



LEARNING CURVE

Actor Sanya Malhotra says her upcoming movie 'Meenakshi Sundareshwar' has added another layer to her thought process

LEISURE P2



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

COP26 BEGINS

The 26th United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change delayed by a year kicked off Sunday in Glasgow, Scotland

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA LOSE 2ND GAME

India on the verge of exiting the T20 World Cup after an eight-wicket loss to New Zealand

SPORTS P12



TALIBAN SUPREMO MAKES PUBLIC APPEARANCE

KABUL: Taliban supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada has made his first-ever public appearance, officials announced Sunday, after he addressed supporters in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar. Akhundzada has been the spiritual chief of the Islamist movement since 2016 but has remained a reclusive figure, even after his group seized power in Afghanistan in August. His low profile has fed speculation about his role in the new Taliban government – and even rumours of his death. Saturday, he visited the Darul Uloom Hakimah madrassa to “speak to his brave soldiers and disciples”, according to Taliban officials. There was tight security at the event and no photographs or video have emerged, but a ten-minute audio recording was shared by Taliban on social media accounts.



MINISTER FALLS ILL, AIRLIFTED TO CITY

PHULBANI: Odisha Panchayati Raj Minister Pratap Jena was Sunday airlifted from Phulbani in Kandhamal district to Bhubaneswar after he fell ill, an official said. Additional district medical officer Abhay Patnaik said Jena was initially treated by a team of doctors here this morning after he developed shortness of breath. The minister's blood pressure was also found to be low, Patnaik said. On the advice of the medical team, Jena was rushed to Bhubaneswar in an air ambulance at 2.30 pm for better treatment, the official said. “The condition of Panchayati Raj Minister Pratap Jena is now stable,” Chief District Medical Officer Rajeswari Patnaik said. Sources said that the minister is now undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

Classroom teaching for Classes I to VII likely after Diwali

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: In view of the negligent impact of COVID-19 third wave in Odisha and the decline in number of cases the state government is likely to start physical classes for students from Classes I to VII after Diwali.

Talking to the media here Sunday, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said that as of now no final decision has been taken on the issue, but we are noticing that the impact of COVID-19 third wave is negligible in the state. This is a positive sign for taking a decision on reopening the schools after Diwali. A final decision on the issue will be taken by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik after Diwali.

Dash further said, “Students are keen to attend physical classes. We had resumed classroom teaching for Classes X and XII earlier and now we are doing the same for Classes XI and VIII. We are monitoring the situation before taking a decision on reopening of other classes systematically.”

Sources said that the schools will be open in phased manner after Diwali. Initially, classroom teaching will begin for Classes VI and VII followed by other classes. The Collectors, district education officers and the schools will be notified accordingly.

Earlier, the state government had said that it was fully prepared for the vaccination drive of children as soon as the vaccines arrive and the Centre gives permission for the same.

Physical classroom teaching was stopped in the state from March 2020 and offline teaching remained suspended for about a year-and-a-half.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



My client respects law. That is why he is absconding, Milord!

13 killed in U'khand

DEHRADUN: A utility vehicle carrying 15 passengers fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Chakrata town Sunday, killing 13 people on the spot and leaving two injured, police said. The utility vehicle met with the accident near Bayala village on way to Vikasnagar from Tyuni, they said. The driver lost control over the vehicle and it fell into a deep gorge, killing 13 people on the spot. A State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team retrieved the bodies, the police said, adding that the two injured persons were admitted to a nearby hospital.

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	30.7°C	31.2°C
	MIN	22.4°C	23.0°C
	Humidity	79%	77%
	Rainfall	NIL	NIL
	Forecast	Light rain very likely	



FUELLING DISCONTENT: BJD activists carry LPG cylinders on their heads during a protest against price rise near the Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Sunday OP PHOTO

G20 compromises on carbon neutrality

■ The sticking point remained the deadline to reach “net zero” emissions – a balance between greenhouse gases added to and removed from the atmosphere

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Oct 31: Leaders of the world's biggest economies made a compromise commitment Sunday to reach carbon neutrality “by or around mid-century” as they wrapped up a two-day summit that was laying the groundwork for the UN Climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

According to the final communiqué, the Group of 20 leaders also agreed to end public financing for coal-fired power generation abroad, but set no target for phasing out coal domestically – a clear nod to coal-dependent countries including China and India and a blow to Britain which had hoped for more solid commitments ahead of the Glasgow meeting. The Group of 20 countries represent more than three-quarters of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and summit host Italy had been looking for solid targets on how to reduce emissions while help-



ing poor countries deal with the impact of rising temperatures.

Without them, momentum could be lost for the larger annual talks that officially opened Sunday in Glasgow and where countries from around the globe will be represented, including poor ones most vulnerable to rising seas, desertification and other effects.

Italian Premier Mario Draghi told the leaders going into the final working session Sunday that they needed to set long-term goals and make short-term changes to reach them.

According to the communiqué, the G-20 reaffirmed past commitments by rich countries to mobilize \$100 billion annually to help poorer countries cope with climate change, and committed to scaling up financing for helping them adapt.

The sticking point remained the deadline to reach carbon neutral-

ity or “net zero” emissions, meaning a balance between greenhouse gases added to and removed from the atmosphere. Going into the summit Italy had all-but conceded it would only be able to secure commitments to reach net-zero emissions “by mid-century,” rather than a specific year.

According to the final communiqué, the G-20 leaders said they will “accelerate our actions across mitigation, adaptation and finance, acknowledging the key relevance of achieving global net zero greenhouse gas emissions or carbon neutrality by or around mid-century.”

A French official said “mid-century” meant 2050 in the strict sense “but given the diversity of the G-20 countries ... It means everyone agrees to a common goal while providing a bit of flexibility to take into account national diversity.”

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Night curfew to continue in urban areas

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The Odisha government Sunday extended the graded unlocking measures throughout the state under the new guidelines issued for the month of November 2021.

As per a notification issued by the Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Jena, there shall be a graded unlocking throughout the state with effect from 5 am of November 1 till 5 am of December 1, 2021. Night curfew shall be imposed in all urban areas of the state from 10 pm to 5 am every day. At the same time, there will be no weekend shutdown in Odisha, the notification read.

“During this unlock period, all types of shops and malls can remain open across the state from 5 am to 10 pm every day. All religious festivals/festivities/functions shall be held/celebrated as per the orders of the state government issued August 9, 2021,” the notification read.

The guidelines/stipulations relating to the sale and use of firecrackers during the month of November shall be issued separately.

The state government has clarified that all other stipulations/instructions contained in the order dated August 31, 2021 shall remain unaltered.

NSUI activists hurl eggs at MoS Ajay Mishra's car

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Congress' student wing, National Student Union of India (NSUI) members Sunday hurled eggs at Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Ajay Mishra's car near Bhubaneswar airport over his son's alleged involvement in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

According to sources, the Union Minister is in Odisha to inaugurate a barrack of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Mundali in Cuttack district. The NSUI activists were earlier tipped off about the Union Minister's visit. On his way to the programme, the activists hurled eggs and threw black ink at his vehicle as soon as his car came out of the airport near the Airport Square.

Youth Congress activists also showed black flags to the minister shouting “Go back Ajay Mishra” slogans standing near the statue of Biju Patnaik. Meanwhile, police personnel tried to restrain the NSUI activists but they refused to budge and scuffled with the police. Later, police picked up 40 activists and released them in evening.

“Odisha is a state of farmers and the sacred land of Lord Jagannath. Earlier, we had warned the minister not to enter Odisha due to his son's alleged involvement in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence,” said NSUI state president Yashir Nawaz.

Despite the warning, he came to Odisha. So, the NSUI hurled eggs and ink on his vehicle, he said. Nawaz warned that the NSUI activists will continue their protest whenever the Union minister visits the state until he tenders his resignation. The Union Minister's son Ashish Mishra has been named in an FIR following allegations that he was in one of the vehicles that mowed down four farmers protesting the new farm laws in Lakhimpur Kheri October 3.

Reacting to the protest, BJP leader Golak Mohapatra said there was no need for an agitation when action has been taken on the issue. The Congress instead of opposing Minister of State (Home) Dibyashankar Mishra here is resorting to cheap politics, Mohapatra said, adding that Lakhimpur Kheri was a mishap and the Union Minister's son has surrendered before the police.



NSUI activists hurling eggs at MoS Ajay Mishra's car in city, Sunday

No let-up in fuel prices

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 31: Petrol and diesel prices increased again Sunday for a fifth consecutive day as global oil prices failed to relent and continued to remain firm.

Accordingly, the pump price of petrol in Delhi increased by 35 paise per litre to jump to ₹109.34, while diesel prices also increased by the same margin to reach ₹98.07, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

In the financial capital Mumbai, petrol prices have now risen to

CITY PRICES	
Petrol:	₹110.32 (+0.36)
Diesel:	₹107.00 (+0.38)

₹115.14 per litre, while diesel to ₹106.23 a litre, the highest among all metros. Across the country as well, petrol and diesel prices have increased between 35-40 paise per litre but their retail rates varied depending on the level of local taxes on petroleum products.

31 children committed suicide every day in India in 2020

■ According to the NCRB data, 11,396 children died by suicide in 2020, an 18 per cent rise from 9,613 such deaths in 2019 and 21 per cent rise from 9,413 in 2018

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: An average 31 children died by suicide every day in India in 2020, according to government data, with experts underlining that the COVID-19 pandemic may have accentuated the psychological trauma faced by children to a great extent.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau data, 11,396 chil-

dren died by suicide in 2020, an 18 per cent rise from 9,613 such deaths in 2019 and 21 per cent rise from 9,413 in 2018.

“Family Problems” (4,006), “Love Affairs” (1,337) and “Illness” (1,327) were the main causes of suicide among children (below 18 years of age). Ideological causes or hero worshipping, unemployment, bankruptcy, impotency or infertility and drug abuse were other reasons behind suicide by some children.

Prabhat Kumar, Deputy Director – Child Protection, Save the Children, said COVID-19 and the resultant school closures and social isolation coupled with anxiety among elders have further aggravated the issue of mental health and brought it to the forefront.

“While we as a society are cog-



nizant of tangibles such as education and physical health for building national human capital, emotional wellbeing or psycho-social support often takes a back seat. The successively increasing number of suicides among children re-

flects a systemic failure. It is a collective responsibility of parents, families, neighbourhoods, and government at large to provide a conducive ecosystem where children can look forward to realizing their potential and fulfilling their dreams

for a bright future. Committing suicide, on the contrary, is an antithesis,” Kumar said.

“Stigma attached to mental health and an abysmally low number of per capita mental health professionals demand urgent attention. COVID-19, and the resultant school closures and social isolation coupled with anxiety among elders has further aggravated the issue and brought it to the forefront. Save the Children calls for a collective action to nurture an encouraging and supportive ecosystem for children and youth,” he added.

Commenting on the topic, Priti Mahara, Director, Policy Research and Advocacy at CRY-Child Rights and You, said from the very beginning of the pandemic, it was one of the major concerns that it

might impact children's mental health and psycho-social well-being, and the recent NCRB data actually underscores the fear that the pandemic may have accentuated the psychological trauma faced by the children to a great extent.

“As the NCRB data reveals, a total of 11,396 children (5,392 boys and 6,004 girls) have died by suicide in 2020, which accounts for 31 deaths per day or approximately 1 child committing suicide per hour,” she told PTI.

“Children have gone through tremendous emotional stress and trauma due to home confinement and lack of interaction with friends, teachers or any other person in the position of trust due to prolonged closure of schools and limited social interactions,” she said.

leisure



WILL SMITH REVEALS HE CONTEMPLATED SUICIDE

Movie star Will Smith has revealed he's contemplated suicide in the past. The 53-year-old actor - who is one of the best-paid stars in Hollywood - disclosed that during the recording of a YouTube series about physical fitness and weight loss that he thought about taking his own life.

JAMEELA JAMIL'S KISS CONFESSION

Actress Jameela Jamil, 35, has admitted she didn't have her first kiss until she was 21. She hasn't smooched many people and she even counts an on-screen lip lock with her *Good Place* co-star Manny Jacinto as part of her limited experience, revealed Jamil who is in love with musician James Blake.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
If you have a sportsman spirit, today will be a very bright day for you. You should make the best of it as something unexpected may turn out to be in your favour. Ganesh says you are sensible and know exactly how to balance work and leisure.

TAURUS
You will be in a mood to dominate and boss over your subordinates and assistants as soon as you land at your work place. Ganesh urges you to get rid of this idea instantly. Otherwise you are likely to lose a lot of money in store for you. You are likely to feel bored and listless later in the day.

GEMINI
You will feel the need to break free from the shackles of your daily routine. You will try to complete all your work in one go and this will give rise to mental stress and worry. You will be able to concentrate on your personal matters only later on in the day, busy as you will be with work related matters in the afternoon.

CANCER
Today, your loved ones will prove again how much they love you. It's high time you stopped doubting the intentions of your family members. It's time to start over, start afresh and start giving back the love and trust that your loved ones give you.

LEO
Today, you will most certainly pay close attention to your personal appearance, says Ganesh. After all, no one ever said looking good was a crime. At work, you shall find the resources to dig up a successful business tactic. If you are a job aspirant, an interview in the evening shall go well.

VIRGO
The fairer sex will find pleasure in both the kitchen and the dining table. Expect to host the closest in the evening for some food and drinks. You might just go all mushy and gaga over your beloved too, says Ganesh. Not that they would mind.

LIBRA
Ganesh says there is all possibility of a trip for business or pleasure today. This journey will leave a long term impact on your memory and your life. You will win every one's heart by your powerful speech. You may forget your duty towards your family as you will show more inclination in trade and business.

SCORPIO
Today, you may not be in a mood to work as you may lose focus every now and then. This may create problems in meeting deadlines in future. Evening will be full of romantic conversations as you spend some quality time with your beloved, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Your nerves are taut, and you are more aware than ever of things around you. Your spiritual side gets a major boost today. On the career front, expect it to be busy day giving interviews for better prospects. In the evening, your charm might just have a few women dangling by your side at places you party.

CAPRICORN
The work pressure is mounting and you find it extremely difficult to bear the burden. Deadlines are closing in and there is still a lot to be done. But, none can dampen your spirit and break you down. Not only you'll fight with full force, but also will choose the right path to move forward, says Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Today is reserved for outlining projects that will ultimately shape your future. You may want to chalk out a plan for your education, job, or even a relationship. Later in the day, you may get lucky with sudden and unexpected profits. If you're a professional, there are rewards galore, expects Ganesh.

PISCES
If legal hassles have been troubling you of late, they are likely to reach a satisfactory conclusion today, says Ganesh. Your finances look good. Family matters will keep you busy in the afternoon. Your evenings are likely to be filled with music or dance classes.

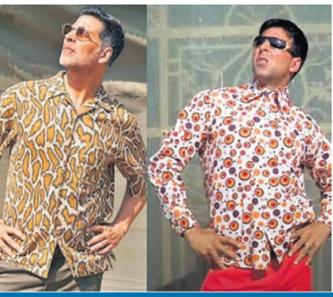
Akshay displays his epic sense of humour

Mumbai: Akshay Kumar is one actor who holds comedy by the scruff. Having many comedy films to his credit, the actor also knows what clicks with the audience. Displaying his epic sense of humour and marketing acumen, he recreated the iconic meme pose from *Phir Hera Pheri* to create a buzz around his upcoming film *Sooryavanshi*.

The actor took to his Instagram and shared a picture of him in the iconic pose. He wrote, "Side wala swag! That's my waiting pose for #Sooryavanshi to hit cinemas on 5th Nov. Strike your favourite pose and share it with hashtag #WaitingPoseForSooryavanshi. I would invite the coolest ones to pose with me in real. Jaldi karo, I am waiting?"

The actor can be seen sporting a python print shirt paired with brown coloured pants. His salt and pepper look adds to his charm.

On the work front, the actor has a string of releases lined up which include *Sooryavanshi*, *Atrangi Re*, *Prithviraj*, *Bachchan Pandey*, *Raksha Bandhan* and *Ram Setu*. **IAN5**



How Siddhant beat his hydrophobia

Mumbai: After a stunning debut as the rapper MC Sher in *Gully Boy*, Siddhant Chaturvedi will be next seen in *Bunty Aur Babli 2*. But working in a rib-tickling comedy is not always a bed of roses as one has to work and wade through certain challenges in the fast-paced environment of filmmaking and this was the case with Siddhant as well.

The actor who plays new Bunty recently revealed that he overcame hydrophobia while filming the romantic track *Luv Ju* with debutant Sharvari.

Shedding light on the incident, the actor said, "Actually no one knows that I'm hydrophobic! So, when I was told that *Luv Ju* will have a sequence

where Sharvari and I have to shoot underwater, I got very scared. However, despite my fear to enter the water, I remember going for swimming lessons before I shot *Luv Ju*. I had to do this for many days and first learn swimming (sic). Slowly, I felt more confident that I could do the underwater sequence."

"I kept going for swimming training and when the day to shoot this sequence finally arrived, I was fully ready. Not only did I pull this sequence off without feeling afraid, but I also lip synced underwater! It's a big victory for me as I overcame my childhood fear", he concluded. **IAN5**



Art adds a lot to an artiste: SANYA

Mumbai: Actress Sanya Malhotra, who started her journey with the 2016 biographical sports drama *Dangal*, will be next seen in *Meenakshi Sundareswarar* in which she stars opposite Abhimanyu Dassani. She says it has been a learning experience for her as it opened the doors to a different working style for her.

The actress revealed that it added another layer to her thought process. She said, "Art clearly adds a lot to an artiste. This film was a really good learning experience for me. During the first week of

our shooting, we were shooting in Karaikudi and Vivek (the director of *Meenakshi Sundareswarar*) shared a visual reference photo for a scene for a montage in the film."

"As an actor, I've never worked like that. But then, I saw that visual reference that Vivek had shown, it was a very beautiful painting. It was such a great learning experience for me because sometimes you have to keep that actor aside and just see visually," added the *Badhai Ho* actress.

Produced by Dharmatic Productions, the film is all set to stream on Netflix from November 5. **IAN5**

The Battle of Lake Changjin turns top grosser of 2021

The film, which tells about a battle against UN troops led by the Americans in harsh weather condition, has been made mandatory viewing for all government employees in China

Los Angeles: China's jingoistic Korean War epic *The Battle at Lake Changjin* has become the highest-grossing film in the world for 2021, surpassing the Chinese New Year breakout comedy hit *Hi, Mom*, reports *Variety*. It was released September 30, China's National Day.

The film, which has been made mandatory viewing for all government employees in China, recreates the gritty battle fought in harsh winter weather conditions by the Chinese People's Volunteer Army at the Chosin Reservoir, a.k.a. Lake Changjin, against UN troops led by the Americans. Chinese victory in the battle led to the eventual withdrawal of US troops from North Korea.

The war film, co-directed by Chen Kaige, Tsui Hark and Dante Lam, has grossed \$845 million in 29 days, marching past *Hi, Mom*, which earned \$821 million at the beginning of the year over a 90-day period.



Lake Changjin at present is China's second highest-grossing film in history behind local title *Wolf Warrior 2* (\$854 million), where also Wu Jing plays a pivotal role, that of a military action hero, as in

the Korean War film. Buoyed by the success of *Lake Changjin*, its producers have already started work on a sequel titled *Water Gate Bridge*. **IAN5**

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

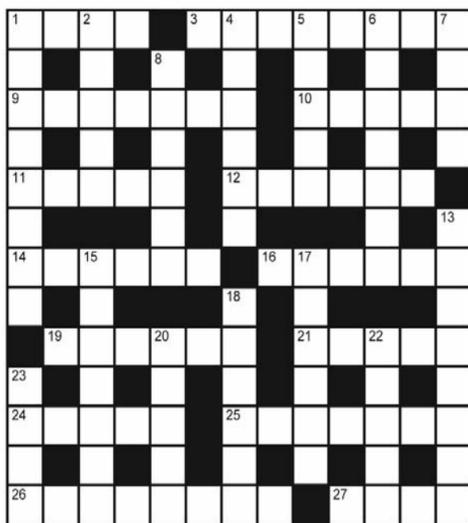


BREVITY



FUN post

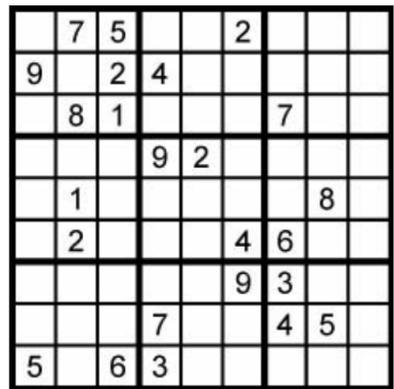
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2021 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Pewter component
 - 3 40s movie style (4,4)
 - 9 Christie and Doyle, e.g.
 - 10 Rendezvous
 - 11 Very, in music
 - 12 Shade of red
 - 14 3rd century BC Greek geometer
 - 16 Ravine
 - 19 Metallic element
 - 21 Brief tussle (3-2)
 - 24 Bumbling
 - 25 Battery type
 - 26 Turn into gas
 - 27 Antares, for one
 - 7 Ceremony
 - 8 Third sign of the Zodiac
 - 13 Stool pigeon
 - 15 Photograph type (5,2)
 - 17 Stocks and such
 - 18 Coral reef islands
 - 20 Modify
 - 22 Corrupt
 - 23 Ukraine's capital
- Down**
- 1 Legislator
 - 2 Not quite right
 - 4 Bug
 - 5 Drive
 - 6 Amazing adventure

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

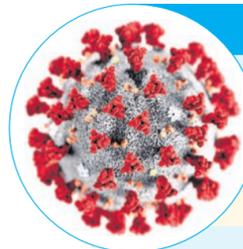


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



MOTHER WORSHIP

An artisan giving finishing touches to clay idols at Ranihaat in Cuttack ahead of the Kali Puja, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	24,72,83,954	22,39,87,427	50,13,391
India	3,42,73,300	3,36,55,842	4,58,186
Odisha	10,41,457	10,29,147	8,333

BJD hits the streets over price rise

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Hundreds of activists of the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Sunday held a massive rally in the Capital city here to protest the rising prices of fuel and essential commodities.

The activists of all the frontal organisations of BJD, including Biju Chhatra Janata Dal, Biju Yuva Janata Dal and Biju Mahila Janata Dal, and senior leaders of the regional party participated in the protest rally.

As a part of the agitation, the BJD supporters took out cycle rallies, came on bullock carts and cooked food on earthen ovens using firewood to lodge their protest against the rise in prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

Later they sat on a dharna in front of the Governor's House and submitted a memorandum to the President through the Governor.

Senior party leader Debi Prasad Mishra blamed the faulty policies of the Centre for rise in the prices of fuel and other essential commodities.

Mishra said the price rise hit the people hard as their livelihood has been threatened by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The prices of essential goods rise due to the cascading effect of hike in prices of oil, he added.

Mishra threatened to intensify the agitation across the state if the Centre does not initiate any step to reduce the oil prices in the coming days. The BJD has also planned to hold demonstrations across the state in the coming days.

While the Biju Mahila Dal will hold demonstrations in all the Assembly constituencies Monday, the Biju Chhatra Janata Dal and the Biju Yuva Janata dal will hold demonstrations outside all petrol pumps from November 5 to 7.

However BJP General Secretary Prithviraj Harichandran and senior Congress leader Suresh Kumar Routray alleged that the BJD resorted to agitation to divert the at-



BJD leaders and activists stage a dharna near the Governor's House in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



Biju Janata Dal workers cook on earthen ovens and take out bicycle rallies as part of their protest against price rise in Bhubaneswar



OP PHOTOS

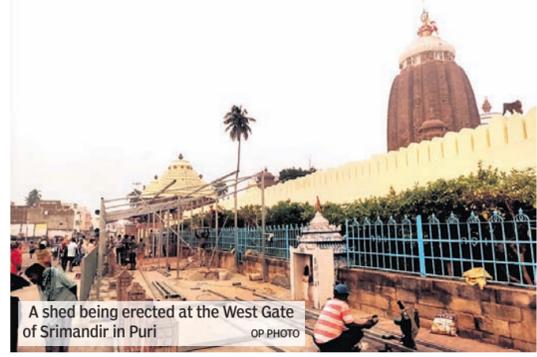
ention of people from the rising resentment against the govern-

ment following the murder of Mahaling school teacher Mamita

Meher and the alleged involvement of Minister of State for

Home Dibya Shankar Mishra in the incident.

New SOP for Lord's darshan from today



A shed being erected at the West Gate of Srimandir in Puri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 31: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) is all set to implement a new standard operating procedure (SOP) for Srimandir visit from Monday.

As per the new SOP, the residents of the Holy City are allowed to enter the 12th century shrine through its Lions' Gate and the West Gate.

Earlier, the locals along with all other devotees were entering the shrine through the Lions' Gate. As a result, the locals were being forced to stand in long queues for visiting the shrine.

The SJTA had issued a new SOP October 27 and allowed the residents of Puri city to visit Srimandir through the West Gate in addition to the Lions' Gate.

According to the new SOP, the locals of the Pilgrim City can enter into the shrine through the West Gate and exit through the North Gate by producing their double dose vaccine certificates or RT-PCR negative reports along with identity proof.

"All arrangements, including metal detector, thermal screening and sanitiser, are in place for the smooth entry of locals through the West Gate. Now, the locals would not stand in long queues to visit Srimandir," said Puri Collector

Demolition of SJTA old office begins

Puri: To facilitate the ambitious Srimandir Heritage Corridor project, the district administration Sunday started demolition of the old office of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) on the Grand Road here. Two platoons of police force and two magistrates were deployed to maintain the law and order situation during the demolition drive. Puri sub-collector Bhabatara Sahu also supervised the demolition work. "The shrine was closed for devotees in accordance with the Covid protocol. The district administration also restricted movements of the vehicles between the temple office and Marichikot Square to facilitate the demolition," said an official. According to sources, the Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation Limited would take another day to bulldoze the entire complex, which was also housing 15 shops.

Samarth Verma.

However, many social outfits have urged the SJTA to allow the locals to enter and exit the shrine through its all four gates.

DMs asked to regularise govt school lands

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The School and Mass Education department Sunday directed the District Collectors to regularise all lands in favour of government and government-aided educational institutions under the department by March, 2022.

In a letter to the District Collectors, Satyabrata Sahu, Secretary of S&ME department, said, "This is to bring to your notice that at present there are around 52,000 elementary and secondary schools and around 1,200 higher secondary government and government-aided schools under the S&ME department. Out of these schools, many have been functioning over the years, but the land is yet to be recorded in the name of the educational institutions."



The concerned DEOs and BEOs should take the lead in filing mutation cases in the court of the tehsildars along with the sale/donation deeds

He said there might be many reasons for non-recording of land. Many donors might have given their land during the initial days, but mutation could not be done. Hence, based on the available records, steps should be taken for mutation of the land in favour of the schools.

The concerned DEOs and BEOs should take the lead in filing mutation cases in the court of the tehsildars along with the sale/donation deeds. In many cases, the school buildings might have been constructed over unobjectionable government land but steps might not have been taken by the officials of the Education Department for regularisation of the same and these schools have

been functioning over the said land. In such cases, steps should be taken for regularisation of the land in favour of educational institutions and the land should be recorded in the name of School & Mass Education Department with remarks of existence of particular schools. Many educational institutions might be functioning over objectionable government land like "gochar". Urgent steps may be taken for de-reserving such lands wherever possible as per law and the lands under occupation may be regularised as per the existing government circular of the Revenue & DM department. However, in no situation shall Forest lands be regularised without prior approval of the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of India, the letter stated.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Bihar youth held for sharing obscene videos of Cuttack girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 31: A 20-year-old youth has been arrested from Surat in Gujarat on charges of posting nude photographs and videos of a minor girl of CDA area here on social networking sites, police said Sunday.

Addressing the media here, ACP Tapas Pradhan said the girl had come in contact with the accused—Prakash Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarpur in Bihar—over a short video creation and sharing app a few months ago. The accused was working at a spinning mill in Surat, he added.

"The duo exchanged numbers and started chatting as well as video calling over WhatsApp. Following repeated requests from the accused, the girl had undressed herself and video-called the accused. The accused had recorded the same," the ACP said.

Things turned sour when the schoolgirl could not call the ac-



The girl had come in contact with the accused—Prakash Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarpur in Bihar—over a short video creation and sharing app a few months ago

The duo exchanged numbers and started chatting as well as video calling over WhatsApp

Things turned sour when the schoolgirl could not call the accused for a few days due to her examinations

cused for a few days due to her examinations.

"As the girl couldn't receive his calls, the accused shared the recorded videos as well as photographs with the girl's parents. Later, he posted the same on social networking sites," claimed the ACP.

Phase II police August 21. Taking the issue seriously, the police registered a case and began a probe. "A team, led by Phase-II inspector in-charge (IIC) Sandhyarani Singh and Cyber Cell sub-inspector PT Ganesh, traced the accused to Surat. Later, the team managed to arrest the accused with the help of the Cyber Cell of Surat police," revealed the ACP.

Veterans enjoy cultural event at Rabindra Mandap

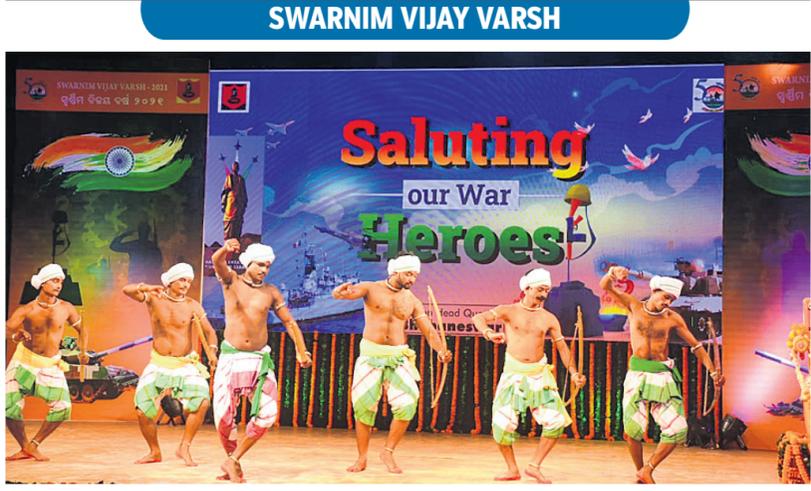
POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Service veterans from Bhubaneswar, along with senior military and state government officials, gathered at Rabindra Mandap Sunday to celebrate the victory of Indian Army over Pakistan in 1971 war. The celebration commenced with paying homage to the Swarnim Vijay Mashal, also articulated as the Victory Flame, followed by cultural programmes.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik conveyed his wishes and expressed gratitude to the 1971 war veterans through video message.

Finance Minister Niranjan Pujhari remembered the brave and valiant soldiers from Odisha who had taken part in the operation which led to the creation of Bangladesh. He also spoke about various welfare schemes initiated by the state government for the serving and retired defense personnel and their dependents.

S Mohan, Sena Medal, Vishist Sena Medal General commanding Madhya Bharat Area, highlighted the sacrifices and achievements



Artists perform at the cultural event at Rabindra Mandap

OP PHOTO

of the Indian Armed forces in service of the nation.

Development Commissioner and ACS PK Jena and ACS (Home) Sanjeev Chopra also paid tribute to the great heroes of 1971 Indo-Pak War for their supreme sacrifice

and shed light on how the war became instrumental in creation of Bangladesh.

At last, Odisha's enthralling war dance forms, Paika Akhada and Chhau, were performed by Kalinga Paika Creation of Khurda and

Project Chhauni of Mayurbhanj respectively.

Earlier in the day, a cycle rally was organised by RBL bank, Bhubaneswar, from RBL Bank to KIIT where in the cyclists carried the Flame with them.

4 held for duping NBFC of ₹10 lakh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The Commissionerate Police Sunday arrested four persons for creating fake company and cheating a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) of Rs 10 lakh with forged documents.

The accused persons were identified as Sunanda Kumar Samala, 29, of Santhapada in Angul district, Bharat Kumar Lenka, 37, of Choudwar and Santosh Kumar Samal, 26, of Athagarh in Cuttack district, and Mamata Patra, 47, of Berhampur in Ganjam district. Mamata Patra is currently staying at Chandrasekharpur area here.

According to sources, the accused Patra's husband Santosh Kumar Jena used to sell solar items by creating a fake company namely National Center for Energy Management, located at IRC village area. Police claimed that the accused made fake documents in connection with the registration of the company, email id and appointment letters.

The prime accused Jena, who is still at large, submitted various forged documents showing accused Lenka as an employee of the company with a monthly salary of Rs 1.32 lakh. Lenka availed a loan of Rs 10 lakh from the NBFC October 10. Jena and other accused persons received a certain percent of the loan amount as commission.

The NBFC authorities smelt a rat when Jena again applied for a loan of Rs 10 lakh in the name of Patra, his wife. The company later initiated a probe and found that all the documents as well as the company were fake.

On the basis of the complaint lodged by the NBFC authorities, Nayapalli police registered a case and arrested the accused persons. Police also seized Rs 2.17 lakh and a laptop from their possession.

CARE BEFORE COLD

Move to shelter urban homeless kicks off



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) of the Housing and Urban Development department directed the municipal corporations Sunday to accommodate the homeless in urban areas and prepare for a winter action plan along with other initiatives, in a bid to avoid mishap during the winter.

Sarada Prasad Panda, Joint Secretary of the department and Project Director of SUDA, said in a letter that a winter action plan must be prepared for regular campaign with captions, "No one will sleep under the open sky" and "Let us make our city homeless free" along with special drives to create awareness with night mobilisation in the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

If required, site-specific action for mobilisation of homeless individuals and arrangement of temporary shelters may also be taken at desired locations to avoid any mishap during ensuing winter. The designated Shelters for Urban Homeless (SUHs) must have proper facilities like heating, bedding, sanitizers, hand wash, drinking water, toilets and other arrangements in compliance with SUH guidelines

Site-specific action for mobilisation of homeless individuals and arrangement of temporary shelters may also be taken at desired locations to avoid any mishap during ensuing winter

The designated Shelters for Urban Homeless (SUHs) must have proper facilities like heating, bedding, sanitizers, hand wash, drinking water, toilets and other arrangements in compliance with SUH guidelines

facilities like heating, bedding, sanitizers, hand wash, drinking water, toilets and other arrangements in compliance with SUH guidelines. "You may go for using any unused building or may hire a rented building or refurbish a government building as SUH center after obtaining structural safety certification by competent authority in order to provide home for homeless during this winter," read the letter.

Panda further wrote, "You are requested to take sincere initiative on the winter action plan for regular campaign to create awareness for arrangement of temporary shelters with night mobilisation to avoid any mishap during winter."

Electoral roll summary revision begins today

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The Election Commission (EC) will launch a month-long special summary revision of Electoral roll from November 1 to include all eligible people above the age of 18 in the voter list.

Chief Electoral Officer SK Lohani said the process will start November 1 and would continue till November 30. He also revealed that a special application has been developed to help eligible voters apply online for inclusion, deletion or correction in their voter cards.

"Eligible voters whose names have not been entered in the voters' list or those who want to remove themselves from the voter list or introduce any correction to the voter card can do it online through the special application," he said.



Lohani said the Voter Helpline App can be downloaded on all mobile phones. One has to submit various documents for address, date of birth and latest picture to validate the applications. Applicants can also apply through the National Voters' Service Portal (NVSP) portal. People can also correct their

voter card through offline process by visiting the booths November 9 and 21. After completion of the process, the card will be either delivered to the people by the officials at their homes or sent to them by speed post. The final voter list will be released January 9. Lohani said so far, 1 lakh people

ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHOSE NAMES HAVE NOT BEEN ENTERED IN THE VOTERS' LIST OR THOSE WHO WANT TO REMOVE THEMSELVES FROM THE VOTER LIST OR MAKE ANY CORRECTION IN THE VOTER CARD CAN DO IT ONLINE THROUGH THE SPECIAL APP

ONE HAS TO SUBMIT VARIOUS DOCUMENTS FOR ADDRESS, DATE OF BIRTH AND LATEST PICTURE TO VALIDATE THE APPLICATIONS

SO FAR, 1 LAKH PEOPLE HAVING TWO VOTER IDS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED BY AUTO-MECHANISM SYSTEM AND ANOTHER 8 LAKH APPLICATIONS ARE STILL PENDING

having two voter IDs have been excluded by auto-mechanism system and another 8 lakh applications are still pending.

HOMAGE TO INDIRA

Congress activists pay floral tributes to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary at IG Park in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



77 minors among 488 new nCoV cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: More than half of the new coronavirus cases in Odisha Sunday were reported from Khurda district which comprises state Capital Bhubaneswar, a Health department official said.

Currently, there are 4,734 active Covid-19 cases in the coastal state, including 2,088 in Khurda, while the infection tally mounted to 10.41 lakh with Sunday's addition

Seven districts reported no new infections, while Kandhamal and Nabarangpur recorded one and two active cases respectively.



The toll rose to 8,333 with four more deaths - two in Khurda, and one each in Mayurbhanj and Puri. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far, the official said.

Of the 488 new cases, 250 were in Khurda and 54 in Cuttack. As many as 77 new patients were minors, the department said.

Currently, there are 4,734 active Covid-19 cases in the coastal state, including 2,088 in Khurda, while the infection tally mounted to 10.41 lakh with Sunday's addition. As many as 490 more people recuperated, taking the number of recoveries to 10.29 lakh.

State Library closed till November 6

Bhubaneswar: As two more members of the Harekrushna Mahtab State Library tested positive with Covid-19, it was decided to keep the building close till November 6.

The library authority instructed the readers not to come during this period. The premises of the institution will be sanitised and disinfected over these days, sources said. Earlier October 26, the institution was closed for five days till October 31 as one of the employees had tested positive. The Odia Language Literature & Culture Department had informed that the State Library will remain closed from October 27 to 31.

Transgenders' cyclothon in City promotes NMT



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) organised a cyclothon of transgenders to promote Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) and cycling across the Smart City. The cyclothon was organised between Ekamra Kshetra Plaza near Sishu Bhawan Square and Temple Plaza near Ram Mandir Square.

This was the first of its kind all-transgender cyclothon in City, organised for a cause. More than 50 people from the community participated in the event sponsored by Khimji Foundation.

Members of SAKHA, a community-based organisation of transgenders, actively participated in the event under the leadership of Meera Parida. Well-known Odia TV actor and social worker Russy Patnaik also joined as a guest and encouraged the participants.

The Temple City, as part of its citizen-centric planning based on the Smart City Proposal, has developed a city-wide quality facility for cycles and pedestrian ways so that the emissions are less and citizens enjoy a healthy environment to breathe in fresh air with minimal load of pollutants and particulate matters in the air.

Smart City Ltd Managing

Director and CEO Sanjay Kumar Singh said, "We always believe in inclusiveness and include all communities into the mainstream. While the self-help groups (SHGs) of transgender communities are given responsibilities of manning parking spaces, their participation today in the cyclothon has again proved that we are going to include all socially disadvantaged groups in our citizen-centric activities and planning."

In July this year, the Temple City bagged India Cycles 4 Change Challenge Stage-1 Award as it was adjudged among the top 11 Cycling Pioneers of the nation. All the 11 cities are going to receive an award of Rs 1 crore each to scale up cycling events.

Under the India Cycles 4 Change Challenge, Bhubaneswar Smart City has planned a series of activities in the coming days to promote cycling among all age groups and communities. This year, Smart City Bhubaneswar had come as the fourth ranked city among the top 10 Livable Capital Cities in India.

Interestingly, Bhubaneswar had topped in the Citizen Perception Survey with the highest score of 94.8 out of 100 as per the New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)'s Ease of Living Index Report, 2020.

Vigilance likely to move court for Behera's remand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: The state Vigilance is most likely to approach a court Monday seeking remand of dismissed police constable Prasanna Behera to dig into his alleged nexus with timber mafia, sources said Sunday.

According to the source, a diary recovered from Behera has mention about his links with timber mafia who used to supply wood from Chandaka forest, on the outskirts of the City here, to his furniture showroom in Dumduma area under Khandagiri police limits here.

"They (timber mafia) would send wood to Behera's furniture workshop at Dhauli. If any police official intercepts the consignment, Behera would call him up and threaten him of dire consequences like transfer. Apart from timber mafia, a few senior Forest officials also worked hand-in-glove with Behera for the purpose," said the source.

In a bid to maintain a rapport with the Forest officials, Behera used to invite them to the bar, which had been illegally operated by him. Behera would also gift them furniture, said the source, pointing out, "Examination of Behera's call detail record (CDR) would help expose the nexus."

The official further said that despite holding a government service, Behera bagged a few tenders for drain repairing in the City.

Sources also revealed that the anti-corruption wing sleuths would also probe the issue during the remand period.

Sources also said that Behera was recently arrested for allegedly running an unlicensed bar here and subsequently dismissed from service for his alleged misconduct.

Later, he landed in trouble as the Vigilance raided Behera's and his family's properties at different places in the Capital city.

However, the Vigilance is yet to release a final list of Behera's properties, sources added.

Unidentified vehicle kills 2 in Khurda



POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Oct 31: Two women, who were out possibly on a morning walk, were killed after being hit by an unidentified vehicle at Kapasia village under Bolagarh police limits Sunday morning. The deceased have been identified as the residents of Kapasia village.

Following the incident, tension gripped the locality as angry local people blocked the road keeping

the bodies on it, demanding adequate compensation to the bereaved families and construction of speed breakers at the both ends of the village.

According to a source, it was some passersby who first spotted the women's bodies lying in a pool of blood on the National Highway-57 at Kapasia. They immediately informed the villagers who in turn alerted the police.

The police reached the spot and

rushed the victims to a nearby hospital where they succumbed while undergoing treatment.

From the circumstances, it is evident that they were walking down the road when an unknown vehicle hit them and sped away from the spot.

At the time of filing of the report, palpable tension prevailed at the village while police officers were trying to pacify the angry villagers.

WASSUP TODAY BHUBANESWAR

Launch of IndiGo's flight operations from Bhubaneswar to Jaipur, BPIA, 11am

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

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I, Tapas Ku Swain, S/o Narayan Swain, At/P.O.-Kumarpur, P.S.-Gurudijhatia, Dist. Cuttack Sale deed No.1022 Dt.02.08.2000 has missed near T.P.M. Fandi, Choudwar and F.I.R. Reg. No.8, Dt.30.10.2021 vendor Ram Ch Muduli vendi Tapas Kumar Swain can not mortgaged at any where.

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Jumbo lives at risk as NH-53 lacks underpass

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Oct 31: Marking areas as elephant corridors on the Sambalpur-Tilebani stretch of National Highway-53 without construction of underpasses has posed serious threat to the lives of the pachyderms and other wildlife crossing the highway during their movement, a report said.

Tilebani is located in Deogarh district. The error has been committed at three places on Sambalpur-Tilebani stretch of National Highway-53, the report said. The agency, except putting up a signboard which mentions the area as elephant corridor, has not constructed any underpass on the stretch of highway. Residents held the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and the forest department responsible for the blunder.

Locals said that several jumbo herds are living in Dhama, Padiabahal, Rengali forest ranges under Sambalpur forest division. These herds often use the corridor marked on the highway to move from one jungle to another and this might endanger their lives during movement, they said.

Residents alleging favouritism to the consultancy agency said that they brought the matter to the notice of the NHAI but no effort was made to construct underpasses by making changes in the planned drawings of the highway.

However, after complaints were made, the highway authority made changes in the Sambalpur-Angul stretch of National Highway-55 to accommodate

Locals said that several jumbo herds living in Dhama, Padiabahal, Rengali forest ranges under Sambalpur forest division often use the corridor marked on the highway to move from one jungle to another

Residents alleging favouritism to the consultancy agency said that they brought the matter to the notice of the NHAI but it was of no use

They alleged that in its bid to finish the work quickly, the NHAI overlooked the wildlife protection rules of the government

Earlier, the consultancy agency had landed in soup for sub-standard works and irregularity in use of flyash. The NHAI was forced to form a probe team

underpasses. The residents demanding construction of underpasses at 10 or more places staged a protest and stopped the highway construction works.

However, no one listened to their pleas. The agency went ahead with the highway construction works without constructing any underpass by simply marking some places on the highway as elephant corridors.

Locals alleged that this has been done to help the consultancy agency make profits from the highway works. Locals said that there cannot be two sets of rules in construction of highways when the NHAI is the apex authority responsible for management and construction of the network of highways in the country.

They alleged that in its bid to finish the work quickly, the NHAI overlooked the wildlife protection



rules of the government. They demanded that elephant corridors should be constructed on the basis of wildlife protection rules of the government.

Earlier, the consultancy agency had landed in soup for sub-standard work and irregularity in use of flyash. The NHAI was forced to form a probe team. The team conducted a probe and warned the agency for proper construction of the highway and not to use substandard raw materials in its construction.

Moreover, the road construction is getting delayed, due to which many people have lost their lives in the last few years. Now, the recent move has endangered the lives of elephants and other wildlife. Locals claimed that in the past, there were elephant cor-

ridors at Jayantpur, Niladunguri, ahead of Gaidapalli bridge when the highway was narrow having only a single road. Then, there was not much traffic on the route and elephants could move freely across the highway.

However, with change in time the expansion of the highway has been taken up while dividers are being constructed in the median of the highway. This will deter the movement of wildlife on the highway. As per rules, the forest department has to conduct a survey and submit a report to the NHAI before the construction of the highway informing about the number of elephant corridors on the route. Later, the NHAI has to prepare a drawing for construction of the highway and float tender for the purpose. The NHAI

and the appointed agency can also make changes in the drawing as per requirement.

When contacted, Nageswar Rao, project director, NHAI rejected the charge stating that plans have been made for construction of two underpasses on the Sambalpur-Tilebani stretch of the highway. He, however, admitted no plan has been made for construction of an underpass on the elephant corridor near Padiabahal.

Tejaraj Nayak, assistant conservator of forests, said plans are afoot for construction of an underpass ahead of the Gaidapalli bridge. However, no plan has been made to construct underpasses in other places as the land belongs to private individuals. He said that signboards have been put up in all those places.

Unabated stone mining takes toll on Atei forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 31: Illegal mining of stone has been rampant in Atei forest under Ghatagon range in Keonjhar district, thanks to the indifference of the forest department and the district administration. Mafia has been stripping the green cover and carrying out stone mining. This has become a cause of resentment among locals.

DFO DD Hanumat Rao has expressed concern over it after a video of mafia quarrying stone went viral.

Moreover, stone extraction has been going on in Dukhabahali, Uparmunda and Kupurdiha villages. Meanwhile, taking serious note of the issue, the forest department has started an investigation into the unauthorised stone quarrying.

It was alleged that due to rampant stone mining, huge craters have appeared in various parts under Ghatagon, Sadar and Gopalpur ranges. The forests are

It was alleged that due to rampant stone mining, huge craters have appeared in various parts under Ghatagon, Sadar and Gopalpur ranges

facing threat from such illegal mining. Owing to the stone mining, the government has been losing revenue worth crores of rupees.

Stone is also being mined illegally near Kanjhari dam, a tourist hub in the district. The environment in the area is affected badly due to it, locals alleged, saying that some traders are carrying out the illegal stone mining to supply material for ongoing road construction works.

Locals have demanded immediate step to stop the illegal mining in forests and action against the mafia.



RUN FOR UNITY



Participants at a 'Run for Unity' event organised by the 76th battalion of Border Security Force at MV-79 village in Malkangiri on the occasion of National Unity Day commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Deputy Prime Minister of the country

MESS IN FERTILISER SUPPLY IN GANJAM

Coop dept orders probe into scam, seeks report

Farmers had earlier alleged that farming had been affected due to short supply of fertilisers in the kharif season

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Oct 31: Large-scale irregularities have been committed in subsidised fertiliser supply and distribution in Ganjam. The co-operation department has ordered an investigation into the irregularities, a report said.

According to the report, every year, farmers fail to get fertilisers as per their requirements during the peak of the paddy farming season. Short supply of fertilisers often provides traders and retailers an opportunity to sell it at high prices. Farmers had earlier alleged that farming had been affected due to short supply of fertilisers in the kharif season.

In the current year, various farmers' organisations have been alleging unavailability of fertilisers. They have apprised the district administration and the co-operation department of the problem. They rued that irregularities are being committed in the Ganjam district when the State and Central governments have emphasised on smooth distribution of fertilisers to farmers. Alleged irregularities have defeated the purpose of the subsidy to the farmers.

Direct benefit transfer (DBT) has been made mandatory for farmers availing fertilisers with subsidy. As per guidelines, Aadhaar of farmers has been linked to their biometrics. Farmers while buying fertilisers have to give biometrics on POS machines.

However, some cooperative so-



SOME COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES, WHICH HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH FERTILISER DISTRIBUTION, HAVE THROWN GUIDELINES TO THE WINDS IN THE CURRENT KHARIF SEASON

TAKING NOTE OF IRREGULARITIES, IFFCO HAD LODGED AN OBJECTION TO VIOLATION OF GUIDELINES IN A LETTER TO THE COOPERATION DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 26

IT WAS ALLEGED THAT 13 COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN GANJAM HAVE SOLD FERTILISERS WITHOUT TAKING BIOMETRICS OF THE FARMERS. AN INVESTIGATION WILL ASCERTAIN IF GENUINE FARMERS HAVE RECEIVED THE FERTILISERS

cieties, which have been entrusted with fertiliser distribution, have thrown such guidelines to the winds in the current kharif season. As a result, many farmers have failed to get subsidy benefits and their quota.

Taking note of such irregularities, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO), which has been authorised by the Central government to supply fertilisers to the state government, had lodged an objection on violation of guidelines in a letter to the co-operation department October 26.

In the letter, it was alleged that 13 cooperative societies in Ganjam

have sold fertilisers without taking biometrics of the farmers. It claimed that these cooperative societies have sold out 119.693 metric tonnes of fertilisers. Investigation will ascertain if genuine farmers have received the fertilisers or not.

Acting on the complaint of the IFFCO, the registrar of cooperative societies, Bhubaneswar, has started an investigation into it. He has directed the deputy registrar of cooperative societies and all the assistant registrars of cooperative societies of Ganjam to submit an investigation report about the irregularities.

Rogue elephant tranquilised

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Oct 31: A rogue elephant which had trampled an elderly man to death and injured four persons was finally tamed after an expert team from the Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar tranquilised it here in Kendrapara district, Sunday.

The animal had strayed from

Jajpur district. It had passed through Nischintakoili block in Cuttack district, cutting across Raghunathpur, Tirtol and Erasama of Jagatsinghpur district. Later, it ended up at Sobala village under Gadaromit panchayat of Mahakalapara block.

Locals noticed it on a farmland and informed the forest officials. Jambu forest officials tried to drive

it away by bursting crackers but failed in their bid.

On being informed, Rajnagar DFO Jagnyadatt Pati and his Cuttack counterpart Sanjay Kumar Swain rushed to the spot and sought the help of Nandankanan authorities. An expert team from Nandankanan accompanied by a mahout rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation. Later,



they tranquilised the animal in the evening following which the mahout chained its legs. The animal will be taken to Nandankanan or Cuttack Monday, Jambu ranger Sahaji Charan Biswal said.

Koraput coffee farming to take a leap next year

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Oct 31: The District Coffee Trust Board has made a plan to expand coffee farming in Koraput through self-help groups (SHGs). A decision to this effect was taken at the 15th meeting of the Board here Sunday. Next year, it has set a target to go in for coffee farming in 1,000 hectares to produce 150 metric tonne of coffee.

The meeting was presided over by Collector M Abdaal Akhtar. ADM Rajendra Majhi, PD Hemkant Sai, deputy director of coffee development board Arun Kumar Das, PA of Koraput ITDA Karu Soren, officials of horticulture and the manager of Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation of Odisha Ltd (TDCOL) underscored the need for granting coffee farming an industry status.

Notably, TDCOL with technical support from the Regional Coffee



Board is making a market intervention of the produce.

As Koraput's cool climate makes it ideal for coffee growing, the officials laid stress on taking various measures to promote it in big way particularly at Padua, Chatua, Ankadoli, Lamtaput, Dasmathpur, Koraput, Laxmipur, Semiliguda, Potangi and Nandapur. The Collector said that SHGs

should be roped in into the coffee farming. The Collector said that 600 farmers in the district are already into the coffee farming while more tribal farmers will be involved in the cultivation.

These days, more farmers are taking interest in coffee cultivation in several other pockets of the district. Integrated Tribal Development

Agency has been receiving a steady stream of requests from tribal communities to help convert wasteland and common land into coffee plantations. The trend shows a growing interest among tribal communities to diversify their income through this cash crop.

The Collector directed the TDCOL to facilitate the marketing linkage for the coffee produced in the district. In 2021-2022, coffee will be grown on 1,000 hectares of government and private land.

The officials said that Van Suraksha Samitis should be asked to identify suitable jungles for coffee farming. As a result, women associated with SHGs will be self-reliant with coffee farming along with forest protection, the Collector added.

Some of the self-help groups (SHGs) are already involved in coffee growing in some areas. The larger plantation area will help create liveli-

hoods for more villagers and this crop will bring about a remarkable change in the lives of the tribal people who have primarily practised shifting cultivation for generations.

In 1930, the erstwhile royals of Jeypore had started coffee plantation on an experimental basis in Bichalkota village. Later, the coffee plantation was adopted by the Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development to check siltation at the Machhkund hydroelectricity reservoir in 1958.

Using the forest canopy, the directorate started expanding the plantation area in a graded manner. The expansion, however, did not pick up pace because of fund constraints and policy bottlenecks.

In 2016-17, the Koraput district administration founded the Coffee Development Trust to create a single platform to remove bottlenecks and turn the district into coffee hub.

The Odisha Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
(An ISO:9001:2008 certified Govt. Company)
Industrial Estate, Madhupatna, CUTTACK - 753 010, Odisha.
Tel No. : 0671-2341204, 2342816 Fax : 0671-2341875/2342561
e-mail: osicildt@gmail.com, osicm@gmail.com, website: osicildt.in
NO.CAD-1665 OSIC GST NO. 21AAAC02101M121

e-Procurement Notice for Building works

Tender Notice No. 4583 Date: 30.10.2021
Identification No. On line Building OSIC/Constr./2021-2022/04

1. Name of the work
i) RFP for Construction, Design, Manufacturing, Supply and Erection of Pre-Engineered Building Steel Structure of RICE & RICE Bran cluster(200TPD) and Civil work of solvent Extraction Plant, Testing Laboratory and Training Center.

2. Total No of works : 01 No.

3. Class of Contractor : A or B class as per eligibility criteria online.

4. Period of completion : (i) 09(Nine) Calendar months.

5. Other details.

Procurement on line	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Date & time of opening of Tender in O/O MD OSIC Ltd., Cuttack
		From	To	
MD OSIC Ltd., Cuttack	04 of 2021-2022	01.11.21 at 11:00 A.M.	22.11.21 up to 5:00 P.M.	23.11.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Any amendment corrigendum, cancellation or re-tender may please be referred to the website.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

OIPR-14073/11/0051/2122

FOCUS COP26

CIVIC CLIMATE ACTION



As important as decarbonisation commitments from national governments are, it is city mayors who are on the front lines in the global struggle against climate change. But with the pandemic having decimated municipal budgets, cities will need more support to continue the pioneering work they have already begun

the way on climate change.

In recognition of the work cities have been leading, the Global Covenant has won the second annual Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity. The prize money will go to provide direct support to help acutely vulnerable African cities respond to the climate crisis in ways that also support their economic recoveries from the pandemic. We will share lessons learned through the global network, encouraging cities across Africa and around the world to take similar steps.

National governments have strong reasons to help their cities in this respect. Cities, after all, generate three-quarters of global GDP. They are engines of economic mobility, industry, and technological innovation. Strong and thriving cities make for strong and thriving countries – and smart municipal climate action helps all city residents live better, healthier lives.

As COP26 begins, cities collectively offer the best reason for hope in the battle against climate change. They are ready to do more, and the Global Covenant, the European Commission, and Bloomberg Philanthropies stand ready to help them. We will continue to cultivate widespread public support and engagement, unlock new funding, and offer tools to help cities deliver bolder and even more ambitious climate solutions.

But Global Covenant cities and their one billion inhabitants are also calling out for more support from national governments. When one billion people speak with one voice, leaders should listen. COP26 is a chance for world leaders to show that they are.

Mike Bloomberg and Frans Timmermans are Co-Chairs of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

At this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, much of the attention will be on what national governments can do to cut emissions more quickly and uphold a previous commitment to provide \$100 billion annually in climate finance for low- and middle-income countries.

These are critical issues. But there is another group of leaders whose actions are also essential to tackling climate change, and who together are showing what is possible: the world's mayors. In fact, pledging more support for, and partnerships with, the cities pursuing climate adaptation and mitigation is one of the most important steps that national governments can take at COP26.

As home to a growing majority of the world's population, cities are responsible for around three-quarters of global energy use and 70 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions. Fortunately, mayors have considerable authority to address the biggest sources of those emissions, not least transportation and building energy use.

Mayors also have powerful incentives to act. Toxic air pollution from burning fossil fuels is often concentrated in cities, causing illness and premature death; and local governments are often the first line of defense against natural disasters. Moreover, interventions like building public transport, creating more parks and green spaces, improving buildings' energy efficiency, and replacing fossil fuels with clean power can make an immediate and measurable difference in the lives of city inhabitants.

Mayors and city leaders have proven that they are willing and able to lead. Milan, Italy, is converting its entire public transport fleet to electric power. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is enacting a plan to run on 100 per cent renewable energy. Accra,

Ghana, is on track to cut emissions by more than 25 per cent this decade, even as its population continues to grow. Lima, Peru, will plant two million trees by 2022. Seoul, South Korea, is providing low-interest loans for zero-energy buildings. Quezon City, Philippines, responded to the pandemic with an emergency employment programme that puts people to work protecting and restoring the environment. And Putrajaya, Malaysia, is switching to solar energy as the default option for all official buildings.

But cities can't save the planet alone. Now more than ever, they need support. The economic devastation of the pandemic has hit cities particularly hard, decimating municipal budgets. City leaders know that fighting climate change and driving a green economic recovery go hand in hand, because the same measures that reduce CO2 emissions also spur growth, generate jobs, and create conditions that attract new residents and businesses. The more we do to support cities, the faster our progress will be against both the

climate crisis and COVID-19.

Since 2017, we have been working together through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, an alliance that now includes more than 11,000 cities – collectively home to more than one billion people. Each of these cities has made a bold commitment to cut emissions and adapt to climate change, and, through the alliance, they are sharing strategies and solutions. While international climate negotiations are often hindered by conflicts about who should be doing more, cities are working together with a spirit of common purpose and shared destiny. They are collaborating because they understand the benefits of collective action.

For its part, the Global Covenant enables cities to access resources – including technical assistance to identify opportunities and design innovative projects, as well as funding from a wide range of partners – to do more, faster. The alliance also gives cities a way to speak together as one, advocating policies that can help them aim even higher and continue leading

Mike Bloomberg & Frans Timmermans

AS COP26 BEGINS, CITIES COLLECTIVELY OFFER THE BEST REASON FOR HOPE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Religion of Cricket



Nothing, not even the darkest falsehood can stop the ultimate triumph of Truth.

THE MOTHER

For many Indians, the game of cricket is their religion. They are devoutly attached to the scintillating battle between the willow and the leather as it transports them to a world of pure joy and entertainment. For this reason, the super-performers of this game are often elevated to the level of gods. Cricket also generates intense passion that, at times, assumes the form of nationalistic fervour. It acts as a cementing factor, unifying a whole country. Cricket playing countries like India and Pakistan have witnessed this brand of nationalism for decades. It is, indeed, an edifying spectacle to watch a whole country willing the eleven players on the cricket ground to win. When they do win, a wave of joy sweeps over the masses and when they lose, a pall of gloom and despair descends on the whole land. There's nothing wrong in it. Unfortunately, when religion gets injected into cricket, the complexion of the game changes. This seems to have happened in the case of the T20 match between India and Pakistan recently. What has happened after India's crushing defeat at the hands of Pakistan in the current T20 series last week is the ugliest manifestation of emotional outpourings, probably encouraged by current day politics. For the first time in the history of cricket and India-Pakistan engagements in the cricketing arena, one of the most outdated laws, Sedition, has been invoked. On the other hand, India's ace pacer Mohammed Shami has been subjected to vitriolic trolling on social media. These are all products of an all pervading twisted climate where politics and a skewed interpretation of religion have got mixed up to defeat the very purpose of the game.

Ironically, only a few days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah said he was reaching out to the young in Jammu & Kashmir, the police of that Union Territory registered a case under the draconian anti-terror law, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), against unknown students in two Srinagar medical colleges for 'cheering for Pakistan' in the T20 match. It is true that there might not be evidence to conclude that their cheering was intended to be incitement to violence, yet there is no doubt that their act in favour of Pakistan was intended to be anti-India. Likewise, in Congress-ruled Rajasthan, the police arrested a Moslem lady school teacher for a social media post in open support of the Pakistan cricket team stating 'We Won' after the team's victory against India. The UP police arrested three Kashmiri students in Agra, and filed cases against four other people.

On one hand, it is imperative to praise Virat Kohli, the Indian cricket team captain, for labelling the trolls on social media as 'pathetic' and 'spineless' those who abused Indian pace bowler Mohammed Shami. Especially since the trolls went to the extent of asking Shami to go to Pakistan. They were accusing the bowler, the only Moslem player in the current Indian cricket team, as collaborating with Pakistan. These trolls definitely deserve condemnation from every sports lover of India. But, on the other hand, one cannot ignore the silence of the Indian Moslem community in such highly emotion-charged situations. Some may recollect the statement of veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah, who has proved to be a rare Indian Moslem, who implored Indian Moslems to remain non-violent and criticised the sections of Indian Moslems who had shared, publicly their happiness at the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan. Naseeruddin had said that Indian Moslems are different and must remain so. They cannot afford to close their eyes to modernity influencing Islam and must not ignore the barbarism within that religion represented by the Taliban. Naseeruddin's sane advice was slammed by many prominent Moslems from across the country.

Certain points need to be pondered over while considering India's present and the past. A Hindoo like Virat Kohli stands up, at the risk of becoming a target himself, and fights for Mohammed Shami. Kohli would be very aware that although he is extremely popular yet many Hindoos may not approve of his stand. In spite of that he has spoken with courage what his heart tells him to be true. But if we look back, a similar reaction can never be expected from the Moslem leaders if members of that community commit grave crimes. One will be incapable of finding any prominent Moslem leader condemning Ajmal Kasab and the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. Similarly, when India underwent the pain of bomb blasts across major cities, there was no condemnation from within the Moslem community even though the blasts were claimed by radical Islamist organisations.

The majority community in India needs to be tolerant. Admirably, it has many like Kohli who have the ability to criticise and do not shy away from introspecting. On the flip side, the minority communities wallow in self pity and seem to accept open anti-national activities of a small section from within their faith. It is true the majority need to change their outlook on many issues but the minorities need to change their character also.

WISDOM CORNER

All differences in this world are of degree, and not of kind, because oneness is the secret of everything. **SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**

If we can really understand the problem, the answer will come out of it, because the answer is not separate from the problem. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**

You feel good, you feel bad, and these feelings are bubbling from your own unconsciousness, from your own past. Nobody is responsible except you. Nobody can make you angry, and nobody can make you happy. **OSHO**

WORDSWORTH

Plonk

Plonk, as a disparaging term for cheap wine, especially cheap red wine, is now widely known in the UK and also to a lesser extent in the USA. It's so fixed a part of British English that many people are surprised to hear that it's originally Australian. In that country you may at one time have encountered references to plonk bar and plonk shop for a wine bar or shop, especially a cheap and cheerful one, plonk-up for a party, and plonked-up for intoxicated, though we are told these are all rather dated. There's also plink, which was once a joking variation, which has led some writers to guess that plonk is an imitative invention from the sound of a cork being pulled from a bottle. However, the evidence indicates instead an origin in the fighting in Europe in the First World War, when troops from various British Empire countries who spoke only English came into contact with the French language. The result was weirdly transmogrified expressions, such as napoo from "il n'y en a plus", or san fairy ann from "ça ne fait rien". Plonk is a tortured version of blanc, as in vin blanc, white wine. Several humorous or mangled versions of that phrase are recorded in Australia in the decades after the end of the War, such as vin blank, von blink, point blank, and plinketty plonk. By the 1930s the word had begun to settle down into our modern form, though to judge from a comment in The Bulletin in Sydney, dated 1933, it was then referring to some sort of rotgut or moonshine: "The man who drinks illicit brews or 'plonk' (otherwise known as 'madman's soup') by the quart does it in quiet spots or at home." The Tommies in France certainly drank local wine; lexicographer Jonathon Green told me about the memoirs of Frank Richards, Old Soldiers Never Die, published in 1964, which says about that period: "Ving blong was very cheap ... a man could get a decent pint and a half bottle for a franc." It's easy to see why the term didn't thrive in the UK after the War, since virtually no wine was then made in Britain and there was no tradition of wine drinking except among upper-class or cosmopolitan people. Plonk started to become known in the UK only in the 1950s, partly because ordinary Brits started to drink wine, and in part because of increased exposure to Australian English, of which one factor may have been Nevil Shute's well-known novel about Australia, A Town Like Alice of 1950, in which it appears.

SPECTRUM VACCINATION

Not a time for celebration

A government is elected to perform and serve people, not to publicise its achievements at the cost of taxpayers' money. But, the present ruling dispensation at the Centre attributes all its failures to previous governments or to the act of God but unashamedly takes credit for any major achievement. It resorts to publicity blitzkrieg in such a way that the government has no responsibility towards its citizens and what it is doing is only out of its magnanimity.

October 21, India achieved the milestone of administering 100 crore vaccines to tame the menace of coronavirus. The government left no stone unturned to take credit for the achievement with the Prime Minister writing an opinion piece in leading national, regional dailies and addressing the nation in the exaltation of his government's effort.

He lauded India's journey in administering 100 crore jabs and described it as a "journey from anxiety to assurance." He also hailed this landmark as a collective spirit of 130 crore Indians and a reflection of 'new India's' determination and will to achieve tough targets. He stressed that this milestone was enough to silence critics and India has earned applause throughout the world through this commendable achievement. However, China has crossed the same milestone much before (in June 2021). By this time, China has administered 223 crore doses, more than twice that of India.

It is wrong to assume that India has performed well in comparison to other countries in inoculating its own people. The comparison should be made in relative terms, not absolute terms.

A vaccinated person refers to someone who has received at least one dose of a vaccine, and a fully vaccinated person has received all required doses of a vaccine. According to Covid World Vaccination Tracker based on a data project at the University of Oxford (The New York Times), as of October 21, the vaccination rate of first dose in India was 51 per cent, marginally higher than the world average of 49.6 per cent (i.e., 360 million). But if the second dose is considered, the vaccination rate in India was only 21 per cent, much lower than the world average of 38 per cent.

India might have administered 100 crore vaccine doses, but the milestone masks a yawning gap. In India, the time interval between the first and second doses is the highest. This has raised concerns that a large swathe of the population still remains susceptible to the highly infectious delta variant. In order to vaccinate all of the country's 94.4 crore adults by December, an additional 23.43 crore doses will be required to provide at least the first dose to adults who have not been vaccinated. If children are included, another 12 crore doses are needed

to administer the first dose.

In about 16 countries, 90 per cent of the population has been vaccinated, and 70 countries have reported more than the world average. Sixty countries have already given two doses to 37 per cent of their population. In fact, India lags behind 77 countries in terms of the vaccination rate. The UAE, Portugal, Cuba, Chile, Malta, Qatar, Singapore, and Cambodia are at the forefront of the world. In terms of the first dose of vaccine rates per 100 population, the European Union (66), the UAE (98), Cuba (86), Spain (81), China (79), Italy (76), Japan (76), France (76), Brazil (74), the UK (74), Germany (69.66), Israel (69), Sri Lanka (68), the US (66), are much ahead of India.

Even in terms of the second dose, the European Union (57.4), the UAE (88), Cuba (61), Spain (66), Germany (66), China (75), Italy (71), Japan (69), France (68), Brazil (52), the UK (68), the US (57), Sri Lanka (59), Israel (63), are in a much better position than India. While 0.7 per cent of the world's population has been given another additional dose or booster dose, no one in India has received this. In Israel, 43 per cent of the eligible population has received the booster dose.

In reality, this publicity blitzkrieg was a deliberate attempt to circumvent prevalent concerns about this government's inept handling of the pandemic and to erase from the memory of people the excruciating experience they had to un-

dergo during the second wave of the pandemic.

This unwarranted publicity blitzkrieg is an affront to those who have succumbed to the infection or those families whose members have died or suffered a lot, became insolvent, or sold properties for treatment. Hence, before celebrating the government should have fathomed the plight and sufferings of more than 3.4 crore Indians who were infected and families of 4.53 lakh Indians who succumbed to the infection.

It triggers a sense of consternation in mind to recall the horrifying experience when India was in the grip of a rampaging second wave leading to mammoth loss of lives and livelihoods. Our underfunded, decrepit health system buckled. Indian hospitals turned away patients. Many patients died due to lack of oxygen and bed.

India's economic recovery continues to be fragile with the momentum getting hobbled by the continued threat of the pandemic. With the emergence of new challenges, such as rising inflation, inequality, poverty, hunger with concomitant decline of purchasing power India's problem will be more intractable. India is now experiencing a bumpy K-shaped economic recovery which needs to be addressed first.

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



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

A LARGE SWATHE OF THE POPULATION STILL REMAINS SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE HIGHLY INFECTIOUS DELTA VARIANT

Meaningful meeting

Sir, Photos and videos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Pope Francis, Head of Catholic Church, at the Vatican are truly delightful and heart-warming. The pictures of the two leaders embracing each other come as a whiff of fresh air especially during this period of the pandemic and various crises happening around the globe. They beautifully showcase our policy of universal brotherhood. The historic meet truly showcases that India is always ahead in matters connected to global harmony, peace, progress and development. It also sends a meaningful message that we are a tolerant nation. Modi's meeting with the Catholic head of the world emphasises our pluralistic philosophy and our age old belief of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. Pope Francis has accepted Prime Minister Modi's invitation to visit India and has warmly responded to the invitation as a 'great gift' clearly showing how much the globe looks forward to co-operate with India in matters regarding global harmony and progress. Even though the interaction was scheduled for just twenty minutes it lasted for about an hour truly showing its fruitfulness. The leaders spoke on very important global issues like the pandemic and its remedy, global poverty and issues related to climate change, showing that the Vatican sees India as a nation that can faithfully unite and lead the other nations in making the world a better place to live. The Christian community of India has lauded the meeting and this is heartening not just for the Christian community but for the whole of India and the world.

Party over?

Sir, The curtains appear to be coming down on the party in the Dalal Street, with markets sliding for the third day in a row, Friday. The Sensex fell 677.77 points to close at 59,306.93, and the Nifty slid 185.6 points to 17,671.65. Friday's decline comes on the back of a near two per cent decline in indices Thursday because of the Reserve Bank of India's move to drain cash from the banking system. The foreign portfolio investors have been the biggest sellers offloading shares worth Rs 18,000 crore in the month of October. Investors would do well to make informed investment decisions and buy during market dips to get more bang for their buck.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

MISHRA VISITS KALAHANDI AHEAD OF PATNAIK'S TOUR



also inaugurate several projects. Kalahandi District Collector Gavali Parag Harshad, Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M, Public Works Department (PWD) executive engineer Ajit Kumar Babu and several other officials along with BJD leaders were present with Mishra during his inspection.

It is pertinent to mention, the launch of 'smart health card' under BSKY were earlier conducted in Malkangiri district (August 20), Sundargarh district (September 14) and Bolangir (September 22) this year.

On the occasion of 75th Independence Day, Patnaik had announced to provide 'smart health cards' to at least 3.5 crore people from 96 lakh families in the state under BSKY. Each family will be able to avail treatment worth up to Rs 5,00,000 per year. However, women members of the families can avail health benefits up to Rs 10 lakh annually.

He identified the spot where a temporary helipad will be constructed for the CM when he tours the district in this town. The minister also visited a playground located on the premises of College of Agriculture in this town where Patnaik will address a gathering.

Sources said that the Chief Minister is likely to tour Kalahandi in the second week of November and distribute 'smart health cards' to a number of beneficiaries under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). During the tour, Patnaik will

POST NEWS NETWORK

Junagarh/Bhawanipatna, Oct 31: Minister of State (Home) Dibya Shankar Mishra visited Kalahandi district Saturday and Sunday to supervise arrangements ahead of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's visit. Mishra attended 'Mo Paribar, Biju Patibar' programme at Mahichila under Junagarh block, Sunday. He accused opposition parties of linking him with the Mamita murder case as part of their political conspiracy.



A forest official digging pits with a machine to hasten sapling plantation in a forest under Bhanjanagar range in Ganjam, Sunday

FOR QUICK PLANTATION

PADDY PROCUREMENT IN SONEPUR DISTRICT

Token system to continue; 29 SHGs to procure paddy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sonepur, Oct 31: Though the token system for paddy procurement has been opposed by farmers in the past, the district level procurement committee has decided to continue with it in the current kharif season. Apart from 62 PACSs, 29 SHGs will also be engaged in paddy procurement, a report said.

The committee has set a target to procure 36 lakh quintals of paddy in the district in the current season. The procurement will start from December 6.

For conducting the process smoothly, the committee has decided to procure paddy six days a week from 8.00am till 1.00pm. After paddy procurement, the lifting will be carried out the same day to keep the space free for stocking.

At the meeting of the procurement committee, it was decided that farmers will be issued tokens which will be valid for 30 days. The farmers who have registered online will be intimated about procurement status through their mobile numbers.

In the last kharif season, a quintal of general paddy was purchased for Rs 1,868. This season the price has been hiked to Rs 1,940.

In the last kharif season, 41



millers of the district and 11 from outside were involved in the paddy procurement programme. The Civil Supplies Corporation has opened 103 mandis in the district. Till date, 64, 567 farmers have registered their names to sell paddy.

Planning and Coordination and Transport Minister Padmanabh Behera was present at the meeting. He asked officials to ensure that problems that had come up during paddy procurement in the Rabi season should not be repeated again this time. The minister has directed the nodal officer to visit mandis to sort out bottlenecks.

Zilla Parishad chairperson Ushakumari Pradhan said the token system should be simplified for farmers so that they do not face any problems.

In previous years, farmers had complained of weight reduction of paddy on plea of poor quality and bungling of funds for mandi handling and delay in paddy lifting from mandis by the millers.

Youth murdered in Balasore town

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Oct 31: Unidentified miscreants shot and hacked to death a youth at Kuruda Chowk under Balasore Sadar police limits Sunday. The unidentified miscreants first shot Binod Bihari Das and then hacked him repeatedly with a billhook to confirm the latter's death. Past enmity is said to be the reason behind the murder. Binod was a resident of Jagannath Patna under Sadar police limits.



Binod had gone to Kuruda Chowk for some work Sunday morning. The two miscreants on a motorcycle suddenly appeared from nowhere and shot Binod from close range in the head. As Binod fell, the two hit him repeatedly with the billhook before fleeing the spot.

The sudden incident left people in a state of panic. On getting information, a team from Sadar police station reached the spot and rescued a critically wounded Binod and rushed him to Balasore district headquarters hospital (DHH). The doctors there pronounced him dead on arrival. Police have launched a manhunt to arrest the culprits.

Farmers fret as monsoonal tuber crop fails

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Oct 30: Potato farmers in Kandhamal district are staring at a bleak future after monsoonal tuber crop promoted by the horticulture department resulted in a loss, a report said Saturday.

The farmers took up the cultivation after the horticulture department assured them of a good harvest and provided them with potato seeds. The growth of the potato plants was good but the yield was disappointing. This is not an isolated incident and can be seen in Rujangi, Pitabari, Bandhasahi villages of the district.

Farmers started harvesting the crop but were left disappointed after they found hardly one or two potatoes in the roots. The price of potato is rising day by day and they were expecting a handsome income from the cultivation.

However, their hopes were shattered. Things are in such a bad state that they are even finding it difficult to pay wages to labourers.

Farmers have blamed the horticulture department and low quality seeds supplied to them by the horticulture department for their loss.

Farmers said the department asked them to take up cultivation of tuber in this monsoon, saying they could reap a good harvest. The aim was to prevent farmers



The potato farming was carried out by farmers on 250 acres in all 12 blocks of the district during this monsoon. As many as 1,744 farmers were supplied with 3,750 quintals of seeds. Each farmer was given three packets of seeds amounting to Rs 1,500. The subsidy amount accruing to the farmers was expected to be credited to their bank accounts which is yet to take place

Mihir Samantaray, deputy director of the horticulture department, said the cultivation was taken up in the district with a hope that farmers could reap a bumper harvest as the night temperature will remain low during monsoon. However, back to back low-pressure resulted in incessant rainfall which spoiled their plan. He, however, rejected complete loss in cultivation

from losing of livelihood due to distress sale and meeting the potato requirement in the district.

The cultivation was carried out by farmers on 250 acres in all 12 blocks of the district during this monsoon. As many as 1,744 farmers were supplied with 3,750 quin-

tals of seeds. Each farmer was given three packets of seeds amounting to Rs 1,500. The subsidy amount accruing to the farmers was expected to be credited to their bank accounts which is yet to take place.

Farmers followed all procedures

in carrying out the cultivation. However, the harvest was quite disappointing. The farmers of Phulbani block were the worst hit.

They alleged that they were not given proper training by the horticulture department prior to cultivation nor any field official visited the farmland to oversee the cultivation. As a result, they carried out farming with minimum knowledge.

Horticulture officials, however, rejected the charges. The officials said the farmers who followed advisory reaped a good harvest and those failing to take care of their crops suffered loss.

The demand and price of potato is rising day by day. The price of a kg of potato was Rs 15 last week which has now gone up to Rs 25. Farmer couple Nabarathi Kanhar and Soudamini Kanhar who suffered loss said that they will never take up tuber cultivation in future.

When contacted, Mihir Samantaray, deputy director of the horticulture department, said the cultivation was taken up in the district with a hope that farmers could reap a bumper harvest as the night temperature will remain low during monsoon.

However, back to back low-pressure resulted in incessant rainfall which spoiled their plan. He, however, rejected complete loss in cultivation.

Hygienic drinking water still a dream for Jajpur tribals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kaliapani, Oct 31: The government has emphasised on providing hygienic water for people in rural areas. However, there are some remote villages under Sukinda block in Jajpur, where clean drinking water is dream, a report said. Tribal people in Tikarpada village have no way out, but to drink water from pits dug out along creeks and rivers.

According to reports, the village was once a hideout for Maoists. As the village lacked proper road connectivity, it became a safe haven for Left wing ultras. They used to stay



in camps for days together, striking a reign of terrors among locals.

Taking note of the plight of the people, the Odisha government constructed a road under IAP to facilitate connectivity. A total of 37 families live in Tikarpada Uparsahi and 23 in Talasahi.

In 2018, a school was set up in the

village and tube wells were also installed. However, those rarely function and remain defunct for most times of the year. As safe drinking water is not available, people have no way but to depend on water from pits, locals informed.

"As pit water is contaminated, people suffer from various diseases," they added. Throughout the year, people are affected by malaria, dengue and stomach diseases. After water dries up in pits, people directly use water from the creek, the locals informed, saying they had told some people's representatives and officials about the issue.

Jharkhand jumbos on damaging spree

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada/Thakurmunda, Oct 31: Farmers are spending sleepless nights as the elephant menace continues in several villages under Dudhiani and Karanjia ranges of Mayurbhanj district. At a time when paddy is nearing harvest, elephant herds from Jharkhand and Similipal continue to unleash a reign of terror in various villages. About 58 elephants in these ranges have been on a crop damaging spree for the past few weeks.

People living in 20 villages near the forests are a worried lot regarding the protection of their paddy which is on the verge of blossoming to maturity.

A herd of 47 elephants have en-



tered Odisha from Jharkhand. While 25 have been damaging crops in Manoharpur locality, 20 others are in Budhapat. Another herd of 11 elephants from Similipal are damaging crops at different places in Thakurmunda area.

It was alleged that after sunset, the elephants enter villages like Gharmabada, Sunaposi, Haldia, Kanjiama, Pokharia, Baria, Siramanipur, Chaturanjali under

Sukruli block; Budhupal, Pahadipura, Dhatikia, Jamkeshar and Bunsanali under Jashipur block; Kesidiha, Champajhar and Mituani under Thakumundada block and damage crops and houses. Efforts are on to drive the pachyderms away, but so far have proved futile.

To compound the woes of the people, the Energy department snaps electricity connection at night for the safety of the animals.

This forces residents of the affected villages to stay in complete darkness.

Poor tribals have been living amid fears of attack from elephants at night.

People have accused it for its failure in containing the elephant menace in these areas. Other than warning the people regarding the presence of elephants in the localities, it has done nothing, locals alleged. The affected people have demanded immediate steps for assessment of the crop damage. They also alleged that compensation is not being provided to those affected.

Poor tribals are not being able to repair the damaged houses for lack of compensation, they said.

LOVE FOR MOTHER TONGUE



Members of various cultural outfits stage protests in Baripada seeking protection and promotion of Odia language in Odia-speaking tracts in Jharkhand

First poster of Nanda Sir's biopic released in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 31: A biopic made in Odia on Padma Shri Nanda Prusty, the popular teacher from Kantira village under Sukinda block of Jajpur district, will be released on OTT soon. The first poster of the feature film was released at the Rotary Bhawan conference hall on Gems School premises in Jajpur Road locality Saturday evening. The movie portrays the life of the 104-year-old teacher popularly called 'Nanda Sir'. He continues to teach poor students from nearby villages free of charge in his chatawali (informal school) for more than 82 years.

According to a spokesperson of the production house, Nanda Sir was earlier recommended by the Odisha government to the Centre for the Padma Shri award.

Considering Nanda Sir's dedi-



Considering Nanda Sir's dedication in educating the poor and downtrodden children, the Centre has decided to honour him with the Padma Shri award

has set an example for many in society, the spokesperson added.

In the feature film, 'Nanda Sir' has also expressed his desire to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The biopic has been titled 'Nanda Mastranka Chatawali'. It was shot at several locations in Jajpur district. The last part of the movie will be shot in New Delhi when Nanda Sir receives the Padma Shri award. The film is likely to release in March, 2022.

tion in educating the poor and downtrodden children, the Centre decided to honour him with the Padma Shri award. The centenarian teacher will be felicitated with the award November 9, 2021 in New Delhi. Even at this age, he has not stopped teaching the poor and downtrodden students. The elderly man

UP ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Priyanka rains more promises

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Oct 31: Continuing her series of 'pratigya' (promises), Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Sunday, announced that if the Congress came to power in Uttar Pradesh, 20 lakh youths would be given jobs, women would get the facility of free bus travel and fishing would be given the status of farming.



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel during Pratigya Rally

"The Nishad community will have rights over rivers and sand mining. We will also set up a university in the name of Guru Matsyendranath (Guru of Gorakhnath)," she said while speaking at a Pratigya rally in Gorakhpur.

She further announced that if the Congress came to power, the ad hoc and contract workers would be

regularised and the purchase price of wheat and paddy would be raised to Rs 2,500 while sugarcane MSP would be Rs 400.

"Women will be given three free gas cylinders in a year and treatment up to Rs 10 lakh would be free for all. Besides, we will ensure full loan waiver for farmers. ASHA workers would be given an honorarium of Rs 10,000 per month," she added.

Priyanka said that India was a nation that survived on faith. "We have faith in the earth, faith in religion, faith in our labour and faith in our leaders. We have faith in what the leaders say and when huge advertisements tell us that development has arrived, we begin to wonder: Time has come to question our leaders and ask them where is the development," she said.

Mounting a scathing attack on the Yogi Adityanath government, she said that the chief minister was working against the principles of Guru Gorakhnath.

"Amit Shah said that law and order in UP is perfect. In Lakhimpur, his party leaders

mowed down farmers. In Gorakhpur, the police killed businessman Manish Gupta. In Lucknow, an executive Vivek Tiwari was shot dead by policemen and in Unnao one girl was raped and set on fire while another was raped and an attempt was made to kill her in an accident. You do not need a binocular to see the reality but a good pair of spectacles," she said.

Priyanka berated the Modi government and said that they had promised to enable a person with 'hawai chappal' to travel by air. "But travelling by road has become impossible due to rising fuel prices. The Prime Minister flies to Italy in his Rs 8,000 crore aircraft but in UP farmers die waiting in queues for fertilizer. A farmer's income is Rs 27 per day but his businessmen friends earn Rs 1,000 crore per day," she said.

Priyanka said that politics would change drastically if more women came in. She ended her speech with 'Jai Guru Matsyendranath' and 'Jai Guru Gorakhnath' -- both spiritual gurus of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Bhopal gas tragedy: 37 yrs, 37 questions

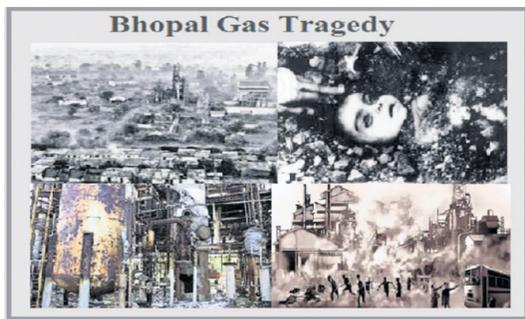
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Oct 31: NGOs fighting for the cause of the Bhopal gas victims have launched "37 saal par 37 sawaal", a campaign highlighting concerns of the victims ahead of the 37th anniversary of the tragedy.

The campaign will raise 37 questions on issues like treatment and compensation to the victims; their social rehabilitation; pollution and cleanliness of the abandoned factory premises; punishment to the guilty, among others.

For the past 37 years, organisations including the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationary Karamchhari Sangh, Bhopal Group for Information and Action, Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha, have been fighting for the victims's rights.

This campaign aims to put the government in the dock. The organisations have accused the government of not fulfilling its responsibilities towards the victims after the tragedy.



The victims were neither properly compensated nor any step taken for their employment. No efforts were made to provide better treatment, while toxic waste accumulated outside the premises also were also not removed, they alleged. Rachna Dhingra of the Bhopal Group for Information and Action said that according to the government 5,295 people had lost their lives, but why are only 5,000 widows being provided pensions?

What about the women, youth, unmarried and children who also died in the tragedy?

The organisations have further alleged that it has been 37 years of the tragedy but still the justice to the victims and punishment to the guilty are still not in sight.

"This forced us to launch the campaign," they said, adding that the 37 questions will be completely based on reasoning and will also reveal facts through Right To Information.

At least 5,295 lives were lost on the intervening night of December 2 and 3 in 1984 when poisonous gas leaked from the now defunct Union Carbide plant

The groups have also questioned the government for not demanding compensation from Bhopal Union Carbide and Dow Chemical for polluting the soil and water.

The land for the Union Carbide had been given on lease for 99 years by the government and it was to be returned in original condition. Reports suggest that there is a large number of toxic chemicals in the plant premises. Ground water is also polluted but the government has not demanded compensation. The government is yet to respond to this charges.

RLD MANIFESTO

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) moved a step ahead of other political parties on Sunday by announcing that it will ensure one crore jobs for the youth in public and private sector and 50 per cent reservation for women if it came to power. RLD president Jayant Chaudhary released the party's manifesto on Sunday and announced several sops for farmers. "A resolution will be passed in the Assembly against the new agricultural laws. Farmers have been agitating for almost one year but the BJP government has turned a blind eye to our demands," said Jayant Chaudhary. The manifesto named as '22 Sankalp of 2022', says that farmers would be given Rs 12,000 per annum and farmers with unirrigated land will be given Rs 15,000 per year.

ODOP items doing good business

The government had signed an MoU with Flipkart in 2020 to sell ODOP products on the website, having earlier tied up with e-commerce website Amazon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 31: Nearly 2 crore 'One District-One Product' (ODOP) items, worth around Rs 1,000 crore, have been sold on e-commerce platform Flipkart, benefiting lakhs of small artisans and crafts persons in Uttar Pradesh.

Even as marketplaces remained largely closed during 2020-21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, e-commerce websites played a crucial role in ensuring that a link between the markets and consumers remained active.

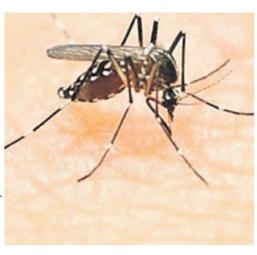
Uttar Pradesh MSME Minister Sidharth Nath Singh said the government had tied up with e-commerce websites to provide a wider platform for ODOP products, including an international market under which products, like Kala Namak rice, were being sold internationally.

"Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of vocal for local, e-commerce websites have proved to be highly beneficial, especially during the pandemic where more people had shifted to online marketplaces. Lakhs of workers under the ODOP

scheme, a flagship programme of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, launched in 2018, have benefitted vastly from this," Singh said. More than 20,000 products under ODOP are sold across the platforms.

The ODOP scheme was launched in 2018 with the aim of identifying one special product from each district so that it could be promoted, packaged and marketed better to boost the industry and help artisans. Currently, there are some districts where more than one product is being promoted by the government.

Three more Zika virus cases found in Kanpur



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur, Oct 31: Three more people, all of them Indian Air Force personnel, have tested positive for the Zika virus in Kanpur, raising the tally to four.

District Magistrate Kanpur, Vishak G., confirmed this. "With the three news cases, the tally is now four in the city."

The first case of the virus was also confirmed in an IAF personnel October 23. However, the 22 persons, including the family members, relatives and close contacts of the first case had tested negative for the virus. Later samples of 175 IAF personnel were sent for testing and the reports that came in on Saturday, confirmed that three had tested positive.

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These women are lighting your lives

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Oct 31: These 80-odd women in the Katra area of Shahjahanpur district are lighting up your lives -- quite literally.

They are being trained to assemble LED bulbs and decorative lights that are competitively priced. The district unit of Indian Industries Association is providing training in an effort to help these women earn a decent living and uplift themselves economically. These women are assembling good quality LED bulbs

-- which are on par with the branded ones available in the market -- and are selling these at Rs 50 or even Rs 35 per piece.

Ashok Agarwal, national president of Indian Industries Association, told reporters, "The initiative is aimed at providing financial help to women in the rural areas and also develop it as a cottage industry." He said that most of the women have acquired the skill to assemble a 9W bulb in 12-15 minutes, and are honing their skills on how to assemble strings of lights. "We have two manufacturing units running at

present -- one of these is located at the reserve police lines. We will soon be shifting one of our units to a village in Mirzapur. As of now, we have provided transportation to the women to come over to Shahjahanpur for training," he said.

He further informed, "We provide raw materials to the women. The women are selling the bulbs for Rs 50 or even less. The profit earned is shared with the women. We have not thought about branding of the product as of now, and so the product does not have a name."

'OBJECTIONABLE' MANGALSUTRA ADV

MP minister gives 24-hr ultimatum to Sabyasachi



THE MANGALSUTRA ADVERTISEMENT BY SABYASACHI'S BRAND PORTRAYED A WOMAN WEARING A LOW-NECKLINE DRESS AND POSING SOLO AND IN INTIMATE POSITION WITH A MAN

AFTER THE DESIGNER SHARED THESE PICTURES, IT CREATED A CONTROVERSY AS A SECTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA USERS TERMED IT AGAINST HINDU CULTURE AND OBSCENE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 31: Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra Sunday issued a 24-hour ultimatum to fashion and jewellery designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee to withdraw the advertisement with "objectionable and obscene" portrayal of mangalsutra or else face statutory action.

Last week, Dabur India Private Limited had withdrawn its Fem cream bleach advertisement, which showed same-sex couple celebrating Karva Chauth and watching each other through a sieve, after minister Mishra termed the ad as objectionable and warned that legal steps would be taken against it. Talking to reporters at Datia in the state, Mishra said, "I have warned earlier about such advertisements. I am personally warning designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee, giving him a 24-hour ultimatum. If this objec-

tionable and obscene advertisement is not withdrawn, then a case will be registered against him and legal action will be taken. The police force will be sent for the action."

Mishra said that he saw Sabyasachi Mukherjee's mangalsutra advertisement. "It is very objectionable. Mangalsutra is a jewellery of paramount importance. We believe that the yellow part of the mangalsutra signifies Goddess Parvati and the black part Lord Shiva, which protects the woman and her husband. Marital life becomes happy by the grace of Goddess Parvati," he said. Replying to a question about the requirement of law to check such incidents, the minister said, "The law is already in place. But why do such painful incidents take place only with Hindu symbols? If Mukherjee has courage, he should do it with some other religion, then we will understand that he is a real brave man."

SHAMEFUL INCIDENT

Drunk headmaster forces girl students to dance with him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Damoh (MP), Oct 31: The headmaster of a government school in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district was suspended after he allegedly forced some girl students to dance with him in an inebriated condition and shot a video of the act, an official said Sunday.

The alleged incident occurred in the Government Middle School located at Madhiyad village, about 80 km from the Damoh district headquarter, Friday, the official said in a statement.

The district collector suspended the headmaster with immediate effect

"Family members of girls had complained that headmaster Rajesh Munda in a drunken state forced them to dance with him after bolting a room in the school from inside Friday. He also shot a video of the dance," District Education Officer (DEO) SK Mishra told PTI Sunday.

The girls narrated the incident to their parents after reaching their homes, he said. Subsequently, an inquiry was ordered by district collector S Krishna Chaitanya. The inquiry report was submitted by the Block Education Officer.

FLOWERS FOR PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVE



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav during Vijay Rath Yatra in Hardoi

PTI PHOTO

MP newspaper pamphlets inform of low fuel rates in Maha

THE PAMPHLETS ALSO SAID PURCHASERS OF FUEL COULD GET A FREE FILL OF NITROGEN IN THEIR VEHICLE TYRES AS AN ADDED MEASURE IN GONDIA, WHICH IS AROUND 45 KMS FROM BALAGHAT DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 31: A sizable number of people in Balaghat city in Madhya Pradesh got pamphlets in their newspapers Sunday informing them that petrol and diesel were cheaper by at least Rs 4 per liter in Gondia in neighbouring Maharashtra.

"The price of petrol in Balaghat has reached Rs 120.42 after a hike of Rs 36 paise, while diesel is retailing at Rs 109.69 per litre post a 37 paise hike as Sunday. Petrol and diesel are being sold at Rs 116.29 a litre and 105.72 per litre respectively in Gondia," Ashok Bajaj, owner of a petrol pump in Deotola

area of Balaghat, told PTI.

"The Hindi pamphlets have mentioned the name of Gaurishankar & Sons, located at Jai Stambh Chowk in Gondia. It was distributed along with the newspapers in Balaghat to attract people towards lower prices of petrol and diesel in Maharashtra," he said.

Business had already taken a hit due to difference in prices in the two states, and these pamphlets, as well similar banners in the border areas of Maharashtra, would further affect the trade, he added. Newspaper agency owner Ramesh Bawankar said some 10,000 pamphlets were distributed along with newspapers in the city Sunday.



Representational image

Meanwhile, Annapur, an MP district bordering Chhattisgarh, continues to have the highest rates of petrol and diesel in the state, with Sunday's retail prices being Rs 121.49

and Rs 110.66 per litre respectively, a petrol pump owner said.

In Barwani, another MP district bordering Maharashtra, the price of petrol was Rs 120.34 while

diesel was being sold at Rs 109.61 per litre, said Dayal Chouhan, a petrol pump manager in Khetia, located on the MP-Maharashtra border. "Petrol and diesel are cheaper in Maharashtra by around Rs 5 and Rs 4 respectively in comparison to rates in Barwani. Most vehicle owners from here drive down to Maharashtra, which is around a kilometre away from Khetia, to buy fuel. Vehicles coming into MP are also filling up in the neighbouring state," Chouhan said.

Several fuel pump owners said business in border areas of MP was affected as people were going to Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh to purchase petrol and diesel.

national

of the day quote

The tribal culture is our first culture... it is an ancient culture. Their culture was getting erased. These people live near nature and know nature well. They live and dance with nature. The need is to preserve and conserve this, and at the same time we also want the world to know about their culture and lifestyle

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

I want leaders of national parties to come to Goa so that business (of the hotel industry and taxi operators) can grow

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel will continue to inspire generations to come, and the 'Statue of Unity', dedicated to Patel, is a message to the world that India's future is bright and nobody can break the country's unity and integrity

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

ITBP personnel awarded

New Delhi: As many as 260 personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) were Sunday awarded with the Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal on the 'National Unity Day' for various special operations carried out in Eastern Ladakh. The ITBP men safeguarded the borders in Ladakh in extreme conditions through its operation "Snow Leopard" on the icy heights. The force carried out a high-level of strategic planning and efficient execution of ground operations with complete synergy and collaboration between all sister organisations.

IPS officer booked

Ayodhya: Former Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ashish Tiwari has been booked for abetting the suicide of a woman banker, who was found hanging from the ceiling of her rented room in Ayodhya Saturday. The deceased Shradha Gupta, 32, was a deputy branch manager in the Punjab National Bank. Along with Tiwari, a police constable Anil Rawat and a Balrampur resident, Vivek Gupta, have also been booked for abetting to suicide after a complaint was lodged by the deceased banker's father, Rajkumar Gupta, at Faizabad Kotwali police station late on Saturday evening.

Body found

Muzaffarnagar: The body of a three-year-old boy, who went missing four days ago, was found floating in a pond at Sidhan village here. The boy had gone missing Wednesday while playing outside his house and all efforts to trace him had proved futile. The body was found Saturday evening and the police have sent it for autopsy. The deceased's father filed a complaint against unidentified persons.

Delhi man held

New Delhi: The police Sunday arrested a man in Delhi's Jahangirpuri for illegally supplying firecrackers and recovered 153.7 kg from his possession. "Special staff of North-West District arrested illegal supplier of firecrackers Dharmender, 38, near Mangal Bazaar Chowk, Jahangirpuri," said police. Police said that during patrolling in the Jahangirpuri area on Saturday (October 30), information was received about the supplying and selling of firecrackers in the area near Mangal Bazaar Chowk.

Criminal law must not be set in motion without proper probe: SC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Criminal law should not be set in motion without adequate investigation of facts on mere suspicion, the Supreme Court has said while quashing a criminal case against the director of a company.

A bench of Justices R S Reddy and Sanjiv Khanna said vicarious liability is attracted when the offence is committed with the consent, connivance, or is attributable to the neglect on the part of a director, manager, secretary, or other officer of the company.

In law, vicarious liability is the responsibility assigned to an employer, resulting from the actions of an employee. "Criminal law should not be set into motion as a matter of course or without adequate and necessary investigation of facts on mere suspicion, or when

the violation of law is doubtful." It is the duty and responsibility of the public officer to proceed responsibly and ascertain the true and correct facts. Execution of law without appropriate acquaintance with legal provisions and comprehensive sense of their application may result in an innocent being prosecuted," the apex court said. On the issue of summons, the bench said it is the court's duty not to issue summons in a mechanical and routine manner.

"It is the duty of the magistrate to apply his mind to see whether on the basis of the allegations made and the evidence, a prima facie case for taking cognizance and summoning the accused is made out or not," the bench said in its October 29 judgement.

The apex court was hearing an appeal filed by Dayle de Souza challenging an order of Madhya Pradesh,

With UP assembly elections approaching, people have begun switching sides. This will, however, not increase the vote base of any political party but will only lead to losses. The BSP should keep such 'rain frogs' away

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

which dismissed his plea seeking quashing of the case against him.

Resultantly, and for the reasons stated above, we would allow the present appeal and quash the summoning order and the proceedings against the present appellant. The petitioner, director of Writer Safeguard Pvt. Ltd, had entered into an agreement, titled "Agreement for Servicing and Replenishment of Automated Teller Machines", with NCR Corporation India Private Ltd.

The NCR Corporation having earlier entered into an agreement with the State Bank of India for maintenance and upkeep of the State Bank of India's ATMs. On February 19, 2014, the Labour Enforcement Officer (Central) inspected the SBI's ATM and later issued a notice alleging non-compliance with the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and Minimum Wages (Central) Rules, 1950 at the ATM. After more than four months, the Labour Enforcement Officer (Central) informed the petitioner and Vinod Singh (director of MP unit) that they were required to appear in the court on August 14, 2014.

On August 14, 2014, the Labour Enforcement Officer (Central) filed a criminal complaint before the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, under Section 22A of the Act who took cognizance of the offence and issued a bailable warrant against the appellant and Vinod Singh.

KERALA SCHOOLS TO OPEN MONDAY

The schools in Kerala are set to open Monday after a gap of 20 months. The state education department will conduct 'Pravesanolsavam' celebrations to welcome the children back to schools in a grand manner but apprehensions are high as the Covid cases have not declined



Tikait warns Centre

The warning came two days after the Delhi Police removed all the barricades from Tikri and Ghazipur borders for the smooth movement of traffic. However, the farmers see it as "move" to displace them



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 31: Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait Sunday warned the Centre of converting the government offices into "grain markets" if it forcibly evicts the farmers from the protest site where they have been agitating against the three contentious farm laws for the past 11 months.

The warning came two days after the Delhi Police removed all the barricades from Tikri and Ghazipur borders for the smooth movement of traffic. However, the farmers see it as "move" to displace them.

"If the farmers fail to sell their produce in mandis at a fair price, then, what better place to do so than the government offices?"

Tikait said. He demanded that the Centre engage in dialogue with them and repeal the farm laws.

Earlier, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha had released a statement asserting that before opening all the roads, the Centre will have to open the avenues to fulfill their demands. Whether the agitation continues or shift to the national capital is a collective decision to be taken at an appropriate time, he asserted.

Though the Government and the agitating farmers have met 11 times on the negotiating table, the talks remained inconclusive. The Supreme Court, in its ruling last week, had held that though the farmers have all the freedom to protest, they cannot "block" the roads causing inconvenience to the public.

Bypolls to RS seats in Kerala, WB Nov 29

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Bypolls to one Rajya Sabha seat each from Kerala and West Bengal will be held November 29, the Election Commission said Sunday.

The bypolls were necessitated following the resignation of Kerala Congress (M) leader Jose K Mani and Arpita Ghosh of the Trinamool Congress from the upper house earlier this year.

The notification would be issued November 9 and the poll will be held November 29, the EC said in a statement. The counting of votes, as per established practice, will be held one hour after the voting concludes at 4 pm November 29. Mani had resigned in January this year. His term as a Rajya Sabha member was to otherwise end in July, 2024.

Ghosh had resigned in September this year and her term was to end in April, 2026. During the second wave of COVID-19, the Commission had decided against holding the Kerala RS bypoll till the situation improves.

The Commission also announced biennial elections to six legislative council seats in Telangana and three in Andhra Pradesh which fell vacant earlier this year. While six Telangana legislative council seats fell vacant in June, the three legislative council seats in Andhra Pradesh fell vacant in May following retirement of sitting members.

In May, the Commission had decided that due to outbreak of the second wave of COVID-19 in the country, it would not be appropriate to hold biennial election to the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana legislative councils till the pandemic situation significantly improves. Now, after reassessment, the EC decided to hold the biennial elections November 29.

BJP's Rajib, Tripura MLA Ashis join TMC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, Oct 31: In a setback to the Bharatiya Janata Party, its national executive member from West Bengal Rajib Banerjee and sitting MLA in Tripura Ashis Das Sunday joined the Trinamool Congress during a mega rally here, which was addressed by party's national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

Rajib Banerjee, a former minister in West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's cabinet had defected to the BJP in January this year. After rejoining the Trinamool, he said that it was his mistake to join the BJP, which according to him gave false promises to the people to gain political and electoral mileage.

"I apologise to Mamata Banerjee, Abhishek Banerjee and all the people for joining the BJP. I am ashamed and feel guilty to join the BJP. Whatever responsibility the party (Trinamool) gives me, I with all sincerity perform the task," an emotionally charged Banerjee told the gathering.

Ashis Das, a Scheduled Caste leader and a BJP MLA from the Surma Assembly seat in northern Tripura, took the Trinamool flag from Abhishek Banerjee along with Rajib Banerjee.

While praising Mamata Banerjee and slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ashis Das, on October 5 in Kolkata had claimed that people in Tripura have been suffering a lot after the BJP-led government came to power.

Low vax coverage: Modi to hold meet



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a review meeting with District Collectors having low vaccination coverage November 3. PM Modi will chair the meeting immediately after returning to the country from Europe visit.

The Prime Minister will hold the review meeting with districts having low vaccination coverage November 3 at 12 noon via video conferencing.

The meeting will include districts with less than 50 per cent coverage of the first dose and low coverage of the second dose of Covid vaccine. Prime Minister will interact with District Magistrates of over 40 districts of Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, and other states with districts having low vaccination coverage. Chief Ministers of these states will also be present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, India's Covid inoculation coverage has reached 106.14 crore as of Sunday morning. A total of 68,04,806 vaccine doses have been administered in the last 24 hours. This has been achieved through 1,06,01,975 sessions.

Nearly 112 crore vaccine doses

India capable of dealing with challenges: PM

Kevadia (Gujarat): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said India is becoming fully capable of dealing with all kinds of external and internal challenges, while deriving inspiration from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In a video message on the occasion of 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas', the birth anniversary of the country's first deputy prime minister and home minister Sardar Patel, Modi said collective efforts, like those seen during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, will take the country to new heights. Noting that the nation is paying tribute to Sardar Patel who gave his life for 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat', Modi said Patel lives not only in history but also in the hearts of all Indians. "Sardar Patel always wanted India to be strong, inclusive, sensitive and alert, humble and developed. He always put the interest of the country first. Today, deriving inspiration from him, India is becoming fully capable of dealing with all kinds of challenges, external and internal," Modi said.

have been provided to States/UTs so far through Govt of India (free of cost channel) and through direct state procurement category. More than 13 crore balance and unutilized Covid vaccine doses are still available with the States/UTs to be administered, as per the data shared by Union Health Ministry Sunday morning.

CLOSE WATCH



An Indian army soldier stands guard near the Line of Control in Poonch sector, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

Manmohan Singh discharged from AIIMS

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who was undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here was discharged Sunday, hospital sources said. Singh was admitted to the hospital October 13 after feeling weak following a fever. The 89-year-old Congress leader was admitted in a private ward at the Cardio-Neuro Centre and was treated by a team of cardiologists led by Dr Nitish Naik. Earlier this month, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandavira visited the hospital to meet him.



Zydus Cadila agrees to reduce Covid vax price

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: Zydus Cadila has agreed to bring down the price of its COVID-19 vaccine to ₹265 a dose following persistent negotiations by the government but a final deal is yet to be reached, sources said Sunday.

Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D is the first vaccine cleared by India's drug regulator for inoculation of those aged 12 years and above. To administer the needle-free vaccine, a disposable painless jet applicator costing ₹93 is required for each dose, which would take the price to ₹358 per dose. The Ahmedabad-based pharma company earlier had proposed a price of ₹1,900 for its

three-dose regimen, sources said. The three doses are to be administered 28 days apart, with each dose comprising a shot in both arms.

The indigenously developed world's first DNA-based needle-free COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D received emergency use authorisation from the drug regulator August 20.

Meanwhile, the government is still waiting for the recommendations from the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) for introducing ZyCoV-D in the inoculation drive for adults and children with co-morbidities.

NTAGI will provide the protocol and framework for the introduction of this vaccine in the COVID-19 immunisation drive.



Why crib now Chidambaram!

With Covid almost behind India, the Modi government is on a selling spree of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to mop up ₹1.75 lakh crores this financial year. It

could raise only ₹32,845 crores last fiscal. But the way Modi sold Air India to the TATAs shows his determination to cover up past delays. Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram took a potshot saying, "The process (of divestment) reflects the conspiratorial manner in which Mr Modi's government operates." But he failed to explain how a profit making Air India was turned into a loss making venture within years of the UPA government coming to power. Secondly, Modi is not the "Father" of the word 'divestment'. The credit goes to PV Narasimha Rao in 1991 who, with Dr Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister and P Chidambaram as MoS Commerce holding independent charge, started

the process. It is a matter of record that 31 PSUs were divested for just ₹3,038 crore between 1991 and 96.

Modi is the real driver

Modi is different as he sets ambitious targets, tries to achieve them in time and likes to take the entire credit all by himself. Chidambaram's worry is that a full majority government will break all records of divestment in the years to come. He knows that during the 23-year period of five successive PMs between 1991 and 2014 could fetch just ₹1,52,781 crores through sale of PSUs. But Modi has already mopped up ₹3.61 lakh crores

during seven years of his regime (2014-2021), more than double the amount collected in 23 years.

EC worried

The Election Commission (EC) is worried over the mushrooming of political parties as more than 500 such outfits have sprung up during the past two years. The EC has written to the government to seek powers to deregister them. The EC is worried as these have cropped up after the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. In addition, more than 100 new political outfits have applied for registration in the past two months alone. These are registered political parties but not recognised parties. More than

2,700 parties are registered and most of them are defunct. There are eight recognised national parties and over 50 state parties. Others are registered but unrecognized parties and their number is rising rapidly. The EC cannot refuse to register political parties. But it wants to deregister such parties who have no activity worth a salt.

Showdown in UP now!

There is every possibility that the BJP could field newly-appointed vice president of the party and former Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya against BSP supreme Mayawati. The search of the saffron party for

a credible woman Dalit face seems to have ended as she may have traction with women voters. The BJP had been desperately looking for such a face and after quitting the post, she was straightaway inducted as BJP vice president in the club of veteran leaders. Though she was merely a mayor of Agra almost two decades ago and held no significant positions in BJP for the past many years, all of a sudden the Modi government decided to project her as BJP's Dalit woman face. And that is why the party might field Baby Rani Maurya against Mayawati. The BJP is viewing the Uttar Pradesh polls as a tri-cornered contest where it is up against the BSP and the SP.

international



It is quite alarming that the number of refugees and displaced people in Syria is increasing
ZAHRA ERSHADI | DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAN TO THE UN

MODI'S PLANE FLIES OVER PAK AIRSPACE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special VVIP flight, en route to Italy for the G20 Summit, flew over the Pakistani airspace Friday and the aircraft will use it again on its return journey after getting formal permission from Islamabad, according to a media report Sunday



of the day quote

Do not test the proposition. As the basic principle of national security, the state will never shy away from protecting each and every citizen from any form of violence

China has increased tensions with regard to Taiwan and that America wants to continue its one-China policy, which recognises Beijing but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei

We look forward to the President and the Prime Minister and all those concerned to take a decisive action to remove the explosive fuse threatening the Lebanese-Gulf relations

SHORT TAKES

Man stabs 10 on Tokyo train

Tokyo: A man brandishing a knife on a Tokyo commuter train Sunday stabbed several passengers before starting a fire, which sent people scrambling to escape and jumping from windows, police and witnesses said. The Tokyo Fire Department said 17 passengers were injured, including three seriously. The attacker, only identified as a man in his 20s, was arrested on the spot and was being investigated on suspicion of attempted murder, NHK said. His motive was not immediately known.

Pak govt, TLP reach agreement

Islamabad: The Pakistan government and the banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) have reached an agreement after lengthy negotiations following days of violent protests by the outfit's members demanding release of their party chief and expulsion of the French ambassador, the negotiating team appointed by Prime Minister Imran Khan announced Sunday. The announcement of the agreement was made at a press conference attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ali Mohammad Khan, religious scholar Mufti Muneebur Rehman and TLP members Mufti Ghulam Abbas Faizi and Mufti Mohammad Ameer.

Cambodia to vaccinate kids

Phnom Penh: Cambodia will begin vaccinating five-year-old children against Covid-19 across the country using the Chinese Sinovac jab from Monday onwards, the Ministry of Health (MoH) said in a statement.

One killed at Halloween party

Austin (USA): One man died and nine other people were wounded in a shooting at a Halloween party in eastern Texas, police said. Gunfire erupted late Saturday at an event centre in Texarkana, police said in a news release. Police estimate that "at least a couple hundred people" were there. The 10 people who were shot went to two hospitals for treatment; either by ambulance, police unit or private vehicle, police said. A 20-year-old man was later pronounced dead at one of the hospitals. His name was not released.

COP26 BEGINS

World will try again to avert climate disaster



Alok Sharma President of the COP26 summit attends the Procedural Opening of the COP26 UN Climate Summit

AGENCIES

Glasgow (Britain), Oct 31: The 26th United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP26), delayed by a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, kicked off on Sunday in Glasgow, Scotland.

As the first conference after the five-year review cycle under the Paris Agreement inked in 2015, delegates are expected to review overall progress and plan future actions on climate change in the coming two weeks.

The conference comes at a time when the world has gone through a series of climate-change-related weather disasters, from severe flooding to wild fires.

Issues high on the agenda include finalizing the rules for the Paris Agreement's market mechanism and wealthy countries' unmet finance pledge to the de-

veloping countries to help them tackle climate-related challenges.

COP26 President Alok Sharma said in his speech at the opening ceremony: "We postponed COP26 by a year. But during that year, climate change did not take time off... And we know that the window to keep 1.5 degrees within reach is closing,"

Xinhua news agency reported. "We know that our shared planet is changing for the worse. And we can only address that together, through this international system... And if we act now, and we act together, we can protect our precious planet," he added.

World leaders will kick start COP26 on Monday with two days

COP26 is our last best hope to keep 1.5C in reach. If we act now and we act together we can protect our precious promise and ensure where Paris promised, Glasgow delivers

ALOK SHARMA | COP26 PRESIDENT

India, UK to launch solar Green Grids Initiative

Glasgow: India and the UK are set to enhance their International Solar Alliance (ISA) partnership with the launch of a new Green Grids Initiative connecting different parts of the world at the United Nations (UN) COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. The new Global Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) is an evolution of ISA's OSOWOG multilateral drive to foster interconnected solar energy infrastructure at a global scale. The new Green Grids Initiative, to be launched at COP26 Tuesday, will mark a merging of flagship interconnection initiatives from India and the UK as part of their bilateral cooperation.

of speeches that could include some new emissions-cutting pledges, before technical negotiators lock horns over the Paris accord rules. Any deal is likely to be struck hours or even days after the event's Nov. 12 finish date.

Outside, tens of thousands of protesters are expected to take to the streets to demand urgent climate action. Assessing progress will be complex.

Unlike past climate summits, the event won't deliver a new treaty or a big "win" but seeks to secure smaller but vital victories on emission-cutting pledges, climate finance and investment.

Ultimately success will be judged on whether those deals add up to enough progress to keep the 1.5C goal alive.

EXIT POLL

Kishida's coalition to keep majority



AGENCIES

Tokyo, Oct 31: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's governing coalition is expected to keep a majority in a parliamentary election Sunday but will lose some seats in a setback for his weeks-old government grappling with a coronavirus-battered economy and regional security challenges, according to exit polls.

Kishida's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito together were expected to win between 239 to 288 seats in the 465-member lower house, the more powerful of Japan's two-chamber Diet, public broadcaster NHK's exit poll showed.

The LDP alone was expected to win 212-253 seats, with Komeito gaining 27-35 seats, according to the projections.

Their combined seats will exceed a parliamentary majority of 233 — a loss from 305 seats previously.

Kishida, 64, was elected prime minister October 4 after winning the leadership race in his ruling party, and dissolved the lower house only 10 days after taking office.

The party's conservative leaders saw him as a safe status-quo successor to Yoshihide Suga and his influential predecessor Shinzo Abe.

Exit polls were more or less in line with media predictions. Whether Kishida's party alone can maintain a majority, and how many seats it will lose from 276 before the election, was still unclear. Official results were expected by early Monday.

Kishida's immediate task has been to rally support for a party weakened by Suga's perceived high-handed approach to pandemic measures and his insistence on holding the Tokyo Summer Olympics despite widespread opposition because of a high number of coronavirus cases, which have since dropped sharply

UK, France fishing spat deepens

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Oct 31: French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson met privately Sunday to try to resolve an escalating dispute over fishing in the English Channel — but afterward the two countries appeared farther apart than ever and gave starkly differing versions of the meeting's outcome.

The post-Brexit spat over the granting of licenses to fish in Britain's coastal waters threatens to escalate within days into a damaging French blockade of British boats

After the 30-minute meeting between Macron and Johnson on the fringes of a Group of 20 summit in Rome, a French top official said both leaders agreed there was a need to talk to each other "in a situation of important tensions."

Britain, however, denied the leaders had agreed to take steps to de-escalate the spat, saying it was entirely up to France to calm the waters.

The UK government said in a statement that during the meeting, Johnson "reiterated his deep concern" over France's rhetoric and "expressed his hope that the French government would de-escalate." Fishing is a tiny industry economically, but one that looms large symbolically for maritime nations like Britain and France.

France claims some vessels have been denied permits to fish in waters where they have long sailed. Britain says it has granted 98 per cent of applications from EU vessels, and now the dispute comes down to just a few dozen French boats with insufficient paperwork.

FOR A REASON



People in festival costumes are seen during the Dia de los Muertos parade in Dallas, Texas, the United States. Dia de los Muertos, known as Day of the Dead, is a well-known traditional Mexican holiday to commemorate deceased loved ones

PM Modi invites more Spanish investments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rome, Oct 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday invited more investments from Spain in India's infrastructure projects as he met his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez on the sidelines of the G20 summit here and exchanged views on the robust bilateral ties, regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the situation in Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific.

Modi, who is here at the invitation of his Italian counterpart Mario Draghi to attend the G20 summit, was accompanied by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during his meeting with Sanchez.

"Delighted to meet you, Mr. @sanchezcastejon. Today's talks will add strength to the robust friendship between India and Spain. We had fruitful discussions on diverse subjects including commerce, technology and the environment," Prime Minister Modi tweeted. The two leaders welcomed the growing bilateral trade and investment linkages including the recent signing



PM CREDIT-TWITTER PMO

of the contract to procure 56 C295 aircraft from Airbus Spain, 40 of which will be 'Made in India' in collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release. The two leaders agreed to further expand bilateral cooperation in new areas like e-mobility, clean tech, advanced materials and deep sea exploration.

Prime Minister Modi invited Spain to invest in various sectors including Green Hydrogen, infrastructure and defence manufacturing and further take advantage of India's National Infrastructure Pipeline, Asset Monetisation Plan and the Gati Shakti Plan, the release said. The two leaders discussed India-European Union relations as well as cooperation on climate action and priorities at upcoming COP26 summit in Glasgow

The secret love for education in Afghanistan

THE GROUND SITUATION FOR FEMALES REMAINS UNCERTAIN AS THE TALIBAN HAVE ALLOWED BOYS' SCHOOLS TO REOPEN BUT TOLD YOUNG GIRLS TO STAY HOME

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kabul, Oct 31: Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August, education has become a major point of concern for many young females aspiring to make a name for themselves. Even though the interim government of the



Taliban has repeatedly assured that female education will be allowed in the coming days, the rigid stance on the matter in the past has kept young girls wary of their dreams turning into a reality. With meagre hopes of revival of female education system in the country,

many girls have opted to continue their education through online classes, taken secretly and without the permission or information of the Taliban, a step towards a brighter future, which may have serious life-threatening consequences.

Fatima, a pseudonym used to protect the identity of the female, and some of her friends from Herat province log into their online classes secretly every day amid the ongoing ban.

"If the Taliban get to know that I and some other girls like me are taking online lessons, they might punish me severely. They might even stone me to death," said Fatima. "There are serious threats to girls like me," she added.

While Fatima's voice had clear signs of concerns and fears; she also had passions of learning in her eyes and strength, confidence and vision in her voice when she said: "I have not lost hope or my aspirations. I am determined to continue studying."

Fatima is among hundreds of others, who are challenging and breaking the rigid rules of the Taliban, and opting to take hidden makeshift classes online. The plat-

form used for online classes for Fatima and others, has been created by Code of Inspire (CTI), Afghanistan's first all-female coding academy, which created encrypted virtual classrooms, uploaded course content online, and gave laptops and internet packages to at least 100 of its students.

But for the young girls like Fatima, history reveals that the Taliban had banned female education in the country during their previous time of ruling about two decades ago, a fact that further diminishes their dreams of education and a better future.

In the recent meeting between the Taliban delegation and the UN, it was stated that a framework was being worked on, aimed at re-structuring the rules and system of Afghanistan, in which, education gains remain among the priority topics.

COVID-19 OUTBREAKS SWEEP 14 PROVINCIAL REGIONS IN CHINA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 31: More regions including east China's Jiangxi Province and northeast China's Heilongjiang Province are grappling with a fresh epidemic resurgence, even as the COVID-19 transmission chain related to Northwest China has yet to be cleared, Global Times reported.

The current epidemic is still in a rapidly developing phase and remains complicated, the report said.

The number of domestically transmitted cases in the Chinese mainland Saturday was 48, with 19 from Heilongjiang, 10 from north China's Inner Mongolia, nine from northwest China's Gansu, three in east China's Shandong, and three in northwest China's Ningxia.

business

of the day quote

We haven't been able to utilise our capacities here to the fullest primarily because the luxury segment hasn't grown in the country

BALBIR SINGH DHILLON | AUDI INDIA HEAD

Our mission is to be a top performing consumer products company in India, delivering sustained double-digit, profitable topline growth, and long term value to all our stakeholders

HINA NAGARAJAN | DIAGEO INDIA MD & CEO

I can confirm that most of Skoda Auto's production lines will resume work after a two-week outage tonight, starting with the night shift at 10:00 pm

KAMILA BIDDLE | SKODA AUTO SPOKESPERSON

SHORT TAKES

Now, subscribe to APY via Aadhaar

New Delhi: To expand its subscriber base and simplify the on-boarding process further, pension fund regulator PFRDA has now allowed Aadhaar eKYC as an additional option to add customers under its flagship pension scheme Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is allowing enrollment of subscribers through physical, net banking and other digital modes, at present. "Now in order to further increase the outreach and simplify the process of subscription, CRA (Central Recordkeeping agency) would be providing digital on-boarding based through Aadhaar eKYC as an additional option. These processes are paperless," the PFRDA said in a notification.

MOIL workers' wage revision

New Delhi: The government Sunday announced the wage revision of MOIL employees, a move which will have "financial impact" of about ₹87 crore per annum to the company. The announcement was made by Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and Steel Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh at an event organised by MOIL in Nagpur, a statement issued by the Steel Ministry said. According to the statement, the wage revision is for a duration of 10 years. The effective date has been calculated from August 1, 2017, up to July 31, 2027. It will benefit close to 5,800 company employees. "The proposal includes fitment benefit of 20 per cent and perks/allowances at the rate of 20 per cent. An interim relief @ 12 per cent of basic and dearness allowance was given by the company w.e.f May, 2019," it said.

Firms to increase cybersecurity spend

New Delhi: A majority of Indian organisations (80 per cent) are likely to increase their cybersecurity budget in 2022, according to a survey by global consultancy firm PwC. As per the PwC's 2022 Digital Trust Insights Survey, the risk landscape is continuously evolving and organisations are investing more than ever in cybersecurity to manage their risks. As the business environment turns more complex due to the interconnectedness of systems and information, the impact of a risk event is not limited but rather has a domino effect with high consequences, it said. Organisations are therefore gearing up to implement robust cybersecurity practices and controls to manage these risks.



By harnessing our diplomatic and economic power, we can reject the false idea that we can't grow our economy and support American workers while tackling the climate crisis

JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

SAUDI ARAMCO'S QUARTERLY PROFIT SURGES ON OIL PRICE & VOLUMES

The world's largest oil company, Saudi Aramco, reported USD 30.4 billion in third-quarter net income Sunday, bolstered by a surge in oil prices and recovery in demand as the coronavirus pandemic eases.



How G20-backed corporate minimum tax would work

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Oct 31: Leaders at the Group of 20 summit in Rome are expressing broad support for sweeping changes in how big global companies are taxed. The goal: deterring multinationals from stashing profits in countries where they pay little or no taxes — commonly known as tax havens. The proposal was finalised in October among 136 countries and sent to the G-20 for a final look after complex talks overseen by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. It would update a century's worth of international taxation rules to cope with changes brought by digitalisation and globalisation.

The most important feature: a global minimum tax of at least 15%, a key initiative pushed by US President Joe Biden. "This is more than just a tax deal — it's diplomacy reshaping our global economy and delivering for our people," Biden tweeted from the summit Saturday. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen says it will end a decadeslong "race to the bottom" that has seen corporate tax rates fall as tax havens sought to attract businesses that



used clever accounting to take advantage of low rates in countries where they had little real activity. Here's a look at key aspects of the tax deal: **WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?** In today's economy, MNCs can earn big profits from things like trademarks and intellectual property that are easier than factories to move. Companies can assign the earnings they generate to a subsidiary in a country where tax rates are very low. Some countries compete for revenue by using rock-bottom rates to lure companies, attracting huge tax bases that generate large revenue even with tax rates only marginally above zero.

Between 1985 and 2018, the global average corporate headline rate fell from 49% to 24%. By 2016, over half of all U.S. Corporate profits were booked in seven tax havens: Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Singapore and Switzerland. White House officials are saying the global minimum would result in almost \$60 billion of added U.S. Tax revenue. **HOW WOULD A GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX WORK?** The basic idea is simple: Countries would legislate a minimum rate of at least 15% for very big companies with annual rev-

enues over 750 million euros (\$864 million) If company earnings go untaxed or lightly taxed in one of the world's tax havens, their home country would impose a top-up tax that would bring the rate to 15%. That would make it pointless for a company to use tax havens, since taxes avoided in the haven would be collected at home.

HOW WOULD IT ADDRESS THE DIGITALISED ECONOMY? The plan would also let countries tax part of the earnings of the 100 or so biggest multinationals when they do business in places where they have no physical presence, such as through internet retailing or advertising. The tax would only apply to a portion of profits above a profit margin of 10%.

DOES EVERYONE LIKE THE DEAL? Some developing countries and advocacy groups such as Oxfam and the UK-based Tax Justice Network say the 15% rate is too low. And although the global minimum would capture some \$150 billion in new revenue for governments, most of it would go to rich countries because they are where many of the biggest multinationals are headquartered. Developing countries

took part in the talks and all signed except for Nigeria, Kenya, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

ANY OTHER CAVEATS? The EU Tax Observatory research consortium cautions that exemptions for companies with actual assets and employees in a given country could "exacerbate tax competition by giving firms incentives to move real activity to tax havens." That means some tax competition among countries would still be possible when actual business operations — as opposed to shifty accounting — are involved.

HOW WOULD THE AGREEMENT TAKE EFFECT? Backing from the G-20 leaders completes a yearslong process of negotiation. Once approval is reflected in the summit's final statement, expected Sunday, implementation then moves to the individual nations. The tax on earnings where companies have no physical presence would require countries to sign on to an inter-governmental agreement in 2022, with implementation in 2023. The global minimum could be applied by individual countries using model rules developed by the OECD.

FPIs turn net sellers in Oct; pull out ₹12,278cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: After two months of buying, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have turned net sellers in October by pulling out ₹12,278 crore from Indian markets. As per depositories data, FPIs took out ₹13,550 crore from equities but invested ₹1,272 crore in the debt segment during October 1-29. The total net outflow stood at ₹12,278 crore during the period under review. FPIs were net buyers in August and September. "Foreign brokerages like Merrill Lynch, UBS and Nomura have downgraded India due to excessive valuations. This might have prompted FPIs to sell on a sustained basis," said VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services. FPIs have been sellers in software during the first half of October. This is profit-booking since they are sitting on big profits. However, they have been buyers in banks and autos where there is valuation comfort, he added. Three IPOs are expected to raise ₹30,000 crore from the market in the next few days that are expected to get heavily oversubscribed and, therefore, there will be a huge drain of money from the secondary to the primary market. "This is another factor prompting FPIs to sell. Due to big FPI selling, markets have turned distinctly weak," he said. FPI flows in other emerging markets in October were mixed, said Shrikant Chouhan, head (equity research-retail) at Kotak Securities. Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand reported FPI inflows of USD 951 million, USD 8 million, and USD 564 million, respectively.

FIVE IPOs TO HIT MARKET IN 1ST HALF OF NOVEMBER

Firms including Paytm parent One97 Communications and Policybazaar parent PB Fintech to raise over ₹27,000 crore collectively

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: After a month long gap, the primary market is heading for a busy time, with five firms including Paytm parent One97 Communications and Policybazaar parent PB Fintech having lined up their IPOs in the first half of November to raise over ₹27,000 crore collectively. The other three firms whose initial share-sales are set to open are Sapphire Foods India, which operates KFC and Pizza Hut outlets, decorative aesthetics supplier SJS



Enterprises and microcrystalline cellulose manufacturer Sigachi Industries. The IPOs of FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd, which runs online marketplace for beauty and wellness products Nykaa, and Fino Payments Bank are currently open for public subscription. The three-day initial share-sales of Nykaa and Fino Payments Bank will conclude November 1 and November 2, respectively. Nykaa is looking to raise ₹5,352 crore through its IPO, while fintech firm Fino Payments Bank is seeking to mobile ₹1,200 crore through the initial share-sale. Together,

these seven companies will raise nearly ₹33,500 crore through initial share-sales. Of these, a major chunk will be garnered by technology based companies. Prior to these, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC had floated its ₹2,778-crore in initial share-sale on September 29. "Bull markets are the best times when any company going public seems to get better premiums and valuations on the business," Prateek Singh, Founder and CEO, LearnApp.Com. "Tech companies in particular get a better premium because of their ability to scale exponentially, which is why we are seeing many tech startups raise cash by going for an IPO this time," he said. So far in 2021, as many as 41 companies have floated their IPOs to raise ₹66,915 crore and Devina Mehra of First Global said the year should be closing with ₹1 lakh crore primary market fundraise.

Excise collection 79% more than pre-pandemic levels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 31: The government's collection from levy of excise duty on petroleum products has risen 33 per cent in the first six months of the current fiscal when compared with last year and is 79 per cent more than pre-Covid levels, official data showed. Data available from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Union Ministry of Finance showed excise duty collections during April-September 2021 surging to over ₹1.71 lakh crore, from ₹1.28 lakh crore mop-up in the same period of the previous fiscal. Thanks to a steep hike in excise duty rates, the collection is 79 per cent more than ₹95,930 crore mop-up in April-September 2019. In the full 2020-21 fiscal, excise collections were ₹3.89 lakh crore and in 2019-20, it was ₹2.39 lakh crore, CGA data showed. After the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, excise duty is levied only on petrol, diesel, ATF and natural gas.



Barring these products, all other goods and services are under the GST regime. Out of the ₹2.3 lakh crore excise collection in 2018-19, ₹35,874 crore was devolved to states, according to the CGA. In the previous 2017-18 fiscal, ₹71,759 crore was devolved to the states out of a collection of ₹2.58 lakh crore. The incremental collection of ₹2,931 crore in the first six months of the fiscal year 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022) is four times the ₹10,000 crore liability that the government has in the full year towards repayment of oil bonds that were issued by the previous Congress-led UPA government to subsidise fuel.

Coftea plans to expand in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Coftea, a brand from Chhaparia Marketing Private Limited (CMPL) - the manufacturers and marketers of tea/coffee vending machines, is planning to expand its presence in Odisha. The officials of the Kolkata-based CMPL said that they have existing distribution network operating in Bhubaneswar but now plan to expand its reach to all the major cities and towns of Odisha. Ankit Chhaparia, MD, CMPL said, "We are just doing that by serving a host of pre-mixed flavours (Masala tea, Karak plain tea premix, low sugar coffee premix, low sugar, cardamom tea etc.) which are high on health and taste both. Our range is ideal for health-conscious people

who don't want to compromise on their tea and coffee intake because of health reasons." CMPL has the capacity of producing 500 tonnes per annum pre-mixed tea and coffee, which is produced under the most hygienic conditions, conforming to the FAS-SAI standards. It utilizes modern technology and a skillful workforce. The premises are precision packed to keep them fresh for a longer period of up to six months. CMPL offers a range of vending machines, making them an ideal choice for very small and very big companies alike, like 2-lane (Cute model), 2-lane (Robo model), 3-lane (Robo model), 4-lane (Robo model), 2/3-lane (Joy model), q007 commercial, t100 commercial and 4-lane (Hot and Cold model).

Banks disburse ₹574.11 crore housing loans in Q1, FY'22

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: All commercial banks operating in Odisha have disbursed around ₹574.11 crore of housing loans during the first quarter of the current financial year. A report released by the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) Odisha revealed that the housing loans have been disbursed to 10,848 accounts (both Priority & Non-Priority) in Odisha from April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. The report said that around ₹574.11 crore has been disbursed for housing loans. The housing loan amount has been increased during the same period of last fiscal. The loans were also disbursed to double accounts holders compared to last financial



year. The housing loan was ₹26.43 last fiscal and disbursed to 4,896 accounts. According to SLBC report, the total balance outstanding as on June 30, 2021 is ₹17,264.53 crore in 1,86,238 accounts. As per the annual credit plan (ACP) for the current fiscal, the banks have hiked house loan by

16.11% compared to previous fiscal. The banks have set target to disburse around ₹5,770.64 crore during current financial year. Previous loan amount was ₹4,970.15, the report said. Out of total target, the banks have already delivered ₹276.94 of housing loan achieving around 4.80% in the first quarter of FY 2021-22. SLBC's data showed that the non-performing assets for housing loans have decreased in the first quarter compared to previous fiscal of same period. Present housing NPA stood 1.60%. For the FY 2021-22 (upto June '21), total Priority Sector loan disbursement is ₹19,930.40 crore against the annual target of ₹1,10,241.02 crore and the achievement under ACP is 18.08%.

Railways may integrate 8 manufacturing facilities into 1

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 31: The government's plans for a major reorganisation of companies functioning under the Ministry of Railways may see creation of one public sector undertaking for rolling stock and manufacturing of locomotives. At present, the Indian Railways has eight production units including three coach factories - Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala, and the Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Rae Bareilly. In addition, there are three locomotive manufacturing facilities - Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

(CLW), Chittaranjan, Diesel Locomotive Works (DCW), Varanasi, and Diesel Loco Modernisation Works (DMW), Patiala and two rail wheel units in Yelahanka, (Bengaluru) and Bela (Bihar). The plan now is to establish one PSU that will integrate all production units under its fold. So while the factories may remain separate at present, their operation would be looked at by one entity. Movement of assets and employees from respective units to integrated PSUs would be done in phases. The reorganisation of the railway's companies is being looked into as part of an exercise to professionalise its organisation and



make it self-sustaining. The proposals for a major reorganisation of the railways form part of a set of recommendations given by Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry, in a report titled "Rationalisation of Government Bodies under MoR (Ministry of Railways)". The report had been forwarded by the Cabinet Secretariat to the Railway Board for immediate action. Sources said that Railways is looking at each and every aspect of the Sanyal report and may soon

took a final call on implementing some of its recommendations. The process may be started in the next fiscal year. Sanyal, in his report, has not limited his recommendations for production units of railways but has gone to the extent of suggesting integrating 21 railway recruitment boards under a national testing agency, that conducts common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the Central government. It has also suggested winding up of Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), putting back the work of railway electrification with zonal offices. It

has also suggested the same for the Central Organisation for Modernisation of Workshops (COF-MOW) and the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternate Fuel (IROAF). In line with the reorganisation plan, the Railways is also looking to merge the RVNL with the IRCON, and the RITES taking over BCL. The restructuring would also look at railways' IT operations, currently being handled through a set of three different organisations - the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), Railtel Corporation, and Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS).

Mukta A2 Cinemas forays into Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: Mukta A2 Cinemas, one of India's fastest-growing cinema chains, forayed into Odisha with latest property in Rayagada. With the first launch in the state, Mukta A2 Cinemas will continue offering the best movie-watching experience for all movie lovers. The newly launch property in Rayagada features 3 screens and can accommodate 488 cine buffs. The property is further aided with 3D screens and 2K projections, which will ensure the best movie experience for every member of the audience. The new property also features luxurious movie watching experience owing to the comfortable seating arrangements, which includes both sofa and recliner seating. Rahul Puri, Managing Director, Mukta Arts Ltd, said, "It's a proud moment for us at Mukta A2 Cinemas to open our first new property in Rayagada. The team is thrilled to finally unveil our three-screen property, which features 488 seats, surround sound, and a 3D screen with a 2K projection. We can ensure that with our comfortable and luxury seating, the experience will be a delightful one for the patrons."



SHORT TAKES

Indian players shine in WBBL

Perth: India T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and all-rounder Deepti Sharma delivered player-of-the-match performances for their respective teams in the Women's Big Bash League played Sunday. Harmanpreet first took a couple of wickets with her off-spin before smashing an unbeaten 73 off 46 balls as Melbourne Renegades defeated Adelaide Strikers by six wickets here. India batter Jemimah Rodrigues scored a handy 27 off 16 balls for the Renegades. In Launceston, Deepti starred in Sydney Thunder's 77-run win over Hobart Hurricanes. She scored 20 balls before producing a match-winning spell of three for 13 in four overs.

Neeraj honoured

New Delhi: Three-time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) honoured Sunday Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra by presenting him with rupees one crore in recognition of his historic feat at the Tokyo Olympics. The cheque on behalf of Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited was presented to the Olympic champion javelin thrower here. CSK also presented Neeraj a special jersey with the number 8758 (highlighting his gold medal-winning effort of 87.58m), a press release said.

Harikrishna wins

Riga (Latvia): GM P Harikrishna continued his recovery from a poor start by notching up his second straight win to move to 2.5 points after four rounds in the FIDE Grand Swiss chess tournament here. The India No.3 three beat Armenia's Sergey Movseian in 56 moves. Harikrishna is among a bunch of players with 2.5 points. Padmini Rout however, lost her match against Russia's Alina Kahlinskaya. AGENCIES

EMBARRASSING 8-WICKET LOSS TO NEW ZEALAND SET TO CRASH T20 WC DREAMS

India near exit door



Jasprit Bumrah congratulates New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson after India's defeat Sunday. PTI PHOTO

AGENCIES

Dubai, Oct 31: India's curse against New Zealand in ICC conducted tournaments since 2003 continued as they went down by eight wickets in the crucial Super 12 encounter of the T20 World Cup here Sunday. After restricting India to 110 for seven with some tight incisive bowling, the Kiwis showed that there were no demons in the pitch by scoring 111 for two with 33 balls to spare.

The victory put New Zealand in a firm pedestal to qualify for the semifinals. India's chances now bank on them winning the remaining three matches by impressive margins to increase their net run rate and hope for New Zealand to stutter at least once in the group stage.

If the Pakistan match was a humiliating experience, the encounter against New Zealand was embarrassing to say the least as the meagre target was easily chased down by Daryl Mitchell (49, 35b, 4x4, 3x6) and skipper Kane Williamson (33 n o, 31b, 3x4). Such was the predicament that they played 54 dot balls

and there were no boundaries between overs eight and 15 during the Indian innings.

Agreed, the pitch was slow and stroke-making was difficult on the Dubai Cricket Stadium pitch. However, it must be stated that the Indian batters did not apply themselves in a proper manner. They went for too many big shots and in the process perished in the deep. Only some late-order hitting by Ravindra Jadeja (26 n o, 19b, 2x4, 1x6) and Hardik Pandya (23, 24b, 1x4) enabled India to go past the three figure mark.

Quite a few batters – KL Rahul (18), Rohit Sharma (14) and Rishabh Pant (12) got starts and then perished to shots they could have avoided. Kohli (9), also could have avoided the slog sweep that he tried to play off Ish Sodhi (2/17), more so after Rohit had been dismissed. But he went for the shot and was caught by Trent Boult at long on.

It was clear that the Kiwis were the side that better adjusted to the conditions. Every bowler was spot on with Boult (3/20) and Sodhi outstanding. Boult has always

caused havoc in the Indian ranks whenever the two sides have played in an ICC trophy game and Sunday was no exception. After getting Ishan Kishan (4) early on, he sent back Pandya and Shardul Thakur (0) in the 19th over of the Indian innings.

Brief scores

India: 110 for 7 (Ravindra Jadeja 26 n o, Hardik Pandya 23, Trent Boult 3/20, Ish Sodhi 2/17) lost to **New Zealand:** 111/2 in 14.3 overs (Daryl Mitchell 49; Jasprit Bumrah 2/19) by eight wickets.

These two bowlers were well-supported by Adam Milne (1/23) and Tim Southee (1/26). Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner was also outstanding going for just 15 runs in his four overs even though he did not get a wicket. Mind you, he bowled in the power play overs also.

New Zealand exposed the inadequacies of the Indians, mostly poor mindset and atrocious shot selection, something that was exploited to the hilt by Pakistan just a week back.

2 INDIANS SEAL LAST 8 SPOTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belgrade, Oct 31: Indian boxers Akash Kumar (54kg) and Narender Berwal (+92kg) advanced to the quarterfinals of the AIBA Men's World Championships here Sunday. Both notched up contrasting but exhilarating victories against their respective opponents.

While Akash staved off a stiff challenge from Puerto Rico's Caleb Tirado to clinch his bout 5-0, Narender pummeled a heavily distracted and mostly sluggish Jakhon Qurbonov of Tajikistan, stopping him in the second round.

Akash was up against a sprightly Tirado and he did trouble the Indian with his close-range game. However, Akash stuck to hitting straight and clean, a tactic which found favour with the judges. The Puerto Rican also endured a point's deduction in the second round after he picked up a warning for failing to keep his head up.

Narender was all pumped up in his bout against Qurbonov, pounding him with terrific body shots that left the Tajik desperate for breather in the opening three minutes itself. Qurbonov was scurrying for cover and the referee put an end to his misery about a minute into the second round.

Ronaldo scripts Man U win

AGENCIES

London, Oct 31: Cristiano Ronaldo came to the rescue of beleaguered Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as the visitors thumped Tottenham 3-0 Saturday to restore pride after their humiliation by Liverpool. Playing the away game after a 0-5 home defeat last week, the Red Devils rode on a Ronaldo strike and an assist to earn full points. The other two goals were scored by Edinson Cavani and Marcus Rashford and the win lifted Manchester United to fifth in the table, just three points behind third-placed Manchester City.

The game took time to catch fire in front of a crowd of more than

Afghanistan crush Namibia by 62 runs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 31: It turned out to be a memorable farewell game for Asghar Afghan as Afghanistan crushed Namibia by 62 runs in their Super 12 match of the T20 World Cup here Sunday. Opting to bat first, Afghanistan, riding on handy knocks from Mohammad Shahzad (45, 33b, 3x4, 2x6), Hazratullah Zazai (33, 27b, 4x4, 2x6), skipper Mohammad Nabi (32 n o, 17b, 5x4, 1x6) and Afghan (31, 23b, 3x4, 1x6), posted 160 for five in their 20 overs.

Then pacers Hamid Hassan (3/9) and Naveen-ul-Haq (3/26) shared six wickets between them to restrict Namibia to 98 for nine. The 62-run win will certainly help in Afghanistan's net run rate. The two were well-supported by Gulbadin Naib (2/19).

Earlier, Afghan played a nice little cameo in his farewell game, which helped Afghanistan post a fighting score. They made a strong start with Zazai and Shahzad sharing a 53-run stand in 6.4 overs. However, then they stuttered losing wickets at regular intervals.



Asghar Afghan is chaired off the field by his teammates after the game Sunday. PTI PHOTO

Brief scores

Afghanistan 160 for 5 (Mohammad Shahzad 45, Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton 2/21) beat Namibia 98 for 9 (Hamid Hassan 3/9 and Naveen-ul-Haq 3/26) by 62 runs.

Afghanistan managed to score 51 runs in the last five overs thanks to a 35-run partnership between Afghan and Nabi.

The 33-year-old right-handed batter, who was earlier known as Asghar Stanikzai, has played six Tests, 114 ODIs and 75 T20Is after making his debut in 2009.

through ball from Scott McTominay but he was flagged offside as he wheeled away in celebration.

Despite the pressure built by Spurs, it was the visitors who doubled the lead in the 64th minute. Ronaldo turned provider, feeding Cavani, who lifted the ball over Hugo Lloris to spark delirious celebrations among the United fans.

Substitute Rashford added gloss to the scoreline with four minutes to go, coolly finishing past Lloris as more boos rang around the stadium.

Talking after the game, Ronaldo said criticism doesn't bother him. "I am playing the game for too long now to bother about what others say off the pitch," the striker asserted.

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