



## PROMOTING SELF-LOVE

In her latest post on social media, actor Bipasha Basu has urged everyone to love themselves

LEISURE P2



## POWER CRISIS DEEPENS

The ongoing rail blockade has severely impacted coal supply for the thermal power plants in Punjab, as fear of power outages rises

TWO STATES P7



## FRESH COVID THREAT

UK's medical advisers warn that the country faces another wave of the coronavirus spread

INTERNATIONAL P10

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It will work. Just wait for a few years!

# State stares at acute water crisis by 2050

WITH WATER FLOW IN RIVERS AND UNDERGROUND PLUNGING, ENVIRONMENTALISTS WARN THAT ODISHA WILL SOON GROPE FOR THIS NATURAL RESOURCE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Water is a valuable resource but water flow into most rivers of Odisha has been dwindling rapidly owing to climate change. Worse, some rivers are left dry even in the monsoons.

Given this condition, environmentalists warn that the state will face severe water crisis by 2050.

On the other hand, some industrial units in the state have been exploiting the water from rivers and canals at throwaway prices. If things are allowed to continue, the state will have to grope for a drop of water in a few years.

According to information from the Water Resources department, 245 industrial units have been drawing 55,928.544 liters of water from 10 major rivers, while 794 industrial units are exploiting 1,064.56 litres of groundwater in the state. As a rule, the amount of water supplied to industrial units is measured with flow meter.

Contrary to the official data, many industrial units have been using water exceeding the limits fixed by the government.

For fiscal 2020-21, the Irrigation Department has fixed only ₹9.52 per 1,000 litre of water for small and heavy industries (using 5 cusecs), while ₹12.60 was fixed for 1,000 liter of water for industries using more than 5 cusecs.

According to an estimate, industrial units have drawn 987.54



billion litres of river and groundwater in 2018-19 alone. Currently, they are using 31.31 billion litre of water in the state.

What is shocking is that some industries using water at such low costs are not even paying water tax and some big industrial units have gone to courts to evade water tax.

In the last several years, 15 industrial units have managed to evade tax amounting to ₹2,665.88 crore. Add to this the amount government has to spend in courts to realize the dues.

Water is also vital for thermal power generation. About 4,000 cusecs is required to generate 1,320 MW power. For generation of 2MW hydropower, 1 cusec water is required. The power producing companies are spending less than 0.2 paise per litre of water while thermal power units have to spend ₹2.81 to ₹3.47 to generate one unit of power.

On the pretext of granting employment, rich are establishing their

plants in the state and looting natural resources like water. The Centre-owned National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at Kaniha near Talcher is a case in this point. This plant is drawing 105 cusecs of water from Samal barrage of Brahmani river and later selling the power generated in the state to outside states.

Similarly, Bhushan and other firms are using the water of Odisha and selling the power to Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

Although water is a state subject, Odisha is losing its right on water due to frequent intervention by the Centre and National Green Tribunal (NGT). The situation is becoming worse as Mahanadi – the life-line of the state, is going dry during summer. This has happened as Chhattisgarh has stopped free flow of Mahanadi water to the state by constructing 16 large barrages on the river, thereby resulting in an inter-state dispute.

## PURI BEACH GETS 'BLUE FLAG' TAG

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** The Golden beach in Puri has been accorded the prestigious 'Blue Flag' certification by FEE Denmark.

Blue Flag beaches are considered to be the cleanest beaches.

Puri beach is one of the eight beaches in the country that has been accorded the coveted Blue Flag tag by the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark.

Taking to Twitter, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday informed that the golden beach got the prestigious tag by conforming to the stringent environmental norm and ensuring world-class sustainable tourist amenities.

"Glad to share that Golden Beach of #Puri has received coveted #BlueFlag certification by FEE Denmark by conforming to the stringent environmental norm and ensuring world class sustainable tourist amenities. The renowned eco-label will add to the charm of the #WorldHeritageCity," tweeted the Chief Minister.



Tourism Minister Jyoti Panigrahi said Puri beach has been certified as Blue flag beach out of eight beaches of India.

A beach has to meet 33 criteria including environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria fixed by the FEE to get the tag.

A 870-metre stretch of the beach from Digabareni square to the back of Mayfair Hotel has been developed as Blue Flag beach under the World Bank-funded Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) of the State Forest and Environment Department and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.



## BJP names candidates for Assembly by-polls

The Congress is said to be zeroing on Navjoyti Patnaik for the Balasore seat

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** The Central Election Committee of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Sunday announced the names of candidates for the upcoming Balasore Sadar and Tirtol Assembly by-elections.

The committee, which met under the leadership of party president JP Nadda along with party leaders Narendra Modi, Rajanth Singh, Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari, has nominated Manas Dutta for Balasore and Raj Kishore Behera for Tirtol.

Dutta is the son of deceased Balasore MLA Madan Mohan Dutta, whose death vacated the seat. On the other hand, Behera had joined the saffron party recently.

Interacting with the media, Dutta said that he would try to fulfill the unfulfilled dreams of his deceased father: "I will try my best to live up to the expect-

tations of the senior party leaders who entrusted this responsibility on me," he said. Earlier, the BJP state leadership had recommended the two names to the party's central election committee. The BJP aims to increase its presence in the State Assembly.

On the other hand, the Congress party is said to be zeroing on the names of Navjoyti Patnaik, son of Niranjan Patnaik for the Balasore seat. The BJD and the Congress are expected to announce the names of their nominees for the two seats soon.

Congress leader Taraprasad Bahinipati hinted that the candidates would be young and the announcement is likely to be made Monday. "We will try to post new face, new blood for the upcoming by-elections. We have almost finalized the names. We expect to declare the names by Monday."

## SHORT TAKES

### CBI takes over Hathras case probe

**New Delhi:** The CBI registered an FIR early Sunday morning and took over investigation into the alleged gangrape and murder of a Dalit woman last month in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh, officials said. The central probe agency registered the FIR under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections related to gangrape and murder among others, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. It assigned the case to its Ghaziabad unit with a special team to investigate the ghastly crime, they said.

### 2 killed, 14 hurt in Puri clash

**Puri:** Two persons were killed and 14 others injured in a clash between two families at a village in Puri district Sunday, police said. The incident took place at Dimirisena village in the Brahmagiri police station area, following a verbal duel between two families over the laying of a water pipeline in the locality, they said. Members of both the families attacked each other with sharp weapons, including axe, leading to the death of two men. P3

### ₹28L stolen from ATM

**Bhubaneswar:** Unidentified criminals made away with ₹28 lakh from an ATM of Punjab National Bank (PNB) at Patia Station Road under infocopy police limits here late Saturday night. Police said the criminals have used gas cutter to loot the money. Police and forensic teams reached the spot Sunday morning and inquired into the incident. P4

## Teenager held for threats against Dhoni's daughter



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, Oct 11:** A 16-year-old boy was nabbed Sunday from Mundra in Gujarat for allegedly issuing threats against cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's minor daughter, police said.

"The Class 12 student was detained for questioning in connection with a disgusting threat message that was posted on the

Instagram account of Dhoni's wife Sakshi Dhoni a few days back," said Kutch (West) superintendent of police Saurabh Singh.

The teenager accepted that he had posted the threat message on the Instagram account after the IPL 2020 match between KKR and CSK, police said.

Ranchi police had shared information regarding the boy with the Kutch (West) police and asked them to confirm if he was the one who had posted the threat message, Singh said.

"We detained him for questioning after Ranchi police informed us that the accused hails from Mundra in Kutch district.

"We have confirmed that the boy is the same who posted the message. He will be handed over to Ranchi police," the SP added.

## PREPARING FOR ANOTHER DAY



A fisherman repairs his fishing net at a beach in Puri, Sunday

## AMARAVATI PROJECT

### Jagan's judge-TDP nexus allegation creates flutter

AGENCIES

**Amaravati, Oct 11:** In an unprecedented move, Andhra Pradesh government has complained to Chief Justice SA Bobde, about the alleged intervention of a sitting Supreme Court judge to protect the interests of opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP).

Ajeya Kallam, principal advisor to Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said the government placed material before the CJI citing the proximity of the judge with N Chandrababu Naidu and his interventions to protect the interests of TDP and its party men.

He said the government informed Bobde about the alleged judicial impropriety of the judge, while he was the judge of the High Court in passing orders favouring Dammalapati Srinivas, advocate general during the TDP regime.



"Government placed material before the CJI about the recent happenings and orders passed by the High Court", he added, citing the direct influence exerted by the judge over the proceedings of the High Court.

The state government has also apprised Bobde about the recent High Court orders with respect to the alleged Amaravati land scam. In the details and annexures placed before the CJI, the state government redacted the FIR information lodged on Srinivas, his family members and others, obeying the High Court's order, mandating no discussion on it anywhere.

# Petrol pump blast: Speculations galore, truth still elusive

Although five days have passed since the fuel station blast, different agencies probing the mishap are yet to lay hand on any concrete evidence

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Although five days have passed since the fuel station blast near Raj Bhawan here, which has claimed one life and left many injured, the agencies probing the mishap are yet to lay hand on any concrete evidence regarding the cause of the blast.

Experts from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) and the officials of Commissionerate Police have been investigating into the mishap. Experts from the State Forensic Science laboratory have been doing chemical examination of the human body parts and other materials seized from the spot.

While the investigating agencies have been probing into all the

angles into the possible reasons for the blast, they are yet to ascertain its root cause.

The Commissionerate Police have succeeded in obtaining incriminating information from the CCTV footage of the place and call detail records of some workers engaged there during the deadly explosion.

Police sources reveal that a person was spotted talking over mobile phone near the LPG tank when refilling was going on. This revelation has given rise to speculations regarding the cause of the explosion and many believe that the blast occurred owing to use of mobile phone during the refilling.

When asked to comment on the issue, Commissioner of police, Sudhanshu Sarangi told **Orissa POST**, "We are yet to arrive at any conclusion regarding the ac-



tual reason behind the explosion. It is true that a person was seen in

the CCTV footage talking on mobile phone. However, mobile phone

use is one among the several possibilities. Other includes sparks from the electrical earthing or starting of a vehicle. So, we are yet to come at a conclusion. Investigation is on."

Similarly, Dr. Ruab Ali, the Deputy Chief Controller of PESO told **Orissa POST**, "We are yet to get the CCTV footage from the Commissionerate Police. We can arrive at a conclusion when we receive them. They will hand over the CCTV footage data only after their probe process ends."

"However, before concluding that use of mobile phone had caused the explosion, we will go through the actual radio frequency of the mobile phone which was used by the worker at the time. We will check whether the mobile phone had that much of frequency to trigger the blast," added Ali.

The IOCL authorities informed that an expert team of the corporation will submit its report within two to three days and they will shortly reveal the details regarding the explosion to the media. Sources in the IOCL further revealed that the possibility of a lit cigarette butt thrown by some customers at the OMFED stall adjacent to the blast spot may have triggered the explosion. "We cannot rule out this aspect completely," he said.

Meanwhile, the IOCL authorities have sealed the petrol pump as frequent visits of people to accident spot are posing as a concern for the experts.

On the other hand, the state government has been mulling checking the security and safety measures at petrol pumps across the state.

# leisure



## KIM KARDASHIAN TO DONATE \$1 MILLION TO ARMENIA FUND

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has announced a \$1 million donation to the Armenia fund. She posted a short video on Twitter in which she shared her support for the humanitarian organisation dedicated to helping those in Armenia, reports *dailymail.co.uk*.

## SIA ADOPTED BOY AFTER SEEING HIM IN A DOCUMENTARY

Singer Sia says she knew she had to adopt the child from the moment she first saw him on television. In an interview with *Vogue Australia*, the singer opened up about her decision to adopt two 18-year-old boys last year, reports *people.com*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com  
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**ARIES**  
You can make a difference to others' lives. Considerate and thoughtful, today, you will be treasured more than ever as a boss, colleague, parent or beloved. Utilise this exchange of energy to sort out difficult issues.

**TAURUS**  
You will find comfort, perched on a branch in the family tree, today. Your maturity will help you deal with emotional issues with ease. Energy and exuberance will be an investment you make today, the results of which you will reap in the days to come, hopes Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
Emotional and material security will hold equal importance today. You want to be in love, but you know that love can't buy you dough. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problems you set your mind on. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods of making the best use of your knowledge.

**CANCER**  
When the going gets tough, it's better to go with the flow. But you belong to a school of thought that believes that in such troubled times, it's better to stay out of water altogether.

**LEO**  
The trader in you comes to the fore today. With an impeccable eye for recognising profitable avenues, you will quickly spot opportunities that arise from buying goods at cheaper prices, and selling them off at a rate that leaves you with a lump sum profit.

**VIRGO**  
There is a strong indication that you will dabble in writing or performing arts, and emerge with excellent results. Since these are your passions, you may cultivate hobbies in these fields, if they are not already your profession.

**LIBRA**  
Your family is the cornerstone of your success. And today is no different. Your auspicious day starts from your home, and you manage to carry this luck everywhere you go with the same tempo and gusto, predicts Ganesha. Your smile enables you to keep winning people to your side.

**SCORPIO**  
You will spend most of the day in self-inspection and in testing your capabilities. You will take all the needed steps to improve your professional proficiency. Your rare insight and gifted understanding of human nature will prepare you for leadership in the near future, hopes Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Today, you will most certainly put your heart and soul into your work. But it is rather unlikely that you will get the returns in proportion to the efforts you put in. Yet, at the end of the day, you will be more than satisfied that you have got the chance to display your innate talents, says Ganesha.

**CAPRICORN**  
New projects and partnership will keep you busy today, says Ganesha. If a meeting is scheduled, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time.

**AQUARIUS**  
You plot and plan well today! A lot of your time, energy and money may go into less productive activities. But the quality of your work will near perfection.

**PISCES**  
You can probably count your chickens before they hatch today, for it is likely that every nest-egg you expect to mint money will. A good day to trade in the stock markets as well, as long as you keep in mind that the horns of a rampaging Bull market can be every bit as deadly as the paws of a lumbering Bear market, says Ganesha.

# 'Then, now and forever a legend'

**Mumbai:** Indian film celebrities from Mahesh Babu, Prabhas, Nimrat Kaur to Sanjay Dutt and Ajay Devgn among many others wished megastar Amitabh Bachchan on his 78th birthday Sunday.

"Thank you for all the love, learning and guidance over all these years. Wishing you a Happy Healthy & Blessed Birthday @SrBachchan Sir," Sanjay Dutt tweeted along with two photos.

Actor Ajay Devgn said: "Many happy returns of the day dear Amitiji. Prayers and best wishes for a great year ahead Sir."

## AMITABH TURNS 78

Telugu star Mahesh Babu wrote: "Wishing the living legend @SrBachchan a very Happy Birthday. You're an inspiration for me and a million others around the world."

Superstar Mohanlal tagged Big B as a true gem.

Actor Prabhas, who will be seen sharing screen space with him in a multi-lingual mega production said: "Many many happy returns of the day to the legendary @amitabhbachchan sir. Thank you for inspiring us all!"

Actress Aditi Rao Hydari wrote: "Then, now and forever a legend. Happy happiest birthday @SrBachchan sir."

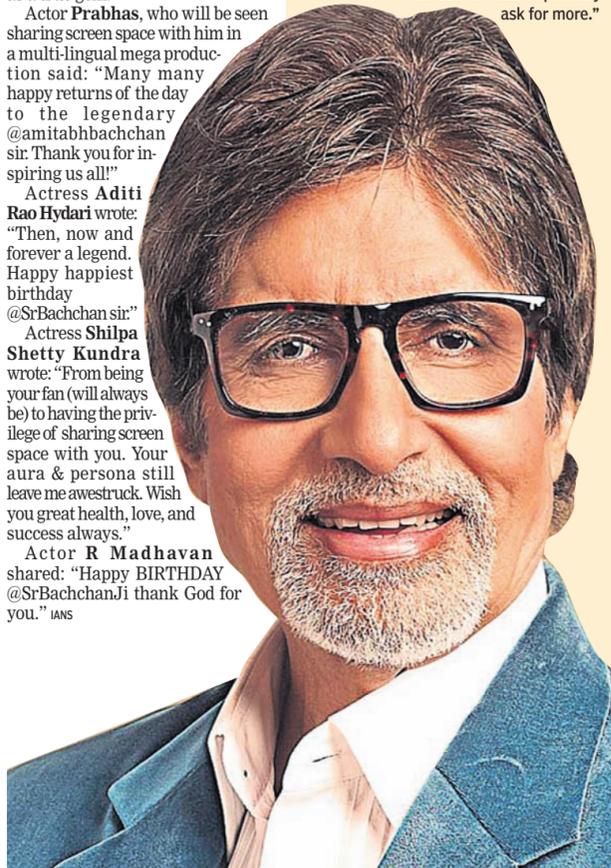
Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra wrote: "From being your fan (will always be) to having the privilege of sharing screen space with you. Your aura & persona still leave me awestruck. Wish you great health, love, and success always."

Actor R Madhavan shared: "Happy BIRTHDAY @SrBachchanJi thank God for you!"



## Can't possibly ask for more: Big B

On his 78th birthday Sunday, megastar Amitabh Bachchan thanked his fans, whom he lovingly calls his extended family and said that their love is the greatest gift for him. Amitabh took to Instagram, where he posted a photograph where the word 'thank you' was written in many languages along with a picture of the cine icon with folded hands. As caption, he wrote: "Your generosity and love be the greatest gift for me for the 11th .. I cannot possibly ask for more."



# Bipasha stresses on self-love

**Mumbai:** Actress Bipasha Basu has urged everyone to love themselves fully in her latest post on social media.

Bipasha took to Instagram, where she posted a stunning picture dressed in a white crop top and a white lacy shorts.

"Love yourself fully, deeply, honestly, faithfully and gloriously #love-yourself #happysunday," she captioned the image.

Recently, Bipasha shared photographs from her Durga Puja celebrations of last year with husband Karan Singh Grover, relatives and friends.

The actress posted a picture from the ritual of 'sindoor khela', a practice where on the day of Dashami/Dussehra, married women smear vermilion on each other's foreheads and faces before the idol of Ma Durga, after which the idol is immersed.

On the work front, Bipasha was recently seen in the web series *Dangerous*, which marked her debut on the digital platform.



# Nushratt builds her own furniture

**Mumbai:** Actress Nushratt Bharucha feels proud of building her own furniture at home.

Nushratt took to Instagram, where she shared a video. In the clip, she is seen building a wardrobe.

"You bet imma build my own furniture, it's for a place I call HOME," Nushratt said.

Speaking about her work, she will next be seen opposite actor Rajkumar Rao in Hansal Mehta's comedy drama *Chhalaang*.

She will also be seen in *Hurdang* directed by Nikhil Nagesh Bhat. The film features Sunny Kaushal, and Vijay Varma. The film is a love story set in the backdrop of the student agitation of 1990 in Allahabad.



# Keeping mental health in check through positive life habits

Consciously develop a habit of being positive in any given scenario and truly grateful for all that you already have, advises mind coach Vrinda Mehta



AGENCIES

New Delhi: The truth is that our body and mind are not separate identities, they are one. Our mind is our subtle self while our bodies are the gross self.

On an average we have sixty to seventy thousand thoughts in a day and a large percentage of these thoughts are stressful, points out eminent mind coach Vrinda Mehta.

This excessive stress energy is connected to almost all lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, CVD, obesity, anxiety and much more, she says.

"We cannot always control what happens around us but what happens within us can be brought under our control with true knowledge, diligent practice, and patience. Just like we follow a healthy diet and a regular exercise routine for physical fitness we need to have a healthy mental diet of positive thoughts, emotions and regular breathing exercise or pranayama to ensure mental wellbeing," adds Mehta.

As the world marked Mental Health Day October 10, she shares a few simple tips how mental health can be kept in check through positive life habits. Begin your day with the five basic Pranayamas or breathing techniques: The Bhastrika, Kapalabhati, Anulomvilom, Bhrumri and Udgeeth Pranayams. According to the yogic science, our mind and our breathing are directly connected. Include positive affirmations

in your pranayama routine. Become aware of your breath. Get into the habit of taking slow deep breaths especially when you are stressed out.

Surround yourself with positive people. Think and talk about positive things.

Make a habit of writing down five things that you are grateful for each day.

Connect with nature. Get some sunshine as it is a powerful electromagnetic energy that helps in cleansing and rejuvenation. Reconnect with mother earth by walking barefooted on grass/sand to de-stress.

Listen to calming soothing music to relieve stress.

Get proper sleep by going to bed and waking up at the same time every day and staying away from electronic gadgets before bedtime.

Consciously develop a habit of being positive in any given scenario and truly grateful for all that you already have.

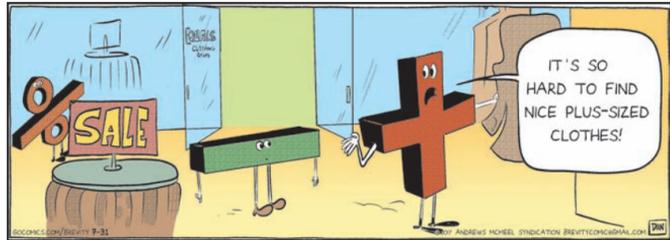
## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

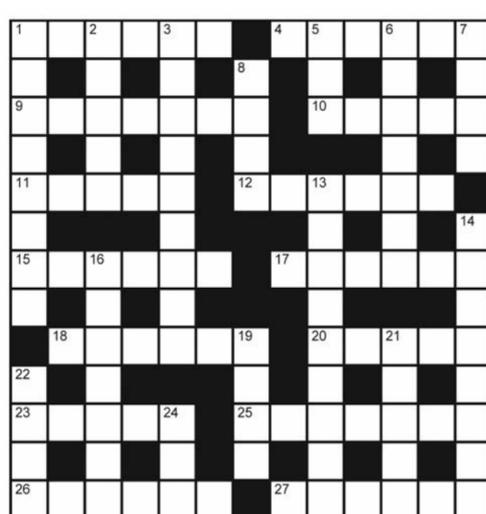


## BREVITY



## FUN post

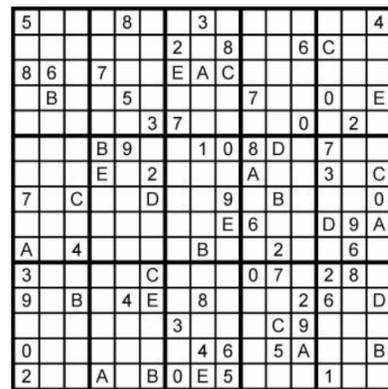
## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Game place
  - 4 Imp
  - 9 Final result
  - 10 Cut of beef
  - 11 Antique shop item
  - 12 Highest point
  - 15 Magical drink
  - 17 Meager
  - 18 Scandalise
  - 20 Smarted
  - 23 Joke
  - 25 Make a face
  - 26 Wiggle room
  - 27 Make like
  - 7 Oodles
  - 8 Auto pioneer
  - 13 Juicy fruit
  - 14 Draw (4,4)
  - 16 Blow up
  - 19 Excavates
  - 21 Throw with effort
  - 22 Australian export
  - 24 New Zealand parrot
- Down**
- 1 Admits openly
  - 2 Provide food at a party
  - 3 Eliminate a smell
  - 5 Ventilate
  - 6 Lease

## SUDOKU

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



## SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

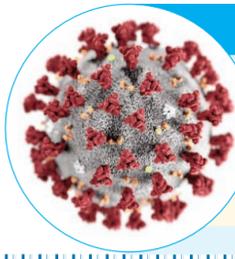
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## BEWARE COVIDIOTS

Social distancing and other precautionary measures against Covid-19 thrown to the wind at an auto-rickshaw stand near Rasulgarh in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,75,79,034	2,81,81,822	10,78,844
India	69,79,080	59,88,240	1,07,461
Odisha	2,52,239	2,27,615	1,022

# BLOODSHED OVER DRINKING WATER

**TWO PERSONS ARE DEAD AND 14 OTHERS HURT IN THE CLASH AT DIMIRISHENA HARIJAN SAHI IN BRAHMAGIRI**



A woman who sustained grievous injuries during the clash at a healthcare facility, Sunday

## IN A NUTSHELL

Niranjan Bhoi and Surendra Bhoi are neighbours at Dimirishena Harijan Sahi



Niranjan's family had taken drinking water connection through Surendra's land

A tussle ensued between the two families when Surendra tried to fetch drinking water from the pipe laid by Niranjan

the district headquarters hospital (DHH), he added.

According to villagers, Niranjan Bhoi and Surendra Bhoi were neighbours at Dimirishena Harijan Sahi. Niranjan's family had taken drinking water connection through Surendra's land.

However, a tussle ensued between the two families when Surendra tried to fetch drinking water from the pipe laid by Niranjan, said the villagers.

At least 14 people were also injured in the violent clash. Seven of them sustained grievous injuries and have been admitted to

members of both the families entered into an argument over drinking water connection issue Sunday morning.

Soon male members of the two families took part in the argument and attacked each other with sharp weapons, claimed the villagers.

"On being informed, a police team rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control. The bodies of the deceased have been sent for post-mortem," said the SDPO. An investigation into the

incident is underway, while adequate force has been deployed in the area to prevent any further flare-up, police said.

Meanwhile, Puri district Superintendent of Police (SP) Akhilesh Singh and other senior police officers visited the village and took stock of the situation.

"At least nine persons have been detained over the incident. Some others have absconded. Our officials have seized several sharp-edged weapons from the spot," said the SP.

PNN & AGENCIES

**Puri, Oct 11:** Two persons were killed and 14 others injured in a violent clash between two families at Dimirishena Harijan Sahi under Brahmagiri police limits in the district here Sunday, police said.

The incident took place following a verbal duel between two families over the laying of a water pipeline in the locality, they added.

Members of both the families attacked each other with sharp weapons, including axe, leading to the death of two men identified as Surendra Bhoi and Kalja Bhoi, said KC Mund, the sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) of Puri Sadar.

At least 14 people were also injured in the violent clash. Seven of them sustained grievous injuries and have been admitted to

## MISCREANTS CREATE FAKE FB ACCOUNT OF SENIOR COP



DIG (Intelligence) Anup Sahoo

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Think twice before you send a friend request to someone or chat with some celebrity, politician or even a senior police official on social media platforms as such accounts may be fake.

A case in point is Sunday (October 11) incident when DIG Intelligence Anup Sahoo warned people not to accept friend request from a fake account created in his name. Some unidentified miscreants have reportedly created a fake Facebook account in the name of Sahoo.

Though the fake account has been created in the name of some Anupam Kumar Sahoo, the miscreants have uploaded some of the photographs of the senior official. Besides, the profile picture of the account has the IPS officer's picture which could easily mislead people. Therefore, Anup Sahoo, who was earlier posted as Bhubaneswar DCP, has urged people to be cautious about such mischievous elements on social media.

## Woman dies a day after reaching SCB on trolley

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 11:** A day after she was brought to Sriram Chandra Bhanja Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here on trolley rickshaw, an ailing woman of Satyabadi area in Puri district Sunday died at the state-run health institute.

The deceased, identified as Sukanti Bhoi of Dasbidyadharpur village under Satyabadi block, was suffering from liver cancer, SCBMCH sources said.

According to sources, Sukanti was unwell for quite some days. Her husband Kabir Bhoi had consulted several doctors at various hospitals in Puri district to cure Sukanti.

Kabir had decided to admit Sukanti to SCBMCH as per the advice of a doctor in Puri. The couple did not have money to hire a vehicle and they were also ignorant about the free ambulance service of the state government.

So, they travelled at least 90

km on their trolley rickshaw to reach SCBMCH Saturday, sources said.

"We examined Sukanti's health condition and found that she was suffering from liver cancer. She died around the noon today while being treated," said Parakhita Behera, a senior doctor at the surgery ward of SCBMCH.

Hospital emergency officer Bhubanananda Maharana said they arranged a vehicle to transport Sukanti's body to her village.



Children visit Tulsipur park in Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

# Swargadwar renovation going on at full pace

THE STATE GOVT HAD SANCTIONED ₹5 CRORE FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE CREMATORIUM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Oct 11:** The renovation work at Swargadwar cremation ground in the Holy City here is going on at full pace.

The state government and the district administration have taken adequate steps to provide modern facilities at Swargadwar without harming its mythological importance, sources said.

The district administration had earlier consulted Puri Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati for Swargadwar renovation work.

"A Hyderabad-based firm had developed a blueprint for renovation of the cremation ground. The renovation work is being carried out under the guidance of Puri Shankaracharya. Collector Balwant Singh is personally inspecting the work," said an official of the district administration.

Many people across the state usually prefer to perform the last rites of their near and dear ones at Swargadwar cremation ground.

"Swarga" means heaven and "Dwar" means gateway. So, it is believed that Swargadwar cremation ground is the gateway to heaven. As per the belief, the soul finds the ultimate



The administration is constructing 14 elevated platforms for cremation of bodies. As per Odias' belief, the soul finds the ultimate salvation if the body is cremated at Swargadwar, which has close links with the Jagannath culture



**We have planned to introduce a single window system to provide all facilities to the people who want to cremate bodies at the seashore cremation ground. We will fix the prices for each service and display a chart for people's notice**

BHABATARAN SAHU | SUB-COLLECTOR, PURI

salvation if the body is cremated at Swargadwar, which has close link with the Jagannath culture. However, poor facilities at Swargadwar often cause inconvenience to the bereaved people who opt to consign the bodies to flames at the seaside cremation ground.

Taking the issue seriously, the state government had last year sanctioned Rs 5 crore to develop

infrastructure at Swargadwar. It had also decided to develop the cremation ground in line with Mahaprasthanam crematorium in Hyderabad. Besides, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced the demolition of the 'Biju Samadhi' (the memorial of his father Biju Patnaik) to pave way for the renovation of Swargadwar.

At present, the administration is

constructing 14 elevated platforms for cremation of bodies and also renovating a Shiva temple near Swargadwar. Besides, it has built six elevated platforms for safe keeping of bodies before their cremation.

In addition to that, steps have been taken to provide drinking water, toilet and resting facilities to the bereaved people. "Metal barricades have been raised around the

## OJEE 2020 begins today; record 80K students to appear

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Extensive preparations are in place for the smooth conduct of OJEE 2020 in the state, starting Monday. The exam will continue till October 19.

Like JEE Main examination, OJEE will be also conducted on CBT in three shifts per day. "It's a challenging task to conduct the examination amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, but the state government has ensured all the majors for the hassle-free conduct of the important examination," OJEE Chairman SK Chand said.

"The exam is conducted by Skill Development and Technical Education in which other administrative departments like police, electric, water supply are also involved and ready to extend their full cooperation," said Chand.

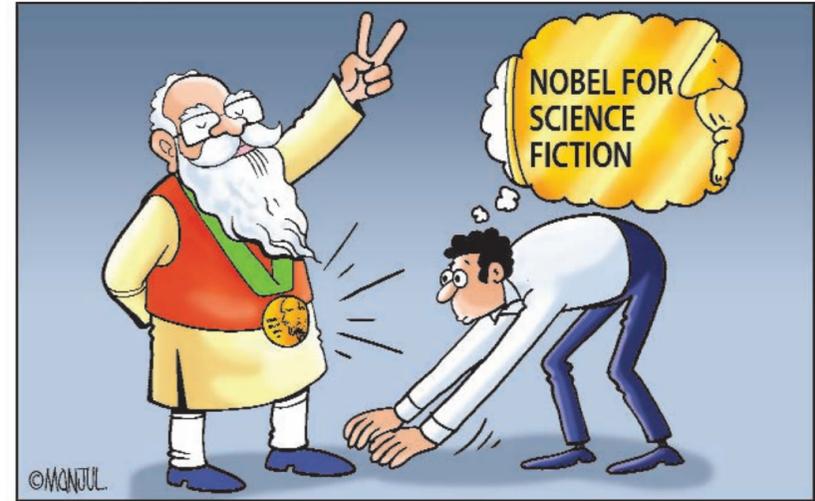
cremation ground and eight CCTVs have been installed to enhance security. The entire ground has been illuminated properly. A 24-member team is supervising the modernisation work at Swargadwar," said the official.

Sub-collector Bhabataran Sahu said the administration has opened a dedicated centre at Swargadwar to help bereaved people. "We have planned to introduce a single window system to provide all facilities to the people who want to cremate bodies at the seashore cremation ground. We will fix the prices for each service and display a chart for people's notice," added the sub-collector.

Many social activists and intellectuals, meanwhile, have urged the district administration to remove encroachments from Swargadwar. They claimed that the cremation ground originally spread over 16 acre land. However, the area of Swargadwar has been reduced to only 46 decimal due to large scale encroachments over the years.

"The administration should remove all encroachments from Swargadwar and carry out the renovation work," said voluntary outfit Sachetan Nagarik Manch president Prasanna Kumar Dash.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## SC to hear Varsha's transfer plea Oct 16

Anubhav Mohanty has also filed a caveat in the Supreme Court urging the court to not pass any order in Varsha's transfer petition without hearing him

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** The Supreme Court October 16 would hear Varsha Priyadarshini's petition seeking transfer of divorce petition, filed by her husband Anubhav Mohanty at Patiala House Court here, to Cuttack Family Court.

A bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy would hear the plea filed by Varsha Priyadarshini. The appellant cited in the plea that it is difficult for her to travel a long distance to Delhi's Patiala House Court to attend the hearing of the case.

Significantly, Anubhav Mohanty has also filed a caveat in the Supreme Court urging the court to not pass



any order in Varsha's transfer petition without hearing him. Mohanty's counsel Ashwani Dubey said that they would challenge Varsha's plea in the Apex court. He said Varsha is an actor and having independent source of income. "If she can travel to Mumbai for award ceremony, then why can't she travel to Delhi for the hearing." He added that Varsha can avail ben-

efits in air travel as a wife of Parliamentarian. He also said that Patiala House Court is having adjudicators jurisdiction in the matter. Meanwhile, Delhi's Patiala House Court October 7 directed Varsha to appear before it December 10. Mohanty had filed a divorce petition in the Patiala House Court in July and submitted that since the date of wedding, the marriage between them has not been consummated due to the selfish behaviour of Varsha. Mohanty was married to Varsha Priyadarshini in February 2014. He contended that his wife never treated him as her husband and always tried to give him the mental and physical agony.

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**Important Dates :**

Opening of online Submission of application	12.10.2020
Last date of Submission of online application	02.11.2020
Last date of receipt of hard copy of application	09.11.2020

Advt. No. 10200501, Dt. 10/10/2020 **NALCO Recruitment-2020**

**CORRIGENDUM 2 TO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

With reference to the previous public announcement issued in accordance with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016 and published on the website of **Maaudurga Thermal Power Company Limited** <https://www.mtpcl.in> on February 25, 2020 and September 24, 2020, the e-auction timeline for acquisition of Corporate Debtor as a going concern stands amended and restated as under: (Under Regulation 32 and 33 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of the corporate debtor	<b>Maaudurga Thermal Power Company Limited</b>
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	December 15, 2008
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/registered	Registrar of Companies - Cuttack
4 Corporate identity number/limited liability identification number of corporate debtor	U40102OR2008PLC010501
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	<b>Registered Office:</b> CADD Centre Building, 2nd Floor Press Chhak, Madhupatna, Cuttack, Orissa-753010 <b>Plant Location:</b> Bainchua, Tangi, Cuttack-754022, Orissa.
6 Liquidation commencement date of the corporate debtor	June 25, 2019
7 Name, address, email address, telephone number and the registration number of the Liquidator	<b>Name:</b> Pankaj Dhanuka <b>Registered Address with IIBBI:</b> FE 328, Sector 3, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, West Bengal-700106 <b>Registered Email Address:</b> <a href="mailto:pankajdhanuka@gmail.com">pankajdhanuka@gmail.com</a> <b>Telephone:</b> +91 98300 18128 <b>Registration No.:</b> IIBBI/PA-001/IP-P01205/2018-2019/11911 <b>Communication Address:</b> Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, 13th Floor, Building - Omega, Bengal Intelligent Park, Block - EP & GP, Sector - V, Salt Lake City, West Bengal-700091. <b>Communication Email Address:</b> <a href="mailto:inmtpcl@deloitte.com">inmtpcl@deloitte.com</a>
8 Date of E-Auction	<b>Auction Start Date &amp; Time:</b> October 22, 2020 @ 11:00 am <b>Auction End Date &amp; Time:</b> October 22, 2020 @ 04:30 pm
9 Manner of Obtaining the Process Document	The detailed terms and conditions of the auction process are set out in the process document, which can be obtained by the bidders by sending an email request at <a href="mailto:inmtpcl@deloitte.com">inmtpcl@deloitte.com</a> .
10 Last Date of Obtaining the Process Document	October 19, 2020
11 Subject Matter of Auction Process	Acquisition of the Corporate Debtor as a going concern.
12 Manner of Submitting Bid	As set out in the process document to be issued by the liquidator of the Corporate Debtor.
13 Mode of Sale	The mode of sale is open e-auction, where bidders can view other competitive bids from other bidders during the open window. The acquisition of the Corporate Debtor as a going concern shall be on an 'as is where is' basis, without any representation, warranty or indemnity by the Corporate Debtor or the liquidator.
14 Reserve Price	The reserve price for the purpose of conducting this e-auction of the Corporate Debtor as a going concern is determined at INR 80 Crores.
15 Earnest Money Deposit requirement	Bidder(s) shall be required to submit an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of INR 50 lakhs in order to Bid for acquisition of the Company and its business as a going concern.

**Note:** Nothing contained herein shall constitute a binding offer or a commitment to sell the Corporate Debtor as a going concern or any of its assets. Bidders must note that the aforementioned auction process is being conducted in accordance with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 ("Code") and the relevant regulations thereunder. In the event, if any assets of the Corporate Debtor are realised by existing charge holders in terms of Section 52 of the Code read together with the applicable regulations, the same shall be excluded from the ambit of the auction process being conducted by the liquidator, as and when such an option is exercised by the relevant charge holder. The liquidator reserves the right to amend and/or annul this invitation including any timelines or the process therein, without giving any reason, at any time and in any respect. Any such amendment in the invitation, including the aforementioned timeline, shall be notified on the website of the Corporate Debtor [www.mtpcl.in](http://www.mtpcl.in).

For Maaudurga Thermal Power Company Limited  
Sd/- Pankaj Dhanuka  
Insolvency Professional - Regn. No.: IIBBI/PA-001/IP-P01205/2018-2019/11911  
Registered Address: FE 328, Sector 3, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700106  
Registered Email: [pankajdhanuka@gmail.com](mailto:pankajdhanuka@gmail.com)  
Communication Address: Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, 13th Floor, Building-Omega, Bengal Intelligent Park, Block - EP & GP, Sector-V, Salt Lake City, West Bengal 700091. Communication E-Mail: [inmtpcl@deloitte.com](mailto:inmtpcl@deloitte.com)  
Date: October 12, 2020, Kolkata

Liquor traders thrash lady cop; one held

POST NEWS NETWORK  
Mayurbhanj, Oct 11: Biso police in Mayurbhanj district arrested a woman for allegedly beating up a policewoman at Biso weekly market in Mayurbhanj district. Kapura Marandi, one of the accused women, was produced in a local court Saturday afternoon and remanded to judicial custody as her bail plea was rejected. According to a source, the policewoman had visited the Biso weekly market Saturday. Finding rampant selling of 'handia' (country liquor) in the market, she asked the sellers, mostly women, to desist. Giving no heed to her order, they went on with their business. Meanwhile, the policewoman confronted them and proceeded to arrest them. The accused women then ganged up and started attacking her with sticks. There were other policemen present on the scene as well, however, they did not dare to intervene leaving the policewoman to fend for herself, eyewitnesses said. Briefing reporters, police officials Sunday said that other absconding women 'handia' traders will soon be identified and arrested.

nCoV tally crosses 2.5L-mark

16 FRESH FATALITIES PUSH ODISHA'S CORONAVIRUS DEATH TOLL TO 1,022

PNN & AGENCIES  
Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: The state's novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) tally crossed the 2.5 lakh-mark Sunday as 2,546 more people tested positive for the infection, while 16 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's coronavirus death toll to 1,022, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said. The fresh infections reported in all the 30 districts have taken the state's virus caseload to 2,52,239. As many as 1,504 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 1,042 people tested positive for Covid-19 during contact tracing, the official said. Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 410, followed by Angul (208) and Sundargarh (161). Five fresh fatalities were reported in Khurda, including three in Bhubaneswar, four in Balasore, two in Dhenkanal and one each in Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kendrapara, Koraput and Puri, the official said. Ganjam district has so far reported the highest number of



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covered from the viral infection Sunday, taking the total recoveries in Odisha to 2,27,615. The state has so far tested 37.55 lakh samples for COVID-19, including 45,079 Saturday, the official added. Meanwhile, 3,342 persons re-

Agencies  
Panels to audit healthcare quality in Covid hospitals

Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: The state government has constituted district-level committees to audit the quality of healthcare in Covid-19 hospitals and review the deaths caused by the disease, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said, Sunday. The committees were formed on the direction of Assembly Speaker SN Patro after members cutting across party lines expressed concern during the recently-concluded Monsoon session over poor treatment facilities at both state-run and private Covid-19 hospitals. The committees will be headed by an officer authorised by the collector or the municipal commissioner and he/she should not be below the rank of the additional district magistrate, said the official quoting a health department order issued Saturday. The chief district medical and public health officer, a doctor trained in handling ICU and a medical officer of the treating facility will be among the members of the committee, it said.



The committees will be headed by an officer authorised by the Collector or the municipal commissioner and s/he shouldn't be below the rank of the additional DM

The committees will also examine the medical records of the patients to improve Covid response and save lives, the order added.

MeT predicts heavy rains in state today

POST NEWS NETWORK  
Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: The Bhubaneswar Met department Sunday predicted heavy to very heavy rain in parts of southern Odisha on account of a low pressure formed over west central Bay of Bengal. The depression is likely to intensify further into a deep depression during Monday. The MeT department has also issued Orange Category warning for Monday. The daily bulletin of the department said, "Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely to occur at one or two places over Malkangiri, Rayagada, Koraput, Gajapati and Ganjam districts." Heavy rainfall is also forecast in other coastal areas of Odisha. It said, "Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over of Nawarangpur, Kandhamal, Puri, Nayagarh, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Cuttack districts." The department has also issued forecast of light to moderate rain with thunderstorm at most places over the districts of South Odisha and at many places over North Odisha.

A DAY FOR GIRL CHILD



An awareness campaign by Centre for Voluntary Service underway at VSS Nagar in Bhubaneswar to observe International Day of the Girl Child, Sunday

Smaller tracks, new parking policies to encourage cycling

POST NEWS NETWORK  
Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: Following takeover of the Mo Cycles from CRUT (Capital Region Urban Transport), the BMC (Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation) has started work on remodeling of the city tracks. The aim is to promote cycling culture in the state capital. As per sources, while a complete overhaul of the parking policies will be done, new tracks will be introduced to provide more space to the cyclists. Moreover, the existing tracks that were introduced during Hockey World Cup 2018, are said to be made encroachment free. "There are a number of factors involved including terrains, climate and mindset... However, lack of dedicated tracks remains one of the prime causes. Thus, we have decided to introduce new parking policies that will include hefty fines for parking on the cycle tracks which will attract more people to take bicycling," said BMC Commissioner, Prem Chandra Chaudhary who had recently launched 'Cyclegiri' that saw hundreds participate in a mega cyclethon was of the opinion that they are focusing on introducing smaller tracks rather than laying longer ones. "We have focused on identifying key circles or prime locations in the city to develop tracks for smaller distances to initially develop interest for cycling among denizens here," the Commissioner added. Introduced in 2018 ahead of Hockey World Cup, Mo Cycle service was rolled out in the city as one of the smart city initiatives. About 2000 GPS-enabled bicycles were



There are a number of factors involved including terrains, climate and mindset... However, lack of dedicated tracks remains one of the prime causes. Thus, we have decided to introduce new parking policies which will include hefty fines for parking on the cycle tracks

procured by the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited in a phased manner from three private agencies and CRUT was allowed to manage the service. However, owing to lack of dedicated cycle tracks and encroachment of the 11 km tracks created for the purpose the popularity of Mo Cycle soon was lost. While ridership figures read 37,008 in December 2018, it soon fell to just 6,216 by March 2019, revealed an RTI. The dwindling further continued and from 600 daily riders, the ridership plummeted to only 100 per day. While the pandemic is said to be the primary cause behind the fall of demand, off-season cycling and poor riding environment were amongst others. However, citing examples of cities overseas having a healthy cycling environment, the Commissioner said that a behavioural change is also needed. "Introducing cycle tracks with barricading and protection is bit unfeasible. However, in cities abroad the cyclists are given equal space as they understand its value. The change needs to be adapted in the city too and only then things will improve," he added. It needs to be mentioned that apart from 95 other cities, Bhubaneswar, along with 11 cities has been shortlisted for Rs 1 crore award and guidance from national and international experts to further scale up the initiatives in two stages, which will be held until May 2021.

Cong men join BJD in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK  
Balasore, Oct 11: As the by-poll of the Balasore Assembly seat draws closer, the ruling BJD got a shot in its arm Sunday when hundreds of workers from Congress joined the party at a 'Mahamishra parva' here. Ahead of the by-poll, the ruling party has been striving hard to strengthen its base. The merger meeting was presided over by former MP Rabindra Jena in presence of Nilagiri MLA Santosh Khatua. After joining the party, the neophytes were welcomed with bouquets. They said that they were inspired by the strong leadership and development agenda of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

'UNSECURED' ATM CUT OPEN, ₹28 LAKH LOOTED



The miscreants cut open the ATM cash dispenser by using a gas cutter machine

HAD IT COMING

POLICE SOURCES SAY THE ATM KIOSK HAD BEEN LYING DEFUNCT FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS DUE TO POWER OUTAGE IN THE AREA

THE CCTV AND THE EMERGENCY ALARM SYSTEM WERE ALSO NOT FUNCTIONING PROPERLY

and managed to flee, locals added. On being informed, police reached the spot with the forensic team for examination. Police have also registered a case (151/20) in this regard on the basis of the complaint filed by Bhanu Paratp Maharana, senior regional executive of the PNB. Earlier Commissionerate Police arrested Soumya Ranjan Jena in Bhubaneswar October 5 for looting two banks in the state capital. Incidentally, he looted the same banks from which he had taken loans to start a business. The accused confessed to the crime, police said. Jena decamped with Rs2.80 lakh from Indian Overseas Bank September 7 and then September 28, he looted Rs10 lakh from Bank of India. It may be mentioned here that Sunday evening, some miscreants robbed a girl near Esplanade Mall here. Unknown bike-borne miscreants snatched Itishree Nayak's mobile phone and purse. The victim, Itishree, works in an IT company and resides in the Bomkhal area of the city, sources said.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Ritik Raj, S/o- Raj Kumar, Rly. Bungalov No.J/1, Traffic Colony, Jatni-752050 have changed my name to Ritik Raj Arya for all future purposes.

POST NEWS NETWORK  
Bhubaneswar, Oct 11: The city has turned a happy hunting ground for antisocial elements as it has been witnessing bank robberies, murder and serious criminal activities for the past few months, locals said. Snatching of gold ornaments and mobile phones has been taking place almost every day. The clueless Commissionerate Police seems helpless amidst the growing crime graph of the city. Some miscreants looted Rs27.84 lakh after breaking open an ATM of Punjab National Bank on the Patia Railway Station road near Magnet Square under Infocity police limits here late Saturday night. The miscreants cut open the ATM cash dispenser by using a gas cutter machine to steal around Rs28 lakh in cash. Police sources revealed that the ATM kiosk had been lying defunct for the last three days due to power outage in the area. The CCTV and the emergency alarm system were also not functioning properly. As there was no security personnel deployed at the ATM, the miscreants committed the crime

TIME TO REST



Two men take rest inside huge pipes alongside CDA Ring Road in Cuttack amid high humidity, Sunday

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# Mining penalty fund remains unutilised

CITIZENS' BODY SENDS LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR, SEEKING HIS INTERVENTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 11:** The administration has collected huge sums as penalty from various errant mining firms in Keonjhar district, but the funds are not being used for development works, a report said.

The government is collecting penalty from mines which indulge in illegal activities. The Supreme Court had directed the governments to utilise the penalty funds for development and welfare activities in mining-affected districts.

"Sadly, the penalty fund is not being utilised for development of the district," alleged Keonjhar Nagarika Manch, a local outfit working for development of the district.

The outfit has demanded that immediate steps be taken for the proper utilization of the fund.

The outfit has sent a letter to the Governor, seeking his intervention in this matter. "This fund should be utilised for tribal-dominated and mining affected districts like Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj," the outfit has said.

## MISSING THE DEVELOPMENT GOAL



It was learnt that by November 28, 2018, the government has collected ₹13,933 crore as penalty from 50 errant miners in Keonjhar, 40 miners in Sundargarh and four in Mayurbhanj

Keonjhar alone accounted for ₹10,660 crore as penalty from errant mines. Keonjhar had reported the highest ever illegal mining and massive ecological damage by mining

In the second phase, the board of directors of the OMBDAC at its 18th meeting lent ₹16,526 crore to the state government as loan instead of spending it in the development of the mining affected areas, the outfit pointed out

It was learnt that by November 28, 2018, the government has collected Rs 13,933 crore as penalty from 50 errant miners in Keonjhar, 40 miners in Sundargarh and four in Mayurbhanj. Keonjhar alone accounted for Rs 10,660 crore as

penalty from errant mines. Keonjhar had reported the highest ever illegal mining and massive ecological damage by mining.

The apex court had ordered for utilisation of such funds so as to compensate for the loss in every

field affected by mining activities. Following the order, the Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Development Corporation (OMBADC) Fund was constituted. The penalties were deposited in the OMBADC Fund.

In the first phase, the board of directors of the OMBADC lent Rs 402 crore out of Rs 869 crore to the state government for construction of houses under the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana in 2016.

It was said that these funds had been utilised for welfare of tribals and development of their areas, but it was alleged that there has been discrepancies in utilisation of funds. In the second phase, the board of directors of the OMBDAC at its 18th meeting lent Rs 16,526 crore to the state government as loan instead of spending it in the development of the mining affected areas, the outfit pointed out.

"Granting loan to the state government from OMBDAC Fund is unfortunate," said Kiran Shankar Sahu, president of the outfit.

He urged the Governor to take immediate measures for utilisation of this fund.

# Sand looted from Rushikulya supplied to Andhra Pradesh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Oct 11:** Sand mining is rampant in Rushikulya riverbed here in Ganjam district, even though raids are being carried out against the mafia. Sand is being transported to various parts of the state and Andhra Pradesh, a report said.

Taking serious note of the illegal sand mining, the administration at the meetings of the sub-collector and the tehsildar levels has been ordering for regular raids to check the illegal sand mining.

However, checks are not being carried out properly. Locals alleged that raids are conducted sporadically in the area while penalties are being collected.

A meeting was chaired by the Chhatrapur sub-collector August 22, 2019. A blueprint was prepared to measure the quantities of sand being excavated from the riverbed.

Video conferencing was held for seven days while the collector was trying to get information about the sand mining.

It was decided at the meeting



that FIRs will be lodged against the people if they carry out excessive and illegal sand mining from the riverbed.

However, execution of the order was delayed due to unseasonal rains and a cyclone in October.

As the order was not carried out, the mafia was back to square one and went on a looting spree.

Acting on complaints, the DIG asked all police stations to conduct raids. Many sand traders were arrested and sand-laden vehicles seized.

It was found that the mafia used

to transport sand to various parts of Andhra Pradesh.

Locals pointed out that as raids are not conducted regularly the mafia gets an opportunity to loot sand from the riverbed.

On the other hand, lease holders and sand traders alleged that they are unable to extract sand from the riverbed due to water in the river.

Sources in the Chhatrapur sub-collector's office said that Rs 3,56,607 has been collected as fine during the raids while FIRs have been registered at different police stations.

# Maoists stab TRS leader to death



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Oct 11:** Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leader Maduri Bhimeswara Rao was stabbed to death allegedly by six members of the banned CPI (Maoist). The incident took place late Saturday night at Alubaka village in Mulugu district of Telangana

bordering Malkangiri district.

Sources said the six-armed Maoists entered into Rao's house forcefully and dragged him out. Even though his family members sought forgiveness from the Left-wing extremists, they stabbed Rao to death with sharp-edged weapons.

Rao was rushed to the local hospital after the Maoists left the village but the attending doctor declared him brought dead.

On being informed, police reached the village in the wee hours of Sunday and seized a letter which was left behind by the Maoists. In the letter, the Maoists claimed that Rao was cheating poor farmers of his village by selling pesticides of his company at a higher price.

Rao is survived by his wife and three children. For the last one month the police have intensified combing operation due to a spate of recent Maoist activities in Asifabad and Khammam districts of the neighbouring state.

## NORMS VIOLATION



Despite Covid restrictions, tourists through the Gopalpur beach, throwing safety and social distancing norms to the winds

# 8 arrested over abduction of executive engineer

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, Oct 11:** Police arrested eight persons Saturday night in connection with abduction of Rural Development (RD) department executive engineer Manoranjan Patnaik from his official residence in Jharsuguda, who was later rescued from Kesinga area.

According to Jharsuguda town police, the arrested men include seven abductors and

a man who had purchased a stolen golden chain of Patnaik. They were nabbed from Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district and Muribahal, Titilagarh areas - both in Bolangir district.

The accused have been identified as Siba Tandi (26), Pankaj Bag (22), Lalit Tandi (25), Bulu Manhira (26), Prakash Mahakud (23), Niranjan Achari (22), Tofan Tandi (20) and Sanjay Soni (24).

The abductors revealed dur-

ing interrogation that the mastermind of the abduction was a Class IV employee named Rabi Tandi who works at the office of the executive engineer.

Patnaik had taken official action against him for remaining absent from duty for several days without intimation or written permission from higher-ups.

Notably, Rabi's sons Siba and Tofan had hatched a plan to kidnap the executive engi-

neer. They executed the plan along with some of their friends.

A police team led by SDPO Kailash Acharya comprising town police station IIC Sabitri Bal nabbed the accused.

Police also seized a Mahindra Bolero, a gold chain, a firearm, nine mobile phones and a number of sharp-edged weapons from their possession. A detailed investigation is underway, Jharsuguda police sources said.



# Covid patient dies, family alleges medical negligence

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, Oct 11:** Even though the state government has been claiming effective management of COVID-19 treatment in hospitals of the state, the family members of a coronavirus patient in Kalahandi district have alleged that negligence of district headquarters hospital (DHH) authorities led to their kin's death.

According to family sources, Abhijit Sahoo was admitted to the Bhawanipatna DHH after he fell ill. He tested positive for COVID-19 Saturday evening. The hospital administration asked the family members to shift him to the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Burla subsequently.

However, the hospital authorities took four hours to transfer the patient to VIMSAR. Sahoo's wife alleged that the hospital authorities also stopped treating her husband for four hours though his condition was critical.



The family members staged a dharna in front of the hospital from Saturday night till the wee hours of Sunday alleging that the irresponsible behaviour of medical staff at the Bhawanipatna DHH led to their kin's death.

On the other hand, Kalahandi Collector G Parag Harshad refuted the allegation and said though the hospital authorities referred the patient to VIMSAR as he had multiple co-morbidities, his family members refused to take him there.

"The hospital also arranged an ambulance to transfer the patient to the COVID hospital on the premises of VIMSAR. But the patient passed away mid-way," the collector added.

# Mysterious disease claims 2 lives in Nabarangpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nabarangpur, Oct 11:** A mysterious disease has claimed the lives of two children while some others have developed symptoms of the disease in a month at Malibari under Chandahandi block of Nabarangpur district within a month. After the death of the two kids, the villagers were panicked and demanded that a medical team investigate the cause of the mysterious disease.

The deceased were identified as Debicharan Majhi (15) and Chandini Majhi (7). Devicharan suddenly fell sick October 7. He had high fever



followed by headache and stomachache. He was immediately taken to Chandahandi community health centre (CHC) where he was administered some medicines by Dr Sangram Keshari Sahu. He was brought back home. Friday night,

he again complained of stomachache.

Devicharan was immediately taken to the CHC in an ambulance, but before reaching the hospital, he passed away. Chandini developed similar symptoms September 18 and died later.

Another person Jemani Majhi has complained of same symptoms. This has led to panic among the people of the village.

Medical officer of Chandahandi CHC Dr Sangram Keshari Sahu said that a medical team will be sent to the village to take stock of the situation.

# Thunderstorm damages cultivation in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Oct 11:** Farmers in this district found themselves on the edge after a thunderstorm destroyed their cultivation over 300 hectares, Saturday night.

The storm lashed areas in Maneswar tehsil. Hundreds of farmers suffered crop loss in the storm. Similar reports of crop loss have also emerged from Themra, Sindurpanka, Dandeipali, Kutatanunpali and Tabla areas in the district.

The farmers alleged that they are facing crop loss every year but have failed to get their insurance money as their areas do not come under irrigated zone. The crop loss has hit them hard.

The farmers alleged that unseasonal rainfall first delayed the cultivation. Later, the Covid-induced lockdown and subsequent re-

strictions further delayed cultivation. As a result, they were forced to spend more from their pockets due to unavailability of labourers.

They had managed to save their crops from pest attacks when Saturday's thunderstorm destroyed their cultivation.

Farmers said the storm came at a time when their paddy crops were in flowering stage or nearing harvest. The paddy plants are lying on the ground and very soon these will rot after coming in contact with pest, soil and water.

When contacted, chief district agricultural officer Santosh Ray said a special team from the agriculture department will visit the affected villages and prepare a report on the crop loss after discussing with the farmers. Compensation will be given to the farmers as per government rules.



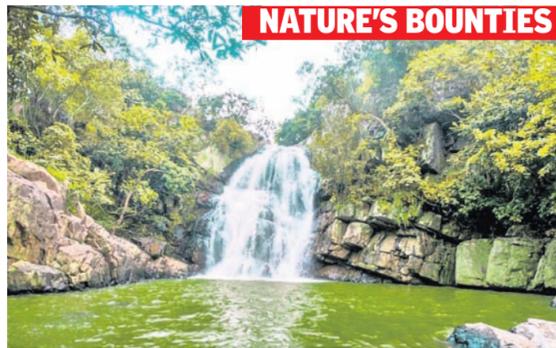
# Sana Ghagara, other waterfalls to reopen for tourists

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 11:** With the winter tourism season approaching fast, tourists and picnickers are eagerly waiting for the reopening of tourist hotspots in Keonjhar district.

The district is well-known for its salubrious climate and tourist spots in the lap of nature. Almost all the tourist spots are bestowed with natural waterfalls which attract tourists from far and near round the year. Amongst these waterfalls, Sana Ghagara, Bada Ghagara, Khandadhar, Gundicha Ghagi, Handibhanga, Bhimkund, Murga, Asurakhol, Pisachuni, Baragad, Putugharaghagi and Chakrateertha witness tourist footfall in large numbers during winter.

Amid the COVID-19 restrictions, the waterfalls identified as tourist



## NATURE'S BOUNTIES

Amid the COVID-19 restrictions, the waterfalls identified as tourist spots by the Tourism Department have been kept out of bounds for tourists since the outbreak of the pandemic

Amongst these waterfalls, Sana Ghagara, Bada Ghagara, Khandadhar, Gundicha Ghagi, Handibhanga, Bhimkund, Murga, Asurakhol, Pisachuni, Baragad, Putugharaghagi and Chakrateertha witness tourist footfall in large numbers during winter

Tourist officer Ramesh Chandra Nayak said the hotels were allowed to function with 30 per cent occupancy

spots by the Tourism Department have been kept out of bounds for tourists since the outbreak of the pandemic.

But tourists from nearby areas have already started visiting other waterfalls that are waiting for the Tourism Department's recognition.

"How long can we remain confined to four walls? Our children are getting bored. A visit to a tourist spot surrounded by verdant jungles with



My God is love and sweetly suffers all.

SRI AUROBINDO



# Shrinking NDA

As another election season approaches and Bihar is emerging as a test case to ascertain the way forward for democracy in these trying times plagued by the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP is shrinking. The NDA is left with fewer allies and its impact on future elections, including Bihar, will be keenly watched. Today, the Union government has only one non-BJP minister in Ramdas Athawale of the Republican Party of India (A).

The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) of deceased Ram Vilas Paswan is ploughing a lone furrow in Bihar polls, based on a decision the party took before Paswan's demise a week ago. Its problem is apparently with the reigning alliance partner, the JD(U), and its head, chief minister Nitish Kumar. In effect, the NDA set-up in the state has been disrupted, and this could, perhaps, impact the prospects of the BJP-JD(U) alliance. How the post-election scene shapes up not only in Bihar but what impact it has on Delhi remains to be seen after the November polls. The continuous common argument of the Delhi-based media that the LJP split is engineered by astute BJP poll managers to cut into JD(U) seats and ensure the top post in Bihar goes to the BJP may sound far-fetched now. First, the death of Ram Vilas seems unlikely to help his son, Chirag Paswan, draw any sympathy votes. Second, the LJP has always been a fringe one family party and does not hold sway over the whole state. LJP, at present, has total two seats in the Bihar Legislative Assembly. Therefore, the answer to the media clamor that LJP going solo can help BJP lies in the not too distant future.

The NDA lost the Telugu Desam Party of Nara Chandrababu Naidu before the last Lok Sabha/Assembly polls. A couple of months past the LS polls and after the Assembly polls in Maharashtra, the ruling alliance lost the Shiv Sena. The long-time BJP ally broke ranks and befriended the NCP and the Congress to grab the CM's chair. There were serious problems between the Sena and BJP leaderships before the polls too. This helped the Sena justify its desertion of the NDA and joining hands with the rival political formation after the results were out. That it was a split verdict suited the Sena's plans.

The Shiromani Akali Dal, another long-standing ally of the BJP in Punjab, quit the ruling alliance last month, unable to stomach the provisions of the farm and essential commodities legislations the Modi government pushed through in the last Parliament session. The Assembly polls in Punjab are due in February 2022, or a little over a year from now, and a re-induction of the SAD to the NDA fold is quite unlikely given the present farmers' anguish being felt.

The AIADMK too was cut up with the farm bills, but it might still remain in the NDA as it has no other option left for now. Assembly polls will take place in Tamil Nadu seven months hence. BJP, though, is not a strong force in Tamil Nadu. AIADMK has only one MP in the present Lok Sabha as it was a washout for the party in the 2019 polls when the DMK captured all other seats along with a couple of seats by its Communist allies in areas bordering Kerala.

With the AIADMK not having a berth in the Union Cabinet, and Ramdas Athawale being only of a junior minister rank, the Union Cabinet is now packed entirely with the BJP, following the exits of Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Paswan. The JD(U) has kept itself out of the Modi Ministry, though it sent 16 members to the Lok Sabha. In effect, the two are not on best of terms, though they have worked out a seat-sharing formula under which BJP got 121 constituencies and the JD(U) 122 to contest. Inbuilt in this arrangement is a possibility of a fight for CM post if the alliance wins a majority. Meaning, the two could break apart which may even end up with a hung assembly that the BJP will try, with ample help of the Governor, to swing to its benefit.

There is less chance of the NDA swelling its ranks. A cited possibility is of the YSRC of Andhra chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy joining the NDA, or the TDP returning to the old fold. The TRS of chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao prefers to remain neutral as is the case with Orissa's BJD which recently played truant with the farm bills vote. The BJD voted in support of the three bills in the Lok Sabha but later, after some CBI raids took place in the intervening period on its party members, changed its tune and voted against the same bills in Rajya Sabha a few days later. The prominent regional parties in UP, the SP and the BSP, will stay apart, as joining hands with the BJP will be suicidal for them.

With the present economic downturn set to worsen in future and the Modi government steadily losing its sheen, the Opposition is likely to gain more traction in coming polls. The weak positioning of the Congress, till now, might be of help to the BJP but this could result in the average voter becoming the main Opposition as was seen in 1977.

## WISDOM CORNER

- That's why they call it the American Dream, because you have to be asleep to believe it. **GEORGE CARLIN**
- Darkness is an absence of light. Ego is an absence of awareness. **OSHO**
- Never make friends with people who are above or below you in status. Such friendships will never give you any happiness. **KAUTILYA**

## WORDSWORTH

### Turlough

The word is from Irish turloch, deriving from tur, dry, plus loch, lake, the second element being pronounced with a guttural ch as in the Scots loch. Flat-bottomed sinkholes in limestone areas, in particular in that barren limestone pavement landscape in western Ireland called the Burren, can become flooded in wet weather as underground systems fill up and the water table rises. The resulting lakes, called turloughs, can appear quite quickly after a spell of wet weather, vanishing again within a few days of the rain stopping. Some are seasonal, water-filled in winter but reliably dry enough in summer to be used for pasture. Turloughs empty through parts of the floor of the sinkholes and also through swallow holes — small depressions filled with loose rocks.

### Turnpike

There's a story about a farmer laying turning spikes in his field to mark his territory. This work seems having a link to this. The original turnpikes — dating from the 15th Century — were indeed spiked barriers, but they were designed to be placed across roads to prevent sudden attack by men on horseback. Later ones were horizontal timbers fitted with spikes, a version of what is called a cheval de frise, but the Oxford English Dictionary suggests that the mounting timbers of the originals may have been vertical, since a slightly later sense was of a horizontal cross of timbers turning on a vertical pin, set up to exclude horse-traffic from a footpath, which is in essence the device we now call a turnstile. The word itself doesn't come from turning spikes, but from turn and pike, the latter in the old sense of an infantry weapon with a pointed steel or iron head on a long wooden shaft.

## LOL



### Machine factory

An American manufacturer is showing his machine factory to a potential customer from Albania. At noon, when the lunch whistle blows, two thousand men and women immediately stop work and leave the building. "Your workers, they're escaping!" cries the visitor. "You've got to stop them." "Don't worry, they'll be back," says

the American. And indeed, at exactly one o'clock the whistle blows again, and all the workers return from their break. When the tour is over, the manufacturer turns to his guest and says, "Well, now, which of these machines would you like to order?" "Forget the machines," says the visitor. "How much do you want for that whistle?"

## FOCUS POLITICS

# YOGI'S GIFT TO RIVAL

“London se Dilli aaye hain do yaum ke liye Yeh zehmatein uthaen fjaqat qaum ke liye”

(He has travelled all the way from London to Delhi for two days. These inconveniences he bears only for his beloved people.)

This was the great satirist Akbar Allahabadi's jibe at the senior Agha Khan, dabbling in Indian politics, at the turn of the 20th Century. It is difficult to see Samajwadi Party president, Akhilesh Yadav in the same frame as the Agha Khan but Akbar's couplet does apply to the leader who had once promised to set the Gonti on fire. Akhilesh's has been a reverse journey. Unlike the Agha Khan, he has travelled to London.

At the time of writing, Akhilesh and his family were in London's Washington Hotel, watching the situation from there: the farmers' agitation, the horror of Hathras, the Covid-19 lockdown. The Crown Prince of Samajwadi Party appears to have taken a philosophical view of a string of electoral defeats and a lurking fear of the CBI, Enforcement Directorate and such governmental agencies.

Trust malicious folk to float the rumour that in London he has found the charmed circle: Vijay Mallya, Mehul Choksi, Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi and sundry whiz kids. No evidence has been furnished that Akhilesh has escaped as an economic offender but the rumour mills in Lucknow are working overtime. SP cadres are particularly miffed that neither the party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav nor its president Akhilesh was present for the party's 28th anniversary on October 4.

Bahujan Samaj leader Mayawati's state of funk is on an even higher scale ever since her loot was exposed during demonetisation.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who mutated from Ajay Mohan Bisht, a thoroughbred Thakur from Kumaon to a saffron-robed mahant of the Gorakhnath Muth, has clutched his basic identity, a Thakur, firmly. Little wonder this has raised eyebrows among other upper castes. Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh quoted a survey which accused



With the police running amuck on his behalf, Yogi Adityanath has achieved the impossible in the state. Except for Thakurs, he has alienated every section — Muslims, Dalits, OBCs and, after the Vikas Dubey showdown, Brahmins. And in UP it is a rule of thumb: you cannot alienate Brahmins and win

Yogi of caste bias in employing officials in his government.

According to Sanjay Singh, 64 per cent of those inducted across the board were Thakurs. Not only has Sanjay Singh attracted the charge of sedition but 14 other cases have been slapped on party affiliates.

Has the game of unforced errors being played by Yogi left him electorally vulnerable? By-elections in seven assembly seats by the first week of November will provide the answer. These will be coinciding with the Bihar elections where further uncertainty has been introduced by Ram Vilas Paswan's death. Where he stood in Bihar's lineup was a useful guide on which way the cookie would crumble in the state.

The Narendra Modi-Amit Shah one-two punch, in which Mohammad Ali specialised, has so pulverised the pandits that they see no way-out. There is an English aphorism: "If that you will France win, then with Scotland first begin." In other words, if the duet in New Delhi is formidable, Yogi in

Lucknow offers a more vulnerable opening in the parapet — just by his spate of excesses of which Hathras is the latest.

The manner in which the Yogi administration is stumbling along leaves one with the impression that he is badly advised. It is possible that if advice is given to him, there is in him a natural resistance to it.

Does this style of functioning endear him to the power centres in Nagpur and UP? The history of his ascent to the Lucknow gaddi should offer some guide. Winning 324 of the 403 assembly seats in March 2017 should have led to an easy transfer of power. But it was far from easy. The RSS-BJP high command had set its heart on Manoj Sinha as chief minister. But the Yogi threw a ginger fit. His powerful Hindu Vahini would, like Samson, bring down the edifice if the Yogi's claims were overlooked. This manner of coming to power would have miffed many who would, presumably, be waiting for him to slip.

The field in UP has opened up for two possible formations: The Congress and, believe it or not, the Aam Aadmi Party which is already in preliminary conversation with those elements in SP who have grown tired of Akhilesh Yadav's indifference. In 2013, the SP was in alliance with the Congress, which proceeded to double cross its allies. Why did the Congress do this? The Congress cannot help its irrepresible desire to 'revive'. At some stage there will have to be a conversation with the Congress. The fly in that ointment is that AAP is the leader of opposition in a Congress-ruled Punjab.

The 2017 election was no doubt a debacle for the Opposition, but there was also plenty of electoral hokey-pokey on the part of the BJP. A catalogue of electoral fraud was drawn up but Congress president Sonia Gandhi refused to proceed in what she thought was a controversial matter. What makes cowards of the two ladies in the Gandhi triumvirate is a simple fact. Whisper 'Robert Vadra' in their ears, and their knees buckle.

Rahul Gandhi, it must be admitted, has come into his own in recent weeks. I have been skeptical of his ability to 'connect' with his interlocutors, his ability to think on his feet, his attention span and so on. But he appears to have come out of his shell somewhat because he is no longer miming his words. "Give us back the media and the institutions Modi controls, and he will not last long," says he. Or "It is a fallacy that Modiji is running the country; Ambani and Adani are." There is no desperation in his tone. He is simply being more pugnacious than he has ever been before. Possibly because he has spotted the regime's vulnerabilities.

With the police running amuck on his behalf, the Yogi has achieved the impossible in the state. Except for Thakurs, he has alienated every section — Muslims, Dalits, OBCs and, after the Vikas Dubey showdown, Brahmins. And in UP it is a rule of thumb: you cannot alienate Brahmins and win.

The writer is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues.

## SPECTRUM NATION

# Populism not helping economy revive

India is in dire crisis as economic recovery is slow; youth loses 41 lakh jobs during the lockdown, employment remains uncertain, and extreme poverty is set to engulf 150 million people across the globe. The latest World Bank (WB) and International Labour Organisation-Asian Development (ILO-ADB) reports have stated that the youths are severely challenged in Asia and Pacific due to the pandemic; and the worst-hits are construction and farm sector workers.

In Asia and Pacific, says the ILO-ADB, more than 660 million people will be facing the brunt. Stating that the world has to evolve a "different economy", the World Bank says "the lack of recent data for India severely hinders the ability to monitor global poverty." The reports are mere tip of the iceberg. Recently Accenture, a leading IT solutions company as well as BPO provider, having over 5 lakh employees, laid off five per cent. Some 25,000 of its workers are being sacked in India. Other IT companies have sacked a large force.

In the education sector, thousands of private schools closed down. Private universities quietly

dismiss faculty and staff or reduce their salaries by 30 to 80 per cent. Some who have not done so have not paid their salaries since March, even in the national capital itself.

The automobiles sector is yet to get back its sheen. The car-maker MG looks for new contracts with M&M and Volkswagen. Overall, the road transport sector employing 60 lakh people is not doing well.

The hotel and tourism industry having about 5 crore workers and business of Rs 15 lakh crore suffered heavily. Except for small maintenance staff, most have dismissed the employees. The Federation of Association in Indian Tourism and Hospitality estimated at the initial lockdown a loss of Rs 5 lakh crore and later revised it to Rs 10 lakh crore. Many have sold their establishments.

The latest WB report is not encouraging. It says, "The slowdown in India is expected to depress manufacturing, exporting industries and the construction sectors dependent on migrant workers is also likely to experience a protracted slowdown due to a limited pipeline of public sector infrastructure projects."

It says that even in 2021, the Indian GDP is estimated to con-

tract by 9.6 per cent, a sharp cut from the June forecast of 3.2 per cent due to the lockdown. It also says that previous slowdowns were different from the forced lockdowns. Most previous ones were due to fall in investments. This time the lockdown has affected private consumption, the backbone of demand in the Indian sub-continent and a core indicator of welfare. The consumption declined by 10 per cent because of increased poverty. The remittances both national and international have declined.

The WB has lauded some of the reliefs such as free foodgrain and the economic incentives but says that more universal social protection is needed for the informal sectors. The job losses in small and informal businesses have been more brutal. Except in Bhutan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, all others in the sub-continent have negative growth.

In the Indian context, most reliefs were routed through banks since 2009 incentivisation. The Indian bankers say that they are to bear the maximum brunt of the lockdown reliefs. The banking operations have become more expensive with the introduction of Jan Dhan accounts and introduction of digital

payments. More the freebie accounts are opening, more of banking is crumbling. It is hurting their deposits, increasing their operational costs. The latest Covid-19 fiat from the government for extending interest waiver is to add heavy costs estimated at \$1 billion.

Balances sheets are to be hit further as banks are saddled with \$120 billion in bad loans. During the past three years, the sector has seen several restructuring, but still it is on a razor's edge. So, RBI preferred not to tinker with interest rates at its Monetary Policy Committee meeting, though ideally it should have raised it as inflation is galloping.

Expecting distressed banks to come to the help of the sagging economy is a bit too much. As the government finances are tumbling more, the banks are getting under stress. For an economy to take a turnover as expected by WB, ILO and ADB, innovative policies are required. So far the government has resorted to populist methods. The World Bank expects a rebound after two years — only in 2021-22, provided all Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. The approach is cautious. But historically whatever comes down has to go up.

## 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  
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### Dilemma over reopening schools

Sir, There's a dilemma vis-a-vis reopening of schools during this Covid-19 pandemic. The government has announced that classes can commence by following the safety protocols. But the question is, are there enough of government guidelines to ensure safety of students? A steady increase in the number of Covid-positive cases is worrisome. Everyday around one lakh new cases are registered across the country. The growing death toll too is a matter of serious concern. Resuming classes in such a situation could be dangerous. Students attending virtual classes are facing problems. There is a disconnect during the ongoing classes also as both students and teachers are still getting used to this. Interaction between students and teachers has mostly stopped. Teachers are unable to keep an eye on each and every student. So, both students and teachers prefer offline classes. At the same time, students, teachers and parents do not favour the reopening of schools due to the health risk. What I feel is that instead of conducting offline classes, the present method of teaching and learning can be worked upon and improved with the help of modern technology. The students in remote areas are deprived of this teaching process as they have no access to electronic gadgets. The government may ensure free distribution of these. Therefore, schools be reopened only after the dread of the pandemic subsides. Safety first.

Ritika Behera, BHUBANESWAR

### Power of social media

Sir, If science is used for social cause, then it will push the causes of the society forward. This has been proven again by a heart-touching event in Delhi. Kanta Prasad aged 81 and his wife run a small dhaba at Malviya Nagar in South Delhi. A youth noticed that it was deserted these days. Kanta Prasad explained that his business has stopped due to the pandemic, and that he has no income. The youth took a video and posted it on the social media, and the response was appreciable. Many visited the dhaba and started having lunch there. Companies and individuals have helped the old couple to again earn their livelihood from the dhaba. This is also the strength of the social media today, which needs to be relied on more and more to extend help to the needy.



Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

# PUNJAB POWER CRISIS DEEPENS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Oct 11:** The ongoing rail blockade has severely impacted coal supply for the thermal power plants in Punjab, officials said, as fear of severe power outages rises in the state.

Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal appealed to the farmer outfits, which have been protesting against the three new contentious agriculture laws, to ease their agitation to allow movement of goods trains.

"If (goods) train services do not resume, I fear there can be power cuts and maybe total power shutdown in the state," Mr Badal told reporters.

With no movement of goods trains because of the "rail-roko" agitation for an indefinite period, the coal supply in thermal power plants has reached a critical stage.



**COSTLY BLOCKADES**  
THE STATE IS PROCURING 6,500 MW OF POWER FROM OTHER SOURCES, INCLUDING PRIVATE ONES, AS AGAINST THE DEMAND FOR MORE THAN 7,000 MW

DIFFERENT FARMERS' BODIES HAVE BEEN PROTESTING AGAINST THE NEW FARM LAWS. THEY HAD STEPPED UP THEIR AGITATION BY RESORTING TO RAIL BLOCKADES

**If (goods) train services do not resume, I fear there can be power cuts and maybe total power shutdown in the state**

MANPREET SINGH BADAL | FM, PUNJAB

"We are now left with two days of coal," Punjab State Power Corporation Limited chairperson and managing director Venuprasad said.

According to officials, Lehra Mohabbat, Ropar thermal and GVK thermal power plants are already

shut. Two other power plants -- Talwandi Sabo and Nabha -- are running at half of their total power generation capacity.

Some of the areas in the state have already been facing power cuts due to less electricity generation.

The state is procuring 6,500 MW of power from other sources, in-

cluding private ones, as against the demand for more than 7,000 MW.

Different farmers' bodies have been protesting against the new farm laws. They had stepped up their agitation by resorting to rail blockades for an indefinite period from October 1.

Farmers under the banner of

the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee have been squatting on the rail tracks in Amritsar and Ferozepur since September 24.

Meanwhile, several farmer organisations held a meeting in Barnala to discuss Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's appeal for relaxing their "rail-roko" agitation.

However, it concluded without any decision as representatives of some farmers' bodies could make it to the meeting.

In their October 7 meeting, farmer leaders did not pay heed to Mr Singh's appeal for allowing goods trains.

While appealing to farmers, the Chief Minister had said that the state government needed to urgently transport foodgrain, coal, fertiliser and petroleum on priority, besides lifting the paddy grain from the wholesale markets.

He had also noted that the state's coal stocks were critical and if not replenished soon, there would be severe power shortages, which would hamper the wheat sowing operations.

## RAHUL RAJPUT'S MURDER

# Family says woman was present at spot & tried to save him



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** The family members of Rahul Rajput, who was beaten to death in northwest Delhi, claimed on Saturday that a woman was present at the spot and

wanted to teach kids. So he started teaching students privately at home. I was not even at home when the incident took place. My son knew the woman and they used to speak to each other. But I never knew that something like this would happen with my son," she said.

Rajput (18) was beaten to death allegedly over his friendship with a woman on Wednesday evening in Adarsh Nagar following which two people, including her brother, were arrested and three others apprehended, police said.

A second-year student in Delhi University's School of Open Learning, Rahul was also passionate about paintings, the family said.

Thursday, the woman (21) left her family and moved to a shelter home on her own, the police said.

"Rahul was talented and quite passionate about painting. He was so good at it that he could make a portrait in 10 minutes," Nagar said.

Recalling the incident, the deceased's uncle Raju Nagar said, "When we reached the spot, we saw Rahul was being beaten up. The woman was also at the spot. We didn't know who these men were and why they were beating him up. In fact, it was the woman who identified the accused persons and also told police about them. She even tried to stop the fight and save Rahul."

According to police, the victim was friends with a woman who was from Jahangirpuri but her family was against the friendship.

During the lockdown, he said he

**A second-year student in DU's Open Learning, Rahul was also passionate about paintings, the family said**

## BJP lines up 8 mins to counter farmer protests



AGENCIES

**Chandigarh, Oct 11:** With farmers continuing with their agitation against the new farm legislations, the BJP has lined up its Cabinet ministers to address farmers, arhtiyas, agriculture experts, educationists and media over eight consecutive days in a bid to counter the protests.

Beginning October 13, the Cabinet ministers, including Hardeep Singh Puri, Kailash Chowdhary, Smriti Irani, Anurag Thakur, Dr Sanjiv Kumar Balia, Som Parkash, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Dr Jatinder Singh, will address and answer queries over the farm laws in district-specific video conferences.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who introduced the farm Bills in Parliament and gave assurance in writing that the MSP system would continue, is, however, not listed among the BJP speakers.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance is facing flak even from some of its allies besides the

Opposition and farmer organisations across the country over the new Acts. The protests are worst in Punjab where the Congress government led by Capt Amarinder Singh is also opposing the new laws. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi recently led a three-day tractor march in the state in support of farmers.

Many farmer organisations have been laying siege to petrol pumps and godowns of corporate houses, besides blocking rail and road traffic. While those protesting the "black laws" claim these are aimed at helping the corporate houses and damaging to the federal structure, the BJP insists the much-needed reforms will give farmers the best price for their produce.

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said the Cabinet ministers would address various stakeholders under the leadership state BJP president Ashwani Sharma. "Vested interests have spread misinformation on the farm reforms brought in by the BJP in consultation with the alliance partners," he said.

**Cabinet ministers, including Hardeep Singh Puri, Kailash Chowdhary & Smriti Irani will address and answer queries over the farm laws in district-specific video conferences**

## Restaurants suffer 'license raj'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday claimed restaurants in the city face harassment due to 'license raj' and hoped the municipal corporations will soon comply with the FSSAI directive to discontinue issuing food licences.

This comes days after the Delhi government announced the abolition of police licenses and health trade licences, issued by the BJP-ruled municipal corporations, for restaurants. It set a 10-day deadline for the abolishment of health trade licences.

The corporations have alleged that the decision is a "ploy" to weaken the civic bodies and said they will seek legal opinion to "counter" the move.

"Restaurants contribute to Delhi economy and taxes in a big way. They face harassment due to license raj. All governments should

work together to remove harassment. Centre (central) government body FSSAI has directed MCDs to stop issuing food licences. I hope MCDs will comply soon with Centre's directions," Kejriwal said in a tweet on Sunday.



The Delhi government's decision to abolish licences for restaurants was taken at a meeting chaired by Kejriwal. It was attended by restaurant owners.

The health trade licence is issued online for ease of doing business and there is no interference by any officer. The entire process is transparent, she added.

**Restaurants contribute to Delhi economy and taxes in a big way. They face harassment due to license raj**

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | CM, DELHI

## Teams to prevent man-animal conflicts



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** Delhi will soon have three "rapid response" teams to rescue injured wild animals, including leopards and jackals, and those which inadvertently venture into human habitations, according to forest and wildlife department officials.

Until now, the department took the help of experts from wildlife NGOs and the Delhi zoo to rescue stranded or injured wild animals.

"These are coordinated exercises. When we receive any information about an injured or stranded wild animal, our officials go to the location and identify it. Thereafter, experts' help is sought," a senior forest department official said.

"We are trying to evolve as a department and take more responsibility. We are making efforts to acquire the special skills needed for

handling wild animals such as jackals, nilgai and even snakes," the official said.

The department has been working to create three teams of five members each under the South, West and North forest divisions.

These will be deployed to rescue mongoose, monkeys, snakes, jackals, nilgai, leopards among others. Injured animals and spillover wildlife population will be rescued and treated at the wild animal rescue centre, which will come up at Rajokri near the Gurgaon border.

If animals suffer trauma when they inadvertently venture into human habitations, leading to man-animal conflicts. Such animals will also be kept at the rescue centre until they recover from the shock.

After recovery, the wild animals will be released into the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, another

official said.

The horticulture and animal units of the development department of the Delhi government will continue to take care of domesticated injured animals such as cows, dogs and cats, the official pointed out. The wild animal rescue centre at Rajokri will be the first such government facility in the national capital. It is likely to be ready by the end of the year, according to officials.

The centre, which will be spread over 1.23 acre of land, will also be used for treating birds, they said. Experts from outside will be hired to help officials during rescue operations till they are able to do everything by themselves.

"The objective is to strengthen in-house capacity and create teams with all necessary skills to address urgent cases on priority," the official said.

## SINGERS TO CAMPAIGN ON FARM LAWS

In a series of 'Ragini' programmes, artistes will tell people how the Opposition is 'misleading' them

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** To drum up support for the new farm laws in the national capital's rural areas, the Delhi BJP will take the help of folk 'Ragini' singers to spread the message on how the legislations will benefit farmers and reform the agriculture sector.

In the coming week, a series of 'Ragini' programmes will be held in rural parts of Delhi and artistes through their songs will also tell people how the Opposition is "misleading" them on these three laws, party leaders said.

Several well known 'Ragini' singers have been booked to perform at the programmes to be held in Najafgarh, Mehrauli, and North West and Outer Delhi, Delhi BJP vice president Sunil Yadav said.

"Special 'Ragini' songs describing benefits of the Modi government's farm bills that were passed by Parliament and how Opposition parties are misleading farmers on it, will be sung in these programmes," Yadav, who is coordi-



nating the cultural programmes as part of the Delhi BJP's campaign, said.

Party leaders, including MPs and MLAs, will be involved and they will participate in meetings, tractor pujas and rallies, and door-to-door campaigns in rural pockets of Delhi to garner support for the new farm laws, against which farmers are protesting in Punjab and Haryana.

Delhi BJP leaders, including party president Adesh Gupta participated in a big tractor rally at Karala village on Sunday.

Yadav said that Ragini songs are popular in Delhi's outlying areas and it can help the party to combat opposition "propaganda" over the new farm laws.

"We have roped in some artistes like Preeti Chaudhary and Kanauj Baisla to aware people about how

the new laws will benefit farmers. The plan is to hold nearly 15 such cultural programmes in different parts of the city," he said.

Necessary permissions have been sought for the programmes. Yadav said, adding that arrangements will be made to follow all COVID-19 norms such as proper social distancing at the events.

President Ram Nath Kovind last month gave assent to the three farm bills passed by Parliament that have triggered protests in some states specially Punjab and Haryana.

According to a gazette notification, the President gave assent to three bills: The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020.

The Opposition parties have been criticising the manner in which the Bills were passed in the Parliament and over minimum support price issue.

## First CBG plant in Punjab to go on steam in March

AGENCIES

**Bathinda, Oct 11:** As part of its efforts to mitigate the crisis-like situation arising out of crop residue burning in Punjab and Haryana, the Union government is setting up the first compressed biogas (CBG) plant in north India in Lehra Ganga of Sangrur and it is expected to be commissioned in March next year.

The CBG plant, being set up under the 'Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (Satat)', will convert straw into CNG. Although the plant was initially scheduled to be commissioned in 2020-end, it got delayed following late arrival of machinery due to Covid.

According to sources, the plant authorities have started collecting paddy straw to store it at the plant, as 300 tonne stubble will be used per day in the plant to produce 31 tonne CBG per day. The plant is being set up by Verbio India Pvt Ltd.



Five more such plants are coming up in Punjab but those may not be commissioned before early 2022. These six plants will have a combined capacity to produce 70 tonne CBG per day by consuming 2.5 LMT paddy straw per annum.

Similarly, 64 such plants are coming up in Haryana. Left with 2 days' coal, Punjab stares at severe power outages, the ongoing rail blockade has severely impacted coal supply for the thermal power plants in Punjab, officials said, as fear of severe power outages rises in the state.

"RBI has included CBG in its list

of priority sector lending and the SBI has started loan schemes and oil companies have agreed on a buy-back rate of Rs 46/kg for five years... The CBG projects once commissioned will create a market for straw and provide farmers an incentive not to burn the resource," said former executive director at Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and currently bio fuels adviser to the company.

The first CBG plant in India was set up in September 2019 and many such plants are already operational in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.



**Leadership of India is secured in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it is important that the leadership of Bihar is secured with Nitish Kumar**  
JP NADDA | BJP CHIEF

### 3-WEEK HOLIDAY

Schools across Karnataka would have a three-week holiday from Monday over reports that many teachers were infected with Covid in some districts, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said Sunday



### of the day quote

The shameful truth is many Indians do not consider Dalits, Muslims and tribals to be humans. The CM & his police say no one was raped because for them, and many other Indians, she was no one

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

The Vande Bharat train from Delhi to Katra, home to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, will resume its service from October 15

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

Like UP, in the Congress-ruled Rajasthan too, crimes of every type, especially murder of innocent people, and atrocities on Dalits and women are at peak. In other words, there is no rule of law, but a 'jungle raj'. This is extremely shameful and worrying

MAYAWATI | BSP SUPREMO

### SHORT TAKES

#### UP schools to reopen

**Lucknow:** The Uttar Pradesh government has conditionally permitted the reopening of schools from Class 9 to 12 across the state October 19 after a gap of almost seven months. Online education will continue for children from Class 8 and below. The in-person classes will be held under the advisory of the Centre's Home Affairs Ministry and the guidelines of the Uttar Pradesh government. According to the guidelines, the classes will run in two shifts and a written consent from the parents would be required.

#### Former student leader shot dead

**Chandigarh:** A former student leader of Panjab University in Chandigarh was shot dead outside a nightclub, police said Sunday. The victim, Gurlal Brar, was former state President of the Students' Organisation of Panjab University (SOPU). He was alone when miscreants opened fire at him late Saturday night. Brar was rushed to the PGI Hospital where he was declared brought dead. Brar was a resident of Kotkapura in Punjab's Faridkot district and was residing in Mohali town.

#### Pakistan violates ceasefire in J&K

**Jammu:** Pakistani troops Sunday shelled mortars in two sectors along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesperson said. The shelling from across the border in Degwar and Khari Karmara sectors in the evening drew a befitting retaliation by the Indian Army, he said, adding that there was no immediate report of any casualty. Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars in Degwar sector around 6.15 pm. It was followed by firing and artillery shelling in Khari Karmara at 6.40 pm, the spokesperson said.

#### Man arrested

**Dhubri (Assam):** A man has been arrested and AK-47 cartridges seized from his possession in Assam's Dhubri district Sunday, police said. Acting on a tip-off, police personnel arrested a mobile shop owner, identified as Jehirul Islam, and seized 16 cartridges of AK-47 rifles in Dhubri town, Superintendent of Police Ananda Mishra said. A case under sections of the Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been registered against him, he said.

## Cong worker roughed up at party meet

National Commission for Women chairperson Rekha Sharma said she has written to Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police seeking strict action against the accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Deoria (UP), Oct 11:** A Congress worker was roughed up by her colleagues at a party meet in Deoria after she alleged that a "rapist" had been given the ticket for the assembly by-election, prompting the party to order a probe into the incident and expel two members for "indiscipline".

National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma said she has written to Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police seeking strict action against the accused. The woman, Tara Yadav, lodged a police complaint against four office-bearers of the party, including the district president, for allegedly beating and molesting her.

As the videos of the ugly scenes at the meeting held Saturday went viral sparking outrage, an embarrassed state unit of the Congress termed it as a "political conspiracy" to defame the party. According to eyewitnesses, Yadav allegedly tried to "manhandle" party secretary Sachin Naik, and also hurled a bouquet towards him during the meeting on Saturday.

Yadav was protesting over the party nominating Mukund Bhaskar Mani for the November 3 by-polls, accusing him of being a rapist, a charge denied by him. As she hurled a bouquet towards Sachin Naik, angry workers allegedly roughed up Yadav and whisked her out of the meeting venue, the eyewitnesses claimed.

"A police complaint has been received. The matter is being probed. However, no case has been registered so far," SHO Kotwali Chandrabhan Singh said. Yadav, who claimed to be associated with the party for four years, said she was only questioning the choice of can-



didate and never expected that the party members would react in such a manner. "You have given the ticket to a rapist, and this has tarnished the image of Congress. You could have given the ticket to someone else. As I said this, I was pushed by someone from behind. Can I not even put forth my point of view. These people want to destroy the Congress and end it," Yadav said.

In a statement issued Sunday, the UP Congress said, "In the context of by-polls to the Deoria assembly constituency, a meeting was held at the party office in Deoria October 10. In this meeting, Deendayal Yadav and Ajay Kumar Sainthwar indulged in indiscipline, and have been expelled from the party with immediate effect."

"The incident is a political conspiracy to defame the Congress party," it said, adding a three-member probe committee has been formed on the directives of UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu. The committee will submit its report to Lallu within three days. In a video message, NCW chief Rekha Sharma lamented that such incidents discourage women from joining politics. "A woman in a political meeting was being badly beaten up. Taking cognisance of it, I have written to UP DGP seeking strict action against the accused. "We want women to join politics but if these kinds of incidents take place then how will we empower women and motivate them to join politics. I appeal to UP police to arrest the accused," Sharma said.

## PM launches 'SVAMITVA' scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday launched the physical distribution of property cards under the 'SVAMITVA' (ownership) scheme via video conferencing, and asserted that it is a "historic move" that will transform rural India.

This will pave the way for villagers to use property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits, and end disputes among villagers over land ownership, he said. On the occasion, Modi also interacted with several beneficiaries of the Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) scheme and said it is big step for the country towards becoming 'aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant).

"Experts across the world have stressed that property ownership rights play a big role in a country's development," he said to highlight



the significance of the measure and noted that only one-third population globally has legal record of the properties they own.

The youth living in villages now can avail bank loans against their properties to start out on their own, he said, asserting it is necessary for a developing country like India to have clear land ownership rights.

Property rights will give the youth self-confidence that can lead

to their self-reliance, he said. The beneficiaries are from 763 villages across six states, including 346 from Uttar Pradesh, 221 from Haryana, 100 from Maharashtra, 44 from Madhya Pradesh, 50 from Uttarakhand and two from Karnataka.

Modi said his government will try to give every household similar property cards over the next three-four years. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has said the launch will enable around one lakh property holders to download their property cards through an SMS link sent on their mobile phones, and this would be followed by the physical distribution of property cards by respective state governments.

The prime minister spoke against the backdrop of the pictures of socialist icon Jayaprakash Narayan and RSS stalwart Nanaji Deshmukh, both of whom have their birth anniversary on Sunday, and recalled their ideals of village empowerment.

Noting that Deshmukh had observed that when villagers remain trapped in disputes, neither will they be able to develop themselves nor the society, Modi said he believed the ownership will become a great medium to end many disputes in villages. He said an unprecedented level of development has taken place in villages over the last six years, which never happened in the preceding six decades.

People have got benefits like having bank account, electricity connection, access to toilets, getting gas connection, having a pucca house and a piped drinking water connection. He added that a major campaign to connect every village in the country with the optical fiber connection is also going on at a fast pace.

The 'SVAMITVA' scheme will make village management easier for gram panchayats in a systematic way like municipalities and municipal corporations, he said.

### HEALTH IS WEALTH



Fitness enthusiasts participate in a cycle race organised by J&K police, at Boulevard road in Srinagar, Sunday PTI PHOTO

## Aarey forest gets new lease of life

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Oct 11:** In a significant decision by Maharashtra's ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray Sunday announced that the proposed new car shed for Mumbai Metro will be shifted to a new location at Kanjurmarg to save the forests of Aarey Colony in Goregaon.

"We have decided to construct the car shed on government land at Kanjurmarg, entailing no additional financial burden on the exchequer. The expenditure of around ₹100 crore spent on a building at Aarey Colony will not go waste as it will be deployed for an appropriate use," Uddhav Thackeray said in an address to the state.

"Two Metro corridors - Colaba-Bandra-Saeez (Line 3) and Swami Samarth Nagar-Vikhroli (Line 6) -- shall be integrated. I am happy to announce that the Aarey car shed is now being moved to Kanjurmarg," he said.

Thackeray also said that an additional 200 acres of land will be reserved as "forest" in the Aarey Colony, besides the 600 acres declared last month, both linked to Mumbai's sole jungle, the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), Borivali.

"The orders to the effect were issued last night (October 10) and will take up the new forest area (from 600 acres) to 800 acres which will be a boon to the city's environment," said Uddhav Thackeray as thrilled environmentalists and green activists all over the state thumped their approval.

With this, the forest cover of Mumbai will go up from the existing 103 square km to 106 square km, mostly within the SGNP. Thackeray reiterated that the cases filed against activists and groups who agitated to protect Aarey Colony forest would be withdrawn.

"Aarey Saved!" was the telling tweet of Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray - who had last year warned of dealing appropriately with "the murderers of Aarey Colony forests".

However, the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) slammed the move, arguing that it will cost an additional ₹5,000 crore and delay the project by five years, besides an additional 8-km run daily to park the trains, adding to operating costs.

## JD-U releases 'vision document'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Oct 11:** More than a fortnight ahead of the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United (JD-U) Sunday released its 'vision document' entitled 'Saat Nischay' to woo voters.

The ruling party has emphasised through 'Saat Nischay' (Part II) its focus on students, their education from primary to higher levels, followed by jobs in the next five years. Part 1 of the vision document was launched in 2015 when the JD-U was part of the Mahagathabandhan.

"We have established many educational institutions in Bihar during our rule. And to extend it, we will now focus on enhancing the quality of education in institutions such as ITIs and polytechnic institutes to turn them into centres of excellence in Bihar," Nitish said.

"We propose to give loans of up to ₹5 lakh or 50% of the project cost without any interest to women. The idea is to boost their entrepreneurship and make them self-dependent," the JD-U leader said.

The Chief Minister said that strengthening irrigation in Bihar



### The Bihar Assembly elections for 243 seats will be held in three phases. The results will be announced November 10

would help the state farmers. "There is a proposal to take water supply line to every farmland across the state." As per the fourth point of the vision document, Nitish Kumar talked about installation of solar street lights in every village, besides sanitation and prosperity issues.

The fifth point talks about sanitation in cities, construction of

homes for senior citizens, multi-storeyed buildings for economically weaker sections, and electric crematoriums at important places on the bank of rivers. Road connectivity to each Bihar village and construction of road bypasses and flyovers in urban areas has also found place in the vision document.

The seventh point pertains to the construction of primary and secondary hospitals in each village as well as development of infrastructures for veterinary hospitals. The Bihar Assembly elections for 243 seats will be held in three phases -- for 71 seats on October 28, for 94 seats on November 3, and remaining 78 on November 7. The results will be announced November 10.

## Potatoes of Himachal's cold deserts sell like hotcakes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Sissu (Himachal Pradesh), Oct 11:** This is the cold desert of the landlocked Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh where you won't drop the idea of trade as its disease-free potatoes are virtually selling like hotcakes despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The crop this time is nearly double than the previous year and the farmers are getting the remunerative prices, too. Tucked in the Himalayas close to the India-China border the arid Lahaul Valley which bears a single crop in a year through glacial-fed streams has almost managed to keep the coronavirus at bay.

At present the harvesting of potatoes is nearly over and its transportation for marketing is underway. The Lahaul valley once the hub for producing bitter taste hops is known for growing prized seed potatoes whose history goes back to 1854 when missionary A.W. Hide from Germany established a farm near Keylong, the



district headquarters town nearly 350 km from the state capital Shimla.

The valley dotted with tiny hamlets produces the country's pest-resistant seed varieties -- Kufri Chandramukhi and Kufri Jyoti -- and 'Table Santana' and 'Shaford' varieties that are used for making chips. Every year a huge chunk of potatoes from the valley finds its way to the markets in West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and north-eastern states where they are used mainly as seeds for crops.

They also find their way to markets in northern India where the rates have been lucrative.



### PM scouting for talent

The Prime Minister is scouting for talent to be inducted into his Council of Ministers. After the demise of his close friend Arun Jaitley and a couple of other senior leaders, Modi did bring in professionals like S Jaishankar,

Hardeep Singh Puri and promoted Nirmala Sitharaman in the coveted Finance ministry. But some vacuum was still felt. A couple of weeks ago, he asked 10 key ministers to make a presentation about their ministries' performance which included Finance, Railways, infrastructure etc. Modi was reported to be disappointed with some of them particularly with the slow pace of reforms. Modi's another worry is that the Finance Minister has been unable to connect with the people and even with the party men. The communication gap between the North Block and people is felt in translating government's policies and programmes. The sudden induction of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis as overall incharge of Bihar polls

signals that something is cooking in the PM's mind.

### A new Modi from South!

Ever heard of BL Santosh? If not, the loss is entirely yours. He is the new man on the horizon in BJP. Many in the ruling party go to the extent of saying that he is Narendra Modi of South though not as charismatic as the PM is. If Modi brought BJP to power in Gujarat, Santosh brought the saffron party to power in Karnataka in 2008. If Modi installed Keshubhai Patel as CM, Santosh installed B S Yediyurappa as CM. Santosh never looked back since then and was promoted as BJP general secretary incharge of the organisation 11

### What's cooking in Maharashtra!

The tremor of Fadnavis-Raut close-door 150-minute meeting is rocking Delhi. However, the top BJP leadership is maintaining a studied silence except for saying that former Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis has been tasked to oversee Bihar elections. There is no general secretary incharge of Maharashtra after the exit of affable Saroj Pandey and Bhupendra Yadav has been kept away. Is the BJP smelling

blood in Maharashtra again, not really? The BJP is in no hurry and feels the present Uddhav Thackeray government will crumble due to its own inherent contradictions. Then why Sena's Rajya Sabha MP and general secretary Sanjay Raut's 150-minute close-door meeting with former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis? No one is buying the theory that the meeting was held to discuss modalities of Fadnavis' interview with Shiv Sena's mouthpiece, Saamana. There are no takers of Fadnavis' statement either wherein he said "politics was not discussed".

### Ram Madhav in

There is intense speculation about who all may be inducted

in the Modi ministry as and when reshuffle takes place. The Shiv Sena and Akali Dal have exited and JD (U), AIADMK haven't joined forcing many ministers to hold dual and even triple charge. The opponents of Ram Madhav who was general secretary of the party until now, are saying that Himanta Biswa Sarma, a powerful Assam minister, engineered his ouster from the party. Sarma was having a running battle with Madhav in North East where the latter was incharge. Sarma also met Amit Shah and J P Nadda sometime ago and reported to have complained about him. But buzz in the Capital is that Madhav is well versed in foreign affairs, North East and J&K. The PM has a liking for him due to his qualities.

## of the day quote

It was laudable that the farmers, workers and women were vowing to continue their agitation till Amaravati was declared as the one and only capital for Andhra Pradesh

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has been fined ₹50 lakh for not taking dust-control measures at a construction site

The launch of 'Svamitva Yojana' by the prime minister today will prove to be a milestone in the direction of 'gramin swaraj'. This scheme is a true tribute to Nanaji Deshmukh on his birth anniversary

## SHORT TAKES

### Three killed in road mishap

**New Delhi:** Three persons were killed when a car they were travelling in collided with a tractor-trolley in west Delhi's Moti Nagar Sunday. A man identified as Parveen Singh received serious injuries and was admitted to a hospital. The three deceased were identified as Rajesh Sharma, Tarun Gupta, and Charandeep Singh, all residents of Pandav Nagar in east Delhi.

### JMM leader, wife found murdered

**Dhanbad:** Senior JMM leader Shankar Rawani and his wife were found murdered at their residence in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district early on Sunday, police said. Prima facie it seems that Rawani (50) and Balika Devi were shot and then stabbed to death at their home in Bhowra area, Dhanbad city Superintendent of Police Ram Kumar said.

### Man held for raping daughter

**Mumbai:** Police have arrested a man for allegedly raping his 10-year-old daughter at his residence in Mumbai's Vakola area, an official said on Sunday. The 40-year-old accused and his wife were staying separately since the last four years. While the man was living with his daughter in Mumbai, his wife was staying at Surat in Gujarat.

### Delhi's air quality 'poor'

**New Delhi:** The national capital's air quality was recorded in the "poor" category on Sunday morning, while a government agency said it is likely to improve slightly in the coming days due to a change in the wind direction. The city recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) of 218 at 10:30 am, with Jahangirpuri (AQI 283) recording the highest pollution levels in the capital.

### Priest shot at in UP

**Gonda (Uttar Pradesh):** A priest in Uttar Pradesh was shot at in Gonda district over a long standing property dispute. Two people have been arrested, police said. The incident was of late Saturday. The victim, Samrat Das, serves as a 'pujari' at the Ram Janki temple. An FIR has been registered against four people.



**The war against COVID-19 will be won by the whole-hearted participation of people, who have to decide whether to follow protocols to contain the spread of the disease or remain in lockdown**

UDDHAV THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER

### DELHI GIRL SETS RECORD

Chaitanya Venkateswaran, an 18-year-old girl from Delhi had the unique opportunity to spend last Wednesday as the UK's senior-most diplomat in India under the mission's initiative aimed at empowering and highlighting the challenges faced by women across the world



## TERROR LINK

# Shopian school under radar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shopian, Oct 11:** A religious school in Shopian district of South Kashmir has come under the scanner of investigating agencies after 13 of its students were found to have joined terror groups, officials said here.

The school's students mainly hail from Kulgam, Pulwama and Anantnag districts of South Kashmir, considered by intelligence agencies to be the hotbeds of militancy and breeding grounds for recruitment of locals into various terror groups, officials said. It also had outstation students from Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana, but their number dropped to almost nil after abrogation of Article 370 last year, the officials said.

He feels at the same time, the outside environment, local popu-

## BIG THREAT



The school's students mainly hail from Kulgam, Pulwama and Anantnag districts of South Kashmir, considered by intelligence agencies to be the hotbeds of militancy

The institution's students include Sajjad Bhat, an accused in the February 2019 suicide attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama that left 40 personnel dead

lation, terror-related activities and regular encounters of militants also play an effective role in propagating the ideology of terrorism.

During investigation of the ghastly attack of February 14 last year when a suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden car into a CRPF convoy killing 40 personnel,

the intelligence agencies found that Bhat, whose vehicle was used in the attack, had done his schooling from this same religious institute in Shopian district.

The list of the institute's students involved in terrorism started expanding with the death of Zubair Nengroo, a so-called commander

of the banned Al-Badr terror organisation, in August this year. Nengroo too was a student of the same religious school. According to an internal report, there are at least 13 listed terrorists and hundreds of over ground workers (OGWs) who are either students or alumni of this institute.

Besides Bhat and Nengroo, the list of 13 alumni also includes Hizbul Mujahideen militant Nazim Nazir Dar, and Aijaz Ahmad Paul who was gunned down by security forces in an encounter on August 4 in Shopian. The officials feel that institutions such as this school become breeding grounds for recruitment into terrorist outfits like Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Al-Badr and Lashker-e-Taiba as stories of killed terrorists depicting them as heroes are spread around through various means.

# Two lawyers, two cases 'one destiny'

Two lawyers, who fought the Nirbhaya case in Delhi, now pitted against each other in the Hathras case too



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Oct 11:** Some call it a coincidence, others call it destiny but both of them say that it is a job for them.

Two lawyers, who fought the Nirbhaya case in Delhi, now pitted against each other in the Hathras case too.

Seema Kushwaha, who had fought the Nirbhaya case for the girl's family, is now the lawyer for the Hathras victim's family.

"Apart from working as a lawyer, I have also been doing social service, especially for women. I learnt about this incident on September 26 and was in touch with the family after that. I had reached out to the victim on September 29, but unfortunately, she passed away before I could meet her. I have been to Hathras to meet the family and I am touch with them," Kushwaha said.

When asked about the coincidence that she will be contesting against the same lawyer who had fought for Nirbhaya's tormenters, Seema said, "The coincidence is that while I take up cases for victims, mostly women, he takes up cudgels for men. It is more of a gender issue."

A.P. Singh, who has been approached by the Akhil Bhartiya Kshatriya Mahasabha to contest the case on behalf of the four accused, all of whom are Thakurs, told reporters that his job was to fight for his clients and ensure that innocent people do not go punished.

A.P. Singh, incidentally, has defended the likes of Nirbhaya's accused and Baba Ram Rahim and will now be defending - the alleged accused in the Hathras case.

He denied that he took up controversial cases to garner publicity. He said, "No one is an accused until proven guilty in court. I am no one to decide what is right or what is wrong. The court will take that decision, I only do my job."

He said that the Hathras incident had been politicised beyond a point and the rape case was an afterthought.

About facing Seema Kushwaha once again in court, Singh said, "It is good that both of us will present our facts again. She is like my younger sister."

Seema will soon appeal court that the case be heard in Delhi. "That's what the family also wants," she said.

## 3 kids drown daily in Sunderbans; survey says

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Oct 11:** Nearly three children in the age group of 1-9 years die from drowning every day in Sunderbans of West Bengal, a survey says.

The community-based joint survey conducted by the George Institute in collaboration with the Child in Need Institute (CINI) in June-September, 2019 was primarily aimed to determine the drowning mortality rate among children aged 1 to 4 years and 5 to 9 years.



When contacted, state Sunderbans Affairs minister Manturam Pakhira said that no such data was in the possession of his department. "We will, however, look into the matter and take necessary steps to address the problem," Pakhira told PTI Sunday.

"The drowning mortality rate among children aged 1-4 years in the region was 243.8 per 1,00,000 children while in the 5-9 years age group it was 38.8 per 1,00,000 children. It was found that 58 per cent of the deaths were among the children aged between 1 to 2 years," the findings revealed.

There was no difference in drowning rates between boys and girls, the study, conducted over a period of four months, said.

For the survey, a unique community knowledge approach was used, and meetings were held with residents and key informants to identify drowning deaths in the population. The Sundeban delta - a UNESCO world heritage site - is spread across North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts of the state. World Health Organisation (WHO) data had said, out of the 360,000 people, who fatally drowned globally in 2016, more than 50 per cent were children aged under 15 years.

## 'PUJA' AMID PANDEMIC



An artist gives finishing touch to an idol of Asura, decorated to resemble coronavirus, ahead of upcoming Durga Puja festival, at Kumartuli in Kolkata

## Woman dies after giving birth to 16th child in MP

The woman had given birth to 15 children earlier, however, the family had lost seven of them

AGENCIES

**Damoh (MP), Oct 11:** A 45-year-old woman gave birth to her 16th child in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, but both of them died soon afterwards, a local health worker said Sunday.

The woman, Sukhrani Ahirwar from Padajhir village in the district, delivered a baby boy at home Saturday. Kallu Bai Vishwakarma, an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), said.

"However, the condition of the woman and her newborn turned critical and they were rushed to a primary health centre, where both of them were pronounced dead," she added.

According to her, Ahirwar had given birth to 15 children earlier; however, the family had lost seven of them. District Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Sangeeta



Trivedi confirmed the incident. Meanwhile, in India the number of women and girls who die each year due to issues related to pregnancy and childbirth has dropped considerably, from 1,03,000 in 2000 to 3,500 in 2017, a 55 per cent decrease.

## HARD TIMES

# India now has over 70L Covid cases

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** With a single day spike of 74,383 new cases, including 918 deaths, India on Sunday crossed the 70-lakh-mark with a total of 70,53,806 so far.

Out of these, 8,67,496 are active cases; 60,77,976 cured/discharged/migrated cases and 1,08,334 succumbed to the pandemic, said the latest data released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Maharashtra continues to be the worst-hit with a total of 15,17,434 cases, including 40,040 deaths; followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. While the active cases increased at 12.30 per cent, the recovery rate is at 86.17 and the fatality rate is 1.54%.

According to the data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India conducted 10,78,544 sample tests in a single day on Saturday, taking the total number of samples



tested so far to 8,68,77,242. India's COVID-19 recoveries crossed the 60-lakh mark even as less than 1000 coronavirus deaths have been recorded daily for eight consecutive days, the Union Health Ministry said Sunday.

**'FELUDA' test to roll out in next few weeks**

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Sunday said that roll-out of the indigenously-developed faster and cheaper "FE-

LUUDA" Covid-19 test is expected in the next few weeks.

"While I cannot put an exact date on the availability, we should expect this test within the next few weeks," he said. The FNCAS9 Editor-Limited Uniform Detection Assay (FELUDA) test is a paper strip test, similar to a pregnancy test, and has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for a commercial launch.

## WAR AGAINST VIRUS

# MANY STATES UNSURE ABOUT REOPENING SCHOOLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** While the Central government has given a go ahead for graded reopening of schools from October 15, many states including Delhi, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh have decided against it while others such as Haryana and Meghalaya are still unsure and are assessing the situation in view of the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

Universities and schools across the country were ordered shut on March 16 to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. On March 25, the Centre announced a nationwide lockdown. While several restrictions have been eased gradually in different phases of the 'unlock'

since June 8, educational institutions continue to remain closed.

However, according to the latest unlock guidelines, schools, colleges and other educational institutions outside COVID-19 containment zones can reopen after October 15. The final decision on reopening the institutions has been left with the states and Union territories.

Delhi government has decided to maintain the status quo on schools' closure till October 31 following which a review of the situation will be done. The Uttar Pradesh government has announced that schools outside containment zones will reopen from October 19 for students of classes 9 to 12.

According to Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, classes will



be held in shifts and all necessary protocols including social distancing and proper sanitisation of premises will have to be followed by schools. Students will only be al-

lowed to attend classes after furnishing written permission from their parents or guardians.

The Karnataka government has said it is in no hurry to reopen

schools and will take a call on the issue after evaluating all aspects.

The Chhattisgarh government has said schools in the state will continue to remain closed till further orders in view of the pandemic. The Maharashtra government has said it will assess the COVID-19 situation post-Diwali and till then schools will continue to remain closed.

The Gujarat government has also said it is likely to consider reopening schools only after Diwali

The Meghalaya government has sought feedback from parents before taking a final decision on reopening of schools in the state.

According to Education Minister Lakhman Rymbui, the state government has decided that upper

primary schools will be reopened only for clearing studies-related doubts of students of classes 6, 7, and 8, as is being done for the secondary and higher secondary school students from October 15.

The Puducherry government has announced that students from grade 9 to 12 will have classes from October 8. While the Haryana government is contemplating reopening schools for classes 6 to 9 to enable the students to take guidance from teachers, no final decision has been taken yet.

The Andhra Pradesh government has also decided not to resume normal classes till November 2. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said a decision on reopening of schools will be taken only after mid-November.



Of course, if the US is not withdrawing their tariffs (in Airbus-Boeing dispute) we have no choice but to introduce our tariffs  
VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS | TRADE CHIEF, EU

## POPE ASKED TO APOLOGISE

Mexico's president published an open letter to Pope Francis calling on the Roman Catholic Church to apologise for abuses of Indigenous peoples during the conquest of Mexico in the 1500s. Obrador also asked the pope to lend Mexico colonial-era documents



## of the day quote

I'm hopeful that under Biden administration, we're finally going to be able to get this legislation (of removing cap on Green Card) through the Senate, and then signed into law and of course, as part of a comprehensive immigration reform package as a whole



RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHU | DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN, ILLINOIS

COVID-19 has killed more than a million people globally, with well over 33 million people acquiring the disease, sometimes in its severest forms. BCG has been shown to boost immunity in a generalised way, which may offer some protection



JOHN CAMPBELL | EXETER UNIVERSITY

Our security and military superiority in the region are the most significant things for us. Our region has still not turned into Switzerland (on opposing US' F-35 sale to Qatar)



ELI COHEN | INTELLIGENCE MINISTER, ISRAEL

## SHORT TAKES

### 13 killed in roadside blast

**Kabul:** At least 10 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and three civilians were killed in a roadside blast in Afghanistan's Sar-e-Pul province, a security source said Sunday. According to the source, three others were wounded in the blast Saturday. Security officials were yet to officially comment on the development. So far no group, including the Taliban, has claimed responsibility.

### Man arrested for vandalising temple

**Islamabad:** A man has been arrested in Pakistan's Sindh province for vandalising a makeshift Hindu temple, a media report said. The incident took place in a remote area of Badin district and FIR has been registered against the arrested suspect, Muhammad Ismail, on behalf of complainant Ashok Kumar. According to the copy of the FIR available with The Express Tribune, Kumar told the police that Ismail vandalised the temple in his village of Samo Goth.

### Sikh Briton fined for holding rally

**London:** A Sikh Briton has been fined 10,000 pounds for violating Covid-19 restrictions by organising a car rally in support of the farmers in Punjab. Deepa Singh (39) was fined on the spot in Southall October 4 after nearly 4,000 people on cars, tractors, tempos and motorbikes had gathered for the rally and caused a gridlock on the streets of the borough to show solidarity with the farmers in India who are protesting against a new agriculture law.

### Lebanon orders lockdown

**Beirut:** Lebanon's Interior Ministry has ordered a lockdown in 169 villages and towns as well as ordering all nightclubs and pubs to close around the country amid a sharp increase of coronavirus cases. The Ministry said Sunday that the lockdown will begin Monday morning and last until October 19. Pubs and nightclubs will be closed until further notice, it said. The new lockdown comes a week after the ministry ordered a lockdown in 111 villages and towns that ends Monday morning.

# UK running into COVID-19 headwind, warns chief medic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Oct 11:** One of the UK's senior-most government medical advisers Sunday warned that the country was running into a headwind with the number of coronavirus infections at a "tipping point" similar to the one back in March, when Britain went into a national lockdown.

Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, issued a stark warning that the dreaded "R number", or the rate at which the infection is being transmitted within society, is now between 1.2 and 1.5, which means the epidemic grows larger as every one case generates more than one new case.

His warning comes a day before UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to make a statement in the House of Commons on a new three-tier system of rules for localised lockdowns.

"We are in the middle of a severe pandemic and the seasons are against us. Basically, we are running into a headwind," said Van-Tam, in a statement issued by the Department of Health and Social Care.

"ONS data show that an estimated 224,000 people have the virus - up from 116,000 last week, hospital admissions for COVID-19 are rising again, as are intensive care admissions... Sadly, just as night follows day, increases in deaths will now follow on in the next few weeks," he said, adding that the "good news" is that there is more certainty that children are usually not badly affected by this virus.



Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, issued a stark warning that the dreaded "R number", or the rate at which the infection is being transmitted within society, is now between 1.2 and 1.5

Van-Tam's message for ensuring that the number of COVID-19 cases are kept down for the state-funded National Health Service (NHS) to be able to cope with a spike in hospital admissions comes ahead of the much-anticipated speech by Boris Johnson to Parliament to lay out a simpler traffic light approach to restrictions on gatherings.

He is set to unveil three tiers of infection management, alongside local regions across the country being handed greater decision-making powers as part of efforts to slow the spread of coronavirus.

The most severe measures imposed for areas of England will fall within the third tier and see people

ordered not to have any social contact with anyone outside their household together with the expected closures of pubs, bars and restaurants where some of the highest numbers of cases are occurring.

Tier one, the least extreme, is likely to see people expected to follow the "rule of six" on gatherings and maintain social distancing. Tier two could include a ban on households from mixing in homes, gardens, pubs, bars or restaurants.

Liverpool Mayor Joe Anderson has said he expected Liverpool - where there are currently 600 cases per 100,000 people - to be placed in tier three, under the highest set of restrictions.

## Johnson discusses Brexit with Macron over phone call

AGENCIES

**London, Oct 11:** UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron held a phone conversation during which the latter was apprised that Britain wanted to "explore every avenue" to secure a post-Brexit trade deal with the European Union (EU), the media reported.

In a statement, a Downing Street spokesperson said that Johnson "confirmed the UK's commitment to exploring every avenue to reach an agreement" during the call on Saturday, the BBC reported.



"He underlined that a deal was better for both sides, but also that the UK was prepared to end the transition period on Australia-style terms if an agreement could not be found," the spokesperson added. An "Australia-style" agreement means trading on WTO terms, with no specific free trade deal.

According to the spokesperson, Johnson told Macron "that progress must be made in the coming days to bridge the significant gaps, notably in the areas of fisheries and the level playing field". One of the major points of disagreement is the issue of fishing.

While the UK wants full access to EU markets to sell its fish, the bloc full access for its fishing fleets to UK waters which the country does not want to provide.

# Armenia accused of violating ceasefire

The development comes a day after a ceasefire came into force in the region Saturday following the trilateral negotiations between Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Baku, Oct 11:** Azerbaijan Sunday accused Armenia of violating a ceasefire in the conflict-ridden Nagorno-Karabakh region, by attacking its second largest city of Ganja and inflicting civilian casualties.

In a report citing the country's emergency authority as saying, Azerbaijan's state-run news agency AZERTAC said that shells from the Armenian side fell on residential buildings in Ganja city, which killed five civilians and injured 17 others. Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry also confirmed the attack on its official website, reports Xinhua news agency.

However, the Armenian Defence Ministry's spokesperson Shushan Stepanyan denied the report, saying that it was false information.

The development came a day after a ceasefire came into force in the region Saturday after trilateral negotiations between Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The trilateral talks which lasted for more than 10 hours, took place in Moscow between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and his Azerbaijani and Armenian counterparts Jeyhun Bayramov and Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, respectively.

Renewed clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia erupted on September 27, with intense battles raging in the Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed territory which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but mostly governed by the Republic of Artsakh, a de facto independent state with an Armenian ethnic majority.

The area experienced flare-ups of violence in the summer of 2014, April 2016 and this July TASS News Agency reported.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have imposed martial law and launched mobilisation efforts. In the latest conflict, Nagorno-Karabakh authorities have confirmed that 201 of their personnel and a number of civilians have died.

# China backs Iran Nuclear Deal



Iran has been locked in an acrimonious relationship with Saudi Arabia, the other major Middle Eastern power, over the war in Yemen

Chinese foreign minister Wang said that support for the Iranian nuclear deal, negotiated by the Obama administration but ultimately abandoned by Donald Trump, would be a precondition of entry to the forum

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Beijing, Oct 11:** China's foreign minister Wang Yi has called for a new forum to defuse tensions in the Middle East after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart where he reiterated Beijing's support for Tehran.

Wang and Javid Zarif also reaffirmed their commitment to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, according to the Chinese foreign ministry, an implicit rebuke of the United States for abandoning the accord during their Saturday meeting in China's southwestern Tengchong city.

Iran has been locked in an acrimonious relationship with Saudi Arabia, the other major Middle Eastern power, over the war in Yemen, Iranian influence in Iraq and Saudi support for Washington's

sanctions on Tehran.

"China proposes to build a regional multilateral dialogue platform with equal participation of all stakeholders," said the Chinese foreign ministry statement.

The forum would "enhance mutual understanding through dialogue and explore political and diplomatic solutions to security issues in the Middle East", the statement added.

Wang added that support for the Iranian nuclear deal, negotiated by the Obama administration but ultimately abandoned by Donald Trump, would be a precondition of entry to the forum.

Zarif said on Twitter his "fruitful talks" with Wang amounted to a rejection of "US unilateralism" and had also focused on strategic ties and collaboration on the development of a coronavirus vaccine.

# Ardern unveils vision for 2030

AGENCIES

**Wellington, Oct 11:** Ahead of the upcoming general elections, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern Sunday unveiled her 2030 vision, under which she wants the state housing waiting list to be empty and child poverty to have halved by that year.

Ardern's announcement came while she was addressing a ruling Labour Party rally here ahead of the October 17 general elections, which will determine the membership of the country's 53rd Parliament.

According to a report in The



New Zealand Herald newspaper, the state house waiting list is currently about 20,000, up from about 6,000 when the Ardern government came to power in 2017.

It has so far built about 4,000 new state houses. The report said that

halving child poverty by 2030 is actually less ambitious than the government's 10-year targets announced in January 2018.

Ardern's 2030 vision also included a New Zealand with no health inequalities based on race, wealth or geographical location.

In her address, the Prime Minister also highlighted the country's record on the Covid-19 pandemic.

"What started as a summertime conversation this year has led to more than 30 million cases and 1 million deaths, and it's not over yet."

"Here at home we have lost 25 loved ones and managed 1,864 cases.

## Imran vows to bring down food prices

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Islamabad, Oct 11:** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has vowed to use all available resources of the state to bring down food prices in the country. In a series of tweets on Saturday, the premier said: "Starting Monday in coming week, our government will use all the resources at the disposal of the state to bring down food prices."



"We are already examining causes of the price hikes: whether there is a genuine supply shortage or simply hoarding by mafias, smuggling, if any. Or a price rise due to international prices such as for palm oil, lentils etc."

"From next week we will have our strategy in place and action will begin using all state organisations and resources to bring down food prices."

In response to Khan's announcement, Minister for Industries and Production Hammad Azhar, also tweeted: "South Asia has witnessed a temporary food inflation spike. (The) government will take all measures needed to reduce prices of essential commodities."

"Imported wheat and sugar will be released at control rates by provinces. All options are being examined for other commodities."

Khan's remarks came three days after ministers while reviewing the economic situation in Pakistan.

## LIFE GOES ON



A woman walks past a ride at the Mississippi State Fair as it opens with coronavirus restrictions in Jackson, Mississippi

# Meghan Markle claims to be 'the most trolled person' of 2019

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Washington, Oct 11:** Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle has claimed that she was "the most trolled person in the entire world" last year, the media reported. She made the remarks in a podcast Saturday to mark World Mental Health Day, during which the Duchess along with her husband Prince Harry opened up about the "almost unsurvivable" online abuse the couple faced, reports the Metro newspaper.

In the podcast, Markle said she was told that she was the most trolled person ever last year "male

or female".

"(For) eight months of that, I wasn't even visible, I was on maternity leave with the baby, but what was able to be manufactured and churned out, it's almost unsurvivable, it's so big you can't even think what that feels like," she said.

"I don't care if you're 15 or 25, if people are saying things about you that aren't true, what that does to your mental and emotional health is so damaging."

She said this was especially an issue for many during the coronavirus lockdown, when "if you're not in school then you are finding your-



self on your devices or online more". "Yes, it's a great way to connect but it also ends up being a place

"(For) eight months, I was on maternity leave with the baby, but what was able to be manufactured and churned out, it's almost unsurvivable, it's so big you can't even think what that feels like

MEGHAN MARKLE | DUCHESS OF SUSSEX

where there is a lot of disconnection. "We all know what it feels like to have our feelings hurt, we all know

what it feels like to be isolated, and I think that's why the work you guys are doing here is so important," the Metro newspaper quoted Markle as saying in the podcast.

Meanwhile, Harry said that it was "very easy to be sucked in and consumed by negativity", but everyone has "the choice to be able to cut that out of our lives".

"Hate following has become a thing, you don't need to do that. Just as much as we worry about, be concerned, and take notice of what we put in our bellies as a diet, the same applies for our eyes and our mind, what we're consuming is af-

fecting us." "For me, I made the choice not to read it, not to see it, and to remove myself from that, and to very much focus on the uplifting and the hopeful side," the Duke added.

The Sussexes are presently based in Los Angeles after having stepped back as senior royals earlier this year.

For their last public appearance as working members of the Royal Family, Harry and Meghan joined the Queen and other senior royals at the Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey March 9.

They have since begun their new life of personal independence in the US, pursuing charity projects.



**Going ahead, market is expected to remain positive but with sector/stock specific action. Investors would now track earnings season and watch out for management commentaries.**  
SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD, RETAIL RESEARCH, MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

## 'INFLATION TO REMAIN ELEVATED'

Households expect inflation to remain elevated over the next one year, as per a survey by the RBI. The 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households', however, noted that the respondents' perception of current inflation and expectation for inflation over the next three months were, however, a shade lower than that in the previous round of the survey



## of the day quote

The demand will be better than previous months, because we hit the bottom and we are just reviving somewhere. So while if you compare the festive season this year with our peak festive season, we may be down by 50%



Overall business has picked up in semi-urban and rural markets and has restored normalcy. The urban markets (metros) are not fully operationalised. While the rural market returned to normalcy in the last few months, the semi-urban was back to business by August



While there have been some short-term headwinds due to COVID-19, we at PepsiCo are extremely optimistic about the future and are committed to provide consumers the right portfolio of products across food and beverages



## SHORT TAKES

### Vedanta's delisting fails

**New Delhi:** Vedanta Ltd's delisting went from almost-a-success to failure on account of a large quantity of unconfirmed orders, forcing the company to look for options to extend the buyback period by a day. In a regulatory filing, Vedanta said its buyback offer is deemed to have failed as per the terms of the delisting regulations after promoter Vedanta Resources did not receive the required number of shares to delist the firm.

### FPIs pump in ₹1,086 cr in Oct

**New Delhi:** Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) have invested ₹1,086 crore on a net basis so far in October in Indian markets, tracking encouraging factors including improved GST collection, acceleration in economic activity and positive global cues. According to the depositories data, overseas investors pumped in a net ₹5,245 crore into equities and withdrew ₹4,159 crore from the debt market during October 1-9.

### Cello re-enters stationery biz

**New Delhi:** After selling its stationery business to France's BIC five years ago, the Cello Group is re-entering the category and plans to launch products in the domestic market. In December 2015, stationery major BIC Group acquired Cello Pens, the largest Indian manufacturer of writing instruments, for ₹540 crore. "We have just started stationery business with a different brand name (Unomax). It has been 5 years since we sold our stationery business," GP Rathod, MD, Cello Group, said.

### H&M to expand physical stores

**New Delhi:** Swedish apparel retailer H&M will continue to expand its physical stores in India although it is closing down 250 stores globally, betting on the long-term potential of the country, according to a senior company official. The company which opened its first store in India in 2015 currently has 48 outlets in 24 cities but may not open as many stores in the next five years as it also focuses on enhancing its digital presence.

# GST Council to discuss compensation cess today

*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*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** As the GST compensation cess issue still remains unresolved with around 10 opposition-ruled states and Union Territories not agreeing with the Centre's borrowing proposals, the GST Council, consisting of all state Finance Ministers and headed by the Union Finance Minister, will meet Monday to discuss and try to reach to a consensus on the matter.

The last meeting of the Council a week back did not result in any consensus among the states as although around 20 states opted for the first among the two options offered by the Union Government, 10 states and Union Territories stayed put on their stand that they would not borrow in lieu of the compensation cess.

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 compensa-



tion 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 and Union Territories wanting the options to be dropped and the Centre undertaking all borrowings to pay for the GST compensation shortfall to states.

According to people in the know, 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 Monday's GST Council meeting.

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 of the Finance Ministry. The Expenditure Department is already working and discussing with the states individually to get the borrowing programme going so that the compensation issue is settled.

Sources said that even if all the states do not agree to the borrowing options for settling GST compensation, the plan may be rolled so that the states do not suffer with regard to their enhanced expenditure needs this year in the wake of the pandemic.

Other states, which do not opt to borrow, may be paid compensation from the cess collected this year. The entire compensation will be settled after June 2022, during the extended period of cess levy beyond the five year transitional GST rollout period.

## Global PC market growth breaks 10 yr record with 13% rise

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** The global PC market climbed 12.7% from a year ago to reach 79.2 million units in the third quarter of this year, registering the highest growth the market has seen in the past 10 years, according to the latest report from Canalys.

After a weak Q1, the recovery in Q2 continued into Q3 this year in which Lenovo regained the top spot, showed data released by the analyst company.

Global notebook shipments touched 64 million units - almost as much as the record high of Q4 2011 when notebook shipments were 64.6 million - as demand continued to surge due to second waves of Covid-19 in many countries and companies continued to invest in longer-term transitions



to remote working.

Shipments of notebooks and mobile workstations grew 28.3% year-on-year. This contrasted with desktop and laptop workstations, which saw shipments shrink by 26%.

"Vendors, the supply chain, and the channel have now had time to find their feet and allocate resources towards supplying notebooks, which continue to see massive demand from both businesses and consumers," Ishan Dutt, Canalys Analyst, said in a statement.

# Manufacturing firms' profit outlook remains 'negative'



AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 11:** With businesses yet to revive amid the pandemic, the outlook for profit margins by Indian manufacturing companies continues to remain negative for the October-December quarter, according to a survey by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The 'Industrial Outlook Survey of the Manufacturing Sector for Q2:2020-21' noted that respondents maintained negative sentiments on selling prices and profit margins in the July-September quarter

The BEI noted that the overall business sentiment in the manufacturing sector, as reflected by the BAI, surged from a record low at 55.3 in the first quarter of FY 2020-21 to 96.2 in the second quarter

and stood at 111.4 in Q3:2020-21 from 99.5 in the previous quarter," it said.

Further, the overall financial situation and availability of finance portrayed optimism.

It noted that the overall business sentiment in the Indian manufacturing sector, as reflected by the business assessment index (BAI), surged from a record low at 55.3 in the first quarter of FY 2020-21 to 96.2 in the second quarter, though it remained in the contraction zone.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Multiplexes still awaiting approval

**New Delhi:** Multiplex operators are still awaiting nod from many state governments to resume operations even though the Centre has already issued guidelines with regard to reopening of cinemas and theatres. Multiplexes, cinema halls and theatres have been allowed to reopen from October 15, with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) have been issued by the central government. Though the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given its go-ahead to resuming cinema and theatre activities under Unlock 5.0, it has left for the states to take a final call in this regard. Multiplex chains including PVR, Inox, Cinepolis and Mukta A2 Cinemas are all set to re-open their cinema halls from October 15 with half of their seating capacity while ensuring contactless operations and maintaining social distancing norms.



### SAIL to start commercial production of HH rails

**New Delhi:** State-owned steel maker SAIL plans to commence commercial production of head hardened (HH) rails in this fiscal, its chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary said. HH rails are special rails used in high-speed freight corridors and metro rail projects. Such rails are manufactured using the head hardening technology to bear about 50 per cent higher pressure compared to normal rails. SAIL has set up facilities for production of HH rails at the new Universal Rail Mill (URM) at its Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) in Chhattisgarh, and the cold trials for the same have already been completed, Chaudhary said. "Though the commissioning of the facility has got delayed on account of COVID-19 pandemic, the company is planning to commence commercial production of the Head Hardened Rails during the current financial year as per the requirement of Indian Railways," he said.



# Branding plays a key role in MSMEs' growth: Experts

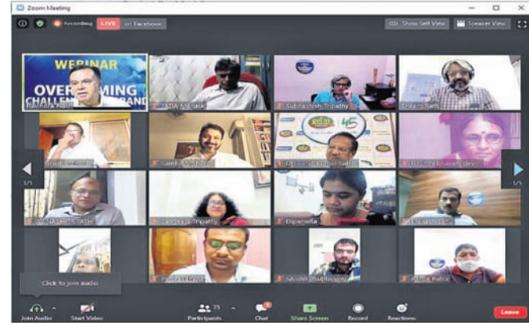
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Sustenance of a brand is very crucial. It is aptly said, what is seen is sold and the MSME sector needs a proper handholding to grow in the market, said Ravindra Nath, former Chairman-MD of National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC). Speaking about branding, Nath said that the world has opened up today as a market for MSME entrepreneurs and branding play a key input for differentiation and customer relevance in business.

He also cited interesting facts about branding as a proven success recipe in case of brands like Lijjat Papad, Nirma, Infosys that had humble beginnings and were able to expand their business by giving priority to branding as much as they gave to the quality of their product or service.

The discussion was held during a webinar 'MSME: Overcoming the Challenges of Branding' organised by PR agency Sanket Communications.

MD of Ruchi Foodline Sarat Kumar Sahoo showcased an important aspect of branding, that a name should be easy to pro-



### XIMB professor Avinash Tripathi spoke about the difference between commodity and brand and how a brand creates a long-term value

nounce, simple and memorable as it will have a better recall value with the customers.

Sahoo also highlighted that 4Ps, i.e. Product, Price, Place and Promotion play a pivotal role to

create and sustain a brand in the market. He strongly emphasised that MSME entrepreneurs should consider branding as a long term investment.

On the other hand, XIMB professor Avinash Tripathi spoke about the difference between commodity and brand and how a brand creates a long-term value while commodity just has a short-term benefit.

He also shared insightful knowledge on what a brand is all about and how to nurture a brand with same care and dedication the way parents nurture their own child.

## MG rolls out Gloster starting at ₹28.98L

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** MG Motor India launched India's First Autonomous (Level 1) Premium SUV, MG GLOSTER, at an inaugural price starting at ₹28.98 lakh (ex-showroom, New Delhi). GLOSTER appeals to the segment of premium and luxury that ranges from ₹25 lakh to ₹50 lakh. It will be available in 4 feature-intensive variants in India - Super, Smart, Sharp and Savvy. They extend unmatched opulence to MG customers with multiple combinations such as luxurious bucket seats (6-seater and 7-seater), Two-Wheel Drive (2WD) and Four-Wheel Drive (4WD), and two engine choices including Twin Turbocharged Diesel engine.



The Savvy trim, priced at ₹35.38 lakhs, gives the perfect blend of luxury and technology with its Autonomous Level 1 Features (enabled by Advanced Driver Assistance System or ADAS) and an industry-first captain seat.

It also includes Forward Collision Warning, Automatic Emergency Braking, Lane Departure Warning, Automatic Parking Assist and Adaptive Cruise Control, alongside others.

The GLOSTER will come with a standard 3+3+3 package i.e. warranty of three years/100,000 kilometers, three years roadside assistance and three labour-free periodic services.

Under MY MG SHIELD, GLOSTER customers can further customize their ownership packages as per their requirements and will be extended ₹50,000 which can be redeemed as per their unique after-sales requirement. This amount is a part of the launch pricing of GLOSTER.

The special launch price will be applicable till October 31 or the first 2,000 bookings, whichever is earlier. Deliveries will begin from Navratri.

# Digital payments soar manifold in past 5 years: RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 11:** Concerted efforts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to move to a non/less-cash economy by pushing digital payments have begun to pay rich dividends as the volume of such payments has jumped manifold in the past five years, the latest data from the central bank showed.

Between 2015-16 and 2019-20, digital payments have grown at a compounded annual growth rate of 55.1% - from 593.61 crore in the year to March 2016 to 3,434.56 crore in the year to March 2020.

In absolute terms, value has grown from ₹920.38 lakh crore to ₹1,623.05 lakh crore during this period, clipping at an annual compounded rate of 15.2%.

Giving a year-wise data, in 2016-17 digital payments jumped to 969.12 crore from 593.61 crore in the previous year in volume terms, while in value the same rose to ₹1,120.99 lakh crore.

Similarly, the numbers contin-

## GOING CASHLESS



ued to scale new peaks with volume growing to 1,459.01 crore and value jumping to ₹1,369.86 lakh crore in 2017-18.

Come 2018-19, the numbers clipped at a faster pace with volume jumping to 2,343.40 crore transactions while the value rose to ₹1,638.52 lakh crore.

However, FY20 saw a massive

spike in volumes over the previous year to 3,434.56 crore but in value slipped down to ₹1,623.05 lakh crore, which can be attributed to the steep fall in the overall economy and the massive job losses, forcing people to spend less and preserve more cash.

Yet from a five-year growth perspective, the numbers shine with an

annual growth rate of 55.1% in terms of transaction volumes and 15.2% in terms of value, show the RBI data.

Given the pandemic and the lockdown restrictions, digital payments volumes are set to jump manifold while the value could see a further plunge given the mammoth crisis that everyone faces

following the pandemic.

Digital payment push started almost a decade back with limited access to NEFT, RTGS and ECS payments. Later with the government push following the controversial note ban, digital payments rose sharply.

The development of UPI-based payments as well as app-based payments just pushed the boundaries and has since witnessed blossoming of a myriad of payment systems, entry of non-bank players, and a gradual shift in the customer behaviour from cash to digital payments.

Behind all these, the RBI has played the crucial role of an operator, catalyst and facilitator; regulator and supervisor; as the occasion demanded towards achieving its public policy objective of developing and promoting a safe, secure, sound and efficient payment systems.

Some of the initiatives introduced decades ago in payment systems to safeguard the interests of customers are valid even today.

TEWATIA, PARAG END RAJASTHAN'S 4-GAME LOSING STREAK

# RR back on track with 5-wicket win



**CRISIS MEN:** Rahul Tewatia (L) and Riyan Parag scripted an amazing victory for Rajasthan Royals against SRH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Oct 11:** Rahul Tewatia's (45 n o, 28b 4x4, 2x6) uncanny ability to win tricky games rescued Rajasthan Royals (RR) yet again as they eked out a five-wicket victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) to snap

their four-match losing streak in IPL-13, here Sunday.

Tewatia became a household name with five sixes in an over off KXIP's Sheldon Cottrell. Even though, he did not show the same firepower Sunday, he did enough to see RR home with a ball to spare.

Tewatia came to the crease when RR were tottering at 78 for five in the 12th over. He and Riyan Parag (42 n o, 26b, 2x4, 2x6) had an unbroken stand of 85 runs to for the sixth wicket to see their team home.

With two needed off two balls, Parag hit Khaleel Ahmed (2/37) for a six over extra cover and broke into an impromptu 'Bihu jig'. It was a tremendous effort keeping in the mind that their more illustrious teammates had failed.

Tewatia brought back memories of the Sharjah night but this time it was Rashid Khan (2/25) who was at the receiving end in the 18th over as the left-hander struck three consecutive boundaries. With 22 needed off two overs, Tewatia launched into T Natarajan, who lost his length trying to bowl yorkers, for a four and a six over short fine leg that swung the match in favour of Royals.

Earlier the likes of Ben Stokes and skipper Steve Smith, both failed to get among runs. And when Jos Buttler (16) and Sanju Samson (26) also failed to revive the innings, all hopes seemed lost for RR. But then Tewatia and Parag did the trick for the Royals.

Earlier, Manish Pandey (54, 44b, 2x4, 3x6) struck an impressive half century but RR restricted SRH to 158 for 4 in 20 overs.

It was a difficult wicket to bat on with the pitch getting slower by the over. However, Pandey in association with skipper David Warner (48, 38b, 3x4, 2x6) put on 73 runs for the second wicket to put up a good platform for SRH. However, the others failed to utilise the situation. In the end Kiwi Kane Williamson 22 n o, 12b, 2x6) played

a quickfire knock, but that did not prove to be useful.

It was one of the better days for Jaydev Unadkat (1/31) as his variation of slower deliveries caused some trouble for the batsmen with only 26 runs coming off the power play. In all, Rajasthan bowlers managed 42 dot balls, which is seven overs without a run being scored.

**BRIEF SCORES:**

SRH 158 for 4 (Manish Pandey 54, David Warner 48) lost to RR 163 for 5 in 19.5 overs (Rahul Tewatia 45 n o, Riyan Parag 42 n o, Rashid Khan 2/25, Khalil Ahmed 2/37) by five wickets.



Manish Pandey

MI GO ON TOP OF IPL POINTS TABLE

# Yadav, De Kock fashion easy triumph for Mumbai

AGENCIES

**Abu Dhabi, Oct 11:** Two brilliant half centuries by Quinton de Kock (53, 36b, 4x4, 3x6) and Suryakumar Yadav (53, 32b, 6x4, 1x6) helped Mumbai Indians (MI) overcome the challenge of table toppers Delhi Capitals (DC) here Sunday by five wickets. Chasing a competitive total of 162 for four posted by DC, the Rohit Sharma-led MI overhauled the target with two balls to spare.

It was an all-round display that helped MI win the game easily. They did not give away any easy runs to the opposition and fielded well. And in spite Rohit (5) and Hardik Pandya (0) failing with the bat, MI showed that they had enough depth to ease to a victory.

Both De Kock and Yadav batted with free abandon as they took on the likes of Kagiso Rabada (2/28) and company. Yadav, strong on the leg-side played some delightful shots while South African De Kock played some flowing drives in front of the wicket. Ishan Kishan (28, 15b, 2x4, 2x6) also played a sweet cameo before Kieron Pollard (11 n o) and Krunal Pandya (12 n o) finished off the game.

Earlier Shikhar Dhawan (69 n o, 52b, 6x4, 1x6) anchored the innings as DC posted a competitive total against MI. He was involved in a 75-run stand for the third wicket with DC skipper Shreyas Iyer (42,



**TWO TO TANGO:** Suryakumar Yadav (left) and Quinton de Kock got important half centuries for MI against Delhi

33, 5x4) after the team had lost Prithvi Shaw (4) and Ajinkya Rahane (15) early.

Dhawan gave himself enough time to play sheet anchor's role even as MI bowlers did a decent job in the slog overs to not let the batsmen play too many big shots.

Rahane, playing his first game of the season, was trapped in front of the wicket by Krunal (2/26). MI skipper Rohit Sharma brought Krunal into the attack early simply because Rahane often struggles against left-arm spinners.

With in-form Iyer and Dhawan at the crease, the boundaries came

here and there. It kept the scoreboard ticking at a decent run-rate. Iyer's trademark along the ground-strokes played with straight bat, were effective and a treat to watch. Dhawan chugged along nicely as the two batsmen formed a substantial partnership.

Krunal broke the stand by getting rid of Iyer, who holed out to Boult at deep mid-wicket.

**Brief scores:** DC 162 for 4 (Shikhar Dhawan 69 n o, Shreyas Iyer 42, Krunal Pandya 2/26) lost to MI 166 for five in 19.4 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 53, Quinton de Kock 53, Kagiso Rabada 2/28) by five wickets.

SHORT TAKES

**New recruit**

**Chennai:** Two-time champions Chennaiyin FC announced Sunday the signing of Portuguese attacker Esmael Goncalves, who has the experience of playing in the UEFA Champions League, on a free transfer for the 2020-21 ISL season. The 29-year-old is better known as 'Isma'. "It feels great to join Chennaiyin FC, a club that represents a city with rich culture and a wonderful fanbase." Isma was quoted as saying in a media release. "My conversations with our head coach have been great so far. I will work very hard to fulfil expectations," he added.

**Raring to go**

**New Delhi:** Star Indian paddler G Sathiyam said Sunday he will return to action at the Polish Table Tennis League next week following a coronavirus-induced break of seven months. The World No. 32, who signed for the Polish side Sokolow SA Jaroslaw in July, will be undergoing a COVID-19 test Monday before flying Thursday out of India. "I will finally be flying out to Poland October 15th to take part in the Polish Superliga event. I have started training and look forward to a successful outing," Sathiyam said.

**Mixed fortunes**

**Chennai:** The Indian women's chess team endured mixed fortunes Sunday, winning the first two matches before being upstaged by Iran which pushed them to eighth spot after three rounds of the Asian Online Nations (Regions) Cup Team Championships. The team led by Mary Ann Gomes started with a 4-0 rout of Syria before edging Mongolia 2.5-1.5. In the third round, the top-seeded Indians went down 1.5-2.5 to sixth-ranked Iran despite R Vaishali (Elo rating 2149) winning on the top board against Sarasadat Khademalsharieh. Padmini Rout drew her match but Bhakti Kulkarni and PV Nandhidhaa lost theirs.

**Swann surprised**

**New Delhi:** Former England spinner Graeme Swann is surprised at the number of chances KXIP batsman Glenn Maxwell is getting in the IPL despite failing to score. Australian Maxwell has failed to get anything beyond 13 in the season and has been a bit fortunate as Chris Gayle has been sick. "I'm flabbergasted that Maxwell has retained his place," Swann said during a TV chat show. "Maxwell's getting a lot of money so he should deliver quickly," Swann added.

SCRAPPY MATCHES IN NATIONS LEAGUE

# Hard-earned wins for Germany, Spain



**SUCCESSFUL OUTING:** German footballers rejoice after their victory over Ukraine in the Nations League game, Saturday at Kiev

AGENCIES

**Kiev, Oct 11:** Germany scored once in either half to beat hosts Ukraine 2-1 in the Nations League here Saturday. It was their first win in four matches in Group A and their first ever victory in this competition.

Matthias Ginter put Germany ahead in the 20th minutes after good work from Antonio Ruediger, and Leon Goretzka pounced on a mistake by Ukraine keeper Georgiy Bushchan to head in their second goal four minutes after the restart.

Despite having the rested Bayern Munich and RB Leipzig players back in the line-up, the Germans, who did not win a game in the 2018/19 edition, were far from their best. In a sloppy first half they re-

peatedly lost possession, allowing Ukraine to quickly counter-attack before Ginter's goal settled their nerves.

Having conceded equalisers in each of their three previous matches, Germany were eager to add to their lead Saturday and carved out several good chances. But Bushchan had a good day making a string of saves before he let the ball slip out of his hands, allowing Goretzka to score in the 49th.

Meanwhile in another game of the same group played in Madrid, hosts Spain secured a scrappy 1-0 win thanks to a goal by Mikel Oyarzabal in the 14th minute. The victory enabled Spain to remain on top of the Group A standings.

Real Sociedad forward Oyarzabal snatched the only goal of the game early on for Germany.

RUSSELL'S INJURY PUTS KOLKATA SIDE IN A SPOT OF BOTH

# Knights face Royal challenge

AGENCIES

**Sharjah, Oct 11:** Their campaign might be back on track with back-to-back victories but Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will have little margin for error when they take on Virat Kohli's resurgent Royal Challengers Bangalore in an IPL game here Monday.



The two sides have won four of their six games with KKR ahead of RCB on net run rate. However, inconsistency in batting has been an issue for both the teams.

For KKR, the biggest cause of concern will be the availability of big-hitter Andre Russell, who hurt his knee when he dived into the advertisement boards after missing a catch Saturday.

Skipper Dinesh Karthik did not reveal the extent of the injury after the match against KXIP. "Whenever Russell gets injured, you know it is hard. He is a very special player and person. We need to go and look at him. I know that even if there's 10 per cent chance, Russell will grab it and play," Karthik said.

KKR have battled batting inconsistencies this year. Shubman Gill has been fabulous at the top with two half centuries so far. But the others including Karthik and



Andre Russell's injury has certainly put the Knights in a precarious spot ahead of the important game against Virat Kohli's RCB

Eoin Morgan have only been good in patches.

KKR's bowling unit, however, has been sensational in the last two games, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat and the bowlers will be high on confidence when they take on a star-studded RCB batting line up.

On the other hand, the biggest positive for RCB is that captain Kohli has finally got his touch back after ordinary performances at the beginning of the season. However, AB de Villiers after a decent start has looked out of form. RVB will certainly want ABD to fire quickly.

The bowling department certainly looks much better with the return of South African all-rounder Chris Morris.

SPANIARD DEMOLISHES DJOKOVIC TO EQUAL FEDERER'S RECORD

# Rafa rules Roland Garros again

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, Oct 11:** Rafael Nadal tied Roger Federer with 20 Grand Slam titles by producing a nearly perfect performance against Novak Djokovic in the French Open final here Sunday. In the process he equalled long-time rival Federer for the most Grand Slam singles tennis titles won by a man. He also added to his own record at Roland Garros with No. 13 title on the red clay, courtesy of a surprisingly dominant 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 victory over the No.1-ranked Djokovic.

When Nadal ended the match with an ace, he dropped to his knees, smiled widely and pumped his arms. He did not cede a set in his favourite tournament this year.

Such was the dominance of Nadal in the match that he faced just one breakpoint. Djokovic's second serve was always under pressure.

Nadal, No. 2 in the seedings, improved to 100-2 (wins and losses) at the French Open, including a combined 26-0 in semifinals and fi-



**TRADEMARK STYLE:** Rafa Nadal bites the trophy after winning the men's singles title at the French Open

nals, and picked up his fourth consecutive title at Roland Garros. The 34-year-old left-hander from

Spain previously put together streaks of four French Open championships from 2005-08, then five in a row from 2010-14, to go alongside his four trophies at the US Open, two at Wimbledon and one at the Australian Open.

Djokovic's loss left him at 17 majors; had he won, the trio's standings would have read 20-19-18.

This was the 56th installment of Nadal vs Djokovic, the most meetings between any pair of men in the professional era. It was their ninth meeting in Grand Slam finals, equalling Nadal vs Federer for the most.

Djokovic had won 14 of the last 18 matchups against Nadal, and led 29-26 overall, including a 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 win at the 2019 Australian Open final. Nadal allowed Djokovic one fewer game this time.

"We are very lucky that we are being able to play in such times," Nadal said. "Thanks to organisers at Roland Garros for organising the event, for supporting the players," he added.

HAMILTON ON PAR WITH SCHUMACHER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Nurburg, Oct 11:** Even Lewis Hamilton once saw Michael Schumacher's record of 91 wins as unbeatable. Now he's matched it. Schumacher's son Mick presented Hamilton with one of his father's old helmets after the British driver took a record-equaling 91st win at the Eifel Grand Prix.

"Seeing his dominance, I don't think anyone, and especially me, didn't imagine that I'd be anywhere near Michael in terms of records. So it is an incredible honour and it's going to take some time to get used to," Hamilton said after his win.

Schumacher has required constant care since he sustained severe head injuries in an accident while skiing in 2013.

Hamilton took a big step closer to matching Schumacher's record of seven F1 titles too after his teammate Valtteri Bottas failed to finish with an engine problem. Hamilton now leads championship by 69 points with six races to go.

# Former Kerala spinner Suresh dies by suicide

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** Former Kerala and Railways left-arm spinner Mani Suresh Kumar, a former India under-19 'Test' teammate of Rahul Dravid, was found hanging from the ceiling of his house in Alappuzha, Kerala. He was 47, and he is survived by his wife and a son.

It was reported that Suresh's wife and son saw him hanging inside his bedroom Friday evening, and informed the police.

"Suresh was a good cricketer. His issue was that he was addicted to alcohol. Even though his financial condition was stable he always picked up fights due to his addiction. It seems a case of suicide," a former Kerala player told this agency on condition of anonymity.

Suresh played 72 first-class matches between 1991-92 and 2005-06, and captured 196 wickets at an average of 27.77. He also scored 1,657 runs as well, including a century and seven half centuries.

An officer with the Southern Railways, Suresh first represented Kerala in the Ranji Trophy in 1991-92 and then switched to Railways, with which he was employed, in 1995-96. And from 1999-2000 till the end of his Ranji career in 2005-06, he again represented Kerala.

Suresh also represented South and Central Zones in the Duleep Trophy. Police also said that it is a case of suspected suicide. However, they said they would probe all the angles leading to Suresh's death.

# Odisha's Sushree selected for T20 Women's Challenge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** India's white ball captains Harmanpreet Kaur and Mithali Raj along with their 'double deputy' Smriti Mandhana have been named captains of 'Supernovas', 'Trailblazers' and 'Velocity' squads respectively. The teams will take part in the upcoming women's T20 Challenge scheduled from November 4 to 9 in the UAE.

Odisha's Sushree Dibyardarshini has found a place in the 'Velocity' team. The tournament also will see for the first time the inclusion of a Thailand cricketer: Natthakan Chantham became the first from her nation to get a maiden call-up in the mini-league. Chantham scored her country's first Women's T20 World Cup half century in Australia earlier this year. Each team have four overseas players each.

"The best of Indian women's cricketers will combine with some of the leading stars from England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Bangladesh and New



Sushree Dibyardarshini

Zealand. It will be a four-match tournament," BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted saying in a media release.

Most of the top Indian cricketers will be playing the event. Among the top foreign stars participating are batswoman Deandra Dottin of the West Indies and England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone. Her teammate Danielle Wyatt has also found a place in one of the squads.