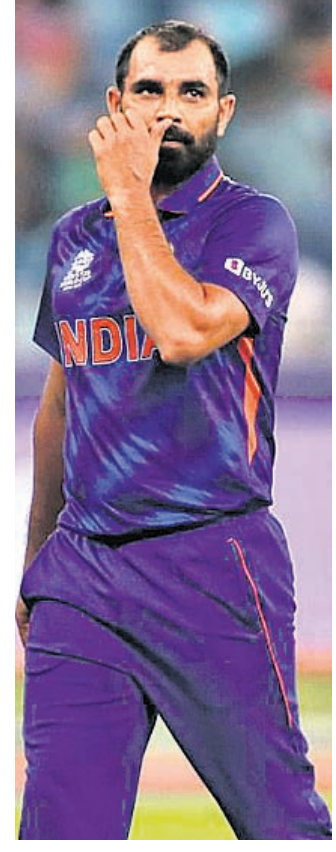
**Dubai, Oct 25:** Former and current India players, including Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag, Monday extended their support to pacer Mohammad Shami, who was subjected to a fierce online attack following the national team's first ever loss to Pakistan in World Cup history.

Politicians also rallied behind the cricketer with former Jammu and Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi condemning the targeting of Shami's religious identity by social media trolls.

India lost their T20 World Cup opener by 10 wickets Sunday with Shami emerging the most expensive bowler on the night, leaking 43 runs in 3.5 overs.

"When we support Team India, we support every person who represents Team India. Shami is a committed, world-class bowler. He had an off day like any other sportsperson can have. I stand behind Shami & Team India," tweeted the iconic Tendulkar.

"The online attack on Shami is shocking and we stand by him. He is a champion and anyone who wears the India cap has India in their hearts far more than any online mob. With you Shami. Agle match mein dikado jalwa," stated former India opener Sehwag.



Former India pacer Irfan Pathan described the attack on Shami as unprecedented. "Even I was part of IND v PAK battles on the field

where we have lost but never been told to go to Pakistan! I'm talking about Flag of India of few years back. THIS CRAP NEEDS TO STOP #Shami," he posted.

The trolls on social media linked his ordinary performance Sunday night to his religion which did not go down well with fellow netizens with several of them offering support to the 31-year-old.

"As far as I am concerned, this match itself should not have been played with Pakistan. Shami is being targeted for the defeat of the Indian team yesterday. This indicates that the radicalisation and hatred is growing against Muslims," Owaisi, who is head of the AIMIM party, said. "A cricket team will have 11 members. There is one Muslim in the team and he is being targeted," the Hyderabad MP said.

Abdullah, who is the vice president of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference party, said the Indian team's gesture of showing support to the 'Black Lives Matter' movement doesn't count for much given how Shami was targeted.

"Shami was one of 11 players who lost last night, he wasn't the only player on the field. Team India your BLM knee taking counts for nothing if you can't stand up for your teammate who is being horribly abused & trolled on social media," he tweeted.

# RP-SG Group, CVC Capital get new teams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Oct 25:** Kolkata-based business tycoon Sanjiv Goenka's RP-SG Group claimed the Lucknow franchise for a whopping Rs 7090 crore while international equity investment firm CVC Capital won the bid for Ahmedabad with a Rs 5600 crore offer as the eagerly-awaited two new IPL teams were unveiled here Monday.

The BCCI was expecting a windfall in the range of Rs 10,000 crore but to their surprise, earned Rs 12,690 crore from the two new teams that will take part in the 2022 IPL.

This news agency had reported Sunday that Goenka is one of the favourites to win a team after having been in the IPL for two years in 2016 and 2017 when he owned the Rising Pune Supergiants.

"BCCI is pleased to announce the



following successful bidders (subject to definitive documentation and other formalities being completed): 1. RPSG Ventures Ltd. - Lucknow (for Rs 7090 crores), 2. Irelia Company Pte Ltd. (CVC Capital Partners) - Ahmedabad (for Rs 5625 crores)," the Board stated in a press release.

The IPL 2022 season will comprise 10 teams and will have 74 matches, wherein each team will play seven home and seven away matches, the Board added.

One of the major companies that lost out was Gautam Adani's Adani Group which bid around Rs 5000 crore while bids of Glazers

from Manchester United and Torrent Group also fell short of the mark.

Twenty two companies have picked up tender document worth Rs 10 lakh but with base price for new teams pegged at Rs 2000 crore, only five to six serious bidders were in fray.

# Saina bags silver in Asian chess tourney

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 25:** Chess player and Woman Fide Master Saina Salonika won the individual silver medal in the Asian Youth Chess Championships 2021.

The online tournament was organised by the Asian Chess Federation on the 'Torneo Platform' and was played October 22 to 24. Players from 21 Asian countries participated in the Youth Championships in different age categories starting from under-eight to under-18.

Saina bagged the silver medal in the under-18 girls' category. In the nine matches she played, Saina won five, drew three and lost one

tie to the eventual champion. Saina who was seeded 13th in the tournament won three of her matches against players from Vietnam.

Among her two other victories one was against a Sri Lankan player and another against an Indian counterpart. She played out two of her three draws against Iranian opponents.

Susmita Bhowmick of India bagged the gold medal while Mohammadi Melika of Iran finished with the bronze in the same category.

Till date Saina has bagged 20 international medals including the one she won recently. Saina has also achieved two Women International Master norms till date.

# VERSTAPPEN EXTENDS F1 C'SHIP LEAD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Austin, Oct 25:** If there ever was a time for Max Verstappen to flinch in this riveting Formula One championship battle with Lewis Hamilton, it would have been in the closing laps of the US Grand Prix.

The young Dutchman seeking his first World Championship was being chased by the seven-time champion, and Hamilton was rapidly closing in on the lead under the hot Texas sun at the Circuit of the Americas.

The intensity of the tightest championship race in years might have derailed a different driver — especially when Hamilton pulled within one second on the final lap — but Verstappen thrived under pressure and won his eighth race of the season.

The victory doubled Verstappen's lead over Hamilton to 12 points in



the standings with five races remaining and could prove to be a pivotal win in this classic championship battle.

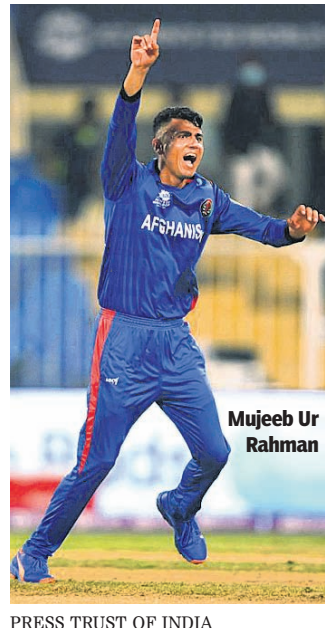
Verstappen and Red Bull won on a track where Hamilton and Mercedes have been dominant for years — Hamilton is a five-time winner at COTA — and he made Verstappen work for the win.

Hamilton chased Verstappen over the final 18 laps and maybe if there had been one more lap, he might have caught Verstappen and reclaimed the points lead. The 24-year-old now has some breathing room heading into Mexico City, a high-altitude stronghold for Red Bull.

Sunday was the final race in the Circuit's original 10-year contract, but the US GP is on the 2022 race calendar. Track President Bobby Epstein has said he expects to get a new long-term deal from F1.

Sergio Perez finished third to put both Red Bull's on the podium, but the Mexican raced without access to water and called it one of the most physical races he's ever experienced.

# Mujeeb spell helps Afghans rout Scots



Mujeeb Ur Rahman

the Scots 28/3. Wickets continued to tumble for Scotland George Munsey (25) was the only batter to offer some resistance.

Earlier, Nazibullah Zadran (59, 34b, 5x4, 3x6) struck a blistering half century, while Hazratullah Zazai (44, 30b, 3x4, 3x6) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (46, 37b, 1x4, 4x6) also produced solid knocks to help Afghanistan score their best-ever total in World T20. Mohammad Shahzad (22, 15b, 2x4, 1x6) too played a cameo at the top of the order.

Zazai played aggressively from the onset before his stay was cut short by Mark Watt (1/23) in the 10th over with Afghanistan reaching 82/2. Thereafter, Gurbaz and Zadran maintained the scoring rate as Afghanistan kept up the pressure on Scotland bowlers.

While Gurbaz played steadily from one end, Zadran was the aggressor as Afghanistan reached 127/2 after 15 overs. Gurbaz fell four runs short of his fifty off Josh Davey (1/41). With wickets in hand, Afghanistan gathered 63 runs in the last five overs. Safyaan Sharif (2/33) was the pick of the Scottish bowlers.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**AFGHANISTAN 190/4**  
(Nazibullah Zadran 59, Rahmanullah Gurbaz 46, Hazratullah Zazai 44; Safyaan Sharif 2/33)  
**beat SCOTLAND 60**  
(George Munsey 25; Mujeeb Ur Rahman 5/20, Rashid Khan 4/9) by 130 runs.

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