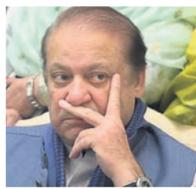




## SOUNDING JUDGEMENTAL

Actor Payal Ghosh has called directors Sooraj Barjatya and Anurag Kashyap two sides of a coin

LEISURE P2



## SHARIF GETS DEADLINE

A Pak court has asked Nawaz Sharif to appear before it by Nov 24 to avoid being declared a 'proclaimed offender'

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SWIATEK TRIUMPHS

Teenager Iga Swiatek claims French Open title, her first Grand Slam crown, beating American Sofia Kenin

SPORTS P12

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I watch this channel because I love its financial coverage... ₹400 per month

# Blast exposes safety loopholes

MANISH KUMAR, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** The recent filling station explosion at the heart of the capital city has exposed several loopholes in the legal framework monitoring the safety standards of petrol pumps.

The incident has also raised concerns regarding the safety of people living in close vicinity of such hazardous outlets.

Experts from various legal institutions claim that there is a desperate need to frame fresh rules for setting up petrol pumps in residential areas.

"We have a dearth of legal framework to restrict petrol pumps in residential and populated areas of cities. The latest we have is a norm by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) which restricts setting up of new petrol pumps within 50 metres of schools, hospitals and residential areas," Sankar Prasad Pani, lawyer at the National Green Tribunal (NGT), told Orissa POST.

He added, "The recent case showed that petrol pump explosions can impact an area of 200 metres. We need to look into restricting such stations in residential areas and revisit the law after taking into consideration



**IN VIOLATION OF NORMS**  
CPCB states that filling stations cannot be set up within 50 metres of schools, hospitals and residential areas. Many petrol pumps in the state violate the 50-metre rule as it was enacted in 2020. Fire safety audits and mock drills in many of these stations are not conducted as per norms.

the fatal effect of the recent case."

The norm of the CPCB was framed in 2020 itself after a direction from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) while hearing a case.

Shilpa Chohan, a SC lawyer specializing in industrial accidents, stated

that such accidents often come to the fore due lack of regular scrutiny, monitoring and absence of regular mock drills despite such provisions finding its place in more than 5-6 legislations.

"All these plans are on paper. Its

efficacy is not tested by periodical mock drills. These safety reports are not even updated. Quantitative and qualitative risk assessment is the most important part of the exercise as it leads to identification of potential hazards," she said.

However despite laws and provisions in hand, several older petrol pumps in the state violate the 50-metre rule blatantly.

The NGT, in a recent case of LG Polymers plant, also talked about 'quality of the technical personnel employed'. This emerged as a major cause of the accident.

According to a recent reply by the Union Petroleum Ministry in September 2020 in the Lok Sabha, the petrol pumps are governed under the Petroleum Explosive and Safety Organisation (PESO) guidelines of 2002 which do not mention the ideal distance between petrol pumps and residential areas.

Chohan said that a site appraisal committee should be constituted under Factory Act before establishing a hazardous chemical plant but such provisions for LPG storage are not provided on a national level.

The threat is now significant with the petroleum ministry planning to set up 116 CNG stations in Odisha.

## Sarangi cries foul, dares govt to seal party office

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** Hours after BJP's Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi's office was sealed by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) for alleged COVID norm violation, the parliamentarian hit back at the BJD questioning when the ruling party's office will be sealed despite the fact that there have been several violations.

Addressing a presser outside her sealed office, Sarangi showed 17 photographs and a video as evidence of Covid-19 guideline violations by the BJD MLAs, ministers & party workers.

Taking cognisance of the gross neglect and violation of COVID norms, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) sealed BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi's office here Saturday.

As per reports, a video had surfaced on social media where the Bhubaneswar

MP was seen with a group of people celebrating her birthday, Thursday. Attaching the video, state minister, Dibya Shankar Mishra, Friday, wrote to the Centre accusing Sarangi of violating COVID regulations.

"The MP was surrounded by hundreds of women who were not wearing masks. They indulged in songs and dance with utter disregard to COVID guidelines as stated by the National Disaster Management Act and also appealed by the Prime Minister," wrote Dibya Shankar.

Observing this, a team of the local civic body led by zonal deputy commissioner reached her office for action against the violation and sealed her office for 15 days.

Meanwhile, terming the action 'vindictive', Sarangi questioned Dibya Sharnkar's double standards at a press conference outside her sealed office.



BMC officials seal MP Aparajita Sarangi's office in Bhubaneswar

## SHORT TAKES

### Republic TV CFO skips summons

**Mumbai:** Despite summons, Republic TV's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) did not appear before the Mumbai police Saturday to record his statement in connection with the TRP manipulation racket, saying the channel has approached the Supreme Court in the case. Shiva Subramaniam Sundaram, the channel's CFO, against whom summons had been issued Friday, also requested the police not to record his statement saying the top court's hearing is scheduled within a week.

### State's Covid toll crosses 1K-mark

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha's COVID-19 toll crossed the 1,000-mark Saturday with 15 more deaths, while 2,854 new cases were reported, a Health Department official said. The toll rose to 1,006 with the latest fatalities, which included five persons from the Khurda district and two from Cuttack. One patient each died in Balasore, Bolangir, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh, the official said. Of the new cases, 1,659 have been reported from different quarantine centres.

### City-based doctor duped of ₹40 lakh

**Bhubaneswar:** A fraudster has duped an elderly doctor here of ₹40 lakh on the pretext of investing the amount in share market which would yield high returns. The victim, Birendra Kumar Das, 78, a native of Banki, has been staying at Damana under Chandrasekharpur police limits here. Das has lodged a complaint with the police in this regard October 7. Das, who owns a hospital at Niladri Vihar area, alleged in his complaint that the accused met him at his office.

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	33.8°C 35.0°C
TEMP MIN	25.9°C 25.0°C
Humidity	97% 85%
Rainfall	Trace Nil
Forecast: Generally cloudy sky	

## GST COUNCIL

# Voting on borrowing ruled out by FinMin

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** The finance ministry has ruled out voting on the borrowing options given by the Centre to the states in lieu of their GST compensation dues at the next GST Council meeting Monday.

Sources in the government said that as per constitutional provisions the GST Council does not have the jurisdiction to approve the borrowing plan of states and it has to be decided only between the states and the expenditure department.

"The constitutional provisions with regard to borrowings to be undertaken by states is clear. If some states want a vote on the issue at GST Council meeting they seem to be mistaken about the mandate of the Council. Even if voting is done there, it would be meaningless," said the source.

With the Covid-19 pandemic sharply reducing the revenue realisation of both the Centre and the states, the GST compensation needs of states have enlarged substantially beyond what is expected to be collected through compensation cess. This gap, however, needs to be filled and in this regard the Centre offered the states two borrowing options to meet the shortfall in compensation cess collection this year.

The GST Council is yet to receive the unanimous support of the states for this proposal with about 10 opposition ruled states



### Centre offered the states two borrowing options to meet the shortfall in compensation cess collection this year

and union territories wanting the options to be dropped and the Centre undertaking all borrowings to pay for the GST compensation shortfall to states.

"Majority support of 21 states is for the first option suggested by the Centre. So, even in voting, this option will win. But without the Council's mandate, voting will not take place," said the source quoted earlier.

The expenditure department in the finance ministry is already working and discussing with the states individually to get the borrowing programme going so that the compensation issue is settled.

## Boy killed over love affair

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** An 18-year-old student was beaten to death in Delhi allegedly over his relationship with a girl, police has said. Five people have been taken into police custody in the case, including three minors.

Rahul, the 18-year-old who has died, was a resident of West Delhi's Adarsh Nagar. Moments before he was attacked, he was seen on security footage with the girl.

"During investigation, we found that the boy, who was a resident of Jahangirpuri, was friends with a girl and her family was against it. Her brother and other family members thrashed the

boy over this and he died due to injuries," senior police officer Vijayanta Arya told reporters.

"Rahul was a tuition teacher and he taught students at home. He was a second-year student of Bachelor of Arts. He was attacked by over 8-10 men, and despite attempts to save him by some people around, they continued to thrash him," Rahul's father said.

CCTV footage from October 7 shows Rahul - out on a street with the girl - when he was believed to have been called by some people for tuition. As he covered some distance on foot, he was thrashed badly; he died at a hospital later due to injuries.

## '60K PLA troops on India's border'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Oct 10:** China has amassed 60,000 troops on India's northern border, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said as he hit out at Beijing for its bad behaviour and the threats it poses to the Quad countries.

The foreign ministers from the Indo-Pacific nations known as the Quad group - the US, Japan, India and Australia - met in Tokyo Tuesday in what was their first in-person talks since the coronavirus pandemic began. The meeting took place in the backdrop of China's aggressive military behaviour in the Indo-Pacific, South China Sea and along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"The Indians are seeing 60,000

Quad countries need to present a true resistance to the threats that the Chinese Communist Party poses to each of these nations

MIKE POMPEO | US SECRETARY OF STATE



Chinese soldiers on their northern border," Pompeo told The Guy Benson Show in an interview Friday after his return from Tokyo wherein he attended the second Quad ministerial with his counterparts from India, Japan and Australia.

I was with my foreign minister counterparts from India, Australia, and Japan - a format that we call the Quad, four big democracies, four powerful economies, four nations, each of whom has real risk associated with the threats imposed

- attempting to be imposed by the Chinese Communist Party. And they see it in their home countries too, he said.

They see, the people of their (Quad) nations understanding that we all slept on this for too long. For decades, the West allowed the Chinese Communist Party to walk all over us. The previous administration bent a knee, too often allowed China to steal our intellectual properties and the millions of jobs that came along with it, he said.

## CM's social media handle falls victim to dubious news

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** The office of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik fell victim to fake news with a dubious news report citing a purported Oxford University study tweeted via the CMO Tweeter handle.

"Ganjam earned praise from @UniofOxford for its successful model of #COVID19 infection prevention. The district excelled in #CovidManagement by empowering sarpanchs, forming committees in villages for intensive screening & by ensuring proper healthcare."

Ganjam earned praise from @UniofOxford for its successful model of #COVID19 infection prevention. The district excelled in #CovidManagement by empowering sarpanchs, forming committees in villages for intensive screening & by ensuring proper healthcare.

As soon as the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) put out the tweet, the official handle of the district magistrate of Ganjam too tweeted, "Ganjam Model of COVID Management got recognized by @UniofOxford for successful infection prevention strategies. Our gratitude and appreciation to Team Ganjam."

When doubts were cast on the purported study, the CMO deleted the tweet in English. Almost all vernacular dailies carried the reported Oxford University study prominently Friday.

# Set aside order on NPA classification freeze: RBI to SC

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** The Reserve Bank of India has urged the Supreme Court to lift the across-the-board stay on classification of non-performing asset (NPA) till further orders as it has huge implications for the banking system.

In a fresh affidavit filed in the apex court, the RBI said, "It is humbly submitted that this court had given an across-the-board stay on classification of any account as NPA till further orders. If the stay is not lifted immediately, it shall have huge implications for the banking system, apart from undermining the regulatory mandate of the Reserve Bank of India."

stressed borrowers, the Supreme Court had directed that accounts not declared NPAs as of August 31 should not be classified as such until further orders.

October 3, in an affidavit, the Centre had informed the court that any account becoming non-performing even due to the bank's or any other delay need not suffer from being labelled as NPA.

"The classification of a loan account as NPA, based on the record of recovery, actually enables the lenders to follow the regulatory guidelines with regard to income recognition and provisioning. Every regulatory forbearance has its trade-offs in terms of adverse incentives and unintended consequences", said the RBI in the affidavit.



"It is further prayed that the interim order dated September 4, 2020 restraining classification of accounts into Non-Performing Accounts in

terms of the directions issued by the RBI may kindly be vacated with immediate effect," said the RBI.

The Centre also emphasised that

### 'UNDERMINING MANDATE'

● In a respite to stressed borrowers, the SC had directed that accounts not declared NPAs as of August 31 should not be classified as such

● The RBI observed that if the stay is not lifted immediately, it shall have huge implications for the banking system apart from undermining its regulatory mandate

it is not possible to revise its decision to waive interest-on-interest for loans up to ₹2 crore, wherein the government would bear the cost for MSME loans and personal loans. On the aspect of sector-specific re-

lief instead of a monolithic resolution framework sought by real estate and power sectors, the RBI said such prayers deliberately obfuscate the fact that resolution framework gives complete discretion to the lending institutions and borrowers to arrive at resolution plans tailored to the specific requirements of sector subject.

The RBI said that sectors such as power and real estate were already stressed even before the coronavirus pandemic on account of various factors pertaining to sector-specific problems. "Nonetheless, it is submitted that the travails of the realty sector cannot be solved through banking regulations. The banking regulations of the RBI cannot substitute the redressal of structural problems of the real estate sector," the affidavit read.



## JACKMAN'S THE MUSIC MAN OPENING PUSHED TO 2022

With Broadway staying dark till May next year, the opening of Hugh Jackman-starrer revival of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* has been postponed to February 2022. The show will begin previews at the Winter Garden Theatre December 20, 2021, with opening night slated for February 10, 2022.

## PREGNANCY DURING PANDEMIC WAS SCARY: MINDY KALING

Actress Mindy Kaling, who recently welcomed her second child, says being pregnant during the pandemic was a scary experience. "It was a little scary, but it made me appreciate all the doctors, nurses and medical professionals who continue to work tirelessly," Mindy tweeted.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
You may pick up the hammer and chisel today. No, you're not taking up sculpture; you're finally giving in to your spouse's demands to take some home improvement measures. It's in your interest to be speedy and focused, as you are the guilty party, says Ganesh.

**TAURUS**  
There is a strong possibility of receptivity and sensitivity in your love life. On the down side, your negativity may lead to mediocre results. You are a fire-fighter when it comes to others' problems, but can forget digging a well for your own home, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you may be busy purchasing food supplies or penning an inventory. In your spare time, which you are likely to have in plenty today, you will try to befriend strangers or tread into unfamiliar territories. Such activities will not bring you any harm. A stroll with your sweetheart will nicely conclude a fairly eventful day, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
In all likelihood, this is going to be a fairly easy day for you, says Ganesh. The only tough part of the day would be how to spend it. There will be hardly anything to do, anyone to talk to. Ideally, this is what you would call a perfect day.

**LEO**  
Call it an epiphany of sorts, but today promises to be a day of revelations for you. Finally, things fall into place as your Odyssey nears its end, and you come to terms with your hidden talents, says Ganesh. Follow your heart and dive into the bottomless pool of your imagination.

**VIRGO**  
Ganesh predicts that your writing skills will possibly help you vent your feelings without offending others. You will successfully complete your pending assignments. Great success will knock at your door in anything and everything you undertake today, predicts Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Health is always a key issue, and today, you may have to pay some special attention to the same. It may be some elderly person in the family, or even you. Take the time to give it your full attention in order to avoid any further complications.

**SCORPIO**  
The target is locked in and the arrow is shot. It is only a matter of time before Cupid celebrates and hits the bull's eye and you find yourself in the mush of things. Sentiments and romance will be the order of the day.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Appreciation for all that excellent work you have put in is a no-go for you! Yet, you stand to gain nothing by losing heart. While the acknowledgement you look for has been delayed, Ganesh says it has not been denied and is in the offing already.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your intuition will get the better of you today, bagging you respect and recognition, says Ganesh. But it's not every day that you get so lucky, so try and make the most of what's on the platter, for all you know, intuitions could have a mood swing too.

**AQUARIUS**  
If Elvis Presley is who you dreamed of being, today may be your day! You seem to impress one and all, and even money flows in! You play smart today and everything seems to work in your favour.

**PISCES**  
A hectic day of socialising awaits you. You will discover hidden talents and unnoticed traits about yourself. Either that, or whoever brought them to your notice was only lying to get some socialising action of their own.



## Sayani's unique b'day celebration winning hearts

**Mumbai:** Actress Sayani Gupta distributed sanitary pads at a city orphanage on her birthday and the act was appreciated by the Internet users. She says her goal is to reach safe organic sanitary pads to adolescent girls all over Mumbai, and then eventually India. Sayani, who turned 35 on Friday, said: "We're still a far from making affordable pads for women and it's distressing to think that some of us use cheap alternatives because of lack of affordability... In fact it's my goal to reach safe organic sanitary pads to girls all over Mumbai and then eventually India... It's a relief to have people who want to make the world a slightly more liveable place and wants to help the underprivileged."

The actor was careful to adhere to social distancing guidelines while distributing the sanitary pads. Sayani has carved a niche with her performance in films like *Margarita With A Straw*, *Jolly LLB 2* and *Article 15*. She was recently seen in the OTT-released film, *Axone*, where she portrayed a 23-year-old Nepali girl from Manipur.

## Sooraj, Anurag two sides of a coin, says Payal

**Mumbai:** Actress Payal Ghosh has called Sooraj Barjatya and Anurag Kashyap two sides of a coin. Payal, who has accused Kashyap of sexual harassment, wrote of her experience of meeting the two filmmakers on her verified Twitter account Saturday. "The first time I met Sooraj Barjatya Sir, thought life is full of roses and when I met Mr. Kashyap the whole meaning changed. Two sides of a coin. It changed me to a different person than what I used to be... anyway life looks better now, feeling fresh as the early days of my career," she wrote.

The actress, who claims to have battled depression and panic attacks in the past, shared a piece of advice regarding mental health on the occasion of World Mental Health Day Saturday. "Let's try to be happy in real life and not just on social media... Communication, commitment and consistency will hold us a long way in this. Let's treat mental health equally as physical health," Payal wrote in a separate tweet.



**When Shakti convinced Jackie to buy a house**

**Mumbai:** Actor Shakti Kapoor has revealed how he convinced his friend, Jackie Shroff, to buy his first house. Going down memory lane, Shakti said: "Jackie always had a fascination towards cars." But his mother asked Shakti to convince Jackie to buy a house. "She knew that Jackie would listen to me. However, he also used to donate money to the ones living on the roads. So, convincing him to put his charity work on pause was a challenge," said Shakti. "I made him understand the importance of having a roof over his head. I persuaded him to continue doing his noble deed after buying a house. Next, I got a call from Jackie telling me he bought a huge house," he recalled on the sets of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs*.



## Ginny Weds Sunny low on entertainment quotient

The film has let the viewers down with a narrative that adamantly refuses to set up any sort of originality for the rom-com genre



**Ginny, Sunny and their not so funny misadventure of love sets you wondering within 10 minutes of the start: Why was this film made in the first case? The question plays in your mind on the loop all through the runtime that follows. By the end of it, you realise this was a couple of hours ill-spent.**

Puneet Khanna's debut directorial effort runs low on entertainment quotient right from the start. You feel bad for Yami Gautam and Vikrant Massey, as well as the half-dozen-odd prop ac-

tors who eagerly try living out their roles as papas and mamas, exes and siblings. It's taken two writers (Navjot Gulati and Sumit Arora) to spin out a yarn that is not half worth the runtime. This is the story of Sunny, or Satnam Sethi (Vikrant Massey), a West Delhi guy whose skills as a chef seems inversely proportional to his ability to impress girls.

Which is a big problem, for Sunny's father (Rajiv Gupta) refuses to fund his restaurant dreams till he gets married. And then there is Ginny, or Simran Juneja (Yami Gautam), hopelessly confused about love and still continuing with her ex Nishant (Suhail Nayyar) as best friends. She clearly has no idea of what's going on in her life, despite the attitude with she goes about dealing with the world.

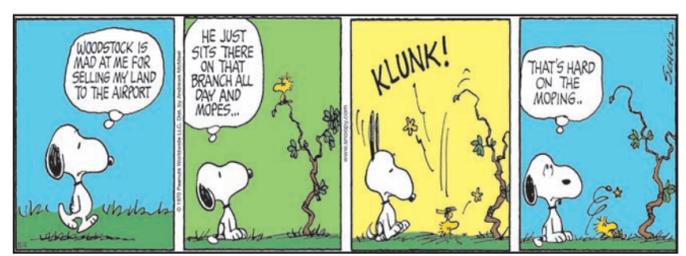
Ginny and Sunny are neighbourhood chums, and he confesses she is "out of my league". But here lies the twist. If Sunny needs to get married for the sake of his restaurant, Ginny's mom (Ayesha Raza Mishra) wouldn't mind Sunny as a son-in-law. So,

she decides to assist the boy from the wings, as he sets out to woo her daughter. Sunny's dad pitches in too, because he loves the idea of Ginny as his son's wife.

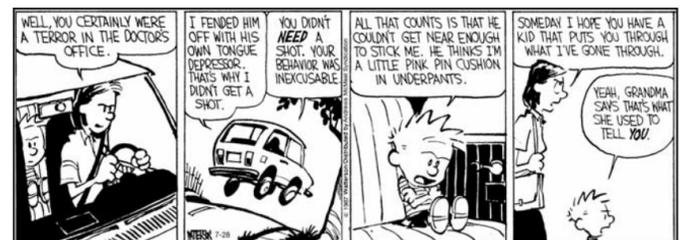
Having established the above premise within the first act, the dramedy that unfolds is mostly all about Sunny chasing Ginny, Ginny trying to fathom what or who she wants to chase or be chased by, and a sort of three-way confusion involving Nishant that is meant to create humour; except that it doesn't.

By the time the film is finished letting you down with a narrative that adamantly refuses to set up any sort of originality for the rom-com genre, you are too bored to care about who ended up wedding whom.

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

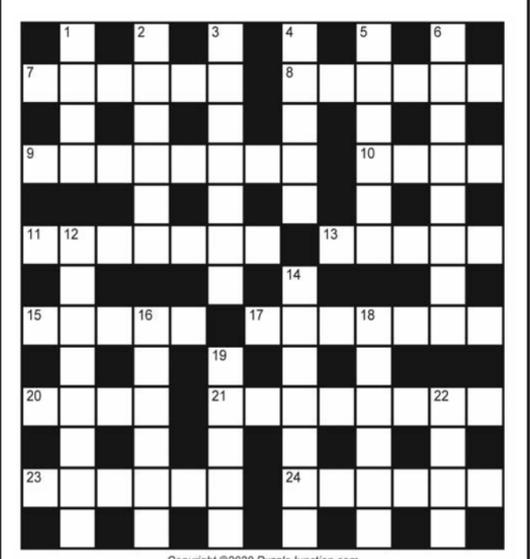


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Clothing
  - 8 Seat of power
  - 9 Jewelry piece
  - 10 Monster
  - 11 Shows up
  - 13 Companion of Artemis
  - 15 Massage target
  - 17 Italian dumplings
  - 20 Borscht
  - 21 Path designation
  - 23 Fancy glass
  - 24 Pasta
  - 5 Passion
  - 6 Trespass
  - 12 Transverse flutes
  - 14 Antediluvian
  - 16 Dinner jacket parts
  - 18 Horse treat
  - 19 Theatre lights, briefly
  - 22 Scarf material
- Down**
- 1 Asterisk
  - 2 Goof
  - 3 Damp places, at times
  - 4 Utter

### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.

0		7	8	E		7		2	
	E	9				4		3	D
2		5	B	D	1	7			C
	8	4	6	1	5	0			E
			0	6	8	9			
		6	8	7		0			B
D	0	B	2		4			1	
	4	1		A	7	2	3		9
	A			E	8	3	6	2	
			3	4		1			8
		9	C		A	5			
	D	A		3	C	6	9	2	5
		A			9		B		3
						5	3	C	9
2				1		A	E		7

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

S	N	A	G	C	R	I	S	T	A	L
M	S	Z	U	H	N	P				
A	U	C	T	I	O	N	A	W	A	S
S	O	T	W	R	A	G	I			
H	A	T	C	H	A	P	P	A	R	E
A	E	Y	A							
N	A	T	U	R	E	C	H	A	M	P
D	A	E	M	O						
G	E	N	U	I	N	E	R	E	C	A
R	T	S	R	S	H	H				
A	C	R	E	S	I	T	E	M	I	S
B	U	U	N	S	L	R				
E	M	P	E	R	O	R	B	E	D	S

**SUDOKU**

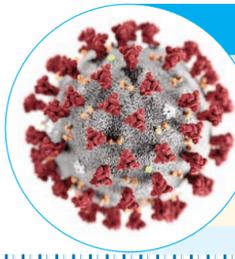
4	E	D	B	6	2	1	8	5	9	A	7	0	3	C
5	1	0	D	3	7	9	A	C	B	6	E	4	2	8
6	B	3	A	C	0	7	D	2	8	5	4	9	E	1
2	9	7	5	E	8	3	4	0	1	C	D	B	6	A
A	C	8	1	4	9	6	B	E	0	3	2	D	7	5
D	2	6	8	A	4	B	9	3	C	E	0	5	1	7
0	5	1	E	B	8	C	4	3	7	A	2	D	9	
E	3	B	7	0	1	2	5	D	4	8	9	C	A	6
9	4	C	2	D	3	A	E	7	5	1	6	8	0	4
8	7	A	9	5	0	1	2	0	8	3	4	E	6	
3	A	9	0	7	0	5	1	8	6	4	C	E	B	
1	6	E	C	2	5	4	0	B	7	9	3	A	8	D
7	8	4	3	9	A	D	2	6	E	B	5	1	C	0
B	D	2	4	8	E	C	7	9	A	0	1	6	5	3
C	0	5	6	1	B	E	3	A	D	2	8	7	9	4

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**DECORATIVE PIECES**

People buy artificial flowers from a roadside vendor near Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,72,32,322	2,79,55,788	10,74,261
India	69,79,423	59,88,822	1,07,416
Odisha	2,49,693	2,24,273	1,006

# Road opens for hassle-free access to SCB

# Conman dupes doctor of ₹40L

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** As part of a plan to transform the SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack into a world-class health-care institution, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday inaugurated the renovated Taladanda canal road in the Millennium city through videoconferencing.

The embankment roads on both sides of Taladanda canal have been made three-lane connecting the SCB Medical College and Hospital from the Ring Road near Jobra barrage to ensure free passage for the outside patients.

The new road, constructed at a cost of ₹14 crore within a record time of six months, will allow patients from outside Cuttack to reach the hospital without any traffic congestion and get immediate medical attention.

Inaugurating the project, Naveen said that the main problem of this Millennium city of Cuttack is the congested narrow roads, which are causing traffic



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the widened Taladanda embankment roads through videoconferencing. 5T secretary VK Pandian is also seen

**TRANSFORMATIONAL MEASURE**

THE NEW ROAD, CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF ₹14 CRORE WITHIN A RECORD TIME OF SIX MONTHS, WILL ALLOW PATIENTS FROM OUTSIDE CUTTACK TO REACH THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT ANY TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND GET IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION

FIVE PARKING AREAS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED ON BOTH THE EMBANKMENTS

PLANTATION HAS BEEN MADE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CANAL TO ADD SPLENDOUR TO THE SITE

congestion. Therefore, the state government is giving priority to modernising it, he said.

Based on public opinion, the roads on both sides of the Taladanda

canal will be further widened in the coming days and the displaced people will be properly rehabilitated on a humanitarian ground, Naveen said.

Stating that many people from outside the state are visiting the hospital every day, the Chief Minister said the state government is determined to convert this great in-

stitution into a world-class health-care facility. The new road to Taladanda canal is a good start in this regard, he said.

Patnaik thanked the people of Cuttack for their hard work and dedication for the implementation of the project and thanked the Works department and the Cuttack district administration for completing the road project in record time. The CM sought the co-operation of the people to make the Silver city more beautiful in the coming days.

Five parking areas have been developed on both the embankments. Plantation has been made on both sides of the canal to add splendour to the site. A small patch of landscaping has been done with parking facilities on left embankment.

The three-lane road on Taladanda canal, which connects Jobra Ring Road to Ranihat, is 1.5 km long and 15 metres wide. The 600 families evicted due to the project have been properly rehabilitated, sources said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** A fraudster has duped an elderly doctor here of ₹40 lakh on the pretext of investing the amount in share market which would him yield high returns.

The victim, Birendra Kumar Das, 78, a native of Banki, has been staying at Damana under Chandrasekharpur police limits here. Das has lodged a complaint with the police in this regard October 7.

Das who owns a hospital at Niladri Vihar area alleged in his complaint that the accused, Prakash Kumar Mantri, of Banki met him at his office a few months ago. Mantri introduced himself as a share broker and requested Das to invest some amount in the share market promising high returns. He also assured Das and his wife that they would get 20 per cent interest on the amount invested in the share market.

**THE ACCUSED ASSURED DAS AND HIS WIFE THAT THEY WOULD GET 20% INTEREST ON THE INVESTED AMOUNT**

Das refused to invest in the share market as he lacked adequate knowledge about investing in stock market. However, the accused persuaded Das and his wife to make them fall in the trap by making frequent visits to their office and residence. Das reportedly gave Mantri ₹40 lakh in 23 installments to invest in share market.

However, Mantri started avoiding the elderly couple after the receiving the money. Meanwhile, Das failed to trace the accused when he visited his residence in the city and at his village.

**KANDHAMAL RIOTS**

# SC to hear plea for SIT probe Tuesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** The Supreme Court (SC) will Tuesday hear a petition filed by Archbishop John Baruwa seeking a probe by a special investigation team (SIT) into several cases registered in the aftermath of Kandhamal riots.

A three-judge bench of the apex court comprising Justices UU Lallit, S Ravindra Bhat and Prishikesh Roy will hear the petition.

Significantly, Petitioner Archbishop John Baruwa urged the apex court to direct the state government to form an SIT headed by a senior police officer with the exclusive mandate of comprehensively looking into 315 cases in which no offence was found to be made out. He pleaded for the direction to the state government to carry out further investigation in these cases.

He also prayed the court to direct Odisha government to file revision petitions in 266 acquittal cases till May 2020. The petitioner also sought early disposal of cases pending for over 10 years now.

The petitioner submitted that contrary to the SC's directions, the state did not look into these 315 cases and also did not take up the 266 cases of acquittal disobeying the August 2016 judgement of the Supreme Court.



**Petitioner Archbishop John Baruwa urged the apex court to direct the state govt to form an SIT headed by a senior cop**

He further submitted to the court that out of 284 acquittal cases, the state has filed only 18 revision petitions. Notably, at least three persons were killed and over 100 churches and church institutions, including convents and hostels, about 700 houses and other structures were burnt in the riots between December 24 and 27, 2007.

Similarly, 39 Christians were killed and over 395 churches vandalised, 600 villages ransacked, over 5,600 houses looted and over 54,000 people were left homeless in the August 2008 riots in Kandhamal district which allegedly broke out after the murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati.

# Police grill OTV officials on land grab charge

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khurda, Oct 10:** Police Saturday interrogated three officials of OTV, a private news channel, and verified the land records as part of the ongoing probe into an alleged land grab case.

Khurda Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Pratap Swain and Khurda Sadar Sub-divisional Police officer (SDPO) Sushil Kumar Mishra interrogated the officials of OTV at Baghamari police station, sources said.

Baghamari police had earlier registered a case against OTV managing director (MD) Jagi Mangat Panda, her father and brother in connection with alleged land grab by the media house at Sarua village under Begunia block here.

The case had been registered against Panda, her father and brother on charges of illegal acquisition of the landed properties of two Dalit persons and issuing threat to the victim duo, police said. The case had been registered under the SC/ST Act and Section 447, 506 and 34 of the IPC, they added. According to police, Haluri Pahadsingh and Sanatan Pahadsingh, two Dalit persons of Sarua, had lodged a complaint against OTV MD, her father and brother.

As per the complaint, the duo has agricultural lands under Sarua revenue village. A few years ago, OTV authorities had tried to lure the duo to sell their lands to the media house. However, Haluri and Sanatan refused to part their lands.

Subsequently, OTV authorities purchased landed properties close to the victim duo's agricultural lands and constructed buildings and boundary walls, said the complainants. As a result, Haluri and Sanatan lost access to their farmlands. Khurda Sadar SDPO had recorded the victim duo's statements and served a notice on OTV in connection with the land grab case.

A special team of Khurda police Friday interrogated some officials of OTV for around five hours at the media house's Bhubaneswar office, sources said.

# CP provides 'green corridor' to critically ill

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** The humane side of Commissionerate Police has recently come to the fore when the traffic cops availed barrier-free passages for two critically-ill patients from two city-based private hospitals to the Biju Patnaik International Airport in two consecutive days.

The patients who required urgent transplantation of lungs and heart were shifted to hospitals outside the state for advanced medical treatment October 7 and 8.

Traffic DCP, Soumya Mishra, Saturday revealed this through the official Twitter handle of DCP Traffic, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack.

"GREEN CORRIDOR was facilitated by @cpbbsrctc on 7th & 8th Oct. 2020 to shift patients in need of urgent heart & lungs transplantation from AMRI & KIMS hospitals to BPI Airport. Ambulances were escorted by ACP Traffic & his IIC for hassle free movement. Thank U all for the cooperation," tweeted DCP Traffic, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack. Meanwhile, Commissioner of Police, Sudhanshu Sarangi praised the DCP traffic for the excellent work through his personal Twitter account. He also said that the police have been providing Green Corridor for ambulances carrying serious patients on the request of the patients' relatives or the hospital authorities.

# LOPAR may intensify into deep depression

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** The low pressure area formed over east central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Andaman sea is very likely to turn into a deep depression, which will bring heavy rainfall in some parts of the state for the next three days.

The well marked low pressure area over East central Bay of Bengal & adjoining north Andaman Sea now lies over East central and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal. The associated cyclonic circulation extends upto midtropospheric levels, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a bulletin issued Saturday evening.

# City man gets e-challan from Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** In a bizarre incident, a man from Rasulgarh area here has received an e-challan for payment of ₹1,000 fine towards alleged violation of traffic rules in Sundargarh.

Prasanna Kumar Mansingh, a resident of Rasulgarh area under Mancheswar police limits, October 5, received an SMS from Sundargarh traffic police informing him about the penalty.

pression over central Bay of Bengal during next 24 hours. There is also a possibility that the system may further intensify into a deep depression during subsequent 24 hours, it said.

The low pressure is very likely to move west-north westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh coast as a depression during October 12 morning.

Under its impact, heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur in several parts of the state with the weathermen issuing Orange and Yellow warnings for the next three days.

Later, Mansingh visited the online address given in the message and downloaded the challan. He was fined for not wearing a helmet. A baffled Mansingh told Orissa POST that neither he nor any of his family members have recently visited Sundargarh. Meanwhile, the traffic officer who signed the challan said that it has been done mistakenly and will be cancelled after receiving a counter application from Mansingh.



## RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

www.rbi.org.in

**Redressal of complaints against entities regulated by RBI/any Department of RBI**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up various fora for grievance redressal at its Offices across the country. Any member of public who has a grievance relating to deficiency in service by the entities regulated by RBI viz; Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Co-operative Banks or Non-Banking Financial Companies (registered with RBI under Section 45-IA of the RBI Act, 1934), Digital Transactions conducted through non-bank entities regulated by RBI (under the Payments and Settlements Act 2007), Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) or against any Department of the RBI, may write/send e-mail / call to the following concerned RBI office (Odisha) and submit his/ her grievance with full details / facts along with supporting documents.

- 1. Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 (BO Scheme, 2006)**  
(for redressal of complaints falling under Clause 8 of BO Scheme, 2006) A complainant may file online complaint through the Complaint Management System (CMS) at <https://www.rbi.org.in>>> lodge complaint. The complaint can also be submitted by post/hand delivery/e-mail with full facts along with supporting documents at the following address/e-mail Id.

**Office of the Banking Ombudsman**  
C/o Reserve Bank of India, Address: Reserve Bank of India, 3rd floor, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001, Telephone No: 0674-2396207/2396008, E-mail Id: cms.bobhubaneswar@rbi.org.in, Office timings: 09:35 AM to 05:20 PM

- 2. Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions (OSDT-2019)**  
(for redressal of complaints against deficiency of services related to Digital Transactions made through the System Participants as defined under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007, excluding System Providers). The complaint can also be submitted by post/hand delivery/e-mail with full facts along with supporting documents at the following address/email Id.

**Ombudsman for Digital Transactions (Bhubaneswar Centre)**  
C/o Reserve Bank of India, Address: Reserve Bank of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Bhubaneswar-751 001, Telephone No: 0674-2396207/2396008, E-mail Id: cms.odtbhubaneswar@rbi.org.in, Office timings: 09:35 AM to 05:20 PM.

- 3. Ombudsman Scheme Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC-O Scheme), 2018**  
(for redressal of complaints (against deposit – taking NBFCs) falling under Clause 8 of NBFC-O Scheme, 2018)  
The complaint can be submitted by post/hand delivery/e-mail with full facts along with supporting documents at the following address/e-mail Id: cms.nbfccolkata@rbi.org.in

**NBFC Ombudsman (Kolkata Zone)\***  
C/o Reserve Bank of India, Address: 15 Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata - 700001, Telephone No: 033-23304982, Fax No: 033-22305899, E-mail Id: cms.nbfccolkata@rbi.org.in, Office time: 09:30 AM to 05:30 PM

**\*The Jurisdiction of NBFC Ombudsman for Kolkata Zone covers West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Bihar and Jharkhand.**  
For more information, please visit RBI's website at <https://www.rbi.org.in>>>lodge complaint.

Note: For filing complaint under the BO Scheme, 2006 or NBFC-O Scheme, 2018, or OSDT 2019, the complainant may please note that, he/she should first approach the branch of the bank/deposit-taking NBFC registered with RBI/system participant for redressal of his/her grievance. If the grievance regarding deficiency in service listed in Clause 8 of the respective Ombudsman Schemes against any bank/NBFC/System Participant is not redressed within 30 days or if complainant is not satisfied with the reply given by the bank/NBFC/System Participant concerned, he/she can approach the concerned Ombudsman anytime within one year of receipt of reply from the bank/NBFC/system participant or where no reply is received, anytime within one year and one month from the date of representation to the bank/NBFC/system participant.

**Appeal against decision of Ombudsman**  
Appeal against decision of Banking/NBFC Ombudsman or ODT can be sent to the **Appellate Authority, Reserve Bank of India, Consumer Education and Protection Department, Central Office, Amar Building, Sir P M Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001** within 30 days of receipt of the communication of the respective Ombudsman's decision, only if the complaint is closed under the appealable Clauses of the respective Schemes.

- 4. Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPC)** (for redressal of complaints not covered under Ombudsman schemes of RBI).  
C/o Reserve Bank of India, Address: Consumer Education and Protection Cell, Reserve Bank of India, 2nd floor, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751001, Telephone No: 0674-2390074, Email ID: cms.cepcbhubaneswar@rbi.org.in, Office time: 09:35 AM to 05:20 PM, For more information, please visit RBI's website at <https://www.rbi.org.in>>> lodge complaint.

- 5. Complaints against Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**  
For complaints against DICGC, members of public can lodge the complaint at following address/e-mail Id:  
**Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**  
The Deputy General Manager, DICGC, Complaint Redressal Cell, RBI Building, 2nd floor, Opp. Mumbai Central Railway Station, Mumbai - 400 008, Complainant can also approach through Telephone No. 022-23019633 Ext No. 8201 or through e-mail dicgc@rbi.org.in

**NOTE: Complainant is requested to indicate his/her address and phone number/mobile number in the complaint.**

# Woman dies after 10-day wait for ICU bed

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 10:** A woman, who was rendered critical by consuming pesticide, died Saturday at SCB Medical College and Hospital here after waiting for a bed in the intensive care unit (ICU) despite advice by doctors, a report said.

The deceased identified as Swetapadma Nayak of Rajnagar area in Kendrapara district battled with life for 10 days and finally succumbed Saturday afternoon. Doctors, while admitting her for treatment, had advised to shift her to an ICU due to her critical health condition. However, authorities failed to shift her to an ICU due to alleged negligence in conducting an RTPCR test on her, the report said.

Reports said the woman consumed pesticide October 1 and was rushed to SCB Medical College and Hospital the same day by family members as her health condition deteriorated. She was administered treatment after she underwent a rapid antigen test which came out negative.

Later, she was shifted to the trauma ward under the medicine



## MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

The woman consumed pesticide October 1 and was rushed to SCB Medical College and Hospital the same day by family members as her health condition deteriorated. She was administered treatment after she underwent a rapid antigen test which came out negative

Family members pleaded with doctors to shift her to the ICU to which they refused and finally her swab was collected for RTPCR test Saturday morning

department and administered treatment. There the doctors on checking her critical health condition advised to shift her to intensive care unit (ICU).

Since that day she was kept in the trauma ward and was never shifted to ICU as the hospital staff kept on dillydallying in collecting her swab for an RTPCR test as per rules. Sources said the authorities have made it mandatory for every patient to undergo an RTPCR test before availing any kind of treatment.

As a result, the woman was kept

confined at the trauma ward for 10 days without availing the specialized treatment at the ICU.

She was in the trauma ward when her health condition further deteriorated late Friday night. Family members pleaded with doctors to shift her to the ICU to which they refused and finally her swab was collected for RTPCR test Saturday morning.

All their pleas fell on deaf ears as doctors refused to shift her to ICU until the RTPCR test report came out negative. She battled with life and finally succumbed Saturday

afternoon in the absence of specialized treatment, her nephew Nigamananda Nayak alleged.

When contacted, hospital superintendent Dr Annada Prasad Patnaik said it is mandatory to undergo an RTPCR test to get a bed in the ICU. However, there is a provision of ICUs with isolation facilities for patients in need of emergency treatment the decision for which should be taken by the doctor in-charge. He is not aware of the matter and could comment only after enquiring about the matter.

# BMC cuts de-sludging rate to improve SBS rankings

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** In a bid to provide affordable de-sludging to the urban poor in the capital city, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) declared that it would be providing cesspool vehicles owned by the civic authorities at subsidized rates.

In notification issued by the BMC, the civic body said it will now be providing the services at Rs250 only. As per sources, while the BMC charges Rs 900 from people for de-sludging, the urban poor living in slums will be charged Rs 492 and taxes and the combined expenses will be around Rs 580.

"However, if two households are to be covered by cesspool vehicle in one trip, the price to be paid by a slum dweller to access the service will be further reduced to Rs 280. The subsidy, however, will not be applicable if one books a private cesspool vehicle," said BMC Deputy Commissioner, Sanitation, Suvendu Sahu.

As per the information provided by BMC, the city presently has

about 40 cesspool vehicles registered with it. While 30 of these are privately run, the civic authority owns eight big and one small cesspool vehicles. As per Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Regulation, 2018, all vehicles are directed to deposit the collected waste at the identified plant at Basuaghai.

However, denizens have complained that there is an extreme dearth of cesspool vehicles especially those owned by the BMC. Earlier, community members in Aditya Nagar, Tarini slum, Baliapat, Barabhuja, Nirankari Nagar, Kimbharia and slums in Dumduma had complained that they are unable to clean the septic tanks and pits due to the hefty amounts charged by the service providers.

This has resulted in several unregistered vehicles providing the services at cheap rates, thereby dumping the waste in open drains. Observing this, the BMC has decided to reduce rates for its services. Sources say the move is also taken to improve Bhubaneswar's ranking in Swachh Bharat Survekshan for next year.

# State's Covid-19 toll crosses 1,000-mark

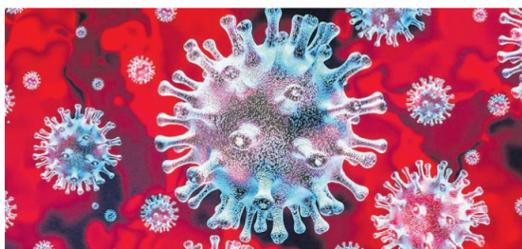
STATE REPORTED 2,854 NEW COVID-19 CASES SATURDAY, TOTAL REACHES 2,49,693

POST NEWS NETWORK, AGENCY

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** The state registered 2,854 new cases of COVID-19 infections Saturday, according to a tweet by the I&PR Department, Government of Odisha. The department said that among the new cases 1,659 were in quarantine. The remainder of the newly-infected persons contracted the disease by coming in contact with people who had COVID-19. The fresh cases took Odisha's tally of COVID-19 positive patients to 2, 49,693.

Fifteen people have breathed their last in the last 24 hours due to COVID-19, the Health & Family Welfare Department said in a different tweet. The total death tally in the state reached 1,006. Five deaths were reported from Khurda district out of which three succumbed in the state capital. Deaths were also reported from Balasore, Bolangir, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts.

Khurda district continued to be



the hotspot of the infection with 393 cases. Cuttack district continued to be in the second spot with 244 new COVID-19 positive cases.

Other districts from where new coronavirus cases were reported are: Sundargarh (143), Angul (131), Mayurbhanj (127), Balasore (116), Puri (114), Sambalpur and Kalahandi (105 each), Jajpur (99), Bolangir (97), Bargarh (95), Nabarangpur (92), Kendrapara (91), Nuapada (83), Sonepur (79), Jharsuguda and Jagatsinghpur (68 each), Keonjhar (67), Bhadrak (66), Nayagarh (65), Malkangiri (61), Koraput (46),



Members of All Odisha BPUT Students Association distributing masks to the differently-abled at Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar as part of an awareness programme on Covid, Saturday

## NOBLE GESTURE

## Another 3,885 Covid patients recover

**Bhubaneswar:** The health department Saturday said 3,885 persons who earlier tested positive for COVID-19 have recovered and are being discharged. Out of the 3,885 persons, 1,143 are from Khurda, 325 from Cuttack, 193 from Puri, 159 from Jharsuguda, 133 from Balasore, 129 from Mayurbhanj, 126 from Jajpur, 124 from Keonjhar, 122 from Kendrapara, 121 from Sundargarh, 112 from Kalahandi, 103 from Bolangir, 81 from Bargarh, 80 from Nuapada, 79 from Dhenkanal, 72 from Jagatsinghpur, 72 from Sambalpur, 70 from Rayagada, 64 from Bhadrak, 59 from Kandhamal, 56 from Nabarangpur, 52 from Nayagarh, 50 from Sonepur, 48 from Koraput, 42 from Ganjam, 26 from Boudh, 26 from Malkangiri, 19 from Angul, 16 from Deogarh, 15 from Gajapati and 168 from State Pool. With this, the total number of recoveries in the state now stand at 2,24,273.

83 of them were quarantine cases, remaining 238 are local contacts. Meanwhile, 331 persons who earlier tested positive for the disease have recovered. According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of Saturday, 25,174 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Bhubaneswar out of which 21,545 have recovered. While there are 3,494 active cases, 114 persons succumbed to the disease.

**Cuttack records 92 new cases**  
As many as 92 new COVID-19 cases

were detected under Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) limits in last 24 hours. CMC said Saturday. While 26 of them were home quarantine cases, 26 were from institutional quarantine centres and the remaining 40 were local contact ones. According to a notification issued by the civic body, as of Saturday, 13,417 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 in Cuttack out of which 12,274 have recovered. There are 1,087 active cases and 56 persons have succumbed to the disease.

# STF busts duplicate pan masala units

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** The Special Task Force (STF) of Crime Branch Saturday busted several fake Pan Masala manufacturing units running at different places of Bhadrak town. During the raids in Bhadrak town area, the police arrested one person while two others managed to give police a slip.

The arrested was identified as Jaga Nath of Mirzapur under Puruna Bazar police limits. The absconding persons, Fakir Shah, Sk Mahiraj, Sk Anis and Mallik Gulphan, also belong to different areas under the same police station.

According to sources, the police



after receiving reliable inputs regarding illegal manufacture of duplicate products of popular Pan Masala brands like Gopal Zarda, Suravi, Kanak Delux, Shivdata

Zarda Saturday carried out raids at different places under Puruna bazaar police limits in Bhadrak. They seized a huge cache of fake tobacco products and other incriminating materials from the godwons at the residences of the accused persons from Bhadrak Town area.

Equipment and raw materials used in manufacturing and packaging of the duplicate Pan Masala products have also been seized during the raids.

Police have launched a manhunt to arrest the other accused by registering two separate cases (193/20 and 192/20) under various sections of IPC, Trademarks, Copyrights and COTPA Act at the Puruna Bazar police station Saturday.

Earlier, the STF sleuths had busted a fake pan masala racket running in Chatia and Bayree area of Jajapur district and arrested three persons October 2.

# 4 more special trains from ECoR

They include Puri-Valsad Special, Secunderabad-Shalimar Special, Visakhapatnam-Tirupati Special, Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad Special

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** The Ministry of Railways has decided to run four more special trains in the East Coast Railway jurisdiction.

Valsad-Puri-Valsad weekly express will leave from Valsad every Thursday from October 15, 2020. The train will leave from Puri every Sunday from October 18, 2020 till further advice. The train will have stoppages at Bhubaneswar, Dhenkanal, Talcher Road, Angul, Sambalpur City, Jharsuguda Road, Champa, Bilaspur, Pendra Road, Anuppur, Shahdol, Katni South,



Jabalpur, Pipariya, Itarshi, Bhopal, Maksi, Ujjain, Ratlam, Dahod, Vadodra and Surat between Puri and Valsad from both the directions. The Secunderabad-Shalimar-Secunderabad Special will leave from Secunderabad at 0540 hours every Tuesday from October 13 and will leave from Shalimar at 1605

hours every Wednesday from October 14, 2020 having stoppages at various places between Secunderabad & Shalimar from both the directions.

This apart, two other special trains are Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad Special will run every Saturday from October 17 and will leave Visakhapatnam every Sunday from October 18 and Tirupati-Visakhapatnam-Tirupati Special will leave Tirupati every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from October 14 and will leave Visakhapatnam every Thursday, Saturday and Monday from October 17.

# Funeral price: Covid +ve Satyabadi MLA booked

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit in the Notary Public, Anandapur, I, Smt. Chhabirani Dash, W/o. Niramal Kumar Dash, Vill.-Murabali, P.O./P.S.-Ghasipura, Dist.-Keonjhar do hereby declare that "Chhabirani Dash" and "Chhabirani Dash" is same and one person in the above address. "Chhabirani Dash" is my correct name.

AGENCIES

**Puri, Oct 10:** A case was filed against Satyabadi BJD MLA Umakanta Samantray after he attended the funeral of party leader Pradeep Maharathy despite testing positive for COVID-19, police said Saturday.

The case was registered at the Sea Beach Police Station in Puri Friday night under IPC sections 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and section 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act.

However, no case was registered against the party's Nimapara MLA and School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash who was also accused of attending Maharathy's funeral October 4, violating the COVID-19 guidelines.

Jagannath Sena, a local outfit, had lodged a complaint against Dash and Samantray, alleging that they attended the funeral despite testing COVID-positive. The two ruling party leaders were also accused of violating quarantine protocols.

However, Puri's Superintendent of Police Akhileswar Singh said that the minister had attended the funeral after remaining in quaran-



time for 17 days. Therefore, no case has been registered against him, Singh said. Jagannath Sena claimed that both Dash and Samantray were

found to be COVID-positive at the camp held for mandatory testing at the assembly premises on September 27 ahead of the Monsoon session.

As they were diagnosed with COVID-19, the two leaders were not allowed to attend the Monsoon session, which was held from September 29 to October 6, it claimed. Samantray, the MLA from Satyabadi, apologised for the violation. In a video message, he said he committed a mistake by attending Maharathy's funeral.

He said he had rushed to the funeral out of emotion because of his relation with Maharathy. Samantray had tweeted September

28, informing about his coronavirus infection. Dash, however, said that he had tested positive September 12 and completed a 17-day quarantine before attending the funeral.

He claimed that he did not attend the Monsoon session as "mild infection" was detected in the test conducted at the assembly.

Maharathy, 65, died at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar in the early hours of October 4. The seven-time MLA from Pipili in Puri district had tested positive for COVID-19 September 14.

He was discharged from the hospital following recovery but was admitted again as his condition de-

teriorated, breathing his last after remaining on ventilator support. On Friday, Odisha's Minister of State for Home DS Mishra wrote to Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityananda Rai, drawing his attention to the alleged violation of COVID-19 guidelines by Bhubaneswar MP and BJP national spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi.

Sarangi was accused of violating the guideline while celebrating her birthday Thursday. She, however, rejected the allegation and raised questions as to why Mishra was silent on the issue pertaining to the alleged violation by Samantray and Dash.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

# No jobs to card holders, but all hunky-dory in books

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Phulbani/Lathore, Oct 10:** Covid-induced difficulties rendered thousands of people jobless. The government laid a lot of stress on implementation of MGNREGS in rural areas to ensure work to migrants and job card holders.

However, irregularities in MGNREGS projects have defeated the intention of the government in Chakapada area of Kandhamal district and Khaprakhol area of Bolangir district during the pandemic times, reports said.

A report from Phulbani said, scores of card holders have not been provided work at Panaspadar village under Chakapada block, but surprisingly their names have been mentioned in muster rolls which goes to mean they were provided work in official records. These jobless people have been leading a miserable life without work.

Gram Rozgar Sevaks (GRS) and Village Mates are involved in the irregularities, it was alleged.

Locals said GRSs take away job cards of beneficiaries with assur-

ance that their wages will be credited into the bank accounts. Later, a part of money is paid to card holders while rest of the money is misappropriated. This is how things have been going on over years, they rued.

Surprisingly, even the job card number and the bank account of a dead person (Birat Nayak) were shown as a beneficiary in the MGNREGS muster roll. This was related to reconstruction of Domuhani-Jhagadpada road which was carried out at Rs 5 lakh in 2020-21. Villagers alleged that this has been happening for last 13 years.

The beneficiaries are supposed to get Rs 207 as daily wage while Rs 150 has been credited to their accounts. Barun Kahanr, a local, said he was given work 25 times while the total payment made to him was Rs 2000 only.

Rabindra Dalabehera, another beneficiary, alleged that though the sapranchn and the BDO were apprised of the irregularities, they did precious little.

Khiraad Chandra Behera alleged that he had dug out 36 pits in 2019



A report from Phulbani said, scores of card holders have not been provided work at Panaspadar village under Chakapada block, but surprisingly their names have been mentioned in muster rolls which goes to mean they were provided work in official records. These jobless people have been leading a miserable life without work

Similarly, irregularities have allegedly been committed in various MGNREGS projects in Karuanjhar panchayat under Khaprakhol block of Bolangir. Samiti member Sata Bhoi, ward member Gouri Chhatra and people of Chauladiha, Masina and Sanagurjibhata villages have sent a complaint letter to the panchayatiraj and drinking water department through post

and was supposed to get Rs 370 per pit. "I was to get Rs 14,000, but received all of Rs 4000 only," he lamented.

This year, he was paid Rs 150 as wage instead of Rs 207. When asked about the irregularities,

BDO Anil Kumar Patnaik parried the question.

Similarly, irregularities have allegedly been committed in various MGNREGS projects in Karuanjhar panchayat under Khaprakhol block of Bolangir.

# Fluoride content in groundwater takes a toll on Boudh villages



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Harbhanga, Oct 10:** Although high fluoride content in water was earlier confined to Nuapada district, this problem has been reported from various parts of Harbhanga block in Boudh district.

High fluoride content in groundwater is taking its toll on the health of inhabitants. Many people in the block were affected by kidney disease and teeth ailments while the administration was accused of doing little in this regard.

The number of kidney ailments is reportedly increasing in seven panchayats under this block. In the absence of preventive measures, the disease is allegedly acquiring crisis proportions in 24 villages.

Locals were upset over the rise in kidney diseases. In the last four years, over 200 people allegedly died of kidney disease.

Locals united under Bikash Garjan Sena, a local outfit working for the cause of development, took up the issue with the administration Friday. A delegation submitted a memorandum to the Collector in this regard.

Their major demand is a mega drinking water in the block and arrangement of a special ward for kidney patients at the Purunakatak community health centre.

They also demanded that given

the increasing cases of kidney ailments due to consumption of fluoride content water, the government should appoint a specialist doctor to deal with such cases.

They also demanded financial assistance to the families who have lost their kin to kidney-related ailments.

"Fluoride content in groundwater continues to kill people and it will acquire the shape of an epidemic if the administration doesn't intervene in the matter," lamented Bikash Mahakud, the secretary of the outfit.

The kidney disease is spreading in 24 villages under seven panchayats. In four years, 205 people have died while 252 people are affected with kidney disease, the outfit said. Many complain of backbone problem while others have skeletal fluorosis, it was alleged.

It was learnt that a team of experts had earlier visited various villages and collected samples of the groundwater to ascertain the cause of the kidney disease that is spreading in the areas.

"But thereafter, no step has been taken to prevent the disease. Public discontent is brewing against the apathy of the administration," the outfit added.

It also warned that agitation will be staged against the administration if immediate step is not taken in this direction.

# Woman, daughter-in-law electrocuted in Rayagada

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Oct 10:** In a shocking incident, an elderly man and his daughter-in-law were electrocuted at Pangapanda village under Bisamkatak block in Rayagada district Friday night.

The deceased have been identified as Dahini Mandangi (65) and his daughter-in-law Sumitra Mandangi (24) of Pangapanda village.

According to sources, a live wire was hanging from the door of Dahini's house. It was when Dahini

was moving around the house he accidentally came in contact with the live wire and suffered the shock. Hearing his cry, Sumitra tried to rescue his father-in-law but in the process also got electrocuted.

Sensing something wrong, neighbours came running to Dahini's house and unplugged the live wire and then took both the victims to a nearby hospital. However, they breathed their last while undergoing treatment.

As the shocking news reached the village, a pall of gloom enveloped the entire village.

## A FIGHT TO FINISH



After detection of Covid cases, a firefighter sanitising shops near the bus stand area in Angul town

OP PHOTO

# Wild boar meat seized, 2 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Oct 10:** Forest department personnel from Muktaposhi section arrested two hunters in Kankili reserve forest under Kamakhyanagar western range in Dhenkanal forest division Saturday and seized wild boar meat from their possession.

The two men were identified as Bhaskar Tiria and Dabi Tiria from Kenchudi Munda Sahi in Sanda village under Parjang police limits.

"A number of local hunters have been poaching wild boars and other animals either by hurling bombs or by electrocuting them. Our squad was chasing these people for past two weeks," Muktaposhi section forester Chandra Sekhar Behera said.

"Today we were successful in arresting both hunters and have seized wild boar meat from their possession. The department will intensify surveillance activities," he added.

On the other hand, Bhaskar refuted the charge saying, "We are innocent and have not hunted. We were hired by some hunters just for chopping the meat. Initially, we were hesitant to do so. As the hunters forced us, we agreed for Rs 200 each towards wage."

Locals alleged that hunting of wild animals are being carried out by use of live wires in some areas.

# Baladev Jew servitors demand shrine reopening

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Oct 10:** In line with developments in Puri, the servitors of Baladev Jew temple in Kendrapara district staged an agitation Friday afternoon demanding reopening of the shrine which was shut nearly seven months back in view of Covid-19 outbreak.

Hundreds of servitors assembled in front of the Baladev Jew temple in Kendrapara district and started beating gongs as a token of their protest. They pass through tough times as well as acute fi-

nancial crunch, owing to the closure of the temple, many servitors alleged.

Amid Covid-19 outbreak, the servitors are unable to arrange a square meal a day for their families. They have urged the state government to take necessary steps for reopening the temple to help them eke out their livings.

"God knows how we are surviving for past seven months. We urge the state government to allow devotees to have darshan in the temple by strictly adhering to Covid-19 guidelines and maintaining social



distance," servitor Nrusingha Prasad Patri expressed.

"We survive on the donations given by devotees. If the state government fails to address our demands, we will intensify protest in

the days ahead," said Sanjaya Pati, another servitor.

Notably, the Orissa High Court directed the state government and the state Endowment Commissioner October 7 to take an expeditious view of providing fiscal assistance to servitors or consider reopening of temples that were shut in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

Following the demand of temple servitors, devotees and different religious organisations in Odisha, the state government has already initiated a process Thursday for reopening of major temples.

# Bhuban's 'Bullock Festival' gets green signal with riders

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhuban, Oct 10:** Putting an end to speculations on the celebration of Bhuban's famous 'Bullock Festival' in Dhenkanal district, the administration has allowed the festival committee to hold the festival with protocols.

But the administration is learnt to have directed the committee to observe the festival in a low-key manner and with strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.

This year only two communities have been allowed to take out their decorated bullocks. These two local communities are 'Thoria' and 'Banja' that first started the festival centuries ago.

With the administration not holding any meetings to decide the fate of the festival, people had been doubtful whether the administration would give permission to hold the festival this year.

However, the administration convened a meeting Friday and it

was decided that the bullocks of only 'Thoria' and 'Banja' communities will be allowed to participate in the festival.

The festival committee members who attended the meeting agreed to observe the festival in a low-key manner this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main attraction of the festival is hundreds of lavishly decorated bullocks taking part in the immersion procession of goddess Durga. This year, there will be no immersion procession and the bullock festival will be limited to the worshipping of the bullocks at the Jagannath temple.

The administration also asked the committees to restrict the height of their deities to a maximum of four feet. Keeping the social distancing norms in mind, the administration has asked the puja committees to ensure seven persons at a time at the puja place. Similarly, this year there will be no 'Raban Podi' celebration.



# Mushrooming prawn gheries breed crime in Kendrapara

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Oct 10:** Mushrooming of illegal prawn gheries has threatened the law and order situation and encroachment of government land and water bodies in seaside Mahakalapara and Rajkanika blocks in this district.

So much so that this has led to a rise in crime graph in the areas with various criminal outfits trying to call the shots for the lure of easy money. Establishment of illegal prawn gheries is not limited to these two blocks. The matter came to the fore at a press conference at Rajkanika block October 6. Pratima Rout of Kailipur village under the block alleged that her husband Pitambar Rout was kidnapped by the henchmen of some prawn traders September 30. She lodged a com-

plaint in Rajkanika police station.

Pitambar is not the lone person to be kidnapped by prawn traders but there are several others who have been kidnapped or killed in the recent past. Mushrooming of illegal prawn gheries has turned the district into a breeding ground of criminals. In the recent past, members of the Sapo gang kidnapped a youth of Kurunti village under Rajnagar block and tortured him to death. Use of firearms to settle scores has become common in the district.

Moreover, miscreants are not hesitating to encroach on water bodies like nullahs and creeks and forest lands. The district administration has received several complaints in the past but is yet to take serious action on them.

In 2017, saline water drawn through a channel for prawn gheries



destroying crops on adjacent farmlands led to a serious face-off between farmers and prawn traders. The farmers had lodged a com-

plaint with the district administration and staged a road blockade following which the latter demolished the prawn gheries.

## DETERIORATING LAW AND ORDER

In 2017, saline water drawn through a channel for prawn gheries destroying crops on adjacent farmlands led to a serious face-off between farmers and prawn traders

Senior citizens Bidhu Bhushan Mohapatra, Amarbar Biswal and Ranjit Swain alleged establishment of illegal prawn gheries has vitiated the atmosphere

ASP Brahmananda Gagarin Mohanty admitted to such incidents, stating that police are taking action whenever it receives complaints

A similar incident happened in Mahakalapara block in June this year. Farmers alleged establishment of prawn gheries on forest

land near Ramnagar bridge and staged a sit-in outside the district collectorate. Senior citizens Bidhu Bhushan Mohapatra, Amarbar Biswal and Ranjit Swain alleged establishment of illegal prawn gheries has vitiated the atmosphere and robbed them of peace. Common people fall easy victims. They warned that if timely step is not taken, the law and order situation might deteriorate. When contacted, ASP Brahmananda Gagarin Mohanty admitted to such incidents, stating that police are taking action whenever it receives complaints. Recently, police arrested many members of the Sapo gang for their involvement in violence over prawn gheri. Moreover, kidnapping of Pitambar Rout is being probed and very soon the accused will be arrested, he added.

deceased breathed his last September 30.

The deceased brothers were Dhableswar Sahoo, Basudev Sahoo, Mangaraj Sahoo and Krushna Chandra Sahoo. They were in fact five brothers. Bhikari Sahoo, the second brother, had died two years ago due to some other illness.

# Youth held for slitting father's throat in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Oct 10:** Police Saturday arrested a youth for slitting his father's throat after the latter denied him money.

The incident took place at Byagradevi Sahi under Buguda police limits in Ganjam district.

The accused has been identified as Dhoba Pradhan and the critically injured father as Surendra Pradhan.

According to a source, Surendra worked as a daily labourer in Andhra Pradesh. The Covid-19 induced lockdown had rendered him jobless and forced him to return to his village.

Back home, Surendra was struggling hard to make ends meet. Meanwhile, his son Dhoba -- jobless and dependent on his father for daily expenses -- fought with him.

They engaged in a similar quarrel Saturday. The scene turned uglier when Dhoba lost his cool. He picked up a sharp knife and slit his father's throat.

Far from feeling any remorse, he left the spot leaving behind his father in a pool of blood. Villagers demanded immediate arrest of the accused.

The neighbours rescued Surendra and rushed him first to Buguda PHC from where he was shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

On being informed, police reached the village and arrested Dhoba. A detail investigation is underway

Let us keep flaming in our heart the fire of progress.

THE MOTHER



# 4 years, zero growth

If I do not acknowledge that I have a problem I cannot solve it. If the problem is minor this is less consequential and does not affect me beyond a point. It is only an irritant that I can continue to ignore.

If the problem is major, if the problem affects not just me but people around me, then ignoring it must have a sound reason. Ignoring it must in some way be more important than addressing it.

The sale of cars in India has not grown for the last five years. The number of cars bought by Indians in 2015-16 was 27 lakh units. The number of cars bought in 2019-20 was 27 lakh units. India's middle class is either not growing or not spending.

The government says stagnating car sales is not a problem because the young prefer to use Uber and Ola. The United States sold 2 crore cars last year. Uber and Ola do not seem to affect any other nation.

The sale of two wheelers in India has not grown for the last four years. 1.7 crore units were sold in 2016-17 and 1.7 crore units were sold in 2019-20. This is the vehicle of the lower middle class, the size and consumption of which has not grown for four years. What theory the government has for this we do not know because it has not been acknowledged that there is no growth.

Commercial vehicles have not shown any growth for the last four years. Sales were 7 lakh units in 2016-17 and 7 lakh units in 2019-20. These are the vehicles like trucks that carry products either to manufacturers or to the market. The real meaning of four years of zero growth in this market can be imagined.

Real estate has shown no growth over the last four years. Indians bought ₹2 lakh crore worth of real estate in 2016. They bought ₹2 lakh crore worth of real estate in 2019. India's exports have not grown for six years. The country exports the same quantity that it did when Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister. India was exporting about \$300 billion a year when the UPA left. It exported about \$300 billion in 2019-20. Why is this the case? We do not know because the government does not speak about it. When imports into India fell more than exports out of India, the government celebrated the moment as an achievement.

Employment has not only not grown in the last six years, it has actually gone down. A report produced by the government showed it to be at over 6 per cent in 2018, more than at any other time in history. Why are Indians losing employment? We do not know. The government has dismissed the issue and said that pakora sellers and Uber drivers were replacing traditional employees.

It is true that Covid has affected India's economy deeply and will continue to do so. We are unlikely to get back to the GDP figure we achieved in January this year for another three years. Meaning that by the time Modi's second term ends, we will still only be economically where we were in January this year. The problem is that where we were in January this year was not a good space. All the numbers that have been referred to above are about Covid.

The stagnation in our economy has happened before the lockdown and has nothing to do with our current crisis. If and when we are able to overcome the Covid related problem with our economy we will go back only to the earlier problem.

India's GDP growth declined every quarter for 10 quarters before Covid. Why? We do not know. It could be one reason, it could be many reasons. But if we do not acknowledge the issue we will never solve it. You can only think about, discuss and then implement corrective measures if you acknowledge that corrective measures are needed. If you carry on like nothing happened, then deep problems do not fix themselves and do not go away. The government went from saying that India was the one bright spot in the world's economy and the fastest growing economy in the world to not saying anything about the economy at all.

The problem is major, and the problem affects not just the prime minister but hundreds of millions of people. Ignoring it must have a sound reason. Ignoring it must in some way be more important than addressing it.

## WISDOM CORNER

- Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. **ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON**
- I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.' **MUHAMMAD ALI**
- Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add colour to my sunset sky. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

## WORDSWORTH

### Turgescent

On 1 July 2003, the Observer reported various comments that had been made by visitors to its website: "Meanwhile 'stochata' suspects that George Orwell is 'the reason we have the word "turgescent" in the English language.' No-one at the Observer was aware that we did have the word "turgescent" in the English language, so we're grateful for that, at least." You may share the Observer's misapprehension, though you can be excused, as turgescent rarely appears except in technical specialities such as anatomy or botany, in the sense of becoming or seeming swollen or distended. In these fields you may find usages such as "the mucosal lining of the nasal septum is less turgescent than that of the nasal conchae" or "the stigma often remains turgescent and fresh for a period of 6 to 7 days." You may also occasionally encounter it in the turgid prose of some fantasy writers. "To one who dared peer within," wrote Clark Ashton Smith in his short story Demon of the Flower, published in 1933, "the cup was lined with sepulchral violet, blackening toward the bottom, pitted with myriad pores, and streaked with turgescent veins of sulphurous green." Turgescent is from Latin turgescere, beginning to swell, from turgere, to swell. This last word is also the origin of turgid, swollen or distended, and of turgor, the normal swollen condition of cells or tissues. Another Latin verb meaning to swell, tumere, has bequeathed us tumescent, with a similar meaning, though one that often appears in sexual contexts.

## LOL

### BOSS IN GOOD MOOD

The boss returned from lunch in a good mood and called the whole staff in to listen to a couple of jokes he had picked up. Everybody, but one girl laughed uproariously.



"What's the matter?" grumbled the boss. "Haven't you got a sense of humour?" "I don't have to laugh," she replied. "I'm leaving Friday."

# TRUMP'S HELTER SKELTER

## FOCUS AMERICA



**Given President Trump's repeated flirtation with right-wing extremist rhetoric and violence, and his refusal to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, next month's election could trigger atrocities. If Trump loses, Americans should be prepared for the worst**



Alex Hinton

**APOCALYPTIC WARNINGS THAT NEXT MONTH'S ELECTION WILL DESCEND INTO CRISIS ARE COMING HARD AND FAST**

Strange as it is to say, but it is no longer uncommon to hear talk of insurrection, martial law, and civil war in the United States. The arrest of militia leaders in Michigan on charges of planning to kidnap Governor Gretchen Whitmer and incite the overthrow of the state's government suggests how far right politics in America is prepared to go.

Apocalyptic warnings that next month's election will descend into crisis are coming hard and fast. US President Donald Trump, now far behind in most polls, will not commit to a peaceful transfer of power. Instead, he encourages white-power militias and extremists, and sows disinformation about everything from mail-in ballots to COVID-19.

While the atmosphere in the US is already alarming, it is worth considering just how bad things could become. There is ample reason to worry that an election-related conflict could devolve into atrocity crimes against black and brown civilians on US soil. As someone who has spent his career studying genocide and mass violence, I fear that the chances of such violence are higher than most people think.

There are six reasons why Americans should prepare for the worst. First, the political, social, and economic situation in the US is deeply unstable. Such instability is a leading factor in all the robust models that researchers have developed over the past few decades to assess the risk of atrocities (including crimes against humanity, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and genocide).

In the atrocity-risk model used by the United Nations, the US checks several boxes: in addition to a runaway pandemic, it is experiencing economic distress, high unemployment, mass protests, natural disasters, and ever-deepening political polarisation. The presence of just one or two of these factors would be alarming enough; the US features more than a half-dozen.

A second risk factor is the country's history of mass violence and human-rights abuses. Beyond the obvious examples of genocide committed against Native Americans and the enslavement of black peo-

ple, the US interned Japanese-Americans during World War II and, more recently, engaged in torture as part of its War on Terror. Some argue that the Trump administration's treatment of undocumented immigrants - including the separation of families - at the southern border constitutes crimes against humanity, and liken US immigrant detention centres to concentration camps.

A third risk factor is the political demonisation that has taken root, particularly on the right, with Trump relentlessly vilifying people of colour. He has referred to Mexicans as 'rapists,' Muslims as terrorists, and Latinos as criminal 'animals.' He smeared Haiti and all of Africa as 'shithole countries.' During the 2018 midterm election, Trump tried to mobilise his base by warning of an immigrant 'infestation.' Now, he regularly inveighs against black and brown 'rioters' and 'left-wing radicals' who are supposedly burning down cities and threatening to invade white suburbs and destroy the American 'way of life.'

In this context, it certainly is no coincidence that hate crimes have risen dramatically during Trump's presidency, including instances of violent anti-Semitism. When Trump labelled COVID-19 'the China virus' and 'kung flu,' reports of anti-Asian animus surged. Fourth, by undermining

America's constitutional system of checks and balances, Trump's presidency has eroded many of the buffers for preventing unrest. Trump openly flaunts the rules, including those meant to curb corruption, and has succeeded in politicising independent agencies from the US Department of Justice to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Trump's attorney general, William Barr, routinely intervenes on Trump and his cronies' behalf, and supported the administration's efforts to deploy federal troops against US citizens. Meanwhile, Trump has pardoned or granted clemency to criminal allies and alleged war criminals.

Such impunity further heightens the risk of violence, by signalling to Trump's heavily armed followers that anything goes. Indeed, Trump has even voiced support for a 17-year-old gunman charged with murdering two protesters in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

A fifth category of risk comprises catalysts that can make a bad situation worse, including contested elections, marches by armed groups, and other mass protests. Trump has already repeatedly questioned the integrity of the election, suggested that he won't leave office, and proved eager to use force on civilians. Facing massive, largely peaceful protests, his first instinct was to invoke the Insurrection Act and activate the military.

This summer in Washington, DC, where federal law enforcement has jurisdiction, troops were issued bayonets and deployed to expel peaceful demonstrators from Lafayette Square. In response to nationwide Black Lives Matter marches, Trump's supporters have taken to the streets. At the first presidential debate, Trump, prompted to repudiate such groups, instead instructed them to 'stand back and stand by.'

The sixth factor includes anything that could trigger atrocity crimes in today's tinderbox political climate. There are many plausible scenarios. For example, Trump's refusal to accept electoral defeat could spark mass protests (and probably some rioting), creating an ostensible pretext for him to invoke the Insurrection Act and deploy troops against US civilians.

Unrest would undoubtedly spread. Some protesters would respond with violence, prompting US soldiers and federal troops to use even more force. Images of people of colour firing guns would dominate Fox News and Facebook, a leading online disseminator of far-right propaganda that has already been implicated in genocide elsewhere. That would be the trigger: Trump would call for those 'standing by' to rise up and crush the black and brown 'criminals' and 'radicals' he has been demonising. The race war that the mass murderer Charles Manson tried to instigate 51 years ago - he called it 'Helter Skelter' - will have been launched by America's president.

This is just one potential mass-atrocity scenario, but it is not hard to conjure others. Now more than ever, such risk assessments are necessary. By forcing us to consider the worst, they give us time to act. Genocide and mass atrocities have happened all too often, including in America. The question is not whether it could happen here, but whether it can be prevented.

Alex Hinton is Unesco Chair on Genocide Prevention at Rutgers University. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## SPECTRUM SOCIETY

# '1984' - A novel for our times

Orwell's '1984' published in 1949 is a novel about dystopian times, his vision of a frightening future where humans are no longer human, being above or below the pale of humanity and defying what constitutes as 'humanity'.

A book that has graced several high school syllabi, imperfectly understood by young readers, today has become a symbol of the times we are passing through. The propaganda, the internal surveillance, the authoritarian politics, the doublespeak, that seemed to pervade the fictional state of Oceania, seems to be in order today in totalitarian hierarchies masquerading as democracies. Democracies that stifle dissenting notes and obliterate individuality reduce their citizens to assenting robots to the powers that be.

Winston Smith, the doomed protagonist, a 39-year-old living in a miserable apartment building that smells of 'boiled cabbage', works in the Ministry of Truth that propagates falsehoods, where history is daily rewritten, records destroyed and reality fabricated according to the will of the State. Overseeing him is the image of the Big Brother

from billboards, hoardings, banners, posters, wrappings, 'every commanding corner' and even private tele screens. There are no private moments, every detail of one's life is under the scalpel. In despair, Winston tries to maintain a diary of his innermost thoughts all the time fearing the consequences and attempts to find out what life was like before Big Brother but no one seems to remember.

The State is in a constant state of warfare with neighbouring nations and the contradictions in the pithy slogans mouthed by the citizens - "War is Peace, Ignorance is Strength, Freedom is Slavery," - are the result of doublethink which is the power of holding contrary beliefs in one's mind simultaneously and accepting both. The lingua franca of the State is Newspeak, no longer the Oldspeak, the language spoken hitherto, where archaic use of language and form is dispensed with, new words are created with more precision, old meanings violated and new vocabularies built as sole means of communication in speech and writing. The literature of the past would be destroyed and Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton will only exist in Newspeak but

differently. At the heart of the novel is a love story, a romance that dares to flower even in such dire conditions between Winston and Julia and they experience that purity of emotion in sylvan surroundings amidst the music of birdsongs in the woods. The idyll ended when the lovers were discovered by the Thought Police and bundled off for interrogation and inquisition. After tortuous encounters with his inquisitors Winston still holds on to his freedom for dissent and individuality and his enduring belief that it is impossible to found a civilisation on fear and hatred and cruelty. However after endless mental and physical torture he gives in, even betraying his lover Julia, as writhing on the floor, he feels "in the face of pain there are no heroes, no heroes." He confesses to everything he has done or not done and "He became a mouth that uttered, a hand that signed whatever was demanded of him."

He is told categorically "There will be no loyalty except loyalty towards the Party. There will be no love except the love of Big Brother. There will be no laughter except the laugh of triumph over a defeated enemy. There will

be no art, no literature, no science." After the painful process of indoctrination is over Winston emerges reincarnated admitting to himself that he has indeed strayed, the struggle was over and he loves Big Brother.

Yet in the midst of despair and hopelessness the glimmer of humanity in Winston shines through his love for Julia, whom though he betrays he does not stop loving which in itself he feels is not an act of betrayal. His fond memories of his mother and his efforts to recall happier times are evidence of this. There was a time "What mattered were individual relationships, and a completely helpless gesture, an embrace, a tear, a word spoken to a dying man could have value in itself." These feelings in Winston and his resistance to all that is evil in spite of the fact he succumbs to it is what still holds hope for the future of humanity.

Winston's world is not too far from our own world today where we are fighting our own demons of racism, casteism and violence, discrimination, corruption and lawlessness, conflict of ideologies and majoritarianism without conscience.

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### Safety at filling stations

Sir, This is in reference to the recent explosion at the filling station in Bhubaneswar. Newspapers are carrying this news for the last three days with new revelation that maintenance work was going on in the area and vehicles' fuel filling operation was also going on. There are dozens of petrol pumps in BMC area. A safety audit of all stations should be done. These precautions are to be followed: Work permit should be issued signed by the safety officer of the oil company; spark-free tools should be used; and if required, fuel filling operation should be stopped during maintenance work.

Gopal Prasad Mittal, BHUBANESWAR

### Shortened cooling off period for bureaucrats

Sir, Generally, a waiting period or resting period of a couple of years is advocated for top civil servants and judges before they take up a new post if any after retiring from service. The subject 'conflict of interest' is raked up to corner them. Jurists favoured a five-year cooling off period for judges. But that's in a way too long, considering the enactments of Parliament from time to time providing for appointment of sitting or retired judges to various commissions and authorities, the Centre may not be able to find a suitable judge for these positions. So, at least a cooling off period of a couple of years was mooted by some stakeholders. When a top bureaucrat, who was part of key governmental decisions, joins a private sector company after superannuation eyebrows are raised. If that happens quickly after retirement, that too in a company that stands to benefit from his/her expertise in a related department of the government, suspicious glances are invariably exchanged. Only an outstanding officer, with an impeccable track record, may escape being a target of doubters. Not that an officer would mind much; he/she would continue in the post-retirement assignment ignoring all hushed tones. One quality the long bureaucratic service would have taught the officer was to go about a work with a nonchalant look. However, probity in public life is not an issue that can be discarded without much ado. It is pertinent to note that the present government reduced the cooling off period, from two years to one year, in 2015. Having said that, exceptions are made in individual cases, and many high profile retired bureaucrats have taken advantage of the government's affinity towards 'special cases'. Some officers, who have benefited from the rule of exception, may have richly deserved the concession in rule. But what about the others?

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

# Amid surging virus cases, Kerala sees a silver lining

PEOPLE FAILED TO ADHERE TO SAFETY NORMS ISSUED DURING THE ONAM FESTIVITIES, RESULTING IN SPURT IN CASES, WHILE PROTESTS BY VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES ALSO LED TO RISING INFECTIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 10:** Though Kerala is witnessing a spike in COVID-19 cases of late, there is a silver lining as the mortality rate was only 0.36 per cent, Health Minister KK Shailaja said as she praised the tireless efforts of Health workers and urged people not to overwhelm the healthcare system by their negligence.

Lauding the services of the health workers, Shailaja said it was due to their tireless service, the state could keep the state's death rate at 0.36 per cent despite a high number of cases.

"In the end all that matters is how we reduce the mortality rate. How many lives we could save. That's our aim. Our mortality rate is still below 0.4 per cent. The mortality rate of 0.36 is the best among the world," Shailaja noted.

The southern state had reported the country's first coronavirus case January 30, a woman medical student who returned from Wuhan, the epicentre of deadly virus in China. The second and third cases were also Wuhan returnees from the state and all the three had been successfully treated.

May 8, after reporting a solitary case and with just 16 people under treatment, Kerala had announced that it had flattened the COVID-19 curve.

But as lockdown restrictions were lifted and people from abroad and other states started returning, positive cases started shooting up.

Five months later October 7,



**In the end all that matters is how we reduce the mortality rate. How many lives we could save. That's our aim. Our mortality rate is still below 0.4 per cent. The mortality rate of 0.36 is the best among the world**

KK SHAILAJA | KERALA HEALTH MINISTER

Kerala's fresh infections crossed the grim mark of 10,000, taking the total infection count to over 2.5 lakh. On Friday, 9250 cases were reported as the infection tally crossed 2.66 lakh.

Experts had predicted that Kerala was likely to witness a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases in August and September with daily infections expected to touch between 10,000 to 20,000. Asked about the spike in cases, Shailaja told PTI that many people had failed to heed to the health directions issued during the Onam festivities, resulting in the spurt in cases.

Besides, "various political parties had also launched protests" without following the COVID protocol. "There is a capacity for our department

is working selflessly and efficiently for the past eight to ten months so that the patient load will not exceed our system capacity. That's why we request people not to gather and form a crowd. But some just roam around without heeding to our requests," the minister said.

The Nodal officer of the state health department for communicable diseases, Dr Amar Fettle said the public need to behave responsibly in public places. "Even though we have all the protocol in place, people should behave responsibly in public spaces. More than a pharmaceutical vaccine, we

need a behavioural vaccine. Behaviour is going to be the drug, the vaccine and the prevention," Fettle told PTI.

Explaining the reason for the recent spike in cases, Shailaja said the chances of infection are higher when people interact with each other and raise slogans in close quarters.

Such protests not only affected the health of the participants, but their families too. "Chances of infection are higher when people interact with each other and raise slogans in close quarters. Such protests also send out a wrong message to the people that gathering is acceptable. The protests create a false security feeling among the people resulting in crowded places. Our actions should be an example for others to follow the health protocol," she said.

The Opposition Congress led UDF and the BJP had launched violent agitations against the government on various issues including demanding the resignation of Higher Education minister K T Jaleel, alleged corruption in Life Mission project at Wadakkancherry in Thrissur.

Due to the increase in cases, UDF decided to halt its protests, but took a volte face, later and said it will continue its protests adhering to Covid protocol.

The government has also clamped prohibitory orders till the end of this month in various districts as per which not more than five people can assemble at a place.

# AP's free crop insurance scheme leads to increase in area under cultivation

Compared to 2018, farmers' enrollment for crop insurance rose by 154 per cent in 2019 season, reaching up to 31 lakh hectares

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati, Oct 10:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Friday formally launched the free crop insurance scheme for farmers, announced last year.

The scheme has resulted in a steep increase of the covered area and the likely insurance claims reaching ₹1,801 crore.

"The announcement of free crop insurance during 2019-20 resulted in the highest coverage," said an official.

Compared to 2018, farmers' enrollment for crop insurance rose by 154 per cent in 2019 season, reaching up to 31 lakh hectares.

The Chief Minister has instructed officials to implement this scheme from the current Kharif season itself.

During the Rabi season 2019-20, the Andhra government has decided to implement the scheme as a 100 per cent state scheme for all cultivators and farmers who are cultivating notified crops in the areas based on registration through e-crop.

"The details of crops sown have been physically verified and protection is provided to all genuine and eligible cultivators," said an official.

Reddy formally announced a



free crop insurance scheme during 'YSR Rythu Dinotsavam' July 8, 2019 at Jammalamadugu and distributed insurance enrollment receipts to some non-loan farmers.

Enrollment campaigns were also conducted to maximise the insurance coverage.

Kurnool MLA Abdul Hafeez Khan said: "AP government has again proved that it's a pro-farmer government. Our CM Jagan Mohan Reddy stood by the distressed farmers." He said the free farm insurance scheme is a major breakthrough in supporting the farming community.

# 'Kerala's SilverLine will fast-track development'



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 10:** The SilverLine project, a game-changer in Kerala's infrastructure growth as well as economic development, is expected to receive the central government approval soon.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is pursuing the project with special interest to achieve the same.

The process of land acquisition for the proposed project is in progress, Kerala Public Works Minister G Sudhakaran said.

The state cabinet has already given its nod to the Detailed Project Report (DPR), submitted by the project implementing agency Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (K-Rail), a joint venture of the Indian Railways and the state government. SilverLine will be running parallel to the existing Railway line from Kasaragod to Tirur, while an alternative green-field alignment has been chosen for Tirur-Thiruvananthapuram stretch.

Starting from the state capital, SilverLine trains will have stoppages at Kollam, Chengannur, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Tirur, Kozhikode and Kannur before reaching Kasaragod.

The ₹63,941-crore project is expected to be completed within five years of commencement of the work. The line will be laid through least populated areas in 15-25 metre width, so as to limit the acquisition

of land to the barest minimum possible. The land required will be acquired as per the RFCTLARR Act 2013 and good compensation will be given. Grievances and concerns of the affected people will be addressed and the project will be implemented only by taking them into confidence, said the Minister in a release.

Instructions were issued to resolve the local agitations through consultations by concerned officials. As the construction adjacent to the existing alignment is costly and more structures will have to be removed as per the study, separate greenfield corridor has been chosen. The SilverLine corridor connecting Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod in 4 hours will enable running of semi-high speed trains at an operational speed of 200 km per hour in the 529.45 km stretch. These trains will cover the busy Thiruvananthapuram-Ernakulam stretch in one-and-a-half hours.

The project's DPR, prepared by the Paris-based consultant-Systra, was submitted to the central and the State governments for approval, after conducting aerial LiDAR survey, Traffic survey, Environment impact assessment study and geotechnical study. The SilverLine project will help recovery from the economic downturn caused by COVID-19 outbreak and will generate job opportunities during and after the completion phase.

# LDF govt's allies object to 'Rules of Business' revamp

ALLIES SAY THE MOVE WILL GIVE MORE POWERS TO KERALA CM, SECRETARIES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 10:** The first meeting of a committee of Kerala Ministers that met on the revamp of the 'Rules of Business' did not have smooth sailing after two Ministers objected to giving more powers to the Chief Minister and also to the secretaries.

At the meeting chaired by Law Minister A.K. Balan, those who protested included Revenue Minister E. Chandrasekheran of the CPI and Water Resources Minister K. Krishnankutty representing the Janata Dal (S).

The meeting could not come to any agreement as the two Ministers who opposed it pointed out that if the present rules are tweaked in the way it is being conceived it would see the powers of the Ministers getting pruned, while giving more powers to the bureaucracy and the Chief Minister who would then be able to interfere in the department of any minister.

At present the last word in any ministry is the respective Minister and the state cabinet has the power to decide on a number of issues. It was also pointed out that certain decisions which the cabinet hitherto had to clear, could then be cleared by the Chief Minister.

Those dissenting also said that the collective decision making of the cabinet would be a thing of the past.

Following the strong opposition to the draft rules, the meet-



# Boxed in by allegations, govt blames media corporatisation

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** The Pinarayi Vijayan led CPI-M government in Kerala, currently boxed in by serious allegations, has slammed the media for attacking the party and the government. Speaking to the media soon after chairing the state secretariat meeting, state secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan said there is a concerted attempt by a section of the media to portray the CPI-M, the Left government and their leaders in poor light. "In this attempt, all the good work and the development agenda for the state rolled out by our government is being sidelined. The present media is in the hands of the corporates and that's why we do not have any media discussions on the Farm Bills and the new Labour rules because the corporates are not interested. The biggest stumbling block for the

corporates is we Communists and hence we are being targeted and that's what's happening here," said Balakrishnan. Ever since the now controversial gold smuggling case and the allegations in Vijayan's pet project Life Mission surfaced, the media has been going hammer and tongs at the Left government for shielding the corrupt.

"Just look into what's happening here for the past three months, the media is looking into only a few topics. Not a word has been said about the 100 day programme of the Left government, where in 40 days 40 programmes have been either launched or inaugurated. So our party has decided to see that the real truth is brought out because the corporatized media is a threat to democracy. We request the media to introspect," added Balakrishnan.

ing ended without any accord. Now the matter will go before the

full meeting of the ruling Left Democratic Front.

# Pandemic wreaks havoc on Andhra's shrimp farmers

SUPPLY CHAINS FROZE AND LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE CRIPPLED, LEADING TO NO BUYERS FOR THE READY CROP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhimavaram (AP), Oct 10:** The ongoing pandemic and the consequent lockdown to curb it wreaked havoc on the livelihoods of hundreds of aquaculture farmers in the East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Supply chains froze and logistical arrangements were crippled, leading to no buyers for the ready crop of grown up Vannamei (whiteleg) shrimp.

Dharapureddy Satyanarayana, 60, a shrimp farmer from Kalla village in West Godavari, said that he had spent ₹6 lakh on a pond spanning an acre.

"When my crop of shrimp was ready for harvest and sale, Covid pandemic struck an irreparable blow. There was nobody to buy it," Satyanarayana told IANS.

Satyanarayana had to sell off his two-wheeler

and some land to repay the debt, and has now resorted to selling vegetables for his living. Aquaculture in this part of the country is a complex business with multiple steps involved, and along with the rags-to-riches stories, there also are a number of riches-to-rags stories. Aquaculture farmer and local YSRCP leader Talluri Rajkumar said it costs up to ₹1 lakh to dig up an acre and transform it into a shrimp pond, which is then filled with 1 lakh hatched seed (young Vannamei shrimp) for feeding, culturing and growing their size to command a good

price. "Once you release the young prawns in the pond, then starts the four-month-long labour of attending to the shrimp, and caring for it like an infant... it demands all the attention of the farmer," he said.

The process involves high expenditure running up to ₹6 lakh per acre, as the farmer has to very carefully administer minerals, probiotics, sanitisers, maintain oxygen level and take several other steps to nurture the shrimp, he said. "After the first 30 days, we net some shrimp every week to check their health, and meet experts for advice," he said.

To meet all this huge expenditure, many farmers pledge their agricultural land or other assets to buy shrimp feed, medicines and other necessities to culture the prawns on credit with a promise to repay after a bumper crop.

Even after a farmer clears all these hurdles, the next step is to sell the shrimp to a company which buys, packs and exports shrimp.

This is where the pandemic hit Satyanarayana hard. With the sudden clampdown, he found no takers to buy his shrimp. Even if someone was ready, there was no transportation because of the lockdown. "Because of coronavirus, I could not even catch my prawns. Within five days of the lockdown, factories shut down. By then, a virus started killing my shrimp," he rued.



# Kerala girl who sang Himachali song earns PM's praise



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, Oct 10:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday congratulated a girl from Kerala who sang a Himachali song, which has gone viral on the social media.

He shared a video of a news report about the 9th standard student in his Twitter handle and praised her for her melodious voice.

"I am Proud of Devika. Her melodious rendering strengthens the essence of 'One India, Great India!'", the Prime Minister said in his tweet in Malayalam,

**I am Proud of Devika. Her melodious rendering strengthens the essence of 'One India, Great India!'**

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

sharing the news telecast by Manorama news channel.

His tweet came a day after Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur shared the video of Devika from

Thiruvananthapuram singing 'Chamba kitni ki door' on his Facebook wall and said she had "won the hearts of the entire state."

Devika, a class 9 student of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Pattom in Thiruvananthapuram, had sung the song under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat' programme.

"It is unbelievable. I am very happy. When I sang the song I never expected that I would be congratulated by the Prime Minister sir himself," Devika told a TV news channel responding to Modi's tweet.

The student expressed her gratitude to the Prime Minister for enjoying her song.

Kerala Cultural Minister AK Balan telephoned Devika to congratulate her.

In a Facebook post Friday, Thakur had said Kerala's daughter, Devika, in her melodious voice, has enhanced the glory of his state by singing the famous Himachali song.

Thakur also invited Devika to visit Himachal.

In the news report aired by Manorama, Devika said over 40 lakh people have watched her video so far.

# national



Every morning, I recite mantras and pray that this pandemic will come to an end as soon as possible. I dedicate these practices for the good of the world, especially India

DALAI LAMA | TIBETAN SPIRITUAL LEADER

## RAM VILAS PASWAN CREMATED IN PATNA

The mortal remains of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, a man for all seasons and one of the tallest leaders spawned by the Dalit community, were consigned to flames in Patna Saturday with full state honours



## of the day quote

It is no secret that during the past 15 years, the Opposition parties in the state have only nurtured these mafias. The mafia elements grabbed land of the poor and set up their empire with the help of political parties

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

Nitish Kumar insulted my father during the Rajya Sabha election and clearly said no to support the candidacy of Ram Vilas Paswan

CHIRAG PASWAN | LOK JANSHAKTI PARTY CHIEF

What message does the BJP want to give out by arresting 83-year-old Stan Swamy who raises the voices for the suppressed, poor people and tribals. What kind of obstinacy is this?

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Mentally retarded boy held for murder

**Azamgarh:** A 16-year-old mentally unstable boy was apprehended for allegedly battering to death an elderly couple with a stone in Garholi village here, police said Saturday. According to police, the incident took place Friday night when Shrinath Maurya (70) and his wife Maina Devi (65) were sleeping in the verandah of their house. Children playing in the vicinity of the couple's house raised an alarm after seeing the bodies, they said. Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Singh said the accused was identified as Golu Maurya and he lives in the same village.

### 2 held with ₹5L in fake currency

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested two men and recovered ₹5 lakh worth of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) in denomination of ₹2,000 and ₹500 from them. The two accused have been identified as Nurul, aged 40, and Tulu Sheikh, aged 45, both residents of Malda in West Bengal, police said Saturday. The accused came to Rajaram Kohli Marg, (road connecting Geeta Colony to Ring road) to supply the FICN to the decoy customer of Special Cell after which they were arrested.

### Covid-19 patient jumps to death

**Jabalpur (MP):** A 46-year-old Covid-19 patient allegedly jumped to death from the second floor of a government-run hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district, an official said Saturday. This is a second such incident reported from Netaji Subhash Chandra Medical College and Hospital since last month. The patient jumped off the second floor of the hospital's super-specialty wing on Friday and succumbed to his injuries within hours at night.

### Mizoram-Assam border dispute

**Aizawl/Karimganj:** The border dispute between Assam and Mizoram has resurfaced as officials from Assam's Karimganj district destroyed a hut and plantation in an area claimed by both the states. The Mizoram government has alleged that administration, police and forest officials from Karimganj entered Mizoram's Mamit district and set a 'farm house' on fire and destroyed 1,000 betel nut plants at Thinglung village Friday afternoon.

# Covid tally below 9 lakh for second consecutive day

There are 8,83,185 active cases of infection in the country which make 12.65 per cent of the total caseload

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** India reported 73,272 new coronavirus cases in a span of 24 hours, taking the overall caseload to 69,79,423, while 59,88,822 people have recuperated so far; pushing the recovery rate to 85.81 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated Saturday.

The death toll due to Covid-19 climbed to 1,07,416 with 926 people succumbing to the disease during the period, the data updated at 8 am showed.

For the second day in a row, the number of active coronavirus cases remained below 9 lakh.

There are 8,83,185 active cases of infection in the country which make 12.65 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

The COVID-19 case fatality rate was recorded at 1.54 per cent.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark August 7, 30 lakh August 23 and 40 lakh September 5. It went past 50 lakh September 16 and crossed 60 lakh September 28.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a cumulative 8,57,98,698 samples have been tested up to October 9. As many as 11,64,018 samples were tested on Friday.

The 926 new fatalities include 302 from Maharashtra, 114 from Karnataka, 68 from Tamil Nadu, 62 from West Bengal, 48 from Uttar Pradesh, 39 from Delhi, 38 from Chhattisgarh, 32 from Punjab, 31 from Andhra Pradesh.

The total 1,07,416 deaths reported so far in the country include 39,732



The death toll due to Covid-19 climbed to 1,07,416 with 926 people succumbing to the disease between Thursday and Friday

from Maharashtra, followed by 10,120 from Tamil Nadu, 9,789 from Karnataka, 6,293 from Uttar Pradesh, 6,159 from Andhra Pradesh, 5,692 from Delhi, 5,501 from West Bengal, 3,773 from Punjab and 3,547 from Gujarat.

The Health Ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

# 23 COVID PATIENTS SHIFTED, MCD MAYOR SLAMS GOVT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** Even as 23 Covid-19 patients were shifted out or discharged from Hindu Rao Hospital (HRH) to LNJP Hospital Saturday after HRH doctors decided to withdraw from Covid duties from Sunday onwards to protest non-payment of salary dues, the North MCD Mayor flayed the Kejriwal government and also cautioned agitating doctors of action under the law.

According to officials, while 11 patients were transferred to the state-run Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narayan Hospital (LNJP) from North MCD-run HRH, two were sent to Aruna Asaf Ali Government Hospital. Ten patients were discharged as per the Covid management guidelines.

The Delhi government's move to shift out the patients was announced by Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain earlier in the day who had also slammed the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (North MCD) for its "failure" to disburse salaries to the agitating doctors for four months.

## HINDU RAO HOSPITAL ROW



"The MCD should immediately pay the salaries of doctors who have made huge sacrifices during the coronavirus pandemic," Jain had said. The resident doctors of North MCD-run HRH had threatened to stop Covid services from 9 am Sunday if they did not get salaries due for four months.

However, responding to Jain's statement, North MCD Mayor Jai Prakash lambasted the Arvind

Kejriwal government and accused it of "playing politics" on the sensitive issue while "keeping the public in the dark". Prakash claimed that in June, after the Hindu Rao Hospital was converted into a dedicated Covid facility, the Delhi government had given in writing that all the expenditure borne by the hospital, including staff salaries, would be borne by the state government.

# China's BRI promised prosperity, gave debt trap

SEVEN YEARS DOWN THE LINE, THE BRI, TOUCHING 70-ODD COUNTRIES, HAS ALSO HAD LIMITED IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** Several countries like Sri Lanka, Zambia, Djibouti, Laos, Maldives, Republic of Congo, Tonga, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, among others, where China has invested through its much-hyped Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have run into serious financial threat and debt trap, contrary to the expectation that the infrastructure exercise would help in their economic growth.

The BRI project, involving the development of infrastructure for ports, roads, railways, airports and power plants which has run into hundreds of billions of dollars, was kicked off in 2013 just after Chinese President Xi Jinping took control.



Seven years down the line, the mega infrastructure project, touching 70-odd countries, has also had limited impact on employment generation.

After Sri Lanka leased its prestigious Hambantota Port Holdings

Co to China for 99 years, concerns over an imminent debt trap have emerged among many countries. The list is long. Maldives owes about \$1.4 billion to China. It is a huge sum for a country which has a GDP of \$5.7 billion. The China

## BHIMA KOREGAON CHARGESHEET

# Navlakha met ISI agents through friend in US

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** Activist Gautam Navlakha, arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the Bhima Koregaon Elgar Parishad case, had met Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agents through a common friend in the United States.

The NIA has filed its first chargesheet in the special NIA court in Mumbai Friday against eight people. Besides Navlakha, NIA named Hany Babu, Stan Swamy, Anand Teltumbde, Sagar Gorkhe, Ramesh Gaichor, Jyoti Jagtap and Milind Teltumbde under several sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Prevention Activities Act.

The 10,000-page chargesheet has details of each of the accused on how they planned violence on the basis



of caste. An NIA source in Delhi related to the probe told this news agency, "Navlakha during one of his visits to the United States met the ISI agents through a common friend." The source said that he was approached by the ISI agents

in US seeking help from Navlakha to find them suitable spies in India. The source, however, did not reveal any further details when enquired about the year in which he travelled to the US and for how many times he communicated with the ISI agents.

The NIA source also remained tightlipped on whether Navlakha met ISI agents later.

The NIA in its chargesheet has claimed that Navlakha was in touch with the ISI and was assigned the task to unite intellectuals against the government.

The NIA chargesheet also claimed that during probe Navlakha's name also came up in the secret communications with CPI (Maoist) cadres. "Navlakha was assigned the task to unite intellectuals against the government. He was part of some fact-finding committees and

was assigned the task to recruit cadres for guerrilla activities of CPI (Maoist)," the NIA claimed in its chargesheet.

Besides Navlakha, the NIA claimed that Teltumbde, who normally resides in Goa, was one of the conveners of 'Bhima Koregaon Shaurya Din Prerna Abhiyan' and was present at Shaniwar Wada, Pune December 31, 2017 where Elgar Parishad Programme was organised.

"Teltumbde played an active role with other Maoist cadres and received funds from them for carrying out the activities. Incriminating documents revealing his deep involvement with CPI (Maoist) activities also came to the fore," the agency said in its chargesheet. The NIA registered a case January 24 this year and arrested Navlakha in April this year.

## JOY IN THE AIR



Artists decorate an idol of Goddess Durga at a community pandal ahead of Durga Puja festival in Kolkata, Saturday

## FOREIGNERS' DETENTION

# Set up detention centres outside jails: HC to Assam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, Oct 10:** The Gauhati High Court has asked the Assam government to set up six detention centres outside the jails for housing "declared foreigners", an official said Saturday.

The Assam government had set up six detention centres within the existing jail premises in Goalpara, Kokrajhar, Jorhat, Silchar, Dibrugarh and Tezpur and lodged the "declared foreign nationals" pending their deportation or repatriation and whose movements are required to be restricted.

An official of the Border Wing unit of the Assam Police said Saturday that Gauhati High Court judge Justice Achintya Malla Bujor Barua, after hearing multiple petitions, asked the state government earlier this week to set up the six detention centres outside the existing jails.

The court ordered the government to submit an action taken report October 16 regarding suitable

accommodation for the detainees. Justice Barua in his 11-page order said that it is discernible that more than 10 years have gone by since a part of the jail premises in Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Silchar had been declared to be detention centres.

"Certainly, a period of more than 10 years cannot be understood to be a temporary arrangement. Even in respect of Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Tezpur, a period of five years is almost over which again cannot be strictly said to be a temporary arrangement," the order said.

The high court order said that the Supreme Court had clearly provided that the detainees be kept at an appropriate place with restricted movement pending their deportation and repatriation and the places where they are to be kept may be detention centres or by whatever name such places are called, but they must have the basic facilities of electricity, water and hygiene besides appropriate security.

# Chirag collapses after lighting father's pyre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, Oct 10:** The burden of grief, at a juncture that might be most critical in his political career, proved too much for Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan who fell unconscious after lighting the funeral pyre of his father Ram Vilas Paswan here Saturday.

The 37-year-old lawmaker has been a picture of bereavement ever since his father breathed last at a Delhi hospital Thursday.

Chirag, known to be a dutiful son who even played the barber for his father during the nationwide lockdown, raised a banner of revolt against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), announcing the stunning decision to go solo in the Assembly polls, while spending most of his time beside Paswan Senior's hospital bed.

He wept when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited their Delhi residence to pay his last respect.

Chirag wailed inconsolably Saturday morning when BJP MP and former minister Ram Kripal Yadav, who has known Chirag since he was a child, visited their Patna house.

Yadav was also moved to tears and the two stood for some time, holding each other tightly. At the Digha ghat on the bank of the Ganges, Chirag fainted after lighting the funeral pyre, but was saved from crashing on to the ground by his cousins who had been beside him, helping him perform the rituals.

"He is out of danger. The mental stress coupled with the dehydration brought about by standing for hours in a hot and humid weather may have taken a toll," said a source close to the family.

After the cremation, Union minister and senior BJP leader Giriraj Singh told reporters, "Paswan's death marks the end of an era. He must have been the last surviving political leader with decades of Parliamentary experience. His popularity can be gauged from the fact that all Central ministers from Bihar are present here. I can also see representatives from various political parties."

## Several countries where China has invested through its much-hyped BRI have run into serious financial threat and debt trap

Africa Research Initiative at the Johns Hopkins University in a study said that Zambia's total loans from China amounted to almost \$6.4 billion at end-2017.

"If this figure is correct, Zambia may have a total debt of \$14.7 billion (including state guaranteed loans), of which Chinese loans account for some 44 per cent," the CHR Michelsen

Institute said in a report.

Pakistan's growth in 2018 was about 5.83 per cent. It was down to less than 1 per cent in 2019 - a decline of over 4.8 per cent from 2018.

Besides, joblessness in the South Asian country remains a cause for concern, despite the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a part of the BRI project.

"China has been aggressively lending and there is little transparency in terms of details. This creates more problems and challenges for the countries which are involved in the BRI." EY's chief economic adviser DK Srivastava said, adding that most of the lending is undertaken through the government enterprises.

"China says that BRI will help peo-

ple living in these countries, especially poor countries, to improve their living standards and they will become part of global trade. However, if we try to analyze deeply, we find that all these plans are China-centric." Swadeshi Jagran Manch's national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said.

Mahajan added that most of the contracts for BRI projects have gone to Chinese companies.

"These companies are generally under the ownership of Chinese government. Further, China is destined to gain from improved connectivity due to BRI projects, because its trade with US is going down due to trade war and it wants to compensate the same from other countries," he added.



Our jawans are being sent in non-bullet proof trucks to get martyred and a ₹8,400 crore aircraft is brought for the PM! Is this justice? RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

SABARIMALA TEMPLE TO OPEN OCTOBER 16

Thiruvananthapuram's Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple is all set to open for the monthly five-day pooja on the evening of October 16



## of the day quote

The Prime Minister must understand that a lot of water has flown under the bridge. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana have taken to the path of agitation at grave personal risk to themselves during the pandemic because they are convinced the three recently-enacted agriculture laws will destroy their future generations



SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL | SHROMANI AKALI DAL PRESIDENT

Instead of going to different places on political tourism, he (Rahul Gandhi) should take cognizance of heinous crimes against women and apologise to the people of Rajasthan that their government has failed.



Prakash Javadekar | Union Minister

He (Kamal Nath) made the entire state a centre of corruption and middlemen. No work was being done without bribing officials. Farmers were cheated on the pretext of loan waivers, 6,000 crores of which were not fully paid to them



Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister

## SHORT TAKES

### BARC scientist goes missing

Mysore: A 24-year-old scientist working in the Rare Materials Project at the Bhabha Atomic Research Institute near Mysore has gone missing for the last four days, the police said. Assistant Scientific Officer Gulla Abhisheka Reddy, 24, was a resident of Cauvery Layout (New Janata Colony) at Yelawala in Mysore. Reddy had moved to Mysore from Chitturu district in Andhra Pradesh a year ago after he secured a job at BARC, 15 km from Mysore.

### AI to resume service to Mumbai

Mangalore: Air India would resume direct flights on the Mumbai-Mangaluru-Mumbai sector from October 12, the airline said. Months after the suspension of the service due to the pandemic, the airline is to operate flights four days a week - Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. The flight would leave Mumbai at 10.15 am and arrive here at 12 pm. The flight from here would depart at 12.40 pm and land in Mumbai at 2.20 pm, the airline said in a statement.

### UP woman killed over dowry

Budaun: A 23-year-old woman was killed allegedly by her husband following an altercation over dowry, police said Saturday. According to a police complaint lodged by the woman's father Nathulal, his daughter Praveesh Kumari got married to Rambaran three years ago and Rs6 lakh was given to Rambaran's family as dowry at that time. He claimed that Rambaran's family had been demanding an additional ₹2 lakh, which led to frequent disputes between the husband and wife.

### 110 kg poppy husk seized

Medininagar (Jharkhand): Seven persons have been arrested and 110 kg poppy husk seized from their possession in Jharkhand's Palamu district, police said Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, a police team intercepted a Bihar-bound jeep and seized the poppy husk worth over ₹10 lakh and arrested the occupants of the vehicle, including a woman, near Sevti village in Tarhasi police station area Friday night.

## WEAPON SMUGGLING BID

# Alert troops foil Pak bid to push in arms across the LoC

THE TROOPS RECOVERED FOUR AK-74 RIFLES, EIGHT MAGAZINES AND 240 ROUNDS CONCEALED IN TWO BAGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 10: The Army has foiled an attempt to push in arms and ammunition by Pakistan from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir and recovered a cache, including four AK-74 rifles, officials said Saturday.

Alert troops foiled Pakistan's attempt to push in arms across the LoC in Keran Sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, an Army official said. He said the Army noticed two-three men transporting some items in a tube tied to a rope across the Kishenganga river.

The troops immediately reached the location and recovered four AK-74 rifles, eight magazines and 240 rounds concealed in two bags. The area has been cordoned off and a search is under progress, the official said.

He said it was another attempt by terrorists from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to smuggle war-like stores, but it was successfully foiled by the quick action of alert troops.

Corps Commander of the



Srinagar-based Chinar Corps Lt Gen BS Raju said, "There has been no change in Pakistan's intentions."

"This morning, in the Keran sector, Pakistan tried to send across the Kishenganga river four AK-74 rifles and a huge cache of ammunition in a tube, but our alert troops with the help of surveillance devices, recovered the cache. It signifies that there has been no change in Pakistan's intentions. We will continue to foil their attempts in the future as well," Lt Gen Raju told reporters in Srinagar.

"There have been attempts in Keran, Tangdhar, in Jammu sector and Punjab as well. The main aim is to keep the people of Kashmir involved always in terrorism. But, our resolve is to stop weapons from coming in so that there is minimal loss to the people here. We need

## 4 MILITANTS KILLED IN J&K

Srinagar: Four militants were killed Saturday in two separate encounters with security forces in Kulgam and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Chingam area of Kulgam district of south Kashmir late Friday night following specific inputs about the presence of militants there, a police official said. He said the search operation turned into an encounter after militants fired upon a security forces party, who retaliated. In the exchange of fire, two militants were killed, the official said. He said both militants were affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit. In another operation in Dadoora area of Pulwama district of south Kashmir, two militants were killed, police said.

the cooperation of the people in this so that we can stop terrorism," the Corps Commander said.

# Parl panel to examine media ethics, TRP scam

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 10: Amid reports of Television Rating Points (TRP) manipulations by some channels, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology has decided to take up the matters of media ethics, news coverage and the TRP scam issue for discussion next week.

This comes after Congress MP and member of the panel Karti Chidambaram requested Shashi Tharoor to take up the issue and call the officials of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry before the committee to seek clarification and remedial measures. Karti Chidambaram had said, "The government's advertising expenditure depends on the TRP system, and public spending should not be based on flawed data."

The Parliamentary committee on IT has asked Broadcasters Association, Press Council of India and Prasar Bharati to depose on 'Ethical Standards in Media Coverage'.

"Flawed or manipulated TRP cannot be the basis of ad spends. TV companies also base their valuations on TRP. Those valuations are questionable now," Karti further said.

It has been notified that the next two sittings of the Committee will be held October 15 and 16. On Thursday, the Parliamentary panel will be taking up the topic of "ethical standards in media coverage".

The Parliamentary committee on IT has asked Broadcasters Association, Press Council of India and Prasar Bharati to depose on 'Ethical Standards in Media Coverage'

Among the issues that will be discussed are "safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special emphasis on women security in the digital space; review of the cybersecurity scenario in India; and a review of the functioning and outreach of Doordarshan channels, among other topics".

It further said that the sitting would discuss the matter with representatives of News Broadcasters Association, Press Council of India and Prasar Bharati on the subject 'Ethical Standards in Media Coverage'. This will be followed by evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the same subject.

On Thursday, the Mumbai Police claimed it has busted a TRP scam involving three TV news channels - Republic TV, Fakt Marathi and Box Cinema.

## TALKS WITH TALIBAN

# No deal will be harmful for India: Abdullah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Any peace deal with the Taliban "will not and should not be detrimental" to the national security of any country including India, and it is for New Delhi to decide whether to engage with the militant outfit, top Afghan peace negotiator Abdullah Abdullah said Saturday.

In an interview to PTI, Abdullah, the chairman of the powerful High Council for National Reconciliation, also dispelled India's apprehensions that a prominent role for the Taliban as part of a possible outcome to the ongoing intra-Afghan peace talks could be detrimental to its strategic interests.

"It is not in our interests if any terrorist group has any foothold in Afghanistan. The agreement should be one which is acceptable to people of Afghanistan. It should be dignified, sustainable and durable," Abdullah said.

The influential Afghan leader also said if a peace deal is struck with Taliban, then all other terror groups "freelancing in mountains and deserts of Afghanistan and launching attacks on us or any other nation" will have to cease their activities.

"Peaceful settlement will not be and should not be detrimental to any country's national security including India. India is a country which has helped Afghanistan, contributed to Afghanistan. It is a friend of Afghanistan," he said.

# Centre issues SOP reminder to states for rape cases

THE REMINDER COMES AMID SEVERE CRITICISM OF THE UP GOVT AND POLICE OVER ITS HANDLING OF THE HATHRAS TRAGEDY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Faced with criticism of governments' inability to prevent crimes against women - which has come into sharp focus following the alleged gang rape and torture of a 20-year-old Dalit woman in UP's Hathras last month - the centre has reminded state and UT governments of existing laws for "mandatory action by police in cases of crimes against women".

In an advisory issued Saturday the Home Ministry highlighted three sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure that deal with "compulsory registration of FIR", completion of investigation (in relation to rape) within 60 days and a mandatory medical examination, to be conducted with the individual's consent, by a qualified medical professional within 24 hours of receipt of information of such a crime.

"It is requested that states/UTs, may suitably issue instructions to all concerned to ensure strict compliance with the provisions in the law... also requested to monitor the cases on ITSSO (an online portal to track sexual offence

cases) to ensure suitable follow up action," the notice said.

The centre further said that "failure of police to adhere to these mandatory requirements may not augur well for the delivery of criminal justice in the country, especially in context of women safety" and warned of "stringent action" against those not following these rules.

The reminder comes amid severe criticism of the UP government and police over its handling of the Hathras tragedy, in which a Dalit woman was allegedly gang raped by men from the "upper castes".

The young woman died at a Delhi hospital last week after sustaining horrific injuries in a savage assault that many have compared to the 2012 gang rape in the national capital - a crime that triggered nationwide protests and calls for stricter laws to prevent crimes against women.

UP police, accused of a slow response to the complaint, has alleged there was no rape and cite a forensic report - that said it found no semen - to back their claim. This has, however, been disputed by experts who say the samples were taken 11 days after attack.

## FOOD FOR ALL



Workers sorting winnowed paddy grain at Anaj Mandi in Chandigarh

PTI PHOTO

# Woman 'punished' for eloping with another man

AGENCIES

Itanagar, Oct 10: In the hope of a better life after five years of an abusive marriage, a woman had decided to elope with a man who she thought would change her life for the better. She thought her misery would end. But luck had something else in store. She was pronounced guilty by villagers.

In the dead of the night September 25, she was bathed in cold water by women of a village in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district. She was pulled out of the vehicle. Her clothes ripped apart, abuses hurled and filmed. She ran away trying to save herself from the humiliation, but the video of the incident has now gone viral. Her fault? She ran away with an-

## STRIPPED, HAIR CHOPPED, FILMED



other married man after staying in an abusive marriage for five years. The police have filed an FIR and a list of 38 people has been made in connection with the heinous crime. So far, 15 people have been arrested, including nine women.

The decision to elope was not taken in haste. "Several meetings between my family and the in-

laws were not fruitful and my fate did not change," she said. Recalling the torture in her marriage by her husband, she said, "I had a miscarriage when he kicked me in my abdomen one night. After that, there was one more miscarriage. I had to be admitted once in the hospital when the brutality was extreme. My mother-in-law provoked her son to hit me and this was routine."

The man she eloped with was aware of her condition and that she was brutally assaulted by her husband for five years.

She said that the other man after seeing her condition had proposed to marry her. She refused. However, on one September night, she decided to escape the torture and fled to Assam's Tinsukia.

# Health experts signal rise in mental problems amid Covid-19

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY BY THE WHO, THE PANDEMIC DISRUPTED CRITICAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN 93 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRIES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 10: Public health experts have flagged a manifold increase in mental health cases amid the coronavirus pandemic, with many attributing the rising stress and anxiety levels to isolation, loss of loved ones, economic uncertainty and the fear of contracting the disease.

According to a survey by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the pandemic disrupted critical mental health services in 93 per cent of the countries worldwide. World Mental Health Day is observed October 10 every year with the objective of raising awareness about mental health, global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma.

During the pandemic people have been experiencing anxiety, fear, frustration, sadness and loneliness to the point that these feelings have become constant and overwhelming or promoting the urge to attempt suicide. Existing mental health conditions, including severe anxiety and major depression, have also worsened.

Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Senior Psychiatrist at Gurugram's Paras hospital, said, "In the last three months, the cases of mental health illness have increased nearly twofold, with 25 per cent new cases of obsession and 50 per cent more cases of anxiety in the psychiatry OPD. Psychosomatic manifestations are also on the rise."

"The prolonged self-isolation and social-distancing measures have



caused deterioration in the condition of old or pre-existing patients. Even depressive symptoms have recurred in patients who were otherwise stable," Kapoor added.

People are now taking the help of experts to tackle the situation as awareness about mental health has

increased due to celebrities' endorsement of mental health concerns coupled with unfortunate events such as the death of Hindi film actor Sushant Singh Rajput. "There is an increase of 80 per cent in patients. Most of the patients are between 19 and 40 years,

and the predominant concerns they have include job loss, anxiety due to Covid-19 cases nearby, separation from near and dear ones and the inability to meet them or friends due to lockdown," said Dr Shweta Sharma, consultant clinical psychologist, Columbia Asia hospital.

Nearly half of these patients do not have any history of mental illness. Despite the lifting of lockdowns, the number of cases has remained largely the same, Sharma added.

Dr Manu Tiwari, consultant psychiatrist at Noida's Fortis hospital, said, "With anxiety and insomnia in the beginning, now we are also seeing mood disturbances. The cases of substance abuse withdrawal and domestic violence have also increased substantially. One

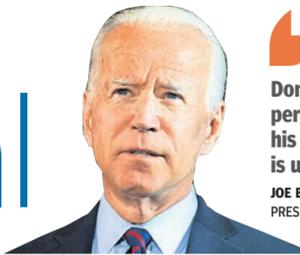
can identify and manage the triggers better as well as develop emotional-coping mechanisms."

A Delhi-based doctor said self-harm is one of the extreme manifestations of mental illness and emphasised the need to destigmatise mental health issues. "Right now approaching a mental health doctor or consultant is considered to be a major stigma."

According to a report by WHO it is estimated that nearly 36 per cent of Indians are depressed or suffering from some kind of mental disorder, said Kartik Naidu, Transpersonal Therapist and Trainer at Green Aura Holistic.

"The problem with our society is that there is a stigma attached to mental health problems," Naidu added.

# international



Donald Trump's reckless personal conduct since his COVID-19 diagnosis is unconscionable  
JOE BIDEN | DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

## SCIENTISTS DETECT ANTIBODIES

Researchers have documented the persistence of antibodies that target SARS-CoV-2 in hundreds of patients with Covid-19 at least three months after symptom onset



## of the day quote

We're at a tipping point in this pandemic. Not only is the second wave underway, yesterday (Friday) we hit the highest daily recorded cases, well above what we saw this spring  
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | CANADIAN PM

I think the data speaks for themselves. We had a super-spreader event in the White House and it was in a situation where people were crowded together and were not wearing masks. So the data speak for themselves  
ANTHONY FAUCI | AMERICA'S TOP INFECTIOUS DISEASE EXPERT

Chinese Communist Party's territorial aggression is apparent on the Indian border where China has attempted to seize control of the Line of Actual Control by force  
ROBERT O'BRIEN | US NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

# Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: Ceasefire in force

The countries' foreign ministers said in a statement that the truce is intended to exchange prisoners and recover the dead, adding that specific details will be agreed on later

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Oct 10: With Russia's mediation, Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh starting Saturday following two weeks of heavy fighting that marked the worst outbreak of hostilities in the separatist region in more than a quarter-century.

The countries' foreign ministers said in a statement that the truce is intended to exchange prisoners and recover the dead, adding that specific details will be agreed on later. Minutes after it entered force at noon (0800 GMT), Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other of breaching the ceasefire with new attacks. The claims couldn't be independently verified. The announcement of the truce followed 10 hours of talks in Moscow sponsored by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who read the statement. It stipulated that the ceasefire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict.

If the truce holds, it would mark a major diplomatic coup for Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia but also cultivated warm ties with Azerbaijan. The latest outburst of fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces

began September 27 and left hundreds of people dead in the biggest escalation of the decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh since a separatist war there ended in 1994. The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia. The talks between the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan were held on invitation from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who brokered the ceasefire in a series of calls with President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian.

Since the start of the latest fighting, Armenia said it was open to a ceasefire, while Azerbaijan insisted that it should be conditional on the Armenian forces' withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh, arguing that the failure of international efforts to negotiate a political settlement left it no other choice but to resort to force. Russia has co-sponsored peace talks on Nagorno-Karabakh together with the United States and France as co-chairs of the so-called Minsk Group, which is working under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. They haven't produced any deal, leaving Azerbaijan increasingly exasperated.



Speaking in an address to the nation Friday hours before the ceasefire deal was reached, the Azerbaijani President insisted on his country's right to reclaim its territory by force after nearly three decades of international talks that "haven't yielded an inch of progress." Fighting with heavy artillery, warplanes and drones has engulfed Nagorno-Karabakh, with both sides accusing each other of targeting residential areas and civilian infrastructure.

According to the Nagorno-Karabakh military, 404 of its servicemen have been killed since September 27. Azerbaijan hasn't provided details on its military losses. Scores of civilians on both sides have been killed. Shortly after the truce took force, the Armenian

military accused Azerbaijan of shelling the area near the town of Kapan in southeastern Armenia, killing one civilian. Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry rejected the claim as a "provocation." The Azerbaijani military, in turn, accused Armenia of striking the Terter and Agdam regions of Azerbaijan with missiles. Armenia's Defence Ministry denied that. The current escalation marked the first time that Azerbaijan's ally Turkey took a high profile in the conflict, offering strong political support. Over the past few years, Turkey provided Azerbaijan with state-of-the-art weapons, including drones and rocket systems that helped the Azerbaijani military outgun the Nagorno-Karabakh separatist forces in the latest fighting.

# Pak court asks Sharif to appear by Nov 24

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 10: A Pakistani court through newspaper advertisements has asked Nawaz Sharif to appear before it by November 24 to avoid being declared a "proclaimed offender" after the former three-time Prime Minister reportedly refused to receive non-bailable arrest warrants at his residence in London.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday noted that it was left with no option but to order issuance of proclamation for intimating 70-year-old Sharif, who has been living in London since November last year, to appear before it on November 24.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Aamer Farooq observed that the examination of statements of witnesses as well as the documents showed that all out efforts were made for serving the non-bailable warrants of arrest on Sharif to ensure his attendance before the court in the Al-Azizia and Avenfield graft cases.

October 7, the court recorded the statements of Dildar Ali Abro, the first secretary (consular affairs), and Rao Abdul Hannan, consular attaché, Pakistan High Commission, London, as well as Mohammad Mubashir Khan, director for Europe-I, at the Foreign Ministry. They told the court that efforts were made in compliance with the court orders to serve the non-bailable warrants of arrest on Sharif to ensure his attendance in the court. Despite efforts, that service of warrant, issued by the Islamabad High Court September 15, could not be served.

Irked by the attitude of Sharif's representatives at his residence in London, the high court October 7 had ordered that advertisements be issued in newspapers to summon him.

The court directed the federal government to bear the cost of the advertisements in the Dawn and Jang newspapers.

The government later told the court that Rs 60,000 were paid for advertisement in the nominated papers. The court has asked Sharif



Sharif has been living in London since November last year after he was allowed by the courts and the government to go there for a period of eight weeks for medical treatment

to appear before it by November 24 otherwise he would be designated as a "proclaimed offender". The proclamation may result in the confiscation of his properties as well as passport.

The PML-N suprema was declared a proclaimed offender earlier in September and had refused multiple times to receive the arrest warrant issued in his name. Sharif has been living in London since November last year after he was allowed by the courts and the government to go there for a period of eight weeks for medical treatment. But he did not come back, while his lawyers told the court that he was still recovering. However, he made a scathing speech on September 20, blaming the Pakistan Army for its interference in politics. After the speech, pressure is mounting on Sharif to return to Pakistan to face corruption cases against him.

The court last month issued arrest warrants for Sharif, previously sentenced to seven years in prison on corruption and money laundering charges stemming from disclosures in the Panama Papers. Sharif was bailed out in both cases and also allowed to go to London for medical treatment in November last year.

## SHORT TAKES

### Hurricane 'Delta' makes landfall

Lafayette (US): Ripping tarps from damaged roofs and scattering massive piles of storm debris in the wind and water, Hurricane 'Delta' inflicted a new round of destruction in Louisiana communities still reeling along a path Hurricane Laura carved just six weeks earlier. Delta hit as a Category 2 hurricane, with top winds of 100 mph (155 kph) before rapidly weakening over land. By Saturday morning, it dwindled to a tropical storm with 45 mph (75 kph) winds, but storm surge and flash floods continued to pose dangers across much of southwestern Louisiana and parts of neighboring Texas. Mississippi also got its fair share of rain overnight.

### Second debate cancelled

Washington: The second presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden set for October 15 has been cancelled, the organisers have announced, after the incumbent US President refused to do a virtual face-off with his Democratic challenger despite concerns over his COVID-19 diagnosis. In a statement, the nonpartisan (CPD) confirmed Friday that the second version scheduled to be held in Miami, Florida, would be scrapped.

### Blast kills four

Beirut: At least four people were killed and 20 others injured after a fuel tank exploded in a densely populated area of Lebanon's capital city of Beirut, officials said. The incident took place Friday night in the city's Tariq-al-Jidde district after the tank caught fire, the BBC reported. While rescue efforts were ongoing, the cause of the blast was yet to be determined. Following the blast, firefighters used ladders to scale the outside of apartment buildings to rescue residents from their balconies.

### Zuma summoned

Johannesburg: Former South African President Jacob Zuma has been issued with a legal summons to appear before an inquiry commission probing corruption charges, including the veteran politician's alleged role in assisting the controversial Indian-origin Gupta family in looting billions of rands from the state-owned entities. Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo said Zuma would be required to appear on November 16-20.

## SPECIAL TRAINING



A trainer from the canine service of Aeroflot airline trains sniffer dogs to detect coronavirus in biomaterial from infected people near Sheremetyevo International Airport, outside Moscow, Russia

# Taiwan Prez seeks talks with China

SPEAKING AT NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS, TSAI DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT AS 'QUITE TENSE'

REUTERS

Taipei, Oct 10: Taiwan wants to have "meaningful dialogue" with China on an equal basis, President Tsai Ing-wen said Saturday, extending an olive branch at a time of heightened military tension with Beijing, which claims the island as sovereign Chinese territory.

Democratic Taiwan has come under increasing pressure from Beijing, which has ramped up air force activity near the island in the past few weeks, including crossing the Taiwan Strait's sensitive mid line that normally serves as an unofficial buffer zone.

China says it is responding to "collusion" between Washington and Taipei, angered at growing



U.S. support for the self-governed island. Beijing views this as a precursor to Taiwan declaring formal independence, a red line for China.

Speaking at National Day celebrations, Tsai described the situation in the Taiwan Strait as "quite tense." This, along with disputes in the South China Sea, a China-India border conflict and China's crack-

down in Hong Kong, showed democracy and peace in the region were facing big challenges, she said.

If Beijing can heed Taiwan's voice and jointly facilitate reconciliation and peaceful dialogue, regional tension can surely be resolved, she added.

"As long as the Beijing authorities are willing to resolve antagonisms and improve cross-strait relations, while parity and dignity are maintained, we are willing to work together to facilitate meaningful dialogue," Tsai said.

But China, which cut off a formal talk mechanism in 2016 after she first won office, said Saturday that Taiwan continued to pursue independence and still held a confrontational mindset.

# Kim apologises for economic woes

REUTERS

Seoul, Oct 10: An apparently emotional Kim Jong Un apologised for failing to improve North Koreans' lives in an address to an unprecedented pre-dawn military parade Saturday that showcased the country's long-range ballistic missiles for the first time in two years.

The country marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of its ruling Workers' Party with a raft of concerts and festivals, and the ceremony was seen around the region as an event where Kim could deliver messages to domestic and foreign audiences.

The parade featured North Korea's ballistic missiles for the first time since Kim began meeting with international leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump, in 2018. "We will continue to build our national defence power and self-defensive war deterrence," Kim said, and vowed that the country's military power would not be used preemptively. He made no direct mention of the United States or the now-stalled denuclearisation talks.

Kim blamed international sanctions, typhoons, and the coronavirus for preventing him from delivering on promises of economic progress. "I am ashamed that I have never been able to repay you properly for your enormous trust," he said. "My efforts and devotion were not sufficient to bring our people out of difficult livelihoods."

Sometimes appearing emotional, Kim thanked the military for working hard to respond to a series of damaging summer typhoons, and for preventing a coronavirus outbreak. Kim said he was grateful that not a single North Korean had tested positive for the disease, an assertion that South Korea and the United States have previously questioned. Officials in Seoul and Washington had said the North might unveil new strategic weapons.

# 29 mn women and girls victims of modern slavery: Report

ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Nations, Oct 10: A new report estimates that 29 million women and girls are victims of modern slavery, exploited by practices including forced labour, forced marriage, debt-bondage and domestic servitude.

Grace Forrest, co-founder of the Walk Free anti-slavery organisation, said Friday that means one in every 130 women and girls is living in modern slavery today, more than the population of Australia.

"The reality is that there are more people living in slavery today than any other time in human history," she told a UN news conference.

Walk Free defines modern slavery "as the systematic removal of a person's freedom, where one person is exploited by another for personal or financial gain," she said.

Forrest said the global estimate of one in 130 women and girls living in modern slavery was made based on work by Walk Free, the International Labour Organisation and the International Organisation for Migration, both UN agencies.

"What this report has shown is that gender stacks the odds against girls from conception throughout their lives," she said. According to the report, titled "Stacked Odds," women account for 99 per cent of all victims of forced sexual exploitation,



84 per cent of all victims of forced marriage, and 58 per cent of victims of forced labour. Forrest said the face of modern

# Unmarried men at higher death risk from Covid: Study



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Oct 10: Being a man, having a lower income, a lower level of education, not being married, and being born in low or middle-income countries -- these are factors that relate to an elevated risk of dying from Covid-19, warn researchers.

"We can show that there are independent effects of various separate risk factors that have been brought up in debates and news about Covid-19," said study author Sven Drefahl from Stockholm University in Sweden.

"All of these factors are accordingly individually associated

with a strongly elevated risk of dying from Covid-19," Drefahl added. The study is based on data from the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare on all registered deaths from Covid-19 in Sweden for adults aged 20 and older.

In a study, published in the journal Nature Communications, Drefahl explained that those born abroad generally have lower mortality than people born in Sweden. This also applies when the research took income and level of education into account.

The elevated risk of dying from Covid-19 for this group remains after the researchers controlled for circumstances, such as income and level of education. The study shows that being a man, having a lower income and lower level of education also result in a strongly elevated risk of dying from Covid-19. As to these aspects, this also agrees with the patterns for mortality from other diseases.

slavery "has radically changed." "We're seeing normalised exploitation in our economy in transnational supply chains and also in migration pathways," she said. "The world's most vulnerable people have been pushed even further into this practice of modern slavery because of COVID-19."

She said the estimate of women and girls in modern slavery is conservative because it doesn't account for what's happened during the pandemic, which has seen "sharp increases of forced and child marriage and exploited work conditions around the world." Forrest said Walk Free and the UN's Every Woman Every Child program are

launching a global campaign to demand action to eliminate modern slavery. The campaign urges an end to child and forced marriage, which 136 countries have yet to criminalise. It urges the elimination of legalised systems of exploitation such as kefala, which legally binds a migrant worker's immigration status to an employer or sponsor for their contract period.

The campaign also urges transparency and accountability for multinationals. "We know that women and girls are experiencing unprecedented levels of exploitation and forced labour in supply chains of the goods we buy and use every day -- clothing, coffee, technology," Forrest said.



**The People's Bank of China's move could serve to keep the Yuan's appreciation in check, and that it also reinforced how policymakers are keen to open up domestic financial markets to foreign investors.**

**TOMMY XIE | ECONOMIST, OCBC BANK (SINGAPORE)**

## AGRI EXPORTS RISE 43%: GOVT

Exports of agri-commodities rose by 43.4% to ₹53,626.6 crore in the first half of the current fiscal notwithstanding the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the Union Agriculture Ministry said Saturday. Farm exports stood at ₹37,397.3 crore during the April-September period of the 2019-20 fiscal, it said



## of the day quote

We are gifted in terms of natural resources. Apart from our biodiversity, our geographical diversity is also our strength. If we can grow apples in the hills, we can also grow paddy in the plains. We should try to use them to our advantage



**TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT | CHIEF MINISTER, UTTARAKHAND**

GDP is a misnomer in the Indian context as it does not include services which are not chargeable, while they are being charged in western countries



**BAJRANG LAL GUPTA | SENIOR RSS FUNCTIONARY**

Rationalising the risk weights for all new housing loans till March 2022 will give the much-needed impetus for the housing sector. At the same time, home loans will become accessible and competitive for customers



**HARDAYAL PRASAD | MD AND CEO, PNB HOUSING FINANCE**

## SHORT TAKES

### Rabo Equity sells 21.7% stake

**New Delhi:** Rabo Equity has sold its entire stake in Vacmet Ltd for around ₹140 crore back to promoters, thus making an exit from the investment made in 2010. Rabo Equity had invested ₹50 crore in Vacmet in 2010. Vacmet Ltd is into flexible packaging sector, producing BOPP Films, BOPET films and other specialty films at its three plants Mathura, Agra and Indore. Rabo Equity said in a statement that it has completed the full exit of its India Agri Business Fund from Vacmet Limited.

### Gaurs Group clocks ₹400 cr

**New Delhi:** Realty firm Gaurs Group have reported a marginal 5% fall in sales booking at ₹401 crore during July-September, despite demand slowdown in the housing market due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The group reported sales booking of ₹421 crore in Q2 of 2019-20. "We are known for the timely delivery and quality of our projects, and the name that we have earned over the years helped us get phenomenal results," said Manoj Gaur, MD, Gaurs Group.

### India donates 1.8mn N95 masks

**Washington:** India has donated 1.8 million N95 masks to Philadelphia, the largest city in the US state of Pennsylvania, to help in its fight against COVID-19, setting another example of a robust Indo-US partnership in the health sector. The move comes after the Mayor of Philadelphia, Jim Kenney, made a request to India for supply of masks to be used by the city's frontline workers.

### OIL begins seismic survey

**Guwahati:** State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) has resumed its operations off the Andaman Islands after almost three decades, said an official. An OIL official said that India's 2nd largest national 'Navratna' company, in terms of total proved plus probable oil and natural gas reserves, has kick-started its offshore operations in Andaman's shallow waters with the deployment of a state-of-the-art multi-purpose seismic data acquisition vessel "SW Vespucci".

# 'Worst is over, recovery faster than expected'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd's CEO Keki Mistry Saturday said the "worst is behind us" and the economic recovery has been faster than expected. Stating that the December quarter growth could outperform the expansion logged in the corresponding quarter a year ago, Mistry said that the Indian economy has shown its resiliency.

Benign interest rate regime will continue going forward and that rates will go up only after economic activity gathers more pace and inflation pressure rises, Mistry, vice chairman and CEO, HDFC Ltd, said at an online dialogue organised by the All India Management Association (AIMA). He, however, said that interest rates have bot-



**By the end of December, the economy would be at the pre-COVID levels for most sectors. The December quarter growth could be better than the growth in the December quarter last year**

**KEKI MISTRY | CEO, HDFC LTD**

tomized out. The government should identify the job creating sectors and address their issues on priority, AIMA said in a release quoting him.

Mistry said housing and real estate sector is the biggest employer in the economy after agriculture, and that 80% of the workforce in the sec-

tor require minimal skills. He also sought priority support for the manufacturing sectors. Talking about the repayment issues in the housing and the real estate sector, Mistry said that he expected non-performing loans to be in single digits. The veteran financial sector

player also said that most of the job losses during COVID-19 were confined to low-income workers and the job losses for the kind of people who borrow money were not alarming.

The non-performing individual loans could be in the range of 2.5-4%, which is also the extent of loans that the RBI has allowed to re-structure, Mistry added.

On the economic condition, Mistry said the Indian economy had proved to be resilient.

"The worst is behind us and the recovery has been faster than expected. By the end of December, the economy would be at the pre-COVID levels for most sectors. The December quarter growth could be better than the growth in the December quarter last year," he said.

However, Mistry qualified his optimism saying that a lot depended on whether another virus wave hits in the winter. Still, he said, the government was aware that India could not afford another lockdown.

Job creation and leaving money in the hands of the people should be the top two priorities of the government, Mistry said.

Consumption being 60% of the Indian economy, the recovery and growth efforts have to be led by boosting consumption, he said.

"The cost of lowering taxes would not be too high whereas the benefits from higher consumption would far outweigh the revenue loss to the government. While the corporate tax rates had gone down, the peak rate for individual tax rate had gone up from 35% to 44%," Mistry said.

## Govt to facilitate renewal of IDP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** The government Saturday said it will initiate steps to facilitate renewal of International Driving Permit (IDP) for citizens whose IDP has expired while they are abroad. A draft notification has been issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in this regard.

"The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a draft notification...seeking comments and suggestions for amendment to Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 for facilitating the issuance of International Driving Permit (IDP) for citizens whose IDP has expired while they are abroad," MoRTH said in a statement.

It said that it has come to its notice that in certain cases for the citizens who are travelling abroad and in a foreign country, the IDP gets expired and there is no mechanism for its renewal while abroad.

"The proposal is to amend the CMVR 1989 to facilitate such citizens. The citizens can apply through the Indian Embassy / Mission Abroad portals and the applications would then move to the VAHAN for being considered by the respective RTOs (regional transport offices)," the statement said.

# Fuel demand up 7% in Sept; first monthly gain since June

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 10:** India's fuel demand in September rose for the first time since June as easing coronavirus restrictions supported economic activity and travel, but consumption remained weaker than a year earlier, government data showed Friday. Consumption of refined fuels, a proxy for oil demand, rose 7.2% in September from the prior month to 15.47 million tonnes, the first monthly increase since June when demand rose to 16.09 million tonnes.

However, demand fell 4.4% from the same period a year earlier, posting its seventh consecutive year-on-year slide, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas showed.

The country's daily number of coronavirus infections has slowed since hitting a single-day high of 97,894 new cases September 17, a sign that infections were peaking for now. The country's factory activity also expanded at its fastest pace in more than eight years in September, even as layoffs continued.

Demand in August was the weak-

## RESTORING NORMALCY



CONSUMPTION OF REFINED FUELS, A PROXY FOR OIL DEMAND, ROSE 7.2% IN SEPTEMBER

HOWEVER, DEMAND FELL 4.4% FROM THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER

**DEMAND IN AUGUST WAS THE WEAKEST SINCE APRIL, HURT BY A THROTTLING OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND TRANSPORT DUE TO RESTRICTIONS**

est since April, hurt by a throttling of economic activity and transport due to restrictions.

Diesel consumption, a key parameter linked to economic growth and which accounts for about 40% of overall refined fuel sales in India, rose 13.2% to 5.49 million tonnes last month from 4.85 million tonnes in August. However, on an annual basis, demand for diesel declined about 6%.

Sales of gasoline, or petrol, rose

by 3.3% from a year earlier to 2.45 million tonnes, and by 2.9% from 2.38 million tonnes in August.

Cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sales increased by 4.8% to 2.27 million tonnes from a year earlier, while naphtha sales rose 2.9 per cent to 1.14 million tonnes and by 5.7% from August.

Sales of bitumen, used for making roads, rose 38.3% from last year, and fuel oil decreased by 7.4% and by about 4.1% month-on-month.

# Credit offtake from banks remained poor in H1: RBI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Oct 10:** Although the banks remain flush with liquidity and interest rates lowered significantly, credit offtake from banks was very low and "anaemic" during the first half of the current financial year (2020-21). The low credit offtake can be attributed to the weak demand and persistent uncertainty amid the pandemic.

"During H1 2020-21, bank credit offtake was anaemic, reflecting weak demand and uncertainty in the wake of the pandemic," showed the Monetary Policy Report for the October 2020 released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

It showed that non-food credit growth (y-o-y) was 5.1% as of September 25, 2020, lower than 8.6% a year ago, driven by weak momentum and base effects. It noted that the slowdown in credit growth was spread across all bank groups, especially foreign banks.

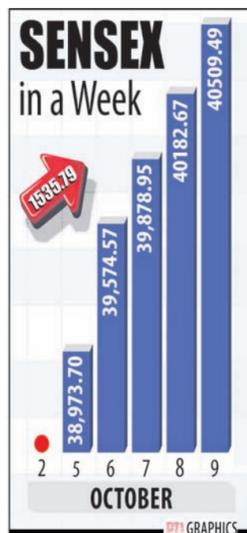
Credit growth of the public sector banks remained modest, although with some uptick since March 2020.



"Of the incremental credit extended by the scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) on a y-o-y basis (September 27, 2019 to September 25, 2020), 62.3% was provided by the public sector banks and 41.2% by the private sector banks, while the share of the foreign banks turned negative," said the report.

The deceleration in non-food credit growth was broad-based, with credit offtake slowing down in all the major sectors.

Though personal loans and credit to agriculture registered some improvement in July 2020, the momentum could not be sustained in August. Credit growth to services and industrial sectors has also tapered off after showing some promise in the Q1 of FY21.



# HCIL announces heavy offers for festive celebration

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** Honda Cars India Limited (HCIL), leading manufacturer of premium cars in India, announced its annual festive celebration "The Great Honda Fest" for all customers who plan to buy new cars this festive season. As part of the festival promotions, HCIL is providing many exciting offers on its models that can be availed at all authorised Honda dealerships across India and are valid till October 31, 2020.

Sharing his thoughts on the exciting offers, Senior Vice President & Director, Marketing & Sales of HCIL Rajesh Goel said, "In order to make this festive season more rewarding and enjoyable for our customers during these tough times, we have rolled out super exciting offers



on our cars this month as part of our Great Honda Fest, making it the best time for buying cars.

During the COVID health crisis, when there is an enhanced need for personal mobility, I am sure our customers will find these benefits

appealing and it will propel demand for new cars. In order to support easy buying options for our customers, smart financing options have been developed with several finance partners offering long tenure and easy EMI options."

A customer can get offers of up to ₹47,000 on buying of Honda Amaze and up to ₹30,000 on 5th Gen Honda City. Similarly, up to ₹40,000 offer is available on Honda Jazz, ₹40,000 on Honda WR-V and also up to ₹2.5 lakh on Honda Civic for its all customers.

Above offers to customers are in form of cash discounts, extended warranty and Honda care maintenance programme on new car purchase. There are additional benefits for existing Honda customers including Loyalty Bonus and Special Exchange benefits who trade in their old Honda car.

The company has also tied up with multiple banks and financial institutions to assist the customers by offering them up to 100% on-road financing, low EMI packages and long-tenure loans.

AIC-Nalanda provides incubation space of 10,000 sqft with facilities like plug-n-play co-working space with free amenities, designed lab facilities, specialised access features, access to rich mentor pool, exclusive industry & investor connect, networking and plethora of legal & accounting services. AIC-Nalanda is currently incubating 15 startups.

AIC-Nalanda promotes young talents and entrepreneurs who are deprived of opportunities and need best-in-class incubation services to scale their business ideas globally. AIC-Nalanda is keen to support the agri-based startups in the state and revolutionise the story of change for agricultural sector in Odisha.

# Insuring your home and contents during pandemic

**A COMPREHENSIVE HOME INSURANCE CAN OFFER PROTECTION AGAINST DAMAGE TO YOUR ASSETS, BOTH FIXED AND PORTABLE DUE TO ANY ACCIDENTAL, THEFT OR DISASTER INDUCED LOSSES**

**W**ith the recent situation of floods in Kerala, Mumbai and the North-East, it is once again evident that when it comes to home insurance the awareness is minimal. Most Indians spend a major chunk of earnings paying the home loan EMIs along with investing in swanky contents to fill them with. Even during the Covid times, data from most e-commerce sites brings to fore the fact that home appliances and electronics have been the most searched and bought commodities; yet a majority of house owners don't protect these assets with appropriate home & content insurance cover.

A comprehensive home insurance can offer protection against damage to your assets, both fixed and portable due to any accidental, theft or disaster induced losses. The

large-scale havoc caused by Kerala floods as well as frequent floods in some other parts of the country such as in Chennai, Mumbai, coastal regions of Odisha, Kolkata in the recent past are a case in point.

During the claims scenario, we have sometimes noticed that the contents within the house can cost more as compared to the cost of the house given the electronic items, home appliances, portable equipment like cell phone or laptop, television, etc. Similarly home insurance policies also cover jewellery; even the one's kept in bank lockers.

As against a bank locker policy that offers coverage only when jewellery is kept in locker under tight bank security, a comprehensive home insurance policy with global coverage, offers 24\*7 protection for



your assets whether they're kept at home, locker or carried on person across the globe at minimal premiums.

There is also an increasing trend of rental homes in the country with more people moving to larger cities for jobs. Home insurance is not just

limited to landlords who buy property insurance to secure their home loans or to those who have home ownership, it can also be purchased by tenants living in rented properties to insure only the contents.

Floods, cyclones, theft, fire etc. can cause irreparable damage to all these precious and valuable contents. In such events, you may have to start building your house or investing in your appliances/assets from scratch and here's where home insurance comes to your rescue. It covers losses or damages caused to the property or contents by an unfortunate event - natural and accidental.

A comprehensive home insurance policy that provides protection against any damage to home or contents should hence be roped into each household's financial

planning. Apart from offering the basic coverage, here are a few features of a comprehensive home insurance policy that would compel you to think of its efficacy as a risk mitigation tool: new for old basis cover for contents up to five years, portable equipment cover, rent for alternate accommodation.

It is hence advisable to secure your home and its contents, or your contents alone, with a good home insurance policy. As compared to your precious assets, the premium for a home & content insurance policy is minimal and it shall go a long way to protect your lifetime worth of savings in case of a mishap.

*(The writer, Deepak Dhar is the Head - Speciality Lines and Marine Underwriting, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance)*

# French Open: Swiatek 1st Polish to claim GS title



REUTERS

**Paris, Oct 10:** Teenager Iga Swiatek became the first Polish player to win a Grand Slam singles title when she beat American fourth seed Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the French Open final Saturday.

The unseeded 19-year-old, who did not drop a set throughout the clay-court tournament, is the youngest winner since Monica Seles lifted the Suzanne Lenglen Cup in 1992.

"I'm so happy. I'm so happy my family was here finally. It was overwhelming for me," said World No.54 Swiatek, the lowest-ranked player to win the women's title at Roland Garros since WTA rankings were introduced in 1975.

"Two years ago I won a junior Grand Slam and now I'm here. It feels like such a short time. I'm

## FACT BOX

**S**he began her professional career on the ITF Circuit in 2016 and won all seven singles finals she contested over the next two years

**M**ade her first Grand Slam main draw appearance at the 2019 Australian Open and defeated Ana Bogdan in the opening round before losing to Camila Giorgi

**H**ad her breakthrough later that year, reaching her first WTA final at the Ladies Open in Lugano. Despite losing to Polona Hercog, she entered the top 100 for the first time

**A**dvanced to the fourth round of the 2019 French Open in just her second major tournament, losing to defending champion Simona Halep

**D**efeated American Kenin on Saturday to become the youngest women's French Open champion since Monica Seles in 1992

just overwhelmed," she added as a sorry Kenin watched from her chair in tears.

Kenin, who was gunning for a second major title after winning this year's Australian Open, received an off-court medical treatment on her left thigh after the third game

of the second set.

It all proved too much to handle for the American, who won only three points after coming back on court as Swiatek swept to the title. She is the first player not to drop a set en route to the women's title here since Belgium's Justine Henin in 2007.

# Kohli, bowlers help RCB outsmart CSK

AGENCIES

**Dubai, Oct 10:** Bowlers, led by Chris Morris (3/19), complemented a brilliant knock by captain Virat Kohli (90 n o, 52b, 4x4, 4x6) to help Royal Challenger Bangalore (RCB) register a comprehensive 37-run win over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in their IPL game here, Saturday.

First Kohli led by example to power RCB to a competitive 169/4 after a slowish start. Then their bowlers restricted CSK to 132/8, inflicting the fifth defeat on the MS Dhoni-led side in seven matches making their season more measurable.

Chasing a challenging target of 170, CSK faltered from the very beginning with Washington Sundar (2/16) getting rid of both the openers - Faf du Plessis (8) and Shane Watson (14) - inside the powerplay to reduce CSK to 25/2.

CSK didn't able to recover from that bowing down to the pressure. Ambati Rayudu struggled to get going during his 40-ball 42-run knock. N Jagadeesan (33), who had replaced Kedar Jadhav, tried to accelerate but failed to keep up. Rayudu and Jagadeesan added 64 runs for the third wicket. Isuru Udana (1/30) and Yuzvendra Chahal (1/35) were the other wicket takers for RCB.

Earlier, Kohli, who walked in at the fall of Aaron Finch in the third over, led from the front with a majestic knock that was the finest blend of skill and peak fitness.

The RCB captain was involved in two half century partnerships - with opener Devdutt Padikkal (33) and Shivam Dube (22 n o) for the fifth wicket, an unbeaten 76-run stand, which powered the total.

The last five overs yielded 74 runs as the CSK bowlers appeared to falter after having allowed RCB to score only 95 in the first 15.

Deepak Chahar finished with 1/10 from three overs while Shardul Thakur (2/40), Deepak Chahar (1/10) beat CSK 132/8 (Ambati Rayudu 42, N Jagadeesan 33; Chris Morris 3/19, Washington Sundar 2/16) by 37 runs.

## BRIEF SCORES

RCB 169/4 (Virat Kohli 90 n o, Devdutt Padikkal 33; Shardul Thakur 2/40, Deepak Chahar 1/10) beat CSK 132/8 (Ambati Rayudu 42, N Jagadeesan 33; Chris Morris 3/19, Washington Sundar 2/16) by 37 runs.



Virat Kohli drives towards cover as MS Dhoni looks on; Chris Morris (top) celebrates after dismissing Sam Curran (not in pic) in Dubai, Saturday

# KKR WIN A THRILLER AFTER KXIP HAKIRI



(From L): Dinesh Karthik in action; Sunil Narine is congratulated by his teammate; M Prasad Krishna rejoices a wicket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Abu Dhabi, Oct 10:** Sunil Narine (2/28) and M Prasad Krishna (3/29) displayed ice-cool temperament at the death as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) pulled off a stunning two-run victory over a self-destructive Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) in an IPL game Saturday.

Dinesh Karthik's side pulled off yet another Houdini Act after they were seemingly down and out when KXIP opening pair KL Rahul (74, 58b, 6x4) and Mayank Agarwal (56, 39b, 6x4, 1x6) had put on 115 runs in 14.2 overs while chasing 165.

It looked like it would be only a matter of time when KXIP would wrap up the match and snap their four-match losing streak.

But in the end, KXIP made a mess towards the end of their run chase to suffer their sixth defeat from seven matches and fifth on the trot while KKR notched up their fourth win in six matches. KXIP will now need a mathematical miracle to qualify.

The Mohali-based outfit needed

22 from the final three overs but the match turned on its head in the 18th over. Nicholas Pooran (16) gifted his wicket in the over bowled by Narine who conceded just two runs.

Needing 20 runs in the last two overs, KXIP lost two wickets in the space of three balls, including that of Rahul, in the penultimate over bowled by pacer Prasad Krishna.

KXIP needed 14 runs from the last over and six of the final delivery to take the match to Super Over but Glenn Maxwell (10 n o) could only score a boundary for KXIP to lose the match by two runs.

Earlier, Rahul and Agarwal, the top two run getters in this IPL, avoided taking undue risk while getting the odd boundaries to keep the asking rate under control.

Rahul was dropped by Andre Russell off the bowling of Prasad Krishna in the second over when he was on two. Russell hurt himself while fielding after a few overs but returned in the 11th over only to leave the field again in the 13th over.

KKR finally got the breakthrough

with Agarwal holing out to Subhan Gill in the 15th over but new man in Pooran went for an unnecessary shot that led to his and KXIP's downfall.

Opting to bat, a counter-attacking innings by skipper Karthik (58, 29b, 8x4, 2x6) and opener Subhan Gill's (57, 47b, 5x4) watchful knock helped KKR post 164/6. The 82-run stand between Karthik and Gill for the fourth wicket was the cornerstone of the KKR innings on a slow and difficult pitch.

Karthik's decision to bat first seemed to be backfiring as KKR were struggling at 63/3 in the 11th over but he changed the complexion of the innings with a magnificent knock. The KKR captain was run out in the last ball of the innings.

## BRIEF SCORES

KKR 164/6 (Dinesh Karthik 58, Subhan Gill 57; Ravi Bishnoi 1/25, Arshdeep Singh 1/25) beat KXIP 162/5 (KL Rahul 74, Mayank Agarwal 56; M Prasad Krishna 3/29, Sunil Narine 2/28) by two runs.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Oct 10:** Bruised and battered after a string of defeats, Rajasthan Royals (RR) will hope the presence of Ben Stokes gets the adrenaline flowing as they seek a revival of fortunes against a charged-up Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the IPL Sunday.

RR are struggling at the penultimate spot on the points table after two wins and four straight defeats, while SRH have won three out of their six games so far and occupy the third position.

The Royals will be relieved to have the services of Stokes who completes his mandatory quarantine Saturday. His absence has severely impacted the team's campaign, as the inaugural season champions struggled to figure out their best combination.

The top guns - Jos Buttler, Smith and Sanju Samson - will again need to live up to the expectations by contributing in a big way. Samson (176) and Smith (157) scored runs in their first two matches, twice taking the side past the 200-mark. Their bowling is shouldered by pacer Jofra Archer and spinners

Rahul Tewatia and Shreyas Gopal. Having a slightly better season than their beleaguered opponents, SRH were on their way to suffer back-to-back defeats before opener Jonny Bairstow and star spinner Rashid Khan helped them beat Kings XI Punjab by three wickets Thursday.

For SRH, Bairstow has been in prime form this season and the English opener was at his explosive best against the Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore, too. Skipper David Warner, who has scored 227 runs so far, would like to carry on with his good form.

Manish Pandey and Kane Williamson are batsmen who can use the long handle to good effect while youngsters Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad and Abhishek Sharma are trying to carve a niche for themselves.

Despite losing senior pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh to injuries, SRH have shown tremendous fighting abilities with the world's top-ranked T20 bowler Rashid and yorker specialist T Natarajan dishing out splendid performances.



# Mumbai face Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Abu Dhabi, Oct 10:** Many small battles are expected to unfold when the season's two most consistent teams - Mumbai Indians (MI) and Delhi Capitals (DC) - cross swords in a clash of equals in the IPL here Sunday.

Be it a potent top order, a strong middle order or a lethal bowling attack, there is hardly anything that separates the two sides.

If at all one team has a slight upper hand in any department, it's the experience in MI's pace bowling arsenal. Both Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, with years of experience behind them, could be the difference in the most sought-after contest of this edition.

It means that Shikhar Dhawan will have to strive harder to give DC a solid start. The left-handed batsman has got starts in the last few games but needs a bigger innings under his belt and if it comes in a big contest, Capitals will have gained a lot.

In a way, young Prithvi Shaw and the in-form Rishabh Pant will face their first stiff test when they face Bumrah and Boult, who can

trouble any batsman with their pace and accuracy.

The good news for Capitals is Shimron Hetmyer getting his touch back with the innings against Rajasthan Royals Friday. He seemed to be the only weak link in DC's ranks but his six-laden knock against Royals has removed that worry.

DC skipper Shreyas Iyer has been very impressive so far both as a batsman and as the leader of the pack. It will be interesting to see how he uses his resources against his in-form counterpart Rohit Sharma and his smashing middle order duo of Hardik Pandya and Kieron Pollard.

They can change the complexion of the game within minutes and handling them will be the key. Krunal Pandya, too, is capable of conjuring up cameos that can turn things around for MI.

Iyer has the exciting South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortze to do the job in that department. The guile of R Ashwin further adds sting to DC's attack.

Axar Patel has nicely settled into the side after he replaced the injured Amit Mishra. His all-round ability is another plus for DC.



# It's King of Clay vs Joker

Nadal eyes record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title, while Djokovic looks to end the Spaniard's Roland Garros dominance

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, Oct 10:** Go all the way back to June 8, 2006, when Rafa Nadal moved on at the French Open after his 19-year-old, 63rd-ranked opponent in the quarterfinals quit because of a bad back while trailing two sets to none.

That opponent's assessment of Nadal after facing him for the first time as pros: "He's the best on this surface, but he's not unbeatable. That's for sure."

That foe? Novak Djokovic, known as "The Joker". Fast-forward to the final at Roland Garros Sunday, when No.1 Djokovic and No.2 Nadal will stand across from each other once again at Court Philippe Chatrier, only this time in October because of the coronavirus pandemic.

It will be their 56th four-level meeting - more than any other pair of men in the Open era, which dates to 1968. And let's not forget the big picture: This match carries significant weight in the Grand Slam standings that so many fans, and the players themselves, keep tabs on. Roger Federer, who is 39

and missed most of this season after having two knee operations, owns the men's record of 20 major championships. Nadal, who is 34, is next among men with 19; Djokovic, 33, stands third with 17.

After Sunday either Nadal will pull even with Federer for the first time since they were tied with zero apiece, or Djokovic will gain on the leading duo and the totals will read 20-19-18.

Still, as much as Nadal wouldn't engage in a discussion about his chance to catch Federer after beating Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-3, 7-6(7-0) in the semis Friday, he did acknowledge that "It's good for tennis" if others talk about it.

Much in the way that for years, people will debate which of the Big Three duos had the most intriguing head-to-head matchup: Federer vs Nadal, Djokovic vs Federer, or Nadal vs Djokovic.

"He's definitely my greatest rival," Djokovic said about

Nadal Friday after getting past Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1 in the semis.

The 'King of Clay' Nadal called Djokovic, who is 37-1 in 2020, the lone loss via disqualification at the US Open last month, "one of the toughest opponents possible."

Djokovic leads 29-26 overall. Nadal leads 96 in GS matches, including 6-1 at the French Open. They're tied 4-4 in major finals.

And while Nadal is 99-2 over his remarkable career at Roland Garros - "It's his house," Djokovic said - it is worth noting that one of those defeats came courtesy of Djokovic in the 2015 quarterfinals.

Roland Garros - "It's his house," Djokovic said - it is worth noting that one of those defeats came courtesy of Djokovic in the 2015 quarterfinals.

Neymar, experiencing back pain ahead of the match, had two assists. He had more trouble with the pouring rain than with Bolivia's chaotic defenders who barely touched him during the match.

# BRAZIL, COLOMBIA OUTCLASS RIVALS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Sao Paulo, Oct 10:** Brazil and Colombia had no trouble beating two of the weakest South American teams to score their first wins in the opening round of World Cup qualifiers.

Brazil easily beat Bolivia 5-0 in a rainy day here while Colombia scored all of their goals in a 3-0 victory in the first half in Barranquilla.

After the first round, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay and Argentina lead with three points. Peru and Paraguay have one. Ecuador, Chile, Venezuela and Bolivia have none.

All five matches in the second round will be played Tuesday: Peru vs Brazil, Bolivia vs Argentina, Chile vs Colombia, Ecuador vs Uruguay and Venezuela vs Paraguay.

Neymar, experiencing back pain ahead of the match, had two assists. He had more trouble with the pouring rain than with Bolivia's chaotic defenders who barely touched him during the match.

Defender Marquinhos opened the scoring in the 16th minute with a header. Roberto Firmino netted

the first of his two goals in the 30th minute, just pushing the ball into an empty goal after a low cross from Renan Lodi.

Firmino made it 3-0 in the 49th minute, assisted by Neymar, putting the ball between the legs of goalkeeper Carlos Lampe. Then 19-year-old striker Rodrygo scored his first for the national team with a header in the 66th. Philippe Coutinho ended the rout in the 73rd minute with a header, also assisted by Neymar.

The match in Barranquilla was marked by a serious left-ankle injury to Colombian defender Santiago Arias after he tackled Venezuelan striker Darwin Machis in the first few minutes.

In the 16th minute, Duvan Zapata calmly scored from close range after a low cross by Juan Cuadrado. Ten minutes later Johan Mojica bulldozed through the Venezuelan defense from the left and assisted Luis Muriel to add a second.

Muriel scored the third in the first-half stoppage time. He dribbled past Jhon Chancellor and beat goalkeeper Wuilker Farinez with a hard left-foot shot.

# Odisha FC rope in SA midfielder Cole Alexander

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 10:** Odisha FC have roped in South African midfielder Cole Alexander on a two-year deal ahead of the seventh edition of the ISL. The Bhubaneswar-based club announced it through a release, Saturday.

Born in Cape Town, Alexander played youth football at Hellenic FC and Ajax Cape Town before making his senior professional debut for the latter. Cole had also represented various other South African clubs Vasco Da Gama, Chippa United, Polokwane City and SuperSport United. The 31-year-old was one of the outstanding performers for Bidvest Wits in the South African Premier League last season.

"I am extremely delighted to join Odisha FC and play in the ISL for the first time. It will be really great to play under coach Stuart Baxter again and I can't wait to meet my teammates. I am very excited and looking forward to the season ahead," Alexander was quoted as saying in the release.