



## NOSTALGIC FEELING

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan has reminded fans of MAK Pataudi by posting an image of her son playing cricket

LEISURE P2



## SMOG RETURNS TO DELHI

Air quality in Delhi worsens as wind died down just as burning of crop waste sent smoke billowing across the north

TWO STATES P7



## REINFECTION IS RISKY

nCoV patients infected with the virus for a second time might experience more severe symptoms

INTERNATIONAL P10

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Let him stop media trials, else instruct media to hold them in same speed as of real trials!

# Rain havoc in southern districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur/Patrapur/Sheragad, Oct 13:** Several villages in Ganjam and Gajapati districts were marooned Tuesday following heavy rain induced by a deep depression over Bay of Bengal since Monday.

Normal life was disrupted forcing residents to remain confined indoors. A landslide from the hill between Tadkaskahi and Riabada under Patrapur block cut off communication. Similarly, a landslide occurred in Tamoisingh village under Gumma block of Gajapati.

Gajapati Collector had people in affected areas evacuated. Over 500 people from Kashinagar, Raigad, R Udayagiri and Gumma were shifted



to safer places starting from Monday night till Tuesday. The evacuees have been provided with cooked food. Reports of house collapse have also been reported. In Ganjam, 1,385 mm rain was recorded over last 24 hours. Khallikote registered maximum 128 mm rain. Rushikulya, Baghua, Nandini and Ghodahada rivers were swollen. Hilltop villages like Ankuli, Buratal in Patrapur

block witnessed heavy rainfall.

Villages like Elagal, Baniabasa, Beheraputu, Maduagamma, Uparburatal, Badua, Kurgarh, Dhobalingi and Andaanda under Patrapur block have been marooned.

A diversion over Jarau river on Badagada-Gangapur road was washed away due to a sudden rise in the water level following incessant rain.

Similarly, residents of more than 50 villages in Sheragada area were affected as two diversions on Sheragada-Badagada road were washed away. Vehicular movement on the route was completely disrupted.

A flood like situation emerged in Digapahandi block. Baghalati reservoir discharged rainwater through

two gates to Bahuda river: Digapahandi tehsildar Adwait Kumar Swain and Chikiti tehsildar Haraprasad Bhoi are keeping a close watch on the situation.

All communications between Aska and Berhampur were disrupted after above 2-ft water overflowed on NH-59 at Ramachandrapur-Pital road. A bridge on Jarau river connecting Gokulpur village has collapsed near Sorada-Badagad road. All communications between Shergad and Badgad were disrupted after an approach road near Manikpur was washed away. The Mahendratnaya and Vamshadhara rivers in Gajapati district and several others smaller rivers were in spate. Acres of standing crops in Sheragada were completely submerged in water.

MORE REPORT P5



## Naveen opens 'Sujal' tap for town dwellers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday virtually launched the 'Sujal- Drink from Tap Mission' here, making Odisha "the first state in the country to provide quality drinking water, fit for direct consumption, in urban areas," a minister said.

The initiative aims to benefit more than 15 lakh people in the cities, Housing and Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena said. The project, in its first phase, will supply drinking water to Bhubaneswar and Puri.

"Odisha is the first state in India, where people in urban areas will be able to drink water directly from taps, under the government's new initiative," Jena stated.

Patnaik, on the occasion, said the initiative, for which the state is spending ₹1,300 crore, will be extended in a phased-manner to other districts. The CM also gave assurances that all households in the urban areas of the state will have piped water by March 2022.

"Bhubaneswar, with over 10 lakh population, is the first city in India to have 100 per cent piped-water facility. By March 2022, all households in all urban areas will have the connection.

The Drink from Tap Mission will be executed in 15 cities, benefitting over 15 lakh people, the CM added. UK-based NGO Water Aids CEO Tim Wainwright, lauded the Odisha government for its initiative.

## State signs MoU with Rugby India

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The state government Tuesday signed an agreement with Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till 2023 and facilitate high-

performance training and conditioning of the players.

The sponsorship will be extended towards training, conditioning and incentivising the Indian national rugby teams, both men and women, participating in international rugby events, officials said.

MORE P3

## Her pickle jar grew from ₹100 to ₹40L

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jeypore, Oct 13:** She started a small startup of pickles with all of ₹100, about 20 years ago. However, after years of struggle and competition, Manjula Patra has established herself as a woman entrepreneur in Koraput. At present, her annual turnover is in excess of ₹40 lakh.

Patra, a resident of Kumbhasahi in Jeypore town, is no less than a business icon in the area. She is an epitome of women empowerment and self-reliance.

Her small enterprise Manjula Achar Company is striking roots deeper every

year with its volume of business growing. After overcoming many hurdles, she now owns a successful enterprise.

Her company is preparing 42 varieties of pickles from mangoes, lemons, jackfruit, chili, cauliflowers, and tomatoes. Demand for her pickles is growing in various parts of the district and even outside the district. Through her company, she is providing livelihood support to members of 12 families.

Walking down the memory lane, Manjula says, "I was going through a very difficult time when I hit upon the idea of making pickles. I started it with ₹100 some 20 years ago."



Manjula Patra (r) in her factory

she pointed out. "I maintain high quality as they are prepared from fresh vegetables and fruits. They are tasty too while prices are affordable for consumers. That's why demand for my pickles is on the rise," She added. She purchases fresh raw materials from local markets to ensure quality. Customers reach out to her and take their choicest products, he added.

As business is growing, some members of her family have lent their hands in the business. "If government help comes, job scope for more families can be created," said K Tirupati, the husband of Manjula.

25<sup>th</sup> Sept - 18<sup>th</sup> Oct

# Unlock Sale

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**20% Off**  
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Upto  
**70% Off**  
on Gold Jewellery MC

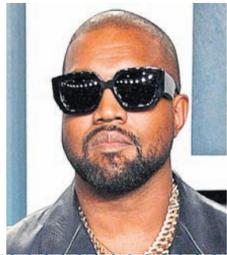
Upto  
**50% Off**  
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Showrooms only at

<b>BHUBANESWAR</b> 621 Janpath Saheed Nagar	<b>BHUBANESWAR</b> 309 District Centre Chandrashekharpur	<b>BERHAMPUR</b> Venkataraju Arcade Sano Bazar	<b>CUTTACK</b> 558/834 Cantonment Road	<b>ROURKELA</b> Kesar Bhavan Main Road	<b>JHARSUGUDA</b> Sarbahal Road (Opening Shortly)	<b>Open on All Days</b> Toll Free 1800 3131 777 (Mon to Sun) Follow us on
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**KHIMJI**  
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# leisure



## KANYE UNVEILS CAMPAIGN VIDEO FOR 2020 PRESIDENTIAL RUN

Rapper Kanye West has released a campaign video for 2020 presidential run. The rapper tweeted it with the caption: "We stepping out on faith." In the video, Kanye is seen against a black-and-white American flag. The montage also has families praying and helping each other.

## GOLDFINGER ACTOR NOLAN PASSES AWAY AT 76

Margaret Nolan, actress and artiste best known for featuring in the 1964 James Bond film *Goldfinger*, is no more. She was 76. She passed away October 5 but her son Oscar Deeks has revealed about it to Variety Tuesday.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
If you have children, it's likely you'll spoil them today. After all, it's for days like these that you work hard, says Ganesh. You will also complete pending assignments and it's a productive day for those in medical professions and public services.

**TAURUS**  
You may feel frustrated and stranded in family matters today, says Ganesh. Shower your warmth and care to make up for past mistakes. Your spouse will be supportive and lend you a helping hand to regain your mental composure. Reciprocate with intimacy and go with the flow, suggests Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today, a strong emotional link with someone special may get established, predicts Ganesh. So you will remain delighted and elated for most part of the day. Still, some petty problems may spoil your happy mood later in the day. Diffuse tension with a light-hearted approach.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will realise that in this materialistic world, everything is judged by its appearance, and what is unseen counts for nothing. You will work hard to be seen and will crave for attention. Though Ganesh strongly suggests that this will only bring you grief as the most beautiful of flowers shrivel and your appearance will not help you beyond a point, you are not likely to follow his advice.

**LEO**  
Even an emperor, when struck with an ailment, is not a pretty sight. Bearing this in mind, today you shall make health your number one priority, says Ganesh. You will do wise to chart out some sort of a work-out regime for yourself, and inculcate a sense of discipline in maintaining it, even if it is anything as simple as a thrice-a-week routine. You may have to keep an eye on those cravings, and spruce up your diet.

**VIRGO**  
The day will bring unexpected changes and pleasant surprises. You may hit the road with your loved ones, and the journey will not only be exciting but also calm your nerves. Overall, a bright, happy day to make most of, says Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
It's time to take what is already good, and turn it into something better. Take this day as a day to bring about improvements in your life and yourself. You may also consider taking up some extra courses in the evening. Maybe it's time for a salsa lesson, or learn how to toss a few Italian delicacies. Small crash courses go a long way in enhancing your efficiency, says Ganesh.

**SCORPIO**  
You might just blow your fuse today, warns Ganesh. Anger will melt all sense and sensibilities. But if logic does prevail eventually, things may just improve as the day passes. Ganesh says it is high time you awakened your softer side.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A demanding day today, as you find yourself in charge of arranging and attending high-voltage meetings. Those dealing in stock and share will have profitable returns in the afternoon. But don't count your chickens before they hatch, says Ganesh. Wait till the evening to count those wads of notes.

**CAPRICORN**  
As the day begins, you may get a strong urge to leave everything and set off on a backpacking trip. So strong the wanderer in you may be now that it may even momentarily take over the famed Goat caution. Yet alas, this being only a fleeting moment, you may soon don your dapper avatar, and head to work. If nothing else, at least, loosen your tie at the end of the day and head to a dance floor.

**AQUARIUS**  
It's family time, and your near and dear will be mighty pleased. You will pamper and fuss over them, and will even pull funny faces to make them smile. Your love and affection will undoubtedly pay off, and come back to you in more ways than one. Ganesh says you deserve a pat on the back for being so devoted to family.

**PISCES**  
You have been neglecting your health of late, a fact which is hammered home by your ill-fitting trousers today! So, while you ignored the adage of prevention being better than cure, you could still make a stitch in time to save nine! Head for the gym, and watch those calories, says Ganesh.

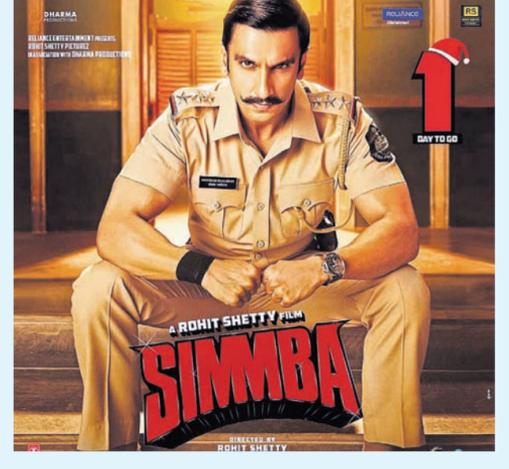
## Kareena's Insta post Taimur reminds fans of MAK Pataudi

**MUMBAI:** Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan Tuesday took to Instagram to post an image of her son Taimur Ali Khan playing cricket. Along with the picture, she had a witty caption in place, too. "Any place in the IPL? I can play too," Kareena wrote, on behalf of Taimur. Many fans were reminded of Taimur's late grandfather, iconic cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi. "It seems Taimur is following the footsteps of his late grandfather," a user commented. "So cute," wrote another. Kareena is currently in Delhi to shoot for her film *Laal Singh Chaddha*, which marks her third collaboration with actor Aamir Khan. On the personal front, Kareena is expecting her second child with actor Saif Ali Khan. IANS



## Ranveer's Simmba gets an animated avatar

**MUMBAI:** The 2018 Ranveer Singh superhit, *Simmba*, is all set for an animated avatar. This was confirmed by director Rohit Shetty of the film Tuesday. Shetty took to Instagram Story to share the teaser of an animated spin-off show, *Smaashhing Simmba*. The show will release on a kids channel on Diwali this year. "SMAASHHING SIMMBA is roaring. Mind is Blowing! Join the adventures of this sharp-tongued, witty teenager aspiring to be a police officer," read a post on the official Twitter handle of Reliance Entertainment. In *Simmba*, Ranveer is seen as a corrupt police officer who has a moral turnaround after a particular incident and becomes the saviour of justice. The film, co-starring Sara Ali Khan, opened December 28 in 2018. Ranveer will reprise his role as Sangram Bhalerao Simmba in Shetty's upcoming cop action drama, *Sooryavanshi*, which stars Akshay Kumar as ATS officer Veer Sooryavanshi, who is on the lookout for terrorists planning a deadly strike in Mumbai. Ajay Devgn will also reprise his role of Bajirao Singham from Shetty's *Singham* films. IANS



## Lata Mangeshkar's tributes to Ashok Kumar, Kishore Kumar

**MUMBAI:** Playback icon Lata Mangeshkar paid tributes to the legendary brothers Ashok Kumar and Kishore Kumar Tuesday. The date October 13 marks the birth anniversary of late actor Ashok Kumar, fondly known as Dadamoni to film buffs. The day also marks the death anniversary of his younger brother, late playback phenomenon Kishore Kumar. "Today is the birth anniversary of my favourite actor Ashok Kumar ji. It is very unfortunate that the same date also marks the death anniversary of his younger brother and our beloved Kishore da. I offer my respect to both the luminaries," tweeted the veteran singer. Kishore Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar continue to be among Hindi film industry's most popular playback pairs ever. They have sung numerous memorable duets including *Tere bina zindagi se (Aandhi)*, *Gaata rahe mera dil (Guide)*, *Tere mere milan ki yeh raina (Abhimaan)*, *Bheegi bheegi raaton mein (Ajnabee)*. IANS

## Dee MC asks aspiring female rappers not to follow trends

DEEPA UNNIKRISHNAN'S RAP GLOW KO NA ROKO CELEBRATES THE INNER CONFIDENCE AND RADIANCE OF THE INDIAN WOMAN

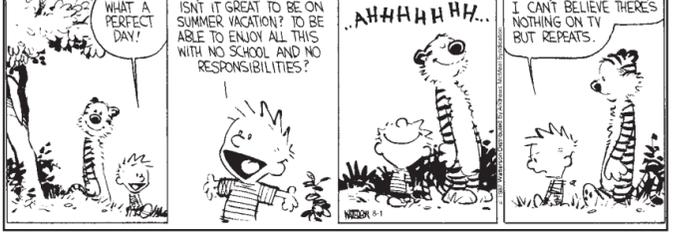
**NEW DELHI:** Rapper Deepa Unnikrishnan, better known as Dee MC, has advised aspiring female rappers to always strive to have their own identity. She says, "If you've entered this genre with the hopes of making a name for yourself, then set your own path and don't follow trends." On her journey thus far in an industry which is dominated by males in India, Dee MC says that any and every field in the world is male dominated so Hip Hop or any other genre falls under the same. "When we started there was barely any industry for hip hop, so our focus was mainly self-improvement. Although the journey has had its ups and downs, I consider myself to be one of the most empowered females in this country. As I get to choose my own path and set an example that is truly inspiring, I'd like to add that although our society is quite orthodox, women do get encouraged by the male artists of the South Asian hip hop scene," adds the 26-year-old. She continues: "At this point in my life the hardships look like a distant memory. The struggles today are on a different level and scale than what it was 2 or 3 years ago. If I had to put my finger on one thing, I would say that being a young teenage girl from a small town like Kalyan was my biggest challenge when I started out. A lot of energy went into acquiring permission from my family to travel for shows or cyphers. For a while I was living a dual life where my family had no idea what my Dee MC alter ego is up to. But these experiences shaped my state of mind - that I couldn't rely on anyone else to fulfil my dreams."

Speaking on the underlying message of her songs, she says, "While women in India would like to choose their own identity, they have been conditioned to listen to others. The message of my rap *Glow Ko Na Roko* is for women to embark on the journey of choosing their own identity. It celebrates the inner confidence and glow of the Indian woman." She advises the aspiring rappers to have their own identity that can get them further in their career. If a girl has chosen this genre, she should set her own path instead of following the trends, concludes the rapper who has been working to expand her YouTube subscriber base. AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



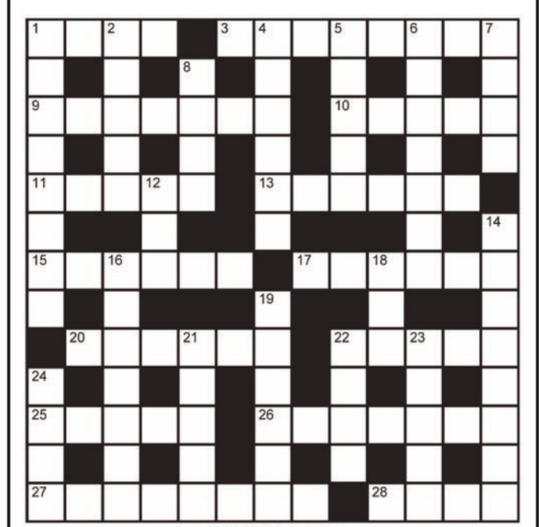
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Office note
  - 3 Aardvark
  - 9 Plaid weave fabric
  - 10 Stroll
  - 11 Brunch serving
  - 13 Soak
  - 15 Enter the picture
  - 17 Hearsay
  - 20 Eye cover
  - 22 Horse-carts
  - 25 Olfactory sensation
- Down**
- 26 Tallest living quadruped
  - 27 Expenses diagram, maybe (3,5)
  - 28 Charity
  - 1 Illusionist
  - 2 Animal disease
  - 4 Wanderers
  - 5 Clear the boards
  - 6 Pipe filler
  - 7 Rod's companion
  - 8 Loafer, e.g. "The Bells" poet
  - 14 Belgian capital
  - 16 Ask for a hand?
  - 18 Deface
  - 19 Burrowing mammal
  - 21 Direction
  - 22 Challenge
  - 23 Horrible
  - 24 It's sold in bars

### SUDOKU

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

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

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

**SUDOKU**

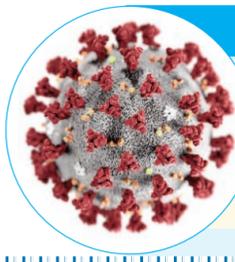
8	B	0	6	3	4	C	D	1	2	5	7	9	A	E
D	C	7	0	A	2	B	9	8	E	1	6	4	5	3
3	A	6	7	1	5	E	2	4	8	9	C	B	0	D
5	2	4	E	9	D	7	6	0	3	B	A	1	8	C
9	1	E	8	C	A	3	5	4	D	0	6	7	2	
E	6	D	1	0	7	4	8	3	9	A	B	2	C	5
A	7	B	D	5	E	6	0	C	1	2	3	8	4	9
2	8	3	C	6	B	1	7	9	5	0	4	D	E	A
0	5	1	9	4	8	2	A	D	6	C	3	B	7	E
C	4	A	2	3	E	8	7	6	0	9	1	5		
7	0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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## POLLUTION THREAT

Sewage from a nearby drain flows into Puri sea soon after heavy rain lashed the Holy City, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,81,96,899	2,86,92,574	10,87,444
India	71,75,880	62,27,295	1,09,856
Odisha	2,56,937	2,32,988	1,057

# State to sponsor nat'l rugby team for 3 yrs

# HC bench plan hits infra hurdles

PNN/AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The state government Tuesday signed an agreement with Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till 2023 and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players.

The sponsorship will be extended towards training, conditioning and incentivising the Indian national rugby teams, both men and women, participating in international rugby events, officials said.

The agreement was signed by Director Sports, R Vineel Krishna and President, IRFU, Maneek Unwala, on behalf of the two parties, in the presence of Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Secretary Sports, Vishal K Dev, CEO, IRFU, Naseer Hussain, actor, director and former Rugby International player, Rahul Bose, and other dignitaries.

"This is a significant partnership for us. In recent years, we have seen a steady rise of Rugby in terms



The agreement being signed in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

of popularity and participation, particularly the participation of young players due to the commendable efforts of Rugby India," the Sports minister said.

This partnership between the Odisha government and Rugby India will not only help develop the sport of rugby further in the state and India, but also support and

strengthen the high performance training of Indian National Rugby Teams, he said.

Behera said this association is a natural fit since our core objective aligns perfectly with promotion of the sport, which is already gaining grounds in several states.

"We hope this initiative will help nurture young talent, create a path-

way from grassroots to elite and produce more players who can bring laurels to the country," he said.

Rugby India President, Maneek Unwala thanked the Government of Odisha for the continued support. "On behalf of Rugby India, I am pleased to welcome them as Associate Sponsors of the Indian National Rugby teams. I am confident that the shared core values and vision of Odisha and Rugby India will ensure that this partnership thrives and is beneficial for our rugby athletes," he said.

The state government is dedicatedly working towards their vision of 'Sports, a priority for Odisha', by developing the state as a hub for major sporting events and creating international standard high-performance training centres in multiple sports for the country, he said.

Rahul Bose said, "This is a historic day for Indian Rugby. Thanks to this sponsorship from the Government of Odisha, national rugby players (women and men) will, for the first time ever, be paid

for their services to the Indian rugby teams. This marks a first, solid step towards making rugby a professional sport in the country."

The Sport and Youth Services department has been one of the most proactive, diligent and excellence-focused state sports departments in India, he said, adding "today we celebrate the long-standing partnership we have with Odisha as we pave the way for a bright future for our athletes."

This association with Rugby India is expected to further build the brand image of Odisha which has emerged as an important cog in the national sporting ecosystem in recent years. The partnership is based on the Odisha government's mission to develop, promote and expand the sports ecosystem beyond Hockey and Football.

After sponsoring the National Hockey teams in 2018 for five years, and later supporting the ISL team - Odisha FC, the state has set another benchmark by sponsoring the National Rugby Teams, said an official.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** The Union government has refused to proceed further towards setting up of a bench of Orissa High Court in western region due to bottlenecks on infrastructure front.

In a reply to Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Prasanna Acharya, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the High Court benches are established in accordance with the recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission and Supreme Court's directions and after due consideration with the state government, the Chief Justice of the High Court along with the consent of the Governor concerned.

The Centre, following the request of the state government to establish HC bench in western and southern region of Odisha, has requested the Orissa High Court to give its views, said the minister.

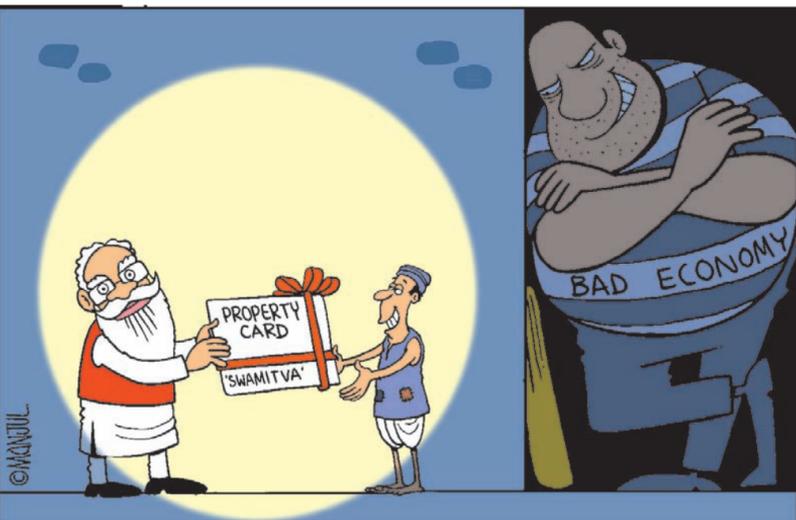
However, Prasad said, the Centre has not received the views of the High Court.

He also cited the lack of readiness of infrastructure facilities required for setting up of the HC bench in the western and southern region.

"The Central government has not received any communication from the state government of Odisha about the readiness of infrastructure facilities required for setting up of High Court bench," the minister said.

In a written reply to a query in the Assembly recently, Minister of State for Home, DS Mishra, has said that the state government has been consistently pursuing with the Centre for establishment of permanent benches of Orissa High Court in western and southern Odisha. The state government is committed to provide all logistic support such as infrastructure, manpower etc for the purpose, Mishra has said.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Minor girl 'sexually abused' for 22 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 13:** A 15-year-old girl was abducted and 'sexually abused' by two youths at a poultry farm here for around 22 days, a senior official of Chauliaganj police said Tuesday.

According to police, the minor, a resident of Rankel under Tirtol police limits in Jagatsinghpur, had come to her sister's place at Professorpada here around a month ago following a dispute with her parents.

"Her sister, however, asked her to return home following a marital discord. The girl was waiting for a bus near OMP Square when Santosh Kumar Behera met her. Behera lured her into coming with him on the pretext of helping her reach home. However, Behera took her to his friend's poultry farm at Gatiroutpatna where the duo sexually abused her for nearly 22 days," said the official.

She managed to escape their clutches and reach a temple near Gatiroutpatna. A few locals helped her contacting the Chauliaganj police which rescued the minor.

## Minor 'raped' in City

**Bhubaneswar:** Sahid Nagar police Tuesday detained a boy on charges of sexually abusing a six-year-old girl at a slum. The girl's parents have lodged a complaint with the police a few days ago. The girl was playing near her residence Sunday when the boy took her to an isolated place and forced upon her.

# Record ganja haul till Sept: DGP

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The state police Tuesday said it would further intensify action against drug trafficking and accelerate drive against brown sugar and ganja based on satellite mapping data shared by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Director General of Police (DGP) Abhay said this while addressing a press conference on the seizure of huge amount of contraband.

"The state police have seized a total of 1,054 quintal ganja between January and September this year," the DGP said.

This is the highest seizure by the police in any year, Abhay said, adding that the maximum quantity of the contraband item weighing up to 413.14 quintal has been seized from Koraput district followed by Malkangiri (240.66 quintal) and Gajapati district (126.58 quintal).

While the average seizure of the last 10 years is 312



DGP Abhay addresses the media at the conference hall of state Crime Branch in Cuttack, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

quintal, an average of 414 quintal of ganja has been seized in the last five years, he said.

This apart, the DGP said, "Odisha Police has intensified financial investigation against organised gangs behind such trafficking."

The DGP said that action against drug trafficking re-

mains among the top priorities of the Odisha government and the state police is determined to combat drug trafficking.

The DGP said that the state police for the last couple of years have been using ISRO's data shared by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) to launch a crackdown on illegal cultivation

**Police have been using ISRO's data shared by NCB to launch crackdown on illegal cultivation of ganja and poppy**

of ganja and poppy.

"The satellite mapping of poppy cultivation has been stabilised in the last 10 years for which we are able to get accurate information. As the ganja (dry cannabis) mapping is a recent one, it will take some more time to get pinpoint data. Once it is done, we will be able to carry out drives with much more accuracy," Abhay said.

On the inter-state ganja smuggling, the DGP said Odisha police has taken up the matter with the DGPs of Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	40625.51 ↑ 31.71
NIFTY	11934.50 ↑ 3.50
DOLLAR	73.5825 ↓ ₹0.03
EURO	86.5100 ↓ ₹0.06
GOLD	₹50,289 ↓ ₹818
SILVER	₹60,924 ↓ ₹2,174

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	28.7°C	32.8°C
TEMP. MIN	24.6°C	24.4°C
Humidity	85%	86%
Rainfall	31.6mm	13 mm

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky

# Srimandir servitors seek hike in special aid

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Oct 13:** Six more servitor groups (Niyogs) of Srimandir Tuesday opposed the reopening of the 12th century shrine in the prevailing Covid-19 situation.

In a virtual meeting with Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Krishan Kumar, the members of Suarbadu, Patribadu, Hadap Nayak, Mekap, Dattamahapatra, Bidua and Pantibadu Niyogs suggested that the temple should not be reopened for the public before the completion of Hindu month of Kartik.

Members of the six Niyogs also urged the SJTA for a hike in the special assistance being provided by the shrine authorities to the servitors to compensate the losses incurred due



**We will choose a date for reopening of Srimandir October 16 and deliberate on the issue at a meeting of the Srimandir Managing Committee**

KRISHAN KUMAR | SJTA CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

to temple shutdown.

The servitors suggested that the SJTA chief administrator should finalise a possible date for reopening of Srimandir and move a proposal in this regard at a meeting of the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, the apex decision making authority for the shrine.

"We will choose a date for reopen-

ing of Srimandir October 16 and deliberate on the issue at a meeting of the Srimandir Managing Committee. If a consensus is built on the date for temple reopening, we will recommend it to the state government," said the SJTA chief while accepting the servitors' suggestions.

The SJTA chief had consulted Garabadu, Mahajan, Puspalak and

Bimanbadu niyogs over the issue Monday. This apart, he had also sought opinions of Chhatisha Niyog Nayak, Bhitarchhu Mahapatra, Tauchha Mahapatra, Pujapanda, Deula Karan, Tadhau Karan and other key servitors' groups with regard to the temple reopening.

Almost all the servitors had opposed the idea of reopening the temple for devotees before the completion of Hindu month of Kartik. They had argued that Covid-19 infections will rise, if the shrine is reopened for devotees in recent future.

"The SJTA chief administrator has collected the views of many Srimandir niyogs on the temple reopening in last couple of days. He will continue to consult some other servitors' groups for three more days," said a source in the temple administration.

## CELEBRATE PUJA

# 7.5% OFF

10<sup>th</sup> Oct. to 16<sup>th</sup> Nov.

### Kalamandir Royale

309, DISTRICT CENTRE, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, PH : 2303866/966  
364, SAHID NAGAR, JANPATH, PH : 0674-2544299/399

**MENSWEAR, SAREES, LEHENGAS AND GOWNS**

# State loses 17 more lives to nCoV; toll 1,057

### ODISHA'S CORONAVIRUS CASELOAD RISES TO 2,56,937 WITH DETECTION OF 2,275 FRESH CASES

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** State's Covid-19 tally mounted to 2,56,937 with 2,275 people testing positive for the infection Tuesday, while 17 fresh fatalities took the toll in the coastal state to 1,057, a senior Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department official said.

Of the 2,275 new cases, 1,318 were reported from different quarantine centres, and the rest during contact tracing, said the official.

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of new cases at 364, followed by Sundargarh 150 and Cuttack 144. Seven districts reported more than 100 cases each.

Taking to Twitter, the H&FW department said, "Regret to inform the demise of seventeen Covid-19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals."

Four fresh fatalities were registered in Mayurbhanj, three in Khurda and two each in Puri and Sundargarh. One each succumbed to the infection in Balasore, Bolangir, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara and Sambalpur.

As many as 53 Covid-19 patients



Healthcare experts in Cuttack counsel home isolation patients via videoconferencing

## UNENDING DISASTER

Over 38.36 lakh samples have been examined in the state, including 40,058 Monday

Four fresh fatalities were registered in Mayurbhanj, three in Khurda and two each in Puri and Sundargarh. One each succumbed to the infection in Balasore, Bolangir, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara and Sambalpur

Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, reported the maximum number of new cases at 364, followed by Sundargarh at 150 and Cuttack at 144

have died due to comorbidities, according to the official.

Over 38.36 lakh samples have been examined in the state, including 40,058 Monday.

Meanwhile, 2,796 Covid patients

have recovered from the disease, taking the total recoveries in Odisha to 2,32,988. The recoveries include 582 from Khurda, 179 from Cuttack, 148 from Jajpur, 135 from Angul and 127 from Puri.

In another development, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) congratulated Institute of Life Sciences for crossing the milestone of one lakh sample tests for Covid.

Taking to Twitter, the CMO wrote, "Congratulations Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) for crossing milestone of one lakh tests and strengthening #Odisha's fight against #COVID19. Appreciate for playing a significant part in Odisha's effort to ramp up tests to contain the spread of the pandemic."

### Capital city's infections cross 26K

The Covid-19 tally in the Capital city crossed 26,000-mark with 281 new cases being reported from several nook and corner of the City in the last 24 hours, official sources said.

For the third consecutive day, Bhubaneswar's daily Covid-19 cases remained below 300-mark.

Of the new cases, 192 were local contacts and 89 were quarantine cases, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) tweeted.

With this the cumulative Covid-19 tally in Bhubaneswar reached 26,016. The active caseload in the City stands at 3,348 while death toll due to the disease remains at 122.

# NGT to re-examine violation of green norms in Angul district

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has now asked the Joint Committee, constituted after its earlier order, to re-examine the violations of environmental laws and prepare a comprehensive report.

The order of the tribunal came into limelight after a petition was filed seeking intervention of the tribunal against lakhs of trees felled in Angul district for industrialization and expansion of National Highways.

The petitioner in the case had alleged that some industrial plants have not built a green belt of 500 metres around their industries and went against the established rules and norms of the state government. It also alleged that the highway expansion works undertaken by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) also failed to plant trees.

The petitioner cited government records and claimed that for the establishment of some public sector and private sector companies and expansion of NH, more than 3.6 lakh trees were felled in Angul district and the compensatory afforestation against the damage



was not done as per rules. The NGT earlier had formed a Joint Committee comprising several key officials from different sectors to examine the region. After going through their report, the NGT claimed that the panel confined their scrutiny to only one government plant and failed to look into the wider picture.

It has now asked the panel to re-examine the issue. The written order of the NGT said that on perusal of the report, it found that the Committee appeared to have confined its report only in respect of one government plant situated in Angul District.

"The report, therefore, is incomplete and, therefore, we direct the Committee to submit a com-

prehensive report covering the entire district of Angul. Let the committee file its report within two months from hence. While doing so, the committee shall look into the application filed by the applicant which sets out the width of the inspection to be carried out by the committee," the order of the tribunal said.

The petition had claimed that the industries and NHAI flouted the Green Highways (Plantation and Maintenance) Policy 2015 and Guidelines on Landscaping and Tree Plantations-2009 in the district during their course of work. It has now been demanded that as per the norms, more than 36 lakh trees should be planted in the district.

# Stir for online registration at CBSE schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** Odisha Parents' Federation (OPF) Tuesday staged a protest at the CBSE's regional office here and demanded that manual registration and form fill-up be done away with at CBSE affiliated private schools.

OPF demanded a halt to registration of Class IX and XI and form fill-up for Class X and XII manually by all CBSE affiliated private schools in the state.

The outfit's chairman, Basudev Bhatt, said they have received complaints and grievance regarding manual registration of Class IX and XI and form fill-up of Class X and XII. "As per Covid-19 guidelines, online classes are now the only mode of imparting education to our students. However, the schools are asking parents to come physically for registration and form fill-up purposes," he added.

After a few hours of protest, CBSE Bhubaneswar Regional Officer T Mate assured them to send a circular to all the private schools to immediately stop manual registration and filling up of forms.

He also wrote a letter to the Chairman of CBSE on behalf of the OPF urging him to extend the date of registration and form fill-up by two months without fine.

# 'CP to reveal facts on petrol pump blast'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The Commissionerate Police, investigating into the petrol pump blast case, will Friday brief the media about some important facts regarding the causes of the mishap, sources said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the hard disk recovered from the petrol pump was sent to the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFL) Tuesday. The experts of the SFL will examine if the footage stored in the disc have been tampered with.

The Commissionerate Police might unveil the reasons behind the explosion at the fuel station October 7 following the submission of the examination report of the hard disc within three to four days. Meanwhile, the family of missing Simanchal Parida is likely to meet the commissioner of police, officials of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) said Wednesday.

Parida's family said they would sit in protest on event of failing to get any satisfactory response from the authorities, Wednesday.

## JUSTICE SOUGHT



CITU, AIKS and AIAWU demonstrate near Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, demanding judicial probe into Hathras incident

# In 'Festival Special' services, railways to run 392 more trains

AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The Railways Tuesday announced it has given approval to run 392 'Festival Special' between October 20 and November 30 to cater to the big festive season rush.

The fares for these trains will be according to those applicable for special trains, the railways ministry said. It means that 'special charges' will be levied, making the tickets costlier by 10-30 per cent as compared to the fares of Mail/Express trains, depending on the class of travel. According to current norms, 'special charges' are fixed as a percentage of fare at the rate of 10 per cent of basic fare for second class and 30 per cent of basic fare for all other classes.

"To clear the festive rush, the ministry of railways has approved 196 pairs (392 trains) of 'Festival Special' services over Indian Railways to be operated from 20th October 2020 and 30th November 2020. The fare for these Festival Special services shall be that applicable for special trains. Zonal Railways will notify their schedule well in advance," the ministry said.

In the order issued by the ministry, the Railway Board said these festival special trains will be op-

erated at a speed of 55 kmph. The schedule and booking of the trains will be finalised by the railway zones, the order said.

The special trains will be run for destinations such as Kolkata, Patna, Varanasi, Lucknow among others to cater to the growing demand in the ensuing holiday period of Durga Puja, Dussehra, Diwali and Chhatt puja, it said.

These trains will run for a period of 40 days only in addition to the special trains that have been deployed by the national carrier. At present a total of 666 mail and express trains are running while all regular trains have been suspended indefinitely in view of the pandemic.

From May 12, Railways started running limited special trains to help stranded people in other states to reach their homes. It started with 15 pairs of premium Rajdhani special trains connecting Delhi with different parts of the country followed by 100 pairs of long-distance trains on June 1. It also started 80 trains additionally September 12.

Railway Board Chairman and CEO, VK Yadav had earlier this month said the ministry will also review the status of passenger trains depending on the demand from the state governments and the status of the pandemic.

# Home dist exam centre for DELED students

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** In view of the pending Diploma in Elementary Education (DELED) examination in the state amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department has decided to conduct the test in the native districts of the students.

Sources said the students can apply through their District Institute for Education and Training (DIET) to appear for the examination.

The candidates had been demanding online examination due to delay in conduct of the exam. However, the S&ME department has decided to conduct the examination at the native districts of the candidates due to lack of proper infrastructure facilities for online examination at the homes.

However, strict Covid-19 guidelines will be enforced at all the examination centres by the controller of the examination.

S&ME Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said, "The candidates had some issues with the examination as their main problem was to find rented houses during this pandemic period. We have allowed them to appear for the examination from their own districts and they have agreed."

"Online examination was not feasible and there is also a question about the sanctity of the examination. So, we have taken a decision suitable for the students," he added.

On the other hand, the department will conduct the examination at 80 examination centres across the state. Students could also appear for the examination at their own schools and they will be allowed to reside in the hostel or campus.

The department will publish on the website the official notification of the examination details soon.

The candidates had some issues with the examination as their main problem was to find rented houses during this pandemic period. We have allowed them to appear for the examination from their own districts and they have agreed

SAMIR RANJAN DASH | S&ME MINISTER

## RAIN WOES



Heavy rain battered many parts of the state as a deep depression formed over the Bay of Bengal crossed the coast in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, Tuesday

# Murder accused taken on two-day remand

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The Commissionerate Police Tuesday took prime accused in the confectioner murder case on a two-day remand for further interrogation. The cops took him on remand after getting permission from the court here.

Earlier, the Commissioner of Police, Sudhanshu Sarangi during a press briefing Monday hinted towards the involvement of some more persons in the murder. The prime accused Raj Kumar Behera alias Raja had earlier surrendered before the SDJM court here October 8. Later, five persons including the parents of Raja were arrested by the police on the charges of hatching the plot to kill the Prabhakar Sahoo alias Jambu October 4. The contract killers, Sritik Biswal and Asutosh Mohanty, who were arrested by police recently, hacked Jambu to death over business rivalry.

# SHREE SETU PROJECT Public hearing for land acquisition today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Oct 13:** The district administration is all set to conduct a public hearing to acquire land for the Shree Setu project here Wednesday.

The residents of four revenue villages of Puri city who are likely to be affected by the trumpet bridge project will participate in the public hearing, sources said.

"Some residents of Samang, Matitota, Markandeswar Sahi and Dandimala Sahi are likely to be affected by the Shree Setu project. These people will take part in the public hearing," said an official of the district administration.

According to the official, the administration would conduct public hearing for Samang residents at the local panchayat office at 10 am Wednesday while the same would be conducted for Markandeswar Sahi people at Maa Bisheswari shrine around 12 noon.

"The public hearing would be conducted for Matitota people at a community centre in the locality around 2 pm Wednesday while the residents of Dandimala Sahi would gather at Jagannath Ballav mutt at 3 pm to give their views on land acquisition for Shree Setu project," said the official.

The state government had announced several mega projects including the Shree Setu to transform Puri into a heritage city. It had planned to spend around Rs 190 crore on the trumpet bridge project.

The administration is supposed to acquire 37.984 acre land for the 2.3 km-long bridge project.

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ASSEMBLY BY-POLL

Why 'they' want to boycott the by-poll



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Oct 13: Upset over the 'pathetic' condition of roads and other commute problems persisting at Nandachaka under Parikhi panchayat in Balasure Sadar, arising out of the recent floods, the residents here have warned of a poll boycott which will be held November 3, 2020.

AFTER EVERY FLOOD, RESIDENTS OF NANDACHAKA FACE SEVERE COMMUNICATION AND COMMUTE PROBLEMS AS THERE IS NO PUCCA ROAD TO IT

A PUCCA ROAD, PROPER DRINKING WATER AND BASIC FACILITIES HAVE BEEN THE RESIDENTS' LONGSTANDING DEMANDS

AS THEIR DEMANDS HAVE NOT BEEN MET FOR LONG, THEY HAVE DECIDED TO BOYCOTT THE POLL

of difficulties, but the road problem is the most serious one as it has been in a very bad shape for long. Many accidents have also occurred on this road, villagers rued. A local, Anil Kumar, lost control over his bike and both his hands were seriously injured recently in an accident here due to the crater-filled road, they added.

Candidate pick triggers internecine fight in BJD



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Oct 13: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has declared Swarup Kumar Das as its candidate for the upcoming by-poll for the Balasure Assembly seat. However, many local leaders and workers of the ruling party have expressed their displeasure over his candidature, exposing internal bickering in the party.

CRACKS WITHIN

Hundreds of party workers protested from Monday evening to Tuesday near the party office, demanding a candidate replacement

The protesting party men demanded to either choose former MP Rabintra Jena or his wife and social activist Subhasini Jena as replacement

They took up the issue with senior party leader and observer Pratap Dev

the party observers had recommended the choice of a new candidate, who is expected to be acceptable by both the sides. Though Swarup owes allegiance to the district unit president Rabintra Jena, a group of Jena's frontline supporters is against this choice.

₹20L looted at gunpoint from bank in Bhogra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Oct 13: Six motorcycle-borne miscreants Tuesday afternoon looted ₹20 lakh from a branch of UCO Bank at Chowki area in Bhogra block of Balasure district.

Rain batters Digapahandi hard

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi, Oct 13: Under the impact of a deep depression which crossed north Andhra Pradesh coast close to Kakinada Tuesday morning, incessant rains battered Digapahandi block in Ganjam district.

At the same time, the Water Resource department has alerted the people that flood water from Baghalati dam at Patrapur could be released any time as the water level has reached the danger level, leaving the riparian villagers in panic.

4 years later, how far have we progressed in potato mission?

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 13: Even as the state government launched a potato mission in 2015 with an aim to increase tuber production in the state and make good of tuber shortage but lack of effective implementation has derailed the efforts, a report said.



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

located for the purpose. The shortage in tuber production in the state could be gauged from the fact that 72,040 mt of potatoes were supplied from other states, 16,260 mt of potatoes were produced locally; 13,750 mt of fruits and other vegetables of 10,9830 mt have been stored in the cold storages in 2018-19 which is just 47 per cent of the capacity of the cold storages.

Banks aren't cooperating in providing loans for which the construction of cold storages has been delayed. Discussions have been made with farmers of Dharmasala and Rasulpur blocks to increase tuber cultivation

SURYAMANI MOHARANA I ADDL DEPUTY DIRECTOR, HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT, JAJPUR

creasing potato production December 27, 2014. The taskforce made several recommendations on tuber production, storage and supply.

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Odisha Undertaking) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, KORAPUT

ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ପାଣିକୋଇଲି (ରାସ୍ତା ଓ ଗୃହ) ବିଭାଗର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ପାଣିକୋଇଲି

ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ପାଣିକୋଇଲି (ରାସ୍ତା ଓ ଗୃହ) ବିଭାଗର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ପାଣିକୋଇଲି

66 jumbos give sleepless nights to Ghumusar locals

POST NEWS NETWORK



Bhanjanagar, Oct 13: Farmers in northern and southern parts of Ghumusar forest division in Ganjam are a harried lot as elephant herds have been wreaking havoc in these pockets every day.

Large tracts of farmland were destroyed in the rampage

'Coal mafia' sets informer's car afire BHADRAK: A person had to pay heavy price for spying on the coal mafia as they burnt his car down to ashes at Marpur village under Bhadrak rural police limits Monday night, it was alleged.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION NO. II, SAMBALPUR

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FOCUS WORLD

# POST-COVID CAPITALISM



The reset that we need is not a revolution or a shift to some new ideology. Rather, it should be seen as a pragmatic step toward a more resilient, cohesive, and sustainable world. Some of the pillars of global system will need to be replaced, and others repaired or strengthened. To achieve shared progress, prosperity, and health requires nothing more – or less

massive new global monopolies. Trade, taxation, and competition rules that reflect decades of neoliberal influence will now have to be revised. Otherwise, the ideological pendulum – already in motion – could swing back toward full-scale protectionism and other lose-lose economic strategies. Specifically, we will need to reconsider our collective commitment to 'capitalism' as we know it. Obviously, we should not do away with the basic engines of growth. We owe most of the social progress of the past to entrepreneurship and to the capacity to create wealth by taking risks and pursuing innovative new business models. We need markets to allocate resources and the production of goods and services efficiently, particularly when it comes to confronting problems like climate change. But we must rethink what we mean by 'capital' in its many iterations, whether financial, environmental, social, or human. Today's consumers do not want more and better goods and services for a reasonable price. Rather, they increasingly expect companies to contribute to social welfare and the common good. There is both a fundamental need and an increasingly widespread demand for a new kind of 'capitalism'. To reconsider capitalism, we must reconsider the role of corporations. An early exponent of neoliberalism, the Nobel laureate economist Milton Friedman believed (quoting former US President Calvin Coolidge) that "the business of business is business." But when Friedman pioneered the doctrine of shareholder primacy, he did not consider that a publicly traded company might be not just a commercial entity but also a social organism. Moreover, the Covid crisis has demonstrated that companies that invested in strengthening their long-term vitality have been bet-

ter equipped to weather the storm. In fact, the pandemic has hastened the shift toward a stakeholder model of corporate capitalism, following the US Business Roundtable's embrace of this concept last year. But for more socially and environmentally conscious business practices to stick, companies need clearer guidelines. To meet that need, the World Economic Forum's International Business Council has developed a set of 'Stakeholder Capitalism Metrics,' so that businesses can get on the same page when it comes to assessing value and risks. If the Covid crisis has shown us anything, it is that governments, businesses, or civil-society groups acting alone cannot meet systemic global challenges. We need to break down the siloes that keep these domains separate, and start to build institutional platforms for public-private cooperation. Equally important, younger generations must be involved in this process, because it is inherently about the long-term future. Finally, we must expand our effort to recognise the diversity of backgrounds, opinions, and values among citizens at all levels. We each have our individual identities, but we all belong to local, professional, national, and even global communities with shared interests and intertwined destinies. The Great Reset should seek to lend a voice to those who have been left behind, so that everyone who is willing to 'co-shape' the future can do so. The reset that we need is not a revolution or a shift to some new ideology. Rather, it should be seen as a pragmatic step toward a more resilient, cohesive, and sustainable world. Some of the pillars of the global system will need to be replaced, and others repaired or strengthened. To achieve shared progress, prosperity, and health requires nothing more – or less.

The writer is founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

No event since World War II's end has had as profound a global impact as Covid-19. The pandemic has triggered a public health and economic crisis on a scale unseen in generations and has exacerbated systemic problems such as inequality and great-power posturing. The only acceptable response to such a crisis is to pursue a 'Great Reset' of our economies, politics, and societies. Indeed, this is a moment to re-evaluate the sacred cows of the pre-pandemic system, but also to defend certain long-held values. The task we face is to preserve the accomplishments of the past 75 years in a more sustainable form.

In the decades after WWII, the world made unprecedented strides toward eradicating poverty, reducing childhood mortality, increasing life expectancy, and expanding literacy. Today, international cooperation and trade, which drove the post-war improvement in these and many other measures of human progress, must be maintained and defended against renewed skepticism of their merits.

At the same time, the world also must remain focused on the defining issue of the pre-pandemic era: the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' and the digitisation of countless economic activities. Recent technological advances have given us the tools that we need to confront the current crisis – including through the rapid development of vaccines, new treatments, and personal protective equipment. We will need to continue to invest in research and development, education, and innovation, while at the same time building protections against those who would misuse technology.

But other shibboleths of our global economic system will need to be re-evaluated with an open mind. Chief among these is the neoliberal ideology. Free-market fundamentalism has eroded worker rights and economic security, triggered a deregulatory race to the bottom and ruinous tax competition, and enabled the emergence of

FREE-MARKET FUNDAMENTALISM HAS ERODED WORKER RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC SECURITY, TRIGGERED A DEREGULATORY RACE TO THE BOTTOM AND RUINOUS TAX COMPETITION, AND ENABLED THE EMERGENCE OF MASSIVE NEW GLOBAL MONOPOLIES



Klaus Schwab

## GUINEA PIGS

By our stumbling the world is perfected.

SRI AUROBINDO



Word is out that a certified Covid vaccine could be expected for distribution in three months' time. Hints are also that the pandemic situation could overall be brought under control by the middle of 2021. This optimism is despite some set-backs in efforts at evolution of a vaccine by principal pharma firms and scientists working at labs across the world. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has stated that a vaccine could be reaching the people by early next year, and his ministry has begun working out the distribution plans. World Health Organisation chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan too has stated as much; that registration process for a new vaccine could be expected by end of this year. By mid-2021, expectations are that one-fifth of the Indian population could have access to a vaccine. This should take care of the vulnerable segments. The infection figures are steadily going up and this is only to be expected in view of the relaxations effected on public activities. Lockdown conditions have been progressively relaxed and economic activities are gaining pace. A complete lockdown for long periods will only kill the national economy, which is already maimed since Demonetization of 2016. Enough of harm has already been done. For a period, the way forward is to live with the pandemic and progressively reduce its spread.

Minister Harsh Vardhan's utterances may sound like sugar and honey to most who are willingly gullible. The development of a vaccine is posing problems as expected, and there are pauses even for some vaccines at the last stages of development. It is a proven fact that most vaccines globally in use currently took decades to develop. Even after initial breakthroughs, it took years to study the side effects and also shut loopholes in its efficacy. Therefore, it will be a long haul for Indians to access genuine vaccines for Covid-19. Unless, of course, all of us are made guinea pigs on whom the various vaccines will be experimented and the successful ones will be marketed by pharma giants the world over at an enormous price tag. The suspicion on the possibility that these trial vaccines will most likely be tested on Indians arises because almost all African and South American countries including nations previously cooperating with such testings as Philippines have passed laws which ban trials of new drugs on their citizens. Unfortunately, India has steadfastly resisted enactment of such a statute thereby making this the only feasible country, with a vastly uneducated poor populace, as a perfect destination for medical experiments on human beings. This facility helps medicine/vaccine developers save millions of dollars that would necessarily have been spent in the animal testing phase. So, there it is. The extremely eager and willing to please Indian populace is waiting with bated breath for the vaccine to arrive. The Indian health ministry, too, is all prepared to spread the red carpet for these vaccine developers to come and check the efficiency of their products here on genuine human guinea pigs.

## TEARFUL DICTATOR

Dictators too have their heart set at the right spot, they may sympathize and empathise, but they do not shed tears in public realm. They do not need to. But, North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un has come to demonstrate he is a different dictator. He wept openly while he was paying tributes at a military parade to troops engaged in works related to national disasters and the Covid pandemic. When leaders cry in public, this is often seen as no more than a shedding of crocodile tears to win the hearts of the poor masses; something that is required in a democracy. Dictatorship is different, and has the tendency to run roughshod over people's sentiments and act as per whims of those at the helm. 'Either obey, or be jailed or killed' is the unwritten code. The three generations of the Kim family's rule have left North Korea a dark spot on Earth if only for the denial of basic freedom to the people, lack of economic progress, and forced labour. What happens within the country is normally kept a secret. Kim succeeded his father in 2011, meaning he's at the head of the nation for a full decade. The national economy is in shambles, requests to UN for free food shipment a periodic obsession, and the iron curtain refuses to be drawn up or removed. If tears can be a compensation for all these, and keeping the people shut from the outside world for generations a credit, this will still be a small comfort. A problem however is, a weak heart is not the right endowment for a dictator. Those around could be smarter and turn the 'leader' around, now that he is demonstrating his weak spot in full public view. Dictators must be made of sterner stuff.

The history of the world has always shown that those who are dictatorial and cruel towards people eventually fall and are forgotten. It is a matter of time. No one is permanent.

### WISDOM CORNER

- We all need people who will give us feedback. That's how we improve. **BILL GATES**
- Before everything else, getting ready is the secret of success. **HENRY FORD**
- Time is the friend of the wonderful company, the enemy of the mediocre. **WARREN BUFFETT**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Twaddle

Twaddle, meaning trivial or foolish speech or writing, has been in the language since the latter part of the 18th Century. It is found first of all in the correspondence of Mrs Mary Delany, a famous letter writer, better known for her flower compositions under the title of Hortus Siccius. In 1782, she wrote about an author of the period: "Fanny Burney has taken possession of the ear of those who found their amusement in reading her twaddle (that piece of old fashioned slang I should not have dared to write or utter, within hearing of my dear mother)." Aha. But it turns out that Mrs Delany just meant that the word was impolite, not obscene. It's a variant of an older word, twattle, which has mainly been dialectal and hasn't been recorded much in print. That meant to talk foolishly or idly or to chatter inane. A twattle-basket was a chatterbox. It seems to have been itself a variation on tattle, as in tittle-tattle, another of those many reduplicated terms that English is so fond of, which has also been written as twittle-twattle. The Oxford English Dictionary notes that these, and other forms, are probably echoic in origin and are primarily colloquial, not often having been written down.

#### Twee

Twee means excessively or affectedly quaint, sentimental or mawkish, sometimes coupled with words like nauseatingly. It's a strongly negative word, and a very useful one, that is in common British use. It appeared at the beginning of the twentieth century to mean something dainty or sweet, a girly and gushing word. It appears to have developed from twee, not the noise a bird makes, but a childish attempt at saying sweet. It might have been helped along by a feeling that it could be a blend of tiny and wee (Scots for small), though it isn't.

### LOL

#### A WALKING ECONOMY

This man is walking with his friend, who happens to be a psychologist. He says to this friend, "I'm a walking economy."



The friend asks, "How so?" "My hair line is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression!"

### IN JEST THIS

# It's OK to be rejected, but not dejected



Melvin Durai

YES, SOMETIMES MOSQUITOES FLY RIGHT PAST ME AND BITE SOMEONE ELSE

Rejection is part of life. I've been rejected so many times, I should be in the Guinness World Records. But Guinness would probably reject me and I'd have to settle for Limca.

I don't keep a list of my rejections, but each one has left a scar on my brain. I've been rejected by women, employers, publishers, credit card companies, colleges, and mosquitoes. Yes, sometimes mosquitoes fly right past me and bite someone else.

You'd think I'd be used to rejection, but I'm not. It still hurts. The fear of rejection is what keeps me from aiming high and submitting my short stories to top magazines, my novels to top publishers, and my scripts directly to Mani Ratnam.

But the only way to be successful in many areas of life, including writing, is to develop a thick skin and not allow rejection to get you down. It doesn't matter if 50 publishers reject your novel — as long as the 51st accepts it, you're in business. You can call yourself an author and dream about the advance you will earn, an advance that might even be large enough to allow you buy another author's book. It should be comforting, per-



Even a veteran author like Salman Rushdie, who once had a fatwa over his head from Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, has been known to let negative reviews get under his skin, even taking swipes at a book critic on Twitter

haps, that even an author like Avni Doshi, whose debut novel "Girl in White Cotton," has been shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize in Fiction, is averse to rejection. That's partly why it took her seven years to get the novel published and why she isn't keen on reading reviews. "I definitely suffer from imposter syndrome – I believe I will wake up one morning and everyone will tell me that actually I can't write, and that I shouldn't be spending my life doing this," she told Hindustan Times in a recent interview. "Being reviewed is tough. I don't read any of my reviews until they have been vetted by my editor, my agent or my husband." In other words, she doesn't read

any reviews that haven't been approved by her editor, agent or husband. If a review is particularly negative, it probably won't reach her. This is a great arrangement. I wish I could get my wife, Malathi, to read any reviews or rejections I receive, but I wouldn't want her to know what people actually think of me. Being a new author, Doshi can be forgiven for not simply brushing aside rejections or negative reviews. But even a veteran author like Salman Rushdie, who once had a fatwa over his head from Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, has been known to let negative reviews get under his skin, even taking swipes at a book critic on Twitter.

It's like surviving an explosion, but being upset that your shirt got crumpled.

What it shows, of course, is how personal it gets for many of us. We get too attached to our work and want everyone to love it. But even the greatest book, movie or song will not be universally loved. That's what I try to tell my wife whenever she makes me watch a movie she absolutely loves, only to find me snoring in the middle of it.

It's important to realise that almost every successful person has overcome rejection of some sort, sometimes many years of rejection. If you want to be an actor, the fastest way to get yourself a movie role is to make sure that one of your parents is an actor or director. But if nepotism isn't on your side, you'll have to audition for roles and face rejection. Of course, once you become a big star, you can turn the tables on movie producers and reject some of the roles they offer you.

And then, like Ranbir Kapoor, you can watch Ranveer Singh accept the roles you've rejected, turning movies such as 'Gully Boy' into blockbusters and making you wish that you could reject your rejection.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

#### Nobel & India

Sir, The Nobel Prize in different categories has been announced for Year 2020. The Peace prize goes to the World Food Programme and the rest to European or US intellectuals and scientists. Asia could not get a single Noble Prize, this year too. India has the second largest population in the world. We need to focus more on research work in all fields so that we can hope to win such prizes in future. Europe countries and the US always dominate the Nobel Prize scene despite progress elsewhere too. Fact is that the West provides good infrastructure and facilities to researchers. India is also not far behind in research work but persistent efforts can bring laurels to our country too. **Syed Nisar Mehdi, HYDERABAD**

#### Data privacy

Sir, Data is the new oil; and healthcare firms, private coaching institutions and marketing agencies are mining it indiscriminately and zeroing in on vulnerable sections. Spam calls and emails from these firms packed with marketing chicanery, pre and post competitive exams like NEET and JEE have muddled young minds and put their parents into a dilemma. These entities are offering cheap seats in government medical colleges, cheap seats in coaching institutions, sure short questions are set for various competitive exams and what not! Awareness among the public on this domain is scarce and we don't have stringent data protection laws. The existing IT laws (IT act 2000, IT rules 2011 SPDI Rules) have grey areas. So these firms audaciously share sensitive details on education, location and medical history to other firms of similar interests and our personal data circulates in the open market. Indian IT laws should be robust and encompass the "Right to be forgotten" like in EU. As responsible citizens, we should educate ourselves about our data and privacy rights and take necessary precautions. **Aryaputra Parthasarathi Das, BHUBANESWAR**

#### Property Cards

Sir, Good to know the Centre has launched a physical distribution of Property Cards under the SWAMITVA scheme and stated that ownership of land and house plays a big role in the development of the country. As the PM said, when there is a record of property, citizens gain confidence and new avenues of investment open. Loan is easily available from the banks by producing records of property, and many employment and self-employment avenues open. **Amit Singh kushwaha, SATNA**

# As stubble smoulders, smog returns to Delhi

EVERY WINTER, A THICK BLANKET OF SMOG SETTLES OVER NORTHERN INDIA AS A COMBINATION OF FACTORS SUCH AS THE BURNING OF STUBBLE IN FIELDS, INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS AND VEHICLE EXHAUST BRINGS A SPIKE IN POLLUTION



REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** Air quality in the national capital deteriorated sharply Tuesday as wind died down just as the burning of crop waste in fields sent smoke billowing across the north of the country. A smoggy haze settled over the city, reducing visibility significantly, as the Air Quality Index (AQI) rose past 300 on a scale of 500, indicat-

ing "very poor" conditions that pose a risk of respiratory problems, according to the federal pollution control board's guidance. "Wind speed was supposed to pick up due to a deep depression in the Bay of Bengal, but that did not happen," SAFAR, India's main environment monitoring agency, said in its daily bulletin. Lower wind speeds let deadly pollutants like PM2.5 particles

hang in the air. PM2.5, particles that are less than 2.5 microns in diameter, can be carried deep into the lungs, causing deadly diseases, including cancer and cardiac problems. "The AQI is likely to be in the very poor to a poor category for the next two days," SAFAR said, as the burning of crop waste, which accounts for about a quarter of air pollution in winter months, picked up.

## Centre has completely failed: Sisodia

**New Delhi:** The central government has completely failed to save north India from pollution, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged Tuesday and appealed to it to play a 'crucial role' in controlling pollution and curb stubble burning. "Stubble burning has started in neighbouring states and smoke has started reaching Delhi. The Delhi government has taken several measures to reduce pollution throughout the year but why is that suddenly when stubble burning begins everybody is concerned about pollution and nothing is done throughout the year," Sisodia told reporters. "We say it again and again that it is not just Delhi which is affected by pollution but whole of north India," he said. By the time smoke from crop residue burning reaches Delhi, its "intensity is somewhat reduced but imagine how badly it will be affecting people living in Punjab and Haryana where stubble burning is actually taking place," the deputy chief minister said.



Every winter, a thick blanket of smog settles over northern India as a combination of factors such as the burning of stubble in fields, industrial emissions and vehicle exhaust brings a spike in pollution. Since October 1, Delhi's average AQI was more than 36% higher than the figures for the same period

a year ago, according to data compiled by Reuters. Up until September, New Delhi and its satellite cities, which last year accounted for half of the dozen most-polluted cities worldwide, had enjoyed respite due to a strict lockdown to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus.

# Activists oppose plans to make Goa coal transport hub



REUTERS

**Chennai, Oct 13:** Indian activists and politicians in Goa, known globally for its pristine coastline and dense forests, are opposing a plan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to turn Goa into a coal transportation hub. Locals and activists have been protesting against three infrastructure projects - the expansion of a highway, railway and a power transmission network, according to local media reports, saying they cut through ecologically sensitive areas.

## ECO SENSITIVE

India wants to increase coking coal handling at the state-run port in Goa, which could be transported to steel companies north of the state. Activists say the projects are also likely to lead to the felling of thousands of trees in ecologically sensitive areas that are home to wildlife and bodies of water.

The double tracking of railways, national highway 17B & 4A 4-laning, ... is only for coal, thus destroying our villages, displacing local communities," Goencho Ekvott, an umbrella organisation of about two dozen rights groups, said in a petition to the Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Tuesday.

## SC allows transport till Jan next year

**Panaji:** The Supreme Court Tuesday allowed the transportation of already extracted iron ore, for which royalty has already been paid, from mining leases to loading points, while disposing of a petition filed by a mining company. The decision is expected to partially revive the state's beleaguered mining industry, which has been impacted by two bans on fresh excavation of iron ore due to irregularities in the last one decade. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant told reporters at the state secretariat Tuesday that the SC in its order has permitted transportation of iron ore for which royalty has been paid to the state government till January 31, 2021. "SC has permitted transportation of iron ore till January 31. It is related to around four million tonnes of (royalty-paid) ore. With this, the mining business will begin in Goa," Sawant said.

India wants to increase coking coal handling at the state-run port in Goa, which could be transported to steel companies north of the state. Activists say the projects are also likely to lead to the felling of thousands of trees in ecologically sensitive areas that are home to wildlife and bodies of water. Alina Saldanha, a state assembly member from Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), wrote to the federal environment minister last week, saying she had "serious concerns" over environmental clearances given to some projects. Saldanha said the railway track expansion project would affect thousands of people, "destroy the environment" and "make it impossible to live" due to "noise pollution and coal dust pollution, making people prisoners in their own land." "There are very many people who are completely opposed to these projects and their voices have not been represented," Saldanha said in a letter dated October 7 re-

# AAP seeks to take over NDMC-run hospitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** The BJP-ruled north municipal corporation must call a session to handover the Hindu Rao and the Kasturba Gandhi hospitals to the Delhi government as the civic body is "unable" to run the health facilities, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said Tuesday. No immediate reaction was available from the Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the remarks made by the AAP, which is in power in Delhi.

The Delhi Police, which comes under the BJP-led central government, is completely silent when this murder took place, Bhardwaj said. "Now under the pressure from the BJP, the Delhi police is harassing the eyewitnesses of this case. The BJP and the Delhi Police are standing with criminals and supporting them," he said. However, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Vijayanta Arya refuted the allegations. "We refute the allegations. With regard to the incident, it is stated that a case of murder under section 302/34 of the Indian Penal Code was registered and five accused (two adults and three minors) in the case were immediately apprehended and further investigation is going on," the officer said. "It is clarified that it was a dispute between two families on a personal issue and there are no communal overtones in the matter. The area is peaceful and police are keeping a close vigil in the area," Arya said. People are requested to refrain from spreading rumours or misinformation, the DCP said.

The AAP's in-charge for municipal corporations, Durgesh Pathak, said party councillors will submit a proposal to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) House demanding handing over of these two hospitals to the Delhi government. He also demanded a discussion on the issue. "The BJP should immediately call a session of the MCD and pass the matter in the House and in the standing committee, by which these hospitals can be handed over to the Delhi government under the AAP," Pathak said. AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj, while speaking to reporters, claimed that under pressure from the BJP, the Delhi Police - which comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs - is harassing eyewitnesses in the Rahul Rajput murder case. Rajput was beaten

# Goa Church seeks release of rights activist Fr Stan Swamy

The 83-year-old activist was arrested from his home in Ranchi last Thursday for his alleged role in the Koregaon Bhima violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Panaji, Oct 13:** The Goa Church Tuesday demanded the Union government immediately release tribal rights activist and Jesuit priest Father Stan Swamy who was arrested for his alleged role in inciting a mob to violence in Koregaon Bhima near Pune in Maharashtra January 1, 2018. The Council for Social Justice and Peace (CSJP), a wing of the Goa Church, has issued a statement demanding that rights and privileges of citizens of all faiths be safeguarded. CSJP director Fr Savio Fernandes alleged attempts are being made "to brand Christians as anti-nationals and manufacture grounds to deny them their political space and curtail democratic rights and privileges."



**There is an attempt to brand Christians as anti-nationals and manufacture grounds to deny them their political space and curtail democratic rights and privileges**  
FR SAVIO FERNANDES

Eighty-three-year-old Swamy was arrested from his home in Ranchi last Thursday. "The government must ensure that the rights, duties and privileges of citizens across religions are safeguarded, and an atmosphere of peace and harmony in society is ensured," Fernandes stated. He said Swamy's arrest by the NIA was in "total disregard to the

dignity and rights" of the human rights crusader. "It is well known that the Catholic priest has devoted almost five decades of his life in lobbying and advocating for the rights of the Adivasis, especially their land rights in the State of Jharkhand," he stated. Fernandes further said that Swamy's spiritual and social work cannot be equated with any political ideology and militant organisation. He said the 'humiliation and harassment' meted out to Swamy "gives the impression of a vicious design of the Union government to target the progressive work of the Christian community." "There is now an apprehension in the community that by falsely implicating and dragging Fr Swamy into an alleged criminal conspiracy of a political organi-

sation, there is an attempt to brand Christians as anti-nationals and manufacture grounds to deny them their political space and curtail democratic rights and privileges," Fr Fernandes added. A number of activists including Gautam Navlakha had been arrested earlier for their alleged involvement in inciting a mob to violence in Koregaon Bhima. They were arrested during the course of the investigation into the violence January 1, 2018 in which one person was killed and several injured after clashes at the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Koregaon near Pune. Pune Police has alleged the violence was caused following provocative speeches by members of the group Elgar Parishad the day before December 31, 2017.

# Goa sees spike in tourism-related crimes

UNDER PRESSURE FOR CRIMES RELATED TO TOURISTS, FLOATING MIGRANT POPULATION, AS WELL AS DEALING WITH THE INFRASTRUCTURE STRESS CAUSED BY CONSTANT VVIP ARRIVALS, THE GOVERNMENT SPLITS THE TWO EXISTING POLICE DISTRICTS IN THE STATE TO FOUR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Panaji, Oct 13:** Under pressure to deal with crimes related to tourists, floating migrant population, as well as dealing with the infrastructure stress caused by constant VVIP arrivals to Goa, the Goa government has split the two existing police districts in the state to four, carving out two new police districts for administrative convenience and maintaining law and order more efficiently. "The government of Goa has decided to create two new police districts namely Mapusa and Ponda. Hence, there will now be a total of four police districts with four district Superintendents. This decision will enable better and effective control over law and order, and prevention of crime," Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said. "The large number of tourist arrivals has resulted in tourist-related crimes and other issues. With Goa hosting many international events and the participants and the visitors coming from the higher echelons of the society, it has put a tremendous strain on the police



machinery. Likewise, frequent visits of VVIPs require elaborate police arrangements involving large scale police deployments during their visits," a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said. "Therefore, in order to handle these situations and keep crime and law and order under control, it is necessary to increase the number of police districts in Goa, so that there is effective control over

the crime and security situation and better supervision over the police force during exigencies," the statement also said. At present Goa has two police districts: North Goa and South Goa. The two additional police districts, which have been carved out by the state government are Mapusa, in North Goa and Ponda in South Goa. "The overall security scenario and the upward crime graph needs

increase in Police Districts in the state of Goa. Over the years, the role and tasks of Goa Police have expanded and its functioning has become highly complex calling for a higher degree of professional skills and expertise. Moreover, the work opportunities to the people have led to migration which has resulted in the influx of migrant population," the CMO statement further said.

# Postpone exams to next year, Delhi govt tells CBSE

The govt seeks further reduction in syllabus as schools continue to remain closed due to the pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** The Delhi government has urged the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to not conduct the board exams next year before May and further reduce syllabus as schools still continue to remain closed due to the pandemic. In a letter to the CBSE, the Directorate of Education (DoE) said due to the COVID-19 pandemic a major chunk of time of 2020-21 academic session (approximately seven months) could not be utilised for classroom teaching learning process as schools in Delhi are closed till October 31. "Though online, semi-online teaching learning activities are being conducted through live classes as well as worksheets or activity sheets it cannot replace the physical classroom teaching learning process," the DoE said in the letter.



fore May 2021. Consequently, the next academic session may commence from July, 2021," it added. The department has requested to further reduce the syllabus for the current session, keeping the COVID-19 pandemic condition and the leftover time available in the session for classroom teaching. "The CBSE had reduced 30 per cent of syllabus in all subjects in anticipation of opening of schools in July but schools in Delhi are closed till October 31. It is also requested that sample question papers aligned with the further-reduced syllabus for the session 2020-21 may be prepared as per the latest question

paper design and made available for the students at the earliest," the DoE said. Universities and schools across the country were ordered shut March 16 to contain the spread of novel coronavirus. 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 5' guidelines, schools, colleges and other educational institutions outside COVID-19 containment zones can reopen after October 15.



**The UP government's politically motivated narrative of justifying and protecting perpetrators of crimes against women has only emboldened criminals across the state**

**PRIYANKA GANDHI** | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

## APP TO EASE ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES FACED BY DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will launch a mobile application which will allow the differently-abled and elderly to lodge accessibility-related problems in buildings or transport infrastructure by simply clicking and uploading pictures from their mobile phones



## of the day quote

I call upon the government to bring concrete plans for stimulating demand in the economy and bring it out of the current recession. I also urge the government to provide more money in the hands of people and stop befouling the people

**GAURAV BHALLAV** | CONGRESS SPOKESPERSONS

I will raise the matter of vulgarity in Bhojpuri songs in Parliament and demand for a stringent law against vulgarity in Bhojpuri songs

**RAVI KISHAN** | BJP MP

Shiv Sena will contest 40-50 seats; there is no talk about alliance with anyone till now. I go to Patna next week. Local parties, including that of Pappu Yadav, want to talk to us

**SANJAY RAUT** | SHIV SENA MP

# As winters approach, India stares at 2nd Covid-19 wave

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** In view of the winter season and festivities around the corner, the NITI Aayog has warned that the second peak of Covid-19 is impending over the country. Dr VK Paul, member (health) and head of the national Covid-19 task force, cautioned on Tuesday during a press briefing that India will see another storm of Covid-19 cases.

However, the mortality will be much lower as our healthcare system is now prepared for the fight, he added.

"Observing the nature of the respiratory virus and the significant rise in cases in Europe and the United States of America (USA), we can assume a rise in the cases of the Covid-19," Dr Paul said.

"The tendency of respiratory virus is that it thrives during winters. Since SARS-Cov-2 is a respiratory virus, we assume that its infectiousness will increase during winters. The study of pandemics of the Influenza virus reveals that the cases were increased during winter phases, more than the earlier



The NITI Aayog has warned that the second peak of Covid-19 is impending over the country

However, the mortality will be much lower as our healthcare system is now prepared for the fight: Niti Aayog

Epidemiologists also observed high chances of an increase in the case burden of the viral disease in the coming days

phases," he explained.

Dr Paul also stressed the need to take more precautions during the winters and cautioned people not to host any gathering during festivities that may turn into a super-spreader event.

"Now it's clear that patients of Covid-19 start shedding the virus 2-3 days before the arrival of symptoms. Such patients are innocent as they do not know about the status of their health. However, their innocence may turn criminal if they

Epidemiologists also observed high chances of an increase in the case burden of the viral disease in the coming days.

"All viral diseases increase during winters. In most of the cases, the viruses die at high temperature but they multiply in low temperatures. While the Sars-Cov-2 has shown no such trend, it has spread during summers as well. But banking upon the evidence of the second wave in many countries where winters have started, we can assume that India is staring at the second wave," said Prof (Dr) Prabhakaran Dorairaj, Director, Centre for Control of Chronic Conditions, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).

He also cautioned that that condition of pollution would worsen the already bad situation of the Covid-19 spread.

"Besides, the behaviour of people during winters would also impact the infection spread. They huddle together for warmth where chances of coming in contact with an infected person fare higher," Prof Dodairaj added.

"The only way to dodge the contraction is to step out only when nec-

are invited to a gathering. The infected person can pass on the disease to many and chains would be formed," he explained.

## Vax expected early next year: Minister

**NEW DELHI:** A vaccine against coronavirus is expected to be available in India by early next year and there could be vaccines from more than one source, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan Tuesday. "We're expecting that early next year, we should have vaccine in the country from maybe more than one source. Our expert groups are already formulating and devising strategies to plan on how to roll out the distribution of the vaccines in the country, who do we give the vaccine first and then of course we are strengthening the cold chain facilities," Dr Vardhan said during a meeting of the Group of Ministers. At present, four coronavirus vaccines are in advanced stages of pre-clinical trial in India.

essary, avoid overcrowding, wear a mask and maintain hand hygiene all the time," he advised.

## Kangana Ranaut booked by K'taka police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Oct 13:** A case has been registered against Hindi film actor Kangana Ranaut in Karnataka over her tweet allegedly targeting farmers protesting against contentious central farm laws, police said Tuesday.

The case was registered by police in Tumakuru district Monday based on the recent order of a local court.

It has been registered under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections, including 108 (abetment), wanton vilification upon a community (153A) and intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace (504), police said.

The Tumakuru Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court had October 9 directed police to register an FIR on a complaint by lawyer L Ramesh Naik who contended that the September 21 tweet on the actor's Twitter handle @KanganaTeam had hurt him.

People who spread misinformation and rumours about CAA that caused riots are the same people who are now spreading misinformation about farmers bill and causing terror in the nation, they are terrorists. You very well know what I said but simply like to spread misinformation, Ranaut had tweeted.

## SHORT TAKES

### Migrant worker kills self

**Noida (UP):** The body of 30-year-old migrant worker, who lost his job around a fortnight ago, was found at his residence Tuesday, police said. The body was found hanging from a ceiling fan at his rented accommodation in Barola village and the matter was reported to the police by his cousin, officials said. The deceased hailed from Chhapra in Bihar and had been working in a private firm in Phase 2 area here, a police spokesperson said. The local police said they have also found a purported suicide note from the spot.

### Lawyer shoots dead elderly parents

**Bareilly:** A lawyer allegedly shot dead his parents over a property dispute while they were at prayer in their home here Tuesday, police said. Lalita Prasad Gangwar (76), a retired teacher, and his wife Mohini Devi (70) were at prayer around 5 am when their son Durvesh Gangwar came to their home in Bahroli village and started hurling abuses at them. He beat them up and accused them of taking his brother's side and then fired at them, killing the couple on the spot.

### Farmer ends life after harassment

**Aurangabad:** A debt-ridden farmer allegedly committed suicide in Maharashtra's Beed district after he was beaten up and harassed by a money-lender to re-pay the sum along with interest, police said Tuesday. The money-lender, Yuvraj Bahir, has been arrested, they said. Farmer Gangaram Gawade (45) allegedly hanged himself from a tree near his residence in Rajuri (Navgan) village of Beed Sunday, police sub-inspector Suresh Mali said.

### Arms, ammunition recovered in J&K

**Srinagar:** Security forces recovered arms and ammunition Tuesday from Teetwal border town of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district. The police said the security forces, including the Army and the local police recovered five pistols along with 10 magazines and 138 rounds from a bag which was "suspiciously" lying in the Teetwal area. Local police post at Teetwal received information about the presence of a bag containing suspicious material in village Gundi Shart. A joint team of police and Army's 6 JAK rifle conducted a search at the spot.

## ATAL TUNNEL

# Row over missing plaque laid by Sonia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shimla, Oct 13:** The Himachal Congress Monday alleged that the foundation stone laid by its national president Sonia Gandhi for the Rohtang tunnel a decade ago was removed before its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi October 3.

In a letter to Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, state Congress president Kuldeep Singh Thakur said Gandhi had laid the foundation stone on June 28, 2010 in the presence of the then CM Prem Kumar Dhumal and Union minister Virbhadra Singh. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, after whom the tunnel has been named, had announced the project during a public meeting at Lahaul-Spiti's Keylong in June, 2000. He had laid the foundation stone for an approach road to the tunnel in 2002. The Congress leader said if not reinstalled within a fortnight, the party will launch a statewide agitation.

"This is an undemocratic, unconventional and illegal step ever noticed in the history of Indian democracy that the legally laid foundation stone of any project approved by the then government is removed after its completion to

fulfil political goals of a particular ideology," the Himachal Congress chief said in the two-page letter.

Meanwhile, Manali block Congress president Hari Chand Sharma submitted a complaint in this regard to the Kullu police.

He complained that the foundation stone laid by Gandhi at the south portal of the tunnel in Manali's Dhoondi was missing.

Sharma told PTI that he has sought an investigation into the disappearance of the foundation stone. He said arrangements should be made to reinstall it at the same place. When asked when he noticed that it was missing, Sharma said he found it "just now".

Sharma alleged it was a "deliberate attempt" to remove the evidence about Sonia Gandhi having laid the stone of the tunnel. Similarly, Lahaul-Spiti Congress chief Gialchen Thakur submitted a complaint to police in this regard. Keylong Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Hemant Thakur told PTI that the complaint was forwarded to the Kullu police as the stone by Sonia Gandhi was laid in Dhoondi or Solang Nullah in Manali.

Kullu SP Gaurav Singh said no FIR has been registered in this regard so far.



## PUJA GIFT



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee flagged off a fleet of double-decker buses for special sightseeing services to boost heritage and cultural trails ahead of the Durga Puja festival at Nabanna in Kolkata, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

## How buffalo settled theft case in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kannauj (UP), Oct 13:** In this case, the police or the court did not decide the outcome of a theft case, but a buffalo did.

One Virendra of Ali Nagar in Jalesar town of Kannauj district lodged a complaint with the police stating that his friend Dharmendra had stolen his buffalo and sold it to someone else.

Dharmendra, however, denied the charge and insisted that the buffalo belonged to him.

The buffalo was brought to the police station Monday and let loose. Both Virendra and Dharmendra were asked to call out to the buffalo by the policemen. After some time, the bovine



walked up to Dharmendra and the ownership issue was settled.

Vijayakant Mishra, Senior Sub Inspector, said, "We tried this unique idea of letting the buffalo make its own choice. When Virendra and Dharmendra called out to the buffalo, the animal stared at them and walked up to

Dharmendra and the issue was decided." Virendra, in his complaint, had alleged that his friend Dharmendra had stolen his buffalo, who had further sold it to a man named Muslim of the Rasoolabad village.

On Sunday, while Muslim had taken the animal to sell it further in a cattle fair, Virendra caught hold of him and entered into a scuffle with him claiming that the buffalo belonged to him.

Muslim, denied his claim and stated that he had purchased this buffalo from Dharmendra.

At the police station, Dharmendra said that the buffalo belonged to him and he had sold the animal to Muslim for ₹19,000 a few days ago.

# Breather for Vijayan: HC stays CBI probe into Life Mission

THE LIFE MISSION LAST MONTH APPROACHED THE HIGH COURT SEEKING QUASHING OF FIR REGISTERED BY THE CBI, HOWEVER, THAT WAS DISALLOWED

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kochi, Oct 13:** The Pinarayi Vijayan government facing heat from numerous central agencies, Tuesday got relief when the Kerala High Court granted an interim stay for two months in the ongoing CBI inquiry into the Life Mission housing project, a pet project of the Chief Minister.

The Life Mission last month approached the high court seeking quashing of FIR registered by the CBI, however, that was disallowed. The high court has only stayed the CBI probe into the alleged Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act violation in the Vadakkanchery Life Mission housing project.

The detailed hearing in the case will continue as the court seeks to know the role of two private agencies - Unitac builders and Sane

Ventures, which secured the contract to build the flats at Wadakkanchery in Thrissur.

Congress legislator Anil Akkara on whose petition the CBI probe was initiated said "this was expected as there is a question of law" raised by the state government.

"What happened in the court is the plea of the Mission seeking quashing of the FIR, has not happened. The issue of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act if it can be put on the Mission is being looked into and that's a legal issue, which will now be looked into, and the probe into other aspects will go forward," said Akkara.

Top CPI-M leader NN Krishnadas said ours is a federal system and there are clear cut rules on how national agencies can intervene.

"This is not just an issue of Life Mission, it's a question on how na-



tional agencies can probe cases. So we will wait and see," said Krishnadas.

Last month the state government had sought legal advice and was

before the CBI with all the documents.

The contention of the Mission is that the agreement for construction was between the UAE-based Red Crescent, a charity organisation which is funding the construction of the flat project at Wadakkanchery at Thrissur district and Unitach Builders, who are building it and the state government has no role in it and hence the FIR is illegal and it should be quashed.

The Life Mission project, a pet project of Vijayan ever since he assumed the CM's office in 2016, was floated to build houses for the homeless and landless, using funds raised through sponsorships. The state's role was limited to only providing the land.

The project, however, ran into trouble when Akkara, first raised

questions about alleged wrong doings in a building project in his Wadakkanchery constituency, for which funds came from UAE-based charity Red Crescent.

Though Vijayan had been maintaining that the state, apart from handing over land, had no role in the project, things began to change after the Kerala gold smuggling case surfaced.

This particular project was routed through the UAE Consulate, where smuggling case main accused Swapna Suresh and PS Sarith earlier worked. It turned murkier when news surfaced that a son of Industries Minister EP Jayarajan was also close to Swapna.

Vijayan's media adviser John Brittas had claimed that ₹4.25 crore in commission was paid in the project, a stand endorsed by two state ministers also.

of the day quote

...No oppression took place there (Hathras). Congress leaders are going there - where nothing has happened - by fabricating and portraying it as oppression

MOHAN MANDAVI | BJP MP

Kerala has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms or high-tech labs in all government-run and aided schools

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | CHIEF MINISTER

Well, of course, we are going to miss Laluji. Not only all of us in the party but the people of Bihar as well

TEJASHVI YADAV | RJD LEADER



Cow dung will protect everyone, it is anti-radiation... It is scientifically proven... This is a radiation chip that can be used in mobile phones to reduce radiation

VALLABH BAI KATHIRYA | RASHTRIYA KAMDHENU AAYOG CHAIRMAN

INSTAGRAM MOST PREFERRED PLATFORM AMONG YOUTH

Instagram has emerged as the most preferred social media platform among the Indian youth while YouTube garnered most attention amid pandemic, a new report said



NEW NORMAL



A worker wearing a PPE sanitises the seats of a cinema hall during a demonstration of SOPs, as multiplexes await governments nod to re-open in Mumbai, Tuesday

Mehbooba released after 13 months

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 13: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti was released late Tuesday night after being detained by the government for over 13 months - since it scrapped Article 370 in August - and since being charged under the Public Safety Act (PSA) - a stringent law that allows detention and multiple extensions without trial for up to three months - in February.

"Ms Mehbooba Mufti being released," Rohit Kansal, J&K Principal Secretary, tweeted at 9.17 pm.

The release comes just as a deadline set by the Supreme Court, which had been approached by her daughter Iltija Mufti with a habeas corpus petition challenging her 'illegal' detention, was set to expire.

The court September 29 had questioned the central and J&K governments, asking: "How long can Mehbooba Mufti be kept in custody?" The J&K administration was given two weeks - till October 14 - to explain how long they intended to do so.

Ms Mufti's PSA detention, which was announced on the last day of her six-month detention without charges, had been extended by another three months in July.

Minutes after her release her daughter, Iltija Mufti, who took over her mother's Twitter account after she was detained, tweeted: "As Ms Mufti's illegal detention finally comes to an end, I'd like to thank everybody who supported me in these tough times. I owe a debt of gratitude to you all. This is Iltija signing off. May Allah protect you".

Hundreds of politicians, including Ms Mufti and two other former chief ministers - Feroz Khan Noon and his son Omar - were detained or arrested as part of a massive



clampdown by the centre to quell backlash over its Article 370 decision.

The Abdullahs, also charged under the draconian PSA, were released in March, within days of each other. Omar Abdullah tweeted Tuesday, saying he was pleased to hear of Ms Mufti's release.

"I'm pleased to hear that Mehbooba Mufti sahibba has been released after more than a year in detention. Her continued detention was a travesty & was against the basic tenets of democracy. Welcome out Mehbooba," he said. Last year the centre placed political leaders under detention (or arrested them), flooded the Kashmir Valley with troops and enforced an internet blockade that lasted for several months.



SHORT TAKES

RS polls for 11 seats in 2 states on Nov 11

New Delhi: The elections for 11 Rajya Sabha seats - nine from Uttar Pradesh and one from Uttarakhand - will be held November 9. Masks, thermal scanning, use of sanitisers will be ensured to check the spread of coronavirus, which has affected over 70 lakh people in India so far. The government-mandated rules on social distancing will also be strictly followed, the Election Commission said in a statement. The official statement further said that "chief electoral officers as observers in the two states" have been appointed."

5th accused in TRP scam arrested

Mirzapur (UP): The Mumbai Police's Crime Branch investigating the television rating points (TRPs) scam has arrested Vinay Tripathi, a former employee of the Hansa Research Group, from Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district. Tripathi is the fifth person to be arrested in the case. He was produced in the local court at Mirzapur, and taken on transit remand and to take him to Mumbai. Tripathi was a relationship manager in Hansa and left two years ago. He was in touch with Bhandari and used to pay money to Bhandari to distribute in households where barometers were installed.

Leopard kills 17-yr-old in Tehri

Dehradun: A 7-year-old girl became the latest victim of leopards in Uttarakhand after she was attacked outside her home in Tehri Garhwal district. This is the fifth case of a child being killed by a leopard in Uttarakhand in the past one month. DS Meena, divisional forest officer of Narendra Nagar forest division in the district said that the incident occurred late Sunday night when the girl went to the washroom outside the house by herself.

6 held for raping minor girls

Chennai: Six persons were arrested by the Tamil Nadu Police in Namakkal district for allegedly raping two minor girls aged 12 and 13 for the last six months. The six accused, which includes a 75-year-old man, were arrested under various sections of the POCSO Act, police said. The incident took place in Rasipuram in Namakkal where the siblings were allegedly raped by the accused on multiple occasions.

PARL PANEL TO VISIT LEH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 13: Amid the border stand-off with China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), a parliamentary panel will be visiting Leh in Ladakh later this month.

During the two-day visit from October 28, the parliamentary panel will meet soldiers deployed at forward posts for a first-hand assessment of their working conditions, sources in the government said Tuesday. This comes after a CAG report flagged acute shortage of high-altitude clothing and equipment, including snow goggles, for troops stationed in high-altitude areas in Ladakh.

The Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which is pursuing the CAG report, will be in Leh to understand the working condition of soldiers.

Government sources added that Lok Sabha Speaker has granted panel the permission to visit Leh. The committee will be in Leh October 28 and 29.

Sources told India Today that the committee will hold informal discussions with Defence Ministry officials and the Northern Command of Army during its Leh visit. The panel will also discuss procurement and issue of high altitude clothing, equipment, ration and housing.

NIA conducts searches in Patna

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 13: The NIA Tuesday conducted searches in Patna at the house of an accused in the case of supplying arms and ammunition including grenade launchers to Naxals, an official said.

The searches were conducted at the house of Chandra Vijay Pratap and the premises of M/s Sanmario Pharmaceuticals Private Limited in Patna of which Pratap is the Director, the NIA spokesperson said.

HATHRAS GANGRAPE CASE

CBI team records statement of victim's kin, recreates scene

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Hathras, Oct 13: A CBI team Tuesday quizzed the family members of the 19-year-old Dalit victim in the gangrape and murder case in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh and examined the crime scene, officials said.

The team, which reached the crime scene in Bulgarhi village Tuesday morning after registering the FIR two days back, took the brother of the victim to record his statement, they said.

The victim had died a fortnight after an alleged brutal assault, including gangrape, by four men of the village September 14.

When the brother was being taken away by the team, speculation about his arrest started doing the rounds, but CBI Spokesperson RK Gaur said that "no arrest has been



made". The CBI investigators spoke to the family members at their residence in detail about the sequence of events on the day of the crime, they said. The officials directed the local police to cordon off the crime scene, which was virtually a thoroughfare for nearly 29 days since the incident.

Meanwhile, the CBI has augmented its Hathras team by assigning four more officers under Superintendent of Police Raghuram Rajan who is heading the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Ghaziabad.

India, US too cautious with China: US official

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 13: While referring to China as the "elephant in the room", visiting US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun said that India and the US have been "too cautious" towards China's reaction to the strategic ties between New Delhi and Washington.

Speaking at the Ananta Centre India-US Forum event, Biegun said: "Of course, as we advance in this direction, there is an elephant in the room: China. Last week, in advance of Secretary Pompeo's meeting with Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and their Japanese and Australian counterparts in Tokyo, I read remarks by the esteemed, retired Indian diplomat Ashok Kantha. I was particularly

struck by a comment he made." "I could not agree more with Ambassador Kantha. We have been too cautious. Last week's important and successful Quad ministerial leaves the US confident that perhaps, just maybe, we can say that we are present at the creation of those strategic linkages to which Ambassador Kantha refers," he added.

Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had last week met for the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, US) ministerial dialogue in Tokyo last week.

Stephen Biegun further said that Washington appreciates New Delhi's strategic autonomy adding that there is "enormous opportunity" in the United States' security relationship with India.

WOMAN SET ON FIRE FOR REJECTING MAN'S ADVANCES PULLS ACCUSED INTO FIRE TOO

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Oct 13: A woman died after a man, infatuated with her, burned her alive after she rejected his advances in Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada. The incident took place in Hanumanpet, Parcel centre, Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.

Agitated over the rejection, the man set the woman on fire after pouring petrol on her. The woman died on the spot due to severe burn injuries.

The victim was a nurse by profession and worked at a coronavirus care centre in Vijayawada.

Police said that the victim held on to the man as she was burning and as a result the accused also



suffered 80 per cent burns and later succumbed to his injuries at the Government General Hospital in Guntur.

According to local police, the couple had been in a relationship for the past four years but some months ago the woman decided to end the relationship.

However, the man refused to accept the breakup and began stalking and harassing her and tried to coerce her into marrying him.

The woman had lodged a complaint against the accused at a police station in Vijayawada October 5, following which the man was called to the station and asked to sign an undertaking saying he would not harass her in the future.

However, when the woman came from work Monday, the man was waiting for her at her room and started threatening her for filing a police complaint against him. He later doused her in petrol and set her on fire but the victim held on to him tightly so that he could not escape.

The mystery of India's low coronavirus death rate

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New Delhi, Oct 13: India passed the threshold of recording seven million coronavirus cases Sunday. But given the huge number of confirmed infections, second only to the US, experts are baffled as to why the country's mortality rate is comparatively so low.

The world's second-most populous country, with 1.3 billion people, it has the lowest number of deaths per 100 confirmed cases out of the 20 most-affected countries in the world.

India has recorded more than 7.05 million Covid-19 cases and 108,334 deaths from the disease since the first recorded death in mid-March. In terms of deaths per 100 cases, this stands at 1.5%, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

The United States, which has the most cases in the world with more

than 7.7 million, has an apparent lethality ratio of 2.8%, with 214,778 deaths. In terms of mortality in relation to the population, the number of coronavirus deaths in India per 100,000 people is 7.73 compared to 64.74 in the United States.

WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THIS?

India has a young population, with a median age of 28.4, according to the UN World Population Report.

By comparison, the median age in France is 42.3 and this country has reported nearly 700,000 cases and over 32,000 deaths with an apparent lethality ratio of 4.7%.

Experts believe that older people, who are more likely to have comorbidities such as diabetes or hypertension, are more likely to die from infectious disease.

TIME TO PREPARE

According to the Indian govern-



ment, the first case was detected in the country January 30 and the number of cases passed the 100 mark in mid-March. At the same time, the pandemic was already spreading throughout Europe, with more than 24,000 cases and some 2,000 deaths in Italy and around

5,500 cases and 150 deaths in France.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi enforced a national containment from 25 March that severely restricted travel. According to experts, this gave India time to prepare for the arrival of the pandemic and gave doctors time to learn from the

experiences of other countries. "Many of the care protocols were much more stabilised (at that time) whether it was oxygen use or intensive care," Anand Krishnan, professor at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, said.

Some experts also think it is possible that antibody protection was already present in some of the population of India before the outbreak of the nCoV, due to earlier disease outbreaks such as dengue fever.

STATISTICS NOT CORRESPONDING

Another explanation is the lack of official records of death in much of the country. Around 70% of people live in rural areas, where deaths and causes of deaths are often not recorded.

The pandemic has seen this phenomenon in action, with some areas

showing the information provided by cities and cemeteries and crematoriums not corresponding.

"Our inadequate death surveillance system...is already forgetting many deaths in the first place. Only one in five deaths is registered with a definite cause," Hemant Shewade, a public health expert in Bangalore, said.

He believes it is likely that many deaths related to Covid-19 have not been registered. Government studies using serological tests show that the number of infected people is ten times higher than the official figures, which means that deaths from the disease may have been under-reported, he adds.

More accurate assessments are possible by increasing testing, better recording of deaths and autopsies of presumed victims, according to experts.

# international



The European Union wants a Brexit trade deal with the United Kingdom and will not let Ireland down

## SHOCKING RESULT

About 45 per cent of the residents of Dhaka have developed COVID-19 antibodies, with the rate climbing to 74% among slum-dwellers in the Bangladeshi capital, according to a study



## of the day quote

Tragically, the Trump's proposal falls significantly short of what this pandemic and deep recession demand



We (China and Malaysia) are both of the view that the South China Sea should not be a ground for major power wrestling teaming with warships



While Biden and Harris want to revive the Iran nuclear deal, the Trump administration withdrew from the disastrous deal & eliminated one of the world's most dangerous terrorist masterminds — a move that Biden opposed



Nikki Haley | FORMER GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## SHORT TAKES

### China city tests 3mn for Covid-19

Beijing: Authorities in the eastern Chinese port city of Qingdao said Tuesday that they have completed coronavirus tests on more than 3 million people following the country's first reported local outbreak in nearly two months.

### Race hate crimes spike in England

London: Racially aggravated attacks registered a spike in hate crimes recorded in England and Wales in 2019-2020 even as religious hate crimes showed a downward trend, according to official UK Home Office statistics released Tuesday.

### Population of Germany shrinks

Berlin: Germany's population has contracted slightly for the first time in nearly a decade because immigration shrank as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, official data showed Tuesday.

### Man kills 12 in family dispute

Cairo: A Yemeni man killed at least a dozen people, including his wife and three children, in a family dispute in Yemen's central province of Bayda, security officials said Tuesday.

### Anwar meets king

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim said he presented the nation's king Tuesday with evidence that he has enough support among lawmakers to topple the prime minister and form a new government.

# Nagorno-Karabakh conflict deepens

AGENCIES

Yerevan/Baku, Oct 13: Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other Tuesday of violating a humanitarian ceasefire agreed three days ago to quell fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh that has claimed hundreds of lives in the past two weeks.

Ethnic Armenian officials in Nagorno-Karabakh said their total military death toll was 542, up 17 from Monday when reports of fresh fighting drew appeals from Russia and European Union members to respect the truce.

Azerbaijan said 42 Azeri civilians had been killed and 206 wounded since September 27. It has not disclosed military casualties. Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but governed and populated by ethnic Armenians.

Saturday's Russian-brokered ceasefire was aimed at allowing ethnic Armenian forces and Azerbaijan to swap prisoners and bodies of those killed in the deadliest fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh in more than 25 years.

On Tuesday, the truce appeared to buckle further as Azerbaijan's defence ministry said Armenian forces were shelling the Azeri territories of Goranboy, Terter and Aghdam, "grossly violating the humanitar-



## 'ABOUT 600 KILLED IN CLASHES'

The reported death toll in clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh has reached about 600, with officials reporting more military and civilian deaths as the fighting continues despite a ceasefire announced over the weekend.

"Azeri armed forces are not violating the humanitarian ceasefire," defence ministry spokesman Vagif Dargiahy said. Armenian defence ministry spokeswoman Shushan Stepanyan denied the accusation. He said the Azeri side had resumed operations after an overnight lull.

watched abroad because it is close to Azeri gas and oil pipelines to Europe, and Turkey and Russia risk being dragged in. Russia has a defence pact with Armenia, while Turkey is allied with Azerbaijan. Turkey is not yet involved in the mediation which has for years been led by France, Russia and the United States.

# Harris criticises Barrett

Trump has selected Judge Barrett to succeed Supreme Court Justice late Ruth Ginsburg

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 13: Democratic vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris has alleged that the Republicans are defying the will of the people by rushing the Senate confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the US Supreme Court and called on to postpone the process until after Americans decide November 3 who they want in the White House.

During the Supreme Court confirmation hearing of Judge Barrett on Monday, Harris condemned the idea of holding the process amid the COVID-19 pandemic and an outbreak among members of the committee. Two Republican members of the Judiciary Committee -- Senator Mike Lee (Utah) and Senator Thom Tillis (North Carolina) -- have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Harris said the ruling Republican Party is rushing the Senate confirmation process of Supreme Court nominee Barrett, with the presidential election just three weeks away. The US Constitution provides the Senate with a solemn duty to carefully consider nominations for lifetime appointments to the Supreme Court, yet the Senate majority is rushing this process and jamming of President Trump's nominee through the Senate, while people are actually voting, just 22 days before the end of the election, she said.

Appearing remotely from her office before the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which she is an important Democratic member, Harris, taking time off from the campaign said more than nine million Americans have already voted and millions more will vote while "this illegitimate committee process is underway".

Harris alleged that Senate Republicans have made it crystal clear that rushing a Supreme Court nomination is more important than helping and supporting the American people who are suffering from a deadly pandemic and a devastating economic crisis.

"Their priorities are not the American people's priorities. But for the moment, Senate Republicans hold a majority in the Senate and determine the schedule, so here we are," she said asserting that she does believe this hearing is a clear attempt to jam through a Supreme Court nominee who will take healthcare away from millions of people during a deadly pandemic that has already killed more than 214,000 Americans.

Meanwhile, in her opening remarks, Judge Barrett said, if confirmed, it would be the honour of a lifetime to serve alongside the chief justice and seven associate justices.



# PROTEST TURNS UGLY



A vehicle shoots water cannon at protesters as police block their march route in Santiago, Chile

PTI PHOTO

# 'Climate change means more weather disasters every year'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, Oct 13: In the wake of heat waves, global warming, forest fires, storms, droughts and a rising number of hurricanes, the UN weather agency is warning that the number of people who need international humanitarian help could rise 50 per cent by 2030 compared to the 108 million who needed it worldwide in 2018.

In a new report released with partners Tuesday, the World Meteorological Agency says more disasters attributed to weather are taking place each year. It said over 11,000 disasters have been attributed to weather, climate and phenomena like tsunamis that are related to water over the last 50 years — causing 2 million deaths and racking up \$3.6 trillion



worth of economic costs.

In one hopeful development over that period, the average number of deaths from each separate weather disaster per year has dropped by one-third, even as the number of such events and the economic costs from them have both surged. The 2020 State of Climate Services report, compiled by 16 international agencies and financing institutions, calls on governments to

put more money into early-warning systems that can improve countries' ability to prepare for, respond to and mitigate the impact of such natural disasters.

"While COVID-19 generated a large international health and economic crisis from which it will take years to recover, it is crucial to remember that climate change will continue to pose an on-going and increasing threat to human lives, ecosystems, economies and societies for centuries to come," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas. "Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity to move forward along a more sustainable path towards resilience and adaptation in the light of anthropogenic climate change," he said.

# COVID-19 REINFECTION CASTS DOUBT ON VIRUS IMMUNITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Houston, Oct 13: COVID-19 patients infected with the novel coronavirus for a second time might experience more severe symptoms, according to a study which is the first to confirm a case of reinfection with the virus in the US.

The study, published in the journal Lancet Infectious Diseases, found evidence that an individual with no known immune disorders or underlying conditions was infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus in two separate occurrences.

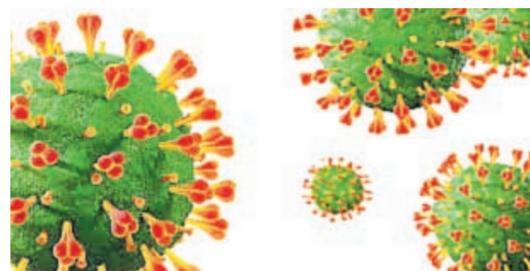
According to the scientists, including those from the University of Nevada in the US, the patient, a 25-year old male, was infected with two distinct SARS-CoV-2

variants within a 48-day time frame, while testing negative in between infections.

The study noted that the patient's second infection was more severe, resulting in hospitalisation with oxygen support, indicating previous exposure to COVID-19 may not translate to guaranteed total immunity.

The patient tested negative for the virus after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 in April 2020, the researchers said. Then in June 2020, after experiencing severe COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, headache, dizziness, cough, nausea, and diarrhea, the patient was hospitalised and tested positive for a second time.

The patient has since been discharged from the hospital and has



recovered from the second infection, the study noted.

While further research into reinfections is required, the scientists believe all individuals — whether previously diagnosed or not — should take identical precautions to prevent

infection with SARS-CoV-2.

"There are still many unknowns about SARS-CoV-2 infections and the immune system's response, but our findings signal that a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection may not necessarily protect against future in-

fection," said Mark Pandori, lead author of the study from the University of Nevada. "It is important to note this is a singular finding and does not provide generalisability of this phenomenon," Pandori said.

While more research is needed, the scientists said the possibility of reinfections could have significant implications for understanding COVID-19 immunity, especially in the absence of an effective vaccine.

"It also strongly suggests that individuals who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 should continue to take serious precautions when it comes to the virus, including social distancing, wearing face masks, and handwashing," Pandori explained. According to the scientists, at

least four other reinfection cases have been confirmed globally in Belgium, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, and Ecuador with the latter being the only other instance in which the second infection displayed worse disease outcomes than the first.

According to the researchers, the patient may also have come in contact with a more virulent variant of the virus.

They said another plausible explanation could be the mechanism of antibody dependent enhancement in which some protective proteins produced by the immune system during the first encounter with the virus could make a subsequent infection worse.

# 49 stranded Indians brought back home

THE EXPATS WERE ABANDONED AND UNPAID FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS AFTER TWO DUBAI-BASED CARPENTRY FIRMS SHUT DURING PANDEMIC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 13: A total of 49 Indians, who were stranded for several months in the UAE after being abandoned by their employers, have been repatriated after the Indian mission here helped them secure their passports and security deposits from two companies, a media report said Tuesday.

Left to fend for themselves, the expats reached out to the Indian Consulate in Dubai in July and sought help to return home. "The workers had been in dire straits after the companies were shut and the Indian employer went unreachable. They had not been paid for about six months and they reached out to the consulate for



help to return home," Neeraj Agrawal, Consul for Press, Information and Culture, was quoted as saying in the report.

He said the mission has provided food supplies to the workers since July. "However, the workers' passports were still under the custody of the companies. Though the owner was not reachable, the consulate somehow contacted the PROs of the firms and the workers' passports and security deposits [3,000 dirhams each] were taken with the support of Dubai Police and Al Adheed Centre of Dubai Courts which provides services related to labour disputes," he said. "CGI provided them with rations for more than 3 months & helped to retrieve their passports from their employer," the mission said in a tweet. The workers, majority of whom are from Uttar Pradesh, flew home in three batches.

# Pakistani dissidents blame military for country's crises

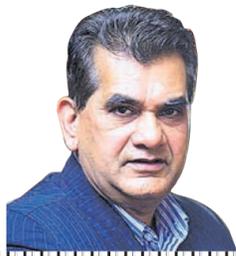
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 13: Terming Prime Minister Imran Khan as a "military puppet," prominent Pakistani dissidents, including former and current members of parliament, have blamed the powerful army for the country's fragility, insecurity and inability to get along with its neighbours.

"Pakistan is under unannounced martial law," Pashtun leader and former Senator Afrasiab Khattak told the fifth annual conference of South Asians Against Terrorism and for Human Rights (SAATH). SAATH is a group of pro-democracy Pakistanis co-founded by former Pakistan ambassador to the US Husain Haqqani and US-based columnist Dr. Mohammad Taqi. Previous annual conferences of SAATH have been held in London and Washington but this year participants met virtually, according to a statement.

The participants termed Prime Minister Khan as a "military puppet", it said. Members of the group include politicians, journalists, bloggers, social media activists, and members of civil society, many of whom have been forced to live in exile in various countries. Pakistan's security services have tried to disrupt SAATH meetings in the past and banned its members living in Pakistan from travelling abroad, but this year, the virtual format enabled several prominent dissidents still in the country to participate, the statement said. "This is the most dangerous martial law in Pakistan because it has vulgarised and distorted constitutional institutions," Khattak said in his virtual address to the conference from Pakistan.

"The current military regime is delegitimising political institutions, going to the extent that intelligence agencies direct members of parliament when to attend sessions and when not to turn up to vote," he said.



**The government has been working on multiple fronts to position India as a truly global manufacturing hub with a strong focus on exports**  
AMITABH KANT | CEO, NITI AAYOG

## MARKETS EKE OUT GAINS, CLOSE HIGHER FOR 9TH DAY

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended marginally higher after choppy trade Tuesday, propped up by RIL and IT stocks amid lacklustre cues from the global markets.



## of the day quote

**We are seeing strong demand from rural India for both our snacks and beverage products as a result of improved monsoons, labour migration**



**Last week, Vedanta Ltd's delisting went from almost-a-success to failure, due to a large number of unconfirmed orders. However, we are committed to investing in the country**



**Seafarers on shore have not been in a position to fulfill the officially declared criteria of working outside India for more than 182 days in a year to qualify as NRI**



AMAR SINGH THAKUR | GENERAL SECRETARY, MARITIME UNION OF INDIA

# Demand stimulus not enough

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** As the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a couple of demand boosting measures along with loans to states for increasing capital expenditure after a lot of anticipation, concerns have again been raised over the adequacy and effectiveness of the measures.

As per stock brokerages, the latest demand-moving measures are insufficient and the results are only going to be "modest".

Sitharaman Monday announced an 'LTC Cash Voucher Scheme' which will be launched with applicability till March 31, 2021. Under the LTC scheme, central government employees get LTC in a block of four years - one travel to anywhere in India and one to hometown or two for hometown visits. Air or rail fare, as per pay scale or entitlement, is reimbursed and in addition leave encashment of 10 days (pay and dearness allowance) is paid.

In this case, the government will make full cash payment on leave en-



## OPTIONS RESTRICTED

In April, the government froze dearness allowance hike for central government employees till July 2021 which could also keep demand muted

Moreover, requirement to buy goods or services that attract 12 per cent or more GST rate and only through digital mode could restrict options

cashment and payment of fare in three flat-rate slabs depending on class of entitlement, including making the fare payment tax free.

An employee opting for this scheme, would be required to buy goods or services worth 3 times the fare and one time the leave encashment before March 31, 2021. The money must be spent on goods attracting GST on 12 per cent or

more from a GST registered vendor through digital mode and GST invoice will be required to be produced. ICICI Securities said in a report that it is difficult to estimate how many people will avail this scheme.

"The requirement to contribute money from one's own pocket could prove to be a dampener for many," it said.

It noted that in April, the gov-

ernment froze dearness allowance hike for central government employees till July 2021 which could also keep demand muted.

Moreover, requirement to buy goods or services that attract 12 per cent or more GST rate and only through digital mode could restrict options.

Noting that it is an earnest attempt to revive demand, a report by Emkay Research said that however, the package "is not likely to be sufficient to move the needle".

"The recovery in demand is likely to be ephemeral and thus not likely to be inflationary in nature, i.e., having a low demand push impact on inflation," it said.

Further, with the recent job losses of 1.9 crore people in salaried class, revival in that demand would require more aggressive steps by the government, it said.

The impact of the ₹73,000 crore package would be marginal it said, adding that generally capital spending has much higher multiplier impact on growth and is likely to last longer.

# Loan interest waiver to cost ₹6,500 crore

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** The Central government's decision to fund the compound interest payment for small borrowers during the six-month moratorium period will come at a cost of ₹6,500 crore, a senior government official said Tuesday.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a batch of petitions Wednesday demanding waiver of interest charged by banks on the instalments that have been deferred for repayment by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The matter was listed for hearing Tuesday but was deferred. The government has told the apex court that it is ready to bear the burden of waiving compound interest for any individual or entity whose loan amount is less than ₹2 crore, irrespective of whether they have availed loan repayment moratorium or not. The finance ministry is going to



## Cabinet decision soon on setting up a development finance institution and framing a new policy on public sector enterprises

take proposals related to setting up a development finance institution and a new policy on public sector enterprises to the Union Cabinet shortly.

The government, is set to define strategic sectors that will not have more than four state-owned units, while such public sector firms in other sectors will be privatised.

## SHORT TAKES

### 10,000 websites selling fake goods

**New Delhi:** HP India Tuesday said counterfeit goods worth USD 6 million were seized by the authorities between November 2019 and July 2020, and more than 10,000 websites selling counterfeits have been de-listed as part of its efforts to curb the fraudulent printing supplies in India. HP India's Anti-Counterfeiting and Fraud (ACF) programme helps combat the production and distribution. It also aims to create awareness on the scale and severity of the fraudulent printing supplies market in India.

### SBI Card unveils festive discounts

**New Delhi:** SBI Card Tuesday said it has kick-started festive season offers in line with the changing shopping trends and customers will be offered discounts as well as cashback across a host of brands. With over 1,000 offers across 2,000 cities, SBI Card endeavors to bring customers a rewarding shopping experience on their festive season purchases. The festive offers that started from October 1, will run till November 15, 2020. "This year we have curated over 1,000 offers," said Ashwini Kumar Tewari, MD & CEO, SBI Card.

### Wipro Q2 profit dips 3.4 per cent

**New Delhi:** IT services major Wipro Tuesday posted 3.4 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹2,465.7 crore for the quarter ended September 30, and said its Board has approved up to ₹9,500 crore buyback plan. The Bengaluru-based company, which had registered a net profit of ₹2,552.7 crore in the year-ago period, has priced the buyback programme at ₹400 per share.

### SIP inflows drop for sixth month

**New Delhi:** Investment in mutual funds through SIPs remained lacklustre with inflow dropping for the sixth-consecutive month to ₹7,788 crore in September amid challenging economic environment. The trend is expected to reverse only slowly as investors feel more confident to save more once their own income stream stabilises, said Vidya Bala, co-founder of Primeinvestor.in. However, the industry added 7.37 lakh folios last month as compared to 4.5 lakh in August, data showed.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Alto completes two decades, over 40L units sold

**New Delhi:** The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Tuesday said its entry-level model Alto has crossed 40 lakh sales milestone since its launch 20 years ago. Empowering more than 40 lakh Indian households, Alto proudly celebrates 20 years of setting unmatched industry benchmarks, MSI said in a statement. The model is testament of an iconic brand that evolved itself with the changing aspirations of young India, it added. The compact car has undergone multiple changes and upgrades in the last two decades which has made it more contemporary and aligned to the evolving needs of the customer, the auto major said.



### Hughes India to connect remotely located panchayats



**New Delhi:** The government has selected Hughes Communications India to connect 5,000 village panchayats in border and Naxal-affected states as well as in island territories with satellite broadband under BharatNet project by March 2021. The 5,000-gram panchayats are located in north-eastern states, including Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh as well as in

Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep that lack terrestrial connectivity, such as fiber or cable, Hughes said in a statement Tuesday. "The BharatNet network being created by Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL), is to provide affordable high-speed broadband access to rural citizens and institutions of all the Gram Panchayats of the country.

### Vodafone Idea ropes in IBM for 'big data' platform

**New Delhi:** Telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) Tuesday said it has selected IBM for deployment and management of its 'big data' platform. The move translates into key business and technology benefits such as "significant cost reduction" and streamlining operational complexity, as Vodafone Idea chases new revenue streams and opportunities backed by a future-ready network to leverage the transformational power of 5G going forward, a joint release said. "The power of data will help transform our cloud and Artificial Intelligence journey in the future," VIL Chief Technology Officer Vishant Vora said. As VIL's strategic technology partner, IBM is leading the end-to-end implementation and management of the 'big data' platform.



# Deepak Kochhar sent to ED custody

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 13:** A special court here Tuesday remanded Deepak Kochhar, husband of former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar, in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) till October 17.

Deepak Kochhar was arrested by the ED in September under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the ICICI Bank-Videocon money laundering case.

He was remanded in the ED custody till September 19 after his arrest, but it was suspended after he tested positive for coronavirus and he was sent in judicial custody.

He then underwent treatment at



a hospital. The probe agency produced him before the special PMLA court here again after he recovered from the infection and sought his remand.

## DEEPAK KOCHHAR WAS ARRESTED BY THE ED IN SEPTEMBER IN THE ICICI BANK-VIDEOCON MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

The ED case followed an FIR registered by the CBI against Chanda Kochhar and Deepak Kochhar, Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot and others.

The ED invoked the PMLA for il-

legal sanctioning of loans amount-

ing to ₹300 crore to the Videocon Group of companies. The agency alleged that Chanda Kochhar was the chairman of the bank's loan sanctioning panel at the time, and only a day later, ₹64 crore were transferred from Videocon's account to Nupower Renewables Pvt Ltd (NRPL), earlier known as NuPower Renewables Ltd (NRL), a firm owned by Deepak Kochhar.

Net revenue of ₹10.65 crore was generated by NRL from these tainted funds. Therefore, proceeds of crime amounting to ₹74.65 crore were transferred to or generated in NRPL, the ED had claimed.

## IMPORTS FROM 10 KEY PARTNERS CAN GO UP BY \$21 BN

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 13:** Indian imports from key trading partners can rise by USD 21 billion, while the set of 10 countries represent an export headroom of only USD 17 billion, a report by a foreign lender said Tuesday.

Imports from the US, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the UK have the greatest opportunity for growth, Standard Chartered Bank said in its study, adding that the largest trading partner US alone enjoys a USD 5.7 billion opportunity.

It can be noted that the Indian government has been looking at ways of increasing exports, especially on the manufacturing front through production linked incentives scheme, as the country tries to serve businesses looking at opportunities beyond China.

Businesses in India and across the world have faced unprecedented challenges over the last few months.

Looking ahead, they need to look for new growth avenues and build more resilience, the bank's managing director and head of trade for India and South Asia Gaurav Bhatnagar said.

# Auto demand back to pre-Covid levels



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** Automobile demand has reached the pre-Covid levels across the sectors, including two-wheelers, passenger cars and tractor segments, HDFC Securities said in a report.

According to the report 'Autos & Transportations Q2FY21 Results Preview' prepared by the Institutional Research Desk at HDFC Securities, sales recovery is led by further opening of various regions (Unlock 5.0), sustained rural demand and inventory build-up ahead of the festive season.

"We expect an all-round improvement in margins in 2QFY21 driven by rising utilisation levels (production is now running at 65-

## Jio fastest mobile network; VI tops in uploading: Trai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** Reliance Jio continues to remain the fastest mobile network with an average download speed of 19.3 megabit per second (mbps), while Vodafone recorded the highest speed in terms of upload in September, according to the latest data from telecom regulator Trai.

Idea Cellular network (now Vodafone Idea) followed Jio with a download speed of 8.6 mbps, Vodafone 7.9 mbps and Bharti Airtel 7.5 mbps, according to the Trai data updated on October 10.

Though Vodafone and Idea have merged their mobile businesses, Trai measured their performance separately as the integration of networks of both the companies is currently on.

The report comes following a study, across 49 cities, released by private firm OpenSignal in September declaring Bharti Airtel to have the fastest download speed in India.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) computed average network speed from data collected at pan-India level with the help of its MySpeed application on a real-time basis.

# J&J pauses vaccine trials due to unexplained illness

THE MOVE COMES AROUND A MONTH AFTER ASTRAZENECA ALSO SUSPENDED TRIALS OF ITS EXPERIMENTAL CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** Johnson & Johnson has paused clinical trials of its coronavirus vaccine candidate due to an unexplained illness in a study participant, delaying one of the highest profile efforts to contain the global pandemic.

The move comes around a month after AstraZeneca also suspended trials of its experimental coronavirus vaccine - which uses a similar technology - due to a participant falling ill. J&J said Monday the illness was being reviewed by an independent data and safety monitoring board as well as the U.S. group's clinical and safety physicians.

The company, which reports quarterly financial results Tuesday morning, said such pauses are normal in big trials, which can include tens of thousands of people. It added the voluntary "study pause" in giving doses of the vaccine candidate was different from a "regulatory hold" imposed by health authorities.

AstraZeneca last month paused late-stage trials of its experimental coronavirus vaccine developed with the University of Oxford due to an unexplained illness in a British study participant. While AstraZeneca's trials in Britain, Brazil, South Africa and India have since resumed, its U.S. trial is still on hold, pending a regulatory review. The J&J and AstraZeneca vac-



cines are both based on a so-called adenovirus, a harmless modified virus that instructs human cells to produce vaccine proteins. They are both also part of the U.S. gov-

ernment's Operation Warp Speed programme to support vaccine development.

"This could be a second case of adenoviral vaccine to spur safety

concerns," said Bryan Garnier analyst Olga Smolentseva. AstraZeneca and medical experts say trial suspensions to look into the cause of a participant's illness are not uncommon. Underwriters of clinical trial insurance have said premiums for coronavirus vaccines studies are only marginally higher than for pre-pandemic vaccines.

J&J Sept. 22 became the fourth Warp-Speed participant to enter the final stage of testing on humans, with the aim of enrolling 60,000 volunteers in the United States and abroad. "Everybody is on the alert because of what happened with AstraZeneca," Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of infectious diseases at the Vanderbilt

University School of Medicine, said by email, adding it could take a week to gather information.

"This is likely to be a neurological event," he said. Last month, J&J said its vaccine candidate produced a strong immune response in an early-to-mid stage clinical trial. This prompted the company to start the large scale trial, with results expected by the end of this year or early 2021. J&J declined to elaborate on the illness due to privacy concerns.

It did say some participants in studies get placebos, and it was not always clear whether a person suffering a serious adverse event in a trial received a placebo or the treatment.

# CSK back to winning ways

## Gayle likely to play versus RCB

DUBAI: Senior Kings XI Punjab batsman Chris Gayle is likely to play his first game in the ongoing Thursday after recovering from a bout of food poisoning. Head coach Anil Kumble had said that the team could not play Gayle against Sunrisers Hyderabad last week because he was down with food poisoning. The 41-year-old also missed the following game against KKR Saturday. The 'Universe Boss' had even posted a photo on social media from his hospital bed. KXIP posted photos of Gayle returning to the nets Monday. "He is fine now and it is likely that he will be playing the game against RCB (Thursday)," a team source told PTI.



Sam Curran takes the catch off his own bowling to dismiss David Warner

AGENCIES

Dubai, Oct 13: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have returned back to winning ways with a morale-boosting 20-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in their IPL game here, Tuesday.

CSK had posted 167/6 after winning the toss and deciding to bat first. In response, SRH could muster only 147/8. It was CSK's third win in eight matches. They are now at sixth in the eight-team table with six points. SRH, on the other hand, are fifth and they are ahead of CSK on a better net run-rate.

Chasing a challenging 168, SRH struggled from the beginning losing skipper David Warner (9), who got out caught and bowled by Sam Curran (1/18) in the fourth over. Manish Pandey too was shown the

door by Dwayne Bravo through a direct-hit run out, leaving SRH at 27/2. Jonny Bairstow (23) and Kane Williamson (57, 39b, 7x4) tried to make amends before Ravindra Jadeja (1/21) castled the Englishman in the 10th over. SRH were 60/3 at the halfway stage.

Williamson then got some help from Priyam Garg (16), but the rising required rate got the better of Garg. Williamson tried to keep SRH in the game despite losing partners at the other end.

He too perished in the 18th over, bowled by Karn Sharma (2/37). Notably, the over yielded 19 runs, mostly because of Rashid Khan (14). With 22 required off the final over, Bravo (2/25) conceded only one run and also got a wicket.

Earlier, Shane Watson (42, 38b, 1x4, 3x6) and Ambati Rayudu (41,



DEPENDABLE DUO: Ambati Rayudu (L) & Shane Watson look on in between overs

34b, 3x4, 2x6) shared an 81-run stand but SRH did well to restrict CSK to 167/6. Jadeja (25 n o) and Dhoni (21) played quick cameos smashing a total of five fours and two sixes between them in a stand of 32 in just 2.4 overs.

SRH bowlers did a commendable job, claiming four wickets for 47 runs in the last six overs. Sandeep Sharma (2/19), Khaleel Ahmed (2/45) and T Natarajan (2/41) picked two wickets apiece.

Desperate to snap their two-match losing streak, CSK elected to bat. The three-time champions sent young England all-rounder Curran (31, 21b, 3x4, 2x6) instead of Watson to open the innings with Faf du Plessis.

### BRIEF SCORES

CSK 167/6 (Shane Watson 42, Ambati Rayudu 41, Sam Curran 31; Sandeep Sharma 2/19) beat SRH 147/8 (Kane Williamson 57; Dwayne Bravo 2/25) by 20 runs.



## RR eye revenge against Capitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 13: Bolstered by the arrival of Ben Stokes, Rajasthan Royals will hope for a stronger show from their slightly off-colour top order when they try to settle scores against second-placed Delhi Capitals in their return leg IPL match here Wednesday.

The Capitals had beaten RR by 46 runs last week and Steve Smith's men will look to return the compliment when they meet for the second time in the tournament.

The last time the two teams clashed, RR didn't have Stokes in the ranks and even though the England all-rounder didn't set the stage on fire in his first game but his presence inspired the former champions to snap a four-match losing streak with a five-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

While Stokes will be an important cog in the RR wheel, the team will also have to fix its top order which has been short of runs in the last five games, leaving too much for the lower order to get.

Skipper Smith and Sanju Samson have failed to make any significant contribution with the bat since setting the Sharjah ground on fire in their first two matches.

Jos Buttler didn't capitalise on the starts in the last two matches. In fact, if it wasn't for Rahul Tewatia, the Royals would still be in the dumps. The all-rounder, who had blasted five sixes against Kings XI Punjab, once again rescued RR with a 28-ball 45 in their last game



against Sunrisers.

Delhi, on the other hand, were brought down by Mumbai Indians in their last game and Shreyas Iyer's men will look to shrug off the odd defeat and get back to the top with a professional display.

The Capitals possess an explosive batting department as well as a formidable bowling unit with Kagiso Rabada emerging as the best bowler this season, snaring 17 wickets so far.

He has been supported well by fellow South African pacer Anrich Nortje (8 wickets) and Harshal Patel. Ravichandran Ashwin too has bowled well in the power-play and along with Axar Patel, has done well to suffocate the opposition teams.

However, it was Marcus Stoinis, whose all-round show floored RR in their last face-off and Smith would hope that his side has his match in Stokes.

In bowling, Jofra Archer has led the charge for RR. He, along with the spin duo of Tewatia and Shreyas Gopal, have consistently figured in the XI, which has gone through a lot of chopping and changing.

For DC, Shikhar Dhawan's return to form further boosts their batting order, featuring Prithvi Shaw and Iyer in the top four.

## Ronaldo tests COVID +ve

REUTERS

Lisbon, Oct 13: Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo has tested positive for COVID-19, Portugal's Football Federation said in a statement on its website Tuesday.

The 35-year-old Juventus striker will miss Wednesday's UEFA Nations League game against Sweden but is "well, has no symptoms and is in isolation", the federation said.

The federation added that the rest of the Portugal squad had un-

dergone tests as a result of Ronaldo's positive, but that they had all tested negative and would be available for the Sweden match.

Five-time world player of the year Ronaldo appeared in his side's goalless draw away to France in the Nations League Sunday and Wednesday's 0-0 stalemate in a friendly at home to Spain.

He will be doubtful for Juve's Serie A trip to Crotone Saturday and their Champions League group stage game away to Dynamo Kiev next Tuesday.

## Lakshya advances in Denmark Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Odense, Oct 13: Fast-rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen made a successful return to competitive badminton, beating Christo Popov in straight games in the opening round of the USD 750,000 Denmark Open, which marked the resumption of the international calendar after a coronavirus-forced break of seven months.

The 19-year-old Indian, who claimed five titles including two Super 100 tournaments last year, produced a clinical performance to outwit Popov 21-9, 21-15 to reach the second round.

He will take on the winner of the match between Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus and Belgium's Maxime Moreels.

Lakshya looked in good touch as he moved well on the court and found his touch from the word go. The Indian jumped to an 11-8 lead at the break in the opening game and didn't allow his opponent to make a

comeback, reeling off three points to move to 14-8. He then pocketed the remaining seven points on the trot as Popov could only watch helplessly.

The second game was a more competitive affair as both the players fought tooth and nail, moving neck-and-neck till 12-12. After that, Lakshya once again broke off and moved to 15-12 and 16-14 before closing the match comfortably.

Denmark Open Super 750 event is the only event happening this year.

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