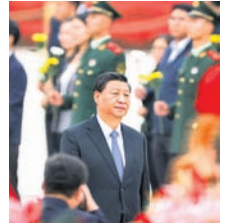




**BIG BREAK**  
Theatre actor Reshmanjali is set to debut in *Dharama Re*, a film based on the legends of Sun Temple  
**LEISURE P2**



**XI'S '3RD TERM'**  
Hundreds of senior officials of the CPC began a conclave to pave the way for a third term of President Xi Jinping  
**INTERNATIONAL P10**



**LIVERPOOL GO DOWN**  
Liverpool suffer a shocking 2-3 defeat against West Ham to drop points in the English Premier League football  
**SPORTS P12**

## Irate SC gives no options to UP govt

Top court appoints Justice (ret) Ranjit Singh to monitor the probe; says it is not confident about the manner in which the govt-appointed SIT is recording evidence



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 8:** The Supreme Court Monday suggested that a former judge of a "different high court" should monitor the Uttar Pradesh SIT probe on a day-to-day basis in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case to infuse "independence, impartiality and fairness", saying the investigation was not going the way it expected.

Red flagging some of the issues pertaining to the SIT probe conducted so far, the top court said, "prima facie it appears that one particular accused (in the farmers' mowing down case) is sought to be given benefit" by securing or procuring evidence from witnesses in the subsequent case related to the lynching of political activists by the farmers' mob.

It was also very critical of the Special Investigation Team of state

police has seized the mobile of Ashish Mishra and rest of the phones belonged to the witnesses to the mowing down of the farmers.

"We have seen the status report. There is nothing in the status report except to say that some more witnesses have been examined. We granted 10 days time. Laboratory reports have not come. No, no, no... It is not going the way we expected," said the bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana.

Reiterating its earlier observation to rule out a CBI probe into the October 3 incident, the bench said it did not want to add any "political overtones" to the case and an independent retired judge should monitor the probe. It asked senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for UP, to appraise it of the stand of the state government by November 12 on the suggestion that the SIT

probe be monitored by a former judge of a different high court.

Making clear that the probe into two separate FIRs related to the mowing down of the farmers and the subsequent lynching of political activists respectively should be carried out separately, the bench said it seemed that the evidence in the lynching case was being "procured or secured" to save the accused in the earlier case.

"One thing more we have in mind is that to ensure that the evidence in FIR no. 219 (pertaining to mowing down of farmers) is recorded independently and in FIR no. 220 (lynching of political activists) it is also recorded independently and there is no overlapping or inter-mixing in the two sets of evidence, we are inclined to appoint a former judge of a different high court to monitor the probe on day-to-day basis and then see how the separate charge sheets are prepared," the bench said.

"We, somehow or the other, are not confident.... We propose to appoint a person like say from Punjab and Haryana HC, Justice Ranjit Singh, who has an expertise in criminal law and army background... Let an independent judge like Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain, again from the same HC, monitor everything," it said.

## US LIFTS PANDEMIC TRAVEL BAN

**Charles de Gaulle Airport:** The US lifted restrictions Monday on travel from a long list of countries including Mexico, Canada and most of Europe, allowing tourists to make long-delayed trips and family members to reconnect with loved ones after more than a year and a half apart because of the pandemic.

"I'm going to jump into his arms, kiss him, touch him," Gaye Camara said of the husband in New York she has not seen since before COVID-19 brought the fly-here-there-and-everywhere world to a halt. "Just talking about it makes me emotional," Camara, 40, said as she wheeled her luggage through Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport, which could almost be mistaken for its pre-pandemic self, busy with humming crowds, albeit in face masks.

## CHENNAI WATERLOGGED



Commuters wade through a waterlogged area following heavy rain in Chennai, Monday

PTI PHOTO

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## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Notebandi? Of course, I remember! It coincided with me and my friend becoming sanayasis!

**MARKET WATCH**

| INDEX  | VALUE    | VIATION  |
|--------|----------|----------|
| SENSEX | 60545.61 | ↑ 477.99 |
| NIFTY  | 18068.50 | ↑ 151.70 |
| DOLLAR | 74.04    | ↓ ₹0.13  |
| EURO   | 85.67    | ↓ ₹0.11  |
| GOLD   | ₹48,083  | ↑ ₹111   |
| SILVER | ₹64,732  | ↑ ₹400   |

**WEATHER**

|          | BHUB                    | CTK    |
|----------|-------------------------|--------|
| TEMP MAX | 30.0°C                  | 30.4°C |
| TEMP MIN | 17.4°C                  | 17.0°C |
| Humidity | 74%                     | 70%    |
| Rainfall | Nil                     | Nil    |
| Forecast | Dry weather very likely |        |

## Fresh claims of kickbacks in Rafale deal rattle govt

The French journal alleges despite the existence of documentary evidence, the CBI decided not to pursue the matter

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 8:** French investigative journal Mediapart has made fresh claims that alleged bogus invoices were used that enabled French aircraft maker Dassault Aviation to pay at least 7.5 million euros in secret commissions to a middleman to help it secure the Rafale deal with India.

Mediapart had reported in July that a French judge has been appointed to lead a "highly sensitive" judicial investigation into suspected corruption and favouritism in the ₹59,000-crore inter-governmental deal with India for the supply of 36 Rafale fighter jets.

There was no reaction yet on the latest report from the defence ministry or Dassault Aviation. "Mediapart is today publishing the alleged false invoices that enabled French aircraft manufacturer Dassault Aviation to pay at least 7.5 million euros in secret commissions to a middleman to help secure the sale of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft to India," the journal said in its new report Sunday.

It alleged that despite the existence of "these documents", the Indian probe agencies decided not to pursue the matter. "It involves offshore companies, dubious con-



tracts and "false" invoices. Mediapart can reveal that detectives from India's federal police force, the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI), and colleagues from the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which fights money laundering, have had proof since October 2018 that French aviation firm Dassault paid at least 7.5 million euros (equivalent to just under ₹650 million) in secret commissions to middleman Sushen Gupta," Mediapart claimed in the report.

"This was in the context of the French firm's long and ultimately successful attempt to secure a 7.8 billion-euro-deal in 2016 to sell 36 of its Rafale fighters to India," it said. Rafale manufacturer Dassault Aviation and India's defence ministry have previously trashed allegations of any corruption in the contract. India's Supreme Court too in 2019 dismissed petitions seeking a probe into the deal saying there was no ground for it.

In a statement published in April, reacting to Mediapart's report on the investigation, Dassault Aviation stated that the group, "acts in strict compliance with the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

## Jawan shoots dead four colleagues as they were sleeping

AGENCIES

**Sukma, Nov 8:** Four CRPF personnel were killed and three others injured after their colleague opened fire at them in a camp of the paramilitary force in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Monday, a police official said.

The incident took place at around 3.15 am in the camp of the Central Reserve Police Force's (CRPF) 50th battalion in Lingampalli village under Maraiguda police station of the area of the district, located nearly 400 km from the state capital Raipur. Inspector General of Police (Bastar zone) Sundarraj P said.

As per preliminary information, constable Reetesh Ranjan fired at his colleagues with his service weapon, an AK-47 rifle, the official said. The seven injured personnel were immediately shifted to a hospital in nearby Bhadrachalam area of neighbouring Telangana, where doctors declared four of them dead on arrival, the official said.

Those killed were identified as constables Rajmani Kumar Yadav, Rajib Mondal, Dhanji and Dharmendra Kumar, he said, adding that three other injured personnel were being treated at the hospital. "The motive behind the firing is yet to be ascertained and an investigation is on into the incident," the official said. Constable Ranjan was immediately held and his interrogation is underway.

## CM shares dais with controversial Dibya



Demonstrating his faith in the junior minister, Chief Minister delivers a message to people

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhawanipatna, Nov 8:** Amid protests by the Opposition, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday visited Kalahandi district for a government programme and shared dais with Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra who has been charged with patronising the prime accused in the kidnap and murder of a woman teacher in the district last month.

Patnaik, who has been maintaining silence over the demand for the sacking of the minister, sent a clear message to opposition parties that he has faith in Mishra.

The Chief Minister launched the distribution of smart cards for the state government's health scheme, the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BKSJ), at the Agriculture College Ground at Bhawanipatna, besides inaugurating several projects and laying foundation stones for some others.

There was tight police security in several strategic locations in Bhawanipatna to ensure that Patnaik's visit was peaceful.

Mishra who is the MLA of Junagarh in Kalahandi and two other ministers Naba Kisore Das and Tukuni Sahu were at the stage along with the Chief Minister.

In protest against Patnaik's visit, protests were held by opposition parties across the state, in Kalahandi where the BJP's women's members staged a sit-in shouting 'go back' slogans against the CM and Mishra, before being taken to a bus by police. The saffron party workers burnt effigies of Patnaik demanding, besides Mishra's removal as a minister, his arrest and a CBI probe into the case. Protesters scuffled with police at various places while many opposition workers were detained as a preventive measure.

Opposition parties are mounting pressure on Patnaik to sack Mishra alleging that he is close to the prime accused in the murder of Mamita and that was why he was able to escape October 17 night from Titlagarh police barrack in Bolangir district, where he was kept.

## Final voter list for GP polls December 14

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** The final voters' list for Panchayat elections in Odisha will be published December 14, State Election Commissioner (SEC) Aditya Prasad Padhi said Monday.

Addressing a press conference here, Padhi said: "The tenure of the three-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) in the state will end in March, 2022 and elections to form fresh councils will be conducted before the end of the term."

"Therefore, the State Election Commission has started preparing electoral rolls for the upcoming poll. Those who have attained 18 years of age as on November 1, 2021, would be included in voters' list. The eligible people can apply for inclusion of their names in the electoral roll through proper forms," he added.

"The Election Commission of India has updated the Assembly constituency voters' list. We will split it ward-wise and the preliminary voters' list will be displayed at the Gram Panchayat headquarters November 16," he further said.

People seeking any changes can submit their applications to Panchayat Extension Officer, in-charge electoral registration officer, by November 23. The concerned authorities can make necessary corrections and dispose of the applications in between November 24 and 26.

Those, who are having disputes with the drafted list at Panchayat-level, can submit their petition before the Block Development Officer (BDO) on November 29 and 30. The BDO will hear the petitions and dispose of those during December 1 to 2, Padhi said.

The SEC informed that BDOs will prepare the final voters' list on December 4 and send it to the State Election Commission by December 6. The Commission will publish it by December 14.

This will be practiced in 29 out of 30 districts. However, Balasore district has been excluded from this practice for the time being, due to delay in reservation and delimitation process by the state government in view of formation of Remuna NAC, added Padhi.

## Pegasus: Israel distances from NSO after US blacklist

In a blow to NSO Group, the creator of Pegasus spyware, Israel has distanced itself from the company. This follows blacklisting of the company by the United States

AGENCIES

**Jerusalem, Nov 8:** Israel has distanced itself from the controversy triggered by the NSO Group after the US blacklisted the technology firm, which had developed the Pegasus spyware that was allegedly used to target government officials, activists and journalists globally, say-

ing that it is a private company and it has nothing to do with the policies of the Israeli government.

"NSO is a private company, it is not a governmental project and therefore even if it is designated, it has nothing to do with the policies of the Israeli government," Israel's Foreign Minister, Yair Lapid, said at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Finance Minister Avigdor Lieberman at the Prime Minister's Office Saturday evening.

"I don't think there is another country in the world which has such strict rules according to cyber warfare and that is imposing those



rules more than Israel and we will continue to do so," Lapid stressed. The Israeli Foreign Minister's remarks came after the US on Wednesday sanctioned the Herziya-based company over alleged misuse of its phone-hacking spyware in countries across the world, in-

cluding in India.

The US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) on Wednesday added the NSO Group and Candiru to the Entity List for engaging in activities that are contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

It said in a statement that they were added to the Entity List based on evidence that it developed and supplied spyware to foreign governments that used these tools to maliciously target government officials, journalists, businesspeople, activists, academics and embassy workers.

These tools have also enabled foreign governments to conduct transnational repression, which is the practice of authoritarian governments targeting dissidents, journalists and activists outside of their sovereign borders to silence dissent. Such practices threaten the rules-based international order, the US commerce department said.

Lapid's comments are the first public remarks by a senior Israeli minister since the US announced the blacklisting Wednesday. The top three ministers of the Israeli government were addressing the press after the passing of the budget.



# leisure



## SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME TO RELEASE IN INDIA DECEMBER 17

Actor Tom Holland and Zendaya starrer *Spider-Man: No Way Home* is all set to hit the Indian big screen December 17. The film will also have appearances from Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange, Jacob Batalon as Ned Leeds and Marisa Tomei as Aunt May. The poster of the film was unveiled Monday.

## HAYEK CONFIRMS 'MULTIPLE DEALS' WITH MARVEL FOLLOWING ETERNALS

Actress Salma Hayek has signed up with Marvel for 'multiple' movies. The 55-year-old actress, who makes her Marvel Cinematic Universe debut as Ajak in *Eternals*, has confirmed she could reprise the role in future blockbusters, but said there's no guarantee, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

#### ARIES

You experience a sense of freedom today. And in this mood you feel like doing all the things that you loved to do in your childhood. It is a nice time to take your family on an outing, says Ganesh. Given your mood, you may start planning for the future of your loved ones.

#### TAURUS

You have a hectic day ahead, says Ganesh. You will be immersed in your work all day long and will love doing so. A lot will get done by the end of the day. Make sure you do not stretch your neck or take unnecessary risks.

#### GEMINI

It's time you took stock of your personal life. Is there someone you want to propose but are afraid to do so? Ganesh advises you not to let the fear of rejection stop you from making an effort. There are strong indications that you will be accepted if you speak your heart today. So let him/her know how you feel.

#### CANCER

Ganesh says that this will be a unique and auspicious day for you. You will get clue and hints of this from morning itself. A religious ceremony in the house, and thereby invitation to guests is indicated. The chance of shifting to a new house is indicated. Ganesh expresses his best wishes.

#### LEO

You will have to bear more responsibilities in the office. You need to carefully weigh your alternatives before making a decision. On the personal front, you will need to watch against minor conflicts with your partner cropping up. You will be able to take part in entertaining and fun activities, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

Today is a mixed bag of values and pragmatism, says Ganesh, and if there were to be a competition for the most humanitarian person, you would be likely to win hands down. You would do well to make plans to increase your productivity.

#### LIBRA

It is very likely that you will arouse immense jealousy in others with your success and growth in business. Your business rivals may attempt to dent your credit worthiness in one way or the other. You may prefer to deal with them subtly rather than confront them openly, feels Ganesh.

#### SCORPIO

The grey strands on your head is not just a colour, but speaks about your experiences. Your wisdom will make you take appropriate decisions at work. Ganeshji warns you to stay away from courtrooms and legal issues, or the trap may leave a deep scar.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Today is a curiously interesting day for you. While you are always well-groomed, today, you may take that extra bit of care to look best and attract a lot of praise for that too, especially from those glam hounds around you. That immaculate charm you are carrying today will enhance your business fortunes.

#### CAPRICORN

If wasteful expenditure has left your bank balance a tad below what you had anticipated, you will have reasons to rejoice today, says Ganesh. Cash inflow — and a substantial amount of it — is likely and will make you feel nice about your finances. Work will go on as usual.

#### AQUARIUS

Do you wish to have a new car or any other property? Make the bookings today, as it is favourable day to make such purchases. You will prioritise your needs and consider available finances so that you can have your dream car or house. In the evening, you will find solace in temple or any other religious places, says Ganesh.

#### PISCES

Fear is a part and parcel of life, and while it can not be eliminated, it can certainly be tamed, and that is what you will be doing today. All your suppressed audacity will be on full display, says Ganesh.

## Sitara Devi to come alive on screen

BORN IN 1920, THE LEGENDARY KATHAK DANCER WAS NOT JUST AN EMINENT ARTISTE BUT ALSO A STRONG WOMAN, WHO STRENGTHENED THE IDEOLOGY OF FEMINISM AND WOMANHOOD BY LIVING LIFE ON HER OWN TERMS

**Mumbai:** Sitara Devi is one of the iconic artistes of India. A recipient of several awards, including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Padma Shri and Kalidas Samman among others, she revived the Indian classical dance form of Kathak and gave it a new dimension.

A biopic on the legendary dancer has now been con-

firmed on her 101st birth anniversary.

Producer Raj C Anand of Raj Anand Movies made an announcement as he said, "We are very happy and excited to bring the story of Sitara Devi to life to the big screen. We believe that her story will make a compelling watch and we would ensure that the film turns out to be as fascinating as her real-life used to be."

Ranjit Barot, the celebrated musician and drummer, who is the son of Sitara Devi, has taken the onus of guid-

ing the project's research team by helping them with deep insights into his mother's life on the basis of which the story will be designed.

Talking about the project, Ranjit said, "I am excited that a film is to be made on my mother's life. We intend to bring to the screen the untold story of her life through this endeavour."



## Esha on her most loved things

**Mumbai:** Actress Esha Gupta is currently busy shooting for two back-to-back web series including *Invisible Woman* and *Ashram 3*.

Taking some time off from her busy schedule, the actress recently took to Instagram stories where she revealed some of her most loved things to her fans. She shared that astronomy was her favourite subject in school and that she was always mesmerised by the extra terrestrial world and celestial bodies.

She also spoke about the actors whom she looked

upto in the industry, she pointed out that Pankaj Tripathi and the late Irrfan Khan always found a place high on her list. She referred to them as part of the elite pack of performers. Ajay Devgn and Emraan Hashmi, with whom she worked in the 2017 film *Baadshaho*, were the stars she loved sharing screen space with.

Talking about her hobbies, the actress shared that she has diverse interests. While she loves playing sports like basketball and football, she also likes curling up in bed with a book for a reading session.

Among her most loved books is F Scott Fitzgerald jazz-age saga *The Great Gatsby*. Croatian footballer Luka Modric who also plays for Spanish club Real Madrid is also among her favourites.

ANS

## Sino-Indian movie *Ladki...* RGV's tribute to Bruce Lee



united India and China. Produced by Artsee Media and the Chinese Production

Major Big People, *Ladki* is an India-China co-production filmed in Mumbai, Goa and China. ANS

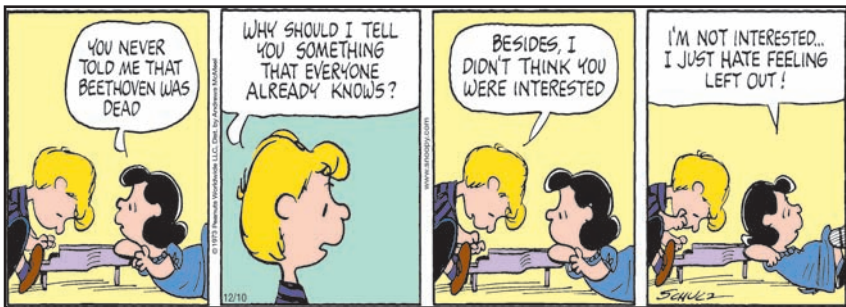
abroad, is putting out the trailer of the film called *Ladki* in Hindi and *Dragon Girl* in Chinese Monday at 5 pm.

"Like Sarkar was my tribute to *The Godfather*, *Ladki - Enter The Girl Dragon* starring Pooja Bhalekar is my tribute to the greatest martial arts film ever made in history *Enter The Dragon* starring the iconic Bruce Lee," says RGV.

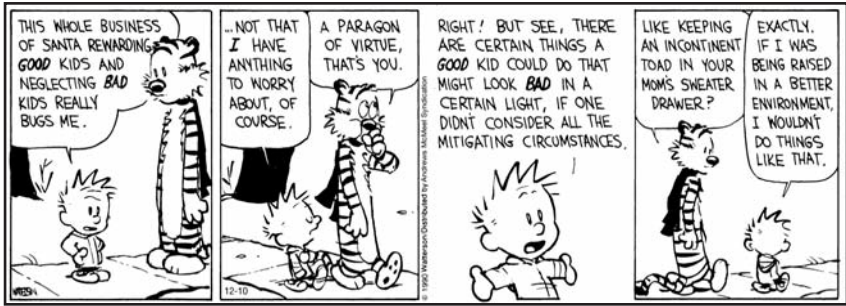
It will be the first Indian film to release in China after the Galwan standoff between the two countries proving that martial arts and cinema have re-

### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



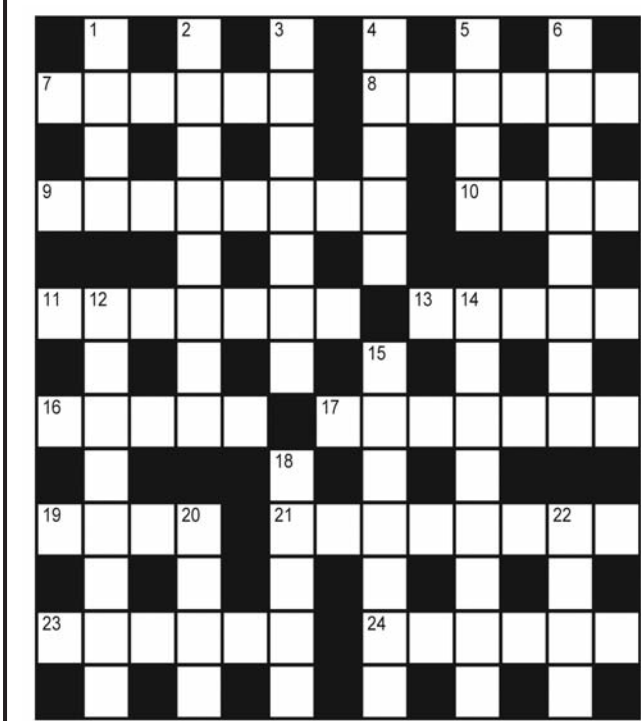
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



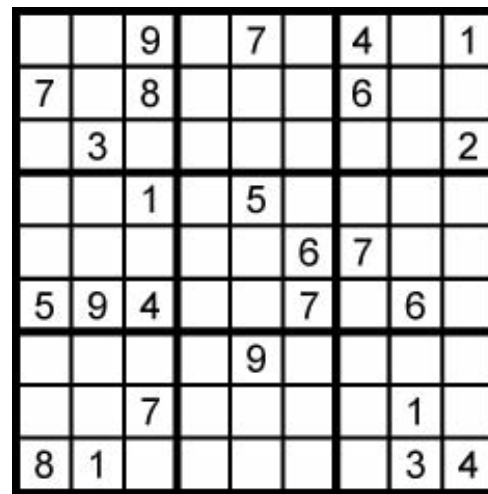
#### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Sheen
  - 8 Number one
  - 9 Snake killer
  - 10 Begrudge
  - 11 Gofer's chores
  - 13 Inside info
  - 16 Enticed
  - 17 Flimsy
  - 19 Sweetheart
  - 21 Expensive hobby
  - 23 Poem part
  - 24 Bistro
- Down**
- 1 Greek liqueur
  - 2 Cease to move
  - 3 Duel members
  - 4 Talking bird of poetry
  - 5 Eyelid problem
  - 6 Salad ingredient (5,3)
  - 12 Casino game
  - 14 Ponder
  - 15 Leaping insect
  - 18 Rock rabbit
  - 20 Coffee dispensers
  - 22 Roman Emperor

#### 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

HEADMAN ITCH  
I G O E N A P  
FORMULA ELUDE  
I E N R P S R  
SKEET BAT TAM  
I Y I I  
W I T H E R B O B C A T  
A I T H E R  
S A T F E E B U N K S  
A A R R I A P  
B I N G O O P T I C A L  
I I N I E R R I  
I C E D C O R R E C T

#### SUDOKU

3 7 2 1 4 9 8 5 6  
1 5 4 6 7 8 9 3 2  
9 6 8 5 3 2 1 4 7  
6 1 7 4 5 3 2 9 8  
8 3 5 2 9 1 7 6 4  
4 2 9 8 6 7 3 1 5  
5 8 3 9 2 6 4 7 1  
2 9 6 7 1 4 5 8 3  
7 4 1 3 8 5 6 2 9

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## 7 MEMBERS OF KBN GANG NABBED: DCP

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** The Commissionerate Police has claimed to have arrested seven members, including two Monday, of the KBN gang that has struck fear among the denizens for the past several days through some viral videos on social media platforms. The gang members are seen roaming around the city brandishing sharp weapons and firearms late in the night.

The arrested were identified as Sahil Sagar Sarangi, 19, of Salipur in Cuttack and Kanhu Sahu, 23, of Aska in Ganjam.

Sarangi is currently staying at Paika Nagar and Sahu is residing at Delta Square under Nayapalli police limits. Earlier, five other members of the gang, known as KBN (Koi Bhai Nahi) or Town Tiger were also arrested in different cases registered at Khandagiri and Nayapalli police stations.

DCP Umashankar Dash Monday informed the media that a case has been registered at Nayapalli police station against 29 persons of the gang in connection with the viral video. "An edited video that went viral on various media and social media platforms after it was uploaded on Instagram has created an atmosphere of fear among the citizens. We have taken the video seriously and identified all the gang members present in it," said Dash.

He also said anyone who received any kind of threat or suffered any criminal actions by these gangs should inform the police.

He assured that the names of the informants would be kept secret. The Commissionerate Police also bulldozed the residence of Rajesh Kumar Behera alias Chenga, one of the gang members, during a house search on the suspicion of storing firearms at Pokhariput here Monday. Dash said police have launched a manhunt to nab the other members of the gang.

## COLLEGES TOLD TO USE SMART CLASSROOMS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** The Higher Education (HE) department Monday instructed colleges of the state to effectively utilise virtual classrooms.

In a letter to the principals of 51 degree colleges, Additional Secretary of the department Rajashree Mohanty instructed the college authorities to utilise the smart classrooms for teaching and learning process.

She also said that colleges had been instructed to maintain a log book indicating the number of classes taken by teachers along with student attendance, and submit the copy of the same to the department. However, due to the pandemic and nationwide lockdowns from March 2020, all physical classes were suspended. So far, no report regarding this has been received by the department.

Now that the pandemic has receded considerably and physical classes have resumed, effective utilisation of smart classroom installed in the colleges has become the need of the hour, she said, adding that at least 10-15 classes per week must be taken in the smart classroom to meet the objective of the scheme.

"You are therefore directed to arrange classes in smart classrooms and maintain a register. The use of classrooms will be inspected by the senior officials by way of surprise visit," she wrote in her letter.

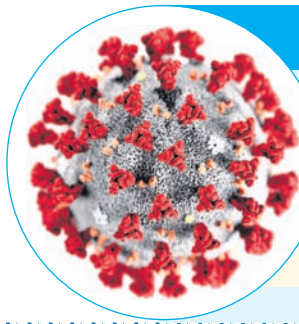
## Two teams to probe Brahmagiri bombing

**Puri:** Two dedicated teams have been formed to probe the group clash in Brahmagiri area here Sunday that saw bomb hurling in which 10 persons suffered injuries, superintendent of police (SP) Kanwar Vishal Singh said Monday. "Now, the situation is under control. Five platoons of police force have been deployed at the clash site. An additional SP will supervise the probe. The persons involved in the bomb hurling will be taken into custody," Singh added.



## MATTER OF FAITH

People belonging to Telugu community offer prayers at a termite mound in Puri to mark Naga Chaturthi, also Nagula Chavithi, Monday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

|        | INFECTED     | RECOVERED    | DEAD      |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| World  | 25,07,49,559 | 22,69,77,666 | 50,67,585 |
| India  | 3,43,66,987  | 3,37,63,104  | 4,61,057  |
| Odisha | 10,43,745    | 10,32,566    | 8,361     |

# State sees 387% jump in student suicides

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** Students always play a pivotal role in the development of a country and loss of students' lives adversely affects the growth of the country or a state. However, Odisha losing 1,469 precious lives of the youngsters has emerged as a cause for concern.

It's ironical that Odisha has recently witnessed a spurt in student suicide cases amidst the novel coronavirus induced pandemic. With 1,469 student suicide cases, the state recorded 387.59 per cent rise in such cases in 2020 as compared to the previous year. As per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report on 'Accidental Death and Suicides in India', Odisha holds the second spot in student suicide cases in the country. As many as 379 students of the state ended their lives in 2019.

A perusal of previous year's reports indicated that a mercurial growth in the number of student suicides in Odisha.

It's significant to note here that such cases always remained around 400 during the last 20 years, barring 2018, when the number of suicides committed by students rose to 501 in the state.

It seems the parents and stu-

## COVID BLUES

With 1,469 student suicide cases, the state recorded 387.59 per cent rise in such cases in 2020 as compared to 379 such cases in the previous year

Such cases always remained around 400 during the last 20 years, barring 2018, when the number of suicides committed by students rose to 501 in the state

It seems the parents and students in the state failed miserably to cope with the disruption in the psycho-social ecosystem caused by the pandemic in 2020



**Students passing through the adolescent phase of life are always more vulnerable to mental health issues, particularly to depression. Disengagement, lack of fulfilling academic targets, threatened goal perception, immediate financial constraints of the family, and troubled family and personal relationships, all arising from Covid pandemic, have augmented emotional crisis among students**

HARESH MISHRA | PSYCHOLOGIST

Students in the state failed miserably to cope with the disruption in the psycho-social ecosystem caused by the pandemic in 2020.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, noted psychologist, Prof Haresh Mishra

said, "Students passing through the adolescent phase of life are always more vulnerable to mental health issues, particularly to depression. Disengagement, lack of fulfilling academic targets, threat-

## EC: 22 BJD MLAs don't attract disqualification

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 8:** The 22 BJD MLAs who were appointed as chairpersons of various district planning committees and special development councils some years ago do not attract disqualification for holding office of profit, the Election Commission (EC) has opined.

In an opinion rendered to the Odisha Governor last month, the poll panel said out of the 22 MLAs, offices held by 20 were exempted from disqualification under statutory law.

Two MLAs had resigned from their office before becoming members of Odisha Legislative Assembly. "In the view of above, this Commission hereby opines that none of the 22 respondent MLAs from Odisha Legislative Assembly have incurred disqualification under the provisions of Article 191(1)(a) of the Constitution of India," the EC opinion put in public domain Monday said.

Based on the October 13 opinion of the poll panel, Governor Ganeshi Lal issued an order October 22, saying in view of the constitu-

tional and legal provisions and the opinion of the Election Commission, "I hereby order that the applications filed before me as above under Article 191 of the Constitution of India is not maintainable in as much as it is not a ground for disqualification of the elected representatives under Article 191 of the Constitution of India."

One Samarendra Beura had sought the legislators' disqualification and filed multiple petitions. In one of his petitions, he had urged the governor to treat his earlier petition as fresh on the ground that 12 of the 13 respondent MLAs had been re-elected.

## Cartoonist Kishore passes away at 58

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** Noted cartoonist Kishore Rath passed away at the Capital Hospital here Monday morning. He was 58.

Family sources said Rath complained of uneasiness, following which he was rushed to the state-run healthcare facility. Rath suffered a massive cardiac arrest and breathed his last while undergoing treatment at the facility.

Rath had become a household name in Odisha for his cartoon column 'Katakhy' published in Odia daily Sambad. Born in 1963, Rath was a graduate in Fine Arts from the Khallikote Arts College.

Rath had created a fanbase of his own with his unique style of drawing and rhyming verse having a touch of humour in it.

A pall of gloom descended on the media fraternity after the demise of Rath. People from various walks of life, including Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, condoled Rath's untimely demise.

## Puri civic body's decision to collect user fee sparks protest

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**Puri, Nov 8:** Social activists Monday staged a demonstration before the District Collector's office and threatened to launch a 'Satyagrah' to protest the decision of the Puri Municipality to collect user fees from the residents.

As many as 21 city-based organisations formed a joint coordination committee led by the president of Puri Bikash Parishad Jagannath Bastia to protest the civic body's decision.

A demonstration was staged in front of the Collector's office. The social activists announced to launch a Satyagrah against the civic body if the administration does not scrap the proposal. The civic body has announced it will collect user fees from residents from November 10.

A charter of demands was handed over to Puri Collector Samarth Verma who is also the administrator of the civic body in the absence of an elected council.

During a discussion with the Collector, activists pointed out that



**The decision of the civic body, the activists said, is arbitrary as the municipality has not organised ward committee meetings**

charging user fees on the pretext that huge amount of money is being spent on the ongoing drive for improving sanitation and on payment to outsourced agencies is not based on facts.

Bastia said residents are paying holding tax at enhanced rates to the municipality for sanitation, solid waste management. He further said it is the primary duty of the civic body to provide basic amenities to residents

This apart, both Union and state governments are releasing huge funds to the civic body as grants for collection of garbage and solid waste disposal work.

The decision of the civic body, the activists said, is arbitrary as the municipality has not organised ward committee meetings to get a public opinion before announcing it.

They described the action of the civic body as beyond the rule of governance, unconstitutional, illegal and against the interests of residents at large and demanded that it should be scrapped forthwith.

The Collector assured the delegation that he would discuss the issue with the civic body and consider the points of the demand letter.

The activists postponed their Satyagrah programme after an assurance from the Collector.

Social activists Chakradhar Mahapatra, Swadhin Kumar Panda, Suryanarayan Rath, Biswajit Pradhan, Sukant Panda, Shyamprakash Senapati and Jagannath Deo participated in the demonstration.

## CITY BEAUTIFICATION



The 'I Love Bhubaneswar' selfie point near Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar gets a fresh paint, Monday

OP PHOTO

## Prez confers Padma awards on 9 Odias

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Nov 8:** President Ram Nath Kovind Monday conferred Padma awards on nine Odias for distinguished services in the fields of Art, Literature and Education, Agriculture & Animal Husbandry for the year 2020 in a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan here.

Renowned author Manoj Das was conferred with Padma Bhushan (posthumously), the third-highest civilian award in the country. He was earlier awarded Padma Shri in 2001, the fourth-highest civilian award for his contribution in the field of Literature and Education. He was also felicitated with Sahitya Akademi Award in 2006. However, it was not Odisha but Pondicherry

which recommended Das' name for the award.

Apart from Das, Padma Shri awards were conferred on Damayanti Beshra and Binapani Mohanty in the field of Literature and Education, Utsav Charan Das, Mitrabhanu Guntia and Manmohan Mahapatra (posthumously) for their services in the field of Art.

Radha Mohan (posthumously) and his daughter Sabarmatee were jointly conferred Padma Shri for their work in organic agriculture while Batakrushna Sahoo was awarded for his work in Animal Husbandry. Digambar Behera was conferred with Padma Shri for his distinguished service in the field of medicine.

# TTV in humans can act as biomarker for Covid

**P**eople infected with SARS-CoV-2 are more likely to have increased load of Torquetenovirus (TTV), an apparently inoffensive virus most frequently found in humans, which can be used as a marker of Covid-19 severity and recovery, according to researchers.

Besides humans, TTV is also common in monkeys and domestic animals. Its presence has not been associated with any known disease, but its excessive replication is a sign that something is wrong

with the immune system. The correlation between high TTV load and immunosuppression has been used in medicine in certain contexts, such as monitoring transplant patients who take medication to prevent rejection of the transplanted organ.

A study by researchers at the University of Sao Paulo (USP) in Brazil analysed samples from 91 patients diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR, and from 126 people with flu symptoms who tested negative. TTV and SARS-CoV-2 viral

loads were measured in saliva samples. The results, reported in the journal PLOS ONE, showed that TTV titer is higher in subjects infected by the novel coronavirus

The higher the titer, the longer they remained sick and the symptoms disappeared as viral load decreased

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The results, reported in the journal PLOS ONE, showed that TTV titer is higher in subjects infected by the novel coronavirus. The higher the titer, the longer they remained sick and the symptoms

disappeared as viral load decreased.

None of the participants had diseases that cause immunosuppression, such as cancer or HIV/AIDS.

"Covid-19 appears to lead to a degree of immunodepression by causing an immune system im-

balance, and this favours replication of TTV. In uninfected subjects, TTV titer remained stable throughout the symptomatic period," said Maria Cassia Mendes-Correa, Professor at the Medical School (FM-USP).

While the discovery has no direct clinical applications, it may in future contribute to improved Covid-19 diagnosis and prognosis.

TTV has been analysed as a potential biomarker for certain clinical outcomes measured in different biological fluids. The

researchers have investigated how elimination of SARS-CoV-2 varies over time in different body fluids, such as blood, urine and saliva.

"We then had the idea of analysing TTV load in these samples in order to find out whether it correlated with Covid-19 severity. The results showed that TTV can indeed serve as a marker of the progression and outcome of this disease. The more symptomatic the patient, the higher the TTV load in the sample," Mendes-Correa said.

IANS



### State may see rain from Nov 11 to 13

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, pounded by heavy downpour since Saturday night, may experience more rains as a low pressure area (Lopar) is likely to form over south Bay of Bengal close to the Tamil Nadu coast Tuesday, said the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC), SOA Deemed to be University, Monday.

The system may cross TN coast as a well-marked low pressure area on November 11 night, a CEC bulletin said. Under its influence, Odisha may experience cloudy sky Tuesday afternoon while light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning may occur in coastal and south Odisha districts between November 11 and 13. This system is likely to be followed by formation of another low pressure area over central Bay of Bengal November 14 which may get very close to central Andhra Pradesh coast November 16.

This could result in moderate rainfall at many places over Odisha with heavy rainfall at one or two locations in south Odisha districts. Farmers may take precautionary measures to protect paddy crop.

Existing cold conditions in Odisha could continue till November 10 due to influence of cold dry wind from the north-west and north but night temperature might rise gradually from Tuesday.

The state may have cloudy sky between November 10 afternoon and November 19, but cold conditions might prevail due to low day temperature and sensible heat.

### Awareness camp on legal rights Nov 13

**Puri:** In a bid to educate the masses on their legal rights and the government welfare schemes, the district administration, in association with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), is all set to hold a mega camp at Talabania Stadium here November 13, an official said Monday. This was revealed at a preparatory meeting held at the Collector's conference hall here.

### WASSUP TODAY BHUBANESWAR

- Utkalika Expo, Ekamra Haat, 10am
- Bharatiya Bikas Parishad to submit memo to Guv, Raj Bhawan, 11am
- State-level workshop by OSDMA, Hotel Suryansh, 10am

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

### CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

It is declared and noticed that my self Sri Hutasan Singh, Village: Siadimaal, P.O.- Sunger, P.S.- Kashipur, Dist.- Rayagada that I cleared I bought a land of 0.07 decimal from Sri Mohan Singh of Siadimaal Village, which registration sale deed (R.S.D) No. 26/1998, Khata No. 68/45, Plot No. 638/941 - 0.04 decimal, 639/942 - 0.02 decimal and 640/943 - 0.01 decimal. Total 0.07 decimal. But whenever the R.S.D. had lost. I couldn't find that. If any compassion person get that kindly returned the document contact this Notice No. because this document is necessary for the house loan applied in S.B.I., Sunger. If any objection of any person than they can contact to SBI, Sunger Branch. Yours faithfully, Hutasan Singh, Siadimaal, Sunger, Kashipur, Rayagada, Ph.No. - 9437141551, 9437933399.

## CHILIKA UNGUARDED Temporary camps left with night watchers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khurda, Nov 8:** As Chilika, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, witnesses the inflow of migratory birds, the alleged absence of deployed officials in the temporary camps that are set up to watch out for threats has raised eyebrows.

As per Chilika Wildlife Division sources, around 22,000 birds of over 60 species have already landed at the Ramsar site. Foreign birds of more than 20 species have been recorded in Mangalajodi and other nearby areas under Tangi Wildlife range.

To ensure protection of the avian guests, the Forest department has set up 11 temporary camps at Mangalajodi, Bhusandapur, Balipatapur, Deypur, Dholapur, Barunapada, Halisinga, Abhimanpur, Sundarpur, Nairi and Sorana.

Each camp is meant to station one forester, one forest guard, and one night watcher. These camps are placed to protect the migratory birds from hunters, who operate along the banks of the lagoon during winter. However, many of these camps are running without foresters and guards. While only night watchers are present in these camps, the rest of the staffers are nowhere nearby.

When contacted, Tangi Wildlife official CH Murmu said that forest guards have been deployed in all the temporary camps. They are in contact with the locals under their jurisdictions and are vigilant towards birds' security. Since there



is a crunch of foresters, each guard has been assigned with two camps. The serenity of Chilika, along with the conglomeration of colourful birds, attracts visitors and birdwatchers. Photographers are particularly interested in birds searching for food or flying over the Nalabana and Rajadala regions. However, inflow of migratory birds has not been spectacular so far at Mangalajodi. The place is primarily observing the movement of indigenous birds, according to some tourists. A touring team from Bhubaneswar said, "We visit

EACH CAMP IS MEANT TO STATION ONE FORESTER, ONE FOREST GUARD, AND ONE NIGHT WATCHER

THESE CAMPS ARE PLACED TO PROTECT THE MIGRATORY BIRDS FROM HUNTERS, WHO OPERATE ALONG THE BANKS OF THE LAGOON DURING WINTER

HOWEVER, MANY OF THESE CAMPS ARE RUNNING WITHOUT FORESTERS AND GUARDS

of the same observation. On the other hand, environmentalist Jaya Krushna Panigrahi said that weeds like Nala grass and Rajadala are growing incessantly at Mangalajodi. Chilika is shrinking rapidly, resulting in deterioration of biodiversity and fall in the population of aquatic animals. The scarcity of food is another reason behind reducing number of birds. Therefore, the protection and development of the lagoon demands collaborative efforts from Chilika Development Authority, Wildlife department, Fisheries department and district administration.

Mangalajodi in the first week of November to witness migratory birds. This time, majority of the species are turning out to be indigenous." Several guides too were

## 50% fresh Covid cases reported from Khurda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** Odisha Monday reported 276 new Covid-19 cases, 42 less than the previous day pushing the tally to 10,43,745, a Health department official said. Khurda has reported 50 per cent of the total cases.

As many as 138 new cases were reported from Khurda district, of which the state Capital Bhubaneswar is a part, while 12 out of the coastal state's 30 districts reported no new infection in the last 24 hours, a Health department bulletin stated.

The state had reported 318 Covid-19 cases Sunday, 208 Saturday, 170 Friday and 351 Thursday.

The Covid-19 toll climbed to 8,361 with four more fatalities - two in Khurda, and one each in Ganjam and Puri districts. Fifty-three more Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities so far, according to the Health department official.

The number of active Covid-19 cases declined to 3,134 Monday

THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE COVID CASES IN STATE DECLINED TO 3,134 MONDAY FROM 3,209 THE PREVIOUS DAY

A TOTAL OF 10,32,197 PEOPLE HAVE RECOVERED FROM THE HIGHLY INFECTIOUS DISEASE SO FAR

2.63 CRORE FIRST DOSES OF THE CORONAVIRUS VACCINE HAD BEEN ADMINISTERED IN THE STATE, WHILE 1.25 CRORE PEOPLE HAD BEEN INOCULATED WITH BOTH DOSES OF THE VACCINE

from 3,209 the previous day. A total of 10,32,197 people have recovered from the highly infectious disease so far, it said. The Health bulletin also stated that 2.63 crore first doses of the coronavirus vaccine had been administered in the state, while 1.25 crore people had been inoculated with both doses of the vaccine.

### SEMINAR IN CITY

A seminar organised by the Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with Odia Language, Literature and Culture department underway at the institution auditorium, Monday

OP PHOTO

## Landscaping will infuse life into cities: Experts

URBAN LANDSCAPES CREATE, RESTORE AND PRESERVE FORESTS, RECREATIONAL PARKS, NATURE CENTRES AND OTHER SYLVAN SETTINGS THAT ADD TO THE QUALITY OF CITY ENVIRONMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** With the United Nations predicting that urban population across the globe is likely to touch 68 per cent of the total population by 2050, up from the present 56.2 per cent, urban areas are facing enhanced stress.

Further, pollution from various sources, heavy traffic, congested housing, massive concrete structures and loss of greenery lessen the quality of environment in cities, thereby reducing their livability. Hence, undertaking eco-friendly measures and creating sustainable landscapes in urban areas are the need of the hour.

Urban landscapes create, restore and preserve forests, recreational parks, nature centres and other sylvan settings that add to the quality of urban environment.



Experts threw light on this at a webinar on 'Urban landscaping from environmental perspective' organised by Odisha Environmental Society (OES) Sunday. Experts also said that develop-

ment of sustainable landscapes in cities assists in sequestering carbon, cleaning the air pollutants, recharging and storing water; moderating extreme temperatures, increasing energy efficiency, restor-

ing habitats, and creating value through significant economic, social and environmental benefits for communities. Thus, landscaping with appropriate planning by expert archi-

tecs needs to be given due importance while establishing new cities or making expansion of the existing ones. These can also provide befitting solutions to the challenges of global warming and climate change. Addressing the webinar as the chief guest, Head of Department, Floriculture and Landscaping, OUA, Sashikala Beura stated that in the present scenario, landscaping of urban areas is of immense significance. "This will not only create attractive, pollution-free environment, but will also add some naturalness to the concrete jungles in cities," she said. "The greenery and beauty of colourful flowers in the avenues and public parks will be the source of recreation and relief from mental stress. Landscaping will have ecological, social, economic and aes-

thetic values. The environmental benefits include improvement in air quality, precipitation and humidity, noise abatement, temperature regulation, carbon sequestration, water storage and soil conservation, wind protection, and glare and reflection control. Hence, landscaping in urban areas needs to be given top priority," she added. OES president Sundara Narayan Patro emphasised on plantation of IUCN-identified threatened plant species of the state in urban areas so as to ensure their conservation and take out their names from the red list. OES secretary Jaya Krushna Panigrahi stated that cities and mega cities are turning out to be concentration centres of human population; but their quality of environment and livability are not being given due importance.

## Kharagpur-JK Road Special from Nov 12

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** In view of passengers' convenience, it has been decided to run a special train between Kharagpur and Jajpur Keonjhar Road from November 12.

The 08037 Kharagpur-Jajpur Keonjhar Road Special will leave at 16:15hrs from Kharagpur and reach Jajpur Keonjhar Road at 21:40hrs. In return direction, the 08038 Jajpur Keonjhar Road-Kharagpur Special will leave at 06:10hrs from Jajpur Keonjhar Road and will reach Kharagpur at 11:00hrs.

This train will have three motor cars and nine MEMU coaches in its composition.

It has also been decided to run a pair of special trains between Howrah and Bhadrak from November 9, 2021.



According to Railways sources, 08043 Howrah-Bhadrak Special from Howrah will leave at 15:40hrs and reach Bhadrak at 22:35hrs. In return direction, 08044 Bhadrak-Howrah Special from Bhadrak will leave at 04:50hrs and reach Howrah at 11:45hrs. This train will have 10 Second Class Seating and two guard-cum-luggage vans in its composition.

## ILS scientist bags NASI award

**Bhubaneswar:** Soma Chattopadhyay, Scientist at the Institute of Life Science (ILS), Bhubaneswar, has been selected for the NASI-Reliance Industries Platinum Jubilee Awards 2021. The award has been conferred on her by the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad for her application-oriented research in the field of biological science. Chattopadhyay's research group has been working on the Chikungunya virus while focusing on developing key reagents to conduct basic research on the same. She has successfully developed and characterised novel, highly sensitive and specific polyclonal antibodies against the non-structural proteins of CHIKV i.e. nsP1, nsP3 and nsP4, along with a monoclonal antibody against nsP2 of CHIKV. The epitopes were analysed against 37 different CHIKV strains and were found to be effective. These antibodies are now being used worldwide. Earlier, she had also received the Biotech Product, Process Development and Commercialization Award 2019 by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. The group played a vital role in Covid-19 research, with isolation and characterisation of SARS-CoV-2 virus cultures from patient samples, and made it available for further anti-viral and vaccine research as well as screening of numerous antiviral compounds against both CHIKV and SARS-CoV-2. The group has played a prominent role in establishing the antiviral screening platform at DBT-ILS.

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SHORT TAKES

Eggs hurled at WCD minister's car

**Bhawanipatna/Karlamunda, Nov 8:** Workers of the BJP and Congress who were protesting over the Mamita murder case have pelted eggs at the car of Minister of Women and Child Development Tukuni Sahu at Narla in Kalahandi district Monday. Minister Sahu was returning from a programme in Bhawanipatana where smart health cards under Biju Swathya Kalyan Yojana were distributed. After the meeting Sahu was moving towards Madanpur-Rampur via Narla. In a related development, Congress and BJP workers barged into the block premises of Karlamunda where Skills Development and Technical Education Minister Premananda Nayak and advisor of the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Krutibasa Patra were distributing smart health cards Monday. The agitating workers had locked the back gate of the block office. They tried to vandalise the car of the minister and pelted eggs at the car.

Two dead in road accident

**Malkangiri:** Two persons were killed and one sustained critical injuries after the motorcycle they were travelling on collided head-on with a speeding truck on MV 36 main road under Korukonda block in Malkangiri district Monday. The deceased have been identified as Deepak Biswas (50) and his wife Sipra Biswas (42), while the injured as Sadhana Das (33). The trio were returning to Malkangiri when the killer truck heading to Balimela collided head-on with the motorcycle.

Gajapati 'most vulnerable' to climate change

The first-of-its-kind report released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water analysed 640 districts in India and found 463 are vulnerable to extreme floods, droughts and cyclones



AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** The states of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar are the most vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and cyclones in India, according to a first-of-its-kind Climate Vulnerability Index released recently by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). Overall, 27 Indian states and Union Territories are vulnerable to extreme climate events which often disrupt the local economy and displace weaker communities. The report 'Mapping India's Climate Vulnerability - A District-level Assessment', which has been supported by the India Climate Collaborative and Edelgive Foundation, has analysed 640 districts in India and found that 463 of these are vulnerable to extreme floods, droughts and cyclones.

More than 80 per cent of Indians live in districts vulnerable to climate risks, that is, 17 of 20 people in the country are vulnerable to climate risks

Dhemaji and Nagaon in Assam, Khammam in Telangana, Gajapati in Odisha, Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh, Sangli in Maharashtra and Chennai in Tamil Nadu are among India's most climate vulnerable districts, finds the study. More than 80 per cent of Indians live in districts vulnerable to climate risks, that is, 17 of 20 people in the country are vulnerable to climate risks, out of which every five Indians live in areas that are extremely vulnerable, finds the report. It further says that more than 45 per cent of these districts have undergone

"unsustainable landscape and infrastructure changes".

Further, 183 hotspot districts are highly vulnerable to more than one extreme climate event. The CEEW study also found that more than 60 per cent of Indian districts have medium to low adaptive capacity in handling extreme weather events.

Echoing the findings of the latest IPCC Physical Science report, the CEEW report points out that most districts in India have been made particularly vulnerable due to "landscape disruptions" like the disappearance of forest cover, over-construction, degradation of wetlands and other natural ecosystems.

"The anthropogenic activity in changing the land use and therefore degradation of natural ecosystems - which means that an already vulnerable district becomes even more vulnerable to impacts of natural disasters. For instance, Puri

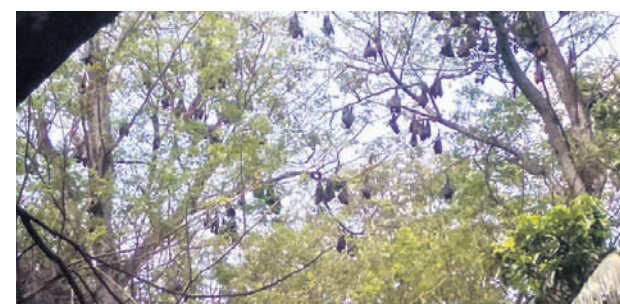
in Odisha has always been prone to cyclones. But it has over the years experienced 49.78 per cent loss of wetlands and 39 per cent loss in mangroves which would act as a natural barrier, making it more vulnerable," says CEEW Programme Lead and author of the study, Abinash Mohanty.

The study also highlighted that states in India's northeast are more vulnerable to floods, while the ones in the south and central are most vulnerable to extreme droughts. Further, 59 and 41 per cent of the total districts in the eastern and western states, respectively, are highly vulnerable to extreme cyclones.

The CEEW study also indicated that only 63 per cent of Indian districts have a District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP). While these plans need to be updated every year, only 32 per cent of them had updated plans until 2019. Highly vulnerable states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Karnataka and Gujarat have improved their respective DDMPs and climate-proofed critical infrastructures in recent years.

Creating the infrastructure to combat extreme weather events is what has put the states of West Bengal and Kerala at the bottom of the vulnerability pile among the surveyed states. Along with Tripura, West Bengal is the third least vulnerable and Kerala the least vulnerable, despite being coastal states and prone to annual cyclones and flooding. "The difference in ranking between the states is really marginal - as they are all vulnerable. But these states have fared better because they have really stepped up their climate action plans. Kerala, for instance, dealt with the 2018 floods remarkably well," says Mohanty.

After 20 years, Saharpur again a safe haven for bats



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Derabish, Nov 8:** After the Super Cyclone in 1999, the number of bats had almost vanished in Chakroda panchayat under Sadar block in Kendrapara district. Locals said that the mammals used to throng trees in large number prior to the gale. The devastating impact of the gale had stripped the greenery in Chakroda panchayat, thus destroying habitats of the bats.

Over years, bats have grown in number at Saharpur, making the village atmosphere better. Bats are found hanging with heads down from a number of trees. This has brought cheers among villagers as well as environmentalists, who see it as a good sign for ecology and environment, though the mammal is feared to be carrying viruses

of some diseases.

Villagers have ensured that the bats feel safe and do not face any danger. Bangali Charan Rout, a resident of Saharpur, said that the bats are staying on trees at the backyard of his house. "They fly about from one tree to another in the day time. At night they venture out in search of food. At dawn, they come back to the trees. In summer, some bats die for want of food and water," Bangali said. "The youths sprinkle water on these trees and keep food in polythene packets in the trees so that they do not face any problem," Bangali said.

Banambar Sahu, an environmentalist of Derabish, said that bats play a key role in maintaining ecological balance, but many people unwittingly hate them. "The bats feed on various insects affecting paddy and other crops," he observed.

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No. CAD-1750:- Tender is invited from registered dealers/manufacturers/ authorized suppliers for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of three coffee grinding machines of ANFIM & MAZZER make. The detail terms and conditions can be downloaded from the official website - www.tdccoosha.org. The intending dealers/manufacturers/ authorized suppliers who are willing to supply the above item are requested to participate in the tender. The last date and time of receipt of tender documents is up to 2:00 PM on 16.11.2021.  
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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**GANJAM [R&B] DIVISION No. 1, BERHAMPUR**  
Phone/Fax: (0680) 2233683, e-mail: eernb1\_bam@yahoo.com  
**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]**  
Bid Identification No.E.E. (R&B)-BAM-53/2021-22 No.9974 // Dated: 3.11.2021  
No. B-567:- The Executive Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No. 1, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of works detailed below from eligible contractors.  
1. Nature of work : Road Works  
2. No. of works : 3 (Three) Nos.  
3. Tender Paper Cost : 10,000/-  
4. Class of Contractor : "B" Class and "A" Class  
5. Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids : From 12.11.2021 10.00 AM to 26.11.2021 up to 4.00 PM  
6. Date of Opening of Bid : 29.11.2021 at 11.30 A.M.  
7. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Ganjam (R&B) Division No.1, Berhampur  
OIPR-34109/11/0011/2122

NCERT TO ASSESS CHILDREN'S POST-COVID LEARNING SKILLS

THE SURVEY WILL COVER LAKHS OF CHILDREN IN MORE THAN 700 DISTRICTS TO FIND THE LEARNING SKILLS OF CHILDREN AND WHAT CHANGES ARE REQUIRED IN CURRICULUM POST-COVID-19 PANDEMIC



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will conduct a National Assessment Survey (NAS) in government and private schools soon to see children's learning skills. The survey, which will cover lakhs of children in more than 700 districts, is aimed at finding out the learning skills of children and what changes are required in curriculum post-Covid-19 pandemic.

Students of Classes VI and XI can connect with the NCERT's official YouTube channel and PM eVidya DTH TV channel and can get the solutions for their mental and social concerns here

The subjects on which learning capability will be assessed are Maths,

EVS, Science, among others. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had earlier announced that a survey to assess children's learning skills is likely to be held in November this year.

For children of Classes III, VI, VIII and X, the NCERT conducts National Sample Survey (NSS) to make the assessment.

Earlier, the NSS was conducted November 13, 2017 covering over 22 lakh students of Classes III, VI and VIII. February 5, 2018, the NSS was conducted for Class X.

The NCERT is also providing counselling to address the mental health concerns of the students in the schools which are reopening after Covid-19.

The experts and officials of the NCERT will connect with the students online and help them to deal with their mental and social concerns. Through various online channels, NCERT experts will interact with students of Classes VI to XI.

As the schools have started reopening post-Covid, the NCERT said: "We want to help students to face Covid-19 challenges."

Students of Classes VI and XI can connect with the NCERT's official YouTube channel and PM eVidya DTH TV channel and can get the solutions for their mental and social concerns here.

Students can interact live with experts every Friday on toll free numbers 8800440559, 8484440632, the NCERT said.

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Education**  
**Department of Higher Education**  
**Technical Section - I**  
**Invitation of Applications for the post of Director, IIIT (PPP) Kota, Rajasthan**  
Applications are invited for appointment to the post of Director of Indian Institute of Information Technology in Public-Private Partnership mode (IIIT-PPP), Kota.  
2. The Director of an IIIT, being the academic as well as administrative head, is expected to have proven administrative, teaching and research background (including significant experience in research guidance at the Ph.D level) with the leadership qualities to head an Institute of National Importance. The candidate should be a Ph.D in appropriate branch with an outstanding academic record throughout and a minimum of 7 years experience as a Professor in a reputed Educational Institute (relaxable in the case of an outstanding candidate). Applicant should preferably be not more than 60 years of age. The post carries a fixed pay of Rs.2,10,000/- (Fixed) as per 7th CPC plus Special Allowance of Rs.11,250/- per month with allowances as admissible under the Rules of the Institute.  
3. The detailed advertisement is available on the website ([www.education.gov.in](http://www.education.gov.in)). Interested individuals may apply giving detailed resume in the format available on the website. The application along with enclosures may be sent by Registered/Speed Post to Under Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Room No.203-A, 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001 so as to reach the Ministry on or before 06.12.2021. dadvp 21312/11/0006/2122

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**  
2nd Floor, Shyam Arcade, Khetrapur, Sambalpur - 768003, E-mail: zosambalpur@indianbank.co.in  
**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
(see Proviso to rule 8(2) & 8(6) Sale Notice for Sale of properties/ies under SARFAESI Act 2002)  
**Sale of Property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**  
Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies . The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website <https://www.msstcecommerce.com> .

| Sl. No. | Branch / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors   | Description of the Immovable / Movable Properties   | Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession / Outstanding dues (As per 13(2) notice  | Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount               |
|---------|--|---|--|--|
| 1.      | <b>CHATUANKA BRANCH (e-AB), Mob. : 8260630256</b><br>Borrower: M/s Kirtika Food Products, Prop.: Mr Gourav Kumar Agrawal, S/o: Sri Hanuman Prasad Agrawal, Guarantor & Mortgagor: Smt Meena Agrawal, W/o: Sri Hanuman Prasad Agrawal, all are resident of At: Ward No.10, Gurudwara Road, PO/PS: Kantabanji, Dist: Bolangir, Pin- 767039 .               | All the part and parcel of Property (Land & Building) situated over Khata No. 234/513, Plot No. 695/3089, measuring an area of Ac. 0.110 decimal (4791.80 Sqft.), Kisam: Gharabari, Mouza: Kantabanji(Kha), PS: Kantabanji, PS No. 05, Dist: Bolangir, in the name of Smt Meena Devi Agrawal, Bounded by: East- Budha Singh, West- Budha Singh, North- Road, South- Gali .          | 15.07.2019 / /<br>14.10.2019 / /<br>Rs. 99,68,180/- as on 15.07.2019 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon | Rs. 45,00,000/- / /<br>Rs. 4,50,000/- / /<br>Rs.10,000/- |
| 2.      | <b>CHATUANKA BRANCH (e-AB), Mob. : 8260630256</b><br>Borrower: M/s Kalpana Water Treatment, Prop.: Sri Gopal Prasad Agrawal, S/o: Ramesh Kumar Agrawal, Mortgagor: Sri Gopal Prasad Agrawal, S/o: Ramesh Kumar Agrawal, Guarantor: Smt Rajeswari Agrawal, all are resident of At: Ward No.3, Main Road, PO/PS: Kantabanji, Dist: Bolangir, Pin- 767039 . | All the part and parcel of Property (Land & Building) situated over Khata No. 234/1000, Plot No. 3535/3822, measuring an area of Ac. 0.034 decimal (1481.04 Sqft.), Kisam: Gharabari, Mouza: Kantabanji(Kha), Dist: Bolangir, in the name of Sri Gopal Prasad Agrawal, S/o: Ramesh Kumar Agrawal, Bounded by: East- Road, West- Sanjay Kumar Agrawal, North & South- S.K. Agrawal . | 15.07.2019 / /<br>14.10.2019 / /<br>Rs. 60,39,685/- as on 15.07.2019 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon | Rs. 33,00,000/- / /<br>Rs. 3,30,000/- / /<br>Rs.10,000/- |

**DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 25.11.2021 (Thursday), from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 minutes duration**  
**LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE: 24.11.2021 upto 05.30 PM by online**  
**DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES: 22.11.2021 BETWEEN 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their expenses**  
For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit: <https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi>, For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.indianbank.co.in> / <https://www.ibapi.in> / <https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi> . For further details please Contact: 8249920891 .  
**STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT), RULE 2002.**  
Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned / sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost .  
Place : Sambalpur, Date : 08.11.2021 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

SEEKING DIVINE BLESSING



Devotees throng the famous Shaivite shrine Budhakhola in Ganjam to have darshan of the deity on the 3rd Monday of Kartik month OP PHOTO



FOCUS ECONOMY

# LOOKING BACK AT DeMo



Incidentally, the cash in circulation prior to November 8, 2016, was ₹18 lakh crore, and five years later it is ₹28.3 lakh crore, a jump of 57.5 per cent -- roughly a 10 per cent per year growth, higher than the real GDP growth

that the pace of adoption of digital payments is super-fast, but no credit for this should be given to demonetisation.

The objectives of demonetisation were never spelt out clearly, and the narrative kept changing in the course of the following year. First it was an attack on black money, counterfeit currency, terrorist financing. Next it was mopping up extra income tax and bringing more people into the tax net. Next it was to make India move rapidly to cashless transactions. And then again, it was to enable the ecosystem of fintech companies and innovation in the financial system. None of this has borne out. However, one can use the 'post hoc, ergo propter hoc' fallacy to justify that demonetisation goals (whatever they were) have been met. Not only does 'correlation does not mean causation', but also, just because X follows Y, it does not mean that Y causes X to happen. All this may sound too nuanced, and it will need this year's economics Nobel winners to tease out the causality between demonetisation and subsequent effects.

Undeniably the following propositions still hold. Firstly, people suffered hardship. Secondly the informal sector economy was badly hit. Thirdly the popularity of the Prime Minister, who took ownership of the decision, remained undiminished. (This could be attributed to his power of projecting a 'reality distortion field' as often referred to by the legendary business leader and innovator Steve Jobs). It is the power of his charisma. Fourth, cash is back in circulation with a vengeance, despite a steep increase in digital payments. Fifth, until the pandemic year GDP growth declined continuously and investment to the GDP ratio stagnated. Lastly, the informal economy as a share of the total economy has shrunk, although the factors are many. The analysis of shrinkage of the informal economy is left for another column.

The writer is an economist and Senior Fellow, **Takshashila Institution.**  
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This week marks the fifth anniversary of the day demonetisation was sprung on the nation at merely four hours' notice. The Prime Minister announced at 8pm November 8, 2016, that all ₹1,000 and ₹500 notes would cease to be legal tender from midnight. Effectively 86 per cent of the currency was taken away, and the new replacement notes were not yet ready. For several months Indians did not have access to their own funds. And the small numbers of notes issued initially were all in ₹2000 denomination, which didn't help since nobody had change (of the new ₹500 denomination). There were long lines of people outside bank branches and ATMs desperate to withdraw the small ₹4000 limit allowed in the early days. There were cases of rioting, attacks on bank staff, and people also died, some of them waiting in lines to withdraw money.

Snatching away the belongings of people was a very harsh and cruel public policy measure. After 50 days, in late December the government also passed an ordinance (later made into law) that possession of old notes was illegal (on par with owning drugs). There is telling irony and pathos, that recently, unaware of demonetisation which happened five years ago, a blind person, a destitute, who earned his keep by begging in the Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu, asked the collector to exchange his entire life savings of ₹65,000 in old notes. Of course, he was denied. There are probably lakhs of such savers who in the past five years discovered that their savings were equal to mud, and had no recourse. And yet month after month, after that fateful November 8 announcement, public opinion surveys showed strong support for the Prime Minister's intent. People around the country, especially the poor were convinced that some big fish were fried and were caught with their pants down. The PM's message was that hoarding cash was black money, and the sudden almost 'surgical attack' took the big fat black money hoarders by surprise. If this thesis was correct

then a substantial portion of the demonetised money should not have come back into the banking system. But it became clear within first 60 days itself, confirmed by the RBI much later in August 2017, that more than 99 per cent of the cash had been turned in.

This return of demonetised currency into the banking system was not surprising at all. That's because the government's own data from several years of income tax raids and action by the Enforcement Directorate, had shown that nearly 98 per cent of ill-gotten wealth was in the form of benami land, gold, real estate, stocks and foreign accounts. So only 7 per cent of black money sits around as cash. Even then demonetising high value notes is a good idea, mooted by the OECD, the European Central Bank and even the former Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund, Ken Rogoff, among many others. But their version of discontinuing high value notes was with an advance notice of 12 to 18 months. And to certainly not to introduce even higher value notes!

The highest value note in the United States is \$100 which is 0.16 per cent in value of their per capita income. And most of the \$100 notes are actually circulating outside the US not within. For India, a ₹2000 note represents 1.3 per cent of the country's per capita income. That's more than eight times

the ratio of the US. Since it is eight times higher in relative terms, than that of the US, by American standards our highest denomination should be 1/8th of ₹2000 which is around ₹350. So a maximum ₹500 denomination should suffice. If demonetisation was supposed to make a big dent on black money, it clearly failed.

Incidentally, the cash in circulation prior to November 8, 2016, was ₹18 lakh crore, and five years later it is ₹28.3 lakh crore, a jump of 57.5 per cent -- roughly a 10 per cent per year growth, higher than the real GDP growth. In these times of high inflation, the cash with the public is extraordinarily high. This is despite a steep rise in electronic payments and the widespread use of the Unified Payment Interface (UPI). The latter is clocking more than 4 billion transactions every month, and annually will clock 25 billion transactions as against 15 billion in China. But it can be argued that India's digital journey did not need a demonetisation 'jhatka'. It would have happened anyway, as the current pace of adoption shows. More importantly the share of payments (by value) which are instant payments of the UPI kind is 15.6 per cent, as per a study by a US company called ACI Worldwide. Even the RBI's annual report shows that retail non-cash, instant payment systems still have a lot of catching up to do. It is undoubted



Ajit Ranade

**THE OBJECTIVES OF DEMONETISATION WERE NEVER SPELT OUT CLEARLY, AND THE NARRATIVE KEPT CHANGING IN THE COURSE OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR**

## Same Same Parivar

Meghalaya Governor and BJP leader Satya Pal Malik has done it again. He has gone hammer and tongs against the Centre, questioning the wisdom of some of its crucial decisions, including the three controversial farm laws, policies and even the party's tall claim of stemming the tide of corruption that flourished during the previous UPA-II government. The belligerence this time is even greater than on the recent two occasions. The timing appears to be perfect. For, his outbursts on the occasion of a global Jat conference in Jaipur November 7 coincided with the BJP's first national executive meeting in two years at Delhi. Interestingly, the political resolution adopted at the meeting was silent on the three farm laws. It was only in response to media query on farmers' protests that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government has time and again expressed its willingness to talk to farmer unions and asked them to list their grievances on the three laws. On the other hand, the resolution highlighted the government's programmes for their welfare, including the release of new varieties of crops, farm credit, PM-KISAN scheme and Kisan Rail among others. But, its studied silence on the farm laws themselves, the issues of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the military standoff with China is, indeed, deafening.

What is puzzling the nation is the open revolt by the Meghalaya Governor, who is a BJP nominee, against the Centre. He himself conceded that he had been given the post by 'two to three' leaders in Delhi and no one is left in any doubt about who they are. What he has said this time around may test the patience of the BJP leadership far more than what he had said earlier. It may be interesting to note, as a sideline, that Satyapal Malik's vociferous open opposition of the Modi government might be the key for which his position is safe till now. Any retaliation against him would be construed as punishment for speaking the truth. Although action against him cannot be ruled out, it might be risky for the BJP leadership's image, which is already facing criticism. Malik was sarcastic at his best when he said Central leaders send a condolence message when a dog dies, but there was not a word from the Centre on the death of 600 farmers agitating against the farm laws. In an audacious reference to the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards in 1984, he said he had urged PM Narendra Modi not to antagonise Sikhs and Jats who form the bulk of the protesters against the farm laws.

He didn't stop there and went on to say the farmers' agitation is having repercussions on the Army as well as many of the country's soldiers belong to farmers' families. The smouldering rage may lead to any consequences, he warned, which could have been construed as provocation to create disaffection among soldiers against the State, had it come from any other government critic.

He further said he had reminded the PM that Indira Gandhi had performed a yajna at her farmhouse because she feared she might have to pay with her life for the Operation Blue Star to neutralise the Khalistanis taking shelter in the Golden Temple complex fighting against the Army. The broad hint is too ominous.

He revealed he had suggested to the PM to tell the protesting farmers that though he thought they were wrong, yet he would accept their point of view as he could not endure their suffering. This, according to him, would have enhanced the PM's stature in the eyes of the nation. It does sound like a sensible suggestion, even though the Governor seems to have glossed over the corporate interests influencing the decision on the farm laws. He also divulged that some in the government are sympathetic to the farmers' cause.

He repeated his prediction that the BJP will not be able to retain power in UP as it has incurred the wrath of farmers, while the prospect in Goa is equally bad because the BJP Chief Minister there is mired in 'corruption.' Earlier, he had accused a key BJP leader, known to be close to the RSS chief, and a corporate house of insisting on his clearance of some files for which a staggering amount of money was offered to him as bribe. He claimed after he informed the PM of this development, the latter told him not to clear the files. That no action has been taken by the Modi government against the accused for alleged corruption at high offices is another matter.

At the same time, he has called into question the Modi government's most ambitious and controversial Vista Redevelopment Project in the Capital and said the huge money being spent on it could have been better utilised by setting up world class academic institutions.

Now, the question is why the BJP central leadership and the RSS are tolerating Malik spilling the beans and damaging the party's poll prospects in UP and Goa, in particular. Two questions survive. Does Malik know too much for which any action before the crucial state Assembly polls would cause incalculable harm to the party? Is trouble brewing in the Sangh Parivar itself and Malik is being used to advance the interests of one group to corner another? The silence and hesitation of the Centre to take action against Malik strengthens suspicion and speculation. The challenge he has thrown at the BJP top leadership by announcing that he won't take minutes to resign if he is removed from his post for his utterances only confirms the huge risks entailed in disciplining him. This is music to the ears of the Opposition. It seems all's not well with the Sangh Parivar however much the party tries to project it is different from the Congress parivar.

### WISDOM CORNER

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. **NELSON MANDELA**

There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance the next time. **MALCOLM X**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Polish off

This does indeed often appear in connection with food, the key idea being that of consuming it completely and probably quickly: I could easily polish off a packet of biscuits throughout the afternoon, before my dinner of cheesy pasta with buttered bread (*The Sun (London), 15 May 2016*). It can be used in a variety of other situations, implying the rapid completion of some activity or the subjugation of some adversary: Freshman Matt McFadden returned the opening kickoff 36 yards and senior Kyle Wigley polished off the drive with a two-yard run into the end zone (*Gettysburg Times (Pennsylvania), 14 November 2015*). He'll limp to the election; cross the line sadly weakened; and then, in due course, be polished off by another thrusting contender who better understands the political process and can command a majority of the party (*The Age (Melbourne), 24 May 2016*). The idiom has been around since at least the early nineteenth century. Its initial examples were all in the more general sense, extending to getting rid of something, or even to destroy or kill. The application to food seems to have come along a little later in the century, sometimes being simplified to polish without the off. But in his Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue of 1785 Francis Grose mentions to polish a bone, meaning to eat a meal, so perhaps the food sense really did come first. The idea here is presumably that of clearing the dish by eating everything on it so thoroughly that it ends up appearing polished. This modern work makes it explicit: He knew that it was polite to leave a little something on your plate when you finished, but this evening he decided to throw etiquette aside and polished his plate to a shine (*Adam, by Richard Allen Stotts, 2001*). The earliest usages of polish off, however, focus on defeating somebody. Some slang dictionaries expressly say that the first context for the idiom was "pugilistic", that is, linked to bare-knuckle fist fighting: Bob had his coat off at once — he stood up to the Banbury man for three minutes, and polished him off in four rounds easy (*Vanity Fair, by William Makepeace Thackeray, 1847*).

### SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# The economy that planetary health needs



Renzo Guinto

**NOW, ALMOST TWO YEARS AFTER THE PANDEMIC STARTED, EXCITEMENT ABOUT CREATING AN ECONOMIC 'NEW NORMAL' HAS MOSTLY DISSIPATED**

At the beginning of COVID-19, analysts and pundits spun visions of how the crisis would reshape the global economy. Many heralded the opportunity to transform our financial systems, supply chains, and ways of working. The overall message was that the post-pandemic future would be greener, healthier, and more just.

Now, almost two years after the pandemic started, excitement about creating an economic 'new normal' has mostly dissipated. Apart from occasional lockdowns and mask wearing, the world has largely returned to business as usual. The fight against the pandemic repeatedly has been described as a 'war,' but there have been no radical changes akin to a wartime mobilisation. On the contrary, the global pandemic response has operated under pre-pandemic economic norms. Likewise, policymakers continue to act as if, to paraphrase Greta Thunberg, the world is not on fire. UN Secretary-General António Guterres described the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as a 'code red for humanity.' Yet countries' current Nationally Determined Contributions under the framework established by the 2015 Paris climate agreement are inadequate to achieve

the Paris accord's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, relative to preindustrial levels.

The ongoing COP26 in Glasgow is the most immediate policy lever available. But the international climate regime needs to go beyond voluntary commitments to reduce emissions and make good on rich countries' promise to provide financial assistance to the world's poorest and most vulnerable.

I am not an economist. I am a physician who specialises in the new field of 'planetary health,' which focuses on the links between human and planetary well-being. Its core premise is straightforward: protecting and improving our health requires tackling the underlying causes of human disease and ecosystem damage simultaneously.

The economy we have today is destroying our well-being. It unleashed human ingenuity, created financial wealth, and lifted billions of people from poverty. But it also damaged ecosystems and exacerbated social inequality. During the first year of the COVID-19 crisis, more than 114 million jobs were lost, while the world's wealthiest became \$5 trillion richer than they had been before the pandemic began. And by accelerating climate change and biodiversity loss, our current

economy imperils future generations' ability to survive and thrive. As a planetary health physician, I believe that the treatment for this disease is economic — not medical.

During this pandemic, we have witnessed a dramatic surge in the use of PPE that look like astronaut suits. But to truly recover, we also need a different kind of PPE — a people- and planet-centered economy. Because climate change and other forms of ecological damage increase the likelihood of future pandemics, this PPE would not just liberate us from the current crisis. The goal established by the WHO's Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response — to make COVID-19 the last pandemic of its kind — depends on it.

A people- and planet-centered economy is one that advances the well-being of the entire Earth. It is an economy that has deep respect for the planet's boundaries, such as the temperature limit enshrined in the Paris agreement. And it ensures that the basic daily needs of all people are met — for example, through universal health-care systems and redistributive social policies. The metrics of success for this PPE are not GDP or per capita income, but the ability of children to grow up to reach their full po-

tential or the restoration of species threatened with extinction.

An example of this PPE has already been proposed by Kate Raworth. Unlike the current economic model, with its limitless supply and demand curves, Raworth's Doughnut Economy visualises a narrow 'safe and just space for humanity' that neither overshoots the planet's boundaries nor falls short in meeting society's basic needs.

Early in the pandemic, the city of Amsterdam committed to adopting the doughnut as its post-pandemic economic model. Since then the city has implemented projects and policies ranging from the circular use of materials in building construction to reforms in the local fashion industry. The next challenge is to apply this model to low- and middle-income countries to ensure they fulfill their society's needs without breaching planetary limits.

The growing planetary health community has an important role to play in creating an alternative that will help us overcome the pandemic and ultimately meet the goals we have set for ourselves as a civilization.

The writer is Chief Planetary Health Scientist at the **Sunway Centre for Planetary Health in Malaysia.**  
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### Well done CMC

Sir, The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) health officials have been conducting raids at various places across the city. These raids reveal the poor quality of food items we are consuming. Even food items with the tags of reputed companies or 'ITC certification' have been found unfit for consumption. Heaps of street food items were seen dumped following the raids. Instead of admitting the truth, street vendors complain about the surprise visit of the health officials. The shopkeepers and the vendors want their businesses to make profit by hook or by crook, even at the cost of people's health. For instance, a famous restaurant chain was fined for selling bread that had no manufacturing date mentioned. The fried chicken for which the restaurant is famous was found to be stale in laboratory. Thus people are getting worried regarding the food they purchase and consume. This affects people's health and makes them vulnerable to diseases. In this pandemic situation, consumption of poor quality food can weaken immunity thereby increasing the number of people contracting the coronavirus. Therefore, the food sellers should be made aware of the ill effects of low quality or expired food as well as the food safety laws of the government. More such raids should be conducted by CMC to ensure that the laws are obeyed properly and good quality food reaches the consumers. The violators should be penalised heavily. Other corporations should take a cue from the CMC and conduct similar raids in their areas. Most food vendors and eateries are selling unhygienic food which is detrimental to the health of the consumers. Moreover, names of the eateries that are not following healthy food practices should be published on the social media so that the public can be cautious. **Ritika Behera, CUTTACK**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### No lessons learnt

Sir, The blaze in the ICU of the Ahmednagar Civil Hospital in Maharashtra, which killed 11 COVID patients and left six others with burn injuries, is unfortunate. The victims included four women, and most of them were on ventilators or oxygen support. A fire audit had been carried out at the hospital, but want of funds prevented an effective fire-fighting system from being put in place. The seven lakh aid announced to the victims' kin can do little to ease the grief of losing a loved one. The inferno comes months after the April 23 fire in a Virar hospital that killed 15 COVID patients.

**NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE**



SHORT TAKES

Hasten project works, says admin

Nabarangpur: Ahead of the panchayat elections, the district administration has laid stress on expeditious steps to complete the developmental projects in Nabarangpur. At a review meeting, Collector Ashok Mehta directed the officials to put in place various facilities at Mission Skhati Gruha by December 20. The Collector insisted on in-time completion of the projects related to drinking water, MGNREGS, horticulture, mid-day meal scheme, minor irrigation, lift irrigation SC/ST welfare, labour employment, livestock care and irrigation. Nodal officers of various blocks had drawn attention of the Collector towards various bottlenecks coming in the way of implementing several projects. They emphasised on quick redressal of the hurdles to complete the projects in the blocks.

Locals against pvt firm's expansion plan



Keonjhar: A private company plans to go in for expansion of its plant at Kaunrikala panchayat in Keonjhar. The plant requires several acres of land in the panchayat for its expansion plan. But locals have strongly opposed its plan to acquire land. They have taken up the issue with the district administration Monday. "If the company acquires land in the area, people lose all their agricultural lands. Agriculture is the only source of livelihood of the people here and it will come to an end. We have given land to the company twice in the past. We urge the Collector to intervene into the matter," said locals. They stated that if the company is allowed to carry on its expansion work in the area, they will launch an agitation.

Fed up with apathy, villagers threaten rural poll boycott



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 8: Villages like Makatadihi under Bhurushani panchayat, Harijanasahi under Umadeipur panchayat, Gahalamunda and Jharpokharia under Jharpokharia panchayat under Saraskana block and Nuadihi under Hatikota panchayat under Sadar block in Mayurbhanj district seem to be in time wrap. These villages are bereft of all basic amenities, including drinking water, road communication, healthcare facilities and education for years together. Fed up with the administration's

apathy towards solving their problems, the angry villagers recently staged a demonstration at the Sadar block office and threatened to boycott the ensuing panchayat elections if their problems are not solved.

The villagers of Nuadihi also submitted a memorandum to the District Collector, addressed to the Chief Minister. They urged the CM's intervention in giving them a better life.

"With no drinking water facility in our village, we are forced to consume water collected from unhygienic sources. Similarly, the doctor's post at the local health center is also lying vacant. We have decided to boycott the panchayat elections if our demands are not fulfilled," said Ganesh Chandra Mohanta, Sanjukta Mohanta and some others. Similarly the residents of Saraskana area submitted their memorandum to BDO Karunakara Dhinda. They stated that the villagers would boycott panchayat elections.

AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING



Local people take out a protest rally against illegal stone mining in parts of Ranpur area in Nayagarh district, Monday

OP PHOTO

Row over concrete wall along Baitarani embankment

WATER RESOURCES DEPT SEEKS DETAILED REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF THE WALL ON ENVIRONMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 8: The Water Resources department has sought a detailed report from the chief engineer and basin manager of the R&B department on the ongoing construction of a concrete wall alongside the left embankment of the Baitarani river in Jajpur.

This comes in the wake of a case filed at the National Green Tribunal (NGT) by a local outfit - Bhandaripokhari Banya Biparyasta Surakhya Samiti. In its complaint, the outfit stated that the concrete embankment of the Baitarani river will pose more flood threats to several areas in Bhadrak district.

On the other hand, the concrete embankment will only save some areas of Jajpur from flood fury, the complaint read.

Hearing the case, the NGT has observed that the concrete embankments can be constructed only after getting environmental clearance.

Following a directive from the NGT, the Water Resources de-



partment has sought a detailed report from its officials.

October 5, convener of the outfit Akshay Kumar Tripathy and other local people had sent a complaint to the Chief Secretary in this connection. They said that building the concrete embankment will be a risk for people in other districts.

Notably, a sum of ₹50 crore has

been sanctioned for construction of 8-km-long concrete embankment. It was alleged that there is a plan to float three tenders for a construction of similar project on the right side of Baitarani river near Akhapada.

The Water Resources department has taken up several others projects in the Baitarani riverbed.

These have resulted in natural flow of floodwater in the river.

During floods, the concrete embankment will shrink the flow of floodwater, confining it to just 700 to 1,000 metres in width, instead of the normal 5 km width.

It is also apprehended that the concrete embankment will cause the river to change its course dangerously in Bhandaripokhari and Bhadrak blocks although floodwater will not affect most parts of Jajpur.

Another barrage project under construction in Jajpur at a cost of ₹216 crore will also result in floods in Bhadrak, it was stated. People in most parts of Bhandaripokhari, Dhannagar, Tihidi and Chandbali blocks will face danger of massive floods during the monsoon.

However, R&B executive engineer of Jajpur, Arun Kumar Patnaik said that the concrete wall will in no way harm Bhadrak district. "Flow of floodwater in Baitarani will be as usual. The next step will be taken only after obtaining environmental clearance," he added.

Demand to free encroachments from Lord Baladevjew's properties

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 8: A vast landed property of Lord Baladevjew, the presiding deity of Keonjhar district, is under encroachment. What ails the devotees and local people is that the Endowment department is hardly doing anything to remove the squatters from the Lord's lands.

They have demanded the encroached lands be reclaimed and stringent action be taken against the squatters.

The temple was built in 1673. The then king recorded thousands of landed properties in different locations in the Lord's name. However, with the end of royal regime, people slowly started encroaching upon these lands in various areas. As of now, the situation has come to such a pass that many of the temple's properties are hard to be located.

Pucca buildings and houses have already come up on the encroached lands. In some places, the encroachers, who managed to get fake land documents showing them as owners of the encroached lands,



have also sold them. This speaks volume regarding the inertia of the Endowment department.

Sub-Collector-cum-Executive Officer, Endowment department, Ramchandra Kisku said that out of 281,600 acres in Kabitra mouza under Sadar tehsil, 250 acres have already been demarcated and 39 acres in Siddhamatha area have been reclaimed and fenced with barbed wires.

"Similarly, seven acres in Satasinga mouza are under encroachment. As many as 114 squatters were served notices to vacate the lands by the Endowment department, but they pooh-poohed them. In this connection, the Endowment department has lodged a case with the Endowment Commission," he added.

VILLAGERS ALLEGE SCAM IN RAD SCHEME, WANT VIG PROBE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kuchinda, Nov 8: Locals here have alleged large-scale irregularities in Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme for the non-irrigated region in Kuchinda area of Sambalpur district. The scheme is being executed by the Soil Conservation department. Beneficiaries have alleged that the officials have taken commission from them through middlemen for sanctioning funds.

Some beneficiaries of the scheme in Arjundihi village have alleged that despite the irregularities, no action is being taken to look into the matter.

They have filed a complaint at the Kuchinda police station against the Jamankira Soil Conservation officer and some middlemen.

According to reports, 416 people of five villages, including Phatatangar, Thianala and Kulangjora under Burodihai and



Tainsar panchayats, were enrolled in the scheme in 2020-21. Under the scheme, ₹40,000 was provided to each beneficiary for dairy projects and ₹25,000 for goat rearing.

However, the complaint said that the officials allegedly took ₹6,000 as commission from dairy beneficiaries and ₹10,000 from goat rearing beneficiaries though middlemen after sanctioning the funds.

The irregularities came to the fore September 5 when the beneficiaries of two panchayats submitted a written complaint to the sub-collector.

The sub-collector is leant to have probed the matter. He had enquired the matter with the Soil Conservation officer in-charge of the scheme in the area. After the scam came to the fore, the Kuchinda Soil Conservation officer was transferred, the villagers alleged.

Locals have demanded a Vigilance probe into the irregularities.

Jamankira Soil Conservation officer Bisbhuprasad Mishra is now in-charge of the scheme. When contacted, Mishra denied bribery allegations against the officials. He, however, said that he would hand over some documents to police.

On the other hand, the Kuchinda Soil Conservation officer denied commenting on the issue.

Garbage treatment plant on pasture land opposed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 8: A garbage treatment plant is being constructed on a pasture land in Gandala panchayat of Ganjam district. However, activists of Odisha Chasi Surakhya Abhiyan have opposed it. They have demanded that work on the project be halted immediately.

It was alleged that pasture land is meant for grazing cattle and dairy sector, but using the land as a garbage treatment plant will have an adverse impact on the sustenance of the cattle population. The Hinjili block administration is forcibly setting up the plant on the pasture land.

The farmers' outfit claimed that the Supreme Court has already given a ruling not to undertake any construction work on pastureland. The block administration has violated the apex court ruling.

Rushikulya Rayat Mahasabha has also opposed the garbage treatment project on pasture land.

People against Polavaram want solution to Andhra-Odisha disputes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 8: The People Against Polavaram Project (PAPP) has welcomed Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's meeting with his Odisha counterpart in Bhubaneswar Tuesday. The PAPP expects that the two leaders will discuss Polavaram, Kotia, Jhanjabati project and Bamsadhara project disputes and find solutions to them.

The PAPP Monday convened a meeting under the leadership of its national committee president Prabhakar Hantal at Gharsapalli village of Pusuguda gram panchayat under Kalimela block. The meeting was attended by people who would be affected by the Polavaram project.

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Andhra Pradesh CM, the participants took out a rally round



the villages before the meeting.

According to information shared by the Andhra Pradesh government, eight villages of Malkangiri district and four villages in Chhattisgarh are to be affected by the project. What is of concern is that as many as 130 villages of Kalimela, Padia, Mathili and Korukonda blocks were severely affected by the Polavaram's back water in 1986 and 2006. The possi-

bility of more villages being affected on the completion of the project cannot be ruled out.

PAPP president Hantal demanded that the Andhra government furnish correct information on this aspect of the project. The Central government, in an affidavit submitted in the Supreme Court in 2019, said that it would neither compensate nor rehabilitate the people affected by project.

STIR FOR RIGHTS



GaonSathis stage a sit-in in front of the Sadar block office in Bhadrak over their several demands, Monday

OP PHOTO

Khurda farmers spend sleepless nights as jumbos wreak havoc

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nirakarapur, Nov 8: A herd of 23 elephants are on a rampage in the Achyutapur, Rameswar, Tankol and Nirakarapur panchayats. The villages are close to the Tangi forest range in Khurda district. For the last few days the herd has extensively damaged crops and properties, giving sleepless nights to the villagers.

The Forest department personnel are not doing anything to drive away the elephants. Forest department officials, on the other hand, said that while some of the elephants were operating in a herd, some pachyderms have broken away from the group and are causing damages on their own. They said that a group of 15 elephants were roaming in the Rameswar, Dhanagar, and Mundia panchayats.

The 15 elephants in Rameswar locality were recently spotted on



'Nuajaganath' road. They damaged the harvested paddy crops. As there are a large number of elephants in the herd, people are now afraid to step out of their houses, especially after dusk.

To make matters worse, rumours are making the job of the Forest department all the more difficult to drive away the herd. People who spread such rumours regarding elephant attacks have been asked not to do so. Villagers demanded that stringent action be taken against

such rumour mongers.

When contacted, Bhushandapur forester Siddhu Charan Singh informed that efforts are on to drive the herd back into the forest. "We have been monitoring the herd's movements and taking steps accordingly," Singh said.

However, the affected people had a different opinion to offer. "The officials are not doing anything to drive away the herd. They are not concerned about our problems," the villagers said.





# Delhi's dangerous air ruins school reopening

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: Many students in New Delhi stayed at home Monday rather than return to reopened schools as a toxic smog shrouded the city.

Although authorities eased restrictions on schools imposed when the Covid-19 pandemic first struck India in March last year, many parents decided against sending their children back.

"The pollution in Delhi is hazardous. We as parents are afraid of sending our children to school," parent Kamlesh Sharma wrote on Twitter. For air to be deemed safe, the Air Quality Index (AQI), which has a scale of 500, should be below 50.

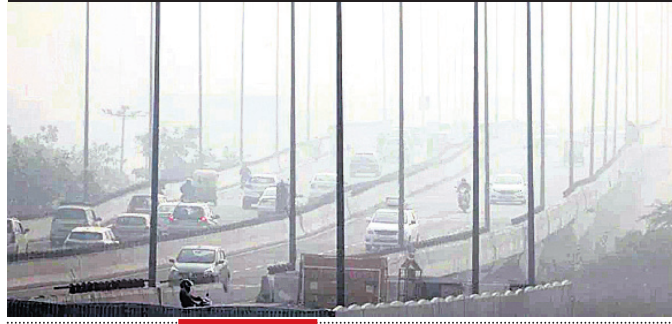
In New Delhi Monday evening it was 392, well into hazardous territory. That was a marginal improvement on the 451 registered last week as moderate winds helped disperse some of the pollution.

While some schools had resumed classes for higher grades, pupils aged 14 and below were allowed back for the first time on Monday as part of a staggered re-opening.

But many schools reported attendance below 40 per cent on the first day back due to parents fears over the hazardous air and the coronavirus risks.

"After Covid-19, pollution has emerged a major threat for public health particularly for children and senior citizens," Ashok Agarwal, national president, All India Parents Association, said, expressing frustration with the lack of enforcement and political

## SHROUD OF SMOG



Delhi has the worst air quality of any capital city but even by its standards the past few days have been extraordinarily bad

If you have higher levels of air pollution then the chances of having more severe Covid-19 and dying from it go up

After Covid-19, pollution has emerged a major threat for public health particularly for children and senior citizens from it go up

ASHOK AGARWAL | NATIONAL PRESIDENT, ALL INDIA PARENTS ASSOCIATION

RANDEEP GULERIA | DIRECTOR, AIIMS

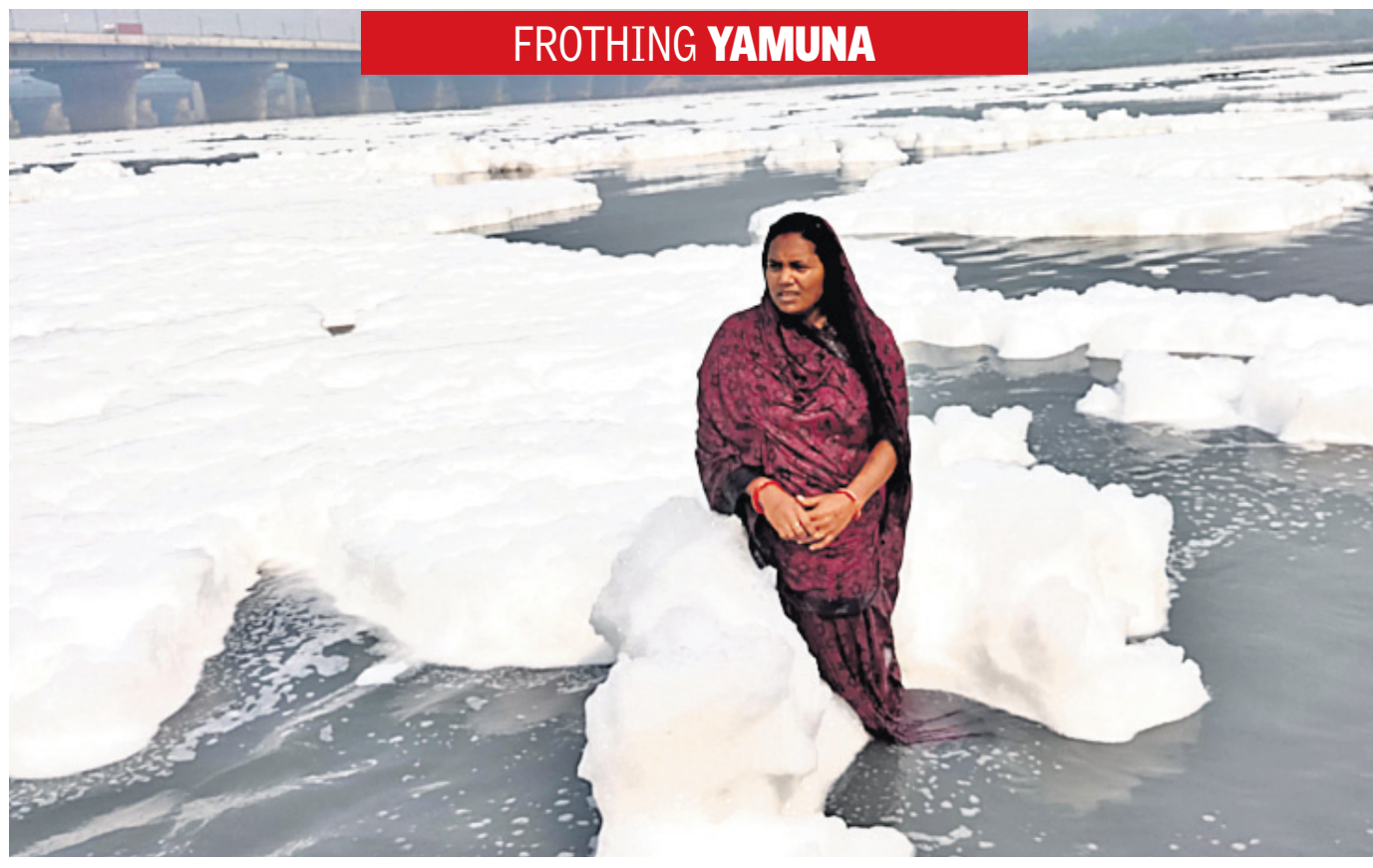
will to improve Delhi's air.

Many supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party opposed a blanket ban on firecrackers while blaming the Opposition-ruled state governments of Delhi and Punjab for worsening pollution. Environmentalists said both Union and state governments were reluctant to take tough steps because they feared loss of support among their voters.

In a letter to the Centre and state authorities, Central Pollution Control Board Chairman Tanmay

Kumar regretted that they were not 'taking sufficient measures to control pollution' and asked them to curb all air polluting activities. Exposure to pollution was causing more harm than the use of tobacco or of smoking, Randeep Guleria, director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, told India Today TV channel.

"If you have higher levels of air pollution then the chances of having more severe Covid-19 and dying from it go up," he said.



A devotee takes part in Chhath Puja rituals, as toxic foam floats on the surface of polluted Yamuna river in New Delhi, Monday. OP PHOTO

# Delhi govt hikes minimum wages for labourers

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Monday announced an increase in the minimum wages of unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled labourers, saying it will help them tide over the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and price rise.

The hike takes the monthly wages of unskilled workers from Rs 15,908 to Rs 16,064 while the monthly wages of semi-skilled workers will increase from Rs 17,537 to Rs 17,693, a Delhi government statement said.

The monthly salary of skilled workers has been increased from Rs 19,291 to Rs 19,473, it said. "The minimum wage paid to labourers in Delhi is higher than any other state in the country. The working class troubled with Covid and inflation will receive some relief from the increase in minimum wages," Sisodia said.

Sisodia, who is also minister in-charge of the labour department of the Delhi government, issued an order to increase dearness allowance of unskilled, semi-skilled and other workers of Delhi, it said.

The monthly salary of matriculated but non-graduate employees has been increased from Rs 19,291 to Rs 19,473 and the monthly salary of labourers with graduate and above educational qualification has been increased from Rs 20,976 to Rs 21,184.

Sisodia said the "big step" of increasing wages was taken keeping the interests of the poor and the working class during the coronavirus epidemic in mind. The clerical and supervisor class employees will also receive this benefit, he said.

According to Sisodia, dearness

allowance cannot be withheld for workers in the unorganised sector who normally receive only minimum wages. Therefore, the Delhi government has announced a revised minimum wage by adding dearness allowance.

Although, the government has cut many expenses, it has decided to increase the dearness allowance of labourers keeping their interests in mind, Sisodia said.

Due to inflation and skyrocketing prices of commodities, every section of the society has been affected financially, he added.

# Yogi invokes Kairana Hindu 'exodus' 'Bring down BJP to bring down prices'

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Nov 8: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday invoked the 'exodus' of Hindus from Kairana a few years back, telling people in the western Uttar Pradesh town that those who shoot at traders now will be dispatched to the 'next world'.

Addressing a public meeting in Kairana, he slammed the 'Taliban mentality', saying it will not be accepted in the state. He also attacked the Opposition, saying they did not act when houses of Hindus were being burnt and innocent youths killed in Muzaffarnagar, referring to the communal riots there in 2013.

The alleged exodus from Kairana was a big issue in the 2017 Assembly elections as the BJP claimed then that scores of Hindu families had left the town after receiving threats from criminals. The claim, however, was contested by others.

Ahead of next year's Assembly elections in the state, Adityanath visited the town and promised compensation to some families who were allegedly forced to leave it between 2014 and 2016.

Adityanath said Muzaffarnagar riots and the 'exodus' of people



from Kairana are not election issues for the BJP.

"These are issues of our identity, honour and glory," the CM said.

"The criminals who had forced the traders and residents of Kairana to flee had in the past four-and-a-half-years been forced to flee themselves," the CM claimed. "No criminal has the courage to walk with his head held high. And if a criminal dares to shoot a trader or a citizen, then the bullet will hit him and will send him to the next world ('doosro lok')," Adityanath said.

Promising exemplary punishment to criminals, the CM said nobody will be allowed to spread an-

archy, incite riots and play with the honour of women.

"It (Taliban) makes the life of sisters and daughters hellish, violates the fundamental rights of citizens. This will not be accepted at all in UP," the CM said.

The CM also alleged that people who opposed the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya were 'happy' over riots in Muzaffarnagar and 'exodus' from Kairana.

"When there is Taliban rule in Afghanistan, they raise slogans. But we will not allow Talibanisation at all. And whoever supports the

The criminals who had forced the traders and residents of Kairana to flee had in the past four and a half years been forced to flee themselves

YOGI ADITYANATH | CHIEF MINISTER

Taliban in UP, the government will deal with them sternly," CM said launching several developmental projects at Kairana in Shamli district. The CM said he had come to Shamli in 2017 and promised to give better and secure atmosphere. The then MP Hukum Singh had raised the issue of Kairana, he said, adding that on demands of locals he had got the police outpost strengthened and now laid the foundation of a PAC battalion camp worth Rs 250 crores.

"When we're not in power, then also we had said that we will not accept such cowardly acts. When we came to power, we worked on zero tolerance towards criminals," he said.

Adityanath also said those who worked to destroy Kairana, a centre of business and classical music, they will meet the same fate of Maricha and Subahu, the mythological demons mentioned in the Ramayana.

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Nov 8: Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav has said the BJP's defeat in recent bypolls led to a fall in fuel prices and their defeat in 2022 Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh will lead to a further fall in prices of other commodities. Speaking at a rally in Ambedkar Nagar Sunday evening, Akhilesh lambasted the ruling BJP for rising fuel prices, gross mismanagement of Covid and neglect of farmers.

He flayed the BJP government in the state for its failure to distribute laptops, free data and tablets to the students that they had promised in their 'Sankalp Patra' (manifesto) in the run-up to the 2017 Assembly polls. He said the government forgot about the students in the last four and a half years and has now announced that tablets will be distributed to students.

Akhilesh said that the chief minister does not know how to operate a laptop which is why he was not aware of its importance for the students and never thought of distributing them. Instead, he talked about using bulldozers throughout his regime.

"We Samajwadis can operate a laptop and can also operate a bulldozer if needed," he said to a cheering crowd. He said the chief min-



ister may change the name or the colour of the LPG cylinder but nothing is being done to reduce its rising prices.

He said the BJP promised that people wearing chappals will be able to travel by planes but the prices of fuel have made it difficult for the people to continue driving a motorcycle, what to talk of air travel.

"Farmers seeking justice are being mowed down under the wheels of vehicles. This is how the triple engine government is treating the farmers -- the triple engine here means the government at the Centre, in the state and the one that prevails in Lakhimpur

Farmers seeking justice are being mowed down under the wheels of vehicles. This is how the triple engine government is treating the farmers -- the triple engine here means the government at the Centre, in the state and the one that prevails in Lakhimpur

AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

referring to Union Minister Ajay Misra Teni, whose son is an accused in the case related to death of farmers who were allegedly knocked down by his jeep in Lakhimpur last month.

# UP's Zika outbreak sees surge of nearly 100 cases

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Nov 8: At least 89 people, including 17 children, have tested positive for the Zika virus in a surge of cases in the Uttar Pradesh city of Kanpur, its health department said Monday.

First discovered in 1947, the mosquito-borne virus Zika virus reached epidemic proportions in Brazil in 2015, when thousands of babies were born with microcephaly, a disorder that causes babies to be born with abnormally small heads and underdeveloped brains.

"There has been a surge in cases of the Zika virus and the health department has formed several teams to contain the spread," Dr Nepal Singh, chief medical officer of Kanpur district in India's most populous state, told Reuters.

"There is one woman who is pregnant and we are paying special attention towards her." Cases have been reported in sev-



There has been a surge in cases of the Zika virus and the health department has formed several teams to contain the spread

DR NEPAL SINGH | CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, KANPUR

eral Indian states in recent years, though Amit Mohan Prasad, Uttar Pradesh's top government bureaucrat for health and family welfare, told Reuters this was the first outbreak in the state.

The first Zika case in the in-

dustrial city of Kanpur was detected October 23 and the number of cases has increased over the past week.

"People are testing positive because we are doing very aggressive contact tracing," said Prasad.

Authorities were increasing their surveillance of the outbreak and eliminating breeding grounds for the mosquitoes that transmit the virus, Singh said.

# 7% vehicles bought since 2020 in Delhi are EVs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: Of the total vehicles purchased in the national capital since the introduction of the electric vehicle (EV) policy in 2020, around 7 per cent are EVs, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said Monday.

"Delhi is the first state in the country to work so efficiently on the EV policy, which will boost the sale of EVs besides curbing pollution. Delhi will also have the cheapest chargers available in India at only Rs 2,500 for two and three-wheelers by subsidising the rate," Gahlot said during a press conference Monday.

Gahlot also said that a subsidy of Rs 6,000 can be availed on the first 30,000 chargers.

"In collaboration with the DTC and other DISCOMS, a single-window system has also been introduced. For this, we have short-listed 12 vendors, who will help the applicants with all charger-related issues like reliability and guarantee. The entire process has been made easy by minimising the documentation process," he added.

Other than that, parking spaces in all the commercial complexes and



Between July and September this year, more than 1.5 lakh vehicles were registered, including 7,869 EVs, 6,857 CNG vehicles, 7,257 vehicles driven on both CNG and petrol, and 93,091 vehicles driven on petrol or diesel

## GREEN TRANSITION

In order to significantly benefit Delhi's air quality, the EV policy intends to ensure that 25 per cent of all new vehicles are battery-operated by 2024

RWAs will have charging facilities, he said, adding that the special tariff for installation of EV chargers will cost Rs 4.50 per unit. According to the Delhi government, between July and September this year, more than 1.5 lakh vehi-

cles were registered, including 7,869 EVs, 6,857 CNG vehicles, 7,257 vehicles driven on both CNG and petrol, and 93,091 vehicles driven on petrol or diesel.

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KAILASH GAHLOT | DELHI TRANSPORT MINISTER

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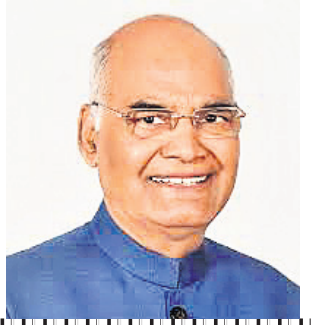




Only indigenously developed technologies will be available to the Indian Army for full exploitation during conflicts and it is imperative to reduce dependence on foreign technologies

PRESIDENT TO PRESIDE OVER GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

President Ram Nath Kovind will preside over the 51st conference of Governors and Lieutenant Governors at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Thursday, an official statement issued Monday said



of the day quote

Hunar Haat is strengthening the 'vocal for local' campaign and has ensured economic empowerment of indigenous artisans and craftspeople

Pointing out that Tripura is burning is a call for corrective action. But BJP's favourite cover-up tactic is shooting the messenger. Truth can't be silenced by UAPA

The Indian Ocean Region will face an ever-increasing battery of threats and uncertainties

SHORT TAKES

Civilian shot dead

Srinagar: Militants Monday shot dead a civilian in the Bohri Kadal area here, the second attack carried out by the ultras in the city in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Advani turns 94

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP National President J.P. Nadda Monday wished veteran party leader L.K. Advani on his 94th birthday.

Two terrorists arrested in J&K

Srinagar: Security forces Monday arrested two active militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) from Anantnag and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Winter Session likely from Nov 29

New Delhi: The Cabinet Committee on Parliament Affairs has recommended that the Winter Session of Parliament be held from November 29 to December 23, sources said Monday.

UPHAAR FIRE TRAGEDY

Ansal brothers get 7 years in jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: A Delhi court Monday awarded 7-year jail terms to real estate barons Sushil and Gopal Ansal for tampering with evidence in the 1997 case of Uphaar cinema fire which had claimed 59 lives.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pankaj Sharma also imposed a fine of Rs 2.25 crore each on the Ansals. Besides, the court awarded 7-year-jail term each to former court staff Dinesh Chand Sharma and two others - P.P. Batra and Anoop Singh - in the case and imposed a fine of Rs 3 lakh each on them.

"After thinking over nights and nights, I have come to the conclusion that they deserve punishment," the judge said. He said the circumstances during which the instant crime was committed showed the deep disrespect which the convicts had for the law and the judicial process and for the victims.

"The foundation of judiciary is premised on the trust and confidence of the people and any action which is aimed to thwart the said foundation cannot be permitted and is required to be dealt with utmost strictness," it said. It said the sentencing in the case must respond to the cry of the so-



The fire had broken out at the Uphaar cinema during the screening of the Hindi film Border on June 13, 1997, claiming 59 lives

ciety. While imposing fine on the convicts, the court noted that the DLSA (Delhi State Legal Services Authority) had suggested in the Victim Impact Report (VIR) that victims had suffered "incalculable harm" and the quantum of compensation also proposed was "incalculable".

The fine was imposed after analysing the income proofs submitted by the convicts. The court held that the Ansals were better placed in terms of financial capacity than others to provide compensation to the victims.

The court said that the amount

of fine imposed on each convict will be paid as compensation to the victim AVUT, after disbursing the cost incurred by the prosecution. "Since no amount of compensation can alleviate the agony, trauma and the pain suffered by the family members of the victims, however, compensation in the form of money can provide some succor to them," the judge said.

Rejecting convicts' plea seeking mercy, the court said that misplaced sympathy or unwarranted leniency will send a wrong signal to the public giving room to suspect

the institutional integrity and would affect its credibility.

Inadequate sentence would do more harm to the justice system and would undermine the public confidence in the efficacy of the law as society could not long endure such assaults on the justice system, it said.

The court said that too lenient sentence would be akin to closing the eyes to the agony and anguish of the victims and the public at large. "Collective cry of the society must be responded by way of appropriate punishment to prevent re-occurrence of such crimes," it said.

The convicts, out on bail, were taken into the custody after the order was pronounced.

The case is related to tampering with the evidence in the main fire tragedy case in which the Ansals were convicted and sentenced to 2-year jail term by the Supreme Court. The apex court however released them taking into account the prison time they had done on the condition that they pay Rs 30 crore fine each, to be used for building a trauma centre in the national capital.

The fire had broken out at the Uphaar cinema during the screening of the Hindi film 'Border' on June 13, 1997, claiming 59 lives.

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 8: The Bombay High Court Monday directed Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik to file his reply in a Rs 1.25 crore defamation suit filed by Dnyandeve Wankhede, the father of Narcotics Control Bureau's Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede. Justice M.J. Jamdar has now posted the matter for further hearing on interim relief to Wednesday (November 10) after Malik's lawyer Atul Damle declined to give an undertaking the minister would not post comments or address the media.

Contending that Malik was posting something almost every day, Wankhede's lawyer Arshad Shaikh, while stating a reply was necessary, sought interim relief whereby the minister would keep quiet on his client for the next few days.

Among other things, Wankhede has sought a permanent stay restraining Malik, his Nationalist Congress Party members and all others from publishing, writing, speaking to the media in any manner defamatory material pertaining to the Wankhede family.

He also sought deletion of articles, interviews, tweets, in electronic and social media against him and his family which are "tortuous and defamatory in nature." Wankhede also demanded Rs. 1.25

Bombay HC asks Malik to file reply

Yes, I was invited: Maha Congress minister

Mumbai: Confirming the revelations by Nationalist Congress Party Minister Nawab Malik, his Congress colleague and Mumbai Guardian Minister Aslam Shaikh Monday said he was also invited for the Cordelia Cruise party which was busted October 2 by the Narcotics Control Bureau Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede. "One Kashif Khan had invited me to the party... I don't know him and as far as I know we never spoke on the phone. That invite was like many others I get daily... Since I had no plan to go, I did not inquire further and the matter ended there," Shaikh said. Presently, two agencies - NCB and Mumbai Police - are currently probing the entire issue and the truth would come out soon, the minister said.

crore in damages from Malik for the "irreparable loss, damage, harm, prejudice to the name, character, reputation and societal image" of his family. The defamation suit came last week after Malik made a series of sensational exposes and allegations against Sameer Wankhede and his family members for the past over a month in the wake of alleged rave party raids aboard the Cordelia Cruise on October 2.

FRESH THREAT

Cops tighten security at Mukesh Ambani's house

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 8: Amid a potential fresh threat, the Mumbai Police Monday beefed up security for the family of industrialist Mukesh Ambani at his residence Antilia in south Mumbai, official sources said.

The move came after a taxi driver alerted the Mumbai Police after overhearing two suspicious persons who were reportedly collecting certain information on Antilia.

Road blocks have been erected at various strategic locations in Mumbai to help track the two unknown persons, who were reportedly carrying a couple of bags, as per the taxi driver's statement, though the police declined to share further details. Simultaneously, security has been further tightened

The move came after a taxi driver alerted the Mumbai Police after overhearing two suspicious persons who were reportedly collecting certain information on Antilia.

Simultaneously, security has been further tightened with a dog squad, a Rapid Action Force team and more personnel outside Antilia, the residence of the Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman and his family.

with a dog squad, a Rapid Action Force team and more personnel outside Antilia, the residence of the Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman and his family. Official sources hinted that after making preliminary enquiries, Mumbai Police are likely to issue a formal statement in the sensitive matter. Antilia was previously targeted on February 25 when an abandoned SUV with 20 gelatin sticks and a threat note was found near the building, sending the police into a tizzy besides kicking off a national uproar sparking global concerns.

MATTER OF LIVELIHOOD



A toy seller walks past a graffiti in Mumbai, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Prez honours 73 with Padma awards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: President Ram Nath Kovind presented Padma awards to 73 individuals, some posthumously, at a ceremony held in the Rashtrapati Bhavan here Monday.

Of these, four were Padma Vibhushan, eight Padma Bhushan and 61 Padma Shri awards for the year 2020, according to a statement issued by the President's office.

The Padma awards are given in three categories -- Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri -- and announced annually on the eve of Republic Day. Those awarded Padma Vibhushan were former Union Ministers George Fernandes (posthumous),

Those awarded Padma Vibhushan were former Union Ministers George Fernandes (posthumous), Arun Jaitley (posthumous) and Sushma Swaraj (posthumous)

Arun Jaitley (posthumous), Sushma Swaraj (posthumous) and Pandit Chhannulal Mishra, Hindustani classical and semi-classical vocalist. President Kovind presented Padma Bhushan awards to bad-

minton player P V Sindhu, Dr Anil Prakash Joshi for social work, Dr S C Jamir for public affairs and Mumtaz Ali for spiritualism.

He awarded Padma Shri awards to renowned litterateur of Santali language Damayanti Beshra, television and film actress Sarita Joshi, music composer Adnan Sami Khan and actress and filmmaker Kangana Ranaut.

The President also presented Padma Shri to captain of the Indian hockey team Rani and to Dr Raman Gangakhedkar, head of the division of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases, the Indian Council of Medical Research in New Delhi, among others.

Double vaccination boosted confidence for travel, say Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Wearing a Captain America t-shirt and having received both doses of a Covid vaccine, UK-based software engineer Ridhi looked cheerful as she took selfies with her siblings and friends at the Delhi airport before boarding a flight to London Monday.

She was among the many passengers who took flights to London in the early hours. "My flight is at 3:30 am. The US is lifting restrictions for fully vaccinated passengers from today. I feel this is a good thing. Many travellers are taking flights to America as we speak.

"With vaccination underway, the situation will hopefully become much better, both for travel and in general," 25-year-old Ridhi said before boarding her flight.

From October 11, Indian travellers who received both doses of

Covishield or another UK-approved vaccine at least 14 days before arrival in the UK can travel without having to quarantine; and are not required to take a pre-departure test nor a day-eight test following arrival, authorities had said last month.

London-based Barinder Gill was at T3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport with his wife, two little children, and another family member, to catch a flight to the UK. "I am travelling to London from India after a long, long time," he said.

Several passengers at the airport were headed to Canada as well. From Toronto-based Manpreet Kaur travelling back to her workplace to elderly Gurdev Singh taking his first international flight since the outbreak of the pandemic, people at the airport were visibly happy.



A passenger with her family and friends at the Terminal 3 of the IGI Airport to board a flight for London in New Delhi, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Kaur, who works in the food sector, bid goodbye to her husband Jaskaran Singh, who lives in Faridkot. She said vaccination had surely boosted confidence among

people to take international flights. "I got Pfizer doses in June and August in Canada only. The coronavirus situation is much better there right now," she said.

Arathy Ajit, a college student in Scarborough, Toronto, flew to Canada on an Air India flight, along with her friend Reshesh T U. Both are from Kochi in Kerala. "Both of us are fully vaccinated. That gives a comfortable feeling for international travel. The US resumed flight services for international travellers today.

"Things seem to be getting back to normal slowly. I feel, the situation in Canada is much better right now as far as adherence to Covid norms are concerned," she said. The coronavirus pandemic had prompted the US to close its borders to travellers from many countries, including India, last year. Later, only passengers holding visas belonging to certain categories were permitted to travel.

Starting November 8, the US has lifted all restrictions for fully vac-

inated international travellers, including from India, but they will have to show proof of a negative coronavirus test before boarding a flight to the country.

Other destinations where Indian passengers were headed past midnight, included Amsterdam, Chile, Dubai, Moscow and Bhutan. Just a day after Bhaidooj, Rashmi Yadav along with her parents bid a tearful goodbye her brother headed for Moscow.

"My brother is going to Moscow for his MBBS third-year course. He will return only after finishing his education. Pandemic already made separation so painful," an emotionally overwhelmed Rashmi said, as her parents consoled her. Ramesh Chandra, the head of the department of chemistry at the Delhi University, also took the flight to Moscow early in the morning.



# international



**Saving the planet isn't a partisan issue. I welcome any faction within the Republican Party that takes climate change seriously**  
BARACK OBAMA | 44TH US PRESIDENT

## STUDY REVELATION

People who receive the Pfizer or AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine have antibody levels significantly higher than those infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to a study published in Scientific Reports journal Monday



## of the day quote

**Income tax and GST will have to be paid by everyone**  
SHAUKAT TARIN | ADVISOR TO PAK PM ON FINANCE

**There is one week left for COP26 to deliver for the world, and we must all pull together and drive for the line**  
BORIS JOHNSON | BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

**We will pursue those who committed the crime (failed assassination). We know them well, and we will reveal their identities**  
MUSTAFA AL-KADHIMI | IRAQI PRIME MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Japan sees no daily Covid deaths

**Tokyo:** Japan reported no daily deaths from Covid-19 Sunday for the first time in 15 months, as infections decline rapidly in the country. Health officials on Monday said there were no deaths the previous day, giving Japan a total of 18,310 fatalities since the pandemic began.

### S'pore's economy recovering steadily

**Singapore:** Singapore's economy continues to recover steadily from a sharp contraction in 2020 on the back of effective containment measures, accelerated Covid-19 vaccination rollout, and extended policy support for affected businesses and households, said a report published by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) Monday. The AMRO report said that Singapore's economy is forecast to grow by 6.3 per cent in 2021 and 4 percent in 2022, underpinned by the recovery in domestic economic activities and robust exports, reports Xinhua news agency.

### Kuwait govt resigns for 2nd time in a yr

**Dubai:** Kuwait's government resigned Monday for the second time this year, underscoring the political problems plaguing the small, oil-rich nation. The state-run KUNA news agency said Kuwait's ruler, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, received the government's resignation notice. However, the report did not say whether Sheikh Nawaf would accept the resignation, tendered by the country's prime minister, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah.

### Grave concern

**Berlin:** Germany's coronavirus infection rate climbed to its highest recorded level yet Monday as what officials have called a "pandemic of the unvaccinated" gathers pace. The national disease control centre, the Robert Koch Institute, said the country has seen 201.1 new cases per 100,000 residents over the past seven days. That was above the previous record of 197.6 from Dec. 22 last year. While it's still a lower rate than in several other European countries, it has set alarm bells ringing.

### Bus set on fire

**London:** A bus has been hijacked and set on fire in Northern Ireland, amid discontent over the trade deal struck as part of the UK's departure from the European Union. Four masked men boarded the double decker bus Sunday on the outskirts of Belfast. The group ordered the driver and passengers off the bus before setting it ablaze.

# Xi looks to secure 3rd term

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Nov 8:** Hundreds of senior officials of the Communist Party of China (CPC) began a key four-day conclave here Monday to deliberate and pass a rare "historical resolution" of the 100-year-old ruling party and pave the way for an unprecedented third term for President Xi Jinping.

The 19th Central Committee of the CPC started its sixth plenary session. About 400 full and alternate members of the CPC Central Committee are taking part in the plenum, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Xi, the General-Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered a work report on behalf of the Political Bureau and made explanations on a draft resolution on the major achievements and historical experience of the CPC's 100 years of endeavours, the report said.

Xi, 68, holds China's all three power centres - General-Secretary of the CPC, Chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC) which is the overall high command of the military, and the



Presidency is set to complete his second five-year tenure next year.

Politically, the meeting is regarded as significant for Xi who - in the last nine years of his tenure in power - has emerged as the most powerful leader after party founder Mao Zedong. Xi is widely expected to continue for a third term unlike his predecessor Hu Jintao, who retired after two terms, and perhaps may remain in power for life in view of a key constitutional amendment in 2018 which removed

the two-term limit for the President.

He was also made "core leader" of the party in 2016, a status enjoyed by Mao. The plenum is being held ahead of the next year's party Congress which was expected to appoint a new leadership.

"The purpose (of this plenum) seems to be to review the party's governance in history, and to pave the way for the future leadership and their policy direction," said Gu Su, a political scientist with Nanjing University.

## The top leaders of China's ruling Communist Party Monday started a pivotal meeting expected to further firm President Xi Jinping's grip on power

"It will also need to praise the achievements of the current leader," Gu told the Hong Kong based South China Morning Post. The in-camera meeting is being held in Beijing under tight COVID-19 control measures as the city in the last few weeks has reported several cases of coronavirus, prompting officials to tighten entry and exit controls.

Except Xi, most of the officials including Premier Li Keqiang are expected to retire after completing the two terms. Over the past three decades, the party has usually used the last plenary session to address party affairs, especially on key appointments, ideology and party-building matters.

# 1st Chinese woman walks in space

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Nov 8:** Chinese military pilot Wang Yaping scripted history Monday when she became the country's first woman astronaut to walk in space as she moved out of the under-construction space station and took part in extravehicular activities along with her male colleague, the official media.

This marks the first spacewalk in Chinese space history involving a woman astronaut, the China Manned Space Agency said in a statement.

China had launched the Shenzhou-13 spaceship on October 16, sending three astronauts on a six-month mission to the under-construction space station, which was expected to be ready by next year.

The 41-year-old native of Shandong province and mother of a five-year-old girl, Wang joined the People's Liberation Army Air Force in August 1997 and served as a deputy squadron commander before joining the second group of



astronauts at the PLA Astronaut Division in May 2010.

In March 2012, she was part of the backup crew for the ninth manned Shenzhou mission series in June 2013 and took part in the 10th of Shenzhou series which lasted nearly 15 days. She is the second Chinese woman to have flown in space.

During the Shenzhou 10th flight, Wang gave China's first space-based lecture inside the Tiangong I experimental module to more than 60 million Chinese students at about 80,000 schools across the country. She was selected for the present manned space mission in December 2019. Wang's achievement has expanded the team of global female astronauts who have conducted spacewalks.

# A week in, big issues still unresolved at COP26

AGENCIES

**Glasgow, Nov 8:** After a week of negotiations, numerous of the stickiest issues in climate talks remain unresolved and teams of cabinet ministers from different countries are being sent to move things along.

Briefing the United Nations Conference of Parties, or COP26, on the first week's progress, COP President Alok Sharma had to correct himself, noting that "some" issues had been settled, rather than "many." Numerous developing nations were pessimistic. They called progress "disappointing," saying announcements were high in quantity but worried that they were low in quantity. No deals have been made yet on the three main goals of the UN — pledges to cut emissions in half by 2030 to keep the Paris climate deal's 1.5 degree Celsius temperature rise goal alive; the need for USD 100 billion annually in financial help from rich countries to poor ones; and the idea that half of that money go on adapting to global warming's worst effects. Several other issues, including trading carbon and transparency, also weren't solved yet.

And on the issue of more frequent updates of countries' emission-cutting goals — something poorer nations seek — negotiators listed nine different time options for future negotiators to choose from. Sharma named teams of two ministers — one from a rich country, one

## Microsoft to get UN award

**Glasgow:** Microsoft will be carbon negative by 2030. By 2050, the US-based tech giant will remove from the environment all the carbon the company has emitted either directly or by electrical consumption since it was founded in 1975. At the 26th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in this Scottish city, the UN Climate Change will bestow Microsoft, among others, the Global Climate Action Awards in the last week of the pivotal climate negotiations aimed to keep global heating to 1.5C, as required by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

from a poor — for each issue to oversee negotiations on each topic, a technique used in the past. Not fixing the financial pledge problem shows rich nations' pledges are "an empty commitment," and without fixing that these climate talks cannot be successful, representatives from several countries, including Guinea, said.

"There is a history of broken promises and unfulfilled commitments by developed countries," Diego Pacheco Balanza of Bolivia told the conference. Saudi Arabia, often accused of trying to weaken emission-cutting efforts, asked Sharma to end the conference at 6 p.m. On Friday no matter where they are in negotiations, even if they aren't done.



## FLYING COLOURS



Scarlet macaws are seen during the Riyadh Safari in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The safari has opened to public, attracting thousands of people to spend their time with animals

# S'pore HC to hear appeal today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Singapore, Nov 8:** A Singapore court Monday suspended the scheduled execution of a 33-year-old Indian-origin Malaysian man, convicted for drug trafficking, until an appeal is heard Tuesday, amid global calls to spare him from the gallows.

On Monday, Singapore's High Court suspended his scheduled execution until an appeal is heard during an online hearing, the Star Online website reported.

"The High Court has just ordered a stay of execution pending the hearing of the appeal to the Court of Appeal against the decision of the High Court," Nagaenthran's lawyer M Ravi posted on Facebook.

The appeal is scheduled to be heard via videoconference on Tuesday. If the appeal is dismissed, Nagaenthran could be executed

## INDIAN-ORIGIN MALAYSIAN'S EXECUTION

### Nagaenthran K Dharmalingam was to be hanged at Changi Prison for drug trafficking Wednesday

as scheduled.

Nagaenthran, who was arrested in 2009 at the age of 21 with a bundle of heroin strapped to his left thigh, had sought to challenge his execution, contending that he had the mental age of a person below 18 years of age. During the hearing on Monday, his lawyer argued that the execution of intellectually disabled persons is prohibited under customary international law as this amounted to inhuman punishment. He also claimed the

Singapore Prison Service (SPS) has an "internal policy" not to execute convicts who are mentally disabled. But SPS has refuted the claim.

In his oral remarks dismissing the application, Justice See Kee Oon said there was no credible basis for Nagaenthran's assertions as to his mental age. The alleged mental age was based on the opinion of his lawyer Ravi, who has no medical expertise and has met the prisoner only once, on November 2, for 26 minutes, the judge noted. Justice See reiterated that Nagaenthran has been accorded due process in accordance with the law.

"It is not open to him to challenge the court's findings pertaining to his mental responsibility, whether directly or indirectly, in yet another attempt to revisit and unravel the finality of those findings," Justice See said.

# As ban lifts, visitors to US await long-delayed hugs, kisses

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Charles de Gaulle Airport (France), Nov 8:** The US lifted restrictions Monday on travel from a long list of countries including Mexico, Canada and most of Europe, setting the stage for emotional reunions nearly two years in the making and providing a boost for the airline and tourism industries decimated by the pandemic.

Wives will hug husbands for the first time in months. Grandmas will soothe grandsons who have doubled in age since they last saw them. Aunts and uncles and cousins will snuggle babies they haven't met yet.

The rules that go into effect Monday allow air travel from a series of countries from which it has

been restricted since the early days of the pandemic — as long as the traveller has proof of vaccination and a negative Covid-19 test. Those crossing land borders from Mexico or Canada will require proof of vaccination but no test.

American citizens and permanent residents were always allowed to enter the US, but the travel bans grounded tourists, thwarted business travellers and often separated families.

Airlines are now preparing for a surge in travel after the pandemic and resulting restrictions caused international travel to plunge. Data from travel and analytics firm Cirium showed airlines are increasing flights between the United Kingdom and the US by 21% this month over last month.



Passengers queue at London Heathrow Airport's T3 as the US reopens its borders to UK visitors in a significant boost to the travel sector

Maria Giribet has not seen her twin grandchildren Gabriel and David for about half of their lives. Now 3 1/2, the boys are in San Francisco, which during the height of the pandemic might as well have

been another planet for 74-year-old Giribet, who lives on the Mediterranean isle of Majorca.

The change will also have a profound effect on the US borders with Mexico and Canada, where trav-

elling back and forth was a way of life until the pandemic hit and the US shut down nonessential travel.

Malls, restaurants and Main Street shops in US border towns have been devastated by the lack of visitors from Mexico. On the boundary with Canada, cross-border hockey rivalries that were community traditions were upended. Churches that had members on both sides of the border are hoping to welcome parishioners they haven't seen in nearly two years.

River Robinson's American partner wasn't able to be in Canada for the birth of their baby boy 17 months ago. She was thrilled to hear about the US reopening.

The US will accept travellers who have been fully vaccinated

with any of the shots approved for emergency use by the World Health Organisation, not just those in use in the US. That's a relief for many in Canada, where the AstraZeneca vaccine is widely used.

But millions of people around the world who were vaccinated with Russia's Sputnik V, China's CanSino or others not OK'd by the WHO won't be able to travel to the US. The moves come as the US has seen its COVID-19 outlook improve dramatically in recent weeks since the summer delta surge that pushed hospitals to the brink in many locations. Another couple, Ben and Becca Akhruter were making the kind of trip Monday that many in the industry hope for: They were leaving London's Heathrow Airport to visit Disney World.



# business

## of the day quote

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has set a target of installing 500 GW (giga watt) renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2030. We will do that instead we will exceed the target

**When you compare with last year** obviously the numbers look much more positive. A high double-digit growth is around the corner. The shift towards personal mobility has really helped

**TARUN GARG** | DIRECTOR (SALES, MARKETING, SERVICE), HMIL

**We are delighted to have been approved under the PLI scheme for AC components.** It is a milestone that showcases our strength in this domain and highlights our commitment towards the government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Make in India project

**VIKAS GUPTA** | MD (OPERATIONS), PG TECHNOPLAST PVT LTD

## SHORT TAKES

### SBI Card to raise ₹2K cr from bonds

**New Delhi:** SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card) Monday said it will raise ₹2,000 crore by issuing bonds on a private placement basis. "The board of directors of the company has approved, raising of funds by way of issuance of non-convertible debentures, aggregating to ₹2,000 crore," SBI Card said in a regulatory filing. The money will be raised in one or more tranches, and the said issuance will be done on a private placement basis.

### SpiceJet introduces new payment option

**New Delhi:** Budget passenger carrier SpiceJet has introduced a new ticket payment option, which allows passengers to pay the fares in installments. The airline has introduced a 'Pay Later' or 'Cardless EMI' scheme that allows greater flexibility, affordability and convenience for passengers, who can now book an airline ticket online and pay in three, six, nine or 12 installments. The payments product called 'Walnut 369' is powered by Capital Float.

### HDFC Life unveils new maturity plan

**Bhubaneswar:** HDFC Life is offering a new-age, feature-packed product, HDFC Life Sanchay Fixed Maturity Plan, that guarantees achievement of fixed financial goals. HDFC Life Sanchay Fixed Maturity Plan is a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings plan, designed to provide guaranteed returns in the form of a lumpsum benefit. The plan offers individuals the flexibility to choose between single pay, limited pay or regular pay options. There are over 500 premium payment term and policy term combinations available in this plan that enable customers to align the policy term with their goals.

### IDFC MF launches Multi Cap Fund

**Bhubaneswar:** IDFC Mutual Fund announced the launch of IDFC Multi Cap Fund, an open-ended equity scheme aiming to create wealth over the long term by investing in a portfolio of large cap, mid cap and small cap equity and equity-related securities. The fund will also aim to benefit from allocations to tactical investment opportunities like IPOs, new-age businesses, international equities and tactical cash positions. The New Fund Offer will open for subscription Nov 12 to Nov 26, 2021.

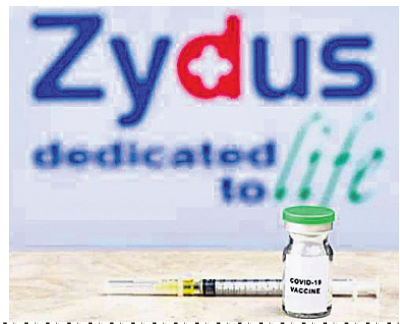


**We are delighted to expand our global footprint as we bring India's finest airline to Paris. Given the strong economic and cultural ties there is a high demand for direct connectivity between India and France**

**LESLIE THNG** | CEO, VISTARA

### INDIA TO BUY 1CR DOSES OF ZYDUS CADILA

Drug firm Zydus Cadila Monday said it has received an order to supply one crore doses of its Covid-19 vaccine, ZyCoV-D, to the Indian government at ₹265 per dose. The three-dose vaccine, ZyCoV-D, was approved by the country's drug regulator in August for emergency use in adults and children aged 12 years and above



## Tesla shares fall after Musk's bizarre Twitter poll

*Musk said he would abide by the results of the poll, which ended with 58% of more than 3.5 million votes calling for him to sell the stock*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, Nov 8:** Tesla shares slumped about 5% in premarket trading after its CEO Elon Musk said he would sell 10% of his holdings — about \$20 billion worth — in the electric car maker based on the results of a poll he conducted on Twitter over the weekend.

Musk owns about 17% of the 1 billion outstanding Tesla shares. If he sold 10% of his holdings at their current price of around \$1,170 per share, it would net him around \$20 billion. Last week, Tesla shares hit an all-time intraday high of \$1,243.49 per share. It's the most valuable car maker in the world with a market capitalization of more



than \$1 trillion. The sometimes abrasive and

unpredictable Musk said he proposed selling the stock as 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 "unrealized gains," and Musk is sitting on a lot of them with a net worth of roughly \$300 billion. "Much is made lately of unre-

alized 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. "I only have stock, thus the only way for me to pay taxes personally is to sell stock," he tweeted.

## Centre amends Packaged Commodities Rules 2011

*The decision is based on the best sales practice and will reduce the compliance burden on the part of industry as well as help consumers ascertain the price of the product before making a buying decision*



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 8:** Today, consumers buying 3.5 kg packaged rice flour or 88 grams biscuit packet might well be struggling to make out whether the product is exactly what they are looking for. From April next year, it will be much easier for the consumers to ascertain the cost in unit terms.

To help consumers make a conscious purchase decisions as well as lessen compliance burden on industry players, the Union consumer affairs ministry has amended the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, whereby companies will be required to print 'unit sale price' on the packaged commodities.

"Companies selling packaged commodities with a quantity of more than one kilogram should print 'unit sale price' per kg along with the maximum retail price (MRP)," a senior consumer affairs

**Under the new norms,** companies will be required to print 'unit sale price' on the packaged commodities

**The other change made to the rules is the way MRP is printed on the packaged commodities.** Currently, notices get issued to companies if MRP is not printed in a format mentioned in the rules

**The third change made to the rules is with regard to mentioning of quantity on a packaged commodity either in 'number' or 'unit' which as per the format is to be mentioned as xxN or xxU on the pack**

**The fourth and last change made to the rules is with regard to the packaged imported commodities.** Currently, companies have an option to either mention date of import or date of manufacturing or date of prepackaging

ministry official told PTI. For example, a packaged wheat

flour of 2.5 kg should have a unit sale price per kg along with the total MRP. Similarly, a packaged commodity of less than one kg quantity should have 'unit sale price' per gram along with the total MRP of the product.

Seeking to ease the compliance requirements, the ministry has scrapped the Schedule 2 of the rules under which 19 types of commodities were to be packed in quantities by weight, measure or number in a specified manner.

The other change made to the rules is the way MRP is printed on the packaged commodities. Currently, notices get issued to companies if MRP is not printed in a format mentioned in the rules. Now, we have asked companies to give in the Indian rupees and freed them from any set format, the official said.

The third change made to the rules is with regard to mentioning of quantity on a packaged commodity either in 'number' or 'unit' which as per the format is to be mentioned as xxN or xxU on the pack.

"If a company expressed wrongly as xxNO or xxUO, it was considered to be in violation of the rules and notices were issued. Even mentioning in pairs or pieces on the pack was also a violation," the official said.

"Now, there won't be an option. Companies have to mention only the date of manufacturing which matters to consumers while buying the product," the official added.

## Buy now, pay later set to surge ten-fold



AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Nov 8:** India's buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) industry is booming and set to surge over ten-fold within four years as tens of millions of online shoppers get lured by interest-free credit with fewer hassles, market players told agencies.

The research firm also estimates that the number of BNPL users in the country may rise to 80-100 million customers by then, from 10-15 million currently.

"However, since the maximum credit currently being offered on BNPL is 100,000 rupees, much lower than credit card offers, it will take some time before it can disrupt the cards market," said analysts at Macquarie Research.

Fintech firm MobiKwik sees BNPL business nearly doubling for the company in two years, in a country where hundreds of millions of people have little access to formal credit.

MobiKwik, which is among the top BNPL players in India and is backed by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, said income from the segment accounted for nearly a fifth of its 3.02 billion rupees revenue for the financial year. "Only 60-70 million Indians have

**Redseer estimates BNPL market will rocket to \$45-50 billion by 2026 from \$3-3.5 billion now**

access to credit today, which means 93% of India has no access to credit," said Upasana Taku, co-founder of the firm.

It will become the fastest revenue driver for the business because there has been a 45X growth in the BNPL transactions in the last two years. New user addition is very high; repeat rate and average ticket size is going up.

As the pandemic sent more and more people towards online shopping, the demand for easy loans has driven more players to enter the BNPL market — Amazon joined the BNPL bandwagon in 2020 while homegrown payments firm BharatPe started the service last month.

"A very large population of millennials and young customers during the pandemic were looking for credit and to extend their budgets, because of different uncertainties in these times," said Vikas Bansal, director of Amazon Pay India.



| TOP GAINERS   |      | TOP LOSERS       |       |
|---------------|------|------------------|-------|
| Titan         | 4.29 | IndusInd B-10.71 |       |
| UltraTech C   | 4.20 | M&M              | -1.57 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 4.15 | SBI              | -1.38 |
| Tech Mahi     | 3.36 | Maruti Suz       | -0.75 |
| Kotak Mahi    | 3.05 | Asian Paints     | -0.65 |

| TOP GAINERS |      | TOP LOSERS       |       |
|-------------|------|------------------|-------|
| Titan       | 4.53 | IndusInd B-10.52 |       |
| IOC         | 4.53 | Divis Lab        | -5.15 |
| Bajaj Fin   | 4.18 | M&M              | -1.37 |
| UltraTech C | 4.09 | SBI              | -1.29 |
| Tech Mahi   | 3.73 | Hindalco         | -0.71 |

## Paytm kicks off largest IPO

*Paytm has priced its shares in a price band of ₹2,080-2,150, valuing the company at ₹1.39L cr*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 8:** Paytm's ₹18,300-crore IPO, India's largest public issue to date, was subscribed only 18% on the first day of bidding Monday.

The initial public offering of Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications Ltd received bids for 88.23 lakh equity shares against the offer size of 4.83 crore shares, according to information available from stock exchanges.

The portion set aside for retail investors has been subscribed 78 per cent, while the reserved portion



of non-institutional investors was subscribed 2 per cent, and qualified institutional buyers have put in bids for 16.78 lakh shares against 2.63 crore shares set aside for them. Other tech IPOs such as those of Nykaa and Zomato Ltd had re-

ceived stronger investor demand on their opening days but they were much smaller compared to Paytm. Share allotment is likely to take place November 15, and the shares are expected to be listed Nov 18. The share sale closes Nov 10.

The offer comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹8,300 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of shares worth up to ₹10,000 crore.

The record-setting IPO has received a mixed response from analysts, with some calling it a good bet to ride India's fintech wave and others pointing at expensive pricing.

## RACE TO \$3 TRILLION

# Tech giants now a quarter of S&P 500 combined market cap

**IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE S&P 500 COULD HAVE SIX COMPANIES WORTH AT LEAST \$1 TRILLION AT THE SAME TIME IF META PLATFORMS, THE SOCIAL MEDIA GIANT FORMERLY KNOWN AS FACEBOOK, CONTINUES TO REBOUND**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 8:** Microsoft is now worth a smidge more than Apple, making the Satya Nadella-led cloud software giant the world's most valuable company. Both companies are worth about \$2.5 trillion, CNN reported.

Google owner Alphabet is worth just a touch less than \$2 trillion, while Amazon is valued at \$1.7 trillion. Tesla, Elon Musk's electric car giant recently passed the \$1 trillion mark and has since surged to a market cap of about \$1.25 trillion.

"These five companies are now collectively worth almost \$10 trillion. That's nearly a quarter of

the combined \$41.8 trillion market cap of the entire S&P 500," the report said.

It's possible that the S&P 500 could have six companies worth at least \$1 trillion at the same time if Meta Platforms, the social media giant formerly known as Facebook, continues to rebound. Meta now has a market valuation of about \$930 billion.

But given the continued strength in tech, it's altogether possible that all six of these companies could soon each be worth at least \$2 trillion, if not more. After all, Microsoft and Apple are knocking on the door of \$3 trillion.

And other techs, such as chip



leader Nvidia and China's Tencent are moving closer to the trillion dollar market valuation mark, the report added.

"It seems almost unfathomable that so many companies could be worth this much. But earnings growth for many of the top techs

continues to be strong, and that is pushing prices higher," the report added.

Still, the insatiable investor appetite for trillion-dollar techs reminds some market analysts of the Nasdaq froth of the 1990s and early 2000. It could be a warning sign, it said.

"Tesla's rally is reminiscent of Cisco's move in 2000, a move that marked the bubble top in 2000," said Mike O'Rourke, chief market strategist with JonesTrading, in a report this month.

O'Rourke pointed out that Cisco shares soared about 50 per cent in the first three months of 2000 and analysts at Credit Suisse predicted

that Cisco would be the world's first trillion-dollar company, the report said.

It didn't happen. Cisco, which was worth about \$550 billion at the height of tech stock mania two decades ago, is now valued at about \$240 billion. Intel, another tech stock leader of the late '90s, has struggled in the past few years and is nowhere close to its 2000 peak valuation.

It's proof that becoming a market leader may be easier than staying a market leader. There is no guarantee that the likes of Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet and even Tesla will stay at the top, CNN reported.



# Jadeja, Rohit lift Men in Blue

# Batters disappoint as Odisha lose to Punjab



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Nov 8:** Captain-in waiting Rohit Sharma (56, 37b, 7x4, 2x6) made short work of a modest target with an elegant half-century after spinners reigned supreme as India on Virat Kohli's last day as shortest format captain ended their T20 World Cup campaign with an emphatic nine-wicket victory over Namibia here Monday.

Rohit, who is set to take over as India's white-ball captain, got fabulous support from another supremely stylish KL Rahul (54 n o, 36b, 4x4, 2x6) as India chased down the target of 133 in only 15.2 overs. The openers added 86 runs inside 10 overs before Rahul and Suryakumar Yadav (25 n o) finished off the task.

It was nothing more than a stroll in the park for the Indians, who basically caught the Namibians by the scruff of their necks with spinners Ravindra Jadeja (3/16) and Ravichandran Ashwin (3/20).

Then, Rohit dazzled and Rahul sizzled with some breathtaking pick-up pull shots while Yadav showed his 360 degree hitting skills to end a rather disappointing tournament on a sweet note.

On the night, India's spinners were just too good for the unheralded Namibia batters as India restricted the minnows to a modest 132/8 in their inconsequential final T20 World Cup match.

Already ousted from the tournament after losing to Pakistan and New Zealand in their first two games, India looked relaxed and the Namibians were all at sea as they are not used to playing world-class slow bowling operators of this calibre.

Jadeja and Ashwin made it a lopsided contest after Namibia, courtesy

## Reacting to India's ouster from WT20

**VIRAT KOHLI:** I've been immensely proud of how the team has played. Now I think it's time for the next lot to stake this team forward. Obviously Rohit is here and he's overlooking things for a while now. It's been an honour for me, I was given the opportunity and I tried to do my best. But it's also time to create some space and move forward.

**RAVI SHASTRI:** I am mentally drained but I expect that at my age but these guys are physically and mentally drained. Six months in a bubble. What we would have ideally liked was a bigger gap between the IPL and the T20 World Cup (because) when the big games come, when pressure hits you, you are not that switched on as you should be. It's not an excuse. We take defeat and we are not scared of losing. In trying to win, you will lose a game but here we didn't try to win because that X-factor was missing.

**SUNIL GAVASKAR:** I don't think wholesale changes will make any difference. You need to change your approach, like take advantage of the power-play overs which India didn't do in the last few world tournaments. The fact that in the first 6 overs, there are only 2 fielders outside the 30-yard

circle, India haven't taken advantage of it for the last few ICC tournaments. Whenever India are up against a strong team, one that has good bowlers...India cannot score. So that needs to change.

**KAPIL DEV:** When players prioritise IPL over playing for the country, what can we say? Players should take pride in playing for their nation. I don't know their financial condition so can't say much. I feel that first in line should be the country's team and then franchisees. I'm not saying do not play cricket there (IPL), but the responsibility is now on the BCCI to plan its cricket better. To not repeat mistakes we committed in this tournament is the biggest learning for us.

**NASSER HUSSAIN:** You have got to go out and express yourself. They (India) have got so much talent. That may be the only thing that's holding India back in ICC events. They don't quite play the fearless brand of cricket that they deserve to because they are so talented. I had them (India) as favourites. They had been playing IPL here, are a star-studded side. They got a setback in that first game. They are so good at the top, some of the middle-order don't get much of a hit and suddenly you need a Plan B and that was found wanting.

their opener Stephan Baard (21) and Michael van Lingen (14), had added 30-plus runs in the first four overs.

Once Van Lingen was dismissed by a short ball and extra pace from Jasprit Bumrah (2/19), the will to fight was not evident on the African nation's batters when Jadeja and Ashwin jointly operated.

Mohammed Shami (0/39) was the only bowler who had an off-day.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Namibia 132/8 (David Wiese 26, Stephan Baard 21; Ravindra Jadeja 3/16, Ravichandran Ashwin 3/20, Jasprit Bumrah 2/19) lost to India 136/1 (Rohit Sharma 56, KL Rahul 54 n o) by 9 wickets.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 8:** Odisha batters, save Abhishek Raut (74 n o, 56b, 9x4), performed poorly as they suffered a 60-run loss against Punjab in their match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 cricket tournament in Lucknow, Monday.

Punjab posted 189/4 after winning the toss and electing to bat first. In response, Odisha batters hardly put up any fight managed to score 129/7, thanks to Raut. Notably, it was Odisha's third successive loss in this competition after winning their campaign opener against Goa.

Chasing a daunting 190-run target, Odisha were reduced to 10/3 in 3.1 overs. Skipper Rajesh Dhuper continued his poor run of form as he was dismissed in the second ball of their innings by Abhishek Sharma (1/6), who took the catch off his own bowling.

Former captain Subhanshu Senapati (2) too struggled before a misunderstanding while running between the wickets with opener Anshy Rath (7) resulted his run out. The latter too struggled three balls later when Siddharth Kaul (2/34) cleaned him up.

Seasoned campaigner Govinda Poddar (17), also a former skipper, then tried to resurrect Odisha innings with Raut. Both of them scored runs almost at a run-a-ball pace, which eventually raised the required run-rate. Poddar tried up the ante, but he was caught by a substitute fielder off leggie Mayank Markande (2/25) as Odisha were reduced to 43/4 in the ninth over.

Raut then lost two more partners in Abhishek Yadav (1) and Prayas Singh (1) at the other end to see his side totter at 55/6 in 11.1 overs. With the win slipping away, Raut began to counter the Punjab

bowling too change the momentum. However, it was too little too late for him even to challenge Punjab.

Nevertheless, Raut along with Bikash Rout (22, 19b, 2x4) added 62 runs for the seventh wicket in a quick time. Raut kept most of the strikes and played some wonderful shots surpassing his 50-run mark in the process.

Kaul broke the stand dismissing Bikash, who also contributed well with a cameo, in the penultimate over of Odisha innings. Odisha could add only 12 runs off the next 10 balls.

Earlier, Odisha began the proceeding well when Debabrata Pradhan (1/34) got rid of Shubman Gill (9) in the third over. The opener Prabhshimran Singh (40, 34b, 4x4, 1x6) and Abhishek Sharma (30, 16b, 3x4, 2x6) played aggressive knocks to take their total past 60-run mark. Bikash (2/34) broke the stand dismissing Sharma before getting rid of Singh a few overs later to reduce Punjab to 84/3 in 11.3 overs.

Odisha had good chance to put the pressure back on Punjab with two new batters on the crease. However, experienced Gurkeerat Singh Mann (48 n o, 39b, 2x4, 3x6) and Ramandeep Singh (54, 23b, 3x4, 5x6) played counter-attacking knocks to take the team's total to 180. Ashish Rai (1/47), who had a poor outing so far, finally ended his three-over spell with a wicket when he dismissed Ramandeep in the final ball of the 19th over.

Brief scores: Punjab 189/4 (Ramandeep Singh 54, Gurkeerat Singh Mann 48 n o, Prabhshimran Singh 40, Abhishek Sharma 30; Bikash Rout 2/34) beat Odisha 129/7 (Abhishek Raut 74 n o, Bikash Rout 22; Mayank Markande 2/25, Siddharth Kaul 2/34) by 60 runs.

# Australia set to tour Pakistan after 24 yrs

# Soaring West Ham stun Liverpool

# Milan derby ends in draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lahore, Nov 8:** Australia have agreed to tour Pakistan for the first time in 24 years for a full series next year, providing a much-needed shot in the arm for the country's cricket following the recent pullouts by England and New Zealand over security concerns.

Australia, who last toured Pakistan in 1998, will play three Tests in Karachi (March 3-7), Rawalpindi (March 12-16) and Lahore (March 21-25) as part of the World Test Championship.

Lahore will also be the venue for the four white-ball matches to be played from March 29 to April 5, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Monday.

In September, New Zealand, who were already in Pakistan, went back home without playing a game due to a security threat and soon after, England too announced they won't be touring the country ahead of the T20 World Cup, dealing a huge setback to the PCB's efforts in bringing high-quality international cricket to the country.

Australia coming to Pakistan is a big win for the recently-appointed PCB chief Ramiz Raja, who did not expect the Aussies to tour after England and New Zealand withdrew. England were criticised heavily for not touring the country.

"It pleases me no end that we'll be engaged in a three-Test match series, connoisseurs delight," Raja said in a statement. "Australia are one of the high-performing sides and them playing in our backyard for the first time after a gap of 24 years will be a special treat for the fans.

"Likewise, it will be a great opportunity for the Australia cricketers to not only play at our iconic venues but also feel and enjoy the respect, love and hospitality that this great country offers, something which most of their previous generation of cricketers missed out by playing offshore," he said.

Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley said they will continue to work with PCB to ensure foolproof security for their team.

CA's delegation will visit Pakistan to meet with PCB officials as well as provincial and federal authorities to discuss and finalise matters relating to "team operations, logistics, security and Covid-19 protocols".

Australia last toured Pakistan in 1998-99 when Mark Taylor led them to a 1-0 series victory - their first in the country since Richie Benaud's side defeated Fazal Mahmood's team by a 2-0 margin in the 1959-60 series.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Nov 8:** The sound of West Ham fans singing 'I'm forever blowing bubbles' could still be heard around the bars of the London Stadium an hour after beating Liverpool.

Liverpool hadn't only been prevented from going a club-record 26th match unbeaten. Jurgen Klopp's side was also dislodged from third place in the Premier League by West Ham with a 3-2 victory Sunday.

There hasn't been much to celebrate at West Ham, especially in the five years since moving into the stadium at the centerpiece of the 2012 Olympics.

It's still an imperfect venue — re-configured around a running track — but the fan dissent and disorder is fading into the past as David Moyes has the club dreaming of unprecedented highs and its fans happily singing the club anthem.

West Ham, whose highest top-tier league finish was third in 1986, is looking like title contenders two years after Moyes took charge of a team a point above the relegation zone.

Building on a sixth-place finish last season — missing out on the Champions League spots by two points — West Ham have now opened a top-flight season by winning seven of 11 games for only the second time.

NIGHT TO REMEMBER: West Ham players celebrate a goal against Liverpool, Sunday



There was a helping hand from Alisson Becker: The Liverpool goalkeeper flapped in the air to allow Pablo Fornals' inswinging corner to go through his hands in the fourth minute.

After Trent Alexander-Arnold equalised at the end of the first half, Jarrod Bowen ran at the Liverpool defense before slipping the ball to Fornals whose shot was helped into the net by Alisson's weak touch.

Another assist came from Bowen in the 74th when a corner was headed in by Kurt Zouma through Alisson's raised hands.

Although Divock Origi pulled one back, scoring on the turn,

Liverpool couldn't find another goal to avoid a first loss in any competition since being knocked out of the Champions League last season by Real Madrid in April.

It's even further back — into February — since the 2020 champions lost in the Premier League. There's now only a three-point gap between West Ham and leader Chelsea, while defending champion Manchester City is only ahead in second on goal difference heading into the two-week international break. Now West Ham is six points higher than Manchester United.

Arsenal moved up to fifth after Emile Smith Rowe clinched a 1-0 victory over Watford to go 10 matches

unbeaten in all competitions after opening the Premier League with three losses. Watford finished with 10 men after Juraj Kucka was shown a second yellow card for catching Nuno Tavares in the 89th.

A new manager hasn't resolved Tottenham's attacking struggles in the league. Antonio Conte saw Tottenham fail to register a single shot on target on another lackluster day for Harry Kane in a 0-0 draw with Everton.

A curling finish from Harvey Barnes secured a 1-1 draw for Leicester at Leeds, canceling out Raphinha's free kick. Midtable Leicester has 15 points, four more than Leeds.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Milan, Nov 8:** Inter Milan were the more disappointed side after the Milan derby match ended in a 1-1 draw, despite AC Milan being the team that missed out on taking the outright lead of Serie A.

Former Milan midfielder Hakan Calhanoglu converted a penalty for Inter in the 11th minute — and celebrated fiercely against the club he left in June on a free transfer after four years. Milan leveled thanks to an own-goal by defender Stefan de Vrij shortly after, and Inter also had a penalty saved in a high-tempo first half.

Stefano Pioli's Milan remained level on points at the top of the Italian league with Napoli, which drew 1-1 against Hellas Verona earlier. Inter was third, seven points below the top two.

Inter were given a second penalty in the 27th after a mistake from Fode Ballo-Toure saw him bring down Matteo Darmian. Lautaro Martinez stepped up but Ciprian Tataruanu managed to save his spot-kick.

Verona ended the match in Naples with nine men after substitutes Daniel Bessa and Nikola Kalinic were sent off. Giovanni Simeone had scored his seventh goal in four matches to give Verona an early lead but that only lasted five minutes before Giovanni Di Lorenzo's equaliser.

# Verstappen extends lead in title chase

# Harika qualifies for next GP cycle

# Atletico concede twice in injury time

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Mexico City, Nov 8:** Red Bull earned itself one heck of a Formula One fiesta. Max Verstappen won the Mexico City Grand Prix with a dominant race Sunday to stretch his season championship lead over Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton. Teammate Sergio Perez was the first Mexican driver in race history to not just lead the race, but also to earn a podium when he finished third.

And the result pulled Red Bull nearly even with Mercedes in a team championship worth millions of dollars at the end of season.

While Verstappen and Perez basked in the chants of "Ole! Ole!" from the massive crowd during the podium ceremony and Perez's father wildly waved the Mexican flag, Hamilton could only watch and listen. He had to know he's running out of time and races to catch Verstappen in pursuit of a record eighth F1 season title.

Verstappen now leads Hamilton in the championship by 19 points with four races left, starting next



week in Sao Paolo, Brazil. Verstappen won in 2019 and likely will be favored to again.

The two have traded the lead several times this season, and even crashed into each other twice, in F1's tightest title chase in years.

Verstappen certainly isn't taking anything for granted. The 24-year-old Dutchman is chasing his first F1 championship and earned his ninth win of the season, his second in a row and third in Mexico City in four years.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Riga (Latvia), Nov 8:** Indian chess ace Dronavalli Harika held top-seed Mariya Muzychuk of Ukraine to a draw in the 11th and final round of the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss chess tournament here to finish fifth and qualify for the next women's Grand Prix cycle.

Harika shared a point with Muzychuk in 31 moves late Sunday to end with seven points and remained undefeated in the tournament. She was tied for joint third spot with the Ukrainian but eventually settled for fifth place on the basis of the tie-break score.

Meanwhile, 19-year old WGM Vantika Agrawal finished a creditable 14th with 6.5 points, which included three wins, seven draws and one loss.

In the Open event, Indian GM Nihal Sarin had the best finish, taking 18th place with 6.5 points. Compatriots P Harikrishna and K Sasikiran finished a distant 30th and 31st respectively with six points from 11 rounds.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Madrid, Nov 8:** A late push moved Real Sociedad back to first place in the Spanish league. A late collapse kept Atletico Madrid from getting closer to the top.

Atletico conceded twice in stoppage time in a 3-3 draw at Valencia on Sunday, while Sociedad scored twice in the final 20 minutes in a 2-0 win at Osasuna. The victory put Sociedad on 28 points, one more than Real Madrid, who had gone top after beating Rayo Vallecano Saturday.

Atletico are in fourth place, five points behind Sociedad with a game in hand. Sevilla later joined Madrid 27 points after beating Real Betis 2-0 in the Seville derby. Sevilla and Madrid also have a game in hand compared to Sociedad.

Barcelona were able to stay in ninth place going into the international break despite squandering a three-goal lead in a 3-3 draw at Celta Vigo Saturday.

Substitute striker Hugo Duro entered the match in the 85th and scored in the second and sixth minutes of injury time to give



**SUPER SUB:** Hugo Duro (L) rejoices after scoring one of his goals against Atletico Madrid, Sunday

Valencia a point with a home draw against Atletico.

Luis Suarez, Antoine Griezmann and Sime Vrsaljko had scored for the defending champion, which was coming off a loss

at Liverpool in the Champions League. Valencia, who stayed in 10th place, was coming off a 2-0 league win against Villarreal that snapped the team's seven-game winless streak.