



## OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

Actor Kangana Ranaut will be seen playing legendary Bengali theatre actress Binodini Dasi, aka 'Notee Binodini', in her next

LEISURE P2



## TRUSS FIGHTS BACK

British PM Liz Truss describes herself as 'a fighter and not a quitter' against opposition from the Conservative Party

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SRABANI CLAIMS SILVER

Srabani Nanda wins her 2nd medal, a silver, in 200m at the National Open Athletics Championships

SPORTS P12

## SHORT TAKES

### High Court relief for MLA Moqim

**Cuttack:** In a major relief for Congress MLA Md Moqim, the Orissa High Court issued Wednesday a stay order on the conviction imposed by a Special Vigilance Court in Bhubaneswar in connection with a loan scam in Odisha Rural Housing Development Corporation (ORHDC). The Vigilance Court had sentenced Moqim to three years of rigorous imprisonment for his alleged involvement in the scam. It had created a fear that the lawmaker will lose his position in the Legislative Assembly. However, Moqim will now be able to continue as an MLA till February 22 next year, which has been fixed for the next date of hearing. **P4**

### ₹ plunges to all-time low against dollar

**MUMBAI:** The rupee plunged 61 paise to decline below the 83-mark for the first time against the US dollar Wednesday to close at 83.01 reversing gains from earlier in the session on more indications that high inflation will keep major central banks in rate-hike mode, hurting the recent risk-assets rally. The rupee closed at its lifetime low after opening the session at 82.30 earlier in the day. Rising crude prices in the international markets and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local currency, traders said.



**FINISHING TOUCHES:** Artisans draw designs on Terracotta items at the Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

## AP Deputy CM's Kotia visit sparks fresh controversy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Pottangi, Oct 22:** The Kotia dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh took a new turn Wednesday with the visit of the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Peedika Rajanna Dora to Neradivala village in this block. Dora, who is also the AP Tribal Welfare Minister, visited the village which is under the disputed Kotia panchayat to discuss the state's welfare schemes with the people. The visit of such a top-ranked AP minister has sparked off a fresh row as it comes days after the district administration held a grievance redressal meeting in the same village.

Sources informed that the Deputy CM held detailed discussions with residents of Neradivala village regarding the allowances, availability of amenities like drinking water, electricity, ration, anganwadi centres, schools and other welfare programmes being carried out by the Jagan Reddy government.

Dora also spoke to the benefici-



aries and discussed with them the steps taken by the Andhra Pradesh government to solve the problems the villagers are facing. He assured them that his government will provide them with all the opportunities of availing state-backed schemes that are due to the people.

It should be stated here that officials of the Koraput district administration had conducted September 17 a public meeting in Neradivala village to discuss various issues with the residents. The meeting was also attended by people from Arjuvala, Dhulipadar, Panukuvula and other disputed areas. The villagers had aired their grievances to the block development officer of Pottangi and tehsildar in presence of the sarpanch.

# Cyclone Sitrang: High alert in seven districts

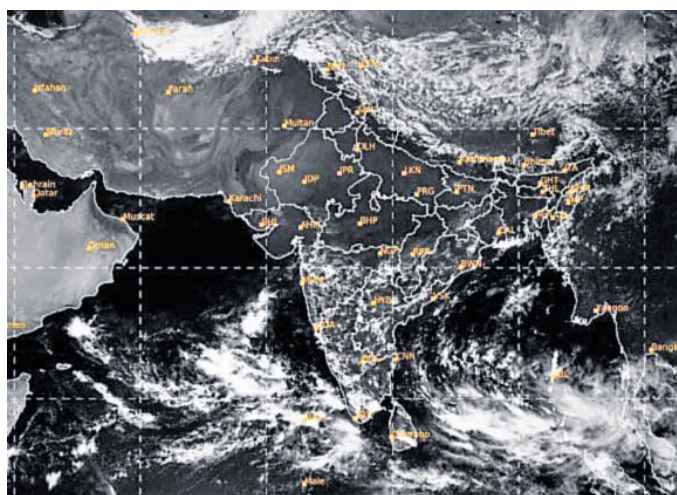
*In 2021, various districts of Odisha had been ravaged by 3 cyclones namely Yaas, Gulab and Jawad that left a trail of destruction*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** In view of the anticipated cyclonic storm 'Sitrang' over the Bay of Bengal, the Odisha government Wednesday asked collectors of seven coastal districts to remain on high alert. Despite no concrete evidence regarding the direction of the cyclone, the Odisha government doesn't want to take any chances. Hence, the Special Relief Commissioner's (SRC) office has directed the collectors of Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, and Balasore to be on high alert and monitor the situation on an hourly basis.

Various government departments were also informed by the SRC about the latest weather conditions including Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) department, Secretary to Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department, Director, Agriculture and Food Production, Water Resources department, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), Inspector General (Fire Services), the NDRF commandant at Mundali and OSDMA Executive Director, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) in a bulletin Wednesday said that cyclonic circulation Tuesday over north



Andaman Sea and neighbourhood is persisted at the same region and is extending up to mid tropospheric levels. The IMD informed that under its influence a low pressure area is likely to form over southeast and adjoining East Central Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours.

It is likely to move west-north-westwards and concentrate into a depression by October 22 morning over central Bay of Bengal. It is very likely to intensify further into a cyclonic storm over west central Bay of Bengal during the next 48 hours, the IMD added.

Further updates about the cyclone will be known after formation of the low-pressure area, the Met officials said. However, it has not

issued any major weather warning till the morning of October 23. IMD Director-General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said that accurate prediction on the intensity and trajectory could be made only after the formation of the low-pressure area.

Under the influence of the low pressure, squally winds with surface speed reaching 45kmph to 55kmph gusting to 65kmph over deep sea areas of west central adjoining North Bay of Bengal will be prevalent from October 22, the IMD said.

The weatherman advised fishermen not to venture into deep sea areas of west central adjoining North Bay of Bengal from October 22 and along and off Odisha coast from October 23 till further notice.

## BJD expels Rajendra

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The ruling BJD expelled Wednesday former MLA and rebel leader Rajendra Kumar Das, who is contesting the bypoll to Dhannagar Assembly seat as an independent candidate. A BJD general secretary Manas Mangaraj said in a statement that president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has expelled Das for anti-party activities.

Rajendra had been elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly from Dhannagar as a BJD candidate in 2009. However, now he has gone against the party diktat and filed his nomination as an independent candidate for the November 3 bypoll. He did so despite requests from the

BJD to withdraw his nomination after the party nominated Abanti Das to contest from the seat.

Rajendra remained unfazed at his expulsion from the BJD and said he was not surprised. "I welcome the decision as the people of Dhannagar are with me. This is a blessing for me in disguise for me," Rajendra told reporters in Dhannagar.

**I am not at all surprised by the BJD's decision to expel me, it is a blessing in disguise for me**

**RAJENDRA DAS**

"People are well-aware of the group which has acted against me and they will give their answers in the election. I am confident of winning," Rajendra said.

Rajendra had expressed displeasure after being denied a ticket to the bypoll and with the BJD's decision to nominate Abanti, a self help group activist and chairperson of the Thihidi block in Bhadrak district. **Continued on P4**

## Kharge is new Cong chief

*AICC gets a non-Gandhi leader after 24 years as results of the 6th elections in the history of the 137-year-old party are announced*

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** Mallikarjun Kharge was Wednesday elected the Congress president after defeating Shashi Tharoor in an electoral contest, the sixth in the party's 137-year-old history. Out of the 9,385 votes polled, Kharge got 7,897 votes while Tharoor finished with 1,072 votes. A total of 416 votes were declared invalid, Congress' central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry announced at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here.

Tharoor's team earlier had lodged complaints related to polling in



Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Telangana. When asked, Mistry said he will respond to the letters point by point. Mistry said there was no basis for the contents in the let-

ter and there was nothing specific in the complaint. After the result was announced, Tharoor accepted that final verdict has been in favour of Kharge. He also congratulated Kharge for his victory.

"The decision of the party delegates is final and I accept it humbly. It is a privilege to be a member of a party that allows its workers to choose their president," Tharoor said. "Our new president is a party colleague and senior who brings ample leadership and experience to the table. Under his guidance, I am confident that we can all collectively take the party to new heights," he added. **Continued on P4**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We have elected such a great party president that even our rivals are celebrating!

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	59107.19 ↑ 146.59
NIFTY	17512.25 ↑ 25.30
DOLLAR	82.27 ↓ ₹0.11
EURO	81.24 ↑ ₹0.14
GOLD	₹50,344 ↓ ₹70
SILVER	₹56,189 ↓ ₹165

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.4°C	32.0°C
TEMP MIN	24.0°C	24.0°C
Humidity	87%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain very likely

## US returns Indian antiquities worth \$4.5mn

*The return of the antiquities comes at a time when a debate is raging whether the Kohinoor diamond should be repatriated to India by England*

AGENCIES

**New York, Oct 19:** A globe spanning, 15-year investigation has led to the repatriation of 307 antiquities by the US that were stolen and trafficked from India and valued at nearly 4.5 million dollars. The majority of these antique items were seized from disgraced art dealer Subhash Kapoor who has outlets here and in some other cities in the US. Manhattan District Attorney

Alvin Bragg announced Tuesday the return of 307 antiquities valued at nearly USD 4.5 million to the people of India.

Of these, 235 antiquities were seized following the investigation by the office of the Manhattan District Attorney into Kapoor, a prolific looter who helped traffic items from Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and other countries. All the antiquities were returned during a repa-



triation ceremony at the Indian Consulate here attended by India's

Consul General Randir Jaiswal, and US Homeland Security

Investigations Acting Deputy Special Agent-in-Charge Christopher Lau. "These antiquities were stolen by multiple complex and sophisticated trafficking rings - the leaders of which showed no regard for the cultural or historical significance of these objects," Bragg said. "We are proud to return hundreds of stunning pieces back to the people of India that are extremely valuable," he added.

Among the pieces being returned is the 'Arch Parikara', crafted from marble and dating to the 12-13th century. Valued at approximately USD 85,000, it was among the antiquities seized from Kapoor. **Continued on P4**

## Panchayats to be directly connected to Secretariat

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** In order to facilitate seamless administration for the benefit of the people in Odisha, the government is planning to connect all the gram panchayat offices with the secretariat. Once this happens, ministers, secretaries, district collectors and departmental officials will be able to regularly review the implementation of government schemes through video conferencing.

Sources said that the state government is contemplating such a step as many people are not aware

of the beneficial schemes floated for them. As a result, they are missing out on the government benefits.

The Odisha government has planned the direct connection of the panchayats with the secretariat for early redressal of grievances, sources informed here Wednesday. They said that the government has decided to provide video conferencing facility to 6,794 panchayats across Odisha. A video conferencing room will be set up in every panchayat office with a seating capacity of 30 persons. Block development officers have been asked to prepare a feasibility report.

# leisure

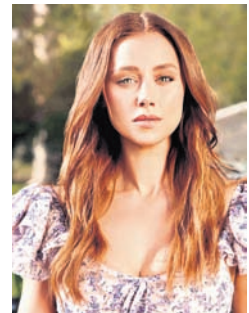


## KANYE WEST SUED FOR \$250 MN OVER GEORGE FLOYD COMMENTS

The mother of George Floyd's daughter has filed a \$250 million lawsuit against Kanye West over his recent comments about the man's death. He recently alleged George died as a result of drug abuse and not as a result of police brutality.

## UNA HEALY FELT ALMOST EMPTY AFTER HER DIVORCE

Irish singer Una Healy felt almost empty after her divorce from Ben Foden but is now used to being single and finds it exciting. The former Saturdays star was married to the English rugby union player from 2012 until 2018.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181\*

**ARIES**  
You continue to be a kind and cooperative person. You give generously and it pays back manifold, and today is one of those days. You will treat colleagues and subordinates like an extended family, and successfully mix business with pleasure. A rare ability, says Ganesh.

**TAURUS**  
There is every possibility that you will keep people around you in good humour, predicts Ganesh. A craving for food might overcome you today. Such a feeling might be because of subdued hunger. Kick back and enjoy as fun will top your priority list, feels Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you will be emotional and practical at the same time. Academically, you will be at the top of your game. People around you will be swept away by your charming and intelligent ways. By evening, you will divert your mind towards beautifying your home, feels Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Ganesh warns you of minor ailments. Don't eat very cold items. You will help others in tackling their problems. Ganesh says that you must begin by yourself any auspicious task.

**LEO**  
Your day will start off very ordinarily. The later half of the day too should prove to be uneventful. However, events occurring in the afternoon will win you the praise of your colleagues. You will try to improve your self today. You will be inspired to take on some challenging projects, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Your amazing ability to play with words will stand you in good stead today. So much so that with your silken talk you will be able to charm your way into the heart of a member of the opposite sex later today. Work that has been postponed too often will be finished.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says you will use your creative and artistic skills in decorating and renovating your home. You will experience a feeling of pride when all will appreciate your home décor. You will want to spend the evening all alone as you may feel uneasy in the company of your friends and not particularly in the mood to socialise.

**SCORPIO**  
Sports-persons and athletes are in full form today as their energy levels soar. Engineers put in their best efforts to kick-start their new business ventures. Social recognition and prestige is on the cards today, foresees Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Passionate about work, you are brimming with innovative ideas for new projects. Shoot them in the meeting and you are sure to receive compliments. However, there are chances that you may have to compromise on your family life today. But, it's harmless.

**CAPRICORN**  
You have paid the price for your mistakes in the past, so you will take every step after considering all the pros and cons. Career issues will hover your mind through out the day and you may think about opting for a job change, also. Compared to morning, evening will be calmer and you may spend some quality time with your near and dear ones.

**AQUARIUS**  
You have been very busy, but today it is a different day. You will make efforts to be calm and relaxed, and go on the path of spirituality. You may visit a temple or any other religious place, or meditate to find solace, foretells Ganesh. Shopping, probably for clothes, is also on the cards for you.

**PISCES**  
It is possible that you have a very busy day and that you remain on your toes all day. In order to get your work done you will spend a greater part of your day in the office. On the other hand social responsibilities will contribute to some mental stress.



## Shruti making most of her Greece trip

**Mumbai:** Actress-singer Shruti Haasan, who is in Greece for a professional commitment, is making the most of her days off. The actress has been exploring the beautiful country and has been sharing the picturesque sights with her followers on social media. The actress said, "Getting to know a place is a beautiful thing." Shruti loves travelling and has often shared snapshots of exotic destinations. Greece is one of the most beautiful countries in the world and Shruti is thoroughly enjoying the travels, the culture and the food. On the professional front, Shruti has her hands full with

*Salaar*, *Chiru 154* and *NBK 107* opposite Prabhas, Chiranjeevi and Nandamuri Balakrishna respectively apart from a few other projects that are to be announced soon. Commenting on her upcoming projects, Shruti says, "I'm really excited to be a part of these projects because of the characters I'm playing and the people I'm working with." "I'm having the best time of my life working on these films as both the characters (in *Salaar* and *NBK107*) are so different from each other." IANS



## Varun goes all praise for Akshay

**Mumbai:** Recently Varun Dhawan and the rest of the team launched the trailer of the creature comedy *Bhediya* which features the actor in a never-seen-before avatar of a werewolf. Known for his impeccable comic timing, the young actor has been wooing fans with his comic timing. Did you know Varun Dhawan could imitate Akshay Kumar? At the event, Varun Dhawan had some interesting anecdotes to share about the film. "Abhishek (Banerjee) and I would do a whole scene like we were Akshay Kumar," said Varun. Amidst his conversation about how they would often mimic different actors including the megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Kriti Sanon chimed in, "Basically they would do comedy off screen so that they didn't have to do it on-screen." Further talking like a true fan boy, Varun added, "In case of comedy, it is synonymous with Akshay Kumar. When you think of comedy obviously Akshay Kumar has impacted an entire generation," he added.

Coming to *Bhediya*, the film is expected to be a part of the horror comedy universe that is created by Dinesh Vijan. Directed by Amar Kaushik, the film features Varun Dhawan as a man who turns into a werewolf on full moons. AGENCIES

## Tina reveals what made her come on board BB-16

**New Delhi:** Actress Tina Datta, who is currently seen on *Bigg Boss 16* has never been a fan of reality shows and she always loves doing fictional dramas. However, she disclosed what made her come on board on this reality show.

"I never entered *Bigg Boss* as a contestant so this time it is altogether a different experience where I have to show my real side and it is fun," Datta said, adding, "But I must say TV shows are my first love as I started my career with them and I look forward to doing it more." The 30-year-old actress also made it clear that she joined *Bigg Boss*; because of Salman Khan: "If Salman sir would not have been the host, I don't think I would have joined the show." Tina, who has been part of shows such as *Shani*, and also acted in films like *Chokher Bali* and *Parineeta*, among others, also nixed rumours about her rift with her *Uttaran* co-star Rashami Desai.

She said: "There are no controversies around my personal relationship and I am always very vocal about them. Of course I have been in a relationship and sometimes it worked out and sometimes not. I never had any bitter terms with Rashami Desai and I don't know how people can think of that." IANS



## Kangana to play theatre legend Notee Binodini

**Mumbai:** Actress Kangana Ranaut will be seen essaying the role of the legendary Bengali theatre actress Binodini Dasi, professionally known as Notee Binodini, in an upcoming film to be directed by Pradeep Sarkar. Notee Binodini was a key player in the evolution of the theatre culture in India. During a career that spanned 12 years, she enacted over 80 roles, including those of Sita, Draupadi, Radha, Ayesha, Kaikeyi, Motibibi and Kapalkundala under the mentorship of Girish Chandra Ghosh. She was one of the first South Asian theatre actresses to write her own autobiography. When contacted, Kangana said, "I'm a very big fan of Pradeep Sarkar ji and very happy for this opportunity. Also this will be my first collaboration with Prakash Kapadia ji and I am completely thrilled to be part of this re-

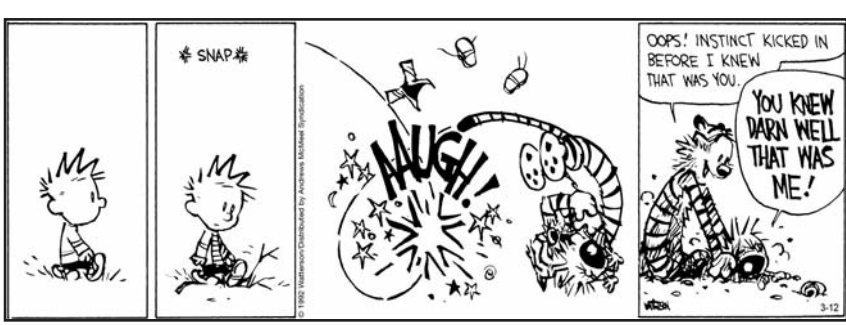
markable journey with some of the greatest artistes of this country." This yet-to-be-titled mega-budget film has been written by Prakash Kapadia, who has movies such as *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior*, *Padmavat*, *Devdas* and *Black* to his credit. IANS



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

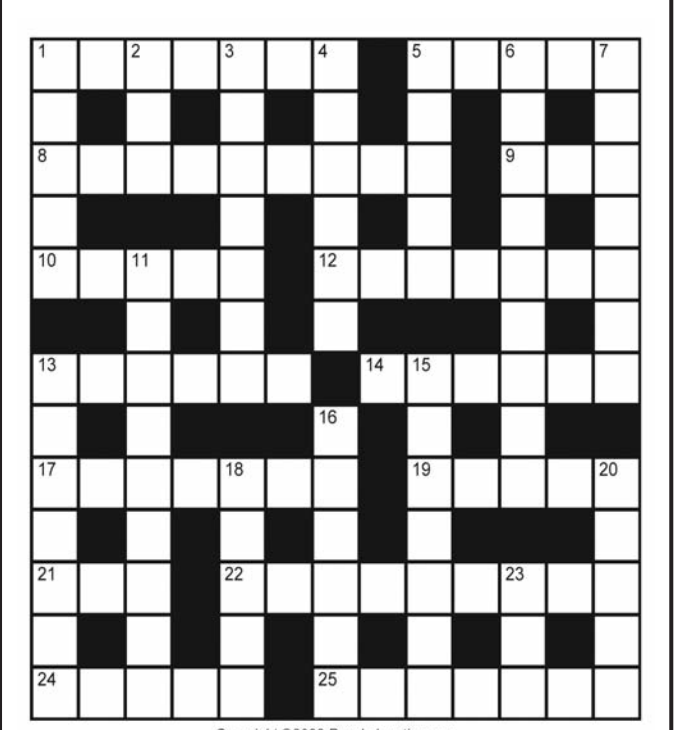


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Aircraft part
  - 5 Coquettes
  - 8 Enigmas
  - 9 Golden, in France
  - 10 Spanish port
  - 12 Songbird
  - 13 Muller
  - 14 Funny business
  - 17 Windfall
  - 19 Athletic events
  - 21 Cholera
  - 22 Herbivorous bipedal dinosaur
  - 24 China cabinet
  - 25 Kick upstairs
  - 5 Panorama
  - 6 Retrofit
  - 7 Scribbles
  - 11 Sterilise
  - 13 Make known
  - 15 Candidate character
  - 18 Stable sound
  - 20 Burn slightly
  - 23 Genetic info inits.

### 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.

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

### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

M	S	N	M	H	O						
R	E	C	E	D	E	A	K	I	M	B	O
S	L	G	M	T	S						
C	H	E	F	L	I	B	A	T	I	O	N
C	E	O	H	E	L						
M	A	J	O	R	I	S	M	E	D	E	A
D	N	T	P	H	E	A	T				
J	E	T	T	C	H	E	A	T			
N	A	T	I	O	C						
S	O	C	I	A	B	L	E	K	I	L	N
I	N	S	N	P	A						
A	D	H	E	R	E	I	S	O	L	D	E
S	D	N	X	T	Y						

SUDOKU

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

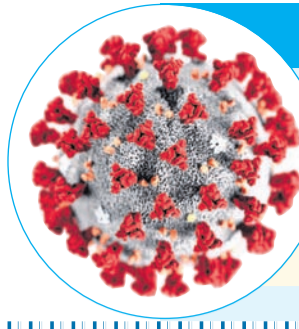
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## CRACKING DOWN

Jagatpur police seized huge quantities of illegal firecrackers from Padmapur and Trilochanpur areas in Cuttack, Wednesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,10,12,627	61,01,04,884	65,74,628
India	4,46,34,376	4,40,79,485	5,28,923
Odisha	13,35,568	13,25,879	9,202

## SUNDARGARH MISHAP

# NHRC for ₹5 lakh aid to electrocution victims

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Chief Secretary to ensure that Rs 5 lakh compensation each is paid to the next kin of the two budding hockey players of Sundargarh who died due to electrocution in May this year.

Hearing a plea filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak, the apex rights panel October 11 asked the Chief Secretary to make sure that Rs 5 lakh each is paid as compensation to the next of the kin of Sujal Ekka, 19, a resident of Pandratoli Kukuda under Alanda panchayat, and Birendra Kujur, 20, of Jhagarpur village in the tribal-dominated district within four weeks and submit the compliance report by November 18 this year.

Quoting media reports, Nayak had informed the commission that Ekka and Kujur were electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire May 4, 2022.

"Ekka and Kujur were about to return home after a practice session, when their coach asked them to remove an electric wire in front



**Expressing displeasure over the incident, the commission said the mishap took place due to the negligence of the local power discom**

of his house. They were electrocuted while trying to remove the live wire using an iron rod," Nayak told the NHRC.

The duo was rushed to the community health centre at Rajgangpur, where doctors declared them 'brought dead', he said, adding that the coach was booked soon after.

Taking cognisance of the incident, the commission sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the Energy department.

Citing the probe findings, the department informed the rights body that the coach was responsible for the mishap as he engaged the duo illegally. "The coach has agreed to pay Rs 2 lakh each to the next kin of the two players."

On August 3, the commission, however, observed that the mishap occurred due to the negligence of the Energy department for

which two lives were lost. Hence, it cannot slough off its responsibility. The NHRC asked the Chief Secretary to show cause within four weeks as to why a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each should not be recommended to the next of the victims' kin.

In its response, the state government gave a clean chit to the local power discom saying, "The mishap occurred due to unauthorised interference by the duo. The mishap could have been avoided, had the local power discom was informed about the dangling wire instead of trying to remove it illegally."

Expressing displeasure, the commission reiterated that the mishap took place due to the negligence of the local power discom.

The commission posted the next hearing to November 18 this year.



**ECSTATIC:** Students of SAI International School during a visit to Regional Science Centre in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

# Cancer reporting mandatory: Health dept

The data received on cancer would be used to frame policy on prevention and control of cancer

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** Citing recommendations by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that mandatory cancer reporting is absolutely necessary for its prevention, control and carrying out research programmes, the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department in a notification Wednesday said that all diagnosed cancer incidences should be reported to the appropriate authority.

In the notification, the department said, "Estimation of cancer burden and its distribution with respect to time place and person is essential for evidence based planning and mobilizing the resources. Cancer registries are not being maintained properly at health facilities and a lot of cancer cases are remaining un-reported."

It further said the state government, after due consideration of the matter has also found it imperative that all diagnosed cancer



**It will be the responsibility of every doctor/pathologist/medical establishment to notify the cancer cases preferably on real time**

incidences should be reported to the appropriate authority for early detection and treatment of the disease. The data received on cancer in the state would be used to frame policy on prevention and control of cancer, expansion of treatment facilities and cancer research and training centers in the state, it added.

"Accordingly in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Section 62 of Tamil Nadu Public Health Act 1939, the government hereby declares that 'cancer' is a

'Reportable Disease' in Odisha for the purpose of the said Act," the notification reads.

The government ordered all persons concerned in hospitals (private or public), pathological, clinical and radiological labs, institutions imparting medical education and providing diagnostic treatment, palliative care and any other healthcare related facilities to mandatorily report diagnosed cases of cancer. All concerned are required to send the patients for pathological confirmation when he/she be-

comes cognizant of the existence or suspicion of cancer in patient, it said.

The pathologist after confirming the same would then complete and send the information in prescribed format, it added.

Whoever is reporting or notifying cancer shall maintain a prescribed register and accordingly document additional printed format for all new cases diagnosed or being treated with effect in the state with effect from the date of this notification. This should be done within the period not exceeding two weeks from the date of diagnosis.

The diagnosing or treating doctor who becomes cognizant of the cancer disease should ensure that the pathologist should be updated of the clinical details of such patients for the purpose of notifying the disease effectively.

It will be the responsibility of every doctor/pathologist/medical establishment to notify the cancer cases preferably on a real time basis.



**DEMOLITION DRIVE:** An excavator engaged by the civic body pulls down an illegal structure in Puri, Wednesday OP PHOTO

## BIZ SUMMIT Chief Secy meets Indian envoys

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The state government held a business summit with a few ambassadors of India in a bid to boost the state's presence in the global market, an official release said Wednesday.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra met Dinesh Patnaik and Manoj Mohapatra, the Indian ambassadors to Spain and Guatemala, respectively, at the State

Convention Centre in Bhubaneswar Tuesday evening, it said.

During the deliberations on the growth of industries in Odisha, Mahapatra expressed hope that the Indian missions would adequately present the state at international business forums.

"Odisha is emerging as a major industrial hub in eastern India. We have attracted investments in the mineral, metallurgy, chemicals, petrochemicals, textiles, ap-

parel, food processing, IT and ITeS sectors," he said.

The Chief Secretary said with the involvement of the Indian missions in different countries, "we can increase our presence in the global market".

Representatives of various industry associations said the state could enhance export in textile design, pharmaceutical, vegetable, seafood, cashew, auto and steel sectors.

## 3 DRIVING TRAINING INSTITUTES FROM NEXT YR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** Inching a step further in 'Skilled in Odisha' campaign, the state government Wednesday said that the construction of three new driving training and research institutes at Sundargarh, Berhampur and Keonjhar has been completed and that they would start functioning next year.

This was revealed during a high-level review meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Wednesday.

After reviewing the progress so far, Mahapatra directed the Transport department to make all the three institutions fully func-

tional by the end of this year. A society will be formed under the chairmanship of the transport commissioner to manage the institutions.

It was decided in the meeting that the institutes will be run by the society on public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

About Rs 2.67 crore will be provided to the society for procurement of training vehicles, dual control driving devices, simulators, workshop equipment and training equipment for each institute.

At present, one such institute is fully functional at Chhatia in Jajpur district on PPP mode. Ashok Leyland is managing it. The institute has 150 seats.

The newly-constructed institute at Keonjhar will have 134 seats, while the one at Sundargarh will have 150 seats and Berhampur will have 140 seats.

Both light and heavy motor vehicle (LMV and HMV) driving training will be provided in these institutes.

The training period for heavy vehicles will be 30 days and that of the LMVs it would be 21 days.

Ashok Leyland, which has expertise and experience in this field, will jointly manage the day-to-day operations of the institutes.

Free training with accommodation and food will be given to youths from various districts of Odisha in these institutes.

## Panigrahy's wife quizzed by ED

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** Suspended BJD MLA Pradeep Panigrahy's wife Sujata Panigrahy Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning over money laundering charges. The ED sleuths grilled Sujata at their Nayapalli office here for around seven hours.

Meanwhile, the Gopalpur MLA's daughter Shruti was also grilled by the ED officials for around seven hours in this connection, Tuesday. The father-daughter duo had earlier been quizzed by the ED in 2021.

The ED is reportedly questioning the Panigrahy's to dig out details of illegal financial transactions with dismissed Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Abhay Pathak and his son Akash Pathak.

**The ED is questioning the Panigrahy's to dig out details of illegal financial transactions with dismissed IFS officer Abhay Pathak and his son Akash**

On December 3, 2020, the Crime Branch had arrested the legislator on charges of forgery, criminal conspiracy and other cyber offences in a case registered at the cyber police station. He was also investigated for amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income during his tenure as a public servant from May 24, 2009 to November 30, 2020. He was found in possession of DA to the tune of Rs 5.05 crore. Following his arrest, he was expelled from the BJD.

He was also accused of collecting money from various job aspirants in Gopalpur area on behalf of Akash on the pretext of providing jobs in TATA Motors.

## MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

# Astarang youth sows 2,500 mangrove seeds

Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district has been witnessing rapid erosion for the last few years due to the impact of climate change

At a time when climate change is emerging as a serious threat to marine ecosystem, a young environment warrior from Astarang block has started sowing mangrove seeds in Rushikulya beach, a significant nesting site for endangered Olive Ridley turtles.

Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district has been witnessing rapid erosion for the last few years due to the impact of climate change. To mitigate the climatic impact on the beach and save the 'arribada ground' (a unique synchronized nesting site for Riddleys), Soumya Ranjan Biswal of Astarang block in Puri district has started a campaign to protect the existing man-

groves of Rushikulya. He along with his team has started sowing mangrove seeds in the river estuarine ecosystem with an aim to prevent the beach erosion.

Biswal, along with Mujesh Mallik, a teenage eco-warrior, has collected more than 2,500 mangrove seeds from the mangrove forests of Devi river estuary under Astarang block and reached Rushikulya estuary on a scooter to plant the seeds near Purnabandha.

He held discussions with local green activists and volunteers regarding preservation of the existing mangroves which would benefit the locals in terms of livelihood support. During the discussion, he advocated for various topics like presence of mangroves during natural disasters and their ability to mitigate the impact of storms and tsunamis. He also explained how the presence of mangrove ecosystem enriches fish stock and prevents beach degradation.

"Around 70 to 80 per cent of marine aquatic animals depend on

mangrove ecosystems for their nutrition during breeding season," said Biswal.

The discussion focused on importance of carbon sequestration and its role in oxygenation.

Biswal, who has been appointed as the United Nations India YuWaah Advocate, said, "Since my childhood in Gundalpa, a small seaside village in Astarang region, I have witnessed the horror of climate change impact. Every year, there would be devastating consequences because of cyclones and sometimes tsunamis. These incidents prompted me to work in this direction. The endangered Olive Ridley turtle, listed in Schedule-I category, is not only a glory to our state but also plays a vital role in maintaining the balance of the marine ecosystem. Although there are many beaches in the world, Odisha beaches are very suitable for them. Rushikulya estuary is a priceless gift for the turtles from Mother Nature and is one of the three important mass nesting sites in Odisha. Hence, I



Green activist Soumya Ranjan Biswal sows the mangrove seeds

have been visiting this site since 2018. Our organisation Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan has been involved in many environment conservation campaigns such as beach cleaning, community awareness, distribution of sports and education equipment to local children along with spreading awareness for their future role for turtle safety."

"We also remain associated with various programs from Berhampur Forest Division. But gradual degradation of the beach over the last four years has worried me. If Olive Ridley turtles do not visit our state, our coasts will experience ecological imbalance and our livelihoods will be under threat."

In the initial phase, 2,500 seeds were planted in Rushikulya estuary and 500 seeds were sowed in Bahuda estuary in Andhra-Odisha coastal border region in collaboration with Prahallad Mallik of Astarang region and Sagar Nayak, a student from Berhampur.

PNN

# HC stays Moquim's conviction

The Barabati-Cuttack MLA will now be able to retain his membership in the Odisha Assembly for the remaining period of his term



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cuttack, Oct 19:** In a relief to Congress MLA Mohammed Moquim, the Orissa High Court Wednesday granted a stay on the execution of a conviction order passed by a special vigilance court, which had last month sentenced the legislator to undergo three years of rigorous imprisonment in a loan scam case.

In its 15-page order, a single-judge bench of Justice B P Routray said keeping in view Moquim's position as an MLA the loss that may befall him due to conviction would be irreparable, unless the conviction is stayed.

"This will also lead to an untimely bye-election which will burden the public exchequer. Further considering the limited period of his sentence for three years and the offences involved, which are neither punishable with death or life imprisonment, it is felt apposite to grant a stay of the conviction pending appeal", Justice Routray said.

The Barabati-Cuttack MLA will now be able to retain his membership in the Odisha Assembly for the remaining period of his term that had begun on May 23, 2019, his lawyer Pitambar Acharya told reporters.

Moquim, an engineer by pro-

fession, was heading a construction company in 2000 when his firm was illegally awarded a loan of ₹1.5 crore by the state-run Odisha Rural Housing Development Corporation (OHRDC).

The loan was disbursed in a hurry intending to bring pecuniary loss to OHRDC for which Moquim and four others, including a dismissed IAS officer, were convicted by the vigilance court.

Moquim was sentenced by the Special Vigilance Court, Bhubaneswar, to undergo three years jail term and ₹50,000 fine for each offence.

The first time MLA had filed an appeal in the High Court with three interlocutory applications praying for bail pending appeal, a stay on the realisation of the fine, and a suspension of the conviction.

The High Court had earlier allowed his first two appeals and completed the hearing on the third appeal on October 10.

The court has fixed February 22, 2023 as the date of hearing of the primary petition in the case.



**FOR INDUSTRY'S FUTURE:** Odia film producers organised a protest rally from Soochana Bhawan to Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar Wednesday demanding help from government to save the Odia cine industry

# Bijaya posthumously conferred lifetime achievement award

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** In recognition of his contribution in the field of education, late Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, founder-chairman, SAI International Group, was posthumously conferred with the lifetime achievement award at the 16th Annual Education World India School Rankings Awards 2022-23, held recently at New Delhi.

Sahoo's son, Vikram Aditya received the award. The award was conferred to Sahoo for his invaluable contribution for the growth and development of K-12 education in Odisha and the country. For more than 35 years, he dedicatedly worked for the betterment of education and for the promotion of scientific temperament and innovation. He is remembered for inculcating leadership quality in children and transforming more than 2 lakh children's lives.

Accepting the award Vikram thanked the Education World for bestowing it on Sahoo. He said, "It's a great honour for us to receive the lifetime achievement. The SAI family pledges to keep up the vision of



Sahoo by imparting quality education to every child following his footprints."

Sahoo's brainchild, SAI International Education Group, comprises institutions namely, SAI International School, SAI Angan, and SAI International Residential School. In 2019, he was elevated to the status of minister of state, advisor-cum-working president of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan with the sole mission of establishing 314 CBSE English Medium government schools, one in each block of the state. Sahoo was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) by Utkal University in 2021.

# BMC's mass drive for City cleaning

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The Capital city Bhubaneswar is moving ahead to ensure cleanliness in every nook and corner. For generating community participation models for cleanliness, the city authority is covering ward wise areas to orient its citizens about new initiatives of cleaning strategy. Wednesday, a mass cleaning drive was organised at Master Canteen square.

The drive took place around 6:30am Wednesday where Mayor Sulochana Das and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner, Vijaya Amruta Kulange were present with team of corporators and other officials. On this occasion, Tree Pole and Wall level cleaning and cleaning of grass, plastic and soil from the stretch was done. The cleaning was directly observed by the city authority to set an example of wall to wall cleaning.

Kulange said, "Beauty is dependent on cleanliness; we are inviting public to take part in the drive so that they can understand the situation and extend cooperation. This is a practical approach where each citizen should come for-



ward to make Bhubaneswar clean and make the drive successful. The drive is initiated for in the public interest to uplift city's growth for achieving better livability standard.

In some roads and avenues we find waste and such waste has not been cleaned. "We have deployed our manpower and required machineries to complete the drive in a timeline. Initially, we have a target for Diwali and upcoming world Cup hockey; if required more resources will be utilised to make the city clean. Our observation through corporators, ward level officials and empowered officers will continue. They are vigilant on the situation. Despite intensive awareness and repeated appeal, a

few violators are polluting the city. As per the norm, they will be fined with other enforcement steps as applicable.

As instructed by Mayor, a pre-post situation analysis was done on the ground and the change of the landscape was demonstrated where newly joined Sanitary Inspectors were directly oriented on the approach.

More than 40 trips of garbage have been generated out of the drive Tuesday. Team BMC visited the households of the area to pass on the message of wall to wall cleaning approach. Dedicated vehicle to generate awareness among the citizens was also engaged to percolate the message of segregation at source.

CONTINUED FROM P1

## Kharge is new...

Tharoor also thanked Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for ensuring a neutral election. Kharge meanwhile said no one in the party is big or small and he will work as a true Congress soldier to strengthen the organisation. "We have to together fight the threat to democracy and the Constitution. We have to fight the fascist forces who are attacking democracy and the people of the country," Kharge said, assailing the forces "wearing the garb of communalism".

The campaign team of Congress

leader Shashi Tharoor wrote to the party's chief election authority, Madhusudan Mistry flagging 'extremely serious irregularities' in the conduct of the election in Uttar Pradesh, sources said. Besides demanding that all votes from Uttar Pradesh be deemed invalid, Tharoor's team also raised 'serious issues' in the conduct of the election in Punjab and Telangana. Tharoor's chief agent Salman Soz said the facts are 'damning' and the election process in Uttar Pradesh is 'devoid of credibility and integrity', the letter said.

## BJD expels Rajendra

Sources said that it was Rajendra who was instrumental in making Abanti the chairperson of the Tihidi block. Party insiders said that Rajendra's candidature will certainly split BJD votes in Dhamnagar as he has been nurturing the constituency for a long time. Even though Rajendra lost the 2019 elections to BJP's Bishnu Charan Sethi, he had been working tirelessly in the constituency

BJD sources said. So when the party nominated Abanati, he felt let down.

It should be also stated here that Rajendra is using the green colour on all poster and banner materials. It has certainly added to the confusion of the voters. He has been granted the 'boat' symbol for the upcoming byelection. The BJP has nominated Suryabanshi Suraj, the son of deceased MLA Sethi while the Congress has fielded Harekrushna Sethi.

## US returns Indian...

It first surfaced in photographs depicting antiquity in a dirty, pre-restoration condition. These photographs—along with dozens of others depicting antiquities lying in the grass or on the ground—were sent to Kapoor by a supplier of illicit goods in India, a statement issued by the District Attorney's office said. It added that the piece was smuggled out of India and into New York in May 2002.

Kapoor lauded the 'Arch Parikara' to the 'Nathan Rubin-Ida Ladd Family Foundation', who donated the piece to the Yale University Art Gallery in 2007. Five of the antiquities were

seized following investigation into antique item dealer Nancy Wiener, who had pleaded guilty last year to charges of conspiracy and possession of stolen property. Over 60 antiquities were stolen from India by multiple smaller trafficking networks. Kapoor and his co-defendants generally smuggled looted antiquities into Manhattan and sold the pieces through his Madison Avenue-based gallery, 'Art of the Past', the DA statement said. From 2011 to 2022, the DA's Office and HSI recovered more than 2,500 items trafficked by Kapoor and his network. The total value of the pieces recovered exceeds USD 143 million.

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my name from Mamata Pati to Mamata Kar. Henceforth, I shall be known as Mamata Kar, W/o Pradeep Kumar Kar for all future purposes.

### LOST

I Sarojini Mohanty, W/o. Sisira Kumar Jena is staying at Nayapalli have purchased a property in the Mouza: Goutom Nagar, at the time of registration my seller was handed over all original documents alongwith Regd. Sale Deed No. 4426, Dtd.15.05.2004 & ROR in respect of Khata No. 1331/530 and I have lost these two documents while I was travelling. I have not created any charge, mortgage, lien with any financial Institution by depositing these two documents which belongs to Rupananda Acharya. If someone get this, please handover to SBI, RACPC, Bhubaneswar.

# Curtains to down on NCC Sailing Expedition today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chilika, Oct 19:** An 11-day DK whaler Sailing Expedition was organized at INS Chilika from October 10 to October 20 in which 60 naval wing cadets of 3 Naval and 1 Naval Units of Odisha Directorate participated. A total of over 214 km distance was covered from Naval base Chilika to various Islands like Kalijai, Krushna Prasad, Gupteshwar, Indrapastha, Rambha, Balugaon.



Three DK whaler Boats participated in the expedition. The boats set for the sail everyday early in the morning and returned by evening. The expedition was flagged off by

Commodore Somen Banarjee, Deputy Director General, Odisha Directorate, in the presence of Group Commander Cuttack Group, Col Rajinish Kapoor, Camp Commandant Cdr Piyush Pratim

Das and Deputy Camp Commandant Cdr Kishore Chandra Routa. The aim of the expedition was to inculcate leadership qualities of discipline, endurance, self-reliance and the spirit of adventure amongst the cadets. During the 11-day expedition, cadets also participated in social awareness (Beti Bachao) and environment preservation (Puneet Sagar) programme. They were encouraged by Hon'ble MLA and other dignitaries.

# Court extends Archana's custody

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The SDJM court Wednesday further extended the judicial custody of lady black-mailer Archana Nag. She was arrested by the Commissionerate Police October 6 in connection with a case (496/22) registered at Khandagiri police station under sections 385, 386, 387, 420, 506 of the IPC and relevant sections of IT Act.



It seems police are trying to hush up the matter to shield the leaders and other influential persons as they did not seek court's permission

to bring her on remand. As per the directions of the Supreme Court of India, the police can seek remand of any accused within 15 days of judicial custody.

However, the Commissionerate Police did not seek the permission of the court to take Archana on remand for further probe. The police are yet to quiz Jagabandhu Chand, Archana's husband and a close accomplice in sextortion case. Similarly, they have not interrogated many other people including some women who were allegedly blackmailed into having sexual relationship with the clients. As per the information, Archana is involved in many cases registered at different police stations of the city. The snail-paced investigation is an indication that police are under severe pressure to hush up the matter.

Notably, the arrest of Archana opened a can of worms as her links with several top political leaders, bureaucrats, businessmen and film personalities surfaced.

# State bags PMAY-U Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) conferred the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) Awards 2021 on Odisha for its 'Best Policy Initiatives by State' under special category.

The award has been conferred by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri during the three-day 'Indian Urban Housing Conclave', held at Rajkot in Gujarat Wednesday.

Director of Municipal Administration & Mission Director, Jaga Mission, Sangramjit Nayak along with Mission Director, Odisha Urban Housing Mission-AWAAS, Debasish Singh received the distinguished award on behalf of the state.

The Centre has recognised Odisha as a state that has pioneered in cre-



ating solutions for the landless urban poor, by providing them with security of tenure under its flagship initiative Jaga Mission that has further helped beneficiaries in housing assistance under PMAY-U. The innovation around leveraging such convergence of schemes by the Odisha government has been highly appreciated at the event.

With the prevailing urban challenges like housing, formation of informal settlements that further caused in emergence of multiple is-

suces relating to civic and safety gaps, socio-economic incongruity and disruption to city planning, Odisha has paved a way towards addressing such challenges associated with urbanisation through enactment of a landmark legislation 'Odisha Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Act 2017'.

Jaga Mission interventions focused on assessing gaps at household level like land rights, housing support, including individual toilet, piped water supply & in-house electricity, community level access to paved road, drainage and proper street-lighting in slums and social needs of people - Parichaya community centres, open space development and child play areas with proper play equipment.

One of the major highlights of Odisha government's initiatives is the convergence of Jaga Mission with Odisha Urban Housing Mission (OUHM) to provide land rights and housing to beneficiaries.



A herd of around 20 wild elephants near Nandankanan Zoological Park, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

## State logs 73 new Cov cases

**Bhubaneswar:** The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,35,635 Wednesday as 73 more people, including eight children, tested positive for the infection, the health department said in a bulletin. The death toll remained unchanged at 9,202 with no new fatalities reported since Monday.

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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-Cookiemann-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.

# 5-yr deadline never ends for 3 irrigation projects

Every year floods from Baitarani river cause extensive damage in various parts of Keonjhar and Jajpur districts. But flood control has remained an unfulfilled dream for local people



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Oct 19:** Nearly two decades are set to pass since three major integrated irrigation projects were taken up on Baitarani and Subarnarekha rivers, but these projects are yet to be completed. Every year floods from Baitarani river cause extensive damage in various parts of Keonjhar and Jajpur districts. Two integrated irrigation projects in the upstream areas like Anandapur and Kanpur which aimed to control floods are still under construction even after many years. Hence, the dream of Baitarani flood control has remained unfulfilled, locals alleged. The progress in the Subarnarekha irrigation project is discouraging over which the additional secretary of the Water

Resources department has expressed his displeasure. Meanwhile, special secretary of the department has directed the officials of the Water Resources department at Salapada, Basudevpur and Laxmiposi to expedite construction of the irrigation project and complete it in time. It was in 2005-06 when construction work of the Anandapur barrage across Baitarani river was taken up. The deadline was five years. Both the state and Central governments had sanctioned ₹2,864.36 crore for the project. However, only ₹1,715.93 crore has been utilised for the project. Headwork of the project and 73 percent of the main canal work was completed. However, the work on distribution channels was confined to only 5 percent. The project

aims at irrigating 56,720 hectares. Construction of 9-km stream of the right canal and 28.50-km of the left canal has been completed. Sources in the department said that problems in land acquisition have become major hurdles in this project. However, the department said that the project will be completed by January 2024. As the project has been getting delayed, people in the downstream areas of Baitarani have to bear the brunt of floods every year, it was alleged. As for Kanpur irrigation project, its work was taken up in 2003-04. Till date, only 81 percent of the work has been completed. Only ₹1,873.67 crore out of the allocated fund of ₹2,301.28 crore has been spent. This project is 3.460 km long and 39.50 metre high. The main canal length is 78.21 km while it has seven distributary canals. The project was to be completed in five years, but its work has been lingering for years. The project aims at irrigating 47,709 hectares. About 310.11 hectares of forest land is awaiting environmental clearance. The project requires 7,600.60 hectares of land while 578.52 hectares have been acquired for the project. A total of 4,434 people have been identified for displacement while 3,933 of them have been relocated. In case of Subarnarekha irrigation project which was taken up in 1996-97, 92 percent of work is over. This project was to be completed in five years, but works are going on for over two decades. For this project, ₹4,882.07 crore has already been utilised.



**IMMERSION CEREMONY:** Artists perform traditional 'Sahi Jata' dance of Puri during the Lakshmi idol immersion ceremony of Lakshmi Bazaar Puja Pratishthan in Dhenkanal, Wednesday

## NCST summons Bhadrak DM, SP

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, Oct 19:** The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued summons for personal appearance of the Bhadrak district Collector and the superintendent of police in connection with a bomb explosion at Trikona Square under Bant block in this district, March 28 that rendered three tribal girls critical. Hearing a petition filed by human rights activist and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the commission has called the two senior officials to personally appear before it at 4.30pm, October 20. The bomb explosion occurred at Trikona Chowk in Bhadrak district 28 March, 2022, leaving four tribal children injured. Tripathy prayed before the commission to probe the incident from all angles and ensure rehabilitation and compensation for the tribal children with appropriate medical care. He also mentioned about negligence in providing ex-gratia, free treatment and action against the persons responsible for the incident. Notably, three tribal girls Puja Hansda, Basanti Hansda and Sabita Murmu of Debatagadia village under Bant block were critically injured after a live bomb inside a plastic bag they opened on the embankment of a pond at Trikona Square.

## Trees on NH-49 median in Keonjhar vanish in a year

PROBE DEMANDED AS LAKHS GO DOWN THE DRAIN



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 19:** Thousands of trees planted on the median island of National Highway-49 passing through Keonjhar town have withered and disappeared within a year due to lack of proper upkeep. As a result, funds worth lakhs spent on the plantation have gone down the drain. Commuters and locals have been taken aback by the sudden disappearance of the trees. Fresh plantation drive has also not been undertaken, locals said. Sources said plants of different varieties were planted on the central median and roadsides of the national highway passing through this town. However, due to lack of proper maintenance, saplings planted on the median island from Belda to Drupada and from Anjar to Suakati on the highway dried up in less than a year of their plantation.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) during construction of the highway had planted saplings of trees including bougainvillea, calliandra, sugar apple (Sitaphala) and tecoma on different stretches of the median island. An agency was appointed for the job. Now with the saplings and trees doing a vanishing act, many wonder whether they had been planted in the first place. In the absence of plants, commuters and drivers are blinded by the powerful light of vehicles coming from the opposite direction. This has led to a number of accidents in the locality. Environmentalist Pradip Mohanty said that the saplings could have survived if the plantation had been done during the monsoon. Advocate Suraj Mohapatra has demanded a probe into the matter and fresh plantation on the median island.

## 20-yr jail to 4 over gangrape of minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Oct 19:** A POCSO court here sentenced four persons to 20-years of imprisonment Wednesday after convicting them in a case of gang rape of a minor girl in 2018. The court also slapped a penalty of ₹30,000 each on Kalu Nayak, 28, of Burapali village, Rabi Nayak, 30, of Gereda village under Tarsingh police limits, Babu Behera, 30, of Landeinari village and Goura Nayak, 28, of Tamanada village under Jagannathprasad police limits. In default, each of them will have to undergo additional three months of rigorous imprisonment, observed Ganeswar Pati while adjudicating the case. The judge also asked the district legal services authority (DLSA) to pay ₹5 lakh financial assistance to the survivor, special public prosecutor Mohana Singari said.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. ELS-ANGL-OT-22-23-03  
Name of work: OVERHAULING, REPAIRING, REWINDING AND ASSEMBLING OF AUXILIARY MOTOR OF WAG-7 ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE OF ELECTRIC LOCO SHED/ANGUL.  
Advertised Value: ₹1,93,44,375.10, EMD: ₹2,46,700/-, Completion period: 24 Months.  
Bidding Start Date: 28.10.2022, Tender Closing Date and Time: Dt. 11.11.2022 at 1500 hrs.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.irops.gov.in>  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS)/PR-622/N/22-23  
Angul

## 'ICG lends help to people during natural calamity'

**Paradip:** Indian Coast Guard IG Iqbal Singh Chauhan reviewed the expansion of various infrastructures of the Indian Coast Guard headquarters here as he wrapped up his three-day visit to the state, Wednesday. The IG met Governor Ganeshi Lal and visited the site of the proposed airbase at Bhubaneswar and the Indian Coast Guard station at Gopalpur. There, Lieutenant General UV Talur apprised him about the problems of the people living near the coastlines of the state. Later, he attended a review meeting at Paradip headquarters where he said that the Indian Coast Guard always gives priority to protection of Odisha and West Bengal coast, rescue of fishermen from sea and reaching out to people during natural calamity.

## Burglars steal jewellery worth ₹50L from shop near SP office

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 19:** Burglars looted gold and silver jewellery worth over ₹50 lakh from a shop just a few yards away from the SP office in Keonjhar Tuesday night. Reports said, the miscreants made a hole on the boundary wall of DFO office and then managed to break into the Sairam Jewellery shop last night. They decamped

with about half kg gold jewellery and one and half kg of silver jewellery worth ₹50 lakh. The thieves have also taken away the hard disc of the CCTV in the jewellery shop. Following a complaint, police started an investigation into the matter with a scientific team. Police also wondered how the jewellery shop owner could keep such big amounts of jewellery in the shop without proper security.



**MOCK DRILL:** Volunteers swim in Mahanadi during a training session on the flood rescue operations held near a relief centre at Chaurnpur in Sambalpur, Wednesday

## ESI hosp in Balasore by Jan

**Balasore:** The much-awaited ESI hospital in Balasore will be operational by January 2023. This was stated by Union Minister of Labour and Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav in New Delhi, Tuesday while talking to former Union Minister and MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi. The MP handed out three letters to Yadav, raising three demands before him. Sarangi urged the Union Minister to set up the ESI hospital to ensure healthcare to staff and workers of various industrial units in the district. In another letter, the MP pointed out that most parts of Balasore are enriched with forests, hills, rivers and the sea. There is need for conservation of biodiversity.

## Woman shot at by hubby; critical

**Dharakote:** A man shot at his wife injuring her critically at Rasibadi village under this block in Ganjam Wednesday following a spat. The woman, identified as Sailendri Patra, has been struggling with her life at Aska hospital. Sources said that a spat broke between Mahadev Patra and his wife. The enraged man fired shots at her wife from his pistol. As a result, she sustained critical injuries on her shoulder and was rushed to the hospital for treatment. Later she was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital as her condition worsened. Police registered a case and started an investigation into the incident.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that Akshaya Kumar Behera, S/o. Jaganath Behera, Village: Chhotiamba, P.S.: Gurudihatia, District: Cuttack has lost Original Sale Deed No. 1223 Dtd 19.10.1990 pertaining to Plot No. 330/885/1098 area Ac.0.160 decimals in Mouza: Chhotiamba, P.S.: Athagarh, District: Cuttack. Akshaya Kumar Behera of the above address has applied for a housing loan to the LIC Housing Finance Ltd., Cuttack by offering mortgage of the said property documents. All concerned therefore having any claim over the property purchased under the said document, i.e. original Sale Deed No. 1223 dtd 19.10.1990 are required to file their claim with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the property having link with the said documents is free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the applicant as a mortgagor and the Company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15 (Fifteen) days of publication of this notice. Sd./-(U.K. Mishra), Advocate LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Cuttack Area Office, Link Road, Cuttack  
Cuttack Dt. 19.10.2022

# Quacks rule the roost in coastal pockets

LOCALS ALLEGE THAT HEALTHCARE OFFICIALS ARE NOT REALLY CLAMPING DOWN ON FAKE DOCTORS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mahakalapara, Oct 19:** With institutional healthcare services in mess in many coastal pockets of Odisha, quacks are having a field day. They are fleecing gullible villagers on the pretext of providing treatment for various ailments, sources said Tuesday. The situation is the same in this block of Kendrapara district. These fraudsters claim themselves as allopathic, homeopathic and ayurvedic doctors. Mostly they treat patients in a wrong manner, only compounding the latter's problem. Many incidents of deaths of patients due to wrong treatment by quacks have been reported. Complaints about their illegal activities have been lodged in many places. However, these quacks have avoided censure of the law simply because of the lack of doctors and proper healthcare facilities. At many places of Kendrapara district, these 'fake' doctors have opened shops. At other places, they move around on a cycle with a loud-



speaker proclaiming that they can cure people of all their ailments. Sources also alleged that these quacks buy medicines that have surpassed their expiry dates at nominal rates from Kolkata and then sell those to gullible people in this block at a higher rate.

quacks are found mostly in the Bengali-dominated localities of Batighara, Kharinasi, Ramnagar, Petchhela, Jambu, Jebi Dandua and Suniti Najura Panchayats of Mahakalapara block. A woman of Bhateni village under Jambu Panchayat died a few hours after being administered with a wrong injection two years back. The incident had then rocked the whole district. Notably, a woman of Bhateni village under Jambu Panchayat died few hours after being administered with a wrong injection two years back. The incident had then rocked the whole district but the Health department except conducting a probe

failed to arrest the 'fake' doctor. The same quack still runs a shop in Jambu area and is continuing to treat patients. Lack of any punitive action has only emboldened these fraudsters to carry out their work with impunity. Similarly, a 28-year old youth of Pankapal village suffering from fever died due to wrong treatment by a quack of Benakandha Milanmod area, a year back. A woman labourer of Pitapata village in Ramnagar Panchayat also died due to wrong treatment a few years back. Senior citizen Subhas Chandra Swain said that despite the presence of ASHA, Anganwadi workers, self-help groups and ANMs in every village, no one is willing to lodge a proper complaint with the authorities against the quacks. This has enabled these 'fake' doctors to function with impunity. When contacted, CDMO Dr. Anita Patnaik said that awareness programmes will be undertaken in the coastal villages soon to check the quacks.

**QUOTATION**  
**DEENABANDHU TRUST (NGO)** wishes to receive quotes from interested parties for supply of Furniture & TV for Science/STEM Lab. to Schools in Odisha & WB. For bid details contact: [mitrasaibal@hotmail.com](mailto:mitrasaibal@hotmail.com) by 25th Oct., 2022.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. O-1142  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KUCHINDA**  
E-mail: [eerw\\_kuchinda@yahoo.com](mailto:eerw_kuchinda@yahoo.com)  
**"e" Procurement Notice for Building Works**  
Identification No. Online Tender/05/RWD, Kuchinda/2022-23

1. Name of the Work	: Building Works
2. Total Number of Works	: 03 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs.33.12 Lakhs, Rs.33.48 Lakhs & Rs. 32.85 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	: Building Work (B & C Class of Contractor)
5. Period of Completion	: 06 Calendar months
6. Availability of Tender online for Bidding	: Dt.21.10.2022 at 11.00 A.M. to Dt.05.11.2022 at 5.00 P.M.
7. Last date & time of seeking Tender Clarification	: Dt.07.11.2022 at 5.00 A.M.
8. Date & time of opening of Tender	: Dt.07.11.2022 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Kuchinda  
OIPR-25151/11/0006/2223

FOCUS BIG DATA

# DATA FOR PUBLIC GOOD



**While it is widely acknowledged that intangible assets drive our economies and societies, we still lack adequate tools to measure and value them. Governments and businesses must work together to revise the prevailing metrics by which we value such assets**

responsibility. But collaboration is just as critical as data sharing. Neither governments nor businesses properly account for the human factor in their decision-making processes. Adapting to the age of big data would mean shifting away from outdated metrics like GDP toward metrics that focus on people.

To this end, our Quantum Governance approach introduces an accounting framework we call the Balance of Public Policy, which treats the intangible and tangible aspects of policymaking as equal. When designing policies, policymakers often grapple with intangibles such as individual policy adoption, public legitimacy, popular narratives, and community beliefs.

Similarly, the accounting standards that businesses use provide little guidance on how to value certain assets – for example, they often consider workers a disposable cost. But workers' talents are a major factor in any company's success or failure. Accounting frameworks should be revised to quantify and record such assets in business performance statements.

While it is widely acknowledged that intangible assets drive our economies and societies, we still lack adequate tools to measure and value them.

Governments and businesses must work together to revise the prevailing metrics by which we value such assets. Both would benefit from developing the tools needed to better leverage big data, and doing so would serve the public good.

*Christopher Pissarides, a Nobel laureate economist, is Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics. Fadi Farra is a managing partner at Whiteshield.*

PROJECT SYNDICATE

The digital age has taught businesses to see people as individuals rather than just as members of certain demographic cohorts. On social media, we receive personalised ads based on our responses to previous ads, our current location, and our shopping habits. Our massive digital footprint enables companies to know precisely how effective their advertising campaigns are at the individual level and to derive immense value from this knowledge.

Alas, it seems that this technological wave has yet to reach policymakers. Despite the advantages of big data, governments still tend to use a one-size-fits-all approach when planning investments or designing policies. To help improve public services through better use of data, we have developed a new framework we call Quantum Governance.

Every successful business is built on three foundations: a shared goal, which serves as its raison d'être; the tools and methods to achieve it; and consumers, who are motivated by their own interests, ambitions, and beliefs. While it has become a staple of public debate that governments should operate like businesses, that is impossible, because these two types of social organisation were created for different purposes. What they do have in common, however, is the human factor. And that should be the focus of public-private partnerships in the digital age.

To perform well, both governments and businesses need to measure, assess, and understand information about people. While preventing abuse requires sound data governance, the status quo offers little hope: large and powerful corporations hoard valuable datasets, lose public trust, and lobby legislators to avoid oversight, while governments resort to top-down regulations

that alienate voters. Moreover, because large companies have far greater resources to spend on compliance and lawyers than their smaller rivals do, these regulations often benefit the very businesses they were meant to constrain.

Yet data are simply too important to be entrusted to either governments or large corporations that treat them as their private property. Instead, governments should collaborate with companies on joint-governance frameworks that recognise both the opportunities and the risks of big data.

Businesses – which are best positioned to understand big data's true value – must move beyond short-sighted efforts to prevent regulation. Instead, they need to initiate a dialogue with policymakers on how to design viable solutions that can leverage the currency of our era to benefit the public good. Doing so would help them regain public trust.

Governments, for their part, must avoid top-down regulatory strategies. To win the support they need from businesses, they need to create incentives for data sharing and privacy protection and help develop new analytical tools through advanced modeling. Governments should also re-think and renew deeply-rooted frameworks inherited from the industrial era, such as those for taxation and social welfare.

In the digital age, governments should recognise the centrality of data to policymaking and develop tools to reward businesses that contribute to the public good by sharing it. True, governments require taxes to raise revenues, but they must recognise that a better understanding of individuals enables more efficient policies. By recognising companies' ability to save public money and create social value, governments could encourage companies to share data as a matter of social re-



Christopher Pissarides & Fadi Farra

**ADAPTING TO THE AGE OF BIG DATA WOULD MEAN SHIFTING AWAY FROM OUTDATED METRICS LIKE GDP TOWARD METRICS THAT FOCUS ON PEOPLE**



The cup has to be left clean and empty for the divine liquor to be poured into it.

SRI AUROBINDO

## Women Fight Back

Thousands of women and girls have taken to the streets of Afghanistan's cities to protest the repeated violation of their right to an education. The trigger for the protests – occurring simultaneously with protests in Iran – was last month's terrorist attack on an education centre in Kabul that killed 53 students and injured more than 110 – most of them girls and young women. But this was just the latest in a long series of attacks against female students, many of which targeted girls from the Hazara community. September's deadly attack, which occurred as female students were getting ready to take a practice university entrance exam, came on the heels of an extremely damaging year for girls' education in Afghanistan.

When the Taliban took over Afghanistan following the US military's withdrawal in August 2021, its leaders promised to keep all primary, secondary, and tertiary schools open for both boys and girls. But it soon reneged. In March of this year, it barred girls from attending school beyond the sixth grade, effectively revoking the right to learn. When women in Kabul and other cities protested, Taliban forces responded violently, beating protesters and firing warning shots over their heads. Most of the 1,880 girls' secondary schools in Afghanistan are currently shuttered, and the Taliban has threatened to close those that remain in operation.

At the same time, increased levels of conflict and violence, together with a severe drought and a succession of economic shocks, have made Afghan girls and women more vulnerable. These developments have resulted in an even greater degradation of women's rights, as evidenced by Afghanistan's higher rates of early marriage and child labour since the Taliban takeover.

What makes the Taliban's decision to prohibit girls' secondary education even more tragic is that it reversed two decades of significant progress in expanding girls' access to education in Afghanistan. The number of Afghan girls enrolled in school increased from just 100,000 in 2000 to more than 3.5 million in 2019, and female literacy doubled between 2011 and 2018. But while the Education Cannot Wait fund and its partners – including UNICEF, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and Save the Children – continue to try to reach these girls, the Taliban ban has undoubtedly forced many more girls out of school.

We must follow the lead of the Afghan women and girls protesting in the streets, risking their lives to fight for their fundamental rights, and take immediate action. For starters, the members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation must use their platform and demand that Afghanistan's de facto authorities ensure that secondary-school girls return to school and that educational institutions, teachers, and students, particularly girls, are protected from attacks. Moreover, every young and adolescent girl must be welcomed back into classrooms with the teachers, infrastructure, and supplies needed for a quality education.

Given the disastrous economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the international community must ensure that schools have sufficient resources to provide safe and protective spaces and quality education for all girls and boys, including those living with disabilities. We must also provide Afghan educators with the training and materials they need to teach their students.

In a country as ravaged by war and disaster as Afghanistan is, we must also guarantee that all girls and boys have access to mental-health resources and psychosocial support. And we must all work to establish alternative learning environments for girls and boys who cannot attend public schools.

The Education Cannot Wait fund has invested more than \$58 million in education in Afghanistan since 2017, some of it through emergency responses and some through a multiyear resilience programme launched in 2019. Owing to the dedicated work of our partners, this funding has reached 51 per cent of Afghanistan's young female students and more than 181,000 girls and boys altogether. Soon, we will launch a new multiyear programme to increase girls' and boys' access to community-based education, even in the most remote and challenging environments.

But much more needs to be done. The women and girls of Afghanistan are fighting for their rights in the face of violent attacks, and they are asking for help. It is our collective duty to heed their call.



Gordon Brown & Yasmine Sherif

**We must follow the lead of the Afghan women and girls protesting in the streets, risking their lives to fight for their fundamental rights, and take immediate action**

*Gordon Brown is a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Yasmine Sherif is Director of Education Cannot Wait.*

PROJECT SYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

The fabled musk deer searches the world over for the source of the scent which comes from itself. RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA

Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today. THICH NHAT HANH

### WORDSWORTH

#### Carphology

Carphology refers to the movements that delirious patients sometimes make, as if searching for or grasping at imaginary objects, or picking the bed-clothes. Not a word that's likely to be in most people's vocabulary, nor indeed one that often appears outside large dictionaries. It comes from the Greek karphologia, a compound of the two words karphos, straw, and legeln, to collect. So it means to act as though one was picking up bits of straw, a neat description of the involuntary movements sometimes seen in delirious patients. Brande's Dictionary of Science of 1842 described it as "an alarming symptom in many acute diseases". Dictionaries that include carphology also refer to floccillation (and usually the other way around, too, so generating one of those infinite loops that sometimes turn up in even the most scrupulously edited works). This is the Latin equivalent, formed from floccus, a bit of wool or straw, which has also given us the sense of flock that refers to finely-chopped cotton or wool, as in flock wallpaper. There is an even rarer verb to floccillate, meaning to twitch aimlessly, which turn up in Samuel Beckett's Watt of 1959.

#### Carrotmobbing

It's a form of social activism. It was coined by Brent Schulkin, a US environmentalist based in San Francisco. When people carrotmob, they shop at a small business, specially chosen for its good environmental practices, in large numbers on the same day. But Schulkin has introduced a twist: he asks the business to invest a proportion of that day's takings in energy-efficient improvements at its stores. The second part of the name is based on flash mob. The first part borrows the idea of using a carrot rather than a stick to encourage behaviour. It's a form of what's been called a boycott or a procott, the opposite of a boycott, a form of collective action in which people choose to buy from firms whose values – in areas such as social justice and environmental protection – reflect and support their own.

### SPECTRUM NATION

## Trailing in the hunger fight

The present government at the Centre never accepts its failure nor any report that mirrors its weakness. By contrast, it never leaves any stone unturned to derive political mileage from any report, genuine or fabricated, or news that exaggerates its performance. For any success, it is first to take credit but for any failure, it is quick to attribute the same to previous governments or acts of God or national/international situations. The government which has not accepted last year's Global Hunger Index, World Press Freedom Report, Global Democracy Report, and other such reports, has again rejected the Global Hunger Index-2022 which ranks India abysmally low.

The GHI score is calculated on four indicators - undernourishment; child wasting (low weight for height); child stunting (low height for age) and child mortality (mortality rate of children under age of five). The GHI scores on a 100-point GHI Severity Scale, where 0 is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. In the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 released on 15 October, 2022, India ranks 107th out of 121 countries. What is reprehensible is that India ranks below Sri Lanka (64), Nepal (81), Bangladesh (84), and Pakistan (99). Afghanistan (109) is the only

country in South Asia that performs worse than India on the index. China is among the countries collectively ranked between 1 and 17 having a score of less than five. In 2021, India ranked 101 out of 116 countries while in 2020 the country was placed in 94th position. In 2014, India was ranked 55. With a score of 29.1, India has a level of hunger that is serious. India's GHI score had decreased from 38.8, considered alarming in 2000, to 28.2 in 2014. Since 2014, the GHI score has been increasing.

What is reprehensible is that instead of addressing the proximate causes of problems, the Centre rejected the ranking and said that the index suffers from serious methodological issues and is an "erroneous measure of hunger". It further stated that India's poor ranking is part of a consistent effort to taint the country's image as a nation that does not fulfil the food security and nutritional requirements of its population.

The Women and Child Development Ministry has criticised the estimates based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale survey module data conducted through the Gallup World Poll on a very small sample size of 3000 based on eight questions regarding people's access to adequate food. The

government had last year slammed the report calling it "shocking" and "devoid of ground reality". In reality, the Gallup opinion poll is not used by GHI, instead, undernourishment is measured using data officially presented by India and other member countries to the UN.

The data on undernourishment mentioned in the Hunger Index is the same as the data of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report which is an annual flagship report jointly prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO to inform on progress towards ending hunger. The above reports revealed that about 56 crore people, 40.6 per cent of the population, in India suffered from moderate or severe food insecurity in 2019-21. The proportion of population that is severely food insecure in the country has risen from 20.3 per cent in 2018-20 to 22.3 per cent in 2019-21. India alone accounts for 37 per cent of the world's total severely food-insecure population.

The Global Hunger Index report has given more or less the same figures as found in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 report of India. According to the Global Hunger Index report, "India's child wasting rate, at 19.3 per cent, is

the highest of any country in the world." According to the NFHS 5 report, the stunting rate is 32 per cent, the wasting rate is 19 per cent, underweight is 32 per cent and the under-five mortality rate is 4.2 per cent at all Indian levels.

It is also argued that the government is doing its job by providing free grain (five kilos of rice or wheat and one kilo of dal) to 60 per cent of population, or over 80 crore people. The question then is: why are so many Indians queuing up each month for free rations? The answer can only be that they lack purchasing power and are hungry, and need it. The government should not forget that as per the World Bank, nearly 5.6 crore Indians have been pushed into extreme poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is true that India made some improvements between 2000 and 2014. But overall, other countries have improved more than India. Before rejecting the hunger index report, the government should contemplate that not only in this index, but also in almost all indices, India is trailing behind other countries.

*The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist. Views are personal.*



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

**AFGHANISTAN IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN SOUTH ASIA THAT PERFORMS WORSE THAN INDIA ON THE GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX**

#### Targeted killings

Sir, This refers to "KPs concerned over targeted killings," Orissa POST, Oct 19. A string of recent targeted killings in Kashmir of non-local residents has struck fear in the hearts of many communities living and working in the Valley. And though security forces regularly track down those responsible for these attacks, and say they've killed many perpetrators, the frequency and accuracy of these strikes point to a deeper malaise. A local 'hybrid terrorist' of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba has been arrested for his involvement in the grenade attack. Such terrorists, who are tough to track as they seamlessly return to their routine lives after carrying out strikes, were responsible for most of the killings that rocked Kashmir last year. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had declared that he would listen and talk to the people of the Valley, not to Pakistan. This was an attempt to reach out to the Kashmiris and dissuade them from falling prey to Pakistani propaganda. There is no doubt that the neighbouring nation wants to keep the terror pot boiling. The Centre should reiterate that the resumption of dialogue with Pakistan is not feasible unless the latter shuns its old agenda of bleeding India with a thousand cuts. At the same time, the Union government can't afford to snub regional leaders, who have considerable sway among the Kashmiris. Cracking down on terrorism and bridging the trust deficit are prerequisites for the return of the ballot in J&K.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

#### Religious identity

Sir, With a larger Bench to hear the Hijab issue after the SC's split verdict, it is quite likely that an entirely new perspective may emerge on the same. However, one hopes that Justice Dhulia's judgment prevails in the end for good, viewed from the perspective of the fundamental right to girl students' education. Wearing hijab is a personal choice, and our Constitution guarantees the right to practice religion. Therefore, the fact that some girl students were allowed only into the college premises, but not inside classrooms is not only discriminatory but also against the law. Though wearing hijab has been a source of controversy in some Western countries for decades, particularly in France, in India it is neither banned nor its use is restricted in public places. In fact, women wearing hijabs are a common sight in India, and for many of them it symbolises religious identity.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

# national



I am very happy that today all the parties and leaders of the country have to talk about education and schools. This is our biggest achievement. I hope that education is not missed only during elections. All governments together can make its schools great in just 5 years  
ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

**PUNJAB TO SUPPLY MORE MILK TO DELHI**  
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Wednesday said that due to strenuous efforts of the state government, Milkfed, the state's leading cooperative, will augment milk supply to Delhi from currently 30,000 litres to 2 lakh litres, thereby immensely benefitting milk producers of the state. Mann said that Punjab has inked a pact with the Delhi government in this regard



## of the day quote

The 5G telecom service would take the education system in the country to the next level as the latest technology will go beyond smart facilities, smart classrooms, and smart teachings  
NARENDRA MODI | PM

There are people who are spreading canards that I have driven away the Tatas from West Bengal. I did not force them away, but it was the CPI (M) which drove them away  
MAMATA BANERJEE | WB CM

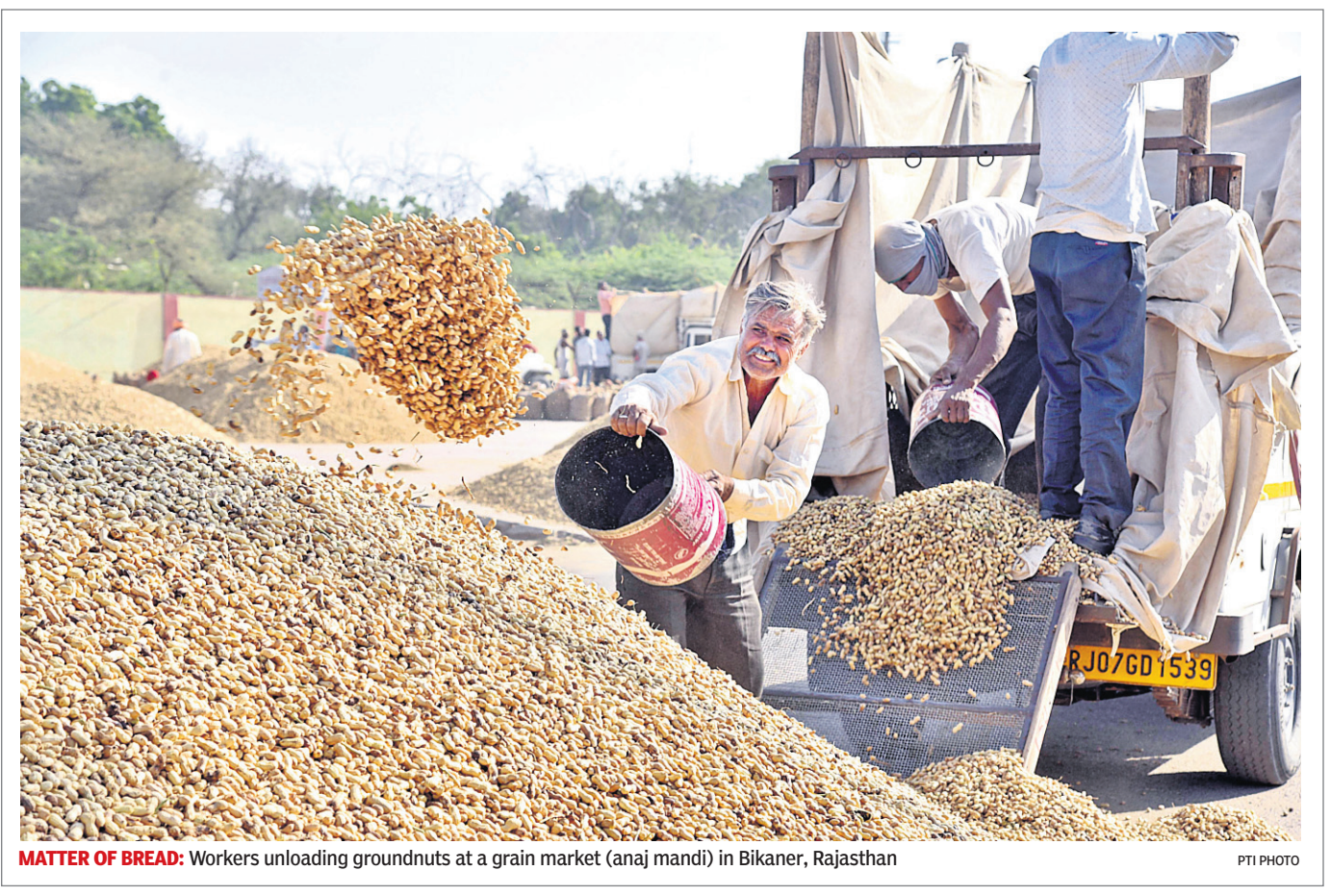
Congratulations to Shri Mallikarjun @kharge on being elected the President of Indian National Congress. I extend my best wishes to him for a successful and inspiring tenure. Looking forward to working together with him to strengthen the united opposition  
SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

# UN WANTS INDIA TO MOBILISE G20 TO HELP DEBT-STRESSED NATIONS



India takes over the G20 presidency from Indonesia for a year from December 1  
India's neighbours Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh have in recent months sought IMF loans as high oil prices complicate efforts to recover from the economic damage of the Covid-19 pandemic

AGENCIES  
New Delhi, Oct 19: UN chief Antonio Guterres Wednesday sought India's support in mobilising G20 nations to help out developing countries saddled with debt, with three of India's neighbours already seeking IMF loans as their economies struggle.  
"I count on India's support in mobilising G20 countries around debt relief," Guterres told the students and faculty of the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai. "Many developing countries are at or near debt distress and require multi-lateral action, including the expansion and extension of the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative."  
Established in May 2020 during the pandemic, the initiative allowed nearly 50 countries to suspend \$12.9 billion in debt-service payments until the end of last year.  
Guterres said climate change was "already a grave threat" to India's economy, agriculture and food sector, and to the health, lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people.  
"Record-breaking heat waves, droughts and floods in parts of India are causing havoc already," he said. "These are a foretaste of what is to come without much greater global climate action."  
He said G20 countries were responsible for 80% of global emissions and must take the lead in cutting those. Rich countries should also financially help developing ones do so, he said.  
"I have called for coalitions of support around countries including India, with ambitious plans to accelerate the deployment of renewables," said Guterres, who meets Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister S Jaishankar Thursday.  
Guterres also urged the country to condemn hate speech unequivocally, protect the rights and freedoms of journalists, human rights activists, students and academics, and ensure the independence of the judiciary. Speaking after paying floral tributes to martyrs of the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai at Taj hotel, Guterres said people need to recognise the diversity and richness of cultures to stay together. "Fighting terrorism should be the global priority of every country," said Guterres. "Terrorism is absolute evil and has no place in today's world. No cause and no incident can justify terrorism," Guterres said. "One of my first acts after becoming Secretary General was to establish an office for counter-terrorism to cooperate, guide and prepare countries in the fight against terrorism," he said. "This office is fighting against the roots of violent extremism. Be it religion or ethnicity or beliefs, no reason can justify violent extremism," he said. Describing the 26/11 terror attacks as one of the most barbaric acts of terrorism in history, Guterres said the 166 victims of the attacks are "heroes of our world".



MATTER OF BREAD: Workers unloading groundnuts at a grain market (anaj mandi) in Bikaner, Rajasthan

## BUREAUCRATIC RESHUFFLE

# Aramane Giridhar to be new Defence secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, Oct 19: Road Transport and Highways Secretary Aramane Giridhar has been named the new defence secretary as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre Wednesday.  
Giridhar, a 1988 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Defence.  
He will take over as Defence Secretary after the retirement of Ajay Kumar on October 31, 2022, a Personnel Ministry order said.  
Alka Upadhya, chairperson of the National Highways Authority of India, will be the new Road and Transport Secretary in place of

Giridhar. Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Malhotra will be the new Revenue Secretary.  
Vivek Joshi, Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs will be the new Secretary, Department of Financial Services in place of Malhotra. Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry, will be the new Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner in place of Joshi.  
Rural Development Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha has been named the new Steel Secretary.  
Sinha has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Steel with effect from December 1, 2022. He will take over as Secretary in the Ministry of Steel, after the retirement of Sanjay



Kumar Singh December 31, 2022. Shailesh Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, will be the new Rural Development Secretary from December 1. Meena, who has been appointed as the OSD in the

Coal Ministry, will take over as the Secretary after the retirement of Anil Kumar Jain October 31. Sudhansh Pant, a 1991 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been named as Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.  
Rizvi is appointed as the Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and he will take over as the secretary after Arun Goel superannuates from the post December 31. Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, has been named as the new Textiles Secretary Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, who is currently chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), will be the New and Renewable Energy Secretary.

## SHORT TAKES

### Assam: Man attempts suicide in lockup, dies

**Guwahati:** An accused in a cattle theft case died after attempting suicide inside the toilet of a police lockup in Assam's Bongaigaon district, an official said Wednesday.  
The deceased, identified as Abdul Jabbar, was arrested in a cattle theft case, and put up at Joghghopa police station. He had tried to end his life inside the toilet where he was spotted in a semi-conscious state. The body has been sent for autopsy.

### 4 killed in Ladakh road accident

**Srinagar:** Four persons were killed Wednesday in a road accident in Ladakh. Police said that a Thar Jeep skidded off the road near Khardungla Pass in Ladakh and dropped into a gorge around 150 ft deep. The Jeep is still untraceable. Four tourists from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh were killed in this accident -- Three from Delhi and one from UP. The condition of the road had become slippery due to snowfall Tuesday.

### Speeding car kills 2 cyclists

**Gurugram:** Two men were killed after a speeding Skoda Rapid car rammed into the cycles they were riding on the Golf Course Road here, the police said. Umesh, the son of one of the deceased persons, Dharampal (70), stated in his complaint that he along with his father were travelling on two different cycles on the Gold Course Road Tuesday evening. "When we reached Sector-42 Rapid Metro station, a speeding car hit my father from behind. My father skidded along with the car for about 50 metres. The car then turned 360-degree and hit another cyclist, Sahib Khan (35), who was on the link road," Umesh told the police.

## Major terror attack averted

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Oct 19:** The security forces in a swift operation averted a major terror plot by timely neutralising an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Wednesday on the Handwara-Baramulla Highway in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.  
The Army said the IED was defused in a joint operation by them and the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) Wednesday morning based on spotting a suspicious object with wires on the National highway 701 near Langate in Jammu and Kashmir.  
"Search parties of the Army and JKP were immediately deployed and the area was cordoned off by the security forces," the Army said.  
"Explosive Detection Canines of the Army were deployed, who positively confirmed the presence of explosives. An Indian Army Bomb Disposal squad was rushed in to the location to neutralise the IED. The bomb disposal squad destroyed the estimated 20 kg IED in situ without any collateral damage."  
The Handwara-Baramulla highway is an important road for the civil traffic as well as for the Army and CAPF convoys. The traffic, which was halted on the highway briefly, was resumed after the area was thoroughly sanitised.

## Delhi government bans firecrackers on Diwali

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Production, storage and sale of firecrackers will be punishable with a fine of up to ₹5,000 and three years in jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
will be launched October 21.  
The Delhi government will light 51,000 diyas at Central Park in Connaught Place Friday. "The purchase and bursting of firecrackers in Delhi will be punishable with a fine of Rs 200, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Wednesday.  
Addressing a press conference here, he said production, storage and sale of firecrackers in the capital will be punishable with a fine of up to Rs 5,000 and three years in jail under Section 9B of the Explosives Act.  
In September, the city government re-imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, including on Diwali, a practice it has been following for the last two years.  
Rai said a public awareness campaign, "Diye Jalao Patakhe Nahi",

## 'Bilkis Bano convict booked for outraging modesty of a woman'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** The Gujarat government has told the Supreme Court that one of the convicts in Bilkis Bano case was charged sheeted for outraging the modesty of a woman in 2020, while out on parole.  
The state government has submitted a 477-page affidavit in the Supreme Court in response to petitions challenging the release of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case. It said the convicts were out of jail for around 1,000 days even before being released on remission of life sentence.  
One of the convicts, Mitesh Chamanlal Bhatt was booked and charge sheeted for offences under sections 354 (outraging the modesty of woman), 504 (insult intended to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC, having a maximum sentence of 7 years, or fine, or both.  
The state government further added that all convicts were granted furlough, parole, and even temporary bail at different points during the period of their imprisonment -- 1,576 days being highest and 998 days lowest. The District Magistrate of Dahod gave information about Bhatt in his letter dated May 25, 2022.

## Woman gangraped for two days in Ghaziabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Ghaziabad, Oct 19:** A woman from Delhi was in hospital Wednesday after being allegedly raped by five men for two days in Ghaziabad, an incident that Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Malhi said reminds her of the Nirbhaya case.  
Police said there was a property dispute between the woman and the accused. Four of the five accused have been taken into custody, police said. Authorities at the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital said the woman's condition is stable and no internal injury has been found yet. Sources at the hospital, however, said there were signs of sexual assault and a "foreign object" was found in her body. The DCW has also issued a notice to Ghaziabad police in connection with the case.  
According to Nipun Agarwal, Superintendent of Police (City-I) Ghaziabad, the Nandgram police station received a call October 18, informing that a woman was lying on the Ashram road. The police took her to a nearby hospital but she insisted on getting admitted to a hospital in Delhi. She was then taken to the GTB Hospital, he said.  
In her statement to the police, the woman said she had been to Ghaziabad to celebrate her brother's birthday, a day before the incident. The woman has alleged that she was forced to get into the car at gunpoint. "Preliminary investigation has revealed that there is a property dispute between the woman and the accused. That case is already in Karkardooma court. The matter is being investigated," Agarwal said. The SP said the victim claimed that

The incident is very horrific and disturbing. It reminds me of the Nirbhaya case. All accused must be arrested immediately and strict action taken against them. I fail to understand how long women and children be subjected to such extreme brutality  
SWATI MALHI  
CHIEF OF DELHI COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

after raping her, the accused had inserted an iron rod in her private part but when the police tried to get her medically examined at a Meerut hospital, she refused.  
"After preliminary treatment, when we tried to get her medical examination conducted, she refused. Doctors referred her to the Meerut Medical college for treatment but she refused to go there. "The woman was then taken to a Delhi hospital and is undergoing treatment there. Police is taking legal advice to obtain evidence," said the SP.  
Police said the FIR was filed based on the statement of the victim's brother. According to the FIR, the woman told her brother that she was pushed inside a car forcefully at gunpoint while waiting at Ashram Chowk.  
There were four people inside the car whom she knew. After taking her to an unknown place, five men raped her. When she was in an unconscious state, the men allegedly tied her hands and legs and wrapped her inside the jute bag. Thereafter, they took her inside the vehicle to another location where they dumped her, according to the FIR.

## BE CAREFUL

# Chinese websites may steal users' data via fake gift offers



These attack campaigns can effectively jeopardise the privacy and security of sensitive customer data and result in financial frauds

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
**New Delhi, Oct 19:** Amid the festive season in the country, the government cyber agency warned that free gift offers can be a trick by Chinese websites to steal users' confidential information.  
In an advisory, CERT-In, under the IT Ministry, cautioned users against adwares targeting prominent brands and tricking customers in fraudulent phishing and scams. "Fake messages are in circulation on various social media

platforms (WhatsApp, Telegram, Instagram, etc.) that falsely claim a festive offer luring users into gift links and prizes," it said.  
"The threat actor campaign is mostly targeting women and asking to share the links among peers over WhatsApp/ Telegram/ Instagram accounts," it added.  
The victim receives a message containing a link to a phishing website similar to the websites of popular brands, and are lured with a false claim of a special festive offer of prizes or money on an-

swering a questionnaire. The attackers then entice the users to give sensitive information like personal details, bank account details, passwords, OTPs, or use it for adware, and other adversarial purposes. The website links involved are mostly Chinese (.cn) domains and other extensions such as .top, .xyz.  
These attack campaigns can effectively jeopardise the privacy and security of sensitive customer data and result in financial frauds, the advisory noted.



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# Gandhi family loyalist succeeds a Gandhi to become Cong prez

A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, Kharge is the 2nd AICC prez from K'taka and also the 2nd Dalit leader to hold the post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Oct 19:** Mapanna Mallikarjun Kharge, a staunch Gandhi family loyalist from Karnataka, has become the Congress' first non-Gandhi president in 24 years.

The 80-year-old leader succeeds Sonia Gandhi at the grand old party's highest office. Kharge defeated Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor in the October 17 Congress' presidential polls, which saw over 9,500 delegates across the country voting.

A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, he is also the second AICC President from Karnataka after S Nijalingappa and also second Dalit leader after Jagjivan Ram to hold the post.

Kharge was elected MLA for nine times in a row, seeing a steady rise in his career graph from humble beginnings as a union leader in his home district of Gulbarga (renamed as Kalaburagi).

He joined the party in 1969 and went on to become President of the Gulbarga City Congress Committee.

That Kharge was unconquerable at the hustings was mirrored until 2014 Lok Sabha polls in which he bucked the Narendra Modi wave that swept Karnataka, particularly Hyderabad-Karnataka region, and had won from Gulbarga with a margin of over 74,000 votes.

He has won from Gurmitkal assembly constituency nine times before he plunged into the Lok Sabha poll arena in 2009 and has been a two time MP from Gulbarga parliamentary segment.



However, in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls the veteran leader was defeated by BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes.

For Kharge, popularly known as solilada Saradara, (a leader without defeat), this was the first electoral loss in his political life spanning more than five decades.

A hard-boiled Congressman and loyal to the core to the Gandhi family, Kharge has played multiple roles in different ministries that has enriched his experience as an administrator. He has also served as the leader of the opposition in Karnataka Assembly and President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

Kharge was leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019 but could not become the leader of opposition, as the grand old party could not get the post as its numbers were less than the mandated 10 per cent of the total number of seats in the Lower House.

He has served as Union Cabinet Minister for Labour and Employment, also Railways and Social Justice and Empowerment in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government.

He had also held various portfolios in successive Congress gov-

ernments that governed the state. He was Home Minister of Karnataka in one of the most trying times, under SM Krishna as the Chief Minister, as the tenure saw kidnapping of Kannada thespian Rajkumar by the notorious poacher Veerappan and the Cauvery river water conflict, both of which had created a law and order situation in the state.

Kharge was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka in June 2020 and was the 17th Leader of the Opposition in Upper House until recently, ahead of his resignation from the post to contest the Congress' Presidential election. He had succeeded Ghulam Nabi Azad as LoP in February last year.

He was several times seen as a top contender to become the Chief Minister in Karnataka, but could never occupy the post.

"Why do you keep saying Dalit again and again? Don't say that. I'm a Congressman," Kharge has said several times in the past, whenever the Dalit CM topic cropped up with him as the contender.

Sober by temperament and nature, Kharge has never landed in any major political trouble spot or controversy.

# 'Silicon Valley turns into pothole valley'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Oct 19:** Former Karnataka Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly HD Kumaraswamy Wednesday charged that Silicon Valley (Bangalore) has turned into pothole valley under the ruling BJP government in the state. Kumaraswamy's reaction comes after a woman suffered injuries due to pothole and succumbed.

Umadevi (50), who was riding pillion with her daughter Vanitha on a two-wheeler fell near the Sujatha theatre and got run over by the KSRTC bus Monday. She succumbed to her injuries in the wee hours of Tuesday.

The incident took place on the busy Vatal Nagaraj Road. The daughter who was riding the vehicle lost balance while trying



to avoid a pothole on the arterial road Monday.

"The BJP government is directly responsible for the deaths due to potholes. BJP government wants potholes, as if potholes surface in large number, it can mint money in larger proportions,"

Kumaraswamy charged. "Bangalore is known as the Pensioners' Paradise, Garden City and Silicon Valley. But now, the city is known as valley of potholes. The reason behind it is the system of percentage (40 per cent commission in contracts)," he alleged.

"These potholes are invitation of deaths for people but for some, they are profitable. Despite the warnings of the Karnataka High Court, the government is not ashamed. In spite of the court's warnings to send officers to jail in this regard, the bureaucracy is not doing any thing," Kumaraswamy charged.

The image of the state has been dented due to potholes on roads of the capital city Bangalore. On the other hand, the government is busy organising the Global Investor's Meet (GIM), the Global Tech Summit. It is better to organise "Pothole Summit" in Bangalore," he ridiculed.

The government should not wash its hands off after providing compensation to the family of the deceased. It should see to it that Bangalore roads are pothole free, he said.

## ANOTHER DELUGE? Heavy rain to lash K'taka for 5 days

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Oct 19:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a forecast Tuesday that heavy rain will lash Karnataka for the next five days and issued a yellow alert for several districts.

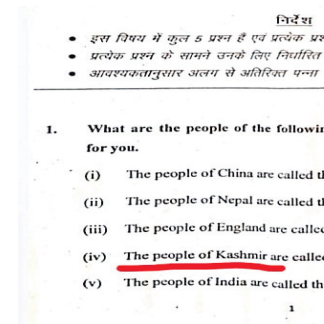
According to the forecast, Bangalore will also receive heavy downpour in the coming two days.

Chamarajanagara, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu, Bangalore Rural, Chitradurga, Kodagu, Shivamogga, Belagavi, Haveri, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi, Koppal and Ballary.

This year, Bangalore received a record rainfall of 1,706 mm - breaking all prior records.

Meanwhile, the yellow alert has been issued for the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Udipi, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Shivamogga, Belagavi, Haveri, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi, Koppal and Ballary.

# Kashmir a 'separate country' says Bihar govt school question



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Oct 19:** A question paper in a Bihar government school termed Kashmir as a separate country triggering a political war in the state.

The question was asked to the students of Class 7 last week in the minority dominant Araria, Purnea and Kishanganj districts, and came to the fore after the BJP took it up. The Number 1 question of the

English paper had five fill-in-the-blank sub-questions.

The question asked was, "What are the people of the following countries called? One is done for you." The question had five options on China, Nepal, England, 'Kashmir' and India.

Reacting to this, the BJP attacked the Nitish Kumar government. Sanjay Jaiswal slammed JD(U)-BJP combine and said that they are the supporters of Popular

Front of India (PFI).

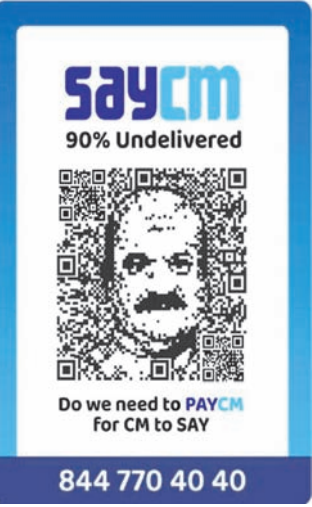
"I have posted my comment on Facebook Tuesday and removed it later on to respect the law of India government," he said.

The officials of Bihar believe that Kashmir is a separate country just like China, Nepal, England and India, Jaiswal said.

Thinking and ideology of Nitish Kumar has become similar to that of Sharjeel Imam. He is desperate to become prime minister of the country and is misleading the children of Class 7 with anti-national questions. The Bihar government will soon ask questions on the PFI agenda of 2047 and its officers will ask the people to avoid highlighting the issue, Jaiswal said.

"This question was asked in Purnea, Araria and Kishanganj districts. I am leaving this question to the people of Bihar to decide where this government is heading," he said.

# After PayCM, Cong starts SayCM.com against BJP



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Oct 19:** The Karnataka unit of Congress Wednesday launched a new campaign 'SayCM.com', targeting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

The campaign also slams the

BJP-led government over its "failure to fulfil 90 per cent of the 600 manifesto promises made in 2018".

The website, which also has the official song of the Congress campaign, lists down all the questions that the Congress has asked the BJP so far.

The party said that BJP, which has not answered any of the 50 questions till now, has "accepted the guilt through silence".

At a press conference, Karnataka Congress' communications division head Priyank Kharge had warned the ruling BJP Tuesday that "if PayCM is the only thing that makes you speak up, we will launch SayCM to make you answer for your failures".

"Today (Wednesday), the party has launched the QR code which looks similar to the PayCM, but will take the user to the SayCm.com," the official statement of the party stated.

The Karnataka Congress has already conducted a poster campaign with PayCM.

# Conman poses as Bihar chief justice, calls DGP for clean chit to Gaya SSP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Oct 19:** A man posed as the chief justice of Patna High Court and applied pressure on Bihar Director General of Police SK Singhal to give a clean chit to former Gaya SSP Aditya Kumar, an official said here.

Jitendra Singh Gangwar, the Additional DGP law and order confirmed the incident. He said that the accused was arrested by the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) and sent to jail.

"The matter was under investigation and a departmental inquiry has been initiated against conman Abhishek Agrawal and former SSP Aditya Kumar," Gangwar said.

The incident came to light Monday when an official of EOW revealed about the arrest of Agrawal. He said that Agrawal posed as Patna High Court Chief Justice Sanjay Karol and called the DGP more than 30 times regarding SSP Aditya Kumar. Coming



under pressure and not verifying on the caller, the DGP in its report pointed out a mistake of facts in the court and Aditya Kumar got the clean chit as well. After the clean chit, he joined as AIG in the police headquarter in Patna.

Aditya Kumar, the 2011 batch IPS officer was the SSP of Gaya, was booked in Fatehpur police station having case number 312/2022 on the order of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

After the clean chit to Aditya Kumar, the case file reached the

chief minister's secretariat. The officials of the chief minister secretariat found something fishy in the report and transferred it to the EOW for a thorough investigation.

The EOW officials used cyber cell officials to scan the phone numbers which were used to call senior police officials who prepared the report, including Bihar DGP SK Singhal.

"EOW has registered an FIR against Abhishek Agrawal and Aditya Kumar. Besides them, Gaurav Raj, Subham Kumar and Rajul Ranjan are also co-accused in this case. We will take strong action against the accused," Gangwar said.

Abhishek Kumar is a serial offender in the country. A case number 43/2021 was registered in the Kamla market police station in New Delhi as well. In that case, he posed as Union home minister's secretary Saket Singh and threatened the MD of MCD. He was sent to Tihar jail for five days as well.

# PK CLAIMS NITISH IN TOUCH WITH BJP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** Political strategist Prashant Kishor claimed Wednesday that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is in touch with the BJP and that he may go for a tie-up with the party again if situation demands so, a suggestion dismissed by the JD(U) as misleading and aimed at spreading confusion.

Kishor, who is on a padyatra in Bihar in what is widely seen as a precursor to his fresh entry into active politics, told PTI that Kumar has kept a line of communication open with the BJP through JD(U) MP and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh ji.

Harivansh declined to comment but his party rejected the claim and asserted that Kumar will never join hands with the BJP again.

Kishor said, "People who are thinking that Nitish Kumar is actively building a national alliance against the BJP will be surprised to know that he has kept a line open with the BJP. He is in touch with the BJP through his party MP and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Harivansh ji."

He suggested that Harivansh has not been asked to resign his Rajya Sabha post for this reason even though the JD(U) has severed ties with the BJP.

People must keep this in mind that whenever such circumstances arise, he can go back to the BJP and work with it, he said.

The Janata Dal (United) slammed Kishor, with its spokesperson KC Tyagi noting that the Bihar chief minister has publicly announced that he will never again in his life join hands with the BJP.

"We strongly refute his claims. Kumar is in active politics for over



People who are thinking that Nitish Kumar is actively building a national alliance against the BJP will be surprised to know that he has kept a line open with the BJP

PRASHANT KISHOR | POLITICAL STRATEGIST

50 years and Kishor for six months. Kishor has made such a misleading comment to spread confusion," Tyagi said.

Kishor started his 'padyatra' October 2 from the Gandhi ashram in Betiharwa in West Champaran. He has set out to complete a 3,500-km journey in the next 12-15 months through Bihar, seeking people's support to 'change' the system.

He was in the JD(U) for less than 18 months before being expelled from the party in 2020 for his strident criticism of Kumar for his support to the BJP over contentious measures like the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Kumar was then a BJP ally.

The JD(U) leader recently snapped his party's ties with the BJP and joined hands with the RJD-Congress-Left alliance in Bihar and has vowed to work to build an alliance against the saffron party at the national level. A united opposition will topple the BJP from power at the Centre, he has asserted.

After coming to power in Bihar in 2005 as the face of the BJP-led NDA, Kumar first broke ties with the party in 2013 and joined hands with the RJD-led opposition in the state in 2014.

However, he switched sides in 2017 only to dump the BJP again in August this year.

The BJP has accused him of changing alliances due to his greed for power.

# Modi to unveil 108-foot statue of Kempegowda Nov 11

THE STATUE WEIGHING 220 TONNE IS BEING INSTALLED AT THE KEMPEGOWDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT AN EXPENSE OF ₹85 CRORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Oct 19:** The 108-foot bronze statue of Bangalore's founder Kempegowda will be unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi November 11 near the international airport here, Karnataka Minister CN Ashwath Narayan said Wednesday.

The statue weighing 220 tonne is being installed at the Kempegowda International Airport here at an expense of Rs 85 crore.

Renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Vanji Sutar has designed the statue. Sutar had built the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat

and the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Bangalore's Vidhana Soudha.

Besides Kempegowda's statue, there will also be a heritage park in an area covering 23 acres dedicated to the 16th century chieftain.

Narayan, who is also the Vice-Chairperson of the

Kempegowda Heritage Area Development Authority, said a campaign for collecting sacred mud

from across the state to be used for the development of Kempegowda theme park at the international airport, will be flagged off by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai October 21 in front of Vidhana Soudha here.

The campaign will run till



November 7 and during this period, vehicles named as 'Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Ratha' will collect the sacred mud across all the districts of the state. The sacred mud thus collected will be used during the unveiling of the 108-foot statue of the Bangalore founder by Prime Minister Narendra Modi November 11, he said.

To ensure the success of the campaign, committees have been formed at the district level, the minister said, CEOs of zilla panchayats in each district will be the nodal officer of the committee.

Religious leaders, elected representatives, writers, progressive farmers, members of self-help groups, senior citizens, milk producers' federations and industrial associations will be involved in the campaign, he added.

Later, Narayan visited the residence of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and invited him to participate in the inaugural event of sacred mud collection October 21.





# international

of the day **quote**

The decisions that OPEC+ made last week, we believe, sided with the Russians and were against the interests of the American people and the families around the world

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE | PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE

Imran Khan wants to blackmail the government with his protest sit-in and the long march into Islamabad. However, the government will not be blackmailed

KHAWAJA ASIF | DEFENCE MINISTER, PAKISTAN

Prime Minister Kishida and I will discuss ways to strengthen our cooperation and achieve our shared vision for a peaceful, stable, climate resilient and prosperous Indo Pacific

ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM, AUSTRALIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Biden plans to tap into oil reserves

Washington: President Joe Biden will announce the release of 15 million barrels of oil from the US strategic reserve Wednesday as part of a response to recent production cuts announced by OPEC+ nations, and he will say more oil sales are possible this winter, as his administration rushes to be seen as pulling out all the stops ahead of next month's midterm elections. Biden will deliver remarks Wednesday to announce the drawdown from the strategic reserve, senior administration officials said Tuesday the condition of anonymity to outline Biden's plans. It completes the release of 180 million barrels authorised by Biden in March that was initially supposed to occur over six months.

### North fires more shells towards SK

Seoul: North Korea fired about 100 more artillery shells toward the sea Wednesday in response to South Korean live-firing drills at border areas as the rivals accuse each other of dialing up tensions on the Korean Peninsula with weapons tests. The drills conducted by both sides come amid heightened animosities over recent North Korean missile tests that it calls simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean and US targets.

### US man gets 16 yrs over tweets in Saudi

Dubai: An American citizen has been arrested in Saudi Arabia, tortured and sentenced to 16 years in prison over tweets he sent while in the United States, his son said Tuesday. Saad Ibrahim Almadhi, a 72-year-old retired project manager living in Florida, was arrested last November while visiting family in the kingdom and was sentenced earlier this month, his son Ibrahim told The Associated Press, confirming details that were first reported by the Washington Post. Almadhi is a citizen of both Saudi Arabia and the US

### HK offers new visa

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's leader Wednesday unveiled a new visa scheme to woo global talent, as the city seeks to stem a brain drain that has risked its status as an international financial center. Chief Executive John Lee said the new Top Talent Pass Scheme will allow those earning an annual salary of 2.5 million Hong Kong dollars (\$318,472) or above and graduates from the world's top universities to work or pursue opportunities in the city for two years.

As my boss, the Trade Secretary [Badenoch], likes to say, it's the deal that's more important than the date when it comes to delivering for businesses and consumers in both our countries (India-UK)

GREG HAND | TRADE POLICY MINISTER, UK



**UKRAINE AWARDED SAKHAROV PRIZE**  
The European Parliament awarded the people of Ukraine Wednesday its annual Prize for Freedom of Thought, in support of Ukraine's fight against Russia's invasion that started February 24, which Russia calls a "special military operation". The award comes with prize money of 50,000 euros prize money, which will be granted to civil society representatives



# PAKISTAN FLOODS World Bank estimates \$40 billion in damages

Cash-strapped Pakistan was already facing a serious financial crisis before the heavy monsoon rains hit in mid-June. The rains triggered unprecedented floods that at one point left a third of the country's territory submerged, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to move to safer places



**ISLAMABAD, Oct 19:** Pakistan said Wednesday that the World Bank estimates this summer's record-breaking floods have caused \$40 billion in damages in this impoverished South Asian nation. The figure is \$10 billion more than an earlier estimate by the Pakistani government.

The new assessment came during a meeting in the capital, Islamabad, between Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and experts on climate change. There was no immediate word from the World Bank on the new estimate.

Sharif's government last month offered an estimate of \$30 billion from the floods but cautioned that the real figure may be far higher. A final report on the damages is yet to be finalized with the help of international aid agencies and lending institutions, including the World Bank. The United Nations has revised its appeal for aid for Pakistan five-fold, to \$816 million, from the initial \$160 million, saying recent assessments about the damages caused by floods pointed to the urgent need for long-term help, lasting into next year.

A government statement following Wednesday's meeting between the premier and the newly formed Pakistan Climate Change Council quoted an often-repeated statement by Sharif that despite having less than 1% share in global carbon emissions, Pakistan is among 10 countries most affected by climate change.

According to government officials, more than half of the flood victims in Pakistan's worst-hit Sindh province have returned to their homes over the past three weeks after floodwaters receded there and elsewhere in the country, including Baluchistan, where the UN estimates that floods damaged 43% of crops. The flood-related fatalities have included 345 women and 641 children. The UN says 7 million women and children require immediate access to food.

Pakistan wants the world community to scale up aid for flood survivors, now also threatened by waterborne diseases, malaria and dengue fever. Experts say people in flood-hit areas will face a harsh winter this year and that aid is urgently needed.

The flooding has killed at least 1,719 people and affected 33 million since mid-June. The waters have damaged or washed away 2 million homes

## UK LEADERSHIP TURMOIL

# Fighter, not a quitter: Truss

With opinion polls giving the Labour Party a large and growing lead, many Conservatives now believe their only hope of avoiding electoral oblivion is to replace Truss. But she insists she is not stepping down, and legislators are divided about how to get rid of her

**LONDON, Oct 19:** British Prime Minister Liz Truss described herself as "a fighter and not a quitter" Wednesday as she faced down a hostile opposition and fury from her own Conservative Party over her botched economic plan.

Truss attended her first session of Prime Minister's Questions since newly appointed Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt ripped up the tax-cutting package unveiled by her new government less than a month ago. She apologized to Parliament and admitted she made mistakes during her short tenure as the UK's head of government.

Some lawmakers shouted "Resign!" as she spoke. Asked by the opposition Labour Party's leader, Keir Starmer, "Why is she still here?" Truss retorted: "I am a fighter and not a quitter. I have acted in the national interest to make sure that we have economic stability."

A package of unfunded tax cuts Truss' government announced Sept 23 sparked turmoil on financial markets, hammered the value of the pound and increased the cost of UK government borrowing. The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prevent the crisis spreading to the wider economy and putting pensions at risk.

Under intense political and economic pressure, Truss last week fired her ally Kwasi Kwarteng as Treasury chief, replacing him with Cabinet veteran Hunt. On Monday Hunt scrapped all of Truss' tax cuts, along with her flagship energy policy and her promise of no public spending cuts. He said the government will need to save billions of pounds and there are "many difficult decisions" to be made before he sets out a medium-term fiscal plan October 31.

Truss faces another test in Parliament later when lawmakers vote on an opposition Labour Party motion seeking to ban fracking for shale gas - a policy Truss recently greenlit. Conservative Party whips said the vote would be treated as "a confidence motion in the government," meaning the government would fall if the motion passed. The Conservatives' 70-plus majority makes that unlikely, but the vote will be closely watched for signs of dissent about Truss' leadership.



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## ANNEXED UKRAINE REGIONS

# Putin declares martial law

Putin also issued a decree restricting movement in and out of eight regions adjoining Ukraine



**KYIV, Oct 19:** President Vladimir Putin introduced martial law Wednesday in four Ukrainian regions he says are part of Russia as some residents of the Russian-held city of Kherson left by boat after Moscow warned of a looming assault.

The images of people fleeing Kherson were broadcast by Russian state TV which portrayed the exodus - from the right bank of the Rover Dnipro to its left bank - as an attempt to clear the city of civilians before it became a combat zone.

Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the local Russia-backed administration, made a video appeal after Russian forces in the area were driven back by 20-30 km (13-20 miles) in the last few weeks. They risk being pinned against the western bank of the 2,200-km (1,367 miles)-long Dnipro river that bisects Ukraine.

In a move which looked designed to help Russia firm its grip on four Ukrainian regions it partly occupies and seeks to fully control - including the Kherson region - Putin told his Security Council he was introducing martial law in them.

Eight months after being invaded, Ukraine is prosecuting major counter-offensives in the east and south to try to take as much territory as it can before winter after routing Russian forces in some areas.

■ UKRAINIANS PRESS COUNTER-OFFENSIVES  
■ CITY OF KHESRON UNDER PRESSURE, SAYS RUSSIA  
■ MOSCOW SEEKS EVACUATION OF INHABITANTS

## Annexed regions under nuclear-protection

**LONDON:** Russia said Tuesday that four Ukrainian regions whose annexation it proclaimed last month are under the protection of its nuclear arsenal. The statement from the Kremlin came at a moment of acute tension, with both NATO and Russia expected to hold military exercises shortly to test the readiness of their nuclear weapons forces. Asked by reporters if the regions were under Moscow's nuclear umbrella, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "All these territories are inalienable parts of the Russian Federation and they are all protected. Their security is provided for at the same level as [it is for] the rest of Russia's territory."

## HIJAB PROTEST

# World's female foreign mins to meet on Iran

**OTTAWA, Oct 19:** The world's female foreign ministers will discuss ongoing protests in Iran during a virtual meeting this week hosted by Canada, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly said in a statement Wednesday.

Joly and her counterparts will meet Thursday amid unrest ignited by Iranian Mahsa Amini's death last month while being held by Tehran's morality police, triggering one of the boldest challenges to the Islamic Republic since the 1979 revolution.

"My counterparts and I will gather to send a clear message: the Iranian regime must end all forms of violence and persecution against the Iranian people, including their brutal aggressions against women in particular," Joly said.

"Canada will continue to stand by the courageous Iranians who are fighting for their human rights and standing up for their mothers, sisters, wives and daughters. Women's rights are human rights," she said.

Canada had joined other nations, including the United States, in imposing sanctions on Iran. Iran has accused countries who have expressed support for the protests of meddling in its internal affairs.

Amini, who hailed from Iran's Kurdistan region, died September 16 after being detained three days earlier by morality police in Tehran for her "inappropriate attire".

## DESPITE INDIA'S OBJECTION

# US set to provide \$450mn F-16 package to Pakistan

**WASHINGTON, Oct 19:** Notwithstanding India's concerns, the United States is all set to provide \$450 million F-16 sustainment package to Pakistan as there has been no objection to the deal from the Senate within the mandatory 30-day notice period.

On September 7, the Department of State notified the US Congress - through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee - about the determination of the Biden Administration to this defence sale for Pakistan under the Foreign Military Sales programme.

Last month, the Biden administration reversed the decision of the previous Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens for the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani network, and approved the F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan.

India has questioned the rationale behind Washington's \$450 million F-16 security assistance to Pakistan. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that America's relationship with Pakistan has "not served" either of the two countries and raised questions on the Biden administration's approval of the F-16 package.



**YEARS OF PROTEST:** Demonstrators run from police water cannons on the three-year anniversary of the start of anti-government protests against inequality, in Santiago, Chile. Protests that were sparked by a subway fare hike broke out Oct 18, 2019 and quickly broadened into a social movement demanding greater equality

# China detects brightest gamma-ray burst to date

GRBs are immensely energetic explosions that have been observed in distant galaxies. They are the most energetic and luminous electromagnetic events since the Big Bang. Bursts can last from several milliseconds to several hours, producing as much energy as the Sun will emit during its entire existence



**GRB 221009A is a long burst, which occurred more than two billion light years away from Earth. A GRB with such huge brightness is estimated to occur only once in decades**

ZHANG SHUANGNAN | DIRECTOR, DIVISION FOR PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS OF IHEP

According to Cao Zhen, the principal investigator of LHAASO, in this observation, LHAASO detected a large number of high-energy photons, reaching maximum photon energy of 18 TeV.

"We found that this event was more than 10 times brighter than the brightest gamma-ray burst previously observed by humans. This observation has broken several records for gamma-ray burst observations and is of great value in revealing the outburst mechanisms of a gamma-ray burst," Cao said.

Insight-HXMT, China's first X-ray astronomical satellite, sent into orbit June 15, 2017, has made a series of discoveries concerning black holes, neutron stars and fast radio bursts over the past five years.

**BEIJING, Oct 19:** Chinese scientists have detected the brightest gamma-ray burst (GRB) to date through combined observations from both Earth and space, according to the Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The combined observations were made October 9, 2022, by China's Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO), the High Energy Burst Searcher (HEBS) - an all-sky monitor for gamma-ray transients - as well as China's X-ray astronomy satellite Insight-HXMT (Hard X-ray Modulation Telescope), achieving multi-spectral measurements of the gamma-ray burst, coded as GRB 221009A,

# business

## of the day quote

**The sugar industry has set its goal to have approximately 100 lakh tonnes of sugar and thus converting 1,000 crore litres of ethanol only from the sugar industry apart from the grains**

**Our internal target is minimum, one model, the first model of flexi-fuel motorcycle to be launched by end-2024**

**The 2nd Quarter of FY23 was impacted by the inconsistency in the content value chain, proving the importance of great quality content yet again**

## SHORT TAKES

### Mineral output up 4.2% in April-Aug

**New Delhi:** The country's mineral output registered a cumulative growth of 4.2 per cent in the first five months of this fiscal compared to the year-ago period. However, the index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector during August was at 99.6, which was 3.9 per cent lower as compared to the level in August last year, according to the provisional data of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). The output of important minerals in August includes coal 580 lakh tonne, lignite 29 lakh tonne, natural gas (utilised) 2,829 million cu m, petroleum (crude) 24 lakh tonne and bauxite 14.5 lakh tonne.

### Nestle Q3 net rises; enters D2C space

**New Delhi:** FMCG major Nestle India Ltd Wednesday reported an 8.25 per cent rise in its net profit to ₹668.34 crore for the third quarter ended September 30. The company, which follows January-December financial year, had posted a net profit of ₹617.37 crore a year ago, Nestle said in a BSE filing. The brand also launched its own Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) platform, foraying into the fast-growing online channel. It would launch its D2C platform MyNestlé in Delhi-NCR and will expand to other parts of the country, said Nestlé India Chairman and Managing Director Suresh Narayanan.

### UltraTech net falls 42%; sales up 16%

**New Delhi:** Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement Wednesday reported 42.09 per cent fall in its consolidated net profit at ₹758.70 crore for the second quarter of FY23, citing higher operating costs due to inflationary headwinds. The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,310.34 crore in the July-September period a year ago, UltraTech Cement said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations rose 15.61 per cent to ₹13,892.69 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹12,016.78 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

### Netflix gains 2.4mn subscribers in Q3

**San Francisco:** Netflix reported that it gained more than 2 million subscribers in the recent quarter, calming investor fears that the streaming television giant was losing paying customers. Netflix said it ended the quarter with slightly more than 223 million subscribers worldwide, up some 2.4 million, after seeing subscriber ranks ebb during the first half of this year. Netflix shares shot up more than 13 per cent on the earnings news.



**Automobile industry needs to provide flexi-fuel vehicles at various price points quickly to accelerate the adoption of blended fuel technology**

**HARDEEP PURI | UNION MINISTER**

## PIRAMAL PHARMA LISTS ON BSE, NSE

Piramal Pharma Wednesday listed its shares on the BSE and National Stock Exchange (NSE). In June 2020, the Carlyle Group Inc invested equity capital for a 20 per cent stake in Piramal Pharma Limited. Accordingly, the pharmaceuticals business was vertically demerged from Piramal Enterprises Limited



## 'India's external buffers enough to cushion risks'

**FITCH SAID PUBLIC FINANCES REMAIN THE KEY DRIVER OF THE RATING AND INDIA IS RELATIVELY INSULATED FROM GLOBAL VOLATILITY DUE TO THE SOVEREIGN'S LIMITED RELIANCE ON EXTERNAL FINANCING**

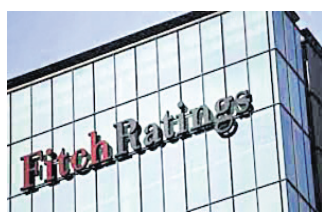
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** India's external buffers are sufficient to cushion risks associated with rapid monetary policy tightening in the US and high global commodity prices, and risk to the sovereign rating from external pressure is limited, Fitch Ratings said Wednesday. It expects the country's foreign exchange reserves to remain robust and current-account deficit (CAD) to be contained at a sustainable level and reach 3.4 per cent of GDP this fiscal year, up from 1.2 per cent in last financial year.

"India's external buffers appear sufficient to cushion risks associated with rapid monetary policy tightening in the US and high global commodity prices," Fitch Ratings said, adding risk to India's sovereign rating from external pressures is limited.

India's foreign reserves fell by almost \$101 billion in January-September 2022, but are still large at around \$533 billion.

The decline has reversed much of the reserve accumulation that occurred during the pandemic, and reflects valuation effects, a widening CAD, and some intervention by the Reserve Bank of



India (RBI) to support the rupee's exchange rate.

"Reserve cover remains strong at about 8.9 months of imports in September. This is higher than during the "taper tantrum" in 2013, when it stood at about 6.5 months, and offers the authorities scope to utilise reserves to smooth periods of external stress. Large reserves also provide reassurance about debt repayment capacity. Short-term external debt due is equivalent to only about 24 per cent of total reserves," Fitch said.

Fitch's commentary comes close on the heels of US-based agency S&P Global Ratings saying India is facing a "cacophony of factors" that may shake its sovereign credit metrics but the strength of strong economic growth rate and external balance sheet is expected to neutralize the risks inherent in the treacherous global environment.

India's strong economic growth rate has long been an important counterbalance to its high fiscal deficits and debt burdens, and its sound external balance sheet helps as a buffer against global market turbulence, S&P had said in a credit FAQ published on October 12.

In its report, Fitch said India's gross external debt stood at 18.6 per cent of GDP in second quarter of 2022, which is low compared with the median of 72 per cent for 'BBB' rated sovereigns in 2021.

Fitch has the lowest investment grade rating 'BBB-' on India. In June, it had improved the rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative'.

## Jio becomes largest fixed-line service provider; pips BSNL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** Private telecom operator Reliance Jio topped state-run BSNL in August to become the largest fixed-line service provider in the country, according to a TRAI report released Tuesday.

This is the first time since the beginning of telecom services in the country that a private operator has gained the numero uno position in the wireline segment.

According to Trai's subscriber report for August, Jio's wireline subscriber base reached 73.52 lakh while that of BSNL was at 71.32 lakh.

BSNL has been providing wireline services since the last 22 years, whereas Jio launched its wireline offering 3 years ago. The wireline subscribers in the country grew to 2.59 crore in August from 2.56 crore in July.

The growth was dominated by the private sector, with Jio adding 2.62 lakh new customers, Bharti Airtel 1.19 lakh, Vodafone Idea (Vi) 4,202 and Tata Teleservices 3,769.

State-run telecom firms BSNL and MTNL lost 15,734 and 13,395 wireline customers, respectively, in August.

The overall telecom subscriber base in the country grew marginally to 117.5 crore in August.

## CCI fines MakeMyTrip, Goibibo, OYO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 19:** The Competition Commission on Wednesday slapped penalties totalling more than ₹392 crore on online travel firms MakeMyTrip, Goibibo and hospitality services provider OYO for unfair business practices.

A fine of ₹223.48 crore has been slapped on MakeMyTrip-Goibibo (MMT-Go) and ₹168.88 crore on OYO, according to a 131-page order.

Among others, it was alleged that MMT-Go imposed a price parity in their agreements with hotel partners. Under such pacts, the hotel partners are not allowed to sell their rooms on any other platform or on its own online portal at a price below the price at which it is being offered on the two entities' platforms.

### UNFAIR PRACTICES



Besides imposing penalties, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has directed MMT-Go to "suitably modify its agreements with hotels/chain hotels to remove/abandon the price and room availability parity obligations imposed by it on its hotel/chain hotel partners with respect to other OTAs (Online Travel Agencies)".

Also, CCI has asked it to modify agreements to do away with certain exclusivity conditions.

## Union Bank organises meet with car dealers

**BIZ BUZZ**

**Bhubaneswar:** Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar arranged a meeting with car dealers under the leadership of Satyaban Behera, Regional Head and guidance of Ashok Mishra, Deputy Regional Head. A total of 65 people from various car dealers participated in the event. With the support of Pravakar Sahoo, Chief Manager; Prasanta Kumar Nayak, Chief Manager and HK Pahi, RLP Head the programme was a great success. Heads from various branches were also present on this occasion. The bank observed very good response from all the dealers and is expecting good business in coming days.



## Evolve Fashion sets foot in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 19:** Evolve, a subsidiary firm of the JMG Automobiles group, has unveiled its first edition of Evolve Fashion in Bhubaneswar October 19. JMG Automobiles is also one of the largest two-wheeler vendors in the Silver City.

The store was launched by renowned Ollywood star Archita Sahu in the presence of proprietor CA Shipra Aggrawal, Pradeep Aggrawal and others.

The 1800 square feet supreme and luxurious multi-designer store provides a broad choice of premium designer clothes at a

one-stop shop. It also gives numerous exquisite casual wear and party wear options by many designers from state as well as across country. The price for designer apparels starts at ₹5,000. The Evolve Fashion store is located beside Sri Guru Kalyan Mandap, Mayfair Lagoon Road, Jaydev Vihar, Bhubaneswar.

The store primarily deals with modern, contemporary, casual and party wears making it the only store in Bhubaneswar that specialises in these exclusive wear categories. It focuses on offering rich and quality designer apparel, as well as allowing customers to experience designer wonders.

## INFLATION FEARS

# Jewellery industry cautiously optimistic this Dhanteras

*The industry is cautious despite benign gold prices, which are ruling at around ₹47,000-49,000 per 10 grams, and overall positive consumer sentiment*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 19:** With the Dhanteras around the corner, the jewellery industry is cautiously optimistic about the demand, mainly due to the exceptionally high base last year; inflation worries and the overall rising cost of living.

After the first wave of the pandemic, revenge purchases along with postponed weddings boosted demand, resulting in an exceptionally good Dhanteras in 2021, with sales crossing even the pre-pandemic levels.

Dhanteras, which marks the

first day of Diwali in India, is considered auspicious to buy gold and silver as part of Hindu festivities.

"The demand for jewellery during Dhanteras is likely to be at par with last year as 2021 was an exceptional year for the industry when the country slowly inched towards normalcy after the pandemic. Postponed weddings and revenge purchases last year boosted demand with sales crossing the pre-pandemic levels," All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council chairman Ashish Pethe told PTI.

World Gold Council Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram PR



said that over the years, India has developed a strong cultural bond between gold and auspicious festivals, such as Dhanteras, supported by sound economic reasoning.

"The purchase of gold as a token boosts the positivity surrounding these festivals. Moreover, with recent corrections in local gold prices and a favourable monsoon, festive sentiment among retail consumers ap-

**This year, the consumer sentiment is dampened following high inflation, rising costs and unseasonal rains affecting agriculture activities. Even the pre-booking of jewellery, which usually begins during Dussehra, is very slow this year. However, the weak gold price is likely to favour the sector**

**ASHISH PETHE | CHAIRMAN, ALL INDIA GEM AND JEWELLERY DOMESTIC COUNCIL**

pears to be positive," he pointed out. However, the impact of inflation on household finances may lead to an immediate impact on gold jewellery demand, he cautioned.

"Unlike the Diwali season of 2021, this season may not have the

advantage of pent-up demand or savings from muted wedding celebrations, fuelling higher gold purchases. Having said that, this is a busy buying season, and with gold being a valuable hedge against inflation, any further price declines in the coming weeks could result in a surge in demand," he added.

Meanwhile, Kalyan Jewellers India Executive Director Ramesh Kalyanaraman said with consumer sentiment shifting from unorganised to the organised sector, the organised players will gain during this Dhanteras.

"Last year was an exceptional year as the country came out of the pandemic, however, with the ruling weakness in gold prices and no pandemic-related uncertainties, things are looking positive this year," he said.

