

**FROM HORSE'S MOUTH**  
 Actor Niharica Raizada says her *Sooryavanshi* co-star Katrina told her during a conversation that she would tie the knot soon **LEISURE P2**

**'MY NAME IS CLEO'**  
 Cops rescue a 4-yr-old girl whose disappearance in Australia's remote west coast horrified and captivated the nation **INTERNATIONAL P10**

**DRAVID NEW COACH**  
 Rahul Dravid appointed the head coach of the Team India and home series against NZ would be his first assignment **SPORTS P12**

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

Track Lakshmi ji tonight. Find out who all she visits and TAX them!

**DIWALI GREETINGS**  
 to all our readers, advertisers and well-wishers

**HOLIDAY NOTICE**  
 The offices and press of Orissa POST will remain shut November 4 (Thursday) on the occasion of Diwali. Hence, there will be no edition of the paper November 5 (Friday). However, web edition of the paper will be available to readers on that day.

— EDITOR

**Former minister Sanjeeb Sahoo quits BJD**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Ahead of panchayat elections, senior BJD leader and former minister Sanjeeb Sahoo resigned from the ruling party Wednesday.

Sahoo sent his resignation letter to BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik citing personal reasons.

The 61-year-old politician was first elected as an MLA from Birmaharajpur constituency in Sonepur district on a BJD ticket in 2003 bypoll. He was re-elected to the Assembly from the same constituency in 2004. Later, he was elected to the Assembly from Athamallik constituency twice in 2009 and 2019.

However, the BJD had not given him a ticket to the veteran leader during the last elections in 2019. The party had picked former bureaucrat Ramesh Chandra Sai as its candidate for Athamallik constituency in the last general elections. Following this, he felt neglected by the BJD.

Sahoo was a Minister of State (MoS), Panchayati Raj and Science & Technology from 2006 to 2008. He also held the position of MoS (independent) of School & Mass Education and Commerce & Transport from 2008 to 2009 and from 2009 to 2012, respectively.

When asked whether he is joining any other party, he said 'time will tell' about his future course of action.

## Under pressure, Centre cuts duty on petrol, diesel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

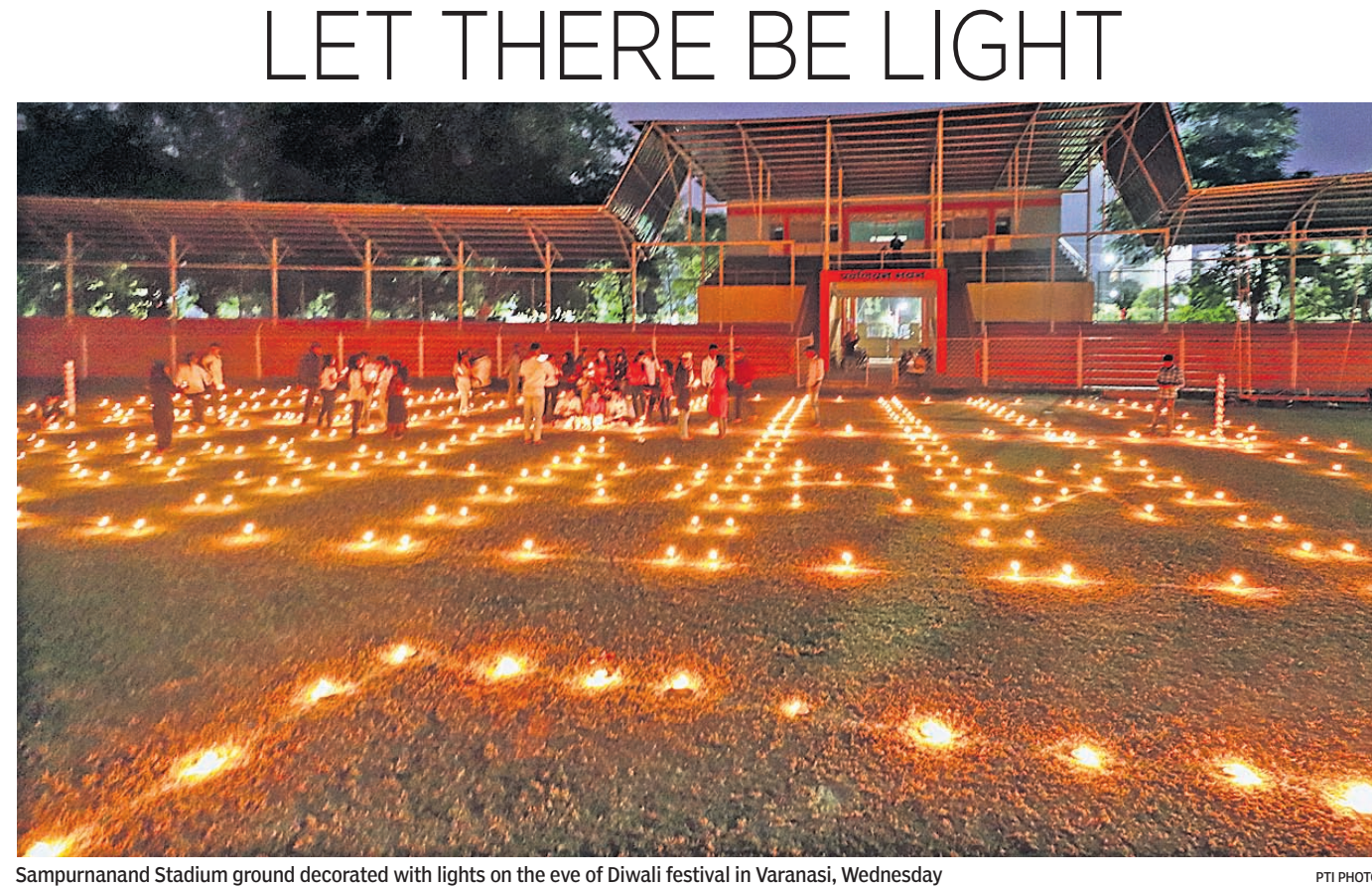
**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Buckling under pressure, the Union government Wednesday cut the excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹5 and ₹10 respectively to bring down retail rates from record highs.

The announcement comes on the eve of Diwali which will help bring down the skyrocketing prices of fuel and provide some relief to the common man battling inflation.

"Government of India has taken a significant decision of reducing Central Excise Duty on petrol & diesel by ₹5 and ₹10 respectively from tomorrow (Thursday). Prices of petrol and diesel will thus come down accordingly," an official statement said.

Farmers have, through their hard work, kept the economic growth momentum going even during the lockdown phase and the massive reduction in excise on diesel will come as a boost to them during the upcoming Rabi season, it added.

In recent months, crude oil prices have witnessed a global upsurge. Consequently, domestic prices of petrol and diesel had increased in recent weeks, exerting inflationary pressure, it said.



Sampurnanand Stadium ground decorated with lights on the eve of Diwali festival in Varanasi, Wednesday PTI PHOTO

## LET THERE BE LIGHT

## WHO nod to Covaxin

Emergency listing of Covaxin got delayed as the TAG sought additional information from vaccine manufacturers for final risk assessment

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** In a significant development, the World Health Organisation (WHO) Wednesday said it has granted emergency use listing (EUL) to Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin.

This comes after the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), an independent advisory committee of WHO recommended EUL status for Covaxin. The emergency listing got delayed as the TAG sought some additional information from vaccine manufacturers for final risk assessment.

The TAG last met October 27 and had agreed upon to conduct the final risk assessment after receiving additional data from the manufacturer Bharat Biotech was expected to submit the additional data by this weekend.

"WHO has granted emergency use listing (EUL) to #COVAXIN (developed by Bharat Biotech), adding to a growing portfolio of vaccines validated by WHO for the prevention of Covid-19," the global health body said in a tweet.

Thanking WHO for granting the licence to Covaxin, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the achievement is a "sign of capable leadership and Modi ji's resolve, a tale of people's trust and this is Diwali of self-reliant India".

Taking to Twitter, Poonam Khetarpal Singh, Regional Director of WHO South East Asia, said, "Congratulations India for Emergency Use Listing of its indigenously produced COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin."

The WHO said the TAG convened by it and made up of regulatory experts from around the world determined that Covaxin meets its standards for protection against Covid-19, and that the benefit of the vaccine far outweighs risks and thus can be used.

In another tweet, it said Covaxin was also reviewed by WHO's



### VACCINE'S SHELF LIFE EXTENDED TO 1 YEAR

**Hyderabad:** India's drug regulator, the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) has approved the extension of shelf life of Covaxin from 9 to 12 months. The Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech announced Wednesday that the CDSCO approved the extension of shelf life of the vaccine up to 12 months, from the date of manufacture. "This approval of shelf life extension is based on the availability of additional stability data, which was submitted to the CDSCO. The shelf life extension has been communicated to our stakeholders," the vaccine maker said. It was initially given permission for sale and distribution of Covaxin with a shelf life of six months when stored at two to eight degrees Celsius.

groups 18 and above. It, however, said that available data on vaccination of pregnant women with Covaxin are insufficient to assess vaccine safety or efficacy in pregnancy.

"Available data on vaccination of pregnant women with the #Covaxin are insufficient to assess vaccine safety or efficacy in pregnancy; studies in pregnant women are planned, including a pregnancy sub-study and a pregnancy registry," it said in a series of tweets.

Covaxin was found to have 78 per cent efficacy against Covid-19 of any severity, 14 or more days after the second dose, and is extremely suitable for low- and middle-income countries due to easy storage requirements, it said.

## Min locked up in govt bungalow

Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu was in Kuchinda to distribute smart health cards when she faced Oppn's wrath

PNN & AGENCIES



Opposition members agitate outside the government bungalow in Kuchinda

**Sambalpur, Nov 3:** Opposition Congress and BJP workers gheraoed Women and Child Development (W&CD) Minister Tukuni Sahu and kept her confined for hours in a government bungalow at Kuchinda township here Wednesday during a 12-hour shutdown by the two parties against the attack on their workers by alleged ruling BJD activists during a visit by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Sahu was in Kuchinda to distribute smart health cards under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, which was launched in the district by Patnaik Tuesday.

The opposition parties' workers rushed to the bungalow when the minister was chairing a meeting of officers there before attending a programme to distribute smart health cards and locked the main gate forcing her to be confined there, the police said.

They raised slogans against the

government for Tuesday's attack by BJD workers on Congress and BJP activists who were demonstrating during the Chief Minister's visit to press their demand for the removal of Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra in the Kalahandi woman teacher kidnap and murder case.

As Sahu was forced to stay in bungalow for hours, the local police rushed to it and picked up the protestors. "We picked up the protestors to maintain the law and order situation as the ruling BJD activists had also reached the place," he said.

BJP state general secretary Ravi Naik was among those picked up by the police. Naik told reporters before being picked up by the police that the BJP workers were holding demonstration when the BJD goons attacked them during the chief minister's visit Tuesday. "This is gundaraj by the BJD and the police administration had turned a mute spectator to the attack on the opposition party activists. We have therefore called for the bandh from 6 am Wednesday."

Congress leader Rajendra Kumar Chhatria echoed him and said that the party gave the bandh call to protest against BJD's "gundaraj".

Meanwhile, a report from Ganjan said that Assembly Speaker SN Patro and BJD Berhampur MP Chandrasekhar Sahu were also gheraoed by locals at Tikarpada village in Digapahandi when they went there to inaugurate the smart classroom of the village school.

## 25% hike in pay to contract staff

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** On the eve of Diwali, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday announced a 25 per cent hike in the remuneration of persons employed through outsourcing agencies and on contract basis in various departments of the state government.

The move would benefit around 33,000 people engaged in various departments of the state government and that the state would bear an additional burden of ₹100 crore every year, official sources said.

The agencies concerned will bear the contribution of such employees in EPF and ESIC. The department concerned will have to ensure this, the CM said. He directed the officials to take stern action against the companies and agencies that neglect in paying the above fees. The Chief Minister directed to grant leave for a maximum of 12 days per year for such outsourced staff.

He advised the authorities to examine and take a decision soon on maternity leave for women employees engaged on outsourcing and contract basis. Recently, the government had hiked the salaries of contractual employees by 50 per cent for initial six years.

## We'll lead even if you don't, Tamil Nadu girl at COP26

The 15-yr-old girl's statement came in the wake of her breakthrough in the concept of solar-powered clean alternative to the charcoal-powered street irons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Delhi Tuesday evening.

She invited world leaders, international organisations, civil society, and business leaders to stand with her generation and back the innovations, solutions and projects working to repair the planet and join the next generation in taking action.

"We, the Earthshot Prize Winners and finalists, are proof that the greatest challenge in the history of our Earth is also the greatest opportunity. We lead the greatest wave of innovation humanity has ever known," said Umashankar.

"We chose not to complain, but take actions that will make us wealthier and healthier. We chose to do these things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard. Rising to these challenges will shape a new generation. A generation that will build a better world



Vinisha Umashankar addressing the COP26

for all of us and generations to come," she said. "We won't wait for you to act. We will lead even if you don't. We'll build the future, even if you are stuck in the past. Please accept my invite. I assure you won't regret it," she added.

Umashankar had made the shortlist cut of the 1 million pounds Earthshot Prize within the "Clean Our Air" category with her concept of a solar-powered clean alternative to the charcoal-powered street irons that press clothes for mil-

lions of Indians every day.

Earlier, she joined the Indian winner in the category, Vidyut Mohan, for a meeting with Prime Minister Modi.

"It was such an honour meeting the Prime Minister, who was very curious about my winning agricultural waste recycling project and had some very encouraging words about scaling this up to help farmers all over India," said Mohan, the co-founder of Takachar - which was named the winner of the prize last month for its cheap, small-scale, portable technology that converts crop residues into sellable bio-products.

"The prize means a lot as it gives the project a global scale and also offers us access to crucial support and funding," said Mohan, with reference to his 1mn pounds win.

Prince William, the Duke of

Cambridge, joined the winners and finalists at the World Leaders' Summit, hosted by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson where Heads of State and Government leaders assembled over Monday and Tuesday to deliver national plans to tackle climate change.

"Our finalists are bursting with energy, ideas and ambition, so please expect many of them to come knocking on your doors! Their ingenuity is amazing. Their potential is off the charts. It's my pleasure to introduce you to the real superstars in this room today," Prince William said in his address to the summit.

Earlier Tuesday, Global Advisor to the Earthshot Prize Winners, Michael R. Bloomberg, hosted an Earthshot Prize Global Alliance Assembly reception in the Green Zone of COP26.

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	59771.92 ↓ 257.14
NIFTY	17829.20 ↓ 59.80
DOLLAR	74.53 ↓ ₹0.16
EURO	86.26 ↓ ₹0.20
GOLD	₹46,940 ↓ ₹682
SILVER	₹62,290 ↓ ₹933

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.8°C	31.2°C
TEMP MIN	21.6°C	21.0°C
Humidity	85%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely



# leisure



## GEMMA WHELAN SPEAKS ON *GoT* INTIMATE SCENES

Actress Gemma Whelan, who portrayed bisexual Yara Greyjoy in the fantasy drama series *Game Of Thrones* (*GoT*), admitted actors getting intimate on the show were given very little guidance but fortunately they had an instinct to check in with one another to ensure no one was left feeling uncomfortable.

## HAYEK IS GRATEFUL *ETERNALS* IS HER FIRST SUPERHERO MOVIE

Actress Salma Hayek, who plays Ajak in the new Marvel blockbuster *Eternals*, described the part as 'an honour' and said being cast in the movie means more because she has been passed on for so many opportunities in the past.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
A romantic link is about to be presented to you as a surprise, shining and smiling. Ganesh advises you to be prepared in your best dress and to practice some romantic talking. You never know what the evening has in store for you. Only Ganesh does, and he is sporting a knowing smile.

**TAURUS**  
You may feel that you woke up on the wrong side of the bed today, says Ganesh. The day is filled with a fair share of jittery moments and lingering worry. Stand firm and remember that every night has a dawn. The law of averages will make your evening more enjoyable. You may discuss certain intimate issues with your sweetheart for the betterment of your relationship.

**GEMINI**  
You will meet someone special who is here to stay for good, predicts Ganesh. Your kind and considerate nature will benefit others. You need to understand that it's okay to spend a little on comforts and entertainment. Be ready for a busy, yet cheerful, day ahead.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will be trying new things in your style of work. You may come across as mad, but there will be a method in your madness. Your new strategy and innovative ideas will give a new lease of life to the projects you are working on. However, you need to take a break from work in the evening and go home to your loved ones to recharge your batteries, advises Ganesh.

**LEO**  
One way to assure success is by believing in oneself and one's abilities. Let this confidence and your high spirits take you to newer heights today, says Ganesh. Remain cheerful all day long, and you will see your hardships disappear as you tackle them with consummate skill. But more importantly, Ganesh foresees the day leading you to a fulfilling evening. Enjoy!

**VIRGO**  
Business and pleasure will be well balanced. Ganesh says you will enjoy the party which will seem endless today. Your monetary outflow will be in direct proportion to the time you spend just lazing around. However, Ganesh advises you to spend sensibly and not to worry about it.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says those of you in the field of business will find this to be a good time for them. In any work that you undertake your vision and ability will be showcased. You will have to spend more time at your workplace. Ganesh says you should try and maintain a balance between your work and your family.

**SCORPIO**  
The spectre of financial instability will keep haunting you. But there can be a brighter side to life too, says Ganesh. Long overdue payments might get encashed today. And those blind bluffs you call sometimes in business might pay handsome rewards, predicts Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A tiring day is in store for you today. Find yourself labouring worse than Hercules. The positive outcome would be that you would lose a few extra calories. But late in the day, a nice quiet time with family and friends would relieve you of all the stress.

**CAPRICORN**  
Normally, others, especially colleagues get jealous of one's success, but yours is a different case. They will not only motivate you, but also guide you while you take up new projects and assignments. Not everyone is blessed with such cooperative colleagues, says Ganesh. Those of you who wish to change their current job, better wait for a while as times are not favouring you, today.

**AQUARIUS**  
If you're stuck indoors today, make the most of it. There's always carrom, checkers, chess and partying! Shake yourself a bit, and you'll come up with creative ways to spend a leisurely day. You'll find that either way, life is wonderful, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
While you may have a wide circle of acquaintances, it is only a select few who you bless with your munificence. And that is precisely what you will be busy with, as a day filled with socialising and leisure-filled activities beckons, says Ganesh.

## ONE MIC STAND - SEASON 2

# Kiara in awe of Faye's comic skills



**MUMBAI:** The second season of *One Mic Stand* brought influential figures like Chetan Bhagat, Sunny Leone, Karan Johar, Faye D'Souza and Raftaar under one roof as they underwent a litmus test for their comic skills in front of a live audience.

The new season has got everyone hyped up across age groups and Kiara Advani is one person who has become a huge fan of the show. The actress, who is in love with the unique concept of the show, shared a video on Instagram where she lauded Faye D'Souza's performance in particular. She cap-

tioned the video, "Gonna take Fayeation from work, and get myself a stand up gig!?? Watch @fayedsouza and many more favourites on #OneMicStandOnPrime @primevideoin"

Calling it hilarious, Kiara seemed to be in awe of the senior journalist as she exclaimed in the video, "Fayeation!!! Is there anything this woman can't do? You're absolutely incredible! I'm really confused if it's going to be a breaking news live or it's going to be Open Mic Live (sic)." *One Mic Stand* conceptualised by India's premier comic Sapan Verma and his team, has opened new avenues to the art of stand-up comedy. IANS



# Katrina to tie knot soon: Niharica

**MUMBAI:** Actress Niharica Raizada who will be seen in Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif-starrer *Sooryavanshi* has all the reasons to be pleased. She is playing a cop and feels that her passion for this role only helped the actress to get this opportunity. Niharica also opens up on her experience of working with Katrina. Niharica is all praise for Katrina: "Katrina is very experienced and it's interesting to have a conversation with her. I had a conversation with her and she told me she will marry soon so that was very nice to hear. I am happy when I hear about women settling down, I don't know why," she adds. The actress is known for her work in movies like *Masaan*, *Baby* and *Total Dhamaal*. Rohit Shetty's directorial *Sooryavanshi* features Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif in lead roles and features special cameos by Ajay Devgn and Ranveer Singh. The movie will be released in theatres November 5. IANS

# Lockdown was blessing in disguise for Abhimanyu

**MUMBAI:** One would think that the lockdown toppled the production schedule of many films and their budgets but, in hindsight it helped the team of *Meenakshi Sundareswarar* to get a more solid grip on the film. Abhimanyu Dassani, who plays the titular role of Sundareswarar in the film, revealed how the lockdown gave them the time to reflect and set a new perspective. The actor said, "We had intense readings before we started shooting for the film. The film was actually supposed to be shot before the



first lockdown. Half of the people (from the film's unit) had left Bombay to shoot for the first schedule but they were called back because the lockdown was happening." "So, we got enough time during the lockdown to understand the characters and live with them for a while, which in this day and age is tough to do because we're moving on from one project to another," he concluded. Directed by debutant Vivek Soni, *Meenakshi Sundareswarar* also stars Sanya Malhotra and will be available to stream on Netflix from November 5. IANS

# Blackpink set to release their movie in India

Each member of this all-girl K-Pop group possesses distinctive talent such as vocal, dancing, rapping, and musical skills while boasting perfect chemistry among the members



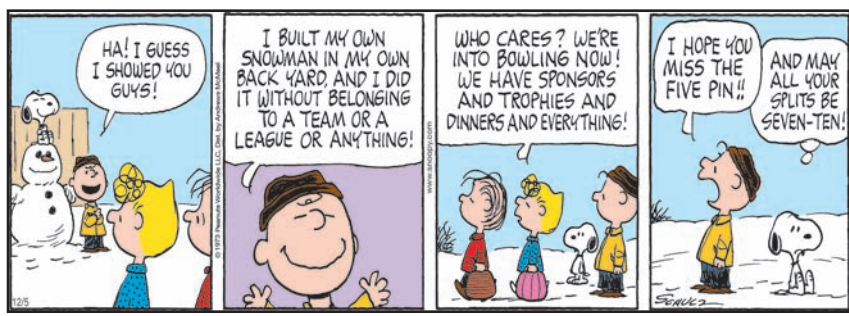
**MUMBAI:** Popular all-girl K-Pop group *Blackpink* are set to celebrate the fifth anniversary of their debut with a theatrical release of the film *Blackpink: The Movie* in Indian theatres November 12. *Blackpink* is a quartet comprising Jisoo, Jennie, Rose, and Lisa. The band's debut song reached the top of every record chart in Korea within only four hours of its release, announcing a splendid arrival of *The Monster Rookie*. Each member of *Blackpink* possesses distinctive talent such as vocal, dancing, rapping, and musical

skills while boasting perfect chemistry among the members. While the film is a celebration of the band's debut anniversary, it is also a special gift for *Blackpink*'s fans to revisit unforgettable memories and enjoy the passionate performances in festive spirit. The film consists of diverse se-

quences focused on each and every member, some of which are: *The Room of Memories*; a segment looking back on five years of memories since their debut, *Beauty*; compelling shots of all four members with their distinct characteristics, *Exclusive Interviews*, a message for the fans. Furthermore, the re-edited ver-

sions of the live performances from *The Show* (2021), *In Your Area*, and a dozen more hit songs by *Blackpink* will be unfolded on the screens to provide the global fans with a touching experience as though they are actually at fan meeting events and live concerts. PVR Pictures will release it in India November 12. IANS

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

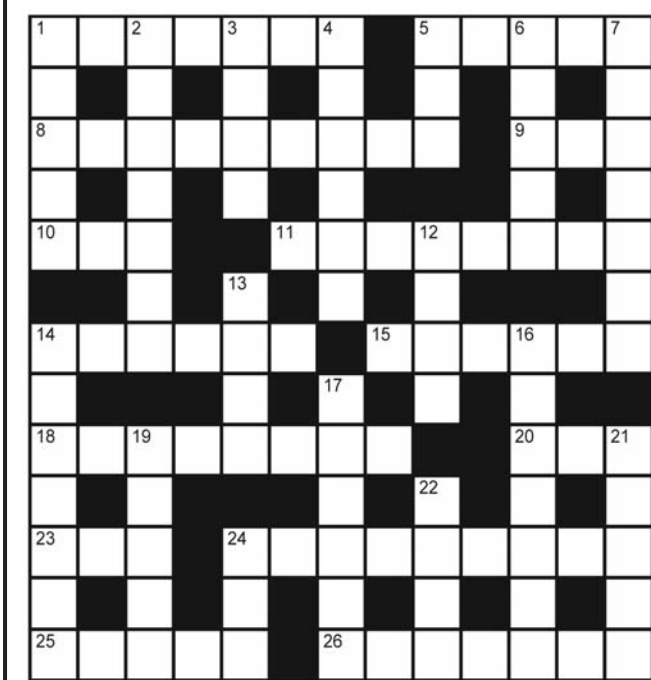


### BREVITY



### FUN post

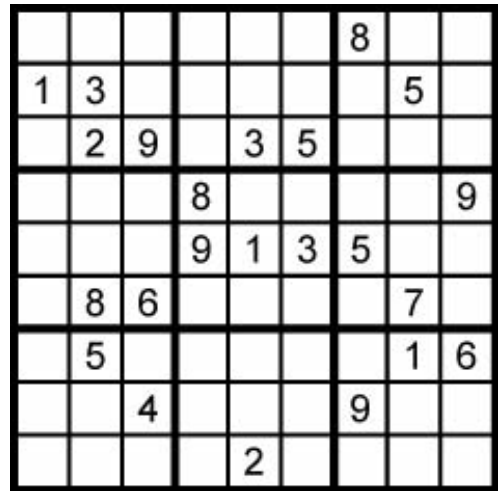
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Bygone Greek money
  - 5 Fastener
  - 8 Bankrupt
  - 9 Charged particle
  - 10 Relations
  - 11 Decrease
  - 14 Kind of clock
  - 15 War horses
  - 18 Large boa of tropical South America
  - 20 Sidekick
  - 23 Harbour craft
  - 24 Airline ticket
  - 25 High point
  - 26 Liberate (3,4)
  - 6 Cover story?
  - 7 Mulls over
  - 12 Letter after theta
  - 13 Famous London district
  - 14 Helter-skelter
  - 16 Kind of penguin
  - 17 Smells
  - 19 Bicker
  - 21 Oversight
  - 22 Blue-pencil
  - 24 Balderdash
- Down**
- 1 Imbibe
  - 2 Poisonous chemical
  - 3 Nimbus
  - 4 Vinegary
  - 5 Director's cry

### 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



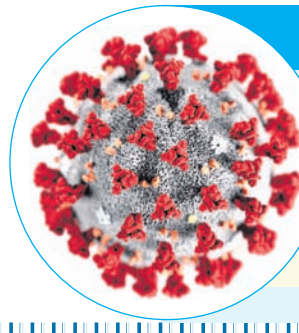
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown



**KALI PUJA PREP**  
An artisan decorating a clay idol of Goddess Kali at a pandal in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	24,84,62,128	22,51,30,116	50,32,188
India	3,43,08,140	3,36,97,740	4,59,191
Odisha	10,42,422	10,30,442	8,343

## Tight security for Kali Puja in Cuttack

**Cuttack, Nov 3:** The Commissionerate Police has made elaborate arrangements to ensure a smooth Kali Puja in the Silver City here, an official said Wednesday. As many as 52 sections of police force will be deployed in the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) area to maintain law and order during the festival. **Around 100 SI & ASI rank officers, 16 havildars & 121 home guards will also be deployed for the festival in the city**

Similarly, 104 sub-inspector and assistant sub-inspector rank officials, 16 havildars and 121 home guards will also be deployed to ensure smooth Kali Puja at 71 pandals in the city, sources said. Attending a preparatory meet at the Indoor Stadium here, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh said they have adequate arrangements to regulate the crowd. "CCTVs have been installed at strategic places to keep tab on anti-social elements," Singh added.

## State gears up for Jr Men's Hockey WC

*The Chief Secretary has instructed the officials to ensure proper live telecast and live display of the event on large screens of the BMC*



**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** The state government has expedited preparation for hosting the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup, 2021 at Kalinga Stadium here from November 24. Reviewing preparation for the

POOL-A	POOL-B	POOL-C	POOL-D
Belgium	Canada	Korea	Argentina
Chile	France	Netherlands	Egypt
Malaysia	India	Spain	Germany
South Africa	Poland	United States	Pakistan

event, Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra Wednesday directed the officials of Works, Fire Service, Health & Family Welfare, Handloom and Textiles, Tourism, Housing and Urban Development, and Energy departments to complete all arrangements well before the time. Mohapatra also asked the officials of IDCO, BSNL and Odisha police to keep things ready for the event. Sports and Youth Services

Secretary Veneel Krishna said that the grand event will be held for 12 days from November 24 to December 5 at Kalinga Stadium. Top 16 teams of the world will be participating in the event. The tournament would be played in four pools with quarter finals, semi finals and final. In total, 48 matches would be held during the tournament. The schedule would include 5 matches per day from November 24 to 27 and four matches

per day from November 28 to December 5. The teams from Belgium, Malaysia, South Africa, and Chile would play in Pool-A. India, Canada, France and Poland would play in Pool-B. Netherlands, Spain, Korea and United States would be in Pool-C, and Germany, Argentina, Pakistan and Egypt would be in Pool-D. Approximately 600 players and officials will be participating in the event. Issues relating to travel and accommodation of the teams, their local transport, arrival, catering, security, development of stadium, practice ground, main hockey ground, venue operation, traffic, fire safety, electrical

**T**he grand event will be held for 12 days from November 24 to December 5 at Kalinga Stadium  
**T**he schedule includes five matches per day from November 24 to 27 and four matches per day from November 28 to December 5  
**A**pproximately 600 players and officials will be participating in the event

## BMC food safety squad inspects sweet stalls

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Ahead of the Diwali festival, the food safety squad of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday inspected several sweet stalls in various markets of the Capital city. "People usually buy sweets for Diwali celebration. To meet the demands, stalls prepare a lot of sweets ahead of the festival. The food safety squad of the BMC inspected several sweet stalls in the city to take stock of the hygiene as well as the food quality aspects. The squad also checked the implementation of Covid protocols," said a source in the civic body. The squad inspected several well-known sweet stalls at Rajmahal Square, Master Canteen Square, Ram Mandir Square and Sahid Nagar area of the city. "At least 18 samples were brought for laboratory test while some stale food stuffs were destroyed during the inspection," added the source. Moreover, officials of the civic body seized around 40kg polythene bags from the sweet stalls and collected fines to the tune of ₹23,000. The civic officials are regularly inspecting eateries and sweet stalls in the city and creating awareness on the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, sources said.



The BMC squad at a sweet stall

## Section 144 clamped around Srimandir

**Puri, Nov 3:** The district administration has clamped Section 144 of the CrPc around Srimandir here to prevent congregation during Diwali celebration Thursday. The prohibitory order would remain in force from 4 am Thursday to the midnight, said an official of the district administration. Traditionally, hundreds of people congregate in front of the

Lions' Gate of Srimandir to offer tributes to their ancestors by burning jute stems during Diwali celebrations. "The prohibitory order has been clamped around Srimandir as part of the Covid protocol. No one would be allowed to celebrate Diwali in front of the Lions' Gate of Srimandir," said Puri Sub-Collector Bhabatara Sahu. As per the Covid protocol, devotees are barred to visit the 12th century shrine during Diwali.

## State gets ₹286cr GST compensation

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** The Union government Wednesday released ₹286 crore to Odisha as Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation. The Union Finance Ministry released a total of ₹17,000 crore to states Wednesday. The ministry said the total amount of compensation released to the states/UTs so far including the aforesaid amount during the year 2021-22 stands at ₹60,000 crore. Significantly, as per the decision of GST Council, back-to-back loan of ₹1.59 lakh crore has already been released in lieu of shortfall in release of GST compensation during the current financial year. Earlier October 28, the Union gov-



ernment had released ₹1779.45 crore to Odisha under the back-to-back loan facility in lieu of GST compensation.

The government had released ₹44,000 crore back-to-back loans to states and Union territories with legislatures. "Taking into account earlier release of ₹1,15,000 crore, the total amount released in the current financial year as back-to-back loan in-lieu of GST compensation is ₹1,59,000 crore. This release is in addition to normal GST compensation being released every two months out of actual cess collection," Union Finance Ministry had said.

## PLEA FOR GREEN DIWALI



Schoolchildren take out a rally to create awareness on eco-friendly Diwali celebrations at Bidyadharpur in Cuttack, Wednesday

## Central forces to step up offensive against Maoists

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** The Central forces are to carry out well coordinated offensive operations against Maoists in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Jharkhand soon, sources said Wednesday. They, quoting the intelligence inputs, said that Maoists have been recalibrating themselves to make bigger attacks on the security forces as the rainy season is over. The intelligence inputs also revealed that the top Maoist leadership is worried with the decreasing footprints of their cadre in central India especially in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand and now they will move to these areas to haul up youths for their cadres with their false narratives. The inputs also said that top naxal commander Madvi Hidma, along with his armed guards, was seen in two villages in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh last fortnight. The sources in the Home Ministry said that Central Reserve Police Force's specialised anti-naxal (Maoist) unit, CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) would lead the operations along with the concerned state police. The officials also said that the CRPF is setting up over 35 'Forward Bases' in these states and that will increase up to 50 by the end of this year.

## Mayurbhanj dist gets new court

**Cuttack, Nov 3:** Orissa High Court (HC) Chief Justice S Muralidhar inaugurated a Civil Judge-cum-JMFC Court at Thakurmunda in Mayurbhanj district through video-conferencing Wednesday. HC justices S Pujahari, BR Sarangi, SK Panigrahy, and RK Patnaik, Registrar (administration) Dillip Kumar Mishra, Mayurbhanj district judge Pradeep Kumar Patnaik, Karanjia additional district judge Sushil Kumar Rout and senior members of Karanjia Bar Association attended the event.

## Meet Muskan Tehsin who can write with both hands

**Khurda, Nov 3:** Some people have unique qualities which make them stand out from the crowd. Muskan Tehsin of Taraboi village in Jatni block is one such god-gifted talent. Muskan, who is now pursuing her undergraduate degree in physics at Pranath Autonomous College here, can write with her both hands at a time. She can also do mirror writing in five languages—Odia, English, Hindi, Sanskrit and Urdu—without any difficulty. Muskan has won laurels from several quarters for her rare talent. She has made her parents—Sheikh Samsher and Sanchita—proud by securing first division in both matriculation and intermediate examinations.



"I was writing with my left hand only during my childhood. Later, my mother encouraged me to write with the right hand too. Now, I can write

with my both hands. I can also write two different languages with my both hands at a time," said Muskan, who has a dream to become a civil servant. Muskan attributes her success to her parents, friends and teachers. "My parents, friends and teachers praised me when I did mirror writing for the first time. Their encouragement helped me a lot," she said. Muskan's parents claimed that their daughter has special interest in reading religious texts and participating in drawing and debate competitions. "Muskan always loves to do things without anybody's help. She travels around 15km on a bicycle daily to reach her college. She also takes a lot of interest in household work during her leisure time," said Samsher, a proud father.

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## Prison inmates celebrate Diwali by making diyas



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Hundreds of female inmates of different district and Special Jails celebrated Diwali by painting special hand-made diyas with striking colours.

A special programme was organised at the Bhubaneswar Special Jail in Jharpada recently by Directorate of Prisons and correctional services in association with Maadhyam.

These diyas were immediately sold out, said Namrata Chadha, chairperson of Maadhyam who helped the inmates create and sale diyas in the market.

"We offered training at several special and district jails across the state and are getting positive response from female inmates," she added.

Chadha also said that Maadhyam works for rehabilitation of the under trial prisoners (UTPs) at various jails of Odisha in support and collaboration with the DG Prisons and Correctional Services.

On the occasion, DGP (Prisons) Santosh Kumar Upadhyaya said, "We are always proactive towards the reform of inmates and such activities will help them in future once they go out into the society."

## Redcliffe launches satellite lab in City

**Bhubaneswar:** Redcliffe Life Diagnostics, a unit of Redcliffe Lifetech in the US and India, opened a new lab in Bhubaneswar to meet the increasing demand for diagnostics amongst people in and around City. The leading diagnostic chain is embarking on a spree to launch labs in various cities of India to make preventive healthcare accessible to everyone. Founder of Redcliffe Life Diagnostics Dheeraj Jain said, "We have launched the lab in Bhubaneswar seeing the high-demand for preventive health body checks combined with larger awareness of continuous diagnostics."

## Safexpress launches logistics park in Cuttack

**Bhubaneswar:** Safexpress, India's largest supply chain and logistics company, launched its ultra-modern logistics park in Cuttack. This is company's 66th logistic park. This new park will serve as a nodal point for logistics to provide for the transitional connective facility with all Indian states, especially with nearby districts and manufacturing hubs. The facility in Cuttack is spread over a land area of 1 lakh square feet, enabled with ultra-modern transshipment and 3PL facilities, which will boost storage & warehousing needs of this region while providing for faster connectivity. The new Logistics Park is cross-dock, equipped with loading and unloading of over 40 vehicles simultaneously. It has a column-less span of over 80 feet, which facilitates uninterrupted movement of goods within the facility. To enable all-weather loading & unloading of goods, the facility is equipped with 16 feet wide cantilever shed.

## WASSUP TODAY

### BHUBANESWAR

- Shyama Kali Puja by VSS Nagar Durga Puja Samiti, VSS Nagar, 4:30pm onwards
- 'Festival of light' by Shree Jagannath Sanskriti Parishad, Byasha Kabi Fakir Mohan Senapati Bhawan, Nayapalli, 10am

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

# ₹33cr Kalia aid for Puri farmers

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday announced that ₹33.03 crore financial aid will be provided to farmers in Puri district under the state government's flagship Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme.

This aid will benefit 1,65,131 small and marginal farmers in the district and each grower will get ₹2,000 for the 2021-22 Rabi crop under the scheme, a statement released by the Chief Minister's Office said.

The money will be directly deposited in the bank accounts of the cultivators, it added.

According to the provisions of the welfare programme, farmers, mostly small and marginal cultivators, are entitled to get ₹10,000 in two instalments for two crops in a year. Under the scheme, landless agricultural farmers are also eligible to get ₹12,000 per annum for three years.

On September 11, the Chief Minister had sanctioned ₹742.58 crore for 37,12,941 farmers under the Kalia scheme.

However, farmers of Puri district could not avail of the benefit

## IN NUTSHELL

The aid will benefit 1,65,131 small and marginal farmers in Puri district as each grower will get ₹2,000 for the 2021-22 Rabi crop under the scheme

On September 11 this year, the Chief Minister had sanctioned ₹742.58 crore for 37,12,941 farmers under the Kalia scheme. However, farmers of Puri could not avail of the benefit due to the imposition of the model code of conduct for the Pipili bypoll

due to the imposition of the model code of conduct for the Pipili bypoll.

Keeping in view the prevailing pandemic situation, Patnaik in June this year, had announced ₹1,690 crore Covid-19 assistance package for landless farmers, construction workers, MGNREGS workers, particularly vulnerable tribal groups, SC/ST and differently-abled students. A total of 17.89 lakh landless farmers had received special assistance of ₹1,000 under the package.

An amount of ₹207 crore was also given to landless farmers, who had not received their third instalment under the Kalia scheme.



Members of Puri Bar Association submit a memorandum to Collector Samarth Verma, Wednesday, seeking permission for the residents of the Holy City to visit Srimandir through all four gates of the shrine

## LAWYERS' PLEA



Members of Puri Bar Association submit a memorandum to Collector Samarth Verma, Wednesday, seeking permission for the residents of the Holy City to visit Srimandir through all four gates of the shrine

# Cong demands resignation of CM citing rising crime against women

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Congress MLA and Chief Whip in Odisha Assembly Tara Bahinipati Wednesday demanded resignation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for rising incidence of crime against women in the state and attack on Congress activists by ruling BJD workers.

Talking to newsmen here, Bahinipati said that Naveen should tender resignation and seek fresh election for deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Quoting the NCRB report, the Congress MLA said that Odisha ranked second in violence against

Quoting the NCRB report, the Congress MLA said that Odisha ranked second in violence against women after Uttar Pradesh

women after Uttar Pradesh. Every day, six girls are being raped and murdered in the state, he alleged. Bahinipati also demanded Odisha DGP to take voluntary retirement as he had allegedly lost control over the police. The attack on congress activists in the presence of Police in Kuchinda proved it, he said. He said there is no democracy in

state under the Naveen Patnaik government. Had there been democracy, the Kuchinda Youth Congress President would not have been attacked, the Congress MLA remarked. Both BJP and the Congress observed a 12 hour Kuchinda bandh from 6 AM to 6 PM Wednesday in protest against the attack on the party activists during the visit of CM in Kuchinda to distribute the smart health card under the Biju Swasthya kalyan Yojana.

The Congress activists alleged that ruling BJD workers assaulted them while they were holding black flag demonstrations during CM's visit demanding justice for Mamita's family.

## Joshi takes addl charge as ECoR GM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Senior Indian Railways Traffic Service (IRTS) officer Archana Joshi has taken additional charge as the General Manager (GM) of East Coast Railway (ECoR), an official statement read.



Joshi, an IRTS officer of the 1985 batch, is the GM of South Eastern Railway and has taken additional charge of GM of ECoR till the posting of regular GM, it read.

Vidya Bhushan, the outgoing general manager of ECoR, superannuated October 31.

## NO LENIENCY



Huge quantities of banned firecrackers seized from Bidanasi area of Cuttack, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

## State to recruit 16K teachers by Nov end

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash Wednesday said that as many as 16,000 teachers will be recruited by the end of November to address teachers' shortage issue in state.

"The process to recruit around 16000 teachers is already underway. We hope, by the end of November or before December, it will be completed," he said.

Dash also said that the Naveen Patnaik government is more concerned about the education system in state and taking all steps to address the issues.

The minister also said that schools in Odisha will reopen for classes 1 to 7 in a phased manner. In the first phase, physical classes will begin for students in standards 6 and 7, he said. "We hope that all the classes will commence by the New Year," he added.

# Toddler among 3 new nCoV fatalities in state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Odisha Wednesday registered 322 fresh Covid-19 infections, five less than the previous day, pushing the case-load to 10,42,422, a Health department official said.

Three more fatalities, including a toddler, raised the coronavirus death toll to 8,343, he said. The deaths occurred in Khurda, Mayurbhanj and Nuapada districts. The second wave of the pandemic has claimed the lives of 44 children and adolescents in Odisha so far.

Khurda district, comprising state Capital Bhubaneswar, reported the highest number of 169 single-day infections, followed by Cuttack (19) and Sambalpur (10).

While five districts did not log any fresh case, five others registered one new case each, the official said.

While five districts did not log any fresh case, five others registered one new case each

The state now has 4,000 active cases, and 10,30,026 patients, including 441 since Tuesday, have recovered from the disease.

Odisha has so far conducted over 2.21 crore sample tests - 61,542 Tuesday. The state's cumulative positivity rate stands at 4.70 per cent. The official said a total of 1,18,86,875 people have been fully inoculated with both doses of vaccines.

Meanwhile, the process of disbursing ex-gratia to the next of kin of those who died due to Covid-19 started from Wednesday. The affected families can apply for ₹50,000 from November 3, another official said.

# Amid pandemic, Diwali resolution for a breathable future

GASPING FOR BREATH IN THE ENGULFING TOXIC HAZE, THE COUNTRY NEEDS AN AIR POLLUTION CONTROL POLICY OVERHAUL

The much-awaited festival of lights and harbinger of peace and prosperity, Diwali, stands at our threshold. With the economy coming back on track after the jolt suffered on account of the lockdown during the pandemic, spirits are rising, as they should.

Over the years, not only has the popularity of Diwali increased but so has its mode of celebration which has witnessed a drastic change.

Bursting of firecrackers, which was once a rare spectacle, has now turned into a common event. Up until the 19th century, firecrackers being expensive would be commissioned by rulers for the entertainment of their citizens.

Generating awe and wonder, aatishbaazi shows were organised on special occasions such as royal marriage ceremonies as an exhibition of the kingdom's grandeur and prosperity.

It was only after independence

that restrictions were placed on imported crackers which led to the emergence of the first firecracker industry in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu. Thereafter, as crackers became cheaper and people became more prosperous, the bursting of firecrackers commenced on Diwali.

However, in recent years, the combustion of metals, smoke and dust in the air has become a matter of grave concern despite comprising of a mere 5 per cent of the aggregate air pollution. With pollution levels already too high on account of vehicular emissions, industrial activities and construction, there is no room for bursting of crackers.

These toxic products contain harmful substances which on combustion produce 2.5 PM. While the smoke evaporates in a matter of hours, the pollutants from the crackers remain suspended for days, making the air more unbreathable and carcinogenic.



The heavy air during this time of the year further deteriorates the air quality as does stubble burning. The weather, cracker pollution and agricultural residue burning combine to diminish the air quality to severe and dangerous levels, choking the air by converting it into gas chambers.

Yet, in spite of the blanket bans imposed on the burning of these

pyrotechnics by the Supreme Court, the AQI (Air Quality Index) is far from normal. The reason being stubble burning which continues to remain a bone of contention between a number of state governments, all of which persistently engage in futile arguments with no definitive corrective action whatsoever.

With poor policies and non-ex-

istent incentives, crop burning continues unabated. Imposing fines on the food producers and putting them behind bars will serve no good; giving them the promised subsidies upon not engaging in stubble burning will. With our granaries overflowing with wheat and paddy, the cropping patterns need to be reconfigured.

Happy Seeder, a harvesting-cum-sowing tractor remains out of hands for most of the farmers owing to its exorbitant cost and suitability in primarily larger farms. Then again, the process of converting the stubble into manure is a lengthy one; it takes approximately 15-20 days before the field is ready for the next crop and farmers do not possess the luxury to devote these many days.

Beijing's poor experience with smog towers clearly indicates that installing the same at different places will amount to nothing more than sheer wastage of the tax-

payer's money. Likewise, imposing odd-even rules serves nothing more than a populist gimmick in the long run.

Many are still battling with post-covid complications while those with asthma, bronchitis, COPD and other respiratory conditions are gasping for every minuscule amount of cleaner air like never before.

With the horrifying nightmares of oxygen shortage witnessed all over the country during the second wave still afresh, the indispensability of breathable air cannot be overemphasised.

Recent statistics reveal that 11 of the 20 most polluted cities globally are in India; no wonder the number of air pollution induced-deaths amount to 2 million in this part of the world.

Gasping for breath in this encircling toxic haze, we desperately need an air pollution control policy overhaul.

IANS

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SHORT TAKES

12-hour bandh in Kuchinda

Kuchinda: The BJP and the Congress, two major Opposition parties in Odisha Wednesday observed a 12-hour Kuchinda Bandh in protest against alleged attacks by members of the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on workers of the respective parties in Sambalpur.

Couple faces social boycott for newborn



The villagers have a belief that the village road became 'unholy' due to the transportation of the newborn

Bhubaneswar, Nov 3: A tribal family in Keonjhar district has been allegedly ostracised by society for refusing to provide puja materials for village purification following the birth of a child.

the village road became 'unholy' due to the transportation of the newborn. "So, they asked me to provide a hen and other puja materials to please the goddess for purification of the village. But I refused.

ART FOR AWARENESS



A sand art urging people for celebration of Green Diwali is on display in Berhampur, Wednesday

KALIA beneficiary dead in records

Papadahandi: A beneficiary of KALIA yojana was shown dead in official records and denied second installment of the fund at Maidapur under Papadahandi block in Nabarangpur district.

MAMITA MURDER FOLLOW-UP

Admin raids Mahaling College hostel

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Nov 3: The district administration conducted a raid on the women's hostel of Mahaling Regional College in connection with the sensational murder of Mamita Meher, principal of Sunshine Public School at Mahaling in the district, a report said.



Protection Unit (DCPU), Sarbeswar Jal and tehsildar, Golamunda during the raid. The raid was conducted in the hostel to investigate whether the hostel was being run according to government guidelines or not.

ahead of the arrival of the sub-collector for the raid. The members of the college managing committee and guardians met the sub-collector on his arrival and discussed with him on the modalities to run the college like before and in ensuring the security of the girl students.

Maoists see red in ganja destruction



Malkangiri: Police and excise officials have been destroying ganja plantations in interior pockets of Malkangiri district. But Maoists have raised objections to such exercise and issued a statement on the issue.

KOTIA VILLAGERS OPPOSE STATE'S HEALTH BENEFITS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Nov 3: The inter-state boundary dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in Kotia panchayat of Koraput continued to simmer with new developments taking place each day, a report said.



Wednesday. The health camp was organised by Kotia Primary Health Centre at Neredibalsa village, Wednesday. Reports said, a team of doctors and health workers led by Dr Pabitra Panda of Kotia PHC reached Neredibalsa village and were preparing for a health camp when an Anganwadi worker appointed by the Andhra government at Talaganjeipadar village reached the spot and raised a hue and cry on the health camp in the area.

health officials for organising a camp. This shocked the doctors and health officials. The Anganwadi worker and the villagers finally relented after the health officials placated them. They dispersed following which 17 villagers from Arujubalsa village, 72 from Tadibalsa and 42 from Neredibalsa village registered their names in the camp and had their health checked up by doctors free of cost.

3 critical in cracker blast

POST NEWS NETWORK

Tigiria, Nov 3: As many as three members of a family including a three-year-old child sustained critical injuries after crackers went off during manufacturing of firecrackers at Banerwarpada village under Tigiria police limits in Cuttack district, Wednesday.

Cuttack for treatment. Reports said, the mishap took place when Dheera Swain of the village was making firecrackers in his house. The blast left Swain, a woman and a baby grievously injured while he sustained 70 per cent burn injuries. Police have started an investigation into the incident to ascertain whether Swain was manufacturing firecrackers for sale or not.

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**FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION**

# CODE RED & COP26



**A viral video of a dinosaur addressing the UNGA asks the rhetorical question: "At least we had an asteroid? What excuse do you have?" It ends by saying: "Don't choose extinction by investing in the asteroid (read fossil fuels)"**

growing international climate protest movement led by young activists like Greta Thunberg or the Extinction Rebellion has meant that the political and corporate leaders have less room to wiggle out with false commitments.

Alok Sharma, the Indian-born British parliamentarian and member of the cabinet under Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the president-designate of COP26, said the following in his introduction to COP26. "Over the last 30 years, the UK economy has grown by 78% while cutting emissions by 44%. That shows green growth is real." In other words, the politicians still believe that the challenging goal of avoiding climate catastrophe can be achieved while delivering the so-called 'green growth', which has been debunked reliably. On their part, the fossil fuel companies that are the main culprits behind the existential crisis staring at the world are busily 'greenwashing' their dirty deeds by shifting the blame on individuals for their lifestyle choices being responsible for the climate crisis. These are the self-defeating tactics that have been used by the tobacco industry or the infamous National Rifle Association (NRA) in the USA while arguing for the lost cause of ill effects of smoking and gun ownership.

In the G20 summit held in Rome before COP26, the usual politics among the most powerful nations was in full display. While there were no new significant commitments on the climate front, there was plenty of blame game between the developed countries and developing large economies like China and India. A viral video of a dinosaur addressing the UN general assembly asks the rhetorical question: "At least we had an asteroid? What excuse do you have?" It ends by saying: "Don't choose extinction by investing in the asteroid (read fossil fuels)." Billions around the world are hoping that our world leaders are listening!

*The writer is a civil engineer, academician and technologist with a strong interest in the sustainability of the built environment. He is currently working in Hong Kong.*

Just last week, the city of Catania in Sicily, Italy - one of the driest places in Europe - had a devastating weather event. The office of the Mayor of Catania, Salvo Pogliese, in a statement, said, "In 48 hours the amount of rain that falls on average in an entire year, has fallen on Catania. Eastern Sicily is experiencing a phenomenon that we fear, unfortunately, will be less and less sporadic, with tragic scenarios destined to be repeated. Climate change, the fragility of our territory and the condition of instability often caused by human intervention, are factors that, combined, can have — and we are indeed seeing these — deadly effects." The authorities have invested over 400 million Euros since 2018 to combat hydrogeological instability and strengthen infrastructure against the risk of landslide and coastal erosion, but it is not enough for a climate that has rapidly tropicalised. He further warned: "Without extraordinary interventions, which only the European Union can put in place, and without courageous decisions that cannot be postponed by the G20 and COP26, we will periodically find ourselves counting the damage and, God forbid, more victims."



Dhanada K Mishra

**THE PRESSURE OF A GROWING INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE PROTEST MOVEMENT LED BY YOUNG ACTIVISTS LIKE GRETA THUNBERG OR THE EXTINCTION REBELLION HAS MEANT THAT THE POLITICAL AND CORPORATE LEADERS HAVE LESS ROOM TO WIGGLE OUT WITH FALSE COMMITMENTS**

rate in at least the last 2000 years. Except for a few die-hard climate sceptics or the fossil fuel lobby funded consultants, no one now disputes it. Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe.

In this critical moment in human history, many believe that the COP26 climate conference being held at Glasgow may be the last opportunity for humanity as a whole to take decisive action. COP stands for the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed upon at the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit. The historic 2015 Paris climate treaty and the 1997 Kyoto protocol are both parts of the UNFCCC. The conference of parties held annually reviews progress. It sets new goals to cut emissions to limit the temperature increase to below 1.5 degree C by cutting emissions back to the net-zero level. The total emissions over the earth's capacity to absorb greenhouse gases must be zero by 2050.

ing together to deliver. As part of the first goal, countries are being asked to commit to new ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets in line with the net-zero carbon emissions goal. This will require accelerating the phase-out of coal, curtailing deforestation, speeding up the switch to electric vehicles and encouraging investment in renewable energy.

The second goal requires that countries most affected by the climate crisis work together to protect and restore ecosystems and build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.

To deliver on the first two goals, developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year by 2020 as was agreed at the Paris COP21. The fourth goal requires finalising the Paris Rulebook to make the Paris Agreement operational and accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society. Each of the above goals must be achieved at Glasgow. The commitments must be implemented sincerely without wasting valuable time for humanity to avoid the worst possible scenario set out by IPCC. The pressure of a

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## It's a Health Crisis

The threat COVID-19 poses to human health is now well understood around the world. In contrast, the enormous health threat of global warming, with its broad array of persistent impacts on our well-being, is under-recognised and poorly understood.

Yet climate change is harming human health right now. During the 2020 monsoon season in Bangladesh, for example, water flooded a quarter of the country. More than 1.3 million homes were damaged, and hundreds of people died. Rising sea levels caused by climate change will make such events more frequent in low-lying countries like Bangladesh. It also will bring the risk of flooding on a similar scale to more communities around the world.

Severe floods do more than destroy homes. They cause raw sewage to flow into streets and contaminate drinking water, spreading infection. They also destroy crops, driving malnutrition. And rising sea levels turn drinking water saltier, which increases rates of high blood pressure, pre-eclampsia, and premature births.

These are hardly the only health risks implied by climate change. Hotter temperatures lead to a higher incidence of heatstroke. And prolonged droughts, just like severe floods, reduce agricultural productivity and output.

The many ways global warming will affect our health are not yet fully understood. But its influence is becoming clearer as the changes to our environment become more dramatic.

The world urgently needs a global strategy to minimise climate-related illness and death in the coming decades. As with the COVID-19 pandemic, developing effective solutions will require governments to work with scientists. Part of any effective approach will be aimed at limiting future warming, and part will be aimed at adapting to a hotter climate. But both imperatives must be pursued in ways that protect — or even enhance — public health.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) currently underway in Glasgow is an ideal opportunity for world leaders to demonstrate that they understand that global warming is a health crisis, and that they are learning from the successes and shortcomings of the pandemic response. In less than two years, COVID-19 has caused millions of deaths and disrupted our lives. We have seen scientists, governments, and companies cooperate to develop diagnostics, therapies, and vaccines. But we have also seen how narrow national interests and socioeconomic inequality can limit access to affordable options, prolonging the crisis.

World leaders meeting at COP26 have a perfect opportunity to show that they understand climate change is not only an urgent environmental challenge, but also one of the most urgent health challenges we have ever faced.

Governments are not in this fight alone. Civil-society organisations need to support efforts in the coming decades to address the health challenges brought about by climate change. We must build a collaborative global process that generates, values, and — most importantly — uses scientific evidence to act on climate change and improve health for everyone. At the Wellcome Trust, we are committed to funding research that enables us to better understand and address the negative effects of global warming on health. We will also advocate strongly for evidence and research to be at the heart of policymaking.

As with any health threat, prevention is better than a cure. There will not be a vaccine to inoculate people against the effects of heat waves, wildfires, droughts, or severe floods, so reducing the rate at which the global temperature is rising is the best preventive measure we have. That means reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

Fortunately, cutting emissions can have a direct, positive effect on health. For example, the global transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy could increase average life expectancy globally by at least one year. Similarly, widespread adoption of diets rich in vegetables and low in meat will reduce greenhouse gases and decrease the risk of heart disease, cancer, and dementia.

But while cutting emissions will reduce future harm, it will not eliminate the health threats that are already implied by decades of global warming. We have no choice but to adapt to life on a warmer planet.

In response to the growing threat of floods, for instance, many coastal communities — including in Kenya, the United States, and Vietnam — are planting mangrove forests. Mangroves can grow in salt water, and they provide some defence against flooding. They also encourage biodiversity and can support fisheries and floating vegetable gardens.

The task now is to design a series of creative options that people around the world can use to decide how best to protect themselves and their communities. Treating the inevitable symptoms of a hotter planet and helping communities adapt is the responsibility of local governments, but we also need a level of international coordination and new knowledge generation that can be delivered only by an agreed global strategy on climate and health.

It won't be easy, and time is not on our side. But science is.

*The writer, a former Prime Minister of Australia, is Chair of the Wellcome Trust.*

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SRI AUROBINDO

Care not for time and success. Act out thy part, whether it be to fail or to prosper.



Julia Gillard

There will not be a vaccine to inoculate people against the effects of heat waves, wildfires, droughts, or severe floods, so reducing the rate at which the global temperature is rising is the best preventive measure we have

**SPECTRUM SOCIETY**

## Cricket & nationalism: India's Tebbit test

The loss of the cricket match by the Indian team to Pakistan in the T20 World Cup has once again stirred the hornet's nest about nationalism — loyalty to one's own country, national spirit and so on. In addition to small clashes between students, the law-and-order machinery swung into action to book students allegedly cheering for the Pakistani team and some other Muslims celebrating the victory on social media. The charges framed were quite a few under the IPC. It is high time we took a fresh look at the concept of nationalism from all dimensions, not just legal as it is being viewed now.

DK Giri

**IT IS HIGH TIME WE TOOK A FRESH LOOK AT THE CONCEPT OF NATIONALISM FROM ALL DIMENSIONS, NOT JUST LEGAL AS IT IS BEING VIEWED NOW**

October 24, India lost by 10 wickets to Pakistan. Cricket loving Indians were disappointed, but for right-wing nationalists, all hell broke loose. The insult to the injury was added by those cheering for Pakistan. A few Kashmiri students in Raja Balwant Singh College, Agra allegedly were bucking up our arch-rivals. However, preliminary probe by the college administration has found that the students did not raise slogans, they made social media posts.

In Udaipur, Rajasthan, Nafesha Attari, a private school teacher, made a social media post, "we won

along with the picture of the Pakistan cricket team. When confronted by colleagues, she confirmed that she supported the Pakistan team, although qualified it by saying it was done in a lighter vein. However, she was booked under Section 153B of the IPC and has been sacked from her job.

In Srinagar, cases have been filed against students and staff of two medical colleges for celebrating Pakistan's victory. They have been booked under Section 13 of the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Safiya Majeed, a technician from one of these two colleges, was fired for a social media post celebrating Pakistan victory. In UP, seven students have been booked and five arrested. As expected, there have been equally strong reactions and protests from political leaders, civil rights activists and others. To cite a few, Mehbooba Mufti has rather sarcastically raised the issue by asking, in India, the mother of democracies, how can you charge students with sedition for merely cheering the winning team?

Ana Tanwir, the Founder of Indian Civil Liberties Union, said: "I do not know any law under which supporting another team is prohibited." He added: "It is not like sup-

porting any country in a war." Lawyer and researcher Lubhyathi Rangarajan asserted: "For sedition, there has to be an incitement to violence and a threat to destabilising the government. Celebrating the victory of a country you might not like is no reason to charge people for sedition... These charges are not going to hold in court."

The legal approach obviously does not hold water, so charges against the 14 people should be dropped, unless they have caused violence or disharmony. Let us look at the concept of national spirit. Even in Britain, Norman Tebbit, then Chairman of the Conservative Party, had argued that the immigrants from South Asia and Afro-Caribbean regions supporting cricket teams from the countries of their origin were showing disloyalty to the country they were living in. In April 1990, he formulated the Tebbit test which asked the immigrants whom they rooted for in a cricket match. Of course, majority of Britons did not endorse it. Even the immigrants were happy to 'fail the Tebbit test.'

However, nationalism should have a different connotation in India. We must redefine it. As such nationalism is a cultural concept, and unlike patriotism, it refers to people, their

culture, their community-ness and so on. In a multicultural country, people have to be sensitive to other's culture, religion and way of life. The second aspect of nationalism is the pride for the country. And that is manifested in certain national icons — cricket is one of them for India. The Queen, the BBC and Chatham House in UK are British icons. No one offends them. Cricket should not be seen as only a game; it is our national pride.

Therefore, even if it is not legally wrong, people should stop cheering for Pakistan as it is not just cricket, there are a lot of emotions associated with Pakistan. There is another aspect of the dictum, "legal is not moral, nor democratic". That is, Parliament is passing laws on the basis of the majority principle in the House. But moralism and democracy would require inclusivity of minorities of any size or kind, not just religious. If we are not sensitive to the principle of inclusiveness, we might trample upon human rights of an individual or a group. Hence, cheering for Pakistan cricket is not moral, nor inclusive, it is being exclusive. I rest my case.

*The writer is Professor, International Politics, JIMMC.*

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**WISDOM CORNER**

- The more you like yourself, the less you are like anyone else, which makes you unique.** WALT DISNEY
- It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition.** HENRY JAMES
- Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth.** OSCAR WILDE

**WORDSWORTH**

**Po-faced**

It's common enough in Britain as a term for someone who is griggish, narrow-minded, disapproving or humourless, but not widely known elsewhere; it does occasionally appear in America, though mostly in writings by British authors. It's usually supposed to derive from the slang term po for a chamber pot (it rhymes with no), first recorded in the 1880s. But the abbreviation is more likely to be from the French pot de chambre than from the English term. It was probably influenced by the interjection pooh for something that's distasteful, which is of course related to the verb to pooh-pooh meaning to express contempt or disdain for something; both are conventional reformulations of the noise one makes with the lips when appearing to blow away something unpleasant. Po-faced was perhaps applied to such people because they react to insubstantial comments with a look of insufficiently disguised distaste, as if suddenly presented with a used chamber pot. The Oxford English Dictionary also suggests it might have been influenced by poker face, which is one of the senses it gives for the word; that is not quite how it is understood today, but it does imply somebody who is trying not to show a reaction to some happening of which they disapprove. It's actually quite a modern word, first recorded only in 1934 in the book Music Ho! by Constant Lambert, the British music critic and composer: "I do not wish, when faced with exoticism, to adopt an attitude which can best be described by the admirable expression 'po-faced'. We cannot live perpetually in the rarefied atmosphere of the austerer classics".

## Letters

**TO THE EDITOR**

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

**Global crisis**

Sir, After the collapse of Soviet Union in 1991, the global economic liberalisation began. The rule of law, which was originally implemented to do business with other countries, was completely abolished. It was said that the process of globalisation will usher in a new era in the world economy. But gradually this globalisation began to fall downward. Competition between countries over the market began. This rivalry was so intense that it created an atmosphere of cold war in the world. Capitalist nations began to create new groups to share the world market. Then came the G7, G8, G20, BRICS, SAARC, SCO, and now a new bloc called AUKUS. It is said that these blocs are important multilateral bodies for global economic cooperation. Even after the formation of so many blocs, there is a severe economic crisis the world over. This is because the process of globalisation is based on privatisation and commercialisation whose main aim is to acquire maximum profit. In order to get super profits, labour must be exploited. Exploitation creates unemployment which reduces the purchasing power of the people. In India, the three black farm laws are an example of how the government is with capitalists.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

**G20 deadlock**

Sir, The 2021 edition of the United Nations Annual Climate Change Conference began in Glasgow after the end of a meeting of the G20 grouping. The leaders of the G20 nations reached a consensus about fighting climate change. However, the uncompromising stance adopted by several members of the G20 is clearly a signpost to the future. They could not come to a compromise over several issues related to climate change such as ending financing of coal-fired power plants, climate neutrality for domestic economies, domestic use of coal and so on. It is ironic that the G20 countries that account for 75 per cent of the world's emissions disagree on climate related issues. The deadlock at the G20 assumes special significance in the light of the ongoing COP26. The summit keeps alive many hopes related to climate change. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned that the pledges signed on by the G20 were insufficient and said that they put the COP summit in jeopardy. While the G20's commitment to 1.5 degrees Celsius is a good move, lack of specifics makes it uncertain. Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested at the G20 that developed nations should provide 1 per cent of their GDP as finance for green projects in developing economies.

Venu GS, KOLLAM



SHORT TAKES

5 arrested for killing youth

Balasure: Police arrested five persons Wednesday in connection with a murder at Kuruda Chhak in Balasure. Police also seized weapons, cell phones and a bike used in the crime.

Crocodile drags youth into nullah

Bari: A youth, who was fishing in Chingudia nullah, a branch of the Kharasrota river under Udayanathpur panchayat of Bari block in Jajpur district, went missing after he was dragged away by a crocodile Wednesday.

ACF seeks probe on misuse of forest land

Nuagaon: Following media reports about construction of a project under Ama Gaon Ama Bikash on a patch of forest land in Odagaon, assistant conservator of forests (ACF) Swatalin Sahu has directed Odagaon ranger to look into the matter.

PUBLIC IRE



Locals demanding a Vigilance probe and a special audit of the irregularities in various panchayats under Nilagiri block in Balasure district staging a sit-in outside the block office, Wednesday

Exodus of workers stares BJP in the face

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 3: Ahead of panchayat and civic polls, the district unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Keonjhar is plagued by internecine squabbles. The fissures have come to the fore as a senior leader of the party, Dhanurjay Sidhu, will leave the party along with an army of supporters soon.



KEONJHAR POLITICS

Dhanurjay Sidhu was elected on a Congress ticket from Champua in 2004, by defeating the candidate of BJD-BJP alliance. In 2017, he joined the BJP

Pandemic oozes bitter taste for honey hunters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 3: There is no dearth of people who take up odd jobs to earn a livelihood. Some also choose a nomadic lifestyle to sustain their families while they are on the go.

Dayanand Dhami, a honey collector, said they have been coming to this district for 10 years. They call beehives as 'Mahu Chhata'. When asked how they locate the beehives, he said bees have a tendency to nest at the same tree or spot where they first nested.



First we collect some leaves. After starting a fire with them, a kind of medicine prepared from herbs and roots is added to it which results in emission of smoke that drives bees away. During this, we chant a mantra as well. This practice is being used for generations

comparatively easy to collect honey during nights, they hunt for it during daytime as well. Describing the trick they apply to drive away bees from the hives, he said, "First we collect some leaves. After starting a fire, a kind of medicine prepared from herbs and roots is added to it. Once it is added, it starts emitting smoke driving the bees away. During this

time, we chant a specific mantra. This practice is being used for generations," he observed. Regarding the dangers involved, he said, "There is every possibility of falling from buildings and trees while collecting honey. Many of us have met with accidents. Besides, we also have the experience of being stung by bees," he claimed.

State of the art haat at Jajpur on the cards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur/Jajpur Town, Nov 3: The district administration has planned a modern and environment friendly haat at Bindhan village near Jajpur Municipality area to help traders and farmers of Jajpur town and its adjoining areas trade their goods and vegetables, a report said.



idents. The move was necessitated to accommodate more traders and farmers as the present haat has fallen short of space. Mohanty said the proposed haat will come up on 2 acres 54 decimals in Bindhan village which will have arrangements for 250 farmers and traders to discharge their business.

cum market director, Salauddin Khan, district civil supplies officer, his deputy Prahallad Sethi, Bhaba Prasad Das, former Jajpur Municipality, chairperson and representative of Jajpur MLA, Santosh Kumar Sethi, DIPRO traders and farmers and their representatives were present at the meeting.

porary basis will be shifted to the proposed haat. In the new haat, platforms will be constructed for traders and farmers to discharge their business, market yards to store their goods and separate places will be earmarked for sale of non-vegetarian food items. Moreover, there will be separate slots for parking of vehicles and store rooms.

POLITICAL STIR



Left party workers staging a demonstration outside the Collectorate in Keonjhar against the hike in prices of fuel and essential commodities, Wednesday



## Deshmukh case: Param Bir has 'no more evidence'

The revelations came two days after the ED, based on a CBI FIR arising out of Singh's allegations, questioned and later arrested Deshmukh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Nov 3:** In a fresh twist, Mumbai's former Commissioner of Police Param Bir Singh has informed a government-appointed probe panel that he has no further evidence to share in the corruption allegations he had levelled against former state Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

He had made this submission, in an affidavit, to Justice K.U. Chandiwala Commission at its previous hearing October 13, official sources said here.

The revelations came two days after the Enforcement Directorate

(ED) - based on a CBI FIR arising out of Singh's allegations - questioned and later arrested Deshmukh, who is now in the agency's custody till November 6. The commission sources reveal that, barring his original March letter to the Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Singh has apparently declined to share any more evidence pertaining to the allegations he had levelled against the then Home Minister Deshmukh, who quit in April. Deshmukh's lawyer Aniket Nikam said that "it's now clear that Singh had no proof against the ex-minister and simply hurled the allegations for the sake of it".



The Nationalist Congress Party's senior leader Deshmukh, 72, has consistently rubbished all allegations and questioned "where is the complainant Singh who hurled the false charges against him and then disappeared, and may have sneaked out of India as per some media reports". NCP leader and MLA Shashikant

Shinde said that this is an indirect admission by Singh that Deshmukh was a victim of the IPS officer's false charges after which the accuser (Singh) has gone missing. "Moreover, Singh had merely written a letter he had not given any proof/evidence. It's an indirect admission that Deshmukh is inno-

cent," Shinde told media persons. On his part, Singh has ignored several summons by the probe Commission, coughed out fines three times and skipped a bailable warrant.

Besides, Singh faces two non-bailable arrest warrants issued by a Mumbai and Pune court as he is named in some extortion cases lodged against him by the police.

After Singh's letter to the CM, the CBI and ED raided Deshmukh's Mumbai and Nagpur homes several times in the past few months, and after he appeared before the ED, he was arrested on November 1 and is presently in its custody till Saturday.

The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi has slammed Deshmukh's arrest and termed it as the Bharatiya Janata Party's strategy to misuse the central agencies against opposition-ruled governments and destabilise them.

## 71 booked for provocative posts on social media



There was no incident of burning of any mosque in Panisagar. Fake news was uploaded on social media October 26 by a group from outside to disrupt the process of development for all sections of people in the state

BHANUPADA CHAKRABORTY | NORTH TRIPURA SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

## BJP's win in NE bypolls may impact Congress prospects in Manipur

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Congress prospects may get impacted in the 2022 Manipur Assembly poll as the BJP and its allies swept the North East bypolls, results of which were announced Tuesday.

Though the Congress emerged as the single largest party last time, the BJP with support of regional allies formed the government. The grand old party has been witnessing defection of lawmakers from it in the state since then.

State Congress in-charge Bhakt Charan Das did not respond to calls asking for a response to the party's performance in the NE bypolls. Attacking the BJP government, Jairam Ramesh, senior observer of the party for Manipur, tweeted: "The Bengaluru-based independent think tank, Public Affairs Centre has ranked states in terms of governance. Among large states, Uttar Pradesh is LAST and in small states, Manipur is LAST. This is the result of having BJP at the Centre and State: 0+00."

Six Congress MLAs in Manipur had quit the party in August when the Congress brought a no-confidence motion complaining about the functioning of former Chief

Minister Okram Ibobi Singh. However, eight MLAs abstained from voting during the trust vote. The ruling coalition had 29 MLAs, including the Speaker, while the Congress numbers reduced due to defection.

Besides Assam, the BJP heads the governments in Tripura, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

After the declaration of the bypoll results on Tuesday, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma credited the election success to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Due to the Prime Minister's all-out mission for the multifaceted development of northeastern states, people are giving their wholehearted support to the NDA allies. With our success in all the states, BJP and NDA's responsibility further increased" observed Sarma, who is also the convener of the BJP-led anti-Congress alliance of regional parties -- North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA).

The BJP and its allies swept all the nine Assembly seats in the northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, which went to the polls October 30.

The Congress, which had governed these states for many decades, scored a zero.



## GREEN MESSAGE



A man wears an oxygen mask connected with a sapling in a bottle, during a protest over rising pollution in the environment, in Nagaon district of Assam, Wednesday.

## 2 days after BJP MLA joins TMC, Tripura changes rule on legislators' allowances

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agartala, Nov 3:** Two days after a ruling BJP MLA of Tripura joined the Trinamool Congress, the Biplab Kumar Deb government decided to change the rule that allowed lawmakers to enjoy certain facilities including allowances for the rest of their lives even if they remain so for just one day.

As per the proposed new rule, legislators will need to complete one full term to be entitled to such benefits, Information and Culture Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said Wednesday.

The "positive" decision was made by the council of ministers Tuesday,

he said. Ashish Das, BJP MLA of Surma(SC) constituency in Dhalai district, joined the TMC on Sunday at a rally of party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in Agartala. He did not resign as a legislator.

The previous Left Front administration had enacted a rule that all facilities and financial benefits would be given to a legislator who served at least four years in office. After coming to power in 2018, the BJP-IPFT government hiked allowances of legislators and also said each and every legislator could enjoy their pension and other financial benefits even if they remain an MLA for a single day.

"We believe in the accountability and integrity of the legislators. They would be more accountable after this decision," Chowdhury told reporters.

Though Das formally joined the TMC October 31, he had slammed Chief Minister Biplab Deb over his style of functioning and criticised the activities of the BJP during his visit to Kolkata October 5. He had also praised West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and shaved his head at the famous Kalighat temple, located close to the residence of the TMC supremo, as an act of atonement for being associated with "a communal party".

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agartala, Nov 3:** The Tripura police Wednesday said it has registered five cases against 71 people for alleged provocative and fake posts on social media aiming at disturbing peace and communal harmony in the state.

Strict action will be taken against those who are "spreading rumours of communal violence and trying to create hatred in the society," it said. Taking to Twitter, the state police said, "Five criminal cases have been registered against 71 persons who posted provocative posts on social media. Strict action shall be taken against those persons who are trying to create hatred in the society."

### COMMUNAL TENSION

A mosque was allegedly vandalised and two shops were set ablaze at Chamtilla during the October 26 Vishva Hindu Parishad rally which was organised to protest against the recent communal violence in neighbouring Bangladesh

The state government had October 29 alleged that a group with vested interest from outside had hatched a conspiracy against the administration to create unrest in Tripura and malign its image by uploading fake photographs of a burning mosque on social media

croblogging site. "This is a complete misrepresentation of facts. The mosque in Dargabazar area of Kakraban is completely fine & Gomati police is working to maintain peace and tranquillity," it said.

Replying to a tweet, the cyber-crime department of the police said, "These are fake videos being circulated under criminal conspiracy to disturb the peace and communal harmony in the state and defame the state government and police. Police has registered criminal cases and suitable action against the fake rumours is being taken expeditiously."

The state government had October 29 alleged that a group with vested interest from outside had hatched a conspiracy against the administration to create unrest in Tripura and malign its image by uploading fake photographs of a burning mosque on social media. An investigation by the state police revealed that "no mosque was burnt in Panisagar sub-division in North Tripura district," Information and Culture minister Sushanta Chowdhury said.

A mosque was allegedly vandalised and two shops were set ablaze at Chamtilla during the October 26 Vishva Hindu Parishad rally which was organised to protest against the recent communal violence in neighbouring Bangladesh.

Three houses and a few shops, reportedly owned by members of the minority community, were also ransacked in nearby Rowa Bazar, North Tripura Superintendent of Police Bhanupada Chakraborty had said. "There was no incident of burning of any mosque in Panisagar. Fake news was uploaded on social media October 26 by a group from outside to disrupt the process of development for all sections of people in the state," Chowdhury had said in a video message.

It was a conspiracy to malign the image of the government, and appealed to the people to maintain peace, he added.

## The 'Nawab' who dares to snoop on NCB super-sleuth!

Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik presents an unlikely picture as he takes on the shaken might of the Narcotics Control Bureau Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Utraula/Mumbai, Nov 3:** As far as snoops go, Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik presents an unlikely picture as he takes on the shaken might of the Narcotics Control Bureau Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede.

Compared with cocky original 007, the bespectacled, bearded Malik presents a rather homely, fatherly figure, mostly in comfy kurtas who has taken upon himself to right the alleged wrongs of the Super Sleuth Wankhede.

As the stunned NCB and the national polity gaped, the Malik-Wankhede war - which started after the agency's swoop on a luxury cruise ship in which one of those caught was Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan Khan - became the top TRP catcher.

The besieged and worried Wankhede is fighting it out in different forums and pulling all possible strings to keep the muck raked by Malik from sticking to him, with the latter vowing in public that it will all end with the officer (Wankhede) getting the sack and going to jail.

Last month (October 2021), in an unprecedented step, Malik launched an expose campaign against Wankhede and his activities, raising a big question mark on the officer's credentials and the NCB's credibility.

His latest serial exposure has not only rattled Wankhede, but raised uncomfortable questions on how the NCB, other central agencies like ED, ITD, CBI, NIA, etc, are being deployed to harass Opposition-parties ruled states by the BJP at the Centre.

"I have first-hand knowledge of

how injustice is being meted out by these agencies to innocents. I decided somehow, someone has to do the cleaning up... I have no personal motives... Only Truth I am putting out before people," Malik smiled with confidence.

On his prime target, Malik contends that the charge of extortion already established, soon the fake caste certificate matter will also be officially proved, and the "crusade for truth will continue till Wankhede is dismissed and dumped in jail".

His regular media briefings are reminiscent of the Vikram-Betaal tales when he hurls agonising questions at the dazed Wankhede, who scurries from pillar-to-post for dear help. Born in 1959 in the small Dhuswa village of Utraula Tehsil, Balrampur district in eastern Uttar Pradesh, close to India-Nepal border, despite his name suggesting 'nobility', Malik was an ordinary village lad till the family migrated to Mumbai for better prospects in 1970. Dhuswa folks say that his father Mohammed Islam Malik initially started a small business in 'chindi' (rags) in Dongri, south Mumbai, and later shifted to north-east suburban Kurla.

## Nature lovers turn barren hill into forest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

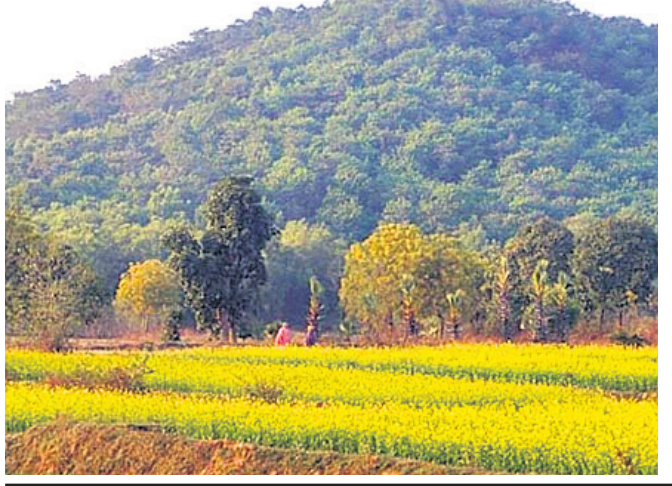
**Latur, Nov 3:** In a novel initiative, a group of nature enthusiasts has planted over 30,000 trees on a barren hilly area in Maharashtra's drought-prone Latur district over the last four years and transformed it into a lush green forest.

The area's tehsildar (revenue officer), Dr Shivanand Bidwe, lauded the effort and said the local administration will extend its support to the drive.

The hill, coming under the forest department's jurisdiction, is located near Ramwadi village, about 45 km from Latur district headquarters.

Since 2018, nature lovers, under the banner of 'Sahyadri Devrai', an NGO run by noted actor Sayaji Shinde, planted trees on about 25 hectare land of the barren hilly area in Balaghat range of Chakur tehsil in the district.

"Environmentalists were inspired to take up the cause after Shinde visited Latur in 2018 to see a 400-year-old huge banyan tree at Zari (Khurd) village of Chakur tehsil and conducted a workshop under that tree," the NGO's Latur district coordinator, Suparn Jagtap, told PTI. The organisation roped in people from various fields, including students, teachers, doctors and farmers. They would visit the place every week, indulge in ac-



tivities like physical exercises and hold discussions on relevant social topics while planting the trees. They planted more than 35,000 trees of around 60 varieties, including banyan, neem and pipal, on the hilly area and around 30,000 of these trees have survived, Jagtap said. To ensure water supply for the survival of these trees, the volunteers adopted the pani adwa, pani jirwa' system by digging several trenches on the hill slope from top to bottom, he said.

"Our mission is to plant up to one lakh trees and later develop the area as a study centre and a tourist destination for all," Jagtap said.

### GREEN WARRIORS

Since 2018, nature lovers, under the banner of 'Sahyadri Devrai', an NGO run by noted actor Sayaji Shinde, planted trees on about 25 hectare land of the barren hilly area

The organisation roped in people from various fields, including students, teachers, doctors and farmers. They would visit the place every week, indulge in activities like physical exercises and hold discussions on relevant social topics while planting the trees

They planted more than 35,000 trees of around 60 varieties, including banyan, neem and pipal, on the hilly area and around 30,000 of these trees have survived

"Actor Sayaji Shinde launched this movement with an aim to motivate people to protect the environment. People should come forward to protect the environment and create awareness about it in society," the organisation's volunteer, Bhim Dungeave, said.

Local environmentalist and team member Shivshankar Chapule said cutting down of trees in several areas has led to a decline in the population of various bird species.

Earlier, birds used to eat the harmful insects who destroy crops. But, now with the bird population dwindling, farmers spray pesticides and chemicals to save their

crops, but this in-turn affects human beings and their life span, he said. "Therefore, we decided to turn this hill into a forest and create awareness about nature conservation in society," he added.

Chakur tehsildar Bidwe appreciated the organisation's tree plantation campaign on 25 hectare of the hill area. "Instead of planting foreign species, they planted indigenous trees, helping in the conservation of nature. We will also co-operate in their drive," he said.



# national

## of the day quote

On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all our fellow citizens living in India and abroad

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

Construction of a grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya is a matter of pride for the country

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

A study by the Centre for Public Affairs (CPA) has selected Kerala as one of the best governed states in the country

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Bengal: Several trains cancelled

Kolkata: Several trains were cancelled as protestors blocked the tracks at Jalalkhali Halt station in Nadia district for around 33 hours, demanding stoppage of all trains passing through it, an Eastern Railway official said Wednesday. The blockade, which started Tuesday morning, continued till Wednesday afternoon, disrupting train services in the Ranaghat-Lalgola section of the Sealdah division.

### Abhinandan is group capt now

New Delhi: Abhinandan Varthaman, who was awarded Vir Chakra for shooting down a Pakistani F-16 during an aerial dogfight over the Line of Control (LoC) February 27, 2019, picked up the rank of group captain on Wednesday morning, people familiar with the development said. A group captain is equivalent to a colonel in the army. The dogfight in which Abhinandan was involved took place a day after the Indian Air Force's Mirage-2000s struck targets in Pakistan's Balakot.

### JMB terrorist held in Bengal

Kolkata: National Investigation Agency (NIA) sleuths have arrested a man in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district believed to be working as a recruiter for the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) terror outfit, authorities said Wednesday. The person, identified as Bangladesh resident Abdul Mannan, was arrested from Subhasgram area, some 30 km away from Kolkata.

### Judge held for sodomising boy

Jaipur: Rajasthan Police Wednesday arrested a judge Jitendra Singh Gulia for allegedly sodomising a 14-year-old boy in Bharatpur. As per the police officials, the accused judge was questioned for two days in Jaipur before his arrest. The judge has been booked under the Indian Penal Code's Section 377 (unnatural offences) and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, said Bharatpur police superintendent Devendra Kumar Bishnoi.

### 181 prisoners get parole in Gujarat

Gandhinagar: In view of the Diwali festivities, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Wednesday announced to free women prisoners and male prisoners above the age of 60 years on 15-day parole. The decision was taken in view of Diwali festival, with an intention that such prisoners get opportunity to spend time with their family members during festival.



The vaccination drive against Covid-19 needs a 'Har Ghar Dastak' approach to achieve its target

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

### K'TAKA HC SETS LIMIT ON USE OF SC/ST ACT

The Karnataka High Court has held that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act can't be invoked only because the victim hails from that community



# Living together won't confer any matrimonial right: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 3: Long cohabitation or living together will not confer upon the parties any legal right to raise a matrimonial dispute before a Family Court, unless their marriage has been solemnized in a manner known to law, the Madras High Court has ruled.

A division bench of Justices S Vaidyanathan and R Vijayakumar gave the ruling, while dismissing an appeal from R Kalaiselvi of

Coimbatore, on Tuesday.

Originally, Kalaiselvi had moved a Family Court in Coimbatore seeking restitution of conjugal rights under Section 32 of the Divorce Act 1869. And the Family Court rejected the plea on February 14, 2019. Hence, the present appeal. She claimed that she was living with Joseph Baby from 2013. But, he deserted her later.

Dismissing the appeal, the judges said that they have no hesitation in concurring with the find-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

A division bench of Justices S Vaidyanathan and R Vijayakumar gave the ruling, while dismissing an appeal from R Kalaiselvi of Coimbatore

ings of the Family Court judge. "When the marriage has not been solemnized under any one of the

enactments, even assuming that there was long and continuous cohabitation or the parties were living together will not give rise to a cause of action for filing an application for restitution of conjugal rights." "Long cohabitation or living together will not confer upon the parties any legal right to raise a matrimonial dispute before the Family Court, unless their marriage has been solemnized in a manner known to law," the bench said and upheld the lower court order.

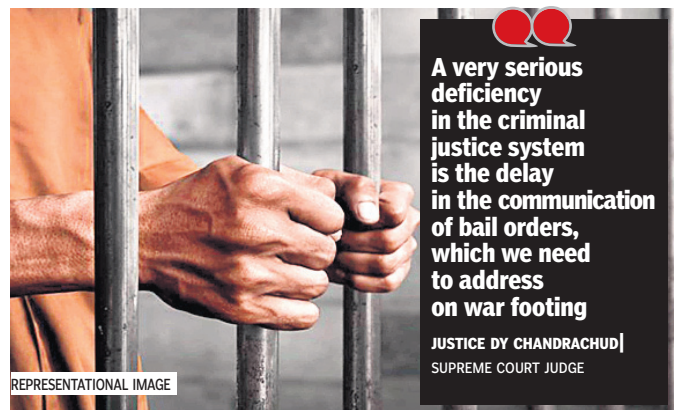
# 'Delay in sending bail orders serious flaw'

SUPREME COURT JUDGE JUSTICE DY CHANDRACHUD MADE THE COMMENT AFTER SHAH RUKH KHAN'S SON ARYAN KHAN SPENT AN EXTRA DAY IN JAIL, DESPITE SECURING BAIL FROM THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT IN THE DRUGS-ON-CRUISE CASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Supreme Court judge Justice D Y Chandrachud has termed the delay in communicating bail orders to prison authorities as a "very serious deficiency" and stressed the need to address it on "war footing" as it touches the "human liberty" of every under-trial prisoner.

Justice Chandrachud was speaking at an online event organised by the Allahabad High Court to inaugurate virtual courts and 'e-Sewa kendras' to facilitate online legal assistance to litigants. "A very serious deficiency in the criminal justice system is the delay in the communication of bail orders, which we need to address on war footing. Because this touches upon human liberty of every under-trial, or even a convict who has got suspension of sentence..." he said.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Recently, Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, spend an extra day in the Arthur Road jail in Mumbai, despite securing bail from the Bombay High Court in the drugs-on-cruise case.

Prior to this, a CJI N V Ramana-led bench had expressed strong

displeasure over reports of delay in implementation of bail orders and had said it would set up a "secure, credible and authentic channel" for transmission of orders. Even in the digital age, "we are still looking at the skies for the pigeons to communicate orders", the bench had said

The Supreme Court had then ordered the implementation of a project -- Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records (FASTER) -- for faster communication and compliance of its orders and had asked all states and union territories to ensure internet facility with adequate speed, in every jail. Speaking at the event, Justice Chandrachud referred to one of the initiatives of the Orissa High Court which provides for the grant of "e-custody certificate" to every under-trial prisoner and convict who is undergoing sentence of imprisonment.

"That certificate will give us all the requisite data with regard to that particular under-trial or convict, right from initial remand to the subsequent progress of each case. This will also help us in ensuring that bail orders are communicated as soon as they are made, from the place they are communicated, to the jails for immediate implementation," he said.

Justice Chandrachud also referred to the importance of virtual courts and said that they have been set up in 12 states for adjudicating traffic challans. "Across the country 99.43 lakh cases have been completed. Fines have been collected for 18.35 lakh cases. Total fine collected is over 119 crores of rupees. About 98,000 violators chose to contest the case", the judge said.

"Now you can imagine that for a common citizen who has a traffic challan, to spend a day away from daily wages and to go to court to pay for the traffic challan is not productive..." he said.

Justice Chandrachud said that 2.95 crore criminal cases are pending in district courts in the country and over 77 per cent cases are more than one year old.

# Pak denies airspace for Srinagar-Sharjah flight

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Nov 3: Pakistan has denied use of its airspace to a Srinagar-Sharjah direct flight - operated by low-cost airline Go First - that was inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah during his visit to J&K last month.



The Civil Aviation, External Affairs and Home Affairs ministries had been informed of this development, government sources told news agency ANI Wednesday.

The denial has raised questions over the viability of the flight, raising fears it may meet the same fate as the 2009 Srinagar-Dubai service shelved due to low demand after Pak closed its airspace.

The first Srinagar-Sharjah flight took off October 23. According to flight tracking service Radar24, services up to October 30 crossed Pak airspace but on November 2 the plane flew over Rajasthan and Gujarat, before turning west over the Arabian Sea. Go First has said it plans to continue offering the service (on alternate days) for now. Former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has hit out at the government for clearing the flight without laying the necessary groundwork; the PDP chief called

Re-routing of flights from Srinagar to the United Arab Emirates (to ensure it doesn't cross Pakistani airspace) adds over an hour of flying time, raising fuel and ticket costs

Mr Shah's flagging off a "PR stunt". "Puzzling the Government of India didn't even bother securing permission from Pakistan to use its airspace for international flights from Srinagar. PR extravaganza without groundwork," she tweeted.

Another ex-Chief Minister, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, tweeted "very unfortunate". "Very unfortunate. Pakistan did the same thing with the Air India Express flight from Srinagar to Dubai in 2009-2010. I had hoped Go First being permitted to overfly Pak airspace was indicative of a thaw in relations but alas that wasn't to be," Mr Abdullah tweeted.

Last month, as Amit Shah flagged off the first Srinagar-Sharjah flight, Mr Abdullah had tweeted a word of caution, saying he hoped "Pakistan had a change of heart..."

"Regarding the Srinagar-Sharjah flight announced today - has Pakistan had a change of heart and allowed flights originating from Srinagar to use its airspace? If not then this flight will die the way the Srinagar-Dubai flight died during UPA2," he tweeted.

# GODLY TOUCH



An artist gives finishing touches to an idol of Goddess Kali on the eve of Kali Puja in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

# DRDO, IAF jointly test smart anti-airfield weapon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force have jointly conducted two flight tests of an indigenously developed smart anti-airfield weapon in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer, the defence ministry said Wednesday.

Two different configurations (of the weapon) based on satellite navigation and electro-optical sensors

have been successfully tested, it said in a statement. Electro-optical seeker-based flight test of this class of bomb has been conducted for the first time in the country, the statement mentioned. The electro-optic sensor has been developed indigenously.

"The weapon was launched by an Indian Air Force aircraft from Chandan ranges at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan October 28 and November 3," the ministry mentioned. In both the tests, the in-

tended target was hit with high accuracy, it said.

The electro-optical configuration of the system is equipped with Imaging Infra-Red Seeker technology enhancing the precision strike capability of the weapon, the statement mentioned.

"The system (weapon) is designed for a maximum range of 100 kilometres. The newly adapted launcher ensured smooth release and ejection of the weapon," it said.

# 51% less farm fires this year in northwest India: CAQM

AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPENSATION OF AROUND ₹58 LAKH HAS BEEN IMPOSED FOR CROP RESIDUE BURNING, THE CENTRE'S COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SAID



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 3: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Wednesday said that there is a 51.35 per cent reduction in farm fire counts in northwest India this year compared to the corresponding period last year.

"Total active paddy residue burning events in Punjab, Haryana, NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi itself have come down from 43,918 in 2020 to 21,364 in 2021 during the period from September 15 to November 2, thus registering an overall reduction in the fire counts by 22,554, which is 51.35% less," CAQM said in a release here.

The major hotspots of paddy residue burning in Punjab are Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Ferozpur, Patiala, Ludhiana, and Kapurthala. Similarly, the major hotspots in Haryana are Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad, Ambala, and Jind.

During the last one week i.e. from October 27 up till November 2, as against 23,628 cases in 2020, the corresponding period in 2021 has witnessed only 12,853 active cases, thus exhibiting a reduction of 10,775 cases (about 45.6 per cent), it said. Further, enforcement agencies have so far inspected 8,575 of the total reported sites in Punjab, Haryana and NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh and Environmental Compensation

(EC) of about ₹58,05,000 has been imposed so far.

CAQM officials said they have been intensively pursuing with officials of Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh governments for strict implementation of Framework and Action Plan.

The Commission had, to curb and abate air pollution from stubble burning, prepared a detailed framework and pursuant to that action plans were finalised by government of Punjab, NCR state governments, and Delhi. During the current paddy harvesting season, CAQM has been actively monitoring paddy residue burning events from September 15 onwards in the region.

# Army Chief visits forward areas of Jammu region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 3: Army Chief General M Naravane carried out an aerial reconnaissance of forward areas Wednesday and was briefed about the prevailing security situation along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu region, officials said.

This is his second visit to Jammu division in the past over two weeks amid an ongoing operation against terrorists in a forest belt in twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri, which is the longest in the recent past that has entered 24th day Wednesday.

Gen Naravane arrived in Jammu on a two-day visit to review the security situation and operational preparedness, and immediately flew to Rajouri district, the officials said.

"General MM Naravane #COAS (Chief of Army Staff) is on a visit to Jammu region wherein he will be given an update on security situation & operational preparedness. #COAS will visit forward areas & interact with troops and commanders on ground," the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army tweeted. The ADGPI said the chief of Army staff carried out an aerial reconnaissance of forward areas in the Jammu region and was also briefed by the commanders on ground on the prevailing security situation along the LoC.

Earlier, the Army chief conducted a two-day tour of the Jammu region October 18 and 19, and reviewed the ground situation and the ongoing counter-infiltration operations.



# international



**We think between now and the end of 2022, this is the point where we get control over this virus ... where we can significantly reduce severe disease and death**  
MARIA VAN KERKHOVE | HEAD OF EMERGING DISEASES AND ZOOONOSIS, WHO

## DIWALI RESOLUTION

Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has introduced a resolution in the US Congress recognising the religious and historical significance of Diwali, the festival of lights



### of the day quote

I think we are going to have the greatest increase in ambition we've ever had, we probably do in these first 36 hours, and the real issue is going to be follow-up, working with them  
**JOHN KERRY** | US SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE

This is in Iran's interest as much as it is in the international community's interest, because if they take seriously their intentions to continue with their nuclear programme for civil purposes, they have to give the guarantees of what is going on there  
**RAFAEL MARIANO GROSSI** | IAEA CHIEF

The Tigray conflict has been marked by extreme brutality. The gravity and seriousness of the violations and abuses we have documented underscore the need to hold perpetrators accountable on all sides  
**MICHELLE BACHELET** | UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

### SHORT TAKES

#### PoK: 22 killed as bus falls off cliff

**Islamabad:** At least 22 people were killed and eight others injured Wednesday after a bus carrying them fell into a ravine in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), police said. The accident occurred in the Sudhnoti district of the region when a passenger bus was going to Rawalpindi in Punjab province from the Baloch area of the district. The bus apparently developed some technical fault and fell more than 500 meters down the road, killing 22 people, including women and children, they said.

#### 22 dead in Nigeria building collapse

**Lagos:** Rescuers in Nigeria Wednesday raced to find survivors, two days after a high-rise building under construction collapsed and trapped scores of people in the commercial capital Lagos, as the death toll rose to 22, an emergency official said. Anxious family members and large crowds gathered near the site of the incident hoping to hear news on the fate of those still trapped under chunks of masonry and mangled steel where the building once stood.

#### Volcanic ash forces islanders indoors

**Madrid:** Authorities on the Spanish island of La Palma are telling people who live near an erupting volcano to stay indoors because of a heavy fall of ash that has forced the cancellation of flights and school classes. The Cumbre Vieja volcano on La Palma, which is part of Spain's Canary Islands off northwest Africa, has been spewing lava, ash and gases for more than six weeks. The eruption has alternately surged and ebbed since September 19. Local air quality is "extremely unfavourable" because of high levels of small particles in the air, emergency services belonging to the Canary Islands government said in a statement late Tuesday.

#### 11 bullet-ridden bodies recovered

**Mexico City:** Police found the bullet-ridden bodies of 11 men in the western state of Michoacan, where several drug cartels have been waging bloody turf battles. State prosecutors said late Monday the bodies were found near the town of Tarecuato, in the northern part of Michoacan near the border with the state of Jalisco. Prosecutors said the murders appear to have occurred late Monday.

## 'My name is Cleo'

**Canberra, Nov 3:** Police smashed their way into a suburban house Wednesday and rescued a 4-year-old girl whose disappearance from her family's camping tent on Australia's remote west coast more than two weeks ago both horrified and captivated the nation. Officials wept with relief after seeing body camera video of a police officer scooping up the girl, Cleo Smith, and hearing her say, "My name is Cleo." A 36-year-old local man was arrested after the late-night raid at the house in the coastal town of Carnarvon, which followed a tip to police Tuesday. The girl was reunited with her mother Ellie Smith and stepfather Jake Gliddon soon after her rescue. "Our family is whole again," the

## Cops weep upon rescuing lost Aussie girl

mother said on social media. Prime Minister Scott Morrison reacted from the United Arab Emirates on his way home from Scotland, thanking police for finding Cleo and supporting her family. "It's every parent's worst nightmare. The fact that that nightmare has come to an end and our worst fears were not realized is just a huge relief, a moment for great joy," Morrison told reporters. "This particular case, obviously, has captured the hearts of Australians as we felt such terrible sorrow for the family," he added. Cleo's family lives in Carnarvon, a community of 5,000 people, and the girl had disappeared



with her sleeping bag on the second day of a family camping trip at Blowholes Campground, 75 kilometers north of Carnarvon, Oct 16. A massive land and sea search was initially mounted in the sparsely populated region on the assumption that she had wandered from the tent. But more evidence began to support an abduction. A vehicle was reported speeding away from the area in the dark hours of the morning. A zipper on a flap

of the tent compartment where Cleo and her sister were sleeping was too high for the girl to have reached. "We were ... Looking for a needle in a haystack and we found it," Western Australia Police Deputy Commissioner Col Blanch told Perth Radio 6PR. "When she said, 'My name is Cleo,' I don't think there was a dry eye in the house, Blanch said, quoting the girl's words to the police officer who picked her up in his arms. To see Cleo rescued this morning, I'm speechless," Blanch added. The state government had offered a 1 million Australian dollar (\$743,000) reward for information five days after her disappearance, but Blanch said the money was not expected to be claimed.

## Palestine for India's role in Middle East

**Ramallah (West Bank), Nov 3:** Acknowledging India's growing weight in international politics, Palestinian PM Dr Mohammad Shtayyeh has sought for New Delhi's well-established and distinguished role in the Middle East during his meeting with PM Narendra Modi where the two leaders also discussed ways to enhance the bilateral ties and political developments in the region. Shtayyeh met Modi on the sidelines of COP26 Summit in Glasgow in what was the first such high-level meeting between the two sides since the latter's visit to Palestine in February 2018. Palestine attaches great importance to its relations with India, who has a growing weight in international politics, Shtayyeh said during the meeting.

## Pandemic, politics drive Xi's absence from global talks



**Beijing, Nov 3:** Chinese President Xi Jinping has been absent from the Group of 20 summit in Rome and this week's global climate talks in Scotland, drawing criticism from US President Joe Biden and questions about China's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. China is the world's biggest emitter of carbon dioxide and has pledged to begin reducing that output by 2030 and obtaining carbon neutrality by 2060. The US and others have urged Beijing to make bigger commitments, but Xi's administration has strongly implied those will only come in exchange for political concessions. China has enforced tight travel restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic and Xi hasn't left the country since making a January 2020 trip to neighboring Myanmar. That was just weeks before the outbreak, believed to have originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan, spread worldwide. China has come under heavy pressure to reveal more information about the origin of the pandemic and has been accused of mismanaging the outbreak and then seeking to cover up its mistakes. China has also come under heavy criticism over its policies toward Muslims in its Xinjiang region and its crackdown on civil rights in Hong Kong. Like all Chinese leaders, Xi is extremely image-conscious and his public appearances are carefully choreographed to

**So regarding the fact that China is the current largest emitter, it's because China is at a special development stage**  
**XIE ZHENHUA** | SPECIAL CLIMATE ENVOY, CHINA

avoid potentially embarrassing confrontations. His formerly heavy travel schedule took him across continents, with first lady Peng Liyuan, an accomplished musician, on hand to add a bit of glamour and a human touch. Such travels have underscored China's more assertive foreign policy, as the world's second-largest economy seeks to exert its influence beyond East Asia with Xi's signature "Belt and Road overseas infrastructure investment programme. The president's decision not to attend the meetings in Rome and Glasgow seems at odds with that policy, although Xi isn't alone in staying away. Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose country has aligned with China in opposing US influence in world affairs, also remained at home. I think it's been a big mistake, quite frankly, for China, with respect to China not showing up, Biden said Monday at the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. They've lost an ability to influence people around the world and all the people here at COP — the same way, I would argue, with regard to Russia, Biden said.

## France says Oz hit a 'new low'

**Canberra, Nov 3:** Australia leaking French President Emmanuel Macron's text messages to the media was a "new low" and a warning to other world leaders that their private communications with the Australian government could be weaponised and used against them, the French ambassador said Wednesday. French Ambassador to Australia Jean-Pierre Thebaud used an address to Australia's National Press Club to make a withering attack on Canberra's surprise decision to scrap a 90 billion Australian dollar (\$66 billion) contract with France to build a fleet of 12 diesel-electric submarines. Australian media Tuesday reported the contents of a text message from Macron to Prime Minister Scott Morrison in September in which the French leader asked "Should I expect good or bad news for our joint submarine ambitions?" France has condemned the leak as a further breach of trust.

## Khan unveils ₹120bn subsidy package

**CALLING THE SUBSIDY AS THE "BIGGEST WELFARE PROGRAMME IN PAKISTAN'S HISTORY", HE SAID IT WAS A STEP TO MAKE PAKISTAN A TRULY WELFARE STATE**



**Islamabad, Nov 3:** Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday announced a whopping ₹120 billion package for the poor families to buy three essential items of daily use at cheaper rates, describing it as "the biggest welfare programme in Pakistan's history". Under the subsidy programme,

**Opposition parties, including PML-N and PPP, have been holding countrywide rallies and protests against petrol price hike**

eligible families will be able to purchase wheat flour, ghee and pulses at 30 per cent lower prices for the next six months, he said in an address to the nation. Khan said that his government had allocated ₹120 billion to help 20 million families to buy flour, pulses and ghee 30 per cent cheaper for the next six months. Calling the subsidy as the

"biggest welfare programme in Pakistan's history", he said it was a step to make Pakistan a truly welfare state as it would benefit 130 million people across the country. He said that the subsidy was in addition to the ₹260 billion Ehsas programme which was already underway to provide cash support to the 12 million poor families. Khan also announced that 4 million poor families will be given interest free loan under Kamyab Pakistan Programme for house building while farmers under the same programme will be able to get up to ₹500,000 interest free loan for agriculture. He said under the programme, one person from each selected family will be given training for some skill to enable them earn livelihood. Khan also said that another welfare project called the Kamyab Jawan Programme was also going on to give loans to youth to start their businesses.

## DEAD SEA DYING



An aerial picture shows land that used to be covered with Dead Sea water, near Jericho in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

## B'desh villages bear brutal brunt of climate change

**Shyamnagar, Nov 3:** With each tide, Abdus Satter watches the sea erode a little more of his life. His village of Bonnotola in southwestern Bangladesh, with its muddy roads and tin-roofed houses, was once home to over 2,000 people. Most were farmers like the 58-year-old Satter. Then the rising seas poisoned the soil with salt water. Two cyclones in the last two years destroyed the mud embankments that shielded the village from tidal waves. Now, only 480 people remain, with the rest rendered homeless by the sea. The effects of global warming — particularly increased cyclones, and coastal and tidal flooding that

bring salt water further inland — are devastating Bangladesh and destroying the livelihoods of millions. It's a grave concern for a country like Bangladesh. Projections show some 30 million people may be displaced from the country's coastal regions. With world leaders gathered in Glasgow, Scotland, for a UN climate conference this week, countries like Bangladesh are pressing for more financial support to cope with global warming. A decade-old deal for rich countries to give poor nations \$100 billion each year to switch to clean energy and adapt to climate change has not been fulfilled. Even the money that is being provided — about \$80 billion in 2019 — is spread too thin to make much of a differ-



ence on the ground. In Gabura, another village in the Bengal River delta, Nazma Khatun, 43, has been struggling to feed her two daughters. Half of

her meager daily income — less than \$3 from sewing and selling cloth — goes toward medicine for skin diseases she says everyone in the village suffers from due to rising sea levels, which have contaminated land and water. "We have water everywhere, but we don't have a drop any more to drink from ponds or wells," she said. This land was once fertile. Khatun said mango and jackfruit used to flourish, and everyone grew vegetables in their backyard, relying on ponds, rivers and wells for drinking water. "Now it's impossible. See the pond here, fresh water is gone," she said. At Bonbibi Tola village, women gather daily at a hand-pump well to collect water for cooking and drinking. The women walk up to 4 kilometers hauling water daily. But this won't last long. Wells in the region only have fresh water in the months after monsoon rains. In

the summer, when the flow from Himalayan rivers decreases, fresh water becomes scarce, said one of the women, Maheswari Halder. "This is the fate we all surrender to," she said. The three villages lie in Bangladesh's southwestern Shyamnagar region, home to 400,000 people. Officials say the government lacks funding for additional desalination plants to convert salt water into fresh water. For Satter, it may already be too late. Every morning, waves gush into his home and soon he, his wife and two sons will have to flee. The sea has snatched away their future and their past, he said, pointing to a muddy trench that was once a courtyard where his parents' graves lay. "It's just a matter of time," he said.



# business

## of the day quote

SAIL is presently in process of examining various categories under the PLI scheme, for feasibility and which may synergize with SAIL's current capabilities

SOMA MONDAL | CHAIRMAN, SAIL

As you are aware, the government announced seminal reforms that will help preserve cash flows and enable the industry to drive investments. There have also been substantial steps taken to simplify the way we do business

GOPAL VITTAL | CEO, AIRTEL

Through our partnership with the GEAPP, the ISA will create an enabling policy and regulatory environment by building the capacity of government, convening and research, and provide best-in-class project development support to build a strong pipeline of investable solar projects

AJAY MATHUR | DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

## SHORT TAKES

### Maruti sales plunge; Tata Motors up 94%

**New Delhi:** Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India Wednesday said it sold around 13,000 units on the day of Dhanteras, lower than last year hampered by supply constraints due to semiconductor shortage, although Tata Motors stated its deliveries grew 94 per cent. "Demand and bookings have been good. We tried our best to deliver as many vehicles as possible. However due to supply side constraints we closed a little lower than last year, at around 13,000 units," said Maruti Suzuki Senior Executive Director Shashank Srivastava.

### Trade unions to hold 2-day strike

**New Delhi:** A joint platform of central trade unions Wednesday gave a call for a two-day strike during the Budget session of Parliament next year to protest against divestment of government stake in state-run firms and price rise, among other issues. The decision was taken at a meeting of the forum November 1, 2021 in Delhi to consider the situation arising out of the government's push to privatise and hand over all the national assets to the corporate sector, NMP being the latest design, a joint statement said.

### 42 cos selected for white goods

**New Delhi:** The government Wednesday said 42 firms, including Daikin, Panasonic, Syska and Havells, with committed investment of ₹4,614 crore have been provisionally selected as beneficiaries under the production linked incentive scheme for the white goods sector. A total of 52 companies had filed applications with committed investment of ₹5,858 crore under the scheme. The scheme will be implemented over a seven-year period from 2021-22 to 2028-29 and has an outlay of ₹6,238 crore, which was approved by the Cabinet.

### Bajaj Allianz logs 28% growth in Q2

**Mumbai:** Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has booked a 28% growth in net income to ₹425 crore in the Sept quarter, as the claims from the pandemic ebbed. The leading non-life player had registered a ₹322 crore net profit in the same period of FY21. The bottomline grew 21.1 per cent to ₹5,034 crore in the reporting quarter from ₹4,156 crore a year ago.



**We have a long way to go on coverage, but the shift in integrating carbon pricing is there, and we're working very hard to support countries to take that shift**

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA | CHIEF, IMF

## NOKIA CLAIMS TOP 5G SPEED OF 9.85 GBPS

Telecom gear maker Nokia India Wednesday claimed to have recorded a top speed of 9.85 Gigabit per second on Vodafone Idea network during the ongoing 5G trials. The company has achieved the top speed in back end data transmission, which means connecting mobile base stations network, during the trials in Gandhinagar, Gujarat



# Nepal to sell surplus power to India

With this move Nepal becomes the first country in the South Asian region to enter into the agreement for power import and export from and to the Indian energy exchange market

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kathmandu, Nov 3:** In a major boost to the bilateral ties between Nepal and India, New Delhi for the first time permitted Kathmandu to sell its electricity in India's power exchange market.

The Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation said in a statement that the concerned Indian authority, Central Electricity Authority, Monday decided to allow Nepal to sell 39 MW of electricity produced by the 24MW Trishuli Hydropower Project and the 15MW Devighat Hydropower Project in the India Energy Exchange Limited (IEX), after receiving a nod from the Ministry of Power.

In the first phase, 39 MW power, including 24-MW produced from Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA)-owned Trishuli hydropower and 15-MW Devighat powerhouse, has been permitted for trading in the Indian Energy Exchange.

The NEA was scheduled to start exporting the power through Dhalkebar-Mujaffapur 400-KV inter-country transmission line from midnight Tuesday. This transmission line has been used merely



The Himalayan nation became an energy surplus country ever since the 456MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project came into full operation in August

According to the NEA, Nepal now has surplus power even during peak hours, usually between 7 pm and 8 pm. The peak hour demand stands at 1,500MW

The country is currently producing 2,000MW of electricity, of which 1,900MW is generated from hydropower projects

to import power.

"Following the Indian approval for Nepal to export its electricity, power trade between the two countries has entered a new phase," the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation said.

Nepal had already received permission for purchasing and importing power from the Indian Energy Exchange. With this, the NEA has been importing power through Indian Energy Exchange at a competitive rate since last

April 30 as per the need. After obtaining the approval, the power trade between Nepal and India has entered a new phase.

"We have been permitted for the trade of surplus power after continued efforts at political, diplomatic and administrative levels. This is a milestone for power trade between the two countries. We have also expected the approval for trade of power produced from the 456-MW Upper Tamakoshi, 69-MW Marsyangdi and 45-MW Upper Bhotekoshi power house in near future," the Minister added.

About two months ago, the power utility of NEA had proposed that electricity generated by hydropower projects, including Upper Tamakoshi, Upper Bhotekoshi, Marshyangdi, Trishuli, and Devighat, whose combined generation capacity totals 621.1MW, be auctioned in India's power exchange market.

Nepali officials said that the Indian government's permission to allow Nepal in the power exchange market has been a huge respite for the NEA, which is facing a wastage of power for more than two months.

# IOC aims to set up 10,000 EV charging stations in 3 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Indian Oil Corp, the nation's largest oil firm, will set up 10,000 charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) in the next three years as it prepares for the energy transition leading to net-zero by 2070, its chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday made a bold pledge to cutting emissions at the world's third-biggest emitter to net-zero by 2070. "While IOC sees fossil fuels like petrol and diesel continuing to play a dominant role in meeting India's energy needs in the next couple of decades, the company is setting up the infrastructure to give confidence to automobile manufacturers for enhancement of EV production and to customers for an uninterrupted drive," Vaidya told reporters here.

"Energy pie of the country is growing. We are not a stagnant economy. Overall our energy pie is growing and so all kinds of fuel will be needed to meet the energy needs," he said.

IOC plans to set up 50 KW EV charging stations at every 25-km and 100 KW heavy-duty chargers at every 100-km to weave a network that will provide customers easy access for charging their electric vehicles, he said adding the charging stations would be set up at existing and new petrol pumps across the country.

In the first year, IOC will target setting up 231 EV charging stations in 9 high-priority cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Surat and Pune. Another

Of all new 2-wheelers sold, EVs make up for about 1% while the percentage of same in the four-wheeler category is just 0.2%. 25% of new three-wheeler sale is EVs

375 stations would be set up in the second year in these cities and a further 215 in the third year.

In all, 944 charging stations would be set up in other state capitals over the three-year period but more than half of the 10,000 outlets planned would come up on highways and other cities. He said after accounting for government subsidy, the capital expenditure in setting up the 10,000 EV charging stations would be ₹150-200 crore.

IOC either had already tied up or is in dialogue with automobile manufacturers, fleet aggregators and electricity suppliers for the EV charging network.

Vaidya said the company would draw electricity from the grid for the EV charging stations which will be in parallel to the network of battery swapping stations it is setting up.

While EV charging could typically take 45 minutes to 3 hours depending on the size of the charging stations, a battery swapping site offers the facility to change discharged batteries for a fully charged one in a matter of minutes. Battery swapping is mostly done by three-wheelers, he said.



# Cairn drops litigations against govt

AGENCIES

**Washington, Nov 3:** UK-based Cairn Energy PLC Wednesday said it has agreed to drop litigations to seize Indian properties in countries ranging from France to the UK as it has accepted the Indian government's offer to settle tax dispute relating to the levy of taxes retrospectively.

Meeting the requirements of new legislation that scraps levy of retrospective taxation, the company has given required undertakings indemnifying the Indian government against future claims as well as agreeing to drop any legal proceedings anywhere in the world.

The government now has to accept this and issue Cairn a so-called Form-II, that will commit it to refund the tax collected to enforce the retrospective tax demand. Following the issue of Form-II, Cairn will withdraw legal proceedings and will get a refund of ₹7,900 crore.

Cairn said its undertaking shall

## TAX DISPUTE



be treated as having never been furnished if the Principal Commissioner for Income Tax either rejects the undertaking given by it in Form No 1 under rule 11UE(1) or the intimation of withdrawal given under rule 11UF(3), or declines to grant the refund.

Only after the refund is issued will the new legislation will be seen as working in the eyes of foreign investors.

In a statement, Cairn said it has "entered into undertakings with the Government of India in order to participate in the scheme introduced by recent Indian legislation, the Taxation Laws (Amendment)

# SBI beats estimates with \$1 billion profit

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Nov 3:** State Bank of India posted a better-than-expected quarterly profit Wednesday, as it released reserves that were set aside to cover

its exposure to a troubled shadow lender, and forecast credit growth of about 10% for the fiscal year.

Most large Indian banks have reported higher profits for the September quarter, buoyed by a rebound in credit demand as the economy reopened fully and low interest rates boosted spending on automobiles and homes.

Our overall advances growth stands at 6% plus and we would cer-

tainly like to see it growing at least up to 10%, said SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara.

Corporate loans were muted in the second quarter, Khara said, adding that lending to companies would pick up as the iron and steel sector and oil companies look to expand their working capital limits on improving demand.

The Mumbai-based lender's net profit rose 66.7% to 76.27 billion rupees (\$1.02 billion), helped by a write back of 40 billion rupees it had set aside for the account of distressed shadow lender DHFL, which was taken over by the Piramal Group.

# Services boom to nearly 11-year high in Oct

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Nov 3:** India's dominant services industry expanded at the fastest pace in more than a decade on improved domestic demand despite high inflation, driving firms to take on staff at a rate not seen since the onset of the pandemic, a private survey showed.

The IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index accelerated to 58.4 last month from the 55.2 in September, above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction for a third straight month. The survey showed Asia's third-

largest economy was on a sustained recovery path but rising prices could prompt the Reserve Bank of India to hike interest rates earlier than expected, putting the brakes on growth.

"A substantial rise in prices charged for the provision of services in India had no detrimental impact on demand, as companies signalled the strongest monthly expansion in new business in over a decade

services in India had no detrimental impact on demand, as companies signalled the strongest



monthly expansion in new business in over a decade," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

Prices charged rose at the sharpest rate since July 2017, suggesting inflation will remain elevated, with the biggest upturn

Input prices rose sharply last month on higher fuel and material costs, pushing companies to pass on some of the extra cost burden to customers

in transport and storage costs as a consequence of the recent surge in global crude prices to near \$85 a barrel.

Despite demand increasing at the strongest pace in 10 years, business confidence remained muted. "Service providers were concerned that persistent inflationary pressures could deter growth

in the coming year," De Lima said. The central bank is expected to hike interest rates at the beginning of the next financial year, according to a poll taken last month. International demand remained in contraction territory for the 20th month in a row, by far the longest streak since the sub-index started in September 2014.

However, hiring continued for a second month and although the pace was moderate it was the highest since February last year. A vast majority of firms did not hire more, saying they had sufficient headcount to handle the workload.

Expansion in both manufacturing and services activity drove the composite index to a near 10-year high of 58.7 in October from 55.3 in September.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Esplanade One adds to Diwali's glitter

**Bhubaneswar:** Diwali is all about shopping and family time. This year, Esplanade One Mall is hosting the most-unique Diwali celebrations for everyone. Not only do they have the best deals across various brands for the elders in the family, but also they have this unique 'Sound of Happiness'. At Esplanade One Mall, if one shop for over ₹10,000, the customer will be allowed to choose their own gifts from a dedicated space in the mall. The mall will also be offering silver coins and mobile phones to the winners of the lucky draw as well. While you're busy shopping, let your kids experience the Diwali installations and Sound of Happiness. Customers are invited to visit the mall and shop during the Happiness Days festival, which will continue till November 7.



### SBI observes Vig Awareness Week

**Bhubaneswar:** State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Circle observed Vigilance Awareness Week-2021 from October 26 to November 1, 2021. The theme for the year was 'India @75, Integrity with self-reliance'. The week kick started with integrity pledge administered to all the staff members throughout the state. Vidya Krishnan, Chief General Manager, Bejoy Kumar Kuzur, General Manager, Network II and Ranjit Kumar Mishra, General Manager were present. Various competitions like essay writing, quiz competition, art competition were organised amongst the members of staff and their wards. Eloquution competition was also organised among students of various schools in Bhubaneswar and across the state. A sand art on the above theme created by Shri Subal Moharana was inaugurated by CS Setty, SBI Managing Director in the presence of CGM & GM.





# A win at last

India return to winning way with a near-flawless 66-run victory over Afghanistan in ICC Men's T20 World Cup



STUNNING SHOW: Rohit Sharma (R) gives KL Rahul a fist-bump during their match against Afghanistan, Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Abu Dhabi, Nov 3:** A formidable India led by their stylish openers Rohit Sharma (74, 47b, 8x4, 3x6) and KL Rahul (69, 48b, 6x4, 2x6) finally put up a near-flawless performance to annihilate a hapless Afghanistan by 66 runs to stay afloat in the ICC T20 World Cup here Wednesday.

It could well be a case of joining the party two games too late but a solid batting show to first score 210/2 and then bowl the disciplined lines to restrict Afghanistan to 144/7 kept their billion plus fans interested.

For the Afghans, Karim Janat (42 n o, 22b, 3x4, 2x6) and Mohammad Nabi (35, 32b, 2x4, 1x6) batted well and save their side from being humiliation. The duo put together 57 runs for the sixth wicket after they were reduced to 69/5 in 11.5 overs.

With their net run-rate finally entering the positive bracket (+0.073), India would now hope that Afghanistan can recover from this

drubbing and upset New Zealand, giving Virat Kohli's men an outside chance to qualify for the semifinals behind Pakistan.

On the day, India did everything that perhaps was expected of them against the big teams. Rohit brought his carefree elegance to the table while Rahul was classy as ever in India's imposing total.

While they would still have to bear the criticism of having flattered to deceive against Pakistan and New Zealand, Rohit and Rahul made a mockery of Afghanistan's inexperienced attack, putting up a record 140 runs for the opening stand.

This was also the highest total in this edition of T20 World Cup but one can only hope that it hasn't come too late. It couldn't be denied that save Rashid Khan the other Afghans were pedestrian at best, leaving Hardik Pandya (35 n o, 13b, 4x4, 2x6) and Rishabh Pant (27 n o, 13c, 1x4, 3x6) to feast during the death overs.

The Pandya-Pant duo clobbered

63 runs in 3.3 overs to take the total which was always going to be beyond Afghanistan's reach.

When India bowled, Ravichandran Ashwin (2/14), playing his first international game in six months and white ball international after four years, was too good for the Afghans.

Jasprit Bumrah (1/25) was steady as usual while Ravindra Jadeja (1/19) looked decent. Mohammed Shami (3/32) got a bit of stick but picked wickets at regular intervals.

With no disrespect to India's efforts, the gulf in bowling standards was evident in the disdainful manner that Rohit and Rahul treated the Afghan attack. Hardik and Pant then added insult to the injury.

#### BRIEF SCORES

India 210/2 (Rohit Sharma 74, KL Rahul 69, Hardik Pandya 35 n o, Rishabh Pant 27 n o) beat Afghanistan 144/7 (Karim Janat 42 n o, Mohammad Nabi 35; Mohammed Shami 3/32, R Ashwin 2/14) by 66 runs.

# Dravid named head coach of Men in Blue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Former captain Rahul Dravid was on Wednesday appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team by the BCCI, a development that was expected after the batting great was convinced by the board's top brass.

Dravid, who was working as the head of National Cricket Academy, has been appointed for a period of two years till the 2023 50-over World Cup in India.

The 47-year-old Dravid, one of the greatest to have played for India, was the only choice for BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah, who had called him in Dubai and convinced him to apply for the position. Once Dravid had applied, the BCCI didn't even need to look at any other application.

"The Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Sulakshana Naik and RP Singh Wednesday unanimously appointed Rahul Dravid as the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men). The former India captain will take charge from



the upcoming home series against New Zealand," the BCCI stated in a media release.

The BCCI had invited applications for the said position October 26 to appoint incumbent Ravi Shastri's successor, whose term gets over after the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup.

"It is an absolute honour to be appointed as the new head coach of the Indian cricket team and I am really looking forward to this role," Dravid said. He also thanked his predecessor Shastri for his role in shaping the current Indian team. "Under Shastri, the team has done very well, and I hope to work with the team to take this forward."

# Guptill sets up Kiwis' win



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Nov 3:** Opener Martin Guptill's blistering 56-ball 93 (6x4, 7x6), which was built around monstrous sixes and authoritative batting, set up a 16-run win for New Zealand over a spirited Scotland in the T20 World Cup here Wednesday.

In all, New Zealand posted 172/5 in the Group 2 Super 12 match. Scotland replied with 156/5 in their allotted 20 overs at the Dubai

International Cricket Stadium. Michael Leask blazed away to an unbeaten 42 off 20 balls (3x4, 3x6), but his effort was not enough for the Scots.

Most of his big hits were directed towards the mid-wicket region and by the time he was done with his knock, Guptill was overcome with exhaustion in the extreme heat.

One of New Zealand's prolific run-scorers over many years,

Guptill added 105 runs for the fourth wicket with Glenn Phillips (33) to put his team in a commanding position.

Asked to bat first, New Zealand were off to a brisk start with Guptill leading the way in the company of Daryl Mitchell (13). As many as 13 runs came in the match's very first over bowled by Bradley Wheal (2/40), but Safyaan Sharif (2/28) made an excellent start in the next over, giving away just one run.

Playing this game in place of an injured Josh Davey, Alasdair Evans was smashed for two successive boundaries by Guptill through the point region. Mitchell was trapped in front of the wicket by Sharif in the fifth over. The on-field umpire's decision was challenged, albeit unsuccessfully, by the batter.

In the middle of the fine first spell, seamer Sharif got the big wicket of captain Kane Williamson (0) four balls later, as a diving Matthew Cross completed a good catch behind the stumps.

The Kiwis collected a productive 52 runs during power play, with 16 of them coming in the sixth over. In the process, Guptill became only the second batter after Indian captain Virat Kohli to cross 3000 runs in T20Is.

Scotland enjoyed another success right after spin was introduced for the first time, when slow left-arm Mark Watt castled Devon Conway (1) with his very first ball in the seventh over. Only 18 runs came between the 6th and 10th over as Scotland tightened things.

However, the Scots had no answer to the onslaught launched on them by Guptill. However, the NZ innings lost a bit of momentum after his dismissal as they could not manage only 22 runs in the last three overs.

In response, Scotland's struggle to find quick runs in the middle-overs cost them the match despite Leask's splendid efforts.

#### BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand 172/5 (Martin Guptill 93, Glenn Phillips 33; Safyaan Sharif 2/28) beat Scotland 156/5 (Michael Leask 42 n o, Matthew Cross 27; Trent Boult 2/29) by 16 runs.

# ODISHA FC ANNOUNCE SQUAD FOR ISL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Odisha FC Wednesday announced their squad for the Indian Super League 2021-22 season. The Bhubaneswar-based team is gearing up for the opening match against Bengaluru FC November 24 at Tilak Maidan in Vasco, Goa.

The Kalinga Warriors had already announced the three captains for the season - Vinit Rai, Victor Mongil, and Hector Rodas a few days ago.

The promotion of three youth team graduates - Deven Sawhney, Akshunna Tyagi, and CVL Remtluanga - into the senior side was also announced last month.

The squad includes six foreigners - Mongil, Rodas, Javi Hernandez, Aridai

### THE TEAM

**GOALKEEPERS:** Kamaljit Singh, Arshdeep Singh & Ravi Kumar;

**DEFENDERS:** Gaurav Bora, Lalruathara, Sahil Panwar, Hendry Antonay, Lalhrezuala Sailung, Sebastian Thangmuansang, Deven Sawhney, Victor Mongil & Hector Rodas;

**MIDFIELDERS:** Thoiba Singh Moirangthem, Vinit Rai, Paul Ramfangzauva, Isaac Vanmalsawma, Isak Vanlalruattfela, Liridon Krasniqi, Javi Hernandez, Jerry Mawihmingthanga, Nandhakumar Sekar, CVL Remtluanga & Nikhil Raj;

**FORWARDS:** Akshunna Tyagi, Daniel Lalhlimpuia, Aridai Cabrera, Jonathas Cristian De Jesus.

Cabrera, Liridon Krasniqi (AFC), and Jonathas De Jesus while seven youngsters - Lalhrezuala Sailung, Sawhney, Thoiba Singh Moirangthem, Isak Vanlalruattfela, Remtluanga, Tyagi and Nikhil Raj have been classified as developmental players.

Speaking about the squad, head coach Kiko Ramirez explained, "We have a good mix of experienced and young players. We are really happy with the team that we are building and pleasantly surprised to see the level of the Indian players. We think that some of them will make an impact this season in the ISL."

"Also, all the players have a really good attitude to learn and the foreigners will bring their experience about how to play in different situations."

# Lewandowski treble lifts Bayern Munich

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Munich, Nov 3:** After two weeks without a coach and falling to a disastrous defeat, Bayern Munich are back to their usual winning ways.

The German champions booked their place in the Champions League last 16 Tuesday as Robert Lewandowski scored a hat-trick for a 5-2 victory over Benfica to extend Bayern's perfect record of four wins from four in the group stage. That took Lewandowski to 81 career goals in his 100th Champions League game.

The game marked the return of Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann after four games away - including the return 4-0 win over Benfica in Portugal - after he tested positive for the coronavirus.

During Nagelsmann's absence, Bayern's previously reliable defense collapsed in a 0-5 German Cup loss at Borussia Monchengladbach last week, the club's worst result in more than 40 years.

Against Benfica there were some signs of that sloppiness as poor marking early on allowed Benfica to score a goal narrowly

outed for offside. It happened again when Bayern failed to deal with a free kick that led to Benfica defender Morato scoring when Bayern led 2-0.

Up front, it was business as usual as Bayern's attacking quartet of Lewandowski, Leroy Sane, Kingsley Coman and Serge Gnabry combined to dismantle Benfica.

First Coman danced through the Benfica penalty area past two defenders before crossing for Lewandowski to head in the opening goal in the 26th. The Poland striker was the provider six minutes later, squaring the ball for Gnabry to finish in style with a backheel.

Morato's goal and a missed penalty from Lewandowski - who'd scored his previous seven - slowed Bayern's progress before halftime.

Just after the break, Sane scored Bayern's third with a powerful volley after Alphonso Davies flicked on a pass from Joshua Kimmich. The fourth came on a counterattack with Sane setting up Lewandowski to finish with a chip over the goalkeeper.

Benfica's Darwin Nunez scored a consolation goal in the 74th. Lewandowski finally got his hat-trick in the 85th with another chip finish.

### Chelsea scrape past Malmö

**MALMO:** Chelsea took a step closer to the knockout stage of the Champions League with a 1-0 victory over Malmö. Hakim Ziyech's goal early in the second half was enough for the defending European champion to eliminate host Malmö from the tournament. The best Malmö can hope for is qualification to the Europa League.

### Dybala puts Juve in last 16

**TURIN:** Paulo Dybala scored twice and Juventus beat Zenit St. Petersburg 4-2 Tuesday to secure a spot in the Champions League knockout rounds with two matches to spare. Federico Chiesa and Alvaro Morata also scored for the Bianconeri. Juventus have now won all four of their matches to lead Group H by three points ahead of defending champions Chelsea. Zenit's goals came through an own goal by Leonardo Bonucci and a strike by Sardar Azmoun.

### Fati keeps Barca hopes alive

**KYIV (UKRAINE):** With an interim coach and depleted by injuries, Barcelona came through with a crucial win at Dynamo Kyiv to boost their chances of advancing in the Champions League. Ansu Fati scored a second-half winner as Barcelona edged Dynamo 1-0 here Tuesday to put themselves in good position to reach the knockout rounds of the European competition. Fati scored with a powerful one-timer from near the penalty spot to give the Catalan club their second consecutive victory over Dynamo after they had started their campaign with consecutive losses.

### Ronaldo to the rescue again

**BERGAMO (ITALY):** Cristiano Ronaldo again came to Manchester United's rescue with two goals - including a stoppage-time effort - to salvage a 2-2 draw at Atalanta in the Champions League Tuesday. Ronaldo had scored a late winner against Atalanta at Old Trafford two weeks ago when United overturned a 0-2 halftime deficit to win 3-2. And the Portuguese forward scored at the end of each half to help his team to what could prove to be a precious point in Bergamo. Josip Illicic had given Atalanta the lead in the 12th minute and Duvan Zapata restored the home team's lead early in the second half. United remained atop Group F.

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