

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

The story is about a small Indian village but we are shooting it in Europe for safety reasons...

### RBI Governor gets 3-year extension

**NEW DELHI:** The government has extended the term of Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das by another three years up to December 2024, according to an official order. Das was appointed the RBI's 25th Governor December 11, 2018 for a period of three years after the abrupt resignation of his predecessor Urjit Patel. An official order dated October 28 said the government has reappointed Das as the RBI Governor for a period of three years beyond December 10, 2021. The decision was taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi. Das is the first RBI Governor to get extension after the BJP-led government came to power in 2014. Raghuram Rajan was denied extension in 2016, while Urjit Patel quit before completion of his three-year term.



### Fuel prices hiked for 3rd straight day

**NEW DELHI:** Fuel prices continued to surge to record high levels Friday, October 29, for the third straight day. In the national capital, petrol and diesel rates soared by 35 paise to cost ₹108.64 and ₹97.37 per litre respectively, according to Indian Oil Corporation. In Mumbai, a litre of petrol now costs ₹114.47, and diesel is sold at ₹105.49 per litre. Petrol price in Chennai moved above the ₹105 per litre-mark and is currently sold at ₹105.43 per litre; while diesel rate stood at ₹101.59 per litre.

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DIESEL	₹106.24 (+0.39)

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## CM raises demand for AIIMS at Sundargarh

■ Patnaik demands 60% share in the clean energy cess collected from Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday raised the demand for the establishment of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Sundargarh during a meeting with Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. Joshi along with Union Minister of State (MoS) for Railways, Coal & Mines Raosaheb Patil Danve met the Chief Minister here at Naveen Niwas. During the meeting, Patnaik said the integrated campus for a 500-bed hospital and 100-seat medical college at Sundargarh has been completed by the National Thermal Power Corporation. However, it is yet to be operationalised. The Chief Minister hoped that considering Sundargarh's contribution in providing energy security to the country and to the national development in terms of steel and iron ore production, the Centre

will come forward to fulfill the long-standing demand of the people of this tribal-dominated district for an AIIMS. Patnaik also requested the Union Minister for early functioning of MCL Medical College & Hospital at Talcher where infrastructure is ready. This 500-bed and 100-seat medical college and hospital will benefit the people of Dhenkanal and Angul, he added. The CM also put forth a demand before the Union Coal Minister to provide to the state at least 60 per cent share in the clean energy cess collected from Odisha. In the year 2020-21 Odisha produced 153.85 million tonnes of coal contributing to about 25 per cent of the country's production. Government of India collects clean energy cess @ ₹400 per tonne which amounts to more than ₹50,000 crore. Thus, 60 per cent of the cess will give Odisha an amount of ₹30,000 crore, which can be utilised for the economic development of coal mining areas and the affected people, Patnaik said. Besides, it will accelerate the state's development in the aftermath of the pandemic, he added.

## PROVE ME GUILTY

■ Dibya Shankar Mishra claims he has nothing to do with the crime, while his family files defamation suit against three media houses for running a 'smear campaign' against him

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** After receiving criticism from various quarters, Minister of State (MoS) Dibya Shankar Mishra broke his silence on the sensational Mamita Meher murder case. Issuing a written statement, Mishra said he is deeply saddened and anguished by the unfortunate death of Mamita. "I am a father and I can understand the trauma the family must be going through. My deepest condolences to the family of Mamita. The guilty must be given strictest punishment as per law," he said. The Minister said he was shocked by the manner in which certain media houses have launched a malicious character assassination campaign based on falsehood against him. The smear campaign launched



**A crime happening in any one of the institutions that I have visited as a guest for functions cannot be attributed to me**

**DIBYA SHANKAR MISHRA**  
MINISTER OF STATE, HOME

by the media houses has hurt his family and therefore his family has filed criminal and civil defamation cases against three regional media groups. "This malicious smear campaign by these media and Opposition political parties marks a new low in the political discourse of Odisha, especially where certain sections of media are being used for narrow political gains at

the cost of truth, empathy and sensitivity in heinous offences," he said. As an MLA as well as an ex-Air Force officer, he has attended functions at many educational in-

### MAMITA MURDER CASE

stitutions, Mishra said, adding in fact, public representatives are supposed to attend functions in educational institutions. "Therefore, a crime happening in any one of the institutions that I have visited as a guest for functions cannot be attributed to me," he clarified. He urged Opposition parties and media to take up the matter with the police or courts if they have an iota of evidence against him in this matter. "I will not only resign from my position but will also retire from public life, but don't indulge in smear campaigns with personal political agenda," the minister said. "I had left the high paying job of a pilot and joined politics to serve the people of Junagarh and Kalahandi. I swear in the name of Maa Manikeswari on whom I as well as the people of Kalahandi have deep faith, that I have nothing to do with this offence," he added.

## Orissa HC asks govt to decide on green crackers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 29:** The Orissa High Court Friday asked the state government to make a decision on the sale and use of green crackers during Diwali by November 1. The court's directive came on a petition by the All Odisha Fireworks Dealers' Association and others against the Special Relief Commissioner's September 30 order prohibiting sale and use of fire-crackers during the festive season between October 1 and November 1 to protect the health of the general public and curb the spread of Covid-19 infection. A bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BP Routray asked the SRC to hear the petitioners in his office Saturday and make a decision on the issue on or before 10.30 am Monday. The high court posted the matter for further hearing at 2 pm Monday. The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation, which is under the Union government, informed the court that it has no objection to sale and use of authorised green fireworks during Diwali. **MORE P3**

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	59306.93	↓ 677.77
NIFTY	17671.70	↓ 185.60
DOLLAR	74.94	↓ ₹0.02
EURO	86.93	↓ ₹0.05
GOLD	₹47,480	↓ ₹481
SILVER	₹64,265	↓ ₹666

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	29.6°C	29.2°C
TEMP MIN	24.0°C	23.4°C
Humidity	82%	83%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

**WE FOUND OUT BLUE IS OUR FAVOURITE COLOUR, WHEN WE WENT SHOPPING TOGETHER.**

- Priya and her mom rediscovered *Asli Wali Shopping* at Esplanade One.

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Shop for Rs.15,000 and get a Gift Voucher or Boat Earphones\* | Shop for Rs.10,000 and get a Gift Voucher\*

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# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Joining a yoga class will be a good decision. You should try ayurvedic foodstuffs too. You may expect a lot of new things to happen today. Ganesh advises you not to worry as there is a good amount of money coming up for you.

**TAURUS**  
Your monetary problems will continue to bother you, predicts Ganesh. You will not let small expenses get in the way of things. You may make money from different sources. If you stay independent, then you may generate wonderful results at the workplace, hopes Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you will be emotional and practical at the same time. Academically, you will be at the top of your game. People around you will be swept away by your charming and intelligent ways. By evening, you will divert your mind towards beautifying your home, feels Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will make a strong impact with whatever you do today, Ganesh says that you will feel joy in a romantic interlude. Ties with life partner will be stronger and you will enjoy domestic bliss. A situation might arise where you have to draw lines and take side with a circle of friends.

**LEO**  
With today's alignment of your planets, Ganesh foresees you heading for a shopping bonanza. Be prepared to come back home weighed down with goodies, as you are likely to squander a considerable amount on them. On the work front, it's a completely different story as you display your maturity and mellowness.

**VIRGO**  
Homesickness will make you yearn and leave you musing during the day. You will try making sincere efforts to add more fibres to the cloth of relationships. Energy levels will go bonkers today. All in all, Ganesh sees a sanctified day.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will think of restyling or renovating your home today. You shall be able to style your house with artifacts or beautiful paintings. You will invite your friends to your home in the evening and enjoy spending time with them. You may try your luck today in the share market and you can hope to make substantial gains.

**SCORPIO**  
You are on a mission to solve all the pending problems, by finding their solutions today itself. And very aptly, your optimistic attitude and creative outlook would come to rescue you in difficult moments. At this point of time, even your colleagues and superiors support you, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
The day begins with lots of challenges, says Ganesh. Isolated or a one man army, you may have to resolve problems and cross hurdles on your own. Your skills and resourcefulness will go through a rigorous polishing today, may be in a not-so-happening style.

**CAPRICORN**  
You'll be over-emotional during the first half of the day. You've been quiet for a long period now, and it will be emotionally and physically exhausting for you to express your tensions, fears, dreams, regrets and sorrows, feels Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
Cleaning up the clutter, either at your home or office, will be priority number one. Grab this chance to impress your boss or spouse and make your personal space squeaky clean. A dinner by candlelight with your beloved will ease your tired muscles, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
You will find yourself in a nostalgic frame of mind today, and will attempt to reach out to long lost friends and relatives, says Ganesh. It is also a good day for social and religious activities. You will also relate to your work rather emotionally.



## SIGOURNEY'S THE LOST FLOWERS OF ALICE HART STARTS FILMING

Sigourney Weaver-starring series *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* has begun filming in Australia. Produced by Amazon Prime Video, Made Up Stories and Endeavor Content, it will be presented as an Amazon original in 2022.

## JASON TESTS COVID +VE WHILE FILMING AQUAMAN SEQUEL

Actor Jason Momoa has been filming the superhero film *Aquaman* sequel in the UK, but insiders have shared that he is now isolating after testing positive for Covid-19. His fans are looking forward to having him back on set.



# Anushka calls herself 'WhatsApp uncle'

**Mumbai:** Actress Anushka Sharma is currently in UAE with her husband Virat Kohli and daughter Vamika. She recently had returned to Mumbai to finish her brand commitments. After wrapping up her shoots, she jetted off to UAE with her daughter to be with Virat. Friday morning, the actress shared a stunning picture of the sunrise on her Instagram story. In her post, she went on to call herself 'WhatsApp uncle' for sharing the sunrise picture. Offering a glimpse of the city skyline, she wrote, "I'm your Whatsapp uncle wishing you good morning every day!" Earlier, she had also shared an adorable picture of Virat playing with Vamika in her play area at home. Fans couldn't stop gushing over the father-daughter duo. Sharing the picture with her fans, Anushka wrote, "My whole heart in one frame." Meanwhile, Anushka has taken

the viral Jugnu challenge and recorded an entertaining dance video. Virat and Anushka welcomed their first child, Vamika in January this year. After her birth, they chose to protect their daughter from social media. On the work front, Sharma was last seen in Aanand L Rai's *Zero* with Katrina Kaif and Shah Rukh Khan. She is producing *Qala*, which marks late actor Irrfan Khan's son Babil's debut.

AGENCIES



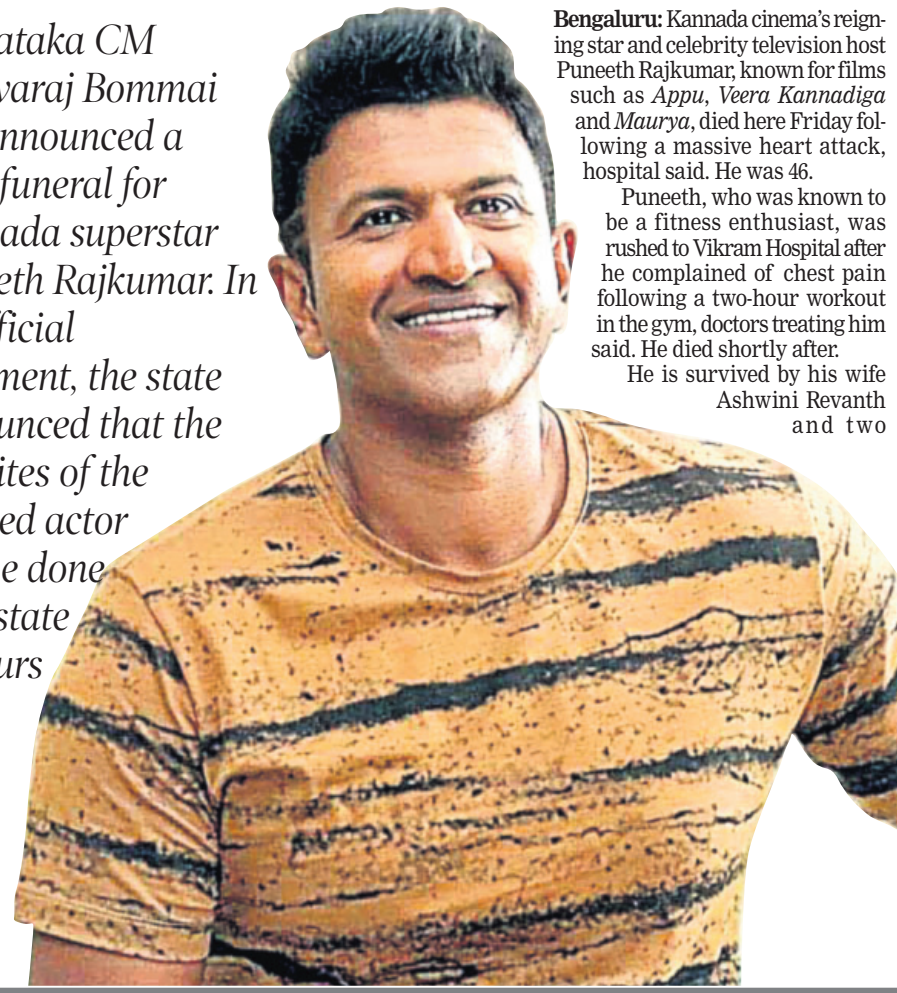
# Priyanka supports Vir Das

**Mumbai:** Actor Priyanka Chopra gave a nod to Vir Das who took a dig at those people who usually mock Indians for choreographing their steps to music in Hindi films. Sharing an almost month-old video of Vir Das, Priyanka wrote, "Speak the truth @virdas". In the video, the comedian-actor is seen talking about Instagram reels and TikTok where users dance to the song lyrics and said "Think about this for a second. For years, Bollywood songs were shot in crowded places, tourist destinations. So we Indians would go to these crowded places and suddenly start doing choreographed steps to music and do lip synch-

ing and everybody including some Indians are like, "What is up with these Indians?" Now years later all you do on Instagram and TikTok is head to crowded places and do choreographed steps lip synching songs that you never sang. You aren't original." In the original video shared by Vir Das, netizens can be seen debating on his thought. While the majority of the people agreed with him, others simply claimed that the content is not real. One user commented, "fully agree. Have been telling this for a while." "@virdas so on point man!!!!!! Amusing hypocrisy" said another, while one wrote, "unoriginal. just like remixes on tiktok". On the work front, Priyanka was last seen shooting for *Citadel* in Spain.



# Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai has announced a state funeral for Kannada superstar Puneeth Rajkumar. In an official statement, the state announced that the last rites of the beloved actor will be done with state honours



**Bengaluru:** Kannada cinema's reigning star and celebrity television host Puneeth Rajkumar, known for films such as *Appu*, *Veera Kannadiga* and *Maurya*, died here Friday following a massive heart attack, hospital said. He was 46.

Puneeth, who was known to be a fitness enthusiast, was rushed to Vikram Hospital after he complained of chest pain following a two-hour workout in the gym, doctors treating him said. He died shortly after.

He is survived by his wife Ashwini Revanth and two

# Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar dies at 46

daughters Dhriti and Vanditha. Restless fans milled around the hospital complex as news came in of the sudden death of the actor, the son of much loved matinee idol Rajkumar who fast outgrew his father's shadow to carve a place all his own in the Kannada showbiz industry. Puneeth's body will be kept at the Kanteerava Stadium to enable the public to pay their last respects, state minister R Ashoka told reporters. He said Puneeth's last rites will be performed with full state honours and the family will decide when it will happen.

According to the hospital, the actor was brought to the hospital with a family doctor diagnosing that he had had a heart attack. "At the time of arrival to the emergency, the patient was non responsive and was in cardiac asystole. Hence, immediate advanced cardiac life support measures were initiated for resuscitation. "The panel of medical experts extended all efforts to save him. He was declared dead at 2.30 pm on 29.10.2021," read the statement by Dr Ranganath Nayak, a cardiologist at Vikram Hospital. Condolences at the death of the actor, who began his career as a child artiste appearing in movies such as *Thayige Thakka Maga* and *Bagyavantha*, poured in from political leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, colleagues in the

southern film industry as well as those in Bollywood — their messages echoing his legions of fans grieving the hero who had gone too soon. Sharing a picture with the actor and his family, the Prime Minister said, "A cruel twist of fate has snatched away from us a prolific and talented actor, Puneeth Rajkumar. This was no age to go. The coming generations will remember him fondly for his works and wonderful personality. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti." Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was among the first to condole the death. "A huge personal loss and one that's difficult to come to terms with. Praying the almighty gives the Rajkumar family and fans the strength to bear this loss," he tweeted, "the Chief Minister said. Bommai said the actor was supposed to meet him Friday to plan Kannada Rajyotsava November 1. "But the destiny had something else in store. Instead of meeting me, he went somewhere else. This is extremely shocking," the CM told reporters. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also paid her condolences. "A bright star. He had a long promising career ahead. My condolences to his family, his innumerable fans and followers," she posted on Twitter.

## PEANUTS



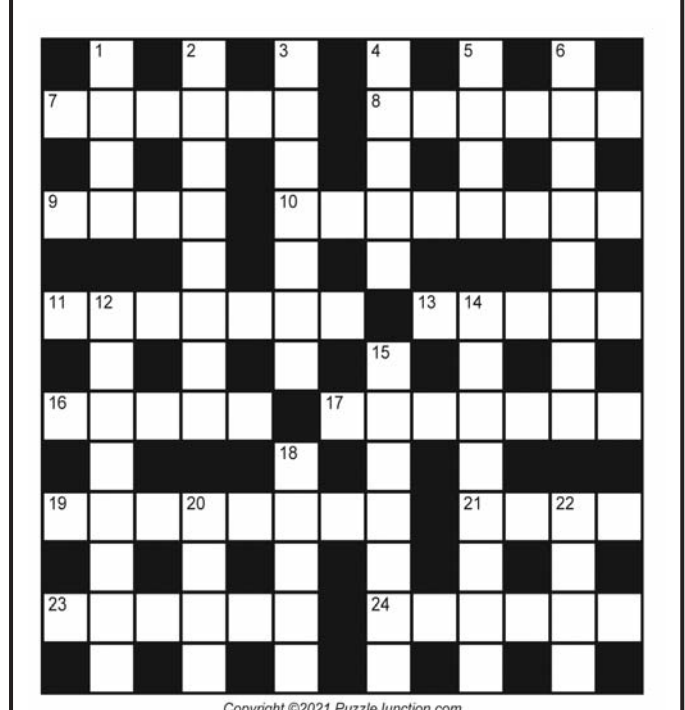
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



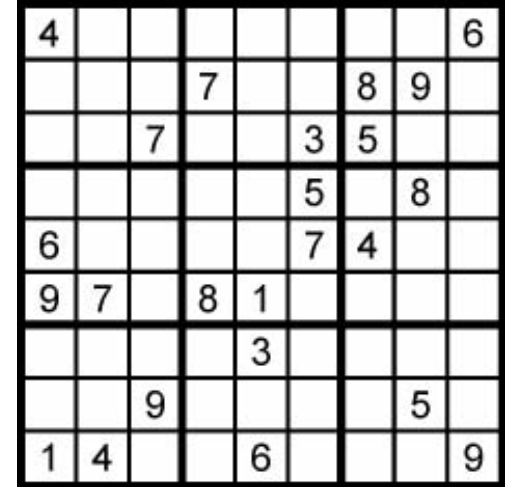
## FUN post CROSSWORD



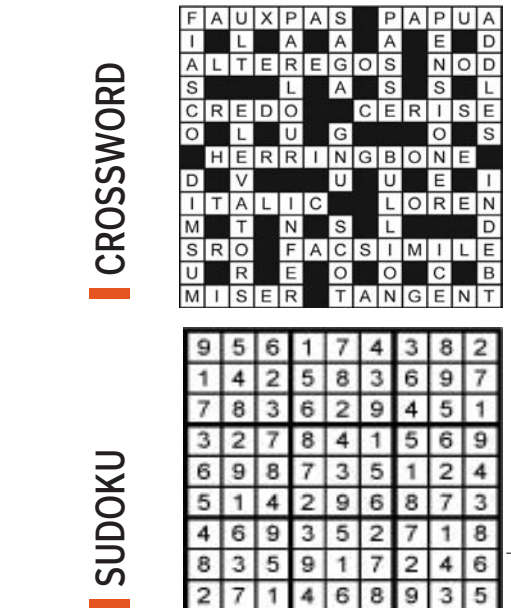
- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 7 Steam
  - 8 Tarzan, for one (3-3)
  - 9 Hops kiln
  - 10 Playful Pacific mammal (3,5)
  - 11 Looks up to
  - 13 Eucalyptus eater
  - 16 Trent or Tyne, e.g.
  - 17 He was for the birds
  - 19 "Farewell" (2,6)
  - 21 Beige
  - 23 End of a threat (2,4)
  - 24 Shallow-water echinoderm
- Down**
- 1 Semarang locale
  - 2 Herbivorous land turtle
  - 3 Flying toy
  - 4 Long-tailed parrot
  - 5 Nudnik
  - 6 Napoleon's undoing
  - 12 Rum cocktail
  - 14 Great wealth
  - 15 Make haste (5,2)
  - 18 Rival of Paris
  - 20 Fish caught in pots
  - 22 Destroy

## 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



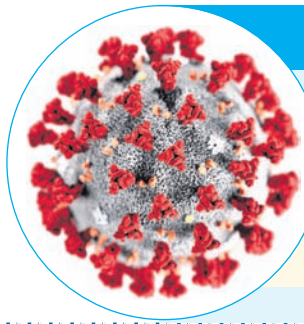
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



EVICTED DRIVE

Illegal structures near Puri district headquarters hospital being demolished by the civic authorities, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

Table with 4 columns: Category, Infected, Recovered, Dead. Rows for World, India, and Odisha.

State tops country in short-circuit deaths

ODISHA RANKS SECOND AFTER BIHAR IN TERMS OF CASUALTIES DUE TO 'FORCES OF NATURE'



Altogether 437 males and 53 females in Odisha have lost their lives due to electric short-circuit last year, claims the NCRB report

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Odisha has topped the country in terms of deaths due to fire caused by electric short-circuit during 2020...

Similarly, 1,711 persons died after accidentally falling off from buildings, vehicles and into man-holes or pits. Odisha holds the third spot after Maharashtra (3,326) and Gujarat (1,837).

Firecrackers with Barium salts banned: SC

New Delhi, Oct 29: The Supreme Court Friday clarified that there is no total ban on use of firecrackers and only those fireworks which contain Barium salts are prohibited.



Under the guise of celebration, nobody can be permitted to infringe the right to health of others, guaranteed under Article 21, ruled the SC

nobody can be permitted to infringe the right to health of others, guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and nobody can be permitted to play with the life of the others, more particu-

found to be injurious to health and affecting the health of the citizens, more particularly the senior citizens and the children," the bench said.



People buying idols of Lord Ganesh and Goddess Laxmi from a stall in Balubazar area of Cuttack ahead of the Diwali festival, Friday

Traffic comes to a halt as jumbos cross NH 16

Khurda, Oct 29: Vehicular traffic on National Highway 16 was interrupted for quite some time as a herd of 17 elephants crossed the road near Gayabandha Square here to return to the nearby forests Friday morning.



and Bhusandpur areas of Khurda since last many days. "The villagers are being forced to stay indoors after the sunset. The officials of the Forest department are yet to introduce some concrete steps to tackle the jumbo menace," added Narendra.

Pact with EY to quicken SDG achievement

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: The state government Friday signed a contract with the Ernst and Young (EY) to set up a project monitoring unit (PMU) for expeditious achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-2030.



SDGs-2030. "The PMU will work closely with different departments in a collaborative manner to achieve the SDGs-2030 on a mission mode. It would also work towards improving the state's score in the Multidimensional Poverty Index," Jena said.

THE MAIN TASK OF THE PROJECT MONITORING UNIT WOULD BE TO CONSOLIDATE AND SYSTEMATISE THE DATA RELATING TO VARIOUS SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES

Union ministers at Lord's abode



Puri, Oct 29: Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and MoS, Railways Raosaheb Patil Danve had a darshan of the Srimandir deities here Friday, an official said.

DRIVERS RALLY FOR 'COVID WARRIOR' TAG

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Hundreds of drivers took out a padyatra here Friday to highlight their 10-point charter of demands including 'Covid-19 Warrior' status.

SC adjourns hearing on Kotia row with AP

New Delhi, Oct 29: The Supreme Court Friday adjourned the hearing of a contempt petition filed by Odisha against Andhra Pradesh for allegedly violating the apex court's order by transgressing into Odisha's territory.



transgressing into Odisha's territory. The apex court in its order of 1968 and 2006 judgement had asked the two states to maintain status quo on the boundary dispute with regard to Kotia group of villages with the consent of both states.

SOA partners in launching of Cochrane India Network

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: The Institute of Dental Sciences (IDS) at SOA here has become one of the nine affiliate centres of Cochrane India Network (CIN) which was launched virtually this week to help anyone interested in healthcare knowledge to access such information.

Now, app to help protect endangered Olive Ridley

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (FARD) Minister Arun Sahoo Friday launched Fisher Friend Mobile Application (FFMA) that would not only alert fishermen regarding no-fishing zones declared for protection of Olive Ridley turtles but will also strengthen the safety and security of the fishermen while at sea.



The mobile application won't need cellular network coverage. It will work in offline mode in the outer sea which will help alert the fishing boats to stay away from the fishing ban areas where the marine reptile congregate for mass nesting, said the minister

application also sports features for providing fishing boats with near real-time information regarding weather, potential fishing zones, ocean state forecasts and disaster alerts.

# 56 children among 365 fresh Covid infections

On Thursday, 2.47 lakh doses were administered across 1,912 vaccination centres in state



ODISHA HAS SO FAR FULLY INOCULATED 1,12,34,317 PEOPLE BY ADMINISTERING DOUBLE DOSES OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

THE STATE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO GIVE AT LEAST ONE DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE TO THE ENTIRE ELIGIBLE POPULATION BY DEC 31

PRESENTLY, 2.5 LAKH TO 3 LAKH PEOPLE ARE BEING VACCINATED DAILY, WHICH IS LESS THAN THE GOVERNMENT'S DAILY TARGET OF 4 LAKH

Thursday. Odisha has thus far conducted over 2.18 crore sample tests including 66,610 Thursday and the cumulative positivity rate stands at 4.76 per cent. The state has so far fully inoculated 1,12,34,317 people by administering double doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. The H&FW Director Bijay Kumar Panigrahi, who is also the coastal state's nodal officer for immunisation, said that the government plans to give at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine to the entire eligible population by December 31. He also said that presently, 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh people are being vaccinated daily, which is less than the government's daily target of 4 lakh. On Thursday, 2.47 lakh doses were administered across 1,912 vaccination centres, he said.

were local contacts. Khurda district, of which the state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the highest of 157 cases, followed by Cuttack (34). Khurda alone accounted for over 43 per cent of the day's caseload. The state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) is 0.54 per cent as 365 people tested positive out of 66,610 samples tested Thursday. The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said that the Covid-19 death toll in Odisha rose to 8,325 Friday as three more patients from Khurda, Angul and Balasore succumbed to the disease. The state currently has 4,563 active Covid-19 cases while as many as 10,27,654 patients have recovered from the disease, including 546

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** Odisha Friday logged 365 fresh Covid-19 cases including 56 children, taking the state's tally to 10,40,595 while three new fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,325, a Health department official said. The state had reported 412 new cases Thursday, 549 Wednesday, 433 Tuesday, and 425 Monday. The rate of infection among children and adolescents in the age group of 0 to 18 years was 15.34 per cent against the previous day's 15.29 per cent. Of the 365 new cases detected in 24 of the state's 30 districts, 212 were reported from quarantine centres while the remaining 153



Activists of AIDS, AIDYO and AIMSS hold a demonstration at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Friday, seeking an impartial inquiry into the murder case of teacher Mamita Meher

## JTPS COP RIDES BIKE INTO SRIGUNDICHA

**Puri, Oct 29:** A personnel of Jagannath Temple Police Service (JTPS) reportedly entered into the Gundicha temple here on a bike. The incident invited widespread criticisms from locals as well as devotees. "The JTPS personnel rode a bike into Srigundicha temple through the gate, well-known for the Pahandi procession of Lord Jagannath during the Rath Yatra. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration should probe the incident and take stern action against the person concerned," said Dillip Baral, a devotee. SJTA administrator (development) Ajay Kumar Jena said the shrine authorities have started a probe into the incident.

## W&CD dept thrust on kids' safety during disaster

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** The state Women and Child Development (W&CD) department Friday organised a webinar to mark the state level observation day on Disaster Risk Reduction for Children. Disaster Risk Reduction for Children aims at institutional safety activities centered on disaster risk reduction. This includes mitigation, preparedness and formulation of a disaster management plan for child care institutions. Director of Integrated Child Development Service and Social Welfare (ICDS & SW) Aravind Agrawal reflected on the govern-

**The comprehensive package on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for Child Care Institution (CCI) is an important step in this regard and is an outcome of joint efforts of the W&CD department and Unicef, with support from Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)** ARAVIND AGRAWAL | DIRECTOR, INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE AND SOCIAL WELFARE  
ment's commitment to ensure that all institutions and functionaries in the state provide safety and security to children during disaster. "The comprehensive package on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for Child Care Institution (CCI) is an important step in this regard and is an outcome of joint efforts of the W&CD department and Unicef, with support from Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)," he said. Addressing the participants, W&CD Minister Tukuni Sahu emphasised on the state government's commitment towards safety, protection and well-being of children who are the future of the country. She acknowledged the support of

Unicef and OSDMA for developing the DRR package for CCI. W&CD principal secretary Anu Garg appreciated the proactive response of CCIs during disaster, especially during Covid-19 emergency. She said that the DRR package and capacity building efforts will enable the CCIs for better and effective preparedness for children's security. Unicef Chief of Field Office Monika Nielsen said that the Unicef has been closely working with W&CD department towards improving preparedness, capacity building and inculcation of risk-informed programming strategies right at the most elementary level of institutions.

## Mobile schools to bridge learning gap

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** The state government has launched School Sanjog Programme, an initiative of mobile schools in van for Class I to V students from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) communities. The pandemic induced compulsion of classroom learning being shifted to online learning has denied education to many children in PVTG areas, due to lack of access to smart phones or internet connection, said an official here Thursday. Through this mobile school in van initiative, which is aimed at reaching out to children in PVTG communities, would not only help maintain continuity in learning but also can address prevention of school dropout, the official said. ST/SC Development Minister Jagannath Saraka said proper education has always been a challenge for children in PVTG communities and the situation has worsened due to closure of schools on account of the pandemic. Thus, the School Sanjog Programme will make a significant move towards reaching out to the children in PVTG areas, who are missing out on learning, he said.



Biswaranjan Mallick (C), a former BJP leader from Bari Assembly constituency, joins Biju Janata Dal at the headquarters of the regional party in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## New office bearers for BJD women wing's Bhub unit

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has announced the names of 12 vice-presidents, 15 general secretaries, 21 secretaries and a digital secretary for the Bhubaneswar unit of Biju Mahila Janata Dal, the women wing of the party. The names of new office-bearers for Biju Mahila Janata Dal, Bhubaneswar unit, were announced as per the request of BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, said a release of the party. The names of the new office bearers were declared under the

## Driver kills self under road roller

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** A youth Friday committed suicide by jumping before a road roller at Bharatpur here. The deceased was identified as Nilamani Debata, 32, of Bolagada area in Khurda district. According to sources, Debata was the driver of the road roller under which he ended his life. He, along with his wife, was staying at Sai Vihar under Bharatpur police limits. The couple had come to Bhubaneswar few months back after a dispute with the family members. Debata received a call from his wife while he was driving the road roller Friday afternoon. Soon they engaged in a heated argument over some family issues. All of a sudden, the man jumped of his seat and slept before the roller that ran over his head leaving him dead on the spot. Police rushed to the spot and sent his body to a local hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead. His body was later sent to a government hospital for post mortem. The cops began an investigations into the matter after registering a case (144/21) in this regard.

# Swarnim Vijay Varsh: Victory Flame reaches City

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** The 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' Victory Flame, which commemorates 50 years of the 1971 Indo-Pak war, arrived at Bhubaneswar Military Station Friday. The flame, which was brought from INS Chilka, was handed over to Brigadier Prashant Chauhan, Sena Medal, Commander, Chattisgarh & Odisha Sub Area at the 120 Infantry Battalion (TA) Bihar Quarter Guard. Several events, including felicitation of 1971 war veterans and commemoration events, are planned to be held at the Governor's House, Rabindra Mandap, DAV School (Unit 8), Sainik School (Bhubaneswar), NCC Camp, Sector headquarters of BSF and OUAAT. The Victory Flame will also be



taken to the homes of 1971 war veterans in Bhubaneswar as a mark of respect. To encourage patriotism and motivate the youth, the flame will also be taken to Puri beach, and various educational institutions in and around Bhubaneswar and Puri. Subsequently, the flame will continue its journey in Odisha towards Balasore Military Station. The journey of the victory flame to Bhubaneswar began from INS Chilka, from where the Indian Army brought it to the Bhubaneswar Military Station and now occupies a place of pride in the hallowed portals of the Quarter

The flames have been sent to all four directions of the country to spread the message of India's victory and sacrifices made by the armed forces

India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war. The celebrations were flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by lighting four Swarnim Vijay Mashaal, also called the Victory Flames, from the 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' at National War Memorial, New Delhi December 16, 2020.

The flames have been sent to all four directions of the country to spread the message of India's victory and sacrifices made by the armed forces. The Southern Cardinal Flame started its journey in Odisha from October 20, which will continue till November 7.



**WASSUP TODAY BHUBANESWAR**  
Award of Odisha CSR Forum, Hotel The New Marrian, Janpath, 10am  
Meet of Bhubaneswar Sahitya Samaj Trust, Soochana Bhawan, 6pm  
**CUTTACK**  
AITUC demo against labour and agr laws, district Collector's office, 11:30am  
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MAMITA MEHER MURDER

BJP central leaders seek impartial probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantabanji, Oct 29: A central team of the BJP met lady teacher Mamita Meher's family at Jharni village under Turekela block in Bolangir district Friday and demanded an impartial probe into the brutal murder case.

The team comprising MP Sunita Duggal, BJP Mahila Morcha president W Srinivasan and MLA Rupa Mitra interacted with the parents of the deceased teacher for over one and a half hours. During their talks with the Meher's family, no media persons were allowed. However, later the BJP leaders told media that those who would be found guilty in the murder case should be punished.

"As a question arises about complicity of Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra in the murder case, he should be ousted from his post so that an impartial investigation into the murder can be possible," they observed. Duggal said they would visit the ground zero and take stock of the situation. "We collected information from parents of Mamita Meher and will give a report to the national president of the BJP about the gruesome murder. The BJP delegation demanded capital punishment for the accused and a CBI probe into it.



The BJP central team was accompanied by Bolangir MP Sangita Kumari Singhdeo, former Patanagarh MLA Kanak Bardhan Singhdeo and several other leaders. They said they would visit Mahaling area where Mamita was buried in a pit. Later, they would meet Kalahandi Collector before leaving for Bhubaneswar where they will address a presser. This visit came a day after the visit of a central team of the Congress leaders including Randeep Surjewala.

Meher Samaj stages protests

Bhwaniapatna: Activists of Kalahandi Meher Samaj staged protests over abduction and murder of teacher Mamita Meher here Friday. They took out a rally from DIET office to the SP office in Bhwaniapatna.

The agitating people demanded CBI probe into the Mamita murder case, capital punishment to prime accused Gobinda Sahu and ₹2 crore compensation to the family of the deceased. They also demanded that the stadium where Mamita's body was burned and buried should be named after the victim. They submitted a memorandum to the SP in this regard.

Saffron party to observe 12-hr Boudh bandh today

Boudh: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has called for a 12-hour bandh in Boudh, demanding CBI probe into the gruesome murder of lady teacher Mamita Meher and ouster of Minister of State for Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra, for his alleged complicity with the case. The saffron party will observe the bandh Saturday.

Addressing a presser here Friday, BJP leaders said the minister should be ousted as he has links with Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the murder case. They demanded a CBI probe into the case. The leaders stated that all government offices, shops, markets and schools will remain closed during the bandh while vehicular movements will not be allowed in the district. However, essential services like ambulance, fire brigade, milk van and medicine shops will be kept outside the bandh's purview.

Group clash in Kendrapara leaves 3 grievously injured

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patkura, Oct 29: As many as three persons sustained grievous injuries in a violent clash that erupted between two rival factions at Nuapada market under Patkura tehsil in Kendrapara Thursday evening. The injured were rushed to Kendrapara district headquarters hospital (DHH). Later, two of them were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack after their condition deteriorated, a police official said.

According to a source, the two rival factions indulged in a clash after a youth named Bibhu Sahoo and one of his relatives belonging to one group were attacked by the other group at the Nuapada market. A faction that supported Sahoo counter-attacked members of the rival group with cricket stumps and wooden planks following an altercation. Three were critically injured in the incident, the official added. Local shopkeepers immediately pulled their shutters fearing further violence. Police forces were deployed keeping in mind the palpable tension that prevailed at Nuapada market after the group clash. On being informed by shopkeepers, Patkura police reached the market and launched a probe into the incident. "A youth named Bibhu Sahoo had gone to Nuapada market along with his brother when they were attacked by a rival faction," Patkura IIC Saroj Sahu said.

TUSKER TRAMPLES YOUTH TO DEATH IN ANGUL DIST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhendipada, Oct 29: In yet another incident of man-elephant conflict, a tusker trampled a youth to death at Para village under Jarapada range in Angul district Friday. The deceased has been identified as Somnath Sahu of Para village.

According to the forest department, Sahu was returning home from his vegetable farm near Panasatoila at around 7 am. Suddenly, a tusker came out of nearby forest, leaving no time for Sahu to escape. It took him with its trunk, slammed to the ground and trampled him to death. As the news spread, tension gripped the locality for some time with angry villagers blocking Munda Sahi-Antulia stretch of the PWD road. They demanded compensation for the bereaved family. On getting information, officials of Jarapada forest department and a team from Jarapada police station reached the spot and tried to pacify the agitating villagers. The protest was called off only after the forest department officials assured them of compensation as per the government guidelines. The police recovered the body and sent it to Angul district headquarters hospital (DHH) for post mortem.

Long Range Bomb flight-tested

AGENCIES

Balalore, Oct 29: The Defence Research and Development Organisation and Indian Air Force team successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed Long Range Bomb from an aerial platform here Friday. Defence sources said.

The LR Bomb after release from the IAF fighter aircraft was guided with accuracy to a land-based target at long range within specified limits. All the mission objectives were successfully met, they said.

The flight of the bomb and the performance was monitored by a number of range sensors, including the Electro Optical Tracking System, telemetry and radar deployed by the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, the sources said. The LR Bomb has been designed



and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in Hyderabad in coordination with other DRDO laboratories.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated the DRDO, IAF and other teams associated with the successful flight trial and stated that this will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Armed Forces.

Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO, G Satheesh Reddy in his message to the teams said that successful flight test of Long-Range Bomb is an important milestone in the development of this class of systems indigenously.

Coal tar plant causes pollution

LOCALS OPPOSE PLANT OPERATION, SPCB SERVES SHOW CAUSE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 29: The government has been taking a host of measures to rein in industry-induced pollution, but a coal tar making plant is operating at Sahanidiha under Dharmasala block in Jajpur district. It was learnt that Kalinga Combines Pvt Ltd, which is manufacturing coal tar, is operating without permission from the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB).

Surprisingly, this plant set up on a forest land, locals alleged. Despite opposition from local people over years, the plant continues to operate flouting anti-pollution norms. Locals alleged that the SPCB keeps mum on the issue.

Regional officer of the SPCB (Kalinganagar) Pramod Kumar Behera said a show cause notice has been issued to the owner of the coal tar plant. It was alleged that some other plants have been causing environmental



pollution alongside NHs and near human settlements in the area. The coal tar plants cause atmospheric temperature to rise in summer, locals said, adding that some officials had looked into the pollution caused by the plant, but it yielded no results. No action was taken against its owner, it was alleged.

Due to operation of the plant, people of Sahanidiha, Lunibara, Baramana, Chadakmara, Murariapur and Tarini Chhakh were upset.

Locals said that owing to air pollution from the plant, people are suffocated and affected by various diseases. The plant is allowed to operate with backing of some influential people.

The SPCB regional officer said that the owner of the plant was asked to reply the show cause within two weeks.

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YOGA FOR HEALTH

People practising Yoga at a camp in Balasore Friday

OP PHOTO

Disability no hurdle for Kalia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhandaripokhari, Oct 29: When the going gets tough, the tough gets going is a popular saying which holds true for physically challenged Sisir Nayak, better known by his nickname Kalia.

Kalia, 45, sells tea from another shop's verandah. His black pepper tea is as good as it gets at Kali Bazaar of Bhandaripokhari town in Bhandrak district. And Kalia is managing his business with only one hand.

While boiling tea in a kettle, he said, he is a resident of Chandrabhanupur village under Bhandaripokhari block. "I have been living a physically challenged life for last 25 years. But I have no regret," he added. "I was then 20 years old. In order to help my parents run the family, I



was working at a mill making flattened rice. On a fateful day, a mishap occurred and I lost my right hand," remembers Kalia. He said he did not let the mishap overpower him. Rather he took it as a challenge. Believing in 'Where there is a will, there is a way', he decided to start tea busi-

ness. "Availing loan from a bank, I built a stall in Kali Bazaar and started selling tea. Destiny played another cruel joke, when my shop was completely destroyed in 1999 Super Cyclone. But I was the same determined Kalia," he said while attending to his customers. "I shifted my shop to the verandah of another's

shop and has since been selling tea from here. Despite difficulties, I have been running my business. Prior to the pandemic situation, I bought 50 litres of milk. Like others, my business has also been affected during this pandemic time. However, with whatever I earn, I am able to run my family. My family comprises six members - my parents, wife, a daughter and a son. But the fear of being driven away keeps haunting me. To earn something you have to have a shop of your own. So I also have a dream to have a stall of my own," he observed.

The government has many schemes to help out street vendors. But he has been deprived of any government help despite being a physically challenged. "It would be a great help if the administration gets me a stall," he prayed.

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 23/ET/SP/ENG/2021-22 Dated : 27.10.2021 e-Tender No. 21-eT-DENC-SBP-21

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This is faithfulness, to admit and to manifest no other movements but only the movements prompted and guided by the Divine.

THE MOTHER



## PMO gets a new point-man

“Cautious but gets the job done”, is what one senior colleague says of him. Most observers agree that this one vital trait has helped Amit Khare rise to the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) as his new advisor. This, and the fact that he has steered two of the NDA government’s flagship policies – National Education Policy and the IT Rules – explain why the 1985-batch IAS officer from the Jharkhand cadre who retired last month, is seen as among the handful of babus considered indispensable by the NDA government.

So, while the high-flying Khare did not superannuate as a Cabinet Secretary as some had expected given his stellar track record, he still retains the key to the mighty PMO Modi. And given the buzz surrounding his appointment, he may well outshine the Cabinet Secretary during his new two-year tenure and may also become principal secretary to PM. Don’t forget though that Gauba himself had handpicked him for earlier stints.

Though he has always enjoyed the confidence of his political masters, even in the UPA years but his real stellar rise in the current government may be traced to his days as Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, where he swiftly earned Modi’s attention and was made responsible for all communication strategies. It also gave him better access to the PMO. He will need all these formidable skills to steer the government through key state elections next year as also the lingering post-Covid scenario.



**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

### Centre readies for Secretary-level appointments

Last month (September 22) this column had reported about the babu shortage at the Centre, with multiple secretary-level vacancies, including in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) even as several eligible officers are still waiting to be summoned for these vacant slots. But the recent and long-awaited empanelment of 12 IAS officers from the 1985 and 1987-89 batches and 27 IAS officers of the 1990 batch is a clear sign that the government is now planning to fill some of the current vacancies as well those that will arise in the next few months due to the retirement of some babus. Babu observers have been quick to note that only one Gujarat cadre officer is in the list. Curious, since this state’s cadre usually holds a special place in the NDA government.

At present several secretary-level posts are vacant in the Steel, Drinking Water and Sanitation ministries and the Department of Border Management, among others, are vacant. This situation also prevails in the Department of Biotechnology and the Department of Science and Technology, though these two posts are usually earmarked for scientists. Also, there are several babus lined up for retirement. In the coming weeks, secretary-level vacancies will come up in the ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Housing and Urban Affairs and Environment, Forests and Climate Change. For instance, Tarun Kapoor will retire as Petroleum Secretary next month while Rameshwar Prasad Gupta will retire as Environment Secretary in December.

With such critical posts vacant or soon to be vacated, the decisions have to be taken sooner than later. The latest round of empanelment has now opened the avenues for the government to start making secretary-level appointments.

### IFoS officers trigger a rumble in the jungle

A piquant situation has developed in Karnataka where several Indian Forest Service (IFoS) cadre posts are filled with non-cadre officers. BK Singh, a former principal chief conservator of forests says that the trend has only become more pronounced over the years, irrespective of which party is in government in the state. IFoS officers now tend to get posted outside the forest department, which is severely impacting the conservation and development of forests. It is said that currently, more than 42 cadre posts are vacant across the state.

IFoS officers are now being posted in the state tourism department, agriculture department and even disaster management, among others. Sources say that many of these appointments have been made without prior approval from the Central government. Though the Forest Services never complained initially, it’s now a rumble in the jungle.

They point out that the rules state explicitly that a cadre post shall not be filled by a person who is not a cadre officer except in case no cadre officer is available. In that case, the non-cadre officer will be replaced when a suitable cadre officer becomes available.

But in the case of Karnataka, the government has allegedly contravened the IFoS cadre rules by appointing non-cadre officers to cadre posts, without approval from Delhi.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let’s multiply the effect.

### WISDOM CORNER

- “If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.” ISAAC NEWTON
- “Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.” SWAMI SIVANANDA
- “Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.” MARTIN LUTHER

### WORDSWORTH

#### Cancrine

This one is as defunct a word as you are likely to meet in this section – it seems to have utterly disappeared from the English lexicon. Like its close relative cancruid, it derives from Latin cancrinus, relating to a crab. It has been used on rare occasions to mean crab-like but more usually a specialised type of backwards motion, curious in view of its derivation, which would imply a sideways movement to match that of the crab. In this sense, cancrine refers to a type of Latin verse that reads the same backwards as forwards, which we would now refer to as palindromic. Cancrine doesn’t refer only to verse though: Bach’s Crab Canon, which is a musical palindrome, has also been described as cancrine.

### LOL ARE YOU JOKING?



Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “And what starting salary are you looking for?” The engineer replies, “In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package.” The interviewer inquires, “Well, what would you say to a

package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?” The engineer sits up straight and says, “Wow! Are you kidding?” The interviewer replies, “Yeah, but you started it.”

# GRETA & GOOD INTENTIONS

FOCUS UN COP26

Both anxiety and hope are increasing in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. There is anxiety because, barring a handful of the willfully blind, we can all see the damage we are doing to the planet. Fires, floods, and rising sea levels are creating havoc around the world, while environmental destruction and the resulting conflict are triggering large-scale refugee movements that evoke biblical images.

But there is also hope, because some – not least the climate activist Greta Thunberg, with her long-standing and heartfelt call for more ambitious action – recognise the scale of the challenge facing humanity. In that spirit, the European Union has launched the European Green Deal, which aims to make the EU carbon-neutral by 2050.

The United States also aims to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century, and recently announced that it would double its financial contribution to help developing countries tackle the climate crisis, to \$11.4 billion per year. Some US lawmakers, notably Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey, have proposed a Green New Deal, an ambitious plan to redesign the US economy and eventually eliminate all US carbon dioxide emissions.

Yet, despite these efforts, the fact is that we started out late in combating climate change and now need to accelerate corrective action if humans are not to go the way of the dinosaurs. The climate crisis is a global issue and requires action from all countries, but many developing economies, including some of the most climate-vulnerable ones, lack the financial wherewithal to do enough on their own. Some emerging economies, including South Africa and much of South and Southeast Asia, are hugely reliant on coal, and will have to undergo a disruptive green transition.

We therefore need a collective commitment to design support systems – financial and scientific – to help all countries do their part. The 2015 Paris climate agreement was a diplomatic success,



Anxiety and hope are increasing in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. There is anxiety because, barring a handful of the willfully blind, we can all see the damage we are doing to the planet

marshaling the support of almost 200 countries. But the world is falling woefully short of meeting the target – limiting global warming to 1.5°C, relative to preindustrial levels – that was agreed in Paris.

Will the gathering in Glasgow catalyse genuine action? Thunberg recently warned that “the leaders will say we’ll do this and we’ll do this... and then they will do nothing.” And the widespread frustration at leaders’ insufficient climate ambition is not limited to young people. Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II expressed a similar sentiment, saying that “it’s really irritating when they talk, but they don’t do.”

Such despair is natural. When we see climate action trail so far behind rhetoric, we inevitably wonder if all the talk is just hypocrisy.

But it need not be. If we want to bequeath a livable planet to future generations, it is crucial to understand why there may be a disjuncture between what each person intends to do and what the group actually delivers. Iconic games like the prisoner’s dilemma have shown this to be the case in the domain of selfish decision-

making. Mobilising the determination and commitment needed to address the climate crisis is a problem for the social sciences and moral philosophy as much as it is for politicians.

Contrary to what neoclassical economics would have us believe, the modern economy does not operate as a series of impersonal markets driven purely by the aspirations of individual actors. Rather, as Mariana Mazzucato notes in her book Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism, markets are “embedded in rules, norms, and contracts affecting organisational behavior, interactions, and institutional designs.”

It is therefore a mistake to equate collective action with the sum of individual intentions. When people say they want to do everything to avert climate disaster but do little, this may not be hypocrisy. They may be in the grip of what I have described in a recent paper as “Greta’s Dilemma.”

In this game, a group of people initially pursue their own interests, with no concern for how the environmental damage caused by their actions will harm future

generations. If people then become environmentally conscious and take corrective action, traditional economic models would predict that such a shift will lead to improvements in future generations’ welfare.

But in the complex, strategically connected world that we inhabit today, the outcome may be different. Greta’s Dilemma illustrates the paradoxical result whereby individuals who become environmentally conscious collectively do greater damage to the environment. Akin to one of those paradoxical paintings by MC Escher, it is the intertwining of small individual steps that lead the group to a destination they did not seek. Far from helping future generations, they end up hurting them.

Admittedly, this game is crafted deliberately to highlight the paradox. But it shows that, in today’s complex global economy, we need to devote much greater attention to the strategic foundations of human interaction in order to design policies that can help us turn away from the brink of climate disaster.

This may sound like a narrow academic argument, but it is not. If we are to realise Thunberg’s ambition, which I believe many people – including many leaders – genuinely share, we need to use Greta’s Dilemma as a basis for designing the policies and institutions we need.

So, although we are right to fret that leaders may not do enough at COP26, we also have to be aware that there is a scientific problem here. On climate change and other issues, we need to understand the social and economic game we are playing, and try to alter its rules so that our individual moral intentions are reflected better in collective outcomes.

*The writer, a former chief economist of the World Bank and chief economic adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.*

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### SPECTRUM TAXATION

## Increase autonomy in GST



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

THE GOM NEEDS TO PROACTIVELY CONSIDER THE SITUATION THAT WILL ARISE IN JULY 2022 WHEN THE STATES WILL LOSE THEIR RIGHT TO BE COMPENSATED BY THE UNION GOVERNMENT FOR COLLECTING LESS GST

The Union government has constituted a Group of Ministers to review the entire GST system. The fundamental issue facing us today is that the states may be in big trouble beginning July 2022. While introducing GST in 2017 the Union government had promised that it will compensate the states for any loss of revenue after the implementation of GST for five years. It was projected that GST revenues will increase by minimum 14% per year. Thus the state governments were entitled to receive 14% more money from GST every year irrespective of what the actual GST collection in their states was.

GST has indeed made trade simple on two points. First, the classification of all goods across the country has been standardised. Previously, kraft paper could be classified as “paper” in one state and “packing material” in another state leading to disputes on the border. Such disputes are no longer possible. Secondly, the whole system of issuing “C” forms for the transport of goods from one state to another has been dismantled

and movement of goods has become smooth. However, this has come at a huge cost of challenging the autonomy of the states as outlined above.

In this respect we can take a lesson from Canada and the United States. In Canada different states levy different rates of sales tax in addition to the GST which is levied by the Central government. Alberta, for example, has only 5% Federal GST. British Columbia has 5% Federal GST plus 7% Provincial Sales Tax. Ontario has 13% Harmonised GST which includes both Federal and Provincial taxes. Yet, there arises no problem in the movement of goods from one state to another and they do not have requirements such as the “C” form. Reason is that they have a standard classification which is applicable to all states along with autonomy to the states to fix the rates of tax. There are no disputes of classification. Every seller collects GST on the goods based on the rate applicable at the point of sale. For example, a manufacturer in Alberta will collect 13% Harmonised GST from a buyer

based on Ontario but collect only 5% GST from a buyer based in Alberta. In this manner the autonomy of the states to levy different rates of GST has been protected while movement of goods from one state to another is seamless. Similarly, in the United States there is no GST. Every state is free to levy different rates of sales tax on goods sold within its borders. Some states levy no sales tax at all. All their revenue comes from state income tax. In other states, there are varying rates of sales tax yet there is free movement of goods. These two examples indicate that the basic purpose of free movement of goods can be achieved without insisting on a uniform rate of GST.

The challenge before the Group of Ministers is to proactively consider the situation that will arise for the states in July 2022 when the states will lose their right to be compensated by the Union government for collecting less GST within their borders. At that time, the states will face a huge drop in their revenues and may be even forced to withhold or cut the

salaries of their employees. They will certainly have to cut their capital investments such as in construction of roads and other infrastructure. Therefore, the Group of Ministers should consider modifying GST to allow states to collect different rates of GST as it is done in Canada and the USA. In this way, thereby free movement of goods can take place while the states are allowed to impose different rates of GST according to their own needs and assessments. To give an example, if the head of a joint family is very strict and does not give freedom to the members, then the family breaks up. A similar situation may arise in the country if the Union government insists on implementing GST without giving compensation and also without giving autonomy to the states to levy varying rates of GST. In such a situation, the demand even for leaving the Union may arise and it may lead to the disintegration of the country.

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

### Surrogate advertising

Sir, Surrogate advertisements are used to promote products of brands when the original product cannot be advertised on mass media. Since the Indian law prohibits advertisements that promote production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products and alcohol, these products are advertised through surrogate advertising. Many guthka companies are promoting their products through such advertisements. It is interesting that Amitabh Bachchan has terminated his contract with such a brand, saying that he wasn’t aware it falls under surrogate advertising. Since Big B is also the government’s brand ambassador for the pulse polio campaign, he should avoid such ads. Film stars should be an example for the people, but in our country it is a dream. On the one hand, movie stars are making crores of rupees through these advertisements and benefiting producers, on the other hand, young people are being influenced by these stars and becoming more and more addicted. The government should ban all surrogate advertisements. **Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR**

### Strategic signal to China

Sir, India’s successful test-firing of Agni-V, the nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile, amidst mounting tensions with China along the Line of Actual Control, assumes immense significance. The missile is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 km with a very high degree of accuracy. According to the developer, the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the missile is capable of reaching almost every part of China. The other missiles in Agni series are focused primarily on Pakistan where as Agni-V is focussed mainly on China. With Agni-V India has joined the club of countries with ICBMs, including China, the US, Russia, Britain and France. A special feature of Agni-V is that after reaching the peak of its course, it will turn towards Earth to continue its journey towards the target with very high speed due to the attraction of the Earth’s gravitational pull. Amid the military confrontation between India and China in eastern Ladakh, India’s testing of its most formidable missile is a strong strategic signal to China. The successful test brings even the northern-most part of China within its strike range. It must be understood that China has missiles like the Dong Feng-41 (12,000-15,000 km) that can reach any Indian city. However, India’s possession of Agni-V will definitely strengthen its combat power against China. Considering that Agni-V is better than the other Agni variants, its successful testing will boost India’s confidence about its military power. **Venu GS, KOLLAM**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**

B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

22 YEARS AFTER SUPER CYCLONE-1999

# Memories continue to haunt residents



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Erasama, Oct 29:** Twenty-two years have passed since Super Cyclone-1999 struck the coastal state October 29, 1999. However, the memories of the devastation caused by the calamity are still afresh in the minds of the residents under this block in Jagatsinghpur district.

The calamity caused unprecedented damage in the area, said, Shankar Charan Sethi, former sarpanch of Ambiki panchayat under the block. The memories of the calamity continue to haunt the residents that wiped out scores of lives, blew off houses and changed the topography of the area, remembered residents Nivas Phandkar, Subrat Samant of Nagar Colony and Debadutta Das, Arjun Jena of Dahibar village.

The calamity unleashed a reign



Cyclone survivor Jamuna Phandkar

of terror with heavy rain and gale. Tidal waves rose up to 30 feet and destroyed the topography of the area. Hundreds of lives were lost, houses caved in, trees uprooted and thousands of livestock died in the calamity. The devastation which the residents witnessed 22-years back has given way to development in the area. However, the

residents are yet to forget the black day of October 29.

Jamuna Phandkar in Nagari village of Ambiki panchayat, about 10 km from the sea, lost 24 members of his family including her husband Susant and father-in-law Atul in the calamity.

Around 276 people of 66 families in the village lost their lives. Many of them lost all their family members except themselves. The gale blew off her thatched house which was eventually washed away by the surging tidal waves gushing towards her village.

She climbed to the top of her house but the tidal waves washed it away along with all her family members. Jamuna carrying her 15 month old son was swept away in the waves and got stuck to a banyan tree at Kochila village which was about four km from her village. She remained their indisposed

## Survivors walk down the memory lane

**Mahakalpara:** Memories of the ‘Super Cyclone’ that devastated Odisha, October 29, 1999 (Friday) are still fresh in the minds of people. It was one of the most intense recorded tropical cyclones in the last century. The ‘Super Cyclone’ had caused widespread havoc in many districts of Odisha.

“Approximately 10,000 human lives were lost in the disaster and innumerable domestic animals were swept away in floods that followed the cyclone. Many families went missing. We still shiver in fright when we think of the scary day,” some villagers of Ersama block, especially those who survived the tragedy and witnessed devastation from close quarters, said.

Echoing the views, residents of Ambiki and Dahibara villages in Jagatsinghpur district namely Shankar Sethi, Subrat Samant, Debadutta Das and Arjun Jena said, “Wind speeds reached up to 260 km/ph during landfall of the cyclone, which remained the same for nearly 36 hours. The 200-kilometre wide ‘Super Cyclone’ ravaged all the coastal districts.”

with some bodies and poisonous snakes for two days little knowing that her 15-month old son had slipped away from her arms. She could not hold her tears when someone reminded her of the day. She

Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Khurda and Puri districts faced the maximum amount of devastations. Ersama block in Jagatsinghpur district witnessed the worst devastation due to the cyclone. Cyclone shelters earlier constructed in the block for effective disaster management and to ensure zero-casualty have turned into ruins owing to lack of maintenance and administrative neglect, alleged villagers.

Out of the 92 cyclone shelters, 12 made by the Paradip Port authorities and 29 multi-purpose buildings constructed by Maharashtra government have become unusable, they added.

Likewise, some residents of Panikhia-Santalapada village of Nanjura panchayat under Mahakalpara block in Kendrapara district said, “We got the information about the Super Cyclone from a bulletin of Cuttack radio station just a day before the landfall. We had not witnessed such severity of devastation beforehand. Our village is located in close vicinity of sea and tides came at a height of over 15-feet.”

is now living with her nephew. Later, 92 cyclonic shelters were constructed under the block. However, these have become endangered due to lack of timely repairing.

# Chili farming suffers in absence of power

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Loisingha, Oct 29:** Educated and young farmer Parikhita Mishra’s four acre land where he has grown green chilies has been the envy of others.

But Mishra, a resident of Bendra under Agalpur block in Bolangir district, has been under severe mental distress for some days now.

Regarding his problem, Mishra said he is going to incur huge losses for Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation (OLIC) and electricity department dillydallying over giving him a power connection.

Mishra’s four acre land is near Pipilipali square on Ghushuramunda-Negipali road. He raised chili saplings in May. Mishra said he is currently harvesting 15 to 20 quintals of green chili and selling it as well. He has given employment to about 30 labourers.

“The bumper harvest fails to

make me happy. Because of the step motherly attitude of the OLIC and the electricity department, I am in trouble now,” he said.

“I irrigate my farmland through drip irrigation, using water from the pond near my farmland. For this, I use a solar pump. I have also dug up a deep tube well. Due to deficit rainfall this year, the pond doesn’t have enough water. It is drying up. As of now, I haven’t been able to use my deep tube well as well,” said Mishra.

“Three farmers having lands adjacent to mine were provided power connection by the OLIC. I don’t know for what faults I am deprived of a power line despite repeated requests,” he lamented.

“I will benefit if the OLIC give me power connection. I have discussed his problem with Loisingha MLA Mukesh Mahalinga and Agalpur block vice chairman Manmohan Patel, requesting their intervention.

# Millet Shakti Café opens in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 29:** First exclusive Millet Shakti Café, a convergence of Mission Shakti and the Millet Mission Odisha was opened in Keonjhar Friday. On the occasion, different kinds of dishes made from millets were displayed. After millet cultivation, this initiative has created a concept – Farm to Plate to promote millet.

Inaugurating the café on a virtual mode the Minister of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti Tuakuni Sahu said “It is a unique initiative by the Keonjhar district administration. It will help the farmers earn more from millet farming. We will take steps to open such types of café at Gram Panchayat level”.

Appreciating the efforts of the district administration and the whole millet team on this occasion, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Mission Shakti, Sujata R Karthikeyam said, “It will help women groups earn more and be empowered more. It has developed the concept of ‘Farm to Plate’ after the opening of the Millet Shakti Café.” Collector Keonjhar Ashish Thakre



said, “An initiative has been taken to open such Cafés at 330 GPs by constructing Mission Shakti buildings. The objectives of the opening of the café are to promote healthy eating habits through indigenous products”. More than 10 millet-based hot cooked food items like millet drinks, packaged millet grains, dry and bakery items, ready to cook and ready to drink items will be available in this Quick Service Restaurant.

The project will also provide livelihood opportunities to women groups, as tweeted by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, a few days back. It will also promote consumption of millets. Odisha Millets Mission was started

in Keonjhar district in 2019. Millet farming is going on in mining affected villages of seven blocks like Banspal, Champua, Joda, Jhumpura, Harichandpur; Hatadhi and Sadar in the district.

More than 4000 farmers have benefited from this programme. This has increased the income of farmers in the district. The Centre and the Niti Aayog have recognized the program. The program is running with the support of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) regarding inclusion of Ragi Laddus as morning snacks for pre-school children enrolled under ICDS in the district.

# Communist forts lose ground to BJD

THE RULING PARTY FORTIFYING ITS BASES IN ASKA, CHHATRAPUR AND KABISURYANAGAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhmapur, Oct 29:** For many years, Ganjam was a fort for Communists. However, with the passage of time, the Left parties have lost their hold in the district with the rise of Biju Janata Dal (BJD).

As panchayat elections are round the corner, the presence of the Left parties has almost vanished in assembly seats like Chhatrapur, Kabisuryanagar and Aska. Several Communist leaders have been elected from these seats many times in the past.

Now, all these seats have turned into forts of the ruling party. The BJD has made massive inroads into the Left bases.

In the first Lok Sabha elections, well known Communist leader Bijay Chandra Das was elected as MP from Berhmapur seat (then Ganjam).

In 1971, CPI leader Ditikrushna Panda was elected from Aska parliamentary seat. Freedom fighter and farmer leader Gobinda Pradhan was one among the leaders who strengthened the Communist ideology in the district.

After Odisha was formed as a separate province, Pradhan was elected as MLA from Communist party.



His younger brother Radhakrushna Pradhan was also a known Communist leader.

In Chhatrapur Assembly seat, Laxman Mohapatra was elected thrice from the Communist party while Biswanth Sahu was elected twice from the seat from the same party. Parsuram Panda, N Narayan Reddy and Adikand Sethi were elected from this seat. However, people looked away from the Left in Chhatrapur in 2014. This Assembly seat went to the BJD in 2014 and 2019.

CPI leader Sachidananda Mohanty was elected from

Kabisuryanagar Assembly seat twice. Sardar Dandapani Swain was elected thrice. Nityananda Pradhan twice. Ahead of the 2009 parliamentary elections, Nityananda Pradhan deserted Communist party and joined the BJD. He was elected as BJD MP from Aska Lok Sabha seat.

Moreover, all family members of Communist leader Gobinda Pradhan are with the BJD. His daughter Latika Pradhan is the BJD MLA from Kabisuryanagar. In Aska Assembly seat, Communist leader Harihar Ds was elected from the seat in 1951, 1957,

1967 and 1974. In 1990, Ditikrushna Panda was elected from this seat.

Now, the Communist organization has completely vanished.

Over last several years, the BJD has made massive inroads. However, CPM and CPI have some supporters in certain pockets in Ganjam.

It is seen that CPI and CPM candidates are not garnering votes in elections. Given their poor organizational presence, political observer are skeptical about their success in panchayat and general elections.

# Road in bad shape for Five years, villagers fume

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dharmasala, Oct 29:** The canal bund road which connects Choramuhan panchayat with Hanuman temple square under Dharmasala block in Jajpur district is in a deplorable condition over past five years, locals alleged.

According to villagers, Jaraka irrigation department had constructed the road from Haladiapada Sahi of Choramuhan village to Hanuman temple square and topped it with tarmac.

The contractor’s low quality work was exposed after one year of completion of the work. The backdrop started to come off, creating craters along the road.

Residents of Choramuhan, Baligiri, Narasinghapur, Badamangalpur and Bhuban areas commute on this road. They are now facing minor to major accidents every day.

Affected people alleged that the road had been in a bad shape for five years now. Commuting on it has become a safety risk. However, neither the people’s representatives nor concerned officials take notices of the commuters’ plight.

The local people have urged the concerned department to construct an all-weather road on this stretch at the earliest.

## MGNREGS PROJECTS

# Beneficiaries fume over pending dues

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Daringbadi, Oct 29:** Scores of projects like farm ponds and cattle sheds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have been executed in Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district.

These projects are being executed since 2018-19. Some beneficiaries have been provided funds while some are waiting for their dues towards the construction materials they had used in the projects.

Upset over the pending dues, they have warned of agitation. “The government executed these projects in our area to create labour intensive work and earnings so that we can deal with the pandemic difficulties. However, the objective has failed. A year has passed since the works were done, we are yet to receive funds towards materials

we used in the projects,” locals lamented.

The beneficiaries said they have borrowed from private money lenders for purchase of construction materials like cement, sand, stone and bricks. They alleged that though they had taken up the issue with the administration several times in the past, the latter is not clearing out dues. “The money lenders have made our life miserable while our dues are not being cleared. If our dues are not cleared by November 3, we will start agitation outside the block from November 5,” they rued.

Contacted, BDO Kalakrushna Pradhan said it is a technical issue. Meanwhile, four BDOs have come to the block and gone. Right amounts of funds are not being sanctioned for projects, leading to problems in making bills, he added.

# Villagers firm on ‘no roads, no votes’

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Tentulikhunti, Oct 29:** Ahead of panchayat elections, people in several villages under Tentulikhunti block in Nabarangpur district have expressed displeasure over lack of communications in their villages. They have decided to boycott the polls, a report said.

People of Tentulikhunti panchayat have been facing commuting woes sans road connectivity and bad road condition. “If no step is taken for road connectivity, we will boycott the panchayat polls,” they said. A delegation led by ward members Leli Majhi and Sumitra Harijan submitted a memoran-

dum to BDO Padmanabh Tripathy in this regard. They stated that Ladipadar, Madhugulumi, Panganmara, Baradajhada and Bijajadar have no roads at all.

The administration has a plan to set up tube wells in these villages, but machines fail to enter the villages to drill holes for tube wells, locals pointed out.

At Ladipadar, the administration collects water from a hilly stream and supplying it to the villages. In emergency cases, ambulances and fire tenders do not get access to the villages, they lamented.

“Before the polls, the administration should sort out the road connectivity,” they demanded.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,  
**SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION NO. II, SAMBALPUR**  
E-mail – eesbprnbdivision2@gmail.com, Phone -0663-2410104  
**BID IDENTIFICATION No. EE/ R and B /SBP II /17(online)/2021-22**  
**E-procurement notice**  
No.4149 / Dated.27.10.2021  
**No. B-524:-** The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.II, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in single cover System in ONLINE MODE.  
1. No. of work :- 04 (Four) Nos. of Building works  
2. Tender Cost :- Rs.6000/-  
3. Class of Contractor :- “D” & “C” class Contractors  
4. Availability of bid document :- 18.00 Hours of 02.11.2021 to 17.00 Hours of 09.11.2021 in the website.  
5. Date of Opening of Tenders :- 11.30 Hours on dt.10.11.2021  
6. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) only. Any Corrigendum / Addendum/cancellation of tender will be displayed in the website said only.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.II  
OIPR-34042/11/0043/2122

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, “e”-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR**  
B-526 E-mail: eeroads.khr@rediffmail.com  
No. 3608 **Invitation for Bids** Date: 26.10.2021  
**Bid Identification No. S.E. (RNB) KHARIAR-04/2021-22**  
1 The Superintending Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division, Khariar on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE only.  
2 Nature of work Building Work.  
3 No. of work 6 Nos. Building Work.  
4 Tender Paper Cost (i) Sl. No. 1 to 5 - Rs.6,000/- (ii) Sl. No. 6 - Rs.4,000/- to be remit online only  
5 Class of Contractor As specified in the notice for the respective work.  
6 Availability of Bid Documents in the website 10.00 hours of 08.11.2021 to 17.00 Hours of 22.11.2021  
7 Date of opening of Technical Bid Dt.24.11.2021 at 11.30 hours  
8 EMD/Bid Security As specified in the notice to be remitted online only  
9 The Bidders shall have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer,  
Khariar (R&B) Division  
OIPR-34062/11/0004/2122

**[GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]** No. B-521  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, BARGARH**  
E-mail – eepwdbgh@gmail.com Phone/Fax-06646-234819  
**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.)**  
e-Procurement Notice  
**IDENTIFICATION NO.IFB-EE PWD BGH No.10 OF 2021-22**  
No. 4425 , Dated, 27.10.2021  
1) The Executive Engineer, Bargarh (R&B) Division, Bargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the Civil work as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N) from the eligible class of contractors.  
2) No. of Civil & Electrical work – 2 Nos.  
3) Cost of Tender Paper: – Rs.6000/-  
4) Class of contractor – “C” & “D” Contractor  
5) Date & Time of availability in website & receipt of Bids: – 11:00 Hrs. of 03/11/2021 to 17:00Hrs. of 12/11/2021.  
6) Date of opening of Technical Bid: – 17/11/2021 at 11:30 Bidding.  
7) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>  
8) Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> only  
Sd./- Executive Engineer,  
Bargarh (R&B) Division  
OIPR-34039/11/0006/2122

# NDA, Cong face-off for 9 Assembly seats in 3 NE states

**SATURDAY'S BYELECTIONS ARE THE ACID TEST FOR BOTH NATIONAL AND THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, WHICH HAVE FIELDING CANDIDATES IN ALL THE NINE SEATS**

AGENCIES

**Guwahati/Shillong/Aizawl, Oct 29:** The stage is set for bypolls to nine assembly seats in three northeastern states – Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, with both the BJP led-NDA and the main Opposition Congress optimistic of their chances.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress are the main contenders for the five Assembly seats in Assam, while the ruling National People's Party (NPP) and the Mizo National Front (MNF), both part of the National Democratic Alliance, would take on the Congress in three seats in Meghalaya and the lone seat in Mizoram, respectively.

Political pundits are saying that the Saturday's by-elections are the acid test for both national parties



Election officials wait to leave for polling stations on the eve of bypolls to Musalpur seat in Baksa district, Friday

and the Opposition parties as well while the local parties, which have fielded candidates in all the nine seats, might divide the vote share of the main challengers.

A byelection was also due in Nagaland's Shamator-Chessore Assembly seat, but ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) candidate S Keoshu Yimchunger, who was the consensus nominee of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA), an all-party coalition formed September 18 to run an Opposition-less government in the northeastern state,

has been elected unopposed as he was the lone nominee in the tribal reserved seat. The NDPP led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio is also an ally of the NDA.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, former Chief Minister and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Congress National General Secretary Jitendra Singh, state Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah and leader of Opposition in the Assembly Debabrata Saikia, who undertook hectic campaign for their respective candidates, were strongly hope-

ful of securing win in the bypolls.

The BJP has fielded candidates in three seats and all the three are turncoats – Congress's Rupjyoti Kurmi in Mariani and Sushanta Borgohain in Thowra, and All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) – Phanidhar Talukdar in Bhabanipur. The BJP's ally United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) has nominated Jiron Basumatary in Gossaigaon, and Jolen Daimary in Tamulpur.

The Congress, which fielded candidates in all the five seats, has been trying hard at least to retain

# TN EYES COAL POWER REBOOT

*The state, epitomises the country's approach to balancing energy security and tackling climate change as Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads to Glasgow for the UN COP26 summit*



A file photo shows a shelved 1.6-gigawatt coal-fired power project in Uppur in the southern state of Tamil Nadu

REUTERS

**Uppur, Oct 29:** Tamil Nadu is considering restarting a shelved 1.6 gigawatts (GW) coal-fired power project in Uppur, two state government officials said, as its debt-ridden utility seeks to expand its coal fleet to address rising power demand.

The state, India's second most-industrialised, epitomises the country's approach to balancing energy security and tackling climate change as Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads to Glasgow for the UN COP26 summit: the energy-hungry nation may build more new coal-fired plants as they generate the cheapest power, despite calls to deter use of the dirty fuel.

The project was shelved in March after the National Green Tribunal temporarily suspended an environmental permit granted to the project, citing concerns from local farmers and fishermen over land acquisition, the height of a bridge carrying effluents and the coal being used.

After the order, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corp Ltd (TANGEDCO) had decided to shift the project to Udangudi, about 200 km away from Uppur, where a 1.3 GW coal-fired plant is already being built.

However, the new state government, which came into office in May, is now working on restarting the power plant in Uppur. More than 30% of the work is complete and at least Rs10 billion has already been invested, two officials from

project operator, Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corp Ltd's, told Reuters.

"The previous (shifting) decision was taken in haste. So much money has been invested. We are now trying to complete all formalities and restart the project," one of the officials said. They declined to be named as they were not authorised to speak to the media on the issue.

While Tamil Nadu is among India's top renewable energy producers, it is also constructing the most number of coal-fired plants nationwide, according to London-based environmental think tank Carbon Tracker.

"New coal projects are also essential because many of our power plants are old, and need to be phased out in a few years," said one of the TANGEDCO officials.

Unlike many parts of Europe or the Americas, India does not have access to cheap domestic gas, which can be used to generate reliable electricity supplies when renewable energy generation drops after sunset or when wind power output goes down.

The officials said TANGEDCO has allayed fishermen's concerns at the Uppur plant by offering to increase the height of a bridge carrying effluents, so that fishing boats can pass under it, and is working on fixing land acquisition issues. Local administrative officials in Uppur have already begun compensating residents for taking over their land for the project.

# 1,450 new MBBS seats in TN govt medical colleges

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Oct 29:** With the Union Health Ministry granting approval for 150 seats each to the four new government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, the total number of new MBBS seats in the colleges has risen to 1,450.

Tamil Nadu state Health Minister Ma Subramanian in a statement Thursday evening said the Union Health Ministry has approved 150 new seats in the four new government medical colleges at Krishnagiri, Dindigul, Nagapattinam, and Ariyalur. Earlier, 850 MBBS seats were approved and with these 600 seats the total number of new seats in the government medical colleges of the state would touch 1,450.

The new 1,450 MBBS seats would take the total number of medical seats in the state to 9,100. The minister said that the medical team appointed by the Union Health Ministry had earlier pointed out to some minor deficiencies in the furniture and books in the library.



Workers arrange crackers at a shop for sale ahead of the Diwali festival in Chennai, Friday

PTI PHOTO

# TN opens Mullaperiyar dam, Kerala's Idukki on high alert

*In view of the opening of Mullaperiyar dam and predictions of more rains, the Kerala government has also sounded a red alert in Idukki reservoir*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Idukki, Oct 29:** The shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala, operated by Tamil Nadu, were raised Friday morning as the water level in the reservoir crossed 138 ft, Kerala government officials said in Idukki.

Tamil Nadu government officials raised by 0.30 metres the spillway shutters 3 and 4 of the 126-year old dam at around 7:30 am, they said. According to them, 538.16 cusecs of water has been flowing out of these two shutters of the dam since morning.

The water level at Mullaperiyar dam stood at 138.80 ft at 9 am, Kerala government officials said in Idukki.

Besides officials from the two states, Kerala Revenue Minister K Rajan and Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine were present during the opening of the shutters of the dam.

Talking to reporters, Rajan said there was no need for any panic as the government has taken measures to ensure safety of the people. He, however, urged the people to maintain vigil.



The government has also warned against the social media scare mongers. Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan, meanwhile, said the state has been continuously drawing water through tunnel to Vaigai dam.

In addition to such maximum drawing of water through tunnel, the Tamil Nadu government decided to release water from Mullaperiyar dam to the tune of about '500 cusecs' by opening two spillway gates from Friday morning, he said in Chennai. This was done after giving notice and warning well in advance to Kerala authorities, Duraimurugan said.

"The dam is safe and it is operated and regulated carefully by the Water Resources Department, Government of Tamil Nadu following the Rule Curve approved by the Central Water Commission. Any news contrary to the above are not correct and has to be ignored," the Tamil Nadu Minister

said in a statement. In view of the opening of Mullaperiyar dam and predictions of more rains in the catchment areas, the Kerala government has also sounded a red alert in Idukki reservoir.

Augustine said the Idukki reservoir has enough storage capacity to hold the water being released from Mullaperiyar dam. The minister has said that there was nothing to be concerned about and people need not panic as the storage capacity of Idukki was 70.5 TMC as compared to 12.758 TMC of Mullaperiyar and therefore, the water released from the latter would only raise the former's level by a quarter of a foot.

People living downstream of Mullaperiyar dam were evacuated as a measure of abundant caution ahead of raising of the shutters. According to officials, a total of 1,079 people from 350 families who would be affected by the two-foot-high flood have been evacuated.

# India's exotic seaweed industry thriving briskly

**INDIA IS THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST CARBON POLLUTER, BEHIND CHINA AND THE US, AND HAS YET TO SET A TARGET DATE FOR ITS EMISSIONS TO REACH NET ZERO**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Rameswaram, Oct 29:** Draped in a colorful saree and shirt, Lakshmi Murgesan dives into the azure waters off the southern coast to collect seaweed, which is being hailed by scientists as a miracle crop that absorbs more carbon dioxide than trees.

India is the world's third-largest carbon polluter, behind China and the United States, and has yet to set a target date for its emissions to reach net-zero.

But authorities are looking into how seaweed farming could help reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, reverse ocean acidification and improve the marine environment as well as providing a sustainable livelihood for marginalised coastal communities.

"I am doing this for my children... It requires a lot of hard work, but I am able to earn good profits from about four months of work," said Murgesan, who makes Rs20,000 each month farming the fibrous macroalgae. "I would not have been able to educate my children but after doing this, I could send my children to college," she added, smiling as she emerged from the waters in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.

M Ganesan, a government marine scientist, said seaweed provides a possible way forward as coastal habitats and wetlands absorb five times more carbon than terrestrial forests.

"It is a miracle crop in many ways; it is eco-friendly and doesn't use land or fresh water. It absorbs



Women work to cultivate fronds of seaweed on a bamboo raft in the waters off the coast of Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu

AFP PHOTO

carbon dioxide dissolved in water during photosynthesis and oxygenates the entire marine ecosystem," Ganesan told AFP.

India, which has an 8,000-km coastline, is now aiming to boost production from the current 30,000 tonnes to more than 1 million tons each year by 2025. Murgesan is part of a team of women who work together to cultivate fronds of seaweed on bamboo rafts before harvesting and drying them.

The tropical waters of Tamil Nadu form an ideal environment – with one raft yielding up to 200 kilos in around 45 days.

The product is then sent for sale in markets nationwide as well as the United States and Australia through AquAgri, a private com-

pany that promotes algal cultivation in India. Popular in East and South East Asian cuisine, seaweed is also used in medicine, cosmetics, biofertilizer and biofuel. "Seaweed has major use as a crop biostimulant for increasing productivity and making the crop more resilient to climate induced stresses. It's also used as a major ingredient in meat and food processing," Abhiram Seth, managing director of AquAgri, said. And while it has not been traditionally popular in India, in July, the government announced some \$85 million in subsidies for seaweed farming initiatives over the next five years.

Seaweed cultivation is already common in Japan, China, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Interest is growing in Australia, which has outlined a plan to develop a \$100-million industry by 2025.

Seth said there was potential to benefit both the environment and farmers like Murgesan.

"Seaweeds clean up the water. At the same time, seaweed cultivators get a sustainable income without having to relocate to urban areas to find work," he explained. Seaweed does not require fertilizer, freshwater or pesticides. Kelp, one of the most commonly farmed types, grows at a rate of 61 centimeters (two feet) a day.

They absorb an estimated 173 million metric tons of carbon each year – the same annual emissions as New York State, according to a 2016 paper in Nature Geosciences.



# national

## of the day quote

India and France must seize the political trust and economic opportunities that the two countries have, to promote flow of investment and business

DR S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

India will use whatever margin of persuasion it has while talking to oil-producing nations to make sure the fuel prices are down in the country

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | OIL MINISTER

India has clearly told Pakistan that action against terrorism will be taken not only on this side of the border but also on their side if needed

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Leander Paes, Nafisa join TMC

**Panaji:** Tennis veteran Leander Paes and actor Nafisa Ali joined Trinamooli Congress Party in presence of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee here Friday. Welcoming Paes (48) during a press conference, Banerjee recalled meeting Paes when the Olympic bronze medal winner was a teenager. "I was the sports minister of the country when I (first) met him," she said. "I have got my younger brother and sweet and cute brother in the TMC," she added. Nafisa Ali, who won the Femina Miss India title in 1976 and was the second runner-up at the Miss International contest, had contested the 2004 Lok Sabha elections from South Kolkata against Banerjee.

### Red alert sounded at Idukki dam

**Idukki (Ker):** The shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala, operated by Tamil Nadu, were raised Friday morning as the water level in the reservoir crossed 138 ft, Kerala government officials said here. Tamil Nadu government officials raised by 0.30 metres the spillway shutters 3 and 4 of the 126-year old dam at around 7.30 AM, they said. The water level at Mullaperiyar dam stood at 138.80 ft at 9 AM, Kerala government officials said here.

### Rahul appears before court

**Surat:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday appeared before a magistrate's court here to record his statement in a criminal defamation case filed against him over his remark about the "Modi surname" during a campaign rally in 2019. He had appeared before the court twice earlier.

### Criminal killed in encounter

**New Delhi:** A 25-year-old man was killed Friday in an encounter with the Delhi Police in Rohini's Begumpur area, police said. Two police personnel have also received injuries during the exchange of fire, they said.

### India extends ban on int'l flights

**New Delhi:** To deal with the ongoing Covid pandemic, India's civil aviation regulator Friday extended the ban on scheduled international commercial flights till November 30. In the notification, the Directorate General of Central Aviation (DGCA), however, said: "This restriction shall not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the DGCA."



Only artificial barricades have been removed so far, soon the three anti-agriculture laws will also be withdrawn

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## DELHI ASSEMBLY SUMMONS FACEBOOK OFFICIALS

The Delhi Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony Friday summoned representatives from Facebook India to testify November 2 over the February 2020 riots in the national capital



## POLICE REMOVE BARRICADES

# We stand vindicated: Farm unions

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** With the Delhi Police beginning to remove barricades at two farmer protest sites - Tikri and Ghazipur - farm union leaders Friday said the move vindicates their stand that they never blocked roads at the city border points.

Farmer leaders said any decision to entirely clear both the carriageways at the protest sites will be taken by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of over 40 farmer unions protesting against the Centre's farm laws.

They, however, said way will be made for traffic to move in the coming days. The Delhi Police's decision comes days after a Supreme Court hearing that saw farmer unions arguing that the police were responsible for the blockade at the city's borders.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) office-bearers said police and not farmers had blocked roads, adding that they are being "reopened on the directions of the Supreme Court". In light of the removal of barricades at Ghazipur border protest site, BKU leader Rakesh Tikait said, "The future course of the ongoing farmers' protest will be decided by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, which is leading the movement against the three farm laws."

Senior farmer leader and SKM member Darshan Pal said false al-



A farmer looks on as barbed wires and barricades are being removed from the site of their agitation against three farm laws at Ghazipur border. PTI PHOTO

legations were being levelled against farmers that they have blocked roads, which have been rejected by us since day one.

Pal said at Singhu border, farmers have occupied the portion of road which is already closed for traffic due to construction of a flyover. Thousands of farmers have been camping at the three borders - Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur - protesting the Centre's three farm laws since November 26, 2020.

While the protesting farmers have been claiming that the three laws enacted last year are against their interest, the Centre has been saying these legislations are pro-farmer.

The Delhi Police Thursday

evening started removing the barricades and concertina wires it had put in place at the anti-farm laws protest site at Tikri Border on Delhi-Rohatak highway. Similar action was initiated at Ghazipur on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border Friday morning. Farmer leader and a representative of Rastriya Kisan Majdoor Sabha, Abhimanyu Kohar said the decision to remove barricades has vindicated the farmers' stand and will ease traffic movement at the borders.

For the last 11 months, we have been saying that farmers never blocked roads as we are simply protesting the farm laws. Today we are proved right. It is good that traffic will now be able to move at borders, Kohar said.

In February, protesting farmers at Tikri Border cleared the way for an ambulance but it had to return as the Delhi Police had blocked the road, she claimed.

## Priyanka Gandhi meets family of dead farmer

**Lalitpur (UP):** Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Friday met the family of a farmer who died allegedly due to distress over the non-availability of fertilizer. Fifty-five-year-old Bhogilal Pal of Nayagaon died of a cardiac arrest while standing in queue outside a fertilizer shop. He had reportedly been waiting for his turn to purchase fertilizer for two days. Priyanka Gandhi visited Pal's home and interacted with the family members.

Farmer leaders also hoped that the Centre would invite farmers for a dialogue to break the logjam over the farm laws. BKU spokesperson Saurabh Upadhyay said farmers want to go to Delhi but the SKM will take the final call.

On October 21, the Supreme Court had said farmers have the right to protest and was not against this even when a legal challenge against the three farm laws is pending but they cannot block roads "indefinitely", an observation that came amid a blame game between the Centre and the farmer unions.

While the farmers' unions alleged that the police were responsible for the blockade at the Delhi borders as it suits them to allow a feeling in the minds of the citizens that farmers are blocking the road, the Centre claimed there was an oblique purpose behind the protests.

# Aryan still in jail as lawyers get stuck in traffic

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 29:** Contrary to expectations, superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan is expected to spend another night in the Arthur Road Central Jail as his bail orders could not reach the prison authorities by the stipulated time of 5.30 p.m. Friday.

Though his legal team led by advocate Satish Maneshinde had rushed from the Bombay High Court to the jail, a mere 8 kms away, they were reportedly stuck in the massive evening and weekend traffic jams en route.

Even Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh who left from his Bandra bungalow in a small motorcade to pick up Aryan from jail, returned home mid-way, though close family friend and ex-actress Juhi Chawla managed to complete the formalities for standing surety.

The court has accepted Juhi - a co-star of SRK in many films - as the surety in Aryan's bail and she signed the relevant papers and executed the bail bond before the court officials, said Maneshinde earlier.

However, since the bail papers failed to reach the jail authorities on time, now Aryan maybe released only Saturday morning after all the formalities are completed. Bombay High Court Justice N.W.



Sambre granted bail to Aryan and two others - Arbaaz Merchant and Mummun Dhamecha - on Thursday evening, but the bail order verdict was issued on Friday afternoon, after which their legal teams initiated the remaining formalities.

Soon after the bail verdict was pronounced Thursday, SRK reportedly shed tears of joy, and later met his entire legal defence team which had been fighting for Aryan's release for the past four weeks.

Meanwhile, in the five-page order, the high court said that Aryan Khan and his two co-accused Arbaaz Merchant and Mummun Dhamecha, who were also granted bail, shall be released on a personal bond of Rs one lakh each with one or two sureties of the same amount. As per the conditions set by the high court, the trio will have to surrender their passports before the special NDPS court and shall not leave India without taking permission from the special court and that they will have to attend the NCB office each Friday to mark their presence.

## Live-in relationship is personal autonomy, says Allahabad HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 29:** The Allahabad High Court has stated that "live-in relationships have become part and parcel of life and need to be viewed from the lens of personal autonomy rather than notions of social morality."

While disposing of two separate petitions filed by interfaith live-in couples, a division bench comprising Justice Pritinker Diwaker and Justice Ashutosh Srivastava observed, "Live-in relationships stand approved by the apex court and should be viewed from the lens of personal autonomy arising out of the right to life and personal liberty as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, rather than notions of social morality."

The two couples had filed separate petitions alleging that the families of girls were interfering in

day-to-day life of petitioners. One petition was filed by Shaira Khatun and her partner, resident of Kushinagar (both majors and in a live-in relationship for two years) and another was filed by Zeenat Parveen and her partner from Meerut (both also majors).

They filed a petition in the high court after the police refused to help them. The court underscored that the right to life enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution is liable to be protected at all costs and held that police were obligated to protect the rights of the petitioners. Therefore, the court in its order, directed that in the event of petitioners approaching police with complaints of threat to life and liberty, police shall perform their duties under law. The court order comes after the Delhi High Court pulled up the Uttar Pradesh Police for harassing a young adult couple.



A potter moulds an earthen lamp on a wheel, ahead of the Diwali in Ajmer

PTI PHOTO

## Bypolls to 3 LS, 29 Assembly seats today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** Bypolls to three Lok Sabha seats and 29 assembly constituencies spread across 13 states and Dadra and Nagar Haveli will be held Saturday with many contests seen as prestige issue for parties hit by defections.

Adequate security and Covid safety measures have been put in place for the electoral exercise. In majority of the seats, the main fight will be between BJP and Congress candidates.

The seats where Lok Sabha bye-elections will be held are Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Mandi in Himachal Pradesh and Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh. Of the 29 assembly constituencies going to the bypolls, five are in Assam, four in West Bengal, three each in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, two each in Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan and one seat each is in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Mizoram and Telangana.

The counting of votes will take place November 2. Though bypoll was also announced for the Shamator-Chessore assembly constituency in Nagaland, Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party candidate S Keoshu Yimchunger was declared elected uncontested October 13.

In all the three Lok Sabha constituencies, the sitting members had died. The Mandi seat fell vacant after the death of Ramswaroop Sharma (BJP) in March.

# India recorded 1.53L suicides in 2020, over 10K in farm sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** India recorded 1,53,052 suicides - an average 418 daily - in 2020, with 10,677 of them by persons engaged in farming sector, according to the latest central government data.

Suicide rate (per lakh population) also increased from 10.4 in 2019 to 11.3 last year, the NCRB, which functions under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), stated.

A total of 10,677 persons involved in farming sector (consisting of



5,579 farmers or cultivators and 5,098 agricultural labourers) committed suicides during 2020, accounting for seven per cent of total suicide victims (1,53,052) in the country, the report showed. Out of 5,579 farmer or cultivator

suicides, a total of 5,335 were male and 244 were female, it showed. Out of 5,098 suicides committed by agricultural labourers during 2020, 4,621 were male and 477 were female, it added.

The majority of suicides were reported from Maharashtra (19,909), followed by Tamil Nadu (16,883), Madhya Pradesh (14,578), West Bengal (13,103), Karnataka (12,259), accounting for 13 per cent, 11 per cent, 9.5 per cent, 8.6 per cent and 8 per cent of the total cases, respectively, the data showed. These five states together accounted for

50.1 per cent of the total suicides reported in the country, while the remainder 49.9 per cent were reported from the remaining 23 states and eight union territories (UTs), the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) stated.

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state with 16.9 per cent share of the country's population, reported a comparatively lower percentage share of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 3.1 per cent of the total suicides, it added. Delhi, which is the most populous UT, reported the highest number of suicides

(3,142) among UTs, followed by Puducherry (408), the report showed.

A total of 23,855 suicides were reported in the 53 mega cities of the country in 2020, the report showed, observing that the suicide rate in cities (14.8) was higher as compared to all-India suicide rate (11.3). According to the report, 'family problems' (33.6 per cent), 'marriage-related problems' (5 per cent) and 'illness' (18 per cent) together accounted for 56.7 per cent of total suicides in the country during 2020, it showed.

# 60% stroke cases lead to disability, 30% cause death: Experts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** About 60 per cent of people suffering stroke in India face various degrees of disability, some lifelong, said experts here.

"While the numbers of stroke patients continue to rise exponentially, like many other brain diseases, there is still a remarkable lack of awareness regarding this condition. Timely treatment in stroke will go a long way in improving a patient's quality of life, and reducing lifelong morbidity and mortality," said Pankaj Agarwal, Senior Consultant - Neurology, Head, Movement Disorders Clinic & In-Charge, Deep Brain

Stimulation (DBS) Programme, Global Hospital Mumbai.

"Stroke patients who get help from paramedics are more likely to reach hospital for care - in India, that number is only 1.8 per cent. We need uniform emergency medical services (EMS) system and certification of stroke ready hospitals across the country so that people know where to go when they recognise the signs of stroke," added Dr P.N. Syla, Professor and HoD, Neurology, In-Charge, Comprehensive Stroke Care Programme, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST). While traditionally stroke affects older age groups, a large number of ischemic



strokes are now known to also affect young people - in their 30s or 40s. Sometimes even adolescents in their teenagers or early 20s are affected. "Stroke affects as many as 18

lakh Indians every year, which means one Indian suffers stroke every 40 seconds. One-fourth of these people are aged less than 50 and increasingly, a large proportion

of stroke patients are found in the age group of 19 to 30 years. The burden of stroke on the most productive sections of society not only affects the person and their fam-

## SHOCKING REPORT

- As brain cells begin to die in minutes, prompt treatment is crucial and early action can reduce brain damage, other complications and death
- While traditionally stroke affects older age groups, a large number of ischemic strokes are now known to also affect young people - in their 30s or 40s. Sometimes even adolescents in their teenagers or early 20s are affected

ily but leaves a cascading effect on the country's socio-economic condition," said Kamal Narayan, CEO, Integrated Health and Wellbeing (IHW) Council. Covid has also increased the risk of stroke, particularly among the young patients between 20 and 30, as the virus triggers abnormal and severe clotting in blood. While the risk is around 1 per cent (higher if other risk factors for stroke are present), it is still life-threatening or leads to severe disability.

Eating a well-balanced diet, avoiding processed foods and sugary drinks, limiting salt, alcohol, smoking, and exercising daily can lower the risk of stroke, the doctors said.

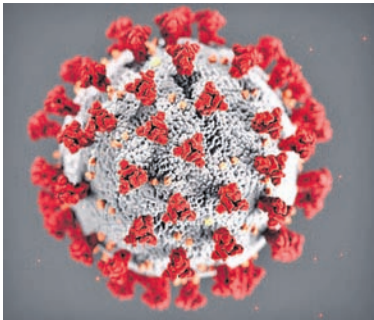
# international



**The New Zealand government's first results for the new financial year show the continued strength of the country's economy, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic**  
GRANT ROBERTSON | DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND

### STUDY INFO

SARS-CoV-2, a virus that causes Covid-19, can infect cells of the inner ear including hair cells, which are critical for both hearing and balance, finds a study



### of the day quote

New Zealand will establish a 'Ministry for Disabled People' in July 2022 and introduce a bill to make the country more accessible  
**CARMEL SEPULONI** | NEW ZEALAND POLITICIAN

US President Joe Biden will discuss the Iran nuclear issue with European leaders on Saturday on the sidelines of the 16th G20 Summit in Rome  
**JAKE SULLIVAN** | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR OF THE US

Israel must start a new political track based on the two-state solution, and implement the steps of trust-building between the two sides  
**MAHMOUD ABBAS** | PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT

## G20 leaders converge in Rome amid security



AGENCIES

**Rome, Oct 29:** The 16th G20 Summit, the first in-person gathering of leaders of the biggest economies since the onset of the pandemic early last year, will begin from Saturday in Italy's capital city amid tight security measures and with a packed agenda.

The summit will be preceded by a G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' meeting, which will also be hosted by Rome on Friday, reports Xinhua news agency. According to Italy's holder of the G20 Presidency since December 1, 2020, the Summit's agenda will cover the most pressing global health and economic issues related to the coronavirus pandemic.

These would include the need for the most developed economies to boost their efforts to ensure the fair and equitable global distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, especially to low-income countries.

Earlier this month, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched an appeal for some \$8 billion to speed up vaccination. The plan unveiled by the World Health Organization (WHO) aims at immunizing 70 per cent of the planet's population by mid-2022.

The G20 leaders are also expected to discuss climate change, digital transformation and sustainable innovation, along with such issues as the situation in Afghanistan, on which Italy called an extraordinary G20 meeting earlier in October.

Since the G20 Summit is scheduled to take place just before the opening of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland (October 31-November 12), the leaders in Rome are expected to discuss a common strategy in coping with climate change. The G20 countries have yet to agree on whether they should commit to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by around mid-century and also on the timing of the related decarbonization process. Security will be tight in and around Rome's La Nuvoletta Convention Centre in the EUR district, which

### Modi holds talks with top EU leaders

**Rome:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday held wide-ranging talks with the top leaders of the European Union here during which the two sides discussed deepening the India-EU friendship, particularly in areas such as political and security relations, trade, culture and the environment. Prime Minister Modi, who arrived here earlier in the day to participate in the G20 Summit, began his official engagements in Rome with a "productive interaction" with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. "Official engagements in Rome begin with a productive interaction with @eucopresident Charles Michel and @vonderleyen, President of the @EU\_Commission. The leaders discussed ways to enhance economic as well as people-to-people linkages aimed at creating a better planet," the Prime Minister Office tweeted.

will host the G20 Summit.

Rome's airspace has been closed from Thursday to November 1, although the city's Fiumicino and Ciampino airports will be allowed to operate. The Italian capital's police ranks will be bolstered by 500 extra officers, and Carabinieri (military police) and special units will be deployed across the city to ensure security. Set up in 1999, the G20 serves as a main forum for international cooperation on financial and economic issues.

It comprises 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, the US, plus the European Union. Together, the G20 members represent almost two-thirds of the planet's population and accounted for some 80 per cent of global gross domestic product and over 75 per cent of global trade in 2020.

## UK vows retaliation to French fishing threats

*Britain summoned the French ambassador for a dressing-down after French authorities fined two British fishing vessels and kept one in port overnight Thursday*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Oct 29:** Britain's environment minister pledged Friday to retaliate if France carries through on threats to block UK ships from French ports, warning that "two can play at that game" in the worsening dispute rooted in Britain's departure from the European Union.

Britain summoned the French ambassador for a dressing-down after French authorities fined two British fishing vessels and kept one in port overnight Thursday. Since the UK left the economic orbit of the EU in January, relations between London and Paris have become increasingly frayed as the nations on either side of the English Channel sort out a post-Brexit path.

France has threatened to block British boats and tighten checks on UK vessels unless French vessels get more permits to fish in UK waters. France also suggested it

might restrict energy supplies to the Channel Islands, British Crown dependencies that lie off the coast of France.

"We will see what they do," Environment Secretary George Eustice told Sky News. "But if they do bring these into place, well, two can play at that game and we reserve the ability to respond in a proportionate way."

The UK government said France's ambassador, Catherine Colonna, would be summoned to the Foreign Office on Friday, in an official sign of displeasure. "We regret the confrontational language that has been consistently used by the French government on this issue, which makes this situation no easier to resolve," the British government said in a statement.

France vehemently protested the decision last month by the UK and the Channel Island of Jersey to refuse dozens of French fishing



boats licenses to operate in their territorial waters. Dozens of other licenses were granted. France says the restrictions are contrary to the post-Brexit agreement that Britain signed when it left the EU. Meanwhile, the European Union's executive said UK authorities withdrew the impounded vessel's license to fish off France on March 1. But Macduff Shellfish, which operates the impounded scallop vessel Cornelis, hit back in a statement, saying it had access to French waters under the Brexit deal and that its activities were

"entirely legal," and that it would defend itself against all claims. Its statement did not offer specifics on licenses.

"It appears our vessel has been caught up in the ongoing dispute between the UK and France on the implementation of the Brexit Fishing Agreement," the company statement said. "We are looking to the UK government to defend the rights of the UK fishing fleet and ensure that the fishing rights provided under the Brexit Fishing agreement are fully respected by the EU."

### SHORT TAKES

#### Canberra eases Covid curbs

**Canberra:** Coronavirus restrictions in Australia's capital Canberra have eased significantly as residents of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) were no longer required to wear facemasks outdoors from Friday. For the first time since early August, Canberra's arts and entertainment venues including cinemas and theatres have reopened for up to 75 per cent of their seating capacity, reports Xinhua news agency. Patron caps for hospitality venues have been increased to a maximum of 25 people inside.

#### Militant killed

**Cotabato:** Philippine forces Friday killed one of the country's most-wanted Muslim militant leaders and his wife who were aligned with the Islamic State group and were blamed for deadly bombings, killings and extortion in the south for more than a decade, the military said. Army and police forces raided a hideout of the militant group Daulah Islamiya in a remote area of Talayan town in Maguindanao province and killed its leader, Salahuddin Hassan, and his wife in a 30-minute gunbattle before dawn. More than two dozen other gunmen managed to escape, regional military commander Maj. Gen. Juvymay U said.

#### SL approves five new airlines

**Colombo:** The Sri Lankan government has approved five new airlines to operate into the country before the end of this year aimed at boosting tourist arrivals following the easing of Covid curbs, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said. Accordingly, Sweden's Edelweiss Air will operate a weekly flight and Russia's Aeroflot twice a week from November 1, while Air France will fly three times a week from November 3, reports Xinhua news agency.

#### Turkey, US discuss F-35 dispute

**Ankara:** Turkish and US Defence Ministers held a meeting here to resolve the conflict on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program. According to the Defence Ministry in Ankara, the two sides on Thursday also discussed financial issues of the program, adding that the two NATO allies have agreed to continue their talks, reports Xinhua news agency. The discussion came ahead of a meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his US counterpart Joe Biden on the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow scheduled to begin on Sunday.

## 'Ensure Afghanistan is not used as terrorists' safe haven'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Oct 29:** India and the US have called on the Taliban to ensure that Afghanistan is not used as a safe haven for terrorists, as officials from the two countries concluded their joint dialogue on counter-terrorism to expand their cooperation to combat the scourge.

The Indian and the US sides also called for concerted action against all terror groups, including those proscribed by the UN Security Council such as al-Qaida, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), a joint statement issued after the meeting here said on Thursday. Reaffirming counter-terrorism cooperation as an important pillar under the US-India Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, both sides pledged to further expand cooperation on law enforcement, information sharing, exchange of best practices and strategic convergence on counter-terrorism challenges, it said.

During the two-day meeting here on October 26 and 27, the US reiterated its commitment to stand together with the people and the government of India in the fight against



During the meeting, the US reiterated its commitment to stand together with the people and Govt of India in the fight against terrorism

terrorism. They called on the Taliban to ensure that Afghanistan is not used as a safe haven for terrorists.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US complete troop withdrawal on August 31 after a costly two-decade war.

According to the joint US-India statement, the two countries strongly condemned any use of terrorist

proxies and cross-border terrorism in all its forms, and called for the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attack to be brought to justice.

The 2008 Mumbai attack was one of the most horrific terrorist attacks in India in which 166 people, including six Americans, were killed and over 300 injured as 10 heavily-armed terrorists from Pakistan created mayhem in the country's financial capital. Pakistani national Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, the lone terrorist captured alive, was hanged to death on November 21, 2012. "In line with UNSC Resolution 2539 (2021), both sides called on the Taliban to ensure Afghan territory is never again used to threaten or attack any country, shelter or train terrorists, or plan or finance terrorist attacks," it said.

## MISSILE KILLS 11 CIVILIANS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Sanaa (Yemen), Oct 29:** At least 11 civilians, including women and children, were killed when a ballistic missile launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck their house in Yemen's central province of Marib, security officials said on Friday.

The casualties belonged to the family of a key tribal leader and lived in the residential neighbourhood of Al-Aumad.

At least another 11 houses were damaged and 16 civilians were wounded in Thursday's attack, according to the officials, who asked to remain anonymous because they were not authorised to brief the media.

The Houthis have for years attempted to take oil-rich Marib to complete their control over the northern half of Yemen. In recent months, they accelerated their push.

The fighting has claimed a high number of fighters from both sides in the past several weeks.

The conflict has resulted in some 154 civilian injuries and deaths during the first six months of 2021, according to the United Nations refugee agency.

So far, June was considered the deadliest month, with 35 civilians, including children, killed in shelling and missile attacks, said UNHRC.

The war has also displaced around 170,000 people who used to live in and around the city and the surrounding province, also called Marib, as well as two nearby provinces, since the beginning of 2020, the UN said.

## UK takes all nations off Covid red list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Oct 29:** Beginning Monday, the UK will remove the remaining seven countries from its COVID-19 travel ban red list, which will be reviewed every three weeks and revised in case of emerging COVID variant threats, the British government has announced.

From 4am on Monday, the remaining seven destinations on the UK's COVID-19 travel ban red list - Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, Peru and Venezuela - will be removed, it said in an update on Thursday.

The red list itself has not been



scrapped and will be reviewed every three weeks, with restrictions imposed in case of emerging COVID variant threats.

The Department for Transport (DfT) said that Delta is now the

dominant COVID variant in most countries around the world, which means the risk of known variants entering the UK has reduced. "This is another step in the

right direction for international travel with more good news today for passengers, businesses and the travel sector," said UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps.

## 'Ghost ships' rise from Pacific after volcanic eruption



AROUND 24 SHIPS HAVE RESURFACED AS A RESULT OF THE UNDERWATER SEISMIC ACTIVITY

AGENCIES

**Tokyo, Oct 29:** Twenty-four World War II-era 'ghost ships' have been seen in the Pacific Ocean after a volcanic eruption near Japan's capital Tokyo.

All these ships were sunk during one of the most talked about battles of the World War II. It is being told that after the explosion in the underwater volcano Fukutoku-Okanoba, these ships came above the water and reached the shore. The sunken warships from World War II emerged about 800 miles from Tokyo, footage

and pictures show. The warships were from the Battle of Iwo Jima, an island roughly 760 miles from Japan's capital city.

Seismic activity from an underwater volcano called Fukutoku-Okanoba created a new small C-shaped island which was initially about 1 km in diameter. According to the Japanese Coast Guard, the small island was formed by hardened lava and is made of pumice and volcanic ash. But the same eruption also pushed up 24 ships that sank during the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. During the battle, 70,000 US marines fought against around 20,000

Japanese soldiers who were hiding out in bunkers within the island's volcanic rocks.

By the end of the war, 20,000 marines had been wounded and nearly 7,000 died. Nearly all the Japanese soldiers were killed in the battle. The vessels that have risen from the bottom of the sea are said to be sunken Japanese ships that were captured by the US Navy in the aftermath of the battle.

Since Iwo Jima had no port, the ships were sunken parallel to the shoreline to form a breakwater, according to the US National Archives. This is not the first time the warships are visible as they could also be seen 35 years ago because of seismic activity before being dragged to the bottom of the ocean again.

### of the day quote

**HAL** has a long-standing partnership with Boeing and we look forward to strengthening our association on military and civil programmes. We are prepared to collaborate with Boeing to boost manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India programmes



**R MADHAVAN** | CMD, HAL

We continue to see meteoric progress not only as a business but also in our efforts to democratise internet commerce for everyone. Our employees have been at the forefront of driving this momentum



**VIDIT AATREYA** | FOUNDER AND CEO, MEESHO

Our association with CamCom introduces our customers to AI-based car inspection modules at our service centres. It is a valuable addition to our bouquet of technologies



**GAURAV GUPTA** | CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER, MG MOTOR

### SHORT TAKES

#### GAIL net profit doubles in Q2

**New Delhi:** GAIL Ltd, the nation's largest natural gas utility, Friday reported more than doubling of its net profit in the September quarter after it again started making money on gas marketing. Net profit of ₹ 2,862.95 crore, or ₹6.45 per share, in July-September, was 131 per cent higher than ₹1,239.67 crore, or ₹2.75 a share, in the same period last fiscal, according to the company's stock exchange filing. Sequentially, net profit was up 87 per cent over ₹1,529.92 crore earning in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal.

#### Core sectors output rises 4.4% in Sept

**Bangalore:** The output of the eight core infrastructure sectors rose 4.4 per cent in September 2021, compared to the corresponding month last year, government data showed Friday, October 29. The infrastructure output witnessed a muted growth of 0.6 per cent in September 2020 when the pandemic hit industrial activity across the country. The eight core industries consists of 40.27 per cent of the total weight of the items included in the industrial output or the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

#### HC dismisses Future's appeal

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court Friday declined Future Group's plea for stay on an arbitration tribunal order refusing to interfere with the Emergency Award (EA), which restrained it from going ahead with the ₹24,731 crore merger deal with Reliance Retail. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait sought response from US-based e-commerce giant Amazon which had challenged the merger before the Singapore arbitration tribunal under SIAC, and listed the appeals by Future Coupons Pvt Ltd (FCPL) and Future Retail Ltd (FRL) for further hearing January 4.

#### ITC commits to AWS standard

**Mumbai:** Multi business conglomerate ITC Ltd has become the first company in India to announce its ambitious target for 2035 to certify all of its owned factories and hotels operating in areas of high-water stress to the International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS Standard), Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) certification is considered as the global benchmark for water stewardship.



And we set quarterly records in every geographic segment with strong double-digit growth across the board. During fiscal 2021, we earned nearly one-third of our revenue from emerging markets and doubled our business in India and Vietnam

**TIM COOK** | CEO, APPLE

#### JIO REFUSES 4-YEAR PAYMENT MORATORIUM

Reliance Jio Infocomm (Jio) has refused the government's moratorium on spectrum and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) payments, becoming the only telco to do so. Jio's refusal comes at a time when both rivals Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea (Vi) have accepted both forms of moratorium



## Fiscal deficit touches 35% of annual target

FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE DEFICIT AT 6.8 PER CENT OF GDP OR ₹15,06,812 CRORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** The union government's fiscal deficit has worked out to be ₹5.26 lakh crore or 35 per cent of the budget estimates at the end of September 2021, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) Friday.

The deficit figures in the current fiscal appear much better than the previous financial year when it had soared to 114.8 per cent of the estimates mainly on account of a jump in expenditure to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue was ₹5,26,851 crore at end of August, the CGA said. For the current financial year, the government expects the deficit at 6.8 per cent of GDP or ₹15,06,812 crore.

As per the data, the central government's total receipts stood at ₹10.99 lakh crore or 55.6 per cent of corresponding budget estimates (BE) 2021-22 up to September, 2021. The total receipts were 25.2 per cent of the BE of 2020-21 during the corresponding period of last financial year.

Of the total receipts, the tax revenue was ₹9.2 lakh crore or 59.6 per cent of BE. The tax revenue was



As per the data, the central government's total receipts stood at ₹10.99 lakh crore or 55.6 per cent of corresponding budget estimates (BE) 2021-22 up to September, 2021. The total receipts were 25.2 per cent of the BE of 2020-21 during the corresponding period of last financial year.

only 28 per cent of BE of 2020-21 in the year ago period.

The CGA data further said central government's total expenditure at the end of the first half of the fiscal year stood at ₹16.26 lakh crore or 46.7 per cent of current fiscal's BE.

Of the total expenditure, out of ₹13,96,666 crore was on revenue account and ₹2,29,351 crore

was on capital account. Out of the total revenue expenditure, ₹3,63,757 crore was on account of interest payments and ₹1,80,959 crore is on account of major subsidies.

The fiscal deficit for 2020-21 was 9.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), better than 9.5 per cent projected in the revised estimates in the budget in February.

## IRCTC stock recovers after Railways Ministry withdraws fee decision

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** Shares of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp pared most of their sharp early losses Friday, as the government reversed its decision to take 50% share of the state-owned company's revenue from convenience fees.

IRCTC plunged as much as 30% in its sharpest intraday fall since listing in 2019, wiping off as much as ₹219 billion (\$2.93 billion) from its market valuation, after the Ministry of Railways asked it Thursday to share 50% of revenue earned from convenience fees from Nov 1. But the stock pared most of these losses after the Indian government withdrew its decision earlier this morning.

"Ministry of Railways has decided to withdraw the decision on IRCTC convenience fee," the secretary of India's Department of Investment and Public Asset

IRCTC was trading at ₹859.25 down almost 6 per cent while it recovered from the morning lows

Management said in a tweet. IRCTC, the only firm authorised by the Indian Railways to manage food services on trains and offer online railway ticket booking services, earns a sizeable chunk of its revenues from convenience fee.

The company earned about ₹2.99 billion from convenience fees in 2020-21 or around 38% its revenue from operations, according to its annual report, in a year marred by Covid-19's hit to travel.

"This incident reveals the risks that investing in public sector enterprises carry," said Shriram Subramanian, managing director at corporate governance advisory firm InGovern Research Services.



#### SBI gives sanitiser machines, liquid to Utkal University



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** State Bank of India, Utkal University Campus Branch, has provided 40 sanitiser machines and liquid to various departments of the university.

Though the Covid-19 situation in the city is under control now, SBI has come forward to help the PG students during their offline classes which will be commencing soon.

On the occasion, Vidya Krishnan, Chief General Manager of SBI, Bhubaneswar Circle, handed over the machines to Sabita Acharya, Vice Chancellor, Utkal University. Other dignitaries of SBI like Shri Anand Bikram, DGM, Zone-1 and Bhupadev Pradhan, RM, region-4 were present. Sonny Mohapatra, CM, Utkal University Campus Branch conducted the programme.

## Godrej Group headed for family split

According to a report, the group is looking for a complete large-scale division between two groups -- one led by Adi and Nadir, and the other by Jamshyd and his sister Smitha Godrej Crishna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**New Delhi, Oct 29:** The \$4.1 billion Godrej Group, spanning from soaps and home appliances to real estate, is headed for a split between the brothers, sources aware of the matter said, citing external advice the family has sought for an amicable division of the 124-year-old conglomerate.

At present, the group is led by veteran industrialist Adi Godrej (79),

who is its chairman. His brother Nadir Godrej is the chairman of Godrej Industries as well as Godrej Agrovet. Their cousin Jamshyd N Godrej is the chairman of Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Ltd, which is also the flagship firm of the conglomerate, one of India's oldest business houses.

When reached for comments, a joint statement by the family said,

"The Godrej family has been working on a long-term strategic plan for the group for the last few years to ensure best value for its shareholders."

Without sharing further details, the statement added, "As part of this exercise, we have also sought advice from external partners. These discussions between the family remain ongoing."

People close to the family, including bankers Nimesh Kampani and Uday Kotak, along with well-known personalities from the legal field like Zia Mody of AZB & Partners and Cyril Shroff, are reportedly being consulted by the family for the exercise.

According to the group, around 23 per cent of the promoter holding in Godrej Group is held in trusts that invest in environment, health and education spheres.

Among the major companies of the group are the flagship unlisted engineering firm Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co Ltd and listed entities such as Godrej Consumer Products Ltd, Godrej Agrovet, Godrej Properties and Godrej Industries Ltd.

## UCO Bank net profit jumps to ₹205cr in Q2



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** UCO Bank reported multi-fold jump in net profit at ₹205.39 crore for the second quarter ended September 2021 as bad loans fell. The Kolkata-headquartered public sector lender registered a net profit of ₹30.12 crore in the year ago period.

Total income in July-September 2021-22 rose to ₹4,655.86 crore from ₹4,327.13 crore in the year-ago period, UCO Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The bank improved on its bad assets significantly as gross non-performing assets (NPAs) fell to 6.98 per

cent at the end of September 2021 quarter from 11.62 per cent by the same period of 2020.

Value-wise, gross NPAs fell to ₹10,909.79 crore as against ₹13,365.74 crore. Net NPAs (bad loans) stood at 3.37 per cent (Rs 3,854.33 crore) from 3.63 per cent (Rs 3,831.88 crore).

As the NPA proportions fell, the bank's provisions for bad loans and contingencies for the quarter also came down to ₹1,018.62 crore from ₹1,301.10 crore marked for the year-ago period.

UCO Bank stock was trading 0.95 per cent down at ₹14.54 on BSE.

### BIZ BUZZ

#### Smartphone made by Google, Jio at ₹6,499

**Bangalore:** India's Reliance Industries said Friday the low-cost smartphone made by its Jio telecom business and Alphabet Inc's Google will be available in stores from this festive season of Diwali for ₹6,499 (\$86.81). The smartphone will be available for an upfront price of ₹1,999 and the rest can be paid via monthly instalments, Reliance said in a regulatory filing. The phone's pricing is expected to shake-up the lower end of India's smartphone market, the world's second biggest. Jio also aims to use the phone to poach 2G users from rivals Vodafone Idea Ltd and Bharti Airtel Ltd.

#### Nykaa IPO subscribed 4.82 times on day 2 of offer

**New Delhi:** The initial share-sale of FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd, which runs online marketplace for beauty and wellness products Nykaa, was subscribed 4.82 times Friday, the Day 2 of subscription. The ₹5,352-crore IPO received bids for 12,77,48,892 shares as against 2,64,85,479 shares on offer, according to an update on the NSE. The category for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) received 4.72 times subscription, while those for non-institutional investors 4.17 times and retail individual investors (RIIs) 6.32 times. The initial share-sale of FSN E-Commerce Ventures was fully subscribed on the first day of subscription Thursday.

## CIPET signs MoU with MCL

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 29:** Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology's CSTS, Bhubaneswar and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Sambalpur signed two agreements Friday for providing skill development training to the youths from the peripheral villages of mining areas.

The MoU stated that 40 needy and unemployed candidates from the operational areas of MCL will be

given two years of ITI training under MCL's 'Project-Uddan' and 30 differently-abled candidates under 'Project-Sahyog' will get free training for six-months in Testing & Quality control.

On this occasion, GM (CSR) Pranab Kumar Chakraborty on behalf of MCL and PK Sahoo signed the MoU. Jayant Kumar Das, Administrative Officer of CIPET, Sujit Sen, GM (Civil) of MCL and Rohit Singh, Assistant Manager were present during the signing of the agreements.



PK Sahoo, Principal Director of CIPET thanked MCL for the initiative taken exclusively for Divyang to undergo such training program under MCL's 'Project-Sahyog' and said that a large number of youth would be trained in the coming days.

## Swedish cos to double money over next 2 years: Survey

SWEDEN AND INDIA'S BILATERAL COOPERATION HAS GROWN EVEN STRONGER DESPITE THE PANDEMIC, AND SWEDISH COMPANIES HAVE REPEATEDLY SHOWN THAT THEY HAVE A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** Unfazed by the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Swedish companies intend to double their investment in the next two years in India, according to the 13th Business Climate Survey (BCS).

The BCS, titled 'Towards Sustainable Growth', is conducted annually since 2008 by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce India (SCCI), along with the Embassy of Sweden in India, the Consulate General of Sweden in Mumbai

and Business Sweden. It attempts to understand the confidence of Swedish companies in India, to identify the obstacles and how they can be reduced.

According to the survey's findings, in the coming year, 80 per cent of the companies project their revenues to increase significantly (34 per cent) or slightly (46 per cent). This has starkly changed when compared with our interim survey in May 2020, where only 28 per cent of respondents projected their revenues would increase over the



coming 12 months, it noted. Besides assessing the level of green transition and innovation

ecosystem in the country, the survey also takes into account the increase in job opportunities and

representation of women in the workforce in India as one of the key factors influencing business deal-

ings between the two nations. Sweden and India's bilateral cooperation has grown even stronger despite the pandemic, and Swedish companies have repeatedly shown that they have a long-term commitment to India.

"I am therefore particularly proud that the 2021-22 Business Climate Survey (BCS) has received such a high response rate and that it highlights important areas such as green transition and women in the workforce," said Anna Hallberg, Swedish Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs as quoted in a statement.

Sanjeet, Akash in last 16

Belgrade, Oct 29: Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg) defeated Russia's Andrei Stotskii in a thoroughly entertaining contest to enter the pre-quarterfinals...

but also smiled frequently at each other, fighting at a languid but engaging pace. Late last night, Akash Sangwan (67kg) recorded a confident 4-1 victory against German pugilist Daniel Krotter...

Sindhu enters semis, Lakshya goes down



Paris, Oct 29: India's double Olympic medalist P V Sindhu continued her impressive run at the French Open badminton tournament...

WON'T REST ON MY LAURELS: SAYS BHAGAT

New Delhi, Oct 29: World No.1 para shuttler Pramod Bhagat says he won't rest on his past laurels and continue to strive hard for more success on international circuit...

The 33-year-old Bhagat was one of the 11 athletes who were nominated for the country's highest sporting honour by the selection committee...

"This is like an icing on the cake especially after winning the first gold medal in Paralympics for Indian Badminton. This award will only motivate me to work and strive harder and keep pushing myself," said Bhagat...

"I feel my career has just started and I have a long way to go and I am not complacent and not ready to rest on my laurels."

ICC T20 WORLD CUP

Pakistan beat Afghans, inch closer to last four

Dubai, Oct 29: Skipper Babar Azam hit a composed 51 (47b, 4x4) while Asif Ali hit four sixes in the penultimate over as Pakistan completed a hat-trick of victories in the T20 World Cup (World T20) with a five-wicket win over Afghanistan...

WI virtually knock B'desh out Warner does a CR7 at press conference



Nicolas Pooran (with gloves) leads the team off after the narrow win with the bat. In reply, Bangladesh could manage 139/5 in 20 overs as all West Indies bowlers picked one wicket each...

with wicketkeeper-batter Liton Das (44, 43b, 4x4) taking the initiative. With 50 needed off the last six overs with six wickets in hand, skipper Mahmudullah (31 n o, 24b, 2x4, 1x6) and Das looked to be in control...

Dubai, Oct 29: Australian opener David Warner did a Cristiano Ronaldo during the ongoing T20 World Cup here as he removed Coca Cola bottles placed in front of him during a press conference for a brief while.

Advertisement for Dhanotsav Shopping Festival (23rd Oct - 7th Nov) with Shubh Bhi, Laabh Bhi. Offers include Gold & Silver Coins with purchases over ₹25,000 to ₹2,00,000+.

Advertisement for BIG DISCOUNTS featuring products like Karmic Almond/Cashew, Prabhujhi Soan Papadi, Koryo TV, and Double Bed Sheet Set.

Advertisement for BIG DISCOUNTS featuring products like Magic Glass Top Gas Stove, Stainless Steel Dinner Set, and various kitchenware.

Advertisement for BIG GIFTS featuring Aristocrat Amber Soft Trolley, Atta, Dal, Chawal, Ghee, Shakkar, and Chawal gifts.

Advertisement for BIG BAZAAR featuring store locations, home delivery, online orders, and festive treats.