

BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | 2021

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Dismissed cop has assets worth ₹7cr

Bhubaneswar: The vigilance wing of Odisha Police has detected properties worth ₹7 crore in possession of a dismissed constable, officials said Monday. Prasanna Kumar Behera, exconstable under the Commissionerate of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, was dismissed from service after he was caught operating an illegal bar in the state capital. He is also facing several departmental proceedings and criminal cases, they said. After a three-day search operation at various places in Odisha, Behera and his family members were found to be in possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources of income to the tune of ₹6,97,15,057, an official release said.

Australia formally recognises India's Covaxin

Melbourne: Australia's medicines and medical devices regulator on Monday formally recognised India's Covaxin, a vaccine against the coronavirus as the country's border was reopened for the first time in nearly 20 months. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, and AstraZeneca and Oxford University's Covishield are the two widely used vaccines in India. Australia has already recognised Covishield. 'Today, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) determined that Covaxin (manufactured by Bharat Biotech, India) and BBIBP-CorV (manufactured by Sinopharm, China) vaccines would be 'recognised' for the purpose of establishing a traveller's vaccination status,' Australia's medicines and medical devices regulator TGA said.



NEET results out; Nekta state topper

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Nov 1: The National Testing Agency (NTA) Monday published results for NEET-UG 2021 exam. The exam was conducted September 12 and over 16 lakh students appeared in the medical entrance test. The result is available on the official website neet.nta.nic.in. Nekta N Swasti Sravan Mishra

is the state topper with a score of 99.99 percentile and 75th NEET All India rank. He is a student of SAI International School. Three students have shared the top rank in medical entrance exam NEET-UG. Telangana's Mrinal Kutteri, Delhi's Tanmay Gupta and Maharashtra's Karthika G Nair shared the top rank scoring full marks. In pursuance of orders of the Supreme Court, National Testing Agency conducted 3rd National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (UG) - 2021 throughout the country September 12, 2021 in 202 cities at 3858 centres for admission to undergraduate medical courses.



CRACKER **OF A RULING** ■ Setting aside a Calcutta HC order, the

apex court says it can't put a complete ban on firecrackers; suggests a mechanism can be found to stop their misuse

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 1: There cannot be a complete ban on firecrackers and the mechanism to stop their misuse has to be strengthened, the Supreme Court said Monday setting aside the Calcutta High Court order banning firecrackers during Kali Puja, Diwali and other festivals this year to check air pollution amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A special bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi also asked the West Bengal government to explore the possibility to ensure at the entry point itself that the banned firecrackers and related items are not imported into the state. "There cannot be a complete ban on firecrackers. Strengthen the mechanism to supervise and see that misuse is stopped," the bench observed, adding that this is not a new issue and it is the executive which has to take a call on the issue. While setting aside the high court's order, the Supreme Court also gave liberty to any party to approach the High Court with adequate materials.

"For the time being we only reiterate the osition recorded in the order of the Supreme

Green crackers allowed in state

Bhubaneswar: In compliance with the Supreme Court order, the state government has allowed sale and use of green crackers during Diwali. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena has issued an order in this regard. As per the order, the green crackers can be used for two hours, between 8 pm and 10 pm, on the Diwali day. Sale and use of only green fireworks that conform to the definition and formulation as proposed by CSIR-NEERI has been allowed. "Sale and use of other fireworks shall be completely banned. Sale and use of joined firecrackers (series crackers or laris) shall also remain banned," read the order. Only those traders/dealers who obtain and produce a certificate from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) have been allowed to sell their products. Only those retailers who obtain a license from the authorities will be allowed to sell green fireworks. The district administration and Police Commissionerate have been directed to ensure strict compliance with the above conditions. Earlier, the government had completely banned use and sale of firecrackers in the state. **P3**

of firecrackers in the state. "The state should ensure that there is no use or display or bursting of firecrackers of any type at all during Kali Puja, Diwali celebrations as well as Chhath Puja, Jagadhatri Puja, Guru Nanak's birthday and Christmas and New Year's eve celebrations this year," the HC had said. Only wax or oil-based diyas may be used for the occasion, it had said. At the outset, senior advocate Siddhartha Bhatnagar, appearing for the association of dealers, referred to the 2020 orders of the National Green Tribunal allowing the use of green crackers

SC DELIVERS India: Net-zero carbon by 2070

AGENCIES

Glasgow, Nov 1: World leaders turned up the heat and resorted to end-of-the-world rhetoric on Monday in an attempt to bring new urgency to sputtering international climate negotiations. The metaphors were dramatic and mixed at the start of the talks, known as COP26. For British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, global warming was "a doomsday device" strapped to humanity. United Nations Secretary

General António Guterres told his colleagues that people are "digging our own graves." And Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, speaking for vulnerable island nations, added moral thunder, warning leaders not to "allow the path of greed and selfishness to sow the seeds of our common destruction."

Amid the soaring rhetoric,



WARMING UP FOR A CAUSE: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, left, and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, right, greet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the COP26 UN Climate Summit in Glasgow, Monday.

Narendra Modi said his country will aim to stop adding greenhouse gases to the at-

Indian Prime Minister mosphere by 2070-two decades after the United States and at least 10 year later than China. Modi said the goal of reach-

ing "net zero" by 2070 was one of five measures India planned to undertake to meet its commitments under the Paris climate accord. Meanwhile, a handful of more sedate - sometimes detailed — speeches were also delivered. President Joe Biden and Chancellor Angela Merkel avoided soaring rhetoric and delved into wonky policy. "There's no more time to sit back,"

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

Biden said in a more measured warning that also apologized for his predecessor's temporarily pulling the US out of the historic 2015 Paris agreement, something he said put the country behind in its efforts.

"Every day we delay, the cost of inaction increases." In addition to coaxing big carbon-polluting nations to promise more stringent emission cuts, French President Emmanuel Macron said EU nations now have to shift from promises to action.





will act against rising prices, kight
now, I am busy pulling down and
that would hurt your feelings!
that would halt your reenings.

MARKET WATCH							
IN	DEX		VARI	ATION			
RSES	SENSEX	60138.46		831.53			
CURRENCY BOURSE	NIFTY	17929.70		258.00			
ENCY	DOLLAR	74.88	♥	₹0.03			
CURR	EURO	86.72		₹0.11			
ION	GOLD	₹47,905		₹270			
BULLION	SILVER	₹64,906		₹372			

WEA	THER				
	BHUB	СТК	Carl		
<mark>€</mark> WA	x 30.6°C	31.4°	C		
H WIN	ı 22.0°⊖	21.0°	Forecast		
Humidi	y 78%	78%	Light rain		
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	very likely		

Court on 29th October 2021. Additionally the State of West Bengal will explore the possibility of ensuring that no banned materials are imported. The mechanism may be strengthened," the top court said.

The bench, which assembled during the Diwali break, was hearing the pleas against the October 29 order of the high court banning the sale, use and purchase of all types

> **Hallmark Presents Biggest Dhamaka Offer** of the Year



Damana Square, 0674-2745066 | 6 Janpath, 0674-2531732, BBSR

AGENCIES der of 19 kg. Now a 19 kg gas cylinder in Delhi, Nov 1: In one of the steepest hikes in liquefied petroleum gas prices in seven years, national oil marketing companies have increased commercial 19-kg LPG cylin-

Commercial LPG price up

by steep ₹266 per cylinder

der cost by more than ₹266 with effect from November 1. However, in relief to household consumers, no increase were announced in the price of domestic LPG cylinders.

After an increase of ₹266, the price of the commercial LPG cylinder price in Delhi has gone up to ₹2000.5, which was earlier ₹1735.5. Whereas in Mumbai, ₹1950 will have to be spent for a commercial gas cylin-

Kolkata has become ₹2073.50, while in Chennai now a 19 kg cylinder will be available for ₹2133. The government policy provides for the supply of 12 cylinders of 14.2kg each per household at subsidized or below-market rates.

Any quantity over this had to be bought at market price or non-subsidised rates. Earlier, the prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cooking gas cylinders across all categories including subsidised gas on were hiked by ₹15 per cylinder last month. This was the fourth straight increase in prices in less than two months.

Bar on bouncers in twin-city bars

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: No more hooliganism by brawny musclemen, called 'bouncers', at twin city dance bars, as twin city police commissioner, Saumendra Priyadarsi, Monday issued an order barring employment of bouncers by the owners of bars for security purposes in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack without verification of their antecedents.

Commissionerate police issued a set of guidelines in this regard after continuous receipts of complaints regarding misbehaviour and attacks on customers at the city bars.

"No bar owner shall appoint any person as private security whether known as bouncers or otherwise, without prior ver-



ification of the character and antecedents of the person concerned by the respective territorial Deputy Commissioners of Police," informed the order issued by Commissionerate police.

The bar owners have been instructed to post such personnel attached to private security agencies registered under the PSARA Act as their personal security. The bar owners have to inform police about

the persons engaged by them for various security-related purposes. The persons deployed at the bars or for private security if engaged in any fight or any illegal activity would be persecuted under normal legal rules. Similarly, security personnel can perform their respective duties without violating any laws. Private security personnel should inform police dialling 112 instead of resorting to any illegal means while dealing with the customers.

"In no circumstances can the act of these personnel infringe upon the fundamental rights of customers," the notice added. The above order will come into effect from Tuesday and remain in force for 60 days. The commissionerate police issued the order following the receipt of a number of complaints.



eisure



IDRIS ELBA GIVES UP BEER TO STAY SLIM

Idris Elba's drinking habits have changed as he's got older because beer is "not so kind on the belly" anymore. The 49-year-old said: "Back in the day I was very into beer drinking but as I've got older it's not so kind on the belly.

FEIGE: LOWER EXPECTATIONS FOR SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME

Marvel's President Kevin Feige has urged fans not to get overexcited about Spider-Man: No Way Home amid rumours that actors Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield are set to return. The movie will see Tom Holland return as Peter Parker/Spider-Man.



FORTUNE FORECAST



Good news may bring cheer to you today! A job, a wed-ding, some profit... it could be personal or professional. Giving your hest is almost a habit with you, says Ganesha, and it will pay off today

TAURUS

Your thinking is expected to be immensely clear and focused this day. So says Ganesha. This, therefore is a great day for holding important meetings with col-leagues and partners, for resolving vital issues, for entering new tie business tie ups. Knowing what you want as well as how to get it will give you tremendous

GEMINI

Today, you may encounter unusual challenges, says Ganesha. You will come up with new thoughts and tactics, which will bring about positive changes and results. Avoid any confrontation with those living around you. Ganesha advises you to keep your cool during the day

CANCER



problem in the bud has helped you to have a good personal life so far. And today, you will have to use your skills to mend the strain in your relationship with vour loved ones.

LEO

Even slender shoulders gain the strength when the time comes to handle responsibilities. And so shall you, says Ganesha, as today brings with it an increased amount of responsibility. You may find yourself drained of all your energy by the end of it.

VIRGO

Ganesha advises you to quantify your worth in the spheres of emotions and sentiments. You will prepare yourself for everything, from games to peers to famil ly. However, at the same time you will realise your shortcomings.



'Looks no longer sole criteria to get work'

Mumbai: Actress Shruti Sharma who's known for her performances in shows like Namak Issq Ka and Gathbandhan spoke about how the term 'prettiness' is no longer the means for actors to get work in television. She says: "With time, TV is

also evolving and getting better in terms of content which is why people of all complexions, shape, size or colour are getting work. Girls with dusky complexion are being welcomed too and nowadays people scout for girls with 'neat features' although it's wrong again." On the professional front she

has also been a part of films like Pagglait and Agent Sai Srinivasa Athreya.

Horror still an under-explored genre: Nikita

Mumbai: Actress Nikita Dutta, who plays the female protagonist in the Emraan Hashmistarrer Dybukk, says apart from the odd movie, horror remains an under-explored genre in Hindi films.

She said, "I think one of the very interesting facts to be part of Dybukk was its story and genre. It is a pure horror film and in Bollywood, except for very few, we do not get to watch a pure horror thriller film. Dvbukk is one of them. We attempted to maintain the tension. That is why for us, this is a unique film.³

The story of the film revolves around a newly-wed couple played by Emraan and Nikita when they unknowingly become part of Dybbuk. In Jewish mythology, *Dybbuk* is a malicious possessing spirit that dislocates the soul of a dead person to achieve a goal.

It was the first time Nikita worked with Emraan and she also went through a workshop as part of the preparation for her character Mahi in the film. Directed by Jay K, Dybbuk, also featuring Manav Kaul and Imaad Shah, streams on Prime Video.

Unicef ropes in Manushi for its youth campaign Mumbai: Debutante and

former Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar has been roped in by Unicef for a youth campaign. She says there is an urgent need to connect young people to 21st century skills and livelihood opportunities, while engaging them as change-makers effectively.

About the initiative, Manushi said: "Youth are like a spark that can light lamps. We are the future, and whatever we sow today, we are going to reap a lot more of it in the future. India has more than 300 million young people and by preparing them for the transition to work and engaged citizenship, the potential for India's progress would be unlimited.

She added: "For far too long, adults have made the decisions for young people and the time is now to involve them in decision-making, especially about them and their future."

Manushi, who is all set to make her debut opposite Akshay Kumar in the period drama Prithviraj, lays down the roadmap to achieve important goalposts for India's transformation by actively engaging the youth from

here on. Prithviraj will release theatrically January 21. 2022

SUNNY FIRST INDIAN Megha Malhar celebrating monsoon ACTRESS TO MINT NFT at Malyabanta Hill

Mumbai: Actress Sunny Leone ventured into the NFT (non-fungible token) space after she made an announcement to enter the marketplace following in the footsteps of megastars Amitabh Bachchan and Rajinikanth.

And now, racing ahead, Sunny has gone on to mint her NFTs. Minting is a process through which digital art becomes a part of the Ethereum blockchain - a public

Lindsay Lohan have previously ventured into NFT as crypto currency has become a global rage and Sunny's minting has surely taken the Indian crypto enthusiasts by storm.



Bhubaneswar: Megha Malhar, a two-day art camp was inaugurated Monday at Malyabanta Hill in Malkangiri district to celebrate the splendor of the rainy season. The event is being conducted by Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi(OLKA) in collaboration with district administration and Odia Language, Literature and Culture department.

The camp was inaugurated by ulture director Ranian Kumar Das, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Secretary Prabodh Kumar Rath, Folk art project director Basudev Malbisoyi, OLKA

secretary Panchanan Samal and Jeypore Art School principal Yudhisthir Mallick.

'From raindrops on a window pane to myriad hues of clouds, the rainy season offers many unique opportunities to the artists to showcase their skills. And when it comes to Malyabanta Hill, its picturesque beauty during the monsoon can't be expressed in words. The objective of the event is to mo-



m

Odisha participated in the event. school will be Besides, a competition on waof Rs 2, 800 each. Similarly, all tercolor paintings was held among participants of Megha Malhar the students of Jeypore Art will be given Rs 10,000 each, added School. Top ten students of the Samal



wever, there's no point in getting and ious over this triviality. Remember, 'not good' does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally eniovable evening.

ledger that is unchangeable and tamper-proof. International celebrities such as Ellen Degeneres, Paris Hilton, and



tivate the artist to give their best,' said Samal.

As many as 31 final year students of different art colleges of

SCORPIO

Don't run from your trou bles, learn to face the challenges and try to solve your problems. This piece of Ganesha's advise is going to help you today. And you very well know why. Take all the tips that come to you sportingly and try to implement it in your practical life.

SAGITTARIUS

Today shall be a rather decisive day, speculates Ganesha. Situations that have pushed you into a corner will force you to make rash decisions. But take stock of the situation and assess the long-term consequences of your actions beforehand, advises Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

The day will be of paramount significance as you are likely to meet someone who will be associated with you for life, says Ganesha. Also, relationships and relatives will keep you busy for major part of the day.

AQUARIUS

You may rave and rant, but all you'll get from colleagues or juniors are wishy-washy excuses for a job not done. Ganesha advises that you take care to finish your own work before you help others. The stars say that your beloved will smoothen your creased brow.

PISCES

You will need broad shoulders to deal with the added responsibilities which will be heaped on your plate today. And while the work will be draining, the satisfaction of a job well done will more than ease your stress. A pleasant surprise probably awaits you back home, later in the evening, says Ganesha.





CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

				8	5			
		9				8		
,	1		4				6	
	6	3						7
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7		8		5				

SOLUTIONS LEAD FILMNOIR CROSSWOR EUCLID BAL 1 N V A P O R I S E 7 5 1 3 2 8 3 8 SUDOKU 6

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9	6	3	4	8	2	7	1	



downtown



LORD'S DARSHAN

As per SJTA's fresh SOP, Puri residents enter Srimandir through the West Gate, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
/orld	24,76,03,669	22,42,52,841	50,17,694
dia	3,42,85,814	3,36,68,560	4,58,437
disha	10,41,773	10,29,585	8,336

BJD WOMEN WING SLAMS CENTRE FOR PRICE SPIRAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Biju Mahila Janata Dal, the women wing of BJD, Monday staged demonstrations in all 147 Assembly constituencies across the state protesting steep rise in prices of fuel and other essential commodities.

In the Capital city, the Biju Mahila Janata Dal leaders and activists held protests before the ADM office and IOCL office while in other parts of the state the demonstrations were held before the District Magistrates and block development offices (BDOs).

The party leaders and workers carrying banners and posters slammed the BJP at the Centre for the rise in prices of fuel and other essential commodities.

"Due to the faulty policy of the Modi government, the price of petrol has crossed ₹110 per litre, diesel ₹106 per litre and LPG cylinWhen people are suffering a lot due to Covid-19, the **BJP government at** the Centre is

continuously increasing the

prices of petrol, diesel, LPG

cylinder and other goods. Is

SULATA DEO I BJD WOMEN WING LEADER

der price nearing ₹1,000," said sen-

ior BJD leader and MP Sarmistha

"When people are suffering a lot due to Covid-19, the BJP govern-

ment at the Centre is continu-

ously increasing the prices of

petrol, diesel, LPG cylinder and

other goods. Is this the Acchhe

Din ka Sarkar?" asked BJD women

also staged a dharna before the

Raj Bhawan here for the failure of

Sunday, the ruling party had

wing leader Sulata Deo.

this the Acchhe Din ka

Sarkar?

Sethi

the Union government in controlling the rising prices of petrol, diesel, and cooking gas. The regional party threatened

that the agitation would be intensified further and taken to every village, if the BJP does not initiate measures to bring down the fuel prices. The BJD and the Biju Chhatra

Janata Dal have decided to stage protests before all petrol pumps in the state from November 5 to 7.

Commenting on this, senior BJP leader Prithviraj Harichandan said the BJD is holding the protests to divert the attention of the people from Mamita Meher murder case, for which the God will not forgive the party leadership.

Meanwhile, the BJP continued its agitation demanding CBI probe and arrest of Minister of State, Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra over the murder of the school teacher. The BJP workers staged protests

AS IT BURNS A HOLE IN POCKET



Biju Mahila Janata Dal workers cook in hearth to protest the skyrocketing prices of fuel and other essential commodities

CM launches smart queue system at RTO-I

in Jajpur and Keonjhar.

NAVEEN ALSO INAUGURATES THE ANNEX BUILDING OF STATE GUEST HOUSE WHICH IS BUILT AT A COST OF ₹27 CR COVERING A BUILT-UP AREA OF 5,488 SOUARE METRES. THE ANNEX BUILDING HAS A G+5 STRUCTURE



CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the RTO-I building near Acharya Vihar Square as 5T Secretary and others look on

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. Nov 1: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday inaugurated a building of Regional Transport Office (RTO)-I equipped with smart queue management

the State Transport department has introduced the smart queue management system to improve the citizens' experience at the RTOs, official sources said. This facility is first-of-its-kind in

Following the principles of 5T, source said.

Instead of standing in a queue, the citizens can comfortably sit inside the office and wait for their turn. There would be a display system at all the counters to announce the token numbers, the



INSTEAD OF STANDING IN A OUEUE, THE CITIZENS CAN COMFORTABLY SIT INSIDE THE OFFICE AND WAIT FOR THEIR TURN

any window to get their work done

troduced in the RTOs at Angul,

Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack,

The Chief Minister also inau-

gurated the newly-built Annex

Building of Odisha State Guest

Ganiam and Puri districts

This facility will soon be in-

smoothly.

THE CITIZENS WILL RECEIVE NOTIFICATION FOR THEIR SERVICE FROM TIME TO TIME. CITIZENS CAN MAKE USE OF ANY WINDOW TO GET THEIR WORK DONE SMOOTHLY

venience to the state guests.

The amenities include 15 VIP suites & 41 deluxe rooms with an ambience and decor depicting the beauty of the Art & Culture of Odisha

The stay will provide the guests a glimpse into the rich and varied artistic legacy of the state. He also inaugurated the

HC go-ahead to green crackers with riders

What are green

As per Council of Scientific and

Industrial Research's National

Environmental Engineering Research

Institute, green crackers, which are made with a reduced shell size,

produce 30 per cent to 35 per cent

less emission as compared to normal

crackers?

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 1: The Orissa High Court (HC) Monday allowed use of green crackers, though only for two hours on Diwali-November 4, an official said.

According to the HC, people can burst only green crackers between 8pm and 10pm November 4. "This apart, crackers approved by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) can be sold with permission from the district administration and local police,' the state's apex court said.

The ruling came during the hearing of petitions filed by the All Odisha Fireworks Dealers' Association (AOFDA) and a few cracker sellers challenging the September 30 order of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) that put a blanket ban on the sale and use of firecrackers during the pandemic. Earlier, the HC had left the ball in SRC's court for an appropriate

claiming that there would be no

firecrackers. Green crackers emit 125 decibels of sound as compared to 160 decibels emitted by non-green fireworks. Green crackers are also supposed to have formulations that substitute some of the raw materials to reduce PM 2.5 particles, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions as well. Green crackers don't contain chemicals like lithium. decision by 10 am November 1. barium. lead and arsenic. The SRC submitted a report

view the safety of people during Covid-19 pandemic. Observing that AOFDA is an unregistered body, the HC had also asked the association to get itself registered before approaching the court afresh. The outfit, subsequently, got itself registered under the Societies Act and approached the court again.

system here.

The new building of RTO-I at Acharya Vihar is constructed at a cost of ₹3.98 crore and has three floors excluding the basement spanning 4998.30 square feet on each floor.

government departments of Odisha. The system further simplifies and fast-tracks the process of issuing licence, registration of vehicles, tax payments and others.

When an applicant comes, a token is generated at the office.

The applicants can also know the approximate waiting time for getting the service through predictive forecasting by the system.

The citizens will receive notification for their service from time to time. Citizens can make use of

House, which is built at a cost of ₹27 crore covering a built-up area of 5.488 square metres

The Annex Building has a G+5 Structure and is ready to set a new benchmark in the state's hospitality facilities designed to provide maximum comfort and con-

WelcomHotel at Dumuduma built by ITC group.

Among others, Principal Secretary (Transport) Madhu Sudan Padhi, and Transport Commissioner Arun Bothra were present on the occasion.

issue when only green crackers are used. The court has also directed the police and district administration to initiate action in case of violation of the order and use of banned crackers.

Sources said the HC had nixed the AOFDA's initial plea keeping in

Vig unearths dismissed cop's ₹7cr properties

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Vigilance Directorate has unearthed disproportionate assets to the tune of around ₹7 crore from the possession of the dismissed police constable of Commissionerate Police (CP) Prasanna Behera following simultaneous raids October 28.

Two days after the raids, the directorate Monday released a statement informing about the completion of estimate of properties belonging to Behera.

Separate teams of the state anticorruption agency had conducted raids Thursday at five different places linked to the dismissed constable on allegations of amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The raided places include a residential quarter near Kalpana Square, M/s Spark Furniture Private Limited at Dumduma, a furniture workshop at Santha Vihar in Lingipur, South City Bar located at Patrapada and a double-storey building at Behera's native village in Nuapada of Khurda district.

"After thorough searches, inventory and further enquiry, the income, expenditure and assets of Prasanna Kumar Behera, ex-constable and his family members were calculated and they were found in possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources of income to the tune of ₹6,97,15,057 which constitutes 221 per cent of their known sources of income,'

SOUTH CITY SAGA

DURING INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF MANISH ANURAG, SON OF JOURNALIST NAVIN DAS, POLICE CAME TO KNOW THAT SOUTH CITY BAR AT PATRAPADA WAS BEING RUN SANS A VALID LICENCE AND IN VIOLATION OF COVID GUIDELINES

LATER, IT WAS LEARNT THAT THE BAR WAS BEING OPERATED BY BEHERA, WHO WAS ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF HAVILDAR AND CONSTABLES' ASSOCIATION OF BHUBANESWAR

the official communique of Vigilance department read.

The department has registered a case (32/21) against Behera, his wife and some family members who were found in possession of the assets. Behera has been in judicial custody in connection with case (221/21) registered at Tamando police station since October 23.

Notably, a day after his suspension, the constable was arrested for illegally operating the South City Bar. During investigation into the death of Manish Anurag, son of journalist Nabin Das, police came to know that the South City Bar was being run sans a valid licence and in violation of Covid norms. It was being operated by constable Behera who was also the president of Havildar and Constables Association of Bhubaneswar.

Patnaik for timely release of **MGNREGS** fund

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Nov 1: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure timely release of funds for wages and material components under MGNREGA and increase the annual labour budget for the state to 25 crore mandays for 2021-22. Patnaik said, "I would like to

draw your kind attention that ₹1,088.72 crore liabilities are pending -Rs 377.91 crore as wage component and ₹710.81 crore as material component under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) - for Odisha.'

He sought the Prime Minister's intervention to direct the Ministry of Rural Development for timely release of funds for wage and material under the job scheme.



People under the banner of Odisha Rural Water Supply Mahasangha stage a demonstration near Sishu Bhawar Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday, to press for fulfilment of their eight-point charter of demands OP PHOTO

CONG CALLS BANDH ON NOVEMBER 12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The state Congress Monday gave a call for Odisha bandh November 12 to protest the BJD government's alleged inaction against Minister of State for Home DS Mishra who has allegedly patronised the prime accused in the kidnap-murder of a woman teacher in Kalahandi last month.

The decision in this regard was taken at the party's working committee meeting here attended by its Odisha In-charge A Chellakumar and state Congress president Niranjan Patnaik. "The CM is yet to dismiss the minister even as his role in the entire episode remained suspicious. No case has been registered against the minister though there is apparent evidence against him. A case must be registered and the minister should be arrested after his dismissal from the council of ministers,' the party said in a statement.

BMC deploys squads to check sale of adulterated food

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Nov 1: With Diwali celebrations round the corner, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Monday deployed food security squads in different parts of the Capital city in a bid to prevent sale of spurious and adulterated food.

As per sources, BMC officials visited sweet stalls at Suryanagar, Khandagiri, CRPF and Jaydev Vihar areas.

The squad including designated food inspector, health officials and other BMC officials checked for sanitation, packing, freshness and hygiene aspects of the food being sold at different eateries.

"During the visit, we have collected eight samples of food items from different shops and have sent The civic authority had last week destroyed 40-50 kg stale and unhygienic food along with 12 kg of polythene in Kolathia and SUM Hospital in the City

them for laboratory testing. We

have deployed teams for strict adherence of food related regulations and will make surprised visits to food stalls," said a BMC official.

The official also mentioned that more squads will be deployed during Diwali to curb adulteration of food items.

Sources said that the move came after sale of stale and spurious foods at different small shops and restaurants here came to the fore

It can be mentioned that the civic authority had last week destroyed 40-50 kg stale and unhygienic food along with 12 kg of polythene in Kolathia and SUM Hospital here. While the food items were packed

and destroyed adding phenyl into it, about-12 business units were fined Rs 22,000.







recently.

downtown

Har Ghar Dastak vax drive rolls out today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: In an aim to ensure second dose Covid-19 vaccination of all due beneficiaries, the Odisha government is all set to roll out the 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign November 2.

During the vaccination drive, frontline healthcare workers, including Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and ANMs, will visit every household with the help of self help groups, NGOs and PRI members, said Health and Family Welfare Director Bijay Panigrahi, Monday.

The frontline workers will list out the second dose due beneficiaries as well as those who are vet to be administered the first dose. The healthcare workers will facilitate smooth vaccination of those individuals at the nearest vaccination centre. "We are committed to achieve the target of 100 per cent inoculation of the first dose and due second dose by the end of December." the director said.



AS MANY AS 2.57 CRORE BENEFICIARIES AS OF OCTOBER 31, A TOTAL OF 3.72 CRORE COVID-19 HAVE RECEIVED THE FIRST DOSE WHILE VACCINE DOSES HAVE BEEN 1.15 CRORE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED IN THE STATE ADMINISTERED WITH THE SECOND DOSE

To achieve the target during villages with 100 beneficiaries, the drive. Odisha government has opened more vaccination centres in rural areas. The vaccina-

he further said. Panigrahi also informed that centres have been opened at strate-

gic points in remote areas where

KHURDA, CUTTACK SHARE 58% OF NEW nCoV CASES

152 fresh cases followed by

Cuttack (32) and Mayurbhanj

(28). Eight districts did not reg-

ister any new coronavirus case

cases, and 10,29,147 patients, in-

cluding 450 since Sunday, have so

far recovered from the highly

infectious disease, the Health of

Odisha has thus far conducted

over 2.20 crore sample tests, tak-

ing into account 63,651 such clin-

ical examinations Sunday. The

state's cumulative positivity rate

received the first dose while 1.15

crore people have been adminis-

tered with the second dose of

Covid-19 vaccine, the Director

stands at 4.72 per cent.

ficial said.

added.

The state now has 4,237 active

BHUBANESWAR: The twin districts of Khurda and Cuttack in Odisha accounted for over 58 per cent of 316 fresh Covid-19 cases reported Monday, a Health department official said.

The state's tally rose to 10.41.773, while the death toll mounted to 8,336 after three more patients - one each from Angul, Balasore and Ganjam districts succumbed to the virus, he said. Odisha had logged 488 new infections Sunday.

Khurda, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported

people from close by areas can easily reach. As of October 31, a total of 3.72 crore doses have been administered in the State. As many as 2.57 crore beneficiaries have

Physical classes for UG freshers begin

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The physical classes for the first year undergraduate (UG) students in colleges and universities began Monday. Likewise, classroom teaching for new PG students is scheduled to begin November 15.

On the first day of reopening, UG students participated in the induction programme. Many students expressed their happiness in finally getting the chance to experience college life after long wait.

Sasmita Patnaik, a first-year UG student of Rama Devi Women's University, said, "It is exciting to walk in college premises and experience the campus life. We met some new students and also new professors." Many students said that after tak-

ing both doses of Covid-19 vaccine, they feel confident while entering the college, although following Covid appropriate behaviour is still essential. The classes will begin formally after Diwali and

Kali Puja celebration, sources said. Earlier, in a letter to all universities and colleges October 27. Higher Education (HE) department secretary Saswat Mishra had said, 'Classroom teaching of First Year UG and First Year PG students (freshly admitted) for the session 2021-22 will start from November 1 and 15 respectively in physical mode by following appropriate Covid-19 prevention protocols."

He had instructed that all institutions would have to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. The protocols that have to be followed are wearing of face masks, hand santisation, and social distancing in classrooms, libraries and laboratories. Also, spitting inside the campus has been prohibited. All institutions have been asked to keep an isolation room standby in case of emergency. The department had also said that hostel facilities would be available for students. Similar Covid-19 protocols would be followed in hostels too.

Sainik School welcomes Swarnim Vijay Mashaal

tion centres have been opened in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar. Nov 1: Sainik School, Bhubaneswar Monday welcomed the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal', also known as the Victory Flame, at school premises.

The flame had been lit at the National War Memorial, Pune, to celebrate the 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh', commemorating 50 years of India's victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war. It was received by Principal of Sainik School, Bhubaneswar, Group Captain S Dominic Rayan at the Martyrs Memorial Monday.

The Victory Flame was displayed at the sanctum sanctorum wherein a wreath laying ceremony was held and homage was paid to the brave and valiant soldiers of the

The event coincided with welcoming of the first batch of 10 girl cadets of Class VI inducted into the school this year

armed forces who laid down their lives while reinforcing Bangladesh in its war for freedom.

The Vijay Mashaal was then taken to the school campus by the principal in an open gypsy. Cadets and staff members of the school formed a human chain and chanted slogans while welcoming and seeing off the Victory Flame. The Mashaal was also displayed at the Vivekananda Hall wherein cadets

from Classes of IX to XII, including the newly admitted girls, presented a short cultural programme with the patriotic outlook.

School and Mass Education and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises departments Secretary Satyabrata Sahu, being the chief guest, lauded the pivotal role of the armed forces in national security and nation building. Sahu also welcomed the first batch of girl cadets admitted in the school and wished them a bright future.

The event coincided with welcoming of the first batch of 10 girl cadets of Class VI inducted into the school this year. The girl cadets expressed their joy in taking admission in the school and all of them wanted to pursue a career in

CFO of pvt university held for ₹1.03cr fraud

the money were allotted any work

by the university campus here or

by those at Vijayanagaram cam-

The police later started investi-

gations into the matter after reg-

istering a case on the basis of a

complaint lodged by varsity au-

thorities January 8, 2021. Earlier,

three of Kabi's associates, Amit

pus in Andhra Pradesh.

the armed forces

Plus III first year students of Rama Devi Women's University in Bhubaneswar attend a class as the varsity reopens, Monday

CLASSROOM TEACHING BACK

OP PHOTO

Bhikari Bal Samman

BHUBANESWAR: Bhikari Bal Smruti Sansada Bhubaneswar will confer Bhikari Bal Samman 2021 on Ivricist Baidvanth Khilar on the death anniversary of the legendary singe at Unit III Buddha Mandir Tuesday. E&IT. Sports & Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera wil grace the occasion as the chief guest, Bhikari Charan Bal (May 25, 1929- November 2, 2010), better

₹1 crore of a private university located on the outskirts of the city here. The arr to the Himanshu Sekhar Kabi,43, of Aul

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Commissionerate Police has are rested the prime accused in misappropriation of funds worth over



area in Kendrapara district.

Police sources claimed that Kabi.

who was the Chief Financial Officer

of the university, unauthorisedly

transferred money to the tune of

₹1,03,25,633 from the account of

the university to some vendors

and enterprisers like Sai Sanu

Enterprisers and SS enterprisers.

that the vendors who had received

The university authorities denied

rrest (The CFO unauthorisedly Test transferred money to ddline the tune of ₹1,03,25,633 from the account of Cro the university to some vendors and

Kumar Mallick, Nalinakshya Nayak

and Sujit Ranjan Ghadei, were ar-

Police Sunday arrested Kabi

who had been absconding since

the registration of the case around

The accused was produced before

the court that sent him to judicial

enterprisers

rested January 23, 2021.

10 months ago.

custody Monday.

Man in woman attire 'attacks' mother-daughter duo in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar; Nov 1: In a sensational incident, three people, including the accused. Monday sustained severe injuries in a scuffle at Sailashree Vihar area under Chandrasekharpur police limits here.

has been discharged from hospital.

has been staying with his wife near

their residence, entered into their

house Monday afternoon allegedly

wearing women's clothes. Later, he

started attacking the mother and

daughter with a sharp knife.

The duo claimed that Panda, who

Meanwhile, Panda denied the allegations and claimed that three unknown miscreants intercepted his vehicle near his house and forced him to wear a ladies dress. Later. they attacked him with sharp weapons and they asked him to attack the victim's family members.

virtual courtrooms Cuttack: Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud Monday inaugurated state's first model virtual courtrooms at Angul and Nayagarh on digital mode, an official said. Justice Chandrachud, who is also the Chairman of the SC's e-Committee, launched e-Custody

certificate system and automated

email service at the event, said the

State gets first model

n as Bhaian Sam people of Odisha, was an Odissi music Guru and singer

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

 Handicrafts' exhibition. Ekamra Haat, Unit-III, 10am to 9pm

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

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I, Utkala Keshari Jena

Keshari Jena vide

LOST

My original registered

Sale Deed containing No.

RSD No. 660 has been lost.

Anybody who find please

contact below. Name:

9861925072.

Ghansia Padhan, Mob.:

Sahoo, BBSR.

changed my name to Utkal

affidavit dated 22.12.2020

sworn before Notary N.K.

4 yrs on, river tribunal sitting on interim order

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Nov 1: The wait for interim relief from the Mahanadi water dispute tribunal has gone on for eternity, or so it seems, for Odisha as another phase of nonmonsoon months begins with the commencement of November.

The Mahanadi tribunal had in February 2019 reserved its order on the interim application filed by the state government demanding a specific flow of Mahanadi water during non-monsoon months--November to May and a stay on construction and operation of barrages by Chhattisgarh. Even after passing of two and half years or three phases of non-monsoon months, the tribunal hasn't pronounced its verdict

Significantly, adjudication of disputes in tribunals is considered a long haul. But to have a tempo-



rary relief till the final disposal of the case, Odisha had filed an interim application in 2018 pleading it to pass an interim order directing Chhattisgarh to ensure 1.74 million acre feet (MAF) minimum flow from November to May. The state also sought directions to Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Maharashtra to not utilise more than 10.83 MAF of water in Mahanadi basin.

The tribunal in 2018 heard arguments of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and other states. The three-judge bench reserved the order in February 2019 with a direction to Odisha and Chhattisgarh to make interim arrangements. It had said if both the states fail to arrive at an interim settlement, the tribunal would notify a date (March 9) to pronounce the interim order.

Following the order, technical and legal teams of both the states held several rounds of talks. However, even after marathon meetings and on-site visits, there was no breakthrough. Interestingly, both the states demand further time for resolution of the dispute.

Another aspect of this case is that it has cost over ₹6 crore to the state exchequer till January this year. According to information received through RTI, over ₹4.44 crore was paid to lawyers like former attornev general Mukul Rohtagi and senior advocate Harish N Salve. The state government paid around ₹1.59 crore to technical experts and their travels. Around ₹87.93 lakh was spent on air travels of officials.

The Centre had constituted the Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal March 12, 2018 following the SC order January 23, 2018 in an injunction suit filed by Odisha.

The accused identified as Rupesh Meanwhile, he entered the victim's Panda is reportedly undergoing house to seek help. However, the treatment at a private hospital while victims attacked him with a broom the victim mother and daughter duo handle and sharp weapon

However, police told the media that the actual reason behind the case can only be ascertained after the involved persons get well. The victim girl's father, a retired professor, was at Chandrasekharpur police station to file a complaint on the issue till the last news came in.

official. On the occasion, Justice Chandrachud extended greetings to Angul district judge Bhagyalaxmi Rath and Nayagarh district judge Rupashree Choudhury, saying the two woman judges are role models. Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar highlighted the necessity of the virtual courtrooms. The Chief Justice said all the districts will soon have virtual courtrooms as the facility will help reduce the pendency of cases.

Theft accused escapes 240 from City lose from police custody ₹72L to cyber crooks

Bhubaneswar: A cell phone theft accused, reportedly suffering from HIV. has given the Government Railway Police (GRP) nersonnel a slip. The accused belongs to Soro area in Balasore district. Sources said sub inspector Bikash Kumar Palei of the GRP police station here. during night patrolling late Friday night, came across the man moving suspiciously near the railway station. The man also tried to run away after seeing Palei who apprehended him after short chase.

Bhubaneswar: Cyber fraudsters have duped 240 denizens of more than ₹72 lakh in October this year. The City police in its monthly data revealed that the cyber help desk received 425 calls of cyber fraud from across the state in October. Out of this, 240 calls were received from the residents of the Capital city who lost ₹72,33,836 to fraudsters during the month. The fraudsters duped 106 persons through UPI fraud while 32 lost their money from the accounts attached to their credit and debit cards.

ECoR crackdown on crackers in train

Bhubaneswar: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Monday urged passengers not to carry and also not to let their co-passengers carry inflammable or explosive objects while travelling in trains. ECoR has geared up its machinery to prevent carrying of crackers in trains. Carrying inflammable items during train journey is strictly prohibited. ECoR has advised all of its three divisions i.e. Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltair to launch a special safety drive to keep strict vigil on carrying inflammable items in trains for the safety of passengers. If any passenger is seen carrying inflammable items, the co-passengers are requested to inform on-duty Railways staff.

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OrissaPOST TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 2 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR



CLEANLINESS DRIVE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Nov 1: The Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) here, which had recently earned a bad name for a child swapping case and change in diagnostic reports, is again in the news for all the wrong reasons. This time a patient was allegedly administered an injection and saline meant for another patient by a health worker, Monday.

The incident sparked panic among the patients and their kin in the hospital. Chatters were abuzz that such negligence by the health worker might push the patient into the jaws of death and warned that the hospital authorities will be responsible for the outcome. They demanded stringent action against the concerned health worker. Reports said that Khedu Samal, 65, a native of Dumermunda village under Saintala block, was admitted to the bed no. 48 in the male medicine ward of the hospital after he complained of stomach pain, Sunday.

male medicine ward of the hospital after he complained of stomach pain, Sunday. Similarly, Hari Mahananda, 60, of Khujenbahal village of Bongamunda block in the district, was admitted to be den do 40 of media media input admitted

block in the district, was admitted to bed no. 49 of male medicine ward for kidney-related problems. After conducting a check-up of Samal, doctors prescribed him some injections and saline. Both the patients were undergoing treatment when a health worker administered mistake. They is that a similar b been prescribed i which created t Meanwhile, ing Samal on cle case he develop

the injection and saline meant forXMahananda to Samal, Monday.KuThe error was detected afterBBMahananda's daughter noticeddether father's name written on thea psaline bottle and informed Samal'sissi

wife and son. This triggered a furore. However, a woman health worker instead of placating them misbehaved with the family members of Samal, alleged Samal's son Nuakhai Samal.

The health workers at the hospital have admitted that saline had been administered to Samal by mistake. They further explained that a similar bottle of saline had been prescribed for the other patient which created the confusion.

Meanwhile, doctors are keeping Samal on close observation in case he develops any reaction due to the wrong medication. When contacted, Dr Mahendra

Kumar Nayak, superintendent of BBMCH, said that he is aware of the development. He has assured that a probe will be conducted into the issue of administering wrong saline.



NCC cadets of Birmaharajpur College in Subarnapur district participating in a cleanliness drive on their college premises, Monday

OP PHOTO

Fishing ban on Olive Ridley turtle sea corridor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Nov 1: The Odisha government Monday imposed a seven-month-long prohibition on fishing activities within 20 km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rushikulya, marking the beginning of the mass nesting season of the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.

A blanket ban on sea fishing remains enforced round the year at Gahirmatha coast and now the prohibition has been extended to the river mouths as turtles are set to begin mating ahead of mass nesting, said Divisional Forest Officer of Rajnagar Mangrove JD Pati.

The sole objective of the annual measure, which would remain effective from November 1 to May 31, is ensuring the safety of marine animals during their mating and breeding season, officials said. The ban was clamped in accor-

dance with Sections 2, 7 and 4 of



trolling exercise, comprising forest Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982 and provisions personnel, fisheries personnel, maof Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, rine police, besides the Coast Guard. they said. The prohibition is To ensure effective patrolling, 61 onclamped every year as turtles pershore camps and five off-shore ish in large numbers either by getcamps have been set up in the ting entangled in fishing nets or hit state's four wildlife divisions by fishing trawlers' propellers, Bhadrak, Rajnagar, Puri and Pati explained. Berhampur, he said.

It involves a multi-layered pa-

THE PROHIBITION WAS EXTENDED TO THE RIVER MOUTHS AS TURTLES ARE SET TO BEGIN MATING AHEAD OF MASS NESTING The prohibition The ban was

is clamped	clamped in
every year as	accordance with
turtles perish in	Sections 2, 7
larger numbers	and 4 of Orissa
either by	Marine Fishing
getting	Regulation Act
entangled in	(OMFRA), 1982
fishing nets or	and provisions
hit by fishing	of Wildlife
trawlers'	Protection
propellers	Act, 1972

The sole objective of the annual measure, which would remain effective from Nov 1 to May 31, is ensuring the safety of marine animals during their mating and breeding season

for the armed police constabulary force to flank the forest and fisheries patrolling teams. Five high-speed boats, 13 trawlers and support boats have been pressed into service to intercept fishing in prohibited zones.

Thirty-eight trawlers were seized and 202 people arrested during the last nesting season, while around 3.5 lakh turtles laid eggs.

Around 10,666 fishing families will be affected following the fishing ban. To compensate for the loss of income, the state government has decided to extend one-time livelihood assistance of ₹7,500 to the affected families, the official said.

The female turtles virtually invade the nesting beaches usually at the dead of the night for laying eggs. After indulgence in instinctive egg-laying, the turtles leave the nesting ground to stride into the deep seawater.

Hatchlings emerge from these eggs after 45-60 days. It is a rare natural phenomenon where the babies grow without their mothers, the official noted.

2 dead, 2 others critically injured in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Nov 1: Two persons died on the spot and two others sustained grievous injuries following a head-on collision between two motorbikes late Sunday night. The road mishap took place near

Sai Temple at Tulasipur locality on Bolangir-Khurda National Highway (NH-57) in Nayagarh district. The deceased were identified as

35-year-old Manas Mohapatra from Minor Irrigation (MI) Colony in Nayagarh town and 34-year-old Benudhar Pradhan from Lunisara village under Nuagaon police limits in the district.

The critically injured were identified as Budhanath Sia from Old Nayagarh town and Gopal Mohapatra from Khuntubandha village of Mahipur panchayat in the district.

Passers-by rescued the four persons in critical condition and rushed



them to Nayagarh District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). However, doctors at the health facility declared two of them as 'brought dead'.

On being informed, Nayagarh Town police reached the DHH and seized the bodies for post-mortem.

"The bodies will be handed over to respective families after conducting the post-mortem. We have registered a case in this connection and launched a probe which is underway," a senior official in Town police station said.

VIG AWARENESS WEEK CONCLUDES AT NTPC DARLIPALI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Nov 1: The Vigilance Awareness Week (26 October - 1 November) has concluded at NTPC Darlipali Monday. Marking the completion of the week-long programme and workshop under the Vigilance Awareness Week, Sundargarh SP Sagarika Nath chaired an interactive session on vigilance awareness in the presence of AK Samaiyar, CGM (NTPC Darlipali). Addressing the gathering, Sagarika Nath emphasised on the importance of vigilance, being vigilant in day-to-day life and committing to the workplace with utmost honesty for ensuring a corruptionfree society. During the programme, the management conducted various outreach competitions underlining the theme for this year "Independent India @ 75: Self Reliance and Integrity" for employees and their family members along with the students from Bal Bharati Public School, NTPC Darlipali.

Staff crisis dogs BRIT's functioning

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Nov 1: With nine out of 15 sanctioned posts lying vacant at the Balasore Regional Improvement Trust (BRIT) for several months, development in the district has been seriously affected.

The trust is an important organisation of the state government and district administration. Its main job is to approve various plans, including construction of roads, illumination, construction and beautification of parks, construction of drains, land sale and construction of buildings and apartments. It is alleged that the trust's normal functioning has been affected seriously for it is currently being managed by only six staff against 15 sanctioned posts. The developmental projects in Jaleswar and Soro municipalities and Nilagiri NAC are executed through this trust. This apart, as many as 206 revenue villages are also under the trust.



works up to ₹1 lakh. This is also causing trouble for carrying out developmental works.

Provision has also been made

The trust's chairman post is also lying vacant since 2019. The District Collector is in-charge of this post. When contacted, trust secretary Nabin Kumar Singh said the vacant bacts need to be filled up and

When contacted, trust secretary Nabin Kumar Singh said the vacant posts need to be filled up and the revised rate plan needs to be changed for development in areas under the trust. While the amin

SKILL ENHANCEMENT



For the smooth functioning of the trust, it has 15 sanctioned posts, including a secretary, two junior en-



du gineers, two amins, four chainmen and six clerks and peons. As of now, a secretary, a junior engineer, one chainman, three clerks and peons are managing the work of the trust somehow.

Because of staff crisis, the trust fails to perform up to the mark. In the past, there were incidents wherein people created ruckus at the trust office for not getting proper service.

According to the revised plan of the trust, which has been in force since 1957, the chairman of the trust has the power to approve post is lying vacant, the chainman is presently managing the dual jobs. The chainman is going to retire. In such a situation, the vacant posts should at least be filled up at the earliest.

When contacted, former BRIT chairman Gouri Rout said, "I retired in July, 2019. The District Collector has since been in-charge of this post. The trust has crores of rupees but no discernible developmental work has taken place in last two and a half years. "The work of the trust has been confined only to approving building plans and sale of land. Political conflicts can be ascribed to the chairman post lying vacant," added Rout.

A skill enhancement training programme for women self-help group members underway at Saradhapasi village under Pithagola panchayat of Keonjhar district, Monday OP PHOTO

Similipal National Park reopens for visitors



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Nov 1: The Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district reopened for visitors Monday, six months after it was shut down due to the onslaught of the Covid-19 second wave.

The park, spread over 2,750 sq km, comprises one of the largest tiger reserves in India. Similipal Tiger Reserve Field Director M Yogajayanand greeted the visitors with roses at the Pithabata entry point in the morning, according to an official release. On the first day, 193 tourists in 34 vehicles took a tour of the national park, Yogajayanand told PTI.

On any given day, 25 four-wheelers are permitted through the park's Pithabata entry point and 35 vehicles via the Kaliani gate. The tourists Monday were told to abide by the coronavirus guidelines, Yogajayanand said.

Similipal houses a wide variety of flora and fauna, many breathtaking waterfalls and green meadows. The national park is also home to a rare black melanistic Royal Bengal Tiger. Special arrangements have been made for the night stay of tourists in Similipal. Special squads have also been formed for their security. Facilities for night stay and restaurants have been made at Jamuani, Kumari, Gudugudia, Muktapur; Barehipani and Ramtirtha of the wildlife sanctuary. Tourists wishing to make night halts and enjoy food at the restaurants have to make advance bookings in online mode.

As every year the number of tourists visiting Similipal is increasing, the authorities have made special arrangements to make the stay memorable for the tourists. Arrangements for adventure sports, jungle safari, and mountain cycling will give thrilling experience to the tourists visiting the sanctuary this year. Moreover, arrangements for playing volleyball, badminton, carom and chess have been made at various tourist points inside the sanctuary.

Accompaniment by guides inside the sanctuary has been made mandatory for the tourists while use of polythene, carrying inflammable, nonvegetarian items and intoxicants has been completely banned inside the sanctuary. Uses of masks, social distancing and adherence to Covid-19 protocols have been made mandatory inside the sanctuary.



Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Concerned Branches for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors	Elabilitaco dac	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	
KHARVEL NAGAR BRANCH / Borrower: M/s. Dandeswar Pharmaceuticals, Prop.: Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu / Guarantor: Mrs.		22.12.2020 / 27.10.2021	1) Vacant Land with Boundary at Khata No.: 270/57, Plot No. 141/935, Area: Ac.0.033dec., Corresponding to Settlemen Khata No.: 155 and Plot No.: 121/936, Area: Ac.0.013dec. Corresponding to Settlement Khata No.: 158, termed as Sut
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Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 02.11.20)21		Authorised Officer, Bank of India

power post

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

The whole world yearns after reedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains; this is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature SRI AUROBINDO

G20 & COP26

't augurs well that the G20 summit in Rome and the UN climate change

conference, christened as COP26, in Glasgow this year have almost coincided.

📕 The two-day Rome summit ended October 31 when the nearly fortnight-

long climate conference began. The common thread running between the

two is the threat looming large across the globe of the vicious effects of car-

bon emission and greenhouse gases which puts the survival of the human

race and the planet under serious danger. The phenomena of unusually hot

spells, cyclones, tornadoes, drought, forest fires, devastating floods and

rains in different regions of the globe during the past few months have

brought home the truth to every individual that the changing climate is a

The G20 comprises major economies representing some two-thirds of

the world, 85 per cent of the entire global economic output and also the world's

biggest greenhouse gas emitters. The bloc also covers the world's most pow-

erful governments and many of its biggest multinational corporations.

Hence, whatever the G20 decides will have impact on the whole planet. On

the other hand, the United Nations COP26 climate summit in Glasgow has

been projected by the organisers and the 30,000-odd activists taking part in

the deliberations as a defining moment for climate action.

reality and no contrived fears conjured up by the scientific community.



GOOD TERROR, BAD TERROR

errorists cannot be trained with the fanciest weapons, pillowed with cash, drugged for violent killing and, after the assignment, expected to resume their lives as tax-paying citizens. They have mutated into a different kind of life.



Saeed Naqvi

SOMETIMES

AMERICANS

IS 'AMERICAN

EXCEPTIONALISM³

FOR

THE PROBLEM

Anyone watching the Syrian tragedy since 2011, cannot forget Abu Sakkar, the Free Syrian Army's 'heart eating cannibal'. Sakkar had actually ripped open an official Syrian soldier's body pulled out the liver and heart, and bit into it. He became a prize item for TV features. Paul Wood of the BBC looked like a concerned psychoanalyst interviewing him. How do 'independent' western journalists so quickly reach a Muslim cannibal in a war zone?

It was precisely to boost the Free Syrian Army's ability that the CIA/Pentagon created a budget running into billions. Candidate Donald Trump told Jake Tapper of the CNN as much. In fact, he went on to name his favourite culprits for the lavish budget --President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Trump may have exaggerated but he was not entirely wrong. After all there were TV clips of Obama's Secretary of Defence, Ashton Carter choking in front of cameras. He admitted that arms meant for the Free Syrian Army had landed with terrorists. To Gen Lloyd Austin's lot fell the ignominy of being grilled by the Senate Armed Services Committee about one of the many boo boos the US made in Svria. He is now Secretary of Defence. A group of 'good terrorists' in one theatre for whom a project of \$500 million had been budgeted simply walked



Vladimir Putin told a summit of ex-Soviet security forces October 13, 2021 that battle hardened terrorists are entering Afghanistan from Syria and Iraq. Iranian and Chinese leaders have said the same thing. Is it being pro-American to ignore these warnings?

careless slip by, say, the US away with loot in arms and cash. Asked how many hands trained on President, is priceless copy. Let his watch were still in battle, Lloyd me give you an example. It is the summer of 2014.

mumbled 'four ... five'. President Obama is livid with Against this perspective terrorism is something that 'they', the Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al Maliki for refusing to sign the bad guys, indulge in, but when a peacenik President like Jimmy Status of Forces agreement be-Carter, arranges for the Saudis fore US troops depart. Maliki has to be ousted. to open their coffers for sums in excess of billions to fund hun-Baghdadi releases a video from dreds of 'madrasas' on the Pakistan side of the Afghan bor-Mosul's main mosque. He declares der, hundreds of thousands of the formation of the Islamic Mujahideen are trained, stinger caliphate. Within months the missiles are placed on their shoul-Islamic state warriors in glistenders to expel the Soviets from ing new Humvees, hurtle towards Afghanistan and lo and behold Baghdad. I call up Iraqi contacts. the Mujahideen have acquired the halo of a martyr's brigade. bomb ISIS but the bombs are

Sometimes the problem for Americans is 'American exceptionalism'. A number of clubs in the US play American football (different from Rugby), basketball, baseball and call it the World Series because in the American subconscious, the rest of the world is presumed beaten. Or it is irrelevant. The rest of the world, mean-

while, keeps a steady gaze on the Americans as on a ticketless parade. For a non-American journalist watching US affairs, the

shown the door. Obviously, Obama knew that he was taking a likeminded journalist into confidence. Like a good journalist, Friedman did not betray his confidence (nor his steadfast convictions) while later advising Trump on Syria. "Why should our goal right now be to defeat the Islamic State in Syria?" He then asks the key question, "Is it really in our interest to be focusing solely on defeating ISIS in Syria right now?"

"There are actually two ISIS manifestations," he writes. One is "virtual ISIS - it is Satanic, cruel and amorphous; it disseminates its ideology through internet. It has adherents across Europe and the Muslim world. In my opinion, ISIS is the primary threat to us. Because it has found ways to deftly pump out Sunni jihadist ideology that inspires and give permission to those Muslims on the fringes of society, who feel humiliated from London, to Paris to Cairo - to recover their dignity via headlines grabbing murders of innocents.'

"The other incarnation is the territorial ISIS," he says. "It still controls pockets of western Iraq and larger sectors of Syria. Its goal is to defeat Bashar al Assad's regime in Syria plus its Russian, Iranian and Hezbollah allies and defeat the pro Iran regime in Iraq, replacing both with a Caliphate. Which, by inference, is in the US interest It would be tactless for an establishment columnist like Friedman to say it now, but he will at an opportune time. Are ISIS and its numerous variants not an 'asset' even today in Afghanistan? Friedman gives you a clue into the thought processes in the US establishment.

Vladimir Putin told a summit of ex-Soviet security forces October 13, 2021 that battle hardened terrorists are entering Afghanistan from Syria and Iraq. Iranian and Chinese leaders have said the same thing. Is it being pro-American to ignore these warnings?

The writer is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues.

A major strategy the G20 summit announced at the conclusion October 31 is that the leaders would implement the Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pledged action against coal-fired plants. There's still ambiguity about the seriousness of these governments to achieve the goals as they pledged to reach a target of net-zero carbon emissions 'by or around mid-century', instead of setting a clear 2050 date as specified earlier by the latest UN report prepared by a body of 700 scientists across the globe. The G20 summit statement said the countries have agreed to stop fund-

ing new coal plants by the end of 2021, and reaffirmed the so far unmet commitment to mobilise \$100bn for developing countries for climate adaptation costs. For the first time, they acknowledged 'the use of carbon pricing mechanisms and incentives' as a possible tool against climate change, just as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is calling on the most polluting countries to go down that path by setting a minimum carbon price.

Prevarication continues to be a tactic to avoid drastic measures, seemingly at the behest of industrial lobbies, as the communiqué only states it recognises that the reduction of emissions is one of the quickest, most feasible and most cost-effective ways to limit climate change

According to the final document, current national plans on how to curb emissions will have to be strengthened 'if necessary' and it includes a pledge to halt financing of overseas coal-fired power generation by the end of this year. The communiqué did not set any target for phasing out coal domestically. This could be construed as a step to halt carbon polluters China and India. Western countries have moved away from financing coal projects in developing countries and major Asian economies are now doing the same. But China has not set an end date for building domestic coal plants at home. Coal is still China's main source of power generation, and both China and India have resisted attempts for a G20 declaration on phasing out domestic coal consumption.

This has prompted Britain's Prince Charles to urge the G20 leaders to 'put words into action'. Warning that 'it is quite literally the last-chance,' Charles appealed to these leaders to devise effective ways to mitigate the rise of global temperatures. His passionate words that it is impossible not to hear the despairing voices of young people who trust the G20 leaders holding the viability of their future in their hands set the tone for the climate summit. It would be interesting to watch the outcome of the COP26 about a fortnight later in the light of the G20 protestations in Rome.

It would not be improper to point out the spectacular failure of the last COP25 in Madrid in 2019 to complete the process of framing rules of the Paris Pact. The conference was not held last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It only brought to the fore the glaring gap between global climate diplomacy and the imperative need to bring down greenhouse gas emissions. However, much water has flown since the Madrid meet. Hope is the cataclysmic temperature rise is making developed nations led by the US, which has re-entered the Paris Pact under President Biden, take climate change seriously.



SRK's woes & Balraj Sahni's wisdom

66	A wise man learn from	1 can lear a wise an	n more fro swer.	m a foolish	question	than a fool c BRU	an CE LEE
4 4							

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth ΜΙΙΗΔΜΜΔΟ ΔΙΙ

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals. ZIG ZIGLAR

WORDS**WORTH**

Pluton

For a while in August 2006, it seemed that this word would be included in astronomical textbooks as a result of a resolution of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), then meeting in Prague. It was suggested by a seven-member group grandly called the Planet Definition Committee. The problem for the IAU was that modern observational astronomy has found a number of new bodies in the Solar System, orbiting beyond Pluto in an area called the Kuiper Belt. At least one of these newly noted objects is larger than Pluto itself, requiring astronomers to sort out their terminology. The most massive bodies are those called simply planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. There are also large numbers of small rocky bodies called collectively the minor planets or asteroids. The committee recommended that in between there should be a new class, to be collectively called plutons. They are massive enough to have been formed into a spherical shape by their own gravity, they orbit the sun so far out that one revolution of the Sun takes at least 200 years, and they have elliptical orbits that are inclined to those of the classical planets, implying that they have a different origin. Pluto is a typical member of the group and the word was created from its name. Pluto derives from Greek mythology, in which it was a euphemism for the god of the underworld, Hades. Literally, pluto meant "rich one", in reference to the wealth that came from within the Earth. The planet Pluto was famously named as a result of a suggestion by 11-yearold Miss Venetia Burney, of Oxford. (Walt Disney's dog, by the way, was named after the planet, not the other way round; popular culture didn't have the influence it does now, when names like Xena - the warrior princess of the television series - can be seriously considered.) The news reports on the committee's recommendation implied it had invented the word. But there are earlier examples: the astronomer Tom Burns used it in the same sense in an article in the Columbus Dispatch in June 1997, as did Frederik Pohl in his SF novel Mining the Oort of 1992; Robert Heinlein created an Earth currency of that name in his novelettes Gulf (1949) and Tunnel in the Sky (1955), though that was based on the element plutonium, itself named after the planet Pluto because it is the next element in the periodic table after Uranium and Neptunium, whose discoverers took their names from the planets. Pluton is also an established geological term, for a large body of intrusive igneous rock beneath the Earth's surface; that was created in the 1930s from the adjective plutonic, again taken from the Greek name. that referred to the action of intense heat at great depths upon rocks forming the Earth's crust. Some astronomers thought having two such different meanings for the word would cause confusion; also the French for Pluto is Pluton, so in that language "there is a pluton on Pluto" would seem redundant. The debates at the International Astronomical Union meeting rejected not only pluton, making it an official non-word, but also several other neologisms thought up by ingenious astronomers: plutonian object, planetino, plutian, plutoid, plutonoid, plutonid, and plutid.



THE FILM INDUSTRY IN GENERAL HAS FACED THE MUSIC FROM THE NCB FOR MORE THAN A YEAR NOW, DATING **BACK TO THE SUICIDE OF SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT LAST YEAR**

Jagdish Rattanani

paint popular stars in a poor light and to simultaneously discredit the non-BJP government in Maharashtra. The shocking revelations following the arrest of Aryan Khan, son of superstar Shah Rukh Khan, leave little doubt that there is a lot wrong with the working of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) under its current head in Mumbai. Sameer Wankhede. He hopefully will be removed soon but the way one officer can twist and concoct a story as alleged is a concern that should not go away in a hurry. The allegation from an independent source that he was approached to tamper with the WhatsApp data of Aryan is a measure of the totality of the collapse of the investigative machinery, and further lends credence to allegations that the entire game was to defame and ex-

fame the Hindi film industry to

industry The rot runs deep at two levels the political level by stoking communal divide and then the exploitation of this divide by racketeer

tort money from the richest and

the best-known star of the film

truth in the view being aired ings from above, and sometimes to of a concerted attempt to dehelp fast track bureaucratic careers.

> The film industry in general has faced the music from the NCB for more than a year now, dating back to the suicide of Sushant Singh Rajput last year, with Central agencies muddling in local area police matters that they should best keep away from. In all this, it is the film stars who have come out well, showing dignity and stature amid the trauma brought on by NCB and other actions. Actress Juhi Chawla standing surety for Aryan as he was let out on bail stands out as a splendid example of bonds in the industry. The most productive film industry of the world while producing a lot of junk (and some good quality, too) in normal times is a place for people of all hues noted for hard work and perseverance, with the box office collections in the end deciding who is the star and who is not. Lineage and patronage may help, like in any other profession. but that's all there is to it.

How should the industry react? Its reach and influence surpass all other media. So far, it is more noted for the stereotypical depiction of the good policeman fighting the bad politician. Violence in uniform is

trast, the industry now has firsthand experience of an allegedly bad officer versus a politician in Nawab Malik who has patiently exposed some of the wrongdoings while stressing all along that he is concerned about justice for some

July 4, 2014, Abu Bakr al

'Yes US planes are pretending to

falling on the Shia militia." And

there are many of these in Iraq.

wide ranging interview to New

York Times columnist, Thomas

Friedman. "Why did you not order

air strikes against ISIS just when

it reared its head in June-July?"

asks Friedman. Obama gives the

airstrikes then, it would have

In September 2014, Maliki is

taken the pressure off Maliki."

"If I had ordered a bunch of

game away in his response.

August 14, 2014, Obama gives a

100 other undertrials who have been victims of an overzealous NCB. Param Bir Singh is another example of a disgraced cop, now reported in hiding.

These stories are as much the truth as is the case of the bad politician. But to focus on one side builds the notion among common folk that only policemen and sundry bureaucrats are do-gooders, leading to a warped sense of how different arms of the establishment work, the restraints with which investigative agencies must operate and a poor appreciation of the constitutional framework that is the only safeguard against excesses.

The film industry in general and Shah Rukh Khan in particular will serve the nation rather well if they take it upon themselves to support movie making that is more nuanced, and are supportive of the rights of all those who are victims of establishment overreach. That would be an activist Shah Rukh

less than the soldiers who guard our borders.

Yet, many from the film world may not have that stuff in them. They have gathered often for charity relief in cases of national calamities but their record in taking care of their own who have fallen on bad times is poor. To change will demand rising to a higher cause, with sterling examples like the late real-life and onscreen heroes like Balraj Sahni and Sunil Dutt, both of whom spoke up and took positions. It will mean the film stars learning to speak a new language, engaging in new spaces and finding ideas for a new wave of films that are in service of democracy diversity. plurality and the rights of the underprivileged - everything that is under attack today in India.

Shah Rukh Khan once said: "First get rich, then become a philosopher." It's now time for him to look up to Balraj Sahni, who told a JNU convocation in 1972: "Whenever I lost courage, my life became a meaningless burden.'

The writer is a journalist and a faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal. ©THE BILLION PRESS



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are (0)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

rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sink or swim together

Sir, This is in reference to 'G20 compromises on carbon neutrality', Orissa POST, November 1. India at the G20 summit has rightly claimed membership in the Nuclear Supplier's Group - held up due to China's opposition - and availability of technology as it sought to push for the inclusion of differentiated responsibilities that seek the developed West to fulfill its commitments. With combating climate change being a universal challenge, India has also asserted that global climate action must be guided by the principles and values of climate justice and equity. The US and other affluent countries had promised to transfer \$100 billion annually to help poor countries switch to clean energy, but most of them are not contributing their share. China, the US and the European Union nations emit over 50 per cent of the world's 36.44 Gt (gigatonnes) of carbon dioxide, while Africa and India, each with 17 per cent of the global population, contribute just 4 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively. Rather than leading by example, the West is asking the rest of the world to reduce or eliminate the use of fossil fuels. There is no denying that the poor nations are much more vulnerable to extreme weather events than the rich ones and are ill-equipped financially as well as technologically to combat such events. The pandemic which has spared neither the developed nor the developing nations has taught us that it's all about sinking or swimming together. This lesson should spur the world to let our planet breathe.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Go green this Diwali

Sir, Diwali is the festival of lights that brings good luck, happiness and prosperity to all. However, firecrackers damage and affect our environment very much as they contain various chemicals like barium, manganese and sulphur. When these chemicals burn together in an ample amount they cause air pollution. Therefore it's the time for all of us to celebrate 'green Diwali'. It is a way of celebrating the festival of \rightarrow lights with minimum damage to the environment. As this is a big step we need the concerted efforts of all the people. It's high time that we should recognise the problem and build a roadmap to create a clean, pollution-free environment.

Somya Agrawal, UJJAIN



OrissaPOST TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 2 | 2021 | BHUBANESWAR

state

BLACK FLAGS SHOWN TO Mos MISHRA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Golamunda, Nov 1: Dibya Shankar Mishra, the Minister of State (Home), whose complicity has been alleged in the murder case of teacher Mamita Meher, was shown black flags by some Congress workers in protest of his visit to the area Monday

Junagarh MLA and MoS (Home) Mishra had not visited his constituency since the the murder of Mamita Meher; the principal of a private school at Mahaling, came to the fore. According to sources. Mishra was on his way to Karanjkot under Golamunda block to attend a party programme when some Congress workers at Kegaon showed black flags to Mishra.

Police were aware that some Congress workers preparing to show black flags and hurl eggs at the minister at Kegaon much before his arrival. These activists were detained at the Kegaon police station. Still, some Congress workers managed to show black flags to the minister.



An instructor imparting training on first aid at a camp organised at Balugaon in Khurda district, Monday

PMAY FUNDS

Contractor held for cheating villagers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharigaon. Nov 1: Police arrested a contractor on charges of siphoning off funds from three beneficiaries of the Centre-sponsored Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana at Icchapur panchayat under this block in Nabarangpur district, Monday.

The arrested contractor was identified as Chitrasen Tiwari of Ichhapur panchayat. Tiwari had promised the beneficiaries to construct their houses under the Centresponsored scheme and siphoned off funds from them. He was arrested after the beneficiaries lodged a complaint at Jharigaon police station. A case was registered and the accused detained, police IIC Natabar Nanda said. He will be arrested if the charges are found to be true during

the interrogation, the IIC said. According to the case diary, three beneficiaries Chitrasen Dharua, Karna Dharua and Rabi Majhi received work order for construction of their houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural). Tiwari assured them to construct their houses and demanded money from them. The beneficiaries paid him but Tiwari is yet to finish construction of their houses even several years after receiving the money. As a result, the beneficiaries have been deprived of living in a pucca houses and continue to live in their shanties.

The beneficiaries met him and requested him to complete construction of their houses. However, Tiwari refused to listen and threatened them, the beneficiaries alleged in their complaints.

Bid to loot funds alloted for smart classroom work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ragadi, Nov 1: While construction work for smart classrooms under School Transformation Programme is underway at 65 schools in Jajpur distrcit, there is an alleged bid to embezzle funds sanctioned for Pachhikota School, a report said. According to the report, ₹60 lakh

has been sanctioend for each of these schools from Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Developmant Corporation (OMBADC). As many as eight schools under Korei block have been included in the School Transformation Programme. Pachhikota High School is one such school.

Locals allged that no tender has been floated for smart clasroom programme at this school. Some relatives of a political leader have managed to secure the work by paying commission to some officials responsible for implementing the programme.

For over 60 years, students here are being taught under asbestosroofed building of the school. "There is a need for a new building for smart clasrooms. Those who have taken the work are planning to only whitewash the old school building to mint money wihtout doing any

Work was supposed to be completed by **October 2, but the** contractors have been carryig out the work at their will

cors are trying to botch up the work and loot governmant funds. The work was supposed to be completed by October 2, but the contractors have been carryig out the work at their will. As of date, not even 50 per cent of the work has been complated.

Locals futher allegd that oficials from the block monitor the work and in their absence the contractor is minting money by neglecting the work. "So far no new furnitire has not been purchased. Similarly, no step is being taken for e-library, sicnece laboratory, sports equipment, drinking water facility, play-

groud upgradation," the locals rued. The residents said tha contractors have been trying to complate the work anyhow and submit its bill. The villagers have demanded an investigation into the work and

action against the contractor. They observed that the Distri Berhampur. Nov 1: Police ar-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 1: Continuing its tirade against MoS (Home) Dibya Shankar Mishra for his alleged involvement in the lady teacher Mamita Meher murder case, BJP's Bargarh district unit Monday observed an eight-hour bandh in the region demanding a CBI probe into the case.

The party leaders also demanded the arrest of the accused police personnel, dismissal of Mishra from the Council of Ministers and financial assistance to the breaved family. The bandh was peaceful but disrupted normal life in the area. BJP workers were seen picketing and closing down the government offices in the district.

This apart, the party workers also slammed the state government and the police for the delay in taking noticeable action against the culprits involved in the custodial death of a local youth named Gobinda Kumbhar last month.

The shutdown observed till 2 pm severely disrupted normal life as markets, shops, business

YOUTH HELD FOR EXTORTION

POST NEWS NETWORK



MAMITA MEHER MURDER CASE

Bandh disrupts life in Bargarh

establishments and government The agitating BJP members led and non-government instituby their district president Aswini tions, educational institutions Sarangi also picketed at several key remained closed across the dislocations of Bargarh Town and blocked the national highway aftrict. Roads wore a deserted look fecting vehicular movement to as people remained at home and vehicles did not ply. and from the town. The party

workers demanded CBI probe into the sensitive cases of Gobind Kumbhar and Mamita Meher and lambasted the state government for non-action.

They have been protesting the custodial death of Gobinda for the last one month. He was allegedly beaten to death by the police personnel but the district administration and the state government are silent on the issue and are yet to take any action against the accused cops. said a BJP leader who was picketing at Gandhi Chhak in Bargarh town. The party workers joined by their women counterparts burnt the effigy of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Dibya Shankar Mishra

They warned of intensifying their protest if the state government did not heed to their demand for a CBI probe.

Zilla Parishad chairperson Mukta Sahu, vice-chairperson Madan Deep, former district president Arupananda Sahu, Subrat Hota, district Yuva Morcha president Amit Panda, Praveen Panigrahi and a host of party leaders participated during the bandh.

Vehicles used in crime seized

Bolangir: A team of Bolangir police investigating the murder of school teacher Mamita Meher Monday seized a JCB machine and a white-coloured scooter reportedly used in the crime by main accused Gobinda Sahu, a source informed.

According to an official, the two vehicles were seized from the under-construction stadium in Mahaling of Kalahandi district and brought to Sindhekela police station. Police had earlier seized the car in which Mamita was killed by strangulation.

During the interrogation, Sahu admitted that he had used the JCB machine to dig a 10-feet deep pit a day before he committed the heinous crime. Subsequently, he buried the body of Mamita in the stadium. He had used the two-wheeler to bring tyres that were used for burning the deceased

Ex-employee encroaches upon⁺ Khadi manufacturing centre

construction work," local revealed. They have expresed their displeasure over the way the contra-

Collector needs to intervene into the matter and ask the contractors to execute the work properly.



rested a youth on charges of extortion from a villager under Sadar police limits here in Ganjam district, Monday. The accused was identified as

Prasant Kumar Sethi, 29, of Basant Vihar in Ambapua under Gopalpur police limits. The accused is a repeat offender and has several cases registered against his name. Another case was registered in this connection and the accused was produced in court Monday.

According to the case diary. Prasant met a villager, Susant Kumar Sahu, of Satakutuni under the police limits and demanded ₹30,000 as extortion money from him. The accused threatened to

like Kalyan Mandap

without visiting the

civic body office

sure zero presence of plastic, grass

and soil in the town thereby show-

Kulange sought the cooperation

casing an example for others.



harm Susant over phone when he refused to oblige.

Later, Prasant visited Satakutuni village and reiterated his demand. When Susant refused to oblige. Prasant attacked the former with a sharp-edged weapon. Panicked and hurt, Susant lodged a complaint at the Sadar police station leading to the arrest of Prasant.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Odagaon, Nov 1: A former employee of the Khadi Production Centre near Gandhi Park on Block Office Road under Odagaon NAC in Navagarh district has encroached upon the centre for several years. Locals alleged that the accuded former employee is earning in lakhs of rupees from this government property because the administration is yet to take any step to remove the encroachment.

According to local residents, hundreds of people had staged a demonstration in 2017 demanding the property be reclaimed. Acting on the direction of the District Collector, the then tehsildar asked the encroacher to demolish the unauthorised construction through public address system.

In 2003, acting on the direction of the Chief Secretary, the local revenue inspector submitted a

report mentioning the landed property is encroached upon to then additional tehsildar and asked him to take stringent action to free the property.

Since no steps have been taken in this regard so far, the encroacher is using the property for personal benefits. Meanwhile, he has replaced the tile roofs of the shops with concrete roofs.

Anchalika Bikash Parishad, a local outfit, has been protesting against this. October 28, the group

submitted a memorandum to the tehsildar Bijayita Samantasinghar and forwarded a copy each to Panchayati Raj, Law, Housing and Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena, Revenue Divisional Commissioner (Central Division) and Collector.

When contacted, tehsildar Samantasinghar said the revenue inspector has been asked to submit a detailed report on the issue. Once the report is received, steps as per the law will be initiated.

'Hinjilicut a laboratory of development'

POST NEWS NETWROK

Hinjilicut, Nov 1: To make Hinjilicut town clean and beautiful, Hinjilicut Municipality launched a Zero GPS (Grass, Plastic and Soil) programme, Sunday.

Joining as the chief guest, District Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange launched the programme at a function held on the premises of the civic body here. Speaking on the occasion, Kulange said that Hinjilicut has become the laboratory of development and hailed the contribution of the residents in the overall development of the area and in maintaining cleanliness in the town.

The civic body also plans to enroll every household in the town with a digital door number and provide various services to them through a QR code.

Reports said that the Zero GPS programme will be implemented under Mo Swabhiman, Mo Ganjam, scheme in which the roadsides in the town will be cleared of unwanted grass and weed. Moreover, the civic body will seek the cooperation of traders in enforcing the ban on single-use plastic.

This apart, construction mate-



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h a QF

of the residents to make the programme a success and stressed on carrying out an awareness drive on a large scale in the area by involving the voluntary outfits, traders and the local intelligentsia. He also called upon the residents to cooperate with the sanitary workers in keeping the area clean. Later, a short film produced by the civic body on mobile app 'Safa' was screened on the occasion.

Residents can download this app and pay for parking ticket, fee for market stall and book community centres like Kalyan Mandap without visiting the civic body office. The residents can also post their suggestions and complaints through this mobile app.

Sarat Chandra Mohapatra, representative of Chief Minister, attended the programme as guest of honour. Sachidananda Nayak, project director of District Urban Development Agency (DUDA), and Subrat Kumar Jena, block development officer (BDO), were also present at the function.

The guests called upon the residents to cooperate in this move undertaken by the civic body and make the programme a success.

RAISING THEIR VOICE



Members of Odisha Junior Teachers' Association demanding salary hike and others stage a demonstration outside the panchayat samiti office at Dashmantpur in Koraput district, Monday OP PHOTO



in the town will be

grass and weed

cleared of unwanted

rials, debris, waste and unwanted

soil dumped on the roads and block-

ing movement of people will be

removed. The move aims to en-









Schools reopen in Delhi after 19 months Kolkata police to hire electric

WHILE SEVERAL SCHOOLS REOPENED WITH 50 PER CENT SEATING CAPACITY MONDAY. MAJORITY OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS HAVE DEFERRED THE REOPENING TO POST DIWALI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: From tiny tots to junior wing students, children in Delhi were excited to be back in schools on Monday after a prolonged closure of over 19 months in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While several schools reopened with 50 per cent seating capacity on Monday, majority of private schools have deferred the reopening to post Diwali. Masked students, thermal scanning, and volunteers guiding staggered entry and exit for students was a common sight at the schools which reopened on Monday.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia visited the Rajkiya Sarvodaya Vidyalaya in East Delhi's Vinod Nagar and interacted with students. "Finally!! It's time to come back to school. Today children have returned to schools after almost one and half year. It was an emotional movement to see students laughing and enjoying in classrooms. We welcome all students back to school,' Sisodia tweeted.

At the school's primary wing, Sisodia spent time with children where one student turned doctor for him while the education min-



Students appearing for exams check their notes at a school, in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

ister played a patient. "Met this spea class 8 student said, "I am excited cial Doctor today in a school class to attend school regularly henceroom. Full body check up, injection, forth. It felt good to be back after almedicine prescription, and inmost two years." "Online classes 'avoid were definitely useful but during icecream'...God...I was missing physical classes, we can always this...," Sisodia tweeted while sharclear our doubts then and there. ing a few pictures showing the Due to network issues, sometimes. student examining him using a we don't get a clear picture of what's going on and it is quite tiring for eyes At the Government CO-ED Senior to keep looking at the screen for so Secondary School, Lajpat Nagar, long," the student said.

Another student who was equally excited to join school said, "Even during Covid times, our teachers did take all efforts to take our classes sincerely and give us attention individually too. We could approach them individually to clear our doubts.'

"Even though they were available, we still felt something was missing - the fun of meeting our friends and coming to school. I hope the classes don't get affected because of the possibility of third wave"

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) had last week announced that schools would reopen for all classes from November 1, even though teaching and learning would continue in blended mode.

The DDMA had also said that schools would have to ensure that there is not more than 50 per cent attendance in a class at one point of time and no student is forced to attend physical classes.

Following a marked improvement in the COVID-19 situation in the national capital, the Delhi government had announced the reopening of schools for classes 9 to 12, colleges and coaching institutions from September 1.

cars on lease to save fuel cost

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 1: Owing to sharp rise in petrol and diesel prices, Kolkata police have decided to replace its vehicles that are more than 15 years old with electric cars. In the first phase. Kolkata Police will be hiring 228 electric cars on lease and then in phases rest of the cars will be replaced with the new generation vehicles.

"Presently the cost of diesel is very high and in Kolkata it is more than ₹100 per litre. So, we have decided to take electric cars on lease. This will not only save the fuel cost but it will be pollution free and environment friendly. Presently these vehicles will be taken for a period of eight years and if it proves beneficial then the other vehicles will also be replaced," a senior officer of Kolkata police said.

Sources in Lalbazar -- the Kolkata police headquarters - said that a proposal regarding this had been sent to Nabanna for clearance and the state secretariat had allocated ₹8 crore for this purpose before the pujas. "As government agency ECL was asked to complete the tendering and procuring process for Kolkata police. The procedural work has almost been completed. We are now waiting for the vehicles



to join the fleet," the officer said. An official with the rank of Additional Commissioner has been

given the responsibility to find out when the vehicles will reach Lalbazar: Kolkata police have about four thousand vehicles but many of them are more than 15 years old. According to a directive issued

by the Calcutta High Court - these vehicles can no longer be in use. So, the department is giving stress on bringing environmental friendly cars as soon as possible. There are also plans to set up high speed charging points at six locations for these vehicles. In addition, the car can be charged quickly from anywhere.

According to sources, the cost of

electric buses in the city and that has given good results. Now if the electric vehicles turn beneficial for Kolkata police, then the state government might think of larger procurement for the administration and the police.

hicles.

WB BJP chief eyes 25 LS seats in 2024

charging of the electric vehicles is

₹8 per km and the maintenance

cost of these vehicles is also min-

imum. Sources in the police said

that Kolkata police will be able to

save at least ₹40 crore in the next

eight years if they hire these ve-

"So, this would not only be en-

vironment friendly and pollution

free but it will be cost effective

also," the officer added. The state

government had earlier inducted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 1: West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumder has said his party will aim at winning at least 25 Lok Sabha seats in the state in the 2024 general election.

Majumder, after attending a BJP meeting, told reporters on Sunday that the saffron party has coined the slogan 'Ebar 25 paar' (we will cross 25 this time) keeping in mind the Parliamentary election.

"Twenty five is our minimum target in the next Lok Sabha polls from West Bengal. From 18 seats at present, we will gift at least 25 seats to (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi in 2024," he asserted.

The BJP clinched 18 Lok Sabha seats out of 42 in West Bengal in 2019, 16 more than it had managed in the 2014 elections. Reacting to Majumder's assertion, veteran_ Trinamool Congress MP Sougata Roy said the BJP leader's claims show that he is inexperienced and has no idea of the ground reality.

"The BJP got 77 seats in the asmbly polls, but with many of its

Covid leaves over 100 Delhi kids orphaned

to

structions

toy stethoscope.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 1: Over 100 children in Delhi have been orphaned due to Covid, while nearly 2.500 have lost either of their parents, according to state government statistics.

The Women and Child Development Department said that it has identified over 250 orphaned children, while in the last one year. the national capital has seen more than 6,000 children who have lost both parents, or their father. Around 40 per cent of these deaths was due to Covid-19.

It said that of the orphans, 230 need care and security, and those who lost either parent, 5,000 need support and security, and it has identified such children and begun measures for their benefit. It assured that all these children will be rendered all the care and support they need.

These figures, the Department said, have been gathered from all the child protection officers, child welfare committees and anganwadi workers, under the Integrated Child Development Scheme, and other sources from all the districts. Bank accounts have been opened for 170 children who lost both parents so that financial aid can be sent to them.

The Delhi government has also launched the Chief Minister's Covid Financial Assistance Scheme, under which the family of Covid-19 victims will be given ₹50,000, as well as a monthly amount of ₹2,500. Children left orphaned by Covid will get the ₹2,500 per month till they turn 25 years old, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced.

CREATIVE PURSUITS



An artisan paints a mask at a workshop ahead of Kali Puja in Nadia district, Monday

"We will not wait for people to apply, but functionaries of the government will go the people's houses and help them fill up the forms," he had said, and directed officials not to decline the aid due to lack of documentation. In such case, the government functionaries concerned will be held responsible.

Delhi's air in October best in 4 years

This is the first time in four years that Delhi did not see a single 'very poor' or 'severe' air quality day in October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: An extended monsoon season and record-breaking rainfall in October gave Delhi its best air quality in the month in four years, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

This is also the first time in four years that Delhi did not see a single "very poor" or "severe" air quality day in October which generally records a sharp rise in pollution levels due to unfavourable meteorological conditions and stubble burning in the northwest region of the capital.

However, the capital recorded a "good" air day in October this year, also a first in four years. An AQI



between zero and 50 is considered tation recorded in 1956, according "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 to the India Meteorological and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 Department. Stubble burning and "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", its share in Delhi's PM2.5 polluand 401 and 500 "severe' tion also remained low due to boun-

Delhi gauged 122.5 mm of raintiful rain fall in October, the highest in the month since 236.2 mm of precipi-Agricultural Research Institute, Punjab has recorded 10,374 farm fires this season since September 15 as compared to 29,712 stubble burning incidents in the corresponding period last year. The city recorded an average air quality index of 173 in October this year, the lowest in the month in four years.

October saw an average AQI of 265 in 2020; 234 in 2019 and 264 in 2018. The CPCB data showed the city witnessed three "satisfactory" air quality days in October this year as compared to zero in 2020, four in 2019 and nil in 2018.

The capital also saw 19 "moderate" air quality days as against six such days each in 2020, 2019 and 2018. Eight "poor" air quality days this month was the lowest in October since 2018

12 DU colleges facing funds crunch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The 12 Delhi University colleges funded by the city government are facing a fund crunch as their allocated budgets have been slashed, alleged officials of some of these institutions.

Due to this, these institutions are also facing difficulties in paying salaries of teachers, they claimed. DU registrar Vikas Gupta said they will take up the issue of non-release of funds with the AAP government. The issue was also raised at the Executive Council meeting of the university held on October 29

A senior faculty member of Majaraja Agrasen College, claimed, "Teachers have not been paid their salaries for five months.

The government has slashed the allocated budget by half. Not only salaries, the teachers are not getting their pension and other allowances.

РТІ РНОТО

Explaining the situation, Subodh Kumar, president of staff association of the Maharaja Agrasen College and coordinator of all the 12 colleges, said teachers want the teaching learning process to con-

tinue but the government is not letting it happen. "The government has an issue with the Delhi University. The issue has been going on before the Covid pandemic. There was a tussle over the formation of governing bodies but they were formed. "Then they (govt) alleged corruption in colleges and despite vari ous audits, they did not find any-

thing. After the pandemic, they said they don't have money and slashed the budget. Earlier we (the college) were getting ₹28 crore which has been brought down to ₹16 crore," he claimed.

MLAs having joined the TMC, the tally is effectively 70 now. By any arithmetic, the saffron party will not secure more than 10-11 seats in the Lok Sabha polls," Roy said.

Regular local train services resume

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 1: On the first day of resumption of regular local train services Monday after a nearly six-month hiatus, crammed coaches raised the fear of spread of coronavirus amid rising Covid-19 cases in West Bengal.

The state government in a recent order allowed intra-state local train movement with 50 per cent seating capacity from October 31. Eastern Railway (ER), which carries the bulk of local and suburban passengers in its Howrah and Sealdah divisions, operated trains on Sunday as per its holiday schedule, while regular services started from Monday.

As jam-packed rakes entered Howrah and Sealdah terminal stations during the morning office hours, ER spokesperson Ekalabya Chakraborty said efforts are being made to ensure that passengers abide by the Covid-19 safety protocols including maintaining distance and wearing masks.

'We are making announcements at stations urging passengers to consciously abide by the safety guidelines," he said. Chakraborty said that a number of passengers have been penalised for not wearing masks at railway stations and in trains.

Chakraborty said the ER was advising people, especially the eld-erly, through public address systems at railway stations to avoid unnecessary travel. ER, a Kolkataheadquartered zonal railway, has decided to run more than 920 Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) trains in its – Sealdah division and over 480 trains in the Howrah division from Monday.

Huge rush of shoppers at Delhi markets ahead of Diwali

Health experts have already warned about a possible third wave of the pandemic after the festive season and advised strict adherence to Covid protocols

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: Markets across Delhi witnessed a huge rush over the last weekend before Diwali, with the market associations struggling to manage the crowds amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The markets that saw huge crowds include Sadar Bazar, Chandni Chowk, Lajpat Nagar, Lal Quarter Krishna Nagar, Karol Bagh, Kamla Nagar, Rajouri Garden and Tilak Nagar.

Sadar Bazar Market Association president Devraj Baweja said it was complete "chaos" as those who thronged the market to do lastminute shopping ahead of the festival hardly followed any COVID-19 protocol. "Festivals generally attract a big crowd but the authorities should have made elaborate arrangements to ensure that people follow Covid-appropriate behaviour. No one was seen wearing a mask or observing social distancing," he said.

Health experts have already warned about a possible third wave of the pandemic after the festive season and advised strict adherence to Covid protocols. Last year, after Diwali, Sadar Bazar had emerged as a Covid hotspot and the market was shut subsequently.

Baweja said in the name of arrangements, police have only put up barricades that can stop vehicles, not people. He claimed that the civil defence volunteers were nowhere to be seen.



"We can only ask those who come to our shops to wear masks. We

According to data from the Indian

or adhering to social distancing. This exercise should be carried out by the civil defence volunteers, who were hardly seen at the market," Baweja said.

A similar situation prevailed at the Chandni Chowk market as well. Chandni Chowk Sarva Vyapar Mandal president Sanjay Bhargava said the crowd has swelled at the market due to Diwali but there is a need to increase vigil by the administration as violations of Covid guidelines are rampant.

"We have issued strict guidelines to the shopkeepers that no one without a mask should be allowed inside the shops and their thermal screening should also be done. But we cannot do anything about the unauthorised vendors as they do not follow the Covid norms. The shoppers at such vending kiosks also hardly follow any guidelines," he said.

Bhargava said at a recent meeting, he had apprised the deputy commissioner of police of the area about the violations of Covid guidelines by the shoppers and urged him to increase vigil and deploy more teams to strictly enforce social distancing norms at the market. However, according to traders at

the Lajpat Nagar and Karol Bagh markets, the shoppers were largely seen following the Covid guidelines. Traders Association Lajpat Nagar (TALN) general secretary Ashwani Marwah said as a sign of good business, the market has been buzzing with shoppers this festive season.



cannot go check if people walk-

ing on the road are wearing masks











who also released her singing album

in the past, has been a vocal critic

of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi

in the state (comprising the Shiv

Sena, NCP and Congress), and has

often taken to Twitter to launch

attacks on the state government.

Diwali was a damp squib and it

gives an impression that Malik

has made some big revelation,"

Devendra Fadnavis said, referring

to the photograph of his wife with

the alleged drug peddler. "I don't

stay in a house of glass, and those

having links with the underworld

and drugs should not talk to me. I

will furnish all the proof after

Diwali. Law will take its own

course," the senior BJP leader said.

conference, Malik tweeted. "We

are ready." Devendra Fadnavis also

said Malik's attack on the NCB is

an attempt to put pressure on of-

ficials of the anti-drugs agency so

that the case against the NCP

Malik's son-in-law Sameer Khan

was arrested by the NCB earlier this

year in a drugs case and was later

granted bail by a court. Devendra

Fadnavis said Malik referred to

He said if one goes by that logic,

then the entire NCP can be termed

as a "drug mafia", as Malik's son-

in-law was arrested by the NCB in

an alleged drugs case, but he would

not label the Sharad Pawar-led

party with such terms.

the "BJP's drug connection"

leader's son-in-law is weakened.

Just after the former CM's press

"The cracker just before the

Ganga's cleansing is of utmost importance to the government as the sacred river has been the foundation of India's economic activity and supports livelihood of about 40 per cent of the country's population GAJENDRA SHEKHAWAT

CONG LAUNCHES **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

The Congress Monday launched its membership drive across the country with all its state units holding meetings to discuss ways to ensure a large number of people join the grand old party



uote **77**

extraordinary feat of an extraordinary nation! India has administered 1st

COVID-19 vaccine dose to 78 per cent of the eligible population and 2nd dose to 38 per cent of the eligible people. Congratulations to all as we rapidly progress on our path to defeat the virus!

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA UNION HEALTH MINISTER

Earlier, people would celebrate Diwali by lighting divas (earthen lamps). There were no firecrackers. We have to return to the traditional way of celebrating the festival GOPAL RAI DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

The government is diluting environment and forest laws at home while Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making global headlines JAIRAM RAMESH CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT **TAKES**

Army conducts airborne exercise

New Delhi: The Indian Army's Shatrujeet brigade is conducting an airborne exercise along the northern borders in eastern Ladakh to validate its rapid response capabilities, sources said Monday. Indian and Chinese militaries have been engaged in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 2020 when a violent clash in the Pangong lake area led to both the sides gradually rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

Safaris resume

Guwahati: Elephant safaris in Kaziranga National Park in Assam resumed Monday, six months after the World Heritage Site was shut down due to the raging second wave of COVID-19, an official said. Elephant trainers, who

EXPOSE AFTER Akhilesh not to contest UP polls **DIWALI: FADNAVIS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 1: Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik Monday sought to link the BJP with an alleged narcotics dealer by tweeting the latter's photograph with former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' wife Amruta Fadnavis.

Devendra Fadnavis, however, said Malik's tweet reflected his mentality and claimed that he will 'burst a bomb" after Diwali by making revelations about the minister's "underworld links", which he will also share with NCP president Sharad Pawar. In a series of tweets, Malik, who has been targeting the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) after it raided a cruise ship last month and claimed to have seized drugs onboard, posted a photograph of Amruta Fadnavis with an alleged drug peddler.

He also posted a similar photograph of Devendra Fadnavis with alleged the drug dealer. "Let's have a discussion of links between BJP and drug peddler," Malik tweeted, referring to the photograph of Amruta Fadnavis with the person. In another tweet, the minister said the person was Jaideep Rana.

Later, Devendra Fadnavis said the creative team of River March, an organisation working for the conservation of rivers in Mumbai, had hired this person four years ago. Fadnavis was then the Chief Minister of the state. The former Chief Minister said he and his wife were associated with the cause

of river rejuvenation. 'The pictures were clicked during the shooting of a theme song. There are photos along with the team, not only with my wife, but also with me. But, Nawab Malik consciously shared the photograph of my wife. This reflects his mentality," the leader of opposition in the state Assembly said.

'Those people who have been photographed were brought by the 'River March' (organisation). There are no links of these people with me or my wife." he said. Amruta Fadnavis, a banker by profession



Lucknow, Nov 1: Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav Monday said he will not contest the coming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections himself even as he announced that an alliance between his party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal is now final. Yadav also said his uncle Shivpal

Singh Yaday, who broke away from the SP to form the Pragatisheel Samajwadi party Lohia (PSPL) will get the "due honour" from his party."Our alliance with the RLD is final. Seat-sharing is to be finalised." he said in an interview.

The RLD enjoys support among farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh and is on the same page with the SP on the issue of opposing the Centre's three farm laws. The SP has already announced an alliance with Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SPSP)

Yaday, who is an SP MP from Azamgarh and regarded as the CM face of his party, said, "I will not be



contesting the assembly election myself". The SP supremo, who was a Member of Legislative Council (MLC) when he served as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh from 2012-2017, did not give any reason for the decision.

However, later Yadav said a final decision on his contesting the polls will be taken by the party. On whether he has held any talks with the AIMIM or Mamata Banerjee's TMC for the state polls, he said there have been no discussions with them.

Terming his party's tie up with the SBSP as a natural alliance, Yadav said people in eastern Uttar

Pradesh have accepted it and it will ensure the BJP's defeat. On the poll promises made by the SBSP to provide free electricity and RLD of providing over one crore jobs, Yadav said every party has its agenda

'We all raise issues of farmers, employment, and common man. Everyone is releasing their manifesto. If voted to power, our government will try to accommodate them and prepare a common minimum programme," he said. Asked about the joining of

Congress leaders and also of a BJP and BSP MLA in his party, he asserted, "The joining will continue. It shows that people are seeing the SP as an alternative to the BJP, which only spread lies and deceit people with promises." He said that people of the state have not forgotten the pain and treatment meted to them during the peak of Covid and added that maximum cases were lodged against his party workers during the pandemic for helping people.

Farmers to intensify agitation from Nov 27 The SP supremo, who was a Member of Legislative Council (MLC) when he served as if demands not met chief minister of Uttar Pradesh from 2012-2017, did not give any reason for the decision

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 1: Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait Monday warned that if the farmers' demands are not met till November 26, they would pitch tents the following day across all borders of Delhi and reinvigorate

their agitation. "The farmers would reach the border points on tractors and trollevs and fortify the venues after pitching their tents," Tikait warned in a post on twitter.

Tikait has been leading a consortium of farmers' groups and unions under the banner of Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) since last 11 months demanding the withdrawal of the three farm laws passed by the Centre in 2020.

His warning comes a day after Delhi Police removed barricades at the Tikri border to ease traffic movement. Police had similarly removed blockades on the carriageway towards Delhi at the Ghazipur border on Friday.

Earlier on Sunday, the SKM had urged the Centre to ensure the smooth supply of fertilisers and not let black marketing happen. Paying homage to 'Kisan Chintak' (farmers' friend) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Tikait tweeted on Sunday: "Patel had said 'kisano ki awaz ansuni hai' (the farmers' voices are unheard) in British-ruled India. But are the farmers' voices heard in independent India?

Country's first transgender constable dies

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Nov 1: Two persons including the country's first transgender constable died while crossing a railway track in Bihar's Kaimur district Monday.

Rachit Raj who was earlier known as Rachana Kumari and Rupa Kumari died at Bhabhua road railway station. Eyewitnesses said they were crossing the railway track around 9.30 a.m. when a su-_ perfast train which has no stop there hit them.

"We have received a message about Rachit Raj, a transgender constable who was deployed in confidential branch in SP office of Kaimur



Students play at a school in Chennai, Monday

Mehbooba put under house arrest Patna serial blasts: 4 sentenced to death



FUN TIME

are known locally as 'mahouts', performed puja before the resumption of the safaris in Kohora and Bagori ranges only, Kaziranga National Park Director P Shivakumar said.

Farmer ends life

Khargone (MP): A 40-year-old farmer allegedly committed suicide by consuming poison in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, an official said Monday. Ashok Guriar, a resident of Malgaon village under Sanawad police station limits, died in a hospital Sunday, he said. While kin claimed he was distressed after a bank sent a loan repayment notice, the local administration said he may have taken the extreme step due to family reasons.

Tiger found dead

Bhopal: The carcass of a male radio-collared tiger, on dispersal from Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR), was found in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. As per an official, "Heera" was one among the two frequently spotted tiger siblings in the Tiger Reserve's Akola forest range.

Woman killed

Thane: A 40-year-old woman was killed after her house collapsed following a fire in Maharashtra's Thane district Monday, civic officials said. The incident took place around 11.30 am in the old house located at Vetal Pada in Diva township, they said. There was a fire in the house following which the structure collapsed, Thane Municipal Corporation's regional disaster management cell chief (RDMC) chief Santosh Kadam said.

Srinagar, Nov 1: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti was Monday put under house arrest to prevent her from visiting Anantnag to meet the family of a youth who was killed in cross-firing between security forces and militants last week, a party leader claimed.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Peoples Democratic Party leader claimed that the police have locked the main gate of Mehbooba's house. A police official said the PDP chief was not allowed to visit Anantnag due to security reasons. Shahid Ahmad was killed in an

exchange of fire between Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and militants in Shopian district October 24, according to police. Mehbooba was put under house arrest at her Fairview residence in



Gupkar locality of the city here and not allowed to move out, the PDP leader claimed. She was to visit the family of

slain youth Shahid Ahmad in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. She wanted to offer her condolences to the bereaved family, but was not allowed to move out of her residence, the party leader said.

Party leader claimed that the police have locked the main gate of Mehbooba's house

Apolice official said the PDP chief was not allowed to visit Anantnag due to security reasons

According to the PDP leader; the police have locked the main gate of Mehbooba's house. A police vehicle has been stationed just outside the gate to disallow any movement.

Ahmad's death had evoked strong reactions from mainstream political parties in the Valley and they had demanded a probe into it. Mehbooba had said it was sad that the armed forces "operate with such impunity" in Kashmir.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Nov 1: A special NIA court in Patna Monday sentenced to death four of the nine persons it had held guilty of carrying out bomb explosions during then NDA Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi's 'Hunkar Rally' in Gandhi Maidan in 2013.

The special National Investigation Agency court had on October 27 convicted nine out of 10 accused. Out of the other convicts, two have been given life sentence, two others 10 years imprisonment, and one 7 years imprisonment.

Gurvinder Singh Malhotra, the special judge of the NIA court, announced the quantum of punish-

ment 8 years after the serial bomb blasts that shook Patna on October 27, 2013 during the Hunkar rally. The case was transferred to the NIA on November 6, 2013.

PTI PHOTO

The four convicts who have been awarded the death penalty are Imtiaz Ansari, Haider Ali, Noman Ansari and Muzibullah Ansari. Umar Sidiqqi and Azaharuddin Kuresi have been given life imprisonment, while Ahmed Hussain and Feroz Aslam were awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment and Iftikhar Alam has been given a 7year jail term. The court said that the charges of sedition, criminal conspiracy, murder, attempt to murder and UAPA levelled by the NIA have been proven.

and relative Rupa Kumari died in the tragic accident," said Faiz Ahmed Khan, DSP of Mohania range. The 2018 batch constable had qualified for the post at the age of 20 after passing the class 12 examination.

As per his statement on September 22, he claimed that despite being a female he was attracted towards girls rather than boys when he was 17 years old. He did not like to wear girls' clothes. When he started using social media since 2016, he said he was attracted towards girls. Rachit faced several social hurdles to establish his identity as a transgender. Rachit had given an affidavit in the court to become a transgender. He revealed his identity under the transgender protection act 2019.

TO AND FRO JOURNEY

Over 4 lakh migratory birds arrive to keep tryst with Kashmir

EVERY YEAR. MIGRATORY BIRDS COME TO KASHMIR THROUGH THE CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ZONE INCLUDING SIBERIA. NORTH CHINA AND NORTH EUROPE TO WARD OFF THE EXTREME COLD OF THEIR SUMMER HOMES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 1: Keeping their tryst with Kashmir, more than four lakh migratory birds of different species have already arrived in the wetlands to spend winter months. Every year, migratory birds come to Kashmir through the cen-

Siberia, North China and north

Europe to ward off the extreme

cold of their summer homes. These

birds live from late October to the

end of April in the comparatively

lesser cold environs of the Valley

as their summer homes remain

frozen during the winter months.

has taught humankind the basic

rules of navigation. It is the eldest

bird that leads the flock during the

to and fro journey from the sum-

Bird migration is a science that

quainted with the thousands of miles long route, is the flock leader. In case of the death of the oldest bird, the next in age and experience takes over the flight typically like the present day co-pilot of an aeroplane. tral Asian flyway zone including

Speaking to IANS, Rashid Naqash, regional wildlife warden said, "We have over 4 lakh migratory birds of different species in our bird reserves and other wetlands at present. "These are the early arrivals as we expect their numbers to increase manifold during the coming days. "At present, we have around a lakh migratory birds in Hokersar bird reserve, another lakh in Hygam and 50,000 in Shallabugh bird reserve. "In addition, there are 20,000 birds in Chatlum, 30,000 in the Wular

mer homes to the winter homes.

Normally, the oldest bird, well ac-



Lake, and over a lakh in the Dal Lake in Srinagar.'

The wildlife warden said the migratory bird species that have arrived here so far include mainly geese, mallards, pochards, gadwals,

pintails, waders, coots and the common teals. Talking about the water management inside the bird reserves, he said, "In Hokersar reserve, water is at present regulated to the optimum."We have no issues

with regard to water management in Hygam while in the Shallabugh bird reserve water management and regulation is under progress. "In Pampore wetlands of Pulwama district we are comfortably placed with regard to water management. Similarly, the Wular lake and the Dal lake are naturally fed and drained water bodies."

Asked about the threat of poaching in these wetlands, the warden said, "Inside the bird reserves like Hokersar, Hygam and Shallabugh, where permanent staff of the department is posted round the clock, we have no threat of poachers. "Poaching becomes a problem in unprotected, isolated wetlands.

"During surprise visits to such unprotected wetlands, whenever stray incidents of poaching have come to our knowledge, we have seized weapons of poachers and taken other legal actions against such offenders". Shooting of migratory birds became an offence under the local laws enacted in 1978 which were repealed and replaced by the Indian wildlife protection Act 1972 when Article 370 was abrogated and J&K downgraded into a union territory.

Kashmir has been known for its myriad avian visitor species those bear plumages of various colours adding a kaleidoscopic view to the otherwise colourless, barren winter landscape.

The cackle of the migratory birds on a clear night sky or in villages close to the local wetlands has historically prompted parents and grandparents to tell their children the grand stories of Kashmir's enviable past.













international



Mr. Biden postures as anti-Trump, but when he wants to talk about Iran, he is still carrying the same sanctions record with him, and so far he has not taken any practical steps to lift the sanctions HOSSEIN AMIR ABDOLLAHIAN IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

PANDEMIC CHAOS

The global death toll from Covid-19 topped 5 million Monday, less than two years into a crisis that has not only devastated poor countries but also humbled wealthy ones with first-rate health care systems





Algeria will reevaluate the association agreement with the European Union (EU) ABDELMADJID TEBBOUNE



In order to



vaccination centers that they have kept on standby since the end of September ready to start again now JENS SPAHN

FEDERAL MINISTER OF GERMANY FOR HEALTH

SHORT TAKES

Houthi missiles kill 10 civilians

Sanaa: At least 10 civilians were killed and 25 wounded when two ballistic missiles from Yemen's Houthi rebels stuck a religious educational facility in the central province of Marib, officials said Monday. The missiles hit Dar al-Hadith - a religious school and a mosque - in the residential neighbourhood of al-Aumd late Sunday and the casualties included women and children, they said.

Barclays CEO steps down

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London: The chief executive of British bank Barclays stepped down Monday following a report by United Kingdom regulators into his past links with the late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Jes Staley has previously said he "deeply regrets" his relationship with Epstein, who killed himself at a federal jail in New York in August 2019 while awaiting a sex trafficking trial.

TO ROCK READY



A dog dressed in a costume takes part in the 20th Annual Haute Dog Howlloween Parade at Marina Vista Park in Long Beach, California, the United States

'Vax' is Oxford's 2021 word of the year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Nov 1: 'Vax' has been chosen as the word of the year by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the media reported

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, words related to vaccines spiked in frequency in 2021, with double-vaxxed, unvaxxed and antivaxxer all seeing a surge in use, the BBC reported.

Vax was an obvious choice as it has made "the most striking impact", OED senior editor Fiona McPherson was quoted as saying.

"It goes back at least to the 1980s, but according to our corpus it was rarely used until this year," she said. "When you add to that its versatility in forming other words vaxxie, vax-a-thon, vaxinista - it became clear that vax was the standout in the crowd", he said.

Vax and vaxx are both accepted spellings but the form with one x is more common. In September usage of the word "vax" was up more than 72 times from its level last year. OCED said. The word, and others related to vaccination, had also

been broadened into a wider range of contexts including "fully vaxxed" and "vax cards", the Guardian reported. Use of the word 'pandemic' has also increased by more than 57,000 per cent this year, the report said. Vax derived from the Latin word vacca, which means cow, was first recorded in English in 1799. According to the OED, this is due to English physician and scientist Edward Jenner's pioneering work on vaccination against smallpox in the late 1790s and early 1800s. Oxford Languages and Collins each decide their own word of the year, and in 2020 Collins chose "lockdown". But Oxford decided it was an unprecedented year with too many contenders, so expanded its award to encompass a handful of newly key words including lockdown, bushfires and Covid-19, as well as Black Lives Matter, WFH (working from home), keyworkers and furlough, the re-

port said. Oxford Languages says its corpus, or language resource, gathers news content, which is updated daily and contains over 14.5 billion words for lexicographers to search and analyse.

Kishida declares his victory after 'tough' election



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tokyo, Nov 1: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida declared victory Monday after leading his ruling coalition to a strong majority in national elections.

The long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner Komeito won 293 of the 465 seats in parliament's lower house, local media reported while the official result was finalised

"It was a very tough election, but

UK commits new funds for EVs in India

AGENCIES

Glasgow, Nov 1: The UK will provide an "India Green Guarantee" to the World Bank, to unlock an additional 750 million pounds for green projects across India, it was announced at the COP26 summit in Glasgow Monday.

The green guarantee financing will support clean and resilient infrastructure in sectors such as clean energy, transport and urban development.

Further, in an aid-backed Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), the UK has committed more than 210 million pounds in new investment at the UN climate summit to back transformational green projects in developing countries. including electric vehicles (EVs) in India. The UK's PIDG financing will go to schemes including electric vehicle manufacturing in India, green bonds in Vietnam and solar power in Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Nepal and Chad-projects which are expected to mobilise more than 470

COP26 SUMMIT



Archana Soreng seeks seat at climate table

he United Nations (UN) in India has launched a new climate campaign called 'We The Change' It is a climate movement that brings together young climate change activists to begin a dialogue with decisionmakers. From around the country and different social strata, these leaders will amplify solutions, inspire



collective action and work with the government to ensure that India's future is green, sustainable and just. These solutions have been developed by 17 young Indians who will involve other Indian youth to participate in this campaign as well. They are supposed to be "innovative, sustainable and equitable" with the focus being on strengthening engagement with governments and society. One of them is Archana Soreng, who belongs to the Khadia Tribal Community of Sundergarh district, Odisha. "We need enabling spaces for co-learning and collaboration for effective climate

Key rebel leader in **Philippines killed**

Manila: Philippine forces have killed a key communist rebel commander in one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies, in what the military described as a daring raid in the country's remote southern region, but what querrilla leaders said was an ambush. Jorge Madlos, who used the nom de guerre Ka Oris, was for many decades a leading figure and spokesman for the communist fighters in the southern Philippines' mountainous hinterlands.

Two passenger trains crash

Iondon. British authorities Monday were investigating the crash of two passenger trains that left more than a dozen people injured. The rear carriage of a train derailed Sunday after "striking an object" as it approached the station in Salisbury in southern England. Network Rail said the derailment knocked out all the signaling in the area, and a second train from London then crashed into the derailed train.

170 suspected rebels neutralised

Addis Ababa: Security forces in Ethiopia's Oromia regional state have "neutralized" 170 suspected Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) rebels, state media outlet Ethiopia News Agency (ENA) reported. ENA reported that 170 suspected rebels were "neutralized" during military operations conducted in the last three months in the Guji zone of the regional state.

the people's will -- that they want us to create this country's future under the stable LDP-Komeito government and the Kishida administration -- was shown," he said. "We received a precious 261 seats for the LDP. As a responsible party... we will meet the public mandate," said Kishida, who has been in office for a month.

The benchmark Nikkei stock index rose more than two percent after news of the result. which enables the ruling bloc to enact bills on issues from pandemic stimulus to defence spending on its own. The coalition had previously held 305 seats in parliament, and the LDP 276 on its own. Kishida, 64, dissolved the lower house only 10 days after taking office October 4.

He had won the leadership race in his ruling party because the party's conservative leaders saw him as a safe status-quo successor to Yoshihide Suga and his influential predecessor Shinzo Abe.

million pounds in additional private sector finance.

"I want to see the UK's Green Industrial Revolution go global. The pace of change on clean technology and infrastructure is incredible, but no country should be left behind in the race to save our planet," said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra

upon his arrival at the Scottish Exhibition Centre to attend the opening ceremony of the COP26 cli-

liver a national statement.



Sunday night from Rome, was re-Modi was warmly greeted by his British counterpart Boris Johnson ceived by Johnson and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and was then seen interacting animatedly with them (photo alongmate summit where he would deside). The three leaders also attended the G20 Summit in Italy Modi, who arrived in Glasgow which concluded Sunday.

action," says Archana Soreng, young climate campaigner and member of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change. She has been promoting 'Grassroots climate story telling', emphasizing on 'SDG 13 goals - Reduced inequalities.' Archana, who worked as a Research the Tata Institute of Social Science's Forest Rights and Governance Project, says, "Our ancestors have been protecting the forest and nature over the ages. Now the onus on us is to be the front-runners in combating the climate crisis." Archana is a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Climate Advisory Board where she amplifies and engages young people in transparent conversations about the climate emergency. She along with other young climate change activists has called for representation of the youth in the climate talks

Back down in 48 hrs or face action: UK to France

AGENCIES

London, Nov 1: Britain told France Monday that it must back down within 48 hours in a fishing row that threatens to spiral into a wider trade dispute or face tortuous legal action under the Brexit trade deal. France savs Britain has refused

to grant its fishermen the correct number of licences to operate in

British waters and has said it could impose targeted measures from Tuesday, including tightening some checks on trucks moving between the neighbours.

FISHING ROW

Britain says it is issuing licences to vessels that can prove they have previously fished in UK waters. The row intensified last week when

the French seized a British dredger, the Cornelis Gert Jan, in French waters near Le Havre, saying it did not have the required licences. though the boat's owner said it had all the appropriate documents.

"The French have made completely unreasonable threats, including to the Channel Islands and to our fishing industry, and they need to withdraw those threats or

else we will use the mechanisms of our trade agreement with the EU to take action," Foreign Secretary Liz Truss told Sky News. Asked over what time frame France should back down, Truss said: "This issue needs to be resolved in the next 48 hours." The row also risks being a distraction at the COP26 climate summit which began in Scotland Sunday.

Oz formally recognises India's Covaxin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 1: Australia's medicines and medical devices regulator Monday formally recognised India's Covaxin, a vaccine against the coronavirus as the country's border was reopened for the first time in nearly 20 months.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, and AstraZeneca and Oxford University's Covishield are the two widely used vaccines in India. Australia has already recognised Covishield.

"Today, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) determined that Covaxin (manufactured by Bharat Biotech, India) and BBIBP-CorV (manufactured by Sinopharm, China) vaccines would be 'recognised' for the purpose of establishing a traveller's vaccination status,

Australia's medicines and medical devices regulator TGA said. In recent weeks, the TGA has obtained additional information demonstrating these vaccines provide protection and potentially reduce the likelihood that an incoming traveller would transmit Covid-19 infection to others while in-Australia or become acutely unwell due to Covid-19.

'Extreme Greenland ice melt increased flood risk'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 1: Greenland has lost 3.5 trillion tonnes of ice over the past decade, increasing the global sea level by one centimetre and heightening the risk of flooding worldwide, according to a study published Monday.

The international team of researchers made use of measurements from the European Space Agency (ESA)'s CryoSat-2 satellite mission, using estimates of surface elevation change over time.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, is the first to use satellite data to detect this phenomenon -- known as ice sheet runoff -- from space. "Observations show that extreme melt events in Greenland have become more frequent and more intense -- as well as more erratic --



TIME TO ACT

Between 2011-20 Raising increased melt water sea levels can runoff from Greenland also alter patterns of raised the global sea ocean and atmospheric level by one circulation that affect centimeter -weather conditions heightening the risk of across the flooding worldwide globe

These changes are related to extreme weather events such as heat waves, which have become more frequent and are now a major cause of ice loss from Greenland

which is a global problem," said study co-author Lin Gilbert from University College London (UCL) in the UK.

"Monitoring from space enables us to cover the whole of Greenland (and nearly all Antarctica) repeatedly, which can't be done by teams on the ground," Gilbert said. The researchers found that over the past four decades Greenland's meltwater runoff has risen by 21 per cent -- and has become 60 per cent more erratic from one summer to the next.

One third of this rise was produced in just two summers -- 2012 and 2019 -- when extreme weather led to record-breaking levels of ice melting not seen in the past 40 years, they said.

The study shows that during the past decade, runoff from Greenland has averaged 357 billion tonnes of

ice melt per year equating to almost one millimetre of global sea level rise.

This reached a maximum of 527 billion tonnes in 2012, when changes in atmospheric patterns caused unusually warm air to sit over much of the ice sheet, the researchers said. "As we have seen with other

parts of the world. Greenland is also

vulnerable to an increase in ex-

treme weather events," said study

lead author Thomas Slater from the

University of Leeds in the UK. "As

our climate warms, it's reasonable

to expect that the instances of ex-

treme melting in Greenland will

happen more often -- observations

such as these are an important

step in helping us to improve cli-

mate models and better predict

what will happen this century,

Slater said.



business



DUCATI'S LIMITED-EDITION SUPERBIKE

Italian superbike maker Ducati Monday launched its limited-edition Scrambler Desert Sled Fasthouse motorcycle in India priced at ₹10.99 lakh (ex-showroom India). The model, created to celebrate the collaboration between Ducati Scrambler and the American clothing brand Fasthouse, is powered by an 803cc engine, Ducati India said in a statement. This new special edition model is limited to only 800 units globally, it added.





In the initial months of the pandemic, we all felt the shortage of raw materials to make essential medicines, health

equipment and vaccines. Now that the world is gearing up for economic recovery, the supply problems of semiconductors and other commodities are coming in the way of healthy growth

NARENDRA MODI PRIME MINISTER

We have 80 crore people in the country who are connected with the internet but there are 40 crore people who are still unconnected. Our target is to

connect these 40 crore people with the internet in the next three years RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

MOS ELECTRONICS AND IT

The 5G ecosystem will open limitless possibilities for enterprises to enhance productivity and serve their customers even better with digitally enabled applications RANDEEP SINGH SEKHON BHARTI AIRTEI

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

SHORT TAKES

Coal India output ир 6.4 рс у-о-у

New Delhi: State-owned CIL Monday said its coal production increased 6.4 per cent year-onyear (y-o-y) to 49.8 million tonnes (MT) in October. The development assumes significance in the wake of the country's power plants facing fuel shortages. The production by CIL had stood at 46.8 MT in October last year, the company said in a BSE filing. Coal production by CIL in April-October 2021 also rose 5.9 per cent to 299.6 MT, compared with 282.8 MT in the year-ago period.

Unity Small Finance Bank commences ops

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Mumbai: Unity Small Finance Bank Limited. a joint venture between Centrum Group and operations as a small finance bank with effect from Monday. according to an RBI release. On October 12, RBI gave the final licence to Unity Small Finance Bank, a consortium floated by Centrum Financial Services and Resilient Innovations, an arm of the digital lending platform Bharatpe, four months after giving it an in-principle nod to establish a small finance bank and then takeover the scamridden PMC Bank.



New Delhi, Nov 1: The petroleum ministry has told ONGC to give away 60% stake plus operating control in India's largest oil and gas producing fields of Mumbai High and Bassein to foreign companies, according to an October 28 letter to the state-owned company.

Amar Nath, additional secretary (exploration) in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, wrote a 3-page letter to ONGC Chairman and Managing Director Subhash Kumar, saying productivity of the Mumbai High and Bassein & Satellite (B&S) offshore assets under state-owned firm was low and international partners should be invited and given $60\,\mathrm{per}$ cent participating interest (PI) and operatorship.

This is the second time since April that Nath, who is part of the ONGC management as the longestserving government nominee director on its board and often considered a potential candidate to replace Kumar next year, has written an official letter, painting a poor picture of the company's performance.

According to the October 28 letter, reviewed by PTI, he said the redevelopment projects will raise re-



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: India's power consumption grew 4.8 per cent in October to 114.37 billion units (BU), indicating a good recovery amid coal shortages at electricity generation plants, according to power ministry data.

Last year in October, power consumption stood at 109.17 BU and in the same period in 2019, it was at 97.84 BU. During October, the peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day stood at 174.60 GW, higher than 169.89 GW in the same

month last year. The data clearly shows that there is recovery in power consumption as well as demand in the country.

Experts said the recovery in power demand as well as consumption would increase further due to the government's efforts to ramp up coal supplies at plants and improvement in economic activities following the lifting of lockdown restrictions by states. As many as 135 power plants with over 165 GW power generation capacity monitored by the Central Electricity Authority had coal stock of 10.08 million tonnes enough for six days (at daily requirement of 1.79 million tonnes) as on October 29, compared to 7.96 million tonnes for four days (at daily requirement of 1.82 million tonne on October 1, 2021). The coal stock data shows improvement in the dry fuel situation at thermal power plants in the country with onset of winters and improved coal supplies. Many states had imposed lockdown restrictions after the second wave of the pandemic hit the nation in April this year. Curbs were gradually lifted as the number of COVID cases fell.



covery of the mature and continuously declining Mumbai High field from 28 per cent to 32 per cent, 'which is quite low'.

"The field has substantial potential to contribute to domestic production." he said adding the infrastructure such as pipelines and platforms on the fields are "ageing and leaking and need replacement/revamping.

"The ONGC will, however, find this challenging as its improvement/development projects have lagged behind schedule. Procedural aspects and other constraints will not encourage ONGC to take quick decisions," he said.

The company "should bring a joint venture partner of international experience and farm out 60% PI and operatorship of the field." he wrote.

Bangalore, Nov 1: India's factory

activity expanded at its quickest

pace in eight months in October on

strong demand and increased output,

though another surge in the cost of

raw materials cast a shadow over the

outlook, a private survey showed.

tended business recovery in Asia's

third-largest economy from the

pandemic-induced slump and,

alongside rising price pressures,

may boost views the Reserve Bank

of India will tighten monetary pol-

icv earlier than expected. like other

The Manufacturing Purchasing

Managers' Index, compiled by IHS

major central banks.

~

66

Monday's data pointed to an ex-

REUTERS

While projects on B&S Assets, which encompasses Bassin field the largest gas producing field in India, envisage raising recovery factor to 70% from the current low of 45%, "ONGC can plan for a substantial increase from this field" and "can provide an entry point to international players to India to invest in gas and energy infrastructure," he wrote. "ONGC should plan to invite ex-

perienced international partners and give 60% PI and operatorship,' he added.

Mumbai High, which was discovered in 1974, and B&S, which was put into production in 1988, are ONGC's mainstay assets, contributing two-thirds of its current oil and gas production. Without these assets, the company will be left with only smaller fields.

GST collection surges to ₹1.30 lakh crore in Oct

AGENCIES & PNN

New Delhi, Nov 1: India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection surged to ₹1.30 lakh crore in October, the second highest since its implementation in July 2017, indicating economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and impact of festive demand, a finance ministry statement said, Monday.

The highest GST collection of ₹1.41 lakh crore was recorded in April 2021.

From Odisha, the Centre collected around ₹3,593 crore of GST revenue which is 49% growth compared to same month of previous year. Earlier, Odisha contributed around ₹2,419 crore in the month of October, 2020.



This is the fourth time in a row when the GST collection was upwards of ₹1 lakh crore. The collection from GST was ₹1.17 lakh crore in September, 2021. Tax collections last month on goods sold and services rendered was 24 per cent higher than in October 2020, and up 36 per cent over 2019-20.

Auto sales skid on supply chain woes

Tata Motors. M&M. Nissan and Skoda buck trend



to dealers in October 2020.

company noted.

Rajesh Goel said.

conductor shortage.

The global semiconductor sup-

ply constraint continues to be a

challenge, resulting in lower pro-

duction across the industry, the

year-on-year decline in wholesales

at 16,331 units last month, while

Honda Cars saw its domestic dis-

patches go down by 25 per cent to

Similarly, MG Motor India re-

ported a 24 per cent dip in retail sales

at 2,863 units in October amid pro-

duction challenges due to the semi-

Mahindra & Mahindra said its pas-

senger vehicle sales in the domestic

"Demand for vehicles across our

We have received an unprecedented

response for XUV700 and as per

our commitment, we have com-

menced deliveries of the petrol

variant to customers," Mahindra

& Mahindra CEO Automotive

Homegrown auto major

Kia India witnessed a 22 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: Leading carmakers Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai witnessed a double-digit drop in sales in October on account of the

Motors, Mahindra, Nissan and Skoda managed to post positive numbers last month despite the supply chain challenges. The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said its domestic sales slipped 32 per cent to 1,17,013 units last month as against 1,72,862 units in October 2020.

"While the shortage of electronic components continued to affect the production of vehicles during the month, the company took all possible measures to minimise the impact. Accordingly, the company sold more vehicles than the sales volume expected at the start of the month," the

Sales of mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, fell 23 per cent to 21,831 units as compared to 28,462 in the same month last year.

Similarly, sales of compact segment, including models such as Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire, slumped 49 per cent to 48,690 units as against 95,067 cars in October last year.

Vitara Brezza, S-Cross and Ertiga, Similarly, Tata Motors reported however rose 7 per cent to 27.08 44 per cent jump in passenger units as compared to 25,396 earlier. vehicle dispatches in the domestic Rival Hyundai Motor India remarket at 33,925 units in October ported a 35 per cent decline in doas compared to 23,617 units in the mestic sales last month at 37.021 same month last year.

contraction for a fourth straight month. "With companies gearing up for further improvements in demand by building up their stocks, it looks like manufacturing activity will continue to expand throughout the third quarter of fiscal year 2021/22

business confidence and projects in the pipeline should also support production in the coming months.'

The latest survey showed the new orders sub-index, a proxy for domestic demand, rose to 58.7 last month, its highest in seven

global semiconductor shortage impacting production. Kia India, Honda Cars and MG Motor also saw a fall in dispatches last month as compared with October 2020 However, companies like Tata



auto major stated. market stood at 20,130 units, up 8 per cent from 18,622 units in the year-ago period. product portfolio remains robust.

Utility vehicle sales, including Division, Veejay Nakra said.

Solid demand lifted October factory growth to 8-month high

Airtel offers cashback to new phone buyers

Bhubaneswar: This Diwali Airtel is offering an attractive cashback of ₹6,000 to customers who purchase a new smartphone priced up to ₹12,000 (appx.) from leading brands. Also, customers opting for this programme are also eligible for a one-time free screen replacement by Servify in case of damage. The smartphone brands include Samsung, Oppo, Tecno, Vivo, Motorola, Lava, Xiaomi, Lenovo and others.

Bajaj Finance starts Diwali campaign

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Bhubaneswar: Bajaj Finance Ltd., in collaboration with Bajaj Finserv Direct Limited, has launched its Diwali campaign 'EMI Hai Na' to offer discounts and cashback on a wide range of products and brands purchased on EMI through the Bajaj Finserv EMI store of Bajaj Finserv Direct Ltd. Customers can avail of discounts on a slew of electronic products. home appliances. smartphones, smart watches, furniture, fitness equipment, home decor, accessories, kitchen appliances and much more with minimal down payment. The campaign will conclude November 15, 2021.

Markit, jumped to 55.9 in October from September's 53.7, the highest since February, and remaining above the 50-level separating growth from

BHUBANESWAR: In a bid to create

awareness and discourage corruption, UCO

Bank Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar observed

branches working under Bhubaneswar zone

Awareness Week. On this occasion, all the

staff members of Zonal office, RTC, FI &

the Vigilance Awareness Week. The Bank

celebrated the week from October 26 to

November 1, 2021 on its premises. The

came together to observe Vigilance

Ashoka market branch conducted a

UCO Bank observes Vigilance Awareness Week

walkathon with great enthusiasm. The walkathon was highly appreciated and

joined by many participants. Moreover, a meeting of preventive vigilance was

SP, Vigilance Bhubaneswar, addressed the participants and encouraged them.

also organised in the Zonal Office through virtual mode. All the branches'

representatives attended the meeting. Ganesh Chandra Pradhan, Additional

should the pandemic remain under control," Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit, said in a release. "Upbeat

months. Foreign demand also expanded at its quickest pace since July, encouraging firms to raise output

Nuvoco launches two Zero M brand products

BHUBANESWAR : The cement player Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd. launched Zero M Water Shield 2K and Zero M Speedex Tile Grout in a virtual event. Developed at the Nuvoco Construction Development and Innovation Centre (CDIC), the products are ready-to-use and provide excellent resistance to water ingress. Zero M Water Shield 2K is a two-component acrylic cementitious coating formulated to be mixed on-site and applied over the concrete and masonry surfaces by brush, to provide an elastomeric waterproof membrane. The product is available in 3kg and 15 kg packs, currently across Northern markets of India and soon to be available in Eastern markets. Zero M Speedex Tile Grout is ready-to-use unsanded tile grout, consisting of cement. polymers, fillers and special additives. It requires onsite addition of water and provides high-quality joint filler for filling the tile joints so as to create strong and long lasting tile joints. The product is available in the Eastern and Northern markets of India.

SpaceX sets up subsidiary in India, plans to apply for licence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: World's richest person Elon Musk-owned SpaceX Monday incorporated its whollyowned subsidiary in India to start local broadband operations, a top official of the company said.

SpaceX's satellite broadband arm Starlink aims to start broadband services in India from December 2022, with 2 lakh active terminals subject to permission from the government.

"Pleased to share that SpaceX now has a 100 per cent owned subsidiary in India. The name is SSCPL - Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited and the incorporation date is Nov 1, 2021. Happy Birthday, SSCPL. We can now start applying for licenses, open bank accounts etc," Starlink country director India at SpaceX Sanjay Bhargava said in a social media post.

Starlink claims to have received over 5,000 pre-order from India. The company is charging a deposit of USD 99 or ₹7,350 per customer and claims to deliver data speeds in the range of 50 to 150 megabit per second in beta stage.

The services of the company \rightarrow will compete with that of Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea in broadband and it will be a direct competitor to Bharti Group-backed OneWeb.

The company is keen to work in rural areas for providing broadband services.

About 80% of economy now formal: SBI report

DIGITISATION DRIVE, PANDEMIC-INDUCED EMERGENCE OF GIG ECONOMY LEAD TO FASTER FORMALISATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 1: The digitisation drive and pandemic-induced emergence of the gig economy have led to a faster formalisation of the economy, with the share of the informal sector shrinking to just 15-20 per cent in 2021 from 52.4 per cent in 2018, according to an SBI

Research report. Share of the informal economy has fallen drastically to 15-20 per cent of the gross value added (GVA) or the formal GDP in 2020-21 from 52.4 per cent in 2017-18 due to digitisation and the rapidly expanding gig economy, said Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic

advisor at SBI. The share of the same had stood at 53.9 per cent in 2011-12. According to Ghosh, many measures since the note-ban in November 2016 have

accelerated digitisation of the economy, and the pandemic-induced emergence of the gig economy has facilitated higher formalisation of the economy, at rates possibly much faster than most other nations.

The note ban hit hardest the informal sector which then constituted 93 per cent of the workforce. The second blow to the informal economy was the GST and the final and the hardest hit came from the pandemic. At least ₹13 lakh crore has come under the formal economy through various channels over the past few years, including the recent scheme on the E-Shram

portal, the report said. Real GDP was estimated at ₹135.13 lakh crore in FY21 but lost 7.3 per cent of that in FY22 after the worst economic contraction on record due to the pandemic. The 2011 Census pegged the size $% \left({{{\rm{D}}_{{\rm{B}}}}} \right)$

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of the informal sector in trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting at 40 per cent; in construction at around 34 per cent; 16 per cent of public administration; and 20 per cent of manufacturing and almost 100 per cent formalisation in finance, insurance and utilities, and to a large extent in real estate and agriculture.

The formal financial sector has even expanded by 10 per cent postthe pandemic, with the DBT transfers gaining traction and that of for-

malised utility services size expanded by 1 per cent during the pandemic, according to the report.

The report, quoting the monthly EPFO payroll data, said that since FY18, almost 36.6 lakh jobs have been formalised till July 2021 and the report expects that this fiscal formalisation rate will be higher than FY20 but lower than the FY19 level. Since FY18, the agriculture sector has been formalised by 20-25 per cent due to the increasing penetration of KCC credit and now the informal agriculture sector is 70-75 per cent.

Over the years, usage of Kisan credit cards has also increased significantly as the per card outstanding has gone up from ₹96,578 in FY18 to ₹1,67,416 in FY22, an increase of ₹70,838. And there are 6.5 crore such cards, the amount formalised is ₹4.6 lakh crore, the report noted.









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SHORT TAKES

Two boxers seal WC last 8 spots

Belgrade: Indian boxers Nishant Dev (71kg) and Sanjeet (92kg) made the quarterfinals of the AIBA Men's World Championships (WC) following impressive victories in their last-16 stage bouts here Sunday. Nishant defeated Mexico's Marco Alvarez Verde 3-2 to set up a clash with Russia's Vadim Musaev. Sanjeet got the better of Georgia's Giorgi Tchigladze 4-1 to enter the last eight stage for a second successive time. He will face Italy's Aziz Abbes Mouhiidine for a place in the semis

Spurs sack Nuno

London: Tottenham Hotspur fired Monday manager Nuno Espírito Santo after losing half of the 10 Premier League matches he was in charge. The dismissal, after only four months in the job. followed a 0-3 home loss Saturday to Manchester United. The Spurs are in eighth place in the Premier League, 10 points behind leader Chelsea. The club said Nuno and his coaching staff had been 'relieved of their duties' and that an update on the new support staff will follow soon

Cilic triumphs

St Petersburg: Marin Cilic won the St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament final with a 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 6-4 victory over American Taylor Fritz. This is the second time Cilic has won the title here, his first coming in 2011. The Croatian is the sixth active player to reach 20 tour-level titles after Roger Federer (103), Rafael Nadal (88), Novak Djokovic (85), Andy Murray (46) and Juan Martin del Potro (22). AGENCIES

Bumrah blames bubble

Fast bowler laments the small rest period after the 2nd phase of IPL and the start of the T20 World Cup



AGENCIES Dubai, Nov 1: India's pace bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah said bubble fatigue is a tough reality

of the current times as he tried to explain the team's shambolic campaign in the ongoing T20 World Cup here. India lost to New Zealand by eight wickets Sunday and are on the

verge of crashing out of the T20 World Cup. They are yet to win a match, having lost the lung-opener to Pakistan by 10 wickets.

"Absolutely, you need a break," Bumrah said in the post-match press conference when asked about the short gap between the second leg of the IPL and the T20 World Cup. "But this is the reality of the

times we are living in. It's difficult, it's a pandemic and we are staying in bio bubbles. We try to



extra cushion to the bowlers of 20-30 runs, played attacking shots that did not come off JASPRIT BUMRAH

> adapt but bubble fatigue and mental fatigue also creeps in. You are doing the same thing again and again. You can't control a lot of things over here and mental fatigue creeps in suddenly," the pace bowler added.

The Indian team had a six-day break between their first match against Pakistan and Sunday's engagement. Skipper Virat Kohli, after calling it helpful to cope with fatigue and niggles, described it as 'ridiculous' at the toss Sunday night. "Sometimes you miss your fam-

things like scheduling. Obviously, staying in a bubble and staying away from your family for such a long time does play a role on the players' minds. But the BCCI has also tried their best to make us feel comfortable," added Bumrah.

India have been in bio bubbles since June when they landed in England to play the World Test Championship final. The team got a three-week break after that game against the Black Caps which was followed by a gruelling five-Test series against England.

Formers feel India lost plot

NEW DELHI: Former Indian players are no doubt disappointed at the way the team lost their first two games at the T20 World Cup. They feel that India's chances of qualifying for the semifinals are virtually non-existent now. Here's what they said.

KAPIL DEV: Virat Kohli's admission of his team not being brave enough is a very weak statement. If the body language of the team and thought process of the captain is like this, it's very difficult to lift the mood of the players inside the dressing room. I would urge my friend (Ravi) Shastri and (MS) Dhoni to lift the team in this scenario. It is Dhoni's job to talk to players and give them confidence.

VIRENDER SEHWAG: Very disappointing show from India. NZ were amazing. India's body language wasn't great, poor shot

selection also led to our downfall. New Zealand have ensured we won't make it to the next stage. This one will certainly hurt.

SUNIL GAVASKAR: I don't know

if it is a fear of failure but I know that whatever changes they made to the batting order did not work. Rohit Sharma is such a great batsman and he has been sent in at No. 3. Kohli also demoted himself to No.4. Ishan Kishan should not have opened.. he should have batted at No. 5

VVS LAXMAN: This defeat will hurt Team India. They were tentative with the bat, their shot selection was questionable. New Zealand bowled superbly, but India made their task easier. A semifinal spot looks a distant dream

Buttler blitzkrieg subdues Sri Lanka

AGENCIES

Sharjah, Nov 1: A maiden T20 international century by Jos Buttler (101 n o, 67b, 6x4, 6x6) helped England beat Sri Lanka by 26 runs in their Super 12 Group A match of the T20 World Cup here Monday. Riding on the Buttler blitzkrieg, England put up a competitive 163 for four wickets in 20 overs after being reduced to 35 for three. Then the England bowlers, especially spinners Moeen Ali (2/15) and Adil Rashid (2/19) came to the party as Sri Lanka were bowled out for 137 in 19 overs. It was England's fourth win on the trot and they head the group with eight points.

A number of Sri Lankan batters got starts but failed to play the big knock like Buttler to put England under pressure. Charith Asalanka (21), Bhanuka Rajapaksa (26), Dasun Shanka (26) and Wanindu Hasaranga (34)... all conjured up pictures of an upset win. But those disappeared quickly as Sri Lanka collapsed from 129 for five to 137 all out.

Pacers Chris Jordan (2/24) and Chris Woakes (1/25) also chipped in with vital wickets to hasten Sri Lanka's downfall.

Earlier Buttler and skipper Eoin Morgan (40, 36b, 1x4, 3x6) shared a century stand to prop the England total. Sent into bat, England lost three wickets for 35 runs before Buttler and Morgan joined hands to stitch a crucial 112 runs for the fourth wicket that came off 78 balls.

The onus was on Buttler after England's early losses to up the ante and he did try his best after the 10th over, piling up 14 runs of medium pacer Chamika



Jos Buttler hits out during his matchwinning knock Monday

Karunaratna in the 13th over. Buttler notched up his fifty off 45 balls, the slowest of his T20 career, with a single off de Silva in the 14th over.

But then the explosion came. The 15th over bowled by fast bowler Lahiru Kumara vielded 22 runs with Buttler hitting two sixes, while Morgan clearing the fence once.

Morgan's dismissal had no effect on Buttler who continued his attacking game and finished off the innings with a six off Chameera to notch up first T20 ton.

BRIEF SCORES

England 163 for 4 (Jos Buttler 101 n o, Eoin Morgan 40, Wanindu Hasaranga 3/21) beat Sri Lanka 137 in 19 overs (Wanindu Hasaranga 34, Moen Ali 2/15, Adil Rashid 2/17, Chris Jordan 2/24) by 26 runs.

Tips from seniors have helped juniors: Prasad

INDIA CONFIDENT OF DEFENDING JR WC HOCKEY CROWN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 1: Sharing the same campus as the senior hockey team here has been the biggest boon in his career according to midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad as the Indian colts prepare to defend the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup title when the tournament begins November 24 in Bhubaneswar.

Guided by coach Harendra Singh, the Indian colts won the 2016 Junior World Cup at Lucknow defeating Belgium. Several players of the side graduated to the senior level, helping India end their 41-year medal drought by winning bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.

Prasad, who is eligible to participate in the Junior World Cup. said Monday that getting insights from seniors on playing under pressure has helped the colts in their preparations.

"Our preparations are going really well and every player is giving his 100 per cent on the field during practice. Sharing the same campus as the senior team has been the biggest boon because we have been able to get a lot of match practice against them. We also spend a lot of time talking to the seniors about playing under pressure and the experiences they share is valuable," said Prasad, who is part of

the probables' group for the Junior

World Cup. India are grouped in Pool B along with Canada, France and Poland. Prasad talked about the standard

of competition. "No doubt it will be a tough competition but we will continue to go by the mantra of taking one-match-at-a-time. Our first priority will be to top the group and make it to the quarterfinals," Prasad said.

Prasad added that the players are highly motivated and eager to play in Bhubaneswar. "Though there won't be any spectators, yet there is a lot of excitement among the players to just experience the facilities at the Kalinga Stadium,' Prasad informed.



AGENCIES

Riga (Latvia), Nov 1: Indian star Dronavalli Harika drew her fifth round game against Natalija Pogonina to be placed joint second with three others on 3.5 points in the FIDE Grand Swiss chess tournament for women here Sunday. However, Padmini Rout suffered her second successive loss, going down to Batkhuyag Munguntuul (Mongolia). She currently has two points from five matches

In the Open event, experienced Grandmaster K Sasikiran took down 10th-seed Vladimir Fedoseev of Russia in 53 moves in a French Alekhine variation game to improve his tally to 3.5 points.

The young Divya Deshmukh was the only winner among the Indian women as she scored over



local favourite Madara Golsta in 49 moves in a Nimzo-Indian game to take her tally to two points. R Vaishali and Vantika Agrawal drew against Salome Melia (Georgia) and Zhanasaya Abdumalik (Kazakhstan) respectively. While Vaishali's score is now 2.5, Vantika is on three points.



2nd successive loss for Padmini

ily after being on the road for six months. All of that sometimes play on the back of your mind. But

when you are on the field, you don't think about all of those things. You strive to give your best, Bumrah, who took both the New Zealand wickets to fall, said. 'You don't control all of those



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