



## STAR-STRUCK RAKUL

Actor Rakul Preet Singh says, like many other actors, she too had a dream to work with Amitabh Bachchan

LEISURE P2



## DRAGON SHIFTS FOCUS

The country will rely more on domestic consumption than export-reliant growth, says its President Xi Jinping

INTERNATIONAL P10



## MEDVEDEV IN SEMIS

Daniil Medvedev down World No.1 Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-3 to seal a semifinal spot at ATP Finals

SPORTS P12

# Custodial deaths rock Puri, Biramitrapur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** Tension prevailed in Puri and Biramitrapur in Sundergarh district as news of two alleged custodial deaths spread Thursday.

While the state police sent the two bodies for post-mortems under the NHRC guidelines, the twin incidents sparked tension in both the localities as a large number of people protested both in Puri and Biramitrapur. In both the cases, the victims were picked up by the police and they died Thursday morning.

"Post-mortems are being carried out in both the places by teams of doctors as per the guidelines of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The entire inquest is being videographed. The fact behind the incidents will come to the fore only after investigation," DGP Abhay told reporters here.

In regard to the Puri incident, Superintendent of Police, Akhileshwar Singh said that a 32 year old man identified as K Ramesh died at the hospital early Thursday morning following a scuffle with police.

"A scuffle ensued when police attempted to catch Ramesh who was roaming along with a sharp weapon. Some police personnel have also sustained minor injuries during the scuffle," Singh said, adding that the victim was a known criminal with a number of cases lodged against him in different police stations. The SP said that Ramesh was released from jail in



Protesters clash with police in Puri over the custodial death

OP PHOTO

Angul district recently and was nabbed by police when he was going to commit a crime in Puri town.

The local people alleged that he was picked up by the police Wednesday night and hacked to death at Baselisahi Police Station. There were injury marks on Ramesh's body, they claimed.

Though the SP admitted that there was a scuffle between police and Ramesh, he rejected allegations of po-

lice personnel hacking him to death. "A DSP rank officer of Human Rights Protection Cell of Odisha Police is probing into the incident and a team of doctors performed an autopsy of the body. Puri ASP has been monitoring the case," Singh said.

Meanwhile, tension mounted in Puri town as a large number of people collected near the District Headquarters Hospital where post-

mortem of Ramesh was being carried out. Angry people attempted to barge into the hospital which was prevented by the police. A youth identified as Tarique Salim died at the Ispat General Hospital in Rourkela. He was arrested by the personnel of Biramitrapur police station Wednesday.

Sundergarh SP Sagarika Nath, however, denied the charges of custodial death. "The accused was unwell and was first admitted to the Kumarmunda hospital and then shifted to IGH as his condition deteriorated," Nath said.

Following the death of the arrested person, some local people gathered in front of the police station and tried to barge into it.

In both the places, the local people demanded stringent action against the erring police personnel involved in the alleged custodial deaths. They demanded arrest of police personnel as Ramesh and Salim died in police custody.

This is not the first time that custodial deaths have rocked the state. According to National Crime Records Bureau, two accused died under mysterious circumstances in police custody in 2017. In 2018, two more accused who were brought on remand by police were later found dead in the custody. In 2019, four people died either in police custody or lockup.

In the last five years, none of the accused police officers have been convicted in these cases. **MORE P3**

## ₹1.5L compensation to fake encounter victim's family

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has directed the state government to pay Rs 1.50 lakh as compensation to the relatives of one Manda Kadra, who was killed by security forces in a fake encounter near Dangamatia village under Kalyansinghpur Police station limits of Rayagada district February 27, 2016. The OHRC delivered the order after hearing two petitions filed by human rights activists Biswapriya Kanungo and Prabir Kumar Das seeking compensation for the deceased's next of kin. The Commission perused the enquiry report submitted by Revenue Divisional Commissioner and DIG, South Western Range, Koraput before issuing the order. The Commission received the enquiry report from RDC and DIG, South Western Range June 20 and November 3 in 2016. The OHRC bench also rejected the authorities' claim that the deceased was a Maoist cadre as they failed to present any evidence to corroborate their claims. Both, the DGP and Principal Secretary of the state Home department have been directed to pay the compensation within two months from the receipt of the order. According to sources, Manda, a tribal youth was killed during a joint anti-Maoist operation by the teams of Border Security Force (BSF) and District Voluntary Forces (DVF) in a forest area near Dangamatia village in 2016.

1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

# Mystery shrouds OSWC staff's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** An employee of the Odisha State Warehousing Corporation (OSWC) died here Thursday under mysterious circumstances. The deceased, Prasant Kumar Rath, was a resident of Berhampur. Rath, a driver of the Managing Director of the corporation, was staying at E7/1 at Unit VIII area under Nayapalli police limits here, police said.

Sources claimed there is a conspiracy behind Rath's murder as the scared family has been trying to conceal his death. When asked by this reporter, his wife claimed Rath has gone to Berhampur on official work.

According to sources, three bike-borne miscreants arrived at his residence when Rath was starting his vehicle to take his son to tuition early Tuesday morning. The miscreants suddenly started beating him black and blue without speaking anything to Rath. They also assaulted and stabbed his back with a sharp-edged weapon.

However, the miscreants fled from the spot when some neighbours rushed to his help after hearing Rath's loud screams.

Rath later went to a nearby hospital for treatment and attended office as usual. He also lodged a complaint at the Nayapalli police station alleging murderous attack on him by unknown people.

However, he was rushed to Capital Hospital after he complained of unease

Wednesday evening. He succumbed to his injuries at the hospital at around 6am Thursday. His body was handed over to the family after post-mortem. A case (450/20) was registered by Nayapalli

police under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of IPC which has since been transformed into Section 302 (murder) of the IPC.

Sources in the police said this seems to have been a planned murder as there is no loot angle in it. The miscreants did not take away his mobile phone, vehicle or demand money from him, police said, adding that investigations are on.

**Rath's scared family has been trying to conceal the death with his wife claiming he has gone to Berhampur on official work**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We are not interested in information era. We are already into misinformation era.

# Disparate readings of economy baffle many

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** Moody's, Barclays and Oxford Economic have put out their latest readings of the India economy. However their prognosis appears so dichotomous that they make for a hilarious reading. While Barclays and Moody's have seen signs of green shoots following a few recent policy initiatives by the government, Oxford Economic has painted a much gloomier picture. It said the country's output will be 12 per cent below the pre-pandemic levels through the middle of this decade and things are going to worsen only.

**Moody's Investors Service** Thursday upped India's growth forecast to (-) 10.6 per cent for the current fiscal, from its earlier estimate of (-) 11.5 per cent, saying the latest stimulus prioritises manufacturing and job creation, and shifts focus to longer-term growth.

Moody's said the latest measures aim to increase the competitiveness of India's manufacturing sector and create jobs, while supporting infrastructure investment and is "credit positive" as it presents potential upside to growth forecasts. "We have revised our real, inflation-adjusted GDP forecast for fiscal 2020 (April 2020-March 2021) to a 10.6 per cent con-

traction, from 11.5 per cent drop previously," Moody's said.

On the other hand, British multinational investment bank and financial services company **Barclays** Thursday revised India's GDP forecast for FY22 to 8.5 per cent from 7 per cent earlier as the economy is seeing faster return to normalcy with recovery in both consumption and investment following government's fiscal and monetary stimulus measures.

Barclays said that flattening of Covid-19 curve in the country and the prospect of an effective vaccine early next year alongside high seroprevalence of antibodies across the population support the case for a more durable economic recovery.

Differing from these two projections, **Oxford Economics** says India will be among the worst-hit major economies of the world even after the Covid-19 pandemic disappears. According to the study, the country's output will be 12 per cent below the pre-pandemic levels through the middle of this decade.

The balance sheet stress that had been building before the coronavirus outbreak will probably worsen, Priyanka Kishore, head of economics for South Asia and South-East Asia, wrote in the report. She projects potential growth for India at 4.5% over the next five years, lower than 6.5% before the virus.

# Bihar edu minister resigns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, Nov 19:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's fourth term started with the resignation of a minister three days after he and his 14-member Cabinet took oath. Education minister Mewalal Choudhary had to step down after the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal flagged a three-year-old corruption case against him and questioned why he was inducted in the government.

A criminal case was filed against the JD(U) MLA from Tarapur back in 2017

after allegations that he was involved in irregularities in the appointments to posts of assistant professor and junior scientists as the vice-chancellor of Bhagalpur agriculture university.

He was suspended from the party for a while after jibes from the BJP, which was in the Opposition at the time.

Choudhary had been named an accused in a five-year-old case relating to alleged irregularities in appointment of teachers and technicians at Bihar Agricultural University, Bhagalpur, where he was the Vice Chancellor.

# Assembly Winter Session starts today

GOVERNMENT EYES TO PASS 10 BILLS INCLUDING THE CONTROVERSIAL AGRI MARKET BILL

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** The 40-day Winter Session of state Assembly is all set to begin Friday with strict adherence of Covid-19 norms. Like the Monsoon Session, this session of the Assembly will be conducted following Covid norms including wearing mask, face shield and maintaining social distance. The seating arrangements for the members have been made accordingly.

The session will continue till December 31 and the House proceedings will be for four-and-a-half hours each day. On the first day, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari will present the Supplementary



Budget worth ₹12,700 crore for the 2020-21 fiscal.

Of the total 40 working days, 31 days have been earmarked for official business, while the House will discuss the demand for grants November 26, 27 and 28. The Appropriation Bill on the first supplementary statement of expenditure will be tabled November 29, said Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Bikram Keshari Arukha. The Private Members' Business (Bills and Resolutions) will be tabled on five days - November 25, December 4, 9, 11 and 18. As in the last Monsoon Session, the Assembly will be held even on Sundays, he said.

The session likely to be stormy as the state government plans to pass 10 Bills, including the controversial Odisha Agriculture Produce & Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Bill for which an Ordinance has been already promulgated. Even though the BJD has opposed the farm Bills brought by Centre in both Houses of Parliament, it will bring one such Bill in the Assembly.

The Factories (Odisha Amendment) Bill, the Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition (Odisha Amendment) Bill, the Odisha Maritime Board Bill and the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Amendment Bill are likely to be passed during the session.

Similarly, the government will also table the Odisha Local Fund Audit Amendment Bill, the Odisha Lokayukta Amendment Bill, the Odisha Essential Services Maintenance Amendment Bill, the Societies Registration (Odisha Amendment) Bill and the Odisha Public Libraries Amendment Bill on the floor of Assembly.

# BBC to probe explosive 1995 Princess Diana interview

THE PRINCESS' BROTHER CHARLES SPENCER HAS ALLEGED THAT THE FLAGSHIP "PANORAMA" PROGRAMME REPORTER MARTIN BASHIR, WHO CONDUCTED THE INTERVIEW, SHOWED HIM FAKED DOCUMENTS TO PERSUADE HIS SISTER TO TAKE PART

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



**London, Nov 19:** The BBC announced Wednesday the immediate start of an investigation into how it obtained an explosive 1995 interview with Princess Diana that lifted the lid on her troubled marriage to Prince Charles.

The corporation said it had approved the appointment of former Supreme Court judge John Dyson to lead the probe, which comes after calls from the late princess' brother, Charles Spencer.

Spencer has alleged that the flagship "Panorama" programme reporter

who conducted the interview, Martin Bashir, showed him faked documents to persuade his sister to take part.

In the November 1995 interview, which was watched by a record 22.8 million people, Diana detailed her collapsing marriage to the heir to the throne.

She famously said "there were three people" in her marriage—herself, Charles and his long-time lover Camilla Parker-Bowles—and also revealed she had been unfaithful.

Diana and Charles formally divorced in 1996. She died in a Paris car crash the following year.

New reports have surfaced alleging that Bashir used underhand methods to persuade Diana to talk, including by claim-

ing her own staff members were being paid to spy on her.

"This is an important investigation which I will start straight away," Dyson said in a statement. "I will ensure it is both thorough and fair."

The BBC set out the terms of reference for the probe, focusing principally on the role of Bashir, who was little-known at the time but went on to have a global career.

It will consider "the mocked-up bank statements purporting to show payments to a former employee of Earl Spencer... (and) the purported payments to members of the Royal Household".

It will also look at revelations made by Spencer this month about Bashir to the

Daily Mail, which said the reporter made "lurid claims" about Queen Elizabeth II, Charles and other royals.

Bashir has not responded to the latest claims. The BBC has said he was seriously unwell after contracting the coronavirus.

The BBC has been accused of a cover-up in a previous inquiry when rumours about Bashir's alleged methods first surfaced.

The publicly funded broadcaster said its latest investigation will be published once completed.

"The BBC is determined to get to the truth about these events and that is why we have commissioned an independent investigation," director-general Tim Davie said.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	43599.96	↓ 580.09
NIFTY	12771.70	↓ 166.60
DOLLAR	74.76	↑ ₹0.06
EURO	87.83	↓ ₹0.27
GOLD	₹49,890	↓ ₹435
SILVER	₹61,127	↓ ₹1416

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	33.4°C	34.0°C
TEMP. MIN	21.8°C	20.8°C
Humidity	95%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
		Forecast
		Fog/mist to occur



## SEYMOUR UPSET OVER NOT GETTING TO PLAY 25-YR-OLD

Actress Jane Seymour was saddened when someone played her young version of her character recently. Seymour was upset about her younger version being enacted by another actress in the series *Glow & Darkness*.

## KATIE HOLMES-STARRER TO OPEN IN INDIA NOVEMBER 27

The Katie Holmes-starrer romantic drama *The Secret: Dare To Dream* has been scheduled for an India release November 27. The film directed by Hollywood veteran Andy Tennant tells the story of a hardworking young widow (played by Holmes), who is struggling to raise her three kids.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
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**ARIES**  
Of late you have been very preoccupied with work and social life. It is about time you gave yourself a break to indulge in something for your own benefit. Your health could be a cause of concern.

**TAURUS**  
This is a great day for showcasing your administrative and organizing abilities, says Ganesh. Go all out and put in all you have, at your workplace or in your business. You can be sure of impressing your colleagues and superiors, partners and competitors and gaining their admiration and support.

**GEMINI**  
An occurrence from the past will become a cause of worry for you today. You will also be concerned owing to the deteriorating health of the elders in your family. You will encounter medical expenses. The later half of the day should see your worries abate somewhat, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
The mundane will bring contentment to you today, and you will rather spend the day doing routine stuff. It looks set to be an ordinary day, but then you can always find thrill even in routine activities. Work will keep you on your toes through the day, but then as the day drags ahead, you may feel a tad bored.

**LEO**  
You may experience some tension trying to stay ahead of your busy schedule. You will need to maintain your mental and physical health. Important meetings will conclude successfully, but they may leave you fatigued at the end of the day. Find ways to unwind, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Mundane, everyday routine will get on your nerves today, warns Ganesh. Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill. All said and done, you won't let anything affect your zest for work. You will break new ground to win the hearts of others, feels Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that you will behave unlike your nature and take a more serious attitude towards life. This is unlike you but your seriousness will give you the opportunity to take up further responsibilities that will prove to people that you can be responsible too.

**SCORPIO**  
Blood is thicker than water, and you will experience this in true sense today, says Ganesh. Dedicate this day to your family and friends, enjoy and make merry. Feel as if you are on the top of this world when you set out on a secret date with your beloved.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

**CAPRICORN**  
You have taken your personal relationships for granted but some irregularities in them have caught your attention. Now, you will focus upon them and try to get to the heart of the matter, feels Ganesh. Communication is the key when it comes to solving misunderstandings, and with that you will be able to clear out a number of them.

**AQUARIUS**  
You have done back-breaking work to come this far. Today, you will see your efforts come to fruition. But, you need to be aware about the presence of the green-eyed people around you, especially if you are in some kind of a business, warns Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Today you will be attracted by the heart and not the mind. This is usual for your star sign. Attempt to understand your emotions today. Ganesh says today you might figure out the way to control both your heart and your mind.

## Rakul Preet joins Big B, Ajay in Mayday

**Mumbai:** Actress Rakul Preet Singh will co-star with Amitabh Bachchan and Ajay Devgn in the thriller drama, *Mayday*. The film is directed and produced by Ajay Devgn.

The actress will be seen in the role of a pilot. This is her second film with Ajay after *De De Pyaar De*.

"I have worked with Ajay sir in the past and (I am) extremely thrilled to be working with him yet again as his co-pilot in a film where he is not just my co-star but director too," Rakul said.

"When I decided to be an actor like all the other aspiring actors I had a dream to work with Mr. Bachchan and I am glad that with this film my dream to share screen space with him will come true," she added.

Rakul will begin the shoot of *Mayday* mid-December in Hyderabad.

It is said that Ajay will be seen playing a pilot. Details about Big B's character are being kept under wraps.



## Sunny stuns fans in Little Black Dress

**Mumbai:** Actress Sunny Leone makes a killer style statement in a glittery little black number in her latest social media post.

In the Instagram picture, Sunny matches her LBD with a bright blue jacket. She completes the impact leaving her hair open and casually holding her stilettos in one hand as she walks barefoot. She gives a smile away from the camera for impact.

"Headed to work? Headed to buy groceries?? Or just going for a stroll?? Hmmm...." she teased in the caption.

Sunny was

in Los Angeles with her family for six months this year following the onset of the pandemic. At that time, she said she felt they would be safer in America than in India during the pandemic.

She returned to Mumbai recently and has resumed work, though she hasn't yet disclosed anything about the project she is shooting for.



## Akshay Kumar files ₹500 crore defamation suit against YouTuber

**Mumbai:** Khiladi actor Akshay Kumar has filed a defamation suit of crores against a YouTuber who brought up his name while spreading fake news.

Akshay has served a Rs 500-crore defamation suit against Rashid Siddiqui, a civil engineer from Bihar, who brought up his name in the Sushant Singh Rajput case.

He named Akshay on several occasions in his videos and levelled various allegations. In one instance,

Siddiqui claimed that Akshay was unhappy with Sushant getting big films like *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story*, and alleged that the actor had 'secret meetings' with Aditya Thackeray and the Mumbai Police.

Siddiqui had also linked Akshay with late actor Sushant's girlfriend, actress Rhea Chakraborty, claiming that the actor helped Rhea to escape to Canada. It is believed that Siddiqui earned around Rs 15 lakh in a span of four

months and his subscribers also grew from 2 lakh to over 3 lakh. Siddiqui was earlier arrested for spreading fake news and dragging the name of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son, minister Aditya Thackeray, in the case.



## MISAFF 2020 to host world premiere of Ketu

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** City based filmmaker Amartya Bhattacharyya's new feature film on Covid 19 lockdown *Ketu* is set for the world premiere at the Mosaic International South Asian Film Festival (MISAFF), one of Canada's premiere festivals celebrating South Asian cinemas.

The nine-day event beginning December 4 will be opened with Deepa Mehta's latest film *Funny Boy*. The festival will screen sev-

eral other movies including Deepti Gupta's *Shut Up Sona*, Sarmad Khoosat's *Circus Of Life*, and Kaveh Nabatian's *Without Havana*.

Festival director Arshad Khan said, "*Ketu* is a timely film cognizant of the times of Covid-19 and I am in awe of how quickly Bhattacharyya (Amartya) picks up ideas that are so relevant and resonant."

Expressing joy over the development, Amartya said, "MISAFF is one of those rare film festivals known to champion films that are



Actor-director Amartya Bhattacharyya in *Ketu*

courageous and alternate. My earlier films *Khyanikaa* and *Runanubandha* were also screened at the past editions of the festival. This time I'm absolutely thrilled to get an opportunity to world premiere my new film *Ketu* at MISAFF 2020. I hope the Canadian viewers will welcome a film as relevant and intense as *Ketu*."

'Ketu' is a cosmic shadow, often referred to as an imaginary planet in Hindu astrology, which has a deep impact on human lives. It represents the consequences of all ac-

tions, good and bad. It causes material losses in order to force a more spiritual outlook in a person.

The film is an intense psychedelic portrait of life in isolation, as experienced due to the Covid-19 lockdown. The film shows a character, the filmmaker himself (who shoots himself as 'selfie-cinematography'), locked inside a small room in the city of Bhubaneswar. The film features Amartya himself playing the lead.

The film is shot and edited in isolation by Amartya at Bhubaneswar.

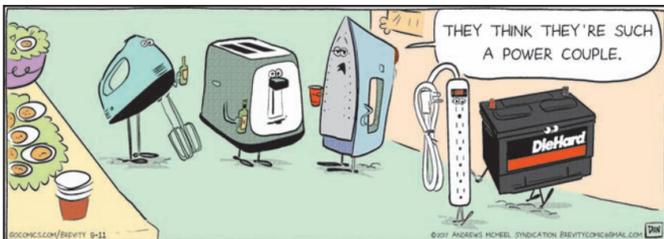
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

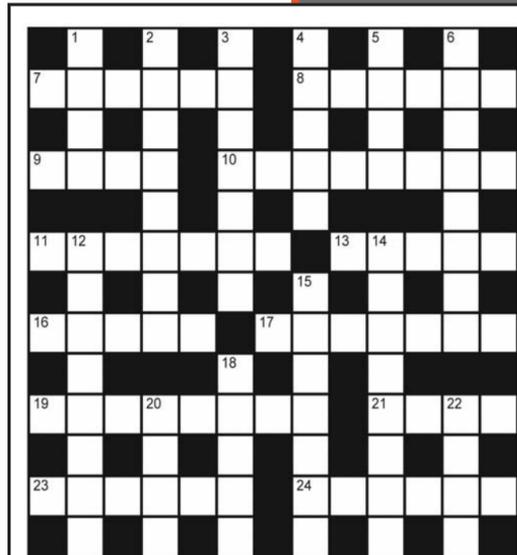


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD

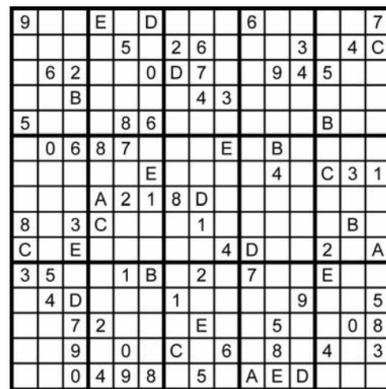


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- Across**
- 7 Coventry's lady on a horse
  - 8 West Indies music
  - 9 Baltic port
  - 10 Short negligée
  - 11 Wine holders
  - 13 Butter maker
  - 16 Suite spot
  - 17 Tickler of the ivories
  - 19 Former Paris fortress
  - 21 Computer image
  - 23 Round hat
  - 24 Andean animals
  - Down**
  - 1 Mongolian desert
  - 2 Be of a different opinion
  - 3 Scamps
  - 4 Baby buggies
  - 5 Matures
  - 6 Wild dabbling ducks
  - 12 Pear-shaped tropical fruits
  - 14 Man of the Alps
  - 15 Lightning bug
  - 18 Emergency signal
  - 20 Knight fight
  - 22 Girasol, e.g.

### SUDOKU

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

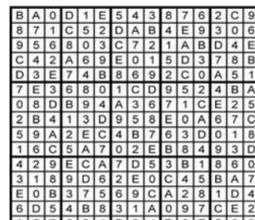


### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU

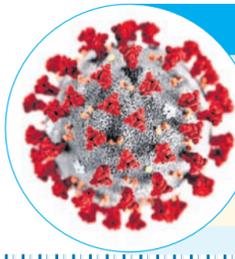


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## HOMAGE TO INDIRA

Congress leaders pay floral tributes to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	5,68,28,218	3,95,48,923	13,59,320
India	89,58,483	83,83,602	1,31,578
Odisha	3,11,788	3,02,796	1,592

# Deaths in custody trigger stir

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri/Kuanrunda, Nov 19:** Tension prevailed in Puri and Sundargarh, Thursday, over the alleged death of two persons in police custody with the BJP demanding ₹1-crore compensation to the family of the deceased.

Relatives of deceased K Ramesh in Puri alleged that the 32-year-old died due to torture in police custody. However, Puri Superintendent of Police (SP) Akhileshwar Singh rejected the allegation and claimed that Ramesh died Wednesday following a scuffle with police.

Singh claimed that Ramesh had earlier been booked in four cases at different police stations in Puri. "Ramesh had snatched away ₹5 lakh from a person under Puri Sadar police limits after resorting to firing. He was booked by Sea Beach police for extortion and by Kumbharpada police for some other crimes. He had been released from Angul jail recently," Singh said.

The SP said the case would be thoroughly probed as per the guidelines laid by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to deal with custodial death allegation.

"A case has been registered with Baselisahi police under Sections 341, 323 and 307 of IPC. The Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC) DSP will probe the incident while the Additional SP will supervise the investigation," said the SP.

Relatives of Ramesh, however, said, "Ramesh died due to torture in police custody. Police have also detained his parents. Police did not hand over the body to us after postmortem. They hurriedly cremated the body at Swargadwar without informing anything to



Relatives of Sundargarh victim stage protests at Biramitrapur police station demanding punitive action against the guilty cops

**A BJP delegation sought ₹1-crore compensation for Puri victim's family and a probe by a sitting judge**

ident Prasanna Kumar Dash. Similarly, advocate Gopalkrushna Panda lodged an FIR against Baselisahi police IIC, Puri lawyers association has also lodged a complaint with the district administration in this regard. Likewise, the death of a 24-year-old man allegedly in the custody of

## BJP likens Odisha to Pakistan

**Bhubaneswar:** The state unit of BJP Thursday launched a scathing attack on the ruling BJD for the two custodial deaths by likening the law and order situation in the state to that of Pakistan.

BJP MLA Jaya Narayan Mishra said, "The police officials who are involved in this should be booked under Section 302 (murder). There are daylight cases of loot in Bhubaneswar. Those going against the government are facing the wrath of the ruling dispensation. There is no difference between Pakistan and Odisha. In Pakistan, army is everything and in Odisha, bureaucrats hold the supreme power. There is no major difference between the two."

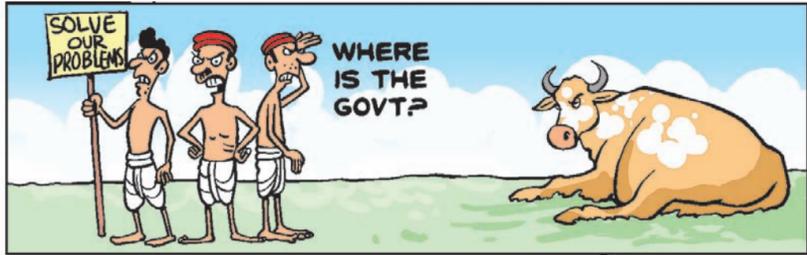
Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Pradipta Naik, demanded stringent action against the policemen involved in the custodial deaths. He said, "Today is a black day for Odisha as two people have been killed in police custody in Puri and Sundargarh districts. I condemn the incidents. The bodies should have been given to the family members of the deceased after the postmortem which was not done. Signatures were taken from their family members through forged papers."

Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and sought the dismissal of Baselisahi police IIC. "A compensation of ₹15 lakh should be provided to the victim's family. The amount must be recovered from Baselisahi IIC's salary. Senior officials of the state government should investigate the incident," said outfit pres-

Biramitrapur police in Sundargarh district triggered protests Thursday. Hundreds of irate locals assembled in front of the police station and attempted to barge into it demanding action against the erring police officials, Thursday.

Security men, however, managed to prevent their entry.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Finance co robbed of over ₹10cr

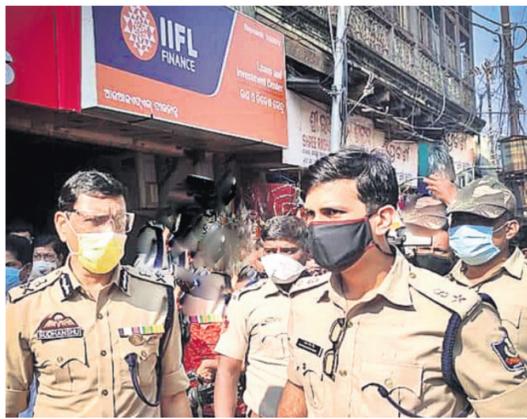
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cuttack, Nov 19:** Four armed robbers decamped with gold and cash worth around ₹10 crore from the office of a finance company in Cuttack Thursday police said.

The robbers held the staff of the India Infoline Finance Limited (IIFL) in a room at gunpoint and decamped with the booty, breaking open the cash and gold lockers, they said. The incident happened in the Lalbagh police station area.

"Four men with their faces covered with masks, entered the office when the shutter was opened for the day's work. Soon, they pulled out guns from their bags and asked the staff to get inside a room as they downed the shutters from inside. Forcibly snatching the locker keys, they decamped with cash bundles and gold bags," said IIFL branch manager Satyabrata Pradhan. The company deals in loans against gold, and the exact value of cash and gold robbed will be ascertained after checking the accounts, he said.

As per initial estimates, gold and



Police Commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi and other officials at the spot

cash worth over ₹10 crore have been robbed, he said. The robbers had come in two motorcycles and they were speaking in Hindi and Odia, he added. Following the daylight heist, the police conducted several raids after sealing both entry and exit points of the city, Cuttack's Deputy

Commissioner of Police Prateek Singh said. Several teams have been formed for conducting raids and search operations, he said.

Forensic teams have also been requisitioned to assist the investigation and a breakthrough is expected soon, the officer said.

## Govt to suspend DLs of helmetless bikers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** The state government has asked police and other Motor Vehicle (MV) law enforcement authorities to suspend driving licences (DLs) of people, who are caught riding motorcycles without helmets.

Following the instruction of Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, Commerce and Transport secretary Madhusudan Padhi has instructed the Director General of Police and Transport Commissioner to impose ₹1,000 fine and suspend DL for three months for violation of helmet law.

"You are requested to take steps for suspension of DL of the offender in case of detection of violation of helmet law and also closely monitor its implementation," Padhi said in his letter.

The DGP and Transport Commissioner were asked to submit a district-wise report on suspension of DL for violation of helmet law during 2019 and during January to October 2020 for appraisal of the Supreme Court Committee.

During 2019, two-wheelers were involved in 4,688 road accidents out of total 11,064 road accidents. As many as 2,398 riders or pillion riders died against the total deaths of 5,333. Out of the 2,398 people died, 2,156 were not wearing helmets at the time of accident. Besides, about 8.5 lakh persons have been detected by police and Odisha Motor Vehicles Department (OMVD) officers violating the helmet law during last year.

# Free cardiac care for Odisha kids at Satya Sai Hospital

Odisha is committed to fulfilling healthcare needs of poor people, says Chief Minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** Poor children from the state can avail free cardiac care at Ahmedabad-based Satya Sai Heart Hospital for another two years.

The state government has signed an MoU with Prasanti Medical Services and Research Foundation for extension of the services for next two years.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Supreme Court judge Vineet Saran, Orissa High Court Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq, ex-chief justice Kalpesh Jhaveri and Health Minister Naba Das were present on the occasion.

The state government had roped in the hospital November 18, 2018 for providing free cardiac treatment to the children of Odisha with heart ailments. As per the agreement, the state government identifies and bears the transportation cost of ailing children.

All the services are provided free of cost. Till now, 1,019 children have undergone cardiac surgery and cured of their heart ailments. The next batch of children with cardiac ailments will be sent for treatment soon after a brief pause due to the Covid situation.

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen said, "My government is committed to make all efforts for fulfilling the healthcare needs of our peo-



## MOU SIGNED

The state government has signed an MoU with Prasanti Medical Services and Research Foundation for extension of the services for next two years

All the services are provided free of cost. Till now, 1,019 children have undergone cardiac surgery and cured of their heart ailments

ple, especially the under-privileged and the under-served, in an equitable, accessible, affordable, transparent and time-bound manner."

One such remarkable step in this direction has been to ensure that the poor people of Odisha get free cardiac treatment and are given a new lease of life, he said.

The state government is renewing the MoU to ensure that the poor of Odisha continue to receive this critical health service, he added.

Supreme Court Judge Justice Vineet Saran described Odisha as his second home. It's his privilege to work anything for the state, he added. It may be mentioned here, it was Justice Vineet Saran who introduced the PMSRF to Odisha.

High Court Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq appreciated the selfless, charitable commitment of the state government and the Satya Sai Heart Hospital. He said that there is no higher religion than service to humanity. Justice KS Jhaveri said that Odisha is very close to his heart and wished health and wealth for the people of the state.

All pre and post-operative care of patients at the hospital, including medicines, stents, coils, etc are borne by the Foundation. The transport assistance is provided by the state government to the patients along with escorts referred to PMSRF, as per their eligibility under different schemes implemented in the state.

# 2 ILS researchers make Odisha proud

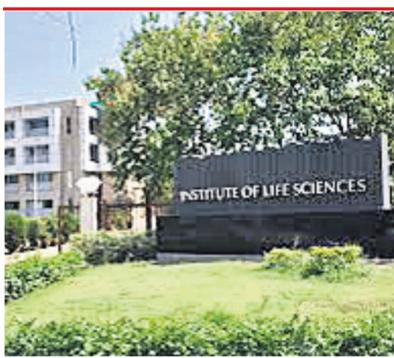
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** In what could be termed as a global recognition to Odisha's scientists and scientific research, Sanjeev K Sahoo and Amaresh C Panda, working with Institute of Life Sciences here, have been listed among the top 2 per cent international scientists with repute.

This global list has recently been released by Stanford University and listed the most-cited scientists across various disciplines involving 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-fields.

The list includes nearly 1,500 scientists, doctors and engineers in India. The list is based on number of citations, H-Index, co-authorship and number of publications.

Sahoo is a senior scientist at ILS since 2005. He is a well-known expert



THIS GLOBAL LIST WAS RELEASED BY STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND LISTED THE MOST-CITED SCIENTISTS ACROSS VARIOUS DISCIPLINES INVOLVING 22 SCIENTIFIC FIELDS AND 176 SUB-FIELDS

THE LIST INCLUDES NEARLY 1,500 SCIENTISTS, DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS IN INDIA

in the field of Nanotechnology-based drug delivery system in the field of cancer. He has more than 100 peer re-

viewed research papers and 2 US, 2 EU and 3 Indian Patents on Nanotechnology-based targeted drug

delivery. One of the patented technologies developed by Sahoo has been transferred to a pharmaceutical company for commercialisation.

Similarly, Panda joined ILS in 2017 after successful post-doctoral work in USA. His research group is involved in molecular biology research for understanding the RNA-mediated gene regulation, particularly governing beta cell physiology in diabetes and role of circular RNA in muscle differentiation. He has more than 45 publications in international journals.

Director of ILS Ajay Parida said, "It is extremely gratifying to see two scientists of ILS being recognised globally, and hoped this will encourage them as well as other scientists of ILS to contribute more effectively in the coming days."

There are people in your life that you just cannot live without, they are the ones that are constant the ones that you believe will be there with you forever.

## OBITUARY



With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father on the 12th of November 2020.

**S. Harbir Singh Arora**  
May 15, 1945 - Nov. 12, 2020

### In Grief

**Wife:** Jasjit Arora  
**Son:** Sahilbir Singh  
**Daughter:** Sheetal Arora  
**Daughter & Son In Law:** Shivani Arora Gaur & Vishal Gaur  
**Grand Children:** Yohan, Rishabh, Tiah & Nivaan

**Brother & Sister In Laws & Family:** Tejpal Singh & Sunita Arora, Rupdaman Singh & Amrita Arora  
**Sisters & Brother In Laws & Family:** Harjit Khanduja & Lt. Harbans Khanduja, Ranjeet Arora & Harvinder Arora  
**Contact:** 9938679129

## ASST HORTICULTURE OFFICER ARRESTED FOR TAKING BRIBE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Nov 19:** Vigilance sleuths of Bhubaneswar division arrested Nimapara assistant horticulture officer (AHO) Ramakanta Parida on charges of demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 Wednesday evening.

According to the Vigilance sources, the officer demanded bribe from Jharana Samantray of village Bakugram under Balanga police limits in Puri district for furnishing a field verification report.

However, the woman was to get a subsidy under the Mission for Integrated Development for Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.

Acting on a complaint lodged by Samantray in this regard, the anti-corruption agency laid a trap. The officer was caught red-handed by the Vigilance team while accepting a bribe at his office room.

Notably, a residential house of Parida at Mukundaprasad area in Khurda district was searched by the officials. A case in this connection under Section 7PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 was registered and a detailed probe is underway, an official of the team said.

## State's Covid-19 toll nears 1,600

Odisha registers 868 fresh coronavirus cases, 17 fatalities in 24 hours

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** State's Covid-19 tally rose to 3,11,788 as 868 more people tested positive for the infection, while 17 more patients succumbed to the infection in the last 24 hours, pushing Odisha's coronavirus death toll to 1,592, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said Thursday.

As many as 499 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 369 infections were detected during contact tracing exercise, the official said.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of fresh cases at 126, followed by Sundargarh at 87 and Cuttack at 64, said the official.

Four fresh fatalities were reported in Sundargarh, three in Sambalpur, two in Khurda and one each in Bhadrak, Cuttack, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kendrapara, Nayagarh, Rayagada and Subarnapur districts, the official pointed out.

Khurda has so far reported the highest number of Covid-19 fatalities at 272, followed by Ganjam (234), Cuttack (126) and Sundargarh (110), said the H&FW department official.

As many as 53 coronavirus patients have died in Odisha due to co-



A policeman donates plasma at Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

### VITAL STATS

**K**hurda reported the highest number of fresh cases at 126, followed by Sundargarh at 87 and Cuttack at 64

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**K**hurda has so far reported the highest number of Covid-19 fatalities at 272, followed by Ganjam (234), Cuttack (126) and Sundargarh (110)

**T**he state has so far tested over 54.24 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 48,368 Wednesday

**ODISHA'S POSITIVITY RATE STANDS AT 5.75 PER CENT**

morbidity so far, the official said. Odisha has so far tested over 54.24 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 48,368 Wednesday, the official said, adding that Odisha's positivity rate stands at 5.75 per cent.

## Congress slams govt over temples' closure

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** The state leadership of the Congress party Thursday attacked the state government over their reluctance to open temples in the state despite demands and pressure from political parties.

The party accused the government of showing a soft heart towards liquor traders and at the same time depriving the priests of their traditional business by shutting down temple affairs.

Congress leader Taraprasad Bahinipati said, "The State government is okay with opening of liquor shops in the state. It was started soon. But they are adamant on opening of temples in the state. Lakhs of priests died of hunger in the state due to the imposed ban on temples by the government."

He also added, "The poor priests are struggling for survival and facing hard times due to lack of money. The state government as well as the central government is responsible for the same."

The leader also attacked the government on the issue of Andhra's intrusion into the Odisha land. "Andhra government is supporting the NDA government at Centre. He is in contact with the Prime



**The State government is okay with opening of liquor shops in the state. It was started soon. But they are adamant on opening of temples in the state. Lakhs of priests died of hunger in the state due to the imposed ban on temples by the government**

TARAPRASAD BAHINIPATI  
CONGRESS LEADER

Minister. The state government is still sleeping," he said.

"I am delighted to know that Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan wrote a letter into this regard. However, he should also convince the Modi government over the intrusion of the Andhra government into Odisha. What role the PM and the CM has in the issue, the people will decide," he said.

## Edu activists oppose closure of schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** After parents' objection to the government's move to close down more than 14,000 schools, education rights activists and CSO members have also slammed the move saying that this will lead to increased dropout rate among children.

Recently, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Dash said that the move will foster quality education. The minister has further said that it is unfair to teach 18 to 20 children in a classroom.

Naba Kishor Pujari, an education rights activist, said, "Is there any proof that closing down schools will ensure quality education. Rather, it will create disparity and inequality among children in completing at least elementary education. This is a conspiracy prevailing in the government to demolish public education system and fuel mushrooming of private schools."

The government must implement the Right to Education Act effectively, instead of closing down its schools. Public education cannot be sustained by private players. Rather it will push millions of children at the periphery of education.

## DECOMPOSED BODY FOUND IN CHOUDWAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Choudwar, Nov 19:** Police Thursday recovered the decomposed body of a man, aged about 50, wrapped in a polythene sheet.

The body was recovered from Tangi-Kapilas roadside near Badakusunupur village under Karanji panchayat in Choudwar police limits of Cuttack district.

The body is yet to be identified, police said, adding that he might have been murdered somewhere else and that the body was dumped near Badakusunupur village.

According to a source, local people travelling on Tangi-Kapilas road Thursday morning found the polythene packet after trying to identify the source of a foul smell. They immediately informed Choudwar police about the incident. Later, police IIC Biranchi Narayan Pati along with a team reached the spot.

As the packet was unwrapped, the police found a decomposed body with hands and legs tied inside it. The police's preliminary investigation suggested that after murdering him somewhere else, the miscreants had dumped the fully wrapped up body by the roadside.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit sworn on 11.11.2020 before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my Son's name from Prarabdh Pranab Prasharaj to Devyam Praharaj. Henceforth, my son shall be known, called and identified as Devyam Praharaj instead of Prarabdh Pranab Praharaj for all purposes. Sd./- Pranab Praharaj

I, Swopna Rani Chahataray, spouse of Bikram Kumar Baliyarsingh, resident At: Dochhian, P.O.- Adala, Via: Nirakarpur, P.S.- Gadisagoda, Dist.- Puri, PIN - 752019 have changed my name from Swopna Rani Chahataray to Swapna Rani Baliyarsingh vide affidavit dated 13 Nov. 2020 before Executive Magistrate, Jatni.

## IN MEMORIAM



Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, along with other delegates, at the inauguration of a statue of noted Odia singer Mohammad Sikandar Alam near Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

## Oppn ready to corner govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** Opposition BJP and Congress have lined up many issues including Covid mismanagement and border dispute to attack the government during the winter session of Assembly starts Friday. The ruling party too prepared to counter the Opposition.

The Legislature party meeting of BJD, BJP and Congress held Thursday to chalk out strategy for the session.

Leader of Opposition Pradipta Naik said his party will raise issues including Covid mismanagement, irregularities in paddy procure-



ment, Bagala Dharmashala land row, border dispute, law & order situation in the state and Ekamrakanan land transfer row among others.

"The law and order situation is deteriorating day by day. In fact, there have been two custodial deaths

reported today. The chief minister should step down," Naik said.

Similarly, the Congress has planned to target both BJD and BJP over various issues including the scam in procurement of masks and farm Bill, said Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati.

The ruling BJD is also all set to reply to the Opposition on the floor of the House. "We are always open to all constructive suggestions and criticisms of the Opposition members. Any suggestion for the betterment and development of Odisha and its people will be taken care of," said Parliamentary Affairs Minister BK Arukha.

## Man orders food online, loses ₹50K

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** Ordering food online proved 'costly' to a 60-year-old man in the Capital city here as he lost Rs 50,000 to cyber-criminals, a police official said Thursday.

According to sources, the victim—Narasingha Prasad Patro—a resident of Maitri Vihar under Chandrasekharpur police limits here, recently came across an advertisement on a social media promising three meals from a renowned restaurant at the cost of one.

"Lured by the offer, the victim dialed the number as displayed on the advertisement. The fraudster, who received Patro's call, did send him a payment link, asking the victim to pay Rs 10 through the link and get himself registered before placing the order. Unaware of the lurking threat, Patro landed into the trap by clicking the link and subsequently sharing his debit card details on the webpage. What followed was a series of withdrawal messages on Patro's cell-phone amounting to Rs 50,000," said a Chandrasekharpur police official quoting Patro's complaint.

## Epilepsy Day observed

**Bhubaneswar:** The national EPILEPSY day was celebrated online jointly by Rotary Club of Cuttack Cantonment and E-Club of RI District 3262. District Governor Elect Santanu Pani of Rotary International District 3262 and former Nalco CMD TK Chand inspired the Rotarians to reach out to the needy with Epilepsy.

## Strengthening sanitation value chain

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** World Toilet Day was observed Thursday by Center for Advocacy and Research in association with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Water for Women fund and Australian Aid to increase public awareness on access to equitable, safe and inclusive sanitation for all marginal communities.

The aim of this event is to strengthen the sanitation value chain and make a call for action for ensuring sanitation as a right for all marginal groups living in urban slums though a partnership between Municipal Corporation and Community Forums Communities.

World Toilet Day is aimed at holding governments and those managing the sanitation system accountable for acts of commission and omission. We are once again reminded of the huge gap be-

## WORLD TOILET DAY

tween intent and reality. At a time when every part of the world and country is in the grips of an ever growing pandemic and with 4.2 billion people across the world living without access to safely managed sanitation, the day has been marked by a sense of urgency and collective resolve to address the sanitation crisis

Speaking about this, Chandrama Behera, a member of Community Management Committee (CMC), said, "We do not have male earning member in the family and it becomes very difficult to afford desludging and moreover being an elderly person, I find it difficult to get it done and therefore on behalf of entire community, I urge the authorities to ensure safe sanitation for us."

## Odisha's literary group unveils 'Travels & Novels'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 19:** For the first time in 20 years, the Prime Minister of India and Luxembourg had a standalone summit meeting Thursday. They will discuss the entire spectrum of bilateral relationship including strengthening of India-Luxembourg cooperation.

What is interesting is that on the side lines of this significant event happening virtually, the Ministry of External Affairs has reached out to Odisha based BAKUL FOUNDATION to curate an interactive session with a prominent author from Luxembourg for Indians to get cultural exposure to this small but culturally rich country.

Since August 1, Bakul Foundation has been conducting "Storytime @ 9" every Saturday, in which the best professional storytellers from each country tell stories from their

country and also introduce their country and its culture in the LIVE session.

The Ministry of External Affairs found it a very valuable programme and reached out to Bakul Foundation to partner and organize sessions around the Summits such as the one with Luxembourg that the government has been organising.

Bakul Foundation then decided to curate a programme, independent of "Storytime @ 9", which happens LIVE at 9 PM every Saturday. This new web Series from Bakul Foundation is called "TRAVELS AND NOVELS" in which eminent authors from different countries will take us to their country virtually by talking about their culture expresses itself in their writing and by giving writerly insights into their country and its culture.

It will be a cross between a "Meet the Author" and "Meet a Culture".

**Since August 1, Bakul Foundation has been conducting "Storytime @ 9" every Saturday, in which the best professional storytellers from each country include in storytelling**

Unlike Storytime @ 9, which targets young children, this targets young adults and adults.

The first session in this series is an interaction with 24-year-old eminent poet, playwright and novelist, Anna Leader from Luxembourg Thursday on the Bakul Foundation social media handles on Facebook, Youtube and Twitter. This session is being promoted

by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) of the Ministry of External Affairs and by the Ambassador and Embassy of India in Belgium and of Luxembourg in India.

Anna Leader will be in conversation with Shubha Sarma, author and currently Secretary, Dept of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts in the Govt of Odisha. Anna Leader has been awarded the Stephen Spender Prize for Poetry in Translation (2013 and 2015, under-18 category) and the 2019 Harvill Secker Young Translators' Prize by Penguin Random House.

While still in school, she wrote her historical novel "A Several World". Having studied Comparative Literature from Princeton University, she is now pursuing a career in Education like her father, who was a school teacher and a writer.

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

# Raisuan airstrip renovation grounded

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Raisuan, Nov 19:** Mineral rich Keonjhar district generates hundreds of crores of rupees as revenue from its mining sector, but renovation of its only airstrip at Raisuan has been left halfway when work on the airports at Rourkela, Jeyapore and Kalahandi is heading towards completion, reports said.

Various quarters in Keonjhar have decried the step-motherly neglect of the Centre to the airstrip as the project holds much importance to mineral-rich Keonjhar in terms of air connectivity necessary for quick travel of mineral traders, bosses and miners.

The Centre has been developing small aerodromes and airports across the country under Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrak (UDAAN) scheme.

It may be mentioned here that Raisuan airstrip is said to be one of the oldest in the country. Alleged neglect to it has wounded sentiments of the people. Reports said Jharsuguda airport has been operational while development of other airports at Rourkela, Jeyapore and Kalahandi is in progress; their work is expected to be completed within the deadline. Raisuan airstrip is only 7 km from Keonjhar town. The district is rich in terms of mineral reserves and



Various quarters in Keonjhar have decried the step-motherly neglect of the Centre to the airstrip as the project holds much importance to mineral-rich Keonjhar in terms of air connectivity necessary for quick travel of mineral traders, bosses and miners

In 2011-12, ₹1 crore was spent for raising a boundary wall. Besides, a runway with 920ft long and 30 metre wide was blacktopped. Thereafter, there has been no progress on its renovation, locals alleged

industries. According to mining and industrial experts, both the state and central governments have been earning thousands of crores of rupees from mining and industrial sectors, but they have forgotten to pay due attention to the development of the airstrip, which can boost communication to economic pockets, they lamented.

In view of the need for air connectivity for the mineral rich district, the state government had sent a proposal to the Centre to develop the airstrip January 21, 2016. The public works department

had conducted a survey and proposed to the state government for acquisition of 22 acres. A plan was drawn up to develop it into a low cost airport. Then a high level delegation of the Airport Authority of India (AAI) had visited the project area. In 2011-12, ₹1 crore was spent for raising a boundary wall. Besides, a runway with 920ft long and 30 metre wide was blacktopped. Thereafter, there has been no progress on its renovation, locals alleged.

It may recalled that prominent leaders like Indira Gandhi, Rajiv

Gandhi, Biju Patnaik and mining barons have landed and taken off from the airstrip.

Although the airstrip has seen many take-offs and landings, there have been no records for it.

From May 2010 till date, the airstrip has seen landing of over 400 planes, it was learnt.

People from various quarters have demanded quick steps by the state and central governments to make the airstrip full-fledged and operational in the larger interest of the mining and the industrial sector in the district.

# Andhra chokes Mahendratanya's water flow to Odisha



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, Nov 19:** Apart from setting its covetous sight on the state's fringe areas like Kotia panchayat of Koraput, Andhra Pradesh has allegedly been making efforts to make full use of the water of Mahendratanya river flowing through Gajapati district.

Reports said, by damming up the river at upper reaches, AP has almost choked the water flow to Odisha side, leaving farmers in Gajapati district high and dry.

The reports said, the minor irrigation department had built a dam near Amara and Dalimbapur under Gosani block in this district.

The dam has been able to irrigate over 600 acres of farmland in the area. At this place, the river has silted up and been choked with weeds. This is because this part of the river continues to see thin flow of water from the upper end.

The Andhra government has built a barrage at Nasundhara on the upper reaches of the river. The neighbouring state has been carrying out renovation of

the barrage. It has raised the height of the barrage by a metre. As a result, the water flow as was expected in usual cases has drastically come down in the downstream region.

"Water is not coming in right amounts from the upper end. For lack of water, the riverbed is choked with weeds. Farmlands in Amara and Dalimbapur are deprived of water from the dam made by the minor irrigation department," farmers alleged.

They also alleged that though they had apprised the minor irrigation department in Gosani block, no step has been taken in this regard.

In the past also, farmers of the two villages had taken up the issue with the minor irrigation department, the latter is not redressing the issue, they lamented. When contacted, Pradip Kumar Rout, executive engineer of the minor irrigation department admitted that the raising of the barrage height by Andhra government will affect the farmers in this part and the issue will be redressed soon. The matter will be thoroughly investigated, he assured.

# Spanish couple adopts 2-year old dumped on street

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, Nov 19:** A two-year-old boy abandoned by his parents on a street of Koraput district, has been adopted by a couple from Spain.

The couple has fulfilled all the procedure with the local administration before adopting the boy named Aditya.

A senior official of the Integrated Development Society (IDS), Koraput which took care of Aditya, expressed happiness that the boy finally got a family and hoped his fortunes will now change for good.

Sources said, Aditya was just four days old when the police rescued him from a street of the district where his parents left him two years back. The district administration had given the responsibility of the child to a child care centre located at Dasmantpur in Koraput.

However, six months back a Spanish couple wanted to adopt a baby from India after being childless for last 14 years. For this they applied at the online website of IDS. Finally they selected Aditya as their son.

Aditya was formally adopted by the Spanish couple Tuesday after completion of all formalities, Koraput Sub-Collector Lalit Kumar Kahanr, said. The couple with the baby went back to Spain Wednesday. All the members of the child care centre where Aditya was staying had given a tearful farewell to him.

## LOST & FOUND

Notice for loss of Documents. Notice is hereby given on my behalf of my Client LIC HFL, IPICOL, House at Bhubaneswar for advocating construction loan to Sri Jayakrishna Sahoo on his property at Nayagarh, Plot No. 296/3625, Area: 4 Decimals. But it was found that, he has lost the original link Sale Deed bearing No. 3707/01-11-1997 executed between Kapila Charan Pattanayak, Khandapada and Dayanidhi Mohapatra Panchumu while going from Nayagarh Old town to B.E.O Office, Nayagarh, missed at Lekhanpur Road.

Therefore, Notice is hereby given to General Public that if anybody has got any right, title interest over the property on the missing document or on the above property they have to claim before the LIC HFL within 15 days from the date of Publication. And after that the documents will loose its Legal force and LIC HFL will not be responsible for any claim. What-so-ever on the property after 15 days. Address for Communication: Branch IPICOL House, Bhubaneswar N.C. Pattanai, Advocate 985331189 Area Manager, LIC HFL, Cuttack (A.O.)

# Kuchinda Union Bank loot: 9 held, ₹10L recovered

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Nov 19:** In a major crackdown Thursday, police arrested nine persons including a minor in connection with the loot of over ₹35 lakh from the staff of the Union Bank at Kuchinda in Sambalpur district November 9.

This information was given by SP Kanwar Vishal Singh here. Kuchinda police have recovered over ₹10 lakh from those arrested. Eleven persons were involved in the heist and two are still absconding, Singh added.

Those arrested were identified as Gobinda Kisan (24), Dillip Bag (22), Biswanath Kisan (35), Amresh Kisan (25), Sumanta Lakra (26), Chitrasen Lakra (22), Rohita Naik (34), Umesh Sahu (32). Police however, did not disclose the name of the juvenile.

Some staff of Laimura branch were on their way back from the main branch of Union Bank in this city carrying ₹35,41,000 in a private vehicle when they were looted. Further investigation into the incident is on.

# Wanton sand mining in Baitarani raises concern



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Hatadihi, Nov 19:** The riverbed of Baitarani under Hatadihi block in Keonjhar has been a hunting ground of sand mafia. Even as the mafia keeps on transporting truck-loads of sand, the government loses revenues worth crores of rupees, a report said.

The report said, the lease term of Dimiria and Habaleswar sand ghats has expired earlier this year.

However, the mafia has been carrying out extraction of sand at non-lease ghats of the river. They have created a road on which scores of heavy vehicles carry sand, locals alleged.

JCB machines have been engaged to dig out sand. Locals feared that the way sand was being excavated at the place will lead to erosion of river banks. The river may change its course, posing danger to over 30 riverside villages, local

residents said, accusing the revenue department of adopting an ostrich like attitude.

There are nine flood-prone panchayats under this tehsil. Rampant sand mining may worsen their condition in future.

Additional tehsildar Rashmiranjan Das said he was not aware of the places where illegal sand mining and transportation are taking place. "If information is given, raids will be conducted," he added.

# 2 motorcyclists fall off bridge, die

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Nov 19:** Two persons were killed after the motorcycle they were riding on fell off a bridge at Dimirikuda village under Rairakhol police limits in Sambalpur district late Wednesday night. The bodies were spotted floating in water Thursday morning.

The deceased were identified as Abhijit Panigrahi and Ramachandra Pradhan of Dimirikuda village. Sources said Abhijit and Ramachandra were on their way home from somewhere Wednesday night. As they were nearing the bridge, the rider lost his control, resulting in the motorcycle ram-

ming into the parapet of the bridge. Both the rider and pillion rider along with the motorcycle fell off the bridge.

Some local residents first spotted the bodies floating in water Thursday morning. Later, the family members identified the bodies. Police recovered the bodies for post mortem and registered a case.

# Two killed in jumbo attacks in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Nov 19:** In two separate incidents that occurred in the wee hours of Thursday, two persons were killed after they were attacked by elephants at two places under Lathikata block in Sundargarh district. According to police, the deceased were identified as Ganduru Oram of Malanga village and Kartika Bhumij of Kanarsuan village.

Ganduru was working in a garden near his house when a tusker came out of nowhere and trampled him to death. The victim did not have a chance even to react and run away. In the second incident, Kartika (65) was attacked by the pachyderm when he was answering to nature's call at a field near his house. The elephant lifted him and threw him to the ground leading to his instant death.

Local people in the area were panicked after the incident and spent sleepless night for the last several days. Affected people demanded immediate step to crive away the animals.

# Ex-sarpanch hacked to death in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Nov 19:** A former sarpanch was hacked to death at Auto Nagar under Kisini panchayat in Ganjam district Thursday. Past enmity is said to be the reason behind the attack.

The deceased was identified as

Loknath Dalei, former sarpanch of Kisini panchayat.

According to sources, five to six people arrived at Dalei's house on motorcycles at about 11.30 am. Finding him standing outside his house, they threw chilli powder into his eyes and then started attacking him with sharp weapons in-

cluding swords. Hearing his cries for help, locals came to his rescue. Seeing people coming towards them, the miscreants left the place on their motorcycles.

Locals found Dalei dead. Later, police recovered the body for post-mortem and started an investigation into the alleged murder.

# Arrival of migratory birds to Chilika lake delayed



the business in the area as the number of tourists is expected to come down.

The birds visiting the lake come from as far as Mongolia, Siberia, Kazakhstan, Himalaya, Caspian Sea and Australia. They travel thousands of miles to reach the lake.

Birds usually start arriving at Chilika in November as it is comparatively more hospitable habitat compared to the extreme freezing conditions in Siberia, China, Japan and other countries in the northern hemisphere.

The birds often frequent open wetlands like Chilika lake due to easy availability of fish, prawns, frogs, snakes and mollusks and paddy grown on farmlands.

The Nalabana island or Nalabana bird sanctuary in Chilika is the most favoured destination of the birds as winter sets in the state from November.

The forest department has initiated several measures to ensure the safety of birds and is conducting awareness camps to prevent poaching of birds, Balugaon and Nuapada range officer Pramod Kumar Panda said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Krushnaprasad, Nov 19:** Even as it is a fortnight since winter has set in here, few birds have arrived in Chilika and its adjoining areas in Puri district, a report said.

The Chilika lake is the largest brackish water lake in Asia which comes alive in winter with a cacophony of the migratory birds. The whole area of the lake and its adjoining areas of Krushnaprasad turn into a paradise as the migratory birds arrive in large numbers.

The arrival of the birds draws tourists to the place. However, this year the number has dropped due to a change in climatic condi-

tions. Observers claimed that the low-pressure triggered heavy rainfall in the month of October is the reason behind the delay in arrival of birds.

While fewer birds are seen hovering over the lake, very few were seen in Parikuda, Gurubai, Nuapada, Sipia, Anlakuda, Tichhini, Panchakudi, Banamal, Chateikona, Solakudi, Panda, Chikhili, Chittrakota, Khataikudi, the areas near the coast of Chilika lake.

Moreover, areas under this block are experiencing a near drought condition due to germination blight affecting the paddy crops further delaying the arrival of birds, the observers claimed. This has also hit

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
Tel. No.0675222092, e-mail id-eeerwpuri@gmail.com  
No:- 7373 (Online- 06) Date 13.11.2020

No.O-567:- The Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate tenders through e-procurement for 7 Nos. of work for the year 2020-21 in the district of Puri. 1.Total No. of works: 7 Nos. 2. Tender cost of packages: Amount varies from Rs.4.42 lakhs to 25.66 lakhs. 3.Class of contractor: As per DTCN. 4.Period of completion: 1 (One) calendar month. 5. Period of availability of tenders on-line/ Date & time of bidding on-line/ last date of seeking clarification/ Date of opening of tender papers.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date, time & venue of opening of tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri	Online- 06	24.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M.	08.12.2020 upto 3.00 P.M.	07.12.2020 upto 1.00 P.M.	08.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M. Office of the E.E., R.W. Division, Puri

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".  
Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Puri  
OIPR-25065/11/0006/2021

**SUNDARAM HOME** | Regd Office: No. 21, Patullas Road, Chennai - 600 002. Corporate Office: 46, Whites Road, Chennai - 600 014. Branch Office: A/108, 1st Floor, Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007. Phone: 0674 - 254 4677

**DEMAND NOTICE**  
(Under Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

The under mentioned parties are hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against each of you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, that the notices under Section 13(2) of the Act sent to each of you separately by Regd. Post. Act. Due have been returned unserved. Hence both of you are hereby called upon to take notice to pay jointly and severally the outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Company will proceed against the below mentioned properties to realize its dues with interests and costs as contemplated under the Act. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Company.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower, Co-Borrower and Guarantor	Amount (Outstanding Rs.) File No.	Description of Immovable Property
1	Mr. Jamil S K (Borrower) Mrs. Raya Bibi (Co-Borrower) At- Narsing Pur, PP- Bhabanipur, Pipili, Puri - 752104.	File No. 66200138, Rs.8,31,053/- (+ Interest @ 24% p.a. From 31.08.2020) + Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal Expenses + Incidental Charges.	All that piece and parcel of the property admeasuring Ac.0.04 dec i.e. Ac.0.040 dec out of Ac.0.16 dec i.e. Ac.0.160dec under Khata No.128, Plot No.544, Kisan: Gharbari (Homestead). Situated at Mouza/Village Bhsbanipur, underTahasil: Pipili, P.S.Pipili, P.S.No-86, District Puri in the State of Odisha bounded as under: Bounded on the North By: Rev.Plot No. 543, South By: Rev.Plot No.544 (Part), East By: Rev Plot No-570, West By: Sub.Plot No-3 & Road

for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., Authorised officer.

**SUNDARAM HOME**  
Regd Office: No. 21, Patullas Road, Chennai-600 002. Corporate Office: 46, Whites Road, Chennai-600 014. Branch Office: A/108, 1st Floor, Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007. Phone: 0674 - 254 4677

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**Rule 8(2) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**  
Whereas the authorized officer of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD Erstwhile SUNDARAM BNP PARIBAS HOME FINANCE LTD., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) dated 01-09-2017 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Jamil S K, Co-Borrower, Mrs. Raya Bibi to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 7,39,946/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six Only) being the amount due and payable under the Loan Account number BBR20160012 and with Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal expenses + Incidental charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

The Borrower, Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Co-Borrower and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this 16-11-2020.

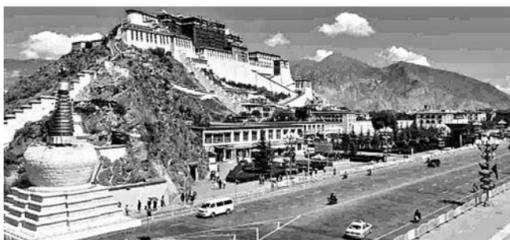
The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrower, Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., for an amount Rs. 7,32,034/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Thirty Four Only) as of 16-11-2020 and interest thereon @ 24% p. a. + Statutory Expenditure + Legal expenses + Incidental charges.

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY**  
All that piece and parcel of the property admeasuring Ac.0.04 dec i.e. Ac.0.040 dec out of Ac.0.16 dec i.e. Ac.0.160 dec under Khata No.128, Plot No.544, Kisan: Gharbari (Homestead). Situated at Mouza/Village Bhsbanipur, under Tahasil: Pipili, P.S.Pipili, P.S.No-86, District Puri in the State of Odisha bounded as under: Bounded on the North By: Rev. Plot No.543, South By: Rev. Plot No.544 (Part), East By: Rev Plot No-570, West By: Sub. Plot No-3 & Road.  
Date: 16-11-2020 for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., AUTHORISED OFFICER

FOCUS ASIA

# SAVING TIBET FROM CCP



**Xi Jinping, leader-for-life of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), has recently directed his party members to “form an impregnable fortress in maintaining stability” by strengthening the role of the CCP in Tibet**

ceives limited support from the Tibetan Buddhist community. This problem is exacerbated by CCP's insistence that the next Dalai Lama must be 'approved' by the party. Simply put, Xi Jinping will decide who will be the 'living god' for Tibetan Buddhists!

Moreover, the recent call to reinforce 'Socialism and Chinese considerations' in Tibet implies that the re-education camps of Xinjiang, where millions of Uighurs have been 'indoctrinated' are likely to be replicated in Tibet. This would have drastic implications for the entire Tibetan Buddhist Community, who are already facing an uncertain and vulnerable future.

It is therefore imperative that the global community recognises the threat being posed by the CCP's nefarious designs in Tibet. A unified global call to counter CCP is vital for the survival of the Tibetan Buddhist Community as well as the continued growth and security of developing economies across Asia. The global response would require three actions by the CCP as a demonstration of good faith and intentions – meaningful demilitarisation of Tibet to safeguard the local community, comprehensive water-sharing and management arrangements with all lower riparian nations and independent international oversight of infrastructure building activity in Tibet to prevent environmental and economic disasters in Asia.

Xi Jinping and the CCP leadership are at crossroads, where the false narrative of 'peaceful rise of China' narrative has finally been discarded. With growing global discontent against CCP, a coordinated global response to save Tibet would demonstrate that the comity of nations can indeed enforce a 'rules-based global order'. In the long run, such action would also ensure that 'Asia's Century' delivers on its immense potential, bringing further prosperity across the globe.

*The author is a columnist and researcher. The views expressed are personal.*

IANS

Xi Jinping, leader-for-life of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), has recently directed his party members to “form an impregnable fortress in maintaining stability” by strengthening the role of the CCP in Tibet. He also stated that “absolute loyalty (to CCP) was necessary to counter major battles (in Tibet) and prevent major risks”. In the same vein, he also remarked that “Tibetan Buddhism had to adapt to socialism and Chinese conditions”.

This message to the party's higher leadership during the ongoing border tensions with India along the Line of Actual Control indicates that the CCP is likely to intensify its Sincinization programmes in this mountainous region. Strategic, economic, environmental and cultural implications of these actions are significant and could have a telling impact on the future of Asia itself.

Two decades ago, the 21st century was dubbed as Asia's Century, which the developing economies of the region set to drive global growth. But as it stands today, if countries across Asia do not rally to defeat the CCP's designs in Tibet, Asia may soon witness a century of loss.

At the very core of this potential crisis are the fresh water reserves of the world 'Third Pole'. For millennia, the fresh water lakes of Tibet have fed river systems to the East, South-East, South and West, which have nurtured enduring civilizations across the region. Outside China, the main rivers systems fed by these fresh water lakes include the Mekong, Brahmaputra and Sutlej.

However, for some decades, the CCP has been undertaking wide-spread infrastructure work across Tibet, ostensibly to enhance regional connectivity and mitigate flood risks. However, by combining opacity in water-level data and subterfuge in the reality of these projects, the CCP has strived to tap the majority of the fresh water reserves for themselves, with little regard for the needs

of lower riparian countries across the region.

Many recent examples underscore this assertion. Changing river patterns in North Nepal have led to de-facto re-alignment of the Sino-Nepal border (a fait accompli for the people of Nepal).

Zhao Lijian, spokesperson for the CCP Foreign Ministry was quoted stating that the global community is falsely accusing CCP of manipulating the Mekong river. However, there is presently a drought-like situation along the Mekong river, while Chinese reservoirs across Tibet are overflowing and causing wide-scale flooding in West and Central China. While there is still hope for a late flood season in the Mekong this year, reservoir levels so far are similar to those in 2019, when the entire region was hit by a severe drought. The economies of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam could be significantly affected by such diversion of the waters of the Mekong.

Similarly, regular discoloration in the waters of the Brahmaputra has led to concern in India about undisclosed up-river construction, which could hurt both India and Bangladesh. Pertinently, the CCP continues to avoid any water sharing agreements in the region. With a looming 'food crisis' in China, Xi Jinping

and his CCP are likely to accelerate their efforts to capture Tibet's fresh water reserves for their use. Urgent, coordinated and persistent international effort will be required to defeat this strategy of the CCP.

Further, ongoing socio-political efforts of the CCP in Tibet also need to be addressed. Ever since the CCP Army's illegal annexation of Tibet in 1950, the Tibetan people have been forced to change their way of life. They have been forced to abandon their villages, traditional livelihoods and freedom to practice their faith, to survive under the CCP regime. Large-scale relocation of CCP functionaries to Tibet has caused a change in the region's demography. In recent years, there has also been rapid militarisation of the entire Tibetan region, which has strengthened the CCP's political hold and increased the vulnerability of the indigenous peoples. This is a travesty given that Tibet is the abode of Buddhism, one of the most peaceful religions in existence.

With His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso already in his 85th year and the current Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima captured by CCP since 1995, the Tibetan Buddhist community may indeed face a leadership void in the times to come. The CCP 'approved' Panchen Lama has been visible in China, but re-

Binay Kumar Singh

**STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS MOVE ARE SIGNIFICANT AND COULD HAVE A TELLING IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF ASIA ITSELF**

## Ease procurement

Paddy procurement is arguably the most important agri-business activity in the state that runs for five months in two phases with a nearly two months' gap. It constitutes a key part in the state's overall economy. This year, the state government has maintained more or less the same procurement target. It will procure 71 lakh MT of paddy – a rise of just 50,000 MT from last year. Ever since Odisha was declared a decentralised procurement (DCP) state in 2004, the volume of procurement has been gradually going up with every passing year. The Odisha State Civil Supply Corporation (OSCS) is the nodal agency for procurement here. From mere 5-6 lakh metric tonnes in 2004-05, the size has gone up to over 70 lakh (MT), which works out to approximately 45 lakh MT of rice per year. The uptick in the volume indicates a rise in production and a corresponding rise in consumable surplus. What does this rise in target indicate? In the absence of minimum support price (MSP) for other crops, farmers have no option but to cultivate paddy on maximum land that they own. However, the flawed system deprives many farmers of availing the benefits of MSP. First, the government is not very keen to augment the size of paddy procurement. It spends over Rs 12,500 crore every year on buying paddy from farmers at MSP. Add to that other incidental expenses like money spent on gunny bags and administrative expenses. While the Centre is supposed to bear the entire financial burden of MSP, the OSCS borrows the funds upfront from banks to buy paddy. In recent years, the Centre has delayed releasing the funds to OSCS and this has resulted in ballooning the loan and the consequent interest. This is the prime reason why the corporation is not showing much interest to increase the volume of procurement. While farming is the main calling of over three quarters of people in Odisha, an overwhelming majority of them cultivate paddy as the crop is supported by MSP. Yet, there has not been a single year when the MSP delivery has been hassle-free. Like in the past, this year also farmers in western Odisha are up in arms against the token system. The system mandates that farmers wishing to avail MSP must secure tokens 15 days prior to sale. The date of sale and the quantity of paddy to be sold are mentioned in the token that is sent to the farmer through his/her mobile number. Beneficiaries regardless of where they live have to register themselves with the centralized system that is operated from Bhubaneswar. The system has proved counter-productive. Farmers are forced to store their produce waiting for tokens and the prolonged wait dries up the crop resulting in loss of weight. Farmers have no idea when they will get the elusive tokens. The system more often than not malfunctions. Farmers who have not even harvested their paddy are given tokens while those post harvest keep waiting for tokens. The government must review the token system. There have been protests by farmers in Bargarh and Kalahandi where procurement began last week. Protests may intensify as the system is delaying procurement. Adding to the mess are incidents of middlemen getting tokens by enlisting the names of fake farmers. In Jeypore, bogus farmers have been registered by middlemen to avail the benefits of MSP.

The token system must be reviewed forthwith as it is inherently faulty. It is difficult for people sitting in Bhubaneswar to know when the farmer in a village in Bargarh will harvest his paddy and sell it. Further, the size and yield of harvest is different in different parts of the state. Therefore the policy of one size fits all may not be ideal. The urgency of sale and the logistics involved in the exercise can be better handled if the decision-making power is vested with local level authorities. The centralized system has made the process rather sluggish. Farmers are made to watch their stocks at market yards during day and night in winter as they wait for their tokens. Lured by higher MSP (Rs 2500/quintal) in Chhattisgarh, traders are seen falling head over heels to buy paddy from western Odisha. Higher MSP in the neighbouring state has always attracted traders/middlemen to buy paddy from Odisha at lower rates and sell it in Chhattisgarh at a premium. The token system is pushing farmers to traders leading to distress sale. This is the time the government reviewed the system.

### WISDOM CORNER

I wake up every morning and think to myself, 'how far can I push this company in the next 24 hours.'

LEAH BUSQUE

If people doubt how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore.

MICHELE RUIZ

We need to accept that we won't always make the right decisions, that we'll screw up royally sometimes – understanding that failure is not the opposite of success, it's part of success.

ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

### WORDSWORTH

#### Between versus among

William Safire commented in the New York Times in 1999 that three style guides – those of his own newspaper, the Associated Press and The Wall Street Journal – all “stand foursquare for the between/among rule” that you cite. He commented that the AP guide included the maxim that “between introduces two items and among more than two”, arguing that as a result it was correct to write “between you and me” but “among the three of us”. This is still a matter that's capable of arousing controversy in the US. John McIntyre, an editor with the Baltimore Sun, was criticised for saying in a radio broadcast on National Grammar Day in March 2008 that between could be used for more than two. He wrote in the paper later that month that he had come across a passage in Robert Dallek's Nixon and Kissinger that made his point: “Between February 25 and March 4, Kissinger resumed his shuttle diplomacy, traveling between Damascus, Tel Aviv, Cairo, Amman, Riyadh, and Bonn, before his return to the United States.” Mr McIntyre comments, “He did not travel among those six cities; he traveled between one and another serially.” Most US style guides agree with Mr McIntyre that between can be used for more than two. British guides say the same, following the statement by James Murray in the Oxford English Dictionary more than a century ago: “Between has been, from its earliest appearance, extended to more than two”, with his earliest example being from the year 971. Noah Webster made the same point in his dictionary in 1828; Sir Ernest Gowers called the rule a superstition in the Second Edition of Fowler in 1965. It seems to have grown out of a view by grammarians of the eighteenth century that was falsely based on etymology, since the second part of between is from a Germanic source that's related to twain and two. This led Dr Johnson to assert the rule as you have given it in his own dictionary in 1755, although he added, “but perhaps this accuracy is not always observed”.

### LOL

#### Hans Olafsen's Laundry

Walking through Chinatown, a tourist is fascinated with all the Chinese restaurants, shops, signs and banners. He turns a corner and sees a building with the sign, “Hans Olafsen's Laundry.” “Hans Olafsen?” he muses. “How the heck does that fit in here?” So he walks into the shop and sees an old Chinese gentleman behind the counter. The tourist asks, “How did this place get a name like ‘Hans Olafsen's Laundry?’” The old man answers, “Is name of



owner.” The tourist asks, “Well, who and where is the owner?” “Me, is right here,” replies the old man. “You? How did you ever get a name like Hans Olafsen?” “Is simple,” says the old man. “Many, many year ago when come to this country, was stand in line at Documentation Center. Man in front was big blonde Swede. Lady look at him and go, ‘What your name?’ He says, ‘Hans Olafsen.’”

### SPECTRUM ECONOMY

# Global South's path to self-reliance



Syed Munir Khasru

**DEVELOPMENT FINANCING HAS ALREADY STARTED TO PLUMMET AS RICHER COUNTRIES FOCUS ON ENGINEERING DOMESTIC POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERIES**

Covid-19 continues to have a devastating impact on public health and to rattle the global economy with structural shocks. The pandemic has now killed more than one million people, while the International Monetary Fund estimates that global GDP will shrink by 4.4% in 2020. But, strange as it may seem, the current crisis could offer developing countries a path toward greater economic self-reliance.

This is partly because developed countries have in general borne the brunt of the pandemic's health effects so far. Many advanced Western economies have experienced more Covid-19 cases and deaths relative to their populations than have developing countries of the Global South, despite their superior healthcare systems and stronger social safety nets. For example, India's health system ranks 112th globally, while that of the United States ranks 37th. But whereas India has so far reported about 6,400 Covid-19 cases per million population, America's tally is more than four times higher.

Some developing countries like Vietnam combated the coronavirus effectively by introducing strict testing, tracing, and quarantine measures at a very early stage – something most developed countries failed to do. Even after allowing for possible underreporting

and data inaccuracies in poorer countries, the relative performance of developed economies remains a paradox.

Moreover, development financing has already started to plummet as richer countries focus on engineering domestic post-pandemic recoveries. The OECD estimates that external private finance inflows to developing economies could decrease by \$700 billion year on year in 2020, exceeding the impact of the 2008 global financial crisis by 60%. Non-resident portfolio outflows from emerging markets totaled \$83.3 billion in March 2020 alone, according to the Institute of International Finance. And the OECD thinks global foreign direct investment (FDI) will drop by at least 30% this year, with flows to developing economies likely to fall even more. Such trends imply a grim outlook for Global South countries that historically have largely relied on development aid from the Global North.

But studies have shown that development aid and humanitarian assistance do not necessarily foster economic empowerment. A recent OECD survey found that between 48% and 94% of respondents in developing countries do not believe that humanitarian assistance helps them to become economically self-reliant. People want financial autonomy, not prolonged assistance.

Even before Covid-19 struck, many developing economies had been looking for ways to make a sustainable shift from aid dependency to self-reliance. In 2018, Rwanda banned second-hand clothes imports with the aim of encouraging its domestic textile industry to produce higher value-added garments; the US responded by ending the country's duty-free export privileges. And last year, the United Kingdom's government allocated part of its £14 billion (\$18.5 billion) aid budget to capacity-building projects intended to help developing countries increase their international trade and attract FDI.

Today, developing countries have more opportunities to become self-reliant. For starters, trade in developing East Asia has declined less sharply than in the West during the pandemic, according to the World Trade Organization. A key reason for this is that industries producing high value-added goods usually suffer more during downturns. Developing countries' greater resilience, stemming from their reliance on low value-added manufacturing, is evident in Vietnam's textile and garments sector, which has remained operational throughout the pandemic and is expected to have a swifter recovery in 2021 compared to their regional competitors. Second, digitization will play a crucial role in the post-pandemic

recovery by significantly boosting e-commerce, which implies a fairer competitive playing field for producers around the world. Bangladesh's e-commerce sector grew by 26% year on year by August, and other South Asian countries show a similar trend.

Third, the health-care and pharmaceutical sectors are expected to thrive in the post-pandemic economy as people become more aware of the importance of health and fitness. Least developed countries can take advantage of World Trade Organization provisions by producing more generic drugs, which face no patent-related obstacles.

Finally, governments in the Global South can mobilise domestic resources to offset the decline in external development finance – in particular by transforming their tax policies to generate revenue from fast-growing digital economic activities. Currently, developing countries' low levels of tax revenue as a share of GDP – typically between 10-20%, compared to 40% in high-income countries – hinder development by constraining governments' ability to invest in public goods like health, infrastructure, and education.

*The writer is Chairman of the Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG).*

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#### Deplorable move

Sir, Altogether 14,379 government primary and secondary schools in the state are going to close once for all and the government has already started the process. The government argues that schools will be merged with nearby government schools to provide quality education to students. The move has hurt the right to education concept. In a democracy, the right to free education is the right of every individual, and this right has been granted by our Constitution. If private schools are opened in this area, children from poor households will be deprived of education as they won't be able to pay the high fees, especially those in the tribal-dominated areas. This raises the question as to why the number of students in government schools is slowly declining. Undoubtedly the quality of education is of very low quality. If the schools are closed without improving the quality, will the quality of education be good in the schools they go to? Who can guarantee that? Odisha is a poor state which is still a struggling for 100% literacy. Such a move will help increase commercialisation of education. Isn't it an undemocratic move? From the beginning, the government has not paid attention to the quality of primary education, and now its condition is deplorable. Appointment of teachers in primary schools is also not being taken into account; and the lack of teachers in many schools has affected the quality of education. Students are being relocated from public schools to private schools as a result of the government's failure to take appropriate steps to improve the quality of education. The move will increase the number of uneducated people.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

#### Corona vaccines

Sir, Researchers worldwide are working around the clock to find vaccine against Covid-19. Delightfully, a number of vaccines are coming out with flying colours, and it's a good sign for people of all walks of life. Recently, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna showed in the initial findings that their vaccine candidates are in the vicinity of 94.5% effectiveness. Hopefully, other vaccines may come out with greater efficiency. Reportedly, India may get over 20 million doses of vaccine with the arrival of 2021. The goal is to work with the vaccine manufacturers to obtain low cost Covid-19 vaccines for poor countries for the ethical distribution of vaccine. A vaccine will be a vital tool for controlling the pandemic and we are encouraged by the preliminary results of the clinical trials released.

Shruti Raikwar, EMAIL

## 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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# NIA cracks the whip in Bangalore

### THE AGENCY CONDUCTED 43 RAIDS 'IN CONNECTION TO THE RIOTS' THAT SHOOK BANGALORE AUGUST 11

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Nov 19:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted search operations in over 43 locations Wednesday including four offices of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), the political wing of the Popular Front of India, for their alleged involvement in Bangalore riots.

The NIA officials said seized incriminating material relating to the SDPI and PFI besides weapons like swords, knife and iron rods during the raids.

According to a statement issued by the NIA, the raids were conducted on a total of 43 locations in Bangalore in relation to the riots that had shaken Bangalore August 11. It said that 293 persons have been arrested in connections with the riots so far.

In this, 124 arrests were made in relation to the riots in DJ Halli Police Station case and the remaining 169 arrests were in relation to the riots in KG Halli Police Station case.

The NIA, in its statement, said that the riot led to fear and panic in the nearby areas and the cases pertain to large scale rioting armed with lethal weapons causing injuries to police personnel, destruction of public and private property including DJ Halli and KG Halli police sta-



tions buildings besides public and private vehicles.

The NIA is probing two cases related to Bangalore riots, including on SDPI's involvement.

August 11, an insidious Facebook post by Naveen Kumar, nephew of Congress MLA R. Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy led to violent protests by an enraged mob.

The riots unleashed by a violent mob left four people killed in a po-

lice firing and as many as 60 police personnel were injured. Two police stations and the house of Congress MLA were torched.

After taking over the investigation of the riots, the NIA had named SDPI leader Muzamil Pasha for "instigating the mob" to unleash violence on the streets.

**Former Mayor's custody extended**

The local court extended former Bangalore mayor and Congress

leader, R. Sampath Raj's custody by one day, Thursday.

Raj, a Congress dalit leader, was arrested in connection with his alleged role in instigating the mob that, August 11, went on rampage and torched the house of Congress Dalit MLA, representing Pulikeshinagar, R. Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy. The CCB had sought 10-days custody of Raj, but the court extended it only by a day.

Speaking to reporters, Joint

Commissioner of police (Crime) Sandeep Patil said that the CCB has secured only a day's custody on Raj. "We will appeal for extension of custody tomorrow again," a senior police officer said.

It all began with an insidious Facebook post by one Naveen Kumar a nephew of Congress MLA R. Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy August 11 led to violent protests by an enraged mob.

The riots unleashed by a violent mob left four people killed in a police firing and as many as 60 police personnel were injured. Two police stations and the house of Congress MLA Murthy were torched down.

The Bengaluru police that is probing this case in parallel to the NIA has arrested Congress leader and former Bengaluru Mayor R. Sampath Raj, who was absconding for several weeks.

He had escaped from a private hospital where he was admitted for the treatment of Covid-19.

Raj had field anticipatory bail application during his treatment which was rejected by court. Police had also arrested one of Raj's associates named Riyazuddin November 16 and another Congress corporator named Abdul Rakeeb Zakir (who is yet to be traced and arrested) for helping him escape.

# Digital India has become way of life: PM Modi



AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Nov 19:** Lauding the Indian IT industry for providing services and products to the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said his government's flagship programme Digital India became a way of life, especially for the poor and marginalised.

"Thanks to Digital India, we have witnessed a more human-centric approach to development. Using technology on such a large scale has brought about several life changes to our citizens. The benefits are for everyone to see," said Modi while inaugurating the 23rd edition of Bangalore Tech Summit 2020 through video conferencing from New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering in this tech city and others in the virtual world, Modi said though launched 5 years ago, Digital India was no longer seen as a regular government initiative but as a technology through which crores of farmers receive monetary support in one click.

"At the peak of Covid-induced lockdown, it was technology that ensured our poor received proper and quick assistance. The scale of this relief has few parallels in the world. Technology is the prime reason that our schemes have transcended files and changed lives of people at such a speed and scale," asserted Modi in his 20-minute speech in English.

Noting that India was uniquely positioned to leap ahead in the information era, the prime minister said as the country had the best minds and the biggest market, it was time for designing tech-solutions for deploying them worldwide, as they have the potential to go global.

"In the industrial era, the first-mover advantage was everything. In the information era, the best-mover matters because anyone can build a product anytime that disrupts all equations in the market," said Modi.

**MODI WAS SPEAKING AT THE 23RD EDITION OF BANGALORE TECH SUMMIT 2020 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING FROM NEW DELHI**

**THE PM SAID THE COMPLIANCE BURDEN ON THE IT INDUSTRY WAS EASED AND ALLOWED THE TECHIES TO WORK FROM HOME OR ANYWHERE**

Stating that achievements of the industrial era were in the rear-view mirror; the prime minister said future was coming sooner than anticipated, as the world was on the middle of an information era.

"In the industrial era, change was linear whereas in the information era, change is disruptive," quipped Modi.

Asserting that his government's policy decisions were aimed at liberalising the technology and innovations industry, the prime minister said the compliance burden on the IT industry was eased and allowed the techies to work from home or anywhere.

On the potential of the youth and possibilities of technology being endless, the prime minister called upon the tech industry to give their employees the best and leverage them.

Hailing the IT industry for showing resilience during the pandemic, Modi said the amount of tech adoption that happened in a few months would not have been in a decade.

"Work from anywhere has become the norm and is going to stay. A high amount of tech adoption will be seen in education, health and shopping," said Modi.

Stressing on the need for data protection due to increasing use of digital technology in life, Modi said the youth could play a big role in devising robust cyber security solutions to vaccinate digital products against cyber attacks and viruses.

# Andhra's active Covid cases drop to 16,000

AGENCIES

**Amaravati, Nov 19:** The active coronavirus cases dropped exactly to 16,000 in Andhra Pradesh Thursday even as the gross confirmed positives touched 8,58,711 with the addition of 1,316 in 24 hours.

60,000 total cases mark on Thursday, becoming the eighth district in the state to cross the milestone.

The current hotbeds West Godavari and Guntur districts added over 200 fresh cases each in 24 hours while Krishna, East Godavari and Chittoor reported close to 200 each.



**THE TOTAL RECOVERIES INCREASED TO 8,35,801 AFTER 1,821 PATIENTS GOT CURED IN 24 HOURS ENDING 9 AM THURSDAY**

**ANOTHER 11 PATIENTS SUCCEMDED TO THE DISEASE TAKING THE OVERALL TOLL TO 6,910**

The total recoveries increased to 8,35,801 after 1,821 patients got cured in 24 hours ending 9 am Thursday.

Another 11 patients succumbed to COVID-19, taking the overall toll to 6,910, according to the latest bulletin.

Kurnool, which during the initial months of the pandemic was the prime hotbed for coronavirus in Andhra Pradesh, touched the

While six districts in the state reported less than 50 cases, Anantapuramu and Kadapa added 60 and 58 new cases respectively.

Chittoor and Krishna also reported two fresh COVID-19 fatalities each while seven districts added one more death each to their tally.

The state completed 94 lakh sample tests so far, turning out an overall positivity rate of 9.13 per cent, the bulletin said

# TECHIE'S ARREST UNEARTHS DARK WEB OF DRUG DEALS

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Nov 19:** The Bangalore Central Crime Branch police Wednesday arrested a 25-year-old computer programmer for allegedly hacking various government sites besides helping drug peddlers in the city to procure through the darknet.

The CCB caught the programmer while they were interrogating eight persons including Congress Dalit leader's son Darshan Lamani involved in procurement of drugs through dark web last week.

Darshan Lamani has been arrested for sheltering and hosting two of his friends who turned out to be drug peddlers in Goa.

According to the police, the accused was identified as Srikrishna aka Shreeki, resident of Jayanagar in the city.

Speaking to media persons, Bangalore Police Commissioner, Kamal Pant said that the accused is a very good computer programmer, had he used those skills in a positive direc-



**The accused is a very good computer programmer, had he used those skills in a positive direction but unfortunately, he has turned out to be playing in the hands of drug peddlers**

**KAMAL PANT | BANGALORE POLICE COMMISSIONER**

tion but unfortunately, he has turned out to be playing in the hands of drug peddlers.

"He hacked many websites, online gaming portals, and made illegal gains. He has also tried to hack into government websites. In some cases he has succeeded too. He successfully hacked

into, in Karnataka e-procurement website some time ago," the commissioner revealed.

# Cong questions PM over Amaravati's trifurcation



AGENCIES

**Amaravati, Nov 19:** Andhra Pradesh Congress party leaders have lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his silence, when capital city Amaravati is being "broken into pieces" by the state government.

"Modi stood here and declared that he would build a state capital bigger than Delhi, why is he tight lipped today?" questioned Mastan Vali, a Congress leader.

Along with a bunch of Congress leaders, Vali visited Uddandarayunipalem, a capital region village in Guntur where the

foundation for a new capital was laid during Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime in 2015.

"Congress wants to question that why they are breaking this capital and why the Centre is just playing a spectator," posed Vali.

He said a state should have only one capital city for development to happen.

He claimed that the farmers and women who gave land for the capital city were being mocked at.

Holding the Central and state governments responsible for the state of affairs in Amravati, the Congress leader said his party considers Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan

## After Andhra's bifurcation

**FOLLOWING THE BIFURCATION OF AP IN 2014, CONGRESS EVEN LOST ITS PLACE IN THE PUBLIC MEMORY**

**MORE THAN CONGRESS, BJP IS MORE ACTIVE AND TAKING A KEEN INTEREST ON THE STATE, WHERE IT IS YET TO TASTE POWER**

Reddy as accused and co-accused respectively. For the development of the southern state, Vali said Congress will organise a 'huge' meeting November 28.

Meanwhile, Congress is in complete disarray in the southern state, facing an existential crisis. There is no visible leadership or active political participation.

Following the bifurcation of AP in 2014, Congress even lost its place in the public memory.

More than Congress, BJP is more active and taking a keen interest on the state, where it is yet to taste power.

BJP has already set its eyes on the forthcoming Tirupati Lok Sabha seat bye-election, which fell vacant on the sudden demise of Balli Durgaprasad Rao.

# 2L pvt school students in AP shift to govt schools



AGENCIES

**Amaravati, Nov 19:** More than 2 lakh students have left private schools in Andhra Pradesh to join government schools in 2020, propelled by the myriad schemes introduced to encourage public education.

"A total of 42.46 lakh students have enrolled themselves in government and government aided schools this year, which is 2.68 lakh more than the enrolment figure from 2019, which stood at 39.78 lakh," said an official statement.

Out of the increased admissions, 2,01,833 students choose to leave private schools for studies in public schools.

"Government's success in reversing the trend can be attributed to a plethora of student-parent oriented schemes implemented since 2019. Jagananna Ammavodi, Nadu-Nedu and Jaganna Vidya Kanuka form the base of the government's drive to place government schools at par with their corporate counterparts," said an official.

As part of these schemes, the state government is revamping infrastructure at government schools, distributing free school kits and others. Under Jagananna Ammavodi scheme,

eligible mothers of students from classes 1 - 12 will receive Rs 15,000 incentive so as to not discontinue their children's education to employ them for extra money. As part of Nadu-Nedu, the state government is renovating over 45,000 schools in an effort to provide better facilities to government schools students.

"Apart from major infrastructural renovations, each of the schools will also be equipped with a dedicated English lab in order to facilitate modern learning. 15,715 schools were taken up in the first phase of the project and are expected to be finished by January, 2021," said the official.

Jagananna Vidya Kanuka offers basic necessities to students for free, such as schools bags, uniforms, books, socks, belt and others.

"This not only reduces the financial turmoil that poor families are put through at the start of each academic year but also helps the government control dropout rates," said the official.

Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has already stated that children are the future of the state and he would invest in their education.

"Investing in education is investing on my kids, the next generation of my state," said Reddy.

**एनटीपीसी NTPC Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Registered Office Address : NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003  
Corporate Identification Number- L40101DL1975GOI007966

The applicant above named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff of Farakka Super Thermal Power Station, Stage-I&II (1600 MW) for the period from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2024.

1. The beneficiaries of the generating station are:

- i) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 091
- ii) Bihar State Power Holding Company (BSHPLC), (erstwhile Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB)) Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna - 800 001
- iii) Jharkhand Biji Vitran, Nigam Limited, Engineering Bhawan, Heavy Engineering Corporation Durgam, Ranchi - 834 004
- iv) Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd. Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751 007
- v) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (HPPC), Shakti Bhawan, Sector - 6, Panchkula, Haryana - 134 109
- vi) Power Department, Govt. of Sikkim, Kazi Road, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737 101
- vii) Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution, Corporation Ltd. (TANGEDCO), 144, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002
- viii) Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), THE MALL, PATIALA - 147 001
- ix) Uttar Pradesh Power Corp. Ltd. Shakti Bhawan 14, Ashok Marg, Lucknow - 226 001
- x) Power Development Department (J&K), Govt. of J&K Secretariat, Srinagar
- xi) Assam Power Distribution Company Limited, Bijuete Bhawan, Patlan Bazar, Guwahati - 782 001
- xii) BSES Rajghat Power Ltd. BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
- xiii) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. Shakti Kiran Bldg., Karkardooma, Delhi
- xiv) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited, 33 KV Sub Station Bldg. Hudson Lane, Kingsway Camp, New Delhi
- xv) Rajasthan Uja Vikas Nigam Limited, Vidyut Bhawan Janpath, Jaipur - 302 005 (Rajasthan)

2. Capacity of the generating station : 1600 MW  
3. Approved capital cost of the project : Rs3196.79Cr (as on 31.03.2019)  
4. Authority which has approved the Capital Cost : CERC  
5. Date of commercial operation : 01.07.1996  
6. Capital cost on the date of Commercial operation : NA  
7. Details of tariff:

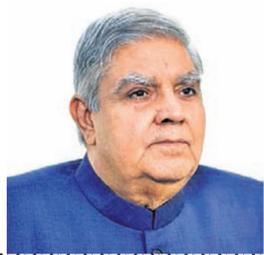
Particulars	Tariff for the previous Year*	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined				
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1. Capacity Charge (₹/kWh/year)	105482.30	85545.73	96028.62	104549.38	105275.27	104879.45
2. Energy Charges (₹/kWh)	272.447		255.40			

\*As per petition filed before CERC for truing up of Tariff for 2014-19 period for the instant station. # ECR is the base energy charge rate at the start of the tariff period. However, the actual energy charge rate for the month shall be based on fuel cost(s) and GCV(s) for the month as per applicable CERC Regulation.

8. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of NTPC, namely www.ntpc.co.in under the Tab 'Notices'.  
9. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application to be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3rd & 4th Floor, Chandernagore Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001, with a copy to the applicant within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Date : 24.07.2020 (Rohit Chhabra)  
Place : New Delhi Addl General Manager (Comm)

**Leading the Power Sector**



Political killings are continuing unabated in the state, and the chief minister, chief secretary and the DGP have not issued any firm directive to the police and administration to be politically neutral

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | WEST BENGAL GOVERNOR

## NEW RESPONSIBILITY

Considered a close friend and ally of CM Nitish Kumar, Sushil Modi has been appointed president of ethics committee in the Bihar Legislative Council



## of the day quote

The AAP government has addressed 67 per cent of the pollution-related complaints received on the Green Delhi mobile application in the last three weeks



GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

On the auspicious occasion of Chhath Puja, let us resolve to preserve nature and environment and celebrate the festival keeping in mind the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic. May 'Chhath Maiya' bless all the citizens with good health and prosperity



RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

As many persons have committed suicide due to online rummy, the government is taking steps to ban the online games played with money stakes



K. PALANISWAMI | TN CM

## SHORT TAKES

### BJP office gutted

Kolkata: A BJP office was gutted in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district and its leaders alleged that the ruling Trinamool Congress was behind the incident, a charge denied by the ruling party. The party office which was burnt Wednesday night was located at Babanpur under Barrackpur Lok Sabha constituency held by the BJP. Police said that there was a report of a fire at a party office in Babanpur area under Mohanpur gram panchayat. "It was not clear how the fire broke out around midnight last night. A case has started," a police officer said.

### Woman kills self

Raigarh: Upset about the death of her pet dog, a 21-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide at her home in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district, police said Thursday. Priyanshu Singh, a postgraduate student, was found hanging from an iron pipe on the roof of her house in Gorkha locality under Kotra Road police station limits on Wednesday morning, said Chaman Sinha, station house officer (SHO) of Kotra Road police station. Singh was allegedly upset about the death of her four-year-old dog, who succumbed to an illness on Tuesday night, the official said.

### Three Naxals held

Bijapur: Three Naxals, including a woman ultra with a reward of Rs 2 lakh on her head, were arrested in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said Thursday. The cadres were apprehended near Peddagelur village under Basaguda police station limits, where a joint team of security forces was out on a counter-insurgency operation on Wednesday, an official said.

### Techie ends life

Hyderabad: A 21-year-old techie jumped to death from a multi-storey building of a leading information technology company in Hyderabad Thursday. According to the police, the techie jumped from the sixth floor of Tech Mahindra building in Secunderabad. She had joined the company on October 30. According to her family, she underwent training for two weeks and began work as associate (customer support) on November 13. She came to the office for the morning shift but suddenly jumped from the floor where she was working.

# Slain Jaish militants were planning big: Police

In Srinagar, IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the four terrorists were on their way to the Kashmir valley to disturb the District Development Council polls scheduled later this month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu/Srinagar, Nov 19: Four suspected Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists were killed and two policemen were injured in a gunbattle on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway after a truck carrying a group of freshly infiltrated militants was intercepted by security forces on the outskirts of Jammu city on Thursday, top police officials said.

The terrorists had come to execute a "big plan" which has now been foiled, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu, Mukesh Singh, said. In Srinagar, IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the four terrorists were on their way to the Kashmir valley to disturb the District Development Council (DDC) polls scheduled later this month, as Pakistan has been trying to cause trouble in the political process.

Giving details of the encounter, IGP Singh told a press conference in Jammu that during checking a truck was stopped at Ban toll plaza in Nagrota area at 5 am but the driver fled leaving behind the vehicle. CRPF and police personnel moved to search the vehicle and came under fire of the terrorists hiding in the truck. They retaliated re-



PTI PHOTO

sulting in an encounter. Other forces also joined resulting in a fierce gunbattle in which terrorists fired grenades and arms, he said.

In the three-hour-long gunbattle, four terrorists were killed and two policemen were injured, he said, adding the policemen were out of danger. A huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosive material was recovered including 11 AK rifles, 3 pistols, 29 grenades and 6 UBGL grenades, he said.

As per weapon recovery and past instances, it appears that they belong to JeM, he added. Speaking on

the sidelines of a function in Srinagar, IGP Kumar said, "For the last few days, Pakistan has increased attempts to infiltrate militants into this side and to disturb the elections for which the process is on. In this context, Jammu Police and security forces have done a good job by neutralising four Pakistanis (militants). Their (militants) aim was to come to Kashmir to disturb the election process".

He said there were apprehensions about militants targeting the elections, but the security forces were fully prepared to deal with

## Punjab CM's son records statement

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Nov 19: After failing to appear twice, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's son Raninder Singh on Thursday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Jalandhar city to record his statement under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), an agency official said. "His statements were recorded," said the official said. Raninder Singh had earlier denied any wrongdoing. The probe is linked to the Income-Tax Department's findings that certain assets acquired abroad were not disclosed in 2005-07. On November 6, Raninder Singh for the second time in less than a fortnight did not appear before the ED at its zonal office in Jalandhar. He had sought an adjournment in the matter, citing health reasons.

Earlier this month, the Chief Minister questioned the timing of the various notices issued by the ED and the Income Tax Department to him and his family members ever since the state passed its amendment Bills to negate the impact of the central Farm Laws.

## Drugs worth ₹2,320 cr seized

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, Nov 19: The Manipur Police and Assam Rifles troopers have seized 582 kg brown sugar smuggled in from Myanmar valued at Rs 2,320 crore in three different actions since October 28, officials said Thursday.

The Manipur government has announced a cash reward of Rs 30 lakh for 94 police personnel of Thoubal and Bishunpur districts, including district Superintendents of Police Sarangthem Ibomcha Singh and L. Priyadarshini, respectively, for seizing the huge quantity of drugs in the two districts of central Manipur.

The police and intelligence officials have confirmed that the drugs were smuggled in from neighbouring Myanmar. According to an official statement of Manipur Home Department, the police in Thoubal district seized 435.945 kg brown sugar and 438 litres of morphinated liquid from the residence of one Kayamuddin Alias Amuthi on October 29 at the Moijing Awang locality. The police had also busted a drug processing laboratory. In another action, the police seized 74 kg brown sugar from a Chevrolet car in Khordak Ichin locality in Bishunpur district on October 28. In the third incident, the Assam Rifles troopers and Manipur Police personnel recovered 72 kg brown sugar from a hideout in Kamu village in Thoubal district on November 11.

## MILES TO GO



Cyclists participate in a para-cycling expedition Infinity Ride 2020 from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, at Dal Lake in Srinagar, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

## Sena worker's weird order

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 19: In a huge embarrassment for the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi, an activist of the Shiv Sena Thursday ordered the owner of the reputed Karachi Sweets in Bandra to change its name to something more Indian or Marathi.

However, hours later the Shiv Sena washed its hands off the incident by making it clear that it was not the "official stand" of the party. The Sena activist - Nitin Nandgaonkar, barged into the shop and confronted the owner with his demand, contending that the word 'Karachi' causes anguish to him as the Pakistani city is associated with terror.

"We are not bothered if you are a Hindu or Muslim. The name Karachi is a problem, and you cannot use it

here. It is a place of terrorism and there should be no business in the name of Karachi," Nandgaonkar sternly told the owners-managers.

Even as the shop owners said that they had migrated to India after Partition, the Sena activist was in no mood to listen and said he would return "after 15 days to check out the name change." Nandgaonkar even offered to help the shop with the registered name-change formalities with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and other departments if required, but said he would not tolerate the word 'Karachi'.

Incidentally, there are other shops and establishments bearing names like 'Karachi' and 'Lahore' in Mumbai, Pune and some other cities of Maharashtra, mainly as a reminder of the ancestors of the present-day owners.

Reacting to the development, Shiv Sena MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut said: "Karachi Sweets and Karachi Bakery have been in Mumbai since 60 years. They have nothing to do with Pakistan. It makes no sense to ask for changing their names now...It's not the Shiv Sena's official stance."

A former activist of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), Nandgaonkar also posted a video and a warning on social media that "henceforth, 'Karachi' would not be allowed in Mumbai or Maharashtra" as it is the den of terrorists.

"Karachi Bakery, Karachi Sweets, Karachi School, etc. will not be tolerated. In 15 days, change the name," he said in his ultimatum, but after the party dissociated itself from his solo campaign, he suddenly went incommunicado.

# Ram temple: Raj set to allow legal mining of unique sandstone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur/Ayodhya, Nov 19: The district administration in Rajasthan's Bharatpur is seeking the denotification of part of a wildlife sanctuary to allow the mining of a special sandstone, much sought after by builders including those constructing the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Thousands of tonnes of the pink sandstone mined in Bharatpur's Banshi Paharpur have been sourced for the temple over the years, but much more is needed. There were concerns in Ayodhya that supplies of this stone with a unique pink hue would dry up.

Since blocks of this sandstone had already been carved - ready to



be put in place as the temple comes up - switching over to a lesser grade of stone would have caused problems. The Dholpur variant is said to be no match to the Banshi Paharpur stone.

Authorities in Congress-run Rajasthan denied that the move to denotify Banshi Paharpur block in

Bharatpur's Band Baretha wildlife sanctuary has anything specific to do with the Ram temple. But a Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader approved of reports that this "technical problem" is now being sorted out.

"The Rajasthan government never created hurdles in the supply of the stone. However, there was some

# Kharge hits out at party colleagues



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 19: Lashing out at colleagues who are targeting the Congress leadership following defeat in elections, senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge Thursday accused them of 'weakening' the party from within.

Stressing the need to support the party high command, he said, "... We have to fight unitedly. It has pained me that some senior leaders have spoken against the party and its leadership." Speaking at an event to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Kharge said on the one hand we have BJP and RSS on the other and on the other these people are drilling from within.

"If we weaken the party and our leaders in such a way, definitely the party cannot go forward and ultimately if our ideology is weakened we will be destroyed. You will have to keep this in mind," he added. Kharge's comments come in the back drop of questions raised by a section of Congress leaders against the leadership after dismal performance in Bihar polls.

Congress leader Kapil Sibal had recently criticised the leadership for the party's abysmal performance in the Bihar elections, where it bagged only 19 of the 70 seats it contested.

He was part of a group of 23 senior Congress leaders who had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi in August, giving suggestions on ways to revive the grand old party.

Citing an old adage that the true nature of our friends and those with us can be measured during a defeat and that of a family during illness, Kharge said now that we

Kharge's comments come in the back drop of questions raised by a section of Congress leaders against the leadership after dismal performance in Bihar polls

have seen a defeat, your true nature can be seen, how strongly you are backing us and are giving strength to our principles.

"When the party is in a good position everyone will praise... When weak or lost they blame (leadership) for not paying heed to them. So you workers don't do what others are doing," he said.

Noting that there are some leaders who blame Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi for the defeat, without naming any one, Kharge, a Rajya Sabha member said every state has leaders, they demand tickets for themselves or loyalists while finalizing candidates. Ninety per cent of the tickets are given based on their (state leaders) advice, despite that after loss they complain that nobody listens to them, lack of unity, he noted.

Pointing out that it was decided in the Congress Working Committee that Sonia Gandhi should continue as interim president until elections are held, Kharge said polls are yet to be held and Covid-19 hasn't still gone, we can't have 100 people together in one place, and yet, people are talking. Congress legislature party leader Siddaramaiah said, Kharge has spoken pained by the developments within the party.

## UP lawyer sues Obama

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 19: A lawyer in Pratapgarh district has filed a civil suit against former US President Barack Obama's latest book 'The Promised Land' in which he has mentioned Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, a former prime minister.

The lawyer has demanded an FIR be lodged as the book that "insults" the leaders and hurts the sentiments of their followers. Gyan Prakash Shukla, national president of All India Rural Bar Association, has filed the civil suit in the Lalganj Civil Court.

The case has been scheduled for hearing on December 1. The lawyer has alleged in his petition that what Obama has said about Manmohan Singh and Rahul Gandhi is humili-



ating and an attack on the sovereignty of the country.

He has claimed that there are millions of supporters of these leaders and they feel hurt by the remarks made in Obama's book. The lawyer has also said that if the followers of the Congress leaders take to the streets to protest against the book, it might lead to chaos.

The lawyer said that if an FIR is not lodged, he will go on a fast outside the US embassy.

technical problem regarding Forest and Wildlife Act at Banshi Paharpur in Bharatpur district, which the Rajasthan government is taking steps to denotify," senior VHP leader Triloki Nath Pandey said in Ayodhya. He said there has been cooperation from all past governments - including those of Mayawati, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh - for uninterrupted supply of building material for the Ram temple. Anubhai Sompura, an architect associated with the temple project, said one lakh cubic feet of the stone has already been stockpiled, adding that two lakh cubic feet is still needed.

According to Bharatpur district collector Nathmal Didel, initial steps have now been taken for the deno-

fication of Banshi Paharpur block - a move which will remove its status as forestland and allow legal mining. A preliminary survey is being done by a team of revenue, forest and mining department officials, he said.

"After the initial survey, a report will be sent to the chief wildlife warden of the forest department," he said, adding that the recommendations will go to the Centre for approval. He said the stone is in high demand across the country and the process has not begun because it is required for the Ram Temple.

The collector said there is rampant illegal mining in the area. There is no forest left there, and if it is delinked from the sanctuary the state government will get the revenue from any mining there.

of the day quote

The Gupkar Gang is a threat to national security and the Congress leadership should say if it completely supports them



YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

The Aam Aadmi Party is trying to fool people of Goa with their poll promise of free electricity



PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

On World Toilet Day, the nation thanks PM Narendra Modi for his relentless efforts towards toilet for all. This mammoth achievement reflects a sensitive govt committed towards the welfare of those neglected for years



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

TMC worker killed

Barrackpore (WB): A Trinamool Congress worker was allegedly killed in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas, police said Thursday. Akash Prasad, 22, was stabbed multiple times and then crude bombs were hurled at him, they said. The incident happened on Palghat Road near the Jagaddal police station in Bhatpara late on Wednesday, police said. When taken to a hospital he was declared dead, they said. The Trinamool Congress blamed the BJP for the killing, alleging that it was an attempt to create panic among the party's supporters in the area that has seen several violent clashes in the last one-and-a-half year.

Antony COVID +ve

New Delhi: Former Defence Minister and senior Congress leader AK Antony and his wife have tested coronavirus positive and admitted in AIIMS here for treatment. "My dad AK Antony and mom Elizabeth Antony have tested positive and admitted at AIIMS, Delhi. Their conditions are stable. Do keep us in your thoughts and prayers," tweeted his son Anil K Antony. Senior party leaders Ahmed Patel and Manish Tewari too had tested positive earlier. Patel is presently admitted in a Gurugram hospital while Tewari is in self-isolation at his Chandigarh home.

Boy murdered

Bemetara: Two persons have allegedly killed a 13-year-old boy to escape police action in connection with an accident in which the victim was injured in Chhattigarh's Bemetara district, police said Thursday. The two accused - Omprakash Sahu (35) and his brother-in-law Shiv Kumar Sahu (48) - have been arrested and Sahu's 17-year-old son has been detained, they said. The charred body of the victim was found floating in a pond in Boriya village here on November 16 following which a special team of police was constituted to conduct a probe into the case, Superintendent of Police Divyang Patel said.

3 electrocuted

Jalna: Three brothers have died of electric shock at a well in their farm in Maharashtra's Jalna district, police said Thursday. The incident took place at Palaskhed Pimple village in Bhokardan tehsil Wednesday evening when the three men went to their farm to water the crops. When they did not return home, their family members launched a search and around midnight found the bodies of Dnyaneshwar Appasaheb Jadhav (27), Rameshwar Appasaheb Jadhav (24) and Sunil Jadhav (18) floating in the well, a police official said.



The abolition of Article 370 has demolished the "speed breaker" of redundant laws which had obstructed the development process in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | UNION MINISTER

MANJHI SWORN IN AS PRO-TEM SPEAKER

Former Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi was Thursday sworn in as the pro-tem Speaker of the Bihar assembly, according to a communication issued by the Raj Bhavan



HC raps Delhi govt over COVID spike



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: The Delhi High Court Thursday asked the AAP government if it could explain to those who had lost their near and dear ones to COVID-19 in the last 18 days why the administration did not take steps when cases were spiralling in the national capital. The high court, which also asked the government to look at the situation with a "magnifying glass",

observed that it was "disheartening" to see that the number of daily deaths due to the virus has increased to 131 and fresh COVID cases have risen to 7,486. Pulling up the Delhi government, a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramoniam Prasad asked why it waited till the court intervened to take steps such as reducing the number of people attending weddings to 50 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. "You (Delhi govern-

ment) saw from November 1 which way the wind was blowing. But you turn turtle now because we asked you some questions. The bell should have rung loud and clear when the numbers were spiralling. Why did you not wake up when you saw the situation was deteriorating? Why did we have to shake you out of your slumber on November 11? What did you do from November 1 till November 11? Why did you wait 18 days (till November 18)

₹2,000 fine for not wearing mask

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government Thursday decided to impose ₹2,000 fine for not wearing masks in public areas, a four-fold increase from the earlier fine. Earlier, violators were fined ₹500 for not wearing masks in public places. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal made the announcement on Thursday during a press conference held after an all-party meet at Delhi secretariat over issue to control the pandemic. Kejriwal said Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal also gave his nod for imposing a stiff ₹2,000 fine against those moving without masks publicly.

to take a decision. Do you know how many lives were lost during this period? Can you explain it to those who lost their near and dear ones," the bench asked. It also noted that Delhi government statements, with regard to the rising COVID cases, to the press appear to be contrary to the submissions made in court.

The bench said that while Delhi government ministers were giving press statements to the effect that third wave of COVID infections has reached its peak and the numbers are going down, the same "is not reflected" in the daily figures and the status report before the court.

NOT EASY



A rescue team member makes preparation to lift a female elephant calf after it fell into an open well, in Panchapalli village of Dharmapuri district, Thursday

FARMERS VOW TO PROTEST IN DELHI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 19: Up in arms against the three agriculture-related Acts enacted by the Centre in September, representatives of farmers across the country Thursday unanimously decided here to rally in Delhi on November 26 to lodge their protests. Representatives of all-India farmer unions decided on this issue after their parleys with Union Ministers remained inconclusive. The farmer leaders warned the respective state governments that if they were stopped from proceeding towards Delhi, they would stage indefinite protests en route. They also demanded permission to rally at Ramlila Maidan, failing which they threatened to block entry points to Delhi from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.



Indian farmers. They are aimed at corporatisation of agriculture and makes farmers more vulnerable," Yadav, who attended the meeting as the national working group member of the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, said. Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Mahasangh President Shiv Kumar Sharma said the laws were akin to 'death warrants' for farmers as they would benefit a handful of corporates. "These laws should have a provision that if any trader purchases agricultural produce below the MSP (minimum support price) then the difference between the MSP and the actual rate should be paid by that trader as a fine," Sharma, a farmer leader from Madhya Pradesh, said. He said that Punjab took the lead in the agitation against the central government and "now it is spreading across the country".

The meeting of representatives of All India Kisan Mahasangh, All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee, and a farmer forum led by BS Rajewal and Gurnam Singh Chanduni was called to chalk out the 'Delhi Chalo' programme. The farmer organisations said that more than 450 farmers' organisations from across the country had come together for the protests that will continue indefinitely. Swaraj India national President Yogendra Yadav told the media that the Centre should first end the 'economic blockade' in Punjab by allowing the goods trains to ply. He said this was for the first time in the history of independent India that farmer organisations from all over India, cutting across party lines and ideology, were coming together on a platform to save their livelihood and those of farm labourers and commission agents. "The farm laws are an assault on

Bhartiya Kisan Union's President Baibir Singh Rajewal said they should be allowed to stage a protest at Ramlila Maidan in Delhi. "If farmers are stopped from going to Delhi, they will block all entry points to Delhi from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh," he warned.

House panel grills Twitter over Kunal Kamra's tweets

Kamra has refused to retract his controversial tweets against the Supreme Court or apologise for them, saying he believes they "speak for themselves"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: A parliamentary committee questioned representatives of social media giant Twitter on stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra's recent "obscene" tweets targeting the Supreme Court and the chief justice of India and sought a reply within seven days, the panel's chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said Thursday. This came close on the heels of Twitter apologising in writing to the same parliamentary panel for wrongly showing Ladakh in China and promising to correct the error by the month-end. Twitter India representatives deposed before the Joint Committee of Parliament on Data Protection Bill on Thursday.



"It is shameful that Twitter is allowing its platform for obscene remarks like the one by stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra against the Supreme Court and the CJI," Lekhi told reporters here. "Twitter is allowing its platform to be misused for abusing top constitutional authorities, such as Supreme Court and CJI." She said

members of the committee across political spectrum, including Congress MP Vivek Tankha, BSP MP Ritesh Pandey and BJD MP Bhadrachari Mahtab, grilled Twitter representatives on this issue. Lekhi also said that explanation of Twitter about banning handles and tweets was found to be inadequate. Meanwhile, Kamra has refused to retract his controversial tweets against the Supreme Court or apologise for them, saying he believes they "speak for themselves".

Earlier, Attorney General K K Venugopal consented to the initiation of criminal contempt proceedings against him for a series of tweets following the apex court giving interim bail to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami.

India talking to vaccine companies: Vardhan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 19: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said Thursday that India is in talks with the vaccine companies for the procurement of 400 to 500 million doses till July next year. Speaking at an event on 'Shifting Healthcare Paradigm During and Post-Covid', the Health Minister stressed the importance of following safety protocols, and said that vaccine distribution will be rolled out with a scientific and systematic approach. Harsh Vardhan said, "Priority

will be given on medical grounds. We are a country of 135 crore people, and it's not possible to procure vaccines for such a large population at one go. By July-August 2021, we will have 400-500 million dosages available." The Health Minister also shared his vision on introducing universal healthcare in India, the government's success in coming closer to bridging the rural-urban gap in healthcare infrastructure and services, as well as on the programmes in place to eradicate tuberculosis and measles.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has brought the world to a halt. Women have been majorly impacted by the pandemic, and are at greater risk of mental stress and anxiety. Issues surrounding pre and postnatal care, increasing complexities of domestic violence, and availability and awareness of sanitary provisions are issues that have witnessed greater duress during the pandemic. Thus it is critical to address the emergency response policies through a gender lens to improve planning and programming," he said.

Cap on wedding guests leaves many families worried

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: With hardly a week remaining for his wedding, 30-year-old Krishna Kumar and his family are now a worried lot after the Delhi government announced it would restrict the guests' list in marriage ceremonies from 200 to only 50 amid a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases in the national capital. Kumar, whose wedding is scheduled for November 27, said invitations have been already sent to nearly 250 people. "Even though, 200 guests were earlier allowed, we had sent out invitations to around 250 people both verbally or through WhatsApp. The government should have taken this decision earlier as the marriage season has already

started," he said. Kumar's family is extremely worried since it has already invested around ₹15 lakh for the special occasion. He said all payments have been made already - from venue to catering. "What can we do now, we won't even get refund. We had booked a lavish farmhouse in Palla for the wedding since we were expecting around 200 people but now that only 50 are allowed, we would not need such a huge space for the wedding. But we have already paid them. I'm not sure if we would get any refund or can change the venue," he said. The only relief for most of the families is that amid COVID-19, they planned to organise rest of the wedding ceremonies from sangeet to mehendi at their homes



with close family members and friends. After the Delhi government's announcement, Sneha Samaddar, whose wedding is scheduled for December 7, was flooded with messages from friends and family members. Fortunately, she and her family had already decided to limit their guest list to 70 people. "We have only invited very close relatives and family friends for the wedding. Not more than 70. But now that it is decided that only 50 members will be allowed at wedding ceremonies, we will only be prune the guest list further. All arrangements have been made already. But now it will be our families and few extremely close friends," she said. Since COVID-19 cases were on a

surge here, her family had decided to organise wedding function in the same hotel where rooms were booked for the groom and his family since they would be coming from Maharashtra. A marketing executive, who did not wish to identify herself, said that her wedding is slated for December 10 and since there are a number of elderly people in the family, the guest list was already kept below 100. And now after the Delhi government's decision, there will be further cut in the guest list. Her sister Reva Sarna, who is personally monitoring all the wedding arrangements, said it would be awkward to request those who have been already invited to not attend the wedding now.

# international



**Tear gas against women? Really, Polish police? The use of direct coercion must be justified and proportionate, it must be a last resort. I believe there was no reason to use it against women's and youth demonstrations**  
RAFAL TRZASKOWSKI | MAYOR, WARSAW (POLAND)

## NYC SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED AGAIN

New York City is shuttering schools to try to stop the renewed spread of the coronavirus, Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a painful about-face for one of the first big US School systems to bring students back to classrooms this fall



## of the day quote

There are only so many medical personnel to go around. And I think what we're seeing in places like El Paso is not sustainable in all or a large part of the state

DR MARK MCLELLAN | FORMER HEAD, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (US)

Today the Australian Defence Force is rightly held to account for allegations of grave misconduct by some members of our Special Forces community on operations in Afghanistan

ANGUS CAMPBELL | CHIEF OF DEFENCE FORCE, AUSTRALIA

I ask the people to quietly dine with mask. I will start thoroughly doing that myself

YOSHIIDE SUGA | PRIME MINISTER, JAPAN

# Hongkongers' 'doubtful' letters from Chinese prison

THE 12 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS

AGENCIES

**Hong Kong, Nov 19:** Family members of some of the 12 Hong Kong people arrested by China at sea in August said Thursday they have received their first letters from them, but they were suspicious of the praise for how well they have been treated in prison.

The 12 were arrested as they tried to flee by boat to Taiwan, with most of them suspected of crimes related to last year's often-violent pro-democracy protests, and have since been detained in the neighbouring Chinese mainland city of Shenzhen.

In a joint statement, families of seven of the detainees said their lawyers, chosen from a list provided by Chinese authorities, passed



PIC FROM BBC

on letters similar in content, all describing good conditions in prison and urging their families and neighbours back home not to worry.

"There were many letters that directly 'responded' to the doubts of the outside world about China," the statement said.

"It is likely that the letters are written in accordance to some templates." The former British colony of Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997 with a guarantee of freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland under a "one country, two systems" formula agreed to by Beijing and London.

Pro-democracy protesters believe those freedoms are being eroded by Beijing, especially with a draconian national security law introduced this year clamping down on dissent.

China denies curbing rights and freedoms and says the legislation was needed to ensure law and order.

A man answering the phone at the Yantian district police office in Shenzhen said requests for comment should be directed to city authorities. Calls outside working hours to the information office of the Shenzhen municipal government were not answered.

The families have made several public appearances urging authorities in Hong Kong and China to allow them to speak to the detainees and appoint their own chosen lawyers to defend them against charges of illegal border crossing.

The Hong Kong government has said they have to face justice on the mainland before returning to Hong Kong where they are expected to be further investigated for the suspected protest-related crimes.

## Pfizer vax delivery 'before Christmas'

AGENCIES

**New York, Nov 19:** Pfizer Inc and BioNTech could secure emergency US and European authorisation for their Covid-19 vaccine next month after final trial results showed it had a 95% success rate and no serious side effects, the drugmakers said Wednesday.

The vaccine's efficacy was found to be consistent across different ages and ethnicities - a promising sign given the disease has disproportionately hurt the elderly and certain groups including Black people.

The US Food and Drug Administration could grant emergency-use by the middle of December, BioNTech Chief Executive Ugur Sahin told Reuters TV. Conditional approval in the European Union could be secured in the second half of December, he added.

"If all goes well I could imagine that we gain approval in the second half of December and start deliveries before Christmas, but really only if all goes positively," he said.

The success rate of the vaccine developed by the US drugmaker and German partner BioNTech was far higher than what regulators had said would have been acceptable. Experts said it was a significant achievement in the race to end the pandemic.

Of the 170 volunteers who contracted Covid-19 in Pfizer's trial involving over 43,000 people, 162 had received a placebo and not the vaccine, meaning the vaccine was 95% effective. Of the 10 people who had severe Covid-19, one had received the vaccine.

"A first in the history of mankind: less than a year from the sequence of the virus to the large-scale clinical trial of a vaccine, moreover based on a whole new technique," said Enrico Bucci, a biologist at Temple University in Philadelphia.

# Dragon shifts focus to domestic consumption

China expects that hostility with the US would continue under Joe Biden tenure as well though Chinese experts believe some buffering period



AGENCIES

**Beijing, Nov 19:** Chinese President Xi Jinping said Thursday that China is set to change its development model from next year. The country will rely more on domestic consumption than export-reliant growth which propelled it to become the world's second largest economy next only to the United States.

"From next year on, China will embark on a new journey towards fully building a modern socialist country," 67-year-old Xi said while addressing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Dialogues via video link.

"We will foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other," he said.

"The new development paradigm is a strategic decision we have made based on the current stage and conditions of development in China and with full consideration given to economic globalisation and

changes in the external environment," he said.

Last month, a key conclave of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) headed by Xi adopted his proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-

2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

While the 14th Five-Year plan envisages a massive overhaul of the country's domestic market to boost consumption in order to reduce China's reliance on shrinking exports markets, the Vision 2035 visualises a long-term plan, reflecting the development vision of Xi.

China's status as a world's factory has been affected by declining global markets and US President Donald Trump's trade war as well his move

to ban Chinese tech firms like Huawei, TikTok.

The US also recently clamped restrictions on exports to Semiconductor chips to China, deepening the technology conflict between world's top two economies.

China expects that hostility with the US would continue under President-elect Joe Biden tenure as well though Chinese experts believe some buffering period.

Explaining the reasons for the paradigm shift in China's development model, Xi in his address said the model of reliance on foreign markets and resources has gone through some gradual changes.

"The ratio of foreign trade to GDP dropped from 67 per cent in 2006 to less than 32 per cent in 2019, while the ratio of current account surplus to GDP has come down from 9.9 per cent in 2007 to less than one per cent today," he said.

"In seven years since the 2008 global financial crisis, the contribution of China's domestic demand to GDP exceeded 100 per cent, making domestic consumption the main driver of its growth," he said.

China's per capita GDP has topped USD 10,000 and its middle-income population has exceeded 400 million. It is projected by many international institutions that China's retail market will reach USD six trillion in size this year, he said.

Xi said the new development paradigm will enable China to fully unlock its market potential and create greater demand for other countries.

"As China's economy grows, our people naturally want to lead an even better life. This will create more demand for a greater variety of quality products, technologies and services from across the world," he said.

From next year on, China will embark on a new journey towards fully building a modern socialist country

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA



## SHORT TAKES

### Ethiopia accuses WHO over unrest

**Nairobi:** Ethiopia's government is accusing the head of the World Health Organization, a fellow Ethiopian, of lobbying neighboring countries to come to the aid of the country's rebellious Tigray regional government with arms and other support. Ethiopia's army chief, Gen Birhanu Jula, asserted to reporters Wednesday that Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus had urged unnamed neighbors to "oppose the war and for (the Tigray People's Liberation Front) to get arms." The army chief did not provide any evidence.

### Africa on alert for 2nd Covid-19 wave

**Addis Ababa:** African countries are on high alert for a second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic as the number of confirmed cases on the continent hit 2 million Thursday. Africa reported its first 1 million confirmed cases August 7 after it registered the first infection February 14 in Egypt, reports Xinhua news agency. As of Thursday, the continent's overall caseload and death toll stood 2,013,388 and 48,408, respectively, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

### Iota impacts over 3,57,339 people

**Teguchigalpa:** At least 357,339 people were impacted by hurricane Iota as it passed through Honduras, according to authorities. In a preliminary report of the damage caused by Iota, which reached El Salvador Wednesday as a tropical depression, the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) said 61,228 Hondurans had been forced to evacuate to 750 shelters, reports Xinhua news agency. Heavy rains caused 42 rivers and streams to overflow, damaged two bridges and cut off two towns.

### No LTTE-related events: SL courts

**Colombo:** Two Sri Lankan courts have banned events commemorating LTTE cadres, who died during a 30-year armed campaign for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east provinces. "The magistrate's courts of Vavuniya and Mannar have issued restraining orders on anyone trying to commemorate the LTTE," police spokesman said Thursday. "Anyone trying to commemorate a terrorist group will be charged under the civil procedure code," he said.

## TENSE STANDOFF



Demonstrators put up their hands in front of police officers during a protest against the government's coronavirus restrictions, near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin

# Canadian-founded tech firm at centre of US polls controversy

AGENCIES

**New York, Nov 19:** A Canadian-founded voting systems company is at the centre of a poll irregularities controversy in the 2020 US Presidential election with allegations against it from President Donald Trump's camp.

But it appears that the company, Dominion Voting Systems, does not have the connections to Democrat Joe Biden, the projected winner of the November 3 election.

Trump's lawyers, Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell, have in TV interviews claimed that Dominion is linked to another company, Smartmatic Corp., one of whose directors, Peter Neffenger, is on the Biden transition's review panel for the Department of Homeland Security.

However, it has been established



that Smartmatic does not own Dominion and both companies are rivals in the election technology field.

In a tweet Trump said that "vote tabulated by a Radical Left privately owned company, Dominion, with a bad reputation & bum equipment that couldn't even qualify for Texas (which I won by a lot)." And in another tweet he said: "Dominion is running our Election. Rigged!"

Trump has tried to link at least three instances of irregularities

or mismanagement to Dominion because its systems were used.

In Michigan, where inaccuracies in reporting the votes were discovered, officials, however, said that they were due to human error and were not committed by the Dominion software.

Officials in Georgia said that Dominion software problems delayed the reporting of vote counts but did not affect the numbers.

Although founded by Canadians, that country does not use Dominion systems.

Monday, Elections Canada, which runs the voting in the nation, tweeted that it "does not use Dominion Voting Systems. We use paper ballots counted by hand in front of scrutineers and have never used voting machines or electronic tabulators to count votes in our 100-year history."

# Pak court awards 10-yr jail to Hafiz Saeed

THE ANTI-TERRORISM COURT HAD EARLIER AWARDED IMPRISONMENT SENTENCES TO OTHER JUD LEADERS IN AT LEAST SIX CASES

AGENCIES

**Lahore, Nov 19:** An anti-terrorism court in Punjab province has awarded 10-year imprisonment to Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed and top leaders of the organisation in at least two cases related to terror-financing.

As per the court order, the authorities have been directed to confiscate the properties of Hafiz Saeed along with the imposition of Rs 10,000 fine. Abdul Rehman Makki, brother-in-law of Saeed and second in command in JuD, has also been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for being an accomplice to the terror-funding cases.

Other than the above mentioned leaders of JuD, Zafar Iqbal and Yahya Mujahid have also been sentenced to 10.5 years' imprisonment each by the anti-terrorism court.

The case, filed by the Punjab Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), was heard by Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta of the Lahore Anti-Terrorism Court No.1.



The verdict was announced after cross-examination of witnesses' statements, which later brought the court to the conclusion that the accused were proven guilty.

The latest verdict is part of at least 23 cases registered against Saeed and the members of his organisation in 2019 by the CTD with charges of terror-financing, terror-facilitation and terror-funding through various umbrella outfits working under the supervision of JuD.

The cases were filed under Section

## Sharif's health worsening fast

**ISLAMABAD:** Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is currently in London, made several unscheduled visits to the hospital this week after he developed acute pain in his kidney, a media report said Thursday citing family sources.

Sharif visited consultants Tuesday and Wednesday and is scheduled for more scans on Thursday, the sources told Dawn news.

"He is very unwell and has serious pain in his kidney owing to

deteriorating kidney function. Doctors are conducting tests and scans to determine a course of action," Adnan Khan, Sharif's personal physician, said, adding that the former premier had developed kidney stones.

Tuesday, Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz said in a tweet that the PML-N supremo was unable to participate in a meeting of the opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement because of "severe kidney pain", adding she would attend in his place.

11-N of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. As per details, the investigation into the cases revealed that the suspects committed terror financing by managing assets of proscribed organisations and helped them in raising funds.

The jail term of Saeed, who is already serving his sentence on

# Biggest spending boost for UK military in 30 yrs

AGENCIES

**London, Nov 19:** UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced that the country will increase its defense budget by 16.5 billion pounds (\$21.8 billion) in the next four years, the biggest military investment in 30 years and since the Cold War.

Addressing the media Wednesday evening, Johnson said that he was making the announcement "in the teeth" of the coronavirus pandemic because "the defence of the realm must come first," the BBC reported.

"The international situation is more perilous and more intensely competitive than at any time since the Cold War," he added.

The Prime Minister said that in order for the country to "be true to our history and stand alongside our allies" it must make improvements "across the board."

"This is our chance to end the era of retreat, transform our armed forces, bolster our global influence, unite and level up our country, pioneer new technology and defend



our people and way of life," he said. The Ministry of Defence's (MoD) annual budget is around 40 billion. The 16.5 billion pounds increase over four years is about a 10 per cent hike.

The extra spending is on top of the Conservatives' 2019 manifesto commitment. Based on forecasts of inflation, the government said it expects the MoD to get an overall increase of about 24.1 billion pounds over four years, compared with last year's budget.

The Prime Minister will set out further details in a virtual speech to the House of Commons Thursday, reports the BBC.

# business



As the sole issuer of euro-denominated central bank money, the Eurosystem will always be able to generate additional liquidity as needed. So, by the definition, it will neither go bankrupt nor run out of money  
CHRISTINE LAGARDE | PRESIDENT, ECB

## 'INDIA TO EXPORT SANITISERS'

India is poised to export hand sanitiser bottle dispensers thanks to interventions by the technology centres and tool rooms under the MSME ministry, the government said. "With help of these initiatives, India is now not only manufacturing enough hand sanitiser bottle dispensers but also poised to export the same," the Ministry said



## of the day quote

The addition of TataMD CHECK as part of the testing arsenal will be a boost to the ongoing efforts that the country has been waging against this pandemic. We at Apollo are happy to partner with the Tata Group in what is potentially a revolutionary advancement in the Covid Testing Landscape  
SANGITA REDDY | JOINT MD, APOLLO HOSPITALS

There has been a significant progress in the development of vaccines to vanquish a virus that has claimed more than a million lives around the globe and resulted in tens of millions of job losses. However, the economic path ahead remains difficult and prone to setbacks  
KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA | MD, IMF

Tamil Nadu is the only state in the country, logging 8% GDP with agriculture and factories operating to near full capacity. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic period, our state got the highest amount of fresh industrial investments and is the only one to have started largest number of new factories in the country  
K PALANISWAMI | CM, TAMIL NADU

## SHORT TAKES

**RRVL completes ₹47K cr fundraise**  
New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Thursday said it has completed the sale of about 10% stake in its retail unit to a clutch of foreign investors for ₹47,265 crore. Since September 25, the company has sold 10.09% stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) to private equity firms Silver Lake Partners, KKR, GIC, TPG and General Atlantic, as well as sovereign wealth funds Mubadala, ADIA and PIF.

**Gold slips ₹248, silver declines ₹853**  
New Delhi: Gold prices on Thursday dropped ₹248 to ₹49,714 per 10 grams in the national capital, as investors and traders switched to riskier assets on new vaccine development, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed at ₹49,962 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also declined by ₹853 to ₹61,184 per kg, compared to the previous close of ₹62,037 per kg.

**Thyssenkrupp to cut 5,000 jobs**  
Frankfurt/Duesseldorf: German conglomerate Thyssenkrupp plans to cut another 5,000 jobs to stem losses across its sprawling empire after posting a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.9 billion) operating loss in its latest financial year, it said Thursday. Despite closing the sale of its elevators business in July for more than 17 billion Euros to help fund restructuring and cut debt, the group remains in crisis and CEO Martina Merz said more painful restructuring might be needed to stop burning cash.

**NDB, Centre sign \$500mn loan pact**  
New Delhi: A loan agreement for \$500 million (about ₹3,700 crore) was signed Thursday between the government and the New Development Bank (NDB) for funding the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor. The proceeds will be utilised to finance rolling stock, signalling system, operational structures, residences for operational staff, train control and telecommunication system and other miscellaneous works of the corridor, NCRTC said in a statement.

# Loan moratorium is fiscal policy matter: Centre to SC

While apprising the apex court about the measures taken so far by the Finance Ministry and the RBI, the Centre told a bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan that it is not a case of "no action" and no further indulgence may be given even if the petitioners say that there could be better option on this issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: The Centre Thursday told the Supreme Court that issue pertaining to loan moratorium in view of the COVID-19 pandemic is a fiscal policy matter and the government has taken various proactive steps keeping in mind different sectors.

While apprising the apex court about the steps and measures taken so far by the Union Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Centre told a bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan that it is not a case of "no action" and no further indulgence may be given even if the petitioners say that there could

be better option on this issue.

The bench, also comprising Justices Reddy and MR Shah, was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that to ask for sector specific reliefs from the top court now is perhaps not a remedy available under Article 32 of the Constitution.

The apex court was hearing a batch of petitions relating to charging of interest on interest by banks on EMIs, which were not paid by the borrowers who availed of the loan moratorium scheme in view of the pandemic.

The RBI had March 27 issued the circular which allowed lending institutions to grant a moratorium on payment of installments of



term loans falling due between March 1, 2020, and May 31, 2020, due to the pandemic. Later, the moratorium was extended till August 31 this year.

The RBI and the Finance Ministry have already filed separate additional affidavits in the top court saying that the banks, financial

and non-banking financial institutions will credit into the accounts of eligible borrowers by November 5 the difference between compound and simple interest collected on loans of up to ₹2 crore during the moratorium scheme period.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing Thursday, Mehta told the bench that it is the responsibility of banks to credit the difference between compound and simple interest collected on loans of up to ₹two crores during this period.

He said the disaster management authority has taken all the steps which were required to be taken by it and the NDMA has already done

what it could have under the law. "Centre has proactively taken steps through the Finance Ministry and the RBI," Mehta said, adding, "These are all fiscal policy matters."

He said if the court is satisfied that the government is examining these issues, taking adequate steps and grievance redressal mechanism lies within the system itself then further indulgence was not required.

"It is not a case of no action," the solicitor general said, adding, "The government is on top of it". He said that several relief measures were announced and decisions were taken by the concerned authorities keeping in mind every sector.

# GOVT OVERHAULS FDI APPROVAL PROCEDURES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 19: The government made major changes in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regime with the focus on simplification of procedures and administration rather than a tweak in the investment caps.

Accordingly, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has come out with fresh set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for processing FDI proposals that makes online furnishing of investment proposals and clearance by the respective authorities mandatory and within a specified period of time.

In line with changes brought about in the functioning by the outbreak of the pandemic, digitally signed applications and documents by an applicant will be accepted without any human interface. In case this is not available, additional seven days time would be given to the applicant to furnish physical copies of the document for further processing of the FDI proposal.

Under the new FDI approval plan, timelines for each stage of clearance has been defined with final clearance of FDI proposals being given in 10 weeks from the day



Under the new FDI approval plan, timelines for each stage of clearance has been defined with final clearance of FDI proposals being given in 10 weeks from the day it is received by DPIIT

it is received by DPIIT in cases where no security clearance is required. FDI proposals needing security clearance will have to be cleared by taking additional two weeks time in 12 weeks from the application date.

Government has also decided to assign FDI proposals coming in the domain of respective ministries to them for clearance. Such ministries, which will be called competent authority, will have a free hand to examine the proposals and

clear them in a time-bound manner.

To smoothen the process, commerce and industry ministry has advised administrative ministries not to set up inter-ministerial groups to clear FDI proposals but rather assign it to an identified group of people for clearance within the ministry. This has been done to save time with the focus remaining with a specific group within the ministry.

DPIIT and each of the Competent Authorities shall maintain a database on the proposals received along with details such as date of receipt, investor and investee company details, volume of foreign investment involved, and date of grant of approval/rejection letter.

Additional time of two weeks will be given to DPIIT for consideration of those proposals which are proposed for rejection or where additional conditions which are not provided in the FDI Policy are proposed to be imposed by the Competent Authority.

Besides, to prevent pendency of FDI proposals, it has now been decided that competent authorities will hold a regular monthly review on pending proposals and take a call on its disposal in a time bound manner.

# India to see ₹10,000cr investment in LNG stations

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 19: Indian companies will spend ₹100 billion (\$1.35 billion) over three years on 1,000 liquefied natural gas (LNG) stations along main roads and industrial corridors and in mining areas, the oil minister said Thursday to cut diesel consumption.

Diesel, which accounts for about two-fifth of India's refined fuels consumption, is widely used by buses, truck and in the mining sector.

"Even if the LNG vehicle segment achieves 10% market share in a fleet of 10 million trucks, it will have a positive impact on reducing emissions and substituting crude," Dharmendra Pradhan said at a foundation-laying ceremony for 50 LNG stations.

Use of LNG in heavy vehicles will cut fuel costs by 40% compared with diesel and help contain inflation, he said, and urged automobile makers to look at producing LNG-compatible vehicles.

LNG is suitable for long-haul trucks and buses as its higher en-



Even if the LNG vehicle segment achieves 10% market share in a fleet of 10 million trucks, it will have a positive impact on reducing emissions and substituting crude  
DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | OIL MINISTER

ergy density can help vehicles travel 700-900 km with one fill compared with about 300 km for a diesel vehicle, said VK Mishra, head of finance of Petronet LNG.

Companies will set up LNG fuelling stations along a 6,000-km network of highways linking the four main metropolitan areas, he said, adding transport sector can utilise up to 25 million cubic meters a day equivalent LNG in the initial phase.

Indian companies are spending billions of dollars to build gas infrastructure including pipelines and import terminals to raise share of gas in energy mix to 15% by 2030 from the current 6.2%.

Use of LNG will also help India in meeting its commitment made under the Paris accord to cut greenhouse gas emission intensity of its GDP by 33% to 35%, he said.

# HMSI unveils Repsol Honda editions of Hornet 2.0, Dio

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. (HMSI) Thursday unveiled the Repsol Honda limited editions of Hornet 2.0 and India's first moto-scooter Dio.

The machines of the Repsol Honda racing team inspired the graphics and design theme of these limited editions along vibrant orange wheel rims to accentuate the excitement of the racing fans in India.

With a powerful BS VI compliant higher capacity and advanced 184cc PGM-FI HET (Honda Eco Technology) engine, Hornet 2.0 comes with 6 new patent applications. Ensuring utmost sense of control, Hornet 2.0 is equipped with dual petal disc brakes with single channel ABS.

An ultimate combination of advanced technology and superior



image is the Golden Upside Down (USD) front fork. Engine Stop Switch and Hazard Switch features ensure convenience and safety.

Hornet 2.0 Repsol Honda Edition is priced ₹1,28,351 (ex-showroom, Gurgaon, Haryana).

On other hand, India's first moto-scooter Dio is powered by Honda's trusted 110cc PGM-FI HET engine, boosted by Enhanced Smart Power (eSP).

Dio is developed with 20 patent applications. It comes with new features like telescopic suspension, engine start/stop switch, integrated dual function switch, external fuel lid, passing switch and side stand indicator with engine cut-off.

# Vedanta Jharsuguda wins Green Leaf Platinum Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Vedanta Jharsuguda, India's largest producer of aluminium, has been declared winner of APEX India Green Leaf 'Platinum' Award for outstanding achievement in sustainability in the metals and mining category.

'Platinum' is the highest category among sustainability awards, and the company was adjudged winner after a thorough assessment of best practices and performance excellence in sustainability. Over 180 organisations across various industries had participated in the assessment.

Vedanta's sustainability practices are focused on the three primary pillars of economic, environmental and social impact. Towards this end, Vedanta has in-



stituted the Vedanta Sustainability Assurance Programme (VSAP), a robust governance system following International Finance Corporation (IFC) & International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) guidelines that guides the company's operations and measures performance across 34 elements under the broader dimensions of sustainability, such as leadership, process safety and management of change, continuous improvement, social sustainability, resource use management, health, safety, environment (HSE) man-

agement, etc.

Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda CEO CN Singh said, "Our business imperatives and social responsibilities are founded on the premise of 'Zero Harm, Zero Waste & Zero Discharge', and fulfilled through an unwavering commitment to leverage global expertise, adopt green technology and use resources judiciously, to create a lasting positive impact on the environment, our communities, partners and customers. The Award stands testimony to our endeavours against those commitments."

TJ Kim, Plant In-charge from KEPCO KPS, Vedanta's partner for operation & maintenance of its 1215 MW Captive Power Plant said that company has a very focused approach on safety, health and environment aspects of business performance.

# '77% INDIANS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ECONOMIC RECOVERY'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 19: About 77% Indians are optimistic of an economic recovery and business revival, and 27% believe the turnaround could happen in the next three months, said a new survey Thursday.

While 22% of those surveyed said they expect a revival in the next three to six months, 28% felt it could take anywhere between six months to a year, said the survey by digital lending platform IndiaLends.

"The economy is slowly but steadily recovering from the coronavirus pandemic and is getting back on the growth trajectory. There are clear signs of a business revival and consumer confidence,"

- Nearly 46% of the respondents said they expected an increase in household expenses towards consumer durables
- 70% of the respondents said they were now spending more on electronic gadgets for their children

IndiaLends Founder and CEO Gaurav Chopra said in a statement.

The nationwide survey of nearly 1,700 respondents comprising both salaried and self-employed, conducted in November, also said that 71% of the respondents said they planned to take a personal loan in the next three to six months. They cited two and four-wheelers,



business startups, household durables, electronic gadgets and

home renovation as the main reasons for personal loans.

At least 7% of the respondents said they would opt for a loan to pay for up-skilling courses, which points to the impact of Covid-19 on jobs and the need to utilise free time to acquire new skills, while 31% of those surveyed said they would use the loan to start their own business.

Among other findings, nearly 46% of the respondents said they expected an increase in household expenses towards consumer

The economy is slowly but steadily recovering from the coronavirus pandemic and is getting back on the growth trajectory. There are clear signs of a business revival and consumer confidence  
GAURAV CHOPRA | FOUNDER AND CEO, INDIALENDS

durables such as washing machines and dishwashers, and 11% said they would opt for a personal loan to buy these appliances.

With people spending more time at home, almost 38% of the respondents said they would consider getting their home renovated in the coming months, and 15% said they would take a loan for the same.

About 70% of the respondents said they were now spending more on electronic gadgets for their children, namely smartphones, tablets and laptops.

# L&T to supply mining gear to Tata Steel

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: The Construction and Mining Equipment business of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) received orders to supply 46 units of Komatsu mining equipments from Tata Steel.

About 26 of the 46 units will be deployed at Tata Steel's Iron Ore Mines at Joda, Noamundi and Khondbond in Odisha

The order comprises of 41 units of Komatsu HD785-7 (100 Ton Dump Truck), three units of Komatsu WA900-3E0 (9 Cum Wheel Loader) and two units of Komatsu D275A-5R (410HP Crawler Dozer). The scope includes supply of equipment and full maintenance contract for 60,000 hours of equipment operation.

About 26 of these 46 units will be deployed at Tata Steel's Iron Ore Mines at Joda, Noamundi and Khondbond in Odisha, while 20 units of Komatsu 100 Ton Dump Trucks will be deployed at Tata Steel's West Bokaro Coal Mines in Jharkhand.

Company's CEO-MD SN Subrahmanyam said, "Komatsu's superior products and L&T's seamless support over the years, paved the way for securing this prestigious order and we look forward to partnering India's largest steel producer - Tata Steel, in their growth journey."

# PM to inaugurate 3rd Global Re-Invest 2020 November 26



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) November 26 to woo investors for investing in clean energy in India.

India has set an ambitious target of having 175GW of renewable energy by 2022 and 450GW by 2030.

During the last six years, over ₹4.7 lakh crore were invested, making the country a preferred destination for investment in clean energy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the virtual 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020), on 26 November 2020, a Ministry of New & Renewable Energy statement said.

Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh said the 3rd RE-INVEST will build upon the success of the first two editions held in 2015 and 2018 and provide an international forum for investment promotion in renewable energy.

World No.4 Russian outplays top-ranked Djokovic to enter ATP Finals last four

# MEDVEDEV REACHES SEMIS



Daniil Medvedev serves during his match Novak Djokovic; the World No.1 Serb (inset) looks dejected after his loss, Wednesday

in a match where he led 5-1 in the third set.

"You always have doubts in your head, like maybe next year is going to be (like) last year in London, I'm going to go out there and be tight, again, I'm not going to show anything in the Masters finals," Medvedev said. "Well, not the case. Finished as No.1 in the group already, which is great."

Zverev, coming off what he had described as one of his worst matches of the season in his opening loss to Medvedev Monday, led 3-1 in the second set before his Argentine opponent battled back with two breaks.

A visibly frustrated Zverev fired

a ball into the empty stands after losing the second set. The 23-year-old German recovered and broke Schwartzman twice in the third set. Schwartzman, who struggled with unforced errors, sent a forehand into the net to end the match.

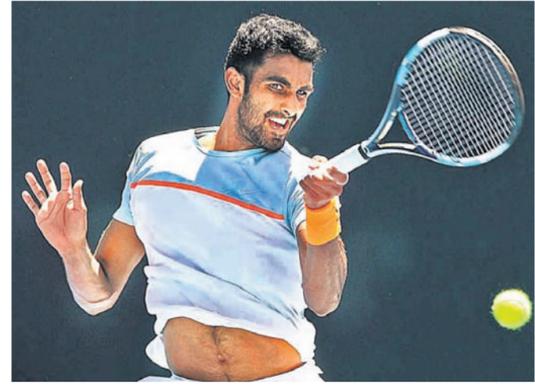
The decisive Zverev-Djokovic match Friday will be a rematch of the final from two years ago when the German won in straight sets.

"I'm happy to give myself a chance to go to the semifinals," Zverev said. "I need to win every match, otherwise I'm out, so I've got to go in with that mindset. I went to that mindset today, and I did my job."

Schwartzman broke early in the first set, but like in Monday's loss to Djokovic he immediately gave it back. Zverev broke again for a 4-2 lead thanks to Schwartzman's unforced errors.

Nadal will play Stefanos Tsitsipas with a semifinal place at stake. Nadal has lost to Tsitsipas just once in six meetings — at the 2019 Madrid Open. He beat Tsitsipas here last year in the round robin before the 22-year-old Greek went on to win the title. Nadal has never won the ATP Finals.

Dominic Thiem, who has already qualified for the semifinals, faces Andrey Rublev. The Russian is 0-2 and can't advance.



## Prajnesh in Orlando Challenger last eight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Orlando, Nov 19: Prajnesh Gunneswaran reeled off seven games in a row before his opponent Tung-Lin Wu retired in the decider as the Indian tennis player entered the quarterfinals of the Orlando Challenger event, here.

The fourth seed Prajnesh was leading 5-7, 7-5, 2-0 when Wu opted out of the second round contest that had already spanned two hours 30 minutes.

Prajnesh was trailing 5-7, 2-5 at one stage and the Taipei player was serving for the match but the Indian kept his nerves and forced a decider in the USD 52,080 hard

court tournament by winning the next seven games. Prajnesh, ranked 137, had reached the final of the Cary Challenger last week and has carried his good form into this event. It was third meeting between the two players. Prajnesh had beaten Wu at the Jinan Challenger event last year but gave him a walkover in Liuzhou. He will now face Kazakhstan's Dmitry Popko, ranked 172.

Ramkumar Ramanathan had made a first round exit after losing 3-6, 4-6 to local lucky loser Nick Chappell. It was his second consecutive first-round defeat after ending runner-up at the Eckental Challenger.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 19: Daniil Medvedev is enjoying the ATP Finals a lot better in his second appearance. Medvedev secured a spot in the semifinals of the season-ending tournament by dominating five-time champion Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-3 Wednesday for his second straight win of the group stage.

Medvedev, who lost all three of his group matches last year on his tournament debut, has now beaten Djokovic in three of their last four meetings. The top-ranked Serb

can still advance if he beats 2018 champion Alexander Zverev in a winner-takes-all match Friday. Zverev kept his tournament hopes alive with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Diego Schwartzman earlier Wednesday.

Medvedev broke Djokovic three straight times to go from 3-3 in the first set to a 3-0 lead in the second. The first break came after a marathon game when the Russian finally converted his third break point when Djokovic missed a forehand after a long rally.

Djokovic then double-faulted on

set point and never looked likely to stage a comeback in the second. Medvedev saved the only break point he faced at 2-0 and then secured the victory with a forehand winner on his first match point.

"He was just better, no question about it," Djokovic said. "Just not a great match from my side. I thought I could have and should have done better, but credit to him for playing on a high level."

Medvedev is looking a lot more comfortable at the O2 Arena than last year, when his three losses included a collapse against Rafa Nadal



## AITA postpones nat'l camp for elite players

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 19: The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has postponed the national camp it had planned for the country's elite players from November 30 due to a recent surge in COVID-19 cases in the national capital.

Delhi's tally crossed the five-lakh mark Wednesday with thousands of fresh cases being added in the last few days. The national capital also reported a record 134 deaths Wednesday.

The AITA had laid out a plan for the top 20 elite men's and women's players for the camp, which was to culminate with a national cham-

ampionship in the singles format among the assembled players in a bio-secure environment.

The planned 21-day camp was scheduled to begin for the men's players from November 30 and was to be followed by a women's camp from January 4.

AITA secretary general Anil Dhupar, DLTA President Rohit Rajpal and former AITA president Anil Khanna had a meeting to take stock of the situation and decided to postpone the camp.

India's Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali even spent five days at DLTA to set up the camp, overseeing the required arrangements, but flew back to Bangalore after cases start



to rise in Delhi.

"The staff at both DLTA and AITA is shaken up. Life is important, so we have decided to postpone the camp. We were ready for it, a system with proper infrastructure was created but unfortunately we

are postponing the camp," Dhupar told this agency. "We will wait normally to return. Whenever players are comfortable to travel, we will re-schedule. We will see if we can follow the same order (men's, women's boys, girls) or change the sequence," added Dhupar.

The AITA official also said that all those players who are not travelling had agreed to join the camp. India's top men's players,

Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Ramkumar Ramanathan, are already competing on the ATP Challenger Tour while Sumit Nagal has been in Germany for training for a long time.

## INDIAN HOCKEY GREATS PILLAY, TIRKEY, AIYAPPA VISIT NTHA, ODISHA Legends interact with cadets at HHPC



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 19: Indian Hockey legends Dhanraj Pillay along with Odisha great and former India captain Dilip Tirkey as well as ace drag flicker Len Aiyappa visited the Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Odisha (NTHA) and interacted with the girl cadets and coaching staff of the Hockey High Performance Centre (HHPC).

The trio surprised the young hockey players on the blue turf as they took on the sticks to share the tricks of the sport. They interacted and mingled with the young cadets and shared their knowledge with them.

Sharing insights of his time at the Olympics, Pillay said, "Never compare yourself with another, on any aspect. Only aim to better oneself at the game. Those times were different.

"Today, the turfs are equipped for better results. Follow the coach, learn the tricks, and constantly strive to better one's skill. Watch and learn from seniors in the national teams. You all have it in you too. Sky is the limit and you should persevere to be an international player and make your parents and coach proud.

"Govt. of Odisha along with Tata's have put together such great facilities and opportunities for youth like you to excel at the highest level. Dream big and I am sure you will achieve it too," he added.

His message to the cadets was simple and profound. He also engaged in simple conversations with the young players who were left elated with their experience with the legends

Beaming with joy on her inter-

action with Pillay, Rourkela's Sumi Mundari, a cadet, said, "We had only seen him on TV. Today, we trained with him on the turf. It is like a dream come true. It is a moment of pride for all us here. His simple techniques we will follow. He is very inspiring and someday, we hope to make it big, like the players in the Indian Women's Hockey Team."

Len Aiyappa, India's fastest and most successful drag-flicker demonstrated the art of drag flicking which the cadets quickly got a hang of. Congratulating the state government, Aiyappa said, "I commend Odisha government for giving youngsters the opportunity and facilities here, besides hosting all international tournaments here.

"The state will also host the 2023 Hockey World Cup and I congrat-

ulate the government for supporting the sport of hockey and the young talented kids. With all the facilities and a beautiful turf, the cadets are fortunate to be training at the Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Odisha. They will have a bright future from the centre."

It was a momentous occasion this morning to receive Pillay, the four-time hockey Olympian along with our very own Padma Shri Tirkey in company of well-known Indian drag-flicker Aiyappa, who was magical in his demo on the art of drag flick to the young aspiring specialist.

While Tirkey gave specific tips on art of penalty corner to the girls, Pillay was inspiring in taking to the pitch by demonstrating the nuances of set pieces that is an integral part of modern day hockey.

## Italy, Belgium advance into stellar Nations League finals



Italy players celebrate after Andrea Belotti's (2nd from right) goal against Bosnia-Herzegovina, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 19: Italy earned the right to host a star-filled Nations League finals that will feature the current No.1-ranked team and three of the past four World Cup champions.

Italy's 2-0 win at Bosnia-Herzegovina Wednesday sealed top spot in Group 1 above the Netherlands, who beat Poland 2-1. That group winner had been pre-selected to host the Final Four next October.

Top-ranked Belgium also booked their place in that knockout bracket, lifted by Romelu Lukaku's 56th and 57th international goals in a 4-2 win over Denmark.

Belgium and Italy join Spain and France, who topped groups that finished Tuesday. That means the tournament will feature the winners of the World Cup in 2006, 2010 and 2018.

A total of 18 Nations League games were played Wednesday to complete a difficult 2020 program for Europe's 55 national teams amid a spike in the coronavirus pandemic.

LEAGUE A  
Andrea Belotti and Domenico Berardi scored for Italy midway through each half in a win that relegated last-place Bosnia from

the top tier.

Had Italy slipped up, the Netherlands or Poland could have taken top spot with a win. The Dutch sealed a 2-1 win with late goals from Memphis Depay and Georginio Wijnaldum.

Belgium could have lost top spot in Group 2 to Denmark but eased into a 3-1 second-half lead when Lukaku struck with trademark powerful finishes. Belgium gave up a freakish own goal when Thibault Courtois let a pass slide under his foot, but Kevin de Bruyne immediately restored the two-goal margin.

England's 4-0 win over Iceland made it 10 straight losses for the visitors across two editions of the Nations League and relegation to the second tier.

TOP-TIER PROMOTION  
Hungary, Wales and the Czech Republic earned promotion to the top tier by finishing top of their League B groups.

Russia's 0-5 loss at Serbia opened the door for Hungary to rise in the Group 3 standings with a 2-0 home win over Turkey.

A 2-0 win over neighboring Slovakia lifted the Czechs above Scotland, which lost 1-0 at Israel. It

was Scotland's second 1-0 defeat on the road since qualifying for the European Championship last week.

Wales protected its lead in Group 4 by beating second-place Finland 3-1. Ireland drew 0-0 with Bulgaria, which joined Turkey and Slovakia in being relegated to the third tier.

The group winners also earned a little insurance in the World Cup qualification program which starts next year. Two places in a 12-nation qualifying playoff will go to winners of Nations League groups.

NORWAY FORFEIT  
The first Nations League game canceled because of COVID-19 cases was forfeited as a 0-3 loss for Norway in a UEFA ruling Wednesday.

UEFA's appeals committee decided the Norwegian soccer federation was to blame for not sending a team to Romania for a game scheduled Sunday. Norwegian public health officials ordered the players to quarantine and not fly to Bucharest after one player tested positive.

Norway gave up an equalizer deep into stoppage time in a 1-1 draw that gave Austria first place in Group 1. The UEFA ruling relegated Northern Ireland before it drew 1-1 with Romania.

### READY TO RUMBLE

Odisha FC players go through their training drills in Goa. Notably, the Bhubaneswar-based side have secured an exemption from the Club Licensing Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to participate in the National Club Competitions for 2020-21. OFC will begin their Indian Super League (ISL) campaign against Hyderabad FC November 23 at GMC Stadium, Bambolim.

