



### SAYANI'S UNIQUE B'DAY

Actor Sayani Gupta promotes women's health and hygiene on her special day by distributing sanitary napkins

LEISUREP2



### NO COOPERATION WITH US

Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen rules out cooperation with the US to contain Islamic State in Af

INTERNATIONALP10



### DC TAKE ON CSK

Rishabh Pant's Delhi Capitals lock horns with MS Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in IPL Qualifier 1 match today

SPORTSP12



### USHA TRAVELS

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DUBAI	10,333/-*

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### VIG INTERCEPTS 3 BABUS; SEIZES OVER ₹12L

**Bhubaneswar:** Vigilance sleuths Saturday seized a huge amount of unaccounted cash from the possession of three government officials after intercepting them at various places. Prakash Kumar Mohapatra, Regional Officer of SPCB at Panposh, was intercepted at Sundarpada here on the basis of reliable inputs while he was on his way home. The sleuths seized Rs 1,75,810 from his possession. The Vigilance also intercepted the regional officer of SPCB in Balasore, Narottam Behera at Tangi check gate and Bidhan Chandra Sahu, superintendent engineer of the Irrigation Baitarini Division in Keonjhar. They seized Rs 89,290 and Rs 10,07,620 from their possession. P3

### MUMBAI POLICE SUMMONS CBI DIRECTOR

**Mumbai:** The Cyber Cell of Mumbai Police Saturday summoned CBI director and former Maharashtra DGP Subodh Kumar Jaiswal in a phone tapping and data leak case, a senior official said here. Jaiswal has been asked to be present to record his statement October 14, the police official said. The summons was sent by email, he added. The case relates to the 'leak' of a report prepared by IPS officer Rashmi Shukla about alleged corruption in police transfers in Maharashtra when she headed the state intelligence department (SID). Jaiswal was the director general of police during this period.



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Of course, we did cover misgovernance and unemployment. We will cover rising petrol prices too once they cross ₹200 in Pakistan!

### WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.7°C	35.0°C
TEMP MIN	25.8°C	26.0°C
Humidity	81%	76%
Rainfall	4.4mm	Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky

## Fuel price hike for 7th day in a row

PNN / AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** There is no respite from sky-rocketing fuel prices as the petrol and diesel in the Capital city touched ₹104.75 and ₹100.84 following a 31 paise and 36 paise rise.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹103.84 a litre and ₹109.83 per litre in Mumbai, the notification showed.

As per sources, Mumbai Saturday became the first metro city in the country to see diesel prices cross the ₹100 per litre mark after fuel prices were hiked again.

CITY PRICES	
Petrol	₹104.75 (+0.31)
Diesel	₹100.84 (+0.36)

Petrol price was hiked by 30 paise per litre and diesel by 35 paise a litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. The fifth straight day of price hike pushed fuel rates to a new record high.

In Mumbai, diesel now comes for ₹100.29 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs ₹92.47. Prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes.

Shedding the modest price change policy, state-owned fuel retailers have since Wednesday started passing on the larger incidence of cost to consumers. For four days in a row, the price of petrol has been hiked by 30 paise a litre and diesel by 35 paise, the biggest rally in rates.

# Minister's son finally arrested

■ Accused Ashish Mishra was taken in custody on grounds of non-cooperation and evasive replies, says SIT chief

AGENCIES

**Lakhimpur Kheri/New Delhi, Oct 9:** After intense pressure was mounted on the Uttar Pradesh government starting from Supreme Court's dissatisfaction over the action taken against the accused and relentless agitations by farmer outfits and the opposition, Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra 'Monu' was arrested Saturday night after over 11 hours of grilling in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence which left eight people, including four farmers, dead.

DIG Upendra Agarwal, who is heading the special investigation team (SIT) of Uttar Pradesh Police probing the case, told reporters that Ashish Misra was not cooperating during the interrogation. "We are taking him in custody on grounds of non-cooperation and evasive replies. He will be produced in court and sustained custodial interrogation will follow," he said. Ashish was named in an FIR following allegations that he was in one of the vehicles that



Youth Congress activists stage a protest in New Delhi Saturday over death of at least eight people in Lakhimpur Kheri of Uttar Pradesh PIC: CHAMAN GAUTAM

mowed down four farmers protesting over UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit last Sunday.

Farmer leaders and opposition parties had been demanding Mishra's arrest but the minister and his son had denied the allegations.

Two BJP workers and their driver were allegedly lynched by angry farmers in the incident. Local journalist Raman Kashyap also died in the violence, which has triggered a political storm and put the BJP government on the back foot in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh.



Security personnel were deployed in strength and barricades put up in the area around the police line. Mishra is being kept in the interrogation room and will be produced before the court after medical examination, police sources said.

Aged around 35, Ashish looks after the political activities of his

### PM SHOULD EXPRESS GRIEF IN PARL: TIKAIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi should for once express grief in Parliament over the death of around 750 farmers during the months-long anti-farm law protests on Delhi's borders, Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said Saturday. He slammed the BJP-led Centre over the minimum support price (MSP) issue, and alleged that the government's assurance that the system would continue is "only on paper" and the farmers want it in reality.

father in his Kheri Parliamentary constituency.

While his son was facing questioning by the SIT, Ajay Mishra was in his MP's office in Lakhimpur city with lawyers and later came out to calm his supporters, who had assembled in large number outside the house and were shouting slogans in favour of him and his son.

The minister told them that Ashish was innocent and would come out clean.

The Supreme Court had Friday questioned the non-arrest of the accused, directed preservation of evidence and mulled transferring the probe to another agency.

### CM DISTRIBUTES BSKY SMART CARDS

## ₹706cr shot in the arm for Deogarh

■ While around 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families in the entire state will benefit from BSKY, the govt targets to extend the facility across all sections

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday inaugurated projects worth ₹136 crore and laid foundation stones for other projects worth ₹570 crore (Rs 706 crore in toto) for Deogarh district through videoconferencing from here.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister said 87 high schools in Deogarh district will be modernised under 5T Initiative, while all the three blocks of Deogarh will get piped drinking water under three mega projects.

He laid the foundation for a drinking water project meant for Deogarh municipality and a 300-bed hospital in the district. A budget of ₹115 crore has been earmarked for the hospital project and the people of the district will get quality healthcare serv-

ices at the hospital, Patnaik said.

He also started distribution of smart health cards under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) in the district. Deogarh is the sixth district in the state after Puri, Malkangiri, Sundargarh, Bolangir and Gajapati where the smart health cards have been provided to the people. Around 2.70 lakh people of Deogarh district are expected to benefit from the BSKY cards.

The smart cards have already been provided to over 10 lakh people in the state while 10,657 of them have availed the services worth over ₹20 crore in private hospitals, sources said. Patnaik said around 3.5 crore people of 96 lakh families in the entire state will benefit from BSKY smart cards. The government aims at extending health facilities to the total population free of cost, he added.

On the occasion, Health Minister Naba Kishore Das, Energy Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra, MLA Subas Panigrahi and Labour Minister Susanta Singh also addressed the people of Deogarh.

## LOW PRESSURE TO FORM IN 48 HOURS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** A low-pressure area (Lopar) is very likely to form over the north Andaman sea during the next 48 hours, said the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Bhubaneswar Centre here Saturday.

"The cyclonic circulation over north Andaman Sea & neighbourhood persists and now extends upto 5.8 km above mean sea level. Under its influence, a low pressure area is very likely to form over the same region during the next 48 hours," the IMD said in a bulletin Saturday.

The system is likely to become more marked and move west-north-westwards towards south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coasts during subsequent 4-5 days, it said.

However, the IMD has not revealed whether the low pressure area will be converted into a cyclonic storm or not.

On the other hand, private weather forecasting agency, Skymet said, "A low-pressure area will develop over the North Andaman Sea by October 10 and may become more marked. Conditions are favorable for this weather system to intensify into a cyclone." If the cyclone forms, it will be named as

Jawad and it is expected to move towards the south and north Andhra coast.

The agency also predicted another weather system over South China Sea which will eventually re-emerge in Eastern parts of the Bay of Bengal by October 15 or 16. The second low pressure area will also follow an almost similar path and move towards the east coast of the country, the Skymet said.

Most of the weather systems which develop in Bay of Bengal usually affect north Andhra Pradesh, Odisha or West Bengal and sometimes re-curve towards Bangladesh or Myanmar, it said.



### FUN & FROLIC

Visitors enjoy a boat ride at Tornado water game at I-city water world in Shah Alam on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

### OF CHOCOLATES & STICKY LOLLIES

## The sugary secret uniting US senate leaders

■ The candy desk, replete with chocolates, and other goodies, has been US legislators' guilty pleasure for over half a century

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Washington, Oct 9:** It looks much like the rest of the furniture in the US Senate, but one desk harbours a secret power giving it the unique capacity to unite the deeply-divided chamber – it's full of sugary treats.

The 'candy desk' – replete with chocolates, sticky lollies and other goodies capable of sweetening even the most laborious voting session

– has been legislators' guilty pleasure for more than 50 years.

Situated near a busy entrance on the Republican side, this saccharine stockpile requires a storekeeper of sorts to ensure it's always full. During periods of intense negotiation, like the scrimmage over spending and debt that has preoccupied senators in recent weeks, it is a responsibility that the nation's legislators take seriously.

"I can assure you that the candy desk is now, and will continue to be, well stocked," the current incumbent, Pennsylvania's Pat Toomey, told AFP. You'll have to take the Republican senator's word for it, as



The idea of the candy desk isn't really to keep the legislators well-nourished during these never-ending debates. But with almost a third of senators well into their 70s and beyond, the august body needs all the ambrosia it can get to keep the

members perky in the small hours.

During Donald Trump's first impeachment trial in 2020, an important procedural priority was the transfer of large boxes of candy through the corridors of power to Toomey's workstation. The senator has been the candy desk's gatekeeper-in-chief since 2015, and it is clear he considers trust bestowed on him to oversee this most sacred of duties a personal honor.

"But it is also just the natural order of things that the senator from Pennsylvania would have the candy desk, since we lead America, and the world, in candy-making," he enthuses.

■ The victim's family alleged that they had appealed to the police many times for justice, but in vain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Azamgarh, Oct 9:** An alleged rape victim Saturday committed suicide after consuming poisonous substance here protesting police inaction following which an SHO was suspended, officials said.

The woman, a resident of a village under Mehnajpur police station area, was allegedly sexually assaulted recently. Her husband claimed that she had identified one Anil of the same village as

one of the accused, but police failed to take any action in the matter, Superintendent of Police Sudhir Kumar Singh said. "In-charge of the police station Chunna Singh has been suspended for negligence," he said.

The victim's family alleged that they had appealed to the police many times for justice, but in vain.

The woman reached the police station Saturday and later consumed poison. She was rushed to a hospital where she was declared brought dead, the SP said. The body has been sent for post-mortem, he said. The police added that a case had been registered against the accused.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

The stars are sending out a warning today, and it will prevent you from getting cheated. Even though you manage to remain a step ahead of people, you are likely to make a few enemies along the way. Ganesha says today is not auspicious for buying a house or a vehicle.

TAURUS

You will find yourself at the crossroads and each turn and twist will come with its share of pros and cons, says Ganesha. Your sentiments may have an ill-effect on your health. You may spend quality time with family members and friends, hoping to shed the burden thrust upon your soul.

GEMINI

Today, you are likely to focus on self-improvement, predicts Ganesha. Self-employed people may expect huge profits in their businesses. You may end up spending more time at work and less time with family. You need to strike a balance between work and family.

CANCER

What good is life if it doesn't involve great fun and merrymaking. Keeping this in mind, you will set about planning your day. There may be no stopping you as you go about your day having a blast at every possible moment. There will be no limit to your gregarious behaviour, says Ganesha.

LEO

Your passionate and emotional nature contributes in a big way to your sudden outbursts of emotions, says Ganesha. Today, your anger may erupt abruptly. This makes it very likely for you to get carried away irrespective of your surroundings and circumstances, both at work and at home.

VIRGO

Stay clear of a coalition when it comes to business ventures, warns Ganesha. Alone, you can manage an entire stampede. By your own you are, by far, the best administrator of your department. Today, find yourself being the general and uniting people under your banner to achieve greater success, says Ganesha.

LIBRA

You may not have been crowned 'Employee Of The Month', but do not let that distract you from the fact that today, you are the brightest star in office. Be prepared to get some special treatment at work, as your bosses shower praise on you. Apart from that, a lot of tangible and intangible benefits await you.

SCORPIO

Ganesha warns you of a long, dreary day today. Though not completely at a loss, you may feel lost and desire to spend some time alone with yourself. The empty nest syndrome is likely to invade and hold your mental peace at ransom, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

The day is bright and the seas are calm today. For a change, you shall spend time with your life partner and help them in household chores. Even routine jobs like cooking and cleaning will weave an intricate bond between you two.

CAPRICORN

The day is bright and the seas are calm today. For a change, you shall spend time with your life partner and help them in household chores. Even routine jobs like cooking and cleaning will weave an intricate bond between you two.

AQUARIUS

Team work and cooperation bring out the best in you, so you must make the most of a chance to work in a group. It could be brainstorming, or campaigning for an environmental cause or even playing beach ball! A game of cards in the evenings, and consider your day well spent, says Ganesha.

PISCES

The workaholic in your bursts to the fore with a vengeance, and today will see you tackle pending projects with the zeal of a Holy Templar crusader. Your energy levels will be unflagging, and your enthusiasm to wipe your slate clean admirable. Make the most of it, says Ganesha.



CILLIAN TO PLAY 'FATHER OF ATOMIC BOMB' IN OPPENHEIMER

Actor Cillian Murphy will play J. Robert Oppenheimer, the American physicist whose role in running the Los Alamos (Nevada) Laboratory and involvement in the Manhattan Project has led him to be dubbed the 'father of the atomic bomb'.

SQUID GAME SUCCESS TURNS DELHI-BORN ANUPAM TRIPATHI INTO GLOBAL STAR

Delhi-born, South Korea-based Anupam Tripathi, who plays a Pakistani migrant, Ali Abdul, in Netflix's *Squid Game*, is "only just coming to terms" with the phenomenal success of the show. Tripathi's character is one of hundreds of deep-in-debt people roped into a deadly contest based on Korean playground games.



Sayani distributes sanitary napkins on her birthday

**Mumbai:** Sayani Gupta, who turned a year older Saturday, promoted women's health and hygiene on her special day by distributing sanitary napkins to young school girls.

On her birthday, Sayani distributed sanitary napkins at Govt Girls Senior Secondary School, Ghamroj in Haryana.

While talking about the same, the actor shared, "A basic necessity like a pad is still a mirage at various parts of the country. It is distressing to think that young girls have to restore to a

cloth or sand or unhygienic alternative during their periods due to the unavailability and unaffordability of a sanitary napkin. It is my mission to spread awareness and make these products reach every possible."

Even last year on her birthday, when cases of COVID-19 were relatively higher, Sayani managed to distribute sanitary napkins at an orphanage.

Recently, Sayani also lent her voice to an audio show —

**Buri Nazar.** The show, which also features Supriya Pathak and Rithvik Dhanjani, is a story between a mother, a daughter and a boy that she falls in love with.

— IANS

When Bhagyashree played Sita in Ram Leela

**Mumbai:** Ram Leela is currently being staged in Ayodhya as part of the celebrations leading up to Dussehra. It depicts several important chapters from the Ramayana. Due to the pandemic, instead of a vast live audience, it's being streamed live online and is also being broadcast on national television. Interestingly, actress Bhagyashree, who has made a comeback to movies recently, played Sita's part on stage last night.

She says, "This was so special. It's Navratri and Ram Leela are a huge part of a tradition passed down from generations. When I was approached for it, it didn't take me long to say yes. I am starting my career afresh and I was keen to come here and seek blessings. Being able to participate in Ram Leela, which people from different parts of the world watch, made it more special. Unfortunately, my work schedule is such that I could not give it more than one day, but this will remain an extremely special experience for me."

When asked about the prep involved in a live performance, which doesn't allow for retakes, Bhagyashree shares, "Since it was just a day, there wasn't too much to

prepare, but it required preparation for sure. I was given detailed notes and scene break-ups. I reached the venue during the day, rehearsed and performed in the evening for the dignitaries present."

While Bhagyashree's husband Himalaya Dassani accompanied her for the performance, her son, Abhimanyu, had to give it a miss due to his work commitments. "My son was very excited to know that I was doing this. He has grown up listening to all these stories from *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. It would have been something for him to see it live in action. In fact, not just him, my mother-in-law, wanted to be there, but due to age-related COVID restrictions, she couldn't join us," she said.

— AGENCIES

Sardar Udham is a tribute to Irrfan Khan: Vicky

**Mumbai:** Actor Vicky Kaushal along with director Shoojit Sircar will be seen as special guests on *The Kapil Sharma Show*.

The director-actor duo came to the sets to promote their new film *Sardar Udham*, in which Vicky Kaushal plays the titular character that was once set to be visualised on Irrfan Khan. The actor in the show proclaimed himself to be a fan of late actor Irrfan Khan.

In conversation with the guests, Archana Puran Singh talked about how the protagonist is a tough role to play and on top of it Irrfan Khan had been chosen to portray the role at first. Vicky Kaushal added that he loved the late actor a lot.

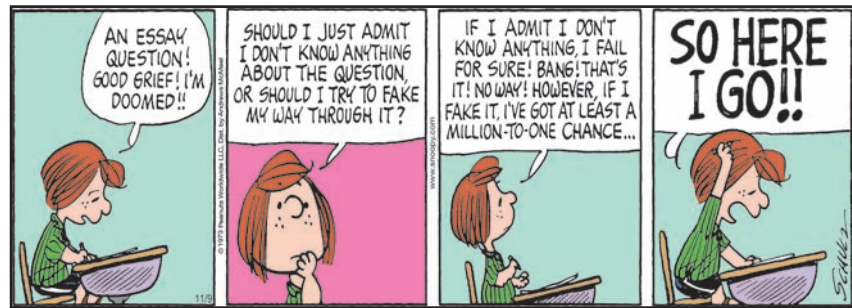
"Ma'am actually, I am a big fan of Irrfan sir. I feel he's one of the finest actors in the world," he said, adding: "I feel that nobody can fit in his shoes, because not only the size but the quality of the shoe itself is unique."

Talking about *Sardar Udham*, he said, "Every shot, every take of this film, is a tribute to Irrfan sir."

— IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

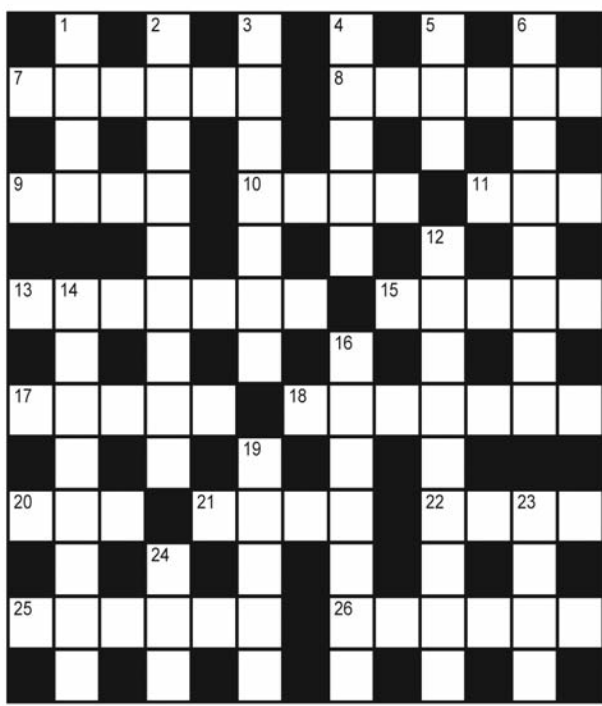


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Seat of power
  - 8 Odd
  - 9 Terrarium plant
  - 10 Highway exit
  - 11 \_\_\_ de Triomphe
  - 13 Tentacled creature
  - 15 Japanese cartoon art
  - 17 Manicurist's board
  - 18 Cutting the roast
  - 20 Slot machine symbol
  - 21 Cattle member
  - 22 Like hen's teeth
  - 25 Land on Lake Victoria
  - 26 Almost
  - 3 Afraid
  - 4 Scrumptious
  - 5 New Zealand parrot
  - 6 Robin Hood's followers (5,3)
  - 12 World-wide
  - 14 Run for office
  - 16 Voyaging
  - 19 Kind of race
  - 23 Film part
  - 24 Pantry pest
- Down**
- 1 Loafer, e.g.
  - 2 Cloudbursts

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

8	2		6					
	9	7						
6							7	
	3			1	5	6		
								2
			4	8				1
			2				8	3
	7	3				9	6	
		8	3		6		1	

SOLUTIONS

A	T	U	U	L	G			
O	R	D	A	I	N	S	P	O
M	N	L	A	C	B			
F	O	L	K	E	G	S	H	E
T	R	A	I	P	S	E	T	E
N	H	C	S					
A	G	A	T	E				
L	R	B	E	U				
C	O	L	I	S	E			
B	G	E	A	P	A	U		
V	A	L	U	E	D			
L	E	Y	E	I	E			

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

9	5	2	8	3	7	4	1	6
8	4	3	5	1	6	9	2	7
7	6	1	2	9	4	8	3	5
2	1	7	3	4	5	6	8	9
4	9	8	6	2	1	5	7	3
6	3	5	7	8	9	2	4	1
3	2	6	1	5	8	7	9	4
1	7	4	9	6	2	3	5	8
5	8	9	4	7	3	1	6	2

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## Police step up vigil in City bars, hotels

The twin city police have seized about 10 kg brown sugar during the first nine months of 2021

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** The Commissionerate Police have intensified vigil on bars and hotels in the twin city following the arrest of two youths from the state by the NCB for drug abuse during a rave party on a cruise off Mumbai coast few days back. While answering queries on the use of drugs in rave parties in city bars, Commissioner of Police, Saumendra Priyadarshi Saturday revealed, “We have arrested several youths for consuming drugs during several raids at bars as well as for flouting the Covid guidelines in the past. Activities in bars and restaurants in the city are under strict scanner of city police.”

This apart, the twin city police have seized about 10 kg of brown sugar during the first 10 months (till Saturday) of the current year, 2021, said a senior police officer Saturday.

“We have seized more than 10 kg of brown sugar till today in 2021. In Bhubaneswar urban district 5.66 kg of brown sugar was seized while 4.646 gm of the contraband was seized in Cuttack,” said Police



Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi flanked by DCP Umashankar Das addresses the media in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi.

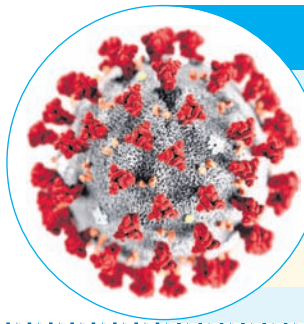
At least 33 cases related to the crime have been registered and 67 persons were arrested in Bhubaneswar. In Cuttack, 11 cases have been registered and 30 persons were arrested so far, he said.

The seizure of the contraband made by the Commissionerate of Police is the highest in any police



### FESTIVE FERVOUR

Preparation for Dussehra festival reaches its last phase at Rasulgarh mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



### COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	23,81,95,713	21,53,33,720	48,60,565
India	3,39,35,309	3,32,48,291	4,50,375
Odisha	10,31,044	10,18,311	8,242

### HOMAGE TO UTKALAMANI



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik pays floral tributes to Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das on his birth anniversary at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

## Vig sleuths intercept 3 babus; cash worth over ₹12L seized

The officers who were intercepted by the Vig sleuths include two regional officers of State Pollution Control Board and one superintending engineer of Irrigation department

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** Vigilance department sleuths Saturday seized a huge amount of unaccounted cash from the possession of three government employees after intercepting them at different places in the state. The officers who were intercepted by the anti-corruption wing of state government include two regional officers of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and one superintending engineer of Irrigation department.

Sources in the Vigilance department claimed that Prakash Kumar Mohapatra, Regional Officer of SPCB at Panposh in Rourkela, was intercepted at Sundarapada here on the basis of reliable inputs while he was on his way home. The sleuths seized ₹1,75,810 from his possession.

Upon enquiry, Mohapatra failed to give any satisfactory answer regarding the sources of the cash recovered from his vehicle. Several incriminating documents were also seized during the search of Mohapatra's vehicle.

Vigilance arrested Mohapatra by registering a case (29/21) in this connection.

The search operation at Mohapatra's residence at Hitech Plaza in Sundarapada area was on till the last report came in.



Similarly, the regional officer of SPCB in Balasore, Narottam Behera was intercepted by the Vigilance officials at Tangi check gate. Behera was returning from Balasore to his residence in the Capital city by a four-wheeler. The sleuths seized ₹89,290 from his possession. Vigilance officers seized the SUV along with the cash. A case (17/21) has been registered against Behera in this regard too.

“Following interception, the office room and residential government quarter of Narottam Behera at Balasore and his rented house at Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar, are being searched and investigation is in progress,” claimed Vigilance sources.

The anti-corruption sleuths also intercepted Bidhan Chandra Sahu, superintending engineer of the Irrigation Baitarini Division at Salapada in Keonjhar district. Sahu was intercepted in front of Covid Hospital on NC College Road at Jajpur town. He was going from Salapada to Cuttack by his official vehicle. The sleuths seized ₹10,07,620 from his possession when he failed to give any satisfactory details regarding the sources of the cash received from.

The vigilance officers have been searching his office room at Salapada and residence at Mahatab Road in Cuttack till the last report came in. A case (16 /21) has been registered against him.

## Priest held for molesting minor at Srimandir

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Puri, Oct 9:** The Singhadwar police Saturday arrested a Srimandir priest on charges of molesting a minor girl on the shrine precincts Friday. The accused was later produced in a local court, police said.

According to sources, the minor girl along with a few of her relatives visited the 12th century shrine Friday afternoon. A priest allegedly outraged the modesty of the girl while she was waiting for her relatives near the Buddhibaman temple on Srimandir premises.

After the girl narrated the incident to her relatives, they lodged a complaint in this regard with Singhadwar police. Taking the incident seriously, police detained the accused immediately, sources added.

“We found certain evidences against the priest during the preliminary investigation. We have registered a case as per the POCSO Act and produced the accused in a local court,” said Singhadwar inspector in-charge (IIC) Gelhi Sahu. Sources, meanwhile, claimed that the victim along with her relatives left Puri soon after lodging the complaint.

## Woman ‘sells’ infant son for ₹6,500 in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** A woman from Salia Sahi slum in Bhubaneswar allegedly sold her three-month-old son for ₹6,500 to fund her remarriage, a source said Saturday.

According to the source, the woman is a single parent and was facing difficulties in managing household expenses following the death of her husband. She also has a nine-year-old daughter.

The widow recently came in contact with a sanitation worker from Behera Sahi slum in Rental Colony locality. The man wanted to buy the baby boy from her as he does not have a male child, the source said.

Besides, the man assured her of arranging her remarriage in New Delhi. The woman, after much reluctance, agreed to the proposal and sold her infant to the sanitation worker to fund her second wedding. The man had taken her thumb impressions on a blank court paper to avoid legal actions, the source added.

Acting on an FIR lodged by

The woman is a single parent and was facing difficulties in managing household expenses following the death of her husband

A sanitation worker from Behera Sahi slum wanted to buy the baby boy from the woman as he does not have a male child

He also assured the woman of arranging her remarriage in New Delhi

Bhubaneswar Childline members with Nayapalli police, a case in this connection was registered and a probe was initiated. Following a joint raid conducted by local police and Childline members, the baby was rescued from the possession of the sanitation worker.

Meanwhile, the police sources denied the allegations regarding the sale of the baby by his mother. The widow reportedly gave the baby to the BMC sanitation worker as she found it difficult to bring him up keeping in view her financial status.

## Mundali among 7 sites under Centre’s River Ranching scheme



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** As many as 1.5 lakh fingerlings have been ranched at Munduli in Cuttack as part of the Union government's 'River Ranching' programme, which was launched Friday with three lakh fingerlings ranched at three sites in Uttar Pradesh. The programme is set to be implemented across five states – Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Tripura.

The programme aims to address increase in fish catch, improved livelihood of fishers, maintenance of the cleanliness of the rivers as fishes feed on organic remnants, and to primarily uplift the depleted fish stock and enhance production of the ranched fish species.

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Parshotam Rupala launched the programme at Brijghat, Garh Mukteshwar in Uttar Pradesh, a release from the Ministry said.

Rupala was joined by Ministers of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Sanjeev Kumar Balyan

The NFDB has sanctioned a total budget of ₹2.81 crore to ranch 97.16 lakh fingerlings to states as a part of Action Plan 2020-21 of PMMSY

and Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, MP from Meerut Rajendra Agarwal, MLA from Garh Mukteshwar Kamal Singh Malik along with Fisheries Secretary Jatindra Nath Swain, Chief Executive of National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) C Suvarna, and Joint Secretary, Inland Fisheries from Department of Fisheries Sagar Mehra.

In Uttarakhand, a total of one lakh fingerlings were ranched at Chandi Ghat at the Ganga River in Haridwar. In Tripura, 1.85 lakh fingerlings were ranched at four sites namely Khowai river at Teliamura, Gomati river at Udaipur, Dhalai river at Kamalpur and Deo river at Dashamighat. In Chhattisgarh, 1.5 lakh fingerlings were

ranchd at Mirounee Bairaj in Mahanadi, while in Odisha, 1.5 lakh fingerlings were ranchd at Munduli at Cuttack.

“The River Ranching programme was introduced as special activity under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for augmenting and enhancing the fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification and productive utilisation of land and water,” the release said.

Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries has designated National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad as the Nodal Agency under Central Sector component of PMMSY for implementing River Ranching across the country.

“Promoting the sustainable use and conservation of fishery resources in an economical and environmentally responsible manner has become the need of the hour. The River Ranching programme is one such activity which can achieve sustainable fisheries, reducing habitat degradation, conserving biodiversity, maximising socio-economic benefits, and assessing ecosystem services,” it added.

As part of the Phase I programme, the NFDB during 2020-21 has targeted three major river systems, Ganges and its tributaries, Brahmaputra and Barak river tributaries, and Mahanadi and other rivers.

Accordingly, six major inland states focusing on length of river belt namely Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Bihar were selected along with targeted sites for releasing of fish fingerlings. The NFDB has sanctioned a total budget of ₹2.81 crore to ranch 97.16 lakh fingerlings to states as a part of Action Plan 2020-21 of PMMSY.

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**  
 Union Bank of India

Government of India Undertaking

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

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### SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES

**(E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Movable/ Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/symbolic/physical possession** of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India & Union Bank of India (e-AB)** (Secured Creditor), will be sold on “**As is where is**” and “**As is What is**” and “**Whatever there is**” basis on 11.11.2021, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union Bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

**BARBIL - 1 BRANCH,**  
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Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower: Kapil Constructions, Prop.: Mr. Rabindra Kumar Mishra / Guarantor: Mrs. Chanchala Mishra, W/o: Mr. Rabindra Kumar Mishra, Both are at New Colony, Station Road, Barbil</b>	<b>₹ 11,86,494/- as on 31.01.2020 with further interest, Cost and expenses</b>

**Property No.1:** Residential Building at New Colony, Station Road, Barbil in the name of **Mrs. Chanchala Mishra**, Village: Sundara, Town: Barbil, Dist.: Keonjhar, Khata No.: 127/356, Plot No.: 111/1006, Area: Ac.0.035dec., Bounded by North: Property of Lola Sarkar, South: Plot No.: 586 (Property of Chitra Mahanta), East: 15ft wide Road, West: Plot No.: 112  
**Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹43,50,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹4,35,000/-**

**SATHIPUR BRANCH (ERSTWHILE ANDHRA BANK),**  
**Dist.: Jajpur, Ph. No.: 8249176744, Email: [bm1004@unionbankofindia.com](mailto:bm1004@unionbankofindia.com)**

Name & Address of Borrower, Co-Obligant & Guarantor:	Amount Due
<b>Borrower: Borrower: M/s. Shyamshree Industries, Prop.: Mrs. Manaswini Dhal, W/o: Manoj Dhal, Brajanagar, Rudhia, Jajpur-755043 / Co-obligant/Guarantor: Mrs. Menaka Kumari Dhal, W/o: Shyam Sundar Dhal, Brajanagar, Rudhia, Jajpur-755043 / Guarantor: Mr. Manoj Dhal, Brajanagar, Rudhia, Jajpur-755043</b>	<b>₹ 11,25,951/- as on 31.03.2019 with further interest, Cost and expenses</b>

**Property No.2:** 1) Factory Land and Building belonging to **Mrs. Manaswini Dhal** bearing Khata No.: 89, Plot No.: 188, Area: Ac.0.160 Dec. & 2) Vacant Plot belonging to **Mrs. Menaka Dhal** bearing Khata No.: 89, Plot No.: 310, Area: Ac.0.110 dec., **Total Area: Ac.0.270 Dec.**, KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Brajanagar, P.S.: Jajpur, Tahasil: Jajpur, Dist.: Jajpur, **Plot No.: 188 is Bounded by North: Plot No.: 179, 189 & 190, South: Plot No.: 187 & 181, East: Plot No.: 191, West: Road, Plot No.: 310 is Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 187 & 181, East: Plot No.: 309, West: Plot No.: 308 & 311**  
**Type of Possession: Symbolic / Reserve Price: ₹42,43,000/- / Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹4,24,300/-**

**BID INCREMENT AMOUNT FOR EACH PROPERTY : ₹10,000/-**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 11.11.2021 between 01:00 P.M. to 05:00 P.M.**  
**(with 10 minutes unlimited auto extention), e-Auction Website : [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)**

**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction**

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit:  
**<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>**

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in  
**<https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/tendelViewAllAuction.aspx>**

**Place: Balasore**  
**Date: 08.10.2021**

**Sd/- Authorized Officer**  
**Union Bank of India**



PORN VIDEO CASE

HC directs Khurda SP to take action within 4 weeks

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 9:** The Orissa High Court has directed Khurda district Superintendent of Police (SP) to take action on a case pertaining to the shooting of porn videos by a policeman.



A bench of Justice Bishwajit Mohanty directed Khurda SP to take action on the issue within four weeks.

As per the case proceedings, the accused policeman had an illicit affair with the wife of a person from Nirakarpur area of Khurda. The person concerned had lodged a complaint in this regard with Khurda police. However, the accused policeman forced the person to go for a mutual solution to the issue.

Later, the person concerned had caught the policeman in a compromising position with his wife. The person also found several objectionable videos of the policeman with several women in the latter's mobile phone.

The person had lodged a complaint in this regard at Nirakarpur police station. But, no action was taken against the accused.

Subsequently, the person had raised the issue with Khurda SP but to no avail. Alleging police inaction on the issue, the person had filed a case in the HC.

CLASSIFIED  
AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit, I Bikash Ranjan Bileipadia, S/o - Chaitanya Beleipadia, resident of Nalco Township, Damanjodi state that my name is wrongly mentioned as Bikash Ranjan instead of Bikash Ranjan Bileipadia in my CBSE Certificate. Now I intend to correction of my name to Bikash Ranjan Bileipadia from Bikash Ranjan. Sd./- Deponent

By virtue of an affidavit, I Chitta Ranjan Bileipadia, S/o Chaitanya Beleipadia, resident of Nalco Township, Damanjodi state that my name is wrongly mentioned as Chitta Ranjan instead of Chitta Ranjan Bileipadia in my CBSE Certificate. Now I intend to correction of my name to Chitta Ranjan Bileipadia from Chitta Ranjan. Sd./- Deponent

By virtue of an affidavit, I Sudhansu Ranjan Bileipadia, S/o- Chaitanya Beleipadia, resident of Nalco Township, Damanjodi state that my name is wrongly mentioned as Sudhansu Ranjan instead of Sudhansu Ranjan Bileipadia in my CBSE Certificate. Now I intend to correction of my name to Sudhansu Ranjan Bileipadia from Sudhansu Ranjan. Sd./- Deponent

RAY OF HOPE

Daily recoveries keep surpassing new cases

Odisha had registered 524 fresh Covid-19 infections Friday, against which, 598 people recovered from the highly infectious disease

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** Odisha Saturday registered 526 new Covid-19 cases, just two more than the previous day, which pushed the state's tally to 10,31,044, a Health department official said.

The new cases, which were detected in 25 of the state's 30 districts, included 68 children. The rate of infection among the children and adolescents in the age group of 0 to 18 years was recorded at 12.92 per cent against Friday's 14.31 per cent.

Of the 526 new cases, 303 were reported from different quarantine centres, while the remaining 223 were local contact cases. Khurda district, of which state capital Bhubaneswar is a part, recorded the highest number of new (233) cases, followed by Cuttack (63). Both the districts accounted for 56.27 per cent of the single day new cases, he said.

Five districts - Boudh, Dhenkanal,

Keonjhar, Nabarangpur and Nuapada, did not register any new cases in the last 24 hours. The daily test positivity rate (TPR) of Odisha stood at 0.77 per cent against Friday's 0.78 per cent.

The Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department informed that the state, during the last 24 hours, reported four fresh deaths which pushed Covid-19 fatalities to 8,242. The latest Covid deaths have been reported from Nabarangpur (2), Jagatsinghpur (1) and Bolangir (1). This apart, 53 other COVID-19 patients have died due to comorbidities, the department said.

The coastal state currently has 5,035 active Covid-19 cases, while as many as 10,17,714 patients including 598 Friday, have recovered from the highly infectious disease.

Thus far, over 2.05 crore sample tests have been conducted, including 68,264 Friday, for Covid-19. The state's cumulative positivity rate stands at 5.01 per cent.



PICT FOR REPRESENTATION

NGT halts setting up of steel plant in Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has put stay on setting up of a steel plant in Rourkela by KAI International Pvt Ltd over the allegations that the company did not have environment clearance.

A bench comprising Judicial Member B Amit Shalekar and Expert Member Saibal Dasgupta stayed any activity of construction at the site till the company gets environment clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC).

"Considering the fact that so far environmental clearance has not been granted by the MoEF & CC, we direct that no construction and felling of trees shall be made at the site in question by M/s KAI International Private Ltd including boundary wall etc till all necessary



clearances are granted by the MoEF & CC and other authorities, till further order," the tribunal said.

The NGT also asked Odisha to file an affidavit giving the details of the number of trees felled and the cost of trees which have been felled and the action taken by the state government in this direction.

Significantly, an application was filed before the tribunal alleging that the company is setting up an Iron Ore Pelletisation Plant with a production capacity of 1.5 million

tonnes per annum without Environmental Clearance (EC) or Forest Clearance (FC).

It was also stated that KAI International is proposing to set up a steel plant and allied activities such as Iron Ore Beneficiation Plant. The application further stated that for this purpose, large scale felling of almost 10,000 trees has been carried out and this area is contiguous to the Kukia Reserve Forest and many other reserve forests within a 10 Km radius which

Cyclist on tour spreads message of peace

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** Adhiraj Barua, a cyclist from Jharkhand, had embarked on an all-India tour with the objective spreading message of national integration, peace, awareness against child marriage and environment pollution control.

An interior designer by profession, Barua plans to travel to all the 29 states of the country and end his tour by March 2023. "My aim is to reach Umling La pass August 15, 2022," he said. Umling La pass is situated at an altitude of 19,300 feet in eastern Ladakh and it is the highest motorable road in the world. "If I can achieve this, I will be the first man in the world to reach Umling on bicycle," observed Barua.

Prior to this mission, Barua had travelled on bicycle from Jamshedpur to West Bengal.

Barua started his cycle tour from Jamshedpur, October 1, and is currently in touring Odisha's capital



Bhubaneswar. After Bhubaneswar he will travel to Puri from where he will be heading to Chhattisgarh. He has also visited Cuttack.

Barua visited Naveen Niiwas with the desire to meet Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, but failed to meet him. He has also visited many educational institutions and police stations to share his messages. "In our country many recent incidents have questioned the

unity among the different communities. The incidence of mob lynching in many places harms the country's image and national integration," Barua said.

According to Barua, child and forced marriage (CFM) is a human rights violation that disproportionately affects women and girls globally, preventing them from living their lives free from all forms of violence.

ENDEAVOUR FOR ENVIRONMENT



Speaker Surya Narayan Patro at a seminar on sustainable environment organised by Institute of Quality & Environment Management Services at hotel The New Marriot, Bhubaneswar

Implement PM SVAMITVA in state pronto: Pradhan urges CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sought personal intervention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the expedient implementation of the PM SVAMITVA in Odisha.

Friday, in a letter to the CM, Pradhan said that PM SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) aims to provide property rights to the residents of rural inhabited areas.

"As you are aware, the survey of rural land and its record of rights in India are age-old. There also remain many uninhabited villages in India including the state of Odisha, where survey of land has not been

done yet. As a result, many owners of property in rural areas of the state do not have requisite legal documentation for their property," the Union Minister's letter read.

Even after decades of Independence, true potential of villages, homes and landed properties in rural areas has remained shackled and often lead to uncertainty and mistrust between neighbours due to the absence of a proper documentation, Pradhan mentioned in his letter. To address the issue, Prime Minister launched the SVAMITVA scheme April 24, 2020.

The scheme aims to cover around 6.62 lakh villages of the entire country during 2021-2025, the letter read.

Pradhan further said the scheme has already been implemented in 7,565 villages in the states of

Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. More than 22 lakh property cards have been prepared till date.

Odisha had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Survey of India in February, 2021 for implementation of the scheme in Rayagada on a pilot basis.

"The swiftness, with which State revenue and rural development departments act, is critical to the effective and fast implementation of the project. The activities need to be ramped up and the state needs to permit the Continuous Operating Reference Stations (CORS) expeditiously in order to facilitate the survey," he urged Patnaik.

Mahtab, Moquim for better healthcare at City Hospital



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 9:** Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab and Barabati Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim Saturday put emphasis on the development of infrastructure at the Cuttack district headquarters hospital (DHH), popularly known as City Hospital.

The duo along with Cuttack Collector Bhawani Shankar Chayani and Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Satyabrata Chhotray participated in a review meeting on the healthcare facilities at the hospital.

The meeting emphasised on the renovation of several old buildings of City Hospital. Earlier, a proposal in this regard had been sent to the state government, sources said.

The meeting also discussed various issues with regard to requirement of additional buildings for the ophthalmology department of the hospital. "The state government has sanctioned funds for renovation of a few vacant staff quarters to arrange additional rooms for the eye care department of City Hospital," said an official of the Health department.

The meeting also deliberated upon the installation of a 250KV power grid for the hospital. The authorities concerned have asked

Engg student ends life

**CUTTACK:** An Engineering student consumed poison after his girlfriend allegedly refused to repay the money that she had borrowed from him for her father's treatment. He died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack late Friday night. The boy was identified as Sritam Kumar Swain, a BTech third year student, who hailed from Paradip but was currently residing in Cuttack. According to sources, Sritam had lent ₹2 lakh to his girlfriend when her father was sick. Recently, the youth asked her to return the money, following which the relationship between the couple strained. Furthermore, the girlfriend's elder sibling allegedly physically assaulted Sritam. He was even threatened with dire consequences if he dared to ask for repayment of loan. Under tremendous stress over the issue, Sritam decided to take the extreme step. He booked a hotel room in Badambadi October 6, where he reportedly consumed poison.

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# MGNREGS feather in Ganjam’s cap

IN A FIRST IN THE STATE, THE DISTRICT HAS CREATED 2 CRORE MANDAYS FOR JOB CARD HOLDERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Oct 9:** Ganjam district has stood first in the state by creating 2 crore mandays under the Centre’s flagship Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), a report said.

The district has been able to achieve the feat by October 8, 2021 by providing work to people under the rural job scheme. This was stated here by Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange Saturday.

Kulange said the Ganjam team has been able to achieve the milestone by creating 2 crore mandays.

He tweeted his appreciation for the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), all BDOs and their teams, Saturday.

Sindhe Dattatreya Bhausaheb, project director, DRDA, said Ganjam district has crossed 2 crore mandays in implementing MGNREGS projects in 2021-22. He said ₹386.32 crore



has been spent till now under the scheme.

He said the district had achieved 98.36 lakh mandays in 2020-21 fiscal. ₹210.71 crore had been spent under the project, PD, DRDA, said.

According to reports, the district administration created 2.1 crore mandays and provided work to 328,533 families in the district.

Many residents who had migrated to other states had returned home due to the pandemic. The district administration has achieved

this success by providing jobs to migrants. Construction of model ponds, model parks, roads, drains, model cowsheds, Anganwadi centres and planting of coconut saplings were taken up under the scheme.

As many as 15,779 families in Aska block, 14,191 families in Beguniapada block, 15,496 families in Belguntha, 15,890 families in Bhanjanagar, 14,451 families in Buguda block, 11,717 in Chhatrapur block, 14,052 in Chikiti, 14,722 in

GANJAM COLLECTOR VIJAY AMRUTA KULANGE TWEETED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE DRDA, ALL BDOs AND THEIR TEAMS FOR THE FEAT

SINDHE DATTATREYA BHAUSAHEB, PROJECT DIRECTOR, DRDA, SAID GANJAM DISTRICT HAS CROSSED 2 CRORE MANDAYS IN IMPLEMENTING MGNREGS PROJECTS IN 2021-22. HE SAID, ₹386.32 CRORE HAS BEEN SPENT TILL NOW UNDER THE SCHEME. THE DISTRICT HAD ACHIEVED 98.36 LAKH MANDAYS IN 2020-21 FISCAL

Dharakote, 15,440 in Digapahandi, 12,102 in Ganjam, 12,239 in Hinjili, 16,824 in Jagannathprasad, 15,921 in Kabisuryanagar, 15,517 in Khallikote, 11,772 in Kukudakhandi, 18,783 in Patrapur, 17,162 in Polsara, 13,657 in Purusottampur, 14,509 in Rangeilunda, 17,114 in Sanakhemundi, 13,129 in Shergad and 18,066 in Sorada were provided work, he added.

# NGT spanner in Kharasrota project

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Oct 9:** A National Green Tribunal’s order has thrown a spanner in the works of the mega drinking water project under construction on Kharasrota river at Barunadiha in this district, a report said.

A bench of the tribunal comprising Justice B Amit Shalekar, judicial member and expert Saibal Dasgupta heard the matter October 4 and directed the Union environment secretary, state chief secretary, principal secretary, water resources department, Kendrapara Collector, Bhadrak Collector and principal chief conservator of forests (Wildlife) to file a detailed report on the projects within four weeks.

The bench, while hearing the matter, raised objections on a previous case (23/2020) filed by Sanjay Behura on the affidavit filed by the principal secretary of the water resources department.

Meanwhile, Section-144, clamped by the district administration at

Barunadiha, Balakati and Bharigada panchayats under Rajkanika block, the site of the mega drinking water project, over last two months, will be withdrawn, Sunday.

The prohibitory order was clamped following people’s resistance to supply of water from Kharasrota river to Bhadrak for the mega drinking water project. The order by the tribunal has posed problems for the state government and the district administration which are executing the project while people’s opposition to the project is intensifying in the area day by day.

The water treatment plant is being constructed at Nuahaat under Chandbali block in Bhadrak district while the intake well is under construction on Kharasrota river at Barunadiha under Rajkanika block. The project site at Nuahaat and Barundiha falls under the eco-sensitive zone of the Bhitarkanika National Park.

Khitish Kumar Singh of Khadianga in Kendrapara had filed



a case in September at the NGT that the project is constructed without environmental clearance. In his petition, he claimed that the district administration, which cited the report of Professor Dr Sashadhar of civil engineering department of IIT-Hyderabad on the social and environmental impact of the project, is false.

He claimed that Prof Sashadhar,

in a reply to Rakesh Mohanty of Rajkanika, said he had submitted the report on the basis of secondary data made available to him. He clarified that he had not undertaken any survey in the area nor had engaged any person to conduct the survey on the social and environmental impact arising out of the construction of the project. Residents claimed that the proj-

# Women become self-reliant by making organic manure

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Oct 9:** Members of women self-help groups have managed to become self-reliant by earning livelihoods for their families from recycling of waste generated in this town, a report said.

The women recycle the decomposed waste thrown out by the households into organic manure and sell it to farmers for a price to earn their livelihood.

The manure is being used to increase the fertility of the soil of their farmlands. The manure helps them in reducing their dependence on chemical fertilisers. The move has achieved three objectives in helping the women to earn a livelihood, in checking the use of chemical fertilisers on farmlands and in keeping the environment clean.

Reports said, the district resources centre also known as the waste recycling centre is managed by the Malkangiri Municipality. The centre was launched by the civic body at Mundaguda in the

town during the lockdown at an investment of ₹1.5 crore.

Over 10 SHG women are employed in the unit while 40 volunteers are engaged in the battery driven vehicles. The centre produces three to four quintals of organic manure on a daily basis which is sold at ₹20 per kg to various government and private institutions as well as farmers.

The women volunteers and sanitary workers move in the streets of the town in battery driven vehicles and collect the wet and dry wastes generated by the households. They deliver it at the waste recycling centre where SHG women segregate the wet wastes like vegetables, fruits, grass and wastes of similar nature and turn them into organic manures in the micro composting centre. Wet wastes are segregated first and crushed in a machine. Later, the crushed wastes are kept in 14 large containers for 45 days when a mixture of curd and jaggery are added to it. After 45 days, the mixture dries up and then is crushed in a machine.

# Family attacked, fined ₹1lakh over ‘sorcery’

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sajanagarh, Oct 9:** In a shocking incident, people of two villages under Berhampur police limits in Balasore district brutally attacked a family and slapped a fine of ₹1 lakh as a punishment on suspicion of practicing sorcery, a report said.

The local residents held a kangaroo court at Putibandh in Telipal panchayat, Saturday.

Reports said, people of two villages - Putibandh and Hudisahi-



suspected that 65-year old Ghasiram Singh had been practicing black magic. Infuriated over such suspicion, over 200 people from the area organized a praja court

Saturday and attacked the family of Ghasiram. At the kangaroo court, locals took punitive action against the family members. They decided that family would pay a penalty of ₹1 lakh.

On being informed, Berhampur police rushed to the village and started an investigation.

Police called people from the people of the both sides to police station and tried to settle the issue. However, the victim’s family filed a complaint against the attackers.

# Ramsar Wetland status for Tampara soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Oct 9:** Tampara lake near Chhatrapur in Ganjam district is going to find a place in Ramsar wetlands. This is a matter of pride for Odisha.

It may be noted here that Wetland Convention (Ramsar Convention Wetlands) was organized in 1971. Since February 2, 2020, World Wetlands Day is observed for conservation of wetlands across the globe. Its objective is to conserve wetlands and their biodiversities. As many as 46 places in India have been accorded Ramsar Wetlands status. Among them are Chilika and Bhitarkanika sanctuary in Odisha. Significantly, 25 more wetlands in the country will get status of Ramsar Wetlands soon. Tampara is one of them. It was indicated during the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav marking 75 years of Independence here. Tampara has already been tagged as a tourist place by the state government. The central government has also provided funds for its development.

The place has been developed as Tampara Lake View park with facilities of boating, water sports, snacks bar, drinking water, restrooms and toilets for tourists.

The place has been drawing an increasing number of tourists. To ensure its sanitation, the district administration has declared the area as plastic-free zone.

The Berhampur Development



THE BERHAMPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HAS EXECUTED ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT THE TOURIST SITE. THE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP UNDER THE ‘SWADESH DARSHAN’ SCHEME OF THE CENTRE AT A COST OF ₹8 CRORE

TAMPARA IS 2 KM FROM THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY-16. SOME OF ITS INFRASTRUCTURES WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED BY CYCLONE PHAILIN IN OCTOBER 2013. LANDSCAPING, WIDENING OF THE ROAD FROM NATIONAL HIGHWAY TO THE WATER BODY, FOOD COURT, ILLUMINATION AND SITTING FACILITIES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE FIRST PHASE

Authority (BeDA) has executed additional infrastructure projects at the tourist site. The projects have been taken up under the ‘Swadesh Darshan’ scheme of the Centre at a cost of ₹8 crore.

Tampara is 2 km from the National Highway-16. Some of its infrastructures were severely damaged by cyclone Phailin in October 2013. Landscaping, widening of the road from National Highway to the water body, food court, illumination and sitting facilities have been made in the first phase.

The government sanctioned ₹33.43 crore under the scheme for its tourism development three years ago. The state government

has been developing the Tampara into a major tourist destination.



Farmers demanding construction of Sureswari irrigation project take out a bicycle rally from Talapada Square under Kishorenagar block of Angul district, Saturday

# Death due to medical negligence: Locals block road

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Oct 9:** A patient undergoing treatment at PRM Medical College and Hospital at Baripada was critically injured Friday night after a patch of plaster from the hospital ceiling allegedly fell on him. He died later. The incident triggered discontent among locals who alleged that the patient died due to medical negligence.

The deceased was identified as Chakradhar Singh, a resident of Podarastia under Shyamkhunta block.

Hundreds of locals blocked the Baripada-Udala road at Chipatastia over the death since 11 pm Friday and till Saturday. Alleging medical negligence, they demanded action against



those responsible for the death. Owing to road blockade, vehic-

ular movement on the route came to a standstill.

Reports said, family members of the deceased and co-villagers laid the body on the road Friday night and demanded compensation. The agitation continued till Saturday morning.

Chakradhar was admitted to PRM Medical College and Hospital when he was down with fever. Unfortunately, a chunk of concrete slab fell on him October 3. He was seriously injured. He was being shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack but succumbed on the way Friday night.

The agitators demanded adequate compensation for his death as the hospital authorities had not ensured the safety of the patient.

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
REGIONAL BUSINESS OFFICE-R-III, KEONJHAR

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
[RULE-8(1)] For Immovable Property

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **STATE BANK OF INDIA, Champua Branch** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus interest, Cost, Legal Charges etc. within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. 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 charges of the **State Bank of India** for the notice amount and interest, Cost and incidental Charges thereon.

CHAMPUA BRANCH / A/c. No./ Name and Address of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower	Description of the Immovable Property	Liabilities Specified as on date	Demand / Possession Notice Date
A/c. No.: 38151912173 (TL) / Borrower: Smt. Bijayini Ray, W/o: Sri Bharat Chandra Ray / Co-Borrower: Bharat Chandra Ray, S/o: Biswambar Ray, At: Ramla, PO: Champua, Dist.: Keonjhar - 758041	All that part and parcel of the property consisting in Mouza: Ramla, Tahasil: Champua, Khata No.: 241/120, Plot No.: 550/1857, Area: Ac.0.14 dec. Kissam: Gharabari, Standing in the name of <b>Sri Bharat Chandra Ray</b> , S/o: Biswambar Ray, Bounded by: East: Rabi Behera, West: Rabi Das, South: Kamala Kar, North: Road	₹4,32,190/- as on 12.08.2021 + interest, cost and charges thereon	07.12.2020 / 07.10.2021

**Place: Keonjhar**  
**Date: 08.10.2021**

**Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India**



“

The thoughts of the Divine are like white doves of peace and sweetness.

THE MOTHER



## Then & Now

In his speech of 8 August 2019 explaining the move to ‘deoperationalise’ Article 370 (it has not been revoked or removed as is widely assumed), the Prime Minister said the following:  
That the development of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh was being held back by Article 370. The problem had now been eliminated and a new era had begun. Article 370 was the root of separatism, terrorism, nepotism and corruption. The future had been secured now by this move.  
We should examine what has happened in the two years since. The first aspect is that there is no democracy any longer in Kashmir. It is the only part of India to not have elected government and is ruled directly by Delhi through a governor.  
The second is that this direct rule is accompanied by the use of laws that are peculiar to Kashmir, such as the Public Safety Act. Under this law individuals can be detained without a crime. This is a Kashmir-specific law though ‘one nation, one Constitution’ was used as a reason for the Article 370 move.

The third is that the total number of people who have bought land in Kashmir in the last two years is only two. The removal of Article 35, which defined permanent residents of Kashmir, was said to be a big reason for India’s action, but it does not appear to have changed the position on the ground. Fourth, Kashmiri Pandits have not returned to the Valley. Why an urban and educated community would want to go back to a place with few jobs and often no internet is easy to understand. When Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi blamed Pandits recently for not showing an interest to return to the Valley, this aspect may not have been understood by her.

Fifth, the change in the status of Ladakh and the issuance of new maps of the Union territory appears to be the proximate cause for China’s aggression there. The government has not acknowledged it, but essentially the Chinese have ensured that their 1959 claim line has been imposed on the ground. India continues to have around 2 lakh soldiers on that front. In January this year, the army changed from having 25 divisions facing Pakistan and only 12 facing China to having 16 now face China.

Sixth, terrorism in Kashmir as measured by fatalities in the last three years under Mammoan Singh averaged 150 deaths a year. In the last three years this number is 250 deaths a year. It appears that terrorism is not going down because we have ‘deoperationalised’ Article 370.  
Seventh, there has been no development in Kashmir for the last two years and this is not unexpected. The economy has been in decline across India for several years now. The pandemic and increased violence recently will hit tourism also. The US magazine Harper’s reported that Kashmir’s doctor to patient ratio was 1 to 3,060, while its troops to civilians ratio was 1 to 7. It is hollow to talk about ‘development’ when the world confronts you with such numbers.  
Eighth, after five decades, the United Nations Security Council took up the issue of Kashmir. August 16, 2019, the UN website carried a news item under the headline ‘UN Security Council discusses Kashmir; China urges India and Pakistan to ease tensions.’ Its opening paragraph read: “The Security Council considered the volatile situation surrounding Kashmir on Friday, addressing the issue in a meeting focused solely on the dispute, within the UN body dedicated to resolving matters of international peace and security, for the first time since 1965.” India has reactivated global interest in the issue of Kashmir which was previously dormant.

Ninth, other global bodies have also begun to criticise India for what is going on in Kashmir after 2019. This year, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (a bi-partisan body that had previously banned Modi from entering the United States after 2002) said this in its report: “In Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir, restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly negatively impacted religious freedom, including the observance of religious holy days and the ability to attend prayers. The shutdown of the internet for nearly 18 months—the longest-ever shutdown in any democracy—and other restrictions on communications caused significant disruption and limited religious freedom.” The USCIRF has recommended sanctions against Indian individuals to President Joe Biden.  
Tenth, after China’s aggressive moves in Ladakh, India sought a ceasefire with Pakistan, which is today holding on the ground. Our reason for acting in Kashmir was because India said Pakistan was the problem. Now India is turning to Pakistan for the solution because apparently the real problem is China.

The reason for writing on this subject at the current time is that we seem to be reverting to the position that Kashmir was 30 years ago. Then, as now, it was under Governor’s rule. Its political leadership was kept locked up and sidelined, its people were forbidden from protesting, there was no development and India was forced to deploy large numbers of security forces internally.  
We should consider all this honestly and ask ourselves what the benefit of the action that India took in 2019 has brought to us and to Kashmiris.

### WISDOM CORNER

- “

A thing of beauty is a joy forever: its loveliness increases; it will never pass into nothingness.

JOHN KEATS
- “

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.

KAHLIL GIBRAN
- “

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

### WORDSWORTH

#### Pharology

Pharology, the scientific study of lighthouses and signal lights, is first recorded in 1847 in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Arts of London. The author of the paper noted it had been “first introduced by the late Mr Purdy”. This otherwise unsung gentleman must have had in mind the famous lighthouse, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, that was erected around 280BC on the island of Pharos, off the coast of Alexandria. The word is well known among those whose hobbyist or professional interest lies in studying or looking after lighthouses. Now that all the British lights are automated, and the job of lighthouse keeper no longer exists, you might think that pharologists have less to interest them. Not so. Many of the lights are in remote locations that required great determination, skill and endurance to construct and special qualities in the men who were isolated on them for a month at a time. In Britain, the Association of Lighthouse Keepers helps keep knowledge of them alive. A rare appearance of the word in literature is in E Annie Proulx’s The Shipping News of 1993: “Pharology. Science of lighthouses and signal lights. Dawn knows elevations and candlepower, stuff about flashes and blinks and buoys. Bore you silly with it.”



Steven Hill

SINCE TECH COMPANIES FIRST DEVELOPED THEIR BUSINESS MODELS, USERS’ PRIVATE DATA HAVE BECOME THEIR REAL CASH COW



Aakar Patel

Then, as now, Kashmir was under Governor’s rule. Its political leadership was kept locked up and sidelined, its people were forbidden from protesting, there was no development and India was forced to deploy large numbers of security forces internally

### SPECTRUM FISCAL DEFICIT



Bharat Jhunjhunwala

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS IGNORED THE CONSEQUENCE OF ITS BORROWINGS ON FUTURE GENERATIONS

## 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

### FOCUS BIG TECH

# FACELIFT FOR FACEBOOK



The free market has never been a free-for-all, yet tech companies have long operated with few constraints on their business models. Perhaps the latest Facebook scandal will finally provide the impetus governments need to take effective action – beginning with the implementation of digital operating permits

psychographic profiles of users to advertisers and political operatives, who then target them with manipulative content. There have also been leaks. In 2014, for example, the political consultancy Cambridge Analytica harvested information from the Facebook profiles of more than 87 million users – information that it used to try to sway voters. Five years later, Facebook leaked 530 million users’ private data.

Tech executives argue that their data grabs benefit users by giving them personalised ads that cater to their individual desires. But how many times do you need to see ads for hiking boots, especially after you have purchased them? The risks of the surveillance-capitalism business model far outweigh the benefits.

The digital operating permit could also require companies to ensure compatibility with ‘middleware,’ third-party software that helps users to manage their on-line experience. Software that blocks online advertisements is one example. Another is a smartphone app that allows users to turn data-collection and location-tracking on and off as needed, with the touch of a button. Want to call a taxi? Turn on location tracking so the driver knows where to find you, and then turn it off – no more tracking, and no transaction data retained. If this functionality – a limited version of

which is now included in Apple’s iPhone iOS – becomes widespread, it could upend Facebook’s ‘data-grab-for-profit’ model.

Other middleware could target ‘dark patterns’ in platform design: engagement tricks like infinite scroll, autoplay, pop-ups, and automated recommendations, which keep users clicking and viewing. Platforms like Facebook deploy such ‘behavioral nudges’ to ensure that users continue to see ads – the single biggest source of Facebook’s \$86 billion in annual revenue.

The digital permit system could also help address Big Tech’s monopoly problem. For example, Facebook, with its 2.8 billion users, owns WhatsApp (two billion users) and Instagram (1.1 billion users). But while the growing call for antitrust enforcement has merit, these three platforms would be behemoths even separately.

A digital permit could help reduce the major social-media platforms’ market share by imposing strict limits on audience size: each piece of user-generated content could be served to, say, no more than 1,000 people. That is many more people than most users actually know or have regular contact with, so it hardly constitutes a deprivation. Social-media critic Tristan Harris suggests that Facebook turn off its Share/Reshare button after a piece of content is

viewed two ‘hops’ away from the originator. Facebook knows this approach works: it deployed a version of it during the 2020 US presidential election.

Of course, there would be exceptions, including legitimate news, information, music, and videos from leaders, artists, and thinkers. Tech platforms already have teams of human moderators – Facebook employs 15,000 – who could be tasked with identifying such ‘public-interest content.’ This approach would reduce the spread of fake news and disinformation by introducing necessary friction in the information flow, and would be a far better use of moderators’ time than continuing to play whack-a-lie.

Such a system recognises that platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are not merely ‘public squares,’ but also publishers and broadcasters. As such, they have much more in common with The New York Times, BBC, and The Sun than many analysts have been willing to admit.

In fact, they operate on a much larger scale than any of those outlets. Facebook is the single largest media publisher in history, and YouTube is the largest visual-media broadcaster. One study found that a mere 100 pieces of COVID-19 misinformation were shared 1.7 million times and viewed 117 million times on Facebook.

Social-media platforms have not hesitated to wield their power as publishers. After the ransacking of the US Capitol January 6, they decided to stop ‘publishing’ then-US President Donald Trump. Earlier this year, Facebook blocked all of Australia from accessing news on its feeds during a dispute over sharing of advertising revenue. Google did the same to Spain in 2014.

Introducing digital operating permits would allow social-media platforms to remain free-speech agoras for smaller assemblies of networked friends, families, and associates, while drastically reducing the virality of fake news and disinformation. That was how Facebook worked in its early years, when it was still a cool invention.

*The writer is a former policy director at the Center for Humane Technology.*

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# A disaster in the making

The COVID-19 pandemic had led to a decline of our GDP by about 8 per cent last fiscal. This has led the government to borrow large amounts of money. However, this borrowing is not free. It comes with its costs. The government has to pay interest as well as the principal amount in future. At that time, the future government will have to impose higher taxes on the future people to raise the money to pay the interest and the principal amount on the money borrowed in the past.

The government has two options to avoid making such inter-generational injustice. It can impose high taxes today; or it can reduce its expenditure today.

The government imposes taxes on the present generation for raising additional revenue for facing the pandemic faced by the present generation—perhaps due to its own folly.

The second dimension of fiscal deficit is the use of the borrowed money. It can be used in two ways. This can be explained with the example of a businessperson. A businessperson can borrow money

to set up a factory. In this case, the factory would produce goods, the businessperson would make profits in future and she could repay the interest and the principal amount out of those future earnings. In such a situation, the businessperson would not impose any burden on the future generations of his family. Such borrowing is prudent because it enables the family to grow at a faster pace than if she had not borrowed and invested. Say, a businessperson has an income of ₹1,00,000. She can borrow ₹3,00,000 and set up a factory of ₹4,00,000 instead of establishing a factory of only ₹1,00,000. The higher income from the investment of ₹4,00,000 could be used to repay the interest and the principal. This would be a happy circumstance. On the other hand, if a businessperson borrows money and goes on a foreign luxury trip or buys a property for setting up an upscale office, then there would accrue no additional income. The businessperson would have to pay interest and principal in future out of the income from the lesser investment of

₹1,00,000. Her income would be less in the future.

The same logic applies to government borrowing. The future income of the country is more if the government borrows money for building, say, a highway. First of all, demand is generated for cement, steel and machinery. The productions of cement, steel and machinery pay taxes to the government. Secondly, employment is generated in the production of cement, steel and machinery as well as the highway construction. The workers, in turn, buy goods from the market and that leads to an increase in demand. Third, the highway enables the goods to reach the destination quicker and at a lower cost. The cost of goods in the market is less and the economy’s growth is boosted. There is more productive activity. The government gets more tax revenue and it can repay the loan with the additional revenue. On the other hand, if the government borrows and buys, let us say, Rafale fighter jets, then the demand is generated in France. The geopolitical benefits of Rafale jets do not cancel the economic costs.

Or, if the government uses the borrowed money to pay increased salaries to government servants, then the demand is substantially generated in buying gold and investing in foreign properties because the consumption needs of the government servants is already met with their current incomes. Such expenditures do not generate additional revenue for the government with which the loans could be repaid. The revenues of the government remain stagnant while the burden of interest and repayment of the principal leads to a decline in income in the future.

It is unfortunate that the government has ignored the consequence of its borrowings on future generations and borrowed heavily for maintaining its consumption which will impact the growth of the economy in the coming time and will delay the government’s objective of making India a \$5 trillion economy.

*The writer is a former Professor of Economics at IIM, Bangalore. Views are personal.*

#### Targeted killings

Sir, This is in reference to the news report “Militants gun down two teachers,” **Orissa POST**, October 8. It is a matter of grave concern that terrorism in Kashmir appears to be entering a new phase with the recent spate of targeted killings of minorities in the Valley - throwing a fresh challenge to security forces. Tuesday Kashmiri Pandit businessman Makhan Lal Bindroo was shot dead in his pharmacy while a street food vendor from Bihar and the president of a taxi union were also gunned down. Thursday, terrorists stormed into a government school in Srinagar and shot dead the principal and a teacher who were from the Sikh and Hindu communities. Furthermore, these are concerted efforts by Pakistan-backed Islamist terror groups and handlers to create a communal situation that could trigger an exodus of Hindus and Sikhs from the Valley. The security establishment and the civil administration have a huge task on their hand to instill a sense of security and calm in the region. There needs to be a quantum leap in intelligence capabilities in Kashmir leading to quick neutralising of militants. Importantly, the terrorists want Kashmiri civilians to lose faith in the Indian state. The latter, therefore, must not fail the people.

*N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE*

#### Ban animal sacrifice

Sir, The festival season is a time of celebration, joy and divinity. Sadly, animal sacrifice goes on unabated during this season. It is a despicable tradition. No religious scripture sanctions animal sacrifice. It is a medieval practice of gory violence and bloodshed. The Mother Goddess doesn’t need the blood of innocent animals. It is an erroneous idea that the Mother Goddess can be appeased by animal sacrifice. Animal sacrifice is cruel, barbaric, illegal and unjustified. It is a cold blooded murder of animals. In this digital age of twenty first century mankind is still prone to irrational thoughts and pre-historic traditions. If we want to sacrifice at all, then we should sacrifice our seven deadly sins – lust, anger, greed, pride, hypocrisy, dishonesty and violence. There is no merit in the mindless practice of inflicting unspeakable cruelty on innocent animals just for the sake of age-old traditions. Strict laws should be enforced to end this menace. A change in the mindset is absolutely necessary in this regard. Animal sacrifice should be banned.

*PrabhuDutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR*



# 410 families to be displaced by wildlife conservation proj



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Ambabhona, Oct 9:** People of a few villages under Ambabhona block in Bargarh district will be displaced due to a wildlife conservation project. The residents will be rehabilitated as per rehabilitation norms of the central government. The forest department has identified 410 families for displacement. A public hearing on the issue was held at the village Friday. It was learnt that 410 families will be displaced for the project. The public hearing was presided over by the DFO of Hiraakud wildlife conservation project, Anshuprabha Das. The public hearing was held on displacement issue for the people living in Kurumkel, Rengali, Bhuthuli and Balijori on the

FAMILIES LIVING IN KURUMKEL, RENGALI, BHUTHULI AND BALIJORI ON THE HIRAKUD RIVER BASIN AREA WILL BE DISPLACED FOR THE TIGER CONSERVATION PROJECT

THIS WAS THE LAST PUBLIC HEARING ON THEIR DISPLACEMENT. PEOPLE OF ALL THESE VILLAGES HAVE TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES AND HOMESTEAD LAND

PEOPLE OF ALL THESE VILLAGES HAD EARLIER BEEN DISPLACED BY HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT. THEY WERE SETTLED NEAR BARPAHAD FOREST



Hirakud river basti area. Tehsildar Sitaram Bhoi, BDO Alfrance Bilung, ADM Naveen Kumar Patel, sub-collector Subhendra Kumar Samal, Ambhabhona livestock inspector, range officer Dilip Kumar Dhal and some former people's representatives explained people about the provisions of the central rehabilitation. This was the last public hearing on their displacement. People of all these villages have to leave their homes and homestead land. It may be noted here that people of all these villages had earlier been displaced by Hiraakud dam project. They were settled near Barpahad forest. However, their villages were again identified as part of a tiger



Forest officials and local residents creating awareness on protection of wildlife in Mahendra forest range in Gajapati district, Saturday

OP PHOTO

## Locals oppose solar power project

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Saintala, Oct 9:** A solar power project proposed by the Aditya Birla Company has hit a hurdle with locals opposing it in Dunguripalli area under Saintala block in Bolangir district. Locals staged protests against the project, alleging that some political leaders and IDCO authorities have formed a nexus to hand over the pasture land to the company at throwaway price at Bhadra, Ghunsar and Kansar areas. They alleged that 139 acres of pasture and gramya jungle land at Ghunsar and Kansar was handed over to the company in 2020. The company has set up its solar plant. Then tehsildar Suman Kishore Dung Dung has leased out the land for 99 years for ₹1.55 crore. They alleged that the administration had not held any gram sabha before handing over the land to the company. Though tehsildar Dung Dung has been transferred from this tehsil for a long time, but no records about the leased out land are avail-



able with the new tehsildar. It was learnt from an RTI query. Similarly, the company is planning to set up another solar pant on 86 acres of pasture land in Dunguripalli panchayat. People using the pasture land in the area have protested such a move. A group of people on behalf of the company had started a survey on the pasture land September 25. Locals then came to know about the land. They had opposed the move and detained some staff. Locals have submitted a mem-

orandum addressed to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through tehsildar Jogeswar Bhoi. Locals warned of intensifying their agitation if no step is taken by the administration to stop handover of the pastureland to the company. Opposition to this solar project has come at a time when the government is taking up several initiatives to enhance solar power production in the state. The state government aims to increase the solar power production capacity to 1500mw by 2022. The Green Energy Development

THEY ALLEGED THAT 139 ACRES OF PASTURE AND GRAMYA JUNGLE LAND AT GHUNSAR AND KANSAR WAS HANDED OVER TO THE COMPANY HAS SET UP ITS SOLAR PLANT. THEN TEHSILDAR SUMAN KISHORE DUNG DUNG HAS LEASED OUT THE LAND FOR 99 YEARS FOR ₹1.55 CRORE

SIMILARLY, THE COMPANY IS PLANNING TO SET UP ANOTHER SOLAR PANT ON 86 ACRES OF PASTURE LAND IN DUNGURIPALLI PANCHAYAT. PEOPLE USING THE PASTURE LAND IN THE AREA HAVE PROTESTED SUCH A MOVE

THE STATE GOVERNMENT AIMS TO INCREASE THE SOLAR POWER PRODUCTION CAPACITY TO 1500MW BY 2022

Corporation (GEDCOL) has been working on a detailed roadmap for enhancing solar power production on a commercial basis and to adopt the latest technology for reducing the cost of production.

## Jumbo menace hits Jamankira

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jamankira, Oct 9:** Elephants have been on a damaging spree in several villages under Bamara wildlife division in Sambalpur district. Elephant entered Chhemunda village Friday night and trampled paddy in 8 acres of land. The affected farmers have lodged complaints at the Jamankira forest of-

fice. Forester Sunita Nayak visited the area and took stock of the situation. It was stated that the extent of damage done by the animals will be known after it was assessed by the revenue and the forest departments. Affected people have apprised the forest department about the routine elephant mayhem and

sought immediate compensation for the damage. It was said that a team of officials is keeping a watch on movement of animals in the area. Villagers alleged that elephant menace had been happening over years, but there have been no effective measures by the forest department to contain the menace. As a result, people have to lose crops and houses, they lamented.

## Jala Satyagraha over incomplete bridge

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, Oct 9:** Protesting the inordinate delay in the construction of a bridge over Jira river in Bargarh district, members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Saturday organised a Jal Satyagraha demanding early completion of the project. They alleged that the construction of the bridge was supposed to be completed by November 2, 2020, but its work has delayed. Owing to the delay in the construction, thousands of people in the region have been facing commuting problems in Ambapali town in Bolangir, Sonepur, Bijepur, Barpali, Padampur, Gaisilat, Jharband and Paikmal. In the absence of a bridge, people have to cover a distance of nearly 10 km to reach the town. According to reports, the project was initially taken up at an estimated cost of ₹14 core. However, the cost of the project has now gone up to ₹20 crore due to the continuous delay. "Even though we have been raising the issue repeatedly and draw-



An iron bridge was built over river Jira in 1930s to connect Odisha with Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh). Bridge became a part of NH-6 after national highway plans came into force

ing the attention of the state government about the tardy pace of work, no one is listening to us. Through our Jal Satyagraha, we

want to urge Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to order a probe to find out how the tender fixing was carried out and what led to the delay in the completion of the project," said a BJP worker. An iron bridge was built over river Jira in 1930s to connect Odisha with Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh). After Independence, when national highway plans came into force, the bridge became a part of NH-6. Later, an alternative road (by pass) was developed as a part of the NH. Once the alternative road came

up, the iron bridge was used mostly to drive in or out of Bargarh town from Ambapali chhak as it cuts the travel distance down by almost 10 km. However, decades later, lack of maintenance and apathy of the administration hit the iron bridge hard. Besides, it became a preferable spot for thieves to loot commuters. To avoid crime, especially on the bridge, the local administration installed iron barricade pillars on both ends of the bridge to prevent movement of four wheelers over it.

## Guv asks Collector to accord revenue status to five villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 9:** Governor Ganeshi Lal has asked the District Collector to take steps for granting revenue status to five tribal villages in forested pocket under Hatadihi block in Keonjhar. According to reports, hundreds of tribal people had been displaced by Hadagada irrigation project years ago. They have been staying in Hadagada reserve forest areas like Mallipasi, Sarmundi, Kanleibalpal, Mayurnacha and Bhann in K Baliaipal panchayat. Locals have alleged been deprived of various government facilities and benefits as their villages have not been granted revenue status. Hence, their livelihood solely depends on collection and sales of minor forest produce. Over years, their living standards have not improved as expected while developmental works have failed to reach the interior pockets. Their life has been miserable without basis facilities.



For a long time, they have been demanding revenue status to their villages so that the administration will carry out development. But their demands have fallen on deaf ears of the administration, it was alleged. Upset over the administrative apathy, people of these villages had written to the Governor July 16, pleading him to direct the administration for according rev-

enue status to their villages. In the latter, they had narrated their multiple inconveniences in the forested pocket without basic facilities. Taking note of the plight of the villagers, the Governor sent a letter to the Collector September 21, with direction to take necessary step in this direction. The Governor has also sought an action taken report on this and apprise about it to the complainants.

## Tension erupts as lineman electrocuted

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Beguniapada, Oct 9:** Tension prevailed after a power department employee was electrocuted while attending to a fault at a utility pole on Mathasarsing main road under Kodala police limits in Ganjam district late Friday night. The deceased was identified as Amulyaratna Rout of Gunjabala village under this block. The incident sparked tension in the area. Irked villagers and kin of the deceased put up the body on Aska- Khallikote road Saturday and staged a road blockade. Kabisuryanagar MLA Latika Pradhan held talks with the power distribution company. They relented after the company officials announced ₹14 lakh compensation and a job to the next of his kin. Amulya was connecting a service line climbing to the poll after a power cut.

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Members of an self help group earn from selling millet-based snacks at a stall in Korapat

OP PHOTO

## 2 kids drown in pond

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Oct 9:** Two minor girls drowned in a pond at Manga village of Podakonda panchayat limits in Malkangiri district Saturday afternoon. Reports said the minor girls were identified as Rajeswari Padiami (8) and Sibani Padiami (2). They were siblings. Their parents Prakash Padiami and Rame Padiami had gone out to

work in their farmland this afternoon when the kids were playing near a pond. However they accidentally slipped into it. Hours later, Prakash and Rame with the help of fellow villagers rescued the kids from the pond and rushed them to the district headquarters hospital. However, doctors declared them dead. A pall of gloom has descended on the area following the tragic incident.

## Pangolin seized from traders, 2 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Oct 9:** Forest department officials arrested two persons on charge of trading a living pangolin here Saturday. The raid was carried out in Maharapadar village under Lathor Forest Range in the district.

During the raid, Sushil Dharua along with Bajrang Dharua of Sargipali were apprehended with the pangolin. They were planning to sell it to a customer, the forest officials said. Sushil is a native of Maharapadar and the pangolin had entered into his house Friday night.



# 'Targeted killings a plan to create fear psychosis'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Oct 9:** An organisation of Kashmiri Pandits said Saturday that the targeted killings of minorities in Jammu and Kashmir were part of a terror plan to prevent them from returning to the Valley.

Satish Mahaldar, chairman of Reconciliation, Return and Rehabilitation of Migrants, said in a statement Saturday, "Recent killings of minority civilians in Kashmir is part of a well planned terror action plot, at the core of which is to drive out remaining minorities in the Valley and create fear psychosis so that no one can return."

**Premature and triumphant claims about normalcy in Kashmir got exposed two months ago when the LG was informed in writing by Kashmiri Pandits that there are rumours that minorities in Kashmir will be targeted**

SATISH MAHALDAR | ACTIVIST

"On October 2, 2021, when the whole world was observing non-violence day on Gandhi Jayanti, a temple was desecrated in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district. On



Kashmiri Pandit families return to Jagti migrant camp after a spate of civilian killings by militants, in Jammu, Saturday.

October 5, Makhan Lal Bindroo was shot dead by terrorists as he sat in his shop in Srinagar's Iqbal Park, an area dotted with police and paramilitary installations. He was in love with Kashmir. He never wanted to leave Kashmir even when

we urged him to leave."

"Bindroos were among the Kashmiri Pandit families who had chosen to stay in the Valley even after targeted killings had forced a mass migration of the community in 1990s." Mahaldar's state-

ment further said: "Premature and triumphant claims about normalcy in Kashmir got exposed two months ago when the LG was informed in writing by Kashmiri Pandits that there are rumours that minorities in Kashmir will be targeted."

## Won't attend duty sans protection: Sikh body

**Srinagar:** Sikh religious body, Gurudwara Prabandak Committee (GPC) said Saturday that the minority community members won't attend duties in Kashmir unless the government assures their protection.

Addressing a press conference, Navtej Singh, general secretary of GPC, said that though there were many inputs and incidents in the past targeting the minorities, yet the government did not provide any security to the Sikh community. He said the government has failed to safeguard the minority community in Jammu and Kashmir. "We demand from the government to provide security to our government employees and assure the minority community that they are safe in the Valley." The GPC statement has come in the aftermath of school principal, Supinder Kour's murder by terrorists in Srinagar Thursday.

"Unfortunately, the LG's office and security agencies ignored our inputs. Despite the inputs to security agencies, the UT govt and GoI failed to provide security/protection to minorities of Kashmir," the statement said.

# Centre using muscular policy, says Mehbooba

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Oct 9:** PDP president Mehbooba Mufti Saturday said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has gone from bad to worse and accused the Centre of using a 'muscular policy' to reap political dividends.

Mufti claimed she has been placed under house arrest to prevent her from visiting the family of a Muslim man who was shot dead by CRPF personnel Thursday in Anantnag district.

"The situation in J&K has gone from bad to worse. My fears are compounded by the fact that instead of course correction, GOI will continue its muscular policy to reap political dividends in elections. Case in point being the upcoming UP polls," Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.

"Under house arrest for the umpteenth time today. Wanted to visit the family of the innocent civilian shot dead by CRPF. GOI wants us to selectively condemn killings. They are outraged only in cases where hate politics can be lapped up to polarise people," she added.

Parvaiz Ahmad was shot dead by CRPF personnel after he allegedly failed to stop his vehicle at a checkpoint when signalled to do so.



**The situation in J&K has gone from bad to worse. My fears are compounded by the fact that instead of course correction, GOI will continue its muscular policy to reap political dividends in elections. Case in point being the upcoming UP polls**

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

He was killed the same day when two teachers were shot dead by militants in Eidgah area of the city.

The death of the woman principal and the teacher took to seven the number of civilians killed by militants in Kashmir Valley in a span of five days. Of the seven, four were from minority communities.

# Satellite phone calls tracked again, high alert in Karnataka



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Oct 9:** The intelligence agencies have alerted the Karnataka government after they tracked satellite phone calls made to foreign locations from the coastal area and Malnad region of the state, sources said Saturday.

The phone calls are being tracked to Mudibidre, Mudipu regions in Dakshina Kannada, in dense forest regions of Uttara Kannada and

another two locations from Chikkamagaluru district in the state. As many as five phone calls have been traced since last week. After the targeted killings in Jammu and Kashmir, central agencies have told Karnataka authorities to be vigilant about the new developments.

Central agencies have gathered information about suspected anti-national activities taking place in coastal districts -- Dakshina

## Red Flags

AFTER THE MUMBAI ATTACKS IN 2008, USE OF SATELLITE PHONES HAS BEEN BANNED BY THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING

THERE WERE 256 INSTANCES OF SATELLITE PHONE USAGE IN 2020 AND 220 THIS YEAR IN KARNATAKA

Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Chikkamagalur and Shivamogga districts in Malnad region of Karnataka. The use of satellite phones have been detected by intelligence agencies for a long time.

Use of satellite phones has been tracked for the third time in a year in Karnataka. The issue was raised in the Assembly and Home Minister Araga Jnanendra gave detailed answers that the government is handling the situation in coordination with central agencies including Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Oct 9:** The Karnataka government has started a crackdown on online gaming under the newly legislated Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021.

Annapoorneshwarinar police in Bangalore have registered an FIR against the founder and directors of 'Dream 11' online game app, police sources said.

Bhavit Sheth and Harsh Jain, the founders and directors of Sporta Technologies Private Limited which promotes the 'Dream 11' gaming app, have been booked as accused number one and two. The police have initiated action based on the complaint by one Manjunath, a resident of Nagarbhavi in Bangalore filed Thursday.

The complainant said the Karnataka government made amendments to the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, prohibiting the online games of chance and skill where money is risked. He had searched the Google Play Store to know how many online games are withdrawn. Many companies have blocked their mobile applications except 'Dream 11'.

Despite this they have continued betting on online games by



promoting their online mobile gaming application called 'Dream 11'. The people are still putting and risking their money by creating their own fantasy cricket team and losing huge amounts of money giving a chance to the accused to earn unlawfully, the complaint said.

The BJP government has notified the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021, banning all formats of online games involving wagering, betting and gambling of all nature and forms in the state.

Under the new law, online gaming is considered a non-bailable offence with a fine of Rs 1 lakh

and imprisonment up to three years. Along with banning games of skills, the Karnataka government has categorised online games using electronic means and virtual currency, electronic transfer of funds in connection with any game as gambling.

The new legislation passed in the Monsoon session by both the Houses of the Karnataka Assembly has been approved by the Governor. Mobile Premier League (MPL) was one of the first companies to stall its operations in Karnataka followed by Paytm First Games.

The online gaming companies are planning to move the court questioning the new legislation

## STARTUP HUB

- The state has more than 100 gaming companies with a workforce of 4,000
- According to KPMG, the IPL Fantasy League itself is worth \$1 billion
- With the upcoming T20 World Cup, the two-month period (September 19 to November 14, 2021) is the peak of the fantasy cricket season of 2021
- The ban will strike a huge blow to fantasy cricket lovers in Karnataka, as the state is among the two top fantasy sports markets in India along with Maharashtra

like in Tamil Nadu where online gaming operators got relief against the state government order from the High Court.

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has said the new legislation will affect the image of the state as a start-up hub and the state exchequer will see a huge revenue loss.

It maintained that with the new legislation, offshore gamblers will flourish.

# Agri exports up from J&K: APEDA



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** With the mandate of promoting agri-export from Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has scripted 'new success stories' as the export of agricultural products of the regions has picked up.

Under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for exports, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir exported Geographical Indications (GI) certified product Kashmir Saffron from Srinagar to Dubai and other West Asian markets during March-April.

A few months after the offices of APEDA, a statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce &

Industry, got functional in Jammu and Srinagar in February, a shipment of Mishri variety Kashmir Valley Cherries was carried out from Srinagar to Dubai for the first time followed by commercial shipments creating international market for Indian Cherries during the month of June-July, followed by repeat orders for Indian Cherries, a release from the Ministry said Friday.

In another major boost to export activities in the Valley, shipments of Kashmir Valley fragrance rice Mushkbadji and Acacia honey have been planned and samples have already been sent during August by the Kashmir Valley Start Ups/new entrepreneurs to Lulu Group FMCG Dubai, Oman and other West Asian markets.

Meanwhile, samples of Kashmir Valley apples have also been

planned during September to Oman, Qatar, Dubai and other West Asian markets for the shipment. With the help of APEDA, shipment of Ladakh Apricots was carried out from Leh to Dubai for the first time followed by commercial shipments of Ladakh Halman Apricot during the month of August-September.

The shipment was handled by local entrepreneurs from Kargil with the established exporter from Mumbai to their counterpart in Dubai.

Product samples of Sea Buckthorn such as juice, pulp, concentrate, oil, and herbal fusion tea have been obtained and provided during September to Indian corporate food producers for development of products for domestic as well as overseas markets.

APEDA has carried out sensi-

tisation of officials of Seed Certification, Directorate of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) of Srinagar and Jammu Regions for their convergence into Organic Certification Agency under NPOP during July.

"APEDA also signed MoUs with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) for technical support and promotional activities for enhancing productivity and promotion of potential products from the region."

The APEDA has took up the issue of a comprehensive export logistics requirements for UT of Jammu and Kashmir with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Central Warehousing Corporation, and other departments during July for creation of Customs Clearance Facility, smooth X-ray and handling for perishable commodities and issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate facility at Jammu, Srinagar and Leh airports.

Under the APEDA's Agri Export Plan for UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Apple, Cherry, Walnut, Honey, Saffron, Rice, Gucchi have been identified as potential products for exports.

Similarly for the UT of Ladakh, Sea Buckthorn, Apricots and certified organic products have been identified as potential products for exports.



Security personnel frisk a motorcyclist during a surprise checking in Srinagar, Saturday. Srinagar city has been put on a high alert following the recent civilian killings. Seven civilians were killed by militants in the Valley in a span of five days. Of the seven, four were from minority communities.

PTI PHOTO



**of the day quote**

The construction of a new Parliament building and redevelopment of the Central Vista Avenue, stretching from Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate, will be completed in a time-bound manner

**HARDEEP SINGH PURI** | UNION MINISTER

You know that when the Assembly elections in West Bengal were going on, surveys were showing that Mamata Banerjee was trailing, but when the results came, it was the opposite. Those who were dreaming of (gaining) power, their dreams were shattered, and Mamata (Banerjee) staged a comeback with a huge majority. Hence, you should not be misled by these surveys

**MAYAWATI** | BSP CHIEF

India's prosperity is largely linked to its seas and unhindered maritime access is one of the country's primary requirements as it continues its march on the path of development

**RAJNATH SINGH** | DEFENCE MINISTER

**SHORT TAKES**

**Four killed**

**Damoh:** Two brothers, their minor sister and one more person were killed after a truck rammmed into a roadside house in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh, police said Saturday. The incident occurred at Aajani Taparia village on Batiyagarh-Hatta Road around 11 pm on Friday when the family members were sleeping in their roadside mud (kutcha) house, Superintendent of Police (SP) D R Teniwar said.

**Two cops injured**

**Srinagar:** Two Jammu and Kashmir policemen were injured after terrorists fired upon a police party at Manzgam in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district Saturday, officials said. The injured policemen have been shifted to the hospital for treatment. Sources said the terrorists attacked a 'naka party' at Nasarpora Manzgam area of Kulgam. The area has been cordoned off.

**Body found**

**Pakur (Jharkhand):** The mutilated body of a woman in her early twenties was found in Jharkhand's Pakur district Saturday, police said. She was found dead on Hathigarh Dungri Tola Hill in Littipara police station area by a cattle-grazer, who then alerted the locals, who in turn informed the law enforcers, an officer said. The woman is yet to be identified as her head and face was crushed, Pakur Sub-divisional Police Officer Ajit Kumar Vimal said. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination to Pakur Sadar Hospital to ascertain the cause of death and whether she was raped, he said, adding further investigation was underway.

**CWC meet Oct 16**

**New Delhi:** Top Congress leadership will gather here October 16 to deliberate on the current political situation, including the Lakhimpur violence, and decide on the organisational elections at a meeting of the party's working committee. The meeting of the Congress' top decision-making body has been convened after demands from some quarters within the party to discuss important issues, including some defections in the recent past. Former leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad had also written to the Congress president to convene a meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) soon.

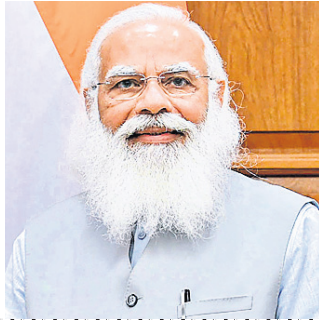


**You have seen how a vehicle ran over farmers who were fighting for their rights. The guilty persons are yet to be caught. Instead of giving summons, a flower bouquet is being given. The summon is only in name, and (in reality) 'samman' (honour) is given**

**AKHILESH YADAV** | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

**PM TO LAUNCH INDIAN SPACE ASSOCIATION**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch Indian Space Association (ISpA), an industry body aspiring to be the voice of the Indian space sector, on October 11, the PMO said Saturday



**DRUGS CASE**

**NCB let three people go: Malik**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 9:** NCP leader and Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik Saturday alleged the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), which had claimed to have seized drugs on-board a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast last week, had initially detained 11 persons but let off three of them, including the brother-in-law of BJP leader Mohit Bhartiya, a couple of hours after the operation.

Bharatiya hit back saying he will file a defamation suit seeking Rs 100 crore in damages against Malik. Addressing a press conference here, Malik, who is NCP's spokesperson, alleged that Bharatiya's brother-in-law Rishabh Sachdeva was among those three persons.

Two others - Pratik Gabba and Aamir Furniturewala - who had brought Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, to the cruise party, were released along with Sachdeva two hours after their detention, he said. "The names of Pratik and Aamir figured in the ongoing hearings in the court," Malik claimed.

Based on a tip-off that a party was to take place onboard the ship, an NCB team led by its zonal director Sameer Wankhede had raided the Cordelia cruise last Saturday and claimed to have recovered banned drugs. A total of 18 persons have been arrested in the case, includ-

ing Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan.

The NCP leader demanded that the call records of these three persons along with that of Wankhede be examined. "Rishabh Sachdeva's father and uncle came to the NCB office and telephonic conversations happened between Wankhede and the BJP leaders in Mumbai and Delhi from the phone of Sachdeva's father," Malik claimed. "Why were the phones of these three persons not seized?" he asked. According to Malik, the Mumbai police were also given information that 11 persons had been detained from the cruise ship.

Malik had alleged that the NCB's raid on the cruise was "fake, planned and conspired to defame the film industry and the Maharashtra government". "Selective people have been arrested...The matter is serious. CCTV footage should be taken and a detailed inquiry should be conducted," the minority affairs minister alleged. He also hit out at the BJP for attacking him over his allegations. "The BJP says that I am attacking the NCB since my son-in-law was arrested by the agency. I have never supported my son-in-law and he will fight his case. How can I give information I have in this case to the NCB which has framed a false case. If an independent commission is set up to conduct a probe, I will do so," Malik said.

**Army chief warns of infiltration in J&K**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane Saturday did not rule out the possibility of Afghan-origin foreign terrorists attempting to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir once the situation stabilises in Afghanistan as he cited similar instances when the Taliban was in power in Kabul over two decades ago.

At the same time, he said Indian armed forces are prepared to deal with any eventuality as they have a very strong counter-infiltration grid as well as a mechanism to check terrorist activities in the hinterland in Jammu and Kashmir.

Asked at the India Today conclave whether there was any link between the spate of recent killings of civilians in Kashmir and the Taliban's capture of power in Afghanistan, Gen Naravane said it cannot be said whether there was a connection.

"Definitely, there has been a spurt in activities (in Jammu and Kashmir) but whether they can

**INCREASING CONCERN**



be directly linked to what is happening in or happened in Afghanistan, we really cannot say," the Army Chief said. "But what we can say and learn from the past is that when the previous Taliban regime was in power, that time definitely we had foreign terrorists of Afghan origin in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

"So there are reasons to be-

**GROWING THREAT**



Hundreds of dead fish float at the Banganga Tank of the Walkeshwar temple, in Mumbai, Saturday. Fish died allegedly due to various Pitru Paksha offerings at the tank

**BOOSTING TIES**

**India, Denmark ink 4 pacts**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** India and Denmark Saturday inked four agreements and decided to expand co-operation in "Green strategic partnership for the Green Transition".

In his statement, after the bilateral talks with his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that last year both the countries took a historic step to establish a 'Green Strategic Partnership' which has been a fine example of our far reaching approach towards the environment.

"This partnership is an example of how by collective effort and through technology we can work for green growth while preserving the environment. Today we also reviewed the progress made under this partnership, and reiterated our commitment to increasing cooperation on climate change in the times to come," he said.



Noting that Denmark has become a member of the International Solar Alliance, he further said that it was a new dimension in India-Denmark partnership.

"In order to increase the agricultural productivity and income of farmers in India, we have also decided to cooperate in agriculture related technology. Under this, work will be done on the technologies of many areas like food safety, cold chain, food processing, fertilizers, fisheries, aquaculture, we will also cooperate in areas such as Smart Water Resource Management, Waste to Best, and efficient supply chains," Modi further said.

**Woman gangraped in moving train**

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 9:** A 20-year-old woman was allegedly raped by some robbers on board the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express train between Igatpuri and Kasara railway stations in Maharashtra on the Central Railway route, a police official said Saturday.

The incident occurred late night on Friday and the Mumbai Government Railway Police (GRP) has arrested four persons in this connection, he said. Quaiser Khalid, Mumbai GRP's Police Commissioner, said the alleged crime was committed when the express train was traversing the ghat section.

Giving information about the incident and the action taken by the police, Khalid said in a tweet, "The accused boarded Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express at Igatpuri (Aurangabad Railway district) in sleeper bogie D-2 and started

**Girl kidnapped, gangraped**

**Dakshina Kannada:** The Karnataka police have arrested two persons in connection with the kidnapping and gangrape of a 16-year-old school girl in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka Saturday. The incident came to light after the school girl came forward to lodge a police complaint. The victim stated that the accused persons came in a car at about 8.15 a.m. on Friday while she was going to the school near the bus stop in Bantwal town. One of the accused got down from the car and told her that he was her friend. When she said that she did not know him, he maintained that they knew each other through social media platforms. While talking he gave her a bar of chocolate and by the time she put the chocolate in her bag, she fell unconscious, the girl told the police. When she woke up, she was in a bed and the accused took turns to rape her. She lost consciousness yet again and when she regained consciousness, the girl found herself in the car. The accused left her near Bantwal town and the victim reached home after calling her mother, the police said. The police have registered a case under the POCSO Act, arrested two persons in this connection and launched a search for others.

committing the crime through the Ghat area during the night."

When the train reached Kasara, passengers called out for help. The officer and staff at GRP Mumbai immediately responded, he said,

adding that four accused have been apprehended so far.

"The victim is twenty years old and she has been taken for medical examination by our lady officer. She is fine. We are collecting all ev-

idences. The accused are being questioned by our team. We are checking their previous records," he said in another tweet.

Deputy Commissioner of Police and a team of the crime branch are investigating the offence, he said, adding that the accused had stolen property worth Rs 96,390, mostly mobile phones, from the train passengers.

Police have so far recovered property worth Rs 34,200 from them, he said. The Mumbai GRP has registered an offence against the accused under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 395 (dacoity), 397 (robbery or dacoity), 376(D) (gangrape), 354 (assault or use of criminal force to any woman, intending to outrage her modesty), 354(B) (assault or use of criminal force to any woman or abetment of such act with the intention of disrobing or compelling her to be naked), and also under the Railways Act at Kalyan railway police station on Saturday, Khalid added.

**'Climate refugee crisis beckons in India if water scarcity continues'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** India can face a climate refugee crisis in the next seven years if water scarcity continues to persist in the country, renowned water conservationist Rajendra Singh said.

"Climate refugee" means increasing large-scale migration and cross-border mass movements of people partly caused by such weather-related disasters. Speaking at the India Today Conclave 2021, water conservationist Singh, who is also known as the "Waterman of India" said the country cannot become 'paanidaar' (water self-sufficient) till a balance between discharge and recharge is maintained.

"And forming this balance between discharge and recharge of water is possible only through com-

munity driven decentralised management," he said. Singh said people are already moving from their villages to cities due to water scarcity. "Europe is seeing climate refugees from many African countries. Fortunately, Indians are not called climatic refugees right now but in the next seven years if the water scarcity in India continues to persist then, Indians will also face a similar situation," he warned.

He questioned what will India's future be like if water banks are emptying because of excessive pumping of groundwater. "Already, migration due to water scarcity is taking place and everywhere migration is going on from villages to cities and we should actually call it displacement of people. Now, the situation is such that there is such water scarcity that people

**WAKE-UP CALL**



are leaving villages and are not able to return."

"In India, migration due to water scarcity is happening. Cities have

till then India cannot end water scarcity," he said.

Bharat Lal, Additional Secretary (Water), Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, said the government has launched Jal Jeevan Mission and is working towards recharge, supply and reuse and maintenance of water in the country. "Under the Jal Jeevan mission, communities are involved and our aim is that in due course water, sanitation and hygiene enlightened villages and schools are made. Women led water committees are being made and civil society is being involved to spread awareness," he said.

Singh said the water crisis is a "women's crisis" and the government has formed 3.8 lakh women committees but that is only on paper. "... What is their power; what

is in their hands when a contractor is employed, he keeps his profit in mind. So, when contractor driven action takes place then how will it benefit the community," he said. Singh said because of climate change, farmers are not able to align crop pattern with rain pattern.

"How rain patterns are changing because of climate change that is impacting crops and destroying them. Farmers are not able to ascertain how much rain they can expect," he said.

"We can work on that by introducing the water literacy movement first and also the agriculture universities in the country should be given responsibility to tell the rain pattern in the 90 agro-ecological climatic zone and link it with crop pattern to help farmers," he added.



# international

## of the day quote

We have an idea that every country wants to have a telephone conversation with the US President at that time. I am sure that this conversation will be held with Imran Khan soon



**WENDY SHERMAN** |  
DY SECRETARY OF STATE, US

I don't understand how it was possible to commit such a lie. I don't understand how people, several of whom I know, were capable of lying to me ... Face to face for 18 months



**JEAN-PIERRE THEBAUD** | FRENCH ENVOY TO AUSTRALIA

If the developed countries are only doing individual Net-Zeros, we are, in fact, moving farther away from achieving the Paris targets. And equally, the developed countries should first need to show that they are on course for achieving their 2030 commitments, before we discuss about 2050



**TS TIRUMURTI** | INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN

## SHORT TAKES

### Dozens die in Congo capsizes

**Kinshasa:** Over 100 people are dead or missing after nine interlocked canoes sank this week in the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials said Saturday. Sixty-one bodies had been recovered from the sinking during the night of Monday to Tuesday, and another 60 are believed to be missing, Nestor Magbado, a spokesman for the governor of the northwestern province of Mongala, told AFP. He said there were 39 survivors.

### Polish ruling concerns EU

**Brussels:** Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, has expressed concerns after a court in Poland ruled that the country's Constitution was above the European Union (EU) law. "I am deeply concerned by yesterday's ruling of the Polish Constitutional Tribunal. I have instructed the Commission's services to analyse it thoroughly and swiftly. On this basis, we will decide on next steps," Xinhua news agency quoted the Commission President as saying in a statement.

### Brazil tops 600K Covid-19 deaths

**Brasilia:** Brazil's overall Covid-19 death toll, which is currently the second highest in the world after the US, has topped the 600,000 mark, according to health authorities. As of Saturday, the toll stood at 600,425 after 615 fresh fatalities were reported in the last 24 hours, Xinhua news agency quoted the Health Ministry as saying. At least 18,172 more people tested positive for the virus in the same period, which took the country's overall infection tally to 21,550,730, currently the third highest after the US and India.

### 55K evacuated as rain lashes Shanxi

**Beijing:** Nearly 55,000 people have been evacuated and 60 coal mines have suspended operations after heavy rain lashed China's Shanxi province, local authorities said. Recent rain in large parts of the province has led to rising water levels and flooding in multiple local rivers, according to the provincial emergency management department.

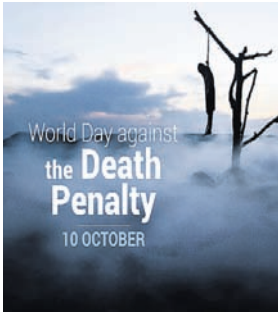


Even with our whole population vaccinated, we still will not be able to stamp it out through lockdowns and SMMs (Safe Management Measures). Almost every country has accepted this reality

**LEE HSIEN LOONG** | PM, SINGAPORE

## FRENCH PUSH TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY GLOBALLY

France will launch a campaign for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty as part of its upcoming presidency of the European Union, Macron said in a speech to mark the 40th anniversary of France's abolition of the punishment



# XI VOWS TAIWAN REUNIFICATION

*National reunification by peaceful means best serves the interests of the Chinese nation as a whole, he said*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Oct 9:** Chinese President Xi Jinping Saturday made a strong pitch for the integration of Taiwan with the mainland amidst heightened tensions with the estranged self-ruled island, saying the Taiwan question will be resolved and peaceful reunification is in the best interest of people of both sides.

The Taiwan issue brooks no external interference, Xi said in the backdrop of the US and Japan stepping up their backing to the estranged island in the face of China's increasingly aggressive posture.

Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state - but China views the self-ruled island as a breakaway province. Beijing has not ruled out the possible use of force to achieve unification.

Speaking in the ornate Great



Hall of the People in Beijing to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the revolution that ended the country's last imperial dynasty, Xi said the biggest obstacle to the reunification of China was the Taiwan independence force.

The Taiwan question arose out of the weakness and chaos of the Chinese nation and it will be resolved as national rejuvenation be-

comes a reality, Xi, also the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), said.

This is determined by the general trend of Chinese history, but more importantly, it is the common will of all Chinese people, Xi said.

He said after years of hard work, China's national rejuvenation has become a historical inevitability, with stronger institutions, firmer

## No backing down on sovereignty: Taiwan

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen will pledge to defend the island's sovereignty and democracy in a major speech Sunday, saying it faces challenges more complex and severe than ever, at a time when tensions with China have risen. According to an outline of her national day speech Sunday, Tsai will reiterate Taiwan's full determination to defend itself and maintain regional peace and stability, and also stress Taiwan will not "advance rashly". But when it comes to Taiwan's sovereignty, there can be no backing down, she will say.

material foundations and a more proactive mindset.

"National reunification by peaceful means best serves the interests of the Chinese nation as a whole, including compatriots in Taiwan", he said even as he pledged to reunify the island of over 23 million which is resisting forceful integration with the mainland of 1.4 billion population.

The 1911 Revolution led by nationalists headed by Dr Sun Yat-sen ended 2,132 years of imperial rule and 276 years of Manchu rule

and heralded the beginning of China's republican era followed by the formation of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949.

Taiwan which opted for democracy separated from the PRC in 1949 while fighting a civil war with the CPC headed by Mao Zedong.

Since he took over power in 2012, President Xi, 68, has made the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and realisation of the Chinese Dream and integration of Taiwan with mainland China as his main goals.

# Won't work with US to contain IS, say Taliban

*Senior Taliban officials and US representatives are to meet today in Doha, the capital of the Persian Gulf state of Qatar*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Oct 9:** The Taliban Saturday ruled out cooperation with the US to contain extremist groups in Afghanistan, staking out an uncompromising position on a key issue ahead of the first direct talks between the former foes since America withdrew from the country in August.

Senior Taliban officials and US representatives are to meet Saturday and Sunday in Doha, the capital of the Persian Gulf state of Qatar.

Officials from both sides have said issues include reining in extremist groups and the evacuation of foreign citizens and Afghans from the country. The Taliban have signalled flexibility on evacuations.

Taliban political spokesman Suhail Shaheen told The Associated Press there would be no coopera-

tion with Washington on going after the increasingly active Islamic State group affiliate in Afghanistan. IS has taken responsibility for a number of attacks, including a suicide bombing that killed 46 minority Shiite Muslims and wounded dozens as they prayed in a mosque.

"We are able to tackle Daesh independently," Shaheen said, when asked whether the Taliban would work with the US to contain the Islamic State affiliate. He used an Arabic acronym for IS.

IS has carried out relentless assaults on the country's Shiite Muslims since emerging in eastern Afghanistan in 2014. IS is also seen as the greatest threat to the United States.

The weekend meetings in Doha are the first since US forces withdrew from Afghanistan in late August, ending a 20-year military presence, and the Taliban rose to power in the nation. The US has made it clear the talks are not a pre-emptive to recognition.

The talks also come on the heels of two days of difficult discussions between Pakistani officials and US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Islamabad. The focus of those talks was also Afghanistan. Pakistani officials urged the US to engage with Afghanistan's new rulers and release billions of dollars in international funds to stave off an economic meltdown.

**We are able to tackle Daesh independently**  
**SUHAIL SHAHEEN** | TALIBAN SPOKESMAN



# 'Clean environment a human right'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Geneva, Oct 9:** The United Nations' main human rights body has overwhelmingly voted to recognise the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right, and to appoint an expert to monitor human rights in the context of climate change.

The Human Rights Council passed the clean-environment resolution, which also calls on countries to boost their abilities to improve the environment, by 43-0 while four member states -- China, India, Japan and Russia -- abstained.

Lucy McKernan, deputy director for UN advocacy at Human Rights Watch, called the clean-en-

**The Human Rights Council passed the clean-environment resolution by 43-0 while four member states -- China, India, Japan and Russia -- abstained**

vironment measure a "significant advance" to help address the global environmental crisis.

Global recognition of this right will help empower local communities to defend their livelihoods, health, and culture against environmental destruction, and help governments develop

stronger and more coherent environmental protection laws and policies, she said.

Another resolution creates a three-year post of a "special rapporteur" who will -- among other things -- monitor "how the adverse effects of climate change, including sudden and slow onset disasters, affect the full and effective enjoyment of human rights."

That measure passed 42-1. Russia objected, and China, Eritrea, India and Japan abstained.

The votes came on the second-last day of the 47-member council's autumn session, which among other things approved a special rapporteur to monitor rights in Afghanistan -- a vote opposed by Pakistan -- and ended an effort to monitor rights in war-torn Yemen.

# Iran's first Prez post revolution, Banisadr, dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Tehran, Oct 9:** Abolhassan Banisadr, Iran's first president after the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution who fled Tehran after being impeached for challenging the growing power of clerics as the nation became a theocracy, died Saturday. He was 88.



Among a sea of black-robed Shiite clerics, Banisadr stood out for his Western-style suits and a background so French that it was in philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre that he confided his belief he'd be Iran's first president some 15 years before it happened.

Those differences only isolated him as the nationalist sought to instill a socialist-style economy in Iran underpinned by his deep Shiite faith instilled by his cleric father.

Banisadr would never consolidate his grip on the government he supposedly led as events far beyond his control, like the US embassy hostage crisis and the invasion of Iran by Iraq, only added to the tumult that followed the revolution.

True power remained firmly wielded by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, whom Banisadr worked with in exile in France and followed back to Tehran amid the revolution. But Khomeini would toss Banisadr aside after only 16 months in office, sending him fleeing back to Paris, where he would remain for decades.

"I was like a child watching my father slowly turn into an alcoholic," Banisadr later said of Khomeini, "The drug this time was power." The family of Banisadr in a statement Saturday said he died at a hospital in Paris after a long illness.

# Hezbollah member wanted for role in 1985 hijacking dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beirut, Oct 9:** Ali Atwa, a senior Hezbollah operative who was on the FBI's most wanted list for his role in one of the most notorious plane hijackings in aviation history, has died, the Lebanese militant group said Saturday.

Atwa, who was believed to be in his early 60s, died of complications related to cancer, Hezbollah said.

Atwa was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list in 2001 with two other alleged participants in the 1985 hijacking of TWA Flight 847. The ordeal, which began in Athens, Greece June 14, lasted 16 days and led a US Navy diver on the plane dead.

The hijackers demanded the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli prisons.

The FBI had offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to Atwa's arrest. He was accused of conspiring to take hostages, committing air piracy that led to the slaying of an American, and placing explosives aboard an aircraft.

**Atwa was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list in 2001 with two other alleged participants in the 1985 hijacking of TWA Flight 847**

The flight, with 153 passengers and crew members, including 85 Americans, was commandeered by the hijackers after taking off from Athens bound for Rome.

The plane was allowed to land in Beirut, where the hijackers freed 19 American women and children. They then flew to Algeria, where more hostages were released, before returning to Beirut.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Belgrade, Oct 9:** When Russian regulators approved the country's own coronavirus vaccine, it was a moment of national pride, and the Pavlov family was among those who rushed to take the injection. But international health authorities have not yet given their blessing to the Sputnik V shot.

So when the family from Rostov-on-Don wanted to visit the West, they looked for a vaccine that would allow them to travel freely -- a quest that brought them to Serbia, where hundreds of Russian citizens have flocked in recent weeks to receive Western-approved Covid-19 shots.

Serbia, which is not a member of the European Union, is a convenient choice for vaccine-seeking Russians because they can enter the allied Balkan nation without visas and because it offers a wide choice of Western-made shots. Organized tours for Russians have soared, and they can be spotted in the capital, Belgrade, at hotels, restaurants, bars and vaccination clinics.

"We took the Pfizer vaccine be-



cause we want to travel around the world," Nadezhda Pavlova, 54, said after receiving the vaccine last weekend at a sprawling Belgrade vaccination center.

Her husband, Vitaly Pavlov, 55, said he wanted "the whole world to be open to us rather than just a few countries." Vaccination tour packages for Russians seeking shots endorsed by the World Health Organization appeared on the market in mid-September, according to Russia's Association of Tour Operators.

Maya Lomidze, the group's ex-



ecutive director, said prices start at \$300 to \$700, depending on what's included.

Lauded by Russian President Vladimir Putin as world's first registered Covid-19 vaccine, Sputnik V emerged in August 2020 and has been approved in some 70 countries, including Serbia. But the WHO has said global approval is still

## Another record daily death toll

**Russia** has reached another record daily death toll from Covid-19, with 968 deaths registered Saturday. The national coronavirus task force has reported a persistent rise, with nearly daily records in October. It's about 100 more daily deaths than in late September. The task force also reported more than 29,000 new daily infections. Authorities say the steep rise in cases and deaths is because of the nation's low vaccination rate.

under review after citing issues at a production plant a few months ago.

On Friday, a top World Health Organization official said legal issues holding up the review of Sputnik V were "about to be sorted out," a step that could relaunch the process toward emergency use authorisation.

Other hurdles remain for the Russian application, including a lack of full scientific information and inspections of manufactur-

ing sites, said Dr Mariangela Simao, a WHO assistant director-general.

Apart from the WHO, Sputnik V is also still awaiting approval from the European Medicines Agency before all travel limitations can be lifted for people vaccinated with the Russian formula.

The long wait has frustrated many Russians, so when the WHO announced yet another delay in September, they started looking for solutions elsewhere.

"People don't want to wait; people need to be able to get into Europe for various personal reasons," explained Anna Filatovskaya, Rusky Express tour agency spokeswoman in Moscow. "Some have relatives. Some have business, some study, some work. Some simply want to go to Europe because they miss it."

Serbia, a fellow-Orthodox Christian and Slavic nation, offers the Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Chinese Sinopharm shots. By popular demand, Russian tourist agencies are now also offering tours to Croatia, where tourists can receive the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine, without the need to return for a second dose.



of the day quote

In 1969, banks were simply taken away and nationalised. So, when people say that these institutions were built by the blood and sweat of the Indian bureaucracy, let me point out to you that these things were originally built by private companies

**SANJEEV SANYAL** | PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ADVISER

In reaching final Two-pillar solutions, OECD Inclusive Framework has tied up several loose ends and drawn the roadmap to its implementation. The final solution offers 25 percent share in super normal profits sought to be reallocated to market countries

**SUMIT SINGHANIA** | DELOITTE INDIA PARTNER

India's Bio-Economy is on way to achieve 150-billion-dollar target from the current 70 billion-dollar to contribute effectively to the Prime Minister's vision of a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2024-25

**JITENDRA SINGH** | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

India, UK plan clean energy shift

**New Delhi:** India and the United Kingdom have set in motion concrete action plans for driving clean energy transition in power sector. This was deliberated at 3rd India-UK Energy for Growth Partnership Ministerial Energy Dialogue. Both sides will set in motion concrete action plans for driving clean energy transition in the power sector, a power ministry statement said. The UK side presented a detailed summary of the significant ongoing work and the past work done in the last two years under the umbrella of bilateral cooperation which was appreciated and endorsed by both the sides.

Job market grows 57% YoY in Sept

**Mumbai:** The Indian job market maintained its record-breaking run for the third consecutive month in a row, clocking 57 per cent year-on-year growth in September, according to the latest Naukri JobSpeak report. At 2,753 job postings, the index hit an all-time high in September surpassing pre-Covid levels in September 2019 by 21 per cent. The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly Index that calculates and records hiring activity based on the job listings on Naukri.Com website MoM.

E-commerce firms log \$2.7bn in 4 days

**New Delhi:** E-commerce platforms, including social commerce and grocery, garnered about \$2.7 billion in sales in the first four days of the festive sale and are on track to achieve the \$4.8 billion gross GMV mark, consulting firm RedSeer said Saturday. RedSeer Consulting had last month forecast that online platforms would see 30 per cent year-on-year growth in gross GMV at \$4.8 billion during the first week of festive sale. These platforms are expected to potentially clock over \$9 billion gross GMV (Gross Merchandise Value) during the entire festive season this year.

Forex reserves down to \$637.47 bn

**Mumbai:** The country's foreign exchange reserves dipped by \$1.169 billion to stand at \$637.477 billion in the week ended October 1, RBI data showed Friday. In the previous week ended September 24, 2021, the reserves had declined by \$997 million to \$638.646 billion.



This development will open new avenues of growth of local trade and tourism. I am sure, with the huge potential of the region, the number of daily flights will increase to 20-25 within the next five years

**JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA** | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

# Global sugar market grateful for India supply

India's sugar policies, which include large subsidies, have been questioned for years at the WTO by competitors including Brazil and Australia



AGENCIES

**New York, Oct 9:** India may be the only country able to fill a looming global supply gap for sugar as the Brazilian crop ends, making the world's sugar market grateful for the Asian country that was once viewed as a threat to the market's stability.

Without India filling this gap, from November to March or April, the global sugar market would have a serious problem, said Paulo Roberto de Souza, the Chief Executive of Alvean Sugar SL, the world's largest sugar trader.

In an interview, Souza said sugar buying is about to increase even as the drought-hit crop in top grower Brazil winds down and costs for the commodity, as well as for ocean freight, have increased sharply.

He said that sugar consuming countries have been heavily reliant on available stocks during the year to avoid paying high shipping and sugar values, adding that those stocks are currently at critically low levels.

Now they have no choice, he said, expecting an increase on orders in the market that will have to be met by Indian producers,

but at a higher price.

Sugar prices are near their highest since early 2017 mainly due to poor production in top grower Brazil following drought and frosts.

Alvean's research department does not see much improvement in Brazil next season, expecting a cane crop of around 530 million tonne and sugar production at around 32-32.5 million tonne for the center-south region.

The fields have suffered a lot and it seems we will have La Nina next year, which means less rain in the center-south, Souza said.

Alvean projects the global supply deficit to nearly double in 2021/22 (Oct-Sept) from the previous year to up to 6 million tonne, while it sees global sugar use growing 1.2% in 2021/22 from 0.7% in the previous season as countries further reopen after the pandemic.

Souza says sugar prices will have to increase further to attract enough Indian selling to fill the market's gap.

He says Indian sugar export parity - the equivalent to domestic prices - is currently around 21 cents per pound, already above New York futures.

## Domestic cooking oil prices falling, mustard oil outlier

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** Even when the international prices of edible oils have gone up in the range of 1.95 per cent to 7.17 per cent after the import duty reduction, the decreasing trend in domestic prices and net effect (ranges for 3.26 per cent to 8.58 per cent declined) after duty reduction is quite substantial, the government said.

Necessary policy intervention by Central government with reference to duty reduction is proving to be beneficial for the general consumers, the government said in a release. International prices of Soyabean oil, Sunflower oil, Crude Palm oil and RBD Palmolein increased by 1.85 per cent, 3.15 per cent, 8.44 per cent and 10.92 per cent respectively over the month.

After the import duty reduction (effective from September 11) on imported edible oils, domestic retail and wholesale prices reduced in the range of 0.22 per cent to 1.93 per cent. However, Mustard oil is purely domestic oil, and its prices are expected to soften with number of other measures the government is contemplating, the release from Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) said.

Similarly, the wholesale and retail price of wheat decreased by 5.39 per cent and 3.56 per cent respectively over the year. Wholesale price of rice decreased by 0.07 per cent while retail price of rice increased by 1.26 per cent over the month.

Regarding the prices of onion, potato and tomato, the all-India average retail prices of potato decreased by 44.77 per cent over the year; the all-India average retail prices of onion decreased by 17.09 per cent over the year, the release said.

# Reduction in cost to thrust electric-2W's market penetration



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** Reducing cost of electric vehicles (EV) as well as increase in subsidies along with the newer model are expected to increase electric two-wheeler's (e-2W) penetration.

In FY21, e-2Ws contributed less than one per cent of overall two-wheelers sales. The sub-segment is expected to contribute 7-10 per cent to the overall 2W sales by FY25.

As e-mobility penetration is likely to be more in scooters, e-scooters sales as the overall percentage of total scooter sales would be much higher at 20-25 per cent, said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

This growth, the agency expects, would majorly be driven by the reducing delta between the price of an electric vehicles (EV) and internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles due to the increased subsidies under FAME-II scheme along

with the newer model launches anticipated over the next few years.

Ind-Ra believes e-scooters would lead electrification in this industry segment, given their higher urban presence.

Moreover, the new models launched recently as well as planned over the next few years are likely to have a better range, speed and battery size, thus making the performance of e-2W comparable to existing ICE variants available in the market.

As per the agency, the total cost of ownership of an e-scooter is now comparable to that of an ICE scooter; the former becomes economically more feasible in case of a long distance travelled.

As such, Ind-Ra expects higher adoption of e-2Ws by e-commerce companies delivery-based application companies as well as bike-taxis, thus supporting a further ramp up of EV penetration in 2Ws in India.

# Malabar showcases Indian jewellery at Expo 2020 Dubai



Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry (centre), H E Pavan Kapoor, Indian Ambassador to the UAE (fifth from left) and MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group (third from left) and others at the Expo 2020 Dubai

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** Malabar Gold and Diamonds garners attention at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai by showcasing the soulful craft and skilled artistry of Indian jewellery and its diverse cultural heritage through its exhibits.

Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce, who inaugurated the India pavilion, visited the Malabar Gold and Diamonds stall and appreciated the brand's trusted presence across the globe, and its representation of traditional artistry and Indian handcrafted jewellery on an international level.

MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Gold and Diamonds, stressed the company's focus on the initiative 'Make in India, Market to the World' during his discussion with the Union minister. By promoting Indian made jewellery at a global platform, Malabar Gold and Diamonds aims to boost exports and create employment opportunities in the country in various fields including jewellery manufacturing, sale, supply chain, and IT.

## The company is planning to set up five new stores in Odisha in coming year

"The Dubai Expo 2020 has become the world's centre of attraction for culture, talent and creativity. We are proud to represent India at an event where the world comes together to showcase the best of its art, culture, trade & technological advancements," he said.

Inspired by the cultural diversity of the nation, Malabar Gold and Diamonds makes its mark by offering versatility in catering to region-specific jewellery needs across the globe.

In the last 28 years, Malabar Gold and Diamonds has transformed into a global player across the verticals of gold and diamond jewellery retail, manufacturing and multi-retail business. Following the brand's international expansion plans, the company's retail network is expected to triple to over 750 outlets by 2025 from 260 showrooms and generate large employment opportunities.

## STATES CONCERNED AS ENERGY CRISIS DEEPENS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** An energy crisis is looming in some states, including Delhi and Punjab, due to a combination of factors such as excess rainfall hitting coal movement and imported coal-based power plants generating less than half of their capacity due to record high rates.

In a year when the country produced record coal, rains hit movement of the fuel from mines to power generation units, impacting power generation in many states, including Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Tamil Nadu.

Another factor that has contributed to the present crisis is power plants that used imported coal to generate electricity, have



either curtailed generation or completely stopped as a spurt in international energy prices has made it difficult for them to meet the commitments to states at a particular rate.

Power plants across the country regulated generation after stock ran low. Against the requirement of maintaining 15 days to 30 days of stocks, over half of the country's 135

## BIZ BUZZ

### Union Bank holds Hindi fortnight celebrations

**Sambalpur:** Union Bank of India, Regional Office, Sambalpur organised Hindi fortnight celebrations. Regional Head Tapan Kumar Sahoo inaugurated the programme in the presence of Deepak Kumar Khamari, Deputy Regional Head and other senior executives. All the staff members took 'Rajbhasha' oath on this occasion. Sahoo appealed everyone present to do most of their office work in Hindi. The gala function and prize distribution ceremony was also conducted. Many competitions were organised during Hindi fortnight and the bank gave away prizes to the winners. Four branches and five staffs were awarded with trophy, certificate and cash prize for Hindi implementation throughout the year. Cultural programmes like dance, singing, poem reciting etc were performed.



### Mukesh Ambani enters \$100-billion club

**Mumbai:** The 64 year old Asia's richest person is now in the company of 10 others including Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, Warren Buffet and Larry Page among others. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani entered the exclusive \$100-billion club after the stock of his conglomerate surged October 8 - taking his net worth \$100.6 billion, according to Bloomberg Billionaire Index. He is ranked 11th among others in the \$100-billion club. In June, Ambani along with Adani Group founder and Chairman Gautam Adani had overtaken Chinese billionaires like Jack Ma in the global wealth rankings. With a net worth of \$222.1 billion, the list is topped by SpaceX and Tesla's founder Elon Musk followed by Amazon's Jeff Bezos with \$190.8 billion.



# Amid environmental concerns, Tesla's giga fest at German factory

Construction at the plant had begun under an exceptional procedure granted by authorities two years ago, but opposition from locals has held up final approval

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Berlin, Oct 9:** With a big wheel, music and an appearance by CEO Elon Musk, Tesla is pulling out all the stops Saturday to win over opponents of the electric carmaker's controversial new gigafactory near Berlin.

Long queues of people brought by special shuttle buses were already forming at the Gruenheide site of Tesla's first European factory around 10 am.

Demonstrators were already on the scene Saturday morning, with a few people bearing signs

like 'Stop Tesla' and 'water and forest aren't for private profit' gathered around 100 metres from the site.

Mr Musk, expected to appear later at the Giga-Fest, tweeted simply Giga Berlin-Brandenburg fun party today in German Saturday morning.

The company has laid on a big wheel, electronic music and vegetarian food trucks - an event conceived in the image of Berlin, Europe's party capital.

Thousands are expected to attend, with locals given priority for the guest list announced by

## ECONOMIES OF SCALE

■ About 500,000 cars a year should roll off the line at the factory just outside Berlin, Tesla's first production location in Europe

■ On the same 300-hectare plot, Musk also plans to build the world's biggest battery factory

And the site will equally boast the world's largest die-casting machine, said Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer, director of the Center for Automotive Research in Germany. The custom-built equipment should allow Tesla to significantly reduce production costs, he added



Tesla earlier this week. Environmental concerns Tesla began construction at

the site in Gruenheide in 2019 after receiving preliminary approval under a special procedure.

But local authorities are still in the process of evaluating the environmental impact of the factory, despite construction being all but done.

Last year, work at the Tesla site was temporarily stopped after NGOs requested an injunction to protect the nearby natural habitat of endangered species of lizards and snakes while they were in their winter slumber. A residents' consultation, part of the approval process, is due to close October 14.

Until the survey is completed, final approval cannot be given

and production at the factory will not be allowed to begin.

Even then, the state environment ministry in Brandenburg, where the plant is located, told AFP no date has been fixed for this authorisation. Despite local resistance, construction has been completed in double-quick time, replacing a swathe of pine forest with an enormous concrete-paved expanse accessed via Tesla Road. In the event that the factory is not approved, the carmaker will be compelled to dismantle the entire works at its own cost.



# DC test awaits CSK Aussie eves seal multi-format series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Oct 9:** Chennai Super Kings' old guards with an uncanny knack of owning the big stage at right moments, will start as favourites against a solid Delhi Capitals line-up led by 'young pretender' Rishabh Pant in what promises to be an exciting first IPL Qualifier here Sunday.

Capitals were the best team in the league and their 20-point finish at the group stage was an indication of their consistent performances which didn't dip due to the COVID-19 forced break.

Similarly, CSK are now back in familiar settings of playoff rounds, something that they have done 11 out of 12 times although losing three matches on the bounce would-n't have amused their all-powerful skipper MS Dhoni.

DC, on the other hand, were handed a rude jolt by Kona Bharat's last-ball six in their last group league game against RCB. It didn't change their pole position but did enough to shake them from their stupor.

CSK, over the years, have been in final eight times and won on three occasions which speak volumes of the team's ability to lift their game just when it's required most.

That's the reason why CSK is not one of those franchises which unleashes new talent by dozens like other franchises. Ruturaj Gaikwad is an exception as he could be called a pure CSK product after more than a decade.

Dhoni has a simple cricketing philosophy - rely on tried and tested individuals who are battle-hardened and thus he has always punted on the likes of Ravindra Jadeja, Ambati Rayudu, Suresh Raina, Dwayne Bravo and Faf du Plessis.

These are players, who have been there and done that. People who can control phases and win pressure situations which more often than not results in victories.

Add Josh Hazlewood or Moeen Ali, who are also international regulars in that mix and the former India captain knows exactly what is the kind of combination that he needs to put on the park.

As much as one speaks about



team effort, no one knows more than Dhoni that T20 is perhaps one form of cricket, where individuals win matches.

Dhoni knows that even though his batting form has deserted him years back (since 2015-16) and an IPL legend like Raina is a pale shadow of his once destructive self, he still has Gaikwad (533 runs) and Du Plessis (546), who have more often than not provided solid starts and the menacing Jadeja (227 runs) providing final flourish.

Similarly, Shardul Thakur (18 wickets in 14 games) has given runs at an expensive economy rate of 8.57 but still the breakthroughs have been important. No one knows more than Dwayne Bravo (12 wickets) as to how one can fool the batters by changing the pace.

Hazlewood hasn't found form but Dhoni is banking on that devastating first spell from the Aussie that can wreak havoc.

It could happen against DC, as their batting despite 10 wins, hasn't exactly inspired confidence of highest level. Prithvi Shaw (401 runs) and Shikhar Dhawan (544

runs) have had their share of starts but in the UAE leg, they haven't exactly dominated.

Skipper Pant (362 runs) has been scratchy at best and Marcus Stoinis' absence due to injury did affect their balance as they lack big-hitters at the death save Shimron Hetmyer.

DC's strength has been their bowling attack - Avesh Khan (22 wickets), Axar Patel (15 wickets), Kagiso Rabada (13 wickets) and Anrich Nortje, who has taken nine wickets but an economy rate of 5.59 over six games.

But yes, even Dhoni would admit that Raina and Rayudu in what would be their last season for CSK, would want to make some tangible contribution with the willow. Even skipper himself needs to put his hand up.

**QUALIFIER 1**

 **DC v CSK** 

**Time: 07:30 pm**

**TELECAST**

Star Sports channels & Hotstar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Gold Coast, Oct 9:** Indian bowlers put up a valiant effort with very few runs to defend before rookie Tahlia McGrath (42 n o, 33b, 6x4) won the battle of nerves at the death, guiding Australia to a four-wicket victory in the second women's T20I and also clinch the multi-format series 9-5.

Batting first, India put up an inept performance, scoring only 118/9, largely due to Pooja Vastrakar (37 n o, 26b, 3x4, 2x6). Australia scored the runs in 19.1 overs, courtesy rookie McGrath, who launched into Shikha Pandey's 18th over, getting 14 runs which proved to be a game-changer.

Renuka Singh's inexperience also cost India dearly as the 19th over yielded 13 runs with McGrath, playing only in her second T20I, winning it for the hosts.

Pandey (1/27) bowled one that jagged back a long way to breach through Alyssa Healy's (4) defence and after that it was Rajeshwari Gayakwad (3/21), who controlled the middle-overs by getting rid of Meg Lanning (15).

Ashleigh Gardner (1) was guilty of belting a half-tracker from



**JOB DONE:** Tahlia McGrath reacts after hitting Australia's victory; (inset) Tayla Vlaeminck (c) is surrounded by teammates in celebration after dismissing an Indian batter, Saturday

Harmanpreet Kaur (1/9) straight into point fielder Gayakwad. Deepti Sharma (1/11) then got the dangerous Ellyse Perry (1) as Harmanpreet timed her jump to perfection at the cover, leaving Australia tottering at 46/4.

Beth Mooney (34) was cautious for the better part of her innings as McGrath started smashing the bowlers. Once Mooney was stumped

off Gayakwad and Nicola Carey was also stumped off a rebound off Richa Ghosh's body, India looked to be making a comeback at 94/6 but Pandey and Renuka couldn't bowl tight lines to prevent McGrath from taking her team to victory.

Earlier, Vastrakar gave a fine exhibition of power-hitting as her superb innings took India to 118 after they were reeling at 81/9 being

put into bat.

Interestingly, India, in the last three overs, scored 37 with Vastrakar making all the runs in the company of Gayakwad, who could not open her account.

After an impressive show in the first game where their fearless batting was lauded, Indian batters flattered to deceive as none save skipper Harmanpreet (28) showed the intent of taking the attack back to the opposition camp.

Instead, there was an inexplicable batting collapse with the hit-pairing of Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma falling to Tayla Vlaeminck's (2/18) pace.

Then, spinners Sophie Molineux (2/11) and Ashleigh Gardner (1/12) stifled the batters during the middle overs with 27 dot balls and three wickets, which broke the backbone of their batting.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India Women 118/9 (Pooja Vastrakar 37 n o, Harmanpreet Kaur 28; Sophie Molineux 2/11, Tayla Vlaeminck 2/18) lost to Australia Women 119/6 (Tahlia McGrath 42 n o, Beth Mooney 34; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 3/21) by 4 wickets.

## TURKISH GP: LEWIS TAKES POLE, BUT DEMOTED TO 11TH

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Istanbul, Oct 9:** Formula One defending champion Lewis Hamilton took pole position for the Turkish Grand Prix Saturday ahead of Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas with title rival Max Verstappen in third.

But Hamilton has a 10-place grid penalty for going over his allocation of three combustion engines for the season and will start 11th Sunday. It means Bottas will be on the front row with Verstappen and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc just behind in third, alongside AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly in fourth, after a strong final lap from Gasly.

Hamilton's record-extending 102nd pole saw him finish 0.13 seconds ahead of Bottas and .33 clear of Verstappen's Red Bull.

## India end Junior WC with 30 medals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lima, Oct 9:** Indian shooters Anish Bhanwala, Adarsh Singh and Vijayveer Sidhu combined to win the gold medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol team event as the country ended the ISSF Junior World Championship on top of the standings here.

The Indian trio shot a total of 10 to finish ahead of their German counterparts Fabian Otto, Felix Luca Hollfoth and Tobias Gsoell (2) in the gold medal contest on Friday.

India's Manvi Soni (105) bagged the junior double trap gold medal ahead of compatriot Yeshaya Hafiz Contractor (90). The bronze was won by Hitasha (76) in an event

that only featured Indians.

Vinay Pratap Singh Chandrawat claimed the gold medal men's double trap event with a score of 120, while the silver went to Sehajpreet Singh (114) and the bronze to Mayank Shokeen (111).

Earlier Friday, Ayushi Podder and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the silver in the 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team event.

This was after the Indian pair of Rhythm Sangwan and Vijayveer Sidhu clinched the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team gold medal. India also claimed the bronze in this event courtesy Tejaswani and Anish.

In the junior women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions, Prasiddhi Mahant, Nishcal and Ayushi Podder clinched the silver medal.

Table-toppers India ended the tournament with 30 medals including 13 gold, 11 silver and six bronze. USA finished second with 6 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze.



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