



## POSITIVE EFFECT

Actor Bhumi Pednekar says she is feeling guilt free and physically strong after turning a vegetarian

LEISURE P2



## NO OFFICIAL VALIDITY

10K names to be deleted from Assam NRC as many 'ineligible persons' were included in the list

TWO STATES P7



## TRUMP SLAMS BIDEN

China is 'desperate' for Joe Biden's win as he will 'surrender' jobs to China, feels US Prez Trump

INTERNATIONAL P10

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, we can't approve this ad. It can damage our social fabric! It promotes amity among citizens!

### SHORT TAKES

#### Mufti to attend Farooq's meet

**Srinagar:** National Conference president Farooq Abdullah has convened a meeting at his residence tomorrow for chalking out the future course of action on 'Gupkar Declaration' with regard to the special status of Jammu and Kashmir which was revoked by the Centre last year. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, who was released from detention after 14 months Tuesday, will also attend the meeting. "I called on Mufti Sahiba to enquire about her well-being," Omar said.

#### Youth kills self after testing +ve

**Nabarangpur:** A 20-year-old man committed suicide in Badmasi village of Nabarangpur district after he tested positive for COVID-19 Tuesday. The COVID-19 infected deceased has been identified as Narendra Bisoi. Bisoi had gone to Sanmasinga CHC for testing. His test report came out positive. At around 6:30pm in the evening, he drank pesticide kept in the house. Even though his kin took him to the Nabarangpur DHH, doctors declared him brought dead.

### MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	40794.74 ↑ 169.23
NIFTY	11971.00 ↑ 36.50
DOLLAR	73.58 ↑ ₹0.0
EURO	86.12 ↓ ₹0.38
GOLD	₹50,570 ↑ ₹325
SILVER	₹61,700 ↑ ₹1158

### WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	28.2°C	30.5°C
TEMP MIN	25.0°C	23.0°C
Humidity	100%	98%
Rainfall	23.5mm	2mm

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky

# Rivers getting sucked dry by state industries

BISWA BHUSAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 14:** As many as 42 industrial units in the state are drawing 35,508 litres (1,254 cusecs) of water per second from Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Budhabalanga, Kolab, Nagavali and Indrabati.

As the figures are based on government records, the actual consumption of these units may be exponentially high.

The average consumptive water requirement of coal-based plants with cooling towers is about 5-7 cubic metres of water per megawatt-hour.

National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd (NTPC) draws 105 cusecs from Samal barrage for its power plant at Kanhia; 55.49 cusec from Brahmani river for Talcher plant and 55 cusec from Hiraikud for Darlipali (Sambalpur) unit.

On similar lines, Bhusan Steel and Strips Ltd (now taken over by Tata Steel) draws 46 cusecs of water from Brahmani river and 45 cusecs from Hiraikud to feed its plant near Dhenkanal and Sambalpur, respectively.

Similarly, the Central PSU IOCL draws 38,750 cusec water from the Mahanadi through Taladanda canal for its Paradip refinery.

As per the rate fixed for the financial year 2020-21, the state government is selling water to commercial units, drawing up to 5 cusecs of water, at a rate of ₹9.52 per 1000 litres (a cubic metre). The rate fixed for establishments drawing above 5 cusecs of water is ₹12.60 per 1000 litres.

A back-of-the-envelope calculation estimates that the state government is earning ₹50 crore revenue per month (Rs



YEAR	PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF WATER (IN CBM)
1991	3802.84
2001	3359.17
2011	2868.35
2019	2578.09
2030	2329.88 (projected)

550 to 600 crore per year).

Many of the industrial houses do not pay water tax regularly. The total dues pending against various commercial establishments are estimated to be around ₹3,200 crore. Many of the industrial units have moved to court as a result of which the government is unable to collect the amount.

As per data provided by the Water Resources minister to Assembly, Bhusan Power and Steel Ltd is yet to pay water tax of ₹71.41 crore while

₹54.18 crore is pending against the Bhusan Steel and Strips Ltd. About ₹100 crore dues is pending against Shyam Metalics and Energy Ltd, Rengali while Arati Steel Ltd has not paid ₹77 crore water tax. Highest of ₹153.56 crore water dues is pending against Tata Steel mines division, Joda.

A startling trend of industrial units like NTPC and Bhusan using state's water resources and selling power to states Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana and Tamil Nadu is emerging in recent times.

On the other hand take examples of Gujarat or Tamil Nadu. These two have made industries desalinate sea water for industrial use.

Speaking on this issue, Ranjan Panda of Water Initiative Odisha, said, "It is high time that state government took a policy decision for heavy industries banning drawing of surface water."

## Farmers reeling from crop losses due to rainfall

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Oct 14:** The Revenue Divisional Commissioner (south) T Apang Rao and Berhampur sub-collector Kirti Vasani Wednesday visited Patrapur block in Ganjam district and took stock the areas affected by landslides in low-pressure triggered rainfall the previous day.

The low-pressure triggered incessant rainfall has caused much devastation in over 30 hilltop villages in Ankuli, Buratal, and Tumba panchayats of Patrapur block. The two officials visited the landslides spots at Tadkasahi-Chariabada, Raikhal, Khalasahi, Dhanbad connecting Ankuli and directed the works and rural developments departments to clear the debris and normalize traffic on the route.

The residents of Tadkasahi met the officials and narrated loss of their livestock and vegetable cultivation in the calamity. Reports said over 300 mm rainfall was recorded in three blocks of Ganjam district and over 150 mm rainfall in seven blocks of Gajapati district. However, a major flood situation has been ruled out by the authorities.

Meanwhile, rainfall over last three days has submerged the paddy and vegetable cultivation in Ganjam and Gajapati district. The farmers who were trying to recover from the Covid induced lockdown are staring at a major loss again.

The rainfall submerging over 200 acre of paddy cultivation and 500 acre of vegetable cultivation in Shergad block alone is a case in this point.

## CBI seeks life term for Dilip Ray in coal scam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** The CBI Wednesday urged a Delhi court to award life imprisonment to former Union minister Dilip Ray who was convicted in a coal scam case pertaining to irregularities in the allocation of a Jharkhand coal block in 1999.

Special Judge Bharat Parashar reserved the order for October 26 after hearing arguments from the CBI as well as the convicts. The court directed the convicts to be present before it physically on that date.

Besides Ray, former minister of state (coal) in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, the CBI also sought life imprisonment for other convicts in the case, including two senior officials of the Ministry of Coal at that time, Pradip Kumar Banerjee and Nitya Nand Gautam, and Castron Technologies Ltd's (CTL) director Mahendra Kumar Agarwalla.

Besides, the prosecution sought imposition of max-



Special Judge Bharat Parashar reserved the order for October 26 after hearing arguments from the CBI as well as the convicts

imum fine on CLT and Castron Mining Ltd (CML), also held guilty in the case.

The CBI, represented by public prosecutors V K Sharma and A P Singh, told the court during the arguments held via video conferencing that white collar crimes are on the rise and the maximum punishment was required to send a message to the society.

Ray was convicted under various sections including 409 of IPC (criminal breach of trust by public servant), that carries a maximum punishment of life imprisonment. This is the first conviction in coal scam for the offence.

## India to drop below B'desh in GDP: IMF

India's projected slump is the largest of any major economy. The contraction is also the biggest among emerging markets

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** India is set to drop below Bangladesh in terms of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the economy, according to the International Monetary Fund, is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year.

The IMF's forecast for India, a huge downward revision from its previous prediction in June, will see the biggest contraction among major emerging markets amid the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the IMF's "World Economic Outlook" report released, India's per capita GDP is set to plunge to \$1,877 this fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. The IMF's previous prediction in June said output would shrink 4.5 percent. Bangladesh per capita GDP in dollar terms is expected to grow to \$1,888, according to the IMF report.

However, India, Asia's third-largest economy, is likely to bounce



back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 per cent, the IMF said.

Released ahead of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, the report said global growth would contract by 4.4 per cent this year and bounce back to 5.2 per cent in 2021.

Top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who has been critical of the centre over the state of the economy, hit out at the government after the IMF projections. "Solid achievement of 6 years of BJP's hate-filled cultural nationalism," he tweeted.

## SC nudge for loan relief

THE COMMON MAN'S DIWALI IS NOW IN GOVT'S HANDS, STATES THE APEX COURT

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to allow the government a month's time to implement the interest waiver on loans of up to 2 crore.

The top court questioned, if a decision has already been taken, why should it take so long to execute it. The Centre had argued that it needed the time for certain formalities, but the court set a fresh deadline of November 2.

"The Common Man's Diwali is now in government's hands," said Justice MR Shah, who was part of the three-judge bench.

"The common people are worried. We are concerned with people with loan up to 2 crores," said the bench, which has been pressing the government to figure out a way to give relief to the people who have been unable to repay loans due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

The Centre has already said that it would waive the compound interest on loans, which is expected to bring relief not only to individ-

ual borrowers but also banks. The government's counsel said it was a "huge burden" but added that they are not "mentioning the figure".

In March, the Reserve Bank of India had granted a three-month moratorium on loans due to the Covid pandemic. It was later extended till August 31. In September, the Supreme Court, in response to petitions, asked the government to chart out a course to help borrowers. A waiver of interest for the six-month moratorium period was also sought by a bunch of petitions.

Today, the government was expected to spell out the way ahead on an extension of moratorium,

waiving of interest, sector-wise relief and its decision on the recommendations of Mehrishi Committee.

### Only standard loans to be recast, says RBI

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that loans which have remained standard without any defaults as of March 1, 2020, will be eligible for restructuring under the pandemic-related resolution framework issued in August. In clarifications issued late last night to borrowers as well as lenders about the August 6 circular, RBI said a loan account that was due for more than 30 days as on March 1, 2020, but subsequently got regularised, will not be ineligible for resolution under the COVID-19 resolution framework.



## Cabinet approves STARS for Odisha, five other states



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the STARS project under the new National Education Policy to support states in strengthening the school education system. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

The government has started implementing the new National Education Policy (NEP) and as part of the process it has approved the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project, Javadekar told a press conference after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to Education Ministry officials, the World Bank-supported STARS project, which is estimated to cost ₹5,718 crore, seeks to support the states in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes and school to work transition strategies for improved labour market outcomes.

India has started seriously implementing the new National Education Policy and therefore a new programme - STARS - been cleared today by the cabinet as the base of the policy is not rote learning but learning with understanding, Javadekar said.

Learning outcomes are important so there has to be teaching and learning. We have to improve board exams which will be competency based. This will impact the processes of education in early childhood and fundamental literacy has to be achieved, he added.

# Tanishq ad withdrawn as secular India is passé

THE TV COMMERCIAL FEATURED A MUSLIM FAMILY PREPARING FOR AN UPCOMING BABY SHOWER FOR THEIR HINDU DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

AGENCIES

**Gandhidham, Oct 14:** It's 2020 and instead of addressing our intolerance, we ban ads that promote communal harmony.

A Tanishq jewellery showroom in Gandhidham town of Gujarat's Kutch district has put up a note on its door, apologising to Hindus in the district over the brand's controversial TV ad which has been withdrawn.

The handwritten note in Gujarati also condemned the TV commercial.

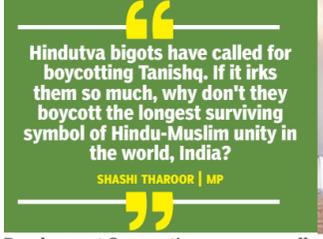
We apologise to Hindu community of Kutch on the shameful advertisement of Tanishq, the note read. It was pasted on the show-

room's door on October 12, and has since been removed, police said.

Photos of the apology note have gone viral on social media. The showroom manager and local police rubbished media reports that the showroom was attacked by some people angry with the Tanishq advertisement. No such attack has taken place, said Superintendent of Police, Kutch-East, Mayur Patil.

The TV commercial featured a Muslim family preparing for an upcoming baby shower for their Hindu daughter-in-law.

Tanishq jewellery brand is a division of Titan company, promoted by the Tata Group in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Industrial



Development Corporation.

Meanwhile, Tanishq has been slammed by Twitterati for withdrawing the advertisement for a jewellery range which showed an inter-faith marriage. Monday, Tanishq was facing BoycottTanishq



calls on social media after it released the ad showing a Hindu-Muslim couple. #BoycottTanishq was top trending on #Twitter. More than 19,000 people tweeted calling for a ban on the advertisement and the jewellery brand.

Tuesday, Tanishq and the Tata group were being slammed for covering to social media pressure and withdrawing the ad. Some twitterati had linked the Tanishq ad to love jihad.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said, "So Hindutva bigots have called for a boycott of @TanishqJewelry? for highlighting Hindu-Muslim unity through this beautiful ad. If Hindu-Muslim 'ekatvam' irks them so much, why don't they boycott the longest surviving symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity in the world - India?"

While launching the Ekatvam range, Titan had highlighted the theme of Oneness. "Each jewel from

#EkatvamByTanishq, is meticulously crafted using art forms from across the country. Over 1,000 Karigars have spent countless hours creating these jewels that are a captivating ode to the beauty of oneness."

Former BJP ideologue Sudheendra Kulkarni said, "#Tanishq retreat is a victory for intolerance. Each such victory will make them more intolerant. We must safeguard India's pluralism".

Raj Nayak, media maven said, "This is really sad! How can a brand as strong as Tanishq from the House of Tata's chicken out based on trolls? In fact the trolls were helping you get more visibility for your ad."

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
You may feel empty, and completely down-and-out today. Ganesh says that this may make you feel a bit more inclined to spirituality. Meditation and prayer will engage more of your attention. You will also make considerable material progress.

**TAURUS**  
Feel your imagination run wild as you star-gaze throughout the day wondering about the existence of the extra terrestrial. You will paint the workplace in your flavour of innovation, combined with a drive to work equally hard. Add some smooth talk to the equation and you will find a lot of people in awe of your charm, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you may encounter unusual challenges, says Ganesh. You will come up with new thoughts and tactics, which will bring about positive changes and results. Avoid any confrontation with those living around you. Ganesh advises you to keep your cool during the day.

**CANCER**  
Financially, you may be in a bit of a bother today. Payment of bills, taxes and loans may keep you busy for most part of the day. You may even contemplate borrowing money to meet the demands. However, you are likely to receive one of your pending payments. Also, a courageous business manoeuvre may pay rich dividends, says Ganesh.

**LEO**  
Today, Ganesh advises you to keep the Bhagavad Gita's verses in mind, and persist in fulfilling your duties without bothering about the fruits of your labour. Put in some extra effort to finish off whatever you undertake today. Patience bears its fruits and they are always sweet. Also, Ganesh reminds you that anybody can enjoy pleasure, but only few can handle pressure. So, take your pick!

**VIRGO**  
Matters of religion and spirituality rise to the fore today. Throw yourself into a single-minded pursuit to be successful in your chosen field, and make the most of your skills and natural talent, says Ganesh. Matters of relationships will see you more critical and analytical than emotional.

**LIBRA**  
Well, today is just not your day. The prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious over this triviality. Remember, 'not good' does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally enjoyable evening. Ganesh guesses that you may want to discuss certain intimate issues with your sweetheart today!

**SCORPIO**  
At work, you would want to change the perspective with which people see you. Your colleagues recognise you as the emerging alpha-lion. Ideas and opinions will impress your bosses. But keep a level head and learn where to stop, even when winning, counsels Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Today, find yourself driving all your thoughts and actions towards your family. You will also spend some superb time with your dearie and discuss intimate matters. A relaxing day today as you spend time with your friends and family, chilling out and having a good laugh or two.

**CAPRICORN**  
Whether you're an artist, performer, professional or an entrepreneur, career issues will take the foreground today, while personal matters will wait in queue for your attention, says Ganesh. Your performance will be at its all-time high, and your efforts will be duly rewarded, but credit for this must go to your loved ones who will lend their unceasing support for all your endeavours.

**AQUARIUS**  
Aim. Shoot. Achieve. Today, you will concentrate your energies to execute your plans with precision. Naturally, your work progresses by leaps and bounds. By sundown, you will achieve far more than anyone's estimation. That's the way to go, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
For you, today may all be work and no play, says Ganesh. This, however, will not stop you from putting in extra efforts to finish your pending projects and to meet your deadlines. But then who else but a Pisces is known to handle the pain nonchalantly without bemoaning the lack of pleasure?



## TWO AND A HALF MEN ACTRESS CONCHATA FERRELL NO MORE

Actress Conchata Ferrell, best known for her role of the housekeeper Berta in popular sitcom, *Two And A Half Men*, is no more. She was 77. Ferrell passed away Monday at Sherman Oaks Hospital in Los Angeles after complications following a cardiac arrest, reports variety.com.

## HEMSWORTH, TAYLOR-JOY TO STAR IN MAD MAX PREQUEL

Actors Chris Hemsworth and Anya Taylor-Joy and Yahya Abdul-Mateen II will star in the *Mad Max* prequel, *Furiosa*. The prequel movie based on Charlize Theron's character Imperator Furiosa from the 2015 film, *Mad Max: Fury Road*. Taylor-Joy, 24, will play the title role in the prequel.



## State ecologists express joy over Aarey conservation

Relocation of Metro car shed is a huge news for environment, environmental activists and people who love nature, says Ranjan Panda known as Odisha's Waterman



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**BHUBANESWAR:** Giving in to the people's demand and to save the forest near Aarey Milk Colony, Maharashtra government recently decided to shift the proposed new car shed for Mumbai Metro to a new location.

While nature lovers across the country expressed their happiness over the issue, a few environmentalists back home shared their thoughts with Orissa POST.

Known as the Waterman of Odisha, environmentalist and eco-activist Ranjan Panda said, "This is one of the most positive news we have heard in decades with regard to conservation of the forests. This may look as a small gain to many but in reality this is a huge news for environment, environmental activists and people who love nature."

Jaya Krushna Panigrahi, an environmental scientist and Secretary of Odisha Environment Society said that beyond political contentions, designating Aarey Colony forest, considered as 'green lungs' of Mumbai and floodplains

of Mithi river, as a reserve forest is not only a victory for the environmental activists, it has also set the tone for future environmental activism.

"This is certainly a right step in right direction at a time when the Centre introduced 'Nagar Van' scheme to create urban forests in 200 cities of India in five years, to make them livable, and enrich their environmental quality and biodiversity. The felling down of trees was to be stopped at any cost for the benefits of humanity," added Panigrahi.

Another local environmentalist Shweta Agarwal said this win, a result of sincere protest by thousands, is just the beginning and there is a long to go before restoration of Aarey forest.

She expects the state government to follow the path of Maharashtra and restore the forest near Talabira village where hundreds of trees have been felled for coal mining. "It is high time Odisha government realised that we have to conserve forests to save our lives," added Agarwal.



## Bhumi's unique life choice during lockdown

**MUMBAI:** Actress and environmentalist Bhumi Pednekar has told fans about a life choice that she made during lockdown. She became a vegetarian during the period.

"I was never heavy on non-vegetarian diet but I took a call during lockdown. It was actually something that happened organically. It's been six months and I'm good, guilt free and I feel physically strong as well," she said.

"For many years I had the want to go vegetarian but breaking habits are the toughest thing to do. My journey with Climate Warrior taught me a lot of things and I just didn't feel like eating meat anymore," added Bhumi, who will next be seen in *Durgavati* December 11, realised she wanted to turn vegetarian during lockdown.

Directed by Ashok, *Durgavati* is the official Hindi remake of Telugu horror thriller, *Bhaagamathie*. Superstar Akshay Kumar presents the project, scheduled to launch on Amazon Prime Video.

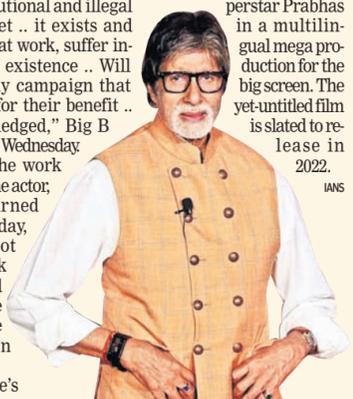
## Manual scavenging an illegal act, feels Amitabh

**MUMBAI:** Megastar Amitabh Bachchan feels manual scavenging is an unconstitutional act, and has pledged to join any campaign that works for the benefit for such workers.

"Events of the day move you beyond words... manual scavenging is an unconstitutional and illegal act.. yet.. it exists and they that work, suffer inhuman existence.. Will join any campaign that works for their benefit.. have pledged," Big B tweeted Wednesday.

On the work front, the actor, who turned 78 Sunday, has a lot to look forward to. He will be seen in Nagraj Manjule's

Jhund, the Emraan Hashmi co-starrer Chehre, and Ayan Mukerji's action fantasy drama *Brahmastra*, co-starring Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy and Telugu superstar Nagarjuna. Big B will also star with Deepika Padukone and Telugu superstar Prabhas in a multinational mega production for the big screen. The yet-untitled film is slated to release in 2022.



## Kangana on mission to get back in shape

**MUMBAI:** Actress Kangana Ranaut put on 20 kilos for her role as late Tamil politician J Jayalalithaa in the biopic, *Thalaivi*, and is now working at returning to her earlier size, agility, metabolism and flexibility.

Tweeting a photo from her workout session, Kangana wrote: "I had gained 20kgs for *Thalaivi*, now that we are very close to completing it, need to go back to my earlier size, agility, metabolism and flexibility. Waking up early and going for a jog/walk... who all are with me?" The actress had recently shared

that she has completed the latest schedule of the upcoming biopic. "With the blessings of Jaya Ma we completed one more schedule of *Thalaivi* - the revolutionary leader. After corona many things are different but between action and before cut nothing changes. Thank you team," she had written.

The film will be released in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi languages.



## Odisha Natya Sangh urges govt to open auditoriums from Nov 1

**BHUBANESWAR:** Members of Odisha Natya Sangh (ONS), an association of over 150 theatre troupes of the state, Wednesday urged the government to open the auditoriums in the state from November 1 for presentation of plays. They also requested to allow them conduct rehearsal sessions from October 20. The stage artistes including the directors, writers, light designers, musicians, costume and make-up men have rendered jobless and are going through untold miseries after restrictions imposed on public gatherings. Most artistes have slipped into depression with all sources of livelihood drying up following the lockdown, the members said in a letter presented to Odisha Tourism and Culture minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi. ONS will strictly adhere to the Covid guidelines and make sure that plays are staged with 50 per cent occupancy in auditoriums, assured president Haren Sahoo and secretary Lala Biren Roy of the Sangh in the letter.

## PEANUTS



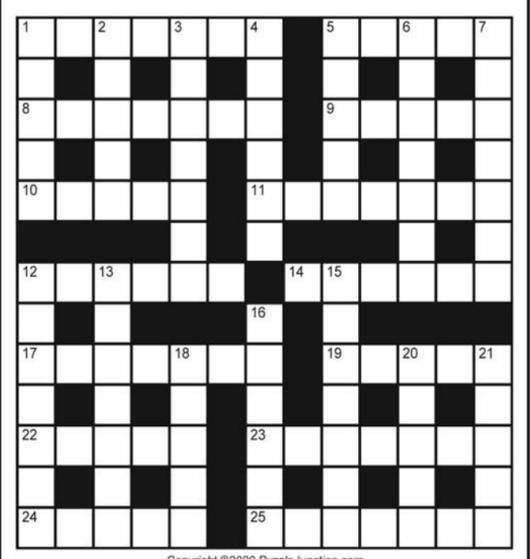
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



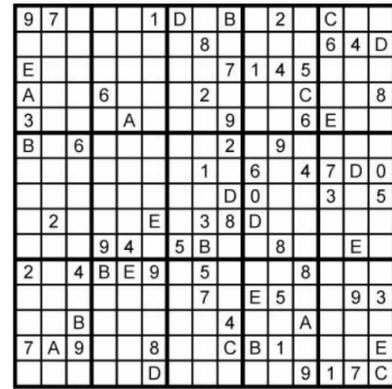
## FUN post CROSSWORD



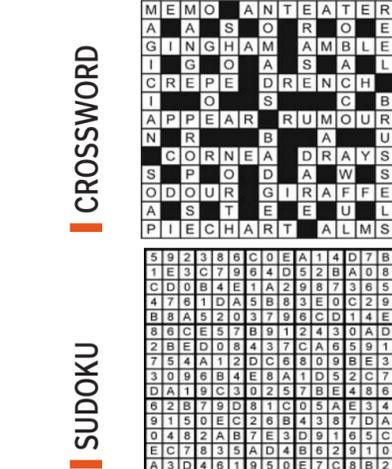
- Across**
- 1 Lighthouses
  - 5 Greek letter
  - 8 Fibre source
  - 9 Title holder
  - 10 Castilian hero (2,3)
  - 11 Birds of prey
  - 12 Dishes
  - 14 Sudden storm
  - 17 An old car for a new one (5-2)
  - 19 Not quite right
  - 22 Banana oil, e.g.
  - 23 Far-out transport
  - 24 Ocean currents
  - 25 Salesman's stash
  - 4 Hot and humid
  - 5 Busybody
  - 6 Venice
  - 7 Deodorant type
  - 12 Doctor's visitor
  - 13 Conformed
  - 15 Type of physics
  - 16 Ticks off
  - 18 Merits
  - 20 Utopian
  - 21 Appears
- Down**
- 1 Penniless
  - 2 Loft
  - 3 Delinquent

## SUDOKU

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



## SOLUTIONS

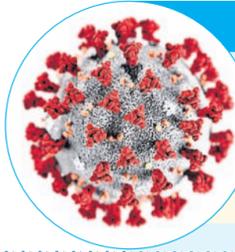


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## BOAT RIDE

People enjoy boat ride in Mahanadi river near Brajabiharipur in Cuttack, Wednesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,85,53,704	2,89,59,361	10,93,460
India	72,39,389	63,01,927	1,10,586
Odisha	2,59,541	2,35,763	1,072

# CM FOR ACCELERATING ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Any kind of obstacle to economic activities will not be tolerated, says Naveen

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 14:** With a view to reviving the state economy, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Wednesday, directed the officials concern to give utmost importance to rev up economic activities.

Holding a meeting with senior officials to review Covid-19 situation, Naveen said that priority should be given to all the sectors including industry, mining, construction, services and transport.

Stating that Odisha has now become an attractive destination for investment, the Chief Minister advised the officials to ensure that all the industrial projects, whether large or medium or MSME, are fully supported by all sectors and that the projects are implemented in a timely manner so that people can benefit from the investment.

He warned that strong action will be taken, if the economic activities are disturbed.

The Chief Minister also suggested that livelihood programmes such as MGNREGA, Mission Shakti

## SCALING UP MEASURES



- Stating that Odisha has now become an attractive destination for investments, Naveen advised officials to ensure that all the industrial projects are fully supported by all the sectors

- The Chief Minister also suggested that livelihood programmes such as MGNREGA, Mission Shakti and other initiatives should be given priority

and other initiatives should be prioritised. On Covid management, Naveen said all indicators are better than the national average. "New infections are declining in most districts. The situation has also improved in districts with higher infections such as Cuttack, Khurda and Puri," he added.

As the festive season and the winter approaches, the administration must be vigilant and vigorously implementing comprehensive awareness programs and Covid regulations, he directed.

Taking the example of Kerala, Naveen said the state has been doing very well in Covid management. But after the Onam festival, everything changed. The infections have risen sharply in Kerala.

"In European countries, the second wave of virus has also been reported. So, with a little bit of com-

placency, the situation is likely to get worse," he warned.

The Chief Minister advised the officials to ensure strict implementation of the Covid rules and regulations during the festive season.

Chief Secretary Asit Tripathi said the number of infections in the state is declining. "So now the pressure on the hospital has also reduced. The anti-viral tablet Favipiravir works well and its use is acceptable to patients," he said. Similarly, steps are being taken towards making the Covid test report available as soon as possible.

Additional Chief Secretary to Health department, PK Mohapatra, said infections are declining in Cuttack, Khurda and Puri. The recovery rate in the state has reached 91 per cent and Odisha is among the top five states in the country, he added.

# Disaster mgmt gets ₹205Cr boost

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 14:** In a bid to scale new heights in disaster management, the state government has decided to enhance its disaster management capacity using state-of-the-art equipment, training and capacity building.

This was decided at the State Executive Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy here Wednesday.

Considering the intensity and frequency of natural disasters along with the need for preparedness to face industrial disasters, Tripathy directed the officials to strengthen the disaster fighting arms of the state with state-of-the-art equipment and innovative training. An additional amount of around ₹55.22 crore was

## USING CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY



Tripathy directed the officials to strengthen the disaster fighting arms of the state with state-of-the-art equipment and innovative training

₹205.21 crore has been sanctioned for hi-tech equipment and capacity building activities during the current financial year

THIS INCLUDES PROCUREMENT OF MODERN COLLAPSED STRUCTURE SEARCH AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT AND QUICK DEPENDENT ANTENNA FOR ODRAF AND FIRE SERVICE UNITS AND THE INSTRUMENTS FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING CELL

sanctioned in the meeting taking total sanction of funds to ₹205 crore for the current financial year.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Kumar Jena said, "At present, the Odisha Fire Service

is equipped to fight natural disasters in the state and extend helping hands to other states. The new training and modern equipment would further sharpen their teeth to deal with different types of disasters."

According to sources, ₹205.21 crore has been sanctioned for hi-tech equipment and capacity building activities during the current financial year. This includes procurement of high-tech collapsed structure search and rescue (CSSR) equipment and quick dependent antenna (QDA) for Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and fire service units and the instruments for disaster management training cell.

Tripathy emphasised on proper maintenance and upkeep of the equipment through regular institutional arrangements.

## Thunderstorm forecast for 16 dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 14:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Wednesday predicted thunderstorm with lightning in 16 districts in next 24 hours.

Some places of Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Gajapati, Ganjam, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Boudh, Kalahandi and Kandhamal districts would witness thunderstorm Thursday, the IMD said in a bulletin.

Light to moderate rainfall may also occur at a few places of coastal Odisha and interior pockets, it said. In between 8:30am and 5:30pm Wednesday, the highest 42 mm rainfall was recorded at Rayagada while 27 mm was recorded at Chandbali, 23.5 mm at Bhubaneswar, 22 mm at Angul, 12 mm at Jharsuguda and 10 mm at Koraput.

Some other places like Nayagarh, Titlagarh, Bolangir and Talcher also recorded a moderate rainfall Wednesday.

## LEAN DAY



Fishing boats remain idle on Puri beach as fishermen did not venture into the sea due to bad weather, Wednesday

# ₹5.8L penalty on bus from Koraput

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 14:** A bus owner in Odisha was fined over Rs 5.80 lakh Wednesday for violating rules of the newly-amended Motor Vehicle Act (MVA). This is the highest amount of fine that has been imposed on a vehicle owner. The owner had not paid the road tax amount on time.

The rule violation came to the light when the bus bearing registration number OD 10 F 0409 was on its way from Koraput to the

state capital with passengers. The bus was intercepted by transport department officials near Khandagiri for routine check of documents.

A senior Transport department official of Bhubaneswar RTO-II office said the bus is owned by Sneharekha Padhy of Pujariput locality in Koraput district. The vehicle owner had not paid the road tax amount of Rs 5,66,981. The amount had been growing since May 2019 till the current month.

The bus also did not have fitness certificate.

Some other important documents were also missing. So, the total amount of penalty imposed on the bus was Rs 5,81,981.

The passengers were asked to disembark and the RTO officials seized the bus.

Notably, in August 2019, a truck owner belonging to Nagaland was penalised a staggering amount of Rs 6.53 lakh in Sambalpur district for a number of violations as per the old Motor Vehicles Act 2019.

# Mishap on City flyover claims 1

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 14:** One person was killed and another critically injured when a truck hit a trailer from the rear on the flyover near Fire Station Square here Wednesday.

According to eyewitnesses, the iron-beam laden trailer was in a stationary position on the National Highway 16 after developing some technical glitches when the speeding truck hit it from the rear.

"Driver of the truck that hit the trailer from rear sustained grievous injuries and was stuck in the mangled remains of the vehicle. Another person sitting in the driver's cabin of truck died on the spot," said a source.

After an operation for nearly two hours, ODRAF personnel with the help of police rescued the driver from the mangled remains of the



truck. Gas cutters and other high-end machinery were used to separate the entangled parts of the vehicles. The critically injured driver was then rushed to Capital Hospital where his condition is stated to be critical, said the sources.

The accident resulted in disruption of traffic on the highway. Traffic personnel were deployed at the site. Road traffic on the NH has been diverted through the service road near Baramunda, said a senior police official.

# Oppn tears into govt over Tirtol girl's rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 14:** The Opposition parties in Odisha Wednesday attacked the state government over the alleged rape of a minor girl from Tirtol in Cuttack and called for timely action to ensure justice to the family.

BJP leader Lekhashree Samantsinghar Wednesday demanded arrest of the accused in the case. She also expressed anguish over the incident and attacked the government.

She said, "Crimes against women have only been on the rise in the state. The recent infamous case of rape of a minor girl from Tirtol for 22 days in Cuttack is not going to be tolerated by the state. This is alarming. The BJD government has blatantly failed to maintain law in order in the state."



LEKHASHREE SAMANTSINGHAR | BJP LEADER

Crimes against women have only been on the rise in the state. The recent infamous case of rape of a minor girl from Tirtol for 22 days in Cuttack is not going to be tolerated by the state



DEBI PRASAD MISHRA | BJD LEADER

The opposition parties are coming out with their own theories of the reported crime

The BJP leader also said, "At a time when it has failed to protect women and girls, on what moral grounds it has planned to fight elections from the area. Where is the law and order in the state? The government must act swiftly and nab the accused in the case and expose

the racket behind such incidents."

The Congress party also took on the ruling BJD for the alleged deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Odisha Congress spokesperson Nishikanta Mishra, at a presser here, Wednesday attacked the gov-

ernment over the shameful incident.

He said, "The police have failed to act timely and nab the culprits in such a serious case. The state has a poor track record in terms of giving justice to the people as it has one of the poor conviction rates in the country. The apathy of the government has further bolstered the courage of criminals in the state, and the state government does not seem to be in a mood to act against them sternly."

The leader also cited the example of Kunduli 'gangrape' case and said that how the apathy of the government in such sensitive cases often lead to harassment of the victims.

BJD leader Debi Prasad Mishra, however, accused the opposition parties of coming out with their own theories of the reported crime.

# Public hearing starts for Shree Setu land

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**Puri, Oct 14:** A public hearing began Wednesday for acquisition of land for construction of Shree Setu – the first trumpet bridge – to connect Malatipatapur with Jagannath Ballav in the Holy City.

The public hearing was held at Samantarai, Markandeswar Sahi, Matitota, and at Jagannath Ballav Mutt.

The bridge along the National Highway 316 is part of a plan to ease traffic congestion and enable devotees a hassle-free movement and transform Puri into an in-



CM Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the 2.3km-long bridge to be built at an estimated cost of Rs 190 crore January 17

ternational heritage site. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone for the 2.3km-long bridge to be built at an estimated cost of Rs 190 crore January 17 last.

The tender for the construction of the Rs 190-crore bridge has already been finalised and the state-owned Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation has been awarded the work.

Official sources said 90 per cent land belonging to Srirmandir, mutt endowments and government land measuring about 35 acre had already been acquired and the work has started in the acquired land.

The public hearing is being held for four acres of private land required for the purpose.

Compensation for the land would be given as per the rehabilitation and resettlement act 2013.

# Cattle smuggling racket active in Khurda

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khurda, Oct 14:** Rampant cattle smuggling from the district here has become a cause of concern for many.

The smugglers usually send cattle to West Bengal and other neighbouring states through National Highway 16 and National Highway 57, sources said.

"Cattle from Khurda district are illegally transported to Bangladesh through West Bengal. A well-oiled racket is operating in the district to smuggle cattle to neighbouring states," said a source.

According to sources, the cattle smugglers illegally transport hundreds of cows and buffaloes from Khurda, Khurda Sadar, Jankia, Begunia, Bolgarh, Banapur, Balugaon and Tangi areas of the district to neighbouring states through trucks.

It is learnt that the cow smugglers have engaged hundreds of agents to buy old and ailing cattle from villagers. This apart, the smugglers are stealing cows and buffaloes

## ANIMAL TRAFFICKING



PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION

THE SMUGGLERS USUALLY SEND CATTLE TO WEST BENGAL AND OTHER NEIGHBOURING STATES THROUGH NH 16 AND 57

THE SMUGGLERS ARE ALSO ILLEGALLY TRANSPORTING STRAY CATTLE TO WEST BENGAL AND OTHER STATES

AT LEAST 500 CATTLE HAVE BEEN RESCUED AND 60 CARCASSES HAVE BEEN SEIZED FROM THE SMUGGLERS IN THE DISTRICT IN LAST FOUR YEARS

from roadside sheds.

"The smugglers are also illegally transporting stray cattle to West Bengal and other states. Around 5,000 cattle from Khurda dis-

trict are illegally transported to other states every day," said a social activist.

According to him, stealing of cows and incidents of cattle smug-

gling have been reported frequently from Kerang, Totapada, Taratua, Kusumi, Routapada, Dikshitpada, Khajuria, Benapanjuri and Taraboi areas in the district.

As per police records, at least 500 cattle have been rescued and 60 carcasses have been seized from the smugglers in the district in last four years. This apart, around 30 persons have been arrested in connection with cattle smuggling during that period.

"The cattle smugglers usually bribe a few dishonest policemen to carry out the illegal trade," alleged a local.

Khurda Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Pratap Swain said they have directed all police stations in the district to take stern action against people involved in cattle smuggling.

"Our personnel very often rescue cattle from smugglers. But, there is no cattle sheds for the rescued cows and buffaloes. The administration should look into the issue at the earliest," said a police officer on conditions of anonymity.

## NATURE'S BEAUTY



A butterfly sucks nectar from flowers at Gopabandhu Park in Buxibazar area of Cuttack, Wednesday

PHOTO: RAJKISHORE MOHANTY

# Odisha logs 2.6K fresh nCoV cases

### 15 MORE FATALITIES PUSH STATE'S CORONAVIRUS DEATH TOLL TO 1,072

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: State's novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) tally surged to 2,59,541 Wednesday as 2,604 people tested positive for the disease, while 15 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 1,072, an official of the Health & Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

The state's quarantine centres reported 1,511 infections and the remaining cases were detected during contact tracing exercise.

Khurda district, comprising state capital Bhubaneswar, recorded 385 fresh cases followed by Angul (216) and Cuttack (209).

"Regret to inform the demise of fifteen #COVID-19 positive patients while under treatment in hospitals," the H&FW department said on Twitter.

Cuttack registered three deaths, while the other fatalities were reported from Balasore, Boudh, Ganjam, Jajpur, Khurda, Kalahandi, Kendrapara, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Rayagada and Sundargarh districts, the official pointed out.

Ganjam district alone has so far accounted for 223 deaths, followed by Khurda (180) and Cuttack (91).

As many as 53 other COVID-19 patients have also lost their lives, but their deaths were due to other reasons, said the official.

The state has thus far conducted over 38.78 lakh sample tests, including 42,167 Tuesday, the official



Door-to-door screening and oxygen level check-up by BeMC

added. Meanwhile, 2,775 Covid patients recovered from the infection Wednesday, taking the total recoveries in Odisha to 2,35,763.

The recoveries include 500 from Khurda, 189 from Nuapada, 183 from Cuttack, 148 from Bargarh, 136 from Kendrapara, 123 from

Angul, 117 from Jajpur and 114 from Bhadrak.

#### NO RESPITE FOR CAPITAL CITY

The Capital city reported 267 Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said, Wednesday

#### OF INFECTION & DEATHS

Cuttack registers three deaths, while remaining fatalities were reported from Balasore, Boudh, Ganjam, Jajpur, Khurda, Kalahandi, Kendrapara, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Rayagada and Sundargarh

Khurda district, comprising state capital Bhubaneswar, records 385 fresh cases followed by Angul (216) and Cuttack (209)

Ganjam district alone has so far accounted for 223 deaths, followed by Khurda (180) and Cuttack (91)

THE STATE HAS THUS FAR CONDUCTED OVER 38.78 LAKH SAMPLE TESTS, INCLUDING 42,167 TUESDAY

According to the civic body, 71 new cases were reported from quarantine centres, while 196 were local contact cases.

With this, the total SARS-nCoV infections in the City rose to 26,283. Meanwhile, the Capital city reported 342 recoveries in the past 24 hours, taking the total recovered cases to 22,867. Active cases, meanwhile, dropped to 2,372 in the City with more number of daily recoveries as compared to new positive cases.

This is the fourth consecutive day the Capital city has reported less than 300 fresh coronavirus cases in a day.

## CRY FOR MSP



People under the banner of All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSSC) demonstrate at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, demanding fixation of minimum support price of agriculture-related products in accordance with the recommendations of the MS Swaminathan Commission, 2006

## 4 held with illegal firearms in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 14: Chauliaganj police here Wednesday claimed to have arrested four interstate criminals involved in illegal firearms trade after recovering pistols and live bullets from their possession.

According to police sources, five pistols, 50 rounds of bullets, eight cell-phones and a four-wheeler were seized from the pos-

session of the accused. "The arms racket had been operating in Cuttack and its adjoining areas for long. They (the accused) used to procure the pistols from Munger of Bihar," a senior Chauliaganj police official said, adding that they were trying to establish if some more criminals were involved in the racket.

Meanwhile, Cuttack deputy commissioner of police (DCP) took to

the Twitter to congratulate the Chauliaganj police for the feat.

"Outstanding detection by IIC @Chauliaganj & team. Four prolific interstate criminals were arrested for illegal trade of arms & ammunitions and supplying to the antisocials with seizure of 5 nos 9mm Pistols, 50 live ammunitions, car etc which relates to PS Case No.354/20. Well done (sic)," the Cuttack DCP tweeted.

## DEMOLITION DRIVE



An excavator engaged by BDA and BMC razes shops at a vending zone at Sriya Square in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

## BMC, BDA carry out enforcement drive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: In a bid to expedite the Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited's (BSCL) Smart Janpath project, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) along with Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), Wednesday, carried out an enforcement drive at Sriya Square.

The drive saw about 31 vending zones being removed from the vicinity.

While the prior notice was given to about 32 occupants, one managed to get stay order by the court. Moreover, two apartments of a plot were also removed which were reported to be operating illegally.

"The drive was conducted jointly by the squads of BMC, BDA and Commissionerate Police.

Prior notice had been given to all illegal occupants. The drive was done in order to expedite the BSCL project and to facilitate the drainage works also being carried out simultaneously in the area," said a senior BMC enforcement officer.

## 'Why late Assembly Speaker wasn't given proper homage'

OPCC prez demands CM Naveen Patnaik to take action against officials responsible for not giving proper homage and honour to Sarat Kumar Kar who passed away Oct 12

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik has expressed displeasure over denial of cremation rights to Sarat Kumar Kar, who was a three-time member of Odisha Legislative Assembly and also an MP. The late Kar had also been a Cabinet minister multiple times.

Niranjan Patnaik Wednesday demanded Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take action against officials responsible for not giving proper homage and honour to Sarat Kumar Kar who passed away here October 12.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, the Congress leader said that the departed soul was a three-time member of the state Assembly; a minister in the state Cabinet for several times and also the Speaker of the state Assembly from 2000 to 2004. He was also a Member of Parliament.



"It is a matter of utter disappointment and humiliation for the citizens of Odisha for the great soul was not given proper homage and honour by the state," the OPCC president said.

He added that another concern which is more painful is that his (Kar's) body was not allowed to be cremated at Swargadwar in Puri. The request of his son and family members to cremate his body at

I believe all this did not happen with your knowledge and wonder how the officials dared to dishonour and deny protocol and disrespect the great soul

NIRANJAN PATNAIK | OPCC PRESIDENT

Swargadwar to fulfil his last wish was denied while in some other cases the administration was lenient, Niranjan pointed out.

The Congress leader said, "I believe all this did not happen with your knowledge and wonder how the officials dared to dishonour and deny protocol and disrespect the great soul."

Describing it as a matter of most inexcusable incident and inhumane in nature, Niranjan said that he wanted the Chief Minister to take prompt action against those responsible "for such type of historical blunder."

## 5 RPF personnel get pat for lockdown-service

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Five RPF officials from East Coast Railway have received commendation from Director General, Railway Protection Force, Railway Board, New Delhi for their 'exemplary performance' during Covid-19 lockdown period, a report said.

Anil Kumar Singh, Inspector, RPF, Puri; Praveen Kumar, Inspector, RPF, Cuttack; HD Sharma, Inspector, RPF, Jagdalpur; Sabita Rath, Sub-Inspector, RPF, Cuttack and AK Sahoo, Constable at Nuapada have received the commendation certificate of DG, RPF, Railway Board.

Apart from security-related issues like watching stranded rolling stocks at different places, RPF, ECoR has done 'commendable job' in providing meals to the poor and needy and proper managing to serve meals in Shramik Special Trains, crowd management with social distancing for running of Shramik Special and other Special trains and distribution of face masks to passengers and employees engaged in Covid-19 lockdown time, the report added.

## Fridays are no-encroachment day for cycle tracks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: In another attempt to rekindle denizens' love towards cycling, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Wednesday said that on every Friday it will make the cycle tracks here free from encroachments.

Responding to a letter from General Manager, Administration, of Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL), Additional Commissioner Abanikant Patnaik said that the enforcement activities for removal of unauthorised encroachments from cycle tracks and public bicycle sharing stations will be done in a zone-wise manner.

"Initially, focus will be on three areas namely, Rajmahal Square, IG Park and KIIT Square. The en-



Initially, focus will be on three areas namely, Rajmahal Square, IG Park and KIIT Square. The enforcement will be done where unauthorised vendors and hawkers have occupied the spaces. The drive will begin this Friday, October 16. Accordingly, all Zonal Deputy Commissioners have been informed," Patnaik said.

ABANIKANT PATNAIK | GENERAL MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION, BSCL, ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER

forcement will be done where unauthorised vendors and hawkers have occupied the spaces. The drive will begin this Friday, October 16. Accordingly, all Zonal Deputy Commissioners have been informed," Patnaik said.

The civic authority's move has come after it took over management of Mo Cycles last week. In a bid to promote cycling, BMC Commissioner, Prem Chandra Choudhary had earlier said that a complete overhaul of the parking policies will be done and new tracks will be introduced to provide more

riding space to the cyclers. It can be mentioned that Mo Cycles that were introduced in 2018 ahead of Hockey World Cup, as one of the Smart City initiatives saw plummet in ridership owing to lack of dedicated cycle tracks. Encroachment of around 11-km-long cycle tracks across the city led to drop in ridership figures from 37,008 in December 2018 to just 6,216 by March 2019, revealed an RTI. The dwindling further continued and from 600 daily riders, the ridership plummeted to only 100 per day.

Moreover, following the inauguration of Cycle for Change programme, Fridays have been declared as Cycle Day and voluntary participation from the citizens has been requested by the BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Choudhury. The move has come after Bhubaneswar along with 95 other cities was shortlisted for Rs1 crore award and guidance from national and international experts to further scale up the initiatives in two stages, which will be held until May 2021.

## Man held for rape bid on five-year-old

POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Oct 14: Police Monday arrested a person on charge of rape bid on a five-year-old minor girl under this police limits in Kandhamal district. The accused was identified as Nihiswar Pradhan, a native under the police limits, Daringbadi IIC Kousik Majhi said. A case was registered in this connection and further in-

vestigations were on. The incident occurred when the girl was going out to watch television at a neighbour's house. Finding her alone, Pradhan lured the girl to a roadside bush and tried to force himself on her. Some passersby noticed them and rescued the girl from the clutches of Pradhan. Pradhan fled the scene but was later arrested by police from a hideout.

## Human skeletal remains recovered in Boudh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, Oct 14: The skeletal remains of a person were recovered from the banks of river Mahanadi in Boudh district Wednesday.

Police said residents of the nearby area spotted the skeleton while they had gone near the riverbank for bath and so, informed the police.

On being informed, Boudh police recovered the skeleton which was half-charred, surrounded with crows under an under-construct-

tion bridge near the banks of Mahanadi.

The skeleton has been sent to the Boudh district headquarters hospital for postmortem.

"Prima facie it is suspected that the body remained half-burnt during cremation and subsequently, it was swept away in the strong currents of the water," informed Boudh IIC Tapaswini Kahar.

However, the real reason behind the incident will be revealed after gender determination and forensic tests, added Kahar.

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# Hirakud's addl spillway project hangs fire

TATA PROJECTS AND THE STATE WATER RESOURCES DEPT ARE AT LOGGERHEADS CLAIMING COMPENSATIONS FROM EACH OTHER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Oct 14:** The fate of an additional spillway of the Hirakud dam is hanging in balance while Tata Projects Limited and the water resources department are at loggerheads leading to the delay in work.



File photo of the project site

Both the parties have claimed compensation from each other. Given the situation, the construction work of the spillway has been stuck for over six months.

Tata Projects which was carrying out the work has withdrawn itself from the work, leaving the project in uncertainty.

The construction company has pointed out that there is delay because of the government. It was stated that due to delay in the work, the cost of construction material has gone up compared to the estimated cost.

The company has demanded ₹49 crore as compensation from the water resources department, it was learnt. However, the water resources department has claimed ₹419 crore as compensation from the

## ROW OVER DELAY

The construction company has pointed out that there is delay because of the government. It was stated that due to delay in the work, the cost of construction material has gone up compared to the estimated cost

The company has demanded ₹49 crore as compensation from the water resources department while the latter has claimed ₹419 crore as compensation from the former for refusing to work after taking up the tender. The issue has been taken up with the World Bank which has funded the project

At present, there are 98 gates, including 64 sluice gates and 34 crest gates, to discharge floodwater at the Hirakud dam. The existing capacity to discharge the floodwater from 98 gates is 15 lakh cusecs. Once the additional spillway completed, the floodwater discharge capacity of the Hirakud dam will be hiked by 3 lakh cusecs

company for refusing to work after taking up the tender.

Though both the sides are holding talks over the issue, there has been no breakthrough. The issue has been taken up with the World Bank

which has funded the project.

On the other hand, the government is not going for a retender.

An official of the water resources department, requesting anonymity said there is no problem in land

acquisition. After bagging the tender, the company was in a fix over the work. Later, it sought a plea and withdrew itself from the work, he said.

Work on the additional spillway was started in January 2019. Tata Projects and AGE Group had undertaken the excavation work for which ₹12 crore of the estimated project cost of ₹369.53 crore was paid.

It may be noted here that to enhance the flood water discharge capacity of all the major dams to 1.5 times of their current capacity, the Central Water Commission (CWC) recommended the additional spillway at Hirakud.

The project entails the spillway with a length of 91 metre and five sluice gates. The width of the channel will be 300 metre while the length will be 1.9 km.

The spillway channel will originate from near Gandhi Minar on the left dyke of Hirakud dam project and meet with Mahanadi river near Jawahar Udyan. It is a World Bank-funded project.

At present, there are 98 gates, including 64 sluice gates and 34 crest gates, to discharge floodwater at the Hirakud dam. The existing capacity to discharge the floodwater from 98 gates is 15 lakh cusecs.

With the completion of the additional spillway, the flood water discharge capacity of the Hirakud dam will be hiked by 3 lakh cusecs.

The project displaced 1414 families of Cable Colony, Press Nagar, Ring Rolling Mill, Fast Camp and Laxminagar area.

# CHILD SALE: 9-YR OLD BOY, SIBLING RESCUED



File photo of Basudev Bhumia

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Oct 14:** The district administration rescued two siblings including a minor boy following reports of the alleged sale of a nine-year-old boy by his parents who wished to get divorced in a bid to marry their respective paramours, a report said Tuesday.

The estranged parents were identified as Sukra Bhumia and his wife of nondescript Telgacheba village under Kianga panchayat of Mathili block in this district. Their eldest son

was identified as Basudev while his sibling's name is Jagannath. Jagannath was later rescued from Siraguda village where he was being engaged as a goat tender.

Meanwhile, Collector Manish Agarwal directed the Mathili BDO and child protection officer to collect details about Basudev and take steps on his rehabilitation, study and other facilities. State women and child development minister Tukuni Sahu also praised the Anganwadi worker Jayanti Khara who rescued the boy and took steps for his study in a tweet. He advised the Collector to take steps for their rehabilitation. The siblings were rescued by the members of the district child line after receiving a phone call of child sale at Salapadar. Basudev narrated his ordeal and told them about his brother at Siraguda.

The team visited Siraguda block and found the boy tending goats. The two were produced at the CWC. Later, they were rehabilitated at a children's home. They will be educated there.

# Bolangir girl at Little Miss Pacific World



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 14:** Odia girl Anisha Meher has been selected to represent India at the international beauty pageant of Little Miss Pacific World 2021 to be held at Myanmar in April 2021.

Meher, a native of Boudh, is a state level karate champion and is a fashion model, dancer and actor. Interacting with Orissa POST, Meher said, "During lockdown I had participated in an online beauty pageant and this month when I came to know that I was selected to represent India I was quite ecstatic. It's such an honor to represent my country and above all I believe Odia girls will get more opportunities like me."

It may be noted that this beauty pageant will be telecast in 90 countries globally. Earlier in July 2020, Meher has won an online fashion pageant organized by global beauty organization and Indian International Pageant company at Bolangir. Her selection has certainly elated her parents Pramod Kumar Meher and Sukanti Singh and her teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya where she is a student of Class 9.

# Odia girl among top 25 Teen Divas

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kandhamal, Oct 14:** A svelte and beautiful girl from a nondescript village of tribal dominated Kandhamal district has made it to the top 25 teen divas of a national level pageant, bringing glory to her district as well as to the state.

Meet Melisha, a resident of Gundhani village under Raikia block.

"I had applied online to participate in the beauty pageant for teens in September. Considering the contest being a national level and about 3000 candidates from across the country participating in the preliminary level, my selection means a lot to me," observed a visibly happy Melisha, adding that she was confirmed about her inclusion in top 25 of Miss Teen Diva beauty contest through email.

# 5 including pregnant woman hurt as bus overturns in Balasore

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, Oct 14:** In a road mishap Wednesday morning, five persons including a pregnant woman suffered serious injuries after a bus in which they were travelling skidded off the road and overturned near Digiribahi Chowk under Jaleswar police limits in Balasore district.

The ill-fated vehicle was on its way to this town from Kasapala with more than 20 passengers aboard. The driver lost control of the vehicle and it turned turtle and fell into farmland on the roadside. Hearing the agonising cries



of the passengers trapped inside the bus, locals rushed to the spot and rescued them. The injured were admitted to a hospital nearby. On being informed, police immediately rushed to the spot. They seized the bus and initiated a probe to find out the cause of the mishap. Sources said that the conditions of some of the injured passengers are serious.

**INC-26**  
BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REGIONAL DIRECTOR, EASTERN REGION MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, KOLKATA  
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013: Section 13(4)

In the matter of the Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

-And-  
In the matter of: **M/S SUPER SOUNDS PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U52312OR1994PTC003703)** having its Registered Office at Main Road, Rourkela, Odisha-769001, India

..... Applicant  
Notice is hereby given to the general public that the applicant company proposes to make application to the Central Government, Regional Director, Eastern Region, Ministry Of Corporate Affairs, Kolkata under section 13 of the companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the memorandum of association of the company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 17th day of September, 2020 to enable the company to change its registered office from the State of Odisha to the State of Maharashtra.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal ([www.mca.gov.in](http://www.mca.gov.in)) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Eastern Region, Ministry Of Corporate Affairs, 23/4, A. J. C. Bose Road, Nizam Palace, II-MSO Building, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700020 within 14 Days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned above.

For and on behalf of the  
**Super Sounds Private Limited**  
(JAIWARDHAN PRADEEP KUMAR AGARWAL)  
Date: 17.09.2020 Director  
Place: Kolkata DIN: 07293898

# DA case: Senior clerk, Hindi teacher in Vig net

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nabarangpur/Berhampur, Oct 14:** Vigilance sleuths Wednesday raided multiple places following allegations against a senior clerk of the Regulated Market Committee (RMC) in Nabarangpur district on charge of him amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The accused has been identified as Bhubanananda Sahu.

Acting on a tip-off, vigilance officers conducted simultaneous raids at different locations in Berhampur, Bhubaneswar and Puri. The raids were conducted at his houses in Baikunthanagar, a four-storey building at Brahmanagar and a shop at Nimakhandi area in Berhampur. Raids are also taking place at a rented house at Kalpana Square, one 3BHK flat at Sundarpada, one flat in Puri Town, office at Jashoda High School and one private school run by his family members.

ous raids on several properties related to a Hindi teacher in Jashoda High School of Jhadankuli area under Rangeilunda block in Ganjam district. The agency had received complaints against the teacher for amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. The accused has been identified as Bhubanananda Sahu.

Acting on a tip-off, vigilance officers conducted simultaneous raids at different locations in Berhampur, Bhubaneswar and Puri. The raids were conducted at his houses in Baikunthanagar, a four-storey building at Brahmanagar and a shop at Nimakhandi area in Berhampur. Raids are also taking place at a rented house at Kalpana Square, one 3BHK flat at Sundarpada, one flat in Puri Town, office at Jashoda High School and one private school run by his family members.



Bikers trying to negotiate with Narayanpur-Haripur road which was washed away in rainwater in Rangeilunda block of Ganjam

## RAIN HAVOC

# Rare turtle species rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Oct 14:** In a major breakthrough Tuesday afternoon, forest personnel of Dhenkanal division rescued a rare species of turtle which was packed in a well-stitched sack from Sadangi forest range and arrested a man on charge of unlawfully possessing the reptile.

Official sources said, the accused was identified as Bhramarabar Tarai of Talakasiapur village and the turtle was found hidden in his back-



yard. He was forwarded to local court.

Notably the turtle was later released into the Brahmani river by forest officials as the rescued rep-

tile is listed as an endangered species.

"Acting on a tip-off, we rescued a rare species of Indian narrow-headed soft-shell turtle (biologically known as Chitra Indica). It is a red-listed and IUCN endangered species under the Schedule of Wildlife Protection Act. The reptile weighed around 30kg. We released it into the Brahmani river and arrested a man in this connection," Dhenkanal DFO Prakash Chandra Gogineni expressed.

# Covid hosp in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Oct 14:** In view of the rising number of COVID-19 patients in Sambalpur district, the 120-bedded COVID-19 hospital at VIMSAR was made operational Wednesday.

The dedicated hospital has 20 ICU beds, 10 doctors and over 30 ANMs and paramedics and other staffers have been deployed at the hospital. The decision has been taken by the state government as the isolation ward at the hospital

is not adequate.

Facilities like oxygen pipe, ICU and operation theatre will be made available to the patients in the hospital. However, it has been observed that entire western Odisha district hospitals are bombarded with COVID Hospitals. The new COVID-19 hospital can help in reducing cross infection in the district headquarters hospitals. Notably, in Sambalpur district, the recovery rate is 77 per cent. Close to 74 per cent of the COVID patients are now under home isolation.

# BHADRAK TEACHER TURNS A 'BIRDMAN'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhandaripokhari, Oct 14:** Bipracharan Dalei is a teacher by profession in Bhandaripokhari area of Bhadrak. His immense love for birds has earned him a name in the locality.

Some observed that considering his love for birds, it will be apt to call the 37-year old a 'birdman'. He has been feeding over 350 birds belonging to 40 to 50 species every day over last 22 years. He considers them to be integral part of his family and spends a lot of time and money for them.

A community resources teacher at Dhamnagar, Bipracharan has been feeding hundreds of pigeons and other birds by spending thousands of rupees from his pocket.

Bipra recalled the day when his love for birds developed. "It was in 1995. I was studying in Bhubaneswar. One morning I went to a milkman's house to bring milk. There I saw he had varieties of birds. I thought of making a mini bird sanctuary at home," he added.

All his family members also help him in taking care of birds. First he kept two birds and they



were groomed well. Later, the list of bird species continued to get longer. Now he tends 40 to 40 varieties of birds including foreign birds.

"Feeding these birds gives me immense pleasure. I feel happy when they come to me and eat off my hands. I love them as they love me. Sometimes they even come and sit

on my shoulders," he said.

He beckons birds in their individual names like Hara, Tira, Choupar, Bateri, Nila, Sinduri and Baghua according to the colour pattern of their feathers.

The birds can recognize him from afar. Hundreds of pigeons will be waiting for him every morning and

## Feathery Passion

A community resources teacher at Dhamnagar, Bipracharan beckons birds in their individual names like Hara, Tira, Choupar, Bateri, Nila, Sinduri and Baghua according to the colour pattern of their feathers

He has invested lakhs of rupees for roosting, dovecotes and shelters. ₹15,000 is spent towards purchase of paddy, wheat, pearl millets, mustards, green millets and breads while he spends ₹5,000 more on medicines every month

rushing towards him even before he comes out with feeds. He spends at least 3 hours a day to feed and play with birds numbering about 350.

He has invested lakhs of rupees in infrastructure like roosting, dovecotes and shelters of the birds. ₹15,000 is spent towards purchase of paddy, wheat, pearl millets, mustards, green millets and breads while he spends ₹5,000 more on medicines every month.

"I am emotionally attached to them, forming a bond with them. They rush towards me as soon as they see me," he said.

He says, birds need not to be caged while one needs to win their trust and love. Birds are free to come and go at their will. At night, they come back to roost in their dovecotes and roosting places.

His attachment with the birds is such that the moment Bipra signals them with specific sounds, hundreds of birds come to him within minutes. He says the cacophony of birds while moving in yards and above his roof brings solace to his heart.

Bipra's brother Bhaktacharan is a veterinary doctor. He helps Bipra in treatment of sick birds and their immunization. Last year, Bipra was in a great shock when he lost about 80 pigeons to an unknown disease. "If you love birds and animals, they will love you back," he noted.

"Feeding these birds gives me immense pleasure. I feel happy when they come to me and eat off my hands. I love them as they love me. Sometimes they even come and sit on my shoulders," he said.

**OFFICE OF THE BIRMITRAPUR MUNICIPALITY, BIRMITRAPUR**  
No.2536 Date: 13.10.2020  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is notified to all concerned that Birmitrapur Municipality has fulfilled all the parameters of ODF++. Accordingly, preliminary notice is hereby published to the same effect that Birmitrapur City is ODF++. It is further called upon that general public may submit any feedback/objection as regards to this preliminary declaration of Birmitrapur Municipality being ODF++ to the Municipality Office, Birmitrapur within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice in newspaper. The complete parameters for fulfillment of ODF++ are available on official websites of [www.swachhbharaturban.gov.in](http://www.swachhbharaturban.gov.in)

Sd./Executive Officer, Birmitrapur Municipality

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) DIVISION NO.-I, CUTTACK**  
E-Mail ID: [eeppwdcuttack@gmail.com](mailto:eeppwdcuttack@gmail.com), Tel./Fax No. (0671) 2304128  
**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e" Procurement Notice**  
**e-Procurement Notice for Road Work**  
Bid Identification No. E.E. CTC (R&B) - 11 of 2020-21

- Name of the Work : 1 No. Road Work
- Estimated Cost : Rs.21,37,429/-
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) Calendar Month
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 19.10.2020 to 5 P.M. of 28.10.2020
- Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5 P.M. of 28.10.2020
- Date & time of opening of bids : 11 A.M. of 29.10.2020
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No.-I, Cuttack

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".

Sd./Executive Engineer  
Cuttack (R&B) Division No.-I  
OIPR-34091/11/0004/2021

Each new dawn brings the possibility of a new progress.

THE MOTHER



# The dairy dilemma

The legacy of milk drinking has not come to us from Krishna or the Vedas – nowhere in any of sacred texts does anyone drink milk – but from the British. Rabid milk drinkers, they brought this culture into India, started the first dairy farms and promoted it widely. Then our own governments, filled with people who had aped the West for so long, carried on this advertising and gave it a religious connotation (it is not the holy cow but holy milk), filled it with virtues like calcium and protein, and promoted it as an essential food for children to have at least three times a day. But does milk deserve its halo as a food that “does a body good.”

Now scientists are retracting their rubber stamps. In the world’s premier medical magazine, The New England Journal of Medicine in February 2020, scientists Walter Willett, MD, DrPH, professor of nutrition and epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and his co-author, David Ludwig, MD, PhD, a professor of paediatrics and nutrition at Harvard, say the science behind those dietary recommendations is almost nonexistent, and eating dairy may cause harm to both our bodies and the planet. Willett is the best known scientist on dairy in the world.

According to them, the core reason why people drink milk – its supposed benefits of calcium – is based on flawed evidence. Does milk justify its majorly adverse impact on the environment? Willett says no.

Their study comes at the same time as another prestigious one: Elizabeth Jacobs, PhD, professor of epidemiology, biostatistics, and nutritional sciences, at the University of Arizona College of Public Health, recommends in Nutritional Reviews that milk be downgraded as a separate and essential food. She says it should be placed in a much lower category as one of many foods that could provide protein. Milk drinking in America has fallen by 40 per cent since 1975. But its production and consumption has risen by 9 per cent. That is because people are eating more cheese and yogurt and it takes far more milk to make these products. India has the same pattern. Much less milk is being fed to children, but paneer and dahi and sweets made of milk are up.

According to the team led by Willett, the recommendations for milk as a major calcium source came from a few small studies on a few people, and were carried on for just a few weeks. Researchers measured how much calcium they ate and drank, and compared it to how much they were excreting. The idea was to find out how much calcium the body needs to keep it in balance. In adults, the calcium balance should be net zero – i.e., the body should excrete the same amount as it ingests. Researchers of these small studies concluded that for Americans 741 milligrams of calcium a day was enough for balance.

But in countries where dairy was not a common food, like Peru for instance (and all of Asia and Africa before the British), the amount needed for balance was much less – around 200 milligrams. As far back as 1951, Harvard University nutritionist Mark Hegsted did a study to find out whether calcium was needed in such quantities by the body. He looked for a chronically calcium-deprived population and found one in the Central Penitentiary of Lima, Peru where prisoners subsisted on a rice and beans diet and drank milk once a week. Hegsted monitored the calcium intake and compared it to the amount they excreted in their waste, to calculate how much calcium they retained. The average prisoner took in just 126 milligrams of calcium a day, but tests still showed normal levels of calcium in his body. Willett says the body simply absorbs what it needs for balance, taking more from whatever food is eaten to meet its needs whether from green leaves, fruit and vegetables or fish. But what happens to the body when large amounts of dairy calcium are poured into it? Willett points to large population-based studies, that have followed how people eat for years (not weeks), and measures what happens to their health. All these studies consistently point out that populations that eat the most milk have the highest number of bone fractures (especially hip fractures), i.e., the weakest most fragile bones. Exactly the opposite of what parents want to achieve when they force their children to drink milk. The risk appears to be highest for men who drank a lot of milk in childhood. One huge study found that women who drank 2.5 or more glasses of milk a day had a higher risk of fractures than women who drank less than one glass a day.

What are the other claims that Willett has found that have no basis in fact? That milk makes you lose weight. That milk can help control blood pressure. That dairy lowers the rates of cardiovascular disease: all research shows that dairy has no effect on cardiovascular disease rates. Dairy consumption lowers bone fracture rates: goes against every study which actually suggest the opposite. And there was no link between lifespan and eating dairy. All in all, every research done to date shows that “milk is not essential for health,” says Marion Nestle, PhD, Professor of nutrition, food studies, and public health at New York University.

According to the data, there is good evidence that kids who drink cow’s milk grow taller than those who don’t (I would contest that: this has to do with genetics as well). But there is no scientific reason that shows why or how milk accelerates growth. Willett gives a sound reason: cows are often pregnant when they’re milked, which increases hormones like estrogen and progesterone. Cows produce more of another hormone, called insulin-like growth factor, IGF, which increases milk production (and gives cancer). These hormones may also promote growth in people.

Humans get far more calcium from green vegetables nuts, beans. When you eat a food that makes no difference in calcium or protein but has chemicals, artificial hormones, antibiotics and pesticides in it, you also bring disaster to the environment. Dairy farms consume masses of water. They contribute to water pollution. The cattle emit methane which heats the atmosphere much more than carbon dioxide. Why don’t you do the world a favour and eat plastic instead?

To join the animal welfare movement contact [gandhim@nic.in](mailto:gandhim@nic.in), [www.peopleforanimalsindia.org](http://www.peopleforanimalsindia.org)

## WISDOM CORNER

- The only source of knowledge is experience. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**
- External nature is only internal nature writ large. **SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**
- The words of truth are always paradoxical. **LAO TZU**

## WORDSWORTH

### Tweenager

This is a fashionable marketing term for pre-teens, girls in particular, aged between 7 and 11, a group having substantial purchasing power. They are more worldly-wise, fashion-conscious and media-aware than children of this age used to be, and are growing up faster. It’s a younger group than that identified by tweenie. The term has appeared sporadically since the 1980s, though early sightings suggest it used to refer to the 10 to 13 age group, and the Oxford English Dictionary database has an example from 1952, in the title of a book by AA Macfarlan: New Games for Tween-agers. In Britain, people have become more aware of it as a result of a BBC documentary, “Little Women – A Day in the Life of a Tweenager.” The word is obviously formed from the second part of between, on the model of teenager. “If you think teenagers are growing up too quickly, take a look at their younger sisters, the 7 to 11-year-olds the marketing industry has branded as “tweenagers.” *The Guardian*, March 2001.

# FOCUS KYRGYZSTAN OUSTED OVER POLL BRIBERY



Djoomart Otorbaev

**AS AN ANCIENT NOMADIC PEOPLE, THE KYRGYZ HAVE ALWAYS HAD A SPECIAL CRAVING FOR FREEDOM AND JUSTICE, AND TODAY THEY FEEL THWARTED IN THEIR DESIRE TO LIVE IN A SOCIALLY JUST AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY**

Much of Kyrgyzstan’s capital Bishkek, from where I write this, has been unnaturally calm for several days now. Municipal workers clean and wash the streets, but there are few passersby. There are also few signs of the recent clashes in which police used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse young protesters. But the covered windows of the city’s shopping centers attest to the simmering tension in this Central Asian country, which faces its third major political crisis in 15 years.

The most recent protests erupted following the country’s October 4 parliamentary election, in which three pro-government parties – with huge official and unofficial financial resources at their disposal – won an implausible 107 of 120 seats. Only one opposition party got into parliament, barely exceeding the 7 per cent threshold. That party, and 12 others that failed to win seats, refused to recognise the results.

The subsequent revolution was swift and thorough, dismantling most of the country’s political system in a little more than 24 hours. On the night of October 5-6, several thousand opposition supporters protested in Bishkek’s central square, and some stormed parliament and other government buildings. The cabinet resigned, and the country’s central election commission annulled the election results, promising to schedule a new vote. Even NEXTA Live, the Telegram messaging app channel widely used by protesters in Belarus, focused almost exclusively on news from Kyrgyzstan, posting information, photos, and videos from the capital.

On October 9, President Sooronbai Jeenbekov said that he would step down once a new cabinet was appointed. But he also declared a state of emergency in the capital and ordered military units to end the unrest – including fighting between rival opposition groups. The fact that Kyrgyzstan has been here before, with previous revolutions overthrowing governments in 2005 and 2010, makes it an outlier in Central Asia. Kyrgyzstan is so far the only country in the region where popular



The main reason for the mass discontent was electoral bribery, with voters reportedly being paid 2,000 Kyrgyz soms (\$25) – a significant sum for a poor citizen here – to vote for one of the pro-government parties... This third revolution in less than two decades puts Kyrgyzstan in real danger of sinking into an abyss of confusion and chaos

protests have ousted unpopular leaders, and where elections have been recognised as free and fair by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

But this third revolution in less than two decades puts Kyrgyzstan in real danger of sinking into an abyss of confusion and chaos. Kyrgyz citizens and neighbouring states are concerned about the country’s instability. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who doesn’t want Kyrgyzstan to slip into China’s orbit, hopes that “a normal democratic political process will be restored.” The presidents of the other Central Asian states – Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – issued a joint statement on October 9 expressing concern about the crisis. And the Chinese foreign ministry said that, “China sincerely hopes that all parties in Kyrgyzstan can resolve the issue... as soon as possible.”

So, why did this latest political eruption happen, and why so quickly? Kyrgyzstan’s use of modern electronic ballot boxes meant that the opposition had no complaints about the vote-counting

process. The main reason for the mass discontent was instead electoral bribery, with voters reportedly being paid 2,000 Kyrgyz soms (\$25) – a significant sum for a poor citizen here – to vote for one of the pro-government parties. OSCE observers reported that the October 4 election was tainted by “credible allegations of vote buying.”

The protesters also objected to the presence of representatives of criminal groups and a ‘corrupted elite’ on the pro-government parties’ electoral lists, and to widespread administrative pressure placed on voters by local authorities. For example, the Matraimov family, who were behind the Mekenim Kyrgyzstan party – which won a quarter of the vote – became the main target of investigations by RFE/RL’s Kyrgyz Service, the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Kloop, and Bellingcat. This revealed the scope of members’ corruption and illegal business practices. Few of them still hold public posts.

As an ancient nomadic people, the Kyrgyz have always had a special craving for freedom and jus-

tice, and today they feel thwarted in their desire to live in a socially just and democratic country. Power here was never inherited, and rulers had to have popular support. Unlike in a sedentary culture, in which political power is derived from control of the land on which subjects lived, if a ruler could not ensure his tribe’s security and economic prosperity, families simply migrated to another place with a different ruler.

Today, exit is not an option for most people, and Kyrgyzstan’s increasingly precarious economic situation is also fueling discontent. Lacking the vast hydrocarbon reserves of most of its Central Asian neighbours, the country instead relies mainly on the development of several gold deposits, the biggest of which is the Canadian-run Kumtor project, as well as a growing tourism sector.

Until recently, Kyrgyzstan’s chronically high unemployment rate was partly mitigated by the fact that almost one million Kyrgyz migrants could leave and work abroad, mainly in Russia. As a result, Kyrgyzstan received remittances in 2019 totaling about 30 per cent of the GDP, one of the highest levels in the world. But the Covid-19 pandemic has stranded many of these migrant workers, exacerbating the economy’s plight. The International Monetary Fund forecasts that Kyrgyzstan’s GDP will fall by 4 per cent this year, making it the worst-performing Central Asian economy.

Many are asking how about 10,000 Kyrgyz citizens managed to accomplish in one night – toppling an unpopular regime – what hundreds of thousands of Belarusians have so far been unable to do in two months. Differences of mentality, customs, and experience seem to be key: unlike Belarusians, the Kyrgyz are far less constrained by the sense that legality outweighs justice. That inclination is of course a double-edged sword. The rebellious Kyrgyz have overthrown another government. But what comes next is far from clear.

The writer is a former Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan.  
©PROJECT SYNDICATE, 2020.

## SPECTRUM SOCIETY

# Rape and more – worsening crime scene

Dhurjati Mukherjee

**DURING THE FIRST FOUR PHASES OF THE LOCKDOWN, INDIAN WOMEN FILED MORE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMPLAINTS THAN RECORDED IN A SIMILAR PERIOD IN THE PAST 10 YEARS**

In India, as per a report of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) 2019, a woman is raped somewhere in some state every 16 minutes; and daily, an average of 88 women are raped. At least one minor was arrested for raping a woman or a girl every eight hours in 2019, while over three on an average were held for assaulting a woman daily.

The data further revealed 2,750 juveniles were arrested last year on charges of rape, assault on women and attempted rape cumulatively. Of these, 1,383 and 1,327 were arrested for rape and assault respectively. The statistics are the tip of the iceberg as survivors and families of victims are reluctant to record their complaint through an FIR, as they would be aware, rather wary, of the various roadblocks. As has been generally found and agreed is that when someone tries to file an FIR against culprits belonging to the upper castes, there is a delay in filing it, the victim’s testimony is often changed while being written down and there is grave pressure for compromise. As such, convictions for rape stand at a miserable 28 per cent. Experts have confirmed the

immense difficulty in registering an FIR and this is evident not just in rural areas but in big cities too. Apart from this, the police machinery fails to take up cases in right earnest, obviously under pressure from political bosses. Further, the pendency rate of cases under the SC/ST Act is at 94 per cent.

Sadly, while atrocities have risen, the number of special fast-track courts has been reduced. In 2016, there were 195 such cases but it came down to 157 in 2018. Apart from those belonging to lower castes, specially Dalit and adivasis, (11 per cent of the total 32,033 reported rape cases in the year were from the Dalit community), women who are mostly poor face sexual violence in different forms and find it tough to fight the patriarchal system.

WHO statistics state that one-third of Indian women face domestic violence but less than one per cent report it. Indian women are 17 times more likely to face sexual violence from husband than others. And recent statistic has shown that during the first four phases of the lockdown, Indian women filed more domestic vio-

lence complaints than recorded in a similar period in the past 10 years. Moreover, it has been found that 86 per cent women who experienced domestic violence never sought help and that 77 per cent didn’t even mention the incident to anyone.

In August, a 13-year old Dalit girl was raped and brutally murdered for defecating in a farmland in a UP village in Lakhimpurkheri district. The Hathras victim was also a Dalit. Similarly there are umpteen such cases, not to speak of the Nirbhaya gangrape. A systemic and structured sexual violence is something that cuts across social worlds and is not confined to such polarised spaces where physical violence against women is but a routine form of dealing with matters at hand, whether these be property or other disputes.

With Hathras hitting headlines, 100-odd retired bureaucrats recently wrote an open letter to the UP Chief Minister expressing pain at the “constant plumbung the depths of gravity and callousness in governance” and demanding punishment for the officials who had failed the alleged rape victim. The political class shows little

concern for the lower castes and the impoverished sections who live in abject poverty and squalor. The lack of education, and more importantly, awareness about rights of the opposite sex enable sexual assaults and rapes to become the order of the day.

Talking to psychologists and psychiatrists, it is evident that the basic cause behind the increase in rapes may be attributed to increasing aggression in human behaviour. Another trend that is manifest is the well-off upper castes youth, who have abandoned education and move about with financial support from their parents, are prone to show their power and fall for the opposite sex as they are sure that their family is above law.

There is an imperative need to spread awareness in society about basic tenets which one should follow to live in a cultured society.

Though there has been a perceptible increase in education, rape or even sexual assault on women and girls is a deep-rooted problem. A corrupt law-enforcement machinery as also the patriarchal system have been major hindrances.

INFA

## Govt funds mismanagement

Sir, Pilfering by officials, and the failure to utilise allotted government funds for a purpose, are both crimes and need to be taken seriously. The recent media reports on surrendering of ₹12 crore by the state horticulture department is a case in point. It was unable to utilise the amount. There is a serious conspiracy by officials of the agriculture department, too, to freeze and take away some ₹275 crore of funds this way. This is happening when the state’s farmers are languishing in penury and when several schemes to promote potato, onion and other vegetable cultivation badly need the funds. These irresponsible officials must be asked out of their positions. It is the same department where a top official was raided recently by the Vigilance department over allegations he amassed property worth ₹3 crore. This is the same department which cost its minister his job, for raising questions on a ₹375 crore scam a few years ago. Now, how could this department not utilise the sanctioned funds? The huge corruption in government departments is a matter of worry for all, but those who run government from the front, our elected leaders, are simply not bothered. They are hand-in-glove with these corrupt officials. If funds meant for development of agriculture and horticulture in the state are faced with this fate, the result is that farm products like potato, onion, maize, millet, pomegranate, lemon grass, mango, jackfruit, stivia, lichi, all having high demand here, are brought from outside states like AP and West Bengal, and their prices are kept very high. Every penny meant for farmers here should be utilised properly for the intended purpose.

Janaki Ballav Dash, MAYURBHANJ

## Reservations must go

Sir, Today, there are reservations in almost every educational institution, jobs, political posts and even in Parliament. These reservations are for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, the physically handicapped and women. This has been prevailing since the Poona Pact of 30 September, 1932 where Mahatma Gandhi and Dr BR Ambedkar signed a pact on reservations. This helped the backward sections of the society to prove themselves in every field. Women have been struggling for their rights for centuries. As a result, many feminist movements came up. The scenario has changed for the better. Now, reservations are considered a hindrance in the life of others. These caste-based reservations are no more beneficial to the society.

Ritika Behera, BHUBANESWAR

# 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, Rusaagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# 10K ineligible names to be deleted from final NRC in Assam



**NO OFFICIAL VALIDITY**

Though the final NRC for Assam was made public in August last year, it is yet to be notified by the Registrar General of India, leaving the historic and controversial document without any official validity

The final NRC was released August 31 last year, excluding the names of 19,06,657 persons. A total of 3,11,21,004 names were included out of 3,30,27,661 applicants

After the publication of the final NRC, almost all stakeholders and political parties criticised it as a faulty document, alleging exclusion of indigenous people and the inclusion of illegal immigrants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, Oct 14:** Around 10,000 names will be deleted from the final NRC in Assam as many "ineligible persons" and their descendants were included in the list, according to a directive issued by its state coordinator Hitesh Dev Sarma and officials in the know of the decision.

Sarma wrote to all the Deputy Commissioners and District Registrar of Citizen Registration (DRCR) Tuesday, directing them to issue speaking orders for the deletion of such names.

"...as per the reports received from your end through Webform, some names of ineligible persons belonging to the categories of DF (declared foreigners)/DV ('D' voters)/PFT (pending in Foreigners Tribunals) along with their descendants have found entry to the NRC," he said.

Sarma directed the district officials to issue orders for deletion of such names from the NRC as per Clause 4(6) of the Schedule under the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003 after "specifically ascertaining the identity of the person".

Explaining the rule and some other relevant clauses, Sarma pointed out that the authorities concerned can verify and include or exclude any name at any time before the publication of the final NRC. Though the final National Register of Citizens for Assam was made public in August last year, it is yet to be notified by the Registrar General of India, leaving the historic and controversial document without any official validity.

"You are, therefore, requested to submit the list of such persons who are not eligible for having

their names in the NRC along with speaking order justifying reasons for each case for necessary action for deletion of such names," Sarma said in the letter.

A software application for submission of the reviewed results of such persons along with mechanism for uploading of the scanned freshly written speaking orders will be rolled out shortly, he added.

"The verification would mandatorily require the correct identity of the person so that no ambiguity arises in future as far as identification of the person is concerned," the letter to the districts said.

Though the letter did not mention how many people will be excluded, persons in the know of the development said that around 10,000 people have been identified whose names were "wrongly included" in the final NRC and will now be excluded.

"This is a mix of all communities. The figure looks a bit big because it includes the descendants of the persons from the three categories mentioned in the letter," a source said.

The final NRC was released August 31 last year, excluding the names of 19,06,657 persons. A total of 3,11,21,004 names were included out of 3,30,27,661 applicants. After the publication of the final NRC, almost all stakeholders and political parties criticised it as a faulty document, alleging exclusion of indigenous people and the inclusion of illegal immigrants.

August 31 this year, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said in the Assembly that the Assam government had submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court for re-verification of 20 per cent names in districts bordering Bangladesh and 10 per cent in the rest.

# Nitish woos women voters, cites liquor ban

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Oct 14:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has sought to woo the women voters in the run-up to the three-phase Assembly elections, pointing out different decisions his government took to benefit women, including ban on liquor in the eastern state.

Bihar has a total of 7,21,40,945 electorate, including 3,80,88,338 men, 3,42,50,262 women and 2,339 transgenders.

"People targeted me when my government announced the liquor ban in Bihar. It was in the larger interest of society, especially women, who voiced a strong demand for the ban. Now, it is yielding great results. Our mothers and sisters are immensely relieved by this move," Kumar said Tuesday while addressing a second virtual rally for NDA candidates in 13

constituencies going to polls in the first phase.

"Similarly, we implemented the school-dress policy for girl students to encourage them to attend school. We also started the bicycle scheme for girl students above the middle classes. People in opposition targeted us that crimes against women and girls will increase. But what was the result? After a couple of years, boys also demanded bicycles from our government and we did that too," he said.

Taking a dig at RJD leader Lalu Prasad and his wife Rabri Devi, he said: When the husband-wife government was there in Bihar for 15 years, only one panchayat election was held, in 2000. After our government came to power in 2005, we held three such elections. Moreover, we have also given 50 per cent reservation to women in panchayat

**People targeted me when my government announced the liquor ban in Bihar. It was in the larger interest of society, especially women, who voiced a strong demand for the ban. Now, it is yielding great results. Our mothers and sisters are immensely relieved by this move**



NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

elections," the Chief Minister said.

"Now, we are giving Rs 5 lakh grant to every small-scale industrial project owned by women. If such project's cost is Rs 10 lakh, Rs 5 lakh will be given as interest-free loan," he said.

"I have mentioned Bihar's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of 2006-07 on Monday. In 2005-06, the first year of our governance, the

GSDP was Rs 76,466 crore. In 2019-20, the GSDP has reached to 4,14,979 crore. The per year growth rate from 2005-06 to 2019-20 is above 12%. Per capita income in Bihar in 2005-06 was Rs 8,481 and it is now Rs 34,413," the JD-U leader said.

"We believe in work and our job is to work for every person in Bihar. On the other hand, the husband-wife government always

thought of their own family. They believed in dynastic approach to promote their own sons, daughters, and relatives. They are expert in snatching money from others while we always think of working for the welfare of each and every resident of Bihar. Entire Bihar is my family," Kumar added.

"Now, their sons are shouting at us. I urge the people of Bihar to judge us on the basis of the work we did and what the situation was when we came to power. I also urge you to avoid getting influenced by the opposition. We have a vision and will continue our developmental work in the next 5 years," Nitish Kumar said.

The Bihar elections are scheduled to be held October 28, November 3 and November 7. Counting of votes will take place November 10 and results will be out the same day.

# Rebel BJP MLAs inform Nadda of 'bad governance' in Tripura

*The dissident MLAs claimed that 'bad governance' by the Biplab Kumar Deb administration could lead to the party's defeat in the 2023 Assembly polls*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agartala, Oct 14:** Dissident MLAs of the ruling BJP in Tripura met the party's national president JP Nadda in Delhi and expressed their grievances about the alleged "bad governance" in the state, one of the rebels said Wednesday.

A group of four MLAs representing the dissidents also informed him of the state's political and organisational situation.

However, they are tightlipped about what Nadda told them at the meeting which lasted for more than an hour Tuesday night.

"The outcome of the meeting will be cleared after the end of the Durga Puja festival (in the fourth week of this month)," Ram Prasad Paul, one of the four legislators

who attended the meeting, said over the phone from the national capital.

Legislator Sudip Roy Barman, who had criticised Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on several occasions before being axed as the health minister in June, was not present at the meeting. He is considered the leader of the dissident group.

"We have not come here to complain against anyone. But being the members or leaders of the BJP, we all have the right and responsibility to inform the central leadership about the happenings in the state," Paul said.

Claiming that some people are doing damage to the party in Tripura, he said that they handed over to Nadda a memorandum detailing organisational and politi-



cal scenario of the state, and sought his intervention immediately.

"We are here not for us but for the party. The BJP has and will continue to have 36 MLAs (in Tripura) in the coming days. There is no question of any change in that number," Paul said.

The rebel MLAs were camping in Delhi for the past few days to meet Nadda to inform him of the alleged "bad governance" by the Biplab Kumar Deb administration, which, they claimed, could lead to the party's defeat in the 2023 Assembly poll.

# No cinemas to open in NE today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, Oct 14:** The cinema halls in the Northeast will not open Thursday as the states have not issued any guidelines in this regard even though the Centre has permitted movie screenings.

Cinema halls, distributors and content providers said that movie buffs will have to wait for some more days to visit the theatres as the official notifications are yet to be issued by the states in the region.

Except for Manipur, all the Northeastern states have commercial cinema halls, including multiplexes. Northeast's largest film distributor Goenka Enterprises' Siddharth Goenka told PTI, "We



have not received any notification or confirmation from the government for the opening of the halls. We have also not received any programmes from anywhere."

As per the information from the states, the cinema halls will not open Thursday anywhere in the entire region, he added.

"Even if the notification comes

tomorrow for opening it from Friday, it will take a few more days to actually restart the theatres," Goenka said. Film content provider UFO Moviez India General Manager (Sales and Distribution) Sourav Dutta said the company has only got the Centre's order, but nothing has been received from the Assam government. "So, we have not provided any film to any halls even though 10-12 multiplexes are fully ready to operate from Thursday. However, the single-screens will take some more days as they are observing the situation and public response," he added. Theatres across the country had to shut their doors in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown triggered by it.

# GOVT-NSCN TALKS

## Nagaland calls meet with all stakeholders

*NSCN-IM chief negotiator Thuingaleng Muivah in a letter to PM Modi had insisted that the negotiations be held in a 'third country'*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kohima/Guwahati, Oct 14:** Amid talks between the Central government and the NSCN (IM), the Nagaland government has called a 'consultative meeting with all the stakeholders' here Thursday, officials said.

A Nagaland government official said that the 'consultative meeting with all the stakeholders' was called to discuss the Naga political issue and the ongoing peace talks between the Naga political organisations and the government of India.

The official said that all tribal Hohos, mass-based organisations, civil societies, church organisations, political parties, NGOs and prominent persons are being invited to discuss the most important issue that the Naga society is presently facing.

The state government is of the view that ceasefire and negotiations between the Naga political organisations and the government of India has been going on for more than two decades and the Naga people have been crying out for peace and political solution.

"The state government feels that

the political issue needs to be addressed with utmost urgency by all sections of the people in order to facilitate the early attainment of peace with all seriousness," the official said.

In Guwahati, Assam minister and senior leader of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Himanta Biswa Sarma, said that the Centre is working towards a final solution which goes along the unique history and traditions of the Naga society.

"I strongly feel if Naga leadership wants to sign the accord, this is the right time. I once again appeal to them that they should sign the agreement and lead Nagaland to a durable solution. The entire northeast is looking forward to it," said Sarma, who is the convener of the BJP-led anti-Congress alliance, North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA).

Terming Thursday's meeting as very significant, he told the media that a series of meetings were held on the Naga political development.

"There should be smooth sailing of the Naga issue. The government of India has taken into confidence all the concerned northeastern states on the issue," the Assam minister said.



# Oxford alumnus to contest as independent

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Oct 14:** Amid all the established political parties contesting the Bihar Assembly elections, lone warrior Manish Bariyar from Patna, who has studied at Oxford University, will stand as an independent candidate from Patna's Bankipur constituency.

The Oxford alumnus has quit his A-grade job in the Ministry of Commerce and is set to contest the elections from Bankipur constituency where he is now on the campaign trail. Manish claims he is getting massive support from the masses. He says that people are discontented with both the ruling Janata Dal United (JDU) and the main opposition party, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). They are looking for a leader who can provide an alternative political narrative and is 'one amongst them'.

Manish said he worked as a teacher for quite some time but was never content with the job. From the beginning he had an urge to serve the people of his hometown.

After graduating from AN College, Patna, Manish took the CAT examination and was selected for the Indian Institute of Foreign



**Today people are entering politics only to satisfy their greed for money which is not socialism**

MANISH BARIYAR

Trade. He was then selected for the Organization Leadership Programme of Oxford University in the UK. He also served as an A-grade official in the Ministry of Commerce, but did not stay there long and returned to Patna where he started teaching management to students.

Manish told IANS, "I have not come here to engage in vote bank

politics. I have been born here and my crucible of action has also been Bankipur. I am reaching out to people and I will contest this election as an independent candidate."

He said he has had a middle-class upbringing. "Today people are entering politics only to satisfy their greed for money which is not socialism." He said that people entering politics should earn some money first so that their own needs can be fulfilled and then serve the people as public representatives.

Asked about his political background, he said he had contested student elections during his college days. His aim is to do social service and promote education among the masses.

Manish Bariyar is proud to call himself a 'Bihari'. He said Bihar truly represents India. The people of the state have achieved a lot internationally too. However, Bihar has not achieved as much growth as was expected of it. People have to come forward to bring a change here, the Oxford alumnus added.

# SSR kin among BJP nominees

**WITH PUBLIC SENTIMENTS RUNNING HIGH FOR THE LATE ACTOR, NEERAJ KUMAR SINGH BABLU'S NOMINATION WAS PREDICTABLE**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has released another list of candidates for the third phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, renominating late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's cousin and sitting MLA Neeraj Kumar Singh Bablu from Chhatapur constituency in Supaul district.

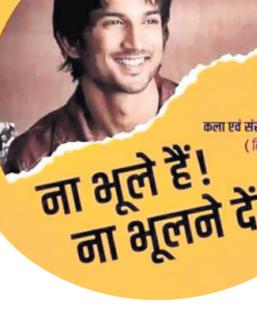
With public sentiments running high for the late actor who was found dead in Mumbai under mysterious circumstances, Bablu's nomination was predictable.

Meanwhile, six women fielded in the third-phase elections are Bhagirathi Devi from Ramnagar, Rashmi Verma from Narkatiaganj, Gayatri Devi from Parihar, Sweety Singh from Kishanganj, Nisha Singh from Pranpur, and Kavita Paswan from Koda.

Key constituencies like Raksaul, Motihari, Purnia, Saharsa, and Darbhanga will also go to polls in the third phase, which are presently in BJP kitty. The BJP has fielded

Pramod Sinha, Pramod Kumar, Vijay Khemka, Alok Ranjan Jha, and Sanjay Sarangi respectively from these seats.

Earlier, the BJP released names of 46 nominees for Phase 2 polls.



Before that, the two BJP lists released had the names of 27 and two candidates.

The BJP has got 121 of the total 243 seats in Bihar and all Janata Dal-United 122 seats. The JD-U was expected to accommodate

Hindustani Awam Morcha in its quota of seats and the BJP Vikassheel Insaan Party.

October 7, the BJP had allocated 11 seats to the Vikassheel Insaan Party from its own quota, thus choosing to contest 110 seats in all. NDA ally Lok Janshakti Party had decided to go solo and field candidates against the JD-U in Bihar.

Meanwhile, all parties campaigning virtually for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections are now gearing up to step out of the 'virtual to the real political arena amid the corona pandemic. BJP president JP Nadda held his first public rally in Gaya in Bihar.

Many changes are visible in the state polls to be held between October 28 and November 7. Initially the emphasis was on holding virtual rallies only but now the parties have been permitted to address small 'real' rallies.

Leaders of all parties are now leaving Patna and meeting the voters. However, all Covid-19 protocols will have to be strictly followed.

# national



The most important thing is getting Delhi's economy, which was dismantled due to the lockdown, back on track. We cannot stay in lockdown forever, we have to open the economy of Delhi  
ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

## ARMY CHIEF TO VISIT NEPAL NEXT MONTH

Army Chief Gen MM Naravane will travel to Nepal in the first week of November, the maiden high-level visit from India since ties between the two neighbours came under strain after the Himalayan nation came up with a new political map in May claiming several areas in Uttarakhand to be part of its territory



### of the day quote

To further widen the scope of international air connectivity, an air bubble arrangement is now in place for flights between India & Ukraine, taking the number of such arrangements to 17  
HARDEEP SINGH PURI | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

Indian Economy in tatters, as even Bangladesh is set to overtake us in Per Capita GDP as per @IMFNews's World Economic Outlook. Listen carefully, it's not their resurgence, but our colossal downfall, in pursuit of @narendramodi Ji's 5 Trillion dream!  
ABHISHEK BANERJEE | SENIOR TMC LEADER

As far as China is concerned, India has been vigilant at the border that people have understood that this is an India of post-2014 and is a new and different India  
PRAKASH JAVADEKAR | UNION MINISTER

### SHORT TAKES

#### Railway's strict rules

**New Delhi:** Passengers not following protocols laid down for COVID-19, including wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and travelling after being diagnosed with the disease could be booked under various sections of the Railway Act, may have to pay fines and even face imprisonment, the RPF said Wednesday. Detailed guidelines have been issued by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) for travellers specially for the upcoming festive season.

#### Nath seeks MP CM's apology

**Bhopal:** Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath Wednesday demanded Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's apology in public for levelling "false allegations" against him. Taking a swipe at Chouhan, Nath told a poll campaign rally that his name was never linked to Vyapam or dumper scams, which had allegedly taken place under the ruling BJP's watch during 2003--2018.

#### Boost to women empowerment

**Chandigarh:** In a step towards further empowerment of women, the Amarinder Singh government on Wednesday approved 33 per cent reservation for women in direct recruitment for the Punjab civil services, boards and corporations. The state cabinet, at a meeting presided by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, approved the 'Punjab Civil Services (Reservation of Posts for Women) Rules, 2020' to provide such reservation for women for direct recruitment to posts in government, as well as in recruitment to Boards and Corporations in Group A, B, C and D posts, an official spokesperson said.

#### Tejashwi files nomination

**Hajipur:** RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav Wednesday filed nomination papers from Raghapur seat which he represented in the assembly last time. Accompanied by elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav and senior party leader Bhola Rai, Tejashwi submitted his nomination papers to the Sub-Divisional Officer-cum election officer for the Raghapur seat at Vaishali collectriat here.

## To curb air pollution, Delhi govt bans electricity generators

AAP Govt has only allowed the essential services which include health care facilities, elevators, railway services, Delhi Metro, airports and interstate bus terminals and the data centre run by the National Informatics Centre



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** The AAP Government has banned use of electricity generators, except those needed for essential or emergency services, in the national capital as anti-pollution measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) come into force from Thursday in the Delhi-NCR region.

GRAP, which comes into effect in Delhi and its vicinity towns according to the severity of air pollution, was first notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2017 for implementation through the Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority. "Delhi Pollution Control Committee hereby bans the operation of electricity generator sets of all capacities, run on diesel, petrol or kerosene in Delhi with effect from October 15 till further orders, excluding those used for essential or emergency services," an official order read.

The DPCC also directed power companies to ensure an uninterrupted power supply to the consumers. It also issued an order implementing EPCA's directions to enforce GRAP from Thursday. The EPCA had earlier directed that large construction projects, including highways and metro, will have to provide undertakings to state pollution control boards/pollution control committees that they will assure adherence to the prescribed norms for dust management.

"Industries, particularly in the Red and Orange category, will provide an undertaking that they will use only authorised fuel and will not operate without adequate pollution control measures," it had said.

Authorities categorize industries according to pollution index scores worked out based on the emissions, effluents, hazardous wastes generated and consumption of resources. Based on the relative scores, the industries are categorized as Red category if their score is more than or equal to 60 and Orange category if the score is between 41 to 59. Those having a score between 21 to 40 and less than 20

### Stubble burning contributes only 1%

The massive spike in noxious air in the national capital and its surroundings is not entirely from stubble burning in adjoining states but also owes its genesis to predominant local pollution sources, and is compounded by unfavourable meteorology of the city, according to experts. As per the data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), stubble burning is currently contributing only one per cent to the pollution in Delhi, as against 3 per cent on Tuesday. So, where is the rest of the pollution coming from? According to SAFAR, which comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, 357 stubble burning fires were observed around Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring border regions on October 13, but the transport wind direction is not favourable and hence, only minimal contribution to pollution from the stubble burning is expected.

come under Green and White categories respectively.

The EPCA had also directed the states to ensure enforcement and full compliance of the action plan on the identified pollution hotspots through ground-level surveillance and night patrolling "to ensure zero-tolerance for all sources of pollution including waste burning and dust". Controlling air pollution during winter will require greatly enhanced vigilance on the ground so that sources, such as industrial stacks and garbage dumping and use of illegal fuels, are checked and penalized, it had said.

All technologies for dust management, including smog-guns, should be extensively used during this period. The measures under GRAP, which was first implemented in Delhi-NCR in 2017, include increasing bus and metro services, hiking parking fees and stopping the use of diesel generator sets when the air quality turns poor.

## PROTEST TURNS UGLY



Police personnel use water cannons to disperse the NSUI and Youth Congress activists protesting against the Madhya Pradesh government, in Jabalpur

## 4-yr-old allegedly raped in Hathras

**Hathras (UP), Oct 14:** A four-year-old girl has been allegedly raped by her relative in Sarni in Hathras. The police said the accused has been arrested and a case has been registered.

Circle Officer Ruchi Gupta said that the incident took place on Tuesday and the girl's condition is stable. "An information was received at the Sarni police station that a four-year-old girl was raped by her own cousin, who resides in her neighbourhood in Bhoopura," said Gupta. "After receiving information about the incident, our team reached the spot. The victim was sent to the hos-



pital for the tests. We have arrested the accused who was staying near the victim's house," Gupta added. The family of the victim was unwilling to talk about the matter.

The incident came a month after a 19-year-old was allegedly gang-raped by four men in Hathras. She was rushed to a hospital in Aligarh, from where she was shifted to Delhi where she succumbed to her in-

juries. The incident triggered protests across the country, forcing the Allahabad High Court to take suo motu cognisance of the matter: **TWO POLICEMEN SUSPENDED:** Two policemen were on Wednesday suspended for laxity following the alleged gangrape and suicide of a 15-year-old Dalit girl, a senior police official said.

Chitrakoot Superintendent of Police (SP) Ankit Mittal said prima facie, it seemed that there was laxity in discharge of duty by Karvi police station SHO Jaishankar Singh and Sub-Inspector Anil Sahu, the in-charge of Sariaya police outpost. "Both of them have been suspended," he said.

## 'Bihar may become safe haven for terrorists'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, Oct 14:** A political storm has erupted in poll-bound Bihar after Union minister Nityanand Rai told an election rally that the state would become a safe haven for terrorists from Kashmir if the opposition RJD-led coalition succeeded in forming the next government.

The Congress, a constituent of the Grand Alliance, hit back claiming that the BJP has the habit of dragging Pakistan and Kashmir into the scenario whenever it faces a tough challenge in Bihar polls. The RJD asserted that it is a ploy of the saffron party to divert public at-

tention from the "misrule" of the NDA. "Militants from Kashmir might start looking at Bihar as a safe haven (in the event of an opposition victory). But we must not let that happen," Rai, a former president of the BJP's state unit, can be heard as having said in video footage, evoking applause from the crowd.

The Union minister of state for home made the controversial remark at a rally held in Mahnar Assembly segment in Vaishali district a couple of days ago. The matter came to light after news channels beamed the footage. AICC media panelist and Bihar ULC Prem Chandra Mishra hit back at

Rai. "In 2015, Amit Shah had said during Assembly elections that crackers will be burst in Pakistan if the Grand Alliance won. Now his junior minister Nityanand Rai has come out with an equally bizarre statement," he said. "It is not a coincidence that whenever the BJP is faced with an insurmountable challenge in a Bihar election, it drags Pakistan and Kashmir into the electoral discourse. But the voters of Bihar are mature. They can see through the game," Mishra said.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, the Grand Alliance's chief ministerial candidate, sought to make light of the remarks made by Rai touted

as the BJP's Yadav face in a state where the sizeable community has by and large remained with the party founded and headed by Lalu Prasad. "This is just an attempt to divert public attention from the fact that in its 15 years of rule in Bihar, the NDA has unleashed the terror of unemployment, poverty and starvation on the hapless people of the state," Yadav told reporters at his Assembly constituency Raghapur also in Vaishali where he had gone to file nomination papers. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which was in the Grand Alliance five years ago but is now back in the NDA, defended Rai.

## Winter could be colder this season: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** Winter could be colder this season due to the prevailing La Nina conditions, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said on Wednesday.

He said there should not be an impression that climate change leads to rise in the temperature, but on the contrary, it leads to erratic weather. "As weak La Nina condition is prevailing, we can expect more cold this year. The El Nino and La Nina conditions play a dominant role if you con-



sider the large scale factor for the occurrence of cold wave conditions," Mohapatra said. He was addressing a webinar on 'Cold Wave Risk Reduction' organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). "La Nina conditions are favourable for cold wave conditions, while El Nino conditions are un-

favourable for it," he added. Mohapatra said Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are among the states that mostly see deaths due to cold waves. The IMD also releases a winter forecast every year in November which gives predictions on the severity of the winter season starting December to February.

La Nina is related to the cooling of the Pacific waters, while the El Nino is linked to its heating. Both factors are also believed to have an impact on the Indian monsoon. For instance, 2020 witnessed an above normal monsoon with nine per cent excess rainfall.

## MODI GOVT GIFTS ₹520 CR PACKAGE TO J&K, LADAKH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved a special package amounting to ₹520 crores for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. It is for a period of five years and ensures the funding of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in the two UTs on a demand driven basis without linking the allocation with poverty ratio.



"This will ensure sufficient funds under the mission, as per requirement to the UTs and is also in line with the Government of India's aim to universalize all centrally sponsored beneficiary-oriented schemes in J&K and Ladakh, in a time bound manner," said the Centre on Wednesday.

This is based on the outcome of an evaluation pointing to the potential of the Mission to improve the quality of life of rural households and women's empowerment given the changed circumstances in J&K and Ladakh.

The DAY-NRLM is a centrally sponsored programme that aims at eliminating rural poverty through promotion of multiple livelihoods for the rural poor households across the country.

## Cinemas all set to reopen in new COVID normal

ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY INSIDERS, INDIA HAS AROUND 8,750 SCREENS -- 3,100 IN MULTIPLEXES AND 5,650 SINGLE SCREENS OPERATING MOSTLY IN TIER 2 AND 3 CITIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Mumbai, Oct 14:** Ushering in a new era of movie watching, the Union government-allowed multiplexes, cinema halls and theatres to reopen from Thursday within the framework of a set of standard operating procedures (SOPs). The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) left it to states to take a final call on the matter.

PVR Cinemas, India's largest film exhibitor with 845 screens in 176 properties across 71 cities, on Wednesday said 10 states and four union territories have given their go-ahead for the reopening of cinemas. Accordingly, PVR will start operations in 487 screens from Thursday and hope that other states will soon give their green signal too.

The SOPs mandated by the Union government include one seat distance in halls, 50 per cent capacity,



masks at all time, proper ventilation and air conditioner temperature settings at above 23 degrees Celsius.

The multiplex chain said it hopes to build customer confidence with an 'Evangelism' phase which will give people a chance to experience its enhanced safety features firsthand. This phase will involve good-will screenings for the company's employees, health workers and the

police force and their children. The movie screenings will begin from Friday, October 16, and tickets will go live on their website as well as other ticketing platforms from midnight. Like the others in the business, INOX Leisure Ltd said it has introduced security checks like mandatory masks and temperature checks besides staggered entries, intermissions and exits. The

theatre chain will completely rely on e-tickets instead of paper tickets and an all-in-one SMS with links for the QR code, auditoriums seat chart and access to F&B menu.

Cinemas have to deal with the double whammy of COVID fears and old content and have their fingers crossed as they prepare to rollout a different kind of movie going experience. As theatres managements scrupulously sanitise their premises in preparation for the big day and hope for audiences to warily trickle back in, the fare is likely to be a mix of international, Hindi and regional language cinema but basically old titles. Many cinema halls shut down even before the nationwide lockdown came into effect from March 25 and managements are hoping desperately to get back to work. In Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called a meeting of theatre owners to discuss

the last minute details before they open their doors to the public. However, several key states such as Maharashtra have not yet taken a decision. In Gujarat, for instance, cinema halls are likely to reopen from Saturday because theatre owners have not been able to reach an agreement with distributors on re-running old films. In Chhattisgarh and in Punjab, the respective state governments have not yet given their permission for halls to reopen.

In Kolkata, multiplex chains are ready to open some of their theatres from Thursday but several single screens will take one more week before opening their doors for cinegoers.

In Madhya Pradesh, however, a few theatres are readying to open their doors. Theatres will open in several parts of Uttar Pradesh too, but possibly start screening films from Friday.



**Solid achievement of 6 years of BJP's hate-filled cultural nationalism: Bangladesh set to overtake India**  
RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## BMC HEADQUARTERS TO BE OPENED FOR TOURISTS

The iconic, V-shaped BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters -- opposite the UNESCO World Heritage Site Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus -- will soon be opened for tourists, Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray has announced



## of the day quote

I urge the Govt. to release all other political detainees as well. The democratic processes, which have been suspended during this time, must also be reinstated



M K STALIN | DMK CHIEF

The pandemic has underscored the need for greater global cooperation to ensure collective health and economic well-being of people



RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

If systematically planned, flood water, drainage and sewerage can be diverted towards Thane (adjoining Mumbai), and the entire diverted influx can be stored in a dam after treating the water midway



NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

# 31 dead in rain-related incidents in T'gana, AP, Maha

The rainfall received by Hyderabad Tuesday was an all-time high, MET office said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** Twenty-five deaths in rain-related incidents were reported in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday and heavy downpour wreaked havoc in Karnataka as a deep depression in the Bay of Bengal crossed the coast in Kakinada, leaving behind a trail of destruction in the southern states.

Six more people, including four members of a family, were killed in a wall collapse triggered by heavy rains in Pandharpur town of Maharashtra's Solapur district during the day.

While 15 people died in Hyderabad following incessant rainfall, which led to waterlogging on roads and inundation of some low-lying areas in the city, 10 people were killed in rain-related incidents across Andhra Pradesh in the last 48 hours.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and Andhra



Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy after the two southern states were hit by heavy rains and assured them of all possible support and assistance from the Centre in the rescue-and-relief work.

The deaths in Hyderabad were mostly caused by wall and house collapses triggered by the heavy downpour: The Telangana government had declared a holiday on Wednesday and Thursday for all private institutions, offices, non-essential services within Outer Ring Road here in view of the rains.

People were advised to stay indoors. Three members of a family, including a child, died in a house collapse in Gaganpahad area of Shamshabad. Ten people died in two wall collapse incidents in the Chandrayangutta police station limits.

Rivulets and other water bodies were in spate in Bhadrachalam district in the state following heavy rains and the administration has advised people not to travel on or cross such rivulets and inundated roads.

Police teams and personnel of Disaster Response Force (DRF) of GHMC and NDRF evacuated several families from different localities that were flooded, even as rescue efforts were on in many other areas. Several trees and electricity poles were uprooted due to the deluge. Power supply was suspended in most parts of the state capital on Tuesday as a precaution.

In Andhra Pradesh, heavy rains caused damage to roads and disrupted power supply at several places. For the second time in less than 20 days, river Krishna remained swollen on Wednesday as it received a heavy flood due to rainfall over the last couple of days.

A statement from the Chief Minister's Office said 10 people have died in rain-related incidents in the state in the last two days. The chief minister ordered that ex-gratia be immediately paid to the victims' families. He asked officials to focus on restoration of power supply and repair damaged roads on a

war-footing. A breach occurred to the Sarada river bund near Yalamanchili in Visakhapatnam district, inundating over 2,000 acres of agricultural fields in the vicinity. The flood impact was felt in Chodavaram, Payakaraopeta, Yalamanchili and Anakapalli mandals in the district. The Vamsadhara river in Srikakulam district received heavy flood under the impact of heavy rain in the catchment area in neighbouring Odisha.

In Karnataka, all major dams in the Cauvery and the Krishna basins are brimming and their floodgates were opened. Officials said Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Bidar were severely affected as small streams were in spate with many lakes overflowing and inundating villages.

In Chincholi taluk of Kalaburagi district, the stop-gates of Nagarala and Chandrampalli lakes were opened, flooding nearby villages. Normal life was paralysed as a major lake overflowed in Aland taluk of Kalaburagi district.

# INDIA'S nCoV CASES RISE TO 7.24 MILLION

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Oct 14:** India's tally of coronavirus infections rose by 63,509 in the last 24 hours to stand at 7.24 million Wednesday, health ministry data showed.

Deaths from COVID-19 infections rose by 730 to 110,586, the ministry said.

India crossed the 7 million mark on Sunday, adding a million cases in just 13 days. It has the world's second-highest tally after the United States, where the figure is nearing 8 million.

For six days in a row the active cases of COVID-19 remained below 9 lakh. There are 8,26,876 active cases of coronavirus infection in the country which comprises 11.42 per cent of the total caseload, while the recoveries have surged to 63,01,927, the data stated. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark August 7, 30 lakh August 23 and 40 lakh September 5. It went past 50 lakh September 16, 60 lakh September 28 and crossed 70 lakh October 11.

## SHORT TAKES

### Corona cases declining in MP

**Bhopal:** The ongoing corona pandemic is gradually on the decline in Madhya Pradesh with the recovery rate at 88 per cent. People's lives are slowly returning to normal with more crowds in the markets. The number of Covid-19 infected patients in the state stands at nearly 1.5 lakh while 2,671 persons have died till now. There has been a decrease of 37 per cent in fresh coronavirus cases in the state for the last three weeks. The state's recovery rate has gone up to 88.4 per cent. The number of active cases which was above 20,000 has now come down to 14,932. The death rate stands at 1.78 per cent.

### Infant's body exhumed

**Pune:** The body of a newborn baby who was suspected to have been killed by his parents was exhumed by the police here on Wednesday for the purpose of probe. The baby boy was born October 2. An official of the Sinhgad Police Station said the couple tried to give away the baby, but could not find any organization that would accept him.

### 2 militants killed

**Srinagar:** Two unidentified militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday, police said. Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Chakura area of Shopian district following information about the presence of militants there, a police officer said. He said the search operation turned into an encounter after militants opened fire at security forces' positions.

## Punjab to bring legislation against Centre's farm laws

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Oct 14:** The Punjab government has decided to convene a special session of the state assembly on October 19 to bring in a legislation to counter the Centre's farm laws. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh here. The meeting was held through a video conferencing, according to a government statement.

The Chief Minister had earlier announced that his government will fight the "anti-federal and vicious" farm laws tooth and nail through legislative, legal and other routes. A few days ago, the CM had said he would call a special session of the assembly to bring in necessary amendments to state laws to negate the "dangerous impact" of the central legislations, which are designed to "ruin" the farmers as well as the state's agriculture and economy.

With the cabinet decision, the Punjab Governor has been authorised to convene the 13th (special) session of 15th Punjab Vidhan Sabha, as per clause (1) of Article 174 of the Constitution of India, the statement said. In the last assembly session on August 28, a resolution was passed by a majority to reject three contentious farm ordinances, which later took the shape of the laws.

The opposition parties and protesting farmers have also been demanding from the Congress-led state government to convene a special session of the assembly to negate the new farm laws. Farmers had even given an ultimatum to the Punjab government to convene a special session of the assembly. They have been demanding that the three laws passed by Parliament recently be repealed.

Farmers have expressed apprehension that the new laws will pave a way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporates.

## MAHA ALLOWS METRO TO RUN FROM TODAY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 14:** The Maharashtra government Wednesday decided to allow metro trains in Mumbai to operate from October 15 in a phased manner under its mission 'begin again'.

Soon after the government's decision, the Mumbai Metro One Private Limited (MMOPL), which operates the Versova- Andheri-Ghatkopar corridor in the megapolis, said the services on the route that were suspended since March, will resume from October 19. The government also allowed

reopening of all state-run and private libraries from Thursday following COVID-19 protocols, as per the guidelines issued here. It also allowed business-to-business exhibitions from Thursday outside the containment zones. Local weekly bazars, including that of animals, will also be allowed to reopen outside containment zones.

With an aim to reduce crowd, markets and shops will be allowed to remain open for two additional hours till 9 pm from tomorrow.

Significantly, the government has decided to do away stamping with indelible ink for domestic passengers arriving at different airports after COVID-19 testing. Similarly, the health check up and stamping of passengers at railway stations will also be stopped.

The state government said metro rails will be allowed to operate in a graded manner and the SOPs for the same will be issued by the Urban Development Department.

## All major Andhra reservoirs running full

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Amaravati, Oct 14:** All major water reservoirs in Andhra Pradesh are full to their brim due to the massive inflow following heavy rains caused by the deep depression that moved in from Bay of Bengal.

Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage in East Godavari district currently has a water level of 44.65 feet, storing 2.91 tmc water. The barrage's capacity of 2.93 tmc is 99.35 per cent covered.

Cotton barrage falls under the Godavari river basin. Similarly, Prakasam Barrage in Krishna district's Vijayawada is currently filled till 56.2 feet. With a capacity of 3.07 tmc, Prakasam barrage is filled to the brim with inflows from catchment areas. It is running



100 per cent capacity now.

Officials are expecting 6 lakh cusecs of more flood water inflow into the barrage.

Srisailem reservoir water level reached 885 feet with the water storage level currently standing at 214.36 tmc. The reservoir in Kurnool district with a capacity of 215.81 tmc is currently filled up to 99.98 per cent. Similarly, Nagarjunasagar reservoir water level is at 589.5 feet, which has a capacity to hold 312.05 tmc of

water. The reservoir in Guntur district is currently filled with 310.84 tmc of water, reaching 99.62 per cent capacity of the reservoir.

Pulichintala Project water level reached 174.21 feet. It has a gross capacity of 45.77 tmc, which is currently filled with 44.93 tmc water or 97.81 per cent of its total capacity. Somasila reservoir water level reached 328.22 feet. The reservoir in Nellore district has a gross capacity of 78 tmc, which is filled up to 94.81 per cent with inflows of 73.95 tmc. Somasila reservoir is located in Nellore district under the Pennar river basin.

Among the six reservoirs, four fall under the Krishna river basin -- Prakasam Barrage, Srisailem, Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala; while the other two in Guntur district.

## TOWARDS DESTINATION



Fishermen row their boats along the shoreline near Marine Drive, in Mumbai

PTI PHOTO

# Mehbooba meets Farooq, Omar

AGENCIES

**Srinagar, Oct 14:** A day after she was released, former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti met former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah at her residence in Srinagar Wednesday.

Later Omar Abdullah tweeted that she had accepted a request by Farooq Abdullah for a meeting on Thursday by the Gupkar declaration signatories. "My father and I called on Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba this afternoon to enquire about her well-being after her release from detention. She has kindly accepted Farooq Sb's invitation to join a meeting of the Gupkar Declaration signatories tomorrow afternoon," Omar tweeted.

Earlier Mehbooba Mufti held a meeting with the PDP leadership. The three former Chief Ministers were slapped with Public Safety Act (PSA) after their detention following the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5 last year. In an audio message after her release on Tuesday evening, Mehbooba said Article 370's revocation was a black decision on a black day. She said people of J&K have to work unanimously for resolution of the Kashmir Issue.

Several PDP leaders, including

former MLA from Wachi Aijaz Mir, posted laudatory tweets about the party leader. "After a detention period of 1 year and 2 months, our party president @MehboobaMufti Sahiba released today. We salute her steadfast determination & exemplary courage!" Mir tweeted.

Mehbooba, who led the PDP-BJP alliance government from April 2016 to June 2018, was arrested along with other leaders hours ahead of the Centre bifurcating the state into two union territories and abrogating Article 370. After being released on Tuesday night, she said the Centre's decision of August 5 was a "daylight robbery".

Besides party workers, senior National Conference leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah visited Mehbooba Mufti at her residence. Senior Congress leader Karan Singh welcomed Mehbooba Mufti's release and expressed the hope that she will strengthen the democratic process by taking her agenda to the people once fresh elections take place.

DMK chief M K Stalin also expressed happiness over her release and urged the government to free other political detainees. "The democratic processes, which have been suspended during this time, must also be reinstated," he tweeted.



Mehbooba Mufti interacts with J&K National Conference President Farooq Abdullah and leader Omar Abdullah, at her residence in Srinagar

PTI PHOTO

# Govt to import 1 lakh MT of medical oxygen for winter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** The Union Health Ministry has initiated the process of importing liquid oxygen as part of its preparedness to meet any unforeseen shortage during the winters when the country may witness an increase in COVID-19 cases leading to a rise in demand for oxygen.

As Tuesday, around 3.97 per cent of the COVID-19 patients were on oxygen support, 2.46 per cent were in ICU beds which are again with oxygen support and 0.40 per cent on ventilator support. In March, before the country went into a lockdown, the country had a manufacturing capacity of around 6,400 metric tonne of oxygen per day, of which around 1,000 metric tonne was being used for medical purposes daily while the rest was utilised by in-

## FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

**THE OXYGEN IS BEING PROCURED FOR VARIOUS CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS**

**HLL Lifecare Limited, a public sector undertaking, has floated a global tender on behalf of the Health Ministry for procuring 1 lakh metric tonne of liquid oxygen**

**The entire exercise of importing and then distributing the medical oxygen is estimated to cost ₹600-700 crore, official sources said**

dustries, sources said.

"Industries have opened up following unlock procedures and as on September 30, the country's daily capacity of oxygen production is around 7,000 metric tonne, of which around 3,094 metric tonne is being used for both COVID and non-COVID patients and is just enough to meet the demands," a source said.

"So this one lakh metric tonne of liquid oxygen which is being planned to be procured from foreign countries would create a one month buffer in case demand rises further during the winter season," the source explained. The issue was discussed at a meeting held by the Cabinet Secretary on October 10, following which it was decided to import liquid oxygen. Even though India is witnessing a declining trend in daily new COVID-19 cases, experts fear that the upcoming fes-

tive season and following winter months may see a spike in coronavirus infections.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has urged people to observe COVID-19-appropriate behaviour such as wearing masks, hand hygiene, maintaining respiratory etiquette and staying away from congregations, citing the possibility of increased novel coronavirus transmission during winters.

In September, when cases were increasing, the Health Ministry had repeatedly advised states to ensure adequate oxygen availability in all healthcare facilities and unrestricted intra as well as interstate movement of oxygen. States were also asked to ensure facility wise/hospital wise oxygen inventory management and advance planning for timely replenishment so that there are no stockouts.

# international



All of Japan, the entire world, is feeling a bit stressed out over the fears about the coronavirus, and so I just had a simple wish to cheer people up a bit through light-hearted entertainment (by directing first-ever Zoom film) SHINICHIRO UEDA | JAPANESE DIRECTOR

## KIM PLEDGES NEW HOMES

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un promised to help typhoon-hit areas recover and to build at least 25,000 houses in next five years, as per reports. Visiting one of the worst-hit areas, he expressed regret over the dilapidated houses



## of the day quote

India has been a solid and consistent supporter of Palestinian refugees for decades. This contribution is even more significant as it comes at a critical time (during the pandemic)

SAMI MSHASHA | DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, UNRWA

The virus has not been eradicated. It's still circulating in our community. The number is zero today (Tuesday), but we will likely see new cases popping up over time

LAWRENCE WONG | EDUCATION MINISTER, SINGAPORE

A safe and durable vaccine is urgently needed to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic that has infected millions of people and caused over 620,000 deaths globally

NAVIN VARADARAJAN | PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

## STRONGER TOGETHER



Anti-government protesters hold the hands together for security during a protest near Democracy Monument in Bangkok, Thailand. Thai political activists hope to keep up the momentum for their campaign for democratic change with their third major rally, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

## Shaken Europe battles COVID-19 resurgence

Major European economies such as Germany, Britain and France have so far resisted pressure to close schools, a move that during the spring lockdowns created hardship as many parents juggled child care and WFH

REUTERS

### 'Russia behind hacker attack'

Copenhagen: Norway's foreign minister said Russia is behind a break-in into the Norwegian Parliament's email system in August, calling the intrusion "a serious incident that affects our most important democratic institution."

### 10K evacuated in Cambodia

Phnom Penh: More than 10,000 people have been evacuated in Cambodia after a tropical storm triggered flash floods, an official said Wednesday.

### Eight killed in Afghan blasts

Kabul: At least eight civilians were killed and 25 people wounded in two improvised bomb explosions in Afghanistan Wednesday, authorities said.

### Germany hits 5K new cases

Berlin, Oct: The number of newly reported coronavirus cases in Germany has passed 5,000 for the first time since mid-April.

## ON BRINK OF DISASTER



Europe's worst rate per capita, has shifted schools to distance learning and plans to call up thousands of medical students. Hospitals are cutting non-urgent medical procedures to free up beds.

"Sometimes we are at the edge of crying," said Lenka Krejcová, a head nurse at Slny hospital near Prague, as builders hurried to turn a general ward into a COVID-19 department.

Poland is ramping up training for nurses and considering creating military field hospitals, Moscow is to move many students to online learning, and Northern Ireland is closing schools for two weeks.

"I don't have any good information. We are on the brink of disaster," said immunologist Pawel Grzesiowski in Poland, which reported a record 6,526 infections and 116 deaths Wednesday.

## IMPOSSIBLE CHOICES

Major European economies such as Germany, Britain and France have so far resisted pressure to close schools, a move that during the spring lockdowns created hardship as many parents juggled child care and work from home.

In Germany, politicians are debating whether to extend the Christmas-New Year school break to reduce contagion, though critics say there is no evidence schools have been hot spots.

The Netherlands returned to partial lockdown on Wednesday, closing bars and restaurants, but kept schools open. European infections have been running at an average of almost 100,000 a day - about a third of the global total - forcing governments to tighten restrictions while attempting to calibrate them to protect health without destroying livelihoods.

## Pak, China win seats on UNHRC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad/United Nations, Oct 14: Pakistan along with China, Russia and Cuba won seats on the UN Human Rights Council despite strong opposition from activist groups over their abysmal human rights records.

In a secret-ballot voting in the 193-member UN General Assembly Tuesday, Pakistan secured 169 votes, Uzbekistan received 164, Nepal 150 and China 139. Saudi Arabia lost the race with just 90 votes.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo slammed the UN body for electing China, Russia and Cuba to the agency tasked with defending human rights.

"The election of China, Russia, and Cuba to the UN Human Rights Council validates the US decision to withdraw from the Council in 2018 and use other venues to protect



and promote universal human rights.. At #UNGA this year, we did just that," Pompeo tweeted.

"US commitment to human rights is far more than just words. We have identified and punished human rights abusers in Xinjiang, Myanmar, Iran, and elsewhere, and call for all nations to take this moment to recommit to the #UDHR," he said in another tweet.

Last week, a coalition of human rights groups from Europe, the US and Canada called on UN member states to oppose the election of

China, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Cuba and Uzbekistan, saying their human rights records make them unqualified.

"The bad news: governments just elected China to the UN Human Rights Council despite its severe repression in Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong.

The good news: the number of governments voting for it declined from 180 last time to 139 now. The fear is melting," Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth tweeted after the vote.

Pakistan is currently serving on the HRC since January 1, 2018. With its re-election, the country will continue as a member for another three-year term commencing January 1, 2021. Under the Human Rights Council's rules, seats are allocated to regions to ensure geographical representation.

## WORLD BANK OKAYS \$12bn TO FINANCE COVID VACCINES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 14: The World Bank has approved \$12 billion in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to 1 billion people.

The \$12 billion "envelop" is part of a wider World Bank Group package of up to \$160 billion to help developing countries fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the bank said in a statement late Tuesday.

The World Bank said its COVID-19 emergency response programmes are already reaching 111 countries. Citizens in developing countries also need access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, it said.

"We are extending and expand-



ing our fast-track approach to address the COVID emergency so that developing countries have fair and equal access to vaccines," said the bank's president, David Malpass, said in the statement.

"Access to safe and effective vaccines and strengthened delivery systems is key to alter the course of the pandemic and help coun-

tries experiencing catastrophic economic and fiscal impacts move toward a resilient recovery," he said. The International Finance Corporation, the private sector lending arm of the World Bank is investing in vaccine manufacturers through a \$4 billion Global Health Platform, the statement said.

Development and deployment of vaccines is crucial to helping stem outbreaks of the coronavirus that has killed more than 1 million people and sickened more than 38 million, while devastating economies and leaving many millions jobless.

The World Bank said it will draw on expertise and experience from its involvement in many large-scale immunization programs and other public health efforts.

## 'Fall in emission during lockdown largest in modern history'

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

New Delhi, Oct 14: Pandemic restrictions saw an unprecedented fall in greenhouse gas emissions in the first half of 2020 - larger than during the 2008 financial crisis and even World War II - experts said Wednesday. As governments ordered lockdowns to try to crush the first wave of Covid-19, Co<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport, power and aviation plummeted, the international team of researchers said.

Using data including hourly electricity production, vehicle traffic from more than 400 cities worldwide, daily passenger flights and monthly production and consumption figures, they determined that the emissions drop was the largest in modern history.

As governments ordered lockdowns to try to crush the first wave of Covid-19, Co<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport, power and aviation plummeted, finds the research team

They suggested some fundamental steps that could be taken to "stabilise the global climate" as countries look to recover from the economic shock of the pandemic.

They noted however that emissions had rebounded to their usual levels by July 2020, when most nations had eased lockdown measures. Zhu Liu from the Department of Earth System Science at Tsinghua



University in Beijing said the study was the most accurate yet undertaken on the pandemic's effect on emissions.

"We were able to get a much faster and more accurate overview, including timelines that show how emissions decreases have corre-

sponded to lockdown measures in each country," said Zhu, lead author of the study published in Nature Communications.

The team found that Co<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport decreased by 40% in the first half of 2020, and power production and industry

emissions fell 22% and 1% respectively. With more people working from home, the study showed a perhaps surprising three percent fall in residential emissions - something researchers attributed to an abnormally warm winter leading to lower heating consumption.

### 'Complete overhaul' needed

An international plan to limit global warming outlined in the 2015 Paris climate deal aims to cap temperature rises well below two degrees Celsius compared with pre-industrial levels.

The accord envisages a safer limit of 1.5 degrees of warming - something the United Nations says would take an annual 7.7% reduction in emissions this decade to achieve. The authors of Wednesday's

study agreed with the writers of similar research released in August claiming that the 2020 emissions dip was unlikely to ease the climate emergency in the long term.

They said nothing less than a "complete overhaul" of the industry and commerce would keep a handle on global warming.

"While the Co<sub>2</sub> drop is unprecedented, decreases of human activities cannot be the answer," said Wednesday's co-author Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, founding director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

PromotedListen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com "We need structural and transformational changes in our energy production and consumption systems."

# business

## of the day quote

The MoU with TN government will see GreenBase invest Rs 750 crore to develop an industrial and logistics park at Vadakkuppattu, Oragadam, yielding multiple direct and indirect job opportunities

**NIRANJAN HIRANANDANI** | FOUNDER, HIRANANDANI GROUP

Our main purpose is to make our contractors dream big and contribute towards an AtmaNirbhar Bharat

**TARUN KAPOOR** | OIL SECRETARY

All four labour codes are likely to be implemented in one go from April 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year

**APURVA CHANDRA** | LABOUR SECRETARY

## SHORT TAKES

### OnePlus to expand presence

**New Delhi:** Chinese smartphone maker OnePlus Wednesday said it will invest Rs 100 crore towards expanding its offline retail network as it looks to strengthen its reach in tier II cities and beyond in the country. The company, which unveiled its latest OnePlus 8T phone priced Rs 42,999 onwards on Wednesday, is also focused on strengthening its manufacturing in India and will make its complete line up of smart TVs locally by 2021.

### 'Family Credit Card' launched

**Hyderabad:** Citibank India (Citi) and Mastercard Wednesday jointly announced the launch of 'IKEA Family Credit Card by Citi' to make shopping at the Swedish furnishing company more affordable, convenient and rewarding. This card provides instant in-store card bookings, direct payments via Bharat QR, accelerated reward points and attractive EMIs and will also offer reward points on all purchases with instant reward redemption at IKEA.

### Bank of America profits falls 16%

**Charlotte:** Bank of America Corp says profit fell 15.6% to \$4.88 billion in the third quarter from \$5.78 billion a year ago. The bank, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, said it had earnings of 51 cents per share. The results did not meet Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of 10 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 53 cents per share. The nation's second-largest bank posted revenue of \$21.69 billion in the period. Bank of America shares have declined 29 per cent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has risen almost 9%. The stock has dropped 14 per cent in the last 12 months.

### GoDaddy inks pact with EduSkills

**New Delhi:** Digital platform services firm GoDaddy Wednesday announced a partnership with non-profit organisation EduSkills to provide web-related training to around 50,000 in a year across the country. In addition, the programme aims to train educators across EduSkills partners comprising over 800 partner universities and engineering colleges in India.



**We are confident that the Indian pharma sector can grow to \$65 billion industry by 2024**

**DV SADANANDA GOWDA** | CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS MINISTER

## TCS TO RECRUIT 10,000 STAFF IN US

Software services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) said it has seen a surge in demand for its services and expects to recruit 10,000 individuals in the US by 2022. The Mumbai-based company has hired over 21,500 employees in the past five years in the US



# Public debt ratio to jump to 90%, says IMF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Oct 14:** India's public debt ratio, which remarkably remained stable at around 70 per cent of the GDP since 1991, is projected to jump by 17 percentage points to nearly 90% because of increase in public spending due to COVID-19, the IMF said Wednesday. "In our projections, the increase in public spending, in response to COVID-19, and the fall in tax revenues and economic activity, will make public debt jump up by 17 percentage points to almost 90% of GDP," Vitor Gaspar, Director of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department said. "Going forward it is projected to stabilise in 2021, before slowly de-

clining up to the end of the projection period, in 2025. Broadly speaking the pattern of public debt in India is close to the norm around the world," he said. According to Gaspar, India's public debt ratio has been remarkably stable since 1991. It is interesting to note that the debt ratio has been stable at around 70% of GDP over the past decade, he said. Responding to a question about his assessment of the fiscal situation of India, Gaspar said India has been an important source of growth in the world since the 1991 economic liberalisation reforms. Real GDP growth averaged 6.5% between 1991 to 2019, and real GDP per capita was multiplied by four over that period. This impressive



growth performance helped lift millions of people out of extreme poverty, he said. The extreme poverty rate, measured as the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.90 a day at purchasing power parity (the international poverty line), fell from 45% in 1993 to 13% by 2015

(date of the latest full extrapolation by the World Bank available - last full evaluation, and based on household surveys, goes back to 2011), he said. India achieved the millennium development goal of halving poverty by 2015 (from its 1990 level), he said. "India has made astonishing progress in other areas. Education enrollment is nearly universal for primary school. Infant

mortality rates have been halved since 2000. Access to water and sanitation, electricity, and roads has been greatly improved," said the IMF official. According to Gaspar, in the near-term, additional fiscal action can and should be deployed as needed to support the poor and the vulnerable. "This should be accompanied by a credible medium-term fiscal consolidation plan that can reinforce market confidence and structural reforms that boost India's growth potential," he added.

**Going forward, public finances should continue to support growth and development in India. The effects of COVID-19 on health, education, poverty and nutrition render progress towards the SDGs even more urgent**

**VITOR GASPAR** | DIRECTOR, FISCAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, IMF

## India, France re-elected as prez, co-prez of ISA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** India and France were re-elected as president and co-president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at its third assembly on Wednesday, an official statement said.

The Third Assembly of the ISA was attended by 34 members' ministers. As many as 53 member countries and five signatory and prospective member countries participated in the assembly, the ministry of new and renewable energy said.

India and France were re-elected as the president and co-president of the ISA for a term of two years at the virtual meeting of the third ISA assembly. Four new vice-presidents were also chosen to represent the four regions of the ISA.

The representatives of Fiji and Nauru for Asia Pacific Region; Mauritius and Niger for Africa Region; UK and the Netherlands for Europe and Others Region; and Cuba and Guyana for Latin America and Caribbean Region assumed the vice presidency.

The assembly also approved the initiatives of the ISA Secretariat in institutionalising ISA's engagement with the private and public corporate sector through the Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (CSCA), it said.

Ten public sector organisations in India presented a cheque for USD 1 million each at the assembly.

# 'India's GDP 11 times more than B'desh'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of purchasing power parity was 11 times more than that of Bangladesh in 2019, government sources said Wednesday as they played down IMF projections of India slipping below the neighbouring nation on per capita GDP this year.

Earlier in the day in a tweet, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a dig at the government over IMF growth projections showing Bangladesh closing in on India in terms of per capita GDP this year and described it as a "solid achievement" of six years of BJP's "hate-filled cultural nationalism".

The government sources, on their part, emphasised that under the Modi government, the per capita GDP has increased from Rs 83,091 in 2014-15 to Rs 1,08,620 in 2019-20, representing an increase of 30.7%.

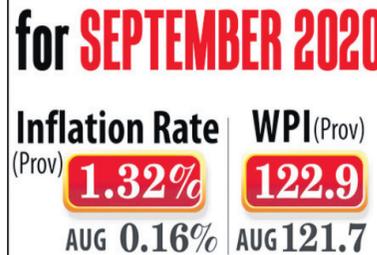
In 2019, India's GDP in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms was 11 times more than that of Bangladesh while population was eight times more. In PPP terms, India's per capita GDP in 2020 is estimated by IMF at \$6,284 as compared to \$5,139 for Bangladesh, according to the sources.

Under UPA 2, the sources said that it had increased from Rs 65,394 in 2009-10 to Rs 78,348 in 2013-14 which is an increase of 19.8%. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated India's GDP to grow at 8.8% in 2021, twice that of Bangladesh at 4.4%, they added. According to IMF, India is set to drop below Bangladesh in terms of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the economy is projected to contract by a massive 10.3% this year.

IMF's forecast for India - a huge downward revision from its previous prediction in June - is also the biggest contraction projected among major emerging markets amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8% growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2%, the IMF said in its latest 'World Economic Outlook' report.

## INFLATION and Wholesale Price Index for SEPTEMBER 2020



Inflation Rate	2019-20	2020-21	WPI
All Commodities	1.32	10.33	122.9
Primary Articles	5.10	5.54	150.3
Food Articles	8.17	7.54	168.1
Non-Food Articles	-0.08	2.26	126.7
Fuel & Power	-9.54	-6.68	91.0
Manufactured Products	-0.42	1.61	119.8

**FINAL INDEX FOR JULY 2020:** Wholesale Price Index for 'All Commodities' and annual rate of inflation remained unchanged at **121.0** and **-0.25%** respectively

PTI GRAPHICS

## 'Bank credit grows 5.7% in June quarter'

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 14:** Bank credit growth decelerated on a year-on-year basis for the sixth successive quarter and stood at 5.7% in the three months to June 2020, according to the Reserve Bank (RBI) data.

During the quarter, moderation in advances was witnessed across all bank groups.

Industrial credit contracted by 0.6% y-o-y in June and its share in overall advances declined to 30.8% from 32.8% a year ago, according to the data on Outstanding Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks for June 2020, released by the RBI.



Credit to the household sector increased by 9 per cent and its share in total credit rose to 50.2% from 48.7% a year ago.

The weighted average lending rate (WALR) on outstanding credit declined by 25 basis points during the quarter ended June 2020 and by 55 basis points over the last year, the data showed.

The data captures various characteristics of bank credit such as occupation/activity and organisational sector of the borrower; type of account and interest rates.

## Inflation rises 2nd month in a row

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** Spiralling prices of food items, especially vegetables, pushed up the wholesale inflation to a seven-month high of 1.32% in September and cements the likelihood that the Reserve Bank will continue with status quo on interest rates.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was at 0.16% in August. "The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, stood at 1.32% (provisional) for the month of September, 2020 (over September, 2019) as compared to 0.33% during the corresponding month of the previous year," government data showed on Wednesday.

The WPI-based inflation appears to be moving in sync with CPI-based retail inflation which shot up to an eight-month high of 7.34 per cent in September, mainly on account of rising prices of food items. Although the RBI takes into account retail



inflation while deciding the monetary policy stance, ICRA's principal economist Aditi Nayar said, "today's data (on WPI inflation) further cements the likelihood of an extended pause from the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)."

Before recording an increase of 0.16% in August, the WPI inflation was in the negative territory for four straight months - April (-1.57%), May (-3.37%), June (-1.81%) and July (-0.25%).

Inflation in food articles during September was at 8.17%, as against 3.84% in August, showed the data

from the commerce and industry ministry. Vegetables as a category had inflation of 36.54 per cent in September; potato price skyrocketed by 107.63% from a year-ago period. However, onions had deflation at 31.64% and in fruits, the inflation was at (-) 3.89%. Prices of cereals came down with a negative inflation print of 3.91% during the month, while, cost of pulses went up by 12.53%.

In the manufactured products category, inflation during the month rose to 1.61%, from 1.27% a month ago, the government data said.

## Usha launches new water heater range

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 14:** India's leading consumer durables company Usha Wednesday announced the launch of its new range of water heaters that includes Aquerra series, Aqua Tide, and Aqua Horizon. The new water heaters have the capacity of 10 litre to 25 litre and prices starts from Rs 11,095 to Rs 14,995. The prices vary depending on its quality and capacity.

Usha's new range of water heaters boast an innovative heating technology, a weather-proof coating, and cutting-edge glass enamel lining which prevents corrosion and increases life span.

Features include an anti-bacterial sterilisation system that prevents bacterial build up and ensures pristine hot water, a temperature sensor that prevents overheating, and an automatic cut off that ensures that the heating range never ex-

ceeds the set temperature thereby helping save energy.

The cuboid masterpieces comprising the Usha Aquerra water heater series come in two variants - Aquerra and Aquerra DG. Combining convenience with style, these BEE 5-star rated energy saving water heaters have the Whirl Flow technology for faster heating, and Performance based Heat tech which enables 20% more hot water utilisation.

# 'India to have 60K startups, 100 unicorns by 2025'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** India is expected to have 60,000 startups and 100 companies with valuation of over \$1 billion by 2025, a TiE Delhi-NCR report, in association with Zinnov, released Wednesday said. The report observed that business recovery of startups is back on track after the lockdown. However, 12-15% of startups are facing risk of survival and a similar percentage of start-ups have closed their business.

"Despite being in the biggest pandemic we have had, India is going to create same numbers of unicorn

in 2020 as we did in 2018 and 2019, which is a testament of our strong ecosystem," TiE Delhi-NCR president Rajan Anandan said while sharing the findings of the report.

"We do believe that India is on track to have 60,000 startup by 2025. We are well on track to have 100 unicorns in India by 2025," he added. He said investments are also on track for recovery.

TiE is a non-profit organisation devoted to entrepreneurs in all industries.

There are around 38,000 active startups, out of which 26 are unicorns. The startup ecosystem in India had attracted \$14.5 billion of



funding in 2019, the report titled 'Covid-19 and the anti-fragility of Indian startup ecosystem' said.

The report said startups are expected to create 1.5 to 1.6 million jobs

by 2025. The study included most of the business data till the end of February and compared it with data till the end of September, Anandan said.

According to the report, direct job creation in the start-up ecosystem will remain flat in 2020 as about 25,000 jobs in several sectors like hospitality, mobility, among others,

have been lost, while a similar number of jobs have been created in some sectors like edutech, communications, online fitness, among others. Online life insurance, over-the-top platforms (OTT), electronic e-commerce, online gaming, digital payments, online stock brokerages, online grocery have not only recovered by the end of September to pre-COVID period but also seen growth in the range of 10-50%.

Education technology platforms and online health insurance have recovered up to 200%, while online fitness and online telecommunication start-ups have seen up to 500% recovery, the report said.

# BOWLERS HELP DC CHOKE RR

AGENCIES

Dubai, Oct 14: Rajasthan Royals (RR) made a mess of what could have been an easy run chase as Delhi Capitals (DC) bowlers' brilliance in the death overs hand their side a commendable 13-run win in their IPL game here, Wednesday.

RR were requiring only 39 off last five overs, and with five wickets in hand it could have been a simple task. However, they made a mess of it. The credit goes to DC bowlers, who conceded only 25 runs, including an eight-run final over bowled by debutant Tushar Deshpande (2/37).

Chasing a challenging 162, RR were off to flying start with the openers - Ben Stokes (41) and Jos Buttler (22) - adding 37 runs in 2.5 overs. Anrich Nortje (2/33) broke the stand in the final ball of the third over, dismissing Buttler.

Six balls later, R Ashwin (1/17) took a simple catch off his own bowling to get rid of skipper Steve Smith to reduce RR to 40/2. Then Stokes and Sanju Samson (25) added 46 runs for the third wicket before Deshpande dismissed Stokes in the 11th over for his first IPL wicket.

Then, RR lost wickets at regular intervals before bowing down to DC bowlers' death-overs heroics. Robin Uthappa (32) batted well before getting out in search for some big hits. RR could muster only 148/8.

Earlier, Shikhar Dhawan (57, 33b,



Anrich Nortje celebrates after getting a Rajasthan Royals wicket; (inset) Shreyas Iyer and Shikhar Dhawan (with helmet) run between the wickets during their partnership in Dubai, Wednesday

6x4, 2x6) and skipper Shreyas Iyer (53, 43b, 3x4, 2x6), who didn't take the field after injuring his shoulder in the fifth over's final ball of RR innings, hit stroke-filled half centuries but DC lost momentum towards the end to DC bowlers' death-overs heroics.

DC had a disastrous start to their innings after opting to bat as they

lost Prithvi Shaw off the first ball of the match with a gem of a delivery from Jofra Archer (3/19).

To make matters worse for DC, Ajinkya Rahane was holed out to Uthappa off Archer. But then skipper Iyer joined hands with Dhawan and the duo shared 85 runs for the third wicket off 55 balls.

After Dhawan's dismissal, Iyer took the onus on himself and upped

the ante with some lusty hits. But soon after, Iyer departed, Marcus Stoinis (18) and Alex Carey (14) tried their best to add muscle to the scoreboard but were unsuccessful.

**BRIEF SCORES: DC 161/7** (Shikhar Dhawan 57, Shreyas Iyer 53; Jofra Archer 3/19, Jaydev Unadkat 2/32) **beat RR 148/8** (Ben Stokes 41; Anrich Nortje 2/33, Tushar Deshpande 2/37) **by 13 runs.**

# KXIP face RCB in must-win tie

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Oct 14: Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) will be hoping that Chris Gayle fires on his much-awaited return and they, for once, put up a complete performance in their must-win game against a high-flying Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) here Thursday.

The inability to produce an all-round show and close out games they should have won has led to KXIP losing six out of their seven matches.

But KXIP can take confidence from the fact their only win in the tournament has come against RCB, who look a much more potent squad since their last meeting September 24.

Though the Sharjah wicket has been slowing gradually, the smaller ground dimensions are ideal for someone like Gayle to go on a six-hitting spree.

However, it certainly won't be easy for the 41-year-old to get going from ball one, having not played earlier in the competition.

He would have played the last two games but could not due to food poisoning. Having recovered fully, it will be interesting to see



who he replaces in the side.

Benching a yet to fire Glenn Maxwell is one option or the team can bring Gayle at the expense of an overseas bowler and replace him with the available Indian talent.

KXIP are languishing at the bottom of the table despite having the top-two leading run-getters of the tournament in skipper KL Rahul (387 at strike rate of 134.84) and his opening partner Mayank Agarwal (337 at 48.14).

Barring Mohammad Shami and Ravi Bishnoi, none of the bowlers have inspired confidence, especially in the death overs. Not being able to find the right balance despite trying out many options has also contributed to KXIP's rapid slide.

They run into a RCB squad which

has grown in confidence by leaps and bounds since their last meeting. For the first time in many years, they seem to have fixed their bowling woes.

Their spin pairing of Washington Sundar and Yuzvendra Chahal has proved very effective and the pace department has strengthened with the return of Chris Morris from injury.

RCB's last game against KKR was also on this ground, so they come into the game more aware of the gradually changing conditions than KXIP, who played here last September 27 when the surface was much better to bat on.

With Aaron Finch back among the runs against KKR, RCB's top-four (including Devdutt Padikkal, Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers) can be a nightmare for any team.

# Denmark Open: Srikanth enters Rd 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Odense, Oct 14: Indian ace Kidambi Srikanth Wednesday outclassed England's Toby Pentty in straight games to enter the Denmark Open second round here and likened his return to international badminton after a coronavirus-forced hiatus to 'an adventure'.

The former World No.1 beat Toby 21-12, 21-18 in 37 minutes. "I started off well, but he was good in the second game. I'm playing after a long time. It's like an ad-

venture. This situation is something new. I've never been away for this long, and I'm happy with the way it went," he told Badminton World Federation.

"The last time I played was at the All England where I lost in the first round, so I've not had much of match practice. But I think I'm slowly getting back. It will definitely take some time, as there are no tournaments after this one. There will be a pause in the season, so it might take time to get used to the match feeling."

Srikanth spent the early part of the lockdown at his home town, where he was unable to train at his normal level. It was an opportunity for him to reflect on life outside badminton.

The fifth seed will next face Canada's Jason Anthony Ho-Shue, who defeated India's Subhankar Dey 21-13, 21-8 in a lopsided contest.

Former World No.13 Ajay Jayaram also couldn't cross the opening hurdle, going down 12-21, 14-21 to World No.3 Anders Antonsen of Denmark in 37 minutes.

## FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

### Historic victory

**Kyiv:** Viktor Tsygankov scored shortly after coming off the bench in the second half and Ukraine defeated Spain 1-0 in the Nations League for their first-ever victory over 'La Roja'. The nearly 15,000 fans who were allowed entry to the Kyiv Olympic Stadium celebrated loudly as Tsygankov struck the net from outside the area after a through-ball by captain Andriy Yarmolenko completing a counterattack in the 76th minute Tuesday. It was Ukraine's first goal against Spain in 17 years. Tsygankov had entered the match 10 minutes earlier. Despite the loss, Spain with their seven points remain in first place in Group 4.

### Thrilling stalemate

**Cologne:** Serge Gnabry struck the equaliser as Germany fought back to draw 3-3 with Switzerland in another error-strewn performance in the Nations League. Mario Gavranovic scored twice for the visitors, who led 2-1 at halftime after capitalizing on sloppy defending and wayward passes from the Germans Tuesday. Kai Havertz set up Chelsea teammate Timo Werner for Germany's response three minutes later. Havertz finally drew Germany level in the 55th. But Gavranovic grabbed his second goal two minutes later. Gnabry equalised with his heel on the hour-mark.

### Landmarks for MSN

**Sao Paulo:** Neymar and Luis Suarez rewrote some record books and Argentina is breathing easier thanks to Lionel Messi. The troika was a strike force to reckon with at Barcelona, known as MSN. In South American qualifying for the World Cup Tuesday night, Neymar became Brazil's second leading goal scorer after a hat-trick in a 4-2 win at Peru. Neymar (63 goals) passed Ronaldo (62) and now trails only Pele (77). Messi paced Argentina to a 2-1 win at Bolivia, their first in the altitude (11,800 feet above sea level) of La Paz since 2005. Suarez, despite Uruguay's 2-4 loss at Ecuador, became the leading goal scorer in the history of South American qualifying. He surpassed Messi (22 goals) to reach 24-goal mark.

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