



## SIBLING LOVE

Actor Sara Ali Khan says she missed her brother Ibrahim on Bhai Dooj as he was not in town

LEISURE P2



## TIFF REACHES FLASHPOINT

Bengal BJP's internal tiff between party's national VP Dilip Ghosh and Tripura ex-Governor Tathagata Roy reaches flashpoint

TWO STATES P8



## INDIAN HOPES END

New Zealand defeat Afghanistan by 8 wickets to enter semis of T20 World Cup

SPORTS P12



## IRAQ PM SURVIVES ASSASSINATION BID

**BAGHDAD:** A drone laden with explosives targeted the residence of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi in Baghdad early Sunday in what the Iraqi military called an attempted assassination, but said Kadhimi escaped unhurt. The attack, which security sources said injured several members of Kadhimi's personal protection, came after protests in the Iraqi capital over the result of a general election last month turned violent. The groups leading protests and complaints about the result of the October vote are heavily-armed Iran-backed militias which lost much of their parliamentary power in the election. They have alleged voting and vote-counting irregularities. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on Kadhimi's residence. **P10**



## MUSK ASKS IF HE SHOULD SELL TESLA STOCK

**CALIFORNIA:** Tesla CEO Elon Musk is asking on Twitter whether he should sell 10 per cent of his stock in the electric vehicle (EV) company amid pressure in Washington to increase taxes on billionaires like him. Some Democrats have been pushing for billionaires to pay taxes when the price of the stocks they hold goes up, even if they don't sell any shares. It's a concept called "unrealised gains," and Musk is sitting on a lot of them with a net worth of roughly \$300 billion. "Much is made lately of unrealised gains being a means of tax avoidance, so I propose selling 10% of my Tesla stock," he tweeted Saturday afternoon. "Do you support this?" Much of Musk's wealth is held in shares of Tesla, which does not pay him a cash salary.

**JSW Cement**  
The Leaders' Choice  
1800 266 266 1 (toll free)



**MARONED:** A worker pulls a rickshaw with passengers through a waterlogged area following heavy rain in Chennai, Sunday. A flood alert has been sounded to people living in Chennai suburbs **PTI PHOTO**

## Forces, Maoists exchange fire

**KALAHANDI:** An exchange of fire between Maoists and security forces was reported from Sagada jungle of Kalahandi district Sunday. Security forces engaged in a gunfight with Maoists in Sagada jungle around the same time when Odisha DGP Abhay was taking stock of the crime and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in Nuapada and Boudh districts Sunday. The exchange of fire was on till the time of filing this report. As per the latest information, the ultras, taking the advantage of the dense forest, have changed their location. The police are learnt to have recovered some Maoist-related articles from their earlier location.

## Fisherman killed in Pak firing

**DEVBHUMI DWARKA (GUJ):** A fisherman from Maharashtra was killed and a crew member of his boat was injured allegedly in firing by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) personnel near international maritime boundary line in the Arabian Sea off Gujarat coast, a police official said Sunday. The incident occurred around 4 PM Saturday, he said. "A fisherman from Thane in Maharashtra, who was on a fishing boat 'Jalpari', was killed after the PMSA personnel opened fire on him and other crew members Saturday evening," Devbhumi Dwarka Superintendent of Police Sunil Joshi said.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I know govt has banned liquor in the state. What I am selling is only spurious liquor!

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 30.0°C	30.0°C
	MIN 17.0°C	18.0°C
Humidity	73%	72%
Rainfall	NIL	NIL
Forecast	Dry weather very likely	

# 10 HURT IN PURI GROUP CLASH

■ 20 houses were gutted in a group clash that saw two factions hurling bombs at each other over encroachment of a patch of land at Nathapur village in Satapada



**Puri, Nov 7:** At least 10 persons were injured, two critically, and 20 houses were gutted in a group clash that saw two factions hurling bombs at each other over encroachment of a patch of land at Nathapur village in Satapada under Brahmagiri police limits here Sunday. Sources said around 30 Dalit families driven out from Brahmapada village under Krushnprasad block in Chilika have allegedly encroached upon a patch of grazing land near Nathapur village in Satapada for about six months now. This, however, did not go well with the Nathapur villagers, leading to discord between the two groups. Nathapur villagers had even approached the local tehsildar, but to no avail, as the officer was attacked by the encroachers when he visited the place, it was learnt.

After much hue and cry, the encroachers had agreed to vacate the grazing land. "However, instead of leaving the place, they were planning to build permanent structures on the land. In order to resolve the issue, a meeting between the two groups was called Sunday. Accordingly, a group of Nathapur villagers approached the encroachers Sunday. They (encroachers) attacked the villagers before hurling bombs at them," said a source quoting the villagers. With no solution in sight, the villagers fled the spot. Later, Nathapur residents too hurled bombs at the other faction. Around 20 houses were gutted and at least 10 persons from both the groups suffered critical injuries, till the last report came in. A fire tender from Brahmagiri station reached the place but it was pre-

## MAMITA MURDER CASE

# Eggs hurled at MoS Mishra's car

■ BJP has been agitating across the state for the last few days demanding the dismissal and arrest of Mishra and a CBI probe into the murder of Mamita Meher for his link with Gobinda Sahu

his link with Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the murder case. The BJP supporters allegedly showed black flags and threw eggs at the Minister's car near College Chhak while he was on his way to the programme site along with party organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Dash. It occurred a day before the scheduled visit of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to Kalahandi district Monday. There was a scuffle between the supporters of the BJP and the BJD following the incident and police has a tough time to control the situation. The BJP supporters under the leadership of MP Basant Panda Sunday took out a Nyaya (Justice) rally across Kalahandi demanding the dismissal of Minister Ditya Shankar Mishra from the council of Ministers and a CBI inquiry into the incident. Panda said the rally would be organised at different places of Kalahandi and Nuapada to elicit support for justice to Mamita. The agitation, he said would continue till the Chief Minister sacked Mishra and recommended for a CBI inquiry into the incident. BJP has also appealed to the people to boycott Chief Minister's programme Monday. But Mishra said the BJP was spreading lies and misinformation. The minister said he also has family, daughter and sister. He can never commit a political, social and religious mistake. The Congress, which is also agitating and demanding the resignation of the minister and a SIT probe monitored by Orissa High Court Chief Justice into the Mamita murder case, Sunday observed two minutes' silence across Kalahandi district for justice to Mamita. Meanwhile senior Congress leader Bhakta Das appealed to the people of Kalahandi to observe Janata curfew during the visit of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to the district Monday and not step out of their house. **(More P5)**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** The BJP activists Sunday allegedly showed black flags to Minister of State for Home Ditya Shankar Mishra and hurled eggs at his car while he was going to attend a party programme at Junagarh in Kalahandi district. BJP has been agitating across the state for the last few days demanding the dismissal and arrest of Mishra and a CBI probe into the murder of Mahaling English medium school teacher Mamita Meher for

## Naveen, Jagan likely to discuss Kotia, Polavaram issues

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart YS Jagan Mohan Reddy are likely to discuss the disputed border between the two states as well as inter-state river projects at a meeting here Tuesday. At the meeting scheduled to be held from 5 pm at the Lok Seva Bhavan here, the Chief Ministers are likely to take up the dispute over the Kotia cluster of villages in Koraput district, construction of Neradi barrage over the Vamsadhara river, and the Polavaram multi-purpose project on the Godavari river, officials said. The dispute over the ownership of 16 out of 28 villages of Kotia between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh is likely to figure at the meeting. Though the Kotia issue is sub-judice, officials are hopeful that the two Chief Ministers will try to settle the matter amicably. The Andhra government conducted panchayat polls in three villages in Kotia gram panchayat in Koraput district by changing their names in February this year, officials said. In August, the Supreme Court had asked the two states to resolve the Kotia issue through bilateral discussions.

## Meta Co to sue FB for infringing upon its name

■ Meta Company founder Nate Skulic said that when Facebook failed to buy them, it aimed to "bury" the company by force of media

**San Francisco, Nov 7:** In an interesting turn of events, a Chicago-based tech firm called Meta Company is going to court against Facebook, saying the social network stole its name and "liveliness" after it rebranded its name to Meta. In a statement, Meta Company founder Nate Skulic said that when Facebook failed to buy them, it aimed to "bury" the company by force of media. On October 28, "Facebook decided to commit trademark infringement and call themselves Meta," Skulic said in a public letter. "They couldn't buy us, so they tried to bury us by force of media. We shouldn't be surprised by these actions - from a company that continually says one thing and does another," Skulic added. Meta Company has decided to file the necessary legal actions against Facebook. "This message may be regarded as a public cease and desist," Skulic said. "Facebook and its operating officers are deceitful and acting in bad faith, not only towards us, but to all of humanity." Facing intense scrutiny over users' data privacy, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg last month announced that his company will have a new name, Meta. Somewhat predictably, Zuckerberg downplayed that this rebranding, the first in Facebook's 17 years of existence, is to divert a barrage of bad PR. The name "Facebook" doesn't fully encompass everything the company does now, and is still closely linked to one product, he added.

# COP26: Amid climate crisis, N-power has 'seat at table'

■ The spectre of Chernobyl and Fukushima, along with the problem of nuclear waste, has kept energy generated by splitting atoms on the sidelines, even if that energy is virtually carbon-free

UN's top nuclear regulator told this news agency. The spectre of Chernobyl and Fukushima, along with the enduring problem of nuclear waste, kept energy generated by splitting atoms on the sidelines, even if that energy was virtually carbon free. But as the climate crisis deepens and the need to transition away from fossil fuels becomes urgent, attitudes may be shifting. "Nuclear energy is part of the solution to global warming, there's no way around it," said Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in an interview. It already accounts for a quarter of "clean" - that is, carbon-free - energy worldwide, and Grossi said this COP is the first where it has



"had a seat at the table". **The winds are changing** To have even a 50/50 chance of capping global warming at 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels - the threshold for dangerous tipping points that could trigger runaway warming - global greenhouse emissions must be slashed by almost half within a decade, scientists say. But things are still moving in the wrong direction: a report Thursday said emissions in 2021 are approaching record levels. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has warned they could hit new heights by 2023. That is helping refocus attention on nuclear. "At the 2015 COP in Paris, nuclear wasn't welcome," said Callum Thomas, head of a recruitment firm for the nuclear industry, who

was spotted at COP26 sporting a T-shirt saying "Let's Talk Nuclear". "There was a belief it was not needed. Now many countries are looking at the feasibility, especially with the rise in gas prices." **Never stops** From the time he took the IAEA's helm nearly two years ago, Grossi, an Argentine diplomat, has been a tireless advocate for the industry. At his first COP in Madrid he "went in spite of the general assumption that nuclear would not be welcome". On the contrary in Glasgow, where nearly 200 countries are still trying to put flesh on the bone of the 2015 Paris Agreement, he said "nuclear is not only welcome, but is generating a lot of interest". Grossi argues that the technol-

ogy can not only speed the transition away from fossil fuels, but also power research on technologies needed for adapting to climate impacts, from finding drought-resistant crops to eradicating mosquitoes. He acknowledges that it carries serious risks. The meltdown of three reactors at Japan's Fukushima power plant in 2011 following an earthquake and a tsunami profoundly shook confidence in nuclear. The industry also has yet to find a way to dispose of nuclear waste, which remains highly radioactive for thousands of years. But Grossi said these issues are not disqualifying, arguing that statistically the technology has fewer negative consequences than many other forms of energy.



# leisure



## HANKS HAS 'NEVER BEEN ASKED' TO STAR IN ANY MCU MOVIE

Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks - who has enjoyed a star-studded career in numerous blockbusters - isn't giving up hope on receiving a call from Marvel Cinematic Universe. Appearing on a show, he revealed that Marvel bosses have never approached him for a role.

## WHEN THIRLWALL HAD TO EAT RAW CHICKEN

English singer and songwriter Jade Thirlwall revealed she doesn't like Sushi, a Japanese food made from raw chicken. But she claimed that she had to eat it live on a Japanese show pretending she loves the taste as in their culture it's very rude to not accept food.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
Career decisions and money matters will keep you busy today. And after all the work, you will want to spend some leisure time and take it easy. A leisure trip may materialise, which will put you in high spirits. Ganesha says indulging in group projects will help you make new friends.

**TAURUS**  
You will win the heart of your family members today, forecasts Ganesha. Try and delay auction bids or sealed tenders. Job aspirants may look forward to belated success in interviews. Ganesha advises you to take abundant precautions in all critical matters.

**GEMINI**  
Your business rivals may compete with you in sales and deals today, warns Ganesha. Care and concern must be the two watchwords in all your dealings. Hostility may come in the way of love. Those spurned in previous romantic liaisons may get a chance to pen a new love story, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
Today, you may have to do a lot of multi-tasking at work, predicts Ganesha. And you are likely to do it with the dexterity of a juggler. You will finish your pending tasks with ease. You will make seemingly impossible tasks look as simple as blinking.

**LEO**  
You will exercise your will today and will be in the mood to soar like a free bird today. You will not be in the mood to listen to anyone. Work related travel will be beneficial. Guard against ego clashes in personal relationships, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
Today you need to carry on with your success without resting on your past laurels. You will also need to stay focused and organised to continue with the same success level that you enjoyed in the past. Pay attention to your relationship matters as they are the quintessential of your success and peace of mind.

**LIBRA**  
If there's a knock on your door today, there's a very strong possibility it might be a marriage proposal. Don't get startled, and grab opportunities that come knocking (literally!). The stars send you a partner who shall be your match in every way. Have a long and happy married life, says Ganesha.

**SCORPIO**  
It seems, the book, 'How to win friends and influence people' has left a great impact on your mind, bringing about a lot of change in your practical life too. As you switch to a new business venture, your efforts will be appreciated. In short, you are a personality that every one would take a note of.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Running helter-skelter and muddling of affairs is on the menu. Expect not to find even a moment's peace. But take a break, says Ganesha. And dive right back in the chaos and make the most of it.

**CAPRICORN**  
Impulsiveness, which is not really your trait, will be very evident in whatever work you do today, say Ganesha. Money matters will keep you preoccupied for major part of the day, but ironically, your otherwise methodical approach to everything will go for a toss. You will splurge in the second half of the day, and it will be more than what your means can afford.

**AQUARIUS**  
Lady Luck gazes lovingly upon you today! Bosses are pleased, colleagues are happy, and this makes work seem like leisure. You may want to get in touch with old friends who have moved far away. What are you waiting for, asks Ganesha, in this age of communication?

**PISCES**  
You will have frequent mood swings today but you will still manage to fix a work related goal. Your mood will be better if you focus on work. You might feel stressed about some personal matter, but Ganesha says it is not a matter to worry. You will receive some good news by the end of the day.

## Odisha on world fashion scene again

Stunning designs from 'ikat' by globally acclaimed Odia fashionista Bibhu Mohapatra become the centre of attraction at the concert titled 'Come Home-Celebration of Return' in the United States



Opera stars at Kennedy Centre are seen wearing costumes designed by Bibhu Mohapatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha-born and New York-based Bibhu Mohapatra designs costumes for Washington National Opera at Kennedy Centre.

The concert is the first one to reopen the national opera after two years. The concert is called *Come Home-Celebration of Return*, which premiered November 6.

Bibhu puts his homeland Odisha on the World Opera stage front and

center by creating costumes from Odisha textiles.

He designed an architectural dress out of black, white and red cotton 'ikat' from Odisha was made for opera star Isabel Leonard and an orange and gold 'ikat' scarf and ivory Kotpad silk Nehru jacket for Lawrence Brown Lee.

Recently for the 2021 *Met Gala*, he dressed Puma creative director, June Ambrose, in a white silk faille gown that was hand embroidered by Indian artisans.



## Sara missed her bro Ibrahim on Bhai Dooj

Actor Sara Ali Khan missed her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan on Bhai Dooj, as the latter is not in the town on the special occasion.

Bhai Dooj, the festival of a symbol of brother-sister love was celebrated all over the country Saturday. On this day, sisters pray for their brothers to have long and happy lives by performing Tika ceremony and brothers offer gifts to their sisters.

The Simmba actor who has a close bonding with her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan, shared an endearing picture of him on her Instagram story.

With a moon shining in the backdrop, Ibrahim could be seen smiling as he poses for the lens.

"Happy bhai Dooj Iggy Potter. Missing you so much today! P.S. you're the only one that can manage to get my attention despite being in the same frame as the moon. Come home soon." Sara wrote alongside the snap.

For the unversed, Iggy and Iggy Potter are presumably Ibrahim Ali Khan's nicknames, as his sister, Sara often calls him in her posts.

## JANHVI calls herself 'Barbie Baby'

Actress Janhvi Kapoor recently took to the photo-sharing application Instagram and shared a string of images from her sister Khushi's 21st birthday bash. In the images, she can be seen dressed up in a hot pink body-con dress along with a pair of pink heels. She was looking no less than a Barbie doll.

In her caption, she called herself a 'Barbie Baby'.

Netizens also agreed and heaped praises on Janhvi.

"Beautiful barbie," a fan commented.

"New barbie in the town," another one wrote.

Speaking of Khushi's

dress, she chose to wear a rose pink corset-style dress.

The Dhadak actress was in the news for her views on female hygiene in India. "This is high time that we speak openly and freely about feminine hygiene care, and I think that's the first step in making sanitary pads and feminine care more easily available and accessible to a larger number of women in our country," she had said.

AGENCIES



## KAMAL HAASAN TURNS 67

# A SUPREME MASTER OF HIS CRAFT

From the time he began his career as a hero in *Kalathur 'Kannamma'* (1960) till *'Vikram'* (2021), Kamal Haasan as an artiste has continued to impress consistently

It is not without reason that Kamal Haasan is hailed as the *Ulaganayagan* or world leader by those in Tamil cinema.

Be it entertaining masses by acting in films, or hosting a demanding reality show such as *Bigg Boss*, or managing a political party, Kamal has proved beyond doubt that he is a genius who can excel in any field that he chooses to make his own.

The master craftsman, who has

fine-tuned his acting skills to the point of perfection, has earned the admiration and affection of scores of not just fans, but also actors and professionals from across all film industries.

What's more, he seems to be getting better and better, outdoing himself each time he becomes a part of a project.

Kamal's expertise in acting needs no introduction, nor any explanation. The level of skill that the actor possesses was best explained by director Shankar in an interview several years ago.

Shankar said: "Kamal sir observes everything while we narrate a story to him. When we read out a scene to him, he knows what the director expects of him. We don't need a trolley, or a jimmy jib, or any extra ad-

dition for a Kamal Haasan shot.

You can take the camera and zoom in on his face. Irrespective of the length of the shot, he will be able to hold your attention.

You can keep a

close-up, or have a lengthy shot. All you need to do is just watch and admire!"

To most people, the significance of this statement would go unnoticed. Close-ups are kept only when a director is supremely confident of the actor's skills as there is very little room for error on the artiste's part when such a shot is placed.

Several years ago, when he was first asked what he would want people to remember him as, Kamal said, "I want people to remember me as a good artiste."

Years later, the same question was posed to him during an interview by a different media outlet.

The actor recalled his earlier reply and then said he had evolved. He said, "What I want to be first remembered as is as a good human being. And then, maybe as a good human being, who could also act."

IAN S

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

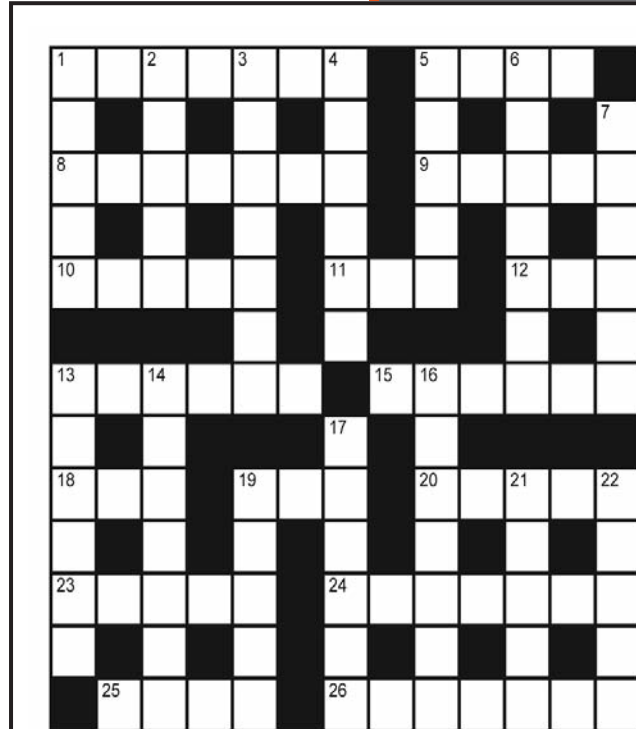


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



#### Across

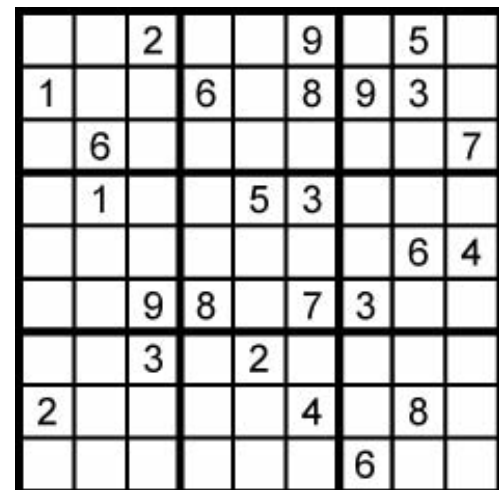
- 1 Chieftain
- 5 Longing
- 8 Recipe
- 9 Give the slip
- 10 Shooting sport
- 11 Cave dweller
- 12 Skye cap
- 13 Shriveled up
- 15 Lynx
- 18 Posed
- 19 Service charge

#### Down

- 1 Old sound systems (2-3)
- 2 Coincidence
- 3 Canadian police officer
- 20 Cots
- 23 Lotto relative
- 24 Kind of illusion
- 25 Coffee choice
- 26 Chastise
- 4 Close at hand
- 5 All thumbs
- 6 Vitriolic
- 7 Sanction
- 13 Sushi
- condiment
- 14 Ill-fated ship
- 16 Satellite
- 17 Brave
- 19 Leafage
- 21 Mother-of-pearl
- 22 Divvy up

### 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



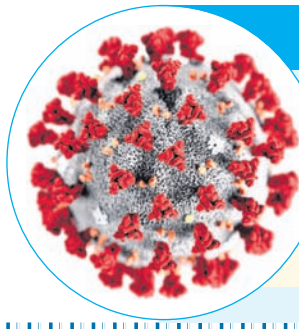
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## FOUNDATION DAY

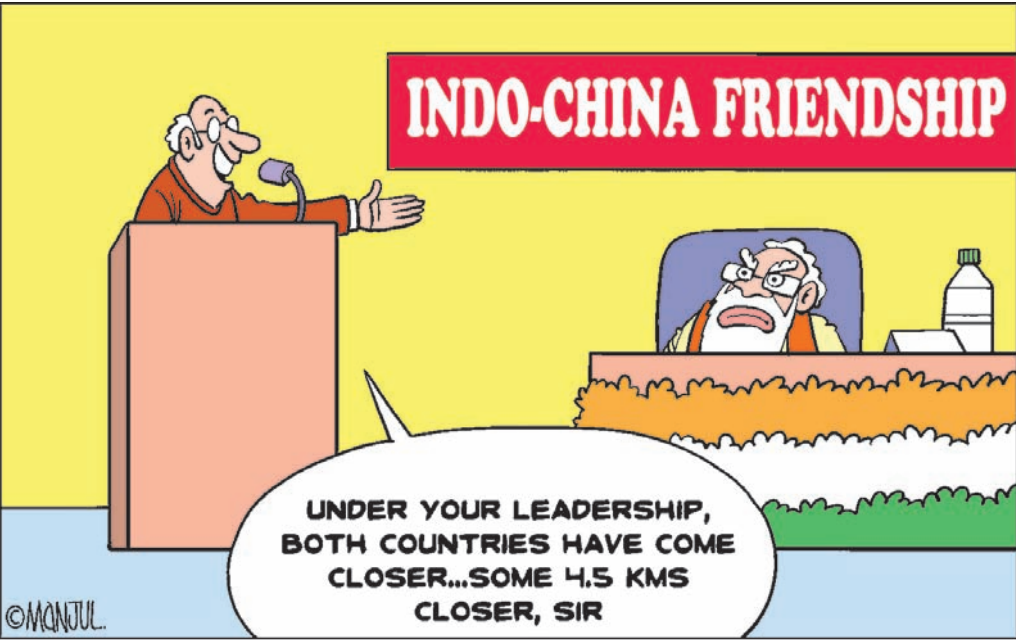
A rally underway on the Grand Road in Puri to mark the foundation day of Bharat Scouts and Guides, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	25,04,43,065	22,66,93,035	50,63,160
India	3,43,55,536	3,37,49,900	4,60,791
Odisha	10,43,469	10,31,850	8,357

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Six places in state record minimum temp below 15°C

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** With the onset of winter, at least six places in Odisha have recorded a minimum temperature of below 15 degrees Celsius, Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said Sunday. Daringbadi recorded 9.5 degrees Celsius temperature Saturday night, becoming the coldest town of Odisha for the day.

Daringbadi is being termed as the 'Kashmir of Odisha' due to the cold climate. The hill station is located in Kandhamal district at the height of about 3,000 ft above sea level. Koraput recorded 12.2 degrees Celsius minimum temperature, while Phulbani registered 12.6 degrees, the Meteorological Centre said. Similarly, Keonjhar, Titlagarh and Jharsuguda towns have registered the lowest temperature of 14.2, 14.3 and 14.6 degrees Celsius respectively. Besides, the citizens of the state capital Bhubaneswar experienced a night temperature of 17 degrees Celsius, whereas Cuttack city recorded 18 degrees Celsius.

The Centre further informed that a cyclonic circulation lies over southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining equatorial Indian Ocean off Sumatra coast. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over southeast Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood around November 9.

The system is likely to become more marked and move west north-westward towards north Tamil Nadu coast during the subsequent 48 hours, it said.

## Four new NDRF bases by next year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** With an aim to provide better rescue and relief measures to people in the face of natural disasters like floods and cyclones, four additional battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) will be fully operational by the middle of next year.

The four additional battalions will take the total number of NDRF battalions to 16. After obtaining approval from the Union Cabinet, the Union Home Ministry had in 2018 sanctioned the raising of four additional battalions for NDRF, including two from Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), one from Assam Rifles and one from Border Security Force (BSF). Of the two ITBP battalions, one each will be placed in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh while the other two raised from BSF and Assam Rifle will have their bases in Jammu and Kashmir and NCR, respectively, officials in the force said, adding that most of the battalions under training will complete their specialised course soon and will be ready for deployment.

As of now, 12 battalions are fully operational with their bases in Guwahati, Nadia (West Bengal), Cuttack, Vellore, Pune, Vadodra, Bhatinda, Ghazniabad, Patna, Guntur (Andhra Pradesh), Varanasi and Itanagar.

After the induction of four newly-raised battalions, over 4,500 trained personnel will be added to the strength of NDRF, an official said.

Normally, one battalion consists of 1,149 personnel with a specialised search and rescue team, paramedics, electricians, technicians and a dog squad for rescue operations.

## Realtor nabbed for duping man of ₹7L

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** The Commissionerate Police Sunday claimed to have arrested a realtor for allegedly duping an investor of more than Rs 7 lakh by promising a flat at a residential project on the city outskirts.

The accused was identified as Deepak Kumar Mohanty, 52, of Ganga Nagar area of the Capital city.

Mohanty, the CMD of real estate firm Appolo Infra Project Pvt Ltd, is now residing at Nageswar Tangi under Shree Lingaraj police limits.

According to police, Mihir Kanta Rath of Nayagarh had contacted Mohanty to purchase a plot in the Capital city after coming across an advertisement of Appolo Infra Project Pvt Ltd in 2014. Mohanty promised Rath to provide a flat in

his housing project, ASIANA Residency.

Subsequently, Rath paid Rs. 7,76,871 to the accused through several installments as per the agreement between both the parties.

However, Rath could not find any construction work on the plot in 2015. So, he asked Mohanty to return the money.

Subsequently, the accused gave two cheques to Rath. However, both the cheques were bounced due to insufficient fund in the accused's bank account.

After realising that he had been cheated by the accused, Rath lodged a complaint with Lingaraj police in 2015.

Police finally nabbed the accused who was evading arrest for last six years. The accused was sent to judicial custody after a local court rejected his bail plea.

## Infra woes at Atri hot spring



THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS FROM ACROSS THE STATE USUALLY THROG ATRI IN THE WINTER TO TAKE A DIP IN THE HOT SPRING AND OFFER PRAYERS AT NEARBY HATTAKESWAR TEMPLE

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE WATER OF THE HOT SPRING HAS MANY MEDICINAL PROPERTIES WHICH CAN CURE SKIN DISEASES

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khurda, Nov 7:** The hot spring at Atri in Khurda district, one of the major tourist destinations in Odisha, is yet to have proper infrastructure for the visitors.

The locals have alleged that the Tourism department and the district administration have failed to develop the hot spring complex to provide better facilities to the tourists.

Thousands of tourists from

across the state usually throng Atri in the winter to take a dip in the hot spring and offer prayers at nearby Hattakeswar temple. It is believed that the water of the hot spring has many medicinal properties which can cure skin diseases.

Every year, a big fair is organised at Atri on Makara Sankranti in the month of January. Many issueless women take dip in the hot spring and pray Lord Hattakeswar to bless them with children.

The state government has set up a bathing complex at the site. But, poor maintenance and unhygienic environment at the bathing complex have been troubling the tourists since last several days.

"The entire place is littered with garbage and scrubs. There are no separate lavatories for women and children. The main pool of the hot spring is in dilapidation. The site is yet to get proper infrastructure for the tourists," said a local.

Khurda Additional Collector Manoj Padhi said the district administration would soon take steps to improve infrastructure at Atri.



at primary and secondary education levels (90 per cent). Fewer countries have frameworks to support climate change education in Technical and Vocational Education and Training System (TVET), higher education (70 per cent) and teacher training education (55 per cent)," it added.

## 100 Police Mitras inducted to check crime in slums

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** Aiming to rein in rising crime and illegal drug trade, the Commissionerate Police (CP) Sunday selected 100 youths from various slums in City to work as 'Police Mitras' who will keep a tab on any illegal activities in their respective slums.

Twin City Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi formally inducted the volunteers under the "Basti Ku Chala" drive of City police.

Addressing the gathering, Priyadarshi said, "The voluntary participation of Police Mitras from 30 focus slums will be helpful in monitoring the activities in those areas."

These volunteers who registered themselves as Police Mitras will assist police officials in charge of the slums in their respective police stations.

Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash explained the works to be done by the volunteers in their slums. They will organise various social development programmes



Apart from keeping an eye on any illegal activities in their respective slums, the young volunteers will organise various social development programmes like blood donation camps and drug awareness camps

The Commissionerate Police selected the volunteers after properly verifying their antecedents

Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash warned the volunteers to not engage in any criminal activities or misuse their position for any personal gains

like blood donation camps and drug awareness camps.

Dash also informed the number of Police Mitras will be increased from 100 to 1000 soon.

The Commissionerate Police selected the volunteers, who did not have any past criminal record,

after properly verifying their antecedents. DCP Dash also warned the volunteers to not engage in any criminal activities or misuse their position for any personal gains. The volunteers were provided with specially designed T-Shirts and Caps for identification.

## 'Search' begins for new police chief

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Nov 7:** Speculation regarding the successor of Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay has started doing rounds as the top cop is scheduled to retire from service December 31.

The 1986-batch IPS officer was supposed to retire in June this year. However, he was given an extension of six months to complete his 2 year tenure as the DGP. As per the existing norms, no one would be appointed as DGP for less than two years.

There are discussions that Abhay's service period may be ex-



Sources claimed that the government has initiated the process to find a successor to DGP Abhay

tended for another six months as the state government is scheduled to hold the panchayat elections in the first half of 2022.

However, sources claimed that the state government has initiated process to find a successor to Abhay. It is learnt that the state govern-

ment has sent a list of senior IPS officers to the UPSC as part of the process to appoint a new DGP.

In this context, the names of senior IPS officers Pradeep Kapur, Sunil Kumar Bansal, BK Sharma, Manoj Kumar Chhabra, Santosh Kumar Upadhyay, Arun Kumar

## Decomposed body of author found in well

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** The decomposed body of 80-year-old author and painter Ajit Kumar Bir was recovered from the well inside the premises of his house at Lingaraj Nagar here Sunday.

Bir was unmarried and was reportedly staying alone. All his relatives are staying outside the state and country as well.

Sources revealed that he used to draw water from the well himself for the past few days after the water pump ceased to function. Sources also suspect that he might have fallen into the well four days ago.

The members of Pradeep Seva Trust, in the presence of Lingaraj Police, recovered the body which was later sent for post mortem. Police have launched investigation into the matter by registering an unnatural death case (42/21) in this regard.

Bir had done Masters in History from St Stephen's College which is affiliated to the University of Delhi. He was a poet, playwright, author and a painter. He had published several books including Philosopher King (Part - I).

Ray, M Akhaya and Binayanand Jha are doing the rounds for the top post of Odisha police.

Some of these senior IPS officers are scheduled to retire from the service within a year. Some insiders believe that the state government may pick either Upadhyay or Ray to lead the Odisha police. Both Upadhyay and Ray are 1988 batch IPS officers. Upadhyay is scheduled to retire in April, 2023 while Ray's service period will end in April, 2025.

"The state government may pick an Odia IPS officer as DGP," said a source in the Odisha police headquarters.

## UPHOLDING TRADITION



Women smear vermilion on each other as part of Sindur Khela before Goddess Kali at Laxmisagar in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

## Climate change not sufficiently integrated in edu framework: UNESCO

Profiles Enhancing Education Reviews, released by the GEM team in the backdrop of the UN Climate Change Conference underway in Glasgow, is aimed at describing laws and policies of countries on key themes in education so as to improve the evidence base on the implementation of national education strategies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Climate change is not yet sufficiently integrated into the education framework, and only

50 per cent of the countries emphasise on the subject in their national-level laws, policies or teaching plans, according to the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report by UNESCO.

Profiles Enhancing Education Reviews (PEER), released by the GEM team in the backdrop of the UN Climate Change Conference underway in Glasgow, is aimed at describing laws and policies of countries on key themes in education so as to improve the evidence base on the implementation of national education strategies.

"Only 75 per cent countries cover climate change subject in their national curricula framework, while only 40 per cent of them have education laws that cover climate change. At least 45 per cent of the countries include the subject in their education sector plans and strategies," according to the report.

"References are mainly found

hours and personal choices.

As of 2020, climate change education became mandatory across Italian schools as part of civics education.

"Indonesia updated its National Curriculum Framework in 2013 which includes climate as a core competence as part of the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that students should achieve. The Ministry of Education and Culture also organises climate change events, such as the regular Climate Change Education Forum and Expo, which focuses on climate change education topics and provides networking spaces for schools and educators," the report said.

It noted that Colombia has assigned a key role to its Ministry of Education in Climate Change Education (CCE) and has adopted a strong legal and policy framework on the issue.

"It adopted a National Climate

Change Policy in 2017, which sets out five strategies addressing information dissemination on science and technology, education, training and public awareness and climate change management planning and financing. The policy includes objectives to mainstream climate change into the formal education system," it said.

"Education is a critical tool to help populations understand and address the impacts of climate change, and to encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour to support more sustainable lifestyles and develop new skills and knowledge. Climate change education can enhance the resilience of vulnerable groups and communities with mitigation and adaptation strategies, especially in low-income countries, that risk being disproportionately affected by these changing conditions," the report added.



### 13K students still waiting for Plus II offline exam result



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** More than 13,000 Plus II students in Odisha are now staring at uncertainty as the state government is yet to publish the results of Plus II offline examination. Even though it has been a month since the offline exams were conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), the department reportedly has not even begun the evaluation process. This has caused thousands of students to lose out on their chance of getting admissions, since the Plus III admission process has been already completed in the state. Many colleges have even started their classes and curriculum, leaving deprived students in a state of panic. As per reports, the College Teachers and Employees Association has also raised concerns over the delay. However, CHSE has maintained a stoic silence over the same without providing any proper reason.

### Nalco to fill up 86 vacant posts

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a Navratna Central PSU and one of the largest integrated Alumina-Aluminium Complexes of Asia, has issued a notification for the recruitment of managers, deputy managers and other posts in several departments. As per the official notification, around 86 vacancies will be filled in H&A, PR&CC, Systems, Civil, Law, Finance, Mining, Chemistry/Lab, Geography, Marketing, Materials and Horticulture disciplines through the recruitment drive. Interested candidates can submit their online applications from November 8 onwards. The last date for submission of online applications is December 7, 2021. In addition to Basic Pay and DA in Industrial DA pattern, the other benefits shall include Perks (35 per cent of basic pay), Performance Related Pay based on the Company's as well as individual performance, Company accommodation or HRA, Medical facilities for self and family, Post-Retirement Medical Benefit, Leave Encashment, Pension as per NPS, Contributory Provident Fund, Group Insurance, Gratuity, etc. as per Company's Rule.

### WASSUP TODAY

- BHUBANESWAR**
- Pradyumna Bal birth anniversary, Pragativadi office, Mancheswar, 9am
  - Handloom Expo by Utkalika, Ekamra Haat, 10am
  - Meet by Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyala, institution premises, 10:30am
  - Protest by Odisha State Unorganised Workers' Union, near Labour Commissioner's Office, 11am
  - Programme by Odisha Vikash Parishad, Lower PMG, 12noon
  - Rally by Gaon Sathis, Lower PMG, 3:30pm
- 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.

## State logs 318 fresh nCoV cases, 3 deaths

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

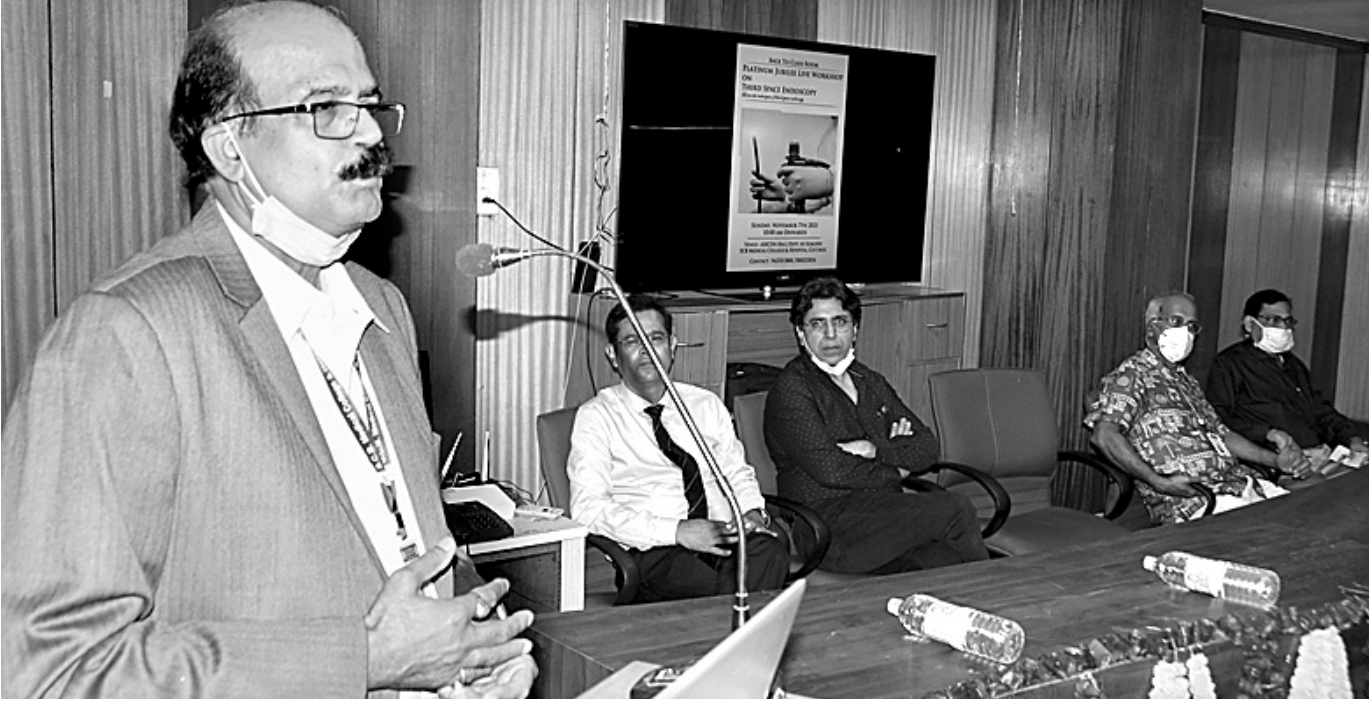
**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** Odisha Sunday registered 318 new cases, taking the state's Covid-19 caseload to 10,43,469, while three fresh fatalities pushed the coronavirus death toll to 8,357, a Health department official said. The new cases included 58 children and adolescents. The rate of infection among people in the age group of 0 to 18 years stood at 18.23 per cent against the previous day's 11.05 per cent. The state had reported 208 Covid-19 cases Saturday, 170 Friday and 351 Thursday. Of the 318 new cases, 186 were from quarantine centres while the remaining 132 were local contacts. Khurda district, of which state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded the highest of 139 cases, followed by Cuttack (31). Khurda district alone accounted for above 43 per cent of the state's daily caseload. Six other districts

reported nil cases. With 318 people testing positive for the infection out of 62,842 samples tested, the state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) now is 0.50 per cent. The TPR was 0.40 per cent Saturday and 0.30 Friday. The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department informed that all the three fresh fatalities reported Sunday came from Khurda district which took the state's coronavirus death toll to 8,357. This apart, 53 other Covid-19 patients have also died due to comorbidities, the department said. The coastal state currently has 3,209 active Covid-19 cases while 10,31,850 patients including 425 Saturday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease. Odisha has thus far conducted over 2.24 crore sample tests including 62,842 Saturday. The state's cumulative positivity rate now is 4.65 per cent. The state has thus far fully inoculated 1,24,98,422 people with both doses of Covid-19 vaccine.



POST NEWS NETWORK

### WORKSHOP ON ENDOSCOPY



Experts at a workshop on endoscopy organised by the surgery department of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, Sunday. OP PHOTO

## Virtual tour peeks into Lanjia Saora culture

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** The ST&SC Development (STSCDEV) department, in this week's virtual tour of Odisha State Tribal Museum Sunday, showcased the life and culture of the Lanjia Saora community through Facebook and Twitter pages of STSCDEV and SCSTRIT. SCSTRIT Director AB Ota said that Lanjia Saora is one of the primitive sections of Saora tribe. These people live in the districts of Gajapati and Rayagada (Eastern Ghats Region). Their occupations include wall painting, wood carv-



**Lanjia Saora are called so for their distinct dressing pattern which includes a loin cloth hanging in the front and back like tails (Lanja)**

ing, stone terracing and water management, and cashew plantation and processing. The traditional dress of a Saora woman is a coarse waist cloth. During cold, they cover their upper body with another cloth. Saora

women do not use too many ornaments. They enlarge their earlobes to wear wooden ear plugs and have a characteristic tattoo in the middle of the forehead. The Lanjia Saoras have a shattered type of housing pattern in the

hill slopes. They install the village guardian deities represented by wooden posts in the entrance of the village. They pursue shifting cultivation, and ingeniously prepare stone bounded terrace fields with inbuilt water management system for paddy cultivation. They have their male and female 'Samans' to fulfill their magico-religious needs. They are famous for their attractive wall painting called 'Idital'. Lanjia Saora are called so for their distinct dressing pattern which includes a loin cloth hanging in the front and back like tails (Lanja).

### IN MEMORIAM



An event in the memory of Gandhian SN Subba Rao being organised by the Odisha Scouts and Guides in Bhubaneswar, Sunday. OP PHOTO

### Blood donation camp at IIT Bhub

The samples were carefully sealed and transported to the blood bank of Capital Hospital



POST NEWS NETWORK

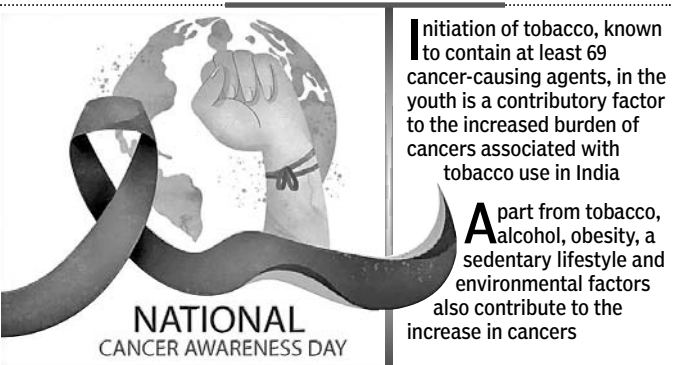
**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** IIT Bhubaneswar and NSS Odisha organised a blood donation camp Sunday in collaboration with Capital Hospital and NGO Sahaya at the community centre located in IIT campus. The camp saw a total of 92 participants including students, faculty and staff members coming together to donate blood for the noble cause. Volunteers helped and gave moral support to those donating blood. The samples were carefully sealed and

transported to the blood bank of Capital Hospital. RV Raja Kumar, Director of IIT Bhubaneswar, appreciated the participation of students, faculty, and staff in the camp and also expressed gratitude for the initiative taken by the NSS coordinators. "It is commendable that our NSS unit has come forward to organise the camp like normal times. A drop of blood donated is a life saved, and this has guided our faculty, staff and students into an impressive turnout for the benevolent cause," said the Director.

### NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS DAY

## EXPERTS GIVE REASONS, REMEDIES FOR RISING CASES

Although India has been battling the incidences of cancer for a long time, the latest estimates peg them to be rising at a significantly higher rate. Once thought of as an old age disease, cancer is now a cause of concern among the youth and children too. The National Cancer Awareness Day is observed November 7 every year in India, to increase awareness about cancer prevention and the need for its early detection. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there will be an estimated 12 per cent rise in cancer cases in India in the next five years. Longer life expectancy is a major contributor to the overall cancer incidence. As people grow old, their bodies have longer time to allow faults to build up and the body accumulates more of these faults in the genes, considerably increasing the risk of cancer. Larger proportion of older individuals is the first cause of increased cancer cases. The higher the proportion of older age in the population, the higher is the chance of cancer, said Wesley M Jose, Clinical Associate Professor at Medical Oncology department of Amrita Hospital, Kochi. Further, males (52.4 per cent) are more prone to the risk of all cancer cases compared to females (47.4 per cent). Tobacco use is the major reason, comprising 48.7 per cent of cancers among males and 16.5 per cent among females. A recent report stated that the number of cancers associated with tobacco use in 2025 would be 4,27,273, contributing to 27.2 per cent of India's total projected cancer cases. Initiation of tobacco, known to contain at least 69 cancer-causing agents, in the youth is a contributory factor to the increased burden of cancers associated with tobacco use in India. Tobacco cessation will reduce the cancer burden by about 25 per



CHILDHOOD CANCER, MAINLY OF LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMAS, IS ALSO SEEING AN INCREASING TREND WHILE ACCORDING TO ICMR; CHILDHOOD (0-14 YEARS) CANCERS CONSTITUTE 7.9 PER CENT OF ALL CANCERS

cent. The major contributing factor is tobacco and ghutka consumption that directly accounts for 27 per cent of cancers in India, according to Murad E. Lala, Oncologist at PD Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mahim, Mumbai. "We all know that oral and lung cancer that affects our male pop-

ulation to the maximum can be prevented by curbing smoking and tobacco consumption. We need to start thinking of some unhealthy foods similar to what we think about tobacco - unnecessary, addictive, and harmful," said Anil Heroor, Director-Advanced Onco-Surgery Unit, Fortis Hospital, Mumbai. Apart from tobacco, alcohol, obesity, a sedentary lifestyle and environmental factors also contribute to the increase in cancers. The overall living circumstances of the Indian population have improved and that have also led to a larger sedentary workforce, which has access to a high-calorie diet. These factors indirectly have affected the rise in numbers, Jose said. Nearly six types of cancers are linked to obesity and are slowly on the rise among people under 50. These are cancers of the colon or rectal, pancreas, kidney, gallbladder, uterine (also called endometrial cancer), and multiple myeloma. These cancers are often not discovered in younger people until the disease is advanced and harder to treat, Heroor said. Childhood cancer, mainly of leukemia and lymphomas, is also seeing an increasing trend. Childhood (0-14 years) cancers con-

stitute 7.9 per cent of all cancers, according to ICMR. Clarifying further on this, Jose said that the common types of cancers in children are leukemia, lymphoma, CNS tumour, retinoblastoma and Wilm's tumour. While most of the childhood cancers are curable if detected early and treated appropriately, children in India have limited access to tertiary centres that treat childhood cancers. This delay in treatment causes the survival rate to drop. The cancer burden on the country can be reduced by strengthening the government health systems, making universal health coverage, health education, treatment compliance, and early detection centres at the community level. Besides, vaccination for virus-related cancer like liver and cervix, and improved physical activity, stricter tobacco and alcohol laws can also help, the experts suggested.

IAN

### FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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



MAMITA MURDER CASE

‘Don’t defame my daughter’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bolangir, Nov 7:** Deceased lady school teacher Mamita Meher's father Suchandra Meher broke his silence Saturday through a video message. Meher appealed to opposition parties and the media to refrain from indulging in "character assassination" of his daughter.

The woman's family has taken umbrage over Kantabanji Congress MLA SS Saluja's recent remark that she had been to the house of Minister of State for Home Diba Shankar Mishra at Raipur along with the prime accused Gobinda Sahu for a compromise. Saluja had claimed they visited

Mishra's residence for three days from September 20-23, and that the minister had tried to resolve differences between her and the prime accused, who is the president of the managing committee of the private school in Kalahandi district.

Opposition parties are mounting pressure on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to sack Mishra from the council of ministers, alleging that he is close to the prime accused. The body of the teacher was October 19 exhumed from the playground of the school where she worked. Two persons, including the prime accused, have been arrested in this connection.

The police said the prime suspect in the kidnap and murder case had a grudge against the teacher, as she was aware of his extra-marital affairs and had warned that she would expose him.

The deceased teacher's father also said he and his family have full faith in Patnaik and are optimistic of getting justice.

Saluja further said the woman's family is making such statements due to "pressure" from some quarters. "They are frightened and panicked. They feel helpless as the minister was not sacked despite a statewide furore for a month. Therefore, they now have to publicly speak about having trust in the CM," he said.

CLEAN BEACH



Forest officials and volunteers carrying out a cleanliness drive on the beach from Barunei river mouth to Dobindha under Rajnagar range to ensure smooth nesting of Olive Ridley Turtles at Gahirmatha, Sunday

5 held over contract killing of local leader

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, Nov 7:** Padwa police arrested five persons in connection with the murder of a local leader Mohan Das Hantal (39) in this district.

He went missing in June, 2021. Reports said that the accused persons were identified as Rama Rao, Biman, Sridhar, Kanhu and Bipana and they have confessed to the crime.

Being jealous of Hantal's influence in the area, a person named Shiva Khara had plotted the murder. He was a native of Dumuribari village under Hatibari gram panchayat.

Rao along with Biman, Sridhar, Kanhu, Bipana, Apana, and Dana killed Hantal and buried the body after being paid ₹60,000 by Shiva for the contract killing.

Following the confession, the remains were exhumed from a location Sunday, police said. "Three weapons used in the crime have been seized from the house of Rao.

They have been booked under Sections 302, 201, 120-B, and 34 of the IPC and forwarded to the court," they said.

No end to poaching in sanctuary

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Nov 7:** Wildlife in Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district is facing threat from poachers. According to a report, in the last two decades, over 400 poachers have been arrested for killing animals in the sanctuary. The killing of deer and other animals is still going on unabated.

It was learnt that a team of the state and district level officials of the women and child development department had visited Dangamala crocodile breeding centre a few days ago. They had their dinner at Aranya Nivas. What is shocking is that venison (deer meat) was part of their menu. This was alleged by several outfits like Raha Foundation, Jaydurga Foundation and Bhitarkanika Yuva Parishad.

Alleging such a glaring violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, members of these outfits staged protests at Jaydurga gate Saturday. Kanika ranger Manas Kumar Das rushed to the agitation spot and assured the protesters of looking into the matter. The agitating people then relented.

The manager of the Aranya Nivas said that the meat had been bought from outside for the dinner while dis-



Allegedly, a team of officials of the W&CD department had visited Dangamala crocodile breeding centre a few days ago and had venison (deer meat) in their dinner at Aranya Nivas

This was alleged by several outfits like Raha Foundation, Jaydurga Foundation and Bhitarkanika Yuva Parishad and an agitation was staged by them

LOCALSLAMENTED OVER THE FACT THAT TOP OFFICIALS COMING TO THE NATIONAL PARK ARE BEING APPEASED WITH MEAT OF WILD ANIMALS

tribut welfare officer Chinmayee Rath said that meat was part of the menu, but the meat was not venison.

This incident which is under the scanner of the public and the forest department is a pointer to the fact that some animals are under threat due to the high demand for their meat.

Locals alleged that deer, boars and crocodiles are being hunted in the national park area on a daily basis, but the forest department looks the other way.

Besides, domestic and foreign birds are hunted by poachers, but such cases often go unnoticed. Official records of the

forest department say, over 400 poachers have been arrested over the last two decades.

Locals observed that as the rate of conviction in such wildlife crimes is miserable, poaching has not been fully curbed in the national park.

Jasobant Singh, Pabitra Karan, Jagannath Das, Rabindra Singh and Suryakant Das have claimed that poachers have been killing deer, boars, and rabbits by using snares. Some poachers set dogs to divert deer and rabbits from their groups to hunt them easily, they said.

They lamented over the fact that top officials coming to the national park are being appeased with meat of wild animals.

They stated that poaching inside the national park will be curbed if the accused are handed out stringent punishment.

The forest department has no forensic laboratory to properly investigate the wildlife crimes, while the conviction of such crimes depends on the investigating officers, they added. Kanika ranger Das said that protection of wild animals is the top priority. Officials are working sincerely to check such crimes while an investigation into the serving of deer meat in the dinner is underway, he added.

Fake teachers in govt schools raise concern

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** The state government had recently ordered a probe for weeding out fake teachers working in schools across the state. The real problem remains that such fake teachers are still in schools, taking the future of pupils into jeopardy.

Such false teachers reportedly enter the teaching system by submitting fake documents. However, these people get away as their documents are never properly checked.

This has not only risked the lives of children but also deprived the deserving candidates with proper degrees from getting jobs. A number of Public Interest Litigations (PIL) filed in the Orissa High Court in this regard has prompted the apex court to direct the government to take necessary measures and remove the fraudulent teachers.

The Directorate of Elementary Education has issued letters to as many as 23 District Education Officers (DEOs) including Sambalpur, Bhadrak, Khordha and Cuttack in this regard.

‘BAMBOO SOLUTION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CRISIS’

DAVID TRUJILLO, AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN COVENTRY UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT, WAS AT THE COP26 CLIMATE SUMMIT IN GLASGOW FOR DELIVERING A PRESENTATION ON WHY BAMBOO COULD PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Glasgow, Nov 7:** With the construction industry having a huge environmental footprint, especially in developing nations like India, where a lot of construction will take place over the next 50 years, timber and bamboo offer a solution to reduce carbon emissions, says an expert.

Steel and cement manufacture are deemed to produce around 8 per cent each (around 16 per cent) of the world's carbon emissions. The nations must find substitutes to these materials.

The construction industry has a huge environmental footprint. According to some sources it is responsible for about 40 per cent of the world's carbon emissions between the construction of buildings and infrastructure and operation of buildings, David Trujillo, an assistant professor in Coventry University's School of Energy, Construction and Environment, said.

He spoke to IANS in detail about the structural utility of bamboo, and how its use in the construction industry could help to step up efforts to combat climate change.

In developing nations like India, where we would expect a lot of construction to

**In developing nations like India, where we would expect a lot of construction to take place over the next 50 years, this is likely to be very significant. We must find substitutes for steel and cement materials**

DAVID TRUJILLO | ASST PROFESSOR, COVENTRY UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT



Many developing countries in the tropics and subtropics have plenty of bamboo resources, this includes India. It is a resource that is ready to be exploited

Another key benefit is that initial studies seem to suggest that bamboo is more productive per hectare and sinks more carbon, than timber. It also creates an additional and continuous source of income for rural communities

MODERN BAMBOO HOUSING HAS EXCELLENT TRACK RECORD IN DISASTER RESILIENCE (EARTHQUAKES AND TYPHOONS), LOW COSTS AND HIGH LEVELS OF THERMAL COMFORT

COP26

take place over the next 50 years, this is likely to be very significant. We must find substitutes for steel and cement materials, he said in the interview.

In developing countries, it is very common to construct buildings out of reinforced concrete and concrete blocks. I believe this is accurate for India also. We must change the way we build.

Responding to why the bamboo is an important material, he said timber and bamboo offer a solution to reduce carbon emissions for two reasons. First, transforming them into useful materials requires little energy input.

And second, if responsibly grown and harvested, they can potentially act as carbon sinks.

However, in most developing countries we have

few established commercial forests ready to be exploited, and we must avoid exploiting primary forests. If we committed to planting timber forests now, it would be at least 25-50 years before we could harvest them.

We cannot wait that long. Many developing countries in the tropics and subtropics have plenty of bamboo resources, this includes India. It is a resource that is ready to be exploited.

And if they do not have them, it will only take about 10 years from green field to highly productive forest. Bamboo forests are easy to exploit, and in fact perform better if they are regularly exploited, the Coventry University researcher told IANS. He was at the 26th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow for delivering a

presentation on why bamboo could play a crucial role in the future of the construction industry.

On how wide of a scale bamboo could be planted, he replied, "As bamboo can be, and has been, introduced in degraded soils, it seems possible that any increase in plantation and production can be undertaken without displacing primary forests or agricultural land."

Another key benefit is that initial studies seem to suggest that bamboo is more productive per hectare and sinks more carbon, than timber.

About the social benefits of bamboo in construction, he said there are many. Firstly, it creates an additional and continuous source of income for rural communities. Unlike mining, which is capital intensive and concentrated,

bamboo exploitation requires little capital and can be spread broadly. However, there are plenty of opportunities to gener-

ate new industries associated with its preservation, transformation, etc. Modern bamboo housing has excellent track record in disaster resilience (earthquakes and typhoons), low costs and high levels of thermal comfort.

It is expected that construction of multi-storey engineered bamboo frames (for now only a potential and not current technology) would have similar benefits that modern timber structures have better working environments, lower air pollution during construction, improved working conditions, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
N.H. DIVISION, BERHAMPUR  
No.B-17:-  
e-mail: eenhbm@gmail.com  
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]  
Bid Identification No. EE-NH-BAM/02 No. 5115 // Dated :03.11.2021

- The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, N.H. DIVISION, BERHAMPUR on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road work as detailed in the table below.
- Nature of work : Road
- No. of work : 1 No.
- Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/- (online)
- Class of Contractor : B' Class, A' Class.
- Availability of Bid document in portal : 11.00 AM of 11.11.2021 to 05.00 PM of 18.11.2021.
- Date of opening of bid : 20.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersorissa.gov.in.
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of will be displayed in the e-tender website only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer, NH Division, Berhampur  
OIPR-34082/11/0002/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
SONEPUR (R&B) DIVISION, SONEPUR  
No.B-558:-  
E-procurement Notice  
BID IDENTIFICATION No.: EE/R&B/SNPR/15/2021-22  
E-mail- eepwdsnpr@gmail.com, Phone- 06654-221081  
No. 4289// Dt.2.11.21

- The Superintending Engineer, Sonapur (R&B) Division, Sonapur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in Single Cover System in Online Mode for construction of Road & Buildings works detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
- No. of work : 02 (Two)
- Tender cost : Rs.6,000/- for Serial No. 1&2
- Class of contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class contractor for Serial No.-1 'C' & 'B' Class contractor for Serial No.2
- Date and time available in : From 10.00 A.M. of 09.11.2021 to 5.00 P.M. of 18.11.2021
- Date of opening of tender : 20.11.2021 at 11.30 A.M.
- The bidders have to participate in online bidding only, further details can be seen from the website.
- Any corrigendum / addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer,  
Sonapur (R&B) Division, Sonapur  
OIPR-34081/11/0011/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA  
e-mail: eerwsskd@gmail.com, eerwss\_kld@nic.in, Phone No.: 06670-230784  
INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e-TENDERING  
Cancellation of Bid Identification No.-49/EE/RWSS/2021-22 / Bpt Dated 26.10.2021  
No.O-898:-  
01. Name of the work: As per ANNEXURE-A

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only		Date of opening (Technical bid)
		From	To	
1 Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	2 49/EE/RWSS/2021-22 / Bpt Dated- 26.10.2021	3 03.11.2021 10.00 A.M.	4 22.11.2021 05.30 P.M.	5 23.11.2021 10.00 AM onwards

Cancellation of Bid Identification No. - 49/EE/RWSS/2021-22 / Bpt Dated 26.10.2021 due to unavoidable circumstance.  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna  
OIPR-25054/11/0010/2122

Bank of India  
Zonal Office:Keonjhar, At: Kashipur,  
Po: Mandua, Keonjhar-758014, Odisha

POSSESSION NOTICE  
For Immovable Property [Rule-8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor in the loan Account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India for the amount mentioned below plus interest & expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the Secured Assets .

Branch Name / Name & Address of Borrower/Guarantor	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/Date of Possession	Description of the Property
<b>BALASORE BRANCH /</b> Borrower/Mortgagor: Smt Priti Shaw, W/o: Jaydev Saha, Prop. of New Blue Heaven Garment, Guarantor: Mr Jaydev Saha, S/o: Ranjit Prasad Saha, both are address At: Ranipatna, PO: Nayabazar, Dist: Balasore - 756001 .	Rs.15,36,930/- + Interest & expenses thereon	20.04.2021 / 02.11.2021	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land at Khata No. 174/160, Plot No. 472/783, Area: A0.08 dec., Mouza: Gouda gauda, Balasore, KISSAM: Gharabari in the name of Mrs Priti Shaw, Bounded by: North- Rest part of Vacant Plot.472, South- Rest part of Vacant Plot.472, East- Vacant Land (Mouza Kunkumasuli), West- Road .

Place: Keonjhar, Date: 06.11.2021  
Authorised Officer, Bank of India



Timidity is a form of vanity. When you are timid, it means that you attach more importance to the opinions others have of you than to the sincerity of your actions.

THE MOTHER



## Swinging Voters

Just a year back America's Democrats were jubilant that they had pushed the then US President Donald Trump out of USA's political space which was their main political-electoral agenda. But, barely a year later things have started changing for the Democrats at an alarming pace. Their Trump-centric agenda or Trump-bashing no longer seems to work the way it has, so far. They need to come out of that groove and deliver: Simply policy initiatives that they have taken in a big way do not seem to be enough. The smouldering anger of the voters – mainly the working people without jobs and parents greatly worried about their children still unable to find their way to classrooms because of the pandemic – has to be assuaged. Or else, the coming year could present insurmountable hurdles for the Democrats.

The Republicans this week pushed Democrats out of the Virginia governorship and came within striking distance of upstaging them in the heavily Democratic New Jersey, signaling trouble for President Biden's party heading into next year's Congressional elections.

In Virginia, Republican Glenn Youngkin, a former private equity executive, defeated former Governor Terry McAuliffe of the Democratic Party. The goof-up McAuliffe made by arrogantly dismissing the concerns of parents anxious for the resumption of proper school life for their children exacerbated the voters' anger. In sharp contrast, Youngkin smartly did tightrope walking by adopting a tactical line of distancing himself from Trump, thereby not antagonising the moderate elements among Republican voters who had switched sides to help Biden go past Trump in the last Presidential election. In New Jersey, incumbent Democrat Phil Murphy somehow scraped through defeating the Republican challenger Jack Ciattarelli, even though registered Democratic voters outnumber Republicans there by more than 1 million. It should have been smooth sailing for Murphy. Both Republican candidates saw strong gains in the suburbs from independent voters who had been annoyed with Trump's style of politics.

The most jaw-dropping loss the Democrats suffered is the defeat in New Jersey of the influential and long-serving Democratic State Senate President Steve Sweeney, who lost to a first-timer, Edward Durr; a furniture company truck driver who spent less than \$200 for electioneering. Sweeney paid the price of not caring enough for the toiling masses. Also, voters in Minneapolis rejected a measure to replace the city's police department with a 'Department of Public Safety,' 17 months after George Floyd's murder led to nationwide calls to abolish or defund the police. Their message to the Democrats is loud and clear. They want real action rather than empty rhetoric.

The results in these states that Biden won easily in 2020 suggest that Democrats' wafer-thin majorities in Congress are highly vulnerable in the 2022 elections. If Republicans gain control of both, or even one, chamber of Congress, the party would be in a position to block Biden's legislative agenda in the final two years of his term. This certainly does not augur well for the Democrats. A few factors are believed to have contributed to the Democrats' poor performance. Chief among them is the wrangling within the Democrats – progressive Left and moderate pro-corporate – over Biden's Congressional agenda. Because of this people are upset and uncertain about a lot of things, from COVID to school to jobs and the cost of gasoline. There was too much delay for the Biden administration's ambitious Build Back Better initiative which aims at providing roads and other infrastructure that will take care of much of the pandemic-induced problems of job loss and low growth. The top Democrats in Congress vowed to push ahead on Biden's legislative agenda, hoping to pass twin bills worth a combined \$2.75 trillion to rebuild roads and bridges, bolster the social safety net and fight climate change. They have been held up due to months of infighting between progressive and moderate Democrats.

As US watchers correctly point out, the debate within the Democrats over tax cuts and corporate lobbying on the one hand and job creation, infrastructure building and growth on the other have cost them dearly in this election which left the people confused and angry in the absence of immediate tangible results. The progressives in the Democrats want the moderate pro-corporate lobby to accept taxation of the rich for providing jobs to the working class and the not much educated moderate white population. But, as the party dithered, unable to withstand pressure from the corporate world not to go ahead with greater taxation, people's anger at lack of concrete results grew.

Policies are good up to a certain point. But, if they take time to bear fruits, the mood of the voters swings.

The problem seems to be that the Democrats have not done enough for the working people and the corporate Democrats are standing in the way of the popular policies. A lesson quickly learnt from the outcome of these recent elections of a much smaller scale, though fraught with far-reaching consequences, may enable the Biden Presidency to salvage its sagging popularity. Trump is waiting in the wings and he may run for yet another term in 2024. His attempt to claim credit for the Republicans' victory points to a development in that direction.

### WISDOM CORNER

This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness.

DALAI LAMA

The wise are wise only because they love. The fool are fool only because they think they can understand love.

PAULO COELHO

They who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.

EDGAR ALLAN POE

### WORDSWORTH

#### Policy wonk

Wonk is a disparaging term for a studious or hard-working person. It is first recorded, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, in an article in Sports Illustrated in December 1962, though Fred Shapiro of Yale Law School has turned up an example from Time in 1954. It gained a wider exposure, for example, through being used in Erich Segal's Love Story of 1970: "Who could Jenny be talking to that was worth appropriating moments set aside for a date with me? Some musical wonk?" The clue to its origin may be in that article in Sports Illustrated, in which it is explained that in Harvard slang there was a tripartite classification of students into wonks, preppies, and jocks. It seems that all three terms were around in the 1950s and that they have moved into mainstream use in the decades since. The word was presumably taken to Washington by Harvard graduates and formed the basis for the modern term policy wonk, which – as you say – is where most of us encounter it. There it acquired the meaning of "a policy expert, especially one who takes an obsessive interest in minor details of policy", with a disparaging implication of someone immersed in detail and out of touch with the real world. Now to the 64-dollar question: where did the word come from? This is where we step on to shaky ground. Some have suggested that it may be known written backwards or an acronym for WithOut Normal Knowledge. More seriously, others find an origin in the British word wonky, meaning something or someone unsteady or unsound; even if a connection is found, which seems unlikely, it just takes the problem back a few decades, since we don't know where wonky comes from either. A source in wank, for masturbation, has also been suggested. A popular derivation links it with Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, but though Roald Dahl's original story Charlie and the Chocolate Factory dates from 1964, the name Wonka was really only popularised by the film; and wonk, as we've seen, is anyway older than either. Others suggest links with various other known senses of wonk: as 1920s slang for a useless naval cadet or midshipman; as the name for a Chinese dog; a disparaging Australian aboriginal word for a white man; or 1940s Australian slang for an effeminate or homosexual man. None of these have solid evidence in their favour, and only the naval slang sounds even moderately plausible. We really don't know.



Shivaji Sarkar

**THE GLOBAL AREA OF DRY LANDS IS EXPECTED TO EXPAND AS THE CLIMATE WARMS. VARIOUS PROJECTIONS ON EMISSION SCENARIOS INDICATE ARID LANDS WILL INCREASE BY 11 TO 23 PER CENT COMPARED TO A 30-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1961 TO 1990**

The climate summit COP26 is full of promises even as desertification of the world over increases. The meet is less on concrete terms to bring down temperature and high on verbose. It's a 'failure', is how youth activist Greta Thunberg described it during the protest in Glasgow. She termed it as having turned into a 'PR event to fight for the status quo,' and compared it to a 'global north greenwash festival.'

On the Indian front, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has struck the right note. He has taken time till 2070 so that India's development is not smothered by the reticence of the developed world. He says that the commitment to climate has a cost and the rich nations are not meeting out their pledge of providing \$100 billion a year to developing nations by 2020, as agreed at the climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009. The target has simply not been met yet.

Nations such as Saudi Arabia, Japan and Australia on the other hand are asking the United Nations to play down the need to move rapidly from fossil fuels. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that 32000 submissions have been made by governments, companies and other interested parties to dilute the issues of fossil fuel.

They are arguing that the world does not need to reduce the use of fossil fuels as quickly as the current draft of the report recommends. A West Asian country's oil ministry has sought removal of phrases such as the need for urgent and accelerated mitigation actions at all scales. The issue of temperature reduction by 2 degrees widely talked may remain on paper as they press for slower action and cutting temperature limit reduced to 1.5 degrees.

Australia does not accept the conclusion that closing coal-fired thermal power plants are necessary, even though the COP26 objective is to end the use of coal that adds to the problem of greenhouse effect. OPEC also asks the IPCC to delete lobby activism. It would protect rent extracting business models. Saudi Arabia wants deletion of the UN conclusion that the focus of decarbonisation efforts in the energy sector needs to

### FOCUS COP26 PLEDGES

# INTENT MISSING



It's a 'failure', is how activist Greta Thunberg described the COP26 during the protest in Glasgow. She termed it as having turned into a 'PR event to fight for the status quo,' and compared it to a 'global north greenwash festival'

move rapidly to zero-carbon sources and actively phasing out fossil fuels. Many developing countries are not comfortable with the zero emission. Argentina, Norway and OPEC also challenge the contention. Norway wants the UN scientists to allow the possibility of capture and storage (CCS) as a potential tool for reducing emissions from fossil fuels. Even India had to resort to larger coal prospecting as its power system was reportedly coming to a critical stage and it had to keep the thermal power plants running.

The draft report accepts carbon could play a role in the future but says there are uncertainties about its feasibility. The CCS emerges as a vague term for continuing with the fossil fuel.

In 2015, the Paris Agreement stressed the need for limiting temperature below 2 degree to 1.5 degree Celsius before 2100. India and China's commitment has increased hopes that zero emission is possible by 2070, but that again does not remain a certainty.

Indeed, the globe is warming up faster. Climate change is affecting rainfall patterns and warmer atmosphere can lead to more rainfall in some areas and drought in many others. It is expected to increase global poverty as water in excess or shortage would play havoc with human development.

The global area of dry lands is expected to expand as the climate warms. Various projections on emission scenarios indicate arid lands will increase by 11 to 23 per cent compared to a 30-year period from 1961 to 1990. This means that dry lands could be 50 to 56 per cent of the Earth's land surface, a 38 per cent rise, by 2021. The arid regions will expand over southwest of North America, north and south Africa and Australia, the Mediterranean and South America.

Now at Glasgow COP26, Australia and 123 other countries signed an agreement to end deforestation by 2030. There have been many such declarations before. Such policies have to be adopted by different countries at the domestic level. If these are not implemented due to domestic political pressure such declarations would have little impact.

India never reneges on such commitments but there are various lobbies that are on reckless constructions in the Himalayas and other sensitive zones leading to serious crisis. About 97.85 million hectares (29.7 per cent) of India's total geographical area (TGA) of 328.72 mha underwent land degradation during 2018-19. In 2003-05, 94.53 mha (28.76 per cent of the TGA) underwent land degradation. The number increased to 96.40 mha (29.32 per cent of the TGA) in 2011-13.

About 83.69 mha underwent desertification in 2018-19. This was greater than the 81.48 mha in 2003-2005 and 82.64 mha in 2011-13 that were. India witnessed an increase in desertification in 28 of 31 states and Union Territories between 2011-13 and 2018-19.

Forest covers are dwindling all across Asia and various Indian states too are amending their laws for increased "developmental activities" across. Tree felling and water erosion too are causing heavy erosion as construction activities are increasing. The Centre's commitment and the states' priorities often clash and the latter play havoc at the ground level.

A McGill paper has found that more airport constructions would have environmental problem, increase warming and other ecological problems. But since these have become symbols of fast development without studies across, India and many other countries construct more airports. Each adds to environmental degeneration. Recently in Uttar Pradesh and the hilly states a number of airports are being constructed for 'better' connectivity. Man's greed caused the Kedarnath tragedy and repeated Himalayan landslides. Unfortunately, there is more propaganda than demonstrative action.

The IPCC says that various climate models suggest that rainfall will be more intense for almost the entire world, potentially increasing the risks of soil erosion. Projections indicate that most of the world will see a 16 to 24 per cent increase in heavy precipitation intensity by 2100.

The Director of Research, Grantham Institute at Imperial College, London, Joeri Rogelji, states that pledges at climate meets are not sufficient to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and COP26 still has an important task. For the temperature control the pledges need to turn to action. But, he says, those pledges do not match the ambitions. The International Energy Agency is unhappy with what the governments are trying to show. The governments need to have clear and credible policy, it says. Ambitions count for little if these are not implemented successfully. Would COP26 remain as another paper? INFA

### SPECTRUM BANKING

# Odisha needs more bank branches in villages



Bikash Narayan Mishra

**FINANCIAL INCLUSION AIMS AT BRINGING THE UNBANKED TO BANKING FOLD, FUNDING THE UNFUNDED AND INSURING THE UNINSURED**

With abundant natural resources and a massive coastline, Odisha has emerged as one of the most preferred destinations for investment. Although it is the eight largest state in the country in terms of area, Odisha is bigger than Bangladesh, Nepal and Greece. Similarly, in terms of population with a total population of approximately 4.50 crore, Odisha is bigger than Canada. Besides, the state has a rich heritage and legacy.

When we talk of basic infrastructure, the foremost that come to our mind are primary education, primary health, roads, communication and irrigation. In all these areas Odisha is doing exceedingly well. The Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya and Mo School Abhiyan schemes have no parallels. The government of Odisha is one of the few state governments in the country which did exemplary work during the pandemic.

Now comes banking. Developing banking habits among people is necessary to divert them from physical savings to financial savings and also to mobilise resources for

the development of the nation. Besides people will have access to institutional credit. Through the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, 44 crore people were added to the banking fold all over the country. The present balance in these accounts is approximately ₹1.50 trillion, which is approximately 40 per cent of the total deposits in Odisha. Financial inclusion aims at bringing the unbanked to the banking fold, funding the unfunded and insuring the uninsured. JAM (Jan-Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile) has brought a revolution in direct benefit transfer.

Against this backdrop, let's introspect Odisha's journey in the banking sector. True, none of the leading banks originate in Odisha, nor any of them is headquartered here. But Odisha has produced many bankers, who are known for their professionalism and dedication. Many large-sized banks have been headed by Odias. The present RBI governor, two deputy governors and the banking secretary are also from Odisha.

There is a strong branch network of 5,196 branches (all scheduled commercial banks) in the

state. As on June 30, 2021, Odisha had deposits of ₹3.79 trillion and the credit O/S was ₹1.43 trillion. Thus the CD ratio was 38 per cent against the national average of 70 per cent.

Smaller states such as Haryana, Punjab and Kerala have more business and better CD ratio. So Odisha's CD ratio must increase. Further, as many as nine districts in Odisha have a CD ratio of less than 30 per cent – Angul, Deogarh, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kendrapara, Keonjhar and Sambalpur. Ganjam at only 18 per cent and Sambalpur at 22 per cent are causes for concern.

When we see the banking penetration in villages there are 2,694 branches in the 53,135-odd villages. So, one bank branch is serving 20-odd villages in Odisha against the national average of 12. Out of the 30 districts in Odisha at least in 13 there are less than 15 branches per block. Ideally there should be 20 bank branches per block. In six districts – Gajapati, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Rayagada – it is less than 10 branches per block. In Kandhamal and Malkangiri

there are only six bank branches per block. People travel 15/20 km to avail a bank loan in these parts of the state.

No doubt digitisation is happening in a big way in the country. We have one of the safest, cheapest and most secure payment platforms globally. It's a miracle; but this has little to do with remote villages where people don't know how to read and write in their mother tongue. There is no homogeneity in Indian villages. The villages in Punjab, Haryana, Kerala, western Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are much more advanced than their counterparts in Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh or eastern/central Uttar Pradesh. Digitisation and banking correspondents can strengthen financial inclusion, but they can't replace branches.

Therefore Odisha needs more bank branches in villages if it has to be at par with states of its size and resources.

The writer is a senior advisor, Indian Banks' Association. Views are personal.

## 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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Hospital safety jeopardised

Sir, The recent blaze in the ICU of a hospital at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra that claimed the lives of 11 people displays the critical picture of hospital safety in the country which demands a dire need for regular fire inspection and electrical audit. Since last year, 24 fire accidents have been reported in the country with 93 succumbing to burn injuries. The primary reasons for the recent upsurge in fire accidents in hospitals could be the overwhelming patient load and the excess need for consumption of electricity giving no scope to expand the existing electrical circuits. Given such fatal warnings, the state government along with fire safety board and electricity board must take notice of such rampant major lapses and act wisely to prevent such incidents from happening again.

Debadurllav Harichandan, BHUBANESWAR

### Ambitious target, enormous task

Sir, Going by the announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26, India is committed to a net-zero goal by 2070. However, this ambition poses many challenges for India. Modi described net-zero by 2070 as one element of the 'panchamrit' to deal with climate change. In fact, achieving net-zero for a country of India's size is not at all easy. For example, Coal India Limited is poised to become a net-zero PSU. Considering that the Indian government wants Coal India Limited to produce more coal, it is evident that it is an enormous task. Reducing fossil fuel-based power generation and replacing it with renewable energy is very expensive and exclusionary. India's another target is installing 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity generation by the year 2030. The target is ambitious as India will have to add about 38 GW a year. India's another target is meeting 50 per cent its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030. This requires immediate, substantial and sustained increase in the installation rate of solar capacity. Another target is that India wants to reduce carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030. It remains to be seen how the government will achieve this ambitious target. Even though the Paris Agreement of 2015 requires the developed nations to provide \$100 billion a year to developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change, that promise is yet to be fulfilled.

Venu GS, KOLLAM



SHORT TAKES

Three killed in accidents

Anandapur/Manoharpur: In separate road accidents Sunday, three people were killed in Anandapur and Ghasipura areas of Keonjhar district. Police have seized the bodies and sent them for post-mortem and have started investigations. The deceased were identified as Sangram Muduli of Sailang, Damodar Lianki of Satkosia in Mayurbhanj district and Bidu Badara of Janjali. The accidents occurred while the three were travelling on their bikes to their respective destinations.

Two arrested for fraud

Bant: Police arrested Saturday two persons for allegedly duping people of lakhs of rupees on the pretext of providing them with jobs in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The two were produced in court Sunday and remanded to judicial custody. The arrested were identified as Karunakar Rout from Belada village under Gramanchal police station and Kishan Nayak from Budagadhia village under Bant police limits in Bhadrak district. Police swung into action after an FIR was lodged at the Bant police station by Satyaprakash Behera, a distant relative of Karunakar. Satyaprakash said that Karunakar had taken ₹1,30,000 December 10 last year from him promising him a job in the CRPF. The job, however, did not materialise even after a lot of time had elapsed. Satyaprakash asked Karunakar to refund the money, later, Karunakar gave a cheque of ₹70,000 to Satyaprakash July 19. However, the cheque bounced due to shortage of funds.

Ranger suspended

Karanjia: A ranger has been suspended for dereliction of duty while a data entry operator has been arrested for an alleged bid to misappropriate funds to be given to persons who have suffered crop loss due to rampaging elephants in Mayurbhanj district. According to reports, the Karanjia DFO has suspended ranger of Dudhiani range Saroj Panda over delay in payment of compensation to the affected people. Data entry operator Mrutyunjay Panda was arrested Saturday by the police following a complaint from the DFO. The data entry operator had deposited ₹46,600 in his bank account. The Forest department was to pay the fund to the affected people.

Body of missing biz man found

Dhenkanal: The decomposed body of a businessman, who went missing four days ago, was recovered Sunday from an abandoned well behind the state government-run ITI at Borapada under Sadar police limits in Dhenkanal district. The deceased was identified as Pitabasa Das (40). Pitabasa was a well-known businessman in the construction sector. Because of his flourishing business, Pitabasa made enemies. Pitabasa had gone out of his house November 3 evening and never returned. His family members searched for him, but in vain. Later, they lodged a missing report at Sadar police station.

Ganja worth ₹7L seized, 2 held

Jaleswar: Excise officials seized Sunday over one quintal of ganja and arrested a man and his son from Jamalpur village in Balasore district. The value of the seized narcotics is approximately ₹7,00,000. The excise officials had earlier been tipped off that a huge consignment of cannabis had been stored in a house in Jamalpur village and will soon be smuggled to a place outside Odisha. Officials raided the house and arrested the father-son duo. Police said the two were residents of Sasan Board locality in this town.

POST PRADEEP MAJHI'S EXIT

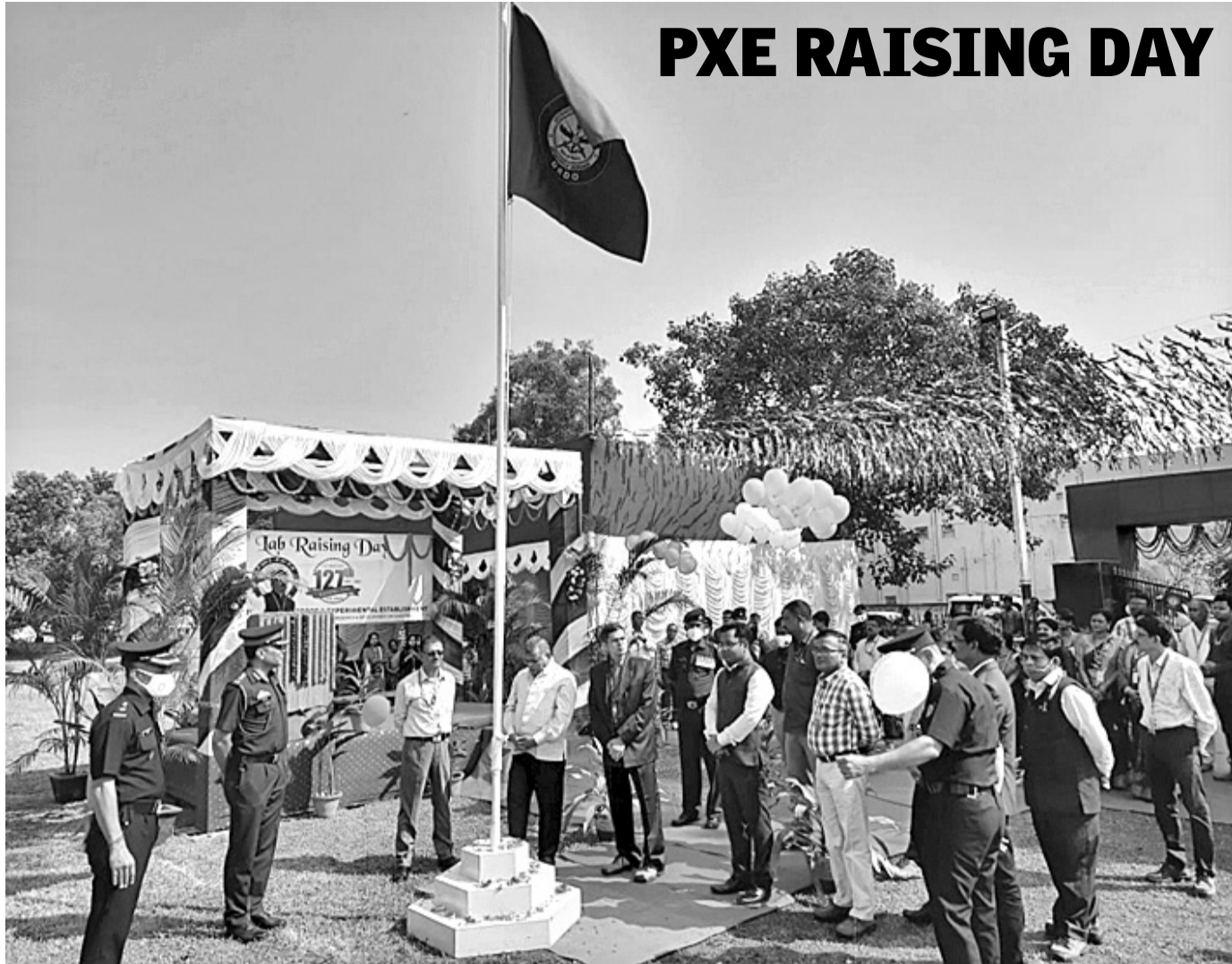
Cong stalwarts on toes to rebuild base



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Nov 7: After former Nabarangpur MP Pradeep Majhi joined the BJD, Congress stalwarts in the southern districts of Odisha are on their toes. They have initiated efforts to consolidate the strength of the party in Nabarangpur and Koraput districts. Congress leaders are trying their level best to stop the exodus of workers to other parties. Congress leaders like former Kalahandi MP Bhakta Charan Das, Jeypore MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati, former MLA of

Dabugaon, Bhujabal Majhi, former MLA Sadan Nayak and president of Nabarangpur district unit, Manoranjan Tripathy displayed solidarity at Jahrgan block Sunday to observe 'Adhikar Divas'. Speaking on the occasion, Taraprasad said that youths with leadership qualities are being inducted into the party. Also efforts are being made to add new members to the Congress. Taraprasad asserted that Congress will not be affected by desertions. "The departure of Pradeep Majhi will make no difference to the party. There are good party workers in the tribal-dominated districts. More youths will be inducted into the party," he said. Taraprasad also stated that Majhi created his identity with the support of Congress, but was busy doing his own business. Bhakta claimed that after exit of Majhi, Congress will bounce back in Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Malkangiri districts where the party was once in dominant position. At the rally, around 30 youths were inducted into the party. A motor cycle rally was also taken up in the town on this occasion.



Scientists and officials of the DRDO celebrating the 127th Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE) Raising Day at Chandipur in Balasore, Sunday OP PHOTO

PXE RAISING DAY

17K fake ration cards detected in Sambalpur

BJD LEADERS WANT ACTION AGAINST DEALERS AND OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE SCAM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 7: Large scale irregularities in preparation of ration cards for the poor have been committed allegedly by officials of the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation. The matter came to the fore during the distribution of smart health cards under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, sources said.



Some beneficiaries have even pawned their ration cards at PDS dealers in the town

It has been learnt that nearly 17,000 false ration cards were detected in Sambalpur's civic body area. Sources said that if the entire district is taken into account, then more than 1,00,000 false ration cards will be found.

Surprisingly, some beneficiaries have even pawned their ration cards to public distribution system (PDS) dealers. On the other hand, fake ration cards are being used to pilfer food stuff provided to people under the PDS scheme. Ruling party leaders have expressed shock over this alleged scam. Sidharth Das, the president of the district unit of BJD has demanded an investigation into such irregularities and action against the guilty. He also alleged that some dealers are involved in the scam and they are trying to grab smart health cards.

Das also said that due to the scam, scores of poor people have been left out of the National Food Security Act. They are deprived of the food stuff at subsidised rates. Details of the irregularities have been shared with the Civil Supplies department and the district collector, sources said. BJD MLA Raseswari Panigrahi said that steps are being taken to bring in transparency in the distribution of health cards. She said people should identify the fake ration card holders and inform the authorities. The lawmaker pointed out that in the past investigations have been conducted to stop the fake ration card racket in the district. There is need for similar investigation, Panigrahi noted. BJD leaders have demanded stern action against the dealers involved in the fake ration card making racket.

Thermal power project in Bolangir faces opposition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Titlagarh, Nov 7: Land has been acquired in several villages under Titlagarh block in Bolangir for a thermal power project by Sahara. However, the project has hit a hurdle as farmers whose lands have been acquired have demanded return of the land, a report said. According to report, land has been acquired from farmers at Serkao, Ghantabahal, Mahada, Sagnamunda, Jamjora, Luthurbandh and Pudapadar villages. This development has been severely criticised by the farmers. Hundreds of farmers from these villages recently got together and discussed about the pros and cons of the project on agricultural land. They alleged that the Odisha government had issued notification for acquisition of about 1,000 acres for the project months ago. Some farmers have already been paid the price of the lands acquired

from them. However, the project has failed to take off as many farmers are yet to hand over the rights of their land to the government. To top it all, some farmers are now demanding the return of their land. Local leaders opposing the power project alleged that the administration has been harassing villagers. They said some false police cases have been filed against the villagers who are opposing the power project. People who have handed over their land to the government have threatened agitation. They said that the notice to acquire land must be scrapped. It should also be stated here that IDCO has closed the road leading to Saganamunda village where land will be acquired in a short while. In 2015, a tender was floated for a two-and-a-half kilometre road from Lutharabandh village to Saganamunda panchayat headquarters.

Fire guts property worth lakhs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 7: A massive fire broke out in a coal tar factory at Jayantpur locality under Sadar police limits in Sambalpur district late Saturday night. Luckily however, there were no casualties, though materials worth lakhs were gutted due to the blaze.



Huge flames and thick smoke billowing from the spot triggered panic among people living in the locality. They were seen scampering from one place to another to prevent the loss of lives and properties. On being informed, three fire tenders reached the spot and launched an operation to douse the flames. It took them several hours to contain it. While the exact cause of the fire is yet to be known, the police and fire department officials are on

spot carrying out an investigation. Locals said that fire has broken out inside the factory seven times in the past. However, no protective measures have been put in place.

Iron melting plant triggers pollution in Jajpur

LOCALS FUME AS SPCB FEIGNS IGNORANCE ON THE MATTER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 7: Several small and big industries have been operating on forest land without mandatory environmental clearance in the Kalinganagar Industrial area and in Dharmasala tehsil in Jajpur district. Most of these industries flout pollution rules and give rise to atmospheric temperature, sources aware of the development said. One of such unit is Brechers Techno India operating at Mandiagada under Anjira panchayat in Dharmasala block. A coal tar plant is also operating at Lunibar village under the same tehsil. Locals said that Brechers Techno India is running an iron melting factory on forest land without ob-



taining the necessary environmental clearance. They said officials of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) have turned a blind eye to the factory owing to tacit understanding with some influential people. It was alleged that the unit is massively polluting the air in villages like Muraripur, Balisahi and Bhejgotha. Locals have complained the pollution by the unit is causing diseases among the people. The pointed out regional offices of the SPCB have

been given the responsibility to check and monitor pollution caused by industrial units. However, that is not happening in the case of this factory. The SPCB office at Kalinganagar has failed to take action against such polluting industries, locals lamented. In the absence of pre-emptive action, industries like Brechers India have discarded all anti-pollution norms. Locals said SPCB officials are protecting the unit for reasons best known to them. They

pointed out that their lives are in danger due to the constant emission of poisonous gases. They also pointed out that the factory has come up on a forest land (sabak khata-416). Sources said, the company purchases scrap iron and melts it. The melting of metals has contributed to the rise in atmospheric temperature in and around the locality. They also pointed out that there is not green cover around the factory to minimise the effect of pollution. When contacted, regional officer of SPCB, Pramod Kumar Behera feigned ignorance. "I have not noticed any such iron melting plant in the area. I can only say about it after going through official records," he said.

AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE



Anganwadi workers along with local people creating awareness on prevention of child marriage in Harbhanga block of Boudh district, Sunday OP PHOTO

Tsunami warning centre to promote awareness among coastal population

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 7: The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) announced that it will promote tsunami awareness and education for the coastal population and enhance community resilience over the next decade. "This education and outreach programme promotes hazard understanding and awareness, and offers tools and information resources to guide preparedness and response. This will be met by making the development of science and technology at scientific organisations go hand in hand with the community preparedness and response," said INCOIS Director Dr T Srinivasa Kumar said. "We cannot control the occurrence of an earthquake even with state of art technologies. However, we can definitely mitigate the possible disaster by tak-

ing adequate measures by improving community awareness and preparedness, like people must be aware how to respond to them, either natural warnings (signs) or official," he added. The INCOIS Director said though tsunami science has been going through several important developments, it is equally important to strengthen the downstream part, which they were taking as a challenge. He said that the recent recognition of two villages of Odisha (Venkatraipur and Noliyasi) as "tsunami-ready" is just the beginning. The INCOIS is putting more efforts to make all vulnerable communities as tsunami resilient communities in collaboration with the state disaster management authorities, he added. The Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 claimed around 10,000 lives in India and around 2,30,000 in surrounding countries.



## West Bengal BJP's internal conflict reaches flashpoint

BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh's outburst came after former Governor of Tripura Tathagata Roy made a series of attacks on the BJP leadership particularly against Ghosh



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, Nov 7:** The internal rift between two BJP leaders in West Bengal reached a flashpoint when the party's all-India national vice president Dilip Ghosh asked party veteran and former Governor of Tripura Tathagata Roy "to leave if he was not happy with the leadership."

Ghosh's outburst came after Roy made a series of attacks on the BJP leadership particularly against Ghosh, party's central observer in-charge of Bengal Kailash Vijayvargiya, and central leader Shiv Prakash and central co-observer Arvind Menon. Roy has targeted the four since the defeat of the party in the recent Assembly polls holding them responsible for the debacle. Reacting to Roy's scathing attacks on different social platforms for the last six months, Ghosh said, "How many more days you will remain ashamed? Leave the party? There are some people in the party who

have done nothing but the party has given them a lot. These people damage the party most. This is the most unfortunate thing." The state leadership has also sent all the controversial tweets and Facebook posts to the central leadership.

Undeterred, Roy, however, said, "Dilip Ghosh will not understand if I say something. This is the problem with uneducated people. I shall not say anything because it will be of no use. So, I prefer to keep my mouth shut. There is no point answering a person who will not understand the meaning of what I say."

The state leadership, however, decided to maintain an equal distance from both the leaders in this controversy. Speaking to the media, state BJP President Sukanta Majumdar said, "Both are senior leaders and know their responsibilities very well. It is not correct to react to this issue. The central leadership is keeping a watch on the developments and they will take their decision at an appropriate time."

Senior BJP leader Shamik Banerjee said, "This is very unfortunate and this has been going on for some time. I am not the right person to comment. The central leadership will say at an appropriate time."

Political observers, however, are of the opinion that Ghosh might have got some kind of assurance from the higher-ups and so he has made a statement like this. Interestingly enough there has been no statement from the central leadership as of now. "We must watch and see. We should not have any direct involvement in the whole issue," a senior BJP leader said.

Meanwhile, BJP leader and actor turned politician Joy Banerjee has decided to leave the party. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Banerjee alleged that he had been removed from the BJP's national working committee and his central security had also been lifted.

## It's 'happy hours' in poll-bound Goa

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Panaji, Nov 7:** There's little to distinguish between politics in poll-bound Goa and the frenzy in a beach bar during 'happy hours'. The early phase of the election campaign in Goa has been marked by a virtual free-for-all announced by political parties, including the AAP, BJP and the Trinamool Congress for the state's voters.

The freebie trend this time round was started by AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, who has announced three out of the party's promised five pre-poll guarantees, which includes free power, employment and pilgrimages.

While Kejriwal promised free power to the tune of 300 consumed units for domestic connections, and a job in every home in the coastal state and unemployment doles for the youth in Goa, the Delhi Chief Minister, earlier this week also promised free pilgrimages to the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Ajmer Sharif Dargah and Vellankani for Hindus, Muslims and Christians, respectively.

Kejriwal's first guarantee of providing 300 units of power free July 14 triggered ridicule from the ruling BJP. More than a month later, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant promised 16,000 litres of water free of cost to the state's domestic consumers.

The political avalanche of freebies has snowballed since, following Kejriwal's two other promises, which includes the free pilgrimage package.

Pre-election 'sponsorship' for



### FREEBIE TREND

THE FREEBIE TREND THIS TIME ROUND WAS STARTED BY AAP NATIONAL CONVENER ARVIND KEJRIWAL, WHO HAS ANNOUNCED THREE OUT OF THE PARTY'S PROMISED FIVE PRE-POLL GUARANTEES, WHICH INCLUDES FREE POWER, EMPLOYMENT AND PILGRIMAGES

KEJRIWAL'S FIRST GUARANTEE OF PROVIDING 300 UNITS OF POWER FREE JULY 14 TRIGGERED RIDICULE FROM THE RULING BJP. MORE THAN A MONTH LATER, CHIEF MINISTER PRAMOD SAWANT PROMISED 16,000 LITRES OF WATER FREE OF COST TO THE STATE'S DOMESTIC CONSUMERS

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT POLITICAL PARTIES IN GOA HAVE TRIED TO FLOOR VOTERS WITH FREEBIES. THE POLICY WORKED WELL IN THE 2012 STATE ASSEMBLY POLLS FOR THE BJP, WHOSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WAS ORCHESTRATED BY THE LATE MANOHAR PARRIKAR

pilgrimages is not a new phenomenon in Goa, with aspiring candidates routinely arranging for such tours to popular religious destinations like Shirdi and Nanji in Maharashtra.

Following Kejriwal's announcement, Sawant too tried to play up a budgetary scheme an-

nounced by him this year. The scheme, which was buried in the details of the voluminous budget announcements, offers free pilgrimages in temples across the state to senior citizens.

The free pilgrimage tour announcements also rekindled a war of words between the two Chief

Ministers, who have accused each other of copying innovative schemes launched or announced by their respective governments.

The Trinamool Congress, led by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, which is keen to make a splash in the 2022 Goa polls also made a slew of freebies, especially to those involved in the fisheries sector. Banerjee's key promises include a Rs 4,000 monthly allowance for those working in the sector, increase in the existing fuel subsidy by 2.5 times.

The Congress has however stayed clear of the freebie race so far, with Leader of Opposition Digambar Kamat claiming that such assurances are nothing but 'pre-poll jumlals'.

This is not the first time that political parties in Goa have tried to floor voters with freebies. The policy worked well in the 2012 state Assembly polls for the BJP, whose election campaign was orchestrated by the late Manohar Parrikar.

The BJP won its first and only simple majority in Goa on the back of a string of promises announced by Parrikar, which included the near abolition of value added tax (VAT) reduction on petrol, which brought the price of petrol in Goa to the lowest among Indian states in 2012.

Parrikar also promised the Griha Aadhar scheme, which provided housewives with financial assistance to combat inflation ahead of the 2012 elections, while also announcing the Laddi Laxmi scheme, with a provision to provide Rs 1 lakh to women who reach a marriageable age.

## TMC, BJP row over fuel prices

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, Nov 7:** A war of words ensued between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the BJP over West Bengal's decision not to slash Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel even after 19 NDA ruled states decided to accept the Centre's proposal to cut the state tax revenue on fuel.

"The Centre has decided to decrease the price of oil to give relief to the people and now it is the responsibility of the states to do the same thing. So long they were saying that it was because of the centre that the price of oil is not coming down and now what are they going to say? They need to understand the plight of the people else we will have to go for a bigger movement," BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh said.

Trinamool Congress MP Sougata Roy said: "This is unfair. The Centre is now trying to put pressure on the states to reduce VAT. It is the individual decision of the states to decide on the issue. The centre cannot force us to do so. Some states have reduced VAT. It is their choice. We have not and that is our decision."

Trinamool Congress spokesperson of the state, Kumal Ghosh said:



"They have reduced excise duty. This is a temporary solution. We want a permanent solution. We ask the centre to reduce the base price of oil else nothing is going to work. Let them first sacrifice the excess money they are getting then they will ask us to reduce our portion of the revenue. We also demand for a restructuring of the Centre-state tax structure."

"I heartily welcome the decision taken by the Govt of India to reduce the excise duty levied on

petrol by Rs 5 and diesel by Rs. 10. A Diwali gift to the nation by the Prime Minister. Now the West Bengal government should follow suit and slash state Tax to further bring down the rates," BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said.

Refuting the allegation that the Centre has reduced the price because of the 2022 Assembly elections, state BJP President Sukanta Majumdar said: "This is not correct. There is no election at pres-

### FACT FILE

Last week, the Centre announced to decrease excise duty on petrol and diesel lowering the prices by ₹5 and by ₹10 respectively

In line with the Centre's announcement, 22 NDA-ruled states have reduced VAT but 14 states including Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, West Bengal decided not to slash prices triggering political controversy

According to experts, the selling price of oil is dependent on the base price plus excise duty, transportation cost and VAT imposed by the states. Presently the West Bengal government charges VAT of 25 per cent for petrol and 17 per cent for diesel

ent. We were waiting for the reduction of the price of crude oil in the international market but that didn't happen and so we reduced the price to give relief to the people. If we had done it before the election then we could have gained some advantage but now there is no election and the question of getting advantage doesn't arise."

## Will not share info on mining corporation under RTI: Sawant

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Panaji, Nov 7:** Anticipating litigation, the Goa government will not share information on the formation of a state government-run mining corporation under the Right to Information Act, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant told agitating mining industry workers Saturday.

Sawant said that Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai had already granted assent to the Goa Mineral Development Corporation Bill, 2021, which was passed in the state legislative assembly in July this year.

"Already before that, we will not give you (information) about what we have formed under RTI. If we give it under RTI, someone will go to court in order to derail the corporation. No one has filed cases against the person who has filed cases against the government (related to mining industry closure). No one is speaking about the case related to closure of mining," Sawant said.

The Chief Minister also singled out environmentalist Claude Alvares, whose NGO Goa Foundation's petition has led to



the closure of the mining industry in the state, after a judicial commission exposed a Rs 35,000 crore illegal mining scam in the state.

"When he (Alvares) locked our department, people like you should have asked why the office was locked. I filed a case against him. No one speaks about how he is acting against the government by using information obtained under RTI," Sawant told Ajay Prabhugaonkar, a union leader who has been at the forefront of a movement to restart mining activity in Goa.

The possible formation of the Goa Mineral Development Corporation ahead of the state as-

sembly polls has assumed significance on account of the fact that fresh mining excavation in the state has been shut down since 2018, when the Supreme Court scrapped the renewal of 88 mining leases citing irregularities.

According to the bill, the corporation would be headed by the Chief Minister as the ex-officio chairman and will have top officials including Secretaries in-charge of Finance, Mines and Environment as members. The corporation will also include a lawyer nominated by the state government, two experienced chartered accountants and a government nominated geologist.

The corporation is empowered to obtain mining leases/grants, grant prospecting licenses, etc. under the Mines and Mineral Development and Regulation Act, 1957 and carry out all mining operations on behalf of the State under the same Act.

The corporation would also conduct other mining allied businesses which includes treatment and harvesting of mining dumps, extraction, transportation, export of ore, apart from executing other related responsibilities.

## 'BJP not scared of TMC debut in Goa'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Unfazed by the debut of Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress in Goa, the BJP is focusing on strengthening its organisation across the state with special emphasis on the seats it has never won. The BJP is working on forming the government for the third time after next year's Assembly polls.

Goa Assembly polls will be held in February-March next year along with Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Manipur. The BJP has been in power in the coastal state since 2012.

BJP national general secretary and Goa in-charge CT Ravi told IANS that the entry of Trinamool Congress will have no impact on the ruling party's vote. "Mamata Banerjee's TMC will make a dent in the Opposition vote share and it will weaken the Opposition not the BJP. All the Opposition parties are fighting among themselves to become the main Opposition party in Goa, not with the BJP," Ravi said.

Ravi claimed that BJP's vote share is not going anywhere and it is intact. "In fact, our vote share will



**Mamata Banerjee's TMC will make a dent in the Opposition vote share and it will weaken the Opposition not the BJP. All the Opposition parties are fighting among themselves to become the main Opposition party in Goa, not with the BJP**

CT RAVI | BJP GOA IN-CHARGE

increase as people have seen the development of the state under the BJP government at Centre and state. BJP is not concerned about any opposition party or parties. We are working to strengthen our organisation at ground across the state," Ravi said.

## Bio-shield to protect Bengal from cyclones

ACCORDING TO A REPORT, THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS MOST SEVERE IN THE BENGAL DELTA REGION, WHERE THE SEA LEVEL RISE IS THE HIGHEST GLOBALLY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kolkata, Nov 7:** In an effort to create a natural defence mechanism against the recurring cyclonic storms like 'Yaas' or 'Amphan', the West Bengal government plans to construct a robust and ecologically sustainable 'bio-shield' along the state's coastline and the Sunderbans islands. The natural barrier artificially engineered will be the first of its kind in the country.

Prodded by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the state government formed a 24-member committee of experts, headed by state pollution control board chairman Kalyan Rudra, a river expert. In September this year, the committee came up with a detailed report to control the devastating cyclone that is not only destroying the embankments and vegetation but also posing a serious threat to human lives.

The plan - recently approved by chief secretary HK Diwedi as the master guide for any work in that eco-sensitive zone - is a mechanism to build earth embankments,



plant 36 species of resilient mangrove species and set up a geo-textile cover on embankments, and a second line of embankment on the east-facing concave coastline, where erosion is highest.

According to the report, the impact of climate change is most severe in the Bengal delta region, where the sea level rise is the highest globally. The global mean sea level has been rising at 3.6mm per year between 2006 and 2015. The sea level off the coast of Bengal is ris-

ing at around 4mm per year.

The impact of sea level rise in the Sunderbans is further accelerated due to slow subsidence of land, at 2.9mm per year. That effectively makes the sea level rise more than 6.9 mm per year. The committee has proposed a 'climate-resilient' multi-layer vegetation shield: three-layer shields along the seacoast, and two along the river-embankments in the Bengal delta, the report says.

The committee chose 36 species

of mangrove and mangrove associates and blue and green algae and proposed to develop a climate resilient multi-layer vegetation shield: three layers along the seacoast and two layers along the river embankment in Bengal Delta.

"The 36 species were chosen on the basis of their climate resilience, ability for propagation, height, salinity resilience and tidal influence. The invasive species were avoided. The vegetative shield, unlike the capital-intensive concrete

embankment, systematically helps develop sand dunes off the coasts, which effectively act as a wave-breaker, apart from replenishing the beaches," one of the committee members said.

The irrigation and waterways department has identified 378 stretches of different rivers in the state that have a total length of 559km, as vulnerable, of which 207 stretches, with a combined length of 324km, have been marked 'extremely vulnerable'. These are mostly east-facing concave banks, where breaching of embankments is highest. A second line of embankment has been planned in such zones to minimise the impact of cyclones and erosion.

"Also, the eroded beaches in East Midnapore and the Sunderbans have become so narrow and low that the wave-breaking zones have moved nearer to land. Since there is hardly any area along the southern front of Sagar Island to create a proper bio-shield, an artificial off-shore reef barrier has been proposed by experts from IIT-Madras," the member added.



# national

## of the day quote

Dear Congress members, listen to Congress government's defence minister before speaking on China border issue

KIREN RIJU | MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE OF INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is privatising all public and government assets. Have prisons and central probe agencies been privatised? Are prisons your private property?

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA LEADER

The BJP says 'sabka saath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwas'. But, how can people believe this 'jumlaa' (rhetoric) when the country's farmers have been so fiercely protesting against the three farm laws for such a long time and are agitated

MAYAWATI | BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY CHIEF

## SHORT TAKES

### BJP leader killed in Bengal

**Kolkata:** Days after a Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) leader was shot dead at his home in West Bengal's North Dinajpur district, another BJP leader has been hacked to death at Bhawanpur in East Midnapore district of the state. While the BJP is holding the Trinamool Congress responsible for the murder, the ruling party has denied the charge. The incident took place Saturday night when Shambhu Maiti (36), the head of BJP's Shakti Kendra in Chandipur Assembly constituency, was picked up from the road side and hacked to death. His body was recovered from the banks of Keleghai river Sunday morning.

### Punjab cuts petrol price

**Chandigarh:** The Congress-led government in Punjab on Sunday announced a reduction in value added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel, making them cheaper by Rs 10 and Rs 5 per litre respectively in the state. The new rates will be effective from midnight. Currently, petrol and diesel rates in Punjab are Rs 106.20 and Rs 89.83 per litre respectively. The move, which will cost the state nearly Rs 6,000 crore, comes days after the BJP-led central government reduced excise duty on petrol and diesel, and several other states, including Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, slashed VAT rates on the fuels to give relief to consumers.

### BJP leader held for consuming liquor

**Patna:** While the Bihar government is facing criticism over the implementation of liquor prohibition law, three persons, including a BJP district level leader, were arrested for consuming liquor in Jamui. The arrests were made Saturday night. Following the over 50 deaths in four districts after consuming spurious liquor, police of all the districts are on high alert now.

### UP cop arrested

**Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh):** A sub-inspector has been arrested for allegedly hiring contract killers to kill a person who was earlier accused for his brother's murder. Superintendent of Police (Gonda) Santosh Kumar Mishra said that sub-inspector (SI) Akhilesh Yadav, a 2018-batch cop posted at Khodare Police Station in Gonda district, has also been suspended and a departmental inquiry has been initiated against him. Yadav's name came up during the questioning of three men, who were arrested in Azamgarh on Thursday night with firearms.



The agriculture sector in India is characterised by small and marginal farmers, and there is a need to increase their income

M VENKAIHAH NAIDU | VICE PRESIDENT

## Work as bridge of faith for common man: PM

Chief Ministers and BJP presidents of four poll-bound states - Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur - gave a presentation on upcoming Assembly elections at the meeting



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated with a garland by BJP leaders during party's national executive meeting at NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday asked BJP members to become a "bridge of faith" between the party and the common man and expressed confidence that the BJP will win the trust of people in the upcoming Assembly polls in five states.

Addressing the valedictory session of the BJP's national executive, Modi stressed that the BJP runs on the values of "Sewa, Sankalp aur Sampanan (service, resolution and commitment)" and "does not revolve around a family", urging its members to work for people, Union Minister Bhubender Yadav said quoting the Prime Minister.

In his address, Modi also men-

tioned the BJP's win in Telangana bypolls, its improved performance in Ellenabad assembly by-election in Haryana and local body elections in Tamil Nadu besides a rise in its vote share in an Andhra Pradesh by-election to assert that it shows growing acceptance of the party's development agenda, sources said.

Chief Ministers and BJP presidents of four poll-bound states - Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur - gave a presentation on upcoming Assembly elections at the meeting, Yadav told reporters.

A similar presentation was given by BJP's Punjab unit president, he said, noting that the state organisation has worked to fight on all assembly seats there in the upcoming polls. "In his address, Prime Minister

## Wankhede part of plot to kidnap Aryan: Malik



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 7:** In the latest "disclosure", Maharashtra minister Navab Malik Sunday claimed that the purported cruise ship "rave" party was a plot to "kidnap" Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan for ransom and Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede was part of this conspiracy.

Speaking to reporters here, Malik, who is the spokesperson of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), claimed that Mohit Bharatiya, former president of Mumbai BJP's youth wing, was the "mastermind" of this conspiracy.

Malik also claimed that an amount of Rs 25 crore was sought but the deal was finalised at Rs 18 crore and a sum of Rs 50 lakh was given. However, the deal got spoilt because the selfie of K P Gosavi (NCB's witness in the cruise drugs

case) with Aryan Khan, after his arrest, became viral.

The minister further said there have been attempts to frighten Shah Rukh Khan that since he "gave an amount of Rs 50 lakh", he too becomes an accused. Aryan Khan, 23, was last month arrested following a raid led by Wankhede on a cruise ship from which drugs were allegedly seized. He was later granted bail by the Bombay High Court.

Malik has repeatedly termed the cruise drugs raid as "fake" and levelled a series of allegations against Wankhede. The minister on Sunday claimed Wankhede had met Bharatiya at a 'kabarastan' (graveyard) in suburban Oshiwara.

"But, because of his (Wankhede's) good luck, we couldn't get the footage since police's CCTV was not functioning. Hence, out of fear, Wankhede had lodged a false complaint that he was being stalked," Malik said. "The alleged cruise rave party was a plot to kidnap Aryan Khan for ransom, of which Mohit Bharatiya was the mastermind," the NCP leader alleged.

Accusing Wankhede of being involved in the plot, he claimed Bharatiya was a member of Wankhede's "private army". Malik also claimed that journalist RK Bajaj and advocate Pradeep Nambiar were members of Wankhede's "private army".

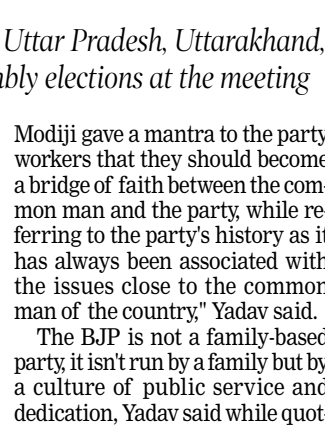


### BJP's Taliban harvest!

The world is worried about the consequences of developments in Afghanistan, and is grappling with the emerging threat. It is feared a new kind of militancy may emerge after al-Qaeda or ISIS which is more ruthless. China has its own worries due to its

oppressive policies against the Uighur Muslims and Pakistan may have to pay a heavy price for sheltering the Taliban in Quetta. India has its own worries in its backyard in J&K as the Taliban may be given a passage to PoK by Pakistan. There may be a repeat of the non-State actors' scenario that India once witnessed in Kargil. It is largely because of these reasons that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been shuttling between New Delhi-Washington-Doha and world Capitals for a negotiated settlement to protect India's interest. The government may have refrained from commenting on these developments either way. But the BJP leaders seem ready to reap the political harvest in ensuing polls in five states including UP.

## Rains lash Chennai, flood alert sounded



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin inspects rain-affected areas in Chennai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Nov 7:** Heavy rains lashed Chennai and its suburban areas overnight leading to all round water-logging and authorities Sunday sounded a preliminary flood alert to people as three city reservoirs were opened in a phased manner to release surplus water.

Chief Minister MK Stalin inspected several inundated areas here along with top officials including Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu and directed authorities to take swift action to drain flood water. Stalin, along with Cabinet colleagues distributed flood assistance, including rice, milk and blankets to people in affected areas, housed in a temporary shelter here.

Health Minister Ma Subramanian said Chennai experienced 20 cm rain in about 12 hours since Saturday night. According to IMD data, the rainfall ranged between 10 CM and 23 CM in Chennai and its suburbs. The Kamarajar Salai point (DGP Office on the Marina beachfront) near the Tamil Nadu Secretariat recorded the highest of 23 CM

## Man files complaint against wife for celebrating Pak win



PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rampur (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 7:** A man has lodged a complaint against his wife and in-laws for allegedly celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in the T20 World Cup match held on October 24.

Ankit Mittal, Superintendent of Police, police said, "An FIR has been registered after a case of making fun of the Indian cricket team came to our notice on the basis of a complaint made by a man."

The complainant Ishan Miya, resident of Azim Nagar of Rampur has alleged that his wife Rabia Shamsi and her family burst crackers and put up WhatsApp status celebrating Pakistan's victory in the T20 World Cup match.

The FIR has been filed in the Ganj Police Station of Rampur district under Section 153-A of Indian Penal Code and Section 67 of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008. "The husband and wife started living separately soon after the marriage. The wife lives with her family and has filed a dowry case against the husband," the police stated. The SP said that the matter was under investigation.

## Deshmukh again sent to ED remand



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Nov 7:** The Bombay High Court Sunday set aside a Special PMLA Court order granting 14 days' judicial custody to former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and remanded him back to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for five days.

The order was given by vacation judge Justice M.J. Jamdar in an urgent filed plea by the ED on Sunday, challenging the Special Court Judge P.R. Sitre's ruling on Saturday, declining the agency's plea for extending Deshmukh's custody by nine more days.

Deshmukh's lawyers Senior Advocate Vikram Chaudhri and Aniket Nikam submitted to the court that without getting into the merits or maintainability of the ED application they were volunteering cooperation and not shying away from the investigation, and hence not objecting to the further remand.

## Over 33L children malnourished

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Over 33 lakh children in India are malnourished and more than half of them fall in the severely malnourished category with Maharashtra, Bihar and Gujarat topping the list, the WCD ministry has said in response to an RTI query.

Prompting concern that the Covid pandemic could exacerbate the health and nutrition crisis among the poorest of the poor, the Women and Child Development ministry estimates that there are 17,76,902 (17.76 lakh/1.7 million) severely acute malnourished children (SAM) and 15,46,420 (15.46 lakh/1.5 million) moderately acute malnourished (MAM) children as of October 14, 2021.

The total 33,23,322 (33.23 lakh/3.3 million) is a compilation of data from 34 states and union territories, the ministry said in response to an RTI query by PTI.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE| PTI

## Prisoner dies, 30 cops hurt in UP jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Farrukhabad (UP), Nov 7:** A prisoner was allegedly killed and about 30 policemen injured in a clash at a district jail here Sunday after the death of another man due to dengue.

The prisoners allegedly hurled stones at policemen and started a fire in the jail after hearing about the death of an inmate, identified as Sandeep Yadav, in Saifai Medical College due to dengue.

The police, however, claimed that another prisoner, Shivam, who died later, was also suffering from an ailment and lost his life

while being taken to the hospital on Sunday. But in a purported video which surfaced on social media, Shivam claimed before his death that he suffered a bullet injury.

The incident took place on Sunday morning, when the inmates started pelting stones at the policemen after they learnt about the death of Yadav, who was admitted to Saifai Medical College a few days ago as he was suffering from dengue. The video purportedly showing Shivam claiming that he was hit by a bullet fired by the jailor while he was trying to close the gates of the barrack surfaced later in the afternoon.

"Around 8:45 am, the district jail officials requested for police force. On reaching the jail, senior officials learnt that one Sandeep Yadav, who was undergoing life imprisonment in a dowry case since 2012, had got infected by dengue on November 5. He was referred to Saifai Medical College, where he died yesterday (Saturday). Today, when tea was given to the inmates around 8.30 am, they attacked the deputy jailor. "Subsequently, there was stone pelting and arson in the barrack, and this was done by inmates with a criminal mindset," Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar Meena said earlier in the day

and suburban Ennore in north Chennai 10 cm. Some of the suburban locations, including areas covered in nearby Tiruvallur district received between 3 CM (Poonidi and RK Pet) and 9 CM (Cholavaram). The IMD has given a 'red' category warning, indicating heavy rains in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Puducherry on Sunday.

In view of increase in showers in catchment areas, surplus water was released from Poonidi reservoir, which was raised in a phased manner up to 3,376 cusecs of water, the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority said in a tweet.

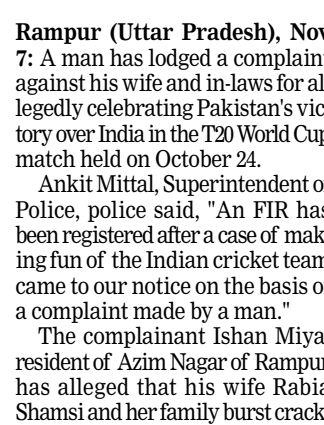
## ICG rescues 7 fishermen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Sunday rescued seven fishermen from a burning boat off the Gujarat coast in coordination with other fishing boats in the area, an official statement said.

The ICG ship Arush was patrolling close to the notional international maritime boundary line (IMBL) when it came to know about the burning boat called "Kailash Raj" and its seven stranded fishermen. "The boat reportedly caught fire due to fuel leakage from engine exhaust," the ICG's statement noted. Arush, under the command of Commandant (JG) Ashwini Kumar, arrived with maximum speed at the scene of the fire and quickly engaged in fire-fighting operations.

## Man files complaint against wife for celebrating Pak win



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Rampur (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 7:** A man has lodged a complaint against his wife and in-laws for allegedly celebrating Pakistan's victory over India in the T20 World Cup match held on October 24.

Ankit Mittal, Superintendent of Police, police said, "An FIR has been registered after a case of making fun of the Indian cricket team came to our notice on the basis of a complaint made by a man."

The complainant Ishan Miya, resident of Azim Nagar of Rampur has alleged that his wife Rabia Shamsi and her family burst crackers and put up WhatsApp status celebrating Pakistan's victory in the T20 World Cup match.

The FIR has been filed in the Ganj Police Station of Rampur district under Section 153-A of Indian Penal Code and Section 67 of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008. "The husband and wife started living separately soon after the marriage. The wife lives with her family and has filed a dowry case against the husband," the police stated. The SP said that the matter was under investigation.

## Policeman shot dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Nov 7:** A policeman was shot dead by terrorists in the Batamloo area of the city Sunday, officials said.

He was identified as Constable Tausif Ahmad, they said. "At about 2 pm, terrorists fired upon JKP Constable Tausif Ahmad near his residence at SD Colony, Batamloo," the officials added.

They said the cop was critically injured and was taken to the SMHS hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. The area has been cordoned off, and a hunt has been launched to nab the attackers, the officials added.

## Fear uniting Opposition, not Sonia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Never before had the Opposition parties got together against the ruling establishment three years prior to the Lok Sabha polls. Be it 1967, 1971, 1977, 1989, 1996 or even in 2004, the groupings emerged only a few months before the polls. And if you thought these parties have decided to do business with each other under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi or she is in any way responsible for this unity, you are sadly mistaken. It is the 'Fear Factor' that has brought these rival parties together. Even the Congress has agreed to eat the humble pie by agreeing to the first principle of this unity; whichever party is strong in a particular state it will

play the lead role and others will have to play around. If there are differences on certain seats, the warring parties can resort to "friendly fights". This had happened in 1989 when VP Singh partnered with the BJP and the Left simultaneously in order to dislodge Rajiv Gandhi. A new code for mutual coordination is being worked out.

## No Booster dose for now

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**The Covid-19 Working Group is not in favour of a "third Booster dose" for those who have already taken double dose. The Covid-19 Working Group, a highest policy making body of experts set up by the Union Government, has conveyed that there is no need to**

## BJP orders poll surveys

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**After developments in Afghanistan, the BJP has ordered fresh election surveys in five states - UP, Goa, Manipur,**

Punjab and Uttarakhand - ahead of the polls due in February-March 2022. The surveys have also been ordered in Gujarat and Karnataka which will go to polls by the end of 2022. Though the BJP is a weak wicket in Punjab having just three MLAs and without an alliance partner, yet, it has hired two agencies to assess the ground level situation in the border state. The BJP is closely monitoring the situation and wants to prevent AAP and the advent of Navjot Singh Sidhu in the state as it feels they are not good for the betterment of the state. The BJP believes that both have the support of forces outside India. In the remaining four states, different survey agencies prominently associated with some TV channels have been given huge contracts.



# international

## of the day quote

The upcoming nuclear talks will progress rapidly if the US and European parties abandon any requests beyond the 2015 agreement and adopt a constructive approach

**HOSSEIN AMIR ABDOLLAHIAN** | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Iran is ready to remove trade barriers with Pakistan to improve economic relations between the two countries

**REZA FATEMI AMIN** | IRANIAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, MINES AND TRADE

China has completed all the necessary plans for implementing committed tariff reductions, adjustments on the rules of origin for goods and software system updates at customs authorities to ensure smooth tariff reductions

**YU BENLIN** | DIRECTOR-GEN OF THE DEPT OF INTL TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS WITH MOFCOM

## Failed assassination bid ramps up tension

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baghdad, Nov 7: Troops deployed around Baghdad Sunday following the failed assassination attempt with armed drones that targeted the residence of Iraq's Prime Minister. The attack significantly ramped up tensions sparked by the refusal of Iran-backed militias to accept last month's parliamentary election results.

Seven of Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi's security guards were wounded in the attack by at least two armed drones in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone area, according to two Iraqi officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give official statements.

Al-Kadhimi was unharmed. He later appeared on Iraqi television, seated behind a desk in a white shirt, looking calm and composed. His left hand appeared to be wrapped in a bandage. An aide confirmed a light cut.

"Cowardly rocket and drone attacks don't build homelands

**Troops have been deployed around Baghdad following the failed assassination attempt with armed drones that targeted the residence of Iraq's Prime Minister**

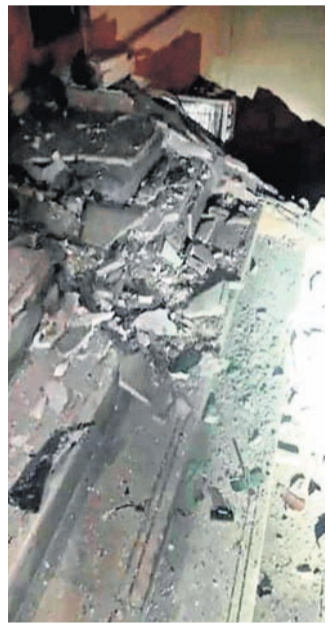
and don't build a future," he said. Later Sunday, he received Iraqi President Barham Salih and headed a government security meeting. Residents of Baghdad heard the sound of an explosion followed by heavy gunfire from the direction of the Green Zone, which houses foreign embassies and government offices. Handout photos showed the damage in al-Kadhimi's residence, including smashed windows and doors blown off their hinges.

There was no claim for the attack, but suspicion immediately fell on Iran-backed militias who had been publicly attacking al-Kadhimi and issuing threats. It came amid a stand-off between security forces and the pro-Iran Shiite militias whose supporters have been camped outside the Green Zone for nearly a month. They gathered after rejecting the results of Iraq's parliamentary elections, in which they lost around two-thirds of their seats.

The election was held months ahead of schedule in response to mass protests in late 2019, which saw tens of thousands in Baghdad and predominantly Shiite southern provinces rally against endemic corruption, poor services and unemployment.

They also protested against the heavy-handed interference of neighboring Iran in Iraq's affairs through Iran-backed militias.

The militias lost some popularity since the 2018 vote, when they made big election gains. Many hold them responsible for suppressing the 2019 protests, and for challenging the state's authority.



This photo provided by the Iraqi Prime Minister's media office shows the aftermath of the assassination attempt

## Nicaragua's Ortega seeks re-election

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Managua (Nicaragua), Nov 7: Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega sought a fourth consecutive term in elections Sunday against a field of little-known candidates while those who could have given him a real challenge sat in jail.

More than 13,000 polling places opened Sunday morning even as the opposition denounced more arrests of its leaders in activists around the county in the hours leading up to the vote.

The opposition called on Nicaraguans to stay home in protest of an electoral process that has been roundly criticised as not credible by foreign powers.

The election will determine who holds the presidency for the next five years, as well as 90 of the 92 seats in the congress and Nicaragua's representation in the Central American Parliament.

London, Nov 7: A gradual changing of the guard is happening at the head of Britain's royal family, as Queen Elizabeth II steps back from public engagements due to her advanced age and health.

The 95-year-old monarch's eldest son and heir, Charles, Prince of Wales, has been shouldering more of the burden of official duties for several years, including overseas.

But his wife, Camilla, is increasingly stepping into the fray, both online during Covid-19 pandemic restrictions in the past year and now in person, after curbs were lifted. Joining the couple at the royal vanguard are Charles' eldest son from his first marriage to Princess Diana,

William, and his wife, Kate. As a result, they have earned a greater share of the media coverage that would previously have gone to the monarch, who has been advised to rest by doctors.

Their presence at events - from the world premiere of the latest James Bond film to meeting world leaders at the G7 and UN climate summits - is a clear sign of change to come. Joe Little, managing editor of Majesty Magazine, told AFP their visibility "will accelerate within the fullness of time."

"But a lot of people are now familiar with Camilla and are getting to know her," he added.

**REHABILITATION**  
Camilla, 74, also known as the Duchess of Cornwall, will become consort when Charles, 72,

## 'World is 1 yr closer to 1.5 C warming threshold'

Global carbon emissions are trending upwards again when they should be in rapid decline to meet the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels

AGENCIES

Montreal, Nov 7: Over and over at the UN climate summit in Glasgow, world leaders have stressed the need to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Already, the world has heated to around 1.1C above pre-industrial levels. Each of the last four decades was hotter than any decade

### INDIA'S COMMITMENT

India is among 27 countries to sign up to a sustainable agriculture action agenda at the conclusion of the first week of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, laying out new commitments to make farming more sustainable and less polluting. The 'Sustainable Agriculture Policy Action Agenda for the Transition to Sustainable Agriculture and Global Action Agenda for Innovation in Agriculture' was among the highlight action pledges to be clinched by the participating countries at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on Saturday.



IMAGE CREDIT: FLIPBOARD

since 1850. This means that emissions are trending upwards again, when they should be in rapid decline if we are to meet the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels.

A climate clock was created in 2015 to show how quickly we are approaching 1.5 C, the lower limit of the Paris Agreement global temperature goal and a consequential threshold for climate impacts. The clock tracks global emissions and temperature data, and uses the most recent five-year emissions trend to estimate how much time is left until global warming reaches the 1.5 C threshold. "Each year, we have up-

dated the clock to reflect the latest global data, as well as our improving scientific understanding of what level of emissions is required to limit warming to 1.5 C," experts said.

This year's clock reset uses three sets of updated data. First, new estimates of global temperature increase from the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that human greenhouse gas emissions are responsible for virtually all of the observed warming of the climate system. We use the estimate of human-induced global warming from the Global Warming Index, which as of November 2021

### CLIMATE CLOCK

The clock tracks global emissions and temperature data, and uses the most recent five-year emissions trend to estimate how much time is left until global warming reaches the 1.5 C threshold. The new estimate of 2021 emissions removes almost a year from the countdown, which means that we are now only a little more than 10 years from 1.5 C. Tracking global warming in real time.

has reached 1.24 C above the 1850-1900 average temperature. Second, the Global Carbon Project projects global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in 2021 will increase by 4.9 per cent from 2020, after a 5.4 % drop between 2019 and 2020. We use the most recent five years of data to project the global trend in fossil fuel carbon dioxide emissions, while assuming that additional carbon dioxide emissions from land-use will remain constant at the average level over the past five years. Data from 2016 to 2021 suggest that in the absence of additional policy intervention, global carbon dioxide emissions will continue increasing by an average of 0.2 billion tonnes (about half a percentage point) per year.

## SHORT TAKES

### Tanker blast: Death toll rises to 108

**Freetown:** At least 108 people were killed and 92 others injured in a fuel tanker explosion here, Sierra Leone's National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has confirmed. According to a statement by NDMA Saturday, a loaded fuel tanker and a truck carrying granite stones collided on a highway late Friday.

### Mexico: 19 killed in road accident

**Mexico City:** A transport truck smashed into a toll booth and six other vehicles on a highway in central Mexico Saturday, leaving at least 19 people dead and three injured, authorities said. The brakes on the truck, which was transporting shampoo base, apparently failed before it crashed into the toll booth.

### Global nCoV cases top 249.5 million

**Washington:** The global coronavirus caseload has topped 249.5 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 5.04 million and vaccinations soared to over 7.22 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University. In its latest update Sunday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload, death toll and the total number of vaccine doses administered stood at 249,502,872, 5,043,945 and 7,226,106,343, respectively.

### Pak removes ban on TLP

**Islamabad:** The Pakistan federal cabinet has approved the de-proscription of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), after the political party and the government had struck a secretive deal, Geo News reported.

### 12 killed in bus Nepal accident

**Kathmandu:** A passenger bus skidded off the road in Western Nepal Sunday, killing at least 12 people and wounding nearly 20, a senior police official said. The accident took place when the driver lost control of the speeding vehicle. The bus enroute to Tulsipur from Salyan district, 650 kilometres West of Kathmandu, met with the accident at Kharkhola in Kapurkot Rural Municipality-5. According to the police, the deceased passengers include two men and 10 women.

## US reopening borders after 20 months

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Nov 7: The United States reopens its land and air borders Monday to foreign visitors, fully vaccinated against Covid-19, ending 20 months of restrictions on travel from around the globe that separated families, hobbled tourism and strained diplomatic ties.

The ban, imposed by former president Donald Trump in early 2020 and upheld by his successor Joe Biden, has been widely criticized and become emblematic of the upheavals caused by the pandemic.

The restrictions were particularly unpopular in Europe and US neigh-

bors Canada and Mexico. In an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus, US borders were closed after March 2020 to travelers from large parts of the world, including the European Union, Britain and China, India and Brazil. Overland visitors from Mexico and Canada were also banned.

The months of restrictions affecting hundreds of millions of people helped fuel both personal and economic suffering brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Families on both sides of the Atlantic are eager to finally reunite with their loved ones. Although travel from the United States to Europe has been possible

since the summer, foreign US residents holding certain visas have had no guarantee of being able to reenter the country.

### SOME RESTRICTIONS REMAIN

Lifting the travel ban will affect more than 30 countries. But entry to the United States will not be totally unregulated: US authorities plan to closely monitor travelers' vaccination status and will still require them to present negative Covid-19 tests.

The United States, from Monday, will require air passengers to be fully vaccinated and be tested within three days before travel. Airlines will be required to put in place a contact tracing system.

## VETERAN CAR RUN



Participants in the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run drive through the village of Staplefield in south east London

PTI PHOTO

## Changing guard at Buckingham Palace as Camilla steps up

WHILE 95-YEAR-OLD QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S ELDEST SON AND HEIR PRINCE CHARLES HAS BEEN SHOULDERING MORE OF THE MONARCHY'S OFFICIAL DUTIES FOR SEVERAL YEARS, HIS WIFE, CAMILLA, IS INCREASINGLY STEPPING INTO THE FRAY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



takes the throne. William, 39, will move up the line of succession to

heir apparent. Only a few years ago, a different

"Fab Four" were seen as the future of Britain's most famous family: William and Kate along with his younger brother Harry and his wife Meghan. But plans changed dramatically last year when Harry and Meghan moved to the United States, from where they have criticised the family and even accused it of racism.

The rise of Camilla - once a hate-figure for being "the other woman" in Charles and Diana's marriage - has been remarkable.

"Her position has certainly evolved and there's been a huge and very long process of rehabilitation since... she was described as this Rottweiler at the time of Diana," royal historian Anna Whitelock told the Daily Express. Camilla, like other royals, was

forced into a more public role by the Covid-19 pandemic, when the world moved online.

But she has taken on the role with aplomb and won fans, even if in the eyes of some she can never be forgiven for her role in the collapse of Charles and Diana's marriage. "There are lots of Camilla supporters out there," said Little.

"The sense is she's coping with it very well. She's been a member of the royal family for 16 years, so she's had quite a bit of experience of high-profile things..."

"She's become very proficient at it." Since the death of the Queen's husband of 73 years, Prince Philip, in April, Camilla has been seen - and heard - more frequently at official royal engagements and charity events.





**At this juncture, there is a need to address the high commodity prices and shortages of raw materials to support the consumption and private investments in the country**  
PRADEEP MULTANI | PRESIDENT, PHDCCI

## FOLUR TO LAUNCH PROJECTS IN 27 NATIONS

At an event at the ongoing COP26 in Glasgow, a new \$345 million, seven-year programme, The Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR), will launch projects in 27 countries, targeting the production and value chains of eight key commodities: beef, cocoa, coffee, maize, palm oil, rice, soy, and wheat



## of the day quote

Standard Operating Procedures -- which will provide further clarity on the new IT and intermediary rules -- are required as guardrails for consumers and investors, and the government would certainly deliver on it

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR IT

Material cost is an important cost in the overall cost structure for any OEM. Normally, 70-75 per cent of the total cost of an OEM is material cost. In the second quarter, our material cost to net sales ratio had gone up to a very high figure of 80.5 per cent

SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARUTI SUZUKI

In my view, rural will keep trending well going forward as compared to urban at least for us, and we are also putting up infrastructure improvement in place

MOHIT MALHOTRA | CEO, DABUR INDIA

## FIVE YEARS POST DEMONETISATION

# Notes in circulation on rise

According to the latest Reserve Bank data, the notes in circulation in value terms soared from ₹17.74 lakh crore November 4, 2016, to ₹29.17 lakh crore October 29, 2021

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Five years after the demonetisation, currency notes in circulation continue to rise albeit at a slower pace even as digital payments surge with more and more people embracing cashless payment modes.

Primarily, banknotes in circulation went up in the last financial year as many people opted for the precautionary holding of cash amid the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting normal lives and economic activities in varying degrees.

November 8, five years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the demonetisation of old ₹1,000 and ₹500 banknotes and one of the key objectives of the unprecedented decision was to promote digital payments and curb black money flows.

Thanks to the increasing popularity of digital payment ways, cash usage is not growing at a fast clip but still is on the rise.

The notes in circulation (NIC) in-



Official data points out a jump in digital payments through different modes, including plastic cards, net banking and Unified Payments Interface. UPI of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is fast emerging as a major medium of payment in the country

The value and volume of banknotes in circulation had increased by 16.8 per cent and 7.2 per cent, respectively, during 2020-21 as against an increase of 14.7 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, witnessed during 2019-20

creased by ₹2,28,963 crore October 29, 2021, from ₹2,68,83 lakh crore as October 30, 2020. The year-on-year increase October 30, 2020, was ₹4,57,059 crore. The data revealed the year-on-year increase in NIC November 1, 2019, was ₹2,84,451 crore.

The banknotes in circulation had increased during 2020-21, pri-

marily on account of precautionary holding of cash by people due to the pandemic. NIC had grown at an average growth rate of 14.51 per cent year-on-year from October 2014 till October 2016, the month preceding the demonetisation.

During the last Parliament session, the government had said the

## Over 4cr investors' data exposed twice in 10 days from CVL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** A vulnerability at a CDSL subsidiary, CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL), has exposed personal and financial data of over 4 crore Indian investors twice in a period of 10 days, according to cyber security consultancy startup CyberX9.

The Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) is a SEBI registered depository and CDSL Ventures Ltd is a KYC registering agency separately registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).



CDSL said that CVL has taken immediate action and the vulnerability has been mitigated now.

According to CyberX9, it reported the vulnerability October 19, to CDSL and the securities depository took around 7 days to fix it which could have been resolved immediately.

"We verified the fix before publication and it was no longer exploitable. Later, on October 29th, our research team got to work again and within a couple of minutes they found an easy and complete bypass for the fix that CDSL implemented to patch the earlier reported vulnerability. CERT-In and NCIIPC also accepted our vulnerability report for CDSL," CyberX9 Founder and Managing Director Himanshu Pathak told PTI.

"The exposed data includes investors name, phone number, email address, PAN, income range, father's name, date of birth etc," CyberX9 said in its blog.

CyberX9 said that the vulnerability was not highly complex the second time its team discovered it.

## Automakers step up pace on EV plans

The pace towards electrification has quickened because of tightening mandates and in an attempt to catch-up on Tesla

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** The success of Tesla has pushed nearly all automakers to go all-electric in 2021, and the COP26 climate conference has provided a booster dose to initiate strategies for the supply of batteries, electric motors, power electronics and other components for a green future.

With Renault in June, Mercedes-Benz and Stellantis in July, to name a few, 2021 has become the year when mainstream automakers solidified their intent to become all-electric and transition further towards electrification.

According to market research firm Strategy Analytics, there will be a step-change in the supply of batteries, electric motors, power electronics and other components associated with electrified powertrains, especially battery electric.



"To secure component supply and leading-edge technologies, the mainstream automakers have recently partnered with battery cell vendors, electric motor developers and semiconductor vendors. As well as raising production capacity, automakers seek battery cells with more energy density and faster charging capability," said Kevin Mak, principal analyst in the Global Automotive Practice (GAP).

Some have resorted to the use of common platforms, from the likes of Foxconn and REE, to leverage the necessary economies of scale

and ensure that their product offerings are affordable, added Mak. Another result of this step-change in OEM (original equipment manufacturer) strategy is that the demand for hybrid powertrains will become more temporary, tapering off in the long-term, as countries and states begin to impose a sales ban on new combustion engine-powered light vehicles.

A demand for combustion engines could now peak in China, Europe and North America as soon as the mid-2020s timeframe as automakers prepare for an electric future, the report noted.

As pressure mounts for urgent climate action, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres issued a global roadmap to achieve a radical transformation of energy access and transition by 2030, while also contributing to net zero emissions by 2050.

## Coal despatch to power sector rises 27% in Oct

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** Coal despatch to the power sector has increased by 27.13 per cent to 59.73 million tonnes (MT) in October, owing to a spurt in power demand amid unprecedented rise in import prices.



The country's several thermal power plants were facing a crisis in the wake of low coal stock positions at their end. Coal supply to the power sector was 46.98 MT

in October last year, according to government data.

However, the supply of coal to the sponge iron sector last month declined by 29.2 per cent to 0.46 MT, over 0.65 MT in the corresponding month a year ago.

The fuel despatch to the cement sector dropped to 0.47 MT in October, over 0.68 MT in the year-ago period. In other sectors also, barring steel and cement, coal supply also declined to 4.19 MT last month, from over 6.71 MT in the year-ago period.

Recently, union minister for coal Pralhad Joshi had asked Coal India Ltd (CIL) and its subsidiaries to make 'all out efforts' to ensure that at least 18 days of coal stock with thermal power plants by the end of November.

## US backs India-UK led solar Green Grids Initiative at COP26



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Nov 7:** The US has partnered with the UK and India-led Green Grids Initiative of a global energy grid launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.

At a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Green Grids Initiative - 'One Sun One World One Grid' (GGI-OSOWOG) earlier this week, US Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm said that the US is excited to be back in the climate conversation and to partner with the new initiative.

"All the energy humanity uses in a year is equal to the energy that reaches the earth from the sun in a single hour," said Granholm.

"The GGI-OSOWOG is focusing on the two most important pieces of the puzzle. We at the US Department of Energy are happy to be a partner with GGI-OSOWOG."

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) under India's presidency and the UK's COP26 Presidency had launched GGI-OSOWOG during the World Leaders' Summit of COP26 Tuesday.

The Steering Committee of GGI-OSOWOG comprises five members besides India and the UK, the US, Australia and France, and has been set up to deliver the vision of One Sun One World One Grid under which 80 countries have resolved to combine their efforts to create more interconnected grids, endorsing the 'One Sun Declaration'.

Following the leader-level events of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow Monday and Tuesday, each country's delegates and officials have been par-

**Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said the US is focusing on next-generation technologies to ensure solar panels and grids are consistently efficient across markets and geographies**

icipating in a series of meetings to finalise the way forward to tackle climate change by the end of the summit November 12.

The Indian team includes Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav and chief negotiator Richa Sharma. "We must return to the sun to save the earth. As the world progresses to achieve new heights economically and socially, solar energy will power the transition," said Yadav.

The GGI-OSOWOG initiative has sustainable development and climate change mitigation at its core with focus on underserved areas. It will stimulate green investment and create millions of green jobs, he said.

Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General of International Solar Alliance, said "The success of the massive GGI-OSOWOG initiative depends on a country's own grid expansion plans, which would require investments."

The World Bank has also expressed its support as it expects this initiative to help leverage the benefits of complementarity between renewable generators and non-centres across continents by getting them interconnected.

## BIZ BUZZ

### M-cap of eight most-valued cos jumps over ₹1.18L crore

**New Delhi:** Eight of the top-10 most valued companies together added ₹1,18,930.01 crore in market valuation last week, with Tata Consultancy Services and State Bank of India (SBI) emerging as the lead gainers. Last week, the BSE benchmark gained 760.69 points or 1.28 per cent. Markets were closed on Friday on the occasion of 'Diwali Balipratipada'. Reliance Industries Ltd and ICICI Bank were the only laggards from the top-10 list. In the ranking of top-10 firms, RIL remained the most-valued company, followed by Tata Consultancy



### Bounce to invest \$100 million for manufacturing e-scooters

**New Delhi:** Electric scooter rental startup Bounce is making investment of about \$100 million (around ₹742 crore) over the next 12 months across manufacturing of e-scooters and expanding the battery swapping infrastructure, its co-founder and CEO Vivekananda Hallekere said. Speaking to PTI, Hallekere said the company will unveil its first e-scooter towards the end of the month and deliveries will start by February next year. "We want to make EV mainstream...when we're talking about transition to EVs, we want to make sure millions of vehicles can actually practically look at it and not worry about charging infra, range or battery related issues. We will have two variants and by November-end, we will start pre-booking and deliveries will start February-end," he said.



# DIWALI SALE CROSSES ₹1.2L CR, BREAKS 10-YR RECORD

CONFEDERATION OF ALL INDIA TRADERS SAID THE UPSWING WAS NOT TRIGGERED BY 'REVENGE BUYING' BUT A 'SUSTAINABLE' DEMAND TREND

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 7:** The bumper Diwali season's sales in 2021 worth over ₹1.2 lakh crore, touted as the highest recorded till now, has baffled one and all, with Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra asking fellow Twitter users: "Is this just short-lived revenge buying? Or is it the return of the 'feel-good' factor? What are your views?"

The sales data was furnished by Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). As per CAIT's data, the season last year recorded sales of about ₹72,000 crore, in 2019 it was ₹60,000 crore and ₹50,000 crore in 2018 and ₹43,000 crore in 2017.

Further, CAIT cited that rising

vaccination levels along with lower transmission levels have instilled confidence in buyers. Besides, more choices at offer in retail outlets ensured plenty of buying opportunities for customers.

Explaining in detail, the reasons behind the massive ₹1.2 lakh crore worth of sales recorded this Diwali season, CAIT's Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said, "Pent-up demand as well as lesser Covid related restrictions and more choices were some of the reasons behind this year's bumper Diwali sales."

"This trend is sustainable and completely viable as the country has achieved high vaccination rates and is poised to control the pandemic completely."



In technical parlance, revenge buying is described as overindulgence shopping. This phenome-

non occurs especially after a period when the customer has not been able to buy discretionary products

for a while. CAIT's research arm - CRTDS - conducted a survey on estimation of Diwali sales across states

of business to small manufacturers and sellers of firecrackers". According to Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuité Ratings & Research Clearly, the festive season is likely to give an impetus to retail demand and this is already getting reflected in the data published by Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) for this Diwali season; the sales at retail outlets have reportedly more than doubled to ₹1.25 lakh crore from ₹60,000 crore in 2019.

It is hoped that about ₹3 lakh crore will be infused in the markets by the end of December, 2021 which will not only improve the economy but will also relieve the business community from great financial crunch  
PRAVEEN KHANDLWAL | SECRETARY GENERAL, CAIT



SHORT TAKES

**Neymar scripts win**

**Paris:** Neymar scored twice (26th and 44th minutes) as runaway Ligue 1 leaders Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) held on to win 3-2 at struggling Bordeaux after conceding late goals. The third goal for PSG was scored by Kylian Mbappe in the 63rd minute. However, after his goal, Bordeaux fought back with strikes from Alberth Elis (77th) and M'Baye Niang (added-on time). The goals however, exposed PSG's defensive lapses once more.

**Tvesa shines**

**KAEC (Saudi Arabia):** Indian golfer Tvesa Malik struck together a superb bogey free round of 5-under 67 to enter the top-10 of the Aramco Saudi Ladies International event here Sunday. Tvesa, who has been enduring a lean period over the last few weeks after a superb start to the season, is now 6-under following rounds of 74-69 on the first two days. She is lying tied ninth, as World No. 7 Lydia Ko produced a scorching round of 63 to claim a four-shot lead on the third day.

**Sen, Srikanth lose**

**Saarbrucken (Germany):** The Indian challenge ended at Hyla Open Super 500 badminton tournament after both Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen suffered straight game defeats in their respective men's singles semifinals here late Saturday evening. Lakshya went down 18-21, 21-12 to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew in a match that lasted a little over 45 minutes while Srikanth suffered a narrow 19-21, 20-22 loss to Malaysian second seed Lee Zii Jia. Lakshya put up a brave fight in the first game against Yew, but faded away in the second as he looked out of stamina

# Kiwis fly into semis

### INDIAN HOPES END AS CLINICAL NEW ZEALAND OUTPLAY AFGHANISTAN

AGENCIES

**Abu Dhabi, Nov 7:** India were sent packing from the T20 World Cup after a clinical New Zealand clinched a facile eight-wicket triumph over Afghanistan in their final Super 12 game here Sunday to claim the last available semi-final spot. New Zealand thus finished their Group 2 engagements winning four out of their five games. India have a game in hand, but even if they win against Namibia, they will reach only six points – not enough to overtake the Kiwis on eight points.

The Kiwis were favourites to win on the day and they hardly put a foot wrong. They chased down a small target of 125 in just 18.1 overs to join England, Australia and Pakistan in the last four stage. Sadly Virat Kohli's last assignment as T20 captain of the national side ended sadly. Openers Daryl Mitchell (17), caught behind by the Mohammad



**MATCH-WINNER:** New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson shapes to play the reverse sweep during the T20 World Cup game Sunday

Shahzad off Mujeeb ur Rahman, and Martin Guptill (28), who became Rashid Khan's 400th scalp in T20 cricket, were the only New

Zealand wickets to fall in the afternoon match. Skipper Kane Williamson (40 n o, 42b, 3x4) looked unhurried dur-

ing his knock and his half-century partnership for the third wicket with Devon Conway (36 n o, 32b, 4x4) guided the team home. They negotiated the spin threat posed by Rashid, Mujeeb and Mohammed Nabi quite well to ensure that there was no drama. Earlier, New Zealand pacers, led by Trent Boult (3/17), dished out a clinical performance to restrict Afghanistan to 124 for eight. The writing was clear on the wall for India as the Kiwis were off to a great start reducing Afghanistan to 19 for three. It was only due to the efforts of Najibullah Zadran (73, 48b, 6x4, 3x6) that Afghanistan went past the 120-run mark. He resurrected to some extent the innings, putting on 59 runs for the fifth wicket with Nabi (14).

**Brief scores:** Afghanistan 124 for 8 (Najibullah Zadran 73, Trent Boult 3/17, Tim South 2/24) lost to New Zealand 125 for 2 in 18.1 overs (Kane Williamson 40 n o) by eight wickets.

### Bowling coach laments lack of break after IPL

## TOSS BLAMED FOR INDIA'S POOR SHOW

AGENCIES

**Dubai, Nov 7:** A day before his last match as India's bowling coach, Bharat Arun did admit that both toss and bubble fatigue contributed to India's indifferent performance in the T20 World Cup. India were ousted from the tournament Sunday after New Zealand defeated Afghanistan by eight wickets. The Men in Blue had lost to both Pakistan and New Zealand earlier in the tournament.

Arun was asked if the absence of a gap between IPL and T20 World Cup became a factor. He responded in the positive. "Being on the road for six months is huge ask. Players haven't gone home and I think they had a short break after the last IPL got suspended," Arun informed. "They have been in a bubble for six months and that takes a huge toll. May be a short break between IPL and World Cup could have done a lot of good," Arun added.

In a tournament of this stature toss should not play a vital role. The team batting second always got an unfair advantage due to dew

BHARAT ARUN  
Arun was pretty annoyed that in a tournament of this stature, toss played such a crucial role. "Toss played a very vital role and I believe in these kinds of matches it shouldn't be of any consequence," Arun asserted. "There is a huge change in batting in the first innings and batting in the second. That shouldn't be the case in a short format like this," he said. Arun also informed that 'workload management' for bowlers is very important keeping in mind the number of games they play. "In future we may see three different sets of bowlers for the three formats," he said.

## Title for Ashutosh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 7:** Ashutosh Padhy emerged winner in the 27th Senior Odisha Billiards Rankings tournament which concluded here Sunday. This is the fourth time Ashutosh has won the state title. His earlier victories had come in 2013, 2015 and 2016. In a one-sided final played Sunday, the diminutive Ashutosh outclassed Kunal Agarwal by four frames to one (60-151, 151-41, 151-65, 153-77, 152-80). After losing the first frame, Ashutosh completely dominated proceedings and won the next four in succession to emerge as a worthy winner. It should also be stated here that Kunal had also won three state titles in the past. Earlier in the semi-



finals, Kunal had defeated Chiranjeev Singh 3-0 (151-51, 152-63, 151-135) while Ashutosh overcame Subrat Das in a cliffhanger 3-2 (152-69, 145-153, 152-149, 121-151, 151-128). The Senior State Snooker Championships will start Monday and end November 14.

## 6th Paris Masters title for Djokovic

AGENCIES

**Paris, Nov 7:** The day after ensuring he finished No. 1 for a record seventh year, Novak Djokovic beat No. 2 Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the Paris Masters final played here Sunday for a record 37th Masters title. Djokovic moved one clear of fellow 20-time Grand Slam winner Rafael Nadal for Masters trophies, and nine ahead of Roger Federer, the other tennis great with 20 Majors. The victory also gave Djokovic a record-extending sixth Paris Masters title and put him 6-4 up overall against the No. 2-ranked Medvedev. The veteran Serb had lost to Medvedev in straight sets in the US Open final two months ago and had not played a tournament since.

## Malik shines as Pak trounce Scotland

AGENCIES

**Sharjah, Nov 7:** Veteran Shoaib Malik (54 n o, 18b, 1x4, 6x6) blasted six sixes in an unbeaten knock helping Pakistan complete the Super 12 engagements in the T20 World Cup with a 72-run thrashing of Scotland here Sunday. Pakistan scored 189 for four in their 20 overs and then their bowlers restricted the opposition to 117 for six wickets. Skipper Babar Azam (66, 47b, 5x4, 3x6) also notched up his fourth half century of the tournament as Pakistan completed their group engagements with an all-win record. Thanks to Malik's blitz, Pakistan scored 43 runs in the last two overs, including 26 in the final six balls bowled by Chris Greaves. It was tournament's joint fastest 50 along-



side KL Rahul's 18-ball 50 which also came against Scotland. The Scottish batters found the Pakistani bowlers too hot to handle and was never in the chase, losing wickets at regular intervals. Only Richie Berrington (54 n o, 37b, 4x4, 1x6) showed some resistance with the bat. Leg-spinner Shadab Khan (2/14) was the pick of the Pakistan bowlers while Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris

Rauf and Hasan Ali picked up a wicket apiece. However, it was Malik who grabbed the limelight with some power hitting. Pakistan who managed just 60 runs for the loss of two wickets in the first 10 overs, scored 129 runs in the back 10 of the innings. And they managed to do that because of the onslaught launched by Malik. Babar on the other hand, played a sedate knock. In the process he became the third batter to score four 50s in a T20 World Cup. The two others to achieve the feat are Matthew Hayden (2007) and Virat Kohli (2014). **Brief scores:** Pakistan 189 for 4 (Babar Azam 66, Shoaib Malik 54 n o) beat Scotland 117 for 6 (Richie Berrington 54 n o, Shadab Khan 2/14) by 72 runs.



**ACTIVA**

We, the people of India, never give up, never back down, we believe in moving forward. This is why our country is standing up on its feet again. So let us all become the two wheels of India and show the world that our country is not just rising up but also flying with its wings wide open.

**You and Activa, India's Two Wheels.**

For more information give a missed call on **7230032200.**

<b>INTEREST RATE</b> 5.99% ONWARDS	<b>PROCESSING FEE</b> 0*	<b>FINANCE UPTO</b> 100%*	<b>CASHBACK UPTO</b> 5000*	<b>INSURANCE WORTH</b> 5 LAKHS <sup>TM</sup>
---------------------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	---

For dealer details WhatsApp on 7230032200 or Scan the QR Code

**BOOK ONLINE NOW!**  
www.honda2wheelsindia.com

**CLICK BOOK RELAX**

Finance Scheme offers are available through select preferred finance partners on select models for select profile of customers at their sole discretion and is subject to Finance Company Policy. No two offers can be clubbed together. Cashback offer mentioned is 5% Cashback up to Rs.5000 per card on Minimum Transaction of Rs.5000, applicable only on EMI transaction via select SBI Credit Cards, once per month during the offer period. Scheme validity from 1st September to 30th November 2021. Schemes & offers available at select Dealerships only & can be withdrawn at any time without prior notice. \*#Rs.5 Lakh Personal Accident Cover applicable on purchase of Honda Joy Club Loyalty membership. All Claims will settle as per policy & guidelines of insurance company. For more details, please call on HJC helpline 18005322555. \*Terms & Conditions apply. The images of various professions used in the creative are for representation purpose only. Product shown in the picture may vary from the actual product available in the market. Accessories shown in the product are not part of the standard equipment.

**Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd., Registered Office:** Commercial Complex II, Sector - 49-50, Golf Course Extension Road, Gurugram - 122018 (Haryana), India; **Website:** www.honda2wheelsindia.com; **Customer Care:** customercare@honda2wheelsindia.com

**Honda Exclusive Authorized Dealerships:** ANGUL: Laxmi Honda - 8908010431, 8908025000; ATTABIRA: TS Motors - 06682-221001, 9178653139; ATHAGARH: Sidhivinayak Honda - 9124260000, 9658080060; BALASORE: Yours Honda - 06782-268060, 7873029603/04/09; GADGADIA: Yours Honda - 7873029606, 7873029658; BALIAPAL: Baba Honda - 8260233121, 06781-253788; SORO: Sadhana Honda - 06788-222423, 9853329766, 9437169336; KHAIRA: Sakhi Honda - 9439341988, 7873348398; CHANDANESWAR: Tarini Honda - 7008084081; BASTA: Jain Honda - 9437055136; BALUGOAN: Khimji Honda - 9776320574; BANKI: Shree Honda - 06723-240099, 9658201234; BARIAPADA: Sun Honda - 9437126999, 0679-2256999; BASTA: Jain Honda - 9437055136; BELPAHAR: Bharat Honda - 8018157547; BRAJRAJANAGAR: Jaiswal Honda - 977747788; BHANJANAGAR: Omkar Honda - 9437382104, 06821-240140; BHADRAK: Das Honda - 9937508791, 06784-240962; AGARAPADA: Pal Honda - 9337604884; BASUDEVPUR: Laxmi Honda - 9937475386; BHAWANIPATNA: Mahesh Honda - 8456818116, 06670-235633; BHUBANESWAR: Shivam Honda - 7873024400, 7873024320; GUGNANI Honda - 0674-2313716, 06742313812, 7852930865, 9778611111; PGL Honda - 0674-2354418, 9090912345; Khimji Honda - 7735734884, 9090067366; MO Honda - 0674-2964289, 7008990541; BERHAMPUR: Om Honda - 9937229933, 0680-2229933; SWAYAM Honda - 0680-2271555, 9337132679; BUGUDA: Ayam Honda - 06818-251775, 9668022339; ASKA: Dev Honda - 06822-273363, 8280114044; PURUSHOTTAMPUR: ABS Honda - 06811-275800, 9937375589; BARGARH: Aashirbad Honda - 06646-246066, 7873234466; BOLANGIR: Amarnath Honda - 8895258555, 8895258555; BOUDH: Shree Shyam Honda - 9861567472; BALICHANDRAPUR: Mahavir Honda - 9438673737; BONAIGARH: Bhamo Honda - 7978607198; CUTTACK: Durga Honda - 9114800102/17/121; Durga Honda (Choudwar) - 9114800120; SGBL Honda - 7437010004, 9040433000; Utkal Honda - 8093033120, 9437029811; CHANDBALI: Banaja Honda - 9437297772; DHAMNAGAR: Padmanav Honda - 09437271165; DHENKANAL: Ganpati Honda - 7852949320, 7852949310; JAJPUR ROAD: TEZ Honda - 7504994444, 7504991301; JAJPUR TOWN: Agasti Honda - 9437518600; KUAKHIA: Sai Honda - 9938906077; SINGHPUR: Ramachandi Honda - 7377688445; CHANDIKHOL: Basanti Honda - 06725-227011, 9853066000; JAGATSINGHPUR: Kanchan Murali Honda - 06724-222122, 223112, 7809568988, 9090876483; JALESWAR: Radhagobinda Honda - 07325864023, 06781-222950; JAGATPUR: Durga Honda - 9114900105; JATNI: PGL Honda - 0674-2492419, 7788001033; JEYPORE: Kesar Honda - 06854-230492, 9040088747; PARADIP: Anil Honda - 06722-220909, 9438523425; RAJGANGPUR: Naisha Honda - 7008614081, 06624220051; RAHAMANA: Naviyoti Honda - 993839189; RAJJKHARIAR: Shree Shyamji Honda - 9178999997; RAYGADA: Aditya Honda - 8280096999, 09692455111, 8093331029; MUNIGUDA: Laxmi Honda - 0958352467; RENGALI: BP Honda - 737777362; ROURKELA: Koshala Honda - 9861188888, 9337749281; Aditya Motors - 9437403482; Harshel Honda - 9337408180, 8658045660; SAMBALPUR: Jas Honda - 9178120526, 9238364199; SALEPUR: S.N.Honda - 9437439076; SIMILIGUDA: SS Honda - 06853225397, 0779882597; SORO: Sadhana Honda - 06788-222423, 9853329766, 9437169336; KHAIRA: Sakhi Honda - 9439341988, 7873348398; SUNDARGARH: MaaSamaleswari Honda - 9938198641, 8984873500; SONEPUR: Meher Honda - 0993771704, 06654220200; TALCHER: Anupama Honda - 06760-242181, 7852930592; PHULBANI: Manasa Honda - 06842253452, 9437063452; TITLAGARH: Tanishtha Honda - 09437037314; UTTARA: Gugnani Honda - 0674-327244, 7852930844; GAREJ CHACK: Gugnani Honda - 7008642169, 8144286965; ATTABIRA: T.S. Honda - 9178653139, 9438771477; KANTABANJ: Ajay Honda - 8260211111; DHARAMGARH: Bharat Honda - 7008608855; KESINGA: Jagadamba Honda - 7978512395; KUTRA: Dalmiya Honda - 9937060901; CHARBAL: Maa Mangala Honda - 7609991840; BIDHARPUR: Sainavyak Honda - 9937060477, 7894446899; NARSINGH PUR: Baba Honda - 9438057701, KUJANG: Kanchan Murali Honda - 0672236122; KENDRAPARA: Salsudha Honda - 91784550812/3/4; KANDARPUR: Jay Pee Honda - 9861007679; PARJANG: Hari Omlia Honda - 8917420998.

**For Bulk/Institutional enquiries, please write us at:** institutionalsales@honda2wheelsindia.com