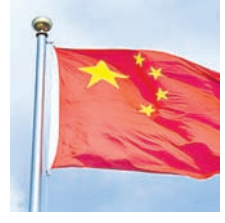




**RASHMIKA ON CLOUD NINE**  
Actor Rashmika Mandanna is set to dazzle the screens with two new releases, 'Pushpa' and 'Mission Majnu' **LEISURE P2**



**NEW CHINESE PLOY**  
China has built a large 100-home village on the disputed territory between Tibet Autonomous Region and Arunachal Pradesh **INTERNATIONAL P10**



**KEEPING HOPES ALIVE**  
India thrash Scotland by 8 wickets and improve net run rate to keep semifinal hopes alive **SPORTS P12**

**Odisha cadre officer replaces Wankhede in Aryan drugs case**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai/New Delhi, Nov 5: Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officer Sameer Wankhede has been taken off the controversial cruise drugs case in which Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan was arrested. The NCB has transferred the investigation in the matter and five other cases from the Mumbai unit headed by Wankhede to a SIT team. Wankhede, who is facing several personal and service-related allegations, will continue to be the Mumbai zone director of the agency. The SIT team will be headed by Odisha cadre officer of the 1996 batch, Sanjay Singh. Officials cited 'administrative grounds' for the decision to transfer the six cases, which also include the one involving the son-in-law of Maharashtra Cabinet Minister Nawab Malik who had launched a tirade against Wankhede and levelled several allegations against him. The NCB issued a statement Friday to say that the six cases are being taken over 'by the special investigation team (SIT) of officers from the Delhi operations unit as they have national and international ramifications and in order to conduct a deeper investigation to find out forward and backward linkages'. It said, 'no officer or officers have been removed from their present roles' and they will continue to assist the investigation as required until any specific orders are issued to the contrary'.

**Justice Mohapatra sworn in**

**Cuttack:** Justice Aditya Kumar Mohapatra was sworn in as a new judge of Orissa High Court here Friday. Chief Justice of Orissa HC, S Muralidhar administered the oath of office to Justice Mohapatra at the conference hall of the court. Earlier November 3, the president of India had appointed Mohapatra as a new judge of the Orissa High Court. With the swearing in of Justice Mohapatra, the number of judges in the high court went up to 18. Last month, three new judges were appointed to the Odisha HC. All judges, senior advocates and other dignitaries were present during the swearing in ceremony.



**US to lift all travel restrictions**

**Washington:** The US is set to lift all restrictions for fully vaccinated international travellers, including from India, November 8 onwards. However, they will have to show proof of a negative coronavirus test three days before boarding a flight to the US, according to an official statement released Friday. However, those unvaccinated will need to test one day ahead of the travel. Unvaccinated minors will need to test at the same time as adults with whom they are travelling. Airlines must deny boarding to passengers who do not meet these requirements or those who test positive for Covid-19, it said.



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## MORE RELIEF FOR CONSUMERS

### Edible oil prices cut

■ After decrease in prices of petrol and diesel, consumers got a major relief when rates of edible oils were also reduced

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Edible oil prices in major retail markets across India have declined by ₹5-20 per kg after various measures, including an import duty cut, by the government, Food Secretary Sudhansu Pandey said Friday. The official said that branded oil makers have also revised the rates for new stock. Domestic edible oil prices have soared in tandem with the global rates that shot up due to reduced availability of edible oils for food use following diversion for bio-fuel in Indonesia, Brazil and other countries. "The government has taken a number of steps to ensure consumers get relief from high prices. We are happy to share the trend from 167 centres. Edible oil prices have declined quite significantly in the range of ₹5 and ₹20 per kg in the major retail markets across India," Pandey informed. For instance, retail palm oil price in Delhi declined by ₹5 to ₹133/kg November 3 from ₹139/kg, while it fell by ₹18 to ₹122/kg from ₹140/kg



- Mustard oil prices will also undergo rate revision due to increase in production of the crop in 2021
- Prices of edible oils have been decreased by ₹5-₹20 in the last couple of days

in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. The government monitors retail prices of six edible oils from 167 centres across India. In the case of mustard oil, the Secretary said, 'we have not seen a significant reduction in prices', but the steps taken by the government including import duty rationalisation will have an impact on prices of mustard oil as well. "We are going to see a southward trend in mustard oil prices too," Pandey said. "Ongoing sowing of mustard seed is better than last year. The area sown to mustard seed, a Rabi crop, is 11 per cent better than the year-ago period," he added.

### VAT on fuels slashed

As per estimation, the price of petrol will decrease by ₹3.08 per litre and diesel by ₹2.88 in the state

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Petrol price was further reduced by as much as ₹8.7 per litre and diesel by ₹9.52 in BJP ruled states and Union Territories (UTs) - from Ladakh to Pondicherry - as they matched the central government's announcement of a cut in excise duty with slashing of local sales tax (VAT) rates. Buckling under pressure, the Union Government had Wednesday cut excise duty on petrol by rupees five per litre and that on diesel by ₹10 a litre to give reprieve to consumers battered by record-high retail fuel prices. This announcement was matched by 22 states and UTs. Following reduction of excise duty Wednesday by the Centre, the Odisha government also reduced the value added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel by four per cent with effect from Friday midnight. The VAT on petrol decreased from 32 per cent to 28 per cent while for diesel it has been slashed down to 24 per cent from 28 per cent, an official in the Finance department said. With this reduction, the price of petrol will go down by approximately ₹3.08 per litre while the diesel price will be reduced by nearly ₹2.88 per litre in Odisha, the official informed. Due to the reduction of tax and duty, the consumers will get a relief of ₹4.56 per litre of petrol and ₹5.69 per litre of diesel. In view of this reduction, the loss of VAT revenue to the Odisha exchequer will approximately be ₹1,400 crore per annum. This is in addition to loss in VAT collection of ₹1.60 per litre of petrol and ₹2.80 on diesel which the state is likely to incur in view of the reduction of excise duty implemented by the Centre. This loss will approximately be to the tune of ₹700 crore per annum. Hence the total loss to the Odisha exchequer will be more than ₹2,000 crore.



## Police unearth new leads in Mamita case

■ Police have managed to identify the person who sold tyres to Gobinda Sahu, the main accused in the Mamita murder case. The tyres were used for burning Mamita's body

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Police said Friday that they have got some important leads in the school teacher Mamita Meher murder case. They said that a person named Vivek Agarwal has revealed that he provided main accused Gobinda Sahu with two tyres. The tyres were allegedly used to burn Mamita's body after she was killed. According to an official, Gobinda had called Vivek at around 12.30pm October 8, the day when Mamita had gone missing. The two tyres were collected from Vivek by Gobinda's personal driver and close associate Radheshyam Chandi who is also an accused in the case. "Gobinda called me for two pickup van tyres. His driver Radheshyam Chandi came to my shop at around 3.30pm and took the two tyres from me," Vivek told the Bolangir police in his statement which has been recorded under Section 161 of CrPC. Police have also seized 70 items including a handbag, Ashes and skin samples of the deceased and



nailed, hair and blood samples of the prime accused have been sent to State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) in Bhubaneswar for tests. "The articles sent to SFSL also include five strands of hair, a pair of earrings, a towel, a jar and a knife which were recovered from the personal car of accused Gobinda, the senior official informed. It has been revealed that Mamita had been threatening to expose Gobinda regarding the latter's extra-marital affairs. This led to Gobinda allegedly murdering her in his car and then trying to dispose her body at an under-construction stadium in Mahaling.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



Such a huge cut in fuel prices! What will happen to the country's development now?!

## Final ZP reservation list for panchayat polls out

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Paving way forward for the conduct of panchayat elections in 2022, the Odisha government Friday issued a final reservation list for the post of Zilla Parishad (ZP) chairpersons in all the districts. The government has allotted only four Zilla Parishad (ZP) president posts to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). As per the notification by the Panchayati Raj department, the four districts reserved for OBCs are Angul, Nayagarh, Khurda and Sonepur. The government has reserved the ZP chief's post in Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Bhadrak districts for the Scheduled Caste (SC) category while Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates will head the ZPs in Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Gajapati, Nabarangpur, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri, Rayagada, and Sundargarh districts. Similarly, ZP chief posts of six districts namely Kendrapara, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Puri, Bolangir and Sambalpur have been kept for the unreserved category. Moreover, the Odisha government has reserved 50 per cent of all ZP chief posts for women. The districts are - Angul, Cuttack, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Koraput, Khurda, Gajapati, Ganjam, Dhenkanal, Nuapada, Bargarh, Boudh, Bhadrak, Malkangiri and Rayagada. The draft notification for reservation was issued in October seeking objections and suggestions against the allotment of reservations from candidates and the public. Meanwhile, the State Election Commission (SEC) has called for an all-party meeting Saturday.

## PRESERVING THE PAST



A dancer with a colourful tribal hairdo performs at the 2021 Indigenous Legacy Gathering in Toronto, Canada UNI PHOTO

## Ghanashyam honoured with Jayadev Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Odia Language Literature and Culture department Friday declared eminent producer and director Ghanashyam Mohapatra, the winner of prestigious 'Jayadev Award' for 2019. It is the state's highest cine honour. Mohapatra was honoured, for his life-long achievement and profound contribution to the Odia film industry. He will get cash prize of ₹2 lakh with a memento and a citation. Talking to Orissa POST after his name was announced Mohapatra said that winning the award floated by the Odisha government is a proud moment. He said that he entered the industry not with the motive of winning awards but to promote the art and culture of Odisha through his work.



# Young activists set to dominate COP26 show

■ Youth brigade demands proper implementation of preventive measures rather than meaningless discussions by various government officials

AGENCIES

Glasgow, Nov 5: Youngs activists are taking over the UN climate summit here Friday, capping off a week of government pledges with a student march, youth-led presentations, and an iceberg shipped from Greenland to Glasgow's River Clyde to dramatise the plight of the Arctic. "We're expecting lots of people to come and join us in the streets, and not only youth but



An iceberg delivered by members of Arctic Basecamp on show near the COP26 Summit to demonstrate the disastrous effects of global warming PFI PHOTO

also adults supporting youth, and adults that want climate action," said activist Isabelle Axelsson, 20, with the youth movement 'Fridays For Future', which is organising the march, to be led by

Greta Thunberg. The spotlight has been given to civic groups in an acknowledgement of young campaigners such as Axelsson, Thunberg and Vanessa Nakate of Uganda. The COP26 talks here aim to secure enough national promises to cut greenhouse gas emissions - mainly from fossil fuels - to keep the rise in the average global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius, which scientists say is a tipping point towards far more extreme weather events. The British president of the conference urged national negotiators to push harder through Friday, with a week left to secure more ambitious commitments to stop the world's slide into climate

catastrophe. "It is not possible for a large number of unresolved issues to continue into week 2," Alok Sharma said in a note published by the United Nations. So far, the summit has showcased a jumble of financial pledges, buoying hopes that national commitments to bring down emissions could actually be implemented. But a clear picture is yet to emerge on how far these voluntary initiatives could moderate global warming. The head of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol, said Thursday that emissions cut pledges made so far - if all implemented - could potentially restrict warming to 1.8°C. But some UN negotiators and non-profit or-

ganisations said that assessment was too rosy, and much more work had to be done. Professor Gail Whiteman, founder of the climate activist group 'Arctic Basecamp', said she hoped protest actions and campaign events could add urgency to the discussions. The Greenland iceberg, shipped by her group via Iceland to the east coast of England, then by truck here, now bobs in the water on the Clyde. "Studies are showing that if we lose the snow and ice in the Arctic, we will amplify global warming by 25 to 40%," she said. "We felt that negotiators here had to actually come face to face with the Arctic, so we brought the iceberg," she added.

Mohapatra is the first technically qualified film producer, director and documentary maker. Since 1960 he has been working in the film industry and has made some important contributions for its development. **MORE P3**

# leisure



## GAL GADOT GIVES UPDATE ON WONDER WOMAN 3

Wonder Woman actress Gal Gadot has given an update on the upcoming third movie in the series. Gadot said she couldn't reveal any potential plot points yet, with everything being kept firmly under wraps.

## KATHERINE WATERSTON & PETER MENDOZA JOIN PERRY MASON SEASON 2

Actors Katherine Waterston and Peter Mendoza are among the seven who have joined the cast of Perry Mason Season 2. Waterston is joining Season 2 as a series regular, while Season 1 star Diarra Kilpatrick is being upped to series regular.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Do something really exciting today – perhaps you could put on your trekking boots and explore unknown territories. Ganesh advises you to keep busy but not to go overboard. In group activities today, everybody will focus their attention on you.

**TAURUS**  
People around you will be surprised to witness the considerate and compassionate side of you today, says Ganesh. Problems may come knocking but you, along with support from your loved ones, will handle them with brilliant tact.

**GEMINI**  
Your health interests will take precedence over career, says Ganesh. There are indications that you will spare more time working out at a gym. Those in the field of marketing and advertising will have a fabulous time. A good marketing strategy will bring maximum profits with minimum efforts.

**CANCER**  
Today, you are likely to experience something life-changing. A small incident, an observation, a tragedy, a disaster, or a simple thought may change the course of your life. You, however, may not be able to take the changes well. It may have a strong bearing on your health.

**LEO**  
To many, you will seem to have got your senses back after a long time. Reason? You will finally have a definite career plan in mind. Although, it's not really a big deal for you when your mind races and yearns to achieve in two warring directions, it may seem quite jarring and unreal to the mere mortals.

**VIRGO**  
Leadership is your forte and you shall receive kudos for the manner in which you handle your team. Much awaited promotions will materialise and so will some extra cash in your wallet. Wisely enough, you didn't get all this by not effectively balancing home and work, says Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
You never let a favour go unacknowledged, or let a ridicule pass by unanswered. So, it's time to settle those old accounts that are so important to you, feels Ganesh. This will increase chances of interesting developments that will continue to surprise you throughout the day. All in all, Ganesh wishes you a vibrant day today.

**SCORPIO**  
You shall probably realise the fact that seeing is believing. Learn to trust your own eyes more than what you hear. Don't get lost in the crowd, warns Ganesh. Strive to stand out and be in the spotlight, advises Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your business may bring you faster growth rates than bacteria today. Moreover, banking transactions will fetch returns exceeding your expectation. Management institutes will value your expertise and experience, predicts Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Creativity is your innate trait. But how creative can you get when dealing with day-to-day issues? You will not only answer this question with utmost modesty, but will make a great display of your creative skills by cleverly sorting out problems with your siblings, says Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
Money is on your mind today! If you want to sort out financial matters, today is the day. You may have a good time with friends in the evening. You will also realise how much your friends value you and the respect you command in your wider social circle. Ganesh says maintaining it is important.

**PISCES**  
Today, you will find yourself partitioning your time equally, and more importantly, excelling, at work as well as at home. So, while you will prove to be the right man for the job assigned to you at the office, at home you will establish yourself as the perfect family man, says Ganesh.

# Alia and Ranbir make their relationship official



**Mumbai:** While the world was absorbed in the festivities and lights of Diwali, Ali Bhatt and

ily but, it has either been under the wraps or hasn't been stated explicitly. But, Alia's post on Diwali put all rumours to rest.

The actress took to her Instagram as she shared a few pictures on the occasion of Diwali. She captioned the first set of pictures as, 'Some light...Happy Diwali'.

However, it was the next picture that the fans left pleasantly surprised. The actress put up a picture of herself hugging Ranbir with both of them smiling ear-to-ear. Taking the thread from her last caption, she wrote, '& some love... Happy Diwali'.

Both Ranbir and Alia chose to don the shades of blue on the festive occasion. Many film personalities like Jacqueline Fernandez, Zoya Akhtar and Anaita Shroff Adajania put up love reactions under the couple's picture.

With the actors going official about their relationship, it won't be too long before the wedding bells start ringing for them.

Ranbir Kapoor gave their fans a spell-binding surprise as they went official with their relationship.

The two earlier have been rumoured to be dating with Alia also being a part of many gatherings of the Kapoor fam-

movie will release May 13, 2022.

Rashmika's fans are looking ahead for the release of both big movies and hoping that their favourite star will emerge stronger as an artiste and attain the status of a pan-India star.

**Bengaluru:** It is celebration time for fans of actress Rashmika Mandanna who made it big in Indian cinema. Her two big movies *Pushpa* and Bollywood debut movie *Mission Majnu* are set for release.

Rarely has any Kannada actress achieved such a feat of making a mark in Telugu and Tamil film in-

# RASHMIKA ON CLOUD NINE

dustries and she is one of the most sought after actresses in south India. In *Pushpa*, Rashmika is playing a lead role opposite superstar Allu Arjun.

This is the most awaited movie of the Telugu film industry. Her rustic looks on the posters of the movie have gone viral. The film is releasing December 25. *Mission Majnu*, a spy thriller and Rashmika's Bollywood debut movie opposite Sidharth Malhotra has also generated hype. The



## Sooryavanshi is my ode to old-school action: Akshay

**Mumbai:** Action star Akshay Kumar has revealed why his latest release *Sooryavanshi* is special to him in more ways than one.

Akshay Thursday shared a still from the film, which is directed by Rohit Shetty.

Sharing details about what makes this movie so special to him, Akshay wrote: "I've done a lot of action in my career...hanging from helicopters, jumping across buildings, crazy bike chases. *Sooryavanshi* is special to me in more ways than one, it is my ode to that old-school action but on a grander scale."

*Sooryavanshi* marks the fourth instalment of filmmaker Shetty's cop universe after *Singham* franchise and *Simmba*.

The film stars Akshay as Anti-Terrorism Squad chief DCP Veer Sooryavanshi and also features Katrina Kaif and Jackie Shroff.

The film revolves around Veer Sooryavanshi, the chief of the Mumbai Anti-Terrorism Squad and his team who join forces with Inspector Sangram Bhalerao and DCP Bajirao Singham to stop a terrorist group planning to attack Mumbai.

## Anushka to Virat: Want to scream, tell the world what an amazing man you are

**Mumbai:** Actress Anushka Sharma Friday shared a heartfelt note to wish her husband and star cricketer Virat Kohli on his 33rd birthday.

Anushka shared a picture posing with Virat in Dubai. In the image, the two are seen hugging each other dressed in Indian wear.

Alongside the image, she wrote: "No filter needed for this photo and the way you lead your life. Your core is made of honesty and guts of steel. Courage that pales doubt into oblivion. I know no one who can tell themselves up from a dark place like you can."

"You grow better in every way because you hold on to nothing in you as permanent and are fearless. I know we are not ones to talk to each other through social media like this but sometimes I just want to scream and tell the world what an amazing man you are. Fortunate are those who really truly know you."

She added: "Thank you for making everything brighter and more beautiful Oh, and Happy Birthday cuteness!"

Virat dropped a comment, where he called Anushka his "guiding force".

"You are my strength. You are my guiding force. Grateful to God everyday for us being together my love. I love you."

Virat and Anushka, who are fondly called 'Virushka' by their fans, are currently in the UAE for the ongoing T20 World Cup 2021.

The two tied the knot in December 2017 in Tuscan, Italy. They welcomed their first born – a daughter, whom they lovingly named Vamika on January 11.

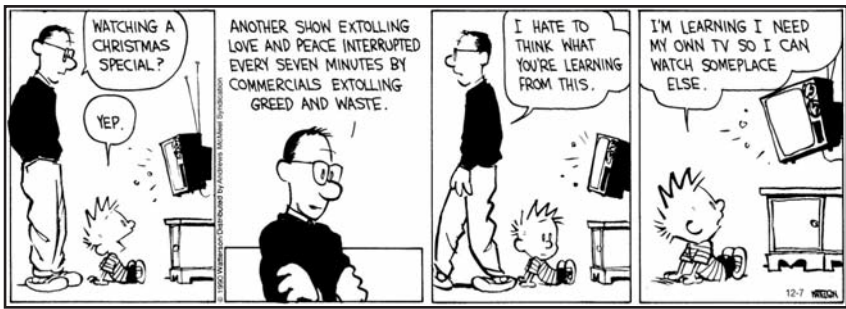


### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



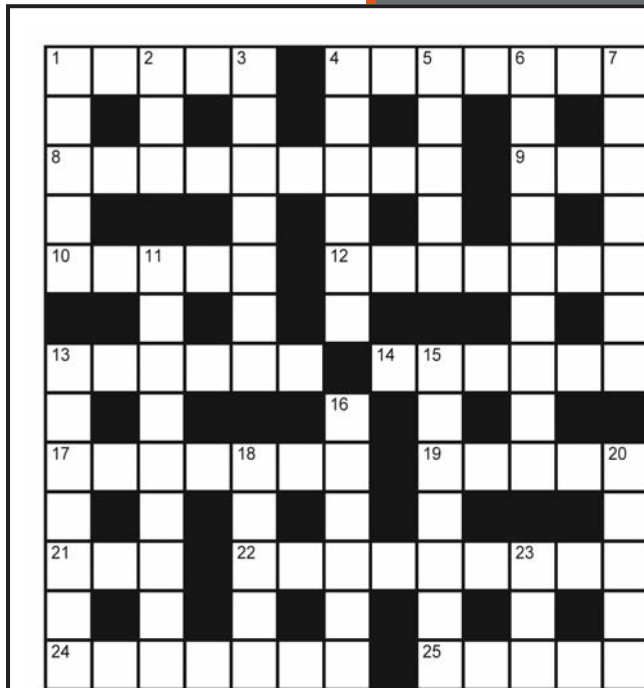
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



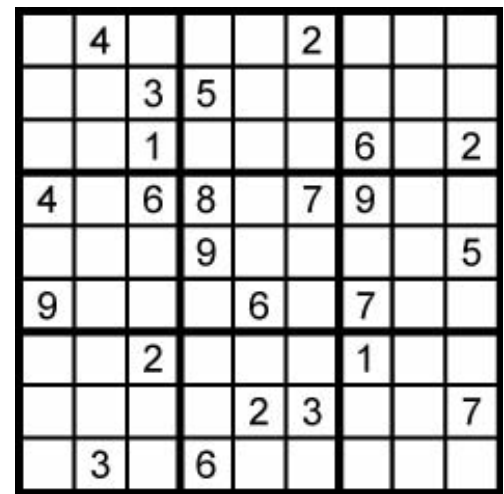
#### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Picture cards
  - 4 Quandary
  - 8 Garden tool (4,5)
  - 9 Stadium cheer
  - 10 Lilac, e.g.
  - 12 Svelte
  - 13 Street sign (3-3)
  - 14 Nook
  - 17 Young swans
  - 19 Dwelling
  - 21 Leave speechless
  - 22 The one next door
  - 24 One who knows the drill
  - 25 Track event
  - 6 He explored Asia in the 13th century (5,4)
  - 7 Succeed
  - 11 Coniferous tree
  - 13 Apple growing site
  - 15 Cowhide
  - 16 Help out
  - 18 The blabs
  - 20 Kind of bird?
  - 23 Salad topper
- Down**
- 1 Oasts
  - 2 Just out
  - 3 Indonesian island
  - 4 Dilly-dally
  - 5 Fisherman's collection

#### 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.

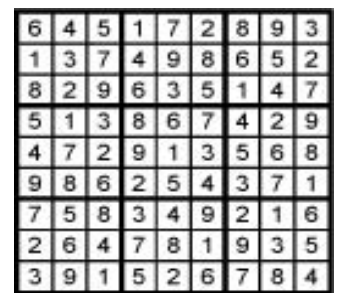


#### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU

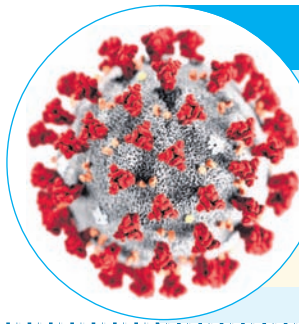


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## GLORIOUS MOMENT

The 'Victory Flame' of Swarnim Vijay Varsha, commemorating the 50th anniversary of 1971 war, arrives at the Blue Flag Beach in Puri, Friday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	24,95,69,905	22,59,81,647	50,49,000
India	3,43,33,754	3,37,24,959	4,59,873
Odisha	10,42,943	10,31,425	8,350

## 2 held for attack on woman, daughter in Capital city

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** The Commissionerate Police Friday arrested two persons including prime accused Rupesh Panda, 32, who entered the house of his neighbour wearing women's clothes and tried to loot a woman and her daughter by threatening them with a toy gun at Sailashree Vihar here Monday afternoon.

Sanjay Kumar Panda, 26, of Khantapara in Balasore district was also arrested by the police for assisting the main accused Rupesh in the loot bid. Sanjay is currently residing at Behera Sahi in Nayapalli.

Both the accused were working in a private electronic media in Capital city.



## Sanjay Kumar Panda of Khantapara in Balasore district was also arrested for assisting the main accused Rupesh in the loot bid

Speaking to media persons, DCP Umashankar Dash revealed that Rupesh was undergoing severe financial strain and hatched the conspiracy to loot the victims around a month ago.

Subsequently, they purchased a toy gun, women's clothes, shoes and helmet to conceal their identity, and sharp knife from different shops in Chandrasekharpur and Unit-1 market areas of the city. They kept the items at Sanjay's residence.

They had planned to commit the crime Monday but Sanjay went out of the city and instructed Rupesh over phone about the modus operandi.

As per the plan, Rupesh collected the items from Sanjay's house Monday morning and put on the clothes along with the helmet at a secluded place near GRIDCO at Kailash Vihar in Chandrasekharpur area.

He later went to the house of the complainant, Ananya Mishra, 31, in an auto-rickshaw. Rupesh entered the house and closed the door from inside when Mishra was sweeping the floor in her house. He later tried to threaten her with the toy gun but upon facing resistance from both Mishra and her mother Smrita Mishra, he started attacking them with the knife.

The accused also sustained severe injuries due to the brave act of the two women who successfully resisted the loot bid.

Police seized 12 toy guns from the shop that had sold Rupesh the toy gun used in the loot bid. Police also interrogated the helmet shop owner who sold the ladies helmet to Rupesh. Both the accused were Friday sent to judicial custody by the court.

## Millet Shakti outlet at Krushi Bhawan

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Giving further push to the Millets Mission of the state government, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resource Development Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo Friday inaugurated a Millet Shakti outlet on Krushi Bhawan premises here.

Shaktimayee SHG Federation, supported by Department of Mission Shakti, will manage the outlet and serve many millets-based snacks and dry items for officers of and visitors to Krushi Bhawan.

Ragi cookies of multiple flavours like jeera (cumin), kalajeera, milk, cashew; ragi muffin, ragi kurma, ragi mixture, ragi murukku, ragi/jowar laddus, ragi flour, jowar flour, suan rice, kangu rice, tea, coffee and other items will be available there. This outlet is a joint initiative of Odisha Millets Mission and Mission Shakti.

"The move is part of creating awareness on millet consumption and promoting millets-based enterprises. This is first such outlet in office space to provide millets-based

Many other outlets shall be initiated in school, college, hospital and other office premises based on the demand for this outlet

value-added products available for consumers. Many other outlets shall be initiated in school, college, hospital and office premises based on the success and demand of this outlet," said the minister. This is an attempt to bring back millets-based products in day today life of people and increase consumption.

Similarly, a cafeteria was also inaugurated on Krushi Bhawan premises by the minister. Leased out on annual tender, the cafeteria would be operated by Jayakamal Catering Service which will cater to the food requirements of the employees of Krushi Bhawan, the meetings and other programmes that would be held there.

Sahoo hoped that the cafeteria would provide food at a reasonable prices in a hygienic atmosphere.



The inaugural ceremony at Krushi Bhawan

## Adi Shankaracharya's statue unveiling celebrated in Puri



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other dignitaries at the event at Sadashiv Sanskrit University

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Nov 5:** A grand event was organised in the Holy City here to mark the unveiling of Adi Shankaracharya's statue by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kedarnath in Uttarakhand, Friday.

The unveiling of the statue and the Prime Minister's address to the nation were livestreamed during the special event here.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national spokesperson Sambit Patra, party's national vice president Bajajayant Panda, Brahmagiri MLA Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra and Puri MLA Jayanta Sarangi among others participated in the event at the Sadashiv Sanskrit University in the Pilgrim city.

The pontiffs of various mutts of the Holy city were also present in the programme. The dignitaries

initially offered prayers to the Sea God on the beach and took part in a grand procession to the meeting venue at the Sanskrit University. The pontiffs were felicitated at the event. Several cultural troupes also performed on the occasion. The Union minister also met



Artistes perform during the programme

THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION WERE LIVESTREAMED DURING THE SPECIAL EVENT HERE

THE PONTIFFS OF VARIOUS MUTTS OF THE HOLY CITY WERE ALSO PRESENT IN THE PROGRAMME

THE DIGNITARIES INITIALLY OFFERED PRAYERS TO THE SEA GOD ON THE BEACH AND TOOK PART IN A GRAND PROCESSION TO THE MEETING VENUE AT THE SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

Puri Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati at Gobardhan Peeth here. Saraswati advised the minister to undertake reforms in the education sector and take steps for the development of Banaras University.

The minister also visited Srimandir and paid obeisance to Lord Jagannath.

"Steps would be taken to develop the Holy city and its mutts," Pradhan said.

## Plea to rename Puri rly station

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Nov 5:** Socio-cultural outfit Shree Jagannath Sena Friday urged the Railway Minister to rename the railway station here as 'Sri Jagannath Dham Puri'.

Members of the outfit, led by its convener Priyadarshan Patnaik, submitted a memorandum to the Railway Minister through the Puri station master.



The activists of Jagannath Sena during a demonstration

According to Patnaik, people outside the state often fail to recognise that Puri station is in Odisha, the abode of Lord Jagannath. And renaming the railway station as 'Sri Jagannath Dham Puri' will not only address the issue but will also help spread of the rich Jagannath Culture, he said.

Patnaik said they have time and again taken up the proposal with the Centre and the state government.

The proposal was also brainstormed at a recent meeting of Srimandir Managing Committee, he added.

"We've recently discussed the issue with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The ministers were quite happy with the proposal. They assured us that they would take up the proposal with the Prime Minister," Patnaik pointed out.

## 31ST STATE FILM AWARDS 2019

# Best Film award for Panda's *Kalira Atita*

SAROJ PARIDA AND KAVYA KIRAN HAVE WON BEST ACTOR AND BEST ACTRESS AWARDS RESPECTIVELY FOR THE MOVIE *KHUSI*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Ther Odia Language Literature and Culture department Friday declared the winners of 31st State Film Awards 2019 and 8th State Tele Awards 2019 in different categories.

Veteran director and producer Ghanashyam Mohapatra has been selected for the prestigious Jayadev Award. Mohapatra would get cash prize of Rs 2 lakh and a citation.

Nila Madhab Panda's *Kalira Atita* has been selected for the best film/Mohan Sundar Deb Goswami Award. Panda has also been selected for the best director award for *Kalira Atita*.

Saroj Parida and Kavya Kiran have won best actor and best actress award respectively for the movie *Khushi*.

Late Kapileshwar Prasad Mohapatra has won the best story award for *Sala Budhar Badla*. Baidyanath Das has been chosen



Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi announces the names of the winners in Bhubaneswar, Friday

as the best music director for movie *Nayakara Na Devdas* while Swayam Padhi has won best playback singer (Male) award for the song *Bhija Bhija Prema Chhita* from the movie *Dekha Hela Prema Hela*.

Deepthi Rekha Padhi has been chosen for best playback singer (Female) award for the song *Ye Keun Rutu* from movie *From Me to You*.

Ghanashyam Mohapatra, a film entrepreneur, producer, director

and documentary filmmaker, has played a key role in the development of Odia cinema.

Born at Dhenkanal in 1933, Mohapatra studied in erstwhile Ravenshaw College in Cuttack. During his Ravenshaw days, he started working on stage. He had been associated with a few film magazines published from Bombay (now Mumbai) before joining SJ Polytechnic, Bangalore, to pursue 3-year Diploma in Cinematography.

Later, he joined Filmistan Studio in Mumbai as an assistant director and worked in more than 20 films. In 1960, he launched Konark Films Pvt Ltd and became the first technical film entrepreneur of Odisha.

In 1969, he made Odia documentary *Radhu O Shyam*, which won the best documentary film award in 1972.

*Krishi Jantrapati*, the first Odia documentary, entirely produced and directed by an Odia filmmaker, had won the National Award as the best industrial/agricultural film.

The next venture of Mohapatra was Odia feature film *Kanaklata*. He had raised loans for the film from the State Bank of India by mortgaging his land in Cuttack city.

The film, based on a novel of Late Nanda Kishore Bal, depicts the rural life of Odisha during the early 20th century.

## HIND CINEMA TO BE RAZED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Nov 5:** Hind Cinema, one of the oldest movie theatres in the Silver City, would be demolished to make way for infrastructure development as part of the expansion of SCB Medical College and Hospital, said sources in the Cuttack Municipal Corporation.

The cinema hall, located at Ranihaat, had stopped movie shows long ago. The rooms at the cinema hall have been let out to some shopkeepers. "The shopkeepers have



Hind Cinema in Cuttack

been asked to vacate the hall premises by November 9. We will demolish the hall within a few days," said an official of the CMC.

According to the official, the offices of Odisha State Seeds Corporation and Odisha State Leather Corporation and a few other government agencies would also be relocated from Ranihaat to Pratapnagari on the city outskirts to facilitate the expansion work of SCB.

# HPV vax cuts cervical cancer rate by 87%

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine reduces cervical cancer rates by 87 per cent in women who were offered the jab between the ages of 12-13, says a new study published in the *Lancet*.

Researchers from King's College London found the HPV vaccination programme prevented around 450 cervical cancers and around 17,200 pre-cancers by the middle of 2019.

They also found cervical cancer rates were reduced by 62 per cent in women offered vaccination between the ages of 14-16, and 34 per cent in women aged of 16-18 when they were offered the jab.

The study, looked at all cervical cancers diagnosed in England in women aged 20-64 between January 2006 and June 2019.

Three of these cohorts formed the vaccinated population, where women were vaccinated with Cervarix between the ages of 12-



13, 14-16 and 16-18 respectively. Incidences of cervical cancer and non-invasive cervical carcinoma (CIN3) in the seven populations were recorded separately.

The vaccine programme started in England in 2008 and at the time used the bivalent vaccine, Cervarix, which protects against the two most common types of

HPV. Since September 2012, the quadrivalent vaccine Gardasil has been used instead.

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV. The vaccine is most effective when given before sexual activity when people are unlikely to have been exposed to HPV. The virus is linked to other cancers including vaginal, vul-

Researchers from King's College London found the HPV vaccination programme prevented around 450 cervical cancers and around 17,200 pre-cancers by the middle of 2019

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Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV. The vaccine is most effective when given before sexual activity when people are unlikely to have been exposed to HPV

val, anal, penile and some head and neck cancers. "It's been incredible to see the

impact of HPV vaccination, and now we can prove it prevented hundreds of women from developing cancer in England. We've known for many years that HPV vaccination is very effective in preventing particular strains of the virus, but to see the real-life impact of the vaccine has been truly rewarding," said lead author Professor Peter Sasieni, lead author from the School of Cancer and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

"These remarkable findings confirm that the HPV vaccine saves lives by dramatically reducing cervical cancer rates among women. This reminds us that vaccines are one of the most important tools we have to help us live longer, healthier lives," added Dr Vanessa Saliba, Consultant Epidemiologist in Immunisations at Public Health England.

IAN5

## Awareness drive by OSCPCR before school reopening

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** The state government will launch a special awareness drive for protection of children from Covid-19 pandemic before the reopening of primary schools across the state, said the chairperson of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OS-CPCR) Sandhyabati Pradhan.

As per reports, the state government is likely to give the go-ahead for reopening of schools for Class I to VII students post Diwali in a phased manner.

Pradhan said, "After an indication by the School and Mass Education Minister for reopening of primary schools, the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has decided to launch an awareness campaign on the safety of children from the pandemic across the state."

"The awareness campaign will continue in all districts and we will involve all stakeholders, from Collectors, SPs, child development officials, legislators, teachers to volunteers of civil society organisations, parents and, most importantly children in the drive," said Pradhan.

She said the main focus of the drive will centre around the protection of children from the pandemic. "We will soon discuss the proposed campaign with all district Collectors," she added.

Notably, no classes have been conducted for primary school students in physical mode for the last one-and-a-half years following outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in March last year.

## Barang man drowns in river Kuakhai saving nephew

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Barang, Nov 5:** A 30-year-old man drowned in Kuakhai river while saving his nephew here Friday.

According to sources, the incident took place around 10am when Prasant Muduli, a resident of Kusinda village under Barang police limits, and his nephew were bathing in Kuakhai river near Netaji Setu here.



"A few minutes into their bathing, Prasant saw his minor nephew going deep into the river and gasping for breath. Without any second thought, Prasant too went deep into the water to save his nephew. The 30-year-old managed to push his nephew towards the riverbed, but he himself could not make it to the bank," said a few local youths present on the riverbed.

Locals informed the Fire Services personnel, but they did not turn up for quite some time despite the Fire station being only a km away from the mishap spot, said one of the youths.

A few of the youths fished out a lifeless Prasant. Later, Barang police reached the spot and sent the body for autopsy. A case (12/21) of unnatural death was registered in this regard.

## WASSUP TODAY

### BHUBANESWAR

- 'Matrubhumi Ku Pranam' by Panacea Charitable Trust, Buddha Mandir meeting hall, Unit-IX, 5pm
- Event to mark death anniversary of Lalatendu Mohapatra, Saheed Nagar Durga Puja Mandap, 6pm
- Programme by Uttal Sammlinani to mark death anniversary of Pandit Nilakantha Das, statue near Rabindra Mandap, 9am

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.

# NHRC summons Health secy over medical negligence

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Friday summoned the principal secretary of state Health and Family Welfare department to personally appear before it for the failure to submit a reply in connection with death of a road mishap victim owing to gross negligence of district administration and hospital authorities in Keonjhar.

The secretary, despite repeated reminders, failed to submit an additional report sought by the commission in April 2021.

The commission directed the secretary to appear before it December 10 along with the reply and explanation for the delay in submission.

"In the circumstances, the Commission deems it fit to issue a

conditional summon to the Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha to personally appear with the report within four weeks along with explanation for delay i.e. on 10th December, 2021," the commission directed.

However, the officer would be exempted from personal appearance before the commission if the report reaches the NHRC by December 5.

In the earlier report, the principal secretary had only responded to the allegations of the non-availability of ambulances in the district.

"However, the report was silent about the primary treatment provided to the victim and the further action taken by the officials of SD Hospital Anandapur in the matter (whether the guidelines of National Health Mission/ Standard

Treatment Guidelines have complied or not)."

Notably, the deceased youth, Raghunath Nayak, who met with an accident at Ghasipura on National Highway, was rushed to the nearby sub divisional hospital at Anandapur for treatment July 12, 2019. Keeping in view the deteriorating health condition of the deceased, the doctors later referred him to SCB Medical College in Cuttack for advanced treatment.

Media persons and locals present at the spot repeatedly requested the district and hospital administrations to make available an ambulance to shift him to SCB, but to no avail.

The youth succumbed to the injuries as the authorities failed to arrange an ambulance even after lapse of four hours.

## BID TO PREVENT CONGREGATION



Srimandir wears a deserted look as the Puri administration clamps prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC around the 12th century shrine expecting a huge congregation for Paya Shradha on Diwali

# State logs below 200 cases after 7 months

COVID DEATH TOLL RISES TO 8,350 AS THREE MORE PERSONS SUCCEMDED TO THE INFECTION

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 5:** Odisha Friday registered 170 new Covid-19 cases, the lowest in seven months and 181 less than the previous day, pushing the state's tally to 10,42,943, a Health department official said.

Covid-19 death toll rose to 8,350 as three more persons succumbed to the infection. This apart, 53 other Covid patients have also died in the state due to comorbidities.

The official said that the state had for the last time reported 170 new cases March 24 this year.

The new cases reported Friday included 24 children and adolescents in the age group of 0-18 years. The rate of infection in the age group of 0 to 18 years, now stands at 14.11 per cent against the previous day's 12.82, he said.

The state had reported 351 new cases Thursday, 322 Wednesday, 327 Tuesday and 316 Monday.

Of the 170 new cases, 98 were reported from quarantine centres while the remaining 72 were local contacts. Khurda district of which



A cyclist rides past a mural paying salute to the frontline Covid warriors

the state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, registered the highest 61 cases, followed by Cuttack (19) and Kendrapara (11).

Ten districts reported nil cases in the last 24 hours.

The test positivity rate (TPR) dropped to 0.30 per cent Friday.

The TPR was 0.49 per cent Thursday and 0.52 per cent Wednesday.

The state currently has 3,651 active Covid-19 cases while 10,30,889 patients have recovered from the disease, including 447 Thursday.

Odisha has so far conducted

DESPIRE MASS VACCINATION, INFECTION HAS INCREASED IN EUROPE AND CHINA

EUROPE & CHINA HAVE REPORTED DELTA VARIANTS OF CORONAVIRUS WHICH INDIA HAD ALREADY REPORTED DURING THE 2ND WAVE

THE NEW CASES REPORTED FRIDAY INCLUDED 24 CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE AGE GROUP OF 0-18 YEARS

RATE OF INFECTION IN THE AGE GROUP OF 0 TO 18 YEARS STANDS AT 14.11 PER CENT AGAINST THE PREVIOUS DAY'S 12.82

AS MANY AS 1,21,40,823 PEOPLE HAVE SO FAR BEEN FULLY INOCULATED WITH BOTH DOSES OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Regarding the ongoing vaccination drive, Family Welfare Director Bijay Panigrahi said about 80 per cent of the total beneficiaries received their first dose, while 37 per cent got both the doses.

"Har Ghar Dastak vaccination campaign has been launched on November 2 in the state to complete double dose administration of all the left out beneficiaries and second dose due beneficiaries as early as possible," he said.

Despite mass vaccination, infection has increased in Europe and China. Therefore, there's no room for complacency, Panigrahi said.

Public Health director Niranjan Mishra said Europe and China have reported delta variants of coronavirus. India had already reported the variants during the second wave.

"About 99 per cent Covid-19 cases in India are delta variants. So, we think that our population has immunity power for the variant. However, we have to remain cautious," added Mishra.

## Kalinga Lit Fest to kick-start December 10

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** The eighth Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) to be held from December 10 to 12 in Bhubaneswar will celebrate 75 years of India's Independence with the central Theme 'India at 75: Commemorating the Republic of Letters'.

More than 300 speakers, poets, musicians, artists and performers will be part of the festival which will also boast of sessions on Ram Katha, poetry recitation, short story and lyrics. Three prestigious awards will be conferred during the

two-day festival where more than 30 national and international books/publications will be released.

The festival organisers say that an important 'purpose' of KLF is to enhance interaction, and promote mutual understanding, between people of different regions, culinary, costume and dress habits, faiths, persuasions and lifestyles across the length and breadth of the country, through interactions among language and learning, tangible as well as intangible cultures and heritage -- paving way for what the critic Patrick

J Hill aptly calls 'a conversation of respect' among diverse people.

Rashmi Ranjan Parida, founder director of KLF said, "KLF 2021 returns with the promise of hope and optimism. Our return emphasises resilience and the spirit of Rise. We are delighted to bring back the joy of literary spirit to the temple city Bhubaneswar. We welcome our delegates & performers and look towards a great festival amidst all safety protocols."

There will be a cultural programme to showcase India's art, culture and literature on each day of the three-day program.

# SARS-CoV-2 doesn't infect human brain cells: Study

An international team of researchers has claimed that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, does not infect human brain cells, raising hopes that Covid-related damage to sense of smell may be more superficial than previously feared.

The study, published in the journal Cell, showed that the virus infects sustentacular cells -- associated with structural support -- but not olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs), which are responsible for initiating smell sensations, as thought earlier, the Guardian reported.

The study challenges previous research that suggested the Covid virus infects neurons in the membrane that lines the upper recesses of the nose.

This membrane, called the olfactory mucosa which contains OSNs, is where the virus first lands when it is inhaled.

Olfactory dysfunction affects an estimated half of all Covid-19 patients. In one in 10 of those, the loss or change of smell is long-term, perhaps permanent.

But if the virus only infects the sustentacular cells, then the damage could be less long-lasting, the report said.

According to Peter Mombaerts, Director at the Max Planck Research Unit for Neurogenetics in Frankfurt, this could be the result of support for the OSNs breaking down, even if they themselves are not infected.

They may function below par, or stop functioning altogether, until



THE STUDY CHALLENGES PREVIOUS RESEARCH THAT SUGGESTED THE COVID VIRUS INFECTS NEURONS IN THE MEMBRANE THAT LINES THE UPPER RECESSES OF THE NOSE

THIS MEMBRANE, CALLED THE OLFATORY MUCOSA WHICH CONTAINS OSNS, IS WHERE THE VIRUS FIRST LANDS WHEN IT IS INHALED

OLFATORY DYSFUNCTION AFFECTS AN ESTIMATED HALF OF ALL COVID-19 PATIENTS. IN ONE IN 10 OF THOSE, THE LOSS OR CHANGE OF SMELL IS LONG-TERM, PERHAPS PERMANENT

BUT IF THE VIRUS ONLY INFECTS THE SUSTENTACULAR CELLS, THEN THE DAMAGE COULD BE LESS LONG-LASTING, THE REPORT SAID

searchers were able to detect that the virus was still replicating -- meaning the patients had died in the acute, contagious phase of the disease.

The results did "not show any OSNs as being damaged or there being fewer of them, or the OSNs near infected sustentacular cells as being different in any way from those not near infected cells," said Stuart Feinstein, a neurobiologist at Columbia University in New York City.

In only six of the 30 patients was the virus detectable in the olfactory mucosa itself. "Overall the numbers are thus really low to make any strong conclusions," said Debby Van Riel, a virologist at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

If the study results are confirmed, people experiencing Covid-related loss of smell can be reassured that the virus has not infected their brains, and that future therapies targeting the understudied sustentacular cells could alleviate or cure their condition.

## EVICITION DRIVE



An excavator engaged by BDA pulls down structures on Bhubaneswar's Baramunda bus stand premises, Friday

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# Ganjam: Murder convict on parole hacked to death

**AGENCIES**  
**Berhampur, Nov 5:** A 57-year-old man, a murder convict out on parole, was hacked to death in Ganjam district Friday, police said. The body of Pradip Bisoyi was found lying in a pool of blood near Bauri Sukunda Chhaka on the outskirts of Berhampur, the district headquarter. Police also recovered his scooter and a sword, which was suspected to have been used to kill him, from the spot. Past enmity is suspected to be the cause of the murder of the two-time former sarpanch of Anantei gram panchayat in the district. Sub-divisional Police Officer Berhampur Bishnu Prasad Pati said. It appears that unknown assailants attacked him while he was travelling on his scooter from his house at Gate Bazar locality in the morning to his poultry farm at Bonthapally, about 12 km from here. The body was sent for post-mortem examination. A murder case was registered at Bada Bazar police sta-

**Past enmity may be the cause of murder of the two-time former sarpanch**

tion and the police are investigating from all angles, Pati said. Senior police officers visited the spot with the forensic team and police dog squad for investigation. Bisoyi was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2017 in a murder case. He was released from jail recently on parole following a court order. "Bada Bazaar police got information at 8.20am and rushed to the spot. They recovered a bike, sharp-edged weapons and documents from near the body," Berhampur sub-divisional police officer said. "My uncle was going to his poultry farm when he was attacked on the way. He was released on bail and his murder could be the fallout of a past enmity," a family member said.

# 11 fishermen held at Gahirmatha site

**AGENCIES**  
**Kendrapara, Nov 5:** The forest department has nabbed 11 fishermen on the charge of carrying out unlawful fishing activity in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Kendrapara district, an official said Friday. A fishing trawler used by the fishermen was also seized by the forest patrol team. They were arrested Thursday and sent to judicial custody Friday, the official said. The fishing vessel had trespassed into prohibited sanctuary corridors contravening the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act and mandatory rules of marine sanctuary, he said. The fishing prohibition remains enforced round the year in Gahirmatha as it is accorded the status of marine sanctuary. Olive Ridley turtles often get entangled in the fishing nets and die of asphyxiation. The turtles also perish after being hit by the fast moving propellers of trawlers.

# SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION



Students, teachers, members of school managing committees and block officials at a video conference on School Transformation programme under 5T Initiative at Aska in Ganjam district

# SHORT TAKES

## ₹22 crore for 192 Jaleswar projects

**Jaleswar:** The state government has taken up several projects to push development in Jaleswar block of Balasore. As many as 192 projects estimated at over Rs 22.19 crore will be executed in the fringe areas. This was stated by MLA Aswini Kumar Patra. Among the projects are illumination, beautification works and overall development of Jaleswar town. Work orders for 115 projects have been issued while Rs 6.13 crore has been allocated for the purpose. Besides, Rs 3.18 crore has been allocated for 74 projects pertaining to road connectivity and drainage. In the block, 39 roads will be reconstructed at a cost of Rs 1.23 crore. The block will have a multi-purpose Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium at a cost of Rs 9.28 crore at Santia. The government has allocated Rs 82.83 lakh for a modern crematorium and Rs 89.59 lakh for a park. Under Mukta scheme, 60 new roads will be built in the region to facilitate connectivity.

## Pangolin rescued, 1 held in Bolangir

**Bolangir:** A Special Task Force (STF) team rescued a pangolin and arrested a person from Jamapalli village under Ghess Forest Range in Bargarh district, Thursday. The smuggler has been identified as Badal Baria, son of Manabodh Baria. Acting on a tip-off from a reliable source, the STF team along with Ghess Forest Range officials conducted a raid near a field at Jamapalli village and seized the reptile. They rescued the protected animal and nabbed the criminal. The officials also seized other incriminating materials from his possession. It was when the smuggler could not produce valid documents in support of possessing a pangolin that he was arrested.

# Blow to consumers: Govt ups kerosene price by ₹7

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Sambalpur, Nov 5:** The Centre's cut on excise duty on diesel and petrol and the state government's VAT reduction will bring no joy to the beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The price of kerosene distributed among PDS articles has been increased by Rs 7.42, affecting 80 lakh beneficiaries in the state. The revised price has been implemented from November 1. The beneficiaries will purchase oil at this price in November and December. In Sambalpur district, a total of 2,24,236 beneficiaries will be affected. It is seen as a direct burden on poor families. Dealing a blow to the poor, the government has hiked the price of kerosene oil and, at the same time, reduced the per head quota. Till November, per head kerosene quota had been 4 to 5 litres. From now onwards, a beneficiary will get 1 to 1.5 litres every month. At a time when consumers are struggling with the price hike of essential commodities, kerosene's price hike has left consumers a worried lot. Expressing his displeasure, a



beneficiary said earlier the price of the oil was less and quantity was more. Now it stands reversed. "The beneficiaries will refuse to buy the oil which will give rise to kerosene black-marketing. The article meant for poor people will be looted jointly by L-2 contractors and dealers," he alleged. When contacted, district civil supplies officer Ram Chandra Tudu said, "The price of kerosene oil has been increased by Rs 7.42 per litre. It may cause problem to the beneficiaries. But the price hike is for two months only. After two months, the price may fall. The hiked price has 43 paise in it towards fare."

Worth mentioning, there are a total of 2,24,236 beneficiaries under NFSA and SFSA in the district. The total amount of the kerosene oil quota for them is 3,09,000 litres a month. Through eight L-2 contractors, the oil reaches the dealers and the ration shops in panchayat level. In the district, there are 218 dealers. As per the information shared by the district civil supplies department, kerosene oil's price was Rs 34 per litre June 26, 2019. For last some months, including the Covid-19 period, the price was being hiked by 30 to 50 paise a litre. But now, it has been increased by Rs7.42 at once.

## BJP calls for 6-hour bandh in Jharsuguda

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Jharsuguda, Nov 5:** The BJP has called a six-hour Jharsuguda bandh Saturday, demanding resignation of Minister of State for Home Dibyashankar Mishra for his alleged involvement in the murder of teacher Mamita Meher. Since the arrest of Gobinda Sahu, the key accused in the sensational murder, the saffron party has been demanding removal of the minister. The party alleged that the state government had been protecting the minister. The party has already observed 12-hour and 6-hour bandhs in districts like Boudh, Balasore, Deogarh, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Nuapada, Subarnapur, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Kalahandi. During the bandh in Jharsuguda, ambulance, fire brigade, milk vans and medicine shops will be kept out of bandh's purview, it was learnt.



Notably, Mamita Meher, who worked as a teacher at Sunshine English Medium School at Mahaling in Kalahandi district, had gone missing October 8. Her decomposed body was found buried in the ground of an under-construction stadium. The police had arrested Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the case, October 19. He had confessed to have murdered the teacher.

# Wrong info given to NHRC on R&R, say Hirakud oustees



**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Sambalpur, Nov 5:** Members of the Hirakud Budi Anchal Sangram Samiti, an outfit fighting for the rights of displaced people, alleged that Odisha and Chhattisgarh governments have furnished wrong data in their affidavits to the NHRC about the rehabilitation and resettlement of the Hirakud oustees. Addressing a press meet here, secretary of the samiti Gopinath Majhi said the secretaries of the both the states have provided wrong information about the R&R to the NHRC. He pointed out that Supreme Court lawyer Radhakant Tritpathy approached the NHRC about various problems of the Hirakud oustees. Hearing on the plea, the NHRC had asked both the states to submit their replies in affidavits. The samiti claimed that a total of 26,501 families displaced by Hirakud were identified in 1955-56 while 13,470 families have not been rehabilitated and provided with compensation. Only 50 percent compensation has been provided to them, he said. The samiti also stated that in 1987, then minister Jugal

Kishore Patnaik, in a reply in the State Assembly had said that 9,913 affected people had not been paid compensation. After repeated demands and legal hassles, 3,540 of them had been paid Rs 10,000 each per acre. However, 5,204 of the oustees have not yet received compensation towards loss of trees, wells, temples and other damage. In 2002, the state government had decided to provide 10 decimals of land to the oustees, but no land was provided to them till date. However, in the affidavit, the state government has claimed to have provided land to all affected people but in reality, 10 decimal of land was provided to 221 people each in Rengali tehsil, 201 in Jamankira tehsil and 25 in Kunchinda tehsil. On the other hand, the state government has not taken any action on applications of over 1,000 people seeking land for rehabilitation in Sundargarh. On the other hand, the water resources department has handed over 34 non-revenue villages near the Hirakud reservoir to the revenue department, but survey work has not been conducted on it till date. The samiti activists warned of agitation against the government for furnishing wrong information to the NHRC. The government should give the NHRC exact information about the rehabilitation and the resettlement.



## STIR OVER MULTIPLE DEMANDS

Construction workers stage protests over their demands outside divisional labour commissioner office in Nayagarh

# Use of drones sought for turtle safety

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Kendrapara, Nov 5:** Marine scientists across the globe have been carrying out research on life cycle of endangered Olive Ridley turtles. It is said that only one in a thousand turtles survives. As their mortality rate is high, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has placed the marine species in the red list. Environmentalists have underscored the need for protection of the nesting site of the marine turtles at Gahirmatha sanctuary in Kendrapara district. They have emphasised use of drones to keep vigilance on the nesting sites, spots of coastal erosion, the number of casualties and circumstances leading to the deaths of baby and adult turtles. Use of drone on these aspects can help resolve various issues affecting the turtles, they observed. Secretary of Gahirmatha Samudrika Kainchha O Hentalbana Suraksha Samiti Hemanta Kumar Rout, environmentalists Pradip Tarai, Milan Kumar, Khitish Kumar Singh and Bhubanmohan Jena said there are 360 species of turtles in the world. "Among them, Olive Ridelys are fewer

than the other species. Gahirmatha is known for their nesting place. The marine turtles lay eggs on an area spreading 27 square/km here. About 5 lakh turtles come to this nesting site every year. However, scores of them end up being killed for various factors. There has been no research on the life, survival strategies and migration of the endangered species," they said. Significantly, from this year, the forest department of Goa has deployed drones along its coast to keep a watch on safety of turtles, their movement and estimate their number. They, however, expressed concern that due to coastal erosion, the egg laying of the turtles has been affected at the site. "No research on their life and activities is being conducted with the use of technology. As a result, the exact number of turtles thronging our coast, the number of casualties and their causes are not being ascertained," they noted. They pointed out the Goa forest department recently organised a workshop on effective use of drones made by University of Duke and another foreign university for safety of marine turtles. The Goa forest department and World

**ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE UNDERScored THE NEED FOR PROTECTION OF THE NESTING PLACES OF THE MARINE TURTLES AT GAHIRMATHA SANCTUARY IN KENDRAPARA. ABOUT 5 LAKH TURTLES COME TO THE NESTING SITE EVERY YEAR**

**FROM THIS YEAR, THE FOREST DEPARTMENT OF GOA HAS DEPLOYED DRONES ALONG THE ITS COAST TO KEEP A WATCH ON SAFETY OF TURTLES, THEIR MOVEMENT AND ESTIMATE THEIR NUMBER**



Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have used drones along the coast. Drone cameras will keep a watch on coast erosion, its impact on turtle nesting sites and get an insight into activities of the turtles. DFO Jainadatt Pati said restrictions were imposed along the coast from November 1 for safe nesting of turtles. Security has been tightened. "But we have no plan to use drones for turtles this year. In coming years, such system may be considered for use," he said.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. 24/ET/GBP/ENGG/2021-22  
Dated : 02.11.2021  
e-Tender No. 24-eT-DENC-SBP-21  
**NAME OF WORK :** DAILY INSPECTION AND PATROLLING OF TRACK FOR SAFE AND SATISFACTORY RUNNING OF TRAINS DURING WINTER SEASON IN SARLA - DEOGAN ROAD SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEER (CENTRAL) / SAMBALPUR FOR A PERIOD OF 03 MONTHS.  
**Approx. Cost of the Work (₹) :** 39,57,851/-, Completion Period for the work : 03 Months.  
**Tender Closing Date and Time :** At 1500 Hrs. on 24.11.2021.  
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : <https://www.ireps.gov.in>  
**Note :** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigenda issued for this tender.  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-520/M/21-22  
Sambalpur

FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION

# NET-ZERO IS NOT ZERO



Recent carbon-neutrality pledges may seem ambitious, but merely serve to promote a new set of false climate solutions under a different guise. Such pledges may persuade many people, but the climate isn't buying it

2030 timeframe. This disregards the five-year review cycle at the heart of the Paris accord.

Worse still, the inclusion of 'net' in climate pledges confirms that emissions will not actually decline to zero. Instead, they will supposedly be offset – to an unclear and disputable extent – by removal of CO2 from the atmosphere.

Many such net-zero schemes rely excessively on natural ecosystems to remove and store atmospheric CO2. This has sparked the current hype surrounding so-called nature-based solutions. While carefully restoring natural ecosystems is crucial in addressing both the climate and the biodiversity crises, it must not serve to prolong the lifetime of polluting industries. But nature-based solutions also include proposals that would transform agriculture into a large-scale emissions-mitigation opportunity associated with the soil carbon market.

Net-zero plans often also rely on speculative techno-fixes to remove CO2 from the atmosphere. Climate-geoengineering technologies such as bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) or direct air capture

(DAC) are highly risky and unproven – in particular at climate-relevant scales – and could have potentially devastating consequences for people and ecosystems. Either way, 'solutions' like BECCS and DAC risk locking in several more decades of continued fossil-fuel production and combustion.

The conversation instead needs to return to the real climate solutions that currently do not feature at high-level intergovernmental conferences. The debate should center on a comprehensive and long-overdue transformation of our exploitative and destructive economic systems. Bringing down global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions to real zero requires addressing the manifold global and historical injustices that caused the climate crisis and continue to shape it.

Specifically, the rights, lives, and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities must be at the core of any climate solution. That means listening to these groups, and taking their practices and proposals seriously. Strengthening and securing their land rights is one of the most effective ways to protect ecosystems,

biodiversity, and the climate.

In addition, we need to leave fossil fuels in the ground right now. There must be no further development of these resources, and existing fossil-fuel infrastructure must be phased out as soon as possible, based on a just transition for workers and communities that depend on them.

Moving away from industrial agriculture is another high priority. Over-intensive, destructive production has exhausted the Earth's soils and ecosystems and is generating massive amounts of GHG emissions, while feeding only a fraction of the world's population. It is a major driver of deforestation, and the resulting destruction of ecological barriers and buffers probably contributed to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By contrast, agroecology offers new possibilities for socio-ecological transformation and can contribute to tackling climate change in a safe way. This approach can also help to guarantee food and nutrition security and sovereignty, and conserve biodiversity.

The Global North's overconsumption and the profit-driven exploitation of the world's resources need to stop. Instead, we must align economic activities with the goals of global social and climate justice, thereby putting well-being and care at the center of our efforts to protect our shared environment.

Recent net-zero pledges may seem ambitious, but they only promote a new set of false solutions under a guise of 50 shades of green. Governments and businesses must abandon their greenwashing strategies once and for all. At this crucial moment, we need real political will to create real change.

Maureen Santos is a professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. Linda Schneider is Senior Programme Officer for International Climate Policy at the Heinrich Böll Foundation's Berlin office.

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Maureen Santos & Linda Schneider

## THE GLOBAL NORTH'S OVERCONSUMPTION AND THE PROFIT-DRIVEN EXPLOITATION OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCES NEED TO STOP

# No Easy Choices

A piquant situation has developed in Mizoram which now finds itself saddled with two chief secretaries. Whereas the Centre has appointed senior IAS officer Renu Sharma as the new Chief Secretary of the state, this coincides with the state government appointing Additional Chief Secretary JC Ramthanga to the same post. Both appointments are effective from November 1.

The Centre now claims that Sharma's appointment was cleared after the approval of the competent authority when apparently it is not. Now the question obviously is: who will prevail – Renu Sharma or Ramthanga? Clearly, there has been an obvious lack of coordination between the two authorities leading to the creation of this awkward situation. How was it allowed to happen, and what recourse is available now? Is there anything in the civil services rules that offers a solution, or will it end up in the courts? Or will one of the appointees agree to step aside? No easy choices.

### Khemka is on the move, again

Senior Haryana IAS officer and noted whistleblower Ashok Khemka has been transferred for the 54th time in 29 years of service. While this is probably not news anymore, it perhaps is some sort of record in the civil services. It also shows that the veteran babu who has clashed numerous times with his political masters continues to be the Haryana politician's biggest bugbear.



## BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Currently assigned as Principal Secretary of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, the 1991 batch IAS officer has been transferred to the state Science and Technology and Fisheries departments after barely 11 months. No reason has been offered for the transfer, which again is not unusual when it comes to all things Khemka.

But observers have told DKB that Khemka is caught in the political rivalry between Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Home Minister Anil Vij. He is reportedly closer to Vij. But it is also true that Khemka's penchant for raising awkward questions, especially on protection of the Aravalli hill area in Haryana from illegal mining and construction, continues to rile the powers that be.

Curiously, Khemka's attempts to break away from the situation have not succeeded. Earlier last month, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) had rejected his request for Central empanelment citing his "lack of experience with the Union government." Clearly, the whistleblower is not welcome at the Centre either and the Haryana government will be saddled with Khemka, like it or not.

### Decks cleared for AI hand over

The government has directed all Central government ministries and departments to clear their pending dues to Air India immediately. Clearly, the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Civil Aviation would like to hand over a liability-free airline to the Tatas. Apparently, various ministries, PSUs and other departments owe the airline more than Rs 600 crores, not counting the cost of transporting VVIPs, ministers and foreign dignitaries.

Now in an order issued by the Department of Expenditure of the ministry, Director Expenditure Nirmala Dev has said that since Air India after divestment has stopped extending credit facility for the purchase of tickets, these must be paid in cash and also directed that all pending dues be cleared at once. The return of the dues could be a first, and very small, step to clean the balance sheet of the financially beleaguered airline before its eventual takeover by the Tata Group.

This will require some careful coordination between the Finance and Civil Aviation ministries and the Disinvestment Secretary Tuhin Kant Pandey to ensure that the government can meet the oncoming deadline for handing over Air India by December end. This would include not just these pending dues but also various regulatory clearances, including from the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect.

## WISDOM CORNER

- A gentle word, a kind look, a good-natured smile can work wonders and accomplish miracles. **WILLIAM HAZLITT**
- The only courage that matters is the kind that gets you on one moment to the next. **MIGNON MCLAUGHLIN**
- A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing. **GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**

## WORDSWORTH

### Pogey

It seems to have come from a general North American term for a workhouse, homeless hostel or poorhouse, which is recorded from near the end of the nineteenth century. However, that is merely to move the problem back half a century, since the origin of pogey in that sense is also unknown. As pogey was also used for a prison or prison cell, we might guess that it's a variant of the American slang term pokey, but pogey is recorded rather earlier and it's actually been suggested as the source for pokey. (There's also the US military term pogey bait for candy, ice cream or sweets in general, but the origin of this is obscure. It may be a relative of jail bait, with the idea of using the candy as an inducement.) There is a much older word, pogue, for a bag or other container, which is closely related to poke in the same sense (which most commonly turns up now in phrases like buying a pig in a poke), and of course also to poky, for a confined space, which would fit the accommodation in prison or the workhouse fairly well. As g and k interchange pretty freely, it is very possible that pogey actually comes from poky, which suggests that pokey did ultimately come from that source, but via the intermediate of pogey. Language is a messy thing ...

### Point-blank

The blank here is the French word blanc, for the colour white. Archery and artillery targets conventionally had a white spot at the centre at which arrows and shot were aimed. So to point blank was to aim directly at the white. The phrase is known from the end of the sixteenth century, and the figurative sense had developed by the 1650s. It came to refer particularly to missiles fired close enough to the target that they travelled straight to it, horizontally, with no time for the shot to seem to drop under gravity. You had to be close to the target for this to be true, so it came to mean firing at close range where it was difficult to miss. Some have suggested that the whole phrase comes from the French point blanc, meaning a white mark, but the OED says firmly that the expression originated in English, and that blank as an English version of the French was in use some time before point-blank appeared. So it seems likely that point here is actually the verb, not the noun.

## LOL

### Tell what happened

The policeman arrived at the scene of an accident to find that a car had struck a telephone pole. Searching for witnesses, he discovered a pale, nervous young man in work clothes who claimed he was



an eyewitness. "Exactly where were you at the time of the accident?" inquired the officer. "Mister," exclaimed the telephone lineman, "I was at the top of the pole!"

## SPECTRUM HEALTH SERVICE

# Ensuring virtual health for all

The COVID-19 pandemic has sharply accelerated the use of digital technologies in the health sector. For many who could no longer obtain in-person care, access to virtual health services became a matter of life and death.

This revolution will not end when the pandemic does. But without thoughtful stewardship, a digital divide could exacerbate health inequities. Above all, guiding the future of virtual health so that no one is left behind requires us to learn from the past 18 months and ask the right questions.

From its earliest months, the pandemic triggered a massive shift to virtual health services. In France, the number of telehealth consultations increased from 40,000 to 4.5 million between February and April 2020. In India, online health consultations among people over 50 increased by 502 per cent last year. Global investment in digital health doubled year on year in 2020, to \$21.6 billion. And non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations – from the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to the World Health Organisation – deepened their focus on the issue.

The surge in virtual health services during the pandemic has entailed many policy changes and new ways of doing business. Some of these were beneficial and will

serve as a foundation for further progress. But the rapidity of the changes has often meant haphazard execution and uneven results.

It is still too early to settle on a definitive post-pandemic vision for virtual health services, and how each country approaches it must of course be tailored to local contexts. But we can begin to identify the right questions to ask in shaping this fast-growing global sector's future.

First, what is the true value that these services can provide? If we regard virtual health as merely a sector-specific example of emerging technology, it may generate efficiencies and even improve outcomes, but it will not realise its full potential.

In many settings, technologies that are already part of people's everyday lives can empower patients. Virtual services can help people re-center their health in personalised, familiar and convenient ways. Whereas going to a health facility can sometimes be a cold, intimidating experience or even logistically impossible, virtual services allow people to engage on their own terms, on comfortable ground. Especially in low- and middle-income countries, expanding telemedicine can help to compensate for lack of physical infrastructure while providing an additional way to connect remote populations with

national health systems.

Second, how can virtual care promote equity? The WHO recently identified health equity as one of the four guiding principles of its Global Strategy on Digital Health, calling for investment in infrastructure, education, and resources to help low- and middle-income countries adopt new digital health technologies. And in June 2021, G7 health ministers stressed that virtual health-care services must be "inclusive, comprehensive, and equitable."

Even within high-income countries, marginalised communities have often borne the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic, compounding historical and inherited inequities. Fully realising the promise of virtual health care means leveraging digital connectivity to reach those previously excluded.

Third, which approaches to virtual health services have shown the most promise? Countries with flexible regulatory regimes have had the best results during the pandemic. One key policy change that some countries quickly adopted was to remove the requirement that new patients have an in-person consultation before receiving virtual care. We also know that data and artificial intelligence have been and will remain strong enablers of virtual health care. Real-time monitoring, analysis, and decision-making are possible only if data are

appropriately managed at scale.

But data-driven approaches raise important concerns regarding privacy, data storage, and information use that must be carefully considered within the context of human rights and ethical standards. To help governments navigate these concerns, the WHO's global strategy provides a regulatory framework for ensuring appropriate use of health data, defines key concepts such as health data as a global public good, and outlines principles for equitable data-sharing.

Finally, how should we move forward? By carefully studying the pandemic's impact on virtual health services, we can identify best practices, build on what worked, and reform as needed. We can provide practical tools to preserve and expand the progress made in virtual health, manage the aftermath of the pandemic-induced surge in demand for these services, and usher in a transformative and equitable future.

To facilitate this analysis, the Novartis Foundation and the WHO are co-leading a new Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development working group on virtual and data-driven health services. Together, we aim to help countries transcend the digital divide, include the formerly excluded, and achieve quality health care for all.

The writer is Head of the Novartis Foundation.

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# 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, Rasulpur Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Captain's new innings

Sir, Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's bullish effort to form his new party Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) will absolutely cut Congress' seat share in 2022 Assembly elections. Singh, always known for his moderate stance on Hindu ideologies and empathy for nationalistic causes, will most likely attract Hindu voters to his party. Despite that, the constant visit of AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal to Punjab and the promise of free water and electricity have raised many eyebrows in the state. On the other hand, an alliance of BJP, PLC and a few dissident MLAs of Congress could be hoped in case the BJP gimmicks to completely withdraw the three contentious farm laws. The Congress' poll performance will be interesting to watch as the party is desperately trying to appease the Sikh and Dalit communities.

Debadurlav Harichandan, BHUBANESWAR

### Disappointing outcome

Sir, This is in reference to the editorial 'Return to normal', Orissa POST, November 3. The G20 summit in Rome sought to address a range of issues that should engage the world's attention now, like climate change, the state of the world's economy and the COVID-19 situation. What the G20 decides is important because it represents about two-thirds of the world's population and 85 per cent of its economic output. But, the outcome of the meeting was largely disappointing because it made only some vague and general promises rather than specific commitments. The final communiqué issued by the summit reiterated some old ideas and targets but there was no reference to any plan of action to achieve them. The target year for realisation of carbon neutrality was left unclear as 'about mid-century'. The promise of \$100 billion a year to poor countries as reparation and financial support for their mitigation efforts was once again made with no details of how this will be done. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's suggestion that developed nations set a target of providing 1 per cent of their GDP as finance for green projects in emerging economies did not elicit any clear response. The proceedings as a whole did not show any serious commitment to containing global warming to less than 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels, which is a declared aim. The outcome could best be described in the words of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres: "I leave Rome with my hopes unfulfilled, but at least they are not buried."

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## 2 dead, 3 hurt in firecracker blast

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal/Kendrapara, Nov 5:** Two persons died while three others sustained grievous injuries in separate incidents of firecracker explosions in the state on the occasion of Diwali Thursday.

In the first incident from Dhenkanal district, three motorcycle-borne youths carrying firecrackers in a bag were on their way when the firecrackers exploded mid-way leading to the fatal mishap Thursday evening.

The deceased was identified as Maheswar Moharana who hailed from Barada and the two injured have been identified as Birendra Nayak and Prasanna Brahma from the same village in Dhenkanal.

Passers-by rescued the injured and immediately sent them to Dhenkanal district headquarters hospital (DHH).

Actual reason behind the explosion has not been ascertained yet. However, prima facie evidence suggests that the firecrackers might have exploded by chance, an official in Sadar police station said.



In the second incident from Kendrapara, a man died following a huge blast while he was making firecrackers at his home in Juidaspur village under Sadar police limits.

The roof of the kutcha house where Krushna was making the firecrackers has been completely gutted following the explosion which was of very high intensity. Doors and windows of the buildings nearby have been damaged, an eyewitness stated.

Local police have registered separate cases and launched probes.

Baral was rescued by neighbours from a pool of blood and rushed to Kendrapara DHH. Later, he was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack after his condition deteriorated.

The deceased was identified as Krushna Chandra Nayak and the injured was Chinmaya Baral.

Baral was rescued by neighbours from a pool of blood and rushed to Kendrapara DHH. Later, he was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack after his condition deteriorated.

Local police have registered separate cases and launched probes.

## EVICITION DRIVE



The district administration carrying out an eviction drive in Balasore Town to make space for various development works

OP PHOTO

### SHORT TAKES

#### Youth shot dead in Balasore

**Balasore:** A youth was shot dead at Kuruda square under Sadar police limits in Balasore Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Binod Bihari Das of Jagannath Patna village. Binod had gone to Kuruda square for some works. Taking him by surprise, bike-borne miscreants stopped near him and started attacking him with. They opened fire at him when he tried to hit the attackers. He died on the spot. After committing the crime, the miscreants sped away. On being informed, a police team reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Balasore district headquarters hospital (DHH) for post mortem. While past enmity is said to be the reason behind the murder, the police said they have launched an investigation.

#### One arrested for poaching boars



**Losingha:** Cases of wild animals being killed with live wire are on the rise in Losingha forest range in Bolangir district. One such case came to the fore Friday. Forest officials arrested a person, identified as Dutia Sahu (57) of Kushamel village. According to forester Gobardhan Patel, Kushamel village witnessed repeated power cuts after 10 pm Thursday. Dutia Sahu has occupied a patch of 10 acres of land and enclosed the area with iron wires. He has been killing boars by charging the fence with live wire for the last seven to eight months. Following frequent power cuts, villagers informed the DFO and local police. The officials rushed to the spot, arrested Sahu and seized wire.

## Free coaching balm to students in mining-hit areas

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh, Nov 5:** Poverty will no longer be a hurdle for meritorious students from tribal, poor and middle class families of mining-affected blocks in Sundargarh district to chase their dreams.

The district administration has arranged free of cost coaching facilities for them so that they can prepare well for national level engineering, medical, law, architecture etc. entrance examinations.

The initiative, launched with the financial support from the District Mineral Foundation, has been welcomed by students in Sundargarh, Rajgangpur and Rourkela

The facility is being provided to students in six mining-affected blocks such as Koida, Kutra, Lahunipada, Kuar munda, Rajgangpur and Hemagiri. The selection is being done on the basis of their marks. Those who have passed Class X and Plus II or pursuing their Plus II are being prepared for national level examinations like Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), Common Law Admission



Test (CLAT) and National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA).

The initiative, launched with the financial support from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), has been welcomed by the students.

They are receiving coaching at three special centres established in Sundargarh, Rajgangpur and Rourkela. While as many as 400 students have joined in the first phase, they are being provided with free boarding and lodging facilities.

The students say their parents

can't afford the cost of reputed institutions providing coaching. Now they are hopeful that they can shape their career.

"I live in mining-hit Rajgangpur block. I aspire to be an engineer. Earlier in Rajgangpur, there were no facilities for the preparation for higher education. The coaching centres set up by the district administration will go a long way in helping the students crack the national level examinations. I have enrolled myself at Sundargarh centre. I am confident that I will secure

good marks in IIT entrance examinations and fulfill my dream," observed Jejaswini Perua.

Another student, David Kerketa said, "I aspired to take admission into medical college. Due to financial problem, I was not able to prepare myself for NEET entrance examinations. I am fortunate enough to get the opportunity to receive free coaching at Rourkela centre. I have been provided with all the books and other study materials free of cost. The coaching will immensely help me secure

good marks in the entrance examinations."

Echoing the same, yet another student from Hemagiri block, Laxmipriya Mahanandia thanked the district administration and state government for providing free coaching facilities. "The centre has all the facilities and the teachers are very helpful. They are always encouraging us to excel in our endeavors," she added.

Kota in Rajasthan is famous for coaching for national level entrance examinations. Since two centres of Kota have been roped in and entrusted the responsibility of managing these three centres, not only students but also their parents are excited.

The coaching centres have all the facilities starting from ultra modern class rooms to library. The hostels have round the clock pure drinking water and internet facilities. In order to make it sure 100 per cent attendance, biometric identity cards have been issued to the students.

Under Skill Development Programme in Sundargarh district, the government has taken up some other programmes as well. 'Sudaksha' programme is already there in the district. Three 'Sudaksha' centres at Sundargarh, Rourkela and Bonai are functioning. Here too talented youths from mining-hit areas are being given free of cost coaching to realise their dreams.

## Probe into bribe in Jajpur DEO office

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Nov 5:** Acting on a complaint of a retired teachers about officials taking bribes at district education office in Jajpur, the directorate of the secondary education (DSE) has ordered an investigation into it.

According to reports, junior clerk Bijay Mishra working at the DEO office here have been harassing teachers and retired staff by asking bribes to get their official works done.



Manmohan Das, a retired teacher, lodged a complaint in this regard through Mo Sarkar. Acting on the complaint, joint director of the DSR directed the Jajpur DEO to look into the matter and submit a report as soon as possible. Our correspondent tried to contact the DEO over his phone, but the latter did not pick up the call.

## Village girl earns over ₹1lakh p/m from YouTube

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, Nov 5:** Arpita Khatua, daughter of Niranjana Khatua of Tarago village under Bant block in Bhadrak district, is earning lakhs from YouTube.

What she does is manufacturing and selling daily need articles, decorative items and gift items from discarded materials through her YouTube channel.

After graduation, she did a Certificate of Teacher (CT) programme. As she was doing her CT training she made such articles. She stayed in hostel. During the period, she tried her hand at making greeting cards from papers, colours and pitch boards. She would gift her articles to her friends on special occasions like birthday or

New Year day celebrations.

This apart, she prepared beautiful wall hangings from articles one would discard or are available easily. Since she would put her heart and soul into it, the end products were so beautiful and enticing that whoever saw them wanted to buy them. Her friends' appreciation and encouragement made her more determined.

She started making various decorative articles from old newspapers, ice cream spoons and sticks. Within a few days, she became an expert. "Since the day when my brother suggested to me to market my products, I have never looked back. I created my own YouTube channel in the name of 'Craft Gallery' and started uploading videos of my crafts," she shared.

"Like many others, I too experienced teething problems. But I was not the person to let them overpower me. To make the videos more attractive, I edited my videos before uploading and it worked. The popularity of my channel started growing, slowly but steadily," she added.

As of now, the number of subscribers of her channel has crossed 1 lakh and her channel is receiving advertisements from YouTube. The number of her followers has crossed 8 crores!

"During the initial period, my monthly earning was something between Rs 4,000 to 5,000. It increased when I started receiving advertisements. Now I earn over Rs1,00,000 per month. In the coming days, I will take it to a new high," she expressed.



Her father, who wanted Arpita to be a government service holder, was not in favour of what his educated daughter was doing. Now,

he is also extending his full support to her.

Nowadays, hundreds of people are thronging her house to have a

■ AS OF NOW, THE NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS OF HER CHANNEL HAS CROSSED 1 LAKH AND HER CHANNEL IS RECEIVING ADVERTISEMENTS FROM YOUTUBE. THE NUMBER OF HER FOLLOWERS HAS CROSSED 8 CRORES!

■ SINCE THE DAY WHEN MY BROTHER SUGGESTED TO ME TO MARKET MY PRODUCTS, I HAVE NEVER LOOKED BACK. I CREATED MY OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL IN THE NAME OF 'CRAFT GALLERY' AND STARTED UPLOADING VIDEOS OF MY CRAFTS, SHE SHARED

look at how a set of skilled hands making crafts. The villagers said they feel proud of their village girl Arpita.

## FIELD VISIT



Farmers and agriculture scientists conduct a field visit in Hinjilicut area of Ganjam

OP PHOTO

## Wanton loot of laterite stones in 2000 mines

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, Nov 5:** The revenue department has leased out three laterite quarries in Nayagarh district, but such stone and murrum are being mined over 2,000 illegal mines in the district. Owing to large-scale loot of laterite, the state government is losing crores of rupees toward revenue, a report said.

According to reports, mafia has been raking in moolahs from rampant laterite mining while the revenue and the forest departments are sitting pretty.

Ranpur and Odagaon tehsils have the highest number of murrum and laterite quarries.

Wanton mining of the minor minerals has created massive craters and pits that are posing dangers to domestic animals, and humans.

Over last four years, 17 people



have died in mines while 22 domestic animals have lost their lives.

Three laterite mines were leased out in Ranpur tehsil. This was revealed through an RTI query replied by the regional office of the state pollution control board in Berhampur. 24 hectares at Krushnaprasad, 1.62 hectares at Mayurjhalia and 40 hectares at Chochojaha were leased out.

No leaseholders have got environmental clearance for the mining in the district while mafia has been carrying out extraction of la-

terite and murrum with impunity, it was learnt.

An unofficial survey said over 600 illegal laterite and murrum mines are being operated at Chandpur, Kandhanuagada, Jhinkijhari, Mahurjhalia, Champagada, Jharpada and Patia.

Besides, over 200 such illegal mines are being operated in Ranpur tehsil area. Furthermore, mafia has been plundering minor minerals from over 400 places in Komanda, Bhagabatiprasad, Rohibanka and Udaypur under Odagaon tehsils.

Raids are being carried out at different times, but officials inform the mafia before the raids. There has been no evidence found at the quarries during the raids. Sub-collector Lagnajit Rout said raids will be intensified after Diwali. The administration has been carrying out raids and seizures in mines.



Diwali leaves Delhi wheezing

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 5: New Delhi residents woke up Friday under a blanket of smog darkening the city...



Traffic moves on a flyover on a smoggy morning in New Delhi

The ubiquitous detritus of firecrackers coating the ground. The firecracker ban didn't seem to be successful in Delhi...

But over the winter months' pollution levels surge in northern India, as lower temperatures and a drop in wind speed tend to trap pollutants in the air longer.

Man orders passport cover, finds passport inside pouch

Midhun Babu, hailing from Wayanad district, had placed an order with Amazon for a passport cover October 30 and was delivered a valid passport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kozhikode (Ker), Nov 5: A man in Kerala's Wayanad district has claimed that he was delivered a valid passport by an e-commerce giant...



When it was delivered at his doorstep November 1 the packet had contained the passport cover and to his surprise, a passport was also found inside the pouch.

to take away the passport they had put inside the pouch prior to returning to Amazon. The company is believed to have reissued the pouch to another, as it is.

BJP top brass to meet Sunday to discuss bypoll setback

Leaders in the recently-revamped national executive will discuss "all relevant and important issues in the current political scenario" in the meeting



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 5: The apex policy-making body of BJP would meet here Sunday to discuss the strategies for the upcoming state Assembly elections.

resolution on forthcoming Assembly elections and other current issues, forthcoming programmes and valedictory speech, a meeting of the general secretaries Saturday is expected to finalise the number and character of the resolutions that should be adopted in Sunday's meeting.

cent "successful foreign visits". According to BJP Rajya Sabha MP and national head of party's media cell Anil Baluni, the Sunday meeting, scheduled from 10 am to 3 pm at the NDMC convention centre, would be unique.



Students Federation of India (SFI) activists protest against alleged communal violence in Tripura, at Tripura Bhawan in New Delhi, Friday

'Black Diwali' for teachers of Delhi govt-funded colleges

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 5: The festival of lights turned into a bitter memory for teachers of the Delhi government funded DU colleges as they are yet to get their salaries.

This Diwali was "Black" as teachers have not received salary for the past five months: Delhi University Teachers Association

and decisive action in relation to the 12 Delhi University colleges concerned. They have also appealed to the UGC to take over these colleges.

RS asks MPs to settle TA bills to clear AI's dues

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 5: The Rajya Sabha has asked its members to settle their air travel bills at earliest to clear the dues of Air India. The Upper House's Secretariat in its letter to the members said that 'Air India has stopped extending credit facility for purchase of air tickets against exchange orders which was in practice in the past'.



towards Air India immediately, stating that the debt ridden national carrier was taken over by the Tata Sons in an open bid held recently. "All the dues must be cleared by all ministries and departments before the handing over process of the airlines gets completed," the Ministry added.

The women guarding India's rainforest 'refugees'

AS DEFORESTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE RAVAGE UNESCO HERITAGE-LISTED WESTERN GHATS, AN ALL-FEMALE RAINFOREST FORCE IS BATTLING TO PROTECT ONE OF THE AREA'S LAST ENCLAVES OF BIODIVERSITY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Wayanad, Nov 5: As deforestation and climate change ravage India's UNESCO heritage-listed Western Ghats mountain range, an all-female rainforest force is battling to protect one of the area's last enclaves of biodiversity. The region is home to at least 325 globally threatened flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species but the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has ranked its outlook as a "significant concern".

logical "holocaust". Gurukula was created as a haven for the native flora struggling for survival because of global warming and human encroachment, in the hope of slowly repopulating the region with indigenous plants. Theuerkauf, who became an Indian citizen in 1978 and died seven years ago, started with seven acres (three hectares) of forest, today it is ten times that size. 'This forest is our guru' "Wolfgang said "this forest is our guru", Seshan explained. Three generations of "rainforest gardeners" - women from local villages in the hot and humid Kerala state - have worked with botanists to build up the sanctuary. Dressed in big boots - to protect against cobras and the pitiless insects - and brightly coloured tunics, their hair tied under scarves, the women put in long days in the forests, the sanctuary's greenhouses and its nursery. "We have between 30 and 40 per cent of the Western Ghats flora under conservation here," added Seshan. The work is becoming increasingly crucial. The region won its UNESCO listing in 2012 in part because it is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, but in its 2020 World



Conservationist Suprabha Seshan is director of Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary in the Western Ghat mountains in Kerala

Heritage Outlook report, the IUCN warned of the threat of encroaching human activity and habitat loss. It said: "50 million people are estimated to live in the Western Ghats region, resulting in pressures that are orders of magnitude greater than many protected areas around the world." Seshan, who has worked at the sanctuary for 28 years, has seen things deteriorate first hand. She recalled: "When I came

here plastic was still not a part of our culture. I remember when Wolfgang found the first plastic bag in the river, he said: 'civilization has arrived'." Transplant success Fighting off bloodsucking leeches that thrive in the humidity, the rainforest gardeners tend to a multitude of endangered ferns, flowers and herbs that grow around the rocks and in the shade of tropical trees. The small plants of the Western Ghats

are vulnerable to rising temperatures, rainfall fluctuations and the loss of habitat, said Seshan. "The more the climate changes, the more their reproductive life strategies have to change to adapt." She tries to find simple ways to reproduce the natural conditions for each species being cared for. It is also carefully listed in an inventory. Joseph showed off an Impatiens jerdoniae with red and yellow flowers that had been struggling before being nurtured and transplanted on to a tree. Three years on it is thriving. Joseph, who has worked at the sanctuary for 25 years, says saving a rare species and seeing it live again in a forest is incredibly satisfying. "They're happy here, I am happy when they're happy," Joseph said of the plant. But she fears the increasingly unpredictable climate may destroy their work. The Western Ghats normally get up to 500 centimetres (200 inches) of rain a year; but the monsoon is increasingly erratic. The plants are struggling to cope, Joseph said. "They wilt, they can't pollinate, and they don't get seeds. That is the way you lose species," she added. "I suffer when a tree has fallen, when the rainforest dies."



# national

## of the day quote

Last year, due to COVID-19, we had to follow certain norms, but now the danger of COVID-19 is slowly declining in the country. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, the state government took some important decisions, as a result of which, we are witnessing that the number of coronavirus patients is declining

SARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

Check the records. Fuel price hike is not new but it has been happening. Never ever in the history of Karnataka, no one reduced petrol and diesel prices by Rs 7 per litre in one go. Our government reduced it in a record manner

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

I have taken back my resignation. I will continue to serve as state chief

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU | PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF

## SHORT TAKES

### 8 Naxals held

**Raipur:** Eight Naxals, six of them collectively carrying a reward of Rs 17 lakh on their heads, have been arrested in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, police said Friday. The arrest was made from a forest near Morpalli village under Chintalnagar police station limits Thursday during an "area domination operation" of the CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), an elite unit of the CRPF, and the District Force of police, they said. Acting on intelligence about movements of Naxals in the area, the security forces had launched the operation November 2, said Sukma Superintendent of Police Sunil Sharma.

### Two killed

**Jammu:** Two persons were killed and another injured on Friday in a shooting incident in J&K's Jammu district, police said. According to police, the incident took place in a village in R.S. Pura sub-division of Jammu. "It is suspected that a few men travelling in a vehicle opened indiscriminate firing on some persons travelling in another car. Two young men were killed and another seriously injured in this firing incident," a police official said.

### Subrata cremated

**Kolkata:** The mortal remains of veteran Trinamool Congress leader Subrata Mukherjee was cremated with full state honours in Kolkata Friday evening, with political leaders cutting across party lines paying their last respect to him. The panchayat minister was given the gun salute at the Keoratala crematorium in the southern part of the city.

### Three dead

**Guna:** A girl and two others were charred and four co-passengers suffered burn injuries Friday morning when the mini-bus carrying them caught fire after hitting a stationary truck in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, police said. The incident took place on National Highway 46 in Barkheda area. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan condoled the deaths.

### Karnataka lifts night curbs

**Bangalore:** The Karnataka government Friday lifted the night curfew between 10 p.m and 5 a.m. as the state is seeing a dip in Covid-19 cases. The government has also allowed horse racing in the state. With the lifting of these curbs, the state is now free from Covid-19 restrictions.



Concerted efforts would be made for the holistic development of the state on one hand and prosperity of its people on the other  
CHARANJIT CHANNI | PUNJAB CM

## MATTER OF CONCERN

Thirty more people have tested positive for Zika virus in Kanpur, taking the total number of those infected in the district to 66, a senior official said Friday



# PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION TMG GETS ACTIVE BEYOND KASHMIR VALLEY

According to recent investigations by the central probe agencies and state police, arms and funds for the terror networks in Jammu and Kashmir are being routed via Punjab border, sources in the security forces said

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** With the aim to curb terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the newly formed Terror Monitoring Group (TMG) will go beyond the Valley and take pre-emptive action in the neighbouring state of Punjab jointly with the local police.

According to recent investigations by the central probe agencies and state police, arms and funds for the terror networks in Jammu and Kashmir are being routed via Punjab border, sources in the security forces said. The TMG, in coordination with the Punjab police, aims to nab the overground workers before they enter Kashmir, they added.

Quoting intelligence inputs, the sources said that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has been



A soldier stands guard outside a hospital during a search operation to flush out the militants after a firing incident, at Bemina in Srinagar, Friday PTI PHOTO

trying to revive the Khalistan movement and is supporting various Sikh militants hiding in Canada, the USA and UK to revive the terror network. The TMG, along with the Punjab Police, will

take pre-emptive measures to stop the influx of arms and funds, while the security forces of both the states will neutralise the ultras in their respective areas, the sources added.

There have been several instances of drones, supplying arms and drugs in Punjab and Jammu regions, being shot down but the possibility of some of them evading the monitoring system cannot be ruled out, a source in the security grid said.

The TMG has been very effective in neutralising terrorists in the valley in coordination with other central agencies. Therefore, its ambit has been expanded beyond the Union Territory. It has successfully led decisive operations against terrorists within a few kilometres of the Indian border based on accurate information.

The group, consisting of officials of the central intelligence agencies, CRPF and state police, was formed last month after a spate of civilian killings in Jammu and Kashmir.

# India to host crucial dialogue on Afghan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** Russia, Iran and almost all central Asian countries have confirmed their participation at a regional security dialogue on Afghanistan to be hosted by India November 10, official sources said Friday.

Pakistan's media comments to not participate in the dialogue is unfortunate but not surprising and it reflected Islamabad's mindset of viewing Afghanistan as its "protectorate", they said. The sources said Pakistan's comments against India on the matter are an unsuccessful attempt to deflect attention from its "pernicious role" in Afghanistan.

India is hosting the dialogue to discuss the overall security situation in Afghanistan following the Taliban's capture of power in the country. The meeting will be held at the level of the national security advisers of the participating countries. India's NSA Ajit Doval will chair the dialogue.

Two earlier meetings in this format have been held in Iran in September 2018 and December 2019, the sources said adding the third meeting in India could not be held earlier due to the pandemic.

"There has been an overwhelming response to India's invitation. Central Asian countries as well as Russia and Iran have confirmed participation. The enthusiastic response is a manifestation of the importance attached to India's role in regional efforts to promote peace and security in Afghanistan," said a source.

INDIA IS HOSTING THE DIALOGUE TO DISCUSS THE OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN FOLLOWING THE TALIBAN'S CAPTURE OF POWER IN THE COUNTRY

TWO EARLIER MEETINGS IN THIS FORMAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN IRAN IN SEPTEMBER 2018 AND DECEMBER 2019, THE SOURCES SAID ADDING THE THIRD MEETING IN INDIA COULD NOT BE HELD EARLIER DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

It is for the first time that all Central Asian countries and not just Afghanistan's immediate land neighbours are participating in this format, the sources said. They said invitations for the dialogue have been extended to China and Pakistan too, and formal responses are awaited.

"However, Pakistan has indicated through the media that it will not attend. Pakistan's decision is unfortunate, but not surprising. It reflects its mindset of viewing Afghanistan as its protectorate," the source said. "Pakistan has not attended the previous meetings of this format. Its media comments against India are an unsuccessful attempt to deflect attention from its pernicious role in Afghanistan," it said.

The sources said the high-level participation in next week's meeting hosted by India reflects the widespread and growing concern of regional countries about the situation in Afghanistan and their desire to consult and coordinate with each other. India has an important role to play in this process, they said.

# BIHAR HOCH TRAGEDY: TOLL RISES TO 33

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna/Bettiah/Gopalganj, Nov 5:** The toll in the latest hooch tragedy in Bihar climbed to 33 Friday, while arrests were made and errant officials punished in connection with sale of illicit liquor, even as Chief Minister Nitish Kumar called for a fresh campaign to dissuade people from drinking alcohol in the dry state.

However, officials in West Champaran and Gopalganj districts claimed only 25 of the deaths could be confirmed as having been caused by consumption of spurious liquor. In West Champaran, alleged hooch trader Ram Prakash Ram (50), besides Dhani Lal Ram (40), Jhakkad Paswan (64) and Vikas Ram (25) died at a hospital.

All of them were residents of Dakshin Telhua village under the Nautan Police Station limits where local people had consumed liquor on the night preceding Diwali, the festival of lights.

According to Champaran Range DIG Pranav Kumar Pravin, the four casualties have raised the toll in West Champaran to 14, and seven people were undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College and Hospital in Bettiah town. The hospital's superintendent Pramod Tiwari said, "Among those who have died, three were brought dead. Bodies are being handed over to bereaved family members after post mortem examinations."

Those undergoing treatment included a 70-year-old person who lost his eyesight Friday, a common side-effect of consumption of illicit liquor. The DIG said, "Two officials - Manish Sharma, the in-charge of Nautan Police Station, and a village chowkidar - have been placed under suspension for their laxity. One of the alleged sellers has died, while another - Munna Ram - is absconding and a search has been launched to nab him." However, according to sources in the local administration, two others, who had died after consuming liquor, were cremated by their family members before word spread about the hooch tragedy. In Gopalganj, District Magistrate Nawal Kishore Chaudhary confirmed 17 deaths in the Mohammedpur Police Station area but asserted that only 11 of these could be blamed on consumption of spurious liquor.

# FESTIVE MOOD



People purchase bamboo made products ahead of Chhath Puja in Ranchi, Friday PTI PHOTO

# Over 110 HC judges appointed this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** A little over 110 new judges have been appointed to various high courts so far this year, sources aware of the procedure of appointment to the higher judiciary have said.

In 2016, a record 126 high court judges were appointed and that record is "likely" to be surpassed this year, they said.

So far this calendar year, more than 110 new high court judges have been appointed based on recommendations made by the Supreme Court collegium.

The combined sanctioned strength of the 25 high courts is 1098 and as on November 1, they were working with 692 judges - a shortfall of 406. Between August 8 and September 1, the apex court collegium had processed over 100 names recommended by various high courts and had finally sent 68 names to the government for appointment as judges to 12 high courts.

The sources pointed out that besides high court judges, nine Supreme Court judges were recently appointed on a single day which is a record.

# This decade belongs to U'khand: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun/Kedarnath, Nov 5:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday predicted a decade of development for Uttarakhand and an end to migration from the hills, as he inaugurated a rebuilt samadhi of Adi Shankaracharya in Kedarnath.

Addressing a gathering of priests and devotees, he said the redevelopment of centres of faith in India shows the country's growing pride in its ancient saints and philosophers like Adi Guru Shankaracharya and Swami Vivekananda.

A grand Ram temple is being built in Ayodhya to restore its glory after centuries while the work on the Vishwanath Dham project in Kashi is nearing completion, the Prime Minister said. Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of reconstruction projects worth over Rs 400 crore at Kedarnath in Uttarakhand where the Assembly elections are just a few months away.

Mentioning the under-construction Chardham all-weather road and the Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail link projects, he



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kedarnath Temple, in Uttarakhand, Friday

said the pace at which infrastructure projects are being carried out in Uttarakhand more pilgrims will visit the state over the next 10 years than in the last 100 years.

"The third decade of the century belongs to Uttarakhand. Take it from me. I am saying this from a holy land," Modi said. The growing network of home stays will create livelihood opportunities for locals at their homes and stop migration from the hills by the youth in search of employment, he said.

"I have reversed the old saying that 'Pahad ka Pani aur jawani kabhi pahad ke kam nahin aate' (hills never benefit from its water

and youth)." Describing Uttarakhand as a land of brave hearts who don't hesitate to lay down their lives to protect India's frontiers, the Prime Minister said the modernisation of the defence sector had boosted the morale of the forces and increased their valour.

"Problems related to the armed forces are being resolved on priority. I had the fortune of fulfilling their demand for One Rank One Pension which was pending for four decades," the prime minister said.

Modi, who began his visit to Kedarnath by offering prayers at the Himalayan temple, said visiting the place has always been an overwhelming experience for him.

# Air pollution may exacerbate Covid risks: Experts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** With the ongoing Covid pandemic having airborne transmission, particulate matter (PM) in the air could act as a carrier to increase the spread of the virus, experts said.

AIIMS Patna Associate Professor, Dr Abhishek Shankar, said that air pollution is one of the greatest challenges and there have been discussions at global level for strategic solutions to this concern. This has become more important at present in view of positive correlation between air pollution and the spread of the



coronavirus, he added. "These can be well understood with two hypotheses. First, Covid-19, like other viruses, has an air-

borne transmission, and PM could act as a carrier to increase the spread of the virus. Secondly, PM could induce damage to lung cells, increase inflammation leading to increase in mortality and this effect can be more pronounced in most polluted areas," Shankar said.

Air pollution also weakens the immune system, compromising ability to fight off infection. Long-term exposure to chronically high PM2.5 levels weakens the ability of the lungs to clear off infections due to compromise in immunity, making general population more prone to acquire Covid-19, he added. AIIMS Delhi's Additional

Professor, Community Medicine, Prof Harish Salve, told IANS that the rising air pollution - whether due to stubble burning or crackers, it may have adverse impact on compromised lungs.

As severe Covid patients have compromised lungs, they must avoid going outside in the morning hours as air pollution has more impacts during the time. "Air pollution is most important contributor and risk factor for non-communicable disease like lungs problem, heart failure, brain stroke and many others. Over 85 per cent deaths in India are linked with non-communicable diseases,

Salve said. Noting firecrackers injuries most commonly affect eyes, hands, face, head, and fingers, RML Hospital's Dr Tarun Kumar said that most commonly, they result in burn injuries but can also leads to laceration and tissue damage. Injuries are most commonly associated with sparklers, aerial crackers and so on, he added.

About additive effects of crackers on pollution, he said that many harmful gases like sulphur dioxide, and nitrous oxides are released when crackers are burst, and these can exacerbate respiratory diseases like asthma and bronchitis.

# international



**“We have to fight for something vital to overcome the pandemic, fight for life, for the health system, economic recovery, we have to recover”**  
MARCELO REBELO DE SOUSA | PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT

**BOOSTER FOR ALL**  
All people in Germany will eventually be offered a booster shot of a Covid-19 vaccine six months after receiving their previous injection, German Health Minister Jens Spahn said Friday



## of the day quote

**I am a democrat. It is the Gambian people who make the decision. And Gambian people, whatever they decide I will respect that**  
ADAMA BARROW | GAMBIA PRESIDENT

**Tunisia has entered a new phase that requires new approaches and visions in order to manage public affairs**  
KAIS SAIED | TUNISIA PRESIDENT

**The fighting in Ethiopia had to end and peace negotiations should start immediately without any preconditions**  
ANTONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE

## SHORT TAKES

**Afghans losing trust in banks**  
Kabul: A number of Kabul residents are now saying they no longer want to keep their money in the country's banks, Tolo News reported. They said they will take out all of their previously deposited funds. Since the fall of the former government, Afghans have faced challenges in withdrawing their money from the banks and said they no longer want to deposit funds.

**Biden, Harris send Diwali greetings**  
Washington: US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have sent Diwali greetings to the people across the world, saying the festival of lights, amidst the pandemic, carries a deeper meaning and reminds everyone that from darkness there is knowledge, wisdom and truth. The President posted on Twitter a picture of him lighting diyas (earthen lamps) along with First Lady Jill Biden at the White House.

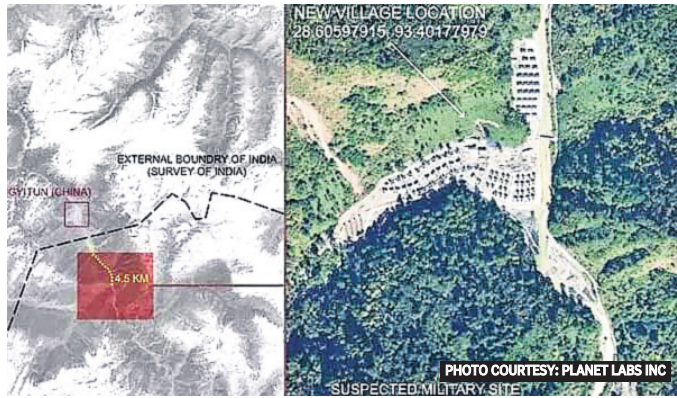
**Extremists kill 69 in western Niger**  
Niamey (Niger): Suspected Islamic extremists ambushed a self-defense brigade in western Niger, killing 69 people in the latest attack in the volatile border region near Mali, the Interior Ministry said. The violence took place earlier this week near Banibangou, some 155 miles north of the capital, Niamey, the ministry said in a statement Thursday.

**Japan, Germany boost military ties**  
Tokyo: Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi Friday said Japan will step up military cooperation with Germany in the Indo-Pacific region as he welcomed a port call by the first German warship to visit Japan in about 20 years. The frigate Bayern is visiting Tokyo after two days of joint exercises with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer Samidare in the Pacific Ocean amid increasingly assertive maritime activities by China in the region.

**Deadly week for migrants**  
Paris: A train struck and killed a migrant from Eritrea and at least two bodies were recovered from the sea and on a beach in what has been a particularly deadly week for migrants on the northern coast of France. Attempting treacherous crossings to Britain. Many hundreds of people, setting off in a flotilla of boats, quickly ran into trouble in the waters between northern France and Britain.

## FRESH INCURSION

# Chinese village in Arunachal



**Beijing/ New Delhi, Nov 5:** China has built a large 100-home civilian village inside disputed territory between the Tibet Autonomous Region and India's Arunachal Pradesh, claimed the US Department of Defense in its annual report to Congress on military and security developments involving China.

**China has continued taking incremental and tactical actions to press its claims at the Line of Actual Control, says the report by the US Department of Defence**

and ceased infrastructure improvements in the area, it stated. Chinese state-controlled media forcefully asserted China's intent to refuse any territorial concessions demanded by India. "PRC (People's Republic of China) officials, through official statements and state media, had also sought unsuccessfully to prevent India from deepening its relationship with the US during and subsequent to the standoff, while accusing India of being a mere 'instrument' of US policy in the region," it stated. The department also asserted that Chinese officials have warned US officials to not interfere with the

their relationship with India. Elaborating about India and China border dispute in the last 18 months, it stated that despite the ongoing diplomatic and military dialogues to reduce border tensions, the PRC has continued taking incremental and tactical actions to press its claims at the LAC.

The report stated that tensions with India along the LAC sparked an ongoing standoff between Chinese and Indian troops in mid-May 2020, which lasted through the winter.

In February 2021, the Central Military Commission (CMC) announced posthumous awards for four PLA soldiers, "though the total number of PRC casualties remains unknown".

The current standoff between the two nations resulted in the first deaths in the last 45 years.

Despite agreements to disengage in the spring of 2021, both sides maintain troops along the LAC as Corps Commander-level negotiations progress slowly.

The report stated that differing perceptions of border demarcations along the LAC joined with recent infrastructure construction, led to multiple unarmed clashes, an ongoing standoff, and military buildups on both sides of the border.

It also stated that throughout the standoff, PRC officials sought to downplay the severity of the crisis, emphasising Beijing's intent to preserve border stability and prevent the standoff from harming other areas of its bilateral relationship with India.

AGENCIES

## RESPECT & CARE



A cow is worshipped in a religious ceremony during Tihar festival in Lalitpur, Nepal

UNI PHOTO

# New Pfizer Covid-19 pill cuts death risk by 90%, says firm

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington, Nov 5:** Pfizer Inc. Said Friday that its experimental antiviral pill for Covid-19 cut rates of hospitalization and death by nearly 90% in high-risk adults, as the drugmaker joins the race to bring the first easy-to-use medication against the coronavirus to the US market.

Currently all COVID-19 treatments used in the US require an IV or injection. Competitor Merck's COVID-19 pill is already under review at the Food and Drug Administration after showing strong initial results, and on Thursday the United Kingdom became the first country to OK it.

Pfizer said it will ask the FDA and international regulators to authorize its pill as soon as possible, after independent experts recommended halting the company's study based on the strength of its



results. Once Pfizer applies, the FDA could make a decision within weeks or months.

Researchers worldwide have been racing to find a pill against COVID-19 that can be taken at home to ease symptoms, speed recovery and reduce the crushing burden on hospitals and doctors.

Pfizer released preliminary results Friday of its study of 775 adults. Patients taking the company's drug along with another antiviral had an 89% reduction in their combined rate of hospitalization or death after a month, compared to patients taking a

dummy pill. Fewer than 1% of patients taking the drug needed to be hospitalized and no one died. In the comparison group, 7% were hospitalized and there were seven deaths.

"We were hoping that we had something extraordinary, but it's rare that you see great drugs come through with almost 90% efficacy and 100% protection for death," said Dr. Mikael Dolsten, Pfizer's chief scientific officer, in an interview.

Study participants were unvaccinated, with mild-to-moderate COVID-19, and were considered high risk for hospitalization due to health problems like obesity, diabetes or heart disease. Treatment began within three to five days of initial symptoms, and lasted for five days. Pfizer reported few details on side effects but said rates of problems were similar between the groups at about 20%.



## TIDBITS

### Scribe jailed for Wuhan Covid coverage 'close to death'

**Beijing:** A citizen journalist jailed for her coverage of China's initial response to Covid in Wuhan is close to death after going on hunger strike, her family said, prompting renewed calls from rights groups for her immediate release. Zhang Zhan, 38, a former lawyer, travelled to Wuhan in February 2020 to report on the chaos at the pandemic's epicentre, questioning authorities' handling of the outbreak in her smartphone videos. She was detained in May 2020 and sentenced in December to four years in jail for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" -- a charge routinely used to suppress dissent. She is now severely underweight and "may not live for much longer", her brother Zhang Ju wrote last week on a Twitter account verified by people close to the matter. Zhang has been on a hunger strike and was force-fed through nasal tubes, her legal team, which did not have information on her current condition, told AFP earlier this year.



### Israeli startup develops balloons to capture carbon

**Petah Tikva, Israel:** An Israeli startup has joined the fight against global warming by seeking inspiration in the upper atmosphere, where it hopes to send fleets of balloons that will trap carbon dioxide for recycling. Carbon dioxide emissions, from the burning of fossil fuels and from industrial agriculture, are the main cause of climate change. But removing CO2 from the atmosphere at standard temperatures requires too much energy for governments and companies to consider it cost-effective. High Hopes Labs developed a system that captures the carbon where it has almost solidified, far above the Earth. "The beautiful thing is that capturing gas is very easy when it's close to freezing..." CEO Nadav Mansdorf told Reuters.



### Alpha Covid variant detected in dogs, cats

**London:** While domestic pets are known to contract Covid-19, UK scientists have for the first time reported of infection from the Alpha variant in cats and dogs. The study, published in the Veterinary Record journal, described the first identification of the SARS-CoV-2 alpha variant in domestic pets; two cats and one dog were positive on PCR test, while two additional cats and one dog displayed antibodies two to six weeks after they developed signs of cardiac disease. Many owners of these pets had developed respiratory symptoms several weeks before their pets became ill and had also tested positive for Covid-19. All of these pets had an acute onset of cardiac disease, including severe myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle).



# 'No mercy for Taiwan independence diehards'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Beijing, Nov 5:** China vowed Friday to punish "diehard" Taiwan politicians, saying it would ban several from visiting the mainland, as tensions between Beijing and Taipei spiked to their highest level in years.

On Friday, the Taiwan Affairs Office in Beijing warned that "the mainland will pursue criminal responsibility for Taiwan independence diehards in accordance with the law, to be effective for life".

The statement by spokeswoman Zhu Fenglian named Taiwanese Premier Su Tseng-chang, parliament speaker Yu Shi-kun and Foreign Minister Joseph Wu as among a minority of independence supporters.

Zhu said the politicians "have tried to instigate cross-strait confrontation, maliciously attacked and slandered the mainland... severely undermining cross-strait relations". She added that Beijing

has prohibited them and their family members from entering the mainland, Hong Kong or Macau. Their affiliates would also be restricted from cooperating with mainland organisations and individuals, she said, without giving more details. Taiwan's Su on Friday brushed off the threat from Beijing, saying he "won't be intimidated".

"It doesn't (rule) Taiwan for one day but it's bossing Taiwan around," Su said of Beijing when asked about the list of "diehards" in parliament.

The nationalist Kuomintang party fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing the Chinese civil war. The island of 24 million people has since transformed into a vibrant democracy and major tech hub, leading many - including President Tsai Ingwen -- to assert Taiwan's distinct identity, which Beijing attacks as separatism. Beijing-Taipei ties have plunged since Tsai rose to power in 2016.

# Pak reaches secret agreement with TLP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Islamabad, Nov 5:** The weeks-long chaos, violence, and bloody confrontational protests staged by the banned Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) has forced the Imran Khan government of Pakistan to fall down to its knees and agree to the TLP demands through yet another agreement done secretly and kept away from public glare.

The whole episode, starting from the TLP launching a protest rally marching towards federal capital Islamabad and colliding in a bloody confrontation with the security forces, which resulted in casualties of police officials and serious injuries to hundreds others, to enforced change of stance by various sitting ministers, who were directed to change their strong tone against the TLP, has only brought what is widely being called "humiliation" to the Imran Khan government and has established the inability of the ruling political setup to maintain writ of the state against religious hardliners.

## SHOCKING DISCOVERY

# NASA to divert asteroid in test of 'planetary defence'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Washington, Nov 5:** In the 1998 Hollywood blockbuster "Armageddon," Bruce Willis and Ben Affleck race to save the Earth from being pulverised by an asteroid.

The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is to determine whether this is an effective way to deflect the course of an asteroid should one threaten the Earth in the future.

NASA provided details of the DART mission, which carries a price tag of \$330 million, in a briefing for reporters Thursday.

"Although there isn't a currently known asteroid that's on an impact course with the Earth, we do know that there is a large popula-

tion of near-Earth asteroids out there," said Lindley Johnson, NASA's Planetary Defense Officer.

"The key to planetary defence is finding them well before they are an impact threat," Johnson said. "We don't want to be in a situation where an asteroid is headed towards Earth and then have to test this capability."

The DART spacecraft is scheduled to be launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket at 10:20 pm Pacific time November 23 from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

If the launch takes place at or around that time, impact with the asteroid some 6.8 million miles from Earth would occur between September 26 and October 1 of next year.

The target asteroid, Dimorphos,



which means "two forms" in Greek, is about 525 feet in diameter and orbits around a larger asteroid named Didymos, "twin" in Greek. Johnson said that while neither asteroid poses a threat to Earth

they are ideal candidates for the test because of the ability to observe them with ground-based telescopes.

Images will also be collected by a miniature camera-equipped satellite contributed by the Italian

NASA plans to crash a spacecraft traveling at a speed of 15,000 miles per hour (24,000 kph) into an asteroid next year in a test of "planetary defense"

An asteroid discovered in 1999 known as Benu that is 1,650 feet wide will pass within half the distance of the Earth to the Moon in the year 2135 but the probability of an impact is considered very slight

Space Agency that will be ejected by the DART spacecraft 10 days before impact.

### A small nudge

Nancy Chabot of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, which built the DART

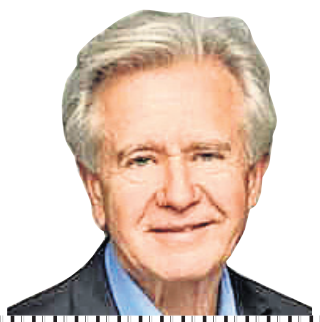
spacecraft, said Dimorphos completes an orbit around Didymos every 11 hours and 55 minutes "just like clockwork."

The DART spacecraft, which will weigh 1,210 pounds at the time of impact, will not "destroy" the asteroid, Chabot said.

"It's just going to give it a small nudge," she said. "It's going to deflect its path around the larger asteroid."

"It's only going to be a change of about one percent in that orbital period," Chabot said, "so what was 11 hours and 55 minutes before might be like 11 hours and 45 minutes."

The test is designed to help scientists understand how much momentum is needed to deflect an asteroid in the event one is headed towards Earth one day.



**We welcome India's announcement at the COP26 of new targets to increase reliance on renewables and reduce the carbon intensity of its economy, including to adopt a net zero target by 2070**

**GERRY RICE** | DIRECTOR (COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT), IMF

## BIG B's NFTs AUCTIONED AT RECORD \$1MN

As more and more celebrities continue to join the non-fungible token (NFT) bandwagon, megastar Amitabh Bachchan sold his collection of NFTs for a whopping \$966,000 (approx ₹7.18 cr) on the 4th day. The most successful was the 'Madhushala' NFT collection, his father's poem, recorded in the superstar's own voice, which crossed a total of \$756,000 (Rs 5.5 cr) worth of bids for the entire collection



## of the day quote

Our aim is to transform India into a major player in innovations, technology development, applications in key areas with emphasis on higher education and skilled workforce

**PIYUSH GOYAL** | UNION MINISTER

Since the economy is also reviving and our OMSS (open market sale scheme) disposal of food grains has also been exceptionally good this year. So, there is no proposal to extend PMGKAY

**SUDHANSHU PANDEY** | FOOD SECRETARY

We are now looking Make-in-India for exports. The Middle East and Africa is ideal market to be catered from India. We are looking at China plus one model and capitalising on the current resistance against China after the pandemic

**K J JAWA** | CHAIRMAN & MD, DAIKIN INDIA

## FIRST MOVERS COALITION

# Global giants join to drive zero-carbon tech demand

*Roughly half of the emission reductions needed to reach the 2050 climate goals rely on technologies in early development, demonstration or prototype phases, while accelerating innovation in this decade is critical to bring these technologies to market and make them cost-competitive*



The commitments aim to be collectively significant enough to commercialise decarbonisation technologies. The Coalition will create a long-term impact by driving milestones this decade through investment into these technological solutions

These technologies include hydrogen direct reduction, carbon capture use and storage, and electrolysis-based production processes

IT WILL WORK ACROSS EIGHT KEY SECTORS, SEVEN OF WHICH -- STEEL, CEMENT, ALUMINIUM, CHEMICALS, SHIPPING, AVIATION, AND TRUCKING -- ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN A THIRD OF GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS BUT DO NOT HAVE COST-COMPETITIVE CLEAN ENERGY ALTERNATIVES TO FOSSIL FUELS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Glasgow, Nov 5:** Global giants like Amazon and Apple as well as Mahindra Group and Dalmia Cement (Bharat) from India have joined as founding members of the 'First Movers Coalition' to work towards driving demand for zero-carbon technologies, the World Economic Forum has said. The Coalition has been launched at the COP26 Summit being held in Glasgow.

The WEF in partnership with US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, has announced the First Movers Coalition, a new platform for companies to make purchasing commitments that create new market demand for low-carbon technologies.

"The eighth, direct air capture, could reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels to help achieve net-zero global emissions but also requires technological innovation to reach commercial viability," the WEF said.

The founding members of the Coalition include Agility, Airbus, Amazon, Apple, Bain & Company, Bank of America, Boston Consulting Group, Boeing, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, Delta Air Lines, Mahindra Group, Nokia, ReNew Power, Salesforce, United Airlines, Volvo Group and Yara International.

WEF President Borge Brende said, "Technology has given us the tools to reduce our emissions and build a stronger and more inclusive economy of the future. For innovators and investors to play their part in tackling the climate crisis, they need clear market demand."

Kerry said the First Movers Coalition is a platform for the world's leading global companies to make purchasing commitments to create early markets for critical technologies needed to achieve net-zero by 2050. In this critical decade, we

not only need to deploy as rapidly as possible existing clean energy technologies, such as wind turbines, solar panel, and battery storage, but also drive innovation for our long-term decarbonisation goals.

As part of this, members of the coalition have committed to using emerging technologies including sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) with significant emissions reductions, electric, and hydrogen propulsion for air travel by 2030.

Airlines and air transport companies have set a target of replacing at least five per cent of conventional jet fuel demand with SAF, which reduces the life-cycle of GHG emissions by 85 per cent or more when compared with conventional jet fuel, and/or using zero-carbon emitting propulsion technologies by 2030. Similar targets have been set for airfare and air freight purchasers.

## SHORT TAKES

### Forex reserves up by over \$1.92bn

**Mumbai:** India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$1.919 billion during the week ended October 29. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forex reserves fell to \$642.019 billion from \$640.100 billion reported for the week ended October 22. India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, SDRs, and the country's reserve position with the IMF. On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by \$1.363 billion to \$578.462 billion.

### NCLT okays GAIL buying IL&FS's stake

**New Delhi:** The National Company Law Tribunal has approved state-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd's acquisition of bankrupt Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services' 26 per cent stake in ONGC Tripura Power Company (OTPC), GAIL said Friday. OTPC is a special purpose vehicle between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), IL&FS Group and Government of Tripura (GoT) for setting up of a 726.6 MW combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) thermal power plant at Palatana, Tripura. ONGC holds 50 per cent interest in the company in the project that supplies electricity to the northeastern states.

### Two lakh footfalls at Expo 2020 Dubai

**New Delhi:** The India Pavilion at the Dubai Expo has crossed two lakh footfalls, becoming one of the most visited pavilions, the government said Friday. The pavilion was inaugurated October 1, 2021. "The India Pavilion has hosted over 2,00,000 visitors as on November 03, with various sector and state-specific sessions to discuss India's growth roadmap. It also secured investment opportunities for the country and celebrated several cultural events to attract visitors," the commerce ministry said.

### Cairn becomes Capricorn Energy

**New Delhi:** Britain oil and gas explorer Cairn Energy PLC will change its company name to Capricorn Energy PLC from mid-December, around the time its over \$1 billion retrospective tax dispute will be nearing closure. In a statement, Cairn Energy PLC said it "plans to change its company name from Cairn Energy PLC to Capricorn Energy PLC, effective from December 31, 2021. The LSE stock ticker will remain as CNE".

## MCL adjudged best co for Quality Assurance & CSR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Nov 5:** Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was adjudged the best Coal India subsidiary for highest Quality Assurance to the consumers as well as its best practices in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

At the 47th Coal India Day celebrations and Corporate Awards ceremony held in Kolkata Monday, MCL received first prize for both highest Quality Assurance as well as best practices in CSR, based on performance during the last financial year 2020-21.

Pramod Agrawal, Chairman, Coal India, presented the awards to PK Sinha, Chairman and Managing Director, MCL. The heads of Quality Control & CSR departments also accompanied the CMD to receive the honours.

Pralhad Joshi, Honourable Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs and Raosaheb Patil Danve, Honourable MoS Coal, Mines and Rail also joined the



award presentation ceremony through video-conferencing.

MCL also received the second prize for Corporate Performance in 2020-21.

Meanwhile, in the individual category, A K Singh, General Manager, Lakhanpur Area was adjudged the Best Area General Manager in MCL while P B Reddy, General Manager, Jagannath Area received the award for special contribution.

AK Gupta, General Manager (Marketing & Sales), the head of Team M&S in 2020-21 received the Best HoD award.

## Starlink to explore alliance with telcos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 5:** Elon Musk-led SpaceX's satellite broadband arm Starlink is planning to explore collaboration with telecom companies in India to expand broadband services in the country with a focus on rural areas, a top company official said Friday.

Starlink Country Director India at SpaceX Sanjay Bhargava told PTI that discussions with broadband service providers will start once the 12 Phase-1 aspirational districts are identified by the Niti



Aayog and the company will see the interest levels of the various players and the USOF.

Starlink claims to have received over 5,000 pre-orders from India. The company is charging a deposit of \$99 or ₹7,350 per customer and claims to deliver data speeds in

**I am hoping that we will get a time-bound 100 per cent broadband plan that can serve as a model for other districts but the devil is in the details and there may be many good reasons why one or more broadband providers do not want to collaborate, though to me that seems unlikely**

**SANJAY BHARGAVA** | STARLINK COUNTRY DIRECTOR

the range of 50-150 megabits per second in the beta stage.

Bhargava had earlier announced that the company will focus on 10 rural Lok Sabha constituencies to provide internet services for 80% of the Starlink terminals shipped to India.

In a social media post, Bhargava

said the company wants to collaborate with all. "We want to collaborate with all and have others besides us licensed to provide satellite broadband so that satellite plus terrestrial together can provide 100 per cent broadband, especially in rural districts," he said.

## BOI declares net profit of ₹1,051 crore

### BIZ BUZZ

**Bhubaneswar:** State-run Bank of India reported nearly 100 per cent jump in its net profit at ₹1,051 crore in quarter ended September 2021. "Net profit for Q2FY22 stood at ₹1,051 crore, up by 99.89 per cent year-on-year," the bank said in a regulatory filing. Return on Assets (RoA) stood at 0.53%, improved by 25 basis points YoY and NIM (net interest margin) stood at 2.42%, improved by 26 basis points sequentially. Net interest income (NII) stood at ₹3,523 crore for the quarter Q2FY22. On a sequential basis, it is increased by 12.06 per cent from ₹3,144 crore in the quarter ended June 2021, the bank said.

## Uber hit with \$2.4 billion net loss in Q3

**San Francisco:** Ride-hailing company Uber witnessed wider losses to the tune of \$2.4 billion in the third quarter (Q3), owing to a drop in the value of its investment holdings and particularly in China-based online mobility firm Didi. For the third quarter of 2021, Uber reported a net loss of \$2.4 billion or \$1.28 per share, compared to a loss of \$1.1 billion or \$0.62 per share in the year-ago period. The net loss was partially offset by unrealised gains related to the revaluation of Uber's Zomato, Aurora and Joby stakes. Revenue grew 72 per cent (on-year) to \$4.8 billion, or 69 per cent on a constant currency basis, the company said Thursday.

## Claim ratios to look for while deciding on health insurer

*In health insurance, servicing the health claims is called 'moment of truth', as that is when you really know whether you are associated with right partner, says Bhaskar Nerurkar, Head - Health Claims, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance*



**B**efore buying a health insurance policy, it is customary to look at the cost and features of any product but an intelligent customer needs to look beyond these two obvious points. Especially with the increase in standardisation of health insurance products which leads to similarities in offerings across insurers. In such situation, it becomes vital to not just opt for the right product, but also the right insurer - with the key differentiator being the service you will receive during a medical exigency.

Below are a few key ratios that will help gauge an insurer's capability to stand by your side in times of dire need.

**Claim Settlement Efficiency Ratio:** This ratio helps you gauge how efficiently an insurer settles claims. This is typically calculated based on the number of claims settled within 3 months versus total health claims received. Higher the Efficiency Ratio, the better is an insurance company since it indicates that the insurance company settles more number of claims within the stipulated time.

**Claim Repudiation Ratio:** Repudiation means rejection of a claim received. Hence, the Claim Repudiation ratio tells you the number of claims an insurer repudiates versus the total claims received. A lower Claims Repudiation Ratio is a good indication since it determines that the insurer rejects lower number of claims.

**Claim Settlement Ratio:** This ratio helps you understand the number of health claims settled by an insurer versus the total health claims received. The higher the Claims Settlement Ratio, the better is an insurance company. This suggests an insurance company's higher

interest towards serving its customers compared to other insurers.

**Claim Settlement Efficiency Ratio:** This ratio helps you gauge how efficiently an insurer settles claims. This is typically calculated based on the number of claims settled within 3 months versus total health claims received. Higher the Efficiency Ratio, the better is an insurance company since it indicates that the insurance company settles more number of claims within the stipulated time.

**Claim Outstanding Ratio:** Outstanding claims mean claims which are intimated to the insurer, but are yet to be processed/final liability to be arrived at. It is typically calculated based on the number of claims that are outstanding versus the total number of claims received. Lower the claim outstanding ratio, the bet-

ter is an insurer since it indicates the frequency at which claims are closed.

**Claim Pendency Ratio:** Claim pendency means that the claim which is yet to be processed. This ratio is usually calculated based on the number of claims that are pending for over a year versus the total number of claims received. The lower this ratio, the better is the insurer.

Claims are the litmus test for the promises made by the insurer to their customer if and when things go wrong. Hence, it's important for a customer to choose the right product that can cover their healthcare needs and equally critical to understand the above ratios in order to opt for the right insurer who will be help them stay worry-free in case of an exigency.

# India crush Scotland Kiwis inch closer to semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Nov 5:** India showed their class and might with an all-round effort as they pulverised Scotland by eight wickets in a Super 12 game Friday, ensuring that they live to fight another day in the ICC T20 World Cup.

The entire match lasted a mere 24.1 overs as India first skittled Scotland for 85 in 17.4 overs and then batted for another 6.3 overs to knock off the runs, taking the net run-rate to +1.619, which is now best among all six teams, even better than top placed Pakistan (+1.065).

To surpass Afghanistan's current net run-rate of +1.481, India needed to score the required runs in 7.1 overs and KL Rahul (50, 19b, 6x4, 3x6) and Rohit Sharma (30, 16b, 5x4, 1x6) added 70 in five overs to make sure that they achieve it in style.

The fastest team 50 of this edition came inside four overs and the poor Scotland bowlers had no idea what hit them. But that was the controllable part of the story. What they don't have any control over is their fate and now the Rashid Khans, Mohammed Nabis will determine it Sunday against New Zealand.

A win for Afghanistan will mean that India will know how to win against Namibia and enter the semi-finals when no one expected them to. A New Zealand victory, though, will knock India out of the tournament.

The disdain with which Rahul batted showed how hurt the Indian team was and at least wanted to course correct the part that they could. It was a scary batsmanship for any opposition and when he got out trying to get his fourth six,



Jasprit Bumrah smiles after becoming the highest wicket-taker for India in the T20is, while Ravindra Jadeja rushes in to congratulate him; (inset) KL Rahul

India had sealed the game.

In fact, it was over in the first innings itself as Virat Kohli won a toss finally on his 33rd birthday and put Scotland into bat.

India's seasoned bowlers then made short work of the unheralded batting line-up with both Mohammed Shami and Ravindra Jadeja returning with identical career-best T20 figures of 3/15.

Jasprit Bumrah (2/10) surpassed Yuzvendra Chahal (63 scalps) to now become India's highest wicket-taker in shortest version.

Plucky left-handed opener George Munsey (24) clipped Bumrah over square leg for a six and reverse swept Varun

Chakravarthy for a boundary to signal positive intent but the gulf in class was always obvious.

Skipper Kyle Coetzer (1) was pegged on the backfoot by a Bumrah yorker first up and then he bowled a slower one which beat the Scotsman all ends up. A lethal Shami then sent back the dangerous looking Munsey.

The disciplined Jadeja (3/15), with his 'darts-like' accuracy, removed Matthew Cross (2), Richie Berrington (0) and Michael Leask (21) in quick succession to blow away the middle-order. Once Scotland were 44/4 after 10 overs, there was no looking back for the Indian bowlers.

Once half the side was out with less than 60 on the board, the lower-order was caught between survival and attack. Calum MacLeod (16) laboured along before being cleaned up by Shami as Indians hardly had to bowl too many effort balls to dismantle the opposition. Save one where No.10 Alasdair Evans was yorked by a 90 mph thunderbolt by Shami.

### BRIEF SCORES

**Scotland 85** (George Munsey 24, Michael Leask 21; Ravindra Jadeja 3/15, Mohammed Shami 3/15, Jasprit Bumrah 2/10) **lost to India 89/2** (KL Rahul 50, Rohit Sharma 30) **by 8 wickets.**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sharjah, Nov 5:** Glenn Phillips (39 n o, 21b, 1x4, 3x6) and Jimmy Neesham's (35 n o, 23b, 1x4, 2x6) game changing partnership on a tricky surface helped New Zealand beat Namibia by 52 runs in a Super 12 game here Friday and stay on course for a semifinal berth in the T20 World Cup.

Courtesy some late-hitting by Phillips and Neesham, New Zealand posted 163/4 and then restricted the opposition to 111/7 to complete a convincing win. Tim Southee (2/15), Trent Boult (2/20), Mitchell Santner (1/20), Ish Sodhi (1/22) and Neesham (1/6) shared the wickets.

The win also meant that Kiwis jumped to the second spot in the standings having six points with a net run-rate of +1.277. They play Afghanistan Sunday in what could be a virtual quarterfinal.

Chasing 164, Namibia openers Stephen Baard (21) and Michael van Lingen (25) conjured 47-runs for the opening wicket. But New Zealand sent back both the openers, first Neesham cleaned up Lingen in the eight over and then 29-year-old slow left-arm orthodox bowler Santner castled Baard with Namibia slipping to 51/2.

Leggie Sodhi removed rival skipper Gerhard Erasmus (3) cheaply to put tightens the screws on Namibia. Zane Green (23) and David Wiese (16) only delayed the inevitable and experienced pacer Southee trapped the latter in front in the 15th over to dash the remaining opposition hopes.

Earlier, Phillips and Neesham took the Namibian attack to the cleaners and propelled New Zealand past 150 which looked unlikely at



Glenn Phillips (L) and Jimmy Neesham

one stage. New Zealand were struggling at 87/4, but brutal hitting by Phillips and Neesham ensured that the Kiwis were back in the game.

The duo added 76 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket in just 36 balls. Courtesy Phillips and Neesham, Kiwis amassed 53 runs in the last three overs.

Asked to bat, New Zealand opener Martin Guptill (18) fell in the fifth over, after offering a simple catch to Ruben Trimpelmann off David Wiese (1/40). Guptill launched into left-arm spinner Bernard Scholtz (1/15). In the fourth over, Daryl Mitchell (19) got his first boundary straight down the ground off Johannes Smit, as the Kiwis raced to 30/0 after four overs.

But Namibia pegged the Kiwis back by sending both the openers

to the dressing room. First Wiese broke the 30-run opening stand by dismissing Guptill and then Scholtz dismissed Mitchell as the Kiwis slipped to 43/2.

Skipper Kane Williamson (28) and Devon Conway (17) then tried to rally the innings with their 38-run stand. But Williamson was cleaned up by rival captain and leg-spinner Gerhard Erasmus (1/22) in the 13th over with New Zealand reaching 81/3. It soon became 87/4 as Conway was also run-out.

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 163/4 (Glenn Phillips 39 n o, Jimmy Neesham 35 n o, Kane Williamson 28; Bernard Scholtz 1/15) beat Namibia 111/7 (Michael van Lingen 25, Zane Green 23, Stephen Baard 21; Tim Southee 2/15, Trent Boult 2/20) by 52 runs.

## WT20 last int'l cricket for all-rounder Bravo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Abu Dhabi, Nov 5:** Star West Indian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo says he will retire from international cricket after the ongoing T20 World Cup here as "time has come" to leave the stage after a career he can be proud of.

The 38-year-old Bravo came out of retirement in 2019 and has been a key member of the West Indies team defending their title in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

But the Caribbeans are out contention for a semifinal spot after losing to Sri Lanka - their third in the showpiece - in a Super 12 match Thursday.

West Indies' inconsequential match against Australia here on Saturday will be Bravo's last international outing, bringing down the curtains on a career spanning more than 17 years.

"I think the time has come. I've had a very good career. To represent the West Indies for 18 years, had some ups and downs, but as I look back at it I'm very grateful to represent the region and the Caribbean people for so long," said Bravo who has been an integral part of the four-time IPL champion Chennai Super Kings team.

"To win three ICC trophies, two with my captain (Daren Sammy) on the left here. One thing I am proud about is that the era of cricketers we had we were able to make a name for ourselves on the global stage and not only do that but have silverware to show for it."



Earlier in the year, during their home series against Pakistan, skipper Kieron Pollard had said that Bravo was playing his last T20I game on the Caribbean soil.

Bravo, who has appeared at all seven T20 World Cups and helped West Indies lift the trophy in 2012 and 2016, has 90 T20I caps for his country, scoring 1245 runs and picking up 78 wickets. He has more than 500 appearances in the T20 format overall. After making his international debut in 2004, Bravo also played in 40 Tests, scoring 2200 runs at an average of 31.42 and taking 86 wickets. He also has 2968 runs and 199 wickets to his name from 164 ODIs.

## Conte's Spurs debut full of events

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Nov 5:** Antonio Conte's first game in charge of Tottenham had five first-half goals, three red cards and a glimpse of the challenge he faces at the London club.

Tottenham held on for a 3-2 home win over Vitesse Arnhem in the Europa Conference League Thursday after nearly giving up a three-goal lead in Conte's debut. The Italian was appointed Spurs' new manager following Nuno Espirito Santo's dismissal Monday.

Former Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho also avoided another embarrassment as Roma scored a late equalizer to draw 2-2 at home against Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt - which had routed the Italian club 6-1 at home in the previous round.

Conte seemed to have already given Tottenham a much-needed spark as his team led 3-0 after just 28 minutes, but Vitesse pulled two goals back before halftime. Spurs then had defender Cristian Romero sent off in the 59th and were under pressure until Vitesse had two players red-carded in the final 10 minutes.

Son Heung-min, who scored the first goal of both Jose Mourinho's and Nuno's reigns, did the same for Conte in the 14th minute before Lucas Moura and a Jacob Rasmussen own goal seemingly had the hosts in total control.

Tottenham are second in Group G, three points behind Rennes, who beat Mura 1-0.

In Group E, Dutch team Feyenoord beat Union Berlin 2-1 in



Son Heung-min celebrates after scoring the first goal for Spurs



Antonio Conte

a game with a heavy police presence after the disturbances in connection with the previous game in Rotterdam. Police made at least 74 arrests in the run-up to the match, which began under a of smoke from flares set off before kickoff by the visiting fans.

**LYON, FRANKFURT ADVANCE**  
Lyon and Eintracht Frankfurt became the first teams to advance to the knockout rounds of the Europa League after both earned victories.

Lyon scored three second-half goals, including two by Islam Slimani, to beat Sparta Prague 3-0 for a fourth straight win in Group A, while Frankfurt defeated Olympiakos 2-1 in Group D.

Napoli boosted their chances of advancing by beating Legia Warsaw 4-1 away, leapfrogging the Polish team to go top in a tough Group C. Jamie Vardy's penalty miss kept Leicester's hopes in the balance after a 1-1 draw with Spartak Moscow. Aleksandr Selikhov saved the striker's second-half spot kick to leave Leicester third in the group, two points behind Napoli.

## CA postpones one-off Test vs Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, Nov 5:** Cricket Australia (CA) Friday confirmed that the planned men's Test against Afghanistan, scheduled to be held in Hobart later this month, has been postponed.

The lone Test match, which would have been the first between Australia and Afghanistan, was to be held at Blundstone Arena in Hobart from November 27, but CA was forced to postpone it owing to Taliban government's opposition to women's cricket. CA said following extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders, it and the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) have agreed to postpone the match and play it at a later time.

"CA is committed to support growing the game for women and men in Afghanistan and around the world, however, given the present uncertainty, CA felt it necessary to postpone the Test match until a later time when the situation is clearer," CA said in a statement.

"CA looks forward to hosting Afghanistan players in the BBL this season, who are great ambassadors for the game, and to hosting both the Afghanistan women's and men's team in the not-too-distant future."

The postponement of the Test was a mere formality after CA last month said that it was set to do so due to concerns over the status of women's cricket in Afghanistan following Taliban's seizure of power in that country.

## Medvedev enters Paris Masters quarters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, Nov 5:** Defending champion Daniil Medvedev rallied to beat unseeded American Sebastian Korda 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 and book a spot in the Paris Masters quarterfinals.

Korda broke the imposing Russian's serve in the ninth game of the first set Thursday and then clinched it on his third set point. But the US Open champion eased through the second set, forcing Korda into 14 unforced errors.

Medvedev broke for a 3-2 lead in the decider with a whipped forehand pass down the line despite being at full stretch retrieving a shot. Korda looked stunned as his opponent milked the applause from the crowd in Paris.

Medvedev, who is vying with top-ranked Novak Djokovic to finish the year as No.1, served for the match but Korda broke him to trail 5-3. He broke Korda straight back, sealing the victory on his first match point after Korda's 40th unforced error of the match.

Medvedev next faces French qualifier Hugo Gaston, who rallied from 5-0 down in the second set



to win 6-4, 7-5 against 18-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz. Djokovic is unlikely to feel so

tired. He earlier advanced without playing a point because Gael Monfils pulled out injured. Monfils,

who is 0-17 against the top-ranked Djokovic, has an adductor injury.

Fourth-seeded Alexander Zverev advanced to the last eight after beating No.16 Grigor Dimitrov 7-6(7-4), 6-7(3-7), 6-3 in an intense contest lasting 2 hours, 45 minutes and where Dimitrov saved two match points in the second set. Zverev next plays sixth-seeded Casper Ruud, who routed American qualifier Marcos Giron 6-2, 6-1 to seal his place in the season-ending ATP Finals.

Djokovic, a five-time champion at the Paris Masters, faces Taylor Fritz. The unseeded American beat 10th-seeded Cameron Norrie 6-3, 7-6(7-3) to hurt the British player's chances of qualifying for the season-ending ATP Finals.

Seventh-seeded Hubert Hurkacz rallied to beat lucky loser Dominik Koepfer 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 to strengthen his chances of clinching a spot at the Finals, which starts November 14.

Hurkacz will reach the Finals if he wins his quarter against James Duckworth, an unseeded Australian who advanced to his first Masters quarterfinal with a 7-6(8-6), 6-4 victory over Alexei Popyrin.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Third India-SA Test moves to Cape Town

**JOHANNESBURG:** The third and final Test between India and South Africa in the upcoming Test series between the two teams has been moved to Cape Town from Johannesburg, the CSA announced Friday. Johannesburg was scheduled to host both the series-opener (starting December 17) and the third Test (January 3-7) while Centurion is set to host the Boxing Day Test from December 26. However, Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced the change in venue for the third Test but did not specify the reason for the move. India will be backing themselves for their maiden Test series win in South Africa, having beaten Australia in their backyard twice in the last three years. On the tour of South Africa, India will also play three ODIs and four T20I matches, beginning January 11. The tour will conclude with the fourth T20I January 26.

### Al-Sadd give nod to Xavi for Barca job



**BARCELONA:** Xavi Hernandez will be allowed to become Barcelona's next coach upon the payment of his release clause from Al-Sadd, the Qatari club said Friday. "Xavi is an important part of Al-Sadd's history and we wish him success," Al-Sadd said in a message on social media. The former Spain midfielder is set to replace Ronald Koeman, who was fired last week. Sergi Barjuan has led Barcelona since then. He will return to coaching the reserve team. The 41-year-old Xavi left Barcelona in 2015 after helping the club win 25 titles, including four Champions Leagues and eight Spanish leagues in 17 seasons. He was also key to Spain's streak of titles when they won the 2010 World Cup and European Championships in 2008 and 2012. He has been at Al-Sadd since then, first as a player and then as coach.

### Sasikiran goes down, slips to joint third

**RIGA (LATVIA):** Indian Grandmaster K Sasikiran went down to Alireza Firouzja of France in the eighth round of the Open event to slip to third spot in the FIDE Grand Swiss tournament here. Firouzja moved up to 6.5 points to grab the sole lead by a full point. A group of 10 players, including top seed and world No.2 Fabiano Caruana and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, are in joint second place. Sasikiran remained on five points to share the third spot with a bunch of players, including compatriots Nihal Sarin and P Harikrishna. Sarin shared a point with Maghsoodloo Parham of Iran while Harikrishna drew with Evgeniy Najer of Russia in round eight. In the women's event, D Harika drew against Olga Bedelka of Russia and fell behind in the race to qualify for the Candidates Tournament next year. She has five points after eight rounds and is among a group of players in joint fourth. Among the other Indian women, R Vaishali and Padmini Rout registered victories over Alina Bivol of Russia and Maria Elizaverra Floris of Spain in the eighth round.