POOJA BACK IN ACTION

**VOLUME 11, ISSUE 220 | www.orissapost.com** 

Actor Pooja Batra, known for 90's hits like 'Nayak' and 'Virasat', is all set to make her big screen comeback with 'Squad'



### IMRAN KHAN GRILLED

Pak PM Imran Khan faces Supreme Court grilling over terror attack on an army-run school at Peshawar in 2014

INTERNATIONAL P10



## KIWIS ENTER FINAL

Daryl Mitchell shines as New Zealand beat England by 5 wickets to enter the final of the T20 World Cup

SPORTS P12

12 PAGES | ₹5.00

**BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 | 2021** 

## AND HAPPILY EVER AFTER



Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai, who survived a gunshot wound to the head by the Taliban in 2012, has tied the nuptial knot with top PCB official Asser Malik. The wedding ceremony took place Tuesday in Birmingham, Malala said on Twitter

### 12 KILLED, 38 INJURED IN RAJASTHAN ROAD MISHAP

Jaipur: A truck collided head-on with a bus in Rajasthan's Barmer district Wednesday, leaving 12 people dead and 32 others injured, police said. The accident occurred near Bhandiyawas village on the Barmer-Jodhpur National Highway and both vehicles caught fire following the collision. "Ten bodies have been recovered from the spot and two died at a hospital. Thirty eight others are injured. Eight critically injured persons have been referred to Jodhpur for treatment," Barmer SP, Deepak Bhargav, said. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Ghelot said in a tweet that best possible treatment will be provided to those injured.





# Classes VI, VII to resume Nov 15

■ Terming Covid-19 as a 'state disaster' the Odisha government had closed down all educational institutions in March 2020. Since then students of Classes VI and VII had remained confined to their homes. Now they will again be able to get some form of relief from the boredom

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Finally the wait is over for Classes VI and VII students. Physical teaching of students studying in Classes VI and VII will resume November 15, the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department informed Wednesday. It should be stated here that S&ME Minister Samir Ranjan Dash had earlier informed authorities of all schools that physical classes for students from Classes I to VII will open in a phased manner after Diwali.

Dash said Wednesday that the decision to resume physical classes for VI and VII students was taken as the daily number of Covid-19 cases has dipped considerably in the state. "The effect of the third wave of Covid-19 has decreased



considerably. We are taking all possible preventive measures to ensure that classes are reopened in a graded manner. Already, physical mode of teaching for students of Classes VIII to XII has started following Covid-19 protocols strictly. As the possibility of a third wave seems remote, we have decided to resume offline teaching for Classes VI and VII," Dash stated.

been cleaned and classrooms including desks, benches and other accessories have been sanitised thoroughly.

Notably, the Odisha government had allowed resumption of physical classes for students of Classes XI and VIII from October 21 and October 25, 2021, respectively. Students of Classes X and XII have been attending physical classes in Odisha since July 26, 2021.

tendance of the students is not

mandatory. It said that students

can attend classes in either offline

or online mode in consultation

with their parents. It informed that hostels will reopen following

All district education officers

and concerned officials have been

instructed to visit the schools to ensure that the school premises have

Covid-19 protocols strictly.

In March, 2020, the Odisha government had declared Covid-19 as 'state disaster' and closed schools, colleges and other educational centres as the number of cases shot up drastically. Now however, it is good news for students who have suffered mentally a lot being confined to their homes and not getting the chance to interact with friends and teachers physically. The reopening of schools will certainly come as a relief to all students.

## **VERY HEAVY** PREDICTED IN CHENNAI

Feeling better. Was fed up vith news of rain battering Mumbai all the time!

**Cabinet decides** 

to restart MPLADS

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Union

Cabinet decided Wednesday to re-

store the Member of Parliament

Local Area Development Scheme

(MPLADS) and an MP will get ₹2

crore for development activities for the remainder of 2021-22 and an-

The MPLAD Scheme was suspended temporarily in April 2020

due to the Covid-19 pandemic and

its funds went into the

Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).

This information was given by

Information and Broadcasting

Minister Anurag Thakur at a

press conference here Tuesday.

for two years, 2020-21 to 2021-22,

MPLAD Scheme money will be

used in the fight against the pan-

demic. And all parliamentarians

had also enthusiastically given

their consent to contribute in the

fight against Covid-19. So the funds

"I am glad to share with you

that in view of the improvement in

economic scenario, the way re-

covery has taken place, a decision

has been taken to restore MPLAD

Scheme for the remainder period

of the fiscal 2021-22," Thakur added.

were suspended," Thakur said.

"During Covid-19, a decision had been taken by the Cabinet that

nually ₹5 crore thereafter.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL Nov 12 Congress bandh

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The Congress has called for a state-wide bandh in Odisha November 12 demanding the resignation of Minister of State (Home) Dibya Shankar Mishra. It has been alleged by all opposition parties that Mishra has links with Gobinda Sahu, the main accused in the murder case of school teacher Mamita Meher.

The decision to call for a statewide bandh was taken by the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) during a meeting held recently. Among those present were the party's in-charge in Odisha, A Chella Kumar and Niranjan Patnaik, president, OPCC. The Congress has also demanded registration of a criminal case against the minister and his arrest.

Congress leaders said that party workers will stage road blockade all over the state to interrupt vehicular movement. Similarly, 'rail roko' will be organised in all districts of the state that will affect the regular plying of trains.

The BJP and Congress have been demanding resignation of minister Mishra for quite some time now. However, the state government has demonstrated clearly that it is behind Mishra. The minister was recently seen sharing the stage with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at a government function in Bhawanipatna

Various allegations have surfaced against Mishra including one which said that he tried to play peacemaker between Gobinda and Mamita at a place in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Mamita went missing October 8 and her body was found from an under-construction stadium in Mahaling in Kalahandi district October 19. Immediately after Mamita had gone missing, her family members had lodged a complaint alleging that Gobinda was involved regarding her disappearance. Later on after his arrest, Gobinda has allegedly confirmed that he murdered her. An associate of Gobinda has also been arrested in the case.

## Vig sleuths nab corrupt babu

 $\blacksquare$  As per information provided by the Vigilance department, this is a record haul of illegal assets and cash from a state govt employee in recent times

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Vigilance officials Wednesday arrested Pratap Kumar Samal, Deputy Manager of the Odisha Police Housing & Welfare Corporation (OPHWC) a day after unearthing huge amounts of properties and cash from his possession. The raids that were simultaneously conducted at a number of places by 10 Vigilance teams started Tuesday and ended early

Wednesday morning. After thorough searches, the anti-corruption wing of the Odisha government has found disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹14.87 crore which is 1,021 per cent more than the known sources of income of Samal, Vigilance officials said. As Samal and his spouse Sasmita



An illegal property owned by Samal in Bhubaneswar; (Inset): Pratap Kumar Samal

were found in possession of huge disproportionate assets, which he couldn't explain satisfactorily, Vigilance department registered a case against the couple.

Samal has been arrested was produced before the court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar, sources said. He has been remanded to judicial custody.

Other than seized cash to the tune of ₹38.12 lakh, the anti-corruption teams found 25 immovable

properties whose registration and stamp duty was valued at approximately ₹3.41 crore. Sources however, said that the actual estimated price of the plots will be much more as a building in the state capital has a value of ₹3.89 crore.

Wednesday also released official

notification to schools for re-

sumption of Classes VI and VII. It

has been sent to all government,

and teaching of students will be

conducted from 9.00am to 1.00pm

(out of which only three hours will

be used for teaching) excluding

Sundays and public holidays

These educational institutions will reopen from November 15

state-aided and private schools.

Samal and his family members have a total bank balance of ₹1.61 crore and they paid insurance premiums of ₹57.72 lakh annually. The bank accounts of both Samal and his wife have been frozen.

## **Protesting farmer** dies by suicide

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Nov 10: A 45-yearold farmer, Gurpreet Singh has died by suicide at one of the protest sites in Delhi. Gurpreet from Fategarh Sahib district was among the many farmers protesting at the Kundli-Singhu border since November last year. "Gurpreet had been staying alone in a tractortrolley near Sushant City for the past few days. The body was sent to the civil hospital at Sonipat for post mortem. His family has been informed and the police are recording statements of eyewitnesses,' Kundli police said. A fellow farmer termed the death as 'political murder' and said this will only galvanise the farmers' unity.

Farmer leader Balwant Singh said he got to know about the incident early morning. "We got to know about the incident around 7.00 am. He was at the protest site for the last three to four months," Balwant said.

## Distrust looms large over new climate draft

■ *In spite of repeated assurances*, poor countries are still apprehensive that rich nations will not provide them with aid to tackle climate change

Glasgow, Nov 10: COP 26 climate conference hosts United Kingdom have proposed that countries raise their ambitions to slash greenhouse gas emissions by next year in a draft political decision. However, for the proposal to be accepted, countries will debate over it for the next three days with many nations still believing that proposals made will once more fizzle out with the passage of time. Their apprehension comes from the fact that the rich nations have not been forthcoming



Members of the Extinct Rebellion Red Brigade take part in a 'die in' protest at Glasgow during the COP26 summit, Wednesday

in providing the USD 100 billion annually to poor countries to tackle

the adverse effects of climate change. The proposal underscores the concerns of climate experts and ac-

tivists that there is a yawning gap between current national pledges and the rapid emissions cuts re-

quired to keep the world from tilt-

ing into a full-blown climate crisis.

The first draft of the political decision, which the United Nations released Wednesday morning, asked countries to 'revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions, as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022'

Put simply, that would force countries to set tougher climate targets next year. It is a key request from nations who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Countries agreed under the Paris accord to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and try to cap it at 1.5°C. Scientists however, have said crossing the 1.5°C threshold would unleash significantly worse sea level rises, floods, droughts, wildfires and experienced. They also said some impacts would potentially become irreversible.

The draft also urged countries to speed up efforts to stop burning coal, and phase out fossil fuel subsidies. It did not set a fixed date for phasing fossil fuels out, but there was firm acceptance that these have to go if the world is to be saved.

Environmental campaign group 'Greenpeace' however, dismissed the draft as an inadequate response to the climate crisis. It said the draft was 'a polite request that countries

maybe, possibly, do more next year'. Rich countries failed to meet a pledge made in 2009 to give poorer countries \$100 billion a year. That broken promise has damaged trust, and prompted poor nations to seek tougher rules for future funding.

### **MARKET WATCH INDEX VARIATION** SENSEX 60352.82 18017.20 DOLLAR **74.22** EURO 85.77 GOLD ₹49,170 SILVER ₹66,416

WEATI	HER		
	BHUB	СТК	111
<b>≜</b> MAX	30.4°€	31.6°(	
≅ MIN	18.5°C	18.4°(	Forecast
Humidity	71%	80%	ry weather
Rainfall	Nil	Nil 1	ery likely



# leisure



### PAK NOIR SERIES *QHKN* TO **RELEASE ON INDIAN OTT**

Big B's 'tie-bows' impresses President of Nauru

ZEE5 in collaboration with Zindagi will be releasing a new noir series Qatil Haseenaon Ke Naam (QHKN). The show features Pakistani actors and it is helmed by British Asian director Meenu Gaur.

### ADELE REVEALS HEARTBREAK IN NEW SINGLE HOLD ON

Grammy winning-singer Adele has revealed about her heartbreak and the end of her marriage on new song Hold On. She has bared her soul while singing about her split from ex Simon Konecki in the emotional lyrics, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



## FORTUNE **FORECAST**

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At times it is a good thing to be under pressure, because it brings out your potential to the fullest. You will outsmart all your colleagues in the work you do. However, results may not match your expectations Ganesha advises patience as results don'

## **TAURUS**

This one of those ordinary days that, somehow, do not turn out too well.

**GEMINI** 

CANCER

You may discuss certain

serious issues with your

beloved today, predicts

on the work front.

After a long time, it seems

bring something special for

as if the stars are aligning to

you. Call it your field day, but today,

Ganesha. Expect to get appreciated for

front, you will get all the support you

your hard work in office. As for the home

need from your family members for refur-

everything will go your way, says

**LEO** 

**VIRGO** 

Surf's up as you enjoy an

unexpected achievement!

But your joy ride today may

Working for the government

is always a key responsibili-

well be spent in vexing about the prob-

lems you have. Expect to gain new money

for a new venture. Your business will rise

of all days proves to be fabulous and phe

nomenal for all those in government serv-

ice. Your actions will translate into accomplishment and you may rest assured that you shall be duly recognized and reward ed for your meritorious service.

You may come up with a precise understanding of

others today, says Ganesha. You will please your sweetheart with both

your presence and presents. You will browse through dozens of showrooms for

that perfect, and expensive, gift for your

Ganesha. Your time till afternoon will be

about the issue. However, this issue may

not be enough in letting you off the hook

spent in discussions and deliberations

Unexpected expenses, that could totally upset your budget, cannot be ruled out. Something or the other is likely to give you an uncomfortable stomach upset

pended from it.

Mumbai: Designer and styl-"In the Republic of Nauru, one ist Priya Patil, who is behind will find a number of Bollywood Amitabh Bachchan's Kaun fans. They consume a lot of the Bollywood content. The Banega Crorepati 13 look, is on Cloud Nine. She was most pleas-President was fascinated by antly surprised when she was Mr Bachchan's wardrobe, the approached on behalf of the way he carries himself and his President of Nauru, Lionel style. He was so interested in the Rouwen Aingimea, because he 'tie-bows' that he also wanted was most impressed by the Big them. B's 'tie-bows'

Continuing with her story, Patil added: "A member of the Located in the Pacific Ocean to the north-east of Australia, Government of Nauru con-Nauru is the world's third smalltacted me and asked me if I est nation after the Vatican and could design for the President Monaco. The 'tie-bow', created a collection of 'tie-bow' and specifically for the Big B by other accessories. Honestly, it Patil, is a bow with a tie susis an honour for me, more so because Mr Bachchan is adored Sharing her surprise and joy by so many and is the ultimate over the interest shown by fashion icon. It is such a big compliment for me. Nauru's President, Patil said:





Nauru President Lionel Rouwen Aingimea

Pooja Batra back with **Squad** 

the country.

Mumbai: Actress Pooja Batra, who is known for her roles in 90s hits such as Haseena MaanJaayegi, Nayak and Virasat, is all set to make her big screen comeback with Squad. She has revealed the reason why she was missing in action. "I had moved to the

other side of the world. I was in Los Angeles, California all this time. That's probably why y'all

didn't see me as often as

you would have

liked," Pooja

said.

got

Pooja

after my marriage and Squad was offered to me by Nilesh Sahay as he had written Nandani Rajput with me in mind. I loved the script and am so happy to be a part of it," she Squad marks the debut of

married to actor Nawab Shah

in 2019 and is now back in

"Now I'm back in India

veteran actor Danny Denzongpa's son Rinzing and Malvika Raaj. It will be released digitally on ZEE5 November 12. The movie has high-

octane action sequences involving MIG 8, helicopter chases and 400 soldiers. It is the first Indian film to be shot in Belarus.

## Nora to turn lucky charm for John again!

Mumbai: Actress Nora Fatehi, who is all set to feature in yet another foot-tapping dance number in Satyamev Jayate 2 titled Kusu Kusu, says after the success of Dilbar in the first installment of the film, to be able to return as Dilruba for the track Kusu Kusu feels really great.

Turning into the lucky charm for John Abraham, Nora collaborates with the actor yet again after Dilbar, O Saki Saki and Rock Tha Party while the actress marks her hat-trick with filmmaker Milap Zaveri post Dilbar and Ek Toh Kam Zindagani.

Talking about returning to the franchise, she shares, "Satyameva Jayate holds an extremely special place in my life and I am so glad to be a part of Satyameva Jayate 2. After the success of Dilbar, to be able to return as *Dilruba* feels really great." IANS



**CROSSWORD** 

## Paul Rudd crowned 'Sexiest Man Alive 2021'



After his intellectual assessment, Rudd was made to pose as a construction worker and a monk before finally pouring a gallon of water on himself wearing only a white T-shirt and jeans

Tollywood star Paul Rudd has been crowned as People magazine's 'Sexiest Man Alive 2021'. TV personality Stephen Colbert revealed the Ant-Man and the Wasp actor's new title Tuesday night's episode of The Late Show With Stephen Colbert, reports people.com.

Colbert then took Rudd through a series of tests and assessments to ensure that the actor was properly suited to take the coveted 'Sexiest Man Alive' title. After his intellectual assessment, Colbert did a physical exam on Rudd, even running his fingers through the actor's full head of hair, before testing how sexy he could be in a rigorous photograph shoot, during which Rudd posed as a construction worker and a monk before finally pouring a gallon of water on himself wearing only a white T-shirt and jeans.

At the end of Rudd's extensive evaluation, Colbert finally delivered the news on whether or not the actor made the cut to be crowned People's Sexiest Man Alive.

SCORPIO Your business associates will emerge as intangible assets for you today, says Ganesha. You will probably start off an innovative joint venture without any doubt or indecision. Hard work and enthusiasm are always a good combination for achieving success.

## **SAGITTARIUS**

The sage within you will take the lead today. You are likely to prescribe yourself to your own medication for peace of mind. Wise and content that you are today, you will spread the message of love around you. All in all, a peaceful day is in store for you today.

## CAPRICORN

People may call you a busy bee, but that you admittedly will be, says Ganesha. Work will demand your undivided attention, but the good thing is you will quickly get done with pending work one by one. In fact, you will be left with plenty of time in the evening which you are likely to spend romancing with your sweetheart.

## **AQUARIUS**

The monotony of your routine will get little bit of colour with the help of your wit and humour. Your jovial nature will lighten the burden of work from the shoulders of one all, says Ganesha. People love to be in your company and that is the reason why you are on the top of every guest list.

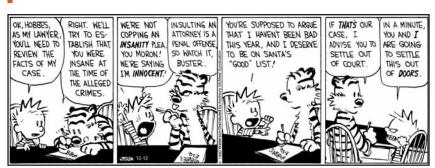
## PISCES

A day wherein you will be handling responsibilities on both the home front and at the workplace awaits you, says Ganesha. Expect to be involved in home refurbishing projects, where expenses are likely to soar

## **PEANUTS**



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## BREVITY



## DOST

## Across

- 1 Scams (3-4)
- 5 Canyon effect
- 8 Not embarrassed
- 9 Fish eggs
- 10 Potato feature **12** Poise (4-5)
- 14 Sick-looking

- 15 Show up
- 17 Totality 18 Biblical boat
- 2 Myanmar
- Down 1 Roulette bet

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23 Cameo stone

24 Wild boars,

20 Choose

21 Sullied

- 3 Paving material
- money

21 Levy

22 Shade

11 Teach

14 Winter Olympics event

13 Counterfeits

16 Macaw 19 Acclaim

4 Egyptian statue

5 Cricket wicket

7 Be a busybody

6 Mouth organ

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## 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.

		5		9			8	1
8 6	6	7	_				2	
		1	7		6			2
100		3	î.			9		
2				4				
3		Г	5	1				
			4		9			
1		2		3			9	

## SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

## downtown



### WINTER IS HERE

People buying winter clothes from stalls in Khannagar area of Cuttack, Wednesday

2023	COV	/ID-19 '	TRACK	ER
		INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
	World	25,17,97,824	22,79,35,906	50,84,075
	India	3,43,88,579	3,37,87,047	4,61,849
	Odisha	10,44,428	10,33,344	8,368
		: 	: ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	: 

# SC to hear state's plea on Vamsadhara today

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Supreme Court is all set to hear a batch of petitions filed by Odisha against the order of Vamsadhara Water Dispute Tribunal allowing Andhra Pradesh to construct Neradi barrage.

The matter will be heard by a three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and Vikram Rath Thursday.

Earlier, Andhra Pradesh had filed an affidavit in response to the petitions of Odisha against the order of the tribunal. In its affidavit, Andhra Pradesh contended that Odisha's petitions are conceived and no case is made out for the interference of the apex court.

The southern state also submitted that the tribunal has considered all objections raised by Odisha and has gone by the reports of the experts and the oral evidence and documents in support of its conclusion.

The court had earlier observed that such inter-state disputes should be disposed of at the earliest and posted the matter for final hearing after Diwali vacations.

Significantly, Odisha had earlier filed two petitions in the SC chal■ In June this year, the tribunal had permitted Andhra Pradesh to construct the Neradi barrage across Vansadhara river with ancillary structures

■ The tribunal had ruled that when there is shortage of water in a particular year, the sharing of water should be proportionately reduced. When there is an increase in water availability, it is to be increased proportionately

The distress sharing formula for the river basin is to be applicable for total utilisation by each state, the tribunal said

Aggrieved by this, Odisha had filed another special leave petition in the apex court

lenging the order of the tribunal and also opposed the joint survey of the Neradi barrage as directed by the tribunal.

In June this year, the tribunal had permitted Andhra Pradesh to construct the Neradi barrage across Vamsadhara river with ancillary structures. The tribunal had said that the barrage can have a Right Head Sluice (RHS) of 8,000 cusecs of design capacity for meeting the requirements of Andhra Pradesh and a Left Head Sluice (LHS) to cater to the requirements of Odisha below the Neradi barrage. The cost of LHS is to be borne by Odisha.

proportionately.

for the river basin is to be applicable for total utilisation by each state, the tribunal said. Aggrieved by this, Odisha had filed another special leave petition in the apex court.

The tribunal had ruled that when there is shortage of water in a particular year, the sharing of water should be proportionately reduced. When there is an increase in water availability, it is to be increased

The distress sharing formula

## CM unveils mega milk plant at Arilo

NAVEEN SEEKS PEOPLE'S COOPERATION FOR WHITE REVOLUTION IN STATE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday appealed to the people to work unitedly and cooperate with the government to bring white revolution by increasing the milk production in the state.

Inaugurating a Rs 263-crore state-of-the-art mega milk processing plant of Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation (Omfed) at Arilo in Cuttack district, Patnaik said a target has been fixed to increase the daily production capacity of milk in the state to 10 lakh litres.

During the last two decades the milk production in the state has increased three times. Milk production in 2000 was 8.75 lakh tonne which increased to 23.70 lakh tonne in 2020.

At present, 5 lakh litres of milk collected by Omfed daily is being processed in 13 plants.

The Arilo plant will process 5 lakh litres of milk daily and two lakh litres of milk powder would be produced from the plant.

Besides milk, high quality curd, butter, lassi, ghee, paneer and flavoured milk would also be produced in the plant and provided to the people at a fair price.

Patnaik said Omfed is the organisation of lakhs of dairy farmers of the state. Every dairy farmer has contributed to the development of Omfed



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik tastes a spoonful of rabidi after inaugurating the Omfed milk processing plant

He said the new plant would help increase the income of the milk farmers and around 6 lakh farmers would be benefited by it.

The Chief Minister said the main aim of all programmes of the government is to hike the income of the farmers.

The government, he said, is providing subsidies up to Rs 50 lakh to set up a dairy farm and processing unit in the state.

He appealed to people to take advantage of it and become a partner in the development of the

Agriculture and farmers' Empowerment Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo also spoke on the oc-

**INCREASED FROM 8.75 LAKH TONNE IN 2000 TO 23.70 LAKH TONNE IN 2020** 

MILK PRODUCTION IN STATE

AT PRESENT, 5 LAKH LITRES OF MILK COLLECTED BY OMFED DAILY IS BEING PROCESSED IN 13 PLANTS

THE ARILO PLANT WILL PROCESS **5 LAKH LITRES OF MILK DAILY** AND 2 LAKH LITRES OF MILK POWDER WOULD BE PRODUCED FROM THE PLANT

moval of Minister of State, Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra for his alleged involvement in the Mamita Meher murder case. Around 50 BJP workers were taken into custody by the police while they were staging demonstrations at Trisulia square in Cuttack



The mega dairy plant at Arilo in Cuttack district

casion. Prior to Naveen's visit.

hundreds of BJP workers staged

a demonstration demanding re-

## DGP Abhay allowed to retire Dec 31

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The Odisha government has allowed Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay to retire on completion of his twoyear tenure December 31, 2021. The Home department issued a notification in this regard, Wednesday. Abhay, a 1986-batch IPS was appointed as DGP in November 2019 and was scheduled to retire in June this year.

However, the state government had extended the tenure of Abhay for another six months as per the

directive of the Supreme Court, which mandated that the tenure of the state DGP should be at least two years. With the extension, Abhay will complete his two-year tenure as DGP, December 31, 2021.

Speculation has started doing the rounds regarding the successor to Abhay. As per process, the state government will send a proposal with names of senior Odisha cadre IPS offices to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) as Abhay's successor. The UPSC will shortlist three names from which the Odisha government will choose one.

Puri admin gears up for Atharnala beautification-

AGENCIES

Puri, Nov 10: The administration has decided to take up the second phase beautification of Atharnala, the entry point to the Pilgrim city of Puri.

It has also been resolved to widen the National Highway-316 to four lanes from Batagaon to Hospital Square, about three kms, for hassle-free movement of ve-

The land for the road expan sion and the beautification of Atharnala, will be acquired from concerned land owners by the administration and the families living in houses on the embankment will be evicted.

The river bed will be cleared of weeds and beautified while embankment top will be widened and transformed into a four lane road. The revenue and disaster management department has pub-



lished a notification to acquire the required land for the two projects.A section of people belong-

be affected in the beautification In the meanwhile, social im-

pact assessment of families likely to be displaced has been conducted and public hearing of objections of evacuees and whose land will be acquired is scheduled to commence November 15 for four days at different locations, a notification issued in this regard said.

Senior officers will conduct the public hearing camps.

## Agri labs opened at Sri Sri varsity

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Higher Education and Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo Wednesday visited the Sri Sri University in Cuttack and inaugurated 13 fully-equipped laboratories at various departments in the Faculty of Agriculture.



He also visited the Sri Sri College of Ayurvedic Science and Research Hospital and appreciated the facilities available at the institute. The institute is planning to start the Bachelor of Avurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) Programme this year, sources said. At present, the Faculty of Agriculture is providing undergraduate programmes in agriculture, horticulture agribusiness, nutrition and dietetics. The institute is planning to initiate postgraduate and research programmes in select subjects.

## **INVOKING GOD**



Artistes during the staging of play Ishwara Ama Sapakhyare by Panchadhwani Natya Parishad at Annapurna Theatre in Puri, Wednesday

## No direct impact of Lopar on Odisha: IMD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The low pressure area formed over southeast Bay of Bengal has converted into a well-marked low pressure and will concentrate into a depression. However, it will have no direct impact on Odisha, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Wednesday.

The system is likely to concentrate into a depression over southwest Bay of Bengal during next six hours, move west-northwestwards and reach near north Tamil Nadu coast by the early morning of November 11, 2021.

The system is likely to move west-north-westwards and cross north Tamil Nadu and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coast between Karaikal and Sriharikota around Cuddalore by the evening of November 11, the IMD said.

Under its influence, light to moderate rainfall is likely to occur at a few places of the state during



**Light to moderate** rainfall is likely to occur at a few places of the state during the next four days

The IMD further stated that another fresh low pressure area would form over south Andaman sea and neighbourhood around November 13. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and become more marked during subsequent 48 hours.

There will be no large change in minimum temperature (night temperature) during next 24 hours and thereafter it will rise gradually by 2 - 3 degrees Celsius over the

## NTPC Raising Day observed



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The NTPC Raising Day was observed at NTPC Darlipali recently. On the occasion, AK Samaiyar, Chief General Manager (CGM) (NTPC Darlipali) and Manisha Samaiyar, President (Abhilasha Ladies Club) lead the walkathon along with Shivam Srivastava, HOP (NTPC Dulanga), GMs, HODs, senior officials of NTPC Darlipali, CISF and mem-

bers of Abhilasha Ladies Club. A plantation programme was also undertaken.

Samaiyar hoisted flag at NTPC Darlipali station. Addressing the gathering, the CGM highlighted the glorious history of NTPC and its role & contribution to the development of the country. NTPC stations across the country ensured uninterrupted supply of power even in the toughest of times, he

The CGM also emphasised on the performance and progress of Darlipali station and encouraged the employees to continue with the same dedication and zeal.

The Chief Guest along with senior officials of NTPC Darlipali joined together to cut a cake on the occasion to mark the 47th NTPC Raising Day.

## Pink guava loses colour due to weather change he famous pink guavas of Prayagraj and Kaushambhi are now scarce to find. The

unpredictable weather and heavy rainfall has led to a drastic reduction in the yield this year. According to Vijay Kishore

Singh, Horticulture, Experiment and Training Centre (HETC) incharge, Khusro Bagh, because of the heavy rainfall, guava trees of the famous 'guava belt' of the two districts have flowered quite early this year and though the fruit is available, its quality is poor.

The red colour, in the 'Lal Surkha' variety of the guava, is no longer as impressive as it should have been," he said.

Since the past four years, the production of both the famous Allahabadi Guava - the 'Surkha'



and 'Safeda' varieties -- has failed leading to an increase in prices. Singh explained, "The guava

trees should ideally start bearing flowers by late October and by mid-December, the fruits start to ripen

SINCE THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THE PRODUCTION OF BOTH THE FAMOUS ALLAHABADI GUAVA -THE 'SURKHA' AND 'SAFEDA' **VARIETIES -- HAS FAILED** LEADING TO AN INCREASE IN

THE RED COLOUR, IN THE 'LAL SURKHA' VARIETY OF THE **GUAVA, IS NO LONGER AS IMPRESSIVE AS IT SHOULD HAVE** BEEN, SAY EXPERTS

and owing to the intense fog and chilly winter, the fruit gets its red colour during mid-December to

mid-January. He added that ideally, the farmers should check the flowering of the fruit during summers by using urea (in mid-May to June) and if the trees do not bear fruits in the rainy season, the winter crops would be healthy.

However, the farmers of the district are blaming the government machinery for failure of their crops vet again.

"None of the government officials visited our fields or trained us as to what methods we should apply to save our crop or get healthy harvest because of which the farmers of world-famous 'Lal Surkha' and 'Safeda' have not been able to reap the benefits," said Indrajeet

Singh Patel, leader of Allahabadi Surkha Welfare Association. Several cultivators of guava in the region are now planning al-

ternative means of livelihood

## MAN ARRESTED FOR JOB FRAUD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 10: The Commissionerate Police Wednesday arrested a 29-year-old man on charges of duping a job aspirant of Rs 33,000, an official said.

Sources said Chauliaganj police arrested Soumyaranjan Mishra, a resident under Kishan Nagar police limits of the district, for duping Kalpana Sahoo, a resident under Narsinghpur police limits. Mishra duped Sahoo on the pretext of providing her son a job in merchant navv.

"On October 22, the accused had contacted Sahoo and taken Rs 33,800 from her on the promise of helping her son get a job in merchant navy. However, after receiving the money, Mishra went incommunicado," an official said quoting the police complaint.

Sahoo approached the Chauliaganj police November 8 following which a case (424/21) was registered under Section 420 of the IPC. "During probe, it was learnt that Mishra was a habitual offender. A car (OD02-BL-7066), a cellphone and Rs 33,000 in cash have been recovered from him," said

## **WASSUP TODAY BHUBANESWAR**

■ Utkalika exhibition, Ekamra Haat, Unit-III, 10am

### **PURI**

- Protest rally by District Asha Association, near Gundicha Temple
- Protest against user fee, near municipality office, 11am

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

## **CLASSIFIED**

### AFFIDAVIT

Affidavit before Notary, Aska, I Ashok Kumar Jena, aged - 56, S/o. Satyabadi Jena, Vill: Bangarada, P.O.-Bangarada, P.S.- Gangapur, Ganjam changed my previous address to Vill: Kendupadar, P.O. Kendupadar, P.S.-Gangapur, Ganjam as my permanent residence and used in all official and nonofficial records. That the fact stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Nuapada, I Jagjeet Singh Gurudatta, S/o. Late Sewa Singh Deepak, R/o. At: Ward No. 5, Khariar Road, Dist.- Nuapada (Odisha), do hereby declare that the names Jagjit Singh Gurudutta and Jagjeet Singh Gurudatta are of one and same person i.e. myself.

Tapas Ku. Swain, S/o. Narayan Swain, At/P.O.-Kumarpur, P.S. Gurudijhatia, Dist.-Cuttack the Regd. Sale Deed No. 1022 of dated 2.8.2000 vendor Ram Ch. Muduli vendi Tapas Ku. Swain has been misplaced some where at T.P.M. fandi, Choudwar and that document has not been mortgaged to anybody and I have lodged FIR having SDE No. 8 Dt.30.10.2021. This advertisement is right but Dt.1.11.2021 was wrong.

## No contempt proceedings State logs 387 Covid-19 against state movt. SC to HC cases, 4 fresh fatalities against state govt: SC to HC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Supreme Court Wednesday disposed of a special leave petition (SLP) filed by Odisha government against the order of Orissa High Court, which had allowed the Sarda Mines to produce and lift iron ore in Keonjhar district.

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana also requested the Orissa HC not to proceed any further with contempt proceedings against the state government and Joint Director of Mines, Joda in Keonjhar district till the matter is decided by the HC.

The bench also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and Hima Kohli disposed of the petition after noting that both the state government and Sarda Mines had agreed before the Orissa HC November 3 to keep the quantity of mined stock, which the state government seeks to remove from the leasehold area, separately within the leasehold area and earmarked in the presence of the Deputy Director of Mines, Joda.

The apex court observed that there is no need to pass any order in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik

Wednesday launched the First

Responder's Training Programme

- 'Rakshak' - a road safety initia-

The programme will be con-

ducted in two phases. In the first

phase, 300 master trainers will be

trained in Training of Trainers

(TOTs) by experts from Automotive

Skills Development Council

(ASDC). Master trainers include

volunteers from Indian Red Cross

Society, Odisha State Branch and

10 places - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack,

Berhampur, Sambalpur, Balasore,

Koraput, Phulbani, Sundargarh,

In the second phase, these 300

master trainers will go to accident

prone areas in all the 30 districts

and train and empower the local

people to render help to the victims

of road accidents. These 30,000

Keonihar and Bhawanipatna.

The TOTs will be conducted at

NGOs across the state.

tive to save precious lives.

## **SARDA MINES CASE**

The apex court observed that there is no need to pass any order in this matter

It, however, requested the High Court to hear and dispose of the writ petition and the contempt petition pending before it together with the time schedule fixed by it

Earlier, the Orissa High Court had June 6 stayed the order of the state government which restricted the Sarda Mines to produce and lift iron ore at Thakurani Block B iron

mines stating that the mining company had already crossed the pro-rata limit of production of iron ore as against the limit stipulated by the environment clearance

this matter. It, however, requested the High Court to hear and dispose of the writ petition and the contempt petition pending before it together

with the time schedule fixed by it. Earlier, the Orissa HC had June 6 stayed the order of the state government which restricted the Sarda Mines to produce and lift iron ore at Thakurani Block B iron mines stating that the mining company had already crossed the pro-rata limit of production of iron ore as

CM launches 'Rakshak'

for mishap victims

against the limit stipulated by the environment clearance.

The HC noted in its order that the state government's claim that there was excess production beyond the stipulated quantity in terms of EC does not appear to be correct.

"The pro rata calculation of the permission quantity to be produced was relevant only for the first year in which the EC was granted and not to the subsequent years," the High Court noted.



Three fresh fatalities were recorded in

Khurda, and one in Angul. Fifty-three

other patients have died due to

comorbidities so fai

As many as 2.65 crore people have

taken the first dose of the coronavirus

vaccine, while 1.29 crore people have

taken the second jab against the virus

dropped to 2,980 as 461 more patients

recuperated in the last 24 hours, tak-

ing the total number of recoveries

to over 10.33 lakh, the bulletin said.

any new case, while five other dis-

tricts have active cases in single dig-

its. As many as 2.65 crore people

have taken the first dose of the

coronavirus vaccine, while 1.29

crore people have taken the sec-

ond jab against the virus, it added.

Five districts did not register

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: State's Covid-19 tally rose to 10,44,428 Wednesday as 387 more people tested positive for the infection, 91 more than the previous day, while four fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 8,368, a health bulletin said.

Khurda district, where Bhubaneswar is situated, continued to register over half of the new cases in the state. It reported 195 fresh infections, followed by Cuttack at 33. Seventy-five of the 387 new patients are in the 0-18 age group. Three fresh fatalities were recorded in Khurda, and one in Angul. Fiftythree other patients have died due

to comorbidities so far, it said. The number of active cases

## Cong 'rail roko' for passenger trains to Kendrapara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Nov 10: Congress activists stopped a goods train at Kendrapara station for four hours Wednesday as part of a 'rail roko' agitation demanding passenger train service on the Haridaspur-Paradip route.

The activists, led by Congress leader Ganeswar Behera, halted the goods train travelling from Paradip to Kalinganagar at the Kendrapara station at 10am for four hours, a party leader said.

Construction work of the 82km-long railway line from Haridaspur to the port town of Paradip, covering Jajpur, Kendrapara, and Jagatsinghpur districts, was completed in 2020, and the first goods train had rolled out in the same year.

"Congress workers stopped the train by squatting on the railway line. They were demanding the launch of passenger trains on the route," the station manager of Kendrapara, Durga Charan Pradhan, said. Railway officials and the district administration held discussions with the demonstrators to sort out the matter and the agitation was withdrawn after the authorities gave an assurance that they will look into their demand, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Kendrapara, Rajiv Lochan Panda, said.

The ECoR would start passen ger train service on the route after completion of the requirements for providing amenities to travellers, and getting a certificate from the commissioner of railway safety an East Coast Railway (ECoR) official said. Last year, CM Naveen Patnaik had urged the Railway Minister to run passenger trains on the line.

## **Dalmia Cement's study** aid for Class X students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The CSR wing of Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited has started distributing preparatory testpapers among the students of Class X.

Under this initiative, the company aims to reach out to around 600 students in the coming days. Owing to the pandemic, students have faced disruption in studies during the past two years with classroom teaching switching to online mode. Keeping this in view and in an attempt to support the Class X students in their preparation for the upcoming board examinations, the company has taken up such initiative.

Chetan Srivastav, Unit Head, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, Rajgangpur distributed sample test papers to the students of Kesharmal High School. He greeted the Class X students and wished for their bright future. Srivastav also asked questions related to sports and general knowledge to the students and was glad on receiving correct answers from the students.

## ZHL holds blood donation camp

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: Ziqitza Healthcare Ltd (ZHL), the operating agency for 108 ambulance and 104 health helpline service Wednesday organised a blood donation camp at Idco Tower here. More than 100 crew members and employees participated in this noble cause wholeheartedly and donated blood voluntarily.

Director of NHM Shalini Pandit and other eminent personalities were also present. Sabyasachi Biswal, State Head of Ziqitza Healthcare Ltd. said. "We have been successfully providing emergency ambulance service to the people of the state for more than eight years. Although the last oneand-half years was challenging owing to Covid-19, our crew members have shown exemplary resolve to serve patients uninterruptedly. This blood donation camp reaffirms our commitment to serve the people of Odisha.'

## **WORLD SCIENCE DAY**



Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda and Rama Devi Women's University VC Aparaiita Chowdhury felicitate students at the varsity on the occasion of World Science Day for Peace and Development, Wednesday

### It is first-of-its-kind state level near accident prone programme in the country under spots, will be trained as which 30,000 volunteers, staying First Responders to road or working at the eateries and business establishments located accidents near accident prone spots, will be trained as First Responders to

As many as 30,000

and business

volunteers, staying or

working at the eateries

establishments located

First Responders will be equipped to administer first aid and prehospital trauma care to accident victims within the golden hour. The First Responders will also educate and inform people about road safety measures and the Good Samaritan law.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said. "Road accidents are a serious cause of concern for all of us. This has serious impact on families and our economy. In a road accident situation the first hour after the incident is the most critical for saving lives.

He further added, "Nothing is more pious than saving human lives. There is also a reward of Rs 2,000 for the people who help road accident victims.

Speaking on the occasion, Commerce & Transport Minister Padmanabha Behera talked about the Solatium Fund.

"In 'Hit & Run' cases, accident victims are eligible for compensation through Solatium Fund. The legal heir of a deceased is entitled to get Rs 2 lakh compensation. A critically injured person is entitled to get Rs 50,000 under this scheme," said Behera

## STPI organises students' tour

**Bhubaneswar:** Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Bhubaneswar organised a visit of school students on the occasion of World Science Day. Wednesday, On the occasion, around 100 students from two schools of the Capital city - SAI International School and DAV, Chandrasekharpur visited the STPI ELITE facility. The students witnessed state-of-the-art facilities like Flectropreneur Park (FSDM Incubation). Digital Fabrication Lab (set up in collaboration with Fab Foundation, MIT, USA) and Tier-III Data Centre which are being set up to promote startups and Innovation as well as to cater to the need of IT exporting units, startups, professionals, students and researchers in the state. The objective of the programme is to exhibit STPI's facilities and services among school students to keep them abreast of the technological

## **Sexual harassment plaint: Probe** ordered against principal in-charge

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 10: The Higher Education (HE) department Wednesday directed the Balasore Regional Director of Education to conduct an enquiry into the sexual harassment allegations against the principal incharge of Dr Harekrushna Mahtab College Kupari, Balasore

Rama Chandra Bhuyan. In a letter, additional secretary of the department Surendra Kumar Panda said that a few female teachers of the college September 28, 2021 have intimated that Bhuyan used to harass and subjugate the women teaching members of Panda further said the women

teachers feel unsafe to work under The principal secretary of the E department desires to place the matter before the district-level committee constituted under the

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013 for proper In view of the above, you are requested to conduct an enquiry into the matter and submit fac-

tual confidential report to this department for further necessary action at this end. As the matter is sensitive in na-

ture, an early report in the matter is highly solicited.

## People inhale up to 7k microplastic particles daily

eople breathe in up to 7,000 microplastic particles every day from clothes, toys and furnishings, revealed a research.

The total is 100 times higher than expected -- posing a potential health threat that could rank alongside asbestos or tobacco, the Daily Mail reported.

The study led by Portsmouth Hospitals Trust in the UK, used highly sensitive equipment to count tiny particles less than 10 microns in size -- just a tenth of the width of a human hair.

Bedding, carpet and soft toys made from synthetic materials, as well as polyester and nylon could

be major contributors, they found. Microplastics were dangerous because they did not break down, Professor Anoop Chauhan, a respiratory specialist with



Portsmouth Hospitals Trust, was

body can cause stress and changes

in metabolism. It can affect im-

munity, the ability to fight infections,

it can affect your reproductive ca-

pacity and potentially it could be

"Having these particles in your

quoted as saying

Bedding, carpet and soft toys made from synthetic materials, as well as polyester and nylon could be major contributors

The study says these particles in the body can cause stress and changes in metabolism. It can affect immunity, the ability to fight infections, it can

The study led by Portsmouth Hospitals Trust in the UK, used highly sensitive equipment to count tiny

particles less than 10 microns in size -- just a tenth of

affect your reproductive capacity and potentially it could be carcinogenic -- causing cancer

Chauhan said. The study was carried out at the home of a British reporter in

in the kitchen, the report said. The team found that when children play with soft toys, the family is likely to breathe in between 2,000 and 7,000 microplastics a day.

'Things in an occupational setting -- asbestos, coal or cigarette smoke or anything you inhale -has dangers and microplastics are a hidden danger in people's homes,' Chauhan said.

"And this is the first study that highlights the level of these that we breathe in everyday life.'

He said microplastics did not degrade in the body leaving them to potentially cause inflammation and stress to cells.

"Till date, the bulk of research has centred around pollutants outside of the home such as car emissions, but as this initiative proves, it's essential we widen our focus on the dangers in our homes. Chauhan added.

Very small microplastics that are less than 10 microns in size, such as those measured in the new study, can float in the air making them harder to count.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

carcinogenic -- causing cancer,"

Beckenham, south-east London.

Up to 28 plastic particles were found

every minute in children's bed-

room compared with two a minute

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488,

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

### SHORT **TAKES**

### **BJP workers hurl** eggs at police

Baripada: BJP workers, staging protests over arrest of Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra and Law Minister Pratap Jena for their alleged involvement in the Mamita Meher murder case, had a confrontation with police here Wednesday, The BJP workers tried to barge into the SP office during the agitation. As police blocked their way, the BJP workers pelted eggs at police. This led to a confrontation between the police and BJP workers. Meanwhile, various guarters have condemned the act of BJP workers. However, the BJP leaders including MLAs of Saraskana, Baripada, Udala and Badasahi denied that their workers hurled eggs at police. They claimed that while BJP workers were peacefully staging protests, police unnecessarily made false allegations against them to stoke a law and order issue. Retired SP Brahmananda Dandapata termed the incident as unfortunate and sought stern action against those involved

### **Dengue cases** rise in Ganjam

in the act.

Berhampur: Dengue cases are rapidly rising in parts of Ganjam. Situation is acquiring alarming proportions in Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) with increasing number of cases. Till date, the district has reported 252 dengue cases. Besides, new cases are being detected from various blocks, despite the administration and health officials having taken preventive measures. Of the dengue cases, 196 are local while 56 are migrant returnees, according to health officials. Berhmapur town has reported 97 cases alone. Meanwhile, health officials have been visiting villages and BeMC wards, eliminating larva of the mosquitoes. However, poor sanitation, clogged drains and abandoned ponds have become breeding grounds of mosquitoes in the BeMC area, locals alleged.

### **Woman hacks** hubby to death

Boudh: A woman hacked her husband to death following a family feud at Gundurisahi under Harbhanga block in **Boudh district late Tuesday** night. The deceased was identified as Taranisen Pradhan. After killing her husband. Kunu Mukhi was absconding. However, police arrested her from Adenigarh Wednesday. Police sent the body for post mortem and started an investigation into the murder.

### Eggs hurled at Tusharkanti

Bhawanipatana/Keonjhar: Congress workers reportedly hurled eggs at the car of Minister Tusharkanti Behera at Dumerpadar village under Thuamula-Rampur block in Kalahandi district Wednesday. The Congress workers opposed the visit of Behera who was on way to Bhawanipatna to distribute smart health cards. In another incident, BJP workers showed black flags to Mines Minister Prafulla Mallick on NH-20 near Nekedaghar in Keonjhar Wednesday. Mallick was in the district to attend the meeting of the district planning board.

## Trawler from Andhra seized; 8 fishermen detained in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Nov 10: Forest officials have seized a trawler from neighboruing Andhra Pradesh and detained eight fishermen for allegedly carrying out illegal fishing off the Ganjam coast near Rusikulya river mouth.

As nesting of endangered Olive Ridley turtles has started near Rusikulya river mouth, the forest department has imposed a ban on fishing in the area from November 1 till May 31

The fishing vessel trespassed into the prohibited area violating the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), forest department officials said.

The department is carrying out an investigation into the illegal fishing in prohibited zone. Movements of trawlers and mechanized boats have been restricted in the area to ensure smooth mass nesting of turtles.

'Stringent action will be taken against those who will violate the fishing ban in the area. Patrolling along the coast has been stepped up for safety of the turtles," said DFO Amlan Navak.

Detention of 8 fishermen in Ganjam has come a day after 30 fishermen were arrested for fishing in Gahirmatha sanctuary area of Kendrapara. Notably, Olive Ridley turtles turn up in millions for mass nesting along the Odisha coast -- Gahirmatha, Rushikulya river mouth and Devi river mouth, every year.

## **FARMERS' RALLY**



Farmers taking out a rally at Titlagarh in Bolangir district protesting price spiral of essential commodities and the three new farm laws

## Hopes for mega crude oil reserve project fade

AS LAND ACQUISITION FOR THE AMBITIOUS PROJECT IS YET TO START. LOCALS AND VARIOUS OUTFITS HAVE DOUBTS OVER EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandikhol, Nov 10: The Centre had announced to set up an underground reserve for crude oil in Chandikhol area of Jajpur district in 2017

Although five years have passed since the announcement, the ambitious project has not started till date. As its land acquisition is vet to start, locals and various outfits have expressed doubts over execution of the project, a report said.

After the announcement of the project and its approval by the Centre, it had generated a lot of hope among people in the district for employment. However, with no progress in sight, hopes of people have petered out.

According to reports, Chandikhol crude oil reserve project with a capacity of 4,500 million tonne was proposed at foothills of Dankari under Dharmasala tehsil limits. The central government has allocated ₹6,500 crore for the project after the Cabinet approval June 27, 2018. Thereafter, 400 acres of land were identified for the project. It was stated by the Centre that employment for 4,000 people would be created in five years.

A high level delegation from the Union petroleum ministry had



visited the area and assured that the work would start soon. But nothing has happened till date.

As part of the project, an underground pipeline was to be laid from Paradip to Dankari, apart from a bore well in the sea.

Over 20 black stone quarries which were earlier operational within 10km radius of the identified site were shut, following approval of the ambitious project.

The mega oil reserve is capable of storing 4.500 million tonne crude oil. In case of emergency in the country, the oil reserve can meet the fuel requirements of the people for 10 days, it was stated. The fate of the project looked bright when Dharmendra Pradhan held the oil, natural gas and petroleum portfolio. Locals are now skeptical about the project as the new minister may not push for the project in Odisha.

Earlier, Pradhan had accused the state government of delaying handover of land for the project. Till date, no efforts have been made to acquire the land for the project.

On the other hand, over 20 illegal stone mines were operational in the project area. This is another reason for people to doubt the fate of the ambitious project.

Earlier, a central team comprising the joint secretary of Union Petroleum Ministry and three othWith Dharmendra Pradhan now out of the petroleum portfolio. locals are skeptical about the project as the new minister may not push for it

ers had visited Dankari hill in May 2018. Following this, the Chief Secretary had ordered permanent closure of the quarries March 20, 2018. However, the local tehsildar had pointed out that the state government would lose about ₹1,413.86 crore if the quarries in the area are closed.

Despite this, the leaseholders were issued notice to close all quarries in conformity with the order of then Chief Secretary in 2018 April 12. The central government had requested the state government to provide 400 acres for the purpose

A social activist had appealed to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) as a stone quarry in the area was not shut. The NGT had asked the state government to submit an investigation report in this connection.

## Forest dept intensifies probe into elephant tusk smuggling

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 10: Forest officials arrested three more people involved in the elephant tusk smuggling in Keonjhar Wednesday.

Forest officials had raided Lunaghar village under Bhuyan Juanga Pidhi range Tuesday, seized two pieces of ivory and arrested two people. The number of arrest in this connection went up to five while the department has intensified its probe into the angle of elephant poaching and smuggling of ivory.

The officials had seized two tusks weighing over 7 kg. They were valued at more than ₹5 lakh. The department is trying to know if the tusks belong to one elephant or

The department also wants to know if the elephants were killed in the district or somewhere else. If any elephant has been killed for the purpose, the officials have not got clues about its decomposed carcass, it was said.

It may be noted here that a few days ago, forest officials had recovered the decomposed carcass of an elephant in Bhuyan Juanga Pidhi range. The accused were identified as Subash Hembram of Dhatika Pareswar Nayak of Nelung and Gopal Munda of Lunaghar. The other arrested were identified as Daktar Munda of Keonjhar and Ranjan Baith of Bangiriposi in Mayurbhanj district.

Acting on a tip-off about the deal related to elephant tusks, forest officials led by DFO HD Dhanrai raided the area. A forest official in plain clothes earlier went to the village as a trader and wanted to buy a tusk (3.059 kg) for ₹2.80 lakh and the other (3.605 kg) for Rs 3.20 lakh. As the two brought the tusk to the front yard of their house, forest officials raided the



## BJD hunting for suitable women candidates

final list for reservation of Zilla Parishad seats was out, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has started looking for suitable women candidates.

While 36 ZP seats have been reserved for women from general, and SC and ST categories in Ganjam district, the party has begun an exercise to pick up women candidates on the basis of their leadership ability, public acceptance and winnability in the upcoming panchayat polls, a report said.

There are 69 ZP zones in the district. Significantly, more women in the district are keen to take the plunge in politics and the ruling party is working out to give them wider berths in the upcoming panchavat elections.

It may be recalled that after the Zilla Board was abolished in 1997 in Ganjam, Zilla Parishad was introduced. In the first election, the



post of ZP chairperson was reserved for women (general category) and Renubala Pradhan was elected as ZP chairperson on the backing of Janata Dal.

Though Janata Dal had no ma-

jority in the Zilla Parishad, it managed to grab the ZP chairman post with the help of the BJP. Independent and CPI members.

After 25 years, the ZP chairperson post has been reserved for women candidate (general category) in the 2022 panchayat

In the 2002 panchayat elections, the ZP chairperson post was reserved for male candidates (general category). Then BJD district unit president Rebati Mohan Nayak was elected as the ZP chairperson. In the 2007 panchayat elections,

the ZP chairman post was reserved for SC category and youth leader Dharani Behera was elected as the ZP chairperson. Later, he was embroiled in a controversy and was ousted through a no-confidence motion. In the byelection to the post that followed, Kamaraju Sethi from Gopalpur was elected to the post.

In the 2012 panchayat elections, the ZP post was meant for male (OBC). Surath Pradhan (BJD) of Kabisuryanagar was elected as ZP chairperson.

was reserved for male (general category). However, due to political

In 2017, the ZP chairman's post

BJD candidate in Chhatrapur Assembly seat in 2019. After he was elected MLA, he resigned from the ZP chairman's post. In the byelection to the ZP post, Sonam

Panigrahy.

higher education minister Pradeep

(SC candidate) was elected to the

post. Subash was a loyalist of

In 2019, Subash was fielded as

Palei, a woman from Purusottampur area was elected as ZP chairperson. Now, two women are in the posts

of ZP chairperson and vice-chairperson. In the ZP elections between 1997 and 2017, women of general category were elected to the ZP post thrice. In the coming elections, the ZP chairperson post has been left for the unreserved category. With 36 seats reserved for women, more women are keen to join politics, particularly with the BJD in Ganjam.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

DSTEKUR-244, Dt.: 03.11.2021 Name of Work: (i) PROVISION FOR HIRING OF ONE NUMBER OF LIGHT VEHICLE (TATA SUMO/MAHINDRA BOLERO OR SIMILAR) NON-AC FOR OFFICIAL USE OF DIVISIONAL SIGNAL & TELECOM ENGINEER/SIGNAL/KHURDA ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS. (II) PROVISION FOR HIRING OF ONE NUMBER OF LIGHT VEHICLE (TATA SUMO/MAHINDRA BOLERO OR SIMILAR) NON-AC FOR OFFICIAL USE OF DIVISIONAL SIGNAL 8
TELECOM ENGINEER/TELE/KHURDA ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A

Tender Value (₹): 30,40,995.85, Tender

of closing of tender: At 1100 hrs. of

PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS.

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/FAX of in person shall be accepted and such manual offers shall be rejected summarily. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in websi http://www.ireps.gov.in.

NOTE: The prospective tenderers are advis to revisit the website 15 days before the date o closing of tender to note any changes corrigenda issued for this tender

## LOW-KEY AFFAIR



Women from Bihar observe Chhat Puja on the roof of a building in Unit-3 area of Bhubaneswar in the wake of Covid restrictions, Wednesday

## Bargarh: Hospital wastewater flows into pond, farmland

PNN/AGENCIES

Sambalpur, Nov 10: Tension gripped Bargarh after wastewater from the district hospital flowed into a nearby pond and farmland, officials said Wednesday.

Enraged villagers of Tukurla closed the main gate of the 300-bed hospital for around an hour Tuesday, alleging that the medical wastewater released from the hospital was flowing into the pond, on which they depend for bathing and other

"The contaminated wastewater is being released into the pond, which is hazardous and can cause serious infectious disease," Tanjua Pradhan, an agitator, said. "We had informed the hospital authorities about the release of the medical wastewater earlier also. Since no step was taken to resolve the problem, we closed the entrance gate," Pradhan said.

Tukurla has a population of around 2,000 people and many depend on the pond water for bathing and cultivation. "Though the hospital authorities are aware that a large number of villagers depend on the pond, they are not taking any steps. The wastewater of the hospital is also flowing into the farmland and will also affect the fertility of the soil,' another agitator said.

The irate villagers withdrew their agitation after hospital authorities held a discussion and assured them that the problem would be resolved.

Chief District Medical Officer BB Meher said the wastewater of the hospital flows into a concrete tank through pipelines and later pumped into a pit. However, the wastewater flowed into the pond of the village after some of the pipes of the hospital broke, he said. "We have already appraised the officials concerned about the problem and it will be resolved soon," he added.

### OFFICE OF THE DEAN AND PRINCIPAL, S.C.B. MEDICAL COLLEGE, CUTTACK SHORT RE-TENDER NOTICE

Short Tender No.10329

No.E-610:- Sealed tenders are invited from the bidders for engagemen of catering service Agency for Platinum Jubilee celebration at SCB Medical College, Cuttack for the financial year 2021-22. The bidders should furnish their Technical and financial proposal in two separate envelope. The Tender will be opened on scheduled date and time in office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives. In the event of the date being declared as a holiday for Government of Odisha, the due date of submission of bids and opening of bids will be the next working day. The Bidders may download the Tender documents directly from this college's website available at http://scbmch.in and also can be obtained from the Budget Section of office of the Dean & Principal, S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack. The cost of tender paper is Rs.1000/- (Non refundable) by a bank draft/ demand draft in favour of "Dean & Principal, S.C.B. Medical College Cuttack" payable at Cuttack from any Nationalized Bank. Any tende received after the due date & time will be rejected and returned to the sender un-opened. The Tender will be received through Regd. Post/ Speed Post only. The bidders those who have participated in the earlier ender are not required to pay the EMD and cost of tender paper.

Cost of Tender Paper Date of sale of tender Paper

08.11.2021 Last date of receipt of Tender Paper

15.11.2021 (2 PM) Detail of opening of the Technical Bid : 15.11.2021 (4 PM)

Place of opening of Tender Paper

Dean & Principal's Office Sd./- Dean and Principal

OIPR-10039/11/0017/2122

SCB Medical College, Cuttack

1000.00



We have to create strength where t did not exist before; we have to change our natures, and become new men with new hearts, to be

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



Elizabeth Drew

The Democratic

Party could be in for

a drubbing in next

potentially even a

presidential election

year's midterm

congressional

elections, and

loss in the 2024

## Democrats' Debacle

erhaps the Democratic Party's downhill slide can be arrested by President Joe Biden and his top congressional allies. But their job is daunting. If objective conditions don't change - particularly inflation – and if the Republicans field able candidates, the Democrats could be in for a drubbing in the midterm congressional elections in 2022. The presidential vote in 2024 could also be in danger. The surprisingly tight gubernatorial election in Democratic-leaning New Jersey on the same day that the Republicans eked out a victory in Virginia underscored the Democrats' trouble. Whether or when the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bipartisan bill passed by the House near midnight Friday, November 5, will be enacted can't be known for a while.

Glenn Youngkin, a very wealthy former businessman (he funded his election effort) ran a highly effective campaign for Virginia's governorship, especially for a neophyte. Youngkin was particularly deft in handling what's become the Republicans' problem of dealing with Donald Trump, whose support could work against them. Though Youngkin paid honour to Trump, particularly before he obtained the nomination, he stopped short of obeisance.

He even managed to keep Trump physically out of the state without incurring the wrath

of the easily irritated Trump. As a result, Youngkin got the votes of both Trump supporters and of white suburban women who had switched to supporting Biden in 2020. Youngkin largely focused on issues of local interest: mainly, parental unhappiness with local school systems - making, most unusually, education the second-highest concern (the first, as usual, was the economy, with inflation key).

Instead of dealing with local issues, Terry McAuliffe, a successful former governor who was again the Democratic candidate, tried to make Youngkin the embodiment of Trump. But it didn't work, because Youngkin had evaded Trump's embrace. So, McAuliffe's shots at Trump were largely wasted. Trump's base came out and other Republicans who had rejected Trump returned to the fold. Unusually, the record turnout benefited the Republican candidate more than the Democrat.

Moreover, crucial as it is to find out all that can be about what happened before, during, and after the riot on the Capitol January 6, most of the country appears to prefer to deal with the present and future. Trump doesn't come across now as the danger he would likely be if he ran for president again

in 2024, which he's giving every sign of wanting to do, mostly to seek revenge against those who, as his paranoid fantasy has it, cheated him out

Youngkin didn't avoid Trumpism altogether: the subject of race ran subliminally through much of what he argued. This turned up in particular in what he maintained were issues about the education system, and which signaled that he sympathised with certain racist views. The main education argument was ostensibly about parents' role in their children's education, an issue enhanced by the pandemic's closing of schools, with education taking place at home. McAuliffe handled the issue awkwardly, famously misspeaking during a debate, on which Youngkin pounced. The Democrats are chronically inept at combating attacks on social issues.

The Virginia result might have been considered sui generis but for the close outcome in usually Democratic-leaning New Jersey. The incumbent Democratic governor, Phil Murphy, who polls had predicted would be an easy victor, didn't get called the winner until after nearly two days of counting (technically, it's not finished yet). Trump-like, Jack Ciattarelli, the Republican candidate, refused to concede and suggested that there had been voter fraud. Virginia Republicans were planning to do the same had Youngkin lost.

These dual scares for the Democrats left the great majority of them depressed and, with reason, worried about their party's prospects for the 2022 midterm elections, in which the entire House and one third of the Senate are up for reelection, and even about the next presidential election, in 2024 There were ominous signs in the relatively apathetic turnout of Blacks, who usually back Democrats overwhelmingly, and the return of college educated white suburban women to voting Republican. David Wasserman, of the nonpartisan Cook Political Report, predicts that the Democrats could lose over 40 seats in the midterm elections and more than fifty in 2024 if conditions

McAuliffe made it clear during the election that he needed something to 'sell' to the Virginia electorate. He referred specifically to two trillion-dollar-plus infrastructure bills then stalled in congress because of internal Democratic disputes: the 'hard' infrastructure bill with bipartisan backing; and the far more controversial 'human' infrastructure programme plus climate change. The Democrats may have won the congress (barely) but so far hadn't delivered.

Biden appeared to have accepted the advice of historians at a White House meeting in early March that this was his time to go big, even though he had run as a moderate. In what might be called 'the Mount Rushmore project' after the famous mountain sculpture in South Dakota of four US presidents, the historians told him that he could be another Franklin Roosevelt or Lyndon Johnson, overlooking that, instead of the large congressional majorities that both of those presidents enjoyed, Biden has only 50 votes in the Senate and a mere three-vote margin in the House of

McAuliffe's assumption that passage of the infrastructure programmes would have elected him is questionable. While each 'human infrastructure' programme polled positively, lumping them together led to a price tag that moderate Democrats found excessive. It also allowed a single senator to kill the whole thing by opposing one component, and divided Democratic factions.

Each side in the internal Democratic infrastructure argument found in the outcomes in Virginia and New Jersey what they wanted to see: progressives and the president saw them as a call for quick passage of both bills, while Joe Manchin, a moderate from West Virginia, saw them as a sign that congress should slow down its rush to passage of the two bills.

But as House Democrats pushed for a resolution over the weekend - impossible because the Senate was already in recess to last through the following week – House Speaker Nancy Pelosi put back in the bill a popular provision for paid leave for new parents, which Manchin says that he favors but opposes as a part of social infrastructure. Manchin and others also argued that the financing of some of these programmes was dubious. Though the bipartisan 'hard' infrastructure bill has now been passed by both chambers, resolution of issues concerning the 'soft' infrastructure programme may remain weeks away.

The writer is a Washington-based journalist and author.

## WISDOM CORNER

They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not

What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

**FOCUS INDIA** 

## **EMBRACING INDUSTRY 4.0**



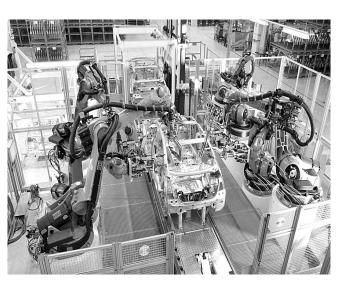
SN Misra

SINCE THE **SERVICE SECTOR DOES NOT CREATE SIGNIFICANT EMPLOYMENT** OPPORTUNITY, **INDIA'S HIGH GROWTH STORY OF MORE THAN 8% PER YEAR DURING** 2004-2010 HAS **BEEN LARGELY JOBLESS!** 

ndustry 4.0, the latest buzzword both in developed and developing economies, is the application of high-end technology like AI, robotics, and cloud computing in manufacturing. From the discovery of steam engine in 18th century (Industry 1.0) to adoption of mass production through electrical energy (Industry 2.0) to the advent of computer and electronics in the 1960s (Industry 3.0), to Industry 4.0, particularly in the automotive sector since 2011, Germany has been the pioneer. India has been a babe in adapting to this march of technology, given its dual economy in manufacturing and the huge digital divide that plagues particularly the unorganised segment and the fledgling MSMEs. The Union Finance Minister in her Budget speech 2021 underlined the importance of harnessing the humongous benefits that flow out of adopting Industry 4.0 in terms of efficiency and economies of scale, but made a

token allocation. Manufacturing has been the prime beneficiary of Industry 4.0 and the automotive sector has been the prime sub-sector which has witnessed significant technological changes. Industry 4.0 is breaking silos between design, manufacturing, sales and marketing and service support. Sadly, manufacturing has been the bane of the Indian economy since 1951 with a stagnant contribution of 16% to the GDP. This is in sharp contrast to manufacturing powerhouses like Germany, China and Japan where the share of manufacturing is close to 36% of GDP. India's growth story has skipped manufacturing sector and moved from primary to service sector which contributes 58%

Taking note of this concern, V Krishnamurty, as Chairman of National Manufacturing Policy 2011, had recommended that India needs to increase its manufacturing footprint from 16% to 25% by 2022 by creating and galvanis-



For Industry 4.0 to succeed, India has to invest more in R&D and bridge the digital gap that divides bulk of the MSMEs from large industrial houses

ing manufacturing zones. The fond hope was that it will create additional employment of nearly 10 million per year. The reality is that after a decade, India has failed to achieve these targets. Since the service sector does not create significant employment opportunity, India's high growth story of more than 8% per year during 2004-2010 has been largely jobless!

MSMEs have been at the forefront of India's manufacturing story, employing nearly 111 million people and contributing 45% to total manufacturing output, 40% of exports and 30% of GDP. As per the Labour Bureau Report 2016, only 14% of the workforce is either highly or moderately skilled while the balance 84% is either unskilled or low skilled. This is indeed a humongous challenge.

Some of the initiatives that the government has taken for embracing Industry 4.0 are creation of Digital India Corporation, Cyber Physical Laboratory, Cyber Physical Factory and the ambitious programme called Samarth (Smart Advanced Manufacturing and Rapid Transformation Hub). Andhra Pradesh is a pioneer in setting up IoT (Internet of Things) hubs and it hopes to gobble up 20% of global demand for IoT. A machine-to-machine communication centre has been established at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Most of the beneficiaries of Industry 4.0 in India are in the automotive sector which has witnessed three clusters in Chennai, Pune and the North. Bajaj Auto uses cobots (collaborative robots) in production. Maruti Suzuki has replaced 10,000 workers with robots. Both Hyundai and Tata are also using robots.

However, the MSMEs are hugely handicapped in terms of adopting Industry 4.0. The CII has brought out how Industry 3.0 (use of computer and electronics) has still not been entirely implemented throughout the manufacturing sector. The MSMEs are still in post electrification phase. For adopting Industry 4.0, Network Readiness Index is a critical parameter. As per the latest report Singapore is the leader followed by USA and German (Rank 5, 6). China holds the rank of 59 and India 91 despite the enormous IT resource it possesses.

Investment in R&D has been a critical component for achieving increasing returns to scale after the 1950s. India's record in R&D spending is dismal at 0.7% of GDF unlike around 3% spent by developed economies like USA Germany and Japan. China invests close to 2.2% of GDP and in absolute number it spends close to \$600 billion as against \$90 billion in India. A lesson India can draw from countries that have successfully adopted Industry 4.0 is including AI as part of curriculum in educational institutions and vocational training institutions.

The famous biologist EO Wilson has observed that "we have stumbled into 21st century with stone age emotion, mediaeval institution and god like technology." For Industry 4.0 to succeed, India has to invest more in R&D and bridge the digital gap that divides bulk of the MSMEs from large industrial houses. The pandemic has shown how the digital divide has been further widened, particularly in online education. If India wants to harness demographic dividend it has to up its antenna in public sector investment in quality education healthcare sanitation and skill. Tokenism in allocation and rhetoric of Atmanirbhar Bharat must give way to pragmatism and global collaboration. Prof Rosenstein-Rodan had recommended (1943) Big Push for underdeveloped countries to come out of the poverty trap and achieve high growth. The manufacturing sector & MSMEs must come out of the morass of low technology trap to harness the full benefit of Industry 4.0.

The writer is Dean School of Management, KIIT Deemed to be University. Views are personal.

## SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Why COVID-19 misinformation works-



Noam Titelman

**POLITICAL LEADERS ARE MOST EFFECTIVE IN PUSHING MISINFORMATION** WHEN THEY **EXPLOIT CITIZENS' FEAR OF LOSING** WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE **DEFINING ASPECTS OF THEIR CULTURE** 

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

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and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

President Jair Bolsonaro used his allotted time at the podium to recount his views on COVID-19. He extolled the virtues of treatments that have been rejected by scientists and proclaimed that he had benefited from the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroguine.

Bolsonaro's support for such 'miracle cures' is well known. He has appeared regularly in the Brazilian press and on social networks promoting the use of off-label treatments that have no basis in scientific fact. And he is not alone. During his administration, former US President Donald Trump advocated for a variety of unproven remedies, and the president of Madagascar, Andry Rajoelina, has sponsored a drink derived from the herb artemisia to treat COVID-19. To the despair of the scientific community, these politicians and others have successfully convinced a large swath of the public of such treatments' efficacy and safety.

Misinformation has run rampant during the pandemic, but it is not a new phenomenon. In their seminal work on the perception of welfare in the United States, the political scientist James Kuklinski

Arunachal Pradesh

t the United Nations and his colleagues showed that concerns of the concerns.' cians manipulate.

Recent research ng in September, Brazilian American population held inaccurate beliefs about the recipients of state support and the benefits they received. They also found that the prevalence of misinformation prevented inaccurate information from gaining traction. Misinformed people do not simply have inaccurate information; they are heavily invested in their misconceptions. And this is what makes misinformation so powerful: it combines misperceptions about the world with a high degree of confidence in their accuracy.

People do not believe false information because they are ignorant. There are many factors at work, but most researchers would agree that the belief in misinformation has little to do with the amount of knowledge a person possesses. Misinformation is a prime example of motivated reasoning. People tend to arrive at the conclusions they want to reach as long as they can construct seemingly reasonable justifications for these outcomes. One study published in 2017 has shown that people who have greater scientific knowledge and education are more likely to defend their polarised beliefs on controversial science One of the most powerful of

these concerns is the preservation of identity. Political leaders are most effective in pushing misinformation when they exploit citizens' fear of losing what they perceive to be defining aspects of their culture, particularly its language, religion, and received racial and gender hierarchies and roles. In polarised political environments, the purchase that misinformation gains has little to do with low levels of knowledge or engagement, but rather with how information is interpreted in a way that dovetails with partisan identity. The 'us versus them' lens means that the different bits of information people receive are processed in a way that is amenable

same facts. When political leaders peddle unproven treatments for COVID-19, they are capitalising on this polarising tendency. But an excessive focus on these leaders may obscure the main reason people buy into these messages. The willingness to believe misinformation is rooted in underlying aspects of cultural identity, which politi-

to their worldview. This is why

individuals can draw strikingly

divergent conclusions from the

Borges Martins da Silva, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Oxford, has shown that one reason Brazilians trust treatments like the ones promoted by Bolsonaro is a deep cultural belief that a 'serious doctor' is one who prescribes medicine. Bolsonaro didn't have to convince Brazilians of the benefits of ivermectin and chloroquine. He needed only to confirm the norm that potentially serious diseases always must be treated with drugs. He provided a narrative that allowed segments of the population to arrive at their desired conclusion. And that was enough.

Understanding the drivers of misinformation is critical to preventing its spread. To keep people safe from COVID-19 and encourage vaccination, it is not enough to denounce politicians who promote false information. We also must understand the underlying motivations that lead people to believe it.

The writer is a PhD candidate in social research methods at the London School of Economics.

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### Lurking dragon Sir, Apropos 'India downplays incursion report', Orissa POST, November 10, the attempts of the Indian establishment to downplay China's incursions along

the LAC aren't without ambiguities. In fact, the latest annual report of the Pentagon to the US Congress on China makes for a worrying read. China emerged as the only country capable of combining its economic, military, diplomatic and technological power to mount a sustained challenge to the open international system. It also points to the scale on which China is both physically enlarging its defence capabilities and deploying AI technology for espionage and intelligence. China today is speeding ahead to meet its 2049 target of surpassing US power and displacing American alliances. This, naturally, cannot happen without India's own neighbourhood getting deeply impacted. What's playing out in the western theatre and around the borders in Arunachal Pradesh is nothing but part of Beijing's larger muscle-flexing. It's in this context that the current India-China standoff along the LAC needs to be seen. As the report points out, despite military and diplomatic dialogue between the two sides, China has continued to take 'incremental and tactical' actions to press

its claims along the LAC, including the building of a so-called large civilian

village - it could also be a PLA military camp - in disputed territory in

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## **Humanitarian crisis**

Sir, The UN estimates that nearly half of Afghanistan's population is facing severe hunger in the coming months. Besides, 3.2 million children under the age of 5 are expected to suffer from severe malnutrition by the end of the year. Against this backdrop, it is of enormous importance that the international community finds a way to address the humanitarian emergency. Considering that it must be done without provoking the Taliban and without failing to take into account the Taliban's record of violation of human rights, it is an enormous task. Even before the Taliban took control, Afghanistan was facing humanitarian crisis. Years of violence, severe drought and disruptions had caused acute poverty. The fall of the government to the Taliban aggravated the crisis. The country's economy has been contracting and it may lead to acute poverty. Given that the Taliban are not concerned about the pathetic condition of the country's citizens, the international community must engage with the government out of humanitarian considerations

Venu GS, KOLLAM

# national



It is very unfortunate that the West Bengal government has not established any fast track courts

KIREN RIJIJU

### THACKERAY UNWELL

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was admitted to the Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai Wednesday and may undergo a minor surgery for a neck problem, officials said





the world has the right to come to India when he faces problems in that



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

The Centre and the Uttar Pradesh working with full commitment for the development of Braj region with projects worth over ₹425 crore introduced on the ground

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

We are ready

sacrifice to remove the BJP from power. If Akhilesh Yadav gives tickets to

candidates, we are ready for any sacrifice, including an unconditional

SHIVPAL YADAV PRAGATISHEEL SAMAJWAD

## SHORT **TAKES**

### **SC** allows sand mining in Bihar

New Delhi: Observing that a total ban on legal sand mining causes huge loss to the public exchequer, the Supreme Court Wednesday allowed the Bihar government to carry on mining activities through the **Bihar State Mining** Corporation. The top court said a balanced approach of sustainable development ensuring environmental safeguards needs to be resorted to while dealing with the issue of sand mining. A three-judge bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao also directed that exercise of preparation of district survey report for the purpose of mining in Bihar in all the districts shall be undertaken afresh.

### Ex-J&K Dy CM gets demolition notice

**Jammu:** The Jammu Development Authority (JDA) has served a notice on senior BJP leader and former deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh asking him to demolish his illegally constructed house on the outskirts of the city within five days. Singh and his family moved into the palatial bungalow near the Army's ammunition sub-depot at Ban village of Nagrota July 23 last year, even though the high court had in May 2018 directed the authorities to ensure "strict implementation" of a 2015 notification barring general public from carrying out any construction within 1.000 vards of defence works

### Kanpur Metro: Yoqi flags off trial run

Kanpur (UP): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Wednesday flagged off the trial run of the Kanpur Metro and said the city's people will soon have access to the best transport facility. The Chief Minister inaugurated the metro trial run between IIT-Kanpur and Moti Jheel.

## Kerala govt cancels tree-felling order

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala government Wednesday cancelled an order granting permission to Tamil Nadu for felling 15 trees downstream of Baby Dam at Mullaperivar reservoir, with the state cabinet taking a decision to this effect. The development comes in the wake of the ruling CPI(M)-LDF facing flak, mainly from Opposition Congress over the issue after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin earlier thanked his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan for his government allowing felling of the trees.

# Afghan territory must not be used for terror: Delhi declaration



New Delhi, Nov 10: Afghan territory must not be used for terror activities, the eight nations participating in the third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan in New Delhi asserted in a joint declaration adopted Wednesday.

'Afghanistan's territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing any terrorist acts," the joint declaration stated after the crucial meeting.

The five Central Asian countries -- Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan -- along with Russia. Iran and India participated in the meeting, while China and Pakistan did not join the dialogue. At the meeting chaired by India's

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, all the participants discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan, especially the security situation and its regional and global ramifications.

They also paid special attention to the current political situation in Afghanistan and the threats arising from terrorism, radicalisation and drug trafficking as well as the need for humanitarian assistance.

Aiit Doval Wednesday called for close consultations and greater cooperation among the regional countries, participating in the NSA-level conference on

Without naming Pakistan, all the participating nations reiterated strong support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan while emphasising on respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs.

Afghanistan

Expressing deep concern over the sufferings of people in Afghanistan arising out of the security situation in the war-torn country, the member countries condemned in the strongest possible terms all the terrorist activities and reaffirmed their firm commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including its financing, the dismantling of terrorist infrastructure and countering radicalisation, to ensure that

Afghanistan would never become a safe haven for global terrorism.

The joint declaration also called for collective cooperation against the menace of radicalisation, extremism, separatism and drug trafficking in the region.

Underscoring the need to form an open and truly inclusive government that represents the will of all the people of Afghanistan, which has representation from all sections of society in the administrative and political structure, the Delhi summit advocated for the successful national reconciliation process in the country.

Emphasising the importance of ensuring the fundamental rights of women, children and minority communities, it further said that the deteriorating socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is a matter of concern and also underlined the need to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan directly, which must be distributed within the country in a non-discriminatory manner across all sections of the Afghan society

The declaration further reiterated the importance of the dialogue and agreed to remain engaged with each other in the future, besides deciding to hold the next round in 2022

Soon after the meeting ended, the seven foreign nations' security representatives met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and appreciated India's initiative in organising the dialogue and conveyed the perspectives of their respective nations on the Afghanistan situation.

According to the declaration. the officials reiterated their commitment to provide assistance to Afghanistan to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and agreed to remain engaged with each other in the



MATTER OF FAITH

Devotees offer prayers along the banks of Upavan Lake during Chhath Puja in Thane

## Cong seeks probe by HC judge; govt rebuts claim

Bhopal, Nov 10: Opposition Congress Wednesday claimed a total of 14 children died at the Madhya Pradesh government-run Kamla Nehru Children's Hospital here in the last 48 hours, contrary to the state government's claim that only four infants lost their lives in the November 8 blaze, and demanded a probe by a sitting judge of the high court.

However, the state government maintained that only four infants died in the blaze that occurred in the Special Newborn Care Unit Monday night and said all the deaths cannot be linked with that incident.

"Though the government is admitting the death of only four infants, the fact is that a total of 14 children died in the (Kamla Nehru) hospital in the last 48 hours. These figures are provided by the hospi-

tal administration only," Congress leader and former minister Jitu Patwari claimed in a press conference after a delegation of the party leaders visited the hospital.

He said the state government should order a probe (November 8 fire and alleged deaths of 14 children) by a sitting high court judge.

Congress also demanded the resignation of state medical education minister Vishvas Sarang on "moral grounds". MP Congress president Kamal

Nath, who also visited the Kamla Nehru Children's Hospital, alleged that about 150 children were affected by the fire but the information is being given about only 40 Children.

Leaders of the ruling BJP were busy with preparations for a proposed event of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and not concerned about the fire and its victims,

### to the pleas challenging 7-year jail terms awarded to real estate barons Sushil and Gopal Ansal for tampering with evidence in the 1997 case of Uphaar cinema fire which

New Delhi, Nov 10: A Delhi court

Wednesday asked the government

and Association of Victims of

Uphaar Tragedy (AVUT) to respond

UPHAAR TRAGEDY

Court notice on

plea challenging

jail to Ansals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

had claimed 59 lives.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Anil Antil issued notice on the appeals filed by the Ansal brothers challenging their conviction and jail term awarded by a magisterial court here on Monday.

The judge also sought a report from the medical superintendent of Tihar jail after it was submitted that Sushil Ansal was admitted to the jail hospital last night after he claimed

Reacting to Sushil's claim, AVUT chairperson Krishnamoorthy, who had lost both her children in the tragedy, said, in jail, Sushil Ansal gets hospitalised, permit rich and powerful convicts to avoid jail terms. How quick they are to save their own lives. What of the 59 lives they took so heartlessly?'

During the hearing, the accused objected to the locus of AVUT. The sessions court, however, directed the accused to serve the copy of the appeal to the association after its counsel, senior advocate Vikas

A magisterial court Monday also imposed a fine of ₹2.25 crore each on the Ansals. The court also awarded 7-year-jail term each to former court staff Dinesh Chand Sharma and two others - PPBatra and Anoop Singh -- and imposed a fine of ₹3 lakh

The application filed by senior advocate PK Dubey before the ASJ Wednesday claimed that the conviction and sentence of the the accused was based upon tures and surmises and in miss ap-

### Heavy showers pound TN 'Ideal time for booster dose PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Villupuram."There is widespread

Chennai, Nov 10: Heavy rains pounded several regions of Tamil Nadu Wednesday as the well marked low pressure area over Bay of Bengal concentrated into a depression, which is likely to cross the coast by November 11

The weather system is likely to cross north Tamil Nadu and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts between Karaikal and Sriharikota, close to the north of Puducherry by November 11 evening, a fresh update of the Meterological department said. The intermittent, light to moderate rainfall on Wednesday in Tamil Nadu, picked up pace by the

It became almost non-stop and heavy in several regions, particularly the northern districts of Tamil Nadu, including Chennai and nearby Chengelpet, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram

rainfall now in Tamil Nadu. It intensified after 8 PM, especially in the northern regions," a weather department official here told PTI Announcing the expected formation of the depression, the IMD bulletin said the well marked low pressure area over central parts of south Bay of Bengal moved west-northwestwards and concentrated into a depression on Wednesday evening

It lav about 430 kilometers eastsoutheast of Chennai and 420 km east-southeast of Puducherry.

"It is very likely to move west-northwestwards and reach near north Tamil Nadu coast by the early morning of November 11. 2021. Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move west-northwestwards and cross north Tamil Nadu and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts between Karaikal and Sriharikota close to the north of Puducherry by the evening of 11th November 2021.'

## is 6 months after 2nd dose' New Delhi, Nov 10: The ideal time for a booster dose for Covid-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

19 vaccine is six months after the second dose, Bharat Biotech Chairman and Managing Director Krishna Ella said Wednesday, and also emphasised the importance of having a nasal vaccine.

He also pointed out that his company was the first in the world to develop a Zika vaccine.

Taking the Covaxin vaccine by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed confidence in Indian Science, he said at the Times Now Summit 2021.

'The ideal time for a booster dose is six months after the second dose," Ella stated. Bharat Biotech is also looking at nasal vaccine as



a booster dose as its scaling up capacity is very easy when compared with Covaxin, he added.

About the importance of nasal vaccine, he said the entire world is looking at nasal vaccines. That is the only way to stop transmission.

Everyone is trying to figure out the immunology and fortunately, Bharat Biotech has figured it out. 'We are coming out with a nasal

vaccine, we are thinking that Covaxin can be given as first dose, the second dose can be given a nasal, that is also strategically, scientifically very important because with the second dose, if it is a nasal one, you stop the transmission of the virus," Ella said.

Nasal vaccine works well if someone has been infected or if someone has been vaccinated with one dose, he added.

Speaking about a vaccine for Zika, Ella said Bharat Biotech is ready with a vaccine for Zika virus. Phase I is complete. The government has to take up more trials because there are more cases now.

## he was unwell.

Neelam 'Having spent little over two nights thanks to loopholes in system that

Pahwa, opposed their submission.

each on the them.

"assumption, presumption, conjecpreciation of evidence on record.'

## YAMUNA POLLUTION

## Water sprinkled on river to remove toxic foam

THE POLLUTION IN THE YAMUNA IN DELHI IS ONCE AGAIN IN FOCUS AS CHHATH FESTIVITIES ARE UNDERWAY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 10: A day after the Delhi government deployed 15 boats in the polluted River Yamuna to remove toxic froth at Kalindi Kunj banks, where people were gathering for Chhat puja despite restrictions, bamboo structures were installed and water sprayed from tankers Wednesday to dissipate

the foam. As the administration faced flak for these 'cover-up' measures, officials admitted that the problem of frothing -- a sign of the river's hazardous water quality - will continue unless sewage treatment plants and common effluent treatment plants in Delhi are upgraded to meet the new standards and all unauthorised colonies are connected to the sewer network. A

Delhi Jal Board official said directions have been issued to sprinkle water to dissipate the froth as "no other short-term measure would work". "Water sprinkling will break the froth. The air bubbles trapped in the froth will escape and the froth will dissipate," he said. An official of the Irrigation

and Flood Control Department said bamboo nets have been installed on the stretch at Kalindi Kunj to capture the froth. These exercises will continue till effective action is ensured, the officials said.

Workers at the site said the bamboo structures will be taken down after the Chhath Puja is over.

Early Wednesday, a number of devotees had gathered at the Yamuna Ghat in Kalindi Kunj, downstream of the Okhla Barrage, but were dispersed by the police. The



A boatman moves through a froth laden polluted Yamuna river

city government has set up 800 makeshift ghats across Delhi for devotees to perform Chhath rituals. The four-day-long festival

of Chhath Puja is mainly celebrated by 'Purvanchalis' from Bihar. eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand settled in Delhi

During the festival, the devotees perform elaborate rituals by offering 'Arghya' to the sun and observing fast. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority had earlier banned Chhath Puja celebrations on the banks of the Yamuna in view of the pandemic.

Vikas Rai, chairman of Chhath Puja Samiti, Kalindi Kunj, said the government wanted to "cover up its failure". The 22-kilometre stretch of the Yamuna between Wazirabad and Okhla, which is less than two percent of its total length of 1.370 kilometres from Yamunotri to Allahabad, accounts for around 80 percent of the pollution load in the river. The Delhi government had in June banned the sale, storage, transportation, and marketing of soaps and detergents not conforming to the latest BIS standards to curb the pollution in the river.

Delhi generates around 720 million gallons of wastewater a day. The 35 STPs in 20 locations across Delhi can treat up to 597 MGD of sewage and have been utilising around 90 percent of their capacity.

In January, the Delhi government had told the National Green Tribunal that the upgradation of STPs in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi to "substantially" reduce foaming in the Yamuna will take three to five years, depending upon the availability of land and funds.

In a report submitted to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry in July, the Delhi government had said that the Yamuna cannot be deemed fit for bathing in the absence of aminimum environmental flow in





# Gehlot meets Priyanka, Maken over Cabinet rejig



Rajasthan CM holds meeting with top Congress leaders over accommodating all sections of the party, including those from the Sachin Pilot camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday met senior Congress leaders here over a possible expansion of his Cabinet and accommodating all sections of the party, including those from the Sachin Pilot camp, sources said.

A major reshuffle in Rajasthan is on the cards in the next few days and various modalities are being worked out by adopting the formula of "one man, one post" while considering appointments in the

Cabinet, they said. Gehlot met All India Congress Committee general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at the residence of Rahul Gandhi, where party general secretaries Ajay Maken and KC Venugopal were also present, they added.

The discussions lasted around three hours, according to sources. However, Rahul Gandhi was not present, they said.

After the meeting, Maken told reporters, "We discussed the political situation in Rajasthan. We discussed a roadmap to ensure that the Congress returns to power in the next assembly elections.

'We also discussed the Congress' good performance in the recently concluded Assembly by-elections in the state," he added.

Maken, who is the general secretary in-charge of party affairs in Rajasthan, said there were a number of issues that were required to be discussed with the chief minister and the roadmap is now clear.

The Cabinet expansion in Rajasthan is overdue as many in Gehlot's rival camp are seeking accommodation in the cabinet.

Recently, former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Pilot too had met Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to discuss his future as well the accommodation of some of his loyalists in Rajasthan Cabinet.

The Congress managed to save the state government in Rajasthan after Pilot had rebelled against Gehlot last year over differences. He was later removed as the deputy

## Raj likely to reduce VAT on petrol, diesel

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Nov 10: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, earlier being adamant on not reducing VAT on petrol and diesel, has finally taken a U-turn indicating possibilities of slashing tax on petrol and diesel in Rajasthan.

Many state governments have reduced the VAT after the initiative taken by the Central government.

In a meeting organised in Jodhpur's Jaleli Faujdar village Tuesday, Gehlot said, "When all the states have reduced the prices of petrol and diesel, then we will also have to reduce them.'

Earlier, Gehlot remained adamant saying that this slash would affect the income of the state.



When all the states have reduced the prices of petrol and diesel, then we will also have to reduce them

ASHOK GEHLOT I CHIEF MINISTER

"The economic condition of the state is already bad. In such a situation, we will not reduce VAT on petrol and diesel," he had said earlier.

Congress-ruled Puniab also reduced VAT recently. Eventually, Rajasthan was left as the only state where petrol and diesel are the most expensive.

During his visit to Jaleli Faujdar village, he said in the meeting, "Our government will also provide relief to the people by reducing VAT on petrol and diesel."

He said that the Central gov ernment had robbed the people a lot by forcibly taxing petrol and diesel. "Now a little relief has been provided. The Central government should further reduce the tax on petrol and diesel." He said that the state government would bear the loss due to reduction of VAT in

## 'Will not leave': Pandit whose salesman was killed by terrorists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 10: Kashmiri Pandit businessman Sandeep Mawa, whose salesman was killed here in a militant attack believed to be aimed at him, Wednesday said he will not leave Kashmir and remain here despite opposition from his family.

Mawa also claimed that he escaped the attack as he left his shop early due to a prior intelligence input, but his salesman Mohammad Ibrahim Khan was shot dead near his shop in Bohri Kadal area of the city Monday.

He said he was not deterred and will continue to stay in Kashmir Valley. "No, I am not leaving Kashmir. There is no question (of leaving the valley)," Mawa said when asked if he was thinking of leaving Kashmir in the wake of Monday's attack and a series of such attacks against the members of the minority communities recently. Mawa, who is related to Kashmiri

Pandit chemist ML Bindroo who was shot dead near his shop last month, said he believes Monday's attack was a case of mistaken identity and a part of the series of attacks on the

minority community members. "What I think is it is (part of) at-



tack on minority (community members)," he said, adding the attackers mistook his salesman for him and shot Khan who worked for the family for about 14 years from a close range when he went inside Mawa's car.

 $Mawa\ whose\ family\ returned\ to$ Kashmir in 2018 said he will not leave again and is determined to stay in Kashmir despite opposition to the idea from his family.

"I am staying here and I am not going to run away," he added.

He said the people of Kashmir Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Sikhs -- have to collectively fight it. "We cannot run away and leave this field open for them." Mawa said. The Kashmiri Pandit businessman said he was alerted by the

going to run awav...We cannot run away and leave this field open for them SANDEEP MAWA

and I am not

I am staying here

police in the afternoon on Monday about a possible attack on his life, hours before the militants shot dead his Kashmiri Muslim salesman.

"I was told by the police that

there was an input (about a possible attack on his life). The police advised me to leave the shop and so, I left around 3:15 pm," Mawa said. He had filed a petition before the

high court seeking constitution of a special investigation team into the Shopian fake encounter in which three labourers from Rajouri were killed last year.

Mawa also demanded the constitution of the State Human Rights Commission in the UT of JK.

The businessman said he left his car near the shop and left in some other vehicle in a hurry.

"Around 8 pm, when my brother

(Khan) was trying to get into my car, he was shot at," he added.

## SIT formed as Raj MP attacked again

gate and put a cross mark on it. The attackers also pasted a letter threatening to kill the MP. In the letter pasted outside Koli's

house, the attackers used abusive Koli is the MP from Bharatpur

for the first time. Ranjeeta's father-in-law Gangaram Koli has been the MP of Bharatpur twice.

There was an attack on Ranjeeta about five months ago as well. At Bharatpur.

### They put her photo outside the INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE Jaipur, Nov 10: The Rajasthan

police Wednesday formed a special investigation team after the BJP's Bharatpur MP Ranieeta Koli was attacked by unknown miscreants for the second time in the last 6 months. The attackers reportedly fired three shots outside the house of Koli.

After this attack, Koli's health deteriorated and she was rushed to a hospital. After the attack, the police reached the spot and found three empty cartridges. No trace of the attackers has been found so far. According to the police, the at-



tack on the MP took place at around 11.45 pm Tuesday night at her residence in Bayana. The attackers fired three rounds at her house.

that time the MP was returning after inspecting hospitals. Tuesday too, she returned to her home after holding a public hearing in

## Pushkar camel fair returns after COVID break

**Sachin Pilot meets** 

KC Venugopal

**NEW DELHI:** Amid talks of Cabinet reshuffle in Rajasthan,

AICC general secretary, organisation KC Venugopal. The

former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot Wednesday met

much-awaited cabinet rejig and

appointments had been pending

broke out. The Assembly bypolls

have also been delayed. Neither

camp has given any statement

regarding the Cabinet reshuffle

which has become an issue for

Congress sources confirmed

Raghii Sharma and Revenue

Minister Harish Choudhary

that the state Health Minister

might be relieved from Cabinet

nortfolios as they have been

Long-pending appointments,

especially related to the state

following the expansion, "After

appointments would also start."

a Congress leader said. Gehlot

had met senior Congress leader

Privanka Gandhi Vadra, general

secretaries Aiav Maken and KC

residence October 16 amid talks

of a rejig in the Cabinet. In the

bypolls, Dhariawad, which was

captured by the Congress and

Vallabhnagar, another of its

ruling party. The BJP finished

third in Dhariawad and fourth in

chief minister and replaced as

state Congress chief by Govind

seats, was retained by the

Vallabhnagar.

a BJP seat since 2013, was

Venugopal at Rahul Gandhi's

made party in-charges for

Gujarat and Puniab.

unit, will be announced

the expansion, the

announcement of the

Pilot nor any MLA from his

discussion. Meanwhile.

ever since the Covid pandemic

THE 13-DAY FAIR, WHICH OPENED MONDAY, COINCIDES WITH SEVERAL AUSPICIOUS DAYS IN THE HINDU CALENDAR, ADDING TO THE CROWDS THRONGING THE REVERED LAKESIDE CITY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Pushkar, Nov 10: Hundreds of herders and their animals have gathered in the desert city of Pushkar in Rajasthan for the country's biggest camel-trading fair.

The city typically attracts thousands of Hindu pilgrims, cattle traders and herders for the annual event, which was called off in 2020 because of the pandemic.

The gathering sees camel breeding communities trek sometimes hundreds of kilometres from their remote villages to trade their animals.

The 13-day fair, which opened Monday, coincides with several auspicious days in the Hindu calendar, adding to the crowds thronging the revered lakeside city.

"Pushkar is about both cattle trading and religious rituals," Prafull Mathur from Rajasthan's animal husbandry department told the AFP news agency.

"The COVID-19 situation hasn't fully normalised but we still expect a good attendance," Mathur

Organisers usually hold com-



A camel herder takes his camels to the Pushkar fair.

petitions for camel herders, which are a major attraction for domestic and international tourists, but the government has not yet clarified if the contests will be allowed

this year. The fair is the only time of the year when camel breeders - most of whom live in remote, nomadic communities in the desert

- can earn cash that helps sustain

their way of life.

The camels are mostly purchased by people from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to use on their farms or as transport. Other **Pushkar is about both cattle** 

trading and religious rituals...The COVID-19 situation hasn't fully normalised but we still expect a good attendance

PRAFULL MATHUR I

animals, including horses, are also

bought and sold at the event. India's security forces deployed along the international border with Pakistan also use camels ex-

tensively to patrol remote stretches. To help remote camel breeding communities diversify their income, the government has been trying to promote camel milk, camel leather and camel-bone products.

The region's prominent camel herding community, Raikas, believes that Lord Shiva handed them the responsibility to rear camels.



J&K admin keen to ensure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 10: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is keen to ensure a vibrant winter tourism season in the valley, Chief Secretary AK Mehta said Wednesday, urging the officials to provide round-theclock power supply to the famous

resorts of Gulmarg and Pahalgam. The Chief Secretary chaired a meeting with senior officers, including Principal Secretary Power Development Department Rohit Kansal, here to review the winter power scenario in the valley.

In the meeting, Mehta said a vi-

brant, disruption free winter remains the topmost priority of the

'Government is keen to ensure a vibrant winter tourism season in Kashmir and for this purpose, provision of reliable electricity supply is of critical importance," he said.

administration.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Basharat Qayoom, chief engineers and other senior officers of Distribution Kashmir, Projects Kashmir and Transmission Kashmir, an official spokesman said.

## J&K gives one-time age relaxation for 1,200 police posts

AGENCIES

Srinagar, Nov 10: The Jammu and Kashmir government Wednesday decided to give a one-time age relaxation for recruitment to 1200 posts of sub-inspectors in the UT's police department. While the upper age limit has been increased from 28 to 30 years, the number of posts has also been increased from 800 to 1200.

Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha made this announcement through a tweet. "Following representation from various delegations, the Govt has taken a decision to provide onetime age relaxation for aspirants in recruitment of Sub-inspectors in @JmuKmrPolice. The Upper age limit increased from 28 to 30yrs & no. of UT cadre posts also increased from 800 to 1200 (sic.)," the tweet said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 10: Jammu and Kashmir's first snow leopard population assessment expedition was launched Tuesday with its focus on identifying the landscape housing the endangered species and future challenges for their proper conservation. From Jammu's Manda Zoo, J-K Chief Wildlife Warden Suresh Kumar Gupta flagged off a 48-member expedition divided into 12 teams for Kishtwar High Altitude National Park under the "Project Snow Leopard" of the Ministry of Environment. The national park is spread over an area of 2,195.50 square kilometres.

"The snow leopard population assessment exercise is underway in several parts of the country and Jammu and Kashmir has now become part of it by formally launching the expedition after getting ap-

proval from the government," Gupta told PTI. He said such a survey has never been done in Jammu and Kashmir so far as the erstwhile state of J-K kept its focus of the conservation programme on Ladakh, which has a high density of the snow leopard population in the world. "After the reorganisation of J-K (in August 2019), a detailed project report under snow population assessment in India was formed and submitted to the government in April this year," the chief wildlife warden said. He said there was photographic evidence of the snow leopard's presence in the upper reaches of Kishtwar besides Gurez in north, Thajiwas and Awoora top in central Kashmir.

"The teams will survey the population of the snow leopards as per the protocol and identify its habitats. Besides camera traps, the team will also look for hair samples,



Maiden snow leopard population assessment exercise begins

scat and other evidence which would be sent to a Bangalore-based central government institute for DNA analysis to ensure perfect data after completion of the exercise," he said.

Gupta said preparations are un-

derway in Kashmir to dispatch separate teams to the snow-covered areas where the snow leopards have been found. "We roped in resource personnel from the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) who trained our teams in both

## **Vulnerable species**

isted as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the snow leopards are mostly found at an altitude between 3,000 and 4,500 metres and have been sighted in the snow-bound areas of the Kishtwar National Park, its adjoining areas in Jammu region and parts of central and north Kashmir

he snow leopard is a part of a species recovery programme of the Government of India. Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand are already covered under the

Jammu and Kashmir divisions for

rating with University of Jammu, Bhaderwah Campus; Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir and several other non-governmental organisations and wildlife groups," he said. Gupta said a pilot survey for trial was conducted by the wildlife protection department in Kashmir last month.

'We are planning to complete the assessment which is a very risky task due to multiple challenges including inclement weather and difficult topography. However, this is the best time for the exercise as the nomad population descends towards the plains from the higher reaches and so do the wild animals as well," he said. "The landscape management plan is a must for the conservation of the snow leopards for the future and we are hopeful of getting the funding under the project," he said.

the survey. We are also collabo-



Time and again (Congress leader) Rahul Gandhi has raised the issue of Rafale deal. Before the last Lok Sabha elections, he had predominantly raised the issue. Now it has become an international issue and be it France or other countries, the governments there have been taking action

ing that Munna Yadav from

Nagpur was made chairman of

the Maharashtra Construction

Workers Welfare Board even

though criminal cases like mur-

der were registered against him.

Fadnavis also sheltered an indi-

vidual whose second wife was a

Bangladeshi and when the Malad

police tried to investigate the case,

they were pressured, he alleged.

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CHIEF MINISTER

### **BOOSTING TIES**

In sync with their fast-expanding strategic ties, India and the US have resolved to strengthen defence technology cooperation by pursuing detailed planning and making measurable progress on several specific projects, officials said Wednesday





Yogi Adityanath is going to Braj inspiration for cow service, and hope he will do something to improve the

PRIYANKA GANDHI CONGRESS GENERAL

I had a meeting with the Director General of Police and Superintendent of Police (Crime) on prevention of crime and discussed the precautions we need to take and adopt new initiatives especially for the safety of women. We need to do this

PRAMOD SAWANT GOA CHIEF MINISTER

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic India has managed to scale up access to free rapid molecular diagnostics and

treatment for tuberculosis while financial and nutritional support to affected patients continued without any hindrance

BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH

## SHORT **TAKES**

### Boy kidnaps kin, marries; arrested

**Erode (TN):** A teenage boy was on Wednesday arrested for allegedly kidnapping and marrying a minor girl who was his relative, police said. According to the police, the airl (15), studying 10th standard, at Olagadam village in Bhavani taluk, was abducted a couple of days ago by the 17-year-old boy who used to frequent her house. The boy was arrested under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act and produced before the Juvenile Court which sent him to a juvenile home, they added.

### All MSRTC bus depots shut

250 depots of the Maharashtra State Road **Transport Corporation** (MSRTC) were shut Wednesday due to the strike by its employees over the demand for a merger of the loss-making corporation with the state government, officials said. Hundreds of MSRTC employees from across the state converged in Mumbai in the afternoon and held a rally at the Azad Maidan to press for their demand, even as Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray appealed to them not to hold the poor people hostage by continuing their protest, and cooperate with the government in its effort to resolve their issues.

## Ch'garh: Naxals kill police informer

Raipur: A 20-year-old police informer, who had also helped in the setting up of a police camp, was killed by Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, a senior official said Wednesday. The incident took place on Tuesday night when Umesh Markam, who was working as 'Gopniya Sainik' (secret police informer), was coming from his native Tetam village under Katekalyan police station limits to Dantewada town, he said.

### 75 injured in road mishap

Hazaribag: Around 75 pilgrims from West Bengal were injured after their bus hit a truck parked on the roadside in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district, police said Wednesday. The incident happened at Danuwa-Bhanuwa Ghat on National Highway 2 in the Chouparan police station area, they said.

## Nawab's 'hydrogen bomb' against Fadnavis

Mumbai, Nov 10: Maharashtra minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Nawab Malik Wednesday morning held a press conference to drop a "hydrogen bomb" - reference to an alleged expose against former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis.

While Fadnavis responded with George Bernard Shaw's famous quote about the advisability of `not wrestling with a pig', BJP leader Ashish Shelar said the people whom he appointed had been absolved

**Malik Wednesday** accused Devendra Fadnavis of sweeping under the carpet a case of seized fake notes and appointing people with criminal background to government boards

Fadnavis' wife Amruta Fadnavis took to Twitter to take swipes at Malik, referring to him as "Bigade Nawab" and claiming that his sole aim was to save his "black wealth" and "son-in-law". Malik, after targeting Fadnavis at a press conference, said there were "more bombs to be dropped" and he will make more revelations against the BJP. Soon after Malik's press conference, Fadnavis posted a tweet quoting playwright George Bernard

## **Bengal formulating** new transfer policy for govt doctors

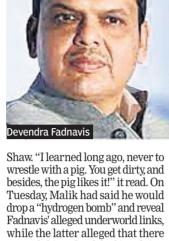
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 10: The West Bengal Health Department has developed a draft policy for the transfer of doctors serving in government hospitals and health centres, proposing that no one will be allowed to stay at a particular place for more than five years, and it will now be sent to the Chief Minister for approval.

The process of formulating the new policy started after 40-yr-old doctor Abantika Bhattacharya allegedly committed suicide by setting herself ablaze in Sept this year over the existing transfer policy

The process of formulating the new policy started after 40-yearold doctor Abantika Bhattacharya, serving in Midnapore Medical College, allegedly committed suicide by setting herself ablaze in September this year over the existing transfer policy. She was looking for a transfer in Kolkata because she wanted to take care of her autistic daughter.

Ghosh, who died on September 1, wrote in her last Facebook post on August 16: "Where peace lies for me a.. job resignation? After eight years of peripheral service - again dragged to another peripheral service in the same job capacity - can't take it anymore." The incident has shaken the medical community and many doctors' bodies had come to the front to question the government's transfer policv in public healthcare services.



was a dubious land deal involving the NCP leader; his family members and two convicts of the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case. The minister had refuted the allegations. On Wednesday, Malik said while fake notes were seized in other states after demonetisation in 2016, there was not a single such instance in Maharashtra, where Fadnavis was the chief minister. On October 8, 2017, the Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized fake notes worth Rs 14.56 crore from the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai, he said.

"But Fadnavis helped sweep the case under the carpet. The seized amount was later shown with a value of Rs 8.8 lakh," Malik itting back, the Bharatiya

Minister Nawab Malik that Fadnavis had mafia links. learned long ago, never to and besides the pig likes it!" Talking to media persons, BJP leader and former minister alleged, questioning why the case Ashish Shelar countered by was not handed over to the National displaying photos of the Investigation Agency. "Incidentally, Sameer Wankhede (the Narcotics Control Bureau officer against NCP President Sharad Pawar, whom Malik has levelled several al-Malik, Prithviraj Chavan, Aslam legations) was the DRI's joint director at that time," he added. The NCP leader further said that Imran Alam Sheikh was arrested in the case, and later his brother Haji frustrated and needs 'oxygen' Arafat Sheikh was made chairnow... Despite all his efforts, he man of the state minority comcould not defame or malign mission. Fadnavis appointed peo-Fadnavis," claimed Shelar. ple with criminal background to several state boards, he said, claim-

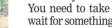
the latter's photograph with the former chief minister and his wife. Wednesday, BJP leader and former

## BJP RUBBISHES ALLEGATIONS

Janata Party on Wednesday denied the allegations made by **Nationalist Congress Party** Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis tellingly hit out a tweet. quoting George Bernard Shaw: "I wrestle with a pig. You get dirty, absconder goon Riyaz Bhatti with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Shaikh and other top MVA leaders with a warning: "You show one, we will show you four pictures". 'Malik had promised a 'hydrogen bomb', but he failed... He's clearly

Malik had last week sought to link the BJP leader with an alleged narcotics dealer by tweeting While Fadnavis himself did not reply to Malik's allegations on state minister Ashish Shelar de-





Citing its October 6 order, the bench said it had directed the MHA to take necessary steps based on the

## 'SORRY STATE OF AFFAIRS IN TIHAR' SC asks MHA to take steps on prison reforms

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Supreme Court Wednesday expressed its dissatisfaction over the delay by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in taking action on recommendations submitted by Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana in a report on prison reforms, after it was found some Tihar jail officials were extending undue assistance to ex-Unitech promoters Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah told Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj: "When will MHA take action. Need immediate reforms jammers and body scanners - to ensure no unauthorised use of mobile phones takes place (on the Tihar jail premises).'

Nataraj, appearing for Delhi Police. submitted before the bench that an FIR was registered October 12, and there are a total 37 accused, which includes 32 jail officials, the Chandra family members, and two staff.

As he said that Tihar Jail does not fall under Delhi Police, the bench queried under whom the Tihar jail falls - the MHA or Delhi Police? A counsel in the matter informed the bench that Tihar jail is under Delhi government.

Justice Chandrachud told Nataraj that recommendations made by Delhi Police Commissioner are very important and the court wants the MHA to take steps to implement them. At this juncture, Justice Shah, citing news reports, said murder has happened on Tihar jail premises. "Sorry state of affairs in Tihar jail. Murder happened. You need to take action and not wait for something to happen in future," he said. Nataraj replied that investigations into the matter are underway.



suggestions made by Delhi Police chief on prison reforms and prison management. It emphasised that necessary steps need to be taken immediately, and an action plan should be made and submitted to it, and this process should not be delayed any further.

Against the backdrop of its pre-

vious order, the bench reiterated that no steps have been proposed, despite multiple recommendations by Delhi Police chief. After hearing arguments, the top court posted the matter for further hearing after three weeks. On October 6, after a stormy hearing, the Supreme Court had ordered immediate suspension and a full-fledged probe against Tihar Jail officials, who were identified by the Delhi Police Commissioner in a report for extending undue assistance to ex-Unitech promoters Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra. On August 26, the top court ordered shifting of Chandra brothers to jails in Mumbai following a report by the Enforcement Directorate claiming it has found a "secret underground office", which was being operated by their father and Unitech founder Ramesh Chandra, and both his sons visited the office, when on parole or bail. The agency had alleged that it was done in collusion with the Tihar Jail authorities. The top court had observed that attempts were made by the broth-

ers to undermine its jurisdiction.

## Youth held for rape threat to Kohli's daughter

Hyderabad: A Hyderabad youth was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly issuing online rape threats to a top Indian cricketer's child after India recently lost their T20 World Cup fixture against Pakistan. Mumbai police have identified the accused as Ramnagesh Akubathini, a 23-year-old techie who had earlier worked with a food delivery services app. The threat messages had gone viral and caused widespread outrage after they were posted on social media. The threat message targeting star cricketer Virat Kohli had initially been presumed to have originated in Pakistan. The Mumbai Police cyber cell tracked the threats to Hyderabad and zeroed in on Ramnagesh. The accused is being taken to Mumbai for further questioning, police sources said.

## Chinese PLA in PoK surveys villages and military posts

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 10: Chinese People Liberation Army personnel are carrying out a survey of the border posts and villages in Pakistanoccupied Kashmir to strengthen the Pakistan military apparatus across Line of Control, said sources, adding Indian security forces are keeping an eye on the activities and motives behind the survey.

Source said that around four dozen Chinese People's Liberation Army soldiers arrived in general area Kel, Jura and Leepa sectors of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir a month ago. Indian armed forces say that these areas -- Kel, Jura and Leepa -- are among those from where Pakistan pushes terrorists into Indian territory. Source said that the over 40 People's Liberation

Army soldiers came to these regions, divided themselves into groups of five or six each, visited a number of villages and conducted surveys of villages, Pakistan Army posts and "infiltration routes used by terrorists to reach the Kashmir Valley". The groups were accompanied by Pakistan Army personnel, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) officers. and interpreters. Source said that the visit of Chinese troops in Pakistanoccupied Kashmir villages indicates the making of model villages - which can be used both by civilians and military - in these regions.

Women carry heaps of paddy after harvesting as they walk through an agricultural field in Burdwan

"Are Chinese helping Pakistan in building model villages along the Line of Control as they have done across borders with India," questioned a senior government officer over Chinese PLA men visiting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: The Congress will launch a 15-day people's awareness programme from November 14 during which its workers will fan out across the country, holding marches and group meetings, to highlight the issue of inflation

and price rise. Several leaders, including for mer president Rahul Gandhi and party general secretaries Randeep Surjewala and K C Venugopal, Wednesday spoke on the Jan Jagran Abhiyan and what it would entail. The public harassment campaign of the BJP government is carrying on, Now the Congress will run its Jan Jagaran Abhiyan," Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

Addressing a press conference, Venugopal alleged that price rise was destroying livelihoods and adding to people's woes. This was **INFLATION AND PRICE RISE** 

Cong to launch nationwide stir

caused by "destruction of the economy, deepening recession, highest-ever unemployment rate, farm distress and escalating levels of poverty and hunger", he said.

Attacking the government over the issue, his colleague Surjewala added that the Modi government had proved to be the most "expensive regime". Elaborating, Venugopal said the prices of mustard and other edible oils have doubled in the last one year. Seasonal vegetable prices have increased by 40-50 per cent in a month. The cost of subsidised LPG cylinder has gone up by 50 per cent to Rs 900-1,000 in the last one year. Similarly, petrol and diesel prices have gone up by Rs 34.38 and 24.38 to Rs 103.97 and Rs 86.67

per litre respectively in the last 18 months, he said. The back-breaking price rise and inflation, unprecedented levels of unemployment and loss of jobs had made lives unbearable for the common people, Venugopal told reporters.

According to Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, party workers during the Jan Jagran Abhiyan, will reach out to the maximum number of people across the country to strengthen their voices against the "unprecedented" price rise of CNG, cooking gas, diesel, petrol, cooking oil, pulses and other essential commodities.

The AICC will also launch a logo for the Jan Jagran Abhiyan and release a pamphlet with facts about price rise. Congress leaders and workers will undertake 'padyatras' (marches) with night halts in villages, towns or cities in their mass contact areas, he said.

## Smog in north India triggers 'escape' tourism

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 10: The seasonal rise in air pollution levels in north India has triggered a new phenomenon of 'escape' travel industry experts said.

The trend usually sets in the winter months when rising air pollution levels trigger the formation of smog over north India, especially Delhi-NCR.

The phenomenon of smog occurs as a consequence of stubble burning, vehicular air pollution and smoke emitted by burning of

firecrackers. It is further aggravated by meteorological activity during this

As a result, the outbound thrust of residents of these areas to beachside cities and greener places gives rise to this travel trend.

"Apart from trips to hometowns, we are also witnessing a trend of 'escape' tourism in metros like Delhi. where increasing pollution levels have tourists flocking to destinations like Goa in search of fresh air," said Aloke Bajpai, Group CEO & Co-Founder, ixigo.

"We have seen an increase of 55-60 per cent in search queries for beach destinations like Goa and Andaman for travel in the first



Vehicles ply amid low visibility due to a thick layer of smog in Gurugram PTI PHOTO

week of November," he added. According to Rikant Pittie, Co-Founder, EaseMyTrip: "A new trend

has been emerging where people are escaping from their residence cities when these cities face natural or

**Destinations like Goa**, **Andaman and** Lakshadweep gain traction, whereas locations like Delhi-NCR lose out on visitors

man-made calamities or concerns like air pollution.

"The escape tourism is extended till the concerns are at a stabilised level. These escapes are not nec-

essarily far away destinations." Pittie also pointed out the increase in the number of queries for short trips to cities such as Jaipur, Shimla, Agra, Bengaluru and Nainital.

A Yatra.com Spokesperson said: "The deteriorating air quality and seasonal smog phenomenon, especially in Delhi, has affected both hotel and flight bookings.

"Due to the falling AQI levels, travellers have cut short their trips to the capital and native residents are choosing to travel to various other destinations such as Jaipur, Shimla, Nainital, Goa etc. We have received over 25-30 per cent increase in booking enquires fortravel to hill stations and beach destinations.'

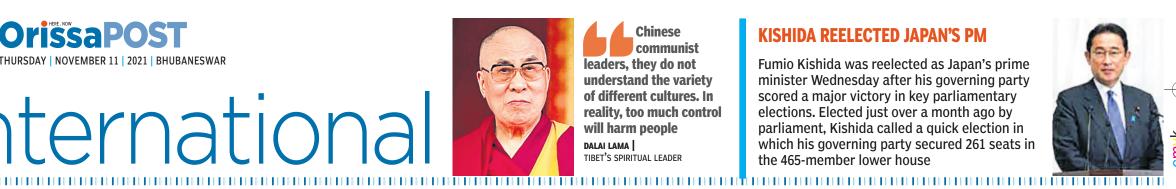
# international



communist leaders, they do not understand the variety of different cultures. In reality, too much control will harm people DALAI LAMA TIBET'S SPIRITUAL LEADER

### KISHIDA REELECTED JAPAN'S PM

Fumio Kishida was reelected as Japan's prime minister Wednesday after his governing party scored a major victory in key parliamentary elections. Elected just over a month ago by parliament, Kishida called a quick election in which his governing party secured 261 seats in the 465-member lower house





To guarantee France's energy independence, to guarantee our country's electricity supply, and to reach our goals -- notably carbon neutrality in 2050 -- we will for the first time in decades revive the construction of nuclear reactors in our country, and continue to develop renewable energy

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

The primary reason for Afghanistan's present situation is that the assets of the country have been seized. Afghanistan was dependent on foreign aid and right now there is no aid

CHAUDHRY FAWAD HUSSAIN | FEDERAL MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, PAKISTAN

Jack and I were emailing each other prior to January 6 where I warned him that his platform was allowing a coup to be

staged. That email was sent the day before and then it happened and I

haven't heard from him since PRINCE HARRY DUKE OF SUSSEX, UK

## SHORT **TAKES**

### US prices hit 30-year high

Washington: President Joe Biden has made fighting US inflation his "top priority" after government data showed it reached a 30-year high last month, underscoring the continued threat to his presidency and the economic recovery. The sharp spike in the consumer price index (CPI) in the Labor Department data released Wednesday surprised economists and the White House alike, and came as Biden heads to Baltimore to promote the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure overhaul he argues can turn the tide.

### **Ethiopia detains** 16 UN staffers

Nairobi: At least 16 United been detained in Ethiopia's capital, the UN has said, and a government spokesman asserted they were held for their "participation in terror" under a state of emergency as the country's yearlong war escalates and ethnic Tigrayans face a new wave of arrests. All the detained staffers are Tigrayan, a humanitarian worker told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity for the fear of retaliation.

### **Swedish PM** steps down

Copenhagen: Stefan Lofven stepped down Wednesday as Sweden's prime minister, paving the way for his replacement as leader of the Social Democratic Party to become Sweden's first female head of government. Lofven will continue as caretaking prime minister until a new government is formed. parliament speaker Andreas Norlen said. Norlen is expected to ask Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson whether she can find support in the 349-seat Riksdag assembly to form a Cabinet.

### 4 lions in S'pore test Covid +ve

Singapore: Four Asiatic lions at Singapore's Night Safari have tested positive for Covid-19, the Straits Times reported Tuesday evening, quoting the Animal and Veterinary Service (AVS). The AVS, which is under the National Parks Board, said that the four lions, as well as an African lion at the Singapore Zoo, had exhibited mild signs of sickness including coughing, sneezing and lethargy Saturday and Monday respectively.

## UN CLIMATE TALKS

## **COP26: Little time, but 'mountain to climb'**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glasgow, Nov 10: The United Nations climate summit in Glasgow has made "some serious toddler steps" toward cutting emissions but far from the giant leaps needed to limit global warming to internationally accepted goals, two new analyses and top officials have said. And time is running out on the two weeks of negotiations.

- This month's summit has seen such limited progress that a **United Nations Environment** Programme analysis of new pledges found they weren't enough to improve future warming scenarios
- The analysis found that by 2030, the world will be emitting 51.5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide each year, 1.5 billion tons less than before the latest pledges
- The second analysis by Climate Action Tracker, which for years has monitored nations' emission cutting pledges, said based on those submitted targets the world is now on track to warm 2.4 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times by the end of this century

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 10: Imran Khan

Wednesday faced a barrage of ques-

tions at a hearing of the 2014 terror

attack on an Army-run school dur-

ing which the Supreme Court bench

asked the Pakistan prime minister

why he was negotiating with the cul-

prits of the massacre of nearly 150

The three-judge bench—headed

by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP)

Gulzar Ahmed, and comprising

Justice Qazi Mohammad Amin

Ahmed and Justice Ijazul Ahsan —

had summoned Khan around 10

am He arrived at the court roughly

two hours later, just before noon.

(who lost their children in the APS

attack) is necessary," said Justice

The chief justice told the prime

minister that the parents of the

APS victims were not seeking com-

pensation from the government.

'Parents are asking where was the

security system (that day). Despite

our comprehensive orders, nothing

justice that a National Action Plan

The prime minister told the chief

Ahsan addressing the premier.

"The satisfaction of the parents

people, mostly students.



## CLIMATE CRIME SCENE

Protesters attend a demonstration against the fossil fuel industry during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), in Glasgow, Scotland, Britain REUTERS

The president of the climate talks, Alok Sharma, told high-level government ministers at the UN conference to reach out to their capitals and bosses soon to see if they can get more ambitious pledges because "we have only a few days left.'

All they did was trim the "emissions gap" - how much carbon pollution can be spewed without hitting dangerous warming levels a few tenths of a percentage point, according to the review released

A total of 147 people, 132

of them children, were

killed when Tehreek-i-

Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

militants stormed Army

was introduced after the APS mas-

sacre, adding that there is no holy

cow in Pakistan, Geo News reported.

judges that they can constitute a high-

level commission on the APS tragedy.

mission and it has issued a report as

well. Our order of October 20 states

clearly that the government should

find out who is responsible for the

massacre and take action against them, responded the chief justice.

In Wednesday's hearing, the chief

justice asked Attorney General (AG)

Khalid Jawed Khan whether the

prime minister had read the court's

order in which he had directed the

attorney general to take action on the

complaints of the victims' parents.

Wednesday, the attorney general

said, FIR could not be registered

against higher-ups. Where do the

intelligence (agencies) disappear

when it comes to the protection of

their own citizens Was a case reg-

istered against the former army

chief and others responsible the

chief justice asked.

During the proceedings

We have already formed a com-

Khan told the Supreme Court

Public School (APS) in

Peshawar in 2014

**2014 APS MASSACRE CASE** 

PAK SC GRILLS

IMRAN KHAN

A separate analysis by independent scientists found a slight decrease in future warming, but one still insufficient to limit the warming of the planet to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century. The planet has already warmed 1.1 degrees (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

"There's some serious toddler steps," United Nations Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen said in an interview with The Associated Press a few

## UK vows zero emission of heavy vehicles

GLASGOW: All new heavy goods vehicles in the UK will be zero-emission by 2040, the UK government said Wednesday. This, combined with the UK's 2030 phase out for petrol and diesel cars and vans, represents a worldleading pledge to end the sale of all polluting road vehicles within the next two decades. The UK will become the first country in the world to commit to phasing out new, non-zero emission heavy goods vehicles weighing 26 tonne and under by 2035, with all new vehicles sold in the UK to be zero emission by 2040. This comes as new research from Bloomberg New Energy Finance, commissioned by the UK COP Presidency and published Wednesday, shows the progress made in the passenger vehicle market. The research shows 31 per cent of the global passenger vehicle market is now covered by vehicle manufacturer commit-ments to end sales of fossil fuel-powered vehicles, up from a near zero share of the market at the start of 2021. The global sales of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) have grown dramatically since 2019 from 2.1 million to 5.3 million. ZEVs are forecast to be 70 per cent of all new car sales in 2040, with this projection having doubled in the last 5 years.

minutes after the UN analysis was finished. "But they are not the leaps we need to see, by any stretch of the imagination." In Glasgow, officials touted advances, but not necessarily success.

"We are making progress," Sharma said, "but we still have a mountain to climb over the next few days, and what has been collectively committed to goes some way, but certainly not all the way, to keeping 1.5 within reach."

Andersen acknowledged that none of the three main UN criteria for success for the two-week climate talks has been achieved so far. They are cutting greenhouse gas emissions by about half by 2030; securing \$100 billion a year in aid from rich countries to poor nations; and having half of that money be for developing nations to adapt to global warming's worst harms.

Given what's been pledged "we are likely to be in that area 2.4 degrees, which is still catastrophic climate change and far, far away from the goals of the Paris Agreement.' said climate scientist Niklas Hohne of the New Climate Institute and the Climate Action Tracker.

## Google loses plea of \$2.8 billion **EU** antitrust fine

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Nov 10: In a major setback to Google, the European Union's General Court Wednesday upheld an earlier ruling by the European Commission that imposed a \$2.8 billion fine on the search engine giant for breaking anti-trust law.

The General Court dismissed Google's action against the decision of the Commission, finding that Google abused its dominant position by favouring its own comparison shopping service over competing comparison shopping

In a 2017 ruling, the European Commission had said that Google abused its dominant position on the market for online general search services in 13 countries in the European Economic Area, by favouring its own comparison shopping service, a specialised search service, over competing comparison shopping services. The Commission had imposed a \$2.8 billion fine on Google.

## **US joins India-led ISA** as member country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 10: The United States Wednesday became the 101st member country of the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA), as US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry signed the ISA framework agreement to catalyse global energy transition through a solar-led approach.

Kerry described the US membership as a major step towards the rapid deployment of solar power, as he formally signed the framework agreement at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. "It has long been coming, and

we are happy to join the ISA, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the lead in making," said Kerry. 'We worked out the details and

this is a process we are pleased to be a part of. This will be an important contribution to more rapid deployment of solar globally," he said.

Union Minister for Environment Bhupender Yadav welcomed the US as the 101st member of the ISA. saying this move will strengthen the solar alliance and propel future action on providing a clean source of energy to the world.



A police officer sprays tear gas at a demonstrator blocking a highway with a Bolivian flag banner during protests against legislation that opposition groups say will hit private property and centralize political power in the hands of the ruling socialist party, in Cochabamba, Bolivia

## Russia, NATO weigh in as crisis mounts

AGENCIES

Moscow/Brussels, Nov 10: The European Union accused Belarus Wednesday of mounting a "hybrid attack" by pushing migrants across the border into Poland, paving the way for new sanctions against Minsk in a crisis that threatens to draw in Russia and NATO.

Russia took the rare step of dispatching two nuclear-capable strategic bombers to patrol Belarusian airspace in a show of support for its close ally. NATO signalled its backing for member state Poland.

Migrants from the Middle East,



Migrants wrapped in blankets of Red Cross sit on the ground in a forest near the Polish-Belarusian border outside Narewka, Poland

Afghanistan and Africa trapped in Belarus made multiple attempts to force their way into Poland overnight, Warsaw said, announcing that it had reinforced the border with extra guards. UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet called on states to deescalate and resolve the "intolerable" crisis.

"These hundreds of men, women and children must not be forced to spend another night in freezing weather without adequate shelter, food, water and medical care,"

she said. "We are facing a brutal hybrid attack on our EU borders. Belarus is weaponising migrants' distress in a cynical and shocking way," **EU Council President Charles** Michel said.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and his ally, Russia's Vladimir Putin, have placed the blame on the EU.

The Kremlin accused Europe of failing to live up to its own humanitarian ideals and trying to "strangle" Belarus with plans to close part of the frontier. Moscow said it was unacceptable for the EU to impose sanctions on Belarus

## Pandemic generated 8mn tonne of plastic waste: Study

## THE RESEARCHERS FOUND THAT MOST OF THE GLOBAL PLASTIC WASTE FROM THE PANDEMIC IS ENTERING THE OCEAN FROM RIVERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

was done," he said.

Los Angeles, Nov 10: The Covid-19 pandemic has generated more than eight million tonne of plastic waste globally, with over 25,000 tonne of it entering the oceans, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that a significant portion of this ocean plastic debris is expected to make its way onto either beaches or the seabed within three to four years.

The researchers noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to an increased demand for single-use plastics such as face masks, gloves, and face shields. The resulting waste, some of which ends up in rivers and oceans, is intensifying pressure on an already out-ofcontrol global plastic problem, they said.

The team led by researchers at Nanjing University in China and University of California (UC) San Diego, US, used a newly developed ocean plastic numerical model to quantify the impact of the pandemic on plastic discharge from land sources.

They incorporated data from the start of the pandemic in 2020 through August 2021, finding that most of the global plastic waste entering the ocean is coming from Asia, with hospital waste representing the bulk of the land discharge.

for better management of medical

The Nanjing University MITgcmplastic model (NJU-MP) used in the study works like a virtual reality, said Yanxu Zhang, the corresponding author and a professor at Nanjing University.



"The model simulates how the seawater moves driven by wind and how the plastics float on the surface ocean, degraded by sunlight, fouled by plankton, landed on beaches, and sunk to the deep," said Zhang.

Asian rivers account for 73 per cent of the total discharge of plas-

tics, with the top three contributors being the Shatt al-Arab, Indus, and Yangtze rivers, which discharge into the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and East China Sea. European rivers account for 11 per cent of the discharge, with minor contributions from other continents, the researchers said



When we started doing the math, we were surprised to find that the amount of medical waste was substantially larger than the amount of waste from individuals, and a lot of it was

coming from Asian countries, even though that's not where most of the Covid-19 cases were

AMINA SCHARTUP | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UC SAN DIEGO

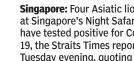
While most of the pandemic-associated plastics are expected to settle on beaches and the seafloor. a smaller amount will likely end up circulating or settling in the Arctic Ocean.

The model shows that about 80 per cent of the plastic debris that transits into the Arctic Ocean will sink quickly, and a circumpolar plastic accumulation zone is modelled to

form by 2025, the researchers said. To combat the influx of plastic waste into the oceans, the researchers urge for better management of medical waste in epicentres, especially in developing countries.

The researchers called for global public awareness of the environmental impact of personal protection equipment (PPE) and other plastic products. They also emphasised on the development of innovative technologies for better plastic waste collection, classification, treatment, and recycling, and —

development of more environmentally friendly materials.





The study stresses on the need waste in developing countries.

## business



That (excise duty cut on petrol and diesel) is significantly positive for inflation. The supply-side factors have been addressed by the government, particularly with reference to pulses and edible oils, and now very recently with reference to petrol and diesel SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

### **MUSK LOSES \$50BN IN 2 DAYS**

Elon Musk has lost \$50 billion so far this week after Tesla Inc. shares plunged for the second day in a row. Tesla's rout comes amid a tumultuous few days for the automaker. It started when Musk asked his Twitter followers over the weekend whether he should sell 10% of his stake in the company, followed by news that his brother Kimbal sold shares just before the poll





witnessing a continuation in that had started around the same are encouraged by the trends that

RAMESH KALYANARAMAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KALYAN JEWELLERS INDIA

We are pleased to announce establishment of the **Advisory Committee** 

and are deeply heartened by the participation of an influential Nordic partners group

AJAY MATHUR DIRECTOR GENERAL, ISA

While the price revision of our product line has been necessitated by

external market factors such as increasing freight and input materials cost, it also ensures that our quality continues to meet customer expectations and global benchmarks

ADITYA MUNJAL | CEO, HERO LECTRO

### SHORT TAKES

## **Cook reveals** he owns crypto

New York: Apple CEO Tim Cook has shaken Twitter revealing he personally owns cryptocurrency and has been interested for "a while". Cook, whose real-time net worth is about \$1.4 billion, shot down rumours that Apple is targeting crypto as an investment even as prices for bitcoin and ethereum soared to new record highs. He said Apple has been looking at crypto, but might not offer users a way to pay with it anytime soon.

### IT services market **grows by 7.3%**

New Delhi: The Indian IT services market grew by 7.3 per cent in the first half of 2021, compared to the 5.7 per cent growth in the same period last year, as enterprises continued to invest in digital transformation initiatives, a new report showed Wednesday. Overall, the Indian IT and business services market was valued at \$6.96 billion and recorded a 6.4 per cent year-over-year (YoY) growth in the January-June period, compared to 5.1 per cent in the first half of 2020, according to the International Data Corporation's (IDC).

### **MSI drives in** all new Celerio

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Wednesday launched the all-new version of its premium hatchback Celerio in the country, priced between ₹4.99 lakh and ₹6.94 lakh (exshowroom Delhi). The manual trims are priced between ₹4.99 lakh and ₹6.44 lakh while the AGS (auto gear shift) variants are tagged between ₹6.13 lakh and ₹6.94 lakh. The new Celerio is now bigger than the outgoing model and comes with an updated engine and a host of new safety and convenience features.

### **Gram Vikash bags National award**

Bhubaneswar: The Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust has conferred the Sat Paul Mittal National Award 2021 to Gram Vikas, non-governmental organisation based in Odisha during a virtual ceremony. Gram Vikas received a citation and ₹5 lakh of cash prize from Puducherry former governor Kiran Bedi. The NGO bagged the award under Institutional Category. The Sat Paul Mittal National Awards are given every year for performing outstanding service to humanity.



# **Nykaa glams up Dalal Street**

The company's market valuation went past ₹1 lakh crore mark and closed at ₹1,04,438.88 crore on the BSE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Making a stellar debut, shares of FSN E-Commerce Ventures, which runs the online marketplace for beauty and wellness products Nykaa, closed with a huge premium of over 96 per cent against the issue price of ₹1,125 Wednesday.

The stock debuted at ₹2,001 apiece, reflecting a jump of 77.86 per cent on the BSE. Then, the scrip zoomed 99.83 per cent to ₹2,248.10 during the day before closing at ₹2,206.70. The closing price is 96.15 per cent higher than the issue price.

On the NSE, it listed at ₹2,018, a premium of 79.37 per cent. The shares ended the day at ₹2,208, a staggering gain of 96.26 per cent.

'Nykaa, the largest specialty beauty and personal care platform in India, had a stellar debut today on the bourses - listing at 79 per cent premium at ₹2.018 (vs IPO price of ₹1.125) with market cap hitting ₹1 lakh crore. It is the first of its kind listing in the e-commerce space



and thus garnered lot of interest, validated from IPO subscription of 82 times," said Sneha Poddar, AVP Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Earlier this month, the initial public offer of FSN E-Commerce

Ventures was subscribed 81.78 times. The ₹5,352-crore IPO had a price range of ₹1,085-1,125 per share.

"Nykaa is debuting the secondary market on a strong note on the back of stellar response by the investors and strong fundamentals. It is among the few profitable new edge businesses. Further, it is a high growth company and into the right business where it may continue to grow in double digits for many years," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart Ltd.

The company has a diverse portfolio of beauty, personnel care, and fashion products, including its

## **Paytm makes history**

**NEW DELHI:** Paytm's ₹18,300 crore IPO was oversubscribed 1.89 times on the last day of India's biggest share sale Wednesday, making it one of the country's most valued companies. The initial public offering of Paytm's parent company One97 Communications Ltd received bids for 9.14 crore equity shares against the offer size of 4.83 crore shares, according to information available from stock exchanges. While the portion set aside for retail investors was oversubscribed early, institutional buyers including FIIs flooded the share sale with offers Wednesday, seeking 2.79 times the number of shares reserved for them. Non-institutional investors such as wealthy individuals and companies purchased about 24 per cent of the shares offered to them. Paytm is now set for a bumper listing next week and will be one of India's most valued companies. Its large issue size meant that the sheer value of its retail size is much larger than that seen in recent internet IPOs like that of Zomato or Nykaa, combined.

owned manufactured brand products, under its two business verticals -- Nykaa and Nykaa Fashion.

## Cabinet approves ethanol price hike by up to ₹1.47/litre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: The government Wednesday hiked the price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane for blending in petrol by up to ₹1.47 per litre for 2021-22 marketing year starting December, as part of its target to achieve 20 per cent doping by 2025.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, raised the price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane juice to ₹63.45 per litre from the current ₹62.65 per litre for the supply year beginning December 2021.

"The rate for ethanol from Cheavy molasses has been increased to ₹46.66 per litre from ₹45.69 per litre currently, and that of ethanol from B-heavy to ₹59.08 per litre from ₹57.61 per litre," Information and **Broadcasting Minister Anurag** Thakur said at a media briefing.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) buy ethanol at a price fixed by the government. Thakur said the ethanol blending with petrol has touched 8 per cent in the 2020-21 marketing year (December-November) and is expected to reach 10 per cent in the next year.

Further, the Cabinet has approved incurring expenditure for

RETAIL INFLATION LIKE



**Higher mixing of ethanol** in petrol will help cut India its oil import bill and also benefit sugar cane farmers as well as sugar mills

operations for cotton during the cotton season (October to September) 2014-15 to 2020-21.

A committed price support of ₹17,400 crore to the Cotton Commission of India (CCI) for the cotton seasons from 2014-15 to 2020-21 has also been approved during the meeting

India has plans to increase the blending to 20 per cent by 2025.

## Falguni Nayar's beauty startup has jolted her to the ranks of the world's richest. Nayar, who owns about half of Nykaa, is now worth

Founder's wealth tops \$6.5bn

about \$6.5 billion as shares of the firm surged as much as 96% when they started trading Wednesday. She's become India's wealthiest selfmade female billionaire, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. FSN E-Commerce Ventures, Nykaa's parent entity, is India's first womanled unicorn to hit the stock exchange.

## Sebi amends rules governing AIF

Co-investment means investment made by a manager or sponsor or investor of Category-I and -II AIFs in investee companies where such category of AIFs makes investment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Markets regulator Sebi has amended the regulatory regime governing alternative investment funds (AIFs), to facilitate co-investment through the portfolio management route.

In a notification Tuesday, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said. "Co-investment by investors of alternative investment fund shall be through a co-investment portfolio manager." The regulator said the terms of

co-investment in an investee company by a manager or sponsor or co-investor, will not be more favourable than the terms of investment of the AIF. It further said the terms of exit

from the co-investment in an investee company, including the timing of exit will be identical to the terms applicable to that of exit of the AIF. These framework will be applicable only for co-investment made on or after December 9.

The manager will not provide advisory services to any investor other than the clients of co-investment portfolio manager for investment in securities of investee companies where the AIF managed by it makes investment.

The regulator has allowed Category-III AIFs to calculate con-



centration norms based on net asset value of the fund.

Sebi said Category-III AIFs will invest not more than 10 per cent of the net asset value in listed equity of an investee company. They will invest not more than 10 per cent of the investable funds in securities other than listed equity of an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs.

This is provided that large value funds for accredited investors of Category-III AIFs may invest up to 20 per cent of the net asset value in listed equity of an investee company. They may invest up to 20 per cent of the investable funds in securities other than listed equity of an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIF.

To give effect to this, the regulator has ameded AIF norms. This came after Sebi's board approved a proposal in this regard in late-September.

## India exports 2.76L tonne of sugar in last 40 days: AISTA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: Sugar mills have exported 2.76 lakh tonne of sugar in the last 40 days of the current marketing year with maximum shipments to the UAE, trade body AISTA said Wednesday. Over 1.44 lakh tonne of sugar is under loading, All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA) said in a statement.

Mills have contracted to export 18 lakh tonne of sugar without government subsidy so far in the 2021-22 marketing year, it added. The sugar marketing year runs from October to September.

undertaken without government subsidy. According to AISTA, mills have exported a total of 2,76,676 tonne of sugar from October 1 to November 9, 2021.

## AT 6-MONTH LOW IN OCT

New Delhi, Nov 10: The country's retail inflation likely hovered near a six-month low in October as higher food and fuel prices were offset by an overall favourable comparison with prices one year ago, leaving the central bank room for now to leave interest rates steady.

The median forecast from Reuters poll of 43 economists taken Nov. 8-9 predicted inflation as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) edged down to 4.32 per cent from 4.35 per cent in September.

If realised, it would mark the fourth consecutive month inflation has been within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of two per cent-six per cent.



There were a few estimates in the poll below the RBI's medium-term target of four per cent, with a range of 3.42 per cent-five per cent.

"Favourable base effects likely kept headline CPI inflation subdued in October in annual terms. although this masks a sequential rise in consumer prices," noted

Southeast Asia and India at ANZ. Food prices likely edged higher, led by those of fresh produce. Rising global oil prices also saw a faster

pass-through to domestic fuel and

Sanjay Mathur, chief economist,

transportation costs. Vegetable prices, especially key ingredients in Indian cooking like onions and tomatoes, rose sharply after unseasonal rains damaged produce last month. Global oil prices rallied during the month.

But poll respondents again highlighted inflation was subdued mainly because of comparisons with a stronger period one year ago, and the current mild trend is expected to continue only for a few

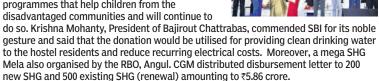
which pushed up petrol prices.

## SBI supports Bajirout Chhatrabas

BHUBANESWAR: State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar Circle through its Regional Business Office (RBO), Angul donated three water purifiers and a solar panel to Bailrout Chhatrabas, an institution serving the under privileged children, as part of its corporate social responsibility initiative. Vidya Krishnan, Chief General Manager, SBI

institution in grooming the children into responsible citizens and helping them to integrate into the mainstream of the society. She said that SBI is committed in supporting such types of programmes that help children from the disadvantaged communities and will continue to

Bhubaneswar Circle, appreciated the efforts of the



## Bayer inaugurates farming center

BHUBANESWAR: Baver, a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of health care and nutrition, inaugurated its 100th BLF center in the city. The 100th center was inaugurated by Rachana Panda, VP & Country Group Head Communication, PA &



young agri-entrepreneur of Odisha. About 100 BLF centers have been rolled out in Odisha, so far, with plans to expand to over 200 centers. To further provide seamless knowledge transfer, meet farmer expectations and provide timely crop specific advisory to small holder farmers. Bayer has also set up over a digitally enabled 'Bayer Learning Centers' in Odisha

Sustainability (South Asia) and Arun Kumar Sahu, a

## EV sales set to jump 80% in '21: Report at COP26

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has raised its 2030 battery electric vehicle fleet forecast by seven per cent since 2019, while the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has raised its 2040 estimate for the global electric and fuel cell vehicle fleet by 11 per cent

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Glasgow, Nov 10: Passenger electric vehicle sales are set to jump over 80 per cent in 2021 to 5.6 million units, off the back of unprecedented industry and government commitments around the world over the last two years, according to the Zero-Emission Vehicles Factbook, a special report pub-Wednesday BloombergNEF (BNEF), at the request of the UK COP26 Presidency and in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies.

The Factbook documents the progress that has been made towards global net-zero emissions in the road transport sector, and shows that the future is brighter than ever for zero-emission vehicles.

In the first half of 2021, sales of passenger electric vehicles (including battery electric, plug-in hybrid and fuel cell vehicles) were 140 per cent higher than the same period in 2019, reaching seven per cent of global passenger vehicle sales. This compares with just 2.6 per cent in 2019, the year of the last UN Climate Change Conference.

The total global fleet of passenger electric and fuel cell vehicles now totals nearly 13 million, of which 8.5 million are true zeroemission vehicles (ZEVs), either battery electric or fuel cell (still, fuel cell vehicles account for a fraction of that total).

The latter figure is up from just



4.6 million at the time of COP25. At the same time, by 1H 2021, the global fleet of zero-emission buses has increased by 22 per cent since In the first half of 2021, sales of passenger electric vehicles were 140 per cent higher than the same period in 2019

2019, and the report expects 18 per cent of all municipal buses on the road to be zero-emission at the end of 2021.

A review of industry outlooks shows that zero-emission vehicle forecasts have been raised across the board. BNEF's own forecast for the global ZEV fleet in 2040 has been raised from 495 million vehicles in its 2019 forecast, to 677 million in its 2021 Electric Vehicle Outlook.

Underpinning these stronger forecasts are a range of factors, including improving battery technology and costs, faster roll-outs of charging infrastructure, a wider range of vehicle models on offer to customers, and longer range and faster charging speeds available on the newest vehicles. Each of these factors is discussed in detail in the report.

The report is launched in time for Transport Day of COP26, where a coalition of government and global car industry leaders working towards 100 per cent zero-emission new car, van and HGV salesby 2040, will come together, helping to keep 1.5 degrees within reach.









# Kiwis exact sweet revenge

Mitchell knock helps New Zealand avenge heartbreaking 2019 World Cup final loss with a 5-wicket victory over England to enter the T20 World Cup final



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Nov 10: New Zealand pulled off a heist to upstage England by five wickets in the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup after opener Daryl Mitchell's heroics (72 n o, 47b, 4x4, 4x6) and James Neesham's blitzkrieg (27, 11b, 1x4, 3x6) here Wednesday.

By entering the final of the T20 showpiece, New Zealand avenged their heartbreaking loss in the summit showdown of the 2019 ODI World Cup against the same opponents, when they finished second best on the basis of boundary count.

Besides opener Mitchell and Neesham, Devon Conway (46, 38b, 5x4, 1x6) played an invaluable innings as New Zealand chased down a target of 167 with six balls to spare.

Needing 57 off 24 balls, Neesham carted Chris Jordan (0/31) for two sixes and a four for a total of 23 runs. The big over brought the equation down to 34 from 18 balls for New Zealand.

Neesham and Mitchell then smashed a six each but the former ended up hitting Adil Rashid straight to Eoin Morgan in the covers in the 18th over. However, Mitchell pulverised Chris Woakes (2/36) for two more sixes and a four to finish the job with an over to spare, something that seemed impossible a few moments ago.

In pursuit of 167, Martin Guptill (4) began New Zealand's chase with a first-ball boundary but, two balls later, the opener, so vital to his team's prospects, got a leading edge off Woakes to hand England a massive advantage right in the beginning of their innings.

As England tightened the noose, Kane Williamson tried to break the shackles but in doing so the Kiwi skipper ended up top-edging Woakes to Rashid, as New Zealand slipped to 13/2 in the third over.

The two early wickets put England in the driver's seat as New Zealand struggled to keep pace

with the required run rate. That – the dew didn't become much of a factor at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium, did not help New Zealand's cause as the English bowlers did not face problems in gripping the ball.

Conway and Mitchell found the boundaries on and off, but New Zealand needed more than that to mount a serious challenge to their opponents. That was not to be, as Conway was stumped by Jos Buttler to end a valiant effort.

Earlier, Moeen Ali top-scored with an unbeaten 37-ball 51 (3x4, 2x6) to propel England to 166/4. Sent into bat, Moeen and Dawid Malan (42, 30b, 4x4, 1x6) were England's

main contributors with the willow. After three relatively quiet overs, opener Jos Buttler (29) and Jonny Bairstow (13) took England to 37 for

### **Players observe a** minute's silence

ABU DHABI: Players of the England and New Zealand teams observed a minute's silence in memory of Mohan Singh, Abu Dhabi's chief curator who died earlier this week, ahead of the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup here Wednesday. Those present inside the Sheikh Zayed Stadium paid their respects to the Indian curator just before the national anthems of the two semifinalists. Singh was found dead in his room Sunday hours before the match between Afghanistan and New Zealand. According to UAE cricket sources, the 45-year-old, who hailed from Uttarakhand, was suffering from depression and was found hanging in his room, hours after inspecting the pitch for the match. Both Abu Dhabi Cricket and the ICC paid tributes to Singh but did not reveal the cause of death. He is survived by his wife and daughter. Meanwhile, as they have done through the tournament, the players from both teams also took the knee in support of the Black Lives Matter

no loss in five overs. Williamson effected a bowling change and the move immediately paid dividends as the skipper himself pulled off a fine diving catch at mid-off off Adam Milne's first delivery to signal the end of Bairstow's stay in the middle.

That Milne over not just gave the Kiwis their first breakthrough, but it also stemmed the flow of runs, as England finished the power play at 40/1.

New Zealand soon had a lot to cheer about as Ish Sodhi got the huge wicket of Buttler. The Malan and Moeen added 63 runs for the third wicket. Liam Livingstone's 10ball 17 allowed England a late flourish, but in the end it wasn't enough.

**BRIEF SCORES:** England 166/4 (Moeen Ali 51 no, Dawid Malan 41; James Neesham 1/18, Tim Southee 1/24) lost to New Zealand 167/5 (Daryll Mitchell 72 n o, Devon Conway 46, Jimmy Neesham 27; Liam Livingstone 2/22, Chris Woakes 2/36) by 5 wickets.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 10: Pakistan seem primed to win their second title but it will take a special effort to upstage a tenacious Australia, which is peaking at the right time, in the second semifinal of the T20 World Cup here Thursday.

Pakistan have turned it around following their first-round exit in 2016. The Babar Azam-led side has defied the odds to become the team to beat this edition. The 2009 champion is the only team that remains undefeated in the ongoing tournament.

The last time these two met in the semifinals of a T20 World Cup, Australia, inspired by Mike Hussey, had beaten Pakistan in a thriller.

But in the ongoing edition, the Men in Green have resisted crumbling under pressure and are comfortable in the UAE, having hosted several seasons of the Pakistan Super League and their home matches here since the 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lankan team shut down international cricket in their country.

Following a historic win over India where they looked completely invincible, Pakistan have showed very few chinks in their armour against New Zealand and Afghanistan.

The formidable top-order, led by the tournament's leading runscorer Azam (264), who has four halfcenturies against his name, is expected to deliver once again but Australia's bowling attack will also be ready and waiting to capitalise on any slip up.

### **PLAYERS TO WATCH OUT FOR**

Pak favourites against Oz

PAKISTAN: Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Asif Ali, Shaheen Afridi & Shadab Khan.

**AUSTRALIA:** David Warner, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Josh Hazlewood & Adam Zampa.

In case the opening duo of Azam and Mohammad Rizwan fail, Pakistan have an array of matchwinners in the middle order in the form of six-hitting machine Asif Ali and veterans Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Hafeez, who all are among the runs. However, the team would be expecting more from Fakhar Zaman, the only one to have not made a significant contribution with the bat yet.

Their bowling attack has been as impressive as their batting unit if not more. Pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf have troubled batters but Hasan Ali has had an ordinary tournament and, although skipper Azam has backed the speedster to come good, Australia is likely to target him.

Spinners Imad Wasim, Mohammad Hafeez and Shadab Khan will be skipper Azam's main weapons against Australia, a side that struggles against spin in gen-On the other hand, Australia,

the 2010 runners-up, are beginning to peak at the right time in their bid to win their only missing title.

Apart from the eight-wicket As is the trend, teams chasing mauling by England, Aaron Finch and Co. Have registered dominant

DREAM TO REPRESENT

INDIA FULFILLED: AVESH

wins which helped them book a semifinal slot ahead of South Africa.

Their formidable pace attack has been incisive, and leg spinner Adam Zampa, who has the second most wickets in the tournament, has struck regularly in the middle

In pacers Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins and Zampa, Australia has all bases covered in the bowling depart-

All-rounders Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh have provided breakthroughs with the ball as well and they also have the option to play left-arm spinner Ashton

The biggest confidence booster for Australia would be David Warner's return to form. The opener entered the tournament on the back of a woeful run in T20s but has brushed that aside with two halfcenturies, including an 89 not out in the previous game.

Warner and Finch make for a formidable opening pair which can take any opposition attack to the cleaners. Marsh at No.3 has also been among the runs. The ever-reliable Steve Smith is there to stabilise the innings in case of a batting collapse although his strike rate has been under scrutiny.

Maxwell has not exactly set the tournament on fire yet, and the team will be relying on him, Marcus Stoinis and Matthew Wade to provide a bagful of runs in the last five

win the matches here, so the toss will be once again be crucial.

## Iyer hopes to keep focus on all-round aspect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 10: All-rounders modity and the newest entrant to the club, Venkatesh Iyer, knows only too well that he has to keep his focus on both aspects of the game in order to remain relevant.

The 26-year-old Madhya Pradesh man has been rewarded with a maiden call-up for the T20I home series against New Zealand starting November 17 and knows that going forward, workload management would be an important focus area for him. "My workload management has

been good so far. I am an all-rounder so I have to be equally focussed on both aspects of the game. That's what I have been doing right from my age-group state level days. It's so far not been a very big issue," the suave KKR man told this agency in an exclusive interaction.

For Iyer the endeavour is to display multiple skills across formats. "I have always worked hard on my



red ball game and it has been my conscious effort not be one dimensional.

"If you have to play for India, you have to be consistent across formats and that's why I have put in a lot of work in both departments

Eve wrestler shot dead;

identity causes confusion

of the game. As much as I have worked on my batting, I have also worked on my bowling," said Iyer, who many like Harbhajan Singh believe can shock batters with extra

His 370 runs in the IPL for KKR,

along with steady medium pace that got him three wickets, brought him into national reckoning. He is being seen as a replacement of Hardik Pandya, who is still not fit to bowl and does not quite fit in as a pure batter.

Iyer, who has six half centuries and seven wickets for Madhya Pradesh in Ranji Trophy, believes that it has been his consistency, not only in IPL but also in first-class cricket, that has helped get this far.

During the IPL in UAE, did he get a feeling that he would make it? 'I must say that it was not just about IPL that gave me belief that I could represent my country.

"When I was playing Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali for my state Madhya Pradesh, I always knew that if I carry on with good performances in domestic cricket, I would play for India one day," he

said. "I always had that belief." Having lived in Indore, it was local coach Dinesh Sharma, who first tapped his talent as he made

rapid strides while rising through the ranks of age-group cricket, captaining the U-23 state team.

When he touched base in the UAE with the KKR team in the last week of August, he wouldn't have imagined that he would make such progress in a matter of months.

Two and half months later, he was sitting in his Delhi hotel room with Madhya Pradesh teammates when fellow national team entrant Avesh Khan broke the news to him.

He was honest in his admission that while he was working on his dream, he didn't think it would be realised so soon.

The lesser known aspect about Iyer is that he once got a job offer in multi-national auditing company Deloitte but decided to pursue cricket with encouragement from his parents.

With an MBA degree in finance, he has cleared the foundation and inter-level exams of Chartered Accountancy. Iyer attributes his cricketing smarts to him being a dili-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Nov 10: Madhya Pradesh pacer Avesh Khan, who earned a national call-up for the T20 series against New Zealand Wednesday said that his dream to represent the country has been fulfilled.

Avesh, who had 24 wickets in the IPL, deservingly got a national call-up and got the news just after MP's Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 match against Kerala.

"Every cricketer has a dream that he plays for his country and he works hard to turn this dream into a reality. My dream has been fulfilled now," Avesh, who has 100 first-class wickets, from 27 matches, told this agency.

Avesh said that he had performed Bundela and Abbas Ali for spotting the talent in him and then guiding him throughout his career.



My son first got associated with Indore Colts Cricket **Club. Then Amay Khurasiya** spotted his talent and took him to his own academy. After that he did not look

back ASHIQ KHAN / AVESH'S FATHER

Khan's father Ashiq Khan recalled how he gave wings to Avesh' dreams. "My son first got associated with Indore Colts Cricket Club. Then Amay Khurasiya spotted his talent and took him to his own academy. After that he did not look back," his father remembered.

His father also said that the moment Avesh landed in Indore after three-months, they straight away drove to Khurasiya's residence and sought his blessings. As soon as Avesh came to his house, a plethora of his relatives and wellwishers had already come home to congratulate the rookie pacer.

## Domestic badminton season to begin post 20-month break in Dec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sonepat/Gonda, Nov 10: A wrestler named Nisha Dahiya and her brother were shot dead by unknown assailants at an academy here Wednesday, the murdered woman's identity becoming a cause of confusion as several reports mistook her for under-23 world championship bronze-medallist of the same name.

The killed siblings' mother also sustained injuries as assailants opened fire at them and has been admitted at the PGIMS hospital in Rohtak, the police said. Sonepat Assistant Superintendent of Police Mayank Gupta confirmed the death of Dahiya and her brother Suraj. The incident took place at the Sushil Kumar Wrestling Academy in Sonipat's Halalpur.

But there was chaos online as several reports identified Dahiva as the Worlds medallist, who had been

congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi just this morning for her performance in Belgrade some days back.

The Wrestling Federation of India shared a video in which the fast-rising wrestler can be seen stating that she is in Gonda for the National Championships and fine.

"The girl who died was a newcomer hailing from Halalpur village in Sonepat. She is also Nisha Dahiya but not the one who went to the U-23 World championship," coach Randhir Malik, who travelled with the Indian women's team to Belgrade, told this agency. "That Nisha is safe. It's fake news that she has died," he added

In Sonepat, the police suspect that a coach of the academy could be behind the gruesome incident. The police said five to six rounds of bullets were fired and added that an investigation was underway.

New Delhi, Nov 10: The domestic badminton season is set to begin next month after a 20-month hiatus with back-to-back senior ranking Level 3 tournaments, the national federation announced Wednesday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The season will start in Chennai with the first tournament from December 16 to 22 followed by another Level 3 tournament in Hyderabad from December 24 to 30.

Both the events carry a prize money of Rs 10 lakh each, and are a part of the Badminton Association of India's (BAI) new domestic format, which was approved in 2019 but couldn't be implemented due

to COVID-19 pandemic. The last date of entry for the

Chennai event is November 24, while for Hyderabad it is December 1. BAI secretary Ajay K Singhania said the domestic season will begin maintaining COVID-related protocols and all players will have to carry RTPCR negative reports.

"COVID disrupted not just sports but life in general, but we are very pleased to announce the resumption of the Indian domestic badminton season. We have some worldclass players and all the players getting back on court is great news for the entire badminton fraternity," he said in a statement.

The senior ranking tournaments are classified into three levels -Level 3, BAI Series Badminton Tournament (6 in a year); Level 2, BAI Super Series Badminton Tournament (4 in a year); Level 1, BAI Premier Super Series Badminton Tournament (2 in a

With a mammoth prize pool of Rs 2.2 crores for the entire domestic senior ranking tournaments, Level 3 category tournaments are the preliminary events carrying a prize money of Rs 10 lakh, while Level 2 tournaments, to be played twice, have a purse of Rs 15 lakh each followed by a Premier tournament

with a prize money of Rs 25 lakh. These events will be followed by the Nationals, with a prize purse of Rs 50 lakh. Apart from being financially lucrative to the players, the aim of the format is to make the domestic circuit increasingly competitive by allowing more players to break into the main circuit.

well in the last domestic season and also in the IPL, which helped him to earn the national call-up. The right-arm speedster credited former cricketers like Amay Khurasiya, Chandrakant Pandit, Devendra

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