



OPPORTUNITIES GALORE

Actor Richa Chadha says OTT has given the much needed recognition to new talents and diversified the content

LEISURE P2



YAHOO PULLS OUT OF CHINA

Yahoo Inc. Said Tuesday it has pulled out of China, citing an "increasingly challenging business and legal environment"

INTERNATIONAL P10



BCCI UNHAPPY

BCCI may remove Virat Kohli from the captaincy of the ODI squad due to poor show in ICC events

SPORTS P12



Khel Ratna for Pramod Bhagat

New Delhi: Pramod Bhagat, Para Olympics gold medalist in badminton was Tuesday selected for this year's Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna award. Olympic bronze-winning Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh was added to the list of Khel Ratna awardees, taking the total number of this year's winners to an unparalleled 12, with the ceremony scheduled for November 13 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The other prominent Khel Ratna winners this year include Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra and Olympic silver-medallist wrestler Ravi Dahiya. Among 35 Arjuna awardees are most of India's Paralympic medal winners and cricketers Shikhar Dhawan and Mithali Raj. The Khel Ratna award is given for most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sports person over a period of previous four years. P12



State govt hikes daily wages by paltry ₹4

Bhubaneswar: The state government has revised the minimum daily wages of unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly-skilled labourers in the state. Labour Commissioner N Thirumala Naik issued a notification in this regard. The daily wages of labourers have been increased by hiking their Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) by ₹4. With the hike in the VDA, the minimum daily wages for unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled workers have been increased to ₹315, ₹355, ₹405 and ₹465, respectively with effect from October 2021. The variable dearness allowance is revised every six months in the interest of the labourers. The state government has been providing focused attention and efforts towards skilling the workforce in Odisha.

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Bhub-Jaipur direct flight service begins

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia Tuesday virtually inaugurated a direct flight service between Bhubaneswar and Rajasthan's Jaipur. Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Dharmendra Pradhan also attended the occasion over virtual platforms.

IndiGo Airlines will be operating flights between Bhubaneswar and Jaipur thrice a week - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. "I feel honoured to have inaugurated the direct flight between the capital cities of Odisha and Rajasthan... This will boost tourism potential and ensure exchange of culture," the civil aviation minister said.

Scindia also said that efforts are underway to enhance the passenger handling capacity at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar from 25 lakh to 35 lakh with an investment of ₹200 crore. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, on the occasion, said that tourists in Rajasthan will also get an opportunity to visit Odisha.

The direct flight will boost the tourism prospects of both the states, he maintained. Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan September 17 had written to Scindia seeking his intervention for the commencement of flight services between the two cities.

"I thank Scindia Ji and all staff of his ministry for making this (direct flight services) happen. I also thank the authorities of Indigo," Pradhan said.

Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, who was at the airport during the inauguration, said she has further urged the civil aviation minister to provide direct flight services from Bhubaneswar to Jammu, Shirdi and Guwahati.



PROTEST STUNT: Climate campaigners wearing masks of world leaders enact a Squid Game themed protest stunt with protesters wearing masks of Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison, centre left, and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, centre right, on the fringes of the COP26 UN Climate Summit in Glasgow, Tuesday

Man kills wife, son after loss in shares

Under stress after losing money in share trading, man strangles wife, 10-yr-old son to death in City's outskirts
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The Capital city that has turned into a hotbed of crime Tuesday witnessed yet another ghastly murder of a 10-year-old minor and his mother at Kalinga Vihar area under Tamando police limits. Initial reports suggested financial problem due to heavy losses in share trading as the cause of the murders.

Speaking to media, Deputy Commissioner of Police Umashankar Dash said Abanti Bijay Mangaraj, 40, has been detained by the police. He claimed the accused has confessed to killing his wife and son.

The deceased woman was identified as Swarnalata Mangaraj, 35, while the minor son studied in

Class IV. Sources claimed the accused strangled both his wife and son to death. The locals spotted the bodies lying in a room.

The accused also informed his nephew residing in Hyderabad after the brutal murder. Mangaraj works as a manager at a vehicle servicing center at Patia in Chandrasekharpur area.

"He was having financial problem due to loss in share market. He decided to kill his family members and thought of killing himself. As per his statement yesterday, he mixed sleeping tablets in food. His wife and son fell asleep and at 3 am today he killed both by strangulation them with a stole of his wife. Later, he tried to harm himself with a knife. He could not succeed and later left the house and was roaming around. He informed his nephew around 3 pm who in turn informed police through some other person. Police apprehended him this evening," DCP said.

No forest vow: India

India voiced concerns around linkages made in the final text with trade; refuses to sign up on ending deforestation by 2030

AGENCIES

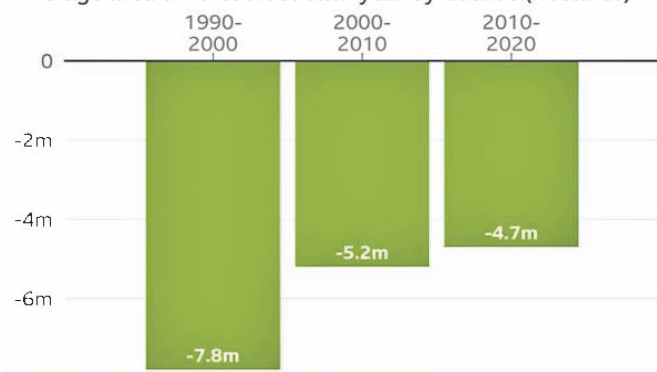
Glasgow, Nov 2: India is among the countries that has chosen not to sign up to a Leaders' Declaration on ending deforestation by 2030 at the COP26 climate summit on Tuesday, which is signed by over 100 countries including China and Brazil.

The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use commits the signatories to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation, backed by almost 14 billion pounds in public and private funding. According to official sources, India had some concerns around linkages made in the final text with trade.

British PM Boris Johnson, who formally launched the declaration Tuesday, termed it a "landmark" agreement to protect and restore the earth's forests. "These great teeming ecosystems - these cathedrals of nature - are the lungs of our planet. Forests support communities, livelihoods and food supply, and absorb the carbon we pump into the atmosphere. They are essential to our very survival," said Johnson. "With today's unprecedented

The world's forests are still decreasing in size

Average area of forest lost each year by decade (hectares)



pledges, we will have a chance to end humanity's long history as nature's conqueror, and instead become its custodian," he said.

The text of the final declaration covers transformative action in the interconnected areas of sus-

tainable production and consumption; infrastructure development; trade; finance and investment; and support for smallholders and local communities.

"We will strengthen our shared efforts to... facilitate trade and development policies, internationally and domestically, that promote sustainable development, and sustainable commodity production and consump-

tion, that work to countries' mutual benefit, and that do not drive deforestation and land degradation," the text notes in reference to trade which caused concern on the Indian side.

The declaration will be supported by a pledge to provide 8.75 billion pounds of public finance from 12 countries, including the UK, from 2021-2025. This will support activities in developing countries, including restoring degraded land, tackling wildfires and supporting the rights of indigenous communities. Countries from the northern forests of Canada and Russia to tropical rainforests of Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo endorsed the declaration.

COP26 SUMMIT

SOP on use & sale of green crackers issued

As a follow-up of SC and HC orders on use and sale of green crackers, Chief Secretary directs Collectors and SPs to strictly comply with the directions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: A day after Orissa High Court allowed sale and use of green crackers during Diwali this year, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra Tuesday directed all Collectors, SPs and Police Commissioner to strictly enforce the directions issued for this purpose.

The Collectors and SPs were asked to enforce the instructions of the Supreme Court, High Court and Special Relief Commissioner regarding the sale and use of green crackers. Holding a meeting with the officials through video conference from Lokaseva Bhawan, Mahapatra made it clear that public health and post-Covid care of the persons recovering from Covid were of prime importance.

"There must be proper balance between public health and celebration. Only the cracker certified by the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO) would be sold and used. No trader or retailer would sell crackers without



a valid license for sale from respective Collectors or Police Commissioner," he said.

All cracker vendors and people violating the orders would be strictly dealt with as per provisions of the law, he further said. Mahapatra also said that nobody would be permitted to use crackers on roads and public places. People should use only the green crackers inside the premises of their own houses.

Explaining the direction of the apex court, SRC Pardeep Kumar Jena clarified that no trader or retailer should be allowed to deal in crackers by merely showing the code of green certification on the product.

PESO certified items of green crackers and names of the factories producing those items must be there on the product. The certificates produced by the retailers could be verified from PESO before issue of the trading and retail license, he said.

Bypoll blow to BJP in Himachal

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 2: The BJP and its allies Tuesday won 14 Assembly seats while the Congress bagged eight out of 29 seats in the latest round of bypolls with results mostly favouring ruling parties in the states except in Himachal Pradesh where the BJP lost all three Assembly seats and the prestigious Mandi Lok Sabha constituency to the Congress, and Telangana.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress got a ringing endorsement from the electors as it won all four Assembly seats, including two



that it snatched from the BJP with a staggering 75.02 percent vote share. The results from the 13 states were a mixed bag for the BJP as well as the Congress, which gained in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, wresting seats from the saffron party, but suffered losses in Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya.

In the final tally, BJP got seven Assembly seats while its allies JD(U) won two (Bihar), United Peoples' Party Liberal - two (Assam), MNF - one (Mizoram) and NPP - two (Meghalaya). NPP's ally UDP also got one seat. Congress won eight seats, TMC four; YSRC one and INLD one seat. One Lok Sabha seat each was bagged by the Congress, Shiv Sena and the BJP.

The sympathy factor appeared to have worked for the parties as Congress's Pratibha Singh, wife of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh who died in July, won in Mandi Lok Sabha seat while Shiv Sena candidate Kalaben Delkar, wife of former independent MP Mohan Delkar whose death necessitated the by-election, bagged Dadrada and Nagar Haveli Lok Sabha seat.

The Congress cited the bypoll results to attack Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to shed arrogance, repeal the three farm laws and stop petrol and diesel "loot".

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	60029.06	↓ 109.40
NIFTY	17889.00	↓ 40.70
DOLLAR	74.62	↓ ₹0.20
EURO	86.52	↓ ₹0.31
GOLD	₹47,635	↓ ₹268
SILVER	₹63,217	↓ ₹1574

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	28.2°C	28.4°C
TEMP MIN	21.6°C	20.8°C
Humidity	85%	77%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

Robots hit streets as demand for food delivery grows

Pandemic-related labor crunch and a growing preference for contactless delivery have hastened deployment of robots in food delivery business

AGENCIES

Ann Arbor (US), Nov 2: Robot food delivery is no longer the stuff of science fiction. But you may not see it in your neighbourhood anytime soon.

Hundreds of little robots - knee-high and able to hold around four large pizzas - are now navigating college campuses and even some city sidewalks in the US, the UK and elsewhere. While robots were being tested in limited num-

bers before the coronavirus hit, the companies building them say pandemic-related labor shortages and a growing preference for contactless delivery have accelerated their deployment.

"We saw demand for robot usage just go through the ceiling," said Alastair Westgarth, the CEO of Starship Technologies, which recently completed its 2 millionth delivery. "I think demand was always there, but it was brought forward by the pandemic effect."

Starship has more than 1,000 robots in its fleet, up from just 250 in 2019. Hundreds more will be deployed soon. They're delivering food on 20 U.S. Campuses; 25 more will be added soon. They're also operating on sidewalks in Milton



Keynes, England; Modesto, California; and the company's hometown of Tallin, Estonia.

Robot designs vary; some have four wheels and some have six, for ex-

ample. But generally, they use cameras, sensors, GPS and sometimes laser scanners to navigate sidewalks and even cross streets autonomously. They move around 5 mph.

leisure



PARIS HILTON CHANNELS HER INNER 'SEXY CINDERELLA'

Socialite-entrepreneur Paris Hilton gave a spin of 'sexy' to the Disney princess Cinderella for Halloween. Paris shared a string of pictures on social media dressed up as the princess but with a twist. Instead of wearing a floor sweeping ice blue gown, she chose a thigh length ensemble paired with gloves and a tiara.

CHRIS PRATT TO VOICE 'GARFIELD' IN UPCOMING ANIMATED FILM

Hollywood star Chris Pratt has been set to voice the famous feline 'Garfield' in a new animated feature film. Alcon Entertainment is producing the movie, with Sony Pictures on board to release Garfield's latest adventure in theatres globally (excluding China). A release date will be announced at another time, reports *variety.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You may feel empty, and completely down-and-out today. Ganesh says that this may make you feel a bit more inclined to spirituality. Meditation and prayer will engage more of your attention. You will also make considerable material progress.

TAURUS
It is more than likely that you will emerge victorious in all your meetings and outings today, predicts Ganesh. Your calm temperament will not let you flinch in the face of pressure. It is in your best interest to take some time to cope with all the stress, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
It is better for you to swim with the current in all of today's dealings, suggests Ganesh. This will help you effortlessly deal with even the most morbid state of affairs. No need to be a hero, today. Pleasure is the key word for you.

CANCER
Today, it will be all about finding your comfort zone, and spending the day there. You are likely to spend most of the day with your close friends. Your smooth demeanour will help you breeze through all business deals. The opposite sex may find you irresistible.

LEO
Don't expect you'll be handed everything on a silver platter. Especially today, you must put such expectations on the back burner, says Ganesh. Today, you would do better to dig deep into your resources of persistence, as a somewhat less productive day awaits you. But do not let this momentary glitch upset you; stick to your plan and slog it out.

VIRGO
A cocktail of business and pleasure is on the house today. Parties will run till dawn. You will also take the correct route to success by making important decisions. People will stand to gain if they involve you in their do, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
The Bhagavad Gita says, "Do your duty without expecting the fruit." Remember this important lesson and strive hard to put in extra efforts to finish off whatever you undertake to do. Worrying about results will only hamper your progress. Go with the flow and let results come to you.

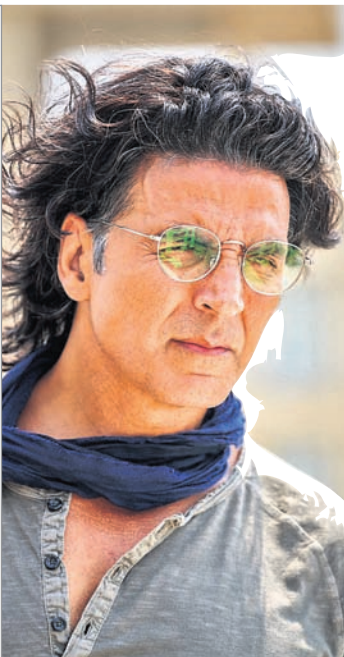
SCORPIO
The day just went from bad to worse today, says Ganesh. Troubles are coming in faster and thicker than a locust swarm. But keep a leash on yourself, says Ganesh, and steer clear of it all. Take criticism in your stride today and pay attention to what is being said, not who is saying them.

SAGITTARIUS
Hedge your bets carefully, says Ganesh. Solving problems will come naturally to you. But, beware, as you may face the music from certain disgruntled individuals. Worry not, and keep the spring in your step.

CAPRICORN
Ganesh can hear the wedding bells. There is all the likelihood that you will find your perfect match today and will let him/her know about your feelings, says Ganesh. Your family means the world to you and you will be more expressive about this today than you have been in the past few years. In fact, your warm feelings will be reciprocated in equal measure and you will be showered with love—unconditional and unrestrained.

AQUARIUS
Meditate, and tune in to your inner sanctum. As you do this, you will realise you don't need others' advice all the time. Your boss will cooperate with you, while your loved ones will encourage you. An exciting date should close the day on a lovely note, says Ganesh.

PISCES
A highly productive day awaits you. You will be driven to succeed, and filled with energy and enthusiasm to achieve your goals. Meetings with your superiors ought to yield some much anticipated results, says Ganesh.



Akshay sold jewellery, made samosas before joining films

Mumbai: Akshay Kumar has shared about his life before he entered the entertainment industry. He will be playing the KBC with host Amitabh Bachchan for a social cause. Amitabh Bachchan asks Akshay about his life before he ventured into acting. And Akshay said that before getting into the film industry he used to sell 'Kundan' jewellery in Delhi. "I used to purchase Kundan jewellery from Delhi for about Rs 7,000 to Rs 10,000 and would come to Mumbai to sell it, which would help me earn a profit of Rs 11,000 to 12,000. I did this for about 3 to 4 years," Akshay said. Furthermore, Amitabh asks him about the days when he was a chef. Akshay replied to this saying: "I used to make and serve jalebis, chole-bhathure, samosas at an eating joint. There used to be a wall right behind me and usually in every restaurant, the chefs usually put up a picture of someone on the walls. I had four people's pictures put up on my wall. Yours, Jackie Chan, Sridevi and Sylvester Stallone's images. And, look at my fate today! I've worked with all four." The episode will be airing November 5 on Sony Entertainment Television.



B-Town showers love as SRK turns 56

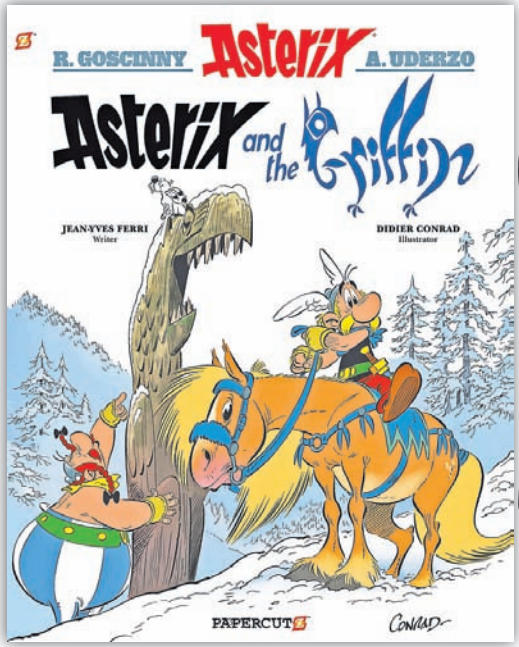
Mumbai: A slew of Hindi film personalities took to social media to wish the 'King of Romance' on his 56th birthday. As it was his birthday, #HappyBirthdaySRK was among the biggest trends on Twitter. **Juhi Chawla** commemorated the occasion by pledging 500 trees in his name. "I have the privilege of witnessing his humanity and heart... an unmatched father... a rock-solid husband... a loving brother and an indispensable friend... May every *Mannat* of yours get answered" Tweeted **Karan Johar**. "Aaj apne bhai ka birthday hai. Happy birthday mere bhai," said **Salman Khan** as he posted a photo with Shah Rukh Khan. "Happy Birth Day to the most humble and ever charming Shah Rukh. May you live a long and happy life," wrote **Madhuri Dixit**. SRK's *Asoka* co-star **Kareena Kapoor** posted a monochrome picture and said, "Forever ruling.. Happy Birth Day SRK." Actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** wrote: "Happy Birthday Shah sir Hope you and your family stay safe. This is the wish that has come from my heart." Veteran actress **Simi Garewal** tweeted: "Happy birthday dear @iamsrk! What a bright light u are SRK. Just keep shining." Filmmaker duo **Abbas Mustan** wrote a simple message. "Dear Shahrukh bhai @iamsrk wishing you a very happy birthday..God bless you," the message read.

Asterix is back with 39th adventure

Filled with jokes, new characters and bravely fought battles, Asterix and the Griffin are set to delight fans old and new

Deep in the frozen plains of Barbaricum, the Sarmatians face a terrible threat. The Romans are approaching in huge numbers to capture the Griffin, a sacred and terrifying beast, and they've kidnapped the beloved niece of the wise old Shaman, Fanciakuppov, to lead them to it. Determined to stop them, Fanciakuppov seeks the help of his Gaulish friends. Follow Asterix and Obelix as they fight alongside the fearless Amazon warrior women to rescue the prisoner and prevent the Romans reaching this formidable beast!

1959, is a French writer, designer, and colourist of comics. In 2011, he was



Loved across the Known World, the multi-million bestselling series is back with its 39th adventure. Filled with jokes, new characters and bravely fought battles, Asterix and the Griffin (Sphere/Hachette) will delight fans old and new. The author, Jean-Yves Ferri, born

chosen as the writer for the next instalment of the Asterix series created by Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo. Uderzo personally mentored him and Didier Conrad, who was subsequently announced as the artist. Didier Conrad (born in 1959) is a French comics artist and writer. Since 2012, he has been the artist of the popular Asterix series. AGENCIES



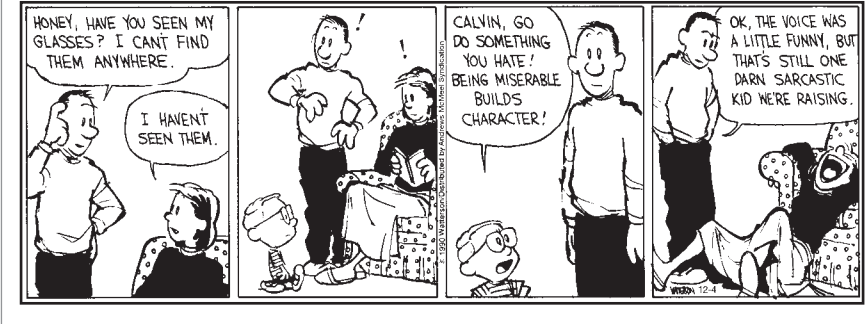
'OTT is the present and the future too'

Mumbai: Richa Chadha has been very selective with regards to her projects on OTT but despite her choice of limited appearances, the actress is a favourite of OTT platforms. Over the years, she has given several amazing performances and been appreciated by both the audience and the critics. In her opinion, OTT has given the much needed recognition to new talent and has diversified the content. A lot was said about the medium of OTT in its nascent stage. Majority of the people in the content industry were not confident about the scale of OTT and whether screening films on digital platforms would prove to be a profitable method. Talking about monumental developments in the OTT arena, Richa said, "All those who said that OTT can't replace films are now scouting and running around to make OTT projects and expedite. OTT is the present and the future and it will keep evolving and expanding. With the entry of global giants into India, I think the overall standard of series will only improve." She feels that the medium has given us remarkable performances and prominent talents who were earlier not getting the right opportunity to exhibit their prowess. The actress adds, "It has brought a lot of amazing talent - like Prateik Gandhi, Jaideep Ahlawat and, (has) given the audience a chance to view their favourite actors like Shafali Shah and Manisha Koirala in newer roles. This is not to say that the cinema experience is now a thing of the past. No. I believe both will co-exist." Richa is currently gearing up for a string of projects in the pipeline.. She will also be seen donning the producer's hat for her maiden project titled *Girls will be Girls*.

PEANUTS



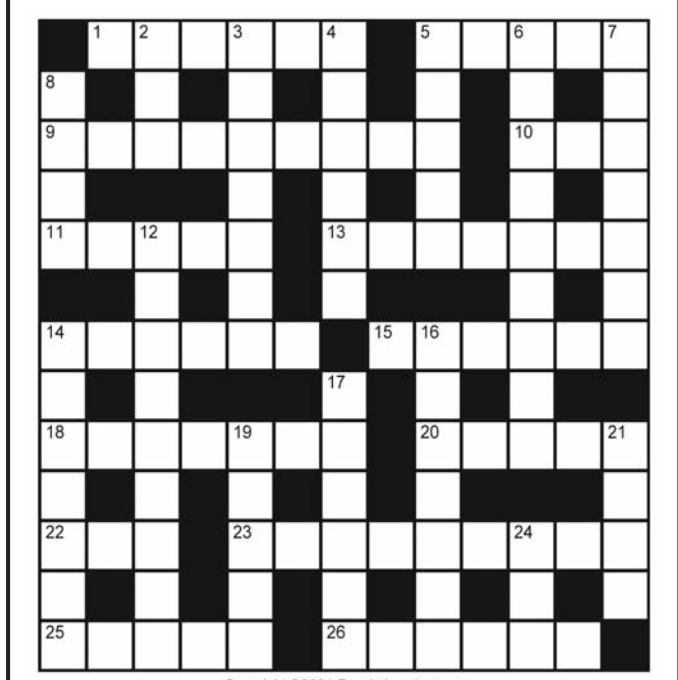
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



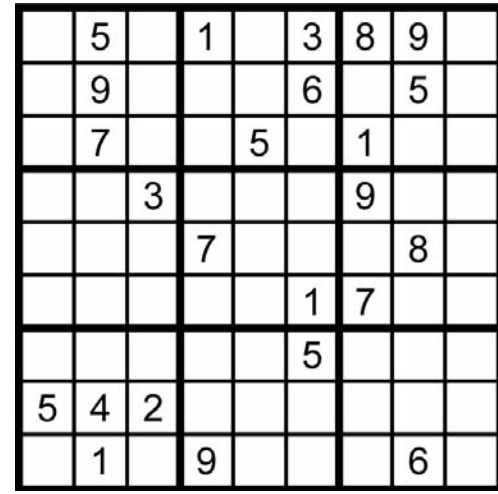
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Cha-chas and sambas
 - 5 Petrol unit
 - 9 Turkish bath (5,4)
 - 10 Fleur-de-___
 - 11 Perfect
 - 13 Deodorant type
 - 14 Move out
 - 15 Old World monkey
 - 18 Gin cocktail
 - 20 Underground chamber
 - 22 Belfast grp.
 - 23 Some gags (3-6)
 - 25 Fencing swords
 - 26 Invalidates
 - Down**
 - 2 Pub order
 - 3 King Arthur's kingdom
 - 4 Catch phrase
 - 5 Large-eyed primate
 - 6 Fisherman's tale, maybe (4,5)
 - 7 5th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 8 Italian wine center
 - 12 Condemn
 - 14 Dracula, for one
 - 16 Bidding venue
 - 17 Movie theatre
 - 19 Wrinkle removers
 - 21 Undertaking
 - 24 Aquarium denizen

SUDOKU

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

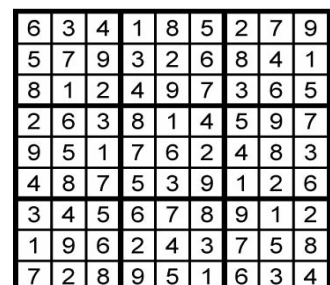


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

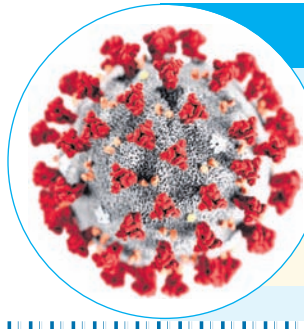
downtown

STIR OVER PRICE RISE



Activists of CPI and BKMU hold a demonstration at Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, to protest against the price rise

COVID-19 TRACKER



	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	24,80,36,713	22,46,73,742	50,24,400
India	3,42,96,237	3,36,83,581	4,58,880
Odisha	10,42,100	10,30,026	8,340

HC for Sundargarh Coop Bank polls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 2: The Orissa High Court has directed the State Cooperative Election Commission to conduct elections for the office-bearers of Sundargarh Central Cooperative Bank and its affiliated cooperative societies within stipulated time.

A division bench of Justice Bishwajit Mohanty also made it clear that the state government would extend all possible help for the elections.

Petitioner Bhawani Prasad Majhi had informed the court that the tenures of elected office-bearers to the Sundargarh Central Cooperative Bank and its affiliated cooperative societies ended April 30, 2020.

In the absence of elected office-bearers, the cooperative bank and the societies are being managed by the administrators.

Nod to ₹190cr Srimandir budget

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Nov 2: The Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee Tuesday approved ₹190 crore annual budget for the 12th century shrine for 2021-22 fiscal.

Chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Krishan Kumar said there is a plan to generate revenue of ₹106 crore from earning and peg the budgetary expenditure at ₹85 crore.

The temple managing committee chaired by Dibyasingha Deb, the Gajapati Maharaja or titular king of Puri, approved the actual receipt and expenditure for 2020-21 and also cleared the budget estimate for 2021-22 fiscal, Kumar said.

The temple authorities have planned to generate income of around ₹37 crore from interests.

“We expect the corpus fund amount to be around ₹750 crore



The temple authorities have planned to generate income of around ₹37 crore from interests

during 2021-22,” he said.

The SJTA chief said the administration has obtained cluster environmental clearance for stone quarries in Tapang and Khurda areas, which are owned by the Srimandir.

Individual environmental clearance for stone quarries is expected before March 2022, he said.

The SJTA will soon sign an MoU with state-owned Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) for the production of Khondalite stones which are in high demand.

An income of around ₹60 crore is expected to be generated from the execution of land deeds and acquisitions.

The temple authorities also decided to reassess the land leased to Cashew Development Corporation.

The quality and quantity of materials used for rituals was also taken up for discussion, he said.

The temple is planning to launch some donation schemes during ‘Makar Sankranti’ (January 14), the online portal for which will be unveiled soon, the SJTA chief administrator said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Vig nabs Nimapara tehsildar, brother

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack/Nimapara, Nov 2: The state Vigilance Tuesday arrested Nimapara tehsildar and sub-registrar (in-charge) Rama Chandra Jena for amassing disproportionate assets (DA) and his brother, Laxman, on charges of helping the government servant accumulate the ill-gotten wealth.

Earlier in the day, acting on a tip-off, the anti-corruption wing sleuths intercepted the government official near his Nimapara residence and recovered ₹4.65 lakh in cash from him. “Later, while searching his residence, ₹50,000 in cash was recovered,” said an official, adding Jena could not give any satisfactory account of the source of the huge cash.

Following the recovery, the Vigilance team, comprising an additional SP, seven DSPs and two inspectors, carried out simultaneous raids at Jena’s residence at CDA Sector-11 in Cuttack, a house at Jajpur’s Dhanmandal and native village at Garadpur in Kendrapara district.

Soon after, a case (7/2021) was registered with the Vigilance Cell.

“During the raid, the official was found in possession of five PAN cards. All the cards bore his name, but with varying numbers, father’s name and date of birth. Income Tax authorities have been informed about the same,” the official added.

Jena was also involved in two other Vigilance cases registered in Cuttack—one for illegal settlement of land and issuance of patta and another for illegal conversion of agricultural land, said the official.

The Nimapara tehsildar took his brother’s help in amassing the ill-gotten wealth. “Rama Chandra had asked his brother to visit Nimapara at least thrice in September this year to collect ₹10 lakh, mostly bribe money, from him. Laxman had deposited the amount in an account maintained with a private bank. On Monday night, Rama Chandra had also called his brother to collect ₹4.5 lakh from him early Tuesday morning. However, the anti-corruption wing sleuths nabbed the official by the time Laxman reached Nimapara,” a Vigilance official said quoting Laxman. The official added the bank account has been frozen.

BJD, Opposition fight on streets

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Nov 2: Opposition parties held demonstrations against Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday during his visit to Sambalpur for his silence in the Kalahandi woman teacher’s kidnap and murder case and ruling BJD activists allegedly attacked and seriously injured a Youth Congress leader.

The opposition parties’ workers waved black flags at Patnaik demanding answers from the government for delaying action against minister D S Mishra for his alleged links with the prime accused in the case. The BJP took out a protest rally when Patnaik was distributing smart health cards to beneficiaries at a function at Kuchinda on Tuesday, the police said.

While shops with PESO certificate will be allowed to sell green crackers, not a single cracker vendor in the Capital city has applied for the same

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: With the state government implementing the Supreme Court and High Court orders on green Diwali, firecracker traders in the Capital city are all set to witness yet another year of heavy losses.

Issuing a set of guidelines Monday, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena stated that sale and use of green crackers will only be allowed from 8pm to 10pm. While it banned fireworks including series crackers, the SRC also mentioned that traders will not be allowed to sell crackers by labelling them (normal crackers) as ‘green crackers’ and strict enforcement will be put in place to ensure the same.

The fresh ban on the usual crackers just ahead of Diwali is set to incur heavy losses to the traders here. Last year too, the state government had restricted the sale of firecrackers just two days ahead of Diwali.

“Expecting a surge in demand, we had to order in bulk ahead of Diwali. I had placed 100 boxes of orders worth ₹15 lakh last month. This is about 60 per cent less than what I had been ordering before the pandemic. Now even I would incur losses. We have already been struggling as marriage processions and other such events have been prohibited. These restrictions will ruin our business,” said Abhikanta Mohanty, a trader here.

Imported largely from Tamil Nadu, firecracker business in state is estimated to be around ₹70-90 crore. Out of this, the twin city facilitates largest markets in the state with about ₹10-20 crore firework business every year. Cuttack and Bhubaneswar also have more than 100 dealers involved in the cracker business.



However, the SRC in its order stated that only those traders who will obtain and produce a certificate from Petroleum And Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) will be allowed to sell green crackers after due inspection of their existing stock. Online sale of crackers has also been completely banned.

“Green crackers are yet to reach the local markets. There is no chance of it being available in the markets by Diwali. Even though it manages to reach the city in time, it will take time to go through all the official procedures,” said Akash Patnaik, secretary of Bhubaneswar Firecrackers Traders’ Association.

SUBDUED FEST

THE FRESH BAN ON THE USUAL CRACKERS JUST AHEAD OF DIWALI IS SET TO INCUR HEAVY LOSSES TO THE TRADERS

IMPORTED LARGELY FROM TAMIL NADU, FIRECRACKER BUSINESS IN STATE IS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND ₹70-90 CRORE

OUT OF THIS, THE TWIN CITY FACILITATES LARGEST MARKETS IN THE STATE WITH ABOUT ₹10-20 CRORE FIREWORK BUSINESS EVERY YEAR

Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Umashankar Dash, Tuesday, also said that shops with PESO certificate can only be allowed to sell crackers.

“However, no one has applied for selling crackers under the same and action will be taken if anyone is found selling crackers illegally,” he added.

BMC bans Paya Shradha near Bindusagar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Commission (BMC) Tuesday banned Paya Shradha and Pinda Dana rituals at Bindusagar Lake and Lion’s Gate of Lingaraj temple here on the day of Diwali this year.

The restrictions have been imposed with apprehension that large congregation would lead to spread of novel coronavirus.

A letter from the BMC Commissioner said, “In view of the restrictions imposed by the government on large religious congregations, a ban has been imposed on Paya Shradha and Pinda Dana at the Bindusagar Lake and Singha Dwara of Lord Lingaraj Temple on Diwali.”

Similarly, in a separate order, the civic authority also prohibited congregation at different water bodies in the Capital city on the occasion of Chhath Puja.



People throng Choudhury Bazar in Cuttack to buy puja materials ahead of Diwali, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Cuttack food outlet lands in soup

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 2: As we in Cuttack take a bite of a laddu, burger or crisp chicken, little do we think of its quality or expiry date and very less of the raw materials used in making the mouth-watering items. However, a series of raids by the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) on the food outlets here will definitely make you think twice before taking a bite of these foodstuffs.

In the latest instance, the Health wing of CMC Tuesday carried out searches at an American fast food restaurant chain outlet in Badambadi area and a confectionary in Jagatpur area here on



allegations of selling substandard food items.

Following the searches, the CMC officials claimed to have found that the Badambadi outlet of KFC was using bun for burger after its expiry date. “Similarly, the chicken/crisp chicken at the outlet didn’t have any manufacturing or expiry date. So, we had to destroy around 20-25 kilogram of bun and chicken/crisp chicken,” said an official, adding

food samples have been sent for a lab examination.

About the confectionary in Jagatpur area, the official said that the laddus here were being made from maida instead of gram flour (besan). “The confectioner was also using arrowroot powder and an excess of artificial colours in the laddu. It violates the norms laid down by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. We have seized around 20 kilogram of laddu and 2 quintal raw materials from the unit. Samples have been sent to a laboratory and the unit has been fined of ₹15,000,” said CMC City Health officer Satyabrata Mohapatra.

Crores down the drain as Agra pollution alarming

CLOSE TO THE TAJ MAHAL, THE POLLUTION LEVEL WAS FOUND TO BE DANGEROUSLY HIGH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, Nov 2: When people in Agra learnt from daily newspapers Tuesday morning that the city ranked third among the most polluted cities in India, nobody was amused. Rather a range of questions began doing the rounds questioning the claims of government agencies engaged in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Since the Supreme Court took up the PIL of MC Mehta on pollution threats to Taj Mahal in 1993, thousands of crores of rupees have been spent in the Taj Trapezium Zone on controlling pollution, but the results are not visible to the public.

On Monday, Agra was in the red zone, with the ambient air becoming highly toxic and polluted. Ahead of the Diwali celebrations the alarm bells have started ringing. In the list released by the Central Board for Pollution Control, Agra’s AQI index was 327, with the dust level (Suspended particulate matter SPM), PM 2.5, Carbon Monoxide levels shooting up beyond tolerable limits.

THOUSANDS OF CRORES OF RUPEES HAVE BEEN SPENT IN THE TAJ TRAPEZIUM ZONE ON CONTROLLING POLLUTION, BUT THE RESULTS ARE NOT VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

ON MONDAY, AGRA WAS IN THE RED ZONE, WITH THE AMBIENT AIR BECOMING HIGHLY TOXIC AND POLLUTED

ON PAPER, PUBLIC TOILETS HAVE BEEN OPENED BUT IN LARGE PARTS OF THE CITY, PEOPLE STILL DEFECCATE IN THE OPEN, ALONG THE DRAINS

The State Pollution Control Board has routinely sent out notices to a number of agencies including the Metro Corporation, the UP Jal Nigam, the Smart City Co and the Agra Development Authority, directing them to follow the guidelines to bring down the pollution levels. Vishwanath Sharma, regional officer of the UPPCB, said action would soon follow against those found responsible for adding to the pollution in the city. Close to the Taj Mahal, the pollution level was



found to be dangerously high.

Local green activists blamed the state government agencies which had dug up the whole city for various developmental projects. The National Highway Authority too has been accused of not promptly attending to calls for road repairs of the three NHs that crisscross the city. Work on Agra Metro in the vicinity of Taj Mahal has also added to the pollution, environ-

mentalist Devashish Bhattacharya said.

Clearly, in the city of monuments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ (Clean India Mission) appears to have run aground and made no discernible change to the city’s profile or the upkeep of basic amenities, according to the locals, though the mayor and other officials of the Agra Municipal Corporation

dismiss these concerns.

“The reason why the city remains so dirty and disorganised is because of the wrong priorities of the government. The officials spend more time on organising fairs and festivals than on getting the basics fixed,” feel members of the River Connect Campaign.

“Cleaning up the city and streamlining the traffic management plan, or improving the law and order

situation, are nowhere on the priority list,” they said.

Local politicians have no role to play in cleaning up the city or the Yamuna river. On paper, public toilets have been opened but in large parts of the city, people still defecate in the open, along the drains. “As you enter the city, a strange stink or odour hits you and never leaves you till you leave the city.”

“Elsewhere they roll out a red carpet for guests. In Agra, you have animal dung on the roads and a stink in the air welcoming people. Little wonder no one wants to stay back for the night in Agra,” Surendra Sharma, president of the Braj Mandal Heritage Conservation Society, said.

Environmentalists in the city blame the Yamuna river, which has been reduced to a huge sewage canal for want of fresh water. “The city’s sewer system is choked; the treatment plants are not working. In many localities waste water, including sewage is being directly pumped into the earth through borewells,” a river activist said.

Agra’s sewage system is maintained by a Chennai-based company, which has come under criticism from all sections, while a Bangalore-based company has been hired for garbage collection in the city.

No fresh Covid case in 12 dists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Odisha Tuesday registered 327 fresh infections, including 44 children and adolescents in the age group of 0-18 years, pushing the caseload to 10,42,100, a Health department official said. The state had reported 316 new cases Monday.

Khurda district, comprising state Capital Bhubaneswar, logged the highest number of 177 cases, followed by Cuttack (29). Twelve of the 30 districts did not report any new Covid-19 case in the last 24 hours, said the official.

The state's Covid death toll mounted to 8,340 after four more patients, one each from Balasore, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda and Puri, succumbed to the virus.

Odisha now has 4,122 active cases, while 10,29,585 patients, including 438 since Monday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease. The coastal state's cumulative positivity rate stands at 4.71 per cent, the Health official added.

Meanwhile, with a large portion of its population remaining unvaccinated, the state government Tuesday launched a campaign to motivate people to come forward for full Covid-19 vaccination of two doses.

The drive - 'Har Ghar Dastak' - aims at tracing non-vaccinated people with the help of ASHA and Anganwadi workers, who will conduct door-to-door visits in villages and prepare a list.

The campaign will continue for a month, said Director of Family Welfare Bijay Panigrahi, who is also the state's Nodal Officer for immunisation.

3 from Aakash-BYJU's among top 125 in NEET

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Aspirants from Odisha rocked NEET (UG) 2021, with three students from Aakash BYJU's institute placed in the top 125.

Nekta Niyatendra Swastisravan Mishra, a student of Aakash-BYJU's Institute, Bhubaneswar Centre, emerged as state topper in the NEET (UG) 2021, announced by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Mishra gave credit to his parents and Aakash Institute for delivering quality coaching to crack the examination. He also said that regular class in Aakash Institute and several tests like AIATS helped him achieve the goal. Mishra thanked his teachers here in Aakash Institute.

Moreover, Geeti Gayatri Panda became the second Odisha topper who secured AIR-100. Also, Sooraj Nanda has secured AIR-124. Both were students of Aakash BYJU's Bhubaneswar Centre.

2 held over theft at MLA's house

CUTTACK

Chauliaganj police Tuesday claimed to have arrested two persons in connection with the theft at Choudwar-Cuttack MLA Souvic Biswal's house at Mahanadi Vihar last month. Biswal's sister Swati Sniagnha lodged a complaint with Chauliaganj police October 10 and claimed that some miscreants had stolen a laptop and two mobile phones from the legislator's house. The police have arrested the accused duo after examining the CCTV footage and seized the stolen laptop and mobile phones from them, sources said.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR
■ RSS press meet, Hotel Keshari, near Master Canteen Square, 11am

CUTTACK
■ Lighting of earthen lamps by Swargadham Seva Samiti, Khannagar, 4.30 pm

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.

Past perfect, present tense for Khurda potters

Low demand for earthen pots coupled with high raw material costs has threatened the livelihood of at least 120 potters' families of Kodabereni village of Begunia area

POST NEWS NETWORK

Begunia, Nov 2: Gone are the days when people were using earthen pots for cooking and other household works. The mass production and use of aluminium and stainless steel pots and utensils have virtually dealt a body blow to the traditional art of pottery.

Low demand for earthen pots coupled with high raw material costs has threatened the livelihood of at least 120 potters' families of Kodabereni village of Begunia area in Khurda district.

"Earthen pots were very much popular in rural areas. People were using earthen pots for cooking food, storage of food grains and other purposes. We were eking out a livelihood by doing pottery work. But, no one is now using earthen pots in cooking. Now, there is no demand for pottery products," said Bhikari Muduli, a potter of Kodabereni.

The potters usually shape va-



OCCUPATIONAL DISTRESS

THE POTTERS USUALLY SHAPE VARIETIES OF EARTHEN LAMPS THAT ARE HIGH IN DEMAND AHEAD OF DIWALI FESTIVAL

HOWEVER, THE OUTBREAK OF THE PANDEMIC AND SUBSEQUENT RESTRICTIONS ON FESTIVALS HAVE AFFECTED THE SALE OF EARTHEN LAMPS

rieties of earthen lamps that are high in demand ahead of Diwali festival. However, the outbreak of the pandemic and subsequent restrictions on festivals have affected the sale of earthen lamps.

"Earthen lamps were selling like hotcakes during Diwali a few years ago. We were charging anywhere between ₹1 and ₹50 for a lamp depending upon their size and design. But, the Covid-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll on our Diwali business," Bhikari added.

Bhikari and other potters of the village usually travel around 13 km to collect good quality soil from Kaligiri riverbank. The transportation cost has gone up manifold due to the frequent rise in fuel prices.

"We are paying more on transporting soil from the riverbank to our potteries. The price of firewood has also gone up in recent years. But, we do not have much freedom to raise the prices of pots as there is a slump in de-

mand," said Subal Muduli, another potter. The hapless potters are now planning to shift to some other occupations to manage their household expenses.

"Now, people have stopped using earthen pots altogether. There is no demand for pottery products. The state government should announce some incentives for the potters to prevent the traditional art from becoming extinct," said Prakash Muduli of Kodabereni.

BMC deploys officers to supervise school facelift

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday directed its officials to supervise the development work in nine schools in BMC jurisdiction.

BMC Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh directed the officers to review the development work in these schools regularly, for which the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) had sanctioned funds of ₹15 lakh.

The development of these nine schools falling in BMC jurisdiction is being done under the Odisha government's 5T initiative.

In order to complete the work in time, a team of senior officers of BMC has been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the activities. Releasing an order in this connection, Commissioner Sanjaya Kumar Singh has stressed for a responsible monitoring of activities by the concerned officers.

The officers chosen for the task are - Additional Commissioner Laxmikanta Sethi for Boys High School Unit-9, Deputy Commissioner (Sanitation) for

Boys High School Unit-8, Deputy Commissioner (Housing) Ramesh Jena for Capital Girls High School Unit-2, Deputy Commissioner (Market) Pramod Kumar Prusty for Text Book Nodal High School, Zonal Deputy Commissioner (South West Zone) Ravi Narayana Jethi for Government High School Unit-6, Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Srimanta Mishra for Government High School, Saheed Nagar, Deputy Commissioner (Establishment) Gayatri Samantaray for Government Girls High School, Unit-9, Deputy Commissioner (Food and Civil Supply) Kamalakanta Behera for Government High School, Unit 1 and Zonal Deputy Commissioner

(North Zone) Purandar Nanda for Capital High School Unit-3. The development works include smart class room, laboratory, drinking water facility, toilets, e-library, repair of class room and furniture, development of school premises and beautification. The activities have been taken up as per the need, planning and feasibility. The development work is targeted to be over before November 14 this year.



ACTION AGAINST SQUATTERS



Civic authorities in Bhubaneswar demolish illegal structures at Sahid Nagar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

BH series registration allowed for vehicles bought outside state

Till date, a total of 182 BH series numbers have been issued in India, out of which 81 (45%) have been issued in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 2: Odias residing in other states of the country can now apply for Bharat (BH) series in Odisha as the State Transport Authority (STA), Tuesday, stated that it will now accept registration of vehicles that are purchased outside Odisha.

The STA said that a vehicle purchased outside Odisha having temporary certificate registration, issued by registering authority of that state, may be registered in Odisha under BH series subject to the fulfilment of requisite conditions. The vehicle owner must have residence or place of business in Odisha.



It may be noted that Odisha was the first state to introduce BH series in the country. Till date, a total of 182 BH series numbers have been issued in India, out of which 81 (45 per cent) have been issued in the state.

With an aim to provide ease to those who have to move from state to state, the 'Bharat (BH) series' centralised registration for private vehicles' came into effect from September 15 in the state.

The Central government, by amending Rule 47 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, mandated that a vehicle bearing the BH registration number will not be required to register in a new state once it relocates.

Spl team to nab goons dancing with weapons

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The Commissionerate Police has constituted a special team to apprehend some hooligans who were seen roaming around the city brandishing sharp weapons and firearms in a video that went viral recently.

The denizens in the Capital city are stated to be scared to get out of their houses during night after the video went viral on various social media platforms.

Speaking to media persons, Umashankar Dash, Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police, said Tuesday that the team includes two assistant commissioners of police (ACPs), four SIs and two IICs.

A case has also been registered at Chandrasekharpur police station against the gang that reportedly attacked a couple.

One of the gang members has been arrested, said sources. The team reportedly raided different places to arrest the accused.

It is pertinent to mention here that four members of the gang were earlier arrested in two different cases registered at Nayapalli and Khandagiri police stations in Capital city.

KISS, UNDP to work for tribal area development

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) signed a Statement of Intent with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Tuesday to work for tribal development and sustainable development in Odisha.

As per the provisions, the two organisations will undertake targeted analytical tribal research activities based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), skilling through career guidance and counselling, management of natural resources especially water and biodiversity to ensure the overall development of the tribal areas.

The Statement of Intent was signed by KIIT & KISS Founder Achyuta Samanta and Shoko Noda, UNDP Resident Representative, India, in the presence of KISS Deemed to be University Vice-Chancellor Deepak Kumar Behera, KISS Registrar Prashanta Kumar Routray and other senior officials of UNDP and KISS.

"Both UNDP and KISS are working towards the eradication of



We are happy to work with KISS to bring about overall development of tribal areas in Odisha. The approach of this institution is very personalised and individual

SHOKO NODA | UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, INDIA

hunger and poverty. We are happy to work with KISS to bring about the overall development of tribal areas in Odisha. The approach of this institution is very personalised and individual. KISS is a living example of SDG," said Shoko Noda.

Samanta stated that KISS has been working towards the eradication of poverty and hunger and fulfilling SDGs for the last three

Chairperson of SAI International Silpi Sahoo stated, "It is a remarkable moment for SAI International School for having SAI students top not only in JEE MAIN and JEE Advance, but also in NEET 2021. I am super elated with the performance of all the students in NEET 2021, especially for our all the three brilliant students, the state toppers who had been working very hard since last few months."



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Kotia is as much ours as it is of Odisha: AP MLA



Salur MLA Rajan Dora visited Tadibalsa village under Kotia panchayat and laid the foundation stones of some developmental projects

ments put in place by the Koraput district administration in the bordering villages and questioned why the police of his state are running away without giving a fitting response. He said that there is no order on unilateral implementation of developmental programmes in Kotia panchayat and it is as much theirs as it is of Odisha.

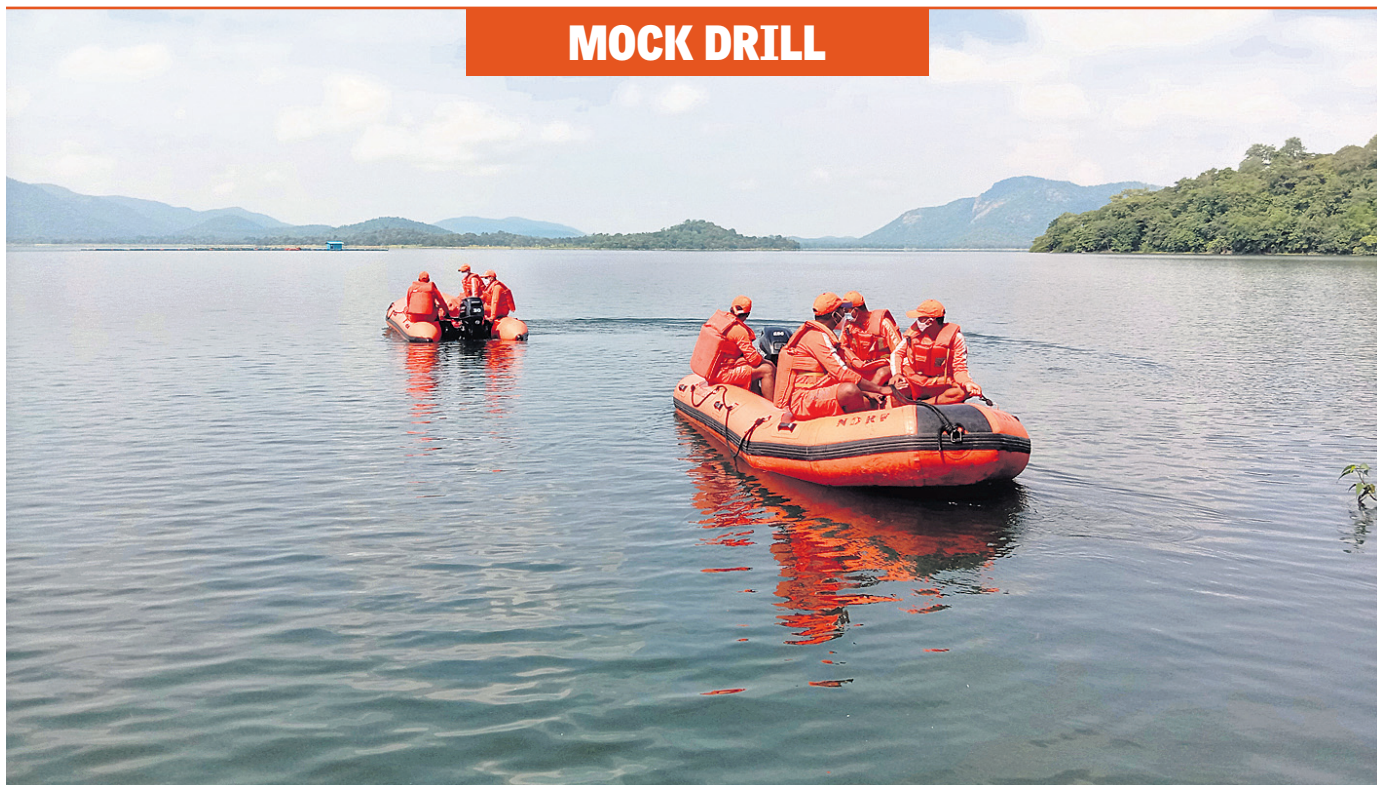
Dora said that a mega programme will soon be organised at Neredibalsa of Kotia panchayat. Meanwhile, the Tadibalsa villagers met Dora alleging that the security arrangements made by the Odisha government in the area are suffocating them.

The villagers reportedly said that the administrative officials and public representatives should visit them to redress of their plights and grievances. On the other hand, some villagers submitted a memorandum to Dora demanding implementation of the developmental programmes in their village and also expressed their interest to merge with the neighbouring state.

According to reports, the district administration was aware of the programme but not a single official was found at the venue of the event. They were found reviewing the situation by staying at Madakar and Uppersembi villages of Kotia panchayat.

curity by the Koraput district administration in the bordering villages. Joining as the chief guest at an event, Dora laid the foundation stone of a building for women members of local self-help groups at an estimated cost of ₹16 lakh. He also laid the foundation stone of a shelter house to be built at a cost of ₹9 lakh for the villagers visiting the weekly *haats*.

Meanwhile, the MLA pulled up the Andhra Pradesh police for not countering the security arrange-



NDRF jawans carrying out a mock drill on disaster management at Satiguda reservoir in Malkangiri, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Dengue spins out of control in Ganjam, 8 kids affected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 2: Dengue fever is spreading alarmingly in Ganjam district, a report said. Things have come to such a pass that dengue positives are being identified everyday from each block and Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) area of Ganjam district. The disease has not spared even children as eight kids, including one Tuesday, have tested positive for the disease. So far 232 persons have tested positive for the viral disease.

The district is experiencing continuous rain for the last two months as a result of which rainwater has accumulated in low lying areas. The stagnant rainwater helps in breeding of Aedes species mosquitoes, which carry the pathogen. Broken buckets, coconut shells, used tyres and similar object are found lying dumped in several areas here for days together providing a good breeding ground of Aedes mosquitoes.

Reports said that an eight-year-old from Aska town, a 30-year-old youth from MKCG hospital campus, a 52-year-old woman from Ramakrushna Nagar, a 42-year-old youth from Siddharth Nagar, a 22-year-old woman from Hatibandha



So far 232 persons have tested positive for the viral disease in various blocks of Ganjam

ted to the special ward on the first floor of casualty department of MKCG Medical College and Hospital.

When contacted, Dr Santosh Kumar Padhi, district medical officer, said that people are being repeatedly informed through awareness drives not to allow water to stagnate at any place as it may help in breeding of mosquitoes and thus lead to the spread of the disease.

Most patients are being given paracetamol and vitamins. As the health condition of the patients deteriorates, their platelet count falls. They are given platelet and medicines and papaya leaf juice to regain their platelet counts.

Sahi in Berhampur tested positive for the disease after the test of their blood samples, Tuesday. Similarly, a 62-year-old woman of Alpur under Hinjilicut block, 22-year-old youth from Gangapur under Sanakhemundi block, a 25-year-old youth from Sorala under Chikiti block were also found affected with the disease. The affected persons have been admit-

BJP leader confronts MoS Mishra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Nov 2: The controversy surrounding the alleged murder of Mamita Meher, principal of a private school at Mahaling under Kegaon police limits in Kalahandi district, refuses to abate with new developments taking place each day.

High drama was witnessed Tuesday when a local BJP leader walked up to the Minister of State (Home) Dibya Shankar Mishra in the town and demanded his resignation for his alleged involvement in the case. The BJP leader confronted Mishra when he was preparing to leave for his Assembly constituency, Junagarh, in this district escorted by police, a report said.

The minister was literally in for shock when he was confronted by Deepjyoti Mund, a national execu-



tive member of BJP Yuva Morcha, at MSA Square in this town and demanded his resignation. The minister was walking up to MSA Square due to traffic jam when Mund went near him and demanded his resignation.

Mund questioned Mishra why he stepped out of Bhubaneswar 23 days after the Mamita Meher murder case, and straightaway demanded his resignation.

While the BJP leader confronted Mishra, police personnel escorting the latter stood as mute spectators to the development unfolding at the place.

Leopard skin seized, 2 held in Mayurbhanj

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 2: Cracking its whip against criminals dealing in wildlife, the Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Crime Branch Tuesday arrested two persons and seized a leopard skin from their possession from near Chatani Bus Stop under Bisoi police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

The accused have been identified as Ajit Kumar Giri of Palas Bani under Rairangpur police limits and Chandrakant Kurji, a resident of Jagularghara under Khunta police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

Acting on a tip-off on the deal regarding the sale of leopard skin by wildlife criminals, the team with the help of Manada Forest Range officials under Rairangpur Forest



Division conducted raids near Chatani Bus Stop and nabbed the duo. During the search, a leopard skin was seized from their possession. As the accused persons could not produce any valid authority in support of possessing the leopard skin they were arrested and handed over to Rairangpur Forest officials for necessary legal actions at their end.

Besides the skin, two motorcycles and other incriminating materials were also seized.

CHILLY WEATHER



With a fall in mercury, people huddle around a fire to protect themselves from chilly weather in Daringbadi area of Kandhamal district, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Odisha Maritime Academy passing rough weather

2,240 STUDENTS HAVE PASSED OUT OF THIS ACADEMY SO FAR, BUT ITS DOORS ARE YET TO OPEN FOR GIRLS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paradip, Nov 2: Established with the active support of the then Chief Minister of Odisha Biju Patnaik in 1993, Odisha Maritime Academy at Bhimabhoi Colony in the port town of Jagatsinghpur district is presently facing several problems.

So far, 2,240 students from Odisha and other states have passed out from this academy and are presently working in different regions of the globe. But they do not include a single girl because the academy does not accept girls as students. Lack of infrastructure and necessary permissions are said to be the reasons behind not accepting girls. Girls who wish to make a career in maritime are searching for other similar academies.

The academy's staff appointment is done by the state government's Transport department. Ironically, none of these staff members are paid any salary. As a result, the nine employees are giving tuitions to meet fam-



ily expenses. What ails them most is that they are neither recognised as government employees nor contractual staff. They have been given appointments on annual contract basis.

Similarly, for the smooth management of the institution, a managing trust has been formed by the Centre and state government. However, no meeting of the trust has been convened for a long period. Notably, Odisha's former Chief

Minister Biju Patnaik started Kalinga Baliyatra at Paradip in 1992. On that occasion, he sent an Odia girl named Nibedita Acharya to Indonesia as 'Sadhba bahu'. During that period, there was hardly any opportunity for local youths to get appointments at ports or in ships. Realising the importance of maritime study, Biju Patnaik announced setting up a maritime institution in Paradip in the same year. After the approval from

the Director General, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India, the institution was set up. It started officially from April 3, 1993.

While the Commerce and Transport department of the state government is managing the institution, the trust has DG, Shipping, Secretary of Transport department and personnel from Indian Navy as its members. To meet the initial costs, money was procured from various sources, including the state government and Paradip Port authorities. The port authority has developed most of infrastructure of this academy over the years.

Ironically enough, as of now, all developmental work at the academy have come to a halt. "The academy is not receiving a penny as donation," claimed academy's principal Manas Ranjan Behura.

The academy offers courses for only six-month duration with each batch comprising 40 students. Of these, 20 seats are reserved for students from Odisha, while the remaining

seats are for students from other states. The academy provides hostel and practice facilities. The admission fee for the course is ₹1,20,000. Each year 80 students are enrolled. Students, aged between 18 and 24 years having educational qualification from Matric to graduation are entitled to take admission.

Talking about the placement of students after completion of the course, academy lecturer Sushant Mahalik said that after passing out from the academy students can get jobs as sailors in any country.

Echoing the same, retired Navy officer and an employee of the academy, Pratap Chandra Nayak, said that the institution is jointly run by the Central and state governments. Its chairman is DG, Shipping.

Regarding exclusion of girl students, he said the managing trust has not received any approval from the government to start co-education classes. This apart, the academy does not have separate hostels and classrooms for female students.

BJP ZP vice chairperson resigns

Malkangiri: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) received a jolt in Malkangiri district as vice chairperson of Zilla Parishad Sulata Mandal resigned from the party, Tuesday. She tendered her resignation to party's district unit president Nimai Pal. For a long time, she has been working for the party in the district. "I have been facing lots of problems in the party. Nobody heard my complaints. I was sidelined by the party. I did not think it wise to stay in the party any longer. So, I resigned," she said.

REQUIRED
1) Mechanical Fitter-cum-Welder
2) Electrical Shift incharge
3) Washery Oppreter (HM BATH), Minimum 5 years experience in Washery. Interested candidates may send their resume to **Mail id- hrjhars@gmail.com**
Mob- +91 81200 04222

EAST COAST RAILWAY
(1) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-30-21
DESCRIPTION OF WORK : COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR MULTIVRE AIR CONDITIONERS SYSTEM OF LG MAKE IN ZONAL HQ. BUILDING (RAIL SADAN) OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER / CONSTRUCTION OFFICE NORTH BLOCK FOR 3 YEARS.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 18,25,246.08
(2) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-31-21
DESCRIPTION OF WORK : IMPROVEMENT OF LIGHTING AND RELIABILITY OF POWER SUPPLY IN BHUBANESWAR AREA.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 1,11,98,802.44
(3) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-32-21
DESCRIPTION OF WORK : PROVISION OF UNDER GROUND CABLE SYSTEM IN JAKHAPURA - KENDUJHARGARH SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 1,49,35,513.62
(4) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-33-21
DESCRIPTION OF WORK : ELECTRIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH EXTENSION OF PLATFORM NOS. 3 & 4 TO ACCOMMODATE 24/26 COACHES LENGTH TRAINS AT CHATRAPUR.
Approx Cost of the work (₹): 13,93,653.88
Completion period : 36 Months (for SI. No. 1), 06 Months (for SI. No. 2, 3 & 4)
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 22.11.2021 (for All the tenders)
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G),
PR-508/M/21-22 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
ADALAT FOR PENDING COMPASSIONATE APPOINTMENT CASES-2021 AT SAMBALPUR DIVISION
SAMBALPUR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY, IS TO ORGANIZE A DIVISIONAL LEVEL ADALAT AT 1100 HRS. ON 22.11.2021 (MONDAY) IN THE OFFICE OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL PERSONNEL OFFICER / SAMBALPUR FOR CLEARANCE OF PENDING COMPASSIONATE APPOINTMENT CASES. THEREFORE, THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED / MEDICALLY UNFIT / DE-CATEGORISED EMPLOYEES (WHO WERE WORKING ONLY IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL JURISDICTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION) WILL SUBMIT THE APPLICATION INDICATING THEIR GRIEVANCE IN DETAIL (PENDING CASES ONLY) GIVING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ADDRESSING TO "DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER (P), EAST COAST RAILWAY, P.O. : MODIPARA, DIST. : SAMBALPUR - 768002 (ODISHA)", LATEST BY 18.11.2021 AND ATTEND THE ADALAT ON 22.11.2021 (MONDAY) WITH ALL RELEVANT ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS / TESTIMONIALS.
1. Name & Address of the Applicant, 2. Name of the deceased employee, 3. Designation, Unit & Station, 4. Name of ward for whom the Appointment has been sought, 5. Date of Death / Medical de-categorisation, 6. Date of Application, 7. Grievance in detail (with previous reference from Railway, if any).
WHILE SENDING THE APPLICATION, THE APPLICANT SHOULD ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:
1) Death Certificate/Medical Unfit or de-categorization certificate, 2) FIR in case of Missing Railway Employee, 3) Legal Her Certificate, 4) Family composition in detail, 5) Application seeking Employment Assistance, 6) Certificate regarding date of Birth / Educational Qualification of the candidate, 7) Settlement papers available, 8) Attested photos of the Candidate (3 Nos.), 9) Valid Adoption Deed in case of adopted Son/Daughter, 10) No objection from elders if application is made in favour of the younger sibling, 11) Other relevant document in support of the compassionate appointment, if any.
PR-507/M/21-22 Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer / Sambalpur

FOCUS SOCIETY

KEEP OUT THE CRACKER



Medieval Chinese alchemists were looking out for life-lengthening elixirs when they invented gunpowder. It certainly hasn't lengthened lives, and their creation makes a strong case for keeping out the firecracker

Every year with the festive season comes the debate about the use of fireworks and as the season ends so does the discussion. Firecrackers, now available even in electronic varieties, are used as a mark of celebration especially, for Dussehra, the victory of good over evil, for Diwali, the return of prince Rama to his homeland. The argument in support of loud bursts of firecrackers over days is that they are a part of the celebration of the festivals which have both religious and traditional significance. No argument against these two points where Dussehra and Diwali are concerned, the question is does the firecracker have religious or traditional importance? And do we really need them?

Do fireworks form a part of Dussehra and Diwali celebrations? History has shown that fireworks coming to India must have been somewhere around 1400 CE. Fireworks and pyrotechnic shows existed as forms of royal entertainment in many Indian kingdoms in the Middle Ages mostly during special occasions like weddings. The late historian PK Gode in his "History of Fireworks in India between 1400 and 1900," suggests that the use of fireworks must have started after about 1400 AD, coinciding with the use of gunpowder in warfare.

Gunpowder, a primary ingredient in fireworks, was actually an accidental invention by medieval Chinese alchemists in the tenth or eleventh century. The terrifying flash and blast of gunpowder gave it the name 'devil's distillate.' Gajapati Prataparudra Deva, a royal author of the sixteenth century from Odisha, included manufacturing formulas for fireworks and described pyrotechnic mixtures in his Sanskrit book Kautuka Chintamani. Historians have considered the possibility that Chinese pyrotechnic formulas were brought to India around 1400 AD and then substituted with local products when the need arose.

Historically, though fireworks may have been around since the fifteenth century they were not assimilated into Diwali celebrations till much later, being generally reserved for events hosted by the gentry or the aristocracy. Paintings, as late as 1700 CE do not depict the use of fireworks indicating their absence. Vasudha Narayanan, a professor of reli-

gion, from the University of Florida says that it was only in the last century or so that fireworks became a part of this festival. The story of the festival of Diwali arises out of the Ramayana, written approximately around the 5th Century BCE, so a hundred years is a minuscule time frame to make a case for fireworks. While Narayanan understands the need to celebrate festivals, she also raises concerns about the already polluted air getting worse with the amount of fireworks released during Diwali. Celebration and traditions should be revisited if they "cause violence to someone else's health," says Narayanan.

In any case, after the pandemic arguments about history, tradition and religion haven't held. Last year, a number of states imposed a ban on the sale of firecrackers ahead of the festivities due to the rising COVID-19 cases and the irritant of growing air pollution. New Delhi, which has a high level of air pollution, has banned the sale, use and storage of firecrackers for the third year now in a bid to control air contaminants. The ban by the states have led to many complaints that Diwali without fireworks is not Diwali anymore and amounted to celebrating Christmas without a Christmas tree.

Diwali should be celebrated without noisy, air polluting crackers is also the position held by the Calcutta High Court. Last Friday (October 29), the High Court ordered a blanket ban on firecrackers, including green crackers that the West Bengal government had allowed for Kali puja, Diwali and Chhath puja celebrations. The High Court banned the sale, purchase and use of all firecrackers till December 31 this year to curb air pollution during the pandemic which is still infecting people and taking lives. The court order noted that it would be difficult to distinguish between normal polluting crackers and green crackers that the state government had allowed just a few days earlier. However, the fireworks are back after the Supreme Court Monday (November 1) set aside the High Court ban.

The decision to set aside the ban on firecrackers comes not so long after the apex court had ruled against the use of fireworks. In September, hearing a plea by the manufacturers' association of firecrackers, the Supreme Court had said that it cannot infringe the right to life of citizens "under the guise of employment of few." The judges had ruled that suitable orders would be passed if green crackers were found acceptable by experts. The court had said that there had to be a balance between employment, unemployment and health and lives of people. "We have to strike the balance between employment, unemployment and the right to life of the citizen. Under the guise of employment of few we cannot permit

others to infringe the right to life of other citizens." A bench of Justices MR Shah and AS Bopanna had said, emphasising that the court's prime focus is the "right to life of innocent citizens."

However, there has always been the supportive argument that firecrackers provide a livelihood to over a million workers in India engaged directly in the manufacture of the incendiary products, or in allied sectors. Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu has more than 1,000 units employing over 800,000 workers directly and indirectly Sivakasi which is about 500 km south of Chennai is the centre of the trade, accounting for 80 per cent of the Indian fireworks business which is estimated upward of Rs 10,000 crore. Firecrackers are a significant part of Diwali sales so should the business fold, especially in India's highest tax paying small town? This question has been pushing the case for firecrackers, while health and safety considerations push them out.

The advent of the 'green' cracker may not assuage safety concerns as COVID is primarily a respiratory disease, and the fact is that people have suffered lung-related problems even months after their tryst with the virus. Besides, the sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) talks about the concentration of air pollutants increasing significantly over India, and the situation is so, that even if effective decarbonisation techniques are implemented, the levels cannot be brought down to those advocated by the World Health Organisation. In other words, it is absolutely essential to drastically cut down short term climate pollutants. Black carbon which is one of the components in fireworks is one such pollutant.

Medieval Chinese alchemists were looking out for life-lengthening elixirs when they invented gunpowder. It certainly hasn't lengthened lives, and their creation makes a strong case for keeping out the firecracker.

The writer is an independent researcher and author: Views are personal.

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Ishan Chauhan

THE ADVENT OF THE 'GREEN' CRACKER MAY NOT ASSUAGE SAFETY CONCERNS AS COVID IS PRIMARILY A RESPIRATORY DISEASE, AND THE FACT IS THAT PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED LUNG-RELATED PROBLEMS EVEN MONTHS AFTER THEIR TRYST WITH THE VIRUS

Return to Normal

Although the G20 countries have taken stock of the world economy ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic that broke out early 2020, there is still no answer to the all-important question of whether things will return to normal and, if so, when and how. Work from home in most cases seems to be all set to continue for quite some time and popular entertainment like watching movies in cinema theatres and the joy of spending time in shopping malls, travelling to beaches and other vacation spots (through airports and rail stations) and sports events which will be teeming with people still seem to be a scary thought.

Recently, The Economist has formulated a 'normalcy index' to find out how human behaviour has changed and is still undergoing transformation due to the pandemic. It has used eight broad parameters grouped into three to get a fair idea about the current reality. These are transport and travel, recreation and entertainment, work and footfall in shops and occupancy in offices.

Under the grouping of transport and travel, it has measured the volume of public transport in big cities, the amount of traffic congestion in those same cities and the number of international and domestic flights. To find the state of affairs in recreation and entertainment, it has used the yardsticks of how much time is spent outside the home, cinema box-office revenues that reflect the presence of patrons and attendance at professional sports events. Footfall in shops and occupancy of offices give indications of the work life of people in big cities.

The survey has covered 50 of the world's largest economies that together account for 90 per cent of global GDP and 76 per cent of the world's population. The global normalcy index nosedived in March 2020 following draconian restrictions imposed by many countries on their citizens. Since then it has been steadily improving and as things stand now, the world has gone back nearly two-thirds to pre-pandemic life. Indicators, such as retail footfall and time spent outside have recovered faster than others, particularly sports attendance and flights, even though the global average does not truly reflect the variations in different specific countries.

Activity in none of the countries, where the survey has been conducted, has returned to normal. China briefly reached pre-pandemic levels during its celebrations for the lunar new year in February, facilitated partly by record-breaking box-office receipts. Denmark currently is at the top of the table, closely followed by Pakistan and the Czech Republic. Vietnam, which imposed restrictions after its first significant wave of COVID-19 infections caused by the more transmissible Delta variant, is showing signs of rapid recovery. Of the 50 countries covered by the survey, 37 are moving fast towards normality.

The major sign of recovery and the stepping stone into return to normal is the resumption of public transport. Levels of traffic congestion have rebounded, too. Yet, flights remain grounded in many countries because government restrictions put a brake on international travel. This is an area where the Centre and the state governments of India have to work hard and take steps ensuring COVID appropriate behaviour is enforced, instead of using the cover of fear of fresh waves to hide their inefficiency and refusal to act when people are finding it so difficult to make both ends meet.

When lockdowns were the norm in March-April 2020 and 2021, time spent outside the home fell by 20 per cent, according to the global average. The pandemic wrought havoc on the film industry and sports during this period. The closure of cinemas and sports stadiums caused activity in those venues to drop to zero. Since then they are showing a slow trajectory of recovery. Interestingly, the survey has found the cinemas have got a big boost from the release of the latest James Bond film, No Time to Die.

Zoom meetings and Amazon deliveries have been two prominent features of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery. It may take years before office occupancy rates will return to previous levels, but retail footfall has been remarkably strong since the middle of last year and is now even above pre-pandemic levels. This sounds most encouraging.

Shortly before the G20 summit held its deliberations October 30-31, International Labour Organisation (ILO) Deputy Director-General, Martha Newton, called on G20 countries to take action to support the travel and tourism industry that has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because the coronavirus has decimated the world of work leading to the loss of 255 million jobs the world over in 2020 alone. This is four times more than what happened during the 2009 financial crisis. The tourism industry employs about 300 million workers globally, the lives of many of whom have become precarious or they have been forced to take up informal work to eke out a living. Governments the world over need to ensure safe workplaces, remove restrictions on travel and give priority to resumption of work. That, along with actions on the economic front, requires immediate attention.

WISDOM CORNER

The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude.

OPRAH WINFREY

Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new.

OG MANDINO

Some people don't like change, but you need to embrace change if the alternative is disaster.

ELON MUSK

WORDSWORTH

Poach

The word meaning to cook an egg without its shell in boiling water is the easier to explain. It can be traced back through the Middle French verb pochier, with the same meaning, to the noun poche, a bag or pouch. The idea seems to have been that the white of the egg was a container for the yolk. That makes the egg sense of poach a close relative of pouch, of the bag sense of poke (as in not buying a pig in one), and pocket, which is etymologically a little poke. By the end of the seventeenth century this sense of poach had been extended to simmering fish, fruit and other foodstuffs in water. The other poach, to illegally hunt fish or game, began life in English to mean prod, shove, or roughly push together, to push or stir. This probably came from the Old French pocher, to prod, and is a relative of another sense of poke. This sense of prodding is obsolete in mainstream English but survives to some extent in regional English dialects and in Scots. Later, poach developed into unlawfully encroaching on someone else's preserve, to trespass. It has a third sense of breaking up ground into muddy patches through animals trampling it. These three senses puzzle the experts, because they don't seem to derive from a single word. But there are no other obvious candidates. The mud sense is probably connected with hooves prodding the ground. The illegal hunting sense has been said to be from the idea of figuratively pushing into somebody else's territory, which by the early 1700s had become linked to taking game illegally as an extension of the idea of trespass. But it's also argued that the illegal hunting sense might be from thrusting something into a bag (as in poacher's pocket, etymologically an intriguing phrase), which would make it a development of the other word. This is supported by Randle Cotgrave's note in his Dictionary of the French and English Tongues of 1611 that it refers to encroaching on another man's trade or employment, as the English equivalent of a French expression which speaks of pocketing another man's labour. Whatever the source, you may safely eat your poached egg without fear of the law.

IN JEST THIS

Don't forget to cancel before 'free trial' ends



Melvin Durai

MANY COMPANIES ARE BETTING NOT ON YOUR LOVE OF THEIR PRODUCTS BUT ON YOUR FAULTY MEMORY

I recently discovered a charge of about \$60 (Rs 4,500) on our credit card from Apple's app store and asked every family member if they had bought something from there. My wife and kids all said, "No," and my dog, Lulu, scratched herself, as if to say, "I have better things to do than go online."

Worried that a scam artist was charging our credit card, I investigated further and found that someone had purchased an annual subscription for PicsArt Gold, a photo and video editing app. As soon as my 17-year-old daughter heard the name "PicsArt Gold," she remembered her recent purchase: "Sorry, it was me. I'll pay for it with my money. I needed it for a school project and signed up for a 7-day free trial. But I forgot to cancel."

"Forgot to cancel." That magical phrase has made millions of dollars, crores of rupees, trillions of pesos, for entrepreneurs everywhere. Many companies are betting

not on your love of their products but on your faulty memory. "Try us, try us, you will like us," they chant publicly, while whispering among themselves, "And if you don't, please forget to cancel."

Fortunately, I was able to call Apple and get them to refund the subscription fee. They agreed to do this because my daughter is still a minor. If she had already turned 18 and been considered an adult, we would have likely been stuck with the fee. And if I had not noticed the charge on my credit card, we would have been charged again next year; thanks to another magical phrase that companies love: "automatic renewal."

Free trials are quite common these days, a marketing tactic that entices consumers with the word "free," before putting their memory on "trial." Almost every movie-streaming company offers free trials, as do a host of other companies, including those offering gym mem-

berships, dating apps, educational products, diet pills and even underwear.

Sometimes you get two free trials at once: "Get a free one-month trial to our matchmaking site, and while you're here, sign up for a free one-week trial hookup with the man/woman of your choice."

Free trials are great when they come with no strings attached. But when you need to provide your credit card info for the free trial, you are setting yourself up for trouble. Remembering to cancel is like remembering your password, except that your web browser will not save you. It will not do any remembering for you. Nor will the company's website display a message that says, "If you forgot to cancel, just enter your email address and we will send you a link, so you can reset your faulty memory."

It's important to read the fine print when you agree to a free

trial. It might say something like this: "By clicking on the link, I agree to download a free 30-day trial of Dr Ramesh's Astrological Forecast, guaranteed to bring me daily clarity. If I do not cancel my subscription within the free trial period, I agree to have Rs 5,000 charged to my credit card for an annual subscription. I also agree to give Dr Ramesh's Astrological Forecast access to all my email contacts, so my family and friends can also be similarly duped."

Not all companies that offer free trials are hoping to dupe you, of course. The streaming services, for example, are hoping that you will get hooked to them. You will get so addicted to their movies and TV shows that you will decide not to cancel. The free trial is like a doughnut that lures a bear into a trap. The trap is a lifetime of monthly fees, each one small enough to ensure that you can bear it.

Bubble has burst

Sir, The bubble has burst; Virat Kohli and his men have disappointed lakhs of cricket fans. While the loss against Pakistan in their opening fixture of the T20 Cricket World Cup was considered an aberration, the rout against New Zealand came as a shock. These were the same batsmen who took bowlers to the cleaners in the recently concluded IPL in the same country, the United Arab Emirates. Therefore, they were more accustomed to the weather conditions and pitch varieties than most of the other players. Indubitably, there was a huge lack of intent among the players. Though a captain is as good as his players, Virat Kohli's poor tactics dumbfounded cricket experts and fans alike. Changing the batting order in the crucial New Zealand match was uncalled for. Inclusion of an 'unfit' Hardik Pandya was a much debated matter after the Pakistan game. However, Pandya went on to play the second game as well without much success. Poor shot selection of almost all batsmen, particularly against New Zealand, compounded their misery. As a skipper, Kohli, whose days as T20 captain are numbered, seemed to be totally out of sync. There were no inspirational bowling or fielding changes, the captain merely went through the motions. Maybe the selectors should look beyond Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, as captains, for novel ideas and the overall uplift of Indian cricket.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA (MAHARASHTRA)

Unprecedented action

Sir, The Rajasthan police arresting former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Pratip Chaudhuri for his role in seizing a Jaisalmer hotel property and selling it at a throwaway price when the owners defaulted on the loan has raised eyebrows. After his retirement, Chaudhuri joined the company that had bought the hotel as director. SBI clarified that the bank had followed all due processes in selling the asset. Chaudhuri, who retired in 2013, received no notice or formal summons in the decade-old case, and neither did the police ask SBI for its views. The development follows the Union Finance Ministry planning a 'staff accountability framework' to protect honest bank employees from being penalised for bonafide decisions involving loans up to Rs 50 crore if they go wrong. The arrest of a former SBI chairman is unprecedented and can affect loan sanctions and recovery.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

SHORT TAKES

Minor girl's marriage stopped

Phulbani: Acting on a tip-off about a minor girl being married off, Childline with the help of the local administration stopped the wedding after reaching the spot in Jajepanga under Phiringia block in Kandhamal district promptly Tuesday. Both the sides were placated and counseled by the officials. A case has been registered at the Phiringia Police Station in this regard. The minor girl has been shifted to a childcare home at Baliguda.

WHO team visits Boudh



Boudh: A delegation of World Health Organisation (WHO) visited several interior villages in Boudh district during its two-day visit to the state. The visit of the WHO team comes in the wake of 108 villages being identified as phaleria-free. The team collected data regarding the disease and conducted tests on children aged between 6 and 7 to ascertain if they are affected by phaleria. During the next 10 days, three health teams from each block will visit the villages and undertake tests for the disease.

Embankment caves in

Bhadrak: A 100-meter stretch of an embankment caved in near Sailabanka under Dhamnagar block of Bhadrak district Tuesday. The collapse of the embankment has triggered panic among the locals. Junior engineer of the Water Resources department Pradip Kumar Das rushed spot and started renovation work of the collapsed embankment. Locals alleged that the embankment has collapsed due to sub-standard work by contractors. The junior engineer stated that vehicles carrying sand operate on the embankment and it has taken its toll on the embankment, leading to its sudden collapse Tuesday.

Ailing healthcare centre in Nilagiri

Sajanagarh: Locals here are upset over alleged mess in the healthcare services at Mitrapur dispensary under Nilagiri block of Balasore. They alleged that people have to suffer a lot as they fail to avail necessary services at the healthcare centre. The locals have warned of an agitation if the shortcomings at the dispensary are not sorted out soon. About 60 to 70 patients turn up at the facility every day, but they return without necessary treatment, it was alleged. They demanded the healthcare services here be improved.

STATE CREATES FUND FOR TREATMENT OF ROAD MISHAP VICTIMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday announced that his government has created a fund of ₹147 crore to bear treatment expenses of people injured in road accidents during the first 48 hours of the mishap.

Expressing concern over the rising number of deaths due to road accidents, Patnaik, at a programme for distribution of smart health cards under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), said it was essential to provide treatment to victims within the first 48 hours, expenses for which will be borne by his government.

On the BSKY scheme, Patnaik said, around 3.5 crore people from 96 lakh families of the state will be benefited from the BSKY card.

"People sell their land, gold and even stop children from going to school to meet health-related expenses. I get disturbed and shocked whenever I hear such stories. However, now people can avail health services free of cost at 200 big hospitals across the country if they have the smart card," he said.

As many as 7.73 lakh people will be enrolled under the health scheme in Sambalpur district, he noted.

Sambalpur has played an important role in development of all the sectors of the state, including culture, politics, education, history

Naveen distributes BSKY health cards

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday distributed Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) Smart Health Cards at Kuchinda in Sambalpur district. Naveen also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several projects here. The entire programme was held with limited guests sharing the dais with the CM in line with the Covid-19 guidelines. Those who attended the event, including the beneficiaries, journalists, police and district administration officials, underwent RTPCR test, it was learnt. It is worth mentioning that on the occasion of 75th Independence Day, the Chief Minister had announced that his government would provide Smart Health Cards under the BSKY.

and economy, the CM maintained. "Sambalpur sari and Sambalpur songs are synonymous with the culture of Odisha," he said, seeking cooperation of people for the development of Samaleswari temple in the district.

Patnaik, during the day, also inaugurated and laid foundation stones of various projects worth ₹1,553 crore.



Women affiliated to various outfits stage a protest against hike in prices of LPG in Sonepur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

IRREGULARITIES IN RICE MILLING

No stock check done for two years

Many millers have taken paddy for milling, but have not yet returned the rice to the Civil Supplies department

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Nov 2: Bungling of rice by millers is nothing new in Ganjam. Many millers have taken paddy for milling, but have not returned the milled rice to the Civil Supplies department, a report said.

Moreover, the department is not recovering money from the default millers. On the other hand, no action has been taken against the officials who have shown favouritism to the errant millers.

The authorities of the district Civil Supplies department have not conducted stock check of paddy and rice at the rice service centre and with the millers in the last two years. The Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCS) has not received stock check reports for 2019-20 and 2020-21 from the district Civil Supplies department.



These startling facts were revealed by a letter of Biswajit Keshari Das, the managing director of the OSCS, to the district Civil Supplies officer, October 29. The letter stated that various

problems have cropped up as stock checks of paddy, rice and wheat are not being carried out at regular intervals. The district Civil Supplies officer has been asked to submit the stock check report

within the next seven days. OSCS MD has also warned of stern action in case of violation of the order.

It may be noted here that 10 millers have allegedly committed such irregularities. They are supposed to pay over ₹1.57 crore towards rice pending on them.

The officials should have recovered the money from the defaulting millers much earlier. Though OSCS had earlier ordered filing draft charges against 10 Civil Supplies officers, no action was taken in this regard.

It is learnt that a former DCSO, three marketing inspectors, four delegated officers and others are going to face draft charges.

The DCSO has not forwarded the godown stock check report of September to the OSCS yet. The DCSO was asked October 22 to clarify the issue, it was learnt.

Sea patrolling in Ganjam begins as fishing ban kicks in

THE OLIVE RIDLEYS LAY EGGS AT THE GAHIRMATHA BEACH IN KENDRAPARA DISTRICT, THE RUSHIKULYA RIVER MOUTH IN GANJAM DISTRICT AND THE DEVI RIVER MOUTH IN PURI DISTRICT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 2: Forest officials have started patrolling the sea off the Ganjam coast as a seven-month ban on fishing came into effect to protect and conserve the endangered olive ridley sea turtles.

Berhampur Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF) PK Mishra said they had four vessels, including three speed boats, for patrolling in the sea.

"We have started patrolling from Monday to crackdown the fishing trawlers and mechanised boats in no-fishing zones," Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Amlan Nayak said.

The state government has imposed a seven-month-long prohibition on fishing activities within 20 km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya from Monday, marking the beginning of the mass nesting season of the turtles.

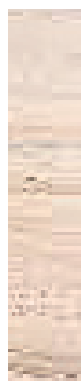


The prohibition is clamped every year as turtles perish in larger numbers either by getting entangled in fishing nets or hit by fishing trawlers' propellers.

The olive ridley turtles generally visit the sea during November and start their mating in December and January before the mass nesting, which takes place in the last week of February and the first or second week of March.

The state government has imposed a seven-month-long prohibition on fishing activities within 20 km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya from Monday

The DFO said they had also decided to set up at least 11 camps with deployment of the forest staff to provide safety to the sea turtles



beach by removing the debris in the first phase," Nayak said.

They have also decided to create awareness among the fisherfolk in the villages located near the river mouth.

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. In Ganjam, as many as 3,638 families of nine villages will benefit from the compensation.

During 'arribada' (arrival by sea in Spanish), female turtles reach beaches usually at the dead of the night for laying eggs. After that, they return to the sea.

An olive ridley usually lays about 120-150 eggs and the hatchlings, after emerging from these eggs in a span of 45 to 60 days, travel to the sea. They grow up without their mothers.

Reports suggest that out of every 1,000 hatchlings that enter the sea, only one manages to reach adulthood, according to Odisha Tourism.

to provide safety to the sea turtles.

Three control rooms in the five-km stretch of the coast, where mass nesting takes place, have been opened, including one near the river mouth on Monday.

The forest officials have also decided to make a fence around the five-km stretch from Gokharakuda to Podampeta to facilitate mass nesting. "We have already cleaned the

Dhenkanal locals decry relocation of rescued jumbo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Nov 2: Protesting the relocation of an elephant rescued from Kendrapara to Kapilash Wildlife Sanctuary in Dhenkanal, inhabitants of several villages in and around the sanctuary staged a stir in the wee hours of Tuesday.

As per reports, a 13-year-old mahna (tuskless male elephant) had been rescued from Kendrapara district Monday and was shifted to the sanctuary in Dhenkanal at around 3.00 am Tuesday.

With fear and apprehension for their lives and livelihood, local villagers protested the move of the Forest department to rehabilitate and relocate the pachyderm into Kapilash as the animal had killed a person in Kendrapara.

However, Dhenkanal DFO Prakash Chand Gogineni clarified that the person was killed by accident as the jumbo had lost its way and got surrounded by a gathering after being separated from its herd.

Subarnarekha at receiving end of industrial pollution

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Nov 2: Subarnarekha river, once known as Swarnarekha, has been at the receiving end of pollution in Balasore.

According to reports, effluents from big industries like Tata Steel and others in Jamshedpur are being released into the river, polluting its water. Moreover, various chemicals used by fishermen to catch fish are also contaminating its water.

Subarnarekha river originates in Nagri village in Ranchi plateau of Jharkhand. The river flows through Bhograi and Baliapal in Balasore before merging into the Bay of Bengal at Choumukh. This inter-state river has a course of 495 km flowing through Jamshedpur, Chandni, Chandbali, Ghatshila, Gopiballbhpur, Dantun and Jaleswar.

The river is capable of containing 1800 mm rainfall and it plays a key role in the ecology from June to October, according to some meteorologists. A legend has it that people in



Ranchi used to call the river Swarnarekha as valuable metals like gold were found at Piska, a place along the river course. Over years, the river was called Subarnarekha.

As the sand of the river is of high quality, mafia from West Bengal has been transporting truckloads of sand from the river bed to places outside the country every day, locals alleged.

According to the locals, owing to rampant sand mining over years the river has changed its course at different places in Balasore. Due to erosion, both the banks of the river have been collapsing, posing a serious threat to

some riparian villages. Illegal sand mining by Bengal mafia has also often triggered tension among locals who have been opposing it.

Expressing concern over the rampant sand mining and pollution, convener of Nadi Surakha Samiti, Sudharna Das had moved the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Kolkata in 2017. Hearing the case, the NGT, in 2018, had ordered the administration of both the states to stop illegal sand mining in the river.

However, despite raids and actions against the mafia, sand mining has not been completely curbed, local lamented.

Effluents from big industries like Tata Steel and others in Jamshedpur are being released into the river, polluting its water

Moreover, chemicals used by fishermen to catch fish are also contaminating its water

The river is considered as woe for people of six panchayats in Mayurbhanj district and most areas under Bhograi, Baliapal, Jaleswar and Basta blocks in Balasore

On the other hand, the river is considered as woe for people of six panchayats in Mayurbhanj district and most areas under Bhograi, Baliapal, Jaleswar and Basta blocks in Balasore.

Centuries ago, the river played host to flourishing maritime activities. Pipili port was developed at Subarnarekha river mouth. The port used to bear signatures of the glorious maritime past of the Utkal.

In 2008, the state government submitted a proposal, (Subarnarekha Renovation

Project), to the UPA government at the Centre for dredging the river and checking the flow of floodwater from neighbouring West Bengal.

In 2009, a high-level committee of the Central government had conducted a survey on the proposal and estimated that implementing the project would cost ₹900 crore. The survey report was sent to the Central Water Commission (CWC).

However, the CWC found the survey report faulty and sent it back to the Central government.

"As long as floods are not controlled in Subarnarekha along with its dredging, north Balasore will continue to suffer every year," said Dr Srikantcharan Patra, a researcher.

As for illegal sand mining, Bhograi tehsildar Kamalakant Panda said that sand ghats along the river have not been auctioned. Action will be taken against those carrying out illegal sand mining, he added.

NGT directs Ganjam DM to demolish GP bldg on pond

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 2: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the District Magistrate of Ganjam to remove the panchayat complex building constructed on a common village pond at Kukudakhandi tehsil by November 30 and take steps for the restoration of the water body.

A bench of Judicial Member B Amit Sthalekar and Expert Member Saibal Dasgupta referred to the Supreme Court judgment in Hinch Lal Tiwari (supra) wherein the SC had said that encroachment of water bodies is not permissible and all such encroachments and constructions must be removed. Moreover, the water bodies must be restored to their original character.

The tribunal rejected the submission of the counsel appearing for the district magistrate that the Gram Panchayat Building Complex has been constructed for the benefit of the villagers of the gram



The tribunal rejected the submission of the counsel appearing for the District Magistrate that the GP Building Complex has been constructed for the benefit of the villagers

panchayat, the population of which is between 4,000 and 15,000.

"Construction of a Gram Panchayat Building Complex on jalsaya land has the effect of destroying the water body or even a part thereof can hardly be said to be in the larger interest of the villagers accessing the said water body," the tribunal said.

'3rd of every month will be Lakhimpur Kisan Diwas'

October 3, four farmers were allegedly mowed down by a SUV while they were returning after staging protests against the farm laws at an event in which Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya and Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni were present

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 2: Even as the BJP steps up its attack on Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on his Jinnah statement, he has decided to deflect focus by announcing that the 3rd of every month will be observed as the 'Lakhimpur Kisan Smriti Diwas to remind people of the "BJP's cruelty". He has urged the "people of Uttar Pradesh, all well-wishers of farmers and SP workers and those of the allies" to back the decision. On October 3, four farmers were allegedly mowed down by a SUV while they were returning after staging protests against the farm



laws at an event in which Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya and Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni were present.

Farmers alleged that the SUV belonged to Teni and his son Ashish Mishra was in it. Ashish Mishra has been arrested and farmers are now calling for the Union Minister's dismissal since he is also an accused in the case.

Meanwhile, SP leaders have come out strongly in defence of Akhilesh Yadav's decision not to contest the 2022 Assembly

polls. "SP National President being in the fray is inconsequential as the party, as a whole, will contest the 2022 Assembly polls on the name, face and leadership of Akhilesh Yadav himself," said party spokesperson MLC Udaiveer Singh.

Apart from Akhilesh Yadav, a number of top politicians like Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had stayed away from the assembly elections only to take the MLC route through by polls.

Vaccination scheme has created 2 classes of citizens: Kerala HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 2: The Centre's vaccination scheme has created two classes of citizens in India - those who got COVAXIN, whose movements are restricted, and those who received COVISHIELD and can go anywhere - Kerala High Court said Tuesday. The observation by Justice P V Kunhikrishnan came during the hearing of a man's plea for a third jab of an internationally recognised vaccine so that he can go abroad for work.

The man, who was working as a welder in Saudi Arabia, moved the court for a third jab as the two doses of COVAXIN he has received is not recognised or approved in the Gulf nation and therefore, he stands to lose his job there as he cannot go there without being vaccinated by an internationally recognised vaccine.

"Due to the State-sponsored vaccination scheme, there are two types of citizens in the country - those who received COVAXIN and those who got COVISHIELD. The former's movement is restricted, while the latter can go anywhere," the court said.

It said the creation of two classes of citizens has resulted in "infringement of the fundamental right of movement of the petitioner".

"His movement is restricted. A citizen is suffering due to a State-sponsored vaccination scheme. It is a clear case of infringement of the fundamental rights of the pe-



THE JUDGE SAID HE WILL NOT ORDER AS TO WHETHER A THIRD JAB BE ADMINISTERED TO THE PETITIONER, BUT WILL DIRECT THE CENTRE TO REDRESS HIS GRIEVANCE WITHIN ONE MONTH

itioner," the court observed.

The judge said he will not order as to whether a third jab be administered to the petitioner, but will direct the Centre to redress his grievance within one month. The court listed the matter on November 5 to await the Centre's response on the view expressed by the judge.

During the hearing, the Centre told the court that a similar matter was pending before the Supreme Court which said it will wait for the World Health Organisation (WHO)

decision on the issue.

The court said if the Centre wants to take more time to make a decision, a direction can be issued to pay the petitioner the amount he was receiving as salary when working abroad.

"The court cannot sit like a mere spectator," the judge said. The Centre had in August said that clinical trials were underway to ascertain efficacy of administering a third dose of COVID vaccine and it will take several months to complete.

Wildlife teams to check owl sacrifice in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 2: With just two days left for Diwali, forest officials and wildlife activists have stepped up efforts to check owl sacrifice which is rampant in Uttar Pradesh during the festival.

According to official sources, teams have been set up to patrol areas where occult practices take place. Occultists, in particular, indulge in owl sacrifice during this time.

A letter issued by the forest department has asked all NGOs, District Magistrates and police chiefs to remain alert on smuggling of owls. A senior forest official said: "During Diwali, the evil practice of black magic involving sacrifice of animals (particularly owls) is greatly prevalent, especially among the tribal communities living in areas along the banks of rivers. We are also sensitising people against this practice."

The owl is believed to be the vehicle of Goddess Lakshmi, the divine power symbolising wealth, fortune, power, beauty and prosperity. Owl sacrifice takes place because people believe that it will bring prosperity and good fortune. A countrywide smuggling of owls flourishes in the country during this season.

There are 30 owl species in India, and most of these are in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species and Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.

Man complains of his blood being 'stolen'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Moradabad (UP), Nov 2: A young man in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad city has alleged that his acquaintance offered him a cigarette laced with some intoxicant that rendered him unconscious and then extracted blood from him.

In his complaint given to the police, Faizan alleged that he was offered a cigarette while sharing a ride in a vehicle with a fellow resident on Saturday morning. He was taken for a blood test and then, his blood was extracted, he claimed.

His family said they could not trace him the whole day. They tried calling him on his mobile and it was picked up by someone who claimed to be Faizan's friend. He returned at night and collapsed at home, they said.

Sanjay Kumar, SHO, said a complaint of abduction and illegal extraction of blood has been filed by the victim's family on Sunday. He said that the matter was under investigation.

CELEBRATING DHANTERAS



People buy idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha on the occasion of Dhanteras festival, in Varanasi

PTI PHOTO

Swapna Suresh gets bail Deepotsav begins in Ayodhya on a grand scale

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Nov 2: The Kerala High Court on Tuesday granted bail to prime accused Swapna Suresh in the Kerala gold smuggling case, after almost 16 months.

The bail came in the case registered against her by the National Investigation Agency and since she had secured bail in other cases, she can now walk free. Meanwhile, since she has to execute few bonds and sureties in this case and a few other cases, it's unlikely that she will be able to come out of the jail, later in the day.

Her counsel pointed out that the court has given her a clean chit in the terror angle in the NIA case. The smuggling case came to light on July 5, 2020, when the Customs arrested Saritha, a former employee of the UAE Consulate here, for allegedly smuggling gold in a diplomatic baggage destined for the Consulate.

Swapna Suresh, who previously worked in the UAE Consulate, and her associate Sandip Nair, were arrested in the case by the NIA from Bengaluru a few days later. When strict restrictions were imposed on travel last year to check the spread of the coronavirus, both Swapna Suresh and Nair managed to drive from here to Bengaluru from where they were arrested by an NIA team a few days later.

Eyebrows were raised at that time on how they managed interstate travel. Meanwhile, Swapna's



Photo for representation only - FILE PHOTO

The bail came in the case registered against her by the National Investigation Agency and since she had secured bail in other cases, she can now walk free

mother expressed happiness that her daughter finally has got bail.

"At this moment, all I wish to say is to say thank all who supported us and also to those who made fun of us. Every week I used to visit her in the jail and I used to return heartbroken. As a mother, what I will say is my daughter is innocent and she will prove her innocence. She used to say that she was trapped, but never said who were those people, who trapped her. However once she comes out, I myself will bring her before the media," said her mother.

DEEPOTSAV IS BEING HELD FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR AND THE SCALE HAS INCREASED WITH EACH CELEBRATION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ayodhya, Nov 2: The Deepotsav celebrations in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya district began on a grand scale on Monday evening.

The majestic 'Ram Ki Paidi' Ghat was dotted with colourful lights for the mega celebrations. The ghat is the main venue of Deepotsav celebrations which will be illuminated with nine lakhs earthen diyas on the eve of Diwali on Wednesday.

Deepotsav is being held for the fifth consecutive year and the scale has increased with each celebration. The celebrations began with the inauguration of Shilp Bazar at Ram Katha Park. On the inaugural day, famous Watkar sisters of Nagpur, Bhagyashri and Dhanashri, presented a musical rendition of various parts of Ramayana.



FILE PHOTO

Isha Ratan and Misha Ratan from Lucknow presented Kathak dance while famous bhajan singer Anoop Jalota enthralled the audience with his devotional songs. A troupe of artists from Janakpur, Nepal, gave a performance on Ramayana.

All temples, even those in narrow lanes and by lanes of Ayodhya, have been decorated and illuminated up for the festive occasion.

Ved Prakash Gupta, BJP MLA from Ayodhya, said, "Deepotsav celebrations began in Ayodhya on

Monday. The entire city has been spruced up. The main event is scheduled on Wednesday, which will be presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath."

The Ayodhya administration will go for Guinness Book of World record of lighting diyas (earthen lamps) at Ram Ki Paidi on Wednesday. This year nine lakhs earthen diyas will illuminate Ram Ki Paidi.

The Ayodhya administration and the Uttar Pradesh Tourism department have mobilised 12,000

volunteers for the task of lighting diyas. Thirty-two other ghats in Ayodhya will also be illuminated with earthen diyas.

For the first time, the state government is organising an aerial drone show on Deepotsav. Around 500 drones will draw various features from Ramayana on Ayodhya's skyline. In addition to this, 3-D holographic show, 3-D projection mapping and laser show at the majestic Ram Ki Paidi on the banks of river Saryu will also be held.

national

of the day quote

I will write to the Ministry of External Affairs to grant visa to a Chinese consultant working on a bridge project in Goa



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

Pawar saheb is leading the state, he is leading several such institutes here, and while he is continuously working, his family is also working tirelessly towards one obsession, and that is development



UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CM

The Congress is emerging as the "viable option" in Uttar Pradesh as people want a real change, and "not more of the same" from the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party



SACHIN PILOT | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Militant operator arrested

Jammu: As the anti-terror operation continued for the last three weeks in J&K's Poonch district, security forces Tuesday said they have arrested a villager who is the militant operator in the area. As the Poonch anti-terror operation continued for the 23rd day on Tuesday, security forces said they have arrested a villager in Bhatta Durrian area who is a militant operator. Police sources said cordon has been lifted, but the combing operation is still underway and efforts are on to track down the militants.

J&K BJP leader booked

Jammu: A senior Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader has been booked for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of a community through his remarks, prompting the party to relieve him of all his responsibilities including the post of J&K secretary. An FIR has been registered against former MLC Vikram Randhawa after a video surfaced online purportedly showing him making "disparaging" comments over the incidents of celebration of Pakistan's win over India in a T20 world cup cricket match. "An FIR has been registered against Randhawa at a police station here under section 295-A and 505 (2) of the Indian Penal Code and further investigation is on," a police official said.

Zika tally touches 11

Kanpur: Kanpur has reported one more case of Zika virus, taking the tally to 11. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kanpur, Dr Nepal Singh, said that pathology samples of a 42-year-old woman from Shiv Katra, sent to the KGMU lab in Lucknow and National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, tested positive for the virus on Monday. So far, 11 people, including three IAF staff from in Chakeri area, have tested positive for the infection.

Three cops suspended

Amroha (UP): Three policemen, including the station house officer of Adampur police station in Amroha, have been suspended a day after a 17-year-old rape survivor was found hanging from a tree in a sugarcane field. Taking a serious note of the incident, Amroha SP Poonam suspended SHO Satresh Kumar and Constables Rahul Kumar and Sumit Kumar for 'dereliction of duty'. The girl's family had alleged that she was sexually assaulted by one Monu Sharma of their village on September 25.

BITTER PARTING

Amarinder quits Cong, names his new party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 2: Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Tuesday resigned from the Congress, sending party president Sonia Gandhi a bitter letter that slammed her over a "conspiracy" to oust him and timing the move with the announcement of the name of his new party.

Singh's yet to be formally launched outfit will be called the 'Punjab Lok Congress'. Its registration and the allotment of a poll symbol are pending with the Election Commission. Amarinder Singh's resignation letter, made public on Twitter, ran into seven pages that lashed out at Navjot Singh Sidhu, the new Punjab Congress president, and Harish Rawat, the former AICC in-charge for the state whom he called a "dubious individual".

Singh recalled old ties with the Gandhi family: "I actually felt deeply hurt by your conduct and that of your children who I still deeply love as much as my own children, having known their father, since we were in school together since 1954, which is for 67 years now," he wrote.

Singh had resigned as the Punjab chief minister in September amid a bitter power tussle with Sidhu, the ex-cricketer favoured over him by the party high command. Days later, he had made clear that he will quit the Congress and float his own party. He didn't rule out a tie-up with the BJP - if the farmers' issue is settled - and other parties, ahead of next year's assembly polls in the state.

In the letter, Singh told Sonia Gandhi that despite knowing him "for the better part of his 52 years in public life" and that too at a deeply personal level "you never understood me or my character". "You thought I was getting on in years and should be put to pasture. I am neither tired nor retired. I feel I have a lot to give and contribute to my beloved Punjab. I intend to soldier on and not fade away," he wrote.

He again expressed disappointment over Sidhu being made the state party chief.

"Despite my profound reserva-



Goa deserves capable leadership. Goa deserves cultural conservation. Goa deserves congenial development. Goa deserves Congress. I stand with Goa for a better tomorrow

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

DELHI SHIVERS

After days of the minimum temperature hovering around 14-15 degrees Celsius, Delhi witnessed the coldest night - at 13.6 degrees Celsius - Monday



Deshmukh gets 4 days' ED custody

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 2: A holiday Special Court Tuesday remanded former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh to the custody of Enforcement Directorate till November 6 in a money-laundering case, 16 hours after he was arrested at 1.00 a.m. Tuesday morning.

Special Judge P.B. Jadhav rejected the plea by ED's counsel, Additional Solicitor-General Anil Singh seeking 14 days' custody, which the defence lawyers, Senior Advocate Vikram Chaudhri and advocate Aniket Nikam strongly protested.

Chaudhri said that before the Supreme Court and Bombay High Court, the ED had said that Deshmukh was only a suspect and not an accused in the case and termed the arrest 'illegal'. That was the reason Deshmukh voluntarily went to the ED office on November 1 and after 13 hours of questioning he was placed under arrest, he said.

The defence sought to know what fresh evidence the ED had gathered in the past four days since Friday (Oct 29) leading to the arrest especially since he had always cooperated with the agency whenever summoned. The Bombay High



Court on Friday declined Deshmukh's plea to quash the ED summons against him, and he said that his matter was still pending before the Supreme Court.

Following an application by Deshmukh, the Special Judge Jadhav allowed home-food and medicines, and presence of a lawyer during the ED interrogation, given his advanced age of 72 and several health issues like a dislocated arm and heart problems, besides being a Covid-recovered patient, said Nikam.

The ED filed its case based on the CBI's FIR against Deshmukh after former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh had alleged that the minister had

tasked sacked cop Sachin Vaze and others to collect Rs 100 crore from Mumbai hoteliers every month.

In a video-statement prior to appearing before the ED, Deshmukh had demanded to know "where is Singh who had levelled the false allegations" and now disappeared, amid reports he may have sneaked out of India.

Following Singh's letter in March, the ED and CBI had carried out multiple raids on Deshmukh and family, and the ED sought his 14 days custody citing 'non-cooperation'. Deshmukh refuted the ED charges saying that whenever he was summoned, he had replied to them, provided documents, etc and said that he would appear after the outcome of his various court appeals.

"On account of a witch-hunt campaign launched at the instance of certain vested inimical interests, some blatantly false allegations have been levelled by those persons who have absolutely no credibility, honour or pride," said Deshmukh.

He added that "these unscrupulous persons are themselves knee-deep involved in several rackets of extortion and even murder. The principal person who held the high office of Mumbai CoP is now a wanted absconding criminal".

CBI files two charge-sheets in navy info leak case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The CBI Tuesday filed two charge-sheets related to the alleged leak of confidential information about two different naval projects, officials said.

This is one of the quickest probes in defence corruption cases as the agency filed charge-sheet within 60 days of the first arrests made on September 3 to ensure that the arrested accused do not get easy bail.

In one of the charge-sheets, the CBI named retired naval officers - Commodore Randeep Singh and Commander SJ Singh - while in the second case, besides these two, serving Commander Ajeet Kumar Pandey, and three executives of Hyderabad-based Allen Reinforced Plastics Ltd - executive director TP Shastri and directors NB Rao and K Chandrasekhar - have been listed.

The CBI has arrested six persons including the two accused retired officers, Pandey, another serving officer under him and two private individuals in an operation which started on September 3. One of the naval officers under custody has not been named in the charge-sheet and may be listed in the supplementary charge-sheet to be filed soon.

The CBI has to file a charge-sheet within 60 days of arrest of accused in corruption cases, else they become eligible for bail. The limit for special crime cases is 90 days. "We have filed two separate charge sheets as we are probing the role of the accused in the two different naval projects," an official said.

In its charge-sheets filed before a special CBI court at Rouse Avenue, the CBI has slapped section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of Indian Penal Code and provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act.

The case began when the agency received the input that some serving officers in the Western Headquarters of Navy working on retrofitting of Russian Kilo class submarines were allegedly being influenced by retired naval officers and were receiving pecuniary benefits, the officials said.

Dy SP Prison, school principal sacked for terror links in J&K

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has sacked a Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy SP) Prison and a school principal for having terror links, sources said here Tuesday.

Dy SP Feroz Ahmad Lone and the principal of the Government Senior Secondary School at Bijbehra Javid Ahmad Shah have been terminated from service for actively working with terrorist outfits after the Union Territory administration invoked Sec 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution to sack the two employees after an investigation clearly established their terror links.

The sources said that DSP Lone, appointed in 2012 during Omar Abdullah's tenure as the Chief Minister of the erstwhile state, hatched a criminal conspiracy with terror commanders to send youths illegally to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) for weapons training and later push them back into Kashmir as active terrorists of the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) to indulge in acts of terrorism.

It is learnt that Lone was working for Riyaz Naikoo, the killed HM terrorist.



Singh's yet to be formally launched outfit will be called the 'Punjab Lok Congress'

Its registration and the allotment of a poll symbol are pending with the Election Commission

and over the unanimous advice of almost all the MPs from Punjab, you chose to appoint an acolyte of the Pakistani deep state Navjot Sidhu who had publicly hugged the Pakistan Army Chief Gen Bajwa and Prime Minister Imran Khan, as the president of the Punjab Congress Committee."

The former CM called Khan and Bajwa the people responsible for sending terrorists across the border to kill Indians. "Sidhu's only claim to fame was that he would abuse me and my government on a regular basis. I am old enough to be his father but that did not stop him from using the filthiest and most vile language against me both publicly and privately," he said.

He accused Sonia Gandhi's children, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, of taking Sidhu's side. "Unfortunately rather than being reined in, he was patronised by Rahul and Priyanka, while you chose to turn a blind eye to the shenanigans of this gentleman who was aided and abetted by the General Secretary in-charge Harish Rawat, perhaps the most dubious individual I had the occasion to make acquaintance of."

₹1,400-crore assets of Pawar's kin attached

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: Following extensive nationwide searches on Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's relatives last month, the taxmen Tuesday provisionally sent orders to attach their properties in Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune, Goa and also over two dozen land parcels across the state with a combined market value of around ₹1,400 crore.

An Income Tax source confirmed that their benami properties division has issued the provisional attachment orders under the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act of 1988, regarding various properties linked to the NCP leader's family members, including his son Parth Pawar. Ajit Pawar is the nephew of NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

The Deputy CM's relatives have been given 90 days to prove these properties legitimately belong to them and not purchased with illicit money, the source said.

ARMED FORCES MODERNISATION

Purchases worth ₹7,965 crore cleared

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Defence Ministry Tuesday approved the procurement of arms and military equipment worth Rs 7,965 crore, including 12 light utility helicopters from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, according to an official statement.

The procurement proposals were approved at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), the ministry's highest decision-making body on the matter. Besides clearing the proposal to buy 12 helicopters, the DAC approved the procurement of Lynx U2 naval gunfire control system from Bharat Electronics Limited that will enhance the tracking and engagement capabilities of naval warships, the ministry's statement said.

The DAC on Tuesday also approved "mid-life upgradation of Dornier aircraft" by Hindustan



PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

Aeronautics Limited to increase the naval capacity of maritime reconnaissance and coastal surveillance, it mentioned.

"As a further impetus to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India), a global procurement case of naval guns has

been foreclosed with these guns' quantity added to the upgraded super rapid gun mount (SRGM) being manufactured by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)," it noted.

These SRGMs provide niche capabilities of engaging fast ma-

The procurement proposals were approved at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council, the ministry's highest decision-making body on the matter

noeuving targets using guided munitions and range extensions, and are to be fitted on the warships of the Indian Navy, the statement said.

"The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), in its meeting of November 2, 2021, held under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity for capital acquisition proposals for modernisation and operational needs of the armed forces amounting to Rs 7,965 crore," it noted.

India saw 125 extremely heavy rainfall events this Sept, Oct: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: India recorded 125 extremely heavy rainfall events during September and October of 2021, the highest in five years, owing to late withdrawal of the southwest monsoon and higher-than-normal low-pressure systems, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday.

The country recorded 89 extremely heavy rainfall events this September against 61 in the same month last year, 59 in 2019, 44 in 2018 and 29 in 2017. Also, 36 such events were witnessed in October this year compared to 10 in the corre-

sponding period of 2020; 16 in 2019; 17 in 2018 and 12 in 2017, according to IMD data.

The meteorological department said the causes of disastrous weather episodes included the late withdrawal of the monsoon, a higher-than-normal number of low-pressure systems during the period and the interaction of active western disturbances with low-pressure systems in October.

Nine low-pressure systems, including two cyclones, one deep depression and six lows, affected the country during the period. Unprecedented extremely heavy



PTI PHOTO

rain in Uttarakhand on October 18 and 19 claimed 79 lives. The Himalayan state received 203.2 mm rainfall against the normal of 35.3 mm in October.

Heavy to extremely heavy rain during October 17-19 due to interaction of a low-pressure area and an intense western disturbance caused flash floods and landslides in Uttarakhand and riverine flooding in west Uttar Pradesh.

Rainfall recorded below 15 mm is considered light, between 15 and 64.5 mm moderate, between 64.5 mm and 115.5 mm heavy, between 115.6 and 204.4 is very heavy. Anything above 204.4 mm is con-

sidered extremely heavy rainfall.

The southwest monsoon withdrew from the entire country on October 25 against the normal date of October 15, making it the seventh-most delayed retreat since 1975. The country received "normal" rainfall during the four-month southwest monsoon season from June to September - 87 cm against the Long Period Average (LPA) of 88 cm of 1961-2010 (99 per cent of its LPA). This is the third consecutive year that the country recorded rainfall in the normal or above-normal category. Rainfall was above normal in 2019 and 2020.

international



The time for words has now moved to the time for action. It is time for action to protect the planet for future generations

GUYANA RECOGNISES COVAXIN

Guyana Tuesday recognised Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, India's first indigenous vaccine against Covid-19. Hailing the decision, the Indian High Commission in Guyana said that it is an important step forward in the post Covid partnership between both the countries



of the day quote

I advocated that rather than disengaging, we need to press the Taliban to negotiate and reach a pact on the implementation of the remaining parts dealing with terrorism (and) the establishment of a broad-based government

ZALMAY KHALILZAD | EX-US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AFGHAN RECONCILIATION

Several mediation efforts are underway to solve the current political crisis and restore constitutional order in Sudan where a coup was staged October 25

VOLKER PERTHES | UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR SUDAN

This is a very challenging task of having to reduce greenhouse gases steeply in a short period of time

MOON JAE-IN | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Ethiopia declares state of emergency

Nairobi: Ethiopia's government declared a national state of emergency Tuesday as rival Tigray forces threaten to move on the capital and the country's yearlong war escalates quickly. The United States said security has "deteriorated significantly," and it strongly warned its citizens to consider leaving.

US to cut Ethiopia from trade program

Washington: President Joe Biden Tuesday said he's decided to cut out Ethiopia from a US trade program, setting the path for further sanctions against the African nation over its failure to end a nearly yearlong war in the Tigray region that has led to "gross violations" of human rights. Biden in a letter to Congress said Ethiopia has not met eligibility requirements to remain a beneficiary of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Morrison attacks Macron's credibility

Canberra: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison attacked the credibility of French President Emmanuel Macron as a newspaper quoted a text message that suggested France anticipated "bad news" about a now-scuttled submarine deal. An Australian newspaper cast doubt on President Joe Biden's explanation to Macron last week that the US leader thought the French had been informed long before the September announcement that their 90 billion Australian dollar (\$66 billion) submarine deal with Australia would be scrapped.

Chinese told to stockpile food

Beijing: Chinese families have been encouraged to stockpile daily necessities, prompting panic buying, amid surging vegetable prices linked to recent extreme weather, fears of supply shortages and an ongoing Covid outbreak, The Guardian reported.

Environmentalists plan to sue US

Huntington Beach: A month after a Southern California offshore oil spill, environmental advocates said Tuesday that they plan to sue the federal government over the failure to review and update plans for platforms off the coast. The Center for Biological Diversity said it sent notice to the Secretary of the Interior of its intent to sue, a requirement for lawsuits against the federal government.

CLIMATE TALKS

Leaders pledge to cut methane, save forests



GREENLAND TO JOIN PARIS AGREEMENT: Greenland's government said Tuesday it has taken a first step toward joining the Paris Agreement on climate and aims to develop the Arctic island's vast hydro power potential.

BEZOS PLEDGES \$2BN FOR RESTORING NATURE: Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has said his Bezos Earth Fund will spend \$2bn (£1.5bn) restoring landscapes and transforming food systems. He told the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow that he had grasped nature's fragility when he travelled into space. Entrepreneurs including Mr Bezos have been criticised for spending money on trips into space instead of solving problems on Earth. Amazon has also been criticised by its workers over environmental practices.

TIME TO ACT: Greenpeace criticised the Glasgow initiative for effectively giving the green light to "another decade of deforestation". "Indigenous peoples are calling for 80 per cent of the Amazon to be protected by 2025, and they're right, that's what's needed," said Greenpeace Brazil executive director Carolina Pasquali. "The climate and the natural world can't afford this deal," she said. Many studies have shown that the best way of protecting forests worldwide is to keep them under the management of locals with generations of preservation knowledge. The commitment comes a day after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres harangued the gathered leaders to act to save humanity.

AGENCIES

Glasgow, Nov 2: Leaders at the COP26 global climate conference in Glasgow have pledged to stop deforestation by the end of the decade and slash emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane to help slow climate change.

The inability of major powers so far to agree more broadly on rapid reductions in the use of fossil fuels - the main cause of manmade global warming - has upset the poorer, smaller countries likely to suffer its worst effects.

Surangel Whipps Jr, president of Palau, a Pacific country of 500 low-lying islands under threat from rising sea levels, told the leaders of the G20 industrial powers in a speech: "We are drowning and our only hope is the life-ring you are holding."

Nearly 90 countries have joined a US- and EU-led effort to slash emissions of methane 30 per cent by 2030 from 2020 levels, a senior US official said ahead of a formal announcement on Tuesday.

Methane is more short-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide but 80 times more potent in warming the earth.

Cutting emissions of the gas, which is estimated to have accounted for 30 per cent of global warming since pre-industrial times,

MODI MEETS BILL GATES



Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday met Microsoft co-founder and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates on the sidelines of the climate summit here and discussed ways to further sustainable development, steps to mitigate climate change and vaccine research. India Tuesday launched 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' (OSOWOG) at the global climate conference COP26 with an aim to harness solar energy wherever the sun is shining, ensuring that generated electricity flows to areas that need it most.

is one of the most effective ways of slowing climate change. The Global Methane Pledge, first announced in September, now covers emissions from two-thirds of the

global economy, according to the US official.

Among the signatories to be announced Tuesday is Brazil - one of the five biggest emitters of methane, which is generated in cows' digestive systems, in landfill waste and in oil and gas production.

Three others - China, Russia and India - have not signed up while Australia has said it will not back the pledge. Humanity has also boosted the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by hacking away at the forests that absorb roughly 30 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions, according to the non-profit World Resources Institute.

In 2020, the world lost 258,000 sq km of forest - an area larger than the United Kingdom, according to WRI's Global Forest Watch.

The conservation charity WWF estimates that 27 football fields of forest are lost every minute. More than 100 leaders of countries pledged to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by the end of the decade, underpinned by \$US19 billion (\$A25 billion) in public and private funds to invest in protecting and restoring forests.

The agreement vastly expands a commitment made by 40 countries as part of the 2014 New York Declaration of Forests and promises more resources.

Musk will sell Tesla stock if UN can prove it will 'solve world hunger'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, Nov 2: Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has said he is willing to sell his stock to help solve world hunger if a top United Nations official, who said that just 2 per cent of the entrepreneur's income could help solve world hunger, can back up the claim.

Speaking to CNN, David Beasley, the director of the UN's World Food Programme (WFP), called on Musk and Jeff Bezos (the second richest person on the planet) to reconsider where they are putting their money. "\$6 billion to help 42 million people that are literally going to die if we don't reach them. It's not complicated," he had said.

Replying to Beasley, Musk posted late on Sunday that he is ready to help if the WFP can describe on the same Twitter thread how \$6 billion will help solve world hunger.

"If WFP can describe on this Twitter thread exactly how \$6B will solve world hunger, I will sell Tesla stock right now and do it", Musk posted.

"But it must be open source accounting, so the public sees precisely how the money is spent," he added.

The WFP provides assistance to over 115 million people in 84 countries through food or cash distributions in emergencies, nutrition



support programmes and other activities. Musk is currently worth a colossal \$300 billion and Beasley claimed that just two percent of his wealth could save more than 40 million people "who are literally going to die".

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

Musk is now worth more than the annual GDP of nations like Egypt, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Greece, Qatar, and Finland.

He's also worth more than the market value of PayPal, the company he co-founded, as well as streaming giant Netflix.

FB TO SHUT DOWN FACE-RECOGNITION SYSTEM, DELETE DATA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Menlo Park, Nov 2: Facebook said it will shut down its face-recognition system and delete the faceprints of more than 1 billion people.

"This change will represent one of the largest shifts in facial recognition usage in the technology's history," said a blog post Tuesday from Jerome Pesenti, vice president of artificial intelligence for Facebook's new parent company, Meta.

"More than a third of Facebook's daily active users have opted in to our Face Recognition setting and are able to be recognized, and its removal will result in the deletion of more than a billion people's individual facial recognition templates." He said the company was trying to weigh the positive use cases for the technology "against growing societal concerns, especially as regulators have yet to provide clear rules."

More than a third of Facebook's daily active users have opted in to have their faces recognized by the social network's system. That's about 640 million people. The setting's removal will mean deleting more than a billion people's individual facial recognition templates, Pesenti said. Facebook had already been scaling back its use of facial recognition after introducing it more than a decade ago. The company in 2019 ended its practice of using face recognition software to identify users' friends in uploaded photos and automatically suggesting they "tag" them.



KABUL HOSPITAL ATTACK: A man hurries away with a baby after an explosion at the entrance of a military hospital in Kabul. At least 19 people were killed and 43 wounded when two explosions followed by gunfire hit the hospital. PTI PHOTO

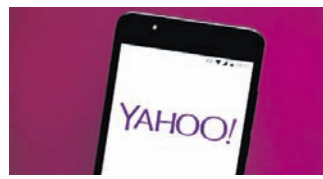
Yahoo pulls its services out of China

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hong Kong, Nov 2: Yahoo has become the latest US tech company to end its presence in mainland China as tougher regulations are imposed there, BBC reported.

The firm said its decision was due to an "increasingly challenging business and legal environment" in the country", the report added. Yahoo users in China are now greeted with a message saying its sites are no longer accessible.

The company says Yahoo products and services remain unaffected elsewhere around the world. In a statement, it says: "Yahoo remains committed to the rights of our users and a free and open internet. We thank our users for their support." Yahoo's move follows closely behind Microsoft's announcement last month that it was removing LinkedIn - its business-focused social network - from China, something it also blamed on "a sig-



nificantly more challenging operating environment and greater compliance requirements", the report added. China is in the midst of a large-scale crackdown on big tech companies - both those from the US and its own native giants.

Pak NSA rules out visiting India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 2: Pakistan National Security Advisor (NSA) Moed Yusuf Tuesday said he would not travel to India to attend a conference hosted by it on Afghanistan, as he dismissed New Delhi's role as a "peace-maker" in the war-torn neighbouring nation.

India extended the invitation to Pakistan to attend the regional conference on Afghanistan next week, expected to be hosted by

Indian NSA Ajit Doval. The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan August 15, two weeks before the US was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a costly two-decade war.

"I will not go. I am not going. A spoiler can't become a peacemaker," Yusuf said in response to a question about whether he will be attending the meeting hosted by India.

Earlier, Pakistan's Foreign Office confirmed the invitation from India but said the decision would be taken at an appropriate time.

NIPAH VIRUS: COULD IT CAUSE THE NEXT PANDEMIC?

A RECENT OUTBREAK OF NIPAH VIRUS IN INDIA HAS RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE SHOULD START TO CONSIDER IT AS A FUTURE THREAT, AND LOOK TO BUILD UP OUR ARSENAL OF DEFENCES NOW

AGENCIES

London, Nov 2: The severe and devastating consequences of the coronavirus pandemic were undoubtedly made worse by a substantial lack of pandemic preparedness, with the exception of East and South East Asia, which had built up defences after their experience with SARS in 2003. So it is crucial that governments begin to develop strategies to protect us if other deadly viruses emerge.

The rapid development of vaccines against the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, have provided a pathway out of this pandemic. So, if vaccines for other potentially dangerous viruses could be developed and stockpiled, they could be rolled out as soon as any new outbreak is detected. We would then be ahead of the curve and a pandemic could

be avoided. This approach is laudable - but it assumes that viruses with pandemic potential can be identified in advance, which is not easy to do. And it also runs the risk that a "don't worry, there's a vaccine" mindset might cause simpler preventative methods to be overlooked.

Nipah virus was first identified in Malaysia in 1998. Cases such as the recent death of a boy in Kerala, India have raised concerns that it could mutate and increase its efficiency of transmission, leading to widespread circulation.

That scenario is frightening as the virus currently has a case fatality rate of over 50% and there

is no vaccine or tried-and-tested treatment.

Nipah is a paramyxovirus. It is related to a human virus, human parainfluenza virus, one of the handful of viruses that cause the common cold. Its natural

host is the fruit bat, the large and small flying foxes which are distributed across South and Southeast Asia. All cases of human infection with the Nipah virus to date have been due to direct or indirect contact with infected bats.

The infection in bats is sub-clinical, so goes largely unnoticed. Virus is excreted in the urine which, via grooming and crowding, ensures transfer within and between colonies. Fruit or fruit juice contaminated by bat urine is the principal route of virus transmission.

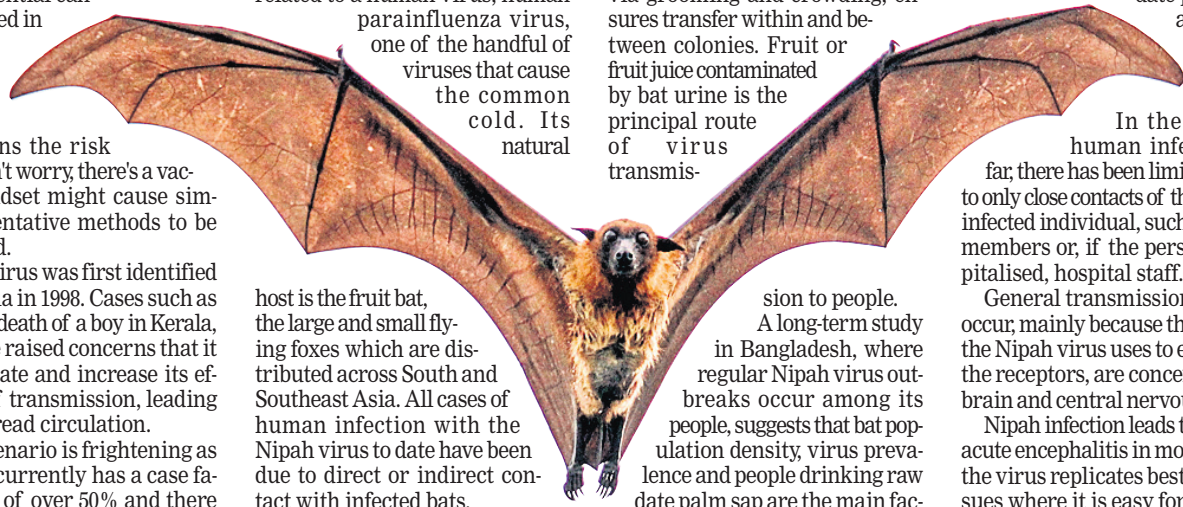
tors explaining the pattern of transmission. The bats contaminate the sap while it is being tapped from the date palm tree, and it is then consumed locally.

In the cases of human infection, so far, there has been limited spread to only close contacts of the primary infected individual, such as family members or, if the person is hospitalised, hospital staff.

General transmission does not occur, mainly because the proteins the Nipah virus uses to enter cells, the receptors, are concentrated in brain and central nervous tissues.

Nipah infection leads to death by acute encephalitis in most cases as the virus replicates best in the tissues where it is easy for the virus

to enter the cells. The virus does replicate to a small degree in the vasculature, the blood vessels which provide a route for the virus to travel from consumed foodstuffs to the nervous system. But the central nervous system preference also suggests why onward transmission is limited. The virus cannot easily transmit from there. There is a case for a Nipah vaccine, but more for emergency use in those in contact with a primary case than for a vaccination campaign in general.





ASEAN countries have a unique opportunity to build a green and inclusive future after the COVID-19 pandemic
MASATSUGU ASAKAWA | ADB PRESIDENT

of the day quote

For net-zero target by 2070, we need to move to different forms of energy...based on current assessment, peak oil may not be before 2040. Other forms of energy will slowly and gradually find their place and meet incremental demand.



MK SURANA | CMD, HPL

As repositories of public resources, banks need to design appropriate governance standards and implement internal controls to be worthy of the public trust



MK JAIN | RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR

India has an unprecedented opportunity to grow electronics manufacturing to USD 300 billion in the next 3-4 years, building on scale, competitiveness, large market and enabling policies



RAVEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MOS FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

SHORT TAKES

Gillette India net profit falls 14%

New Delhi: Grooming products maker Gillette India Tuesday reported a 14.02 per cent decline in its net profit to ₹81.93 crore for the first quarter ended September 30. The company, which follows July-June financial year, had reported a profit of ₹95.29 crore in the corresponding quarter previous fiscal. Its net sales were 11.02 per cent to ₹573.31 crore during the quarter under review against ₹516.40 crore a year ago, Gillette India said in a BSE filing. "Profit After Tax (PAT) was ₹82 crores, down 14 per cent vs year ago because of lower marketing investments in the corresponding quarter of 2020 due to the pandemic," Gillette India said in a post-earnings statement.

Sonalika sees 17,130 tractor sales in Oct

Bhubaneswar: In this festive season, Sonalika Tractors registered highest ever year-to-date figures of 85,068 overall tractor sales in FY'22, recording a growth of 6.56%. The company sold 79,829 units in the same period last year. Sonalika has registered overall tractor sales of 17,130 tractors in October 2021, registering 5.5% growth to surpass industry growth. Raman Mittal, Executive Director, Sonalika Tractors, said: "We have clocked our highest ever YTD Oct'21 sales of 85,068 units with 6.56% growth. Keeping in view farmers' requirements, we started preparing ourselves after Q1 FY'22 itself so that our customised tractors offer the best value for money package to farmers across the world."

ProTeen launches counselling platform

New Delhi: ProTeen announced the launch of its next-generation digital and integrated academic and career guidance platform built for high-school and college students to make informed career choices in the 21st century. With the pandemic amplifying distance education and learning, the demand for digital education platforms has witnessed a steep growth. ProTeen boasts of easy navigation, an engaging interface, personalised content, clear actionable academic and career paths, gamification, and more. ProTeen's 3D Awareness engine provides integrated academic and career guidance, analytics, and empowers students, counsellors, and parents.

Coal to remain predominant fuel in India's energy basket

COAL WILL CONTINUE TO FEED THE GROWING ENERGY NEED OF INDIA FOR THE NEXT FIVE DECADES, ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY EXPERTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Given India's dependence on coal for 70 per cent of the power sector's need, the 50 per cent non-fossil fuel sourcing by 2030 itself will be quite challenging and coal will continue to feed the growing energy need of India for the next five decades, according to industry experts.

The comments come a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi surprised delegates at the COP26 climate summit with a bold pledge to cutting emissions at the world's third-biggest emitter to net-zero by 2070.

"Coal will continue to feed the growing energy need of India in next five decades and only going to peak in the 2040s- hence we need to continue investment in coal mines and infrastructure going forward, else we will face fuel side challenges like in October," Debasis Mishra, partner at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in India told PTI.

As such India's thermal coal capacities are increasing from current 210 GW to 267 GW projected by CEA by 2030. Also there will be retirement of old capacities. Hence in no situation thermal coal capacities will get stranded because of this COP26 commitment, he added.

According to former Coal India chairman Partha Sarathi Bhattacharyya, coal will have to stay



and initially will have to actually increase in quantity and not in share.

"Share will go down but it terms of quantity and in terms of capacity it will perhaps go up from the current levels," he explained.

Niladri Bhattacharjee, Partner, Metals & Mining, KPMG in India said prima facie, the 2070 commitment for net-zero seems quite doable. However, the generation that will be responsible for this is not yet born or are very young.

"Coal's demise is not a foregone conclusion, especially in the power sector. What happens to coal will be a function of India's growth, overall energy demand in India and price of different forms of energy as we go through the transition," he said.

Imported energy may be the first casualty compared to domestic coal.

"However, the fourth commitment related to reducing energy intensity of the economy so sharply, will pose a challenge for steel, aluminium and cement sectors. Somehow, I feel we need to wait and see how the separate commitments impact each other and whether one can be easier to pull off independent of the other," he added.

Monday, Modi raised the 2030 target for renewable energy capacity to 500 GW from 450 GW and pledged to produce half the country's electricity using renewable energy.

India will also cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 1 billion tonne from business as usual by the end of the decade.

To deliver on the 2070 goal, the country still has to lay out a detailed plan for the 40 years in between.

Dhanteras brings back glitter

Around 15 tonnes of gold jewellery were sold across the country on the auspicious day, says Confederation of All India Traders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, Nov 2: Regaining the lost sheen, sales of gold jewellery and coins are set to touch pre-COVID levels in volume terms on the auspicious Dhanteras as easing pandemic concerns and pent up demand saw consumers flocking to stores to buy the precious metal.

Increased footfall at stores and brisk sales online as well as relatively softer gold prices compared to record ₹57,000 per 10 grams level in August spurred increased buying, especially light weight offerings, Tuesday. Dhanteras is considered to be auspicious for buying precious metals and other valuable items. Tuesday, gold prices were ruling lower in the range of ₹47,644 per 10 grams, excluding taxes, in the national capital, compared to a record level of over ₹57,000 in August. However, the rates are much higher compared to ₹39,240 per 10 grams on Dhanteras day in 2020.

"We expect volumes to be at par (compared to pre-COVID levels) as



the rates have gone up from 2019. In value terms, we expect 20 per cent growth from 2019 level." All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council Chairman Ashish Pethe told PTI. Jewellers saw consumers returning to offline shopping as footfalls increased by 40 per cent when compared to the year-ago period.

Normally, 20-30 tonnes of gold are sold on a Dhanteras day and this year, the volumes are expected to be slightly higher, according to industry players. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said the jewellery industry has emerged from a slump that was caused due to the

pandemic. "Sales across the country happened to the tune of almost ₹75,000 crore... Around 15 tonnes of gold jewellery were sold across the country on Dhanteras today," it said. This includes an estimated sales worth ₹1,000 crore in Delhi, around ₹1,500 crore in Maharashtra, about ₹600 crore in UP. In South India, the sales are projected to be around ₹2,000 crore, the grouping said.

World Gold Council Regional CEO (India) Somasundaram P R said that pent up demand, soft prices and good monsoons combined with easing of lockdown across regions, bode well for a strong surge in demand.

Ola reports first-ever operating profit

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 2: Ride-hailing company Ola, backed by Japan's Softbank Group, has notched up its first-ever operating profit since beginning operations a decade ago, company documents showed Tuesday.

Ola, which has a majority share of India's ride-hailing market, where it competes with Uber Technologies, has a growing presence in several

global markets such as Australia and Britain. Ola reported standalone operating profit or EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) of ₹89.82 crore for the fiscal year that ended in March 2021, versus a loss of ₹610 crore.

Despite revenue down 65% from a year ago after a fall in demand for ride-sharing amid pandemic lockdowns, Ola has turned prof-

itable, helped by aggressive cost cuts and a workforce reduction, the filing with the government showed.

Founded in 2010 by Bhavish Aggarwal, Ola plans to raise up to \$1 billion through an IPO in the next few months, joining a slew of Indian start-ups preparing to list. But the company is set to lose two top executives, its CFO Swayam Saurabh and COO Gaurav Porwal.

Bharti Airtel logs Q2 net profit at ₹1,134cr



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: India's second-largest telecom firm Bharti Airtel Tuesday reported a net profit of ₹1,134 crore for the September 2021 quarter, and said it is witnessing strong business momentum with growth in 4G customers and increase in mobile ARPU.

This is against a loss (attributable to owners of the parent) of ₹763.2 crore during the year-ago quarter, the company said in a statement.

Its consolidated revenues for the second quarter of FY21 stood at ₹28,326.4 crore, up 18.8 per cent year-on-year (on a comparable basis) and 13 per cent y-o-y on a reported basis, it added.

"The term 'comparable' refers to the impact of mobile termination charges in mobile - India business which have been reduced to ₹0.00 per MoU from INR 0.06 per MoU, effective January 1, 2021, as per TRAI guidelines," it said.

Airtel's customer base stands at about 480 million across 16 countries. Its total capex spend for the September quarter stood at ₹6,972 crore

Airtel's customer base stands at about 480 million across 16 countries. Its total capex spend for the September quarter stood at ₹6,972 crore.

Bharti Airtel MD and CEO (India and South Asia) Gopal Vittal welcomed the reforms announced by the Government for the telecom industry, and said this will add to the ability of the industry to invest so as to drive India's digital story.

"We hope the reforms momentum will continue and all long-standing issues impacting the industry will be addressed," he added.

State records 49% growth in GST collection in October

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The government of Odisha registered a 49 per cent growth in GST collection during the month of October, 2021, according to the report released by the Commissionerate of CT & GST, Cuttack.

The data said: "Odisha collected ₹3593.34 crore GST during October as against ₹2428.27 crore collection during corresponding month of previous year. The current collection is also the 3rd highest ever gross collection by the state since its GST launch."

The progressive GST collection till October, 2021 is ₹23897.20 crore against ₹14701.25 crore till October 2020 with growth of 62.55%. The corresponding collection till October 2019 was ₹17019.92 crore.

The collection of OGST during the month of October '21 is ₹1053.48



crore against a collection of ₹660.09 crore during October'20, recording a robust growth of 59.60%. The collection of ₹1053 crore during October'21 is also the third highest ever gross collection of OGST by the state.

The progressive collection of OGST upto October'21 is ₹6819.91 crore against a collection of ₹4331.54 crore upto October'20, recording a progressive growth of 57.45%. The

corresponding figure till October '19 was ₹4960.22 crore.

The total collection of VAT (petrol & liquor) is ₹728.32 crore during October'21 as against ₹696.43 crore during October'20 with growth rate of 4.58%. Out of this, collection from petroleum products is ₹566.61 crore during October '21 as against ₹515.96 crore during October'20 with growth rate of 9.82%.

Hiring activity grows by 43 pc y-o-y in Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: Hiring activity expanded by 43 per cent year-on-year in October driven by strong demand for technology professionals, according to a report.

According to the Naukri JobSpeak report, with 2,523 job listings in October 2021, there was a 43 per cent year-on-year (Y-O-Y) growth. However, sequentially there has been 8.35 per cent decline as the total number of job

listings was 2,753 on the portal in the previous month.

The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly Index that calculates and records hiring activity based on the job listings on Naukri.Com website month on month.

The report further stated that demand for tech professionals continued to soar as the sector witnessed a significant 85 per cent Y-O-Y growth in October.

The upcoming launch of 5G and related services coupled with

the government's product linked incentive scheme (PLI) and the recent relief package for players in the field has boosted employment opportunities in the Telecom/ISP sector that grew in October, it observed.

Hiring activity has also picked up in sectors like Retail (51 per cent) and Hospitality/Travel (48 per cent) with the ongoing holiday season, opening up of major of-line outlets and peak sale season for e-commerce retailers.

StanChart shares hit by outlook, dashed buyback hopes

REUTERS

Singapore/London, Nov 2: Standard Chartered Tuesday forecast flat full-year income and dashed investor buyback hopes, sending its shares down 8% despite better than expected quarterly profit.

CEO Bill Winters, who has won praise for repairing the balance sheet and cutting thousands of jobs since taking the top job in 2015, has been under increasing pressure in recent years to boost revenues and lift the bank's ailing shares.

The strong quarterly results and \$2 billion share buyback reported by Asia-focused rival HSBC last week had raised hopes among some



investors that StanChart would follow suit, but analysts said it was conserving capital instead.

"We had hoped that a further \$250 million share buyback would be announced today. Management

has essentially decided to keep its powder dry," said Investec analyst Ian Gordon, referring to a possible bid for Asian retail banking operations earmarked for sale by Citigroup.

The British-based bank also took a slightly more uncertain view of the global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic than rivals who have released cash set aside to cover bad loans that never materialised.

"The economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to be uneven and punctuated by supply chain disruption," StanChart said in its results statement.

StanChart's third-quarter statutory pretax profit more than dou-

bled year on year to \$996 million, helped by lower credit charges. The average estimate from 16 analyst forecasts compiled by the bank was for a \$942 million profit.

Credit impairment charges fell to \$107 million from \$353 million, with the bank saying it expects these to remain at low levels in the fourth quarter.

Overall income rose 7% to \$3.8 billion, with the bank reiterating its target of 5-7% income growth from next year.

StanChart, which bases its business on capturing trade flows between its key markets of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, said trade income rose 13% to its highest since early 2018.

UNACADEMY ACQUIRES SWIFLEARN

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Edtech platform Unacademy Tuesday announced the acquisition of Swiflearn, an online platform that provides live face-to-face online tuitions for school students, for an undisclosed amount. The acquisition is in line with Unacademy's plans to strengthen its position in the K-12 category and optimise its product offerings in the space, a statement said.

Founded in 2019 by Abhinav Agarwal and Anand Bakode, Swiflearn is an online platform for academic courses, which provides personalised home tuition experience to students of grades 1-10 in CBSE and ICSE boards. The platform offers online tuition classes for English, mathematics and science along with other areas of learning like mental ability, life skills and Vedic maths.

Kohli under BCCI scanner

BOARD UNHAPPY OVER CAPTAINCY IN WHITE BALL CRICKET, MAY SEEK NEW OPTIONS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 2: The BCCI is all set to remove Virat Kohli as captain of the ODI squad, keeping in mind, his failure to win a single major ICC trophy in either the 50 overs or the T20 format. India's last triumph in an ICC tournament came in the Champions Trophy (2013) under the leadership of MS Dhoni. The BCCI is unhappy at the way the team have performed in the ongoing T20 World Cup and particularly at the way Kohli has led the side. Now it remains to be seen whether Kohli relinquishes the ODI captaincy himself or the board has to give him the nudge.

It is for certain that Rohit Sharma will lead the Indian side in the home three-match T20 series against New Zealand beginning November 17. Till next year, India don't have very many ODI engagements except for three games against the West Indies. Prior to that, the selectors will certainly take a call on Kohli's future as ODI captain.

"The board is unhappy. And there is serious doubt over his (Virat) ODI captaincy now as well. But three games are still left and if India, by any chance, manage to qualify and fight back in the T20 World Cup then the scenario could change. But, right now, if you ask me or anybody, Virat is doubtful as ODI captain," a BCCI source said Tuesday.

The source also added that Rahul Dravid's (all set to join as head



LOOK SAYS IT ALL: Virat Kohli in a pensive mood during the game against New Zealand

coach of the Indian team) opinions will also be considered when the selectors decide about Kohli's future as ODI captain. The board now has the time to mull over the entire matter.

The selection committee within a few days will also pick the squad for the T20 series against New Zealand. The meeting will also be attended by BCCI secretary Jay Shah and president Sourav

Ganguly. There also Kohli's future will be discussed.

With exactly 11 months left for the next T20 World Cup, the selection committee will look to check out as many players as possible

DCW SEEKS QUICK ACTION

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) sent a notice Tuesday to the city police and said it has taken suo moto cognizance of media reports of threat given to the family of Virat Kohli. The notice stated that it has been reported that online threats are being given to rape the nine-month-old daughter of Kohli. "It is learnt that he is being also attacked since he spoke against the incessant trolling of his teammate Mohammed Shami who was targeted for his religion by online trolls," said DCW chairperson Swati Malwani. "This is very serious matter and attracts immediate action," she said.

by June next year when the home season ends. Both Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who is in poor form and Hardik Pandya, whose fitness remains an unresolved mystery, are likely to be dropped from the T20 squad against New Zealand.

Some of the proven IPL performers like Orange Cap holder Ruturaj Gaikwad, pacer Avesh Khan and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal are going to be back in the mix. KKR all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer is being touted by many as the perfect replacement for Pandya. The likes of Axar Patel, Shreyas Iyer and Deepak Chahal will all be back for the T20 series against the Kiwis.

MUCH AT STAKE FOR MEN IN BLUE

Chorus to include Ashwin increases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Nov 2: Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's inexplicable absence from the playing XI is in focus as India skipper Virat Kohli tries to figure the combination that can bring his team's floundering campaign back on track when they take on a feisty Afghanistan in the T20 World Cup here Wednesday. To remain in the fray for a semifinal berth, India have to win all their remaining matches and that too by big margins to improve their net run rate.

Afghanistan have expectedly won their two games against Scotland and Namibia and were in the contest against Pakistan for the better part before Asif Ali took the game away with four sixes in one over.

In this backdrop, Mohammed Nabi and Rashid Khan would like to use all their might and T20 freelancing experience to add insult to the Indian injury and prolong the nightmare that started October 24.

For Kohli, in probably his last three matches as T20 captain of India, one would expect some prudent team selections and it starts with the question of repeatedly ignoring a player of Ashwin's calibre.

Ashwin's entry into the white ball team after four years was indeed left-field selection and if sources are to be believed, it never had the Indian skipper's approval. However Kohli's decision to not even consider



- India have met Afghanistan twice in T20 WC, winning both games
- Ashwin has last donned the national colours in June
- Hardik set to be excluded after poor show with bat

him as an option is something that many in Indian cricket feel, 'borders on stubbornness' after Varun Chakravarthy's inability to deliver under pressure proved what experience actually means. In terms of talent and skills, none of the spinners in this Indian set-up can come close to Ashwin. The only thing that went against him was his lack of consistency which led to his ouster four years back.

But desperate times call for desperate measures and against Afghanistan, who are not used to facing a spinner of Ashwin's class, his presence might just prove to be beneficial.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aguero ruled out for three months

Barcelona: Barcelona striker Sergio Aguero will be sidelined for at least three months after undergoing heart tests. Aguero was 'subjected to a diagnostic and therapeutic process' that won't allow him to play for a while, the club said Tuesday. "The effectiveness of treatment will be evaluated in order to determine his recovery process," Barcelona said. The 33-year-old Argentine had to be hospitalised for tests on his heart after feeling unwell Saturday in the first half of the team's 1-1 home draw against Alaves in the Spanish League. Aguero had already missed several matches at the beginning of the season because of a previous injury.

Yuvi hints comeback

New Delhi: World Cup-winning former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh has decided to come out of retirement in February next year 'on public demand', more than two years after he called it quits. The 39-year-old Yuvraj gave this information in an Instagram post late Monday night. "God decides your destiny! On public demand I'll be back on the pitch hopefully in February! Ain't nothing like this feeling! Thank you for your love and wishes, mean a lot to me! Keep supporting IND it's our team and a true fan will show his or her support in tough times (sic)," Yuvraj wrote.

Rathour re-applies

Abu Dhabi: India's batting coach Vikram Rathour confirmed Tuesday that he has already re-applied for the same position as he feels there is a lot of work still left to be done. Rathour is the only one from the current support staff, who is keen on a second stint as head coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach Bharath Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar have decided to move on. "Going forward, I have already applied for the batting coach's job. There is going to be a lot of work to be done. (I) will take it as it goes," Rathour said at the pre-match press conference ahead of the team's match against Afghanistan.

Lakshya advances

Saarbrücken (Germany): Young Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stormed into the second round of the HYLO Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a straight set win over Thomas Rouxel of France here Tuesday. Lakshya took 36 minutes to get the better of Rouxel 21-17, 21-14. Young Lakshya, ranked 22nd in the world had a decent outing at the Denmark Open and French Open with second round and quarterfinal finishes respectively. However, the Indian mixed doubles pair of B Sumesh Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa crashed out in the opening round losing 12-21, 13-21 to Denmark's Niclas Nohr and Amalie Magelund in just 25 minutes.

OFFICIAL FACES SANCTION FOR BUBBLE BREACH

ICC bans umpire Gough for 6 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 2: English umpire Michael Gough has been withdrawn from officiating in the ongoing T20 World Cup for six days and was placed under quarantine for an alleged bio-bubble breach, according to a report Tuesday in the 'Daily Mirror'.

The report states that the former Durham batsman, regarded as one of the best umpires in the international game currently, was asked to stand down by the ICC Bio-Security Committee following his Covid bubble breach in the UAE. The sanction came after Gough reportedly left his hotel without permission Friday to meet with people outside the tournament's bubble. "The Bio-Security Advisory Committee has instructed umpire Michael Gough to isolate for six days due to a breach of the event bio-security protocols," an ICC spokesperson was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Gough was due to officiate Sunday's game between India and



New Zealand in Dubai but was withdrawn following his breach and was replaced by South Africa's Marais Erasmus. He is now confined to his hotel room and is being tested every alternate day.

If he comes out clean in the tests during his six-day quarantine, Gough is expected to resume his umpiring duties but it is still unclear whether an ICC sanction awaits him in future for his actions.

Neeraj, 11 others get Khel Ratna

ARJUNA AWARDS FOR ODISA HOCKEY PLAYERS BIRENDRA, ROHIDAS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Tokyo Olympics bronze-winning Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh was Tuesday added to the list of Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna awardees, taking the total number of this year's winners to an unparalleled 12, with the ceremony scheduled for November 13 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Manpreet was originally recommended for the Arjuna award but he joined veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh as the second hockey player in the list of awardees for the highest sporting honour.

The other prominent Khel Ratna winners this year include Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra and Olympic silver-medallist wrestler Ravi Dahiya.

Among 35 Arjuna awardees are most of India's Paralympic medal winners and cricketer Shikhar Dhawan.

"The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organised function at the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan on 13th November, 2021 (Saturday) at 1630 hrs," the Sports Ministry announced. The ceremony was held online last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. **Khel Ratna Awards:** Neeraj Chopra



(Athletics), Ravi Kumar (Wrestling), Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing), PR Sreejesh and Manpreet Singh (Hockey), Avani Lekhara and Manish Narwal (Para Shooting), Sumit Antil (Para Athletics), Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar (Para Badminton), Manish Narwal (Para Shooting), Mithali Raj (Cricket) and Sunil Chhetri (Football)

Arjuna Awards: Arpinder Singh (Athletics), Simranjit Kaur (Boxing), Shikhar Dhawan (Cricket), CA Bhavani Devi (Fencing), Monika and Vandana Katariya (Women's Hockey), Sandeep Narwal (Kabaddi), Himani Uttam Parab (Mallakhamb), Abhishek Verma (Shooting), Ankit Raina (Tennis), Deepak Punia (Wrestling), Dilpreet Singh, Harman Preet Singh,

Rupinder Pal Singh, Surender Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Birendra Lakra, Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Shamsher Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Varun Kumar and Simranjeet Singh (all Men's Hockey), Yogesh Kathuniya, Nishad Kumar, Sharad Kumar and Praveen Kumar (all Para Athletics), Suhash Yathiraj (Para Badminton) Singhraj Adhana (Para Shooting), Bhavina Patel (Para Table Tennis) and Harvinder Singh (Para Archery). **Dronacharya Awards:** Radhakrishnan Nair P (Athletics), Sandhya Gurung (Boxing), Pritam Siwach (Hockey), Jai Prakash Nautiyal (Para Shooting) and Subramanian Raman (Table Tennis).

Pak juggernaut continues

AGENCIES

Abu Dhabi, Nov 2: Mohammad Rizwan (79, n o, 50b, 8x4, 4x6) and skipper Babar Azam (70, 49b, 7x4) played scintillating knocks as the Pakistan juggernaut rolled on to defeat Namibia by 45 runs in the Super 12 Group 2 match of the T20 World Cup played here Sunday. Pakistan put on 189 runs for the loss of two wickets against the minnows of the tournament and then restricted Namibia to 144 for five to notch up their fourth successive win in the competition. In the process Pakistan sealed their semifinal spot comprehensively.

It was expected to be easy for Pakistan and it turned out to be so with the openers getting their second 100-plus stand in the competition, the first having come in the game against India. Both Rizwan and Babar toyed with the inexperienced Namibian bowling hitting the ball to all corners of the park. While Babar was more silky and graceful, Rizwan at times resorted to brute power to pulverise the opposition bowlers. Mohammad Hafeez (32 n o, 16b, 5x4) also got some quick runs to get some form under his belt.

The Namibian batsmen were always under pressure keeping in mind the variety, the Pakistani bowlers have. David Wiese (43, 31b, 3x4, 2x6) and Craig Williams (40, 37b, 5x4, 1x6) offered some resistance, but the others were not up to the task. However, even then they



Mohammad Rizwan celebrates his half century against Namibia, Tuesday

posted a commendable score scoring at more than seven runs per over. It was definitely a better show than the one put up by Bangladesh against South Africa.

Pakistan used six bowlers during the Namibian innings and four of them picked up a wicket apiece while opener Stephen Baard was run out.

BRIEF SCORES: Pakistan 189 for 2 (Mohammad Rizwan 79 n o, Babar Azam 70) beat Namibia 144 for 5 (David Wiese 43, Craig Williams 40) by 45 runs.

Proteas hammer listless Bangladesh

AGENCIES

Abu Dhabi, Nov 2: Pacers Kagiso Rabada (3/20) and Anrich Nortje (3/8) ran through the Bangladesh batting-line up to fashion South Africa's comfortable six-wicket win here Tuesday. The victory took the Proteas closer to the T20 World Cup semifinals.

South Africa skittled out a struggling Bangladesh for 84 in 18.2 overs and then knocked off their target in 13.3 overs to consolidate their second position in Group 1. With three wins from four matches, South Africa now have a match left November 6 against in-form table toppers and unbeaten England.

Already down and out, Bangladesh batters were at sea against a disciplined South African attack. There was no respite as Tabraiz Shamshi (2/21) also turned on the screws. Except for Mahedi Hasan (27) and Litton Das (24), none of the other Bangla batters had anything to offer against the disciplined bowling of the Proteas.

Chasing a small total, South Africa lost openers Quinton de Kock (16) and Reeza Hendricks (four) cheaply. However, skipper Temba Bavuma (31 n o) sealed the win with a fine knock.

BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 84 in 18.2 overs (Mahedi Hasan 27, Anrich Nortje 3/8, Kagiso Rabada 3/20) lost to South Africa 86 for 4 in 13.3 overs (Tema Bavuma 31 n o).

WINNING PERFORMANCES



Bikas Singh and Sweta Padma Dalai emerged champions in the senior men's and women's category of the 27th Odisha State Table Championships which concluded Tuesday at the JN Indoor Stadium in Cuttack. In the men's singles final, Bikash representing RSP, defeated M Eshwar Rao of Cuttack 4-1. In the women's singles summit clash, Sweta Padma trounced Anjali Agarwalla 4-0. Sweta Padma also won the U-17 girls' singles title

Sasikiran among 5 joint leaders in Swiss chess meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Riga (Latvia), Nov 2: Grandmaster K Sasikiran defeated Alexandr Predke of Russia in the sixth round of the Open event at the FIDE Grand Swiss chess tournament here to grab a share of the lead with four others. Sasikiran beat the promising, young Russian player in 53 moves in a Nimzo-Indian game late Monday night to join Alireza Firouzja, Alexei Shirov, Evgeniy Najer and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave as co-leader. All of them are on 4.5 points. In the seventh round, he will meet Vachier-Lagrave on the second board.

In the women's event, Padmini Rout's woes continued as she lost her third match in succession in the tournament. D Harika however, drew with Nino Bastiashvili (Georgia) to move up to four points. She is in joint third place with six others.

Among the men, Nihal Sarin continued his unbeaten run, holding David Navara (Czech Republic) to a draw. He has four points after the sixth round. He is bunched with 15 others for a share of the second place. P Harikrishna shared a point with Matthias Bluebaum, to take his score to 3.5 points. In an all-Indian match, Raunak Sadhwani wore down D Gukesh in 59 moves