



## UNIQUE COMBINATION

Actor Shruti Haasan, 35, is set to romance megastar Chiranjeevi, 66, on-screen, for the first time, in an upcoming project

LEISURE P2



## SUDANESE DECRY COUP

Thousands of Sudanese pour into streets chanting 'revolution, revolution' to protest against the military takeover

INTERNATIONAL P10



## INDIA FACE KIWIS

Virat Kohli's men face New Zealand test in a virtually must-win match at the ICC T20 World Cup today

SPORTS P12

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## PM invites Pope Francis to India

**VATICAN CITY:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said he had a "very warm meeting" with Pope Francis and discussed a wide range of issues, including the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenge posed by climate change, with the head of the Roman Catholic church and also invited the Pontiff to visit India at an early date. Modi, who is the first Indian Prime Minister to meet Francis since he became Pope in 2013, also tweeted pictures of him embracing Pope Francis. "Had a very warm meeting with Pope Francis. I had the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues with him and also invited him to visit India," Modi tweeted after the historic meeting. In June 2000, late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had last visited the Vatican and met the then Pope, His Holiness John Paul II.



## BMC eases cap on social gatherings

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Saturday allowed further relaxation on the number of guests attending marriage ceremonies, funerals and other ceremonial functions in the Capital city from 50 to 250 now. In a fresh order issued Saturday, the civic body withdrew the restrictions related to gathering and the total number of persons to be allowed in functions related to marriage/death rituals/thread ceremony within its limit. In a bid to contain the spread of pandemic during Durga Puja, the BMC earlier, October 5, had limited the maximum number of people attending public gathering to only 50 within its jurisdiction.

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## Consensual sex with major no offence: Allahabad High Court

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Prayagraj, Oct 30:** The Allahabad High Court, while rejecting the bail plea of a gangrape accused Saturday, held that consensual sex with a major is not an "offence" but is "unethical, immoral, and against established Indian tradition".

Dismissing the bail plea of one of the four accused, Justice Rahul Chaturvedi said that it was the duty of the man, claiming to be the minor's boyfriend, to protect her when she was being sexually assaulted.

"The moment the applicant submits that the victim is his beloved, it becomes his binding duty to protect the dignity, honour and reputation of his girlfriend. If a girl is major, then having sex with her consent is not an offence, but certainly it is unethical and immoral, and also not in consonance with the established social norms of the Indian society," he said. The court termed the act of the applicant "highly deplorable and unbecoming of a boyfriend".

On February 19, the victim had gone for her stitching class and spoken to her boyfriend Raju and they both planned to meet. Later, they met at a secluded place near a river. It was here that the three other persons came, abused and beat the applicant, and committed the crime. On February 20, an FIR was lodged by the 15-year-old victim.

# Chinks in Assembly security

■ The accused duo accompanied the complainant and his son to Treasury on Assembly premises to deposit ₹25 lakh for registering their firm

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** The arrest of the two common by the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the state police has exposed the loopholes in security arrangements at high-sensitive zones like the Odisha Legislative Assembly as the accused had easy access to such places. The fraudsters were also found to have contacts in other vital government offices. EOW sources Saturday claimed to have arrested the two fraudsters for impersonating senior state government officers and cheating a businessman and his son of ₹1.17 crore.

Based on a complaint filed by Rikab Chand Munot alias Mukesh

## CONMEN'S ARREST



Suryamani

Amit

Jain, proprietor of M/s Rashtriya Stainless Steel, the EOW arrested Suryamani Tripathy and Amit Kumar from Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, respectively, said EOW SP Dillip Kumar Tripathy.

The accused were forwarded to the court of SDJM, Bhubaneswar.

The EOW SP said accused Rajesh Gahlot, Suryamani and Amit impersonated themselves as the officers of RAW, IAS and the state works department respectively and duped Mukesh Jain and his son of ₹1.17 crore with the help of a lady who impersonated a lady treasury officer at the Assembly. They cheated the complainant

and his son on the pretext of arranging big government work orders/contracts. In 2017, Mukesh came in contact with Gahlot, who introduced himself as an officer of RAW claiming several IAS officers of Odisha were his friends, said the SP. Gahlot, who is absconding now, introduced the complainant and his son Akshay to accused Suryamani at Odisha Niwas, Chanakyapuri, in New Delhi as an IAS officer; posted as additional secretary in the Public Works department (PWD).

In January 2018, after being called upon by Suryamani for executing agreement with PWD, pertaining to work orders in favour of complainant's firm, Mukesh & his son came to EIC office where Suryamani introduced another accused Amit as an executive engineer working with PWD, the SP further said. Both Suryamani and Amit took the Jains to Bhubaneswar court and prepared the agreements on stamp papers and got the documents / agreement papers purportedly signed

by assistant engineer in the office of EIC (Civil), he said.

The EOW found that the accused duo accompanied the complainant and his son to the government Treasury inside the Assembly premises to deposit ₹25 lakh for registering their firm. This has raised questions as to how the accused were allowed entry to such high-sensitive zone without any check. The Jain duo paid cash of ₹25 lakh to one lady, who has been introduced as Treasury officer. In return, Suryamani handed over a fake Treasury receipt in respect of ₹25 lakh to the complainant. Tripathy handed over two fake work orders worth ₹3 crore and ₹4 crore March 15, 2018. The complainants sought information under RTI about the accused and the work orders given to them before they realised that they had been duped.

Police found that Suryamani has been working as a clerk in the office of the Directorate of Technical Education & Training, Cuttack, whereas Amit Kumar is unemployed.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 30:** Aryan Khan, son of superstar Shah Rukh Khan, walked out of the Arthur Road prison, after spending 26 days in the central Mumbai facility following his arrest during a drug raid on a cruise ship off the city coast.

The 23-year-old, arrested October 3 by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), walked out of the prison at 11am and got into a waiting car, which reached his home Mannat in suburban Bandra shortly after 11.30am.

Aryan came out of the prison a day after a special court issued his release

memo. He was granted bail by the Bombay High Court Thursday. Shah Rukh Khan's actor-friend Juhi Chawla stood as surety for the 23-year-old before the special court, designated to hear cases related to the NDPS. However, he had to be in jail Friday as bail orders couldn't reach the jail authorities by 5:30pm.

Meanwhile, a special court here Saturday granted bail to alleged drug peddler Aachit Kumar and eight others who were arrested by the NCB following a raid on the cruise ship. Of the 20 persons arrested by the NCB after the raid October 2, as many as 14 have got bail so far.

# State waives MV tax on electric vehicles

■ The state will provide 15% subsidy — a maximum of ₹5,000 for two wheelers, ₹10,000 for three-wheelers, and ₹50,000 for four-wheelers — on the base price

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** In accordance with the Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021, the state Commerce and Transport department Saturday issued the official notification for 100 per cent exemption of Motor Vehicle (MV) taxes and registration fees on electric vehicles.

"The state government in exercise of the powers conferred under the Odisha Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1975, do hereby allow 100% exemption of Motor Vehicles taxes and also registration fees in respect of all types of battery operated vehicles (electric vehicles) during the policy period, i.e. up to December 31, 2025," read the notification.

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, in August 2021, had published a gazette notification on the amended the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 where the battery operated vehicles have been exempted from pay-



ment of such fees.

On the advice of NITI Aayog, the state government had notified the Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021 in September this year. Under the policy, the government has proposed to extend financial incentives for manufacturing industries, buyers, scrapping along with interest subvention in loans, waiving of road tax & registration fees during the policy period (five years). It has also decided to give incentives under the Startup Policy.

As per the policy, the state will provide 15 per cent subsidy — a maximum of ₹5,000 for two wheelers, ₹10,000 for three-wheelers, and ₹50,000 for four-wheelers — on the base price.

The state government employees can avail 100 per cent interest-free loans for purchasing EVs in the state. A subsidy of 10 per cent (maximum limit of ₹4 lakh per vehicle) will be provided to the buyers for passenger buses registered in the state.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I guess climate is good. You see, I spend most of my time on a plane!

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.0°C	32.0°C
TEMP MIN	23.0°C	22.0°C
Humidity	70%	70%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

# G20 struggles to toughen climate goals

■ Keeping 1.5° Celsius warming level within reach will call for meaningful and effective actions by member countries

REUTERS

**Rome, Oct 30:** Leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies will say they aim to cap global warming at the 1.5 degrees Celsius level what scientists say is vital to avoid disaster, but will largely avoid firm commitments, according to a draft statement seen by Reuters.

The joint statement on the need for climate action reflects tough negotiations among diplomats as the leaders gathered for a two-day summit in Rome, but the draft details a few concrete actions to limit carbon emissions.

"We remain committed to the (2015)



Paris Agreement goal to hold the global average temperature increase well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels," the draft says.

The statement also says the leaders recognised the key relevance of achieving net zero carbon emissions by the middle of this century. This is a goal that United Nations experts say is needed to achieve the 1.5 degree cap on warming, but some of the world's biggest polluters have still not committed to it.

China, the largest global emitter of greenhouse gases, has set a 2060 target date.

Overall, the fifth draft produced does not seem to have toughened up the language on climate action compared with previous versions, and in some areas it has slightly softened it.

The G20 bloc, which includes Brazil, China, India, Germany and the US, accounts for more than 80 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), 60 per cent of its population and an estimated 80 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Keeping 1.5° Celsius within reach will require meaningful and effective actions by all countries, the latest draft says. That compares with a previous draft which said immediate action was needed, reflecting the painstaking discussions over wording involved in climate diplomacy.

## SRADHANJALI

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On behalf of All Employees of  
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# leisure



## JAMIE DORNAN USED TO LIE ABOUT HIS MODELLING JOB

Actor Jamie Dornan used to lie about his modelling career when he met girls because he was embarrassed. The 39-year-old actor struggled with the "energy" and the "vanity" of his former career and admitted when he used to meet women, he'd pretend he had a different job, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

## HARINGTON DIDN'T HEAR OF ETERNALS CHARACTER

Actor Kit Harington, who stars as Dane Whitman/Black Knight in the new Marvel Cinematic Universe film *Eternals*, says he didn't know much about his alter ego, although he was attracted to the part by the "essence of the character".



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Your ability to let go things will reflect in your personal as well as your professional life. Today could be a significant day for you, and Ganesha advises you not to forget your special abilities. Make good use of them so that others too can benefit.

**TAURUS**  
Professionals in all spheres of work are due for a field day today. The day will be particularly outstanding for Administrators and executives are likely to get richer by the end of the day. Even if you are engaged in some other work, you will stand out and get noticed for your overall excellence. Businessmen can expect to get into new partnerships and joint ventures. This is a very auspicious day for launching new projects.

**GEMINI**  
You need to break free from the shackles of your daily routine. Trying to finish all your tasks as per your schedule will give rise to unnecessary worry. To manage your time creatively is the best way to beat the stress. Talking to your elders is a good way to calm your shot nerves, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
Your social prestige will go up. People will praise your personality traits and try to emulate you. You will be a role model, too. Ganesha feels that this will be highly profitable day for you.

**LEO**  
You will try to take up new projects to the best of your abilities today. You will be able to successfully tackle all your tasks today. You will face a little instability in your personal relationships, but will be able to solve all issues successfully, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Opening up to your beloved about your whims and fancies as well as your goals shall be the key today. And, why not, urges Ganesha. Your intimate relations should be built on trust and mutual compatibility. Your energy levels will hit the sky. Make the most of this spurt by finishing in leftover mundane chores. Don't forget to stick to social norms, though.

**LIBRA**  
Lady Luck offers you a mixed bag today, so expect anything and everything. You may also develop a knack for pointing out others' mistakes, while turning a blind eye to your own shortcomings. Ganesha disapproves of this. Look forward to a delightful evening, for, you will have fun in the company of friends.

**SCORPIO**  
Be vigilant; keep your eyes and ears open for all the events happening around you, says Ganesha. Your intuition is trying to tell you something, trust it. Think and act positively, the rest would fall in place.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Work is likely to keep you on toes. At work place, you and your opinions will be in demand. Those who are associated with stock exchange and shares will be happy to gain profits during the afternoon. Wait and watch the end result in the evening.

**CAPRICORN**  
Opportunities don't knock on the door twice. Today, you'll answer the door and utilise the opportunity to the most, predicts Ganesha. Positive results will be visible and you'll stand a chance to overtake your competitors. Even if the competition is fierce and opponents try everything to pull you down, you'll not let them win the battle. Socially, you will be very popular today.

**AQUARIUS**  
Spirituality is your new passion and Calvin Klein matters less today! Mysticism attracts you, says Ganesha. This may lead you to seek solace in holy books and religious places. It's going to take some time for you to understand that spiritual attainment can be had in the flesh-and-blood world as well.

**PISCES**  
You are ceaselessly driven to find room for improvement. A part-time course to enhance your skills or to increase your efficiency is what you will likely be pursuing today, says Ganesha.



## Shruti to romance Chiranjeevi in next!

**HYDERABAD:** Telugu's most loved actor, megastar Chiranjeevi, is currently busy with a handful of movies. With interesting movies in the pipeline, the senior actor has expert directors in the line to direct him. As per the latest buzz, South Indian actress Shruti

Haasan(35) is being considered as the female lead for Chiranjeevi(66)'s interesting upcoming project. Tentatively titled #Mega154, the movie is to be directed by Bobby. The reports suggest that the makers are trying to bring in Shruti Haasan to romance Chiranjeevi. It is to be noted that, if Shruti ends up signing on the

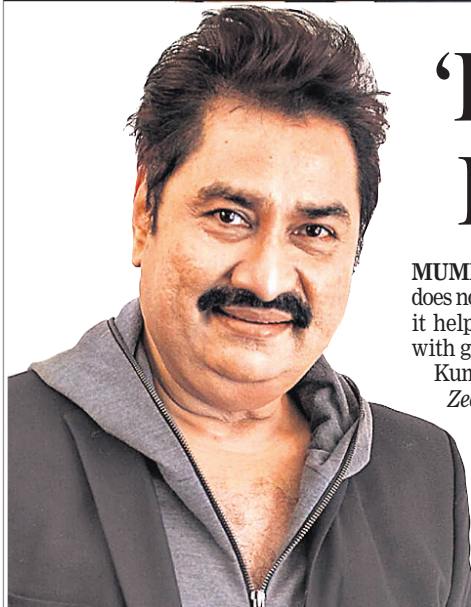
dotted line for this movie, this would be the first movie she collaborates with Chiru. The movie *Mega154* is all set to be launched with a formal pooja ceremony in November, as per the current reports. Soon, the movie is to go on the floors. Touted to be an out and out mass masala entertainer, Bobby is to bring out the mass side of Chiranjeevi as promised to his fans.

### DIWALI SPECIAL

## Ashiit, Naaz team up to surprise fans

**BHUBANESWAR:** Actor Ashiit Kumar Patra of cine play Saksharam Binder fame is set to gift *Tume Mo Sahita Achha*, a sensuous music album, to the fans this Diwali. Bengali beauty Naaz plays the female lead. Ananya Sritam Nanda and Kuldeep have lent their voice to the song written by Ashiit, while Baidyanath Dash scores the music. Directed by Sunil Patnaik, the video will be released on the YouTube channel of Brajalaxmi Movies. "It's a very different video with a unique concept. This will perhaps be the first Odia

music video based on the fourth night romance. The visuals will be shot in scenic locations of Mayurbhanj November 1," says Ashiit, who is now busy filming Odia movie *Kedar Gouri*, an adaptation of Kabirara Radhanath Ray's iconic poem of the same name.



## 'REMIXES ARE GREAT, REALLY LIKE THEM'

**MUMBAI:** Singer Kumar Sanu does not mind song recreations as it helps youngsters to resonate with golden hits. Kumar Sanu appeared on the *Zee Comedy Show* as a special guest. While the musician entertained everyone with his songs, he also shared some interesting stories and spicy anecdotes during the shoot.

He talked about his opinion on song remixes, while he was on the show. He said: "I feel remixes are great, I really like them. In fact, remixes and recreations have been happening for a long time now and I feel our songs are being much more appreciated now. If they are being remixed it means they are good enough to be considered to be made again." He added: "I think that via

remixes of some songs, the younger generation who didn't know who sang these songs or never heard the evergreen songs, are getting to know and hear them. I remember Honey Singh added his style to *Dheere Dheere Se Meri Zindagi Mein Aana* and some people didn't appreciate it. But I really liked it and I feel remixes are key for youngsters to resonate with our golden hits."

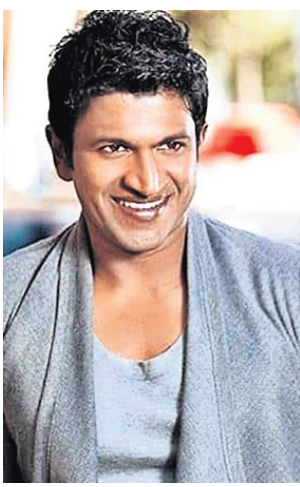
### FROM PUNEETH TO SIDHARTH

## Untimely exits leave family, fans stunned

Actor Sidharth Shukla, who became a household name with the TV serial 'Balika Vadhu' before his stint on reality show 'Bigg Boss' that saw his popularity go through the roof, suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of 40

Kannada star Puneeth Rajkumar's demise at the age of 46 following a heart attack is the latest this year in a series of sudden deaths of people in their prime, leaving behind stunned families and many questions, often unanswered, of exactly why and how.

Shocking those who knew him and his cinema, and even those that didn't, Puneeth, a known fitness enthusiast, was rushed to a Bangalore hospital after he complained of chest pain following a two-hour workout Friday, doctors treating him said.



Puneeth Rajkumar



Sidharth Shukla

Nothing more is known of the underlying causes leading to his death. Before him, Ahmedabad-based Saurashtra batter Avi Barot, a former India Under-19 captain and a member of the Ranji Trophy winning team in the 2019-20 season, died October 16 following a cardiac arrest. He was only 29.

September 2, actor and model Sidharth Shukla, who became a household name with the TV serial *Balika Vadhu* before his stint on reality show *Bigg Boss* that saw his popularity go through the roof, suffered a fatal

heart attack at the age of 40. Ashesh Dhar, a senior Tata Motors executive, also died of a heart attack July 24. A non-smoker, marathon runner and a regular at the gym, the 51-year-old religiously followed his health regimen.

Another B-town name, filmmaker Raj Kaushal (50), who helmed *Pyaar Mein Kabhi Kabhi* and *Shaadi Ka Laddoo*, died just as suddenly June 30. He is survived by his wife, actor-TV presenter, Mandira Bedi and their two children, son Vir and daughter Tara.

Gujarati and Hindi film actor Amit Mistry, known for starring in films like *Shor In The City*, *Yamla Pagla Deewana* and Amazon Prime Video series *Bandish Bandits* met the same fate. He died following a cardiac arrest April 23. The 47-year-old, who had no underlying medical condition, is survived by his mother.



Raj Kaushal



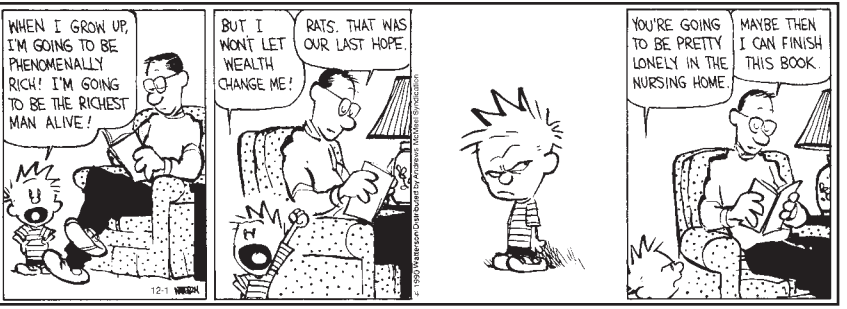
Amit Mistry

### FUN post

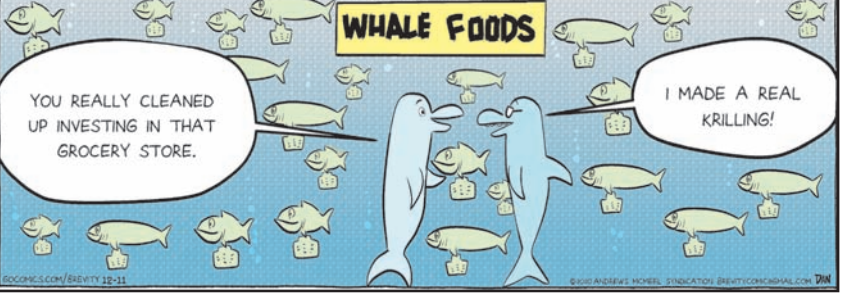
#### PEANUTS



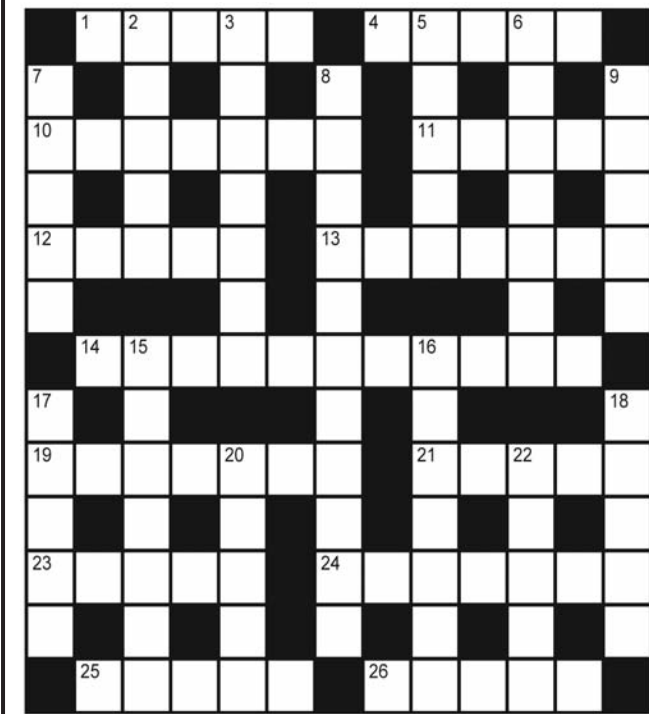
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



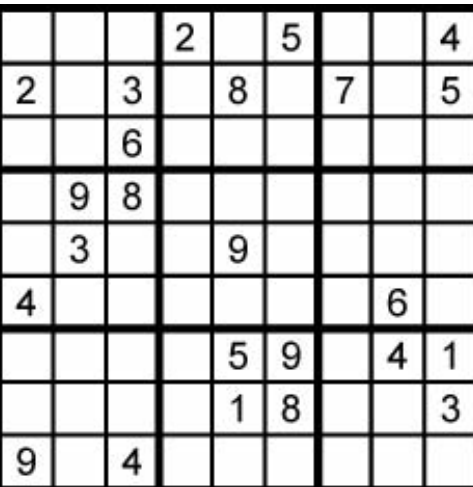
#### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Express a thought
  - 4 Pursue
  - 10 Smart aleck (4,3)
  - 11 German wine valley
  - 12 Vigilant
  - 13 Masquerade wear
  - 14 Nasty ghost
  - 19 Rainy season
  - 21 Ringmaster
  - 23 Reject
  - 24 Sea captain
  - 25 Eccentric
  - 26 Op-ed piece
  - Down**
  - 2 Ziti, e.g.
  - 3 Inattention
  - 5 Charters
  - 6 Goofs (4-3)
  - 7 Fine-tune
  - 8 Operate simultaneously
  - 9 Flu symptom
  - 15 Worthless (2,2,3)
  - 16 Adversaries
  - 17 Out of whack
  - 18 Style
  - 20 Title holder
  - 22 Dried coconut meat

#### SUDOKU

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

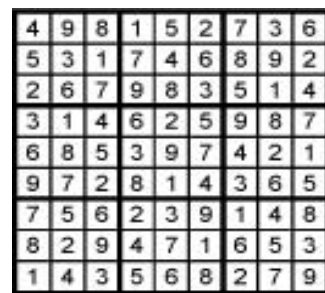


#### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



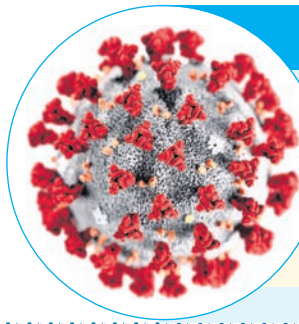
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## WORLD THRIFT DAY

Puri Additional Collector Suvash Chandra Nathsharma flags off an awareness vehicle on the occasion of World Thrift Day, Saturday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	24,70,09,950	22,37,28,076	50,08,691
India	3,42,60,470	3,36,41,175	4,57,740
Odisha	10,40,969	10,28,697	8,329

# Slugfest over Mamita case continues

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** Continuing its attack on the MoS for Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra, over Mamita Meher murder case, BJP Mahila Morcha national president Vanathi Srinivasan Saturday demanded resignation of Mishra on moral grounds.

Addressing a press conference here, the BJP leader said the Assembly constituency where the crime took place is represented by Mishra and the accused Gobinda Sahu is known to be his close aide. Mishra had visited the school many times. Funds from the MLA LAD have been provided to Sahu's school too, she alleged.

Even though three weeks have passed since the incident, neither Mishra nor anyone from the state government visited the victim's family, the BJP leader said.

"Mishra broke his silence by issuing a statement yesterday and claimed that he is in no way involved in the case. He swore in the name of Goddess Manikeshwari and pleaded not guilty. Similarly, we in the BJP request him (Mishra) in the name of Lord Jagannath to resign to pave the way for a fair probe into the murder case," demanded Vanathi.

If he is innocent, what prevented



BJP leader Vanathi Srinivasan (L), Congress leader Ganeswar Behera (C) and BJD leader Pratap Deb (R) address the media over Mamita murder case in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



OP PHOTOS

him from visiting Mamita's home to console the bereaved family, she questioned.

Stating that the state BJP has been protesting against this injustice for the last 10 days, she said, "We feel the MoS should step down from his position on grounds of propriety and moral responsibility in view of the suspicion and mistrust generated around his conduct."

BJP leader and MLA from West Bengal, Sreerupa Mitra Chaudhury, who is another member of the BJP central team, slammed the state government for not reaching out to the family even 22 days after the incident.

Chaudhury urged the Naveen Patnaik government to strictly follow the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, to ensure safety and security of witnesses.

- BJP Mahila Morcha national president Vanathi Srinivasan demands resignation of Mishra on moral ground

- Both BJP and Congress activists hold demonstrations across the state demanding resignation of MoS Home Dibya Shankar Mishra

- BJD dares Opposition to lodge FIR or move court if they have evidence against Mishra

The three-member BJP central team was on a two-day visit to Odisha to carry out a ground assessment of facts related to the Mamita Meher murder case. The third member of the team is Sunita Duggal, a party MP from Haryana. The team visited the victim's na-

tive village in Bolangir district and spoke to Mamita's parents and offered their condolences.

Meanwhile, the state BJP Saturday intensified its protest over the issue. Party activists staged protests at Rourkela, Cuttack and Nayagarh in support of their demand for the arrest of Mishra.

The party also observed a 12-hour bandh (from 6 am to 6 pm) in several districts, including Boudh, Kendrapara, Balasore and Jagatsinghpur. The party has also called for a 6-hour bandh in Bhadrak district. Youth Congress activists also took out a rally from Congress Bhawan and marched towards Naveen Niwas. However, police prevented them mid-way, leading to a scuffle between the party workers and police. Several Youth

Congress activists were also arrested and released later.

Stating the minister's statement is meaningless and baseless, senior Congress leader Ganeswar Behera said, "He (Mishra) has not categorically refuted any charges leveled against him. Mishra should tender his resignation immediately. He should face the investigation to prove himself innocent. Otherwise, Congress will intensify the agitations across Odisha."

The ruling BJD, however, refuted the allegations while accusing the opposition of politicising the issue.

"Everyone knows that a heinous crime has occurred. Mishra has already clarified his stand on this issue. If the Opposition parties have any evidence against him to

prove his involvement in the case, then they should produce it before the police and file an FIR or can even move court," said BJD leader Pratap Deb.

"The minister has also said that he is prepared to face action if he is proven guilty," he added.

Attacking back the BJP, the BJD leader questioned what actions have been taken against the Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case in Uttar Pradesh?

"Earlier, CM Naveen Patnaik has sacked many who have been convicted for crimes. And this time he won't spare anyone. As the party spokesperson, I can affirm that my leader won't tolerate any nonsense and will take action after the accused is proven guilty," he added.

## PM urged to include three more sites in Netaji circuit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** An Odisha-based organisation Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to include three more sites in the Netaji tourist circuit being mullied by the Union government.

Netaji Subhas Birth Soil Yatra convenor Debiprasad Prusti demanded the inclusion of Vakkom in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district, Madras central prison, and Balasore town in Odisha into the circuit. "The Netaji tourist circuit will remain incomplete without the inclusion of these three places. Their non-inclusion would be an injustice to thousands of soldiers of Indian Independent League (IL) and the Indian National Army (INA)," Prusti said.

The Centre has drawn up plans to promote sites across the country associated with Netaji through curated tours, as part of events to commemorate the anniversary of the formation of the Azad Hind government, officials in the Tourism ministry had said. The Cuttack-Kolkata-Andaman route will include Netaji's childhood home in Cuttack, his first school - Stewart School - and his high school - Ravenshaw Collegiate School among the sites.

# BJD announces statewide protests over price rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Saturday announced a series of protests across the state targeting the BJP-led Central government over the spiralling rise in the prices of fuel and other essential commodities.

This was announced by party spokespersons and senior MLAs PK Deb, Atanu S Nayak and Pramila Mallick at a press meet here.

As part of the agitation, BJD leaders and members will stage a dharna in front of Raj Bhawan here Sunday and submit a memorandum to Governor Ganeshi Lal addressing it to President Ram Nath Kovind, the party leaders said.

The BJD will be organising protest meetings in all the 147 Assembly constituencies of the state Monday, the government's Chief Whip Pramila Mallick said. The party blamed the Central



government's 'faulty' economic management for the rise in the prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas and other essential items.

Terming the huge price rise as 'unfortunate' and 'unpardonable', the BJD leaders pointed out that fuel prices have increased by 30 per cent since the BJP returned to power at the Centre in 2019, indirectly pushing up prices of essential commodities from 40 per cent to 100 per cent.

Leaders of the ruling party said while the Covid-19 pandemic has

already affected the livelihoods of common people over the last two years, the rise in prices has added to their woes.

"The prices of petrol and diesel have increased a record high in the past two years. The BJD will never stay silent over this issue and raise its voice in public interest," said Deb.

However, BJP spokesperson Golak Nayak said the price rise of fuel is due to the high tax component of the state government. "If the BJD is really concerned, it should suggest a reduction of the high tax component to the state government," he said.

The BJP leader accused that by organising such protests, the ruling party is diverting people's attention from the state-wide hue and cry over Minister DS Mishra's alleged link with the prime accused of the Kalahandi woman teacher's killing.

# Fill up vacant posts of spl teachers, SC tells states

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** Expressing concern over the shortage of special teachers to teach children with special needs (CwSN), the Supreme Court has directed Odisha and other states to fill up the vacant posts of such teachers.

The apex court noted that a total of 5,966 special teachers in Odisha are registered with the Rehabilitation Council of India against the all-India figure of 1,20,721.

The SC also asked the states to create permanent posts for special teachers by taking into account the pupil-teacher ratio specified by the competent authorities.

"There is a dearth of rehabilitation professionals or special teachers recognised and registered by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). As per the data with the Unified District Information System for Education, there are 22.5 lakh CwSN in the country. However, only 4.33 lakh general teachers have been trained to teach CwSN, in addition to teaching general children, and only 28,535 special teachers are available for children with special needs," the bench observed.

A three-judge bench comprising Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar asked the State Commissioners appointed under Section 79 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to ensure that the directions issued by the apex court are complied with and make recommendations to authorities for the same. The Commissioners were directed to file compliance report by the end of February next year. The Supreme Court also directed the state governments to provide compulsory training to staff and teachers of general schools to handle children with special needs.

# Octogenarian held for sexually assaulting minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nimapara, Oct 30:** Nimapara police Saturday arrested an octogenarian man on charges of sexually assaulting a nine-year-old girl Wednesday evening. A case has been registered and the accused,

Apari Sahu, has been produced in a Pocos court, police said.

As per the complaint, the incident occurred when the girl was alone in their rented home at Nimapara while her daily wage parents were away for work. The victim's mother had lodged a com-

plaint in this regard with police.

"The accused has undergone medical examination at Nimapara hospital, while the victim will be sent to the district headquarters hospital in Puri for the same. We have also seized the clothes of the accused for examination," said a police officer.

# ECoR OPENS KALINGA RAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM



ECoR General Manager Vidya Bhushan and other dignitaries during the inauguration of the museum in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Old equipment, instruments, technology devices and models have also been preserved in this Heritage Museum

Efforts have been taken to preserve the long and vibrant history of Indian Railways along with the rich heritage of East Coast Railways.

Old equipment, instruments, technology devices and models have also been preserved in this Heritage Museum through an impressive display of artefacts, models and photographs.

In the indoor section, various documents, old manuals, railway maps, equipment and photographs from early days of the railway in India are put on display that helps visitors to capture the spectacular history and rich heritage.

There are various documentaries which will keep the visitors glued. Articulate display of postage stamps and logos helps one to take a trip down memory lane and appreciate the culture and heritage of Indian Railways. This will also facilitate the visitors to enhance their knowledge about Indian Railways by spending some quality time here.

Departments of ECoR.

Indian Railways in general and East Coast Railway in particular have a rich and illustrious history. There are lots of untold stories about the Railways. The aim of establishing a Rail Museum at Bhubaneswar is to preserve the old railway equipment, to showcase the rich history of the Railways in this region, to enlighten the public about the Railways and its achievements and to boost tourism.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** East Coast Railway (ECoR) general manager Vidya Bhushan inaugurated the Kalinga Rail Heritage Museum at Chandrasekharpur in the capital Saturday in the presence of Additional General Manager Shri Sudhir Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager, Khurda Road, Rinkesh Roy and other Principal Heads of

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**Bank of Baroda**

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**E-AUCTION**  
**SALE NOTICE**

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**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
"APPENDIX - IV - A [See Proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]"  
**E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, POSSESSION of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/ e-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and Mortgagor (s)	Description of the immovable property boundaries and with known encumbrances, if any	Demand/Possession Notice Date/ Outstanding (Secured Debt)	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price EMD of the Property Bid Increment	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	<b>Borrower: Sri Akshaya Kumar Behera, S/o: Mr. Bhikari Charana Behera / Guarantor: Mamalata Behera, W/o: Sri Akshaya Kumar Behera, Both are At/P.O.: Sahaspur, P.S.: Dhusuri, Dist.: Bhadrak, Odisha-756119</b>	Equitable mortgage of Residential Flat No.: 302, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Type-2BHK, SBA: 1.112sqft, BUA: 926.66sqft, Carpet Area: 741.33 sqft, undivided share of Area: Ac.0.009Dec. O/o Area: Ac.0.205Dec., in the apartment in name and style as- Taksh Apartment, Bearing Khata No.: 28, Plot No.: 16 & 17. In Mouza: Panchagaon, P.S.: Airfield, P.S. No.: 30, Tahasil: Jatni, Dist.: Khurda-752050, Bounded by North: Revenue Plot No.: 15, South: Revenue Plot No.: 18 & 19, East: Revenue Plot No.: 21, West: Revenue Road	01.11.2017 / 18.11.2019 / ₹24,92,788.70 + interest w.e.f 23.08.2021 + charges	18.11.2021 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM	₹22,50,000/- ₹2,25,000/- ₹10,000/-	Physical	16.11.2021 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM

**TERMS & CONDITIONS :** The interested bidders shall login [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com) to deposit EMD amount online latest on 17.11.2021 by 5.00 PM.  
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm>, [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com) and <https://ibapi.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised Officer on Tel No.: 0674-2396320, Mobile: 707722158

**Also Please Note:**  
1) The Authorized Officer/Bank has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale/ modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and without assigning any reason including calling upon the next highest bidder to perform in case the earlier bidder fails to perform.  
2) In case Auction purchaser submits the KYC documents within two days preceding the Auction date. Authorized Officer/Bank/ e-Auction service provider is having liberty to accept and complete the KYC verification & EMD amount. However in such even the Authorized Officer/ Bank / e-Auction service provider will not be held liable for any delay/failure for verification of KYC documents and failure to transfer EMD in wallet. The interested bidder will be able to bid on the date of e-auction only if the Bidder's Global Wallet have sufficient balance (EMD amount) as on the date and time of auction.

**STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/ GUARANTOR/ MORTGAGOR FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 8(5), 8(6) AND 9(1) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002**

**Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 30.10.2021** **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

MO SCHOOL ABHIYAN

# Nod to projects worth ₹15.18cr



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** The 29th Executive Council meeting of Mo School Abhiyan was held Saturday under the chairmanship of Satyabrata Sahu, secretary, School and Mass Education Department. The meeting has approved projects worth Rs15.18 crore for 1,146 schools in 24 districts of Odisha.

Within a month, 14,000 alumni have joined the Mo School Abhiyan and have donated Rs15.18 crore for the development of their respective schools. The alumni have contributed Rs 1.14 crore in Balasore, Rs 55.98 lakh in Sonepur, Rs 32.16 lakh in Cuttack, Rs 30.41 in Jajpur and Rs 20.47 lakh in Mayurbhanj districts respectively.

As many as 6,06,908 alumni members have been connected to their alma mater under the Mo School Abhiyan.

A CSR grant of Rs 333.4 crore has been received towards transformation of 2,222 high schools under the 5T High School Transformation Programme. Schools have been instructed to complete their respective ongoing projects on time.

Satyabrata Sahu has instructed

## As many as 6,06,908 alumni members have been connected to their alma mater under the Mo School Abhiyan

that emphasis on prioritising field monitoring and social audits to maintain transparency on the ongoing works.

In addition, it has been decided to accelerate the development programme of schools under the School Adoption Programme (SAP). Mo School, in collaboration with 'Pratham' and 'Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti', has been organising 'learning camps' in 1,025 schools since October 2. These camps aim to foster the interest of children towards learning. From November 14 onwards camps will be organised in 3,975 schools.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between Mo School and Quest Alliance to promote digital literacy among students and teachers. Under this programme, training will be provided to two teachers from each of the 1,072 schools.

## Illegal constructions near Srimandir under ASI scanner

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Oct 30:** Some people are carrying out construction work within 100 metres of the Meghanada wall of Srimandir in violation of the norms.

On being informed, a joint team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Puri Konark Development Authority took stock of the situation and issued a direction for immediate halting of the construction work.

As per the norms, no construction work is allowed within 100 metres of Srimandir, while any construction work within the next 200 metres requires due approval from the ASI, the conservator of the 12th century shrine.

"Some individuals and organisations are carrying out construction work within 100 metres of Srimandir illegally. We had earlier served notices on the individuals and organisations concerned. A team of officials recently visited the surroundings of Srimandir and issued a direction for halting the construction work. Any violation in this regard would invite stern action," said ASI officer Jyotiranjnan Pati.

The locals, meanwhile, blamed the ASI, PKDA and the district administration for the illegal construction work within 100 metres of Srimandir.

"A few multi-storey buildings have been illegally constructed within the prohibited zone near Srimandir. The authorities concerned should take immediate steps to raze the buildings," said BJP youth wing leader Jayanta Kumar Dash.

However, Muralidhar Dash, the caretaker of one of the newly-constructed buildings, said they had not received any notice earlier from the ASI to stop the construction work.

"We have stopped all construction work after receiving an order in this regard from the ASI Friday," he added.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL MEET



MLAs Jayanta Sarangi and Rudra Pratap Maharathy, MP Pinaki Misra and Collector Samarth Verma among others participate in a meeting of Puri Zilla Parishad, Saturday

## ASPHYXIATION DEATHS

### HC seeks replies from Rayagada, Kandhamal DMs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 30:** The Orissa High Court has sought replies from the Collectors of Rayagada and Kandhamal in connection with the death of labourers in sewerage tanks.

A division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BP Routray also directed the Joint Labour Commissioner to provide the compensation amount to the kin of the labourers who died in asphyxiation in Bhubaneswar.

During the hearing, the Housing and Urban Development department submitted its reply on the implementation of the standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Centre to check asphyxiation deaths.

## BSCL to provide underground OFC network by year end

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** The Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) said that it will complete the laying of underground optic fibre cable (OFC) network by the year end with the aim to improve the outlook of the state capital. The OFC network will replace overhead cabling.

According to sources, the BSCL, which has planned to lay 680 km of OFC network in and around the city, has so far laid 550 km of cable. Out of the laid cable, about 501 km network has been successfully tested and is live for use. The project began in 2018 to provide licensed Internet providers the services of BSCL optical fibre network for a nominal user fee.

"It was found that for a single or



group of Internet users the service providers were taking the cable overhead making the place look cluttered and complicated. However, it will change after the laying of OFC work is over. RFP has already been floated for the BSCL fibre optic network and very soon the process will be over so that citizens can get the benefit of the facility," said CEO, BSCL, Sanjay Kumar Singh.

It may be mentioned here that the

network infrastructure comprises two types of fibre optics cable, including 120 core cable strands and 12 core cable strands. While 120 core cable strands are used as the backbone connectivity for any communication network, 12 core cable strands are meant for last mile connectivity to smart elements.

Optical fibre communication network is being established by BSCL as a part of its Smart Solution project to provide seamless and robust connectivity for all the on-field smart elements like CCTV cameras, Public Address System speaker, Dynamic Message Signboard, Traffic Violation Detection System and Wi-Fi access points etc along with various other infrastructures. BSCL also envisages leasing cores of fibre for monetisation and revenue generation.



The next hearing of the case has been posted to December 4.

Two labourers had died due to asphyxiation while working in a sewerage line in Brahmeswar Bagh area in Bhubaneswar March 20 this year.

Similarly, two workers had died while clearing a sewerage manhole in CDA area of Cuttack April 15.

Moreover, three persons had died due to asphyxiation in Kandhamal district in July and three others had lost their lives while working in a sewerage tank in Rayagada October 20.

## Youths brandish weapons in City, video goes viral

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** A video of some miscreants openly brandishing various sharp weapons and firearms on the City roads went viral exposing the tall talks of the Commissionerate Police regarding peace and sound law and order in the twin city.

The video that is doing rounds on various social media platforms was reportedly shot several days ago. This has left denizens scared of venturing out of their houses during nighttime. The accused were seen brandishing weapons like swords, fire arms, big knives and dancing at different areas of the City.

When asked, DCP Umashankar Dash said some anti-social youths of Nayapalli, Baramunda and Khandagiri area were involved in the incident. They later shared the video on social media too, making it viral.

## 1971 war heroes feted by Governor



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** In a function held today at Raj Bhawan, Governor Ganeshi Lal received the Victory Flame of Swarnim Vijay Barsh commemorating 1971 war victory.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor proudly remembered the resounding victory of the Indian Army in the 1971 war which led to the creation of a new nation Bangladesh after the surrender of the soldiers of Pakistan Army.



He acknowledged the crucial role played by Armed Forces personnel from Odisha who took part in the war and said that nation owes big to them.

A total of 154 War heroes who had taken part in the 1971 war were honoured by the Governor with

Memento and Shawl. Earlier in the day, the Flame was taken to the houses of 1971 war veterans MWO Loknath Sahoo (Retd), Major General BK Mohanty (AVSM-Retd), Col Ramesh Chandra Patra (Retd) & Lt Col Shivaram Satpathy (Retd).

## UTKAL HOSPITAL LAUNCHES DEDICATED STROKE HELPLINE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** Utkal Hospital started a new dedicated service for stroke patients on the occasion of the World Stroke Day, Saturday.

The hospital dedicated a new stroke helpline, code stroke and stroke pathway facilities for public where timely medical intervention and attention to the stroke patients will be prioritised.

The hospital aims to reduce the chances of any disability or ailments due to brain damage. Now Utkal Hospital is ready to serve stroke patients effectively in the crucial Golden Window of 4.5 hours.

Neurology HOD at Utkal Hospital Amitav Rath said, "Our focus is on the Golden Window period of 4.5 hours. If a patient comes within that period of time, there are very high chances of full recovery. This

is usually 4.5 hours after a person is hit by the ischemic stroke. If one fails to seek timely medical attention during this crucial time, there are high chances that the person might witness permanent disability."

"Major problems like sudden onset of vision problems, facial deviation towards one side, weakness of one half of body and others could be triggered in the affected person. Besides, balancing disorders, issues with grip capability of patients and others are few symptoms of stroke," Rath added.

Consultant Neurologist Akash Gupta said, "In order to address cases of stroke, we need a combination of qualified medical staff from multiple disciplines like a neurologist, critical care specialist, emergency physician, radiologist and a dedicated stroke nurse to ensure immediate and best possible care. We are now starting the service here."

## Private firm accuses TV channel CEO of cheating

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** An employee of a private firm has accused the chief executive officer of a private TV channel here of cheating and criminal intimidation.

The complainant, Ashish Tibrewal of Kolkata, alleged in his complaint that the firm had contacted the accused CEO of the TV channel to take a few floors of a building at Ashoka Nagar in the city on rent for business purposes in 2020.

The accused, by falsely identifying himself as the legal owner of the building, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the officials of the firm for renting the premises.

The accused agreed to give the building to the private firm on lease for a monthly payment of Rs3.50 lakh.

However, Tibrewal later came

to know that the accused person is himself a lease holder. The matter came to the fore when the original owner of the building sent his men to collect rent. They revealed that the CEO has been allegedly paying Rs 60,000 monthly rent to the owner.

Later, the company authorities informed the accused about the issue and he assured them to solve the matter after the pandemic eased down. He also asked the firm authorities to pay Rs 2 lakh instead of Rs 3.5 lakh as monthly rent.

Tibrewal accused that one of the aides of the accused along with some goons later started threatening and putting pressure on the company staff to pay Rs 3.5 lakh as rent. They also locked the office gate September 31, 2021 demanding Rs 10 lakh as dues.

Finding no other way, Tibrewal sought police help in this regard.

## CRUT wins MoHUA award thrice in a row

In the year 2020, CRUT was awarded for 'Innovations undertaken in Urban Transport during Covid-19' and in 2019, for 'Best City Bus Service Project'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** The Central government has awarded Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), Bhubaneswar, for its excellence in implementing the best urban transport project Mo Bus in Odisha.

The award was conferred on CRUT by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in category of Running Trophy for State/UT, which has implemented the best urban transport project during the previous year, on the oc-



casional of 14th Urban Mobility India Conference, 2021 held Friday. CRUT General Manager Dipti Mahapatro received the award on behalf of the organisation.

CRUT operates 225 Mo Buses by adopting and implementing a policy of hiring more than 50 per cent of women bus conductors. All buses are equipped with Automatic

Vehicle Locating System, Automatic Fare Collection System, Public Information System, on-board announcement, Wi-Fi and CCTV surveillance.

It can be mentioned that CRUT has now won the Urban Mobility India award organised by MoHUA thrice in a row. In the year 2020, CRUT was awarded for 'Innovations

undertaken in Urban Transport during Covid-19' and in 2019, for 'Best City Bus Service Project'.

Meanwhile, Arun Bothra, Odisha Transport Commissioner and Managing Director (MD) of CRUT congratulated CRUT for winning three national awards in three consecutive years and wrote, "You have made Odisha proud again."

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TREE FELLING FOR HOCKEY STADIUM IN JHARSUGUDA

Forest dept starts investigation

POST NEWS NETWORK
Jharsuguda, Oct 30: The forest department has started an investigation into felling of over a hundred trees to make space for a hockey stadium near NH-49 in Jharsuguda. The stadium will be developed on five acres of land. Orissa POST had published reports about the felling of trees October 25.
In the wake of media reports, the forest department has started an investigation into the matter. As for the issue, DFO Lalit Kumar Patra said he had talked to the Collector for development works, but had not given him permission to fell trees for the stadium.



He said pollution level is already high in Jharsuguda. "When there is a need to regenerate forests and plant trees in the district, trees are being cut instead," he lamented.
Social activist Debananda Barik said a sports hostel will be built on 40 acres of land along the NH-49.
It was learnt that the district administration had directed to clear a forest opposite PKSS College adjoining NH-49 near Hansamura-Kantapali in Jharsuguda for construction of a hockey stadium. Trees like Acacia and Eucalyptus had been chopped off between October 20 and 22. On being informed, forest guard Anjali Rath rushed to the spot and seized a JCB machine engaged in the tree felling. However, she released the machine after block development officer (BDO) Prasanna Pandey, who was supervising the operation, intervened. Later, she informed her

higher-ups about illegal tree cutting in the forest.
However, environmentalists have alleged that the district administration has not sought prior permission from the forest department to cut down the trees, which it is doing in violation of forest protection norms. Jharsuguda Anchalik Parivesh Suraksha Manch, a local outfit working on environment, opposed such illegal tree-felling and demanded action against those responsible.
Notably, the revenue department has allotted 40 acres of land adjoining the NH-49 near Hansamura-Kantapali for construction of the hockey stadium. A compound wall is under construction on one part of the land while the rest of the work is yet to begin.
Recently, an additional five acres of land belonging to the forest department, opposite of the highway, has been allotted.

Mamita's mother falls sick; shifted to Visakhapatnam

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bolangir, Oct 30: Deceased lady teacher Mamita Meher's mother Tulasi Meher fell sick and was shifted to Visakhapatnam for better treatment, a family source said Saturday.
At a time when Mamita's death case has sent shockwaves across the state, the mother of the deceased - who has been under severe trauma after losing her daughter - has become seriously unwell.
According to the family source, Tulasi has chest pain and loses consciousness frequently. The family members have rushed her to Visakhapatnam for treatment.
Notably, starting from state to national level, political leaders have been visiting deceased Mamita's family at Jharni village under Turekela block in Bolangir district since the murder mystery was cracked. Both the Congress and the BJP have been demanding the



scalp of Minister of State for Home Dibyashankar Mishra for his alleged links with Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the case who is in jail now.
Demanding ouster of Mishra from the ministry and a CBI inquiry into the case, the BJP has been observing bandhs in districts in a phase-wise manner. Saturday, it observed a 24-hour bandh in Boudh, Balasore, Deogarh, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts and a six-hour bandh in Bhadrak district.

Trenches to bar mafia from lifting sand

POST NEWS NETWORK
Champua, Oct 30: Illegal sand mining has been rampant at different ghats of the Baitarani river in Champua area of Keonjhar district. As the administration has failed to curb the illegal extraction and transportation of the minor mineral, the revenue department has finally dug out trenches across roads on river embankments to prevent mafia from lifting sand and transporting it from the areas close to Kesharikund and Kalikprasad.
According to reports, the riverbed of Baitarani at different places has turned out to be a safe haven for sand mafia.
Due to rampant illegal sand mining,



Sand is being lifted near tourist spots like Kesharikund and Kalikprasad. Locals voiced fears that if illegal sand excavation goes on in this manner, these tourist sites will face threat.
Earlier, revenue officials used to act against the sand mafia with seizure of vehicles and slapping of fines, but this has stopped for some time.
On being informed, Champua tehsildar Sai Sasmita Hota had visited the spots where sand was mined. She saw some routes on which sand was being transported in tractors from the riverbed. She had ordered for digging of trenches. Revenue inspectors have initiated digging of trenches across roads to prevent mafia from looting sand, she added.

Youth held for rape in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK
Rupsa, Oct 30: Basta police arrested a youth on a charge of forcing a widow for physical relationship in Sadar block of Balasore district. He later abandoned her, Friday night.
The accused was identified as Rabindra Das under the same police limits. Following a complaint, he was arrested

and taken for medical examination along with the survivor. He later was produced in court. Das had physical relationship with her on the pretext of marriage, but later avoided the woman after she insisted on marriage. Recently, he barged into her house and raped her. Police registered a case against him after the survivor lodged a complaint.

Advertisement for Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar (IITBS) Ph.D. Programme (Spring Session: January - 2022). It lists various departments like Earth Ocean & Climate Sciences, Electrical Sciences, etc.

MARATHON FOR A CAUSE



People participating in a marathon organised by the Odisha Mining Corporation-owned Gandhamardan iron ore mines on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week at Suakati village under Bansapal block in Keonjhar district, Saturday

Poverty drives man to end life in front of minor daughter



POST NEWS NETWORK
Malkangiri, Oct 30: Driven by poverty, a man reportedly ended his life by jumping into a river in Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district, a few days ago. However, the incident came to the fore Saturday after his body was retrieved from the river.
The deceased was identified as Manda Pangi. He took the extreme step in front of his minor daughter. The incident has sent shock waves in the district. Pangi had been leading a miserable life after the death of his wife. He could not get any work and was unable to take care of his minor daughter. He was always depressed and upset, villagers said, adding that Pangi and his daughter Mili went to a river. Leaving the daughter on the bank, he jumped into the river. The incident had taken place a few days ago. Villagers had searched for him in the river, but failed to trace the body.
On being informed, fire personnel started a search operation and finally recovered his body Saturday.

Kotia: ITDA to promote strawberry farming

POST NEWS NETWORK
Korapat, Oct 30: In yet another step towards women empowerment, the ITDA has initiated a process for strawberry farming on five acres of land in Kotia panchayat of Korapat district. Local women will be involved in the farming to make them self-reliant.
Notably, neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has been making bids to encroach upon Kotia panchayat. The bids have stoked tension between Odisha and AP. It has already held panchayat elections in some villages. The matter is sub judice at the Supreme Court. The neighbouring state is also reportedly trying to woo people of Kotia with sops and by carrying out developmental projects.
The ITDA's initiative to promote strawberry farming through SHGs will financially empower women in Kotia.
ITDA held a gram sabha over the project at Daliamba. A team of officials and

strawberry farmer Bhargav Laked made a field visit in the area and discussed with local residents about the commercial feasibility of the strawberry cultivation. As this farming is new to the area, the district administration will arrange field visits for the locals, organize documentaries on the farming, prepare information brochures and provide all help for drip irrigation in the area, said Kashi Prasad Nayak, the district coordinator of the ITDA. He added that farmers keen on this farming will be provided with all necessary help.
Manager of the ITDA project, Satya Ranjan Mohanty listed out various benefits from the farming. He assured the locals that after harvest of the strawberries, ITDA will ensure marketing facility for the produce. The strawberry farming will bring about a change in economic condition of the people. At the meeting, members of three SHGs and members of 44 families were present.



Bank of India GOLD AUCTION NOTICE. It lists various gold loan borrowers and their details across different branches like NIALI, PURI, and NABAKALEBARA ROAD.

FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION

# RESTORING CITIZENS' TRUST



**A recent survey in Europe, Britain, the US, and China finds that most people consider climate change to be the defining issue of this century and expect their governments to do more to address it. Policymakers must respond with investments in the green economy before fatalism sets in**

exporting its cutting-edge clean technologies, the EU can be the link between those organising climate action, those pursuing innovation, and those managing economic development. These are the pillars upon which a sustainable global economy will rest.

To be sure, there are potential downsides to the green transition, and addressing them requires immediate action. Those hit hardest by the move away from polluting industries will need to be supported through compensatory investment. As we pursue technological breakthroughs, we must not neglect the need for continuing massive investment in mature climate technology such as wind farms. Similarly, efficiency-boosting investments could make a major dent in the 35 per cent of GHG emissions that comes from buildings – the single biggest energy consumers. And energy system integration (through a single market for energy) would go a long way toward achieving the EU's carbon-neutrality target.

For policymakers, the imperative is to eliminate barriers to investment such as regulatory uncertainty and fragmented markets, particularly now that COVID-19 has created additional obstacles such as high private-sector debt. According to the EIB's 2020/2021 Investment Report, 45 per cent of EU firms plan to cut or delay their investment plans because of the pandemic.

The message from this year's climate survey is clear: Governments must act now if they are to retain the good will of their citizens. That means making immediate climate investment on a massive scale, with a major emphasis on innovation and the opportunities associated with building a new, reinvigorated economy. Europe, with its ingenuity and financial muscle, must be at the center of this global transformation.

*The writer is President of the European Investment Bank.*  
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The world must change how it tackles the climate crisis. The current approach is too slow and risks falling short of our own targets for limiting global warming and mitigating its impact. And, no longer satisfied with political pronouncements, people are demanding action.

This popular unease is borne out by the European Investment Bank's annual climate survey. Some 75 per cent of European Union citizens, 69 per cent of Britons, and 59 per cent of Americans say they are more concerned about the climate emergency than their governments are. And roughly half of those surveyed say the difficulty in solving the climate crisis is primarily due to government inactivity.

For those of us steering public organisations, these findings should be seen as a dire warning. If citizens stop trusting their governments to do something about climate change, many might conclude that there is no hope and give up. Governments then would face an even tougher task gaining public support for the policies and programmes that are vital to our future.

We cannot allow that to happen. The remedy for a lack of public confidence is to invest massively in concrete climate projects and innovations, starting immediately. Climate action represents a tremendous business opportunity, and policymakers must be savvy enough to embrace it.

For its part, the EU is leading the way with major commitments, including a pledge to reduce its greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by 55 per cent, relative to 1990 levels, by 2030. And as the EU's climate bank, the EIB is at the forefront of this effort, with commitments to support 1 trillion (\$1.16 trillion) of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability by 2030. We are in the critical decade

for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. In all the countries surveyed, large majorities (93 per cent in China, 81 per cent in the EU, 74 per cent in the United Kingdom, and 59 per cent in the United States) consider climate change the biggest challenge of this century. Yet there is a lack of public faith in our chances of meeting current goals. In the EU, 58 per cent of citizens believe their country will fail to cut carbon emissions drastically by 2050, compared to 55 per cent in the UK and 49 per cent in the US.

Does this mean our citizens are resigned to environmental disaster? Not yet. A small majority of EU and British citizens believe a radical change in habits is the best way to counter climate change. But technological innovation will be needed to enable those adjustments, which aligns with the views of survey respondents in the US and China about the best way forward.

In any case, investment trumps behavioural change. In 2020, unprecedented pandemic-induced restrictions on mobility and economic activity caused a 5.8 per cent drop in global GHG emissions. That might look like good news, but it's really a measure of just how challenging it will be to achieve similar reductions every

year from now on. We need a technological revolution, and when it comes, we must be prepared to finance it. Decades of investment in renewable energy have paid off. Wind and solar power are now highly competitive and widespread. If every driver in the EU switched to an electric vehicle tomorrow, EIB mobility experts estimate that existing wind turbines would be able to provide 85 per cent of the electricity needed to power them.

Now, we must scale up game-changing technologies like green hydrogen and advanced energy storage solutions. With 75 per cent more patents in green digital technologies than the US (and four times as many as China), the EU is a world leader in this field. It also has expertise to share in areas such as renewable energy, climate adaptation, flood control, advanced weather forecasting tools, and resilient infrastructure.

Moreover, one-third of the 2 trillion contained in the NextGenerationEU recovery plan and the EU's next long-term budget has already been committed to the European Green Deal. But, to rise to the challenge, we need a Global Green Deal that can mobilise the private sector's full innovative potential and financial firepower. By



Werner Hoyer

**CLIMATE ACTION REPRESENTS A TREMENDOUS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY, AND POLICYMAKERS MUST BE SAVVY ENOUGH TO EMBRACE IT**



SRI AUROBINDO

## Regressive Laws

The controversy about Sameer Wankhede's Scheduled Caste certificate gives us the opportunity to examine two issues. The first is reservations and the second is religious freedom. On reservations, India allows Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist Dalits access to SC reservation but not Christian and Muslim Dalits. A committee set up by the previous government and headed by former justice Rajinder Sachar recommended that reservations be extended to all Dalits, including Muslims, but this recommendation has not been implemented. Muslims of course today have no political agency in India and cannot make demands such as reservations; they are busy staying out of jail or avoiding being brutalised on the streets.

India gives all Scheduled Tribe individuals, including Muslims and Christians reservations under the ST category. And of course the OBC reservations are also available to Muslims and Christians. It is only the SC category, in which Sameer Wankhede applied, that is denied to them. Wankhede's father was a Dalit and mother a Muslim. It is alleged that he himself is a Muslim and therefore his application under the SC category is invalid.

Dalits and Adivasis who convert are vulnerable, because the State insists on registering them on certificates as 'Christian Adivasi' making it difficult for the individuals to then access their rights including reservation. In Gujarat, some Dalit converts to Christianity officially retain their Hindu faith, and therefore their caste and status, a process the church condones under a doctrine called occult compensation. This term refers to the action of an individual seeking to recover their losses through an extra-legal act, in this instance, the use of stealth by Dalits to claim their right from a State which is denying it to them unjustly.

The BJP government actively goes after Gujarat's Dalit and Adivasi Christians on the issue of reservations as a way of blocking conversions. March 7, 2011, the Gujarat High Court rejected a Dalit's access to benefits he had earlier received after the government claimed he had converted.

The court said that the man, Nimesh Zaveri, and his family would cease to enjoy their rights as Dalits despite having a certificate issued by the government. People may not know that the conversion of SC and ST individuals (and also women) attracts a harsher punishment than conversion of other individuals.

After 2018, BJP states began passing harsher laws that prevent conversions especially linked to marriage. India is a conservative cultural society. The majority of families follow religious practices and traditions at home and it is unusual to have two people with different religions in the same family. It is theoretically possible for two people of different faiths to marry through something called the Special Marriage Act but it has its own problems which we need not go into here.

The first of the new 'love jihad' laws was the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018. It is unusual in that it says that people who convert to Hinduism (which is called as 'ancestral religion') are excluded. Meaning a Hindu cannot convert to Islam to marry but a Muslim can become Hindu for the same reason. The Uttar Pradesh Vidhi Viruddh Dharma Samparivartan Pratishedh Adhyadesh, 2020 has reversed burden of proof. The testimony of an adult woman who says she has changed her faith on her own free will is insufficient evidence and the family she marries into must satisfy the police that they have not coerced her. The Madhya Pradesh Dharma Swatantraya Adhyadesh, 2020 punishes conversion through marriage by 10 years in jail. It also nullifies such marriages even if the couple has children. The Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021 also has a 10-year jail sentence. Other BJP states including Karnataka and Haryana have promised similar laws soon. It is unusual in democratic countries two decades into the 21st century for laws to become regressive instead of progressive. But that is clearly what is happening in India today and more of this is ahead.

Indians have the fundamental right to "freely to profess, practise and propagate religion." Propagate means to spread. In the Constituent Assembly, this right was debated fiercely on behalf of Christians as part of their right to convert. Ambedkar's original draft submitted to the Constituent Assembly's committees bore the words: "right to profess, to preach and to convert, within limits compatible with public order and morality." He did not comment after the word was changed to propagate because he was satisfied that propagate meant the same thing as convert. Today there is no right to propagate or convert in India. To do so one has to fill out a form and it is for the State to determine whether one can change faith or not. This makes it one of the many peculiar things about our secular democracy.

The right to "freely profess, practice and propagate religion" is at once a fundamental right, meaning one that enjoys a high degree of protection from State encroachment, and also a criminal offence.



Aakar Patel

**It is unusual in democratic countries two decades into the 21st century for laws to become regressive instead of progressive. But that is clearly what is happening in India today and more of this is ahead**

SPECTRUM PANDEMIC RESPONSE

# Globalised crises, globalised resources

The COVID-19 pandemic has instilled many harsh lessons. But the most important is that infectious-disease outbreaks pose a risk not just to public health but also to global security. Like nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and climate change, COVID-19 has shown that pandemics can rapidly undermine social stability and economic well-being.

This point may seem obvious now. But before the COVID-19 crisis, infectious disease barely registered on the global security agenda. Efforts to change that by establishing new funding and monitoring mechanisms for pandemic preparedness are to succeed, half measures won't cut it. To avoid a repeat of history, our preparations must reflect the true extent of the challenge. We must recognise that pandemics now represent one of the biggest – and most likely – threats to global security.

Preventing future pandemics will require not only the same level of investment as other global security threats, on which trillions are spent routinely, but also an entirely different way of thinking about global security. The pandemic represents a new form of globalised crisis, one that is both caused and exacerbated by the modern world's interconnectedness. The Spanish influenza pandemic

a century ago was not this kind of crisis. Back then, most people across the globe lived in less dense rural settings, and international travel was much slower and undertaken by only a small fraction of the population. But we saw something similar in 2008-09, when economies fell like dominoes. That was the first globalised crisis of this century, and we are now coming to grips with what will be the century's defining crisis: climate change.

The common denominator in each case is that the crisis demands solutions that no individual government can provide on its own. An infectious disease cannot be fought with traditional security countermeasures such as economic sanctions, bilateral diplomacy, deterrence, or military posturing. Rather, it calls for scientific collaboration, resilient health systems, and long-term investments in global health networks. Shows of force and unilateral acts of national self-preservation are useless. Global collaboration, strategic multilateralism, and transnational compassion are the only way out of this kind of disaster.

Judging by the current global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, we have yet to muster the necessary response. The coronavirus is still winning, and a lack of global co-

ordination is the principal reason why. Instead of finding ways to work together toward common solutions in the face of an unprecedented crisis, key governments are still putting their national interest first, at the expense of the global response we need.

The global solution to the vaccine distribution problem is the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility established last year. By ensuring equitable access to vaccines for people in the poorest countries, COVAX is not only saving millions of lives and protecting hundreds of millions more; it is also offering the best path to recovery. Even from a strictly economic standpoint, COVAX is far more cost-effective than any form of fiscal or monetary stimulus.

There are now more than 1.5 billion vaccine doses being produced each month – an astounding feat less than a year after the first vaccine was approved, and just 18 months into the pandemic. It is predicted that a total of more than 12 billion doses will have been produced by the end of this year. Yet while that is enough to vaccinate every adult on the planet, we are still a long way from doing so, because distribution is so inequitable. Shockingly, only 3.1 per cent of eligible people in low-income countries have received at least one dose, on average,

compared to more than 71.1 per cent of people in high-income countries.

This disparity is both morally wrong and dangerously shortsighted. By prolonging the pandemic and allowing more opportunities for the virus to generate new variants, it ultimately harms everyone. But this failure will not be corrected until governments start acting globally. Mustering a genuinely global response is necessary both to end this crisis and to avert the next one.

Globalised crises require that we globalise critical resources – in today's case, vaccines. G20 governments have the power to lead the way by ending the vaccine hoarding and export bans that have impeded supplies, and by donating more doses to COVAX. But as urgent as such measures are, they are mostly band-aids – solutions to a crisis within a crisis. To avoid a repeat of COVID-19, we need more expansive pandemic preparedness mechanisms built around the model of globalised resources that COVAX pioneered. We cannot wait until the next outbreak has already become a global security threat. By that time, it will be too late.

*The writer is Chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.*  
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José Manuel Barroso

**LIKE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, TERRORISM, AND CLIMATE CHANGE, COVID-19 HAS SHOWN THAT PANDEMICS CAN RAPIDLY UNDERMINE SOCIAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**

WISDOM CORNER

- Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart. ANNE FRANK
- The dog that trots about finds a bone. GOLDA MEIR
- A smile is a curve that sets everything straight. PHYLLIS DILLER

WORDSWORTH

Playing gooseberry

This odd phrase puzzles everybody who has come across it. Not the least odd thing about it is that in its fairly short history it has flipped sense. Today it means intruding on a couple, usually lovers, who wish to be alone. As you might also say, "two's a company, three's a crowd". But when it first appeared, in the nineteenth century, matters were very different. A delightful story by a man who wrote under the pseudonym of "an old bachelor" appeared in Notes and Queries in 1860. He told how he was accompanying his nineteen-year-old niece on a walk when a young man joined them. He went on: I observed nothing particular on the road, except that my niece and our casual companion seemed very much taken up with one another, and left me to my own meditations. But when we reached my brother's house, and the young gentleman had wished us good morning, my niece, to my great surprise, not only informed me that I was the kindest of uncles, but added that she could not express how much she felt obliged to me for doing gooseberry (Notes and Queries, 20 October 1860). He asked about the expression after dinner that evening and to his chagrin "all the gentlemen present began laughing". He wrote to the journal for elucidation. The editor added a note: Though it may not be thought quite the thing, if a young lady and her sweetheart are seen rambling through bypaths and shady lanes alone, yet if they take the same walk accompanied by the young lady's aunt, married sister, grandmamma, or uncle, there is no "violation of the strictest propriety." The party thus sanctioning is said to do gooseberry. We confess that, had our correspondent asked for the origin of the phrase, we should have felt at a loss; though very possibly some other correspondent may yet come to our assistance. Others did, pointing out that the expression was a shortened form of gooseberry-picker, meaning a chaperone who, innocently or on purpose, allowed himself or herself to be distracted by something of interest – notionally picking fruit – so allowing the young couple to be alone together.

Platforms of hate

Sir, Social media is a tool that fosters amity and universal friendship among communities. It is definitely not a medium to spread venom and ill-will. Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, Skype and other platforms of social media should not incite communal passion. Right to freedom of speech, a fundamental right under Article 19(1) of the Constitution, is not absolute. Reasonable restrictions can be imposed on freedom of speech to safeguard the interests of the public. One mis-information, one hate speech and one insulting remark can vitiate goodwill and brotherhood among communities. Recently, after India's defeat in its first T20 World Cup match, malicious campaigns against Team India were raised by anti-social elements that created hue and cry in social media. This was unpatriotic and unconstitutional. This was a bad use of social media. Let social media increase fraternity and goodwill instead of creating ruptures and wounds in our hearts. Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Rap on knuckles

Sir, Transparency and accountability are cornerstones of an effective and responsive government. What will happen if an elected government is loathe to come out with facts or becomes too insensitive to criticisms and questions on a contentious issue that has invaded the private space of its citizens? The Supreme Court wants to know, and perfectly so with regard to the Pegasus snoop issue of 2019. 'National security' was cited by the Centre while it consistently evaded uncomfortable questions and parried the Opposition's inconvenient references. Individuals whose private spaces were breached were not only secretly scrutinised but their social media accounts were hacked. The Centre's reluctance to file a detailed affidavit on the issue has sown seeds of suspicion. The top court has succinctly said that there cannot be a 'free pass' for the government every time it invokes 'national security'. Invasion of privacy, if any, should be quite reasonable and backed by constitutional clauses. The committee put in place by the Supreme Court has been given wide terms of reference. Whether existing rules and regulations are robust enough to secure a citizen's right to privacy is one crucial issue the committee will have to go into apart from suggesting a mechanism that would allow citizens to raise grievances without fear. Perhaps a new authority, exclusively dealing with such transgressions, is what the court expects to be put in place. All this said, the ball is now in the government's court. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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# Jajpur: Probe ordered into loan scam in PACS

Lakhs of rupees were allegedly siphoned off by the secretary of Markandpur PACS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Oct 30:** A probe into alleged irregularities in disbursement of loans to farmers at the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), Markandpur in Jajpur district, has been ordered.

It is alleged that government funds worth lakhs of rupees have been siphoned off allegedly by the secretary of Markandpur PACS by illegally keeping the passbooks of farmers with him instead of returning them.

The matter came to the fore after the deputy registrar, cooperative societies (credit) in Bhubaneswar in a letter (dated-26.10.2021) directed the deputy registrar, cooperative societies, Cuttack II division to conduct a probe and take necessary action. The order was made after a farmer, Ajay Kumar Muduli, affiliated to the PACS, lodged a complaint with the directorate.

The deputy registrar, cooperative societies (credit) has also directed to submit an action taken report to the directorate. This is the second major irregularities taking place in the PACS during last three years.

According to reports, Muduli had taken a loan of Rs 13,000 for

loan in the name of Muduli and gave him only Rs 10,000

Suspecting foul play, Muduli met the secretary and insisted on giving him back the receipt but the latter refused. Muduli visited the bank and made an enquiry where he found that a loan of Rs 21,600 has been withdrawn from the bank against his name.

On being questioned, the secretary said he will repay the rest of the loan amount and will return all his receipts and loan passbooks once the audit gets completed.

Since then a year has passed, but the secretary is yet to return him the receipts or the passbook. Later, the secretary gave him a new passbook which did not have the signature of the bank supervisor.

It was mentioned that Rs 21,600 had been withdrawn as loan September 19, 2021. It is alleged that the secretary used the old receipts and has mentioned the previous loan to sanction a new loan.

What is more surprising is that the secretary has allegedly collected Rs 1000 from each of the loanee farmers when there is no such provision. Moreover, loans have been sanctioned to the kin of the farmers even if a loan is outstanding on the family.

The secretary has allegedly sanctioned loans in the name of fake farmers who do not have farmland. He has also allegedly sanctioned loans to some of its members by mortgaging their properties which is illegal. Farmers have demanded a special audit into the irregularities allegedly committed by the secretary.

Earlier, the authorities of Markandpur, PACS had siphoned off lakhs of rupees by procuring paddy against the names of four members of a farmer's family. The then secretary and some PACS officials were suspended after the Orissa High Court directed a probe.

Efforts to contact ARCS Prasant Kumar Mallick over phone failed as he did not respond to the call.

**The deputy registrar, cooperative societies (credit) in Bhubaneswar directed the deputy registrar, cooperative societies, Cuttack II division to conduct a probe and take necessary action**

khari cultivation in 2009. He however, failed to repay the loan owing to various problems. The loan with its interest went up to Rs 17,500. Later, he cleared all the loans along with the interest after the secretary insisted upon him, September 2, 2020.

The secretary, however, instead of giving him a receipt towards clearance of loans mentioned the loan amount of Rs 13,000 along with the interest of Rs 4,500 in his passbook under serial number of 26550. He even kept the passbook with him without returning it.

The secretary even mentioned that he has taken another khari loan, September 29, 2020 and made him sign in a withdrawal form without even applying for a loan. Later, the secretary withdrew the

## HELPING HAND



A camp to detect physically-challenged people at Langaleswar in Balasore,

OP PHOTO

# Migrant labourer dies, 8 others sustain injuries in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Papadahandi, Oct 30:** A migrant labourer died on the spot while eight others sustained grievous injuries after the SUV they were travelling in met with an accident near Babaji Guda on National Highway-26 under Mairapur police limits in Nabarangpur district, Saturday.

While the deceased has been identified as Asish Kumar Bharti, the identities of the injured passengers are yet to be ascertained. However, it is learnt that they are all migrant labourers from Jharkhand.

According to a source, the nine men had gone to Hyderabad to work at a construction site. On



**All migrant labourers were from Jharkhand. They had gone to Hyderabad to work at a construction site. They were returning home in an SUV, Saturday**

Saturday, they were returning home in a Scorpio.

The driver dozed off as they were nearing Babaji Guda and the van veered to a side and ran into an acacia tree, leading to the mishap.

On being informed, a team from Mairapur police station reached

the spot and rescued the injured passengers and recovered the body for post mortem. The injured persons are receiving treatment at Papadahandi community health centre (CHC).

A detailed investigation is underway, it was learnt.

## Students' industrial tour by Centurion Public School

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, Oct 30:** A students' industrial tour programme was organised by Centurion Public School, Paralakhemundi in association with socio cultural development centre, Odisha and supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Nearly 150 students visited JP Foods Factory, Gajapati Doors, Gram Taranga in IDCO area, the cashew factory at Hadubhangi, mini tool room and an apparel unit in the Centurion University Campus. Banamali Sahu, SCDC, chairman, Sunita Panigrahee, principal Centurion Public school Mr.Sambit Patro, regional director, Pradeep Kumar Panda, administrator and the teachers also participated.

# BJD revamps women wing in Ganjam

92 NEW OFFICE-BEARERS INCLUDING 14 VICE PRESIDENTS APPOINTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Oct 30:** Ahead of panchayat and civic body polls, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has revamped its women wing in Ganjam. The ruling party has restructured its district unit of Mahila BJD with induction of 92 new office bearers who are expected to strengthen its woman vote bank in the district.

This was stated by the district unit president of the Mahila BJD Sanghamitra Dalai.

Since the party has worked out its strategy with focus on women votes, it has been implementing a host of measures for women SHGs, who would play a key role in the coming polls.

In the revamp of the Mahila BJD, the party has appointed 14 vice presidents and an equal number of general secretaries in the unit.

Besides, 64 women from different Assembly constituencies have been made secretaries.

It is said that creation of such a number of posts in the party's dis-

## AHEAD OF PANCHAYAT AND CIVIC BODY POLLS



trict unit has given moral strength to women who will work hard for garnering women support for the party in the panchayat and civic body elections.

The women office bearers will be visiting wards, blocks and panchayats to reorganize women voters and highlight various development works being implemented by the state government.

They will also point out failure of the NDA government at the centre in areas of price spiral of es-

sential commodities, domestic gas and fuels.

Notably, the Mahila BJD will stage district-wide protests over these issues against the Centre November 1.

Women will be mobilised to stage protests in the areas under Berhampur Municipal Corporation, in front of block offices, tehsil offices.

The 14 vice presidents of the Mahila BJD in Ganjam are Soudamini Biswal, Pradipta Reddy,

It is said that creation of such a large number of posts in the party's district unit has given moral strength to women who will work hard for garnering women support for the party in the panchayat and civic body elections

The women office bearers will be visiting wards, blocks and panchayats to reorganize women voters and highlight various development works being implemented by the state government

They will also point out failure of the NDA government at the centre in areas of price rise of essential commodities, domestic gas and fuels. Mahila BJD will stage district-wide protests over these issues November 1

Sumati Pradhan, V Laxmi, R Subani, Sanjukta Samal, P Harapriya, Sunita Mallick, YRupa Patra, Namita Patra, Sasmita Rout, Bilasini Padhi, Mitanjali Mishra and Sarojini Mohanty.

# Man beats father to death in Nabarangpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nabarangpur, Oct 30:** A man was beaten to death by his son at Yogidangari village of Tohara gram panchayat under Umerkote block in Nabarangpur district Friday night. The deceased has been identified as Gopi Santa and the accused Chakra Santa.

According to a source, Chakra returned home in an inebriated state Friday. He picked up a quarrel with his father over some issues. The scene turned ugly when Chakra



lost his cool and started thrashing his father with a wooden plank. Hearing Gopi's cries for help, neighbours came to the spot and res-

cued a severely injured Gopi. They immediately rushed him to Umerkote community health centre (CHC). However, he succumbed while undergoing treatment.

As the news reached the village, the villagers detained the accused and informed the police.

On being informed, police reached the CHC and recovered the body for post mortem. Back in the village, villagers handed over the accused to the police.

A detailed investigation is underway, it was learnt.

# Mother & child-care hosp work moves at snail's pace

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Oct 30:** As if 134 doctor posts out of total sanctioned posts of 224 lying vacant in Kendrapara district was not enough, steps are also not being taken to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure in the district.

The slow pace of construction of Mother and Child-care Hospital at Samagudia on the outskirts of Kendrapara town indicates nothing but the district administration's inertia. The under-construction facility is five kilometres from Kendrapara district headquarters hospital (DHH). Its construction work started in December, 2018 and is still going on.

Notably, ST Secretary VK Pandian during his visit to Kendrapara district in 2019 had directed the district administration to ensure completion of the project within four months. But it did not happen.

Since no review regarding the construction work is being carried out by the district administration, the town residents are critical of it.

Expressing concern, Rashmiranjan Mohapatra, an intelligentia, said the Kendrapara DHH is not big enough to cater to Obstetrics and Gynaecology department. Treatments of mothers and new-born babies are being carried out in an unsafe and dangerous manner. Keeping this in view, a 100-bed hospital is being constructed at Samagudia. The project was initially scheduled to take off in December, 2016 and its construction period was just two years.

However, its construction work started in 2018 and five years have since passed. It was viewed that



**Sub-Collector Niranjan Behera said, "The work got delayed due to labourer unrest and Covid-19 restrictions. The contractor was admonished**

the Mother and Child-care Hospital would go a long way in making the district health department active. But it failed drastically.

Echoing the same, another town resident and member of Mahakalpara Youth Club, Bibhuti Bhushan Rout said since the DHH fails to deliver treatment to mothers and babies, the patients after being misled by middlemen are opting for private hospitals and nursing homes.

There the patients are fleeced in the name of treatment. At the same time, incidents of deaths of mothers and newly-born babies are being reported frequently from these pri-

ivate hospitals.

Citing labour unrest as the main reason for this unusual delay, Amarabara Biswal said the contractor of the Mother and Child-care Hospital has also other construction projects of the district administration in its hand. The projects are being executed through sub-leases. Labourers stop working for not getting their wages in time.

In this regard, social activist Soumyaranjan Biswal said Kendrapara district is not so financially developed. Demanding proper treatment, the district residents are resorting to strike and agitation. That the district administration paying no heed is a matter of great concern.

When asked, Sub-Collector Niranjan Behera said, "The work got delayed due to labourer unrest and Covid-19 restrictions. However, after the contractor firm was admonished, the work is now going on at full speed. I had visited the site Monday. The construction work will soon end."

## IMPORTANCE OF SAVINGS



A van meant to create awareness on need of savings being flagged off on the occasion of World Thrift Day at Sambalpur, Saturday

OP PHOTO

# Mufti writes to PM over action against students

THE EX-CM NOTES THAT SUCH PUNITIVE ACTIONS WILL ONLY FURTHER THE SENSE OF MISTRUST AND ALIENATION BETWEEN THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN KASHMIR AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Oct 30:** Expressing shock at the punitive action against some Kashmiri students for allegedly celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in a cricket match, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday and sought his intervention so that their future is not destroyed.

She noted that such punitive actions will only further the sense of mistrust and alienation between the younger generation in Kashmir and the rest of the country, and added patriotism and a sense of loyalty have to be cultivated with compassion.

Her letter to Modi came after medical students living in hostels of the Government Medical College Srinagar and the SKIMS Hospital here were booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and three students from Kashmir studying in Agra were arrested for alleged provocative slogans and social media posts celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in the T20 World Cup match played in Dubai October 24.

"I write to you with a deep sense of disappointment and concern about the alarming situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Not too long ago when you presided over an all-party meeting in Delhi you expressed your intention to remove 'dil ki doori' between Delhi and J&K. In my capacity as the President of PDP, I suggested a few confidence building measures that would have provided a sense of relief and breathing space to the people of J&K," Mehbooba wrote.

"We had been waiting for the roll-out of a policy to address the hearts and minds of people, especially youth," she said. The PDP president said there were also expectations that Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent visit to J&K would have led to a meaningful reach-out, especially after his statement about engaging with the youth here.

"Instead, what followed was shocking and worrying. A friendly cricket match between India and Pakistan that was solely a source of entertainment for people here... Led to booking (of) youngsters under the draconian UAPA for simply choosing to cheer the winning side," she said. Mehbooba said the brightest young people pursuing professional courses like MBBS have been targeted and slapped with anti-terror laws.

"...Three students in Agra too have been arrested and charged with sedition for the same reasons. This, despite the college's own ad-



mission that they didn't engage in any activity that might be construed as anti-national," she said. The former chief minister said patriotism and a sense of loyalty have to be cultivated with compassion and cannot be "forced by wielding the baton or by the barrel of a gun."

"Such punitive actions laced with contempt will only further the sense of mistrust and alienation between the younger generation and rest of the country... to fulfil the expectations of a better tomorrow.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters in Anantnag, Mehbooba said she has written to the prime minister that he needs to win the hearts of the people of Kashmir.

"The states and the country do not run on force. This way, the future of our youngsters will be destroyed and the youth will be further alienated and will cause problems for J-K and the country," she said. The PDP president said, "You need sympathy and love so that you win the hearts of the people here and they identify with India rather than with Pakistan."

"I want to tell the people of the country, because we have got tired of telling the government, that you cannot make someone love the nation by force. Sport is a sport and arresting students and youth because of it will not make the situation better, but rather make it worse..."

Mehbooba Mufti  
PDP PRESIDENT

Wisdom deems it prudent for this government to engage with them, understand their aspirations and goals. I fervently request you to intervene so that the future of these young bright minds is not destroyed," she wrote to Modi.

Mehbooba said political parties and their fortunes will wax and wane over the course of time, but what matters the most is the future generation that will have to carry the burdens of the past yet strive

# Protests to continue, says BKU as police remove barricades

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



**New Delhi, Oct 30:** After Delhi Police started removing the barricades from the Ghazipur border, farmers protesting at the site for nearly a year against the three contentious farm laws have expressed apprehension that they also might be removed. The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) has issued a statement appealing to the farmers to reach the site as soon as possible to strengthen the agitation.

"There is no confusion about the status quo on the border. Protests will continue. There is no change in the strategy of farmers," the BKU said in the statement. "It was the police which had put the barricades after the January 26 incident. Delhi Police is correcting its mistake after farmers gave an affidavit in the Supreme Court that they have not blocked the roads. Farmers in large numbers are present at Ghazipur border."

The BKU appealed to farmers to reach the site as soon as possible and strengthen the agitation. They said there is a conspiracy against the stir and they will fight it. They are using social media to convey the message. In an appeal to the farmers, the BKU said: "Reach the Ghazipur border and strengthen the agitation. Every day there is a conspiracy against the movement, we have to be ready against every conspiracy." BKU media in-charge Dharmendra Malik said: "Our protest will continue with more vigour. We are appealing to the farmers to reach in large numbers."

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha in a statement said: "Our stand is vindicated. It was the police which had blocked the roads, not us. We had left the space for traffic movement, but the police put up the barricades."

Friday police were seen removing iron nails that were installed on NH9 at Ghazipur, where hundreds of protesters have been occupying a stretch since November 2020.

# Complaint against JNU over 'anti-India' reference in webinar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** A Delhi-based lawyer Saturday filed a police complaint against the JNU's Centre for Women's Development Studies and organisers of a webinar, for allegedly using the phrase 'Indian Occupation in Kashmir'.

Advocate Vineet Jindal, in his complaint to Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Ashtana, stated that the webinar titled 'Gender Resistance and Fresh Challenges in Post 2019 Kashmir' was to be organised by the Centre October 29, at 8.30 p.m. and the details were also available on the JNU website.

"In the subject of the invitation to the seminar, it was mentioned Gendered Resistance to Indian Occupation in Kashmir. By mentioning this phrase, the organisers of the webinar have depicted the forceful occupation of Kashmir by the Indian government and this phrase has questioned the integrity



and unity of the country," the complaint read.

It further said the phrase 'Indian Occupation in Kashmir' is clearly perceived to be the forceful occupation of Kashmir by Indian government which is surely not true.

The complaint filed against JNU under section 121A, 124 A, 505 of IPC and 74 of IT Act 2008, also attached the screenshot of the proposed online seminar in the petition.

"The phrase also indicates the intention of the organisers that in the pretext of this webinar it was purposefully used to publicise the idea, provoke and instigate people against the Indian government," it stated. The webinar was cancelled after

the protest by certain people as the subject of the webinar was found questionable and objectionable, which clearly proves that the organisers had mala fide intentions against the integrity of the country or some other hidden agenda.

"Kashmir is an integrated part of India just like any other state of India, so calling or publicly popularising it as an occupied state is an anti-national act, which not only instigates the common man but also provokes communal disharmony among the masses. The subject of Kashmir has always been a delicate and sensitive one due to the involvement of the other neighbouring countries who wish to create national discord, so stating the said phrase accounts to an intentional act of creating disturbance among the citizens of the countries and the states which is not acceptable in any manner and must be dealt with an iron hand by lodging FIR against the organisers of the webinar," it added.



A prison inmate makes candles at District Jail Ambphalla ahead of Diwali, in Jammu, Saturday. PFI PHOTO

# Farm fires keep Delhi's air quality in 'poor' category

Stubble burning accounted for 12 per cent of the national capital's PM2.5 pollution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** The air quality in Delhi remained poor for the fourth consecutive day Saturday with stubble burning accounting for 12 per cent of the national capital's PM2.5 pollution, government data showed.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality forecast agency SAFAR, over 1,800 farm fires were observed in the northwest region of Delhi Friday.

The Central Pollution Control Board's data showed the capital recorded a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 268.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very

poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

SAFAR said the air quality is likely to improve to the moderate category on Sunday due to change in the wind direction from north-westerly to south easterly.

The Sub-Committee on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) had Thursday directed authorities in Delhi and NCR states to implement measures under the 'very poor' category in addition to steps listed under 'poor' to 'moderate' AQI category under GRAP.

The Graded Response Action Plan is a set of anti-pollution measures followed in Delhi and its vicinity towns according to the severity of the situation that comes into force in mid-October when air pollution levels in the region start worsening.



# Kashmir: The apple basket of the world

Kashmir, despite militant activities and cross-border terrorism has always shown exceptional interest in the fruit business, being the biggest producer and supplier of quality apples for centuries

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar/New Delhi, Oct 30:** Kashmiri Apples (tsomth) have been mentioned many times in history, far back as the 7th century when Chinese pilgrim Hieun Tsang sang about the fruit's sweetness. The high-altitude temperate region of Kashmir is known to be the ideal fruit cultivation land. During his reign in the Valley, Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin (15th century) imported many fruit grafts and laid out orchards to grow them. But the historical account of Kalhana in Rajatarangni proves that the cultivation of apples in the Valley is an affair that dates back more than 3,000 years.

King Nara in 1,000 BC asked for the fruit to be grown on roadsides, agricultural land, and forests to provide ample food and shade for the needy. Several wild species of the fruit indicate their antiquity and relationship with the Valley. Today apples are synonymous with Kashmir; the Valley is the apple basket of the world growing 113 varieties of the fruit.

Horticulture is one of the prime industries of the Valley - especially the apple industry, which is a means of income for 55 per cent of the Kashmiri population generating revenue of Rs 1,500 crore annually. The Union Territory administration is focused to set up high-density orchards that accommodate more plants with a better yield variety - Grade-A quality apples.

Many districts have witnessed a change of landscape recently; hun-



dreds of acres of land used by brick kiln makers and paddy fields have been converted to apple orchards to support farmers. The government has helped farmers to set up the plant and infrastructure with a 50 per cent subsidy and free consultations on topics such as cutting, pruning, grading. These farmers are making about Rs 1 lakh per kanal shifting to the apple crop.

To boost the horticulture industry J&K administration is promoting new scientific techniques and methods for the farmers to help them produce this sweet king of the Valley. They are setting up free knowledge centers to educate growers on topics like urea spraying purpose, dosage, and timing, clear misconceptions on crop diseases, and to bring uniformity in yield. The government has provided for farm machines like tractors and sprayers and trained farmers with marketing and packaging

know-how. This has changed the economic profile of the industry.

Besides the economic value, the conversion of paddy fields to high-yielding apple orchards has created new job opportunities. A year back the Union government had approved the MIS (Marketing Intervention Scheme) for the horticulture sector which continues to ensure optimum prices to the apple farmers and the needed fillip to the economy. It also provides for insurance cover, thereby stabilizing the farmers' income. As 12 LMT (Lakh Metric Tonnes) of apples can be produced under this scheme, job opportunities for ancillary services like transportation, cleaning orchards, labeling, and categorizing, are also on the rise. The MIS scheme launched in September 2019 was lauded by the apple farmers as it was a ray of hope after disturbances in the Valley following the abrogation

# 'Pak's ISI pushing terrorists to hit J&K security posts'

of Article 370.

The facility of cold storage in the Valley has also proven to be a boon for the farmers - losses have been minimized to a large extent. Prices have been stabilized at a handsome range; a 10-kg apple box demands anywhere between Rs 1,000 - Rs 1,800, depending upon the quality. Cold storages located at Shopian, Pulwama, Laspipora, and a few other areas of the north, can store up to 2.5 LMT of apples.

Now the apples are directly procured by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) from the growers/aggregators at optimum prices and the payment is promptly made to the parties through the bank. With no middlemen, no delayed payments, and reduction of distress sales, farmers can focus tension-free on their orchards. The government has also guaranteed NAFED a sum of Rs 2,500 crore for this process; and the losses, if any, are to be shared equally between the Central Government and UT administration.

Kashmir, despite militant activities and cross-border terrorism has always shown exceptional interest in the fruit business, being the biggest producer and supplier of quality apples for centuries. With the new road projects under the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, the apple business of Kashmir is only looking to compete for the first position in the world. The convenience of good roads will increase outreach for farmers and boost tourism.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** Following the recent civilian killings in the Kashmir, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is now pushing the terrorists and overground workers, as well as hybrid terrorists, to hit the security forces' camps and posts in the Valley, sources said.

The sources quoting intelligence inputs, have confirmed that the ISI has asked the handlers of terrorist outfits active in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) such as Lashakar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and the newly-floated 'The Resistance Force' to instruct its cadre to hit the security forces' camps and posts.

They also said that some heavily-armed terrorists who might have sneaked into the Valley earlier, may sprawl on security establishments, therefore, extra vigil has been instructed without any laxity.

The ongoing anti-terror operation in Poonch has indicated the preparation level of these terrorist groups, they added.

The sources also said that despite the high security apparatus that have activated in Jammu and Kashmir especially after the recent visit by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, these inputs are a matter of concern.



## of the day quote

Entrepreneurial mindset is not only needed for running a business but for everyone so that they can contribute in the nation's progress with innovative thinking

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

Under Modi's leadership India is marching ahead on the path of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'

J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

The Assam government has set January 15 as the deadline to complete Covid-19 vaccination with both doses for all the estimated 2.1 crore eligible population in the state

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Medical college aspirant ends life

**Chennai:** A 20-year-old medical college aspirant committed suicide near Pollachi in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore, police said Saturday. However, no suicide note was found giving the reason for K. Keerthivasan taking the extreme step. According to police, Keerthivasan had told his parents that he may not get the required marks in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) to get a medical college seat after seeing the answer key that was released.

### PLFI commander arrested in Delhi

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police has arrested a commander of the Naxal outfit People's Liberation Front of India from Dhaulau Kuan area here, officials said Saturday. The accused has been identified as Anurag Ram alias Anurag Sadlohar alias Dhalbir, they said. The police received information that the commander of the Naxal outfit was hiding in Delhi. Ram had been evading arrest after escaping from a lock-up inside Jashpur district court in Chhattisgarh, they said. Ram was an active member of the PLFI and was wanted in several cases. He was hiding at the border area of Punjab and Haryana for the last seven years, a senior police officer said.

### Two charred

**Bhuj:** Two men were charred to death in a blaze that broke out after a collision between two dumper trucks on a highway in Gujarat's Kutch district, police said Saturday. The accident occurred near Ghaneti village on Bhuj-Bhachau Highway late on Friday night, an official from Paddhar police station said. The two trucks burst into flames after they collided with each other, as they were being driven at a high speed, the official said. The drivers of both vehicles Rajesh Chavda and Ramdayaram Yadav, were burnt to death, he said.

### Man killed

**Kota (Rajasthan):** A 40-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by five men in Surya Nagar area here after an altercation over a drunk comment, police said Saturday. The deceased, Shashi Bhumlia, was a resident of Surya Nagar which comes under the Udyog Nagar Police Station of the city. In her complaint to the police, Reena, the wife of the deceased, said her husband who was drunk then had got into a scuffle with a neighbor named Pintu alias Rakesh on Friday morning, Kota city Superintendent of Police Vikas Pathak said.



The common people of Uttar Pradesh are reeling due to the electricity bills and smart meters loot under the BJP rule

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

### GS BALI PASSES AWAY

Senior Congress leader and former Himachal Pradesh minister Gurmukh Singh Bali passed away Saturday after a prolonged illness. He was 67



# PM will be more powerful as Cong not serious: Mamata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Panaji, Oct 30:** Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee Saturday trained her guns on the Congress, saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will become more powerful as the grand old party is not serious about politics, and alleged that the country is suffering because that party does not take decisions.

Apparently targeting the BJP-led central government, she said she will not tolerate Delhi's 'dadagiri' (bullying) any more. Addressing a group of media persons here on the last day of her three-day visit to the coastal state, where Assembly polls are due early next year, Banerjee, when asked about whether she is in the race for the prime minister's post in the next general elections, said she prefers to be an "LIP- less important person" and a street fighter.

The 66-year-old TMC chief arrived in Goa Thursday evening and held several meetings with local leaders of her party and other politicians. Her party has announced that it will contest all 40 seats in the state, which is currently ruled by the BJP.

Speaking about the Congress, she said, "I cannot say everything right now because they didn't take politics seriously. Modiji is going to be more powerful because of the Congress...If one cannot take decision, why the country should suffer for that?"

"They (Congress) got opportunity (in the past). Instead of fighting against BJP, they contested against me in my state. Don't you think when they contested against me, when they contest my political party in Bengal...," she said. Incidentally, her criticism of the Congress came on the day its leader Rahul Gandhi is also in Goa to kickstart the party's campaign in the state.

Recently, poll strategist Prashant Kishor, who is currently lobbying for the TMC for



The 66-year-old TMC chief arrived in Goa Thursday evening and held several meetings with local leaders of her party and other politicians

HER PARTY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL CONTEST ALL 40 SEATS IN THE STATE, WHICH IS CURRENTLY RULED BY THE BJP

erful because of the Congress...If one cannot take decision, why the country should suffer for that?"

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Incidentally, her criticism of the Congress came on the day its leader Rahul Gandhi is also in Goa to kickstart the party's campaign in the state.

Recently, poll strategist Prashant Kishor, who is currently lobbying for the TMC for

the upcoming Goa polls, had said that the BJP will remain at the centre of Indian politics for the next many years irrespective of whether it wins or loses elections. He had also taken a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "thinking" that it is just a matter of time before people throw the BJP away.

When asked about Kishor's statement about the BJP, Banerjee said, "I feel that he has said that if we want to defeat BJP, we cannot do it the way Congress is heading. We have to give a strong fight to BJP." Banerjee said the TMC believes in distributing seats for the regional parties in elections.

# 1 BJP MLA, 6 rebel BSP MLAs join SP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, Oct 30:** Seven legislators - one from the BJP and six suspended from the BSP - joined the Samajwadi Party (SP) in Uttar Pradesh Saturday in the presence of Akhilesh Yadav, who hit out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and also claimed the BJP and the Congress "are the same".

"The people of the state are so agitated that the BJP will be wiped out in the coming days and Bhajpa pariwar (BJP family) will appear as Bhaagya Pariwar (runaway family)," the SP chief said here while taunting the ruling party over its MLA Rakesh Rathore's desertion and indicating that some others from the BJP were also in touch with him in the poll-bound state.

Those who joined the SP - BJP MLA from Sitapur Rakesh Rathore and BSP rebels Aslam Raini (Shrawati), Sushma Patel (Madiyahan), Aslam Ali (Hapur), Hakim Lal Bind (Handia), Mujtaba Siddiqui (Phoolpur) and Hargovind Bhargava (Sidhauli) - expressed

their resolve to make Akhilesh Yadav the Chief Minister again in the coming elections.

Taking to Twitter, Yadav claimed that the BJP will not get enough ticket-aspirants "even if it declares 403 chief ministers" as the party is staring at defeat in the assembly polls. The UP Assembly's strength is 403.

Earlier this year, an audio clip purportedly of Rathore criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for asking people to clap and clang bells and plates during the COVID-19 pandemic had gone viral on social media, after which he was asked by the party leadership to explain his alleged anti-party activities.

The BSP rebels who joined the SP were suspended by BSP president Mayawati after they had opposed the nomination of the party's official candidate Ramji Gautam for Rajya Sabha in October 2020. They had reportedly met Akhilesh Yadav earlier this year and had hinted that they may switch sides soon.



Taking to Twitter, Akhilesh claimed that the BJP will not get enough ticket-aspirants "even if it declares 403 Chief Ministers" as the party is staring at defeat in the Assembly polls

## FESTIVE FEVER



A crowded market ahead of Diwali, in Ahmedabad

PTI PHOTO

# Two soldiers killed in landmine explosion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Oct 30:** Two Army personnel were killed and another was injured in a landmine explosion near a forward post along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, officials said.

The Army said the blast occurred when the troops were on an area domination patrol in Naushera sector. "On October 30, during an area domination patrol in Naushera sector, a mine blast occurred wherein two Indian Army soldiers suffered critical injuries and later succumbed to their injuries.

Another soldier who received injuries was evacuated and is under treatment," Jammu-based defence PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said.

Officials said the blast took place in Kalal area of Naushera when the army team was on patrol duty. They said the area is dotted with landmines planted by the Army

as part of the counter-infiltration arrangement. The defence PRO identified the deceased as Lieutenant Rishi Kumar and Sepoy Manjit, and said they were brave and extremely committed to the profession of soldiering and made the supreme sacrifice for the nation in the line of active duty.

# Thousands of fish die as Arunachal river turns black

THE WATER OF THE RIVER TURNED BLACK DUE TO HIGH CONTENT OF TOTAL DISSOLVED SUBSTANCES (TDS), A DISTRICT FISHERIES OFFICIAL SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Itanagar, Oct 30:** Thousands of fish were found floating dead in Kameng river in Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng district after the water of the river suddenly turned black, triggering panic, officials said Saturday.

The water of the river turned black due to high content of total dissolved substances (TDS), a district fisheries official said.

Thousands of fish were found dead in the river on Friday at Seppa, the district headquarters, District Fisheries Development Officer (DFDO) Hali Tajo said.



water, he added. "As the river water contains high TDS, the fish were unable to inhale oxygen," Tajo said. The TDS in the river was 6,800 mg per litre, much higher than the normal range of 300-1,200 mg per

litre, he said, quoting a report. Tajo appealed to the people not to consume the fish as it may cause serious health issues. The East Kameng district administration issued an advisory asking people

to avoid venturing near the Kameng river to catch fish, and not to consume and sell the dead fish till further order. Residents of Seppa blamed China for the rise in the TDS in the river, alleging that the colour of the water turned black due to construction activities by the neighbouring country.

Seppa East MLA Tapuk Taku appealed to the state government to immediately constitute a committee of experts to ascertain the cause behind the abrupt change in the colour of the Kameng river's water and the death of a large quantity of fish. Expressing concern, Taku said this incident never happened in the Kameng river.

"If it continues for more than a few days, the aquatic life from the river will be totally eliminated,"

he said, adding that the sudden change in the colour of the water might be due to a huge landslide in the upper belt of the district.

"There may be other reasons as well. The state government should immediately constitute a fact-finding committee to study the situation at the earliest," he said.

The Siang river at Panshat in East Siang district turned black in November 2017. The then Congress MP from Arunachal East Ninong Ering wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his intervention, claiming that it was the result of the construction of a 10,000-km-long tunnel in China, which diverted water from Siang to Xinjiang province in the Taklamakan desert. China had denied the allegation.

# international

## of the day quote

I am satisfied with the timing of my departure and I now look forward to dedicate time to things I had to neglect during my chancellorship

ANGELA MERKEL | OUTGOING CHANCELLOR, GERMANY

The issue of Indo-Pacific came up during Prime Minister Modi's interaction with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen

HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA | FOREIGN SECY, INDIA

For the first time, the Security Council has adopted a resolution uniquely dedicated to the protection of education

MONA JUUL | UN AMBASSADOR, NORWAY

## SHORT TAKES

### Indian-origin CEO shot dead in US

**New York:** An Indian-origin top executive of a pharmaceutical company in the US state of New Jersey was shot dead by a gunman who followed him home from a casino for robbery, media reports said Saturday. Sree Ranga Aravapalli, 54, a resident of New Jersey's Plainsboro, was killed shortly after arriving home by a gunman who, according to authorities, followed him from a casino outside Philadelphia at around 3:30 AM (local time) Tuesday.

### 1.5 lakh visit India Pavilion in 28 days

**Dubai:** The India Pavilion, one of the largest pavilions at the Expo 2020 Dubai, achieved 150,000 visitors' milestone October 28, 2021, making it one of the most visited pavilions at the Expo. The India Pavilion has received 151,360 visitors since its inauguration October 1. With the upcoming Diwali celebrations, the India Pavilion is gearing up to host several cultural and musical performances to entertain the visitors starting 2nd November.

### UK cuts tax gap for vulnerable

**London:** COVID-19 booster shots can now be administered sooner than six months after the second dose to certain vulnerable groups for operational reasons, the UK government has announced. The UK Health Security Agency (UKSA) has updated the advice in its Green Book, which contains the latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures in the country for healthcare professionals. Under the new guidelines announced Friday, care home residents who have been given their second vaccine dose at different times will be able to be jabbed in the same session.

### Pak protesters use sub-machine guns

**Lahore:** A recent high-level security meeting in Pakistan discussed with great concern a report that the proscribed Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan men had used sub-machine guns (SMGs) targeting policemen during Kamoke violence, Dawn reported. A senior police officer told Dawn, a mobile phone footage which recorded the disturbing scene was also presented in the meeting, showing five TLP armed men using as many SMGs and firing straight at policemen who were running for shelter.



I spoke to her Majesty, as I do every week, this week and she's in very good form. She's just got to follow the advice of her doctors and get some rest and I think that's the important thing. The whole country wishes her well

BORIS JOHNSON | PRIME MINISTER, UK

## NATIONWIDE PAID HOLIDAY IN RUSSIA

A nationwide paid holiday from Saturday to November 7 has commenced in Russia, as ordered last week by President Vladimir Putin, in a bid to break a recent chain of records in daily Covid cases and deaths



# KUWAIT, SAUDI, BAHRAIN EVICT LEBANESE ENVOYS

AGENCIES

**Beirut, Oct 30:** Kuwait followed Saudi Arabia and Bahrain by ordering the Lebanese charge d'affaires Saturday to leave the emirate within two days over comments made by a Lebanese minister regarding the war in Yemen. Kuwait also recalled its ambassador from Beirut.

The move came as the Arab League chief expressed concerns about the deterioration of ties between Lebanon and wealthy Gulf countries over statements made by Information Minister George Kordahi.

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Abdallah Bouhabbib said Prime Minister Najib Mikati is in contact with foreign officials who asked him not to think about resigning.

The minister added that he is in contact with the Americans to



George Kordahi

help solve the crisis. Kordahi has described during a TV programme in August the war in Yemen as an aggression by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He added that the war in Yemen is "absurd" and must stop because he is opposed to wars between Arabs.

Yemen has been convulsed by civil war since 2014, when the Iran-backed Houthis rebels captured the capital, Sanaa, and much of the north of the country.

That forced the internationally recognised government to flee to the south, then to Saudi Arabia.

A Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015, backed by the United States, to try to restore the government to power.

Despite a relentless air campaign and ground fighting, the war has deteriorated largely into a stalemate and spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

In Beirut, several government officials met Saturday to discuss the crisis that is likely to have major repercussions on Lebanon, which is experiencing the worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history.

The meeting was briefly attended by the US Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Richard Michaels at the foreign ministry in Beirut, according to Bouhabbib.

## ALLIES IN ALASKA



A glimpse of the 17th edition of India-US Army joint exercise at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, in Alaska

# US, E3 warn of Iran's N-programme



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Rome, Oct 30:** President Joe Biden said Saturday that nuclear talks with Iran would resume while he and a trio of European allies warned that Iran has "accelerated the pace of provocative nuclear steps" after they met to align strategy for the negotiations aimed at trying to bring Iran and the US back into compliance with the 2015 nuclear accord.

Biden and the leaders of Germany, France and Britain — known as the E3 — met at a pivotal time as Iran continues to enrich uranium to near-weapons-grade levels. The leaders are trying to revive the 2015 deal and restore Iran's program to where it was under the pact, which kept the Islamic republic at least one year away from the potential to field a nuclear weapon.

In a joint statement following the meeting with Germany's Angela Merkel, France's Emmanuel Macron and Britain's Boris Johnson, the four leaders "expressed our determination to ensure that Iran can never develop or

acquire a nuclear weapon.

The leaders also said they shared "our grave and growing concern" that Iran "has accelerated the pace of provocative nuclear steps" after it halted negotiations on a return to the nuclear agreement, formally known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

They also warned that Iran's nuclear developments and restrictions on international monitoring by the International Atomic Energy Agency "will jeopardize the possibility of a return to" the deal.

As the leaders posed for photos before their closed-door talks, Biden was asked when he would like the stalled negotiations with Iran to resume. "They're scheduled to resume," he said, in what appeared to be the first public confirmation by the US of a resumption in negotiations.

Iran has yet to commit to a date to return to nuclear talks being held in Vienna but has signaled it will do so next week with a target of late November for resuming the negotiations. The US and others have expressed skepticism about Iranian intentions.

## G-20 opens with call for more tax for poor nations

**Italy's Premier Mario Draghi** opened a conference of the world's powerhouse economies with a sharp call to pick up the pace in getting vaccines to poor countries, calling the gaping global COVID-19 vaccine gap "morally unacceptable".

Draghi, the host for the two-day Group of 20 summit in Rome, said Saturday that only 3% of people in the world's poorest countries are vaccinated, while 70% in rich countries have had at least one shot.

The call for more collective help for low-income countries sounded a theme running through the summit, which faces a global economy recovering at different speeds. Climate change, vaccines, the recovery, international taxation are all themes occupying leaders holding their first in-person summit since the pandemic took hold.

Draghi welcomed the Group

of 20 heads of state to Rome's Nuvola cloud-like convention center in the Fascist-era EUR neighborhood, which was sealed off from the rest of the capital. Saturday's opening session was focused on global health and the economy.

Rich countries have used vaccines and stimulus spending to restart economic activity, leaving the risk that developing countries that account for much of global growth will remain behind due to low vaccinations and financing difficulties.

European Union leaders will meet off-site with African leaders in efforts to further support the continent's poorest economies in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters Friday he expects the G-20 to confirm an additional \$100 billion to support Africa's economies.



## China: Covid resurgence spreads to 14 provinces

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Beijing, Oct 30:** As of Saturday, the latest Covid-19 resurgence in China had spread to 14 provinces, where new locally transmitted cases or asymptomatic carriers were reported during the past 14 days, a health official said.

The pandemic prevention and control situation is grim and com-

plicated as infections are still spreading rapidly, Xinhua news agency quoted Mi Feng, a spokesperson for the National Health Commission (NHC), as saying to reporters here.

China's top epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan, however, said Saturday that the country will be able to effectively contain the latest resurgence within a month.

The coronavirus and the pandemic cannot be eradicated within a short period of time, he said, calling on other countries to adopt strict and prioritized measures against Covid-19 and actively roll out vaccination.

Zhong said he expects that more than 80 per cent of Chinese residents will have been fully vaccinated by the end of this year.

# 'We may never be able to identify Covid origins'

THE FINDINGS WERE PUBLISHED IN A DECLASSIFIED REPORT WHICH IS AN UPDATE OF A 90-DAY REVIEW THAT BIDEN'S ADMINISTRATION RELEASED IN AUGUST

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Washington, Oct 30:** US intelligence agencies said they may never be able to identify the origins of Covid-19, but have concluded that it was not created as a biological weapon, the BBC reported.

In an updated assessment of where the virus began, the Office of the US Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) said an animal-to-human transmission and a lab leak were both plausible hypotheses for how it spread, the report said. But there was not enough information to reach a definitive conclusion.

China, where the pandemic originated in late 2019, has criticised the report.



The findings were published in a declassified report which is an update of a 90-day review that President Joe Biden's administration released in August, the report added.

It said the intelligence community remains divided on the

## STIR IN SUDAN

# Thousands take to streets against coup



Crowds began to gather Saturday afternoon in capital Khartoum and its twin city Omdurman. Marchers chanted "Give it up, Burhan," and "revolution, revolution." Some held up banners reading, "Going backward is impossible"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cairo, Oct 30:** Tens of thousands of Sudanese took to the streets across the country Saturday in the largest pro-democracy protest yet since the military seized control earlier this week.

Three protesters were killed and dozens injured — several by live rounds — as security forces opened fire in several locations, a doctors' union said.

The coup, condemned by the international community has threatened to derail Sudan's fitful transition to democracy, which began after the 2019 ouster of long-time autocrat Omar al-Bashir. Since then, the military and civilian leaders have governed in an uneasy partnership.

Pro-democracy groups had called for protests across the country Saturday to demand the re-instating of a deposed transitional

government and the release of senior political figures from detention.

The United States and the United Nations had warned Sudan's strongman, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, that they view the military's treatment of the protesters as a test, and called for restraint.

Burhan has claimed that the transition to democracy would continue despite the military takeover, saying he would install a new technocrat government soon. But the pro-democracy movement in Sudan fears the military has no intention of easing its grip, and will appoint politicians it can control.

Saturday's large turnout is bound to increase pressure on the generals who face condemnations from the US and other Western countries to restore a civilian-led government.

The demonstrations were called by the Sudanese Professionals' Association and the so-called Resistance Committees. Both were at the forefront of an uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir and his Islamist government in 2019. They are also calling for the dismantling of paramilitary groups and restructuring of the military, intelligence and security agencies.

All three protesters killed Saturday were shot in Omdurman. One was shot in his head, another in his stomach, and a third in his chest, the Sudan Doctors Committee and protesters said.

## It said the intelligence community remains divided on the most likely origin of the virus

most likely origin of the virus. Four agencies assessed with low confidence it had originated with an infected animal or a related virus.

But one agency said it had moderate confidence that the first human infection most likely was the result of a laboratory accident, probably involving experimentation or animal handling by the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the report said.

The report also said Chinese officials were unaware of the existence of the virus before the initial outbreak of Covid-19 in the city of Wuhan, in late 2019.

But it said China was continuing to hinder the global investigation and to resist sharing information.

Chinese authorities linked early Covid-19 cases to a seafood market in Wuhan, leading scientists to theorise that the virus first passed to humans from animals, the BBC reported.

But earlier this year, US media reports suggested growing evidence the virus could instead have emerged from the Wuhan laboratory, perhaps through an accidental leak.



The Cleartrip platform will become an essential part of the broader SuperApp journey we have embarked upon. We have a strongly developing relationship with Flipkart that spans multiple dimensions including data centers, fulfillment centers and now air travel  
**GAUTAM ADANI | CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP**

## G20 LEADERS ENDORSE GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX

Leaders of the world's 20 biggest economies (G20) will endorse an OECD deal on a global minimum corporate tax of 15%, draft conclusions of the two-day G20 summit showed Saturday, with a view to have the rules in force in 2023. The conclusions are to be formally adopted Sunday



## of the day quote

We are delighted to welcome Arun Chawla in his new role. Fici would surely benefit from his long experience in the organization and his earlier stint in the corporate world  
**UDAY SHANKAR | PRESIDENT, FICCI**

With the automotive sector rapidly gearing up for electric mobility in the passenger vehicle segment, we are exploring options with two-wheeler electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers for development of EV fluids  
**SANDEEP SANGWAN | MD, CASTROL**

Markets had run up so there was a need for a pullback. There are darker clouds on the horizon in terms of inflationary pressure and rate hike environment developing in emerging markets  
**NILESH SHAH | MD, KOTAK MAHINDRA ASSET MANAGEMENT CO**

## SHORT TAKES

### IOC's Q2FY22 profit up over 2%

**New Delhi:** Oil marketing company IndianOil Saturday reported a marginal rise of over 2 per cent in its net profit for the second quarter of FY22 on a year-on-year basis. Its net profit for the quarter under review rose to ₹6,360 crore from ₹6,227 crore in the corresponding quarter of FY21 due to higher refining margin during the quarter. Further, the company's revenue from operations increased to ₹169,771 crore from ₹115,754 crore earned during the corresponding quarter of FY21.

### ITC posts strong quarter in FY22

**New Delhi:** ITC's Q2 FY22 was ahead of estimates with EBITDA and PBT growing 13 per cent year-on-year (YoY), Credit Suisse said in a report. Net cigarette revenue grew 10.3 per cent YoY as the recovery post the second Covid-19 wave has been rapid. Cigarette volumes were back to near pre-Covid levels towards the end of the quarter. FMCG business had a very high base due the surge in packaged foods in Q2 FY21, and thus revenue growth was muted at 3 per cent YoY.

### IL&FS gets NCLT approval for InvIT

**New Delhi:** Debt-ridden IL&FS Saturday said that it has received approval for launching the first phase of the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) from National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Accordingly, with the approval, six road projects -- Barwa Adda Expressway Limited, Baleshwar Kharagpur Expressway Limited, Sikar Bikaner Highway Limited, East Hyderabad Expressway Limited, Moradabad Bareilly Expressway Limited, Jharkhand Road Projects Implementation Company Limited -- will be transferred to the newly-formed 'Roadstar Infra Investment Trust' under its 'InvIT Phase I' basis approvals from the authority and the lenders.

### WhiteHatR offers musical learning

**Bhubaneswar:** WhiteHatR, the leading live one-on-one online learning platform, announced its entry into the 18+ segment with the launch of a specially curated course to offer immersive learning opportunities for music aspirants across all age groups. Aimed at music as an avenue for adding immense joy to people across ages, the music course was catalysed by overwhelming interest received for WhiteHatR music course from learners above and beyond the young learner segment.

# Squid Game crypto jumps over 60,000% in less than a week

**ACCORDING TO COINMARKETCAP, SQUID WAS WORTH \$0.01 CENT TUESDAY AND ROSE TO \$6.27 FRIDAY MORNING, A 62,600 PER CENT INCREASE**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Seoul, Oct 30:** A cryptocurrency based on the hit Korean Netflix show 'Squid Game' is up over 60,000 per cent in less than a week, according to media reports. Squid Game's popularity spread like wildfire since it aired on Netflix last month, reports USA Today. The show features contestants playing deadly versions of childhood games to win a huge cash prize at the end. The SQUID token follows the



same rules as the show and players will go through six online games to win prize money without the deadly consequences.

There is no longer dystopian world where a mysterious organization gathers people who are in large amounts of debt and 'living on the edge', the project's white paper said. Everyone here in crypto world can participate in the 'Squid Game' with SQUID token or related NFTs in our marketplace, it added. However, as the price continues to surge, so does the price to enter into the games. Game 1 had an entry fee of \$4.56 or 456 SQUID when the token first launched but

has swelled to over \$1,500 by Friday morning. The final game entry cost is over \$50,000, as per CoinMarketCap. Meanwhile, CoinMarketCap has issued a warning that users are reporting they are unable to sell the token in PancakeSwap -- a popular place where people exchange tokens. This project, while clearly inspired by the Netflix show of the same name, is unlikely to be affiliated with the official IP, it said.

## New rules proposed to push green energy

The Ministry of Power highlighted that India is committed to achieve more than 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel energy resources by 2030

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** The Ministry of Power has proposed amendments to Energy Conservation Act, 2001 which include provision for specifying minimum quantum of renewable energy in the overall consumption by establishments and industrial units. The amendments are aimed at promoting consumption of renewable energy. "Amidst the growing energy needs and changing global climate landscape, the Government of India has identified new areas to achieve higher levels of penetration of renewable energy by proposing certain amendments to Energy Conservation Act, 2001," a power ministry statement said.

Accordingly, a meeting was held by Alok Kumar, Secretary (Power) with the stakeholders ministries and organisations October 28, 2021 to give a final shape to the proposed amendments in the EC Act.

To review the Act in detail, four stakeholder consultation meetings (one national consultation workshop and three regional consultations) were conducted with various stakeholders to discuss and receive inputs on the possible amendments. India stands at the forefront of addressing the climate change



### AMENDMENTS TO EC ACT, 2001

The proposed amendments would facilitate development of carbon market in India and prescribe minimum consumption of renewable energy either as direct consumption or indirect use through grid

There will be provision to incentivise efforts on using clean energy sources by means of carbon saving certificate

The proposal also includes expanding the scope of Act to include larger Residential buildings, with an aim to promote Sustainable Habitat

and has committed to an ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of reducing emission intensity by 33-35 per cent in 2030 against the levels of 2005. Furthermore, by adopting energy efficiency measures, India holds a potential to reduce about

550 MtCO2 by 2030. The proposed changes to the EC Act will boost the adoption of clean technologies in various sectors of economy.

With the amendment to EC Act, 2001, the focus is to empower institutions to contribute for Paris commitments and fully implement NDCs in a timely manner, it stated.

### India, Italy partner for energy transition

**Rome:** India and Italy have agreed to explore development of green hydrogen, setting up renewable energy corridors, and joint projects in the natural gas sector as the two nations sought to strengthen partnership in energy transition. A joint statement issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held the first in-person meeting with his Italian counterpart Mario Draghi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rome, said the two leaders agreed to encourage joint investments of Indian and Italian companies in energy transition-related fields. They agreed to initiate a dialogue to support the development and deployment of green hydrogen and related technologies in India as well as to consider working together to support a large size green corridor project in India to capitalize on India's target to produce and integrate 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030. The two leaders also agreed to encourage Italian and Indian companies to develop joint projects in natural gas sector, technological innovation for decarbonisation, smart cities and other specific domains (i.e. electrification of urban public transport).

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 30:** Tesla CEO Elon Musk has become the first person to cross the \$300 billion net worth threshold after his fortune surged by \$10 billion in a day thanks to a Tesla share spike, a day before Microsoft regained the title of world's most valuable company, Daily Mail reported.

Musk's net worth hit \$302 billion as of Thursday, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires' Index.

The increase of \$10 billion was due to a rise in Tesla shares Thursday, after the electric car firm inked a huge deal with Hertz for the rental giant to buy 100,000 of its vehicles.

Friday, Microsoft regained its perch as the world's most valuable company, with a \$2.46 trillion market cap, after an Apple share slump saw the iPhone maker's overall value plunge around four per cent to \$2.41 trillion.

This came after Apple fell just under 4 per cent after lower than expected fourth-quarter revenues. Microsoft climbed 1.1 per cent to blow past Apple after higher than expected revenue estimates for an 11th straight quarter, the report said. Microsoft is now more valuable



The mogul is now worth over \$100bn more than the second-richest person on earth, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. His fortune sits at \$199bn

than Apple for the first time since early 2020. The company is on pace for its biggest weekly gains since January, the report said.

Musk is now worth more than the annual GDP of nations like Egypt, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Greece, Qatar and Finland. He's also worth more than the market value of PayPal, the company he co-founded, as well as streaming giant Netflix.

## BIZ BUZZ



### CSR Forum honours JSPL DGM

**Bhubaneswar:** Sanjay Sahoo, DGM (Corporate Communication) of Jindal Steel & Power Ltd was honoured with the 'Outstanding Young Professional Award' for his contribution in the area of Corporate Communication. The Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly Surjya Narayan Patro presented the award during Odisha CSR Meet 2021. The gala event was organised by Odisha CSR Forum, October 30, 2021 in the city.

## MSMEs hit by NPAs in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 30:** Amid a dying demand in the post-pandemic period, the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector of Odisha witnessed an alarming increase of bad loans during the first quarter of current financial year. According to the report of 'The State Level Bankers Committee, Odisha (SLBC), the non performing assets (NPAs) of MSMEs sector stood at 10.12% as of June 30, 2021 compared to 8.55% NPAs during the same period of previous fiscal.

The experts said that NPAs in MSMEs sector has increased due to the closure of many industries during Covid-19. The experts also suggested that the state government and bankers should jointly form committees and mentor MSMEs who have taken loans to tackle the situation.

The banks have targeted to disburse the loan amount of ₹41,324.43 to the MSMEs, including Khadi & Village Industries and others under MSMEs, in current financial year. The set target is hiked by 35.68% compared to previous fiscal. As of June 30, 2021, the banks have disbursed around ₹8978.16 crore to the MSMEs, covering 21.73% of the total target. As per the SLBC Odisha report, the total NPAs stood at ₹13,645.17 crore as of June 30, 2021, increased from ₹11,339.37 crore as of March 31, 2021.



The report suggests that the NPAs of the state as on Q1 ending is 7.20%, which is inclined at a higher side and represents alarming situation in the state. There is a rise in bad loans of Odisha as compared to the quarter ending March 2021 where the NPA percentage was at 6.22%.

For PMEGP, NULM, NRLM, SHG, the bad loan was too high. The banks are facing problem to recycle the funds owing to non-repayment of loans, mounting overdues and rising percentage of NPAs.

"In a warning letter, which Vedanta as per SEBI directions disclosed to stock exchanges, the regulator said it will take action if such actions were repeated in future. The mining conglomerate's independent auditors had in the firm's annual report for fiscal year 2020-21 flagged related-party transactions.

"With regard to the qualified opinion in respect of the company executing related party transactions worth ₹1,407 crore without prior approval of the audit committee, the company has submitted that the said transaction was ratified later (after a period of about 47 days)," SEBI said in the October 28 letter.

Without disclosing the nature of the transaction, the company stated that the transaction was done at an arm's length and in ordinary course of business. "In this regard, attention may be drawn to Regulation 23(2) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, which states that all related party transactions shall require prior approval of the audit committee," SEBI said. Accordingly, the submission of the company that the transactions were done at arm's length distance is not tenable.

On the auditor's observation over delay in disclosure of the outcome of board meeting of October 3, 2020, the company submitted that the delay was due to unforeseen circumstances and that it will ensure that the same is not repeated. The aforesaid non-compliances are viewed seriously. You are hereby warned and advised to ensure compliance with all applicable provisions of SEBI Regulations, the regulator said in the letter.

## Jewellers expect gold to sparkle this Diwali

Gold price, which had touched a peak of ₹56,000 level, Saturday was ruling over ₹49,200 per 10 grams level in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 30:** Finally, gold is set to regain its sparkle this Diwali as jewellers are expecting up to 30 per cent sales growth over the pre-Covid levels on the back of a faster-than-expected economic recovery along with lower prices and pent-up demand.

The gems and jewellery industry witnessed a near washout during 'Diwali' and 'Dhanteras' 2020, following the Covid-19 related disruptions, including lockdowns and restrictions in movements across the country.

"We are witnessing a growth in momentum since 'Shradh', the third quarter of the calendar year, usually considered a subdued month for the industry. However,



the drop in gold prices to around ₹42,500 per 10 grams level resulted in uptick in consumer demand," All India Gem And Jewellery Domestic Council chairman Ashish Pethe told PTI.

He said the healthy Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in the last few months indicates that eco-

nomical recovery is on track and the weddings postponed due to the pandemic taking place this year end will boost gems and jewellery sales.

Looking ahead with restrictions being gradually lifted across the country, retail demand is bouncing back to pre-Covid levels, he stated. PNG Jewellers Chairman and

With the upcoming festive and wedding season, there is all the more enthusiasm towards gold demand, and we anticipate it to be the busiest gold-buying season, since the start of Covid-19 pandemic. As the economic recovery is gaining pace, we expect 30-40 per cent increase in sales compared to that of last year

**ASHISH PETHE | CHAIRMAN, ALL INDIA GEM AND JEWELLERY DOMESTIC COUNCIL**

MD Saurabh Gadgil stated that the market has been seeing strong demand since the start of Navratri.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Chairman Ahammed MP said the company expects healthy consumer demand for gold jewellery during Dhanteras this year due to pent-up demand. WHP Jewellers Director Aditya Pethe said the industry is very optimistic about the upcoming festive season and has very high expectations from the same.

"Since Dussehra we are seeing a good build up in sales. Slowly the clouds of the pandemic are fading and consumer confidence is recovering. We are expecting the pent-up demand to boost sales during Diwali and the upcoming wedding season. We are expecting a good uptake in demand and hope to achieve a growth of at least 35-40 per cent year-on-year. Look forward to good sales in the festive season," he added.

## KOHLI SET TO FACE MOST DEFINING TEST OF HIS CAPTAINCY CAREER AS INDIA FACE NEW ZEALAND IN 'VIRTUAL QUARTERFINAL'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Oct 30:** Virat Kohli will be facing the most defining test of his captaincy career as he expects his men to be the proverbial 'phoenix rising from the ashes' when India take on a street-smart New Zealand in a 'do-or-die' ICC T20 World Cup Super 12 game here Sunday.

Having endured a nightmare last Sunday against Pakistan, a match that they would like to forget in a hurry, India have a lot of course correction to do against the Kiwis, more so in getting the roles assigned for the players right.

It won't be easy against a quality New Zealand, which will come hard at India having also lost to Pakistan in their opening game. Tim Southee and Trent Boult, especially have been a nemesis for the Indians in big games.

However, their soft underbelly is batting where Kane Williamson is still not hundred per cent and Martin Guptill also had a foot injury. It's effective without being flamboyant, although, Devon Conway is a flashy batter.

And herein lies India's chance but for that, their bowlers need to implement the game plans perfectly, something they couldn't against Pakistan. Even more important will be execution from two players on whom the team management has heavily invested - a half-fit Hardik Pandya and an out-of-form Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who have been the weak-links of this Indian team.

Hardik, who has not been the cricketer everyone feared since his back injury, is playing to save his India career. That he hasn't exactly been truthful about the status of



# HOUR OF RECKONING

his bowling capabilities has been exposed and trying to roll his arm over at the nets speaks volumes of his desperation. His IPL franchise - Mumbai Indians - are putting him back in the auction pool and time, indeed, is running out for him.

Bhuvneshwar could well be playing his last international tourna-

ment. His pace has dropped remarkably in the past two seasons and somewhere he has not been a patch of what his younger competitor Deepak Chahar has been in recent years. Yet, India have punted on his experience and it's high-time that he delivers before being shunned into oblivion.

India have shown in recent times, at least, in Test arena that they can come back from brink with unforgettable performances but Kohli in his last assignment as T20 captain would like to change the script that always seemed to go awry at global events.

More so, because another failure at a mega event could well mean that there will be aspersions cast on his abilities as a white ball skipper and the 50-over leadership will also come under the scanner.

India's presence till the business end is not just an emotional necessity for its billion fans but also a commercial requirement for the tournament to retain its vigour.

Even after being clubbed in the easier group where three matches, including Afghanistan should be literally walk-in-the-park for these stars who rake in mega moolah per IPL season but are now facing the fear of an early exit from the tournament.

With Pakistan already on six points having played all their tough games (India, New Zealand and Afghanistan) in the first week of Super 12s, they are expected to steamroll Namibia and Scotland en route their expected top place finish in group 2.

This leaves both India and New Zealand in a virtual shoot-out position as whoever wins has a chance to finish on maximum eight points and grab the second place in the group.

However with the dew playing a major role in the evenings, toss is indeed playing a very crucial role in the outcome of night matches. In a nutshell, Kohli faces an acid test of his leadership career, which is reaching business end.

## Proteas spoil Hasaranga party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sharjah, Oct 30:** David Miller's (23 n o) two last-over sixes powered South Africa to a four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka despite a hat-trick by Wanindu Hasaranga (3/20) in a thrilling Super 12 match of the ICC T20 World Cup here Saturday.

Miller's unbeaten 13-ball cameo ensured the Proteas knock off the required 25 runs in the last two overs, including 15 in the final over with a ball to spare. Kasigo Rabada (13 n o) too played a crucial knock.

First left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3/17) ran through the Sri Lankan batters as South Africa bundled them out for 142 despite opener Pathum Nissanka's whirlwind 72 (58b, 6x4, 3x6) and then chased the tricky target. Thus, the efforts of young leg-spinner Hasaranga, who scalped two wickets in the 18th over, went in vain. Dwayne Pretorius (3/17) and Anrich Nortje (2/27) were the other wicket-takers for South Africa.

Skipper Temba Bavuma (46, 46b, 1x4, 1x6) played his part to perfection as he took the game deep and then Miller justified his finisher's tag.

Chasing 143, South African lost Reeza Hendricks (11), Quinton de Kock (12) and Rassie van der Dussen (16) cheaply. Bavuma and Aiden Markram (19) took the game deep with their crucial 47-run stand, which played a role in the side's win.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Sri Lanka 142 (Pathum Nissanka 72; Tabraiz Shamsi 3/17, Dwayne Pretorius 3/17, Anrich Nortje 2/27) lost to South Africa 143/6 (Temba Bavuma 46, David Miller 23 n o; Wanindu Hasaranga 3/20, Dusantha Chameera 2/27) by 4 wickets.



David Miller and Kagiso Rabada celebrate after their victory; (inset) Wanindu Hasaranga reacts after completing his hat-trick, Saturday

## Buttler, bowlers help England crush Aussies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Oct 30:** Jos Buttler (71 n o, 32b, 5x4, 5x6) hammered a brutal unbeaten half century to complement a superlative performance from the bowlers as England crushed Australia by eight wickets in their Super 12 match to inch closer to a semifinal spot at the T20 World Cup here Saturday.

It was a thoroughly professional display by the ODI World Champions as they bundled Australia out for 125 and then returned to overhaul the target of 126 in 11.4 overs to consolidate their top position in the Group 1 points table.

Buttler and Jason Roy (22) hammered the Australian bowlers all around the park to amass 66 runs for no loss in the powerplay, the highest by any team so far in the tournament.

Australia managed to get rid of Roy and Dawid Malan (8) but it made no difference as Jonny Bairstow (16 n o) joined Buttler in sending their opponents on a leather hunt. England finished off the match with 50 balls to spare.

England thus completed a hat-trick of wins, while Australia suffered their first loss of the tournament after beating South Africa and Sri Lanka in their previous two games.

Earlier, Chris Woakes (2/23) and Chris Jordan (3/17) rattled Australia's top-order by removing opener David Warner (1), Steve Smith (1) and Glenn Maxwell (6) in the first four overs before skipper Aaron Finch (44, 49b, 4x4) resur-



Jos Buttler hits a maximum during his match-winning knock, Saturday

rected the innings. Ashton Agar (20), Pat Cummins (12) and Mitchell Starc (13) then hit some lusty blows at the death to give some respectability to the Australian total. However, it was Finch who helped Aussies go past 100 despite being reduced to 21/4.

### BRIEF SCORES

**Australia 125**

(Aaron Finch 44, Ashton Agar 20, Chris Jordan 3/17, Chris Woakes 2/23)

**lost to England 126/2** (Jos Buttler 71 n o; Ashton Agar 1/15) by 8 wickets.

## Sindhu bows out of French Open event



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Paris, Oct 30:** India's double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu failed to reach the women's singles summit clash after going down fighting to Japan's Sayaka Takahashi in three games at the French Open badminton tournament here Saturday.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad squandered a one-game advantage to lose 21-18, 16-21, 12-21 against the world number 15 Takahashi, a bronze medallist at the 2013 and 2014 Asian Championships. It was her fourth defeat to the 29-year-old Japanese in eight meetings. Sindhu, the reigning World Champion, had lost in the quarterfinals at the Denmark Open last week in Odense.

The world number 7 Indian started the match on a positive note as there was little to separate the two. The duo played short rallies, trying to outwit each other with their attacking shots.

In the decider, the duo led 6-6, but Takahashi started to dominate the proceedings and soon eked out an 11-6 advantage at the break, with Sindhu going to the net and the Japanese producing a down-the-line smash.

Takahashi rode on her attack to gather points easily, leading 14-9. The Japanese set up the points well and closed them out with attacking returns on both flanks. With Sindhu unable to rein in her errors, Takahashi grabbed a massive nine-point match points. The Indian saved one before the Japanese sent one down the line to shut the doors on her fancied rival.

Mariano Diaz used his heel to knock a pass from Casemiro into the path of Vinicius for him to fire under Kiko Casilla. Elche were pressing for an equaliser when Guti made a dangerous tackle on Toni Kroos and was sent off in the 63rd. Vinicius finished Elche off when he chipped the ball over Casilla from a tight angle after Luka Modric played him clear with one touch.

Milla scored against the flow of play when Casemiro's pass near his area was intercepted, leaving the forward alone to beat Thibaut Courtois.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Barcelona, Oct 30:** Vinicius Junior took over the scoring duties from Karim Benzema by netting twice to help Real Madrid win 2-1 at 10-man Elche Saturday and move to the top of the Spanish league standings.

Vinicius opened the scoring with a 22nd-minute strike. After Elche midfielder Raul Guti was sent off for a second booking, the Brazilian winger then put the result beyond doubt in the 73rd.

Elche substitute Pere Milla pulled one back with four to play but it was not enough to keep his side unbeaten at home this campaign.

The 21-year-old Vinicius once again showed his much-improved finishing. The double took his tally in all competitions to nine in 14

## Di Maria turns Angel for PSG

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, Oct 30:** Angel Di Maria set up the equaliser and then netted the winning goal himself as Paris Saint-Germain rallied past defending champion Lille 2-1 to stretch their lead at the top of the French league to 10 points.

Canada striker Jonathan David gave Lille the lead with a first-time effort in the 31st minute, but Di Maria made the difference in the second half.

The Argentine forward provided a clipped pass for Marquinhos, who volleyed home from six yards in the 74th. Di Maria then played a one-two with Neymar before burying the ball into the bottom corner in the 88th.

Lionel Messi had been doubtful because of a small muscle problem but still started the game for PSG. However, Messi struggled in the role of a false nine, volleying wide after a cross from Di Maria in the 30th, and was replaced by Mauro Icardi at halftime.

Lille opened the scoring by play-



ing out from the back in the 31st. The visitors moved the ball from the right wing to the left, where Burak Yilmaz rounded Thilo Kehrer to cut the ball back for David, who guided a first-time effort into the top corner. Already the top scorer in the French league this season, David raised his tally to eight goals. Di Maria crossed for Icardi, who

headed over the bar in the 73rd, before setting up Marquinhos for the equaliser a minute later.

Neymar then showed his deft touch when collecting Di Maria's pass in the area and controlling it with one foot before playing it back in the path of the Argentine, who scored with a low shot to preserve PSG's perfect record at home.

## Sumit sails into Boxing Worlds' pre-quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Belgrade, Oct 30:** Indian boxer Sumit (75kg) sailed into the pre-quarterfinals of the AIBA Men's World Championships here Saturday after notching up a comprehensive victory over Tajikistan's Abdumalik Boltaev.

Sumit prevailed 5-0 in the bout against Boltaev, who wasn't lacking in intent but was definitely nowhere close to the Indian when it came to punching cleanly. Sumit also copped a warning in the second round for hitting Boltaev on the back of his head repeatedly despite being cau-

tioned by the referee but the docking of one point had no impact on his control over the proceedings as he emerged a unanimous victor.

In a late night bout Friday, Nishant Dev (71kg) rallied to defeat Mauritian Mervin Clair 4-1 to also secure a pre-quarterfinal berth.

Five-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) will fight Sierra Leone's John Brown in the round of 32. Sachin (80kg), who got a first-round bye, will open against American Robby Gonzales in another last 32 contest. Govind Sahani (48kg) will compete in the pre-quarterfinals against Georgia's Sakhil Alakhverdovi.

## City, Reds drop points at home



Wilfried Zaha (No.11) celebrates his goal against Man City with teammates

AGENCIES

**London, Oct 30:** Manchester City slumped to a second loss in their Premier League title defense as goals by Wilfried Zaha and Conor Gallagher earned Crystal Palace a 2-0 win at the Etihad Stadium Saturday. Elsewhere at the Anfield, Liverpool squandered a two-goal advantage to end up sharing spoils with Brighton & Hove Albion 2-2.

In other matches, league leaders Chelsea, after a goalless first half, rode on a brace by Reece James and a penalty by Jorginho to script a comfortable 3-0 win at Newcastle United.

Earlier in the day, Aaron Ramsdale produced a stunning goalkeeping performance to help Arsenal secure a 2-0 win at Leicester

that extended the team's unbeaten run in the league to seven games.

At the Etihad Stadium, City's hopes of recovering from Zaha's sixth-minute goal were hit when Americ Laporte was sent off in first-half stoppage time for bringing down Zaha when he was the last man.

Gabriel Jesus had a 60th-minute goal disallowed for a narrow offside against Phil Foden in the build-up. Gallagher then added a second goal on the break in the 88th minute, consigning City to their first loss in the league since the opening round against Tottenham.

Meanwhile at the Anfield, the Reds went from 2-0 ahead after 25 minutes, to level at 2-2 after 90. Jordan Henderson and Sadio Mane staked the title hopefuls to their early lead



Leandro Trossard reacts after scoring the equaliser against Liverpool

and it looked like another runaway Reds rout was on the cards.

However, a spectacular Enoch Mwepu strike and Leandro Trossard's calmly finished strike just before halftime and midway through the second half ruined the home side's chance of bagging three points.

Chelsea kept the top position with 25 points, followed by Liverpool with 22 points. Manchester City are third with 20 points. They have played 10 matches each. The fourth-placed West Ham are three points behind City, but with a game in hand. Arsenal, meanwhile rose up to fifth with 17 points from 10 matches.