



TRUE OBSERVER

Actor Nikita Dutta says apart from the odd movies, horror remains an under-explored genre in Hindi films

LEISURE P2



MATTER OF CONCERN

Greenland lost 3.5tn tonnes of ice over the past decade, raising the global sea level by one centimetre

INTERNATIONAL P10



BLAMING THE BUBBLE

Jasprit Bumrah has blamed 'staying in the bubble' for India's poor show at the T20 World Cup

SPORTS P12



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, ex-constable 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.

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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.

SC DELIVERS 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 position recorded in the order of the Supreme 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

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, 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.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	60138.46 ↑ 831.53
NIFTY	17929.70 ↑ 258.00
DOLLAR	74.88 ↓ ₹0.03
EURO	86.72 ↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹47,905 ↑ ₹270
SILVER	₹64,906 ↑ ₹372

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.6°C	31.4°C
TEMP MIN	22.0°C	21.0°C
Humidity	78%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

Commercial LPG price up by steep ₹266 per cylinder

AGENCIES

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 cylinder 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 cylinder

of 19 kg. Now a 19 kg gas cylinder in 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 14.2-kg 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 Priyadarshi, 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.

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 Antonio 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.

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

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," 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.

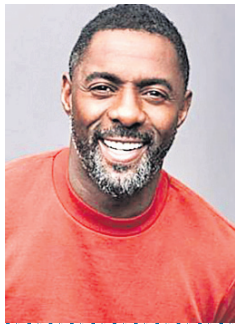
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leisure



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

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ARIES
Good news may bring cheer to you today! A job, a wedding, some profit... it could be personal or professional. Giving your best is almost a habit with you, says Ganesh, and it will pay off today.

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

GEMINI
Today, you may encounter unusual challenges, says Ganesh. 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. Ganesh advises you to keep your cool during the day.

CANCER
Today, you will shift your entire focus on the problems plaguing your personal life, feels Ganesh. Your ability to nip a 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 your loved ones.

LEO
Even slender shoulders gain the strength when the time comes to handle responsibilities. And so shall you, says Ganesh. 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
Ganesh advises you to quantify your worth in the spheres of emotions and sentiments. You will prepare yourself for everything, from games to peers to family. However, at the same time you will realise your shortcomings.

LIBRA
Well, today is just not your day. The prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious 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 enjoyable evening.

SCORPIO
Don't run from your troubles, learn to face the challenges and try to solve your problems. This piece of Ganesh's advice 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 Ganesh. 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 Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
The day will be of paramount significance as you are likely to meet someone who will be associated with you for life, says Ganesh. 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. Ganesh 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 Ganesh.

'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 Hashmi-starrer *Dybbuk*, 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 *Dybbuk* was its story and genre. It is a pure hor-

ror film and in Bollywood, except for very few, we do not get to watch a pure horror-thriller film. *Dybbuk* is one of them. We attempted to maintain the tension. That is why for us, this is a unique film."

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.

SUNNY FIRST INDIAN ACTRESS TO MINT NFT

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 ledger that is unchangeable and tamper-proof.

International celebrities such as Ellen Degeneres, Paris Hilton, and

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.



Megha Malhar celebrating monsoon at Malyabanta Hill

Bhubaneswar: *Megha Malhar*, a two-day art camp was inaugurated Monday at Malyabanta Hill in Malkangiri district to celebrate the splendour 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 Culture director Ranjan 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 motivate the artist to give their best," said Samal.

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



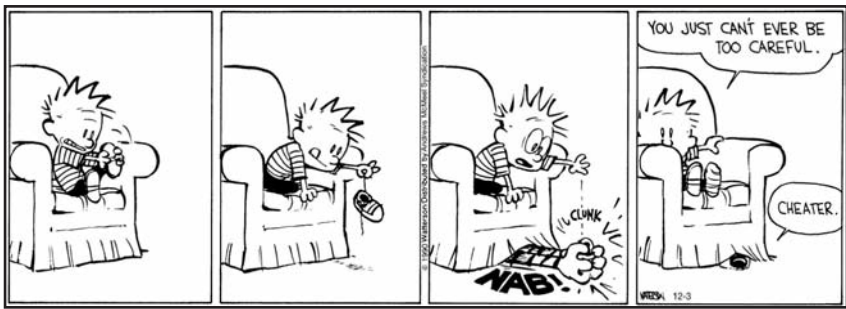
Odisha participated in the event. Besides, a competition on watercolor paintings was held among the students of Jeypore Art School. Top ten students of the

school will be given cash prize of Rs 2, 800 each. Similarly, all participants of *Megha Malhar* will be given Rs 10,000 each, added Samal.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

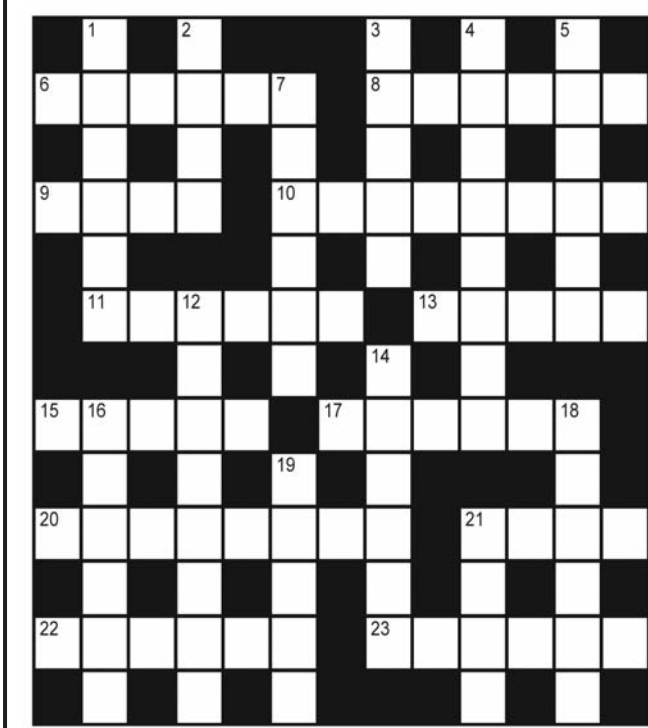


BREVITY



FUN post

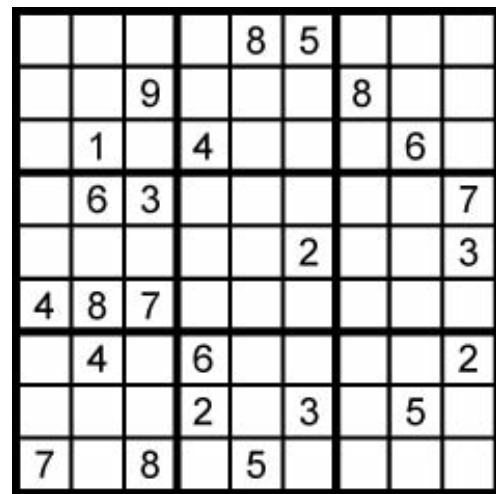
CROSSWORD



- Across**
6 Necromancer
8 Madness
9 Picnic pest
10 Mental state
11 Strong-scented mat-forming Eurasian herb
13 Small songbird
15 English race place
17 Puzzle
20 Happy-go-lucky
21 Carnival attraction
22 Tame
23 Relish
3 Dish
4 Needlecraft
5 Biting
7 Wyvern
12 Zimbabwe, once
14 Ticks off
16 Penumra
18 Totals (4,2)
19 Salad oil holder
21 Talk wildly

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

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 cylinder..."

When 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 this the Aacche Din ka Sarkar?

SULATA DEO | BJD WOMEN WING LEADER

der price nearing ₹1,000," said senior BJD leader and MP Sarmistha Sethi.

"When 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 this the Aacche Din ka Sarkar?" asked BJD women wing leader Sulata Deo.

Sunday, the ruling party had also staged a dharna before the Raj Bhawan here for the failure of

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 BJD 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 in Jajpur and Keonjhar.

LORD'S DARSHAN

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

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	24,76,03,669	22,42,52,841	50,17,694
India	3,42,85,814	3,36,68,560	4,58,437
Odisha	10,41,773	10,29,585	8,336

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

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 SQUARE 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 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.

Following the principles of 5T, 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 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.

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 source said.

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

THE BUILDING AT RTO I IS CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF ₹3.98 CRORE AND HAS THREE FLOORS EXCLUDING THE BASEMENT SPANNING 4998.30 SQUARE FEET ON EACH FLOOR

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

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

any window to get their work done smoothly.

This facility will soon be introduced in the RTOs at Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Ganjam and Puri districts.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated the newly-built Annex Building of Odisha State Guest 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 convenience 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 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.

HC go-ahead to green crackers with riders

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 fireworks during the pandemic.

Earlier, the HC had left the ball in SRC's court for an appropriate decision by 10 am November 1.

The SRC submitted a report claiming that there would be no 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

What are green crackers?



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 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, barium, lead and arsenic.

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 affresh. The outfit, subsequently got itself registered under the Societies Act and approached the court again.

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 anti-corruption 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.

HITTING THE STREETS



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

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 included 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 them for laboratory testing. We

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

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 recently.

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 by adding phenyl into it, about 12 business units were fined Rs 22,000.

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

To achieve the target during the drive, Odisha government has opened more vaccination centres in rural areas. The vaccination centres have been opened in villages with 100 beneficiaries, he further said.

Panigrahi also informed that centres have been opened at strategic points in remote areas where

KHURDA, CUTTACK SHARE 58% OF NEW nCoV CASES

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 152 fresh cases followed by Cuttack (32) and Mayurbhanj (28). Eight districts did not register any new coronavirus case.

The state now has 4,237 active cases, and 10,29,147 patients, including 450 since Sunday, have so far recovered from the highly infectious disease, the Health official said.

Odisha has thus far conducted over 2.20 crore sample tests, taking into account 63,651 such clinical examinations Sunday. The state's cumulative positivity rate stands at 4.72 per cent.

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 taking 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 sanitisation, 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

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 the armed forces.

CLASSROOM TEACHING BACK



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

Bhikari Bal Samman

BHUBANESWAR: Bhikari Bal Smriti Sansada Bhubaneswar will confer Bhikari Bal Samman 2021 on lyricist Baidyanth Khilar on the death anniversary of the legendary singer at Unit III Buddha Mandir Tuesday, E&IT, Sports & Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera will grace the occasion as the chief guest. Bhikari Charan Bal (May 25, 1929 - November 2, 2010), better known as Bhajan Samrat to the 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.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Utkala Keshari Jena changed my name to Utkal Keshari Jena vide affidavit dated 22.12.2020 sworn before Notary N.K. Sahoo, BBSR.

LOST

My original registered Sale Deed containing No. RSD No. 660 has been lost. Anybody who find please contact below. Name: Ghansia Padhan, Mob.: 9861925072.

CFO of pvt university held for ₹1.03cr fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Commissionerate Police has arrested the prime accused in misappropriation of funds worth over ₹1 crore of a private university located on the outskirts of the city here.

The arrested was identified as Himanshu Sekhar Kabi, 43, of Aul 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. The university authorities denied that the vendors who had received



the money were allotted any work by the university campus here or by those at Vijayanagar campus in Andhra Pradesh.

The police later started investigations into the matter after registering a case on the basis of a complaint lodged by varsity authorities January 8, 2021. Earlier, three of Kabi's associates, Amit

The CFO unauthorisedly transferred money to the tune of ₹1,03,25,633 from the account of the university to some vendors and enterprisers

Kumar Mallick, Nalinakshya Nayak and Sujit Ranjan Ghadei, were arrested January 23, 2021.

Police Sunday arrested Kabi who had been absconding since the registration of the case around 10 months ago.

The accused was produced before the court that sent him to judicial 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.

The accused identified as Rupesh Panda is reportedly undergoing treatment at a private hospital while the victim mother and daughter duo has been discharged from hospital.

The duo claimed that Panda, who 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.

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. Meanwhile, he entered the victim's house to seek help. However, the victims attacked him with a broom 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.

State gets first model 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 official. On the occasion, Justice Chandrachud extended greetings to Angul district judge Bhagyaxmi Rath and Nayagarh district judge Rupashree Choudhury, saying the two women 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.

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 non-monsoon 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 attorney 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.

Theft accused escapes from police custody

Bhubaneswar: A cell phone theft accused, reportedly suffering from HIV, has given the Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel 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.

240 from City lose ₹72L to cyber crooks

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.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

- Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Patient administered wrong saline in Bolangir hospital

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.

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.

Similarly, Hari Mahananda, 60, of Khujenbahal village of Bongamunda 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 the injection and saline meant for Mahananda to Samal, Monday.



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

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

The prohibition is clamped every year as turtles perish in larger numbers either by getting entangled in fishing nets or hit by fishing trawlers' propellers

The ban was clamped in accordance with Sections 2, 7 and 4 of Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982 and provisions of Wildlife Protection 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

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.

Staff crisis dogs BRIT's functioning

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Nov 1: With nine out of 15 sanctioned posts lying vacant at the Balasure 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.

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



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

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

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 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 post is lying vacant, the chairman is presently managing the dual jobs. The chairman 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.

SKILL ENHANCEMENT



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

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 corruption-free 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.

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, non-vegetarian 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.

Bank of India Bank of India Zonal Office : Star House, 1/D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015	POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002		
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Concerned Branches under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said 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	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Properties
KHARVEL NAGAR BRANCH/ Borrower: M/s. Dandeswar Pharmaceuticals, Prop.: Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu / Guarantor: Mrs. Sarmista Sahu, W/o: Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu, Both are at 101-A, Budheswari Colony, Laxmisagar, Cuttack Road, Bhubaneswar-751006, Odisha	₹2,83,45,452/- + interest & expenses thereon	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 Settlement Khata No.: 155 and Plot No.: 121/936, Area: Ac.0.013dec., Corresponding to Settlement Khata No.: 158, termed as Sub Plot No.: H-82 (part) o/o Ac.0.560 dec. situated at Mouza: Badaragunathpur, SRO: Jatri, Thana No.: 65, Dist.: Khurda, standing in the name of Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu , Bounded (A) (For Ac.0.033dec./1437.48 Sqft) by North: Sub Plot No.: H-82 (P), South: Sub Plot No.: H-84, East: Sub Plot No.: H-81, West: Road, Bounded (B) (For Area Ac.0.013dec./566.28 Sqft of Sub Plot No.: H-82) by North: Road, South: Sub Plot No.: H-82(P), East: Sub Plot No.: H-81, West: Road, 2) Vacant Land with Boundary at Khata No.: 270/53, Plot No.: 141/931, Area: Ac.0.046dec., Corresponding to Settlement Khata No.: 155, Plot No.: 141, Area: Ac.0.046dec. (termed as Sub Plot No.: H-84) o/o Ac.1.18 dec. situated at Mouza: Badaragunathpur, Jatri, standing in the name of Mrs. Sarmista Sahu , W/o: Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu, Bounded by North: Sub Plot No.: H-82, South: Sub Plot No.: H-86, East: Sub Plot No.: H-83, West: Road
CHAULIGANJ BRANCH/ 1) Borrower: Mrs. Bandita Swain, Co-Borrower: Mr. Biswaranjan Swain / Guarantor: Mr. Chitaranjan Swain, All are at Netaji Nagar, Near Pancharukhi Hanuman Temple, Madhupatna, Dist.: Cuttack	1) ₹4,51,199.71 2) ₹5,10,611.44 Total: ₹9,61,811.15 + interest & expenses thereon	02.08.2021 / 30.10.2021	All that part and parcel of the Land & Building consisting of Khata No.: 620/1655, Plot No.: 228/3604, Area: Ac.0.041dec., Mouza: Tarol, Tahasil: Tangi-choudwar, P.S.: Tangi, SRO: Jagatpur, Cuttack, standing in the name of Mr. Chitaranjan Swain & Mr. Biswaranjan Swain , Bounded (as per sale deed) by North: Brahmananda Barik, South: Brahmananda Barik, East: Ismlie Road, West: Brahmananda Barik
2) Borrower: M/s. Deepali Motors, Prop.: Mrs. Bandita Swain / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Biswaranjan Swain, All are at Netaji Nagar, Near Pancharukhi Hanuman Temple, Madhupatna, Dist.: Cuttack			
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 02.11.2021		Authorised Officer, Bank of India	



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

SRI AUROBINDO



G20 & COP26

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

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 powerful 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.

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 funding 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.

WISDOM CORNER

A wise man can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer. BRUCE LEE

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth. MUHAMMAD ALI

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

WORDSWORTH

■ 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-year-old 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 novel *The Moon and 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.

GOOD TERROR, BAD TERROR

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS



Saeed Naqvi

SOMETIMES THE PROBLEM FOR AMERICANS IS 'AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM'

Terrorists 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.

That is why Joe Biden has to be taken with a pinch of salt. "We withdrew from Afghanistan because our mission was over: Afghanistan would never be used for terror attacks against the United States." Maybe not against the US, but trained terrorists are in the drill for action against Iran, China, Russia, countries which are quaking with fear that Islamic extremists may target them. What on earth is going on?

Anyone watching the Syrian tragedy since 2011, cannot forget Abu Sakkār, the Free Syrian Army's 'heart eating cannibal'. Sakkār 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 Syria. 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?

away with loot in arms and cash. Asked how many hands trained on his watch were still in battle, Lloyd mumbled 'four...five'.

Against this perspective terrorism is something that 'they', the bad guys, indulge in, but when a peacenik President like Jimmy Carter, arranges for the Saudis to open their coffers for sums in excess of billions to fund hundreds of 'madrassas' on the Pakistan side of the Afghan border, hundreds of thousands of Mujahideen are trained, stinger missiles are placed on their shoulders to expel the Soviets from Afghanistan and lo and behold the Mujahideen have acquired the halo of a martyr's brigade.

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

careless slip by, say, the US President, is priceless copy. Let me give you an example.

It is the summer of 2014. President Obama is livid with Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al Maliki for refusing to sign the Status of Forces agreement before US troops depart. Maliki has to be ousted.

July 4, 2014, Abu Bakr al Baghdadi releases a video from Mosul's main mosque. He declares the formation of the Islamic caliphate. Within months the Islamic state warriors in glistening new Humvees, hurtle towards Baghdad. I call up Iraqi contacts. "Yes US planes are pretending to bomb ISIS but the bombs are falling on the Shia militia." And there are many of these in Iraq.

August 14, 2014, Obama gives a 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 game away in his response.

"If I had ordered a bunch of airstrikes then, it would have taken the pressure off Maliki."

In September 2014, Maliki is

shown the door. Obviously, Obama knew that he was taking a like-minded 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.

IAN S

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

SRK's woes & Balraj Sahni's wisdom

There is more than a grain of truth in the view being aired of a concerted attempt to defame the Hindi film industry, to 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 extort money from the richest and the best-known star of the film industry.

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

bureaucrats, with or without blessings from above, and sometimes to help 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

glorified and sanctified. In contrast, 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 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

Khan rendering national service no 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



Jagdish Rattanani

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

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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



OrissaPOST

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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 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

BLACK FLAGS SHOWN TO MoS MISHRA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Golamunda, Nov 1: Diba 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

EMERGENCY TREATMENT

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 Ichhapur 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 Centre-sponsored 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 allotted 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 district, there is an alleged bid to embezzle funds sanctioned for Pachhikota School, a report said. According to the report, ₹60 lakh has been sanctioned for each of these schools from Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Development 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 alleged that no tender has been floated for smart classroom 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 asbestos-roofed building of the school. "There is a need for a new building for smart classrooms. Those who have taken the work are planning to only whitewash the old school building to mint money without doing any construction work," local revealed. They have expressed their displeasure over the way the contractors are trying to botch up the work and loot government funds.

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

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 completed. Locals further alleged that officials from the block monitor the work and in their absence the contractor is minting money by neglecting the work. "So far no new furniture has not been purchased. Similarly, no step is being taken for e-library, sincece laboratory, sports equipment, drinking water facility, playground upgradation," the locals rued. The residents said tha contractors have been trying to complete 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 District Collector needs to intervene into the matter and ask the contractors to execute the work properly.



Bandh disrupts life in Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 1: Continuing its tirade against MoS (Home) Diba 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 establishments and government and non-government institutions, educational institutions remained closed across the district. Roads wore a deserted look as people remained at home and vehicles did not ply.

MAMITA MEHER MURDER CASE



The agitating BJP members led by their district president Aswini Sarangi also picketed at several key locations of Bargarh Town and blocked the national highway affecting vehicular movement to 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 Diba 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-foot 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.

YOUTH HELD FOR EXTORTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 1: Police arrested 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



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.

Ex-employee encroaches upon Khadi manufacturing centre

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 Nayagarh district has encroached upon the centre for several years. Locals alleged that the accused 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 Jana, 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 NETWORK

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 Swabhimam, 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-

MISSION ZERO GPS. The civic body plans to enroll every household in the town with a digital door number and provide various services to them through a QR code. Residents can download 'Safa' app and pay for parking ticket, fee for market stall and book community centres like Kalyan Mandap without visiting the civic body office. Zero GPS programme will be implemented under Mo Swabhimam, Mo Ganjam, scheme in which the roadsides in the town will be cleared of unwanted grass and weed. The move aims to ensure zero presence of plastic, grass and soil in the town thereby showcasing an example for others. Kulange sought the cooperation

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 Jana, 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

Schools reopen in Delhi after 19 months

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 minister played a patient. "Met this special Doctor today in a school classroom. Full body check up, injection, medicine prescription, and instructions to 'avoid icecream'...God...I was missing this..." Sisodia tweeted while sharing a few pictures showing the student examining him using a toy stethoscope.

At the Government CO-ED Senior Secondary School, Lajpat Nagar,



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

ister played a patient. "Met this special Doctor today in a school classroom. Full body check up, injection, medicine prescription, and instructions to 'avoid icecream'...God...I was missing this..." Sisodia tweeted while sharing a few pictures showing the student examining him using a toy stethoscope.

At the Government CO-ED Senior Secondary School, Lajpat Nagar,

a class 8 student said, "I am excited to attend school regularly henceforth. It felt good to be back after almost two years." "Online classes were definitely useful but during physical classes, we can always clear our doubts then and there. Due to network issues, sometimes, we don't get a clear picture of what's going on and it is quite tiring for eyes to keep looking at the screen for so 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.

Kolkata police to hire electric 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



IMAGE SOURCE: PTI

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

charging of the electric vehicles is ₹8 per km and the maintenance cost of these vehicles is also minimum. 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 vehicles.

"So, this would not only be environment friendly and pollution free but it will be cost effective also," the officer added. The state government had earlier inducted 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.

Covid leaves over 100 Delhi kids orphaned



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

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.

"We will not wait for people to apply, but functionaries of the government will go to 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



A file image of New Delhi

between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe"

Delhi gauged 122.5 mm of rainfall in October; the highest in the month since 236.2 mm of precipi-

tation recorded in 1956, according to the India Meteorological Department. Stubble burning and its share in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution also remained low due to bountiful rain.

According to data from the Indian 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 Maharaja 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 get-

ting their pension and other allowances."

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 continue 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 various audits, they did not find anything. 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.

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 last-minute 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.



PTI PHOTO

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

cannot go check if people walking on the road are wearing masks

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.

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 elderly, through public address systems at railway stations to avoid unnecessary travel. ER, a Kolkata-headquartered 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

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
HOSEIN 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



of the day quote

Algeria will re-evaluate the association agreement with the European Union (EU)
ABDELMADJID TEBBOUNE | ALGERIAN PRESIDENT

Humanity had run down the clock when it comes to climate change
BORIS JOHNSON | BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

In order to make possible a booster vaccination for as many as possible as quickly as possible, states should get the 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 struck 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-Aumid late Sunday and the casualties included women and children, they said.

Barclays CEO steps down

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.

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 guerrilla leaders said was an ambush. Jorge Madros, 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

London: 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.

READY TO ROCK



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

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 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.

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 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

COP26 SUMMIT



Modi was warmly greeted by his British counterpart Boris Johnson upon his arrival at the Scottish Exhibition Centre to attend the opening ceremony of the COP26 climate summit where he would deliver a national statement. Modi, who arrived in Glasgow

Sunday night from Rome, was received by Johnson and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and was then seen interacting animatedly with them (photo alongside). The three leaders also attended the G20 Summit in Italy which concluded Sunday.

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 says 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 Ger Jant, 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 -



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

TIME TO ACT

Raising sea levels can also alter patterns of ocean and atmospheric circulation that affect weather conditions across the 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

