




TOP HONOUR

Actor Divya Dutta bags Best Actor award for her film *Sheer Qorma* at Dallas-Fort Worth South Asian Film Festival, US


LEISURE P2



1 CR FULLY VACCINATED IN STATE

The state government Monday achieved the milestone of 1 crore double dose vaccination against Covid-19


DOWNTOWN P3



COLIN POWELL NO MORE


Colin Powell, the first Black secretary of state, died Monday of Covid-19 complications. He was 84

INTERNATIONAL P10



YET ANOTHER LIFER FOR DERA CHIEF

Chandigarh: Self-styled godman and Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, who is already serving a 20-year jail sentence for raping two of his disciples and a life term for a journalist's killing, was Monday sentenced to life imprisonment for murder of a former sect manager nearly two decades back. Special CBI court judge Sushil Garg in Haryana's Panchkula pronounced the verdict in a jam-packed court, sentencing him and four others for murdering Ranjit Singh, in 2002. The CBI had sought the death penalty under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code for Ram Rahim, while the Dera chief pleaded for mercy, appearing via video conference from Rohtak jail, where he is serving sentence in two cases of rape and for the murder of a journalist.



HEAVY RAIN WARNING FOR STATE

Bhubaneswar: Parts of the state braced for heavy rain as a low-pressure area (Lopar) formed over Gangetic West Bengal Monday. Fisherfolk have been advised not to venture into deep sea off the Odisha coast till Tuesday as squally weather with wind speed of 40-50 kmph and gusting up to 60 kmph is likely over north Bay of Bengal. Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation in the morning, a Lopar formed over West Bengal and adjoining north Odisha, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said in a release. It issued an orange alert of heavy to very heavy rainfall at one or two places over Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts till 8.30 am of Tuesday. P4



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IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Earlier we were not allowed to buy land in Kashmir... now we can't even sell golgappas!!

Train services massively hit

■ The 'Rail-Roko' called by Samyukt Kisan Morcha against the three new farm laws and the Centre's inadequate action on Kheri violence received support from Congress, Left and AAP

60 TRAINS HALTED IN NORTHERN RLY ZONE

New Delhi/Chandigarh/Jaipur: Farmers squatted on rail tracks at several places Monday morning as part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha's six-hour 'rail roko' protest over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, hampering train movement in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The stir affected 150 locations in the Northern Railway zone and hindered the running of 60 trains causing inconvenience to passengers who could be seen waiting for long hours with their baggage. In the North Western Railway (NWR) zone, rail traffic was affected in some sections in Rajasthan and Haryana with 18 trains cancelled, 10 partially cancelled and one diverted due to the protest. On Monday, the SKM claimed its leaders were arrested at several places during the protest in which thousands of farmers peacefully participated. P9

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Train services Monday were affected in the East Coast Railway division of Odisha for around 30 minutes to one hour owing to the 'rail roko' agitation by farmers, demanding the dismissal and arrest of Union minister Ajay Mishra for his alleged involvement in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence earlier this month.

The agitation called by Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) – an umbrella union of the farmers – received support from the Congress, the Left and the AAP in Odisha.

The SKM, which is spearheading the demonstration against the Centre's three farm laws, gave a call for the six-hour-long 'rail roko' across the country in protest against the Lakhimpur Kheri violence in Uttar Pradesh that led to the death of eight people.

In Odisha, however, the agitation continued for around 20 minutes at most stations, barring Gorakhnath, where demonstrators sat on the tracks for at least 50 minutes. According to an ECoR official, as many as 12 trains came to a halt at the stations, causing problems for the daily commuters, even as the agitators refused to vacate the tracks.

The trains were allowed to move only after the protesters left the stations, he said. Senior CPI(M) leader Suresh Panigrahi claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence" on the UP violence and his minister's alleged role in the incident has fuelled anger among people.

The Congress, too, sought Mishra's dismissal and arrest. "We have extended our support to the agitation as we know that the investigation won't be neutral if Ajay Mishra continues to be a minister," Congress MLA Suresh Routray claimed. The legislator also demanded immediate withdrawal of the three contentious farm laws.

BJP leader and former MLA Pradip Purohit, on his part, said that the farmers' body should be held responsible for the death of people in Lakhimpur Kheri. Four of the eight people killed in the violence October 3 were farmers, who were allegedly knocked down by a vehicle carrying BJP workers. Angry farmers then reportedly lynched some people in the vehicles.



Protesters have blocked a railway line in Bhubaneswar, Monday



LIFE IN SEA

Illegal migrants brought to shore after being intercepted by Libyan coast guards at the Mediterranean Sea in Garaboli Libya, Monday

UNI PHOTO

20 HINDU HOMES IN B'DESH TORCHED

■ Communal tensions have flared up in the neighbouring country over alleged blasphemy at a Puja venue

AGENCIES

Dhaka, Oct 18: A mob has damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh over an alleged blasphemous social media post amidst protests by the minority community against temple vandalism incidents during the Durga Puja celebrations last week, authorities said Monday.

The arson attack by the mob of over a hundred people happened late Sunday on a village in Rangpur district's Pirganj upazila, about 255 kms from here, the bd-news24.Com reported.

The police rushed to a fishermen neighbourhood as tension mounted over a rumor that a young Hindu man of the village had 'dishonoured religion' in a Facebook post, Assistant Police Superintendent Mohammad Kamruzzaman told reporters.

"The incident took place after



10 PM yesterday but fire fighters doused the blaze within a short period (and) the situation is now under full control," he said. No casualties were reported but 66 houses were damaged and 20 burnt during the attack, the officer said.

As many as 52 suspects have been arrested while a manhunt was launched for more suspects under a "combing operation" in collaboration with other security forces, he added. As the police stood guard around the man's home, the attackers set fire to other homes nearby, the report said.

The Fire Service Control Room

said that their report from the scene indicates that 29 residential houses, two kitchens, two barns and 20 haystacks belonging to 15 different owners were torched in Pirganj's Majhipara, it said, adding that an 'unruly crowd' has been identified as the cause of fire.

The fire service received a report of the fire at 8:45 pm and finally put it out by 4:10 am. The arson incident occurred amid rising communal tension over an alleged blasphemy incident at a Durga Puja venue in Cumilla which led to attacks on Hindu temples and clashes between vandals and the police.

Class X (Term-I) to begin from Nov 30, Class XII from Dec 1

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 18: The first term board exams for Class 10 will begin from November 30, while the exams for Class 12 is scheduled from December 1, the Central Board of Secondary Education announced Monday.

According to examination controller Sanyam Bhardwaj, the announced date sheet is for major subjects while the schedule for minor subjects will be sent to schools separately. The exams for minor subjects for Classes 10 and 12 will begin from November 17 and November 16 respectively.

Bifurcating the academic session, holding two term-end exams and rationalising the syllabus were part of the special assessment scheme for Classes 10 and 12 CBSE board exams for 2021-22, which were announced in July in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CBSE offers 114 subjects in Class 12 and 75 subjects in Class 10. Out of these 19 are major subjects in Class 12 and nine in Class 10.

For Class 10, the first exam for major subjects is scheduled November 30 (social science) followed by science December 2, home science December 3, mathematics standard and mathematics basic December 4, computer application December 8, Hindi courses A and B December 9 and English December 11.

According to the Class 12 exam schedule, first exam will be of sociology (December 1) followed by English core December 3, mathematics December 6, physical education December 7, business studies December 8, geography December 9 and Physics December 10. Psychology exam will be held December 11, accountancy December 13, chemistry December 14, economics December 15, Hindi core and elective December 16, political science December 17, biology December 18, history December 20, informatics practices and computer science December 21 and home science December 22.

The CBSE had last week said that the first-term board examinations for Classes 10 and 12 will be conducted offline in November-December.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	61765.59	▲ 459.64
NIFTY	18477.00	▲ 138.50
DOLLAR	75.41	▲ ₹0.08
EURO	87.39	▲ ₹0.35
GOLD	₹47,409	▲ ₹196
SILVER	₹63,348	▲ ₹77

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	30.4°C	30.3°C
MIN	23.8°C	24.5°C
Humidity	100%	97%
Rainfall	0.1mm	2mm
Forecast		
Light rain very likely		

■ Massive floods fail to play spoilsport in the marriage of a couple in Kerala who travelled 500 metres on a copper cooking vessel to tie the nuptial knots

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 18: Nothing could deter a young couple in Kerala as they braved the floods to reach in time for their marriage, travelling nearly 500 metres on a traditional copper cooking vessel for their wedding held in a local temple at Thakazhi near Alappuzha Monday morning. Since torrential rains hit the

state Friday afternoon which continued partly till Sunday, the Kuttanad area of Alappuzha had submerged due to severe rains, the roads in the area were completely submerged Monday.

The bride, Aishwarya, and the groom Rahul, both hailing from the same locality, had fixed their wedding to be held in the local temple at Thakazhi. On Monday, things went for a toss as by then the roads had disappeared and water was flowing all over the area.

Generally in Kerala, the bride and groom come to a temple or the wedding hall in a car but it was not the case for Rahul and Aishwarya.

All decked up to reach the temple, the couple came into a tradi-



leisure

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ARIES

Today even if you are alone, you may not really feel lonely. You will desire to listen to your inner self, so that you can express yourself more imaginatively. Ganesha says spend the evening with your beloved who can listen to your voice in your silence also.

TAURUS

Today, you need to take hold of your emotions. Ganesha urges you to not get carried away by your feelings. Instead, you should try to maintain a practical, sensible frame of mind. Women are like to feature prominently in your life during the day. Try to be magnanimous and open hearted.

GEMINI

You will think about the issues faced by other people as well as about increasing your social standing and elevating your social esteem. It is an extremely profitable day for those in the retail business and hence make the most of it, says Ganesha.

CANCER

There may not be many opportunities visible on the horizon today. And, chances are that you may end up getting embroiled in some complicated situations, without even a fault of yours. Relax! Given your people skills and lively spirits, you will be able to sail through.

LEO

You have to let go of your stubborn and obstinate streak. You will need to compromise according to the situation. If you do not have such an attitude, arguments and confrontations with your business partners, friends and family members are possible. You do not like delays, however you will be forced to postpone important events, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

The artist in you will set the floor ablaze today. You have the remarkable abilities of a showman and comedian, and people will feel thrilled at your treasure of jokes in the evening, says Ganesha. However, you will do well to conserve some energy for other urgent matters and duties as well.

LIBRA

Ganesha says you will be able to show your love and appreciation for your beloved. Small issues will crop up and keep you tensed and uncomfortable today. Just remember good days and old memories and life will seem good again. It is essential to have confidence in yourself if you want to go ahead in life and be happy.

SCORPIO

You will see every colour of the kaleidoscope today – people with different temperaments and different attitudes, many of whom will surprise you with their reactions. You may be shocked at the way your colleagues or close friends react to your strategies or success. Ganesha advises you to handle people with tact and diplomacy rather than being indifferent or arrogant.

SAGITTARIUS

You may have been experiencing hair loss in the past due to back-breaking stress, but things will begin to clean up today. As complex issues begin to fall in place, you are likely to receive some good news about a promotion or increment. At the end of the day, you will feel content in your comfort zone in the company of near and dear ones.

CAPRICORN

You will be overpowered with nostalgia and may long to get in touch with old pals. And as Ganesha says, chances are that you may take a liking to your ex-lover, while simultaneously strengthening your social standing. All in all, the day will be a productive one.

AQUARIUS

You may huff and puff, but today is not the day when you'll finish what you started. Don't lose heart, the future is promising. Take a break, says Ganesha, you've worked enough. The results are on the way.

PISCES

Needless rigidity only serves to imprison you within outmoded walls of faulty reasoning. Inculcating some flexibility will give you some much-needed wriggle room to manoeuvre things your way for good, says Ganesha.

SARAH SNOOK GOT HITCHED SECRETLY DURING PANDEMIC

Succession actress Sarah Snook secretly married her 'best mate' Dave Lawson last year. Snook always had a 'platonic' relationship with Lawson but after she and the comedian both found themselves single amid the coronavirus pandemic last year, things turned romantic between them, admitted the 33-year-old beauty.

CHRIS MARTIN CAN'T AFFORD SPACE TRIP

Coldplay frontman Chris Martin wants to go into space - but despite an estimated worth of £125 million, he doesn't think he can afford it. The *Sky Full of Stars* hitmaker is quoted by the *Daily Star* newspaper as saying: I don't think I can afford it.



Was molested by optician at young age: Neena Gupta

Mumbai: Neena Gupta has been a part of the film industry for over three decades. Post the recent blockbuster success of *Badhaai Ho* in 2018, she has been on a new career high with a wide range of films and performances. But her journey hasn't been an easy one. In her autobiography *Sach Kahun Toh* that released in June 2021, Neena has shared some shocking incidents of her life with her fans.

She recounted one such horrific incident about being molested as a child by an optician and how she didn't tell this to her mother. "The

doctor started with examining my eye and then went down to check out other areas that were unconnected with my eye. I was scared stiff while it was happening and felt disgusted all the way home. I sat in a corner in the house and cried my eyes out when nobody was looking. But I didn't dare tell my mother about this because I was so scared that she would say that it was my fault. That I had probably said or done something to provoke him," Neena Gupta wrote in her biography.

AGENCIES

I only compete with myself: MEERA

Mumbai: An actor's life might look all glitz and glamour, but the reality is quite different. Much like any other profession, they also need to hustle. While there are opportunities, so is the competition. Meera Deosthale has her own way to deal with all the good and bad that are a part and parcel of this profession.

"I only compete with myself. I don't like comparing myself to anyone. Those who have been doing well, have done some amazing work in their careers inspire and motivate me. Having said that, what I can do, many can't. And what they can do probably I can't," says the actor, who appeared in shows such as *Dilli Wali Thakur Gurls*, *Udaan* and *Vidya*.

There is no one particular person that Meera looks up to in her profession.

"I learn something from everyone. One woman, who is a wonderful actor, and is absolutely stunning at everything she does, is Meryl Streep. Whenever I see a film of hers, I feel elated and I want to be as gracious and easy like her in terms of acting and looks," she shares. IANS



Helmed by Faraz Ansari, *Sheer Qorma* is one of the few films that represent the LGBTQA+ community with a heartwarming story at its core

Top honour for Divya at film fest in US

Mumbai: Divya Dutta is an exceptional actress, who can singlehandedly breathe life into her films. She's one of those gifted actors of showbiz, who perfectly understands the pitch of her characters and fittingly executes them as per the tone of the film.

The actress was recently feted with the Best Actor award for her short film *Sheer Qorma* at Dallas-Fort Worth South Asian Film Festival, US. The film has been travelling to film festivals across the globe for quite some time and has been winning accolades on the international canvas.

Helmed by Faraz Ansari, *Sheer Qorma* is one of the few films that represent the LGBTQA+ community with a heartwarming story at its core. The film also stars veteran actress Shabana Azmi and Swara Bhasker.

An extremely elated Divya spoke about attending the event, "I am very excited to be here in Dallas physically and receive the award. Most of the film festival participation for *Sheer Qorma* so far, happened virtually. This time Faraz took special permission and we could travel." IANS



'Ocean adventure was scary'

The world-famous adventurer Bear Grylls and Ajay Devgn travelled to sea full of sharks and eventually moved towards uninhabited islands



Ajay Devgn and Bear Grylls rowing in Indian Ocean during *Into The Wild* shoot

Ajay Devgn, one of the top actors of Hindi film industry has opened up on his trip to the Indian Ocean with Bear Grylls for the survival skill-based reality show *Into The Wild*.

The *Singham* actor shared: "It was my first trip *Into The Wild* with Bear Grylls. I've done dangerous things in films from the start of my film career 30 years ago. But what I did during the ITW trip with Bear was altogether different. It was scary, thrilling, adventurous, exhilarating and so much more."

The world-famous adventurer Bear Grylls and Ajay Devgn travelled to sea full of sharks and facing harsh weather conditions eventually moved towards

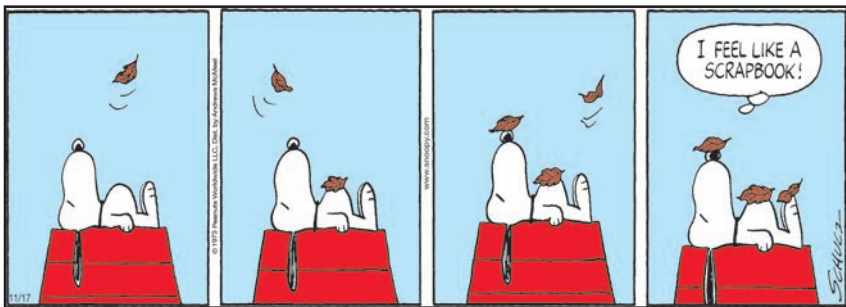
uninhabited islands.

He shares his most difficult moments from the journey: "Well, there was so much nervous energy within me when I was doing my stunts with Bear; I can't recollect each moment separately. Overall, I can tell you when I was in the middle of the deep ocean and Bear was trying to come in a helicopter to rescue me and take me to an island nearby, the waters were perilous. The wind of the chopper machine and the

pressure of the water in which I was immersed neck deep were very dangerous. Of course, I had full faith in Bear but I must confess, I could barely keep my head above the water."

Ajay adds that he loves forests but more challenging was the ocean: "I love the forests, so that bit was much easier. Bear knows his way around the wild, he is a natural. I just followed him, but it was the ocean that presented challenges." IANS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

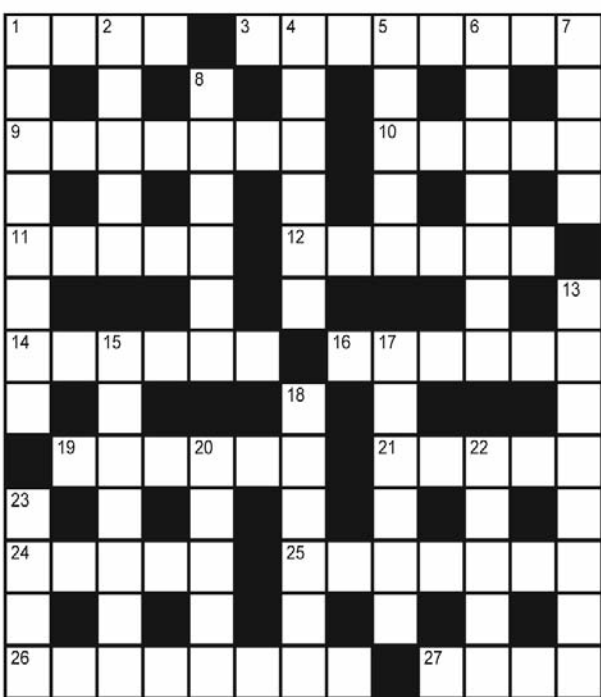


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



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Across

- 1 Hunter's target
3 Place to buy a crumpet
9 They're found on vessels

- 10 Haven
11 Cow catcher
12 Lowlife
14 Collar
16 Echo
19 Hang around

- 21 Part of a joint
24 Extreme
25 Artsy one
26 Reaps
27 Swindles

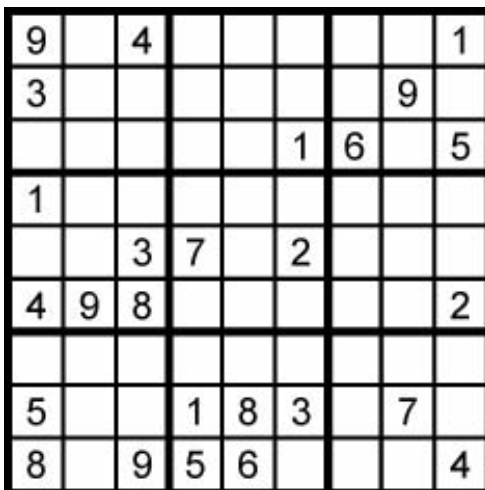
Down

- 1 Silverbacks
2 King with a golden touch
4 ___-Lorraine
5 Eat away

- 6 Aggressive
7 Nuisance
8 Stations
13 Wasps and bees, e.g.
15 Hen house figure
17 Heir's concern
18 Passionate
20 Business
22 Poverty-stricken
23 Hurry

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.



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Pact inked for studying engineering in Odia



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other dignitaries on the occasion

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Odia Studies and Research (IOSR) at IIT Kharagpur Extension Centre here Monday for introduction of engineering courses in Odia medium.

Addressing the gathering, Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the collaboration would help develop study materials for engineering education in Odia language. “One of the biggest recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 is imparting education in mother tongue,” said Pradhan.

He said NEP stresses invoking critical thinking in a child, which can only be possible through local language. “Engineering study in local languages will also open gates for innovation and large scale employability,” the Union Minister added.

Citing the examples of developed countries, Pradhan said, “There should not be any misconception that studying in mother tongue gives us disadvantages. All the developed countries, be it Japan, China, Italy or Germany, promote and use their local languages only and they are highly developed.” He also proposed to develop a Centre of Excellence for Foreign Languages in Bhubaneswar: “Such a centre will be able to generate a lot of employment for our youths,” he added.

The minister said IOSR and AICTE took up the project in a philanthropic mode. “IOSR is rightly defining the meaning of ‘Siksha Daan’. Both the institutes will work together and will de-

There should not be any misconception that studying in mother tongue gives us disadvantages. All the developed countries, be it Japan, China, Italy or Germany, promote and use their local languages only and they are highly developed

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN |
UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

velop the required study materials for engineering in Odia language,” he said.

The minister further stressed using language as a catalyst for transformation and education for employment. “We need to prepare a roadmap for coming 15 years in the run up to the completion of 100 years of Odisha as the first linguistic state of India. For this, four things are required to be taken care of – nutrition, language, education and employment,” Pradhan said.

The MoU signing ceremony was attended by AICTE Chairman Anil D Sahasrabudhe, IOSR Chairman Abasur Beuria, Member Secretary Subrat Kumar Prusty, IIT Kharagpur Director Virendra Kumar Tewari and IIT Bhubaneswar Director RV Rajakumar among others.

Earlier, Orissa POST had reported that from next academic year the engineering colleges in the state would hold classes in Odia language. The AICTE had given its approval for this following a meeting with the state government September 4. At present, there are 88 private and eight government-run engineering colleges in Odisha.

1.4 kg gold, necklace worth ₹24 lakh seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Vigilance sleuths have seized 1,440 gram gold and a designer necklace worth ₹24.25 lakh from the house of Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahy, an official said.

The vigilance, after 23 hours of search at Panigrahy’s, his relative and associates’ houses said, “During the course of searches... 1,440 gm gold and a branded designer necklace worth ₹24.25 lakh were found in the house of Dr Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy and seized.”

VIG RAIDS ON PRADEEP

Steps are being taken for their attachment, the statement said, adding that measures are also being taken for freezing the bank accounts of Panigrahy and his family members.

“The documents found during the searches will be examined by the officers of the financial wing of vigilance and professional chartered accountants and banking consultants. The cyber cell of the vigilance will examine all electronic evidence/documents found during the searches,” the vigilance said.

Examination of witnesses, suspects, and accused shall be carried out in due course of time, the official said, adding that the investigation was continuing.

Earlier, a case was registered against Panigrahy October 4 following a direction from the Lokayukta.

Searches were conducted at 15 places in Bhubaneswar and Ganjam district Sunday.

Documents relating to the purchase of land, jewellery, bank passbooks, credit/debit cards, laptops, mobile phones and other articles were seized during the raids carried out by the SP of the vigilance cell, two additional SPs and 17 DSPs, the official said.



FOR A CATCH

A youth mends a fishing net at Jobra in Cuttack, Monday

COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	24,15,78,403	21,87,99,695	49,16,254
India	3,40,81,315	3,34,39,331	4,52,290
Odisha	10,35,417	10,22,780	8,290

1cr fully vaccinated in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The state government Monday achieved the milestone of 1 crore double dose vaccination against Covid-19. As per data available on CoWIN portal, Odisha now has 1,00,26,166 completely vaccinated population.

Govt ready for aid to Covid victims

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra Monday said the Odisha government, as directed by the Supreme Court, will provide financial assistance of Rs 50,000 to the kin of those who died of Covid-19. He directed the officials concerned to ensure that the relief money reaches the beneficiaries without disruption. The kin of the deceased can apply offline and online to the Collector after which they will be processed through software prepared by OCAC.

Informing this, state Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department tweeted, “Odisha has achieved another milestone in COVID-19 vaccination with over one crore



citizens fully vaccinated with two doses of vaccines.”

As per the portal, altogether 3,43,32,480 people have been administered Covid-19 vaccines. While 2,43,06,314 have taken the first dose, 1,00,26,166 received both the shots. On Monday, 2,11,800 people were inoculated at 1,887 vaccination centres, including 37 private facilities, in the state.

Earlier, H&FW director Bijay Panigrahi had said that the government has set a target to complete first dose vaccination of all people in the state by December this year.

“Bhubaneswar and Berhampur Municipal Corporations have completed first dose vaccination of all of its residents. Moreover, 3,540 villages, including Riamal, Tikabali, Raikia, G Udaygiri and Belguntha have achieved 100 per cent first dose vaccination,” Panigrahi said. “Messages are being sent to people whose second dose is due. On the other hand, ASHA and Anganwadi workers are being rewarded for their work in the fight against Covid-19. Those who are unable to visit vaccination centres are being jabbed at their homes,” he added.



An artisan gives finishing touches to the clay idols of Goddess Laxmi at Unit-I in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PHOTO: BIKASH NAYAK

NGT seeks details of people behind Khurda stone mining

The environment watchdog says the affidavit filed by SEIAA is not legible and at least 2 pages are completely blank and the remaining are smudged

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 18: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Khurda Collector to file an affidavit with details of the illegal miners carrying out laterite stone mining in the district and the amount of environmental compensation imposed and recovered from them. It wanted to know at whose behest the illegal mining was being carried out.

A bench of Judicial Member B Amit Shalekar and Expert Member Saibal Dasgupta also asked the Collector to bring on record the comprehensive action plan for

restitution and restoration of the environment in the area.

The green body rejected the affidavit filed by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) citing that “the affidavit is not legible and at least two pages are completely blank and the remaining pages are smudged and therefore not legible”. The tribunal asked the SEIAA to file a fresh affidavit.

“We direct the Collector, Khurda to file his personal affidavit giving details of the illegal miners, determining as to at whose behest the alleged illegal miners, alleged truck operators were operating in



FILE PHOTO

the lifting of the laterite stone and the amount of the environmental compensation imposed and recovered as well as the cost of the laterite stone illegally mined causing loss to the state exchequer,”

the tribunal said.

The tribunal noted that the illegal miners have not been allowed to operate by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) in Puri. “What this affidavit does not

state is as to at whose behest the truck operators carrying the crushed laterite stone material etc were operating,” the bench said.

Earlier, the NGT had constituted a four-member committee comprising a senior scientist from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Khurda DM, SEIAA member secretary and a member of SPCCB to investigate the allegations related to illegal mining of laterite stone in the district and how much damage was caused to the environment.

It is to be mentioned here that an application has been filed in the tribunal alleging illegal mining of laterite stone by rat hole mining

method without following the standard operating procedure (SOP) for mining and other environmental laws. It is stated that there are at least 40 different sites in Khurda district of Odisha where such mining is going on that covers 500 acres bringing within it several villages namely Tapanga, Anda and Jhinkijhari under Nijigarh Tapang Panchayat. The areas said to involve Cashew Jungle, Gramya Jungle and Gochar land. No environmental clearance or consent to operate was stated to have been obtained. A large number of trees have been felled during the mining operations.

Jail inmates can now talk to relatives over phone

PRISONS DIRECTORATE PLANS TO PROCURE DRONES FOR ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE INSIDE JAILS IN 2022-23 FINANCIAL YEAR. THE JAILS IN STATE WILL ALSO HAVE VIDEO WALL SYSTEM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Prisoners lodged in several jails in Odisha can now legally speak to their relatives over phone as the Prisons Directorate, taking a cue from Bihar jail, has decided to launch Prisoners’ Calling System (PCS) in November this year.

The system, which will be introduced in Jharpada Special Jail here and Chaudwar Circle Jail on a pilot basis, will be implemented in other jails later.

Under the scheme, four booths will be opened at each of the two jails. The booths will have bio-metric system to record the thumb impression of the prisoner willing to call from the booth. Each inmate will be allowed to make calls to two phone numbers submitted by the prisoner earlier. The prison officials will verify the numbers be-



fore allowing the inmates to dial. Each inmate can talk for only 5 minutes by paying Rs 5. The call will be cut off automatically at the expiry of the duration.

The Prisons Directorate hopes to control the illegal use of mobile phones and landline numbers inside the prison with the introduction of the PCS in state.

This apart, the directorate also plans to procure drones for enhanced surveillance inside the jails

during 2022-23 financial year. The officials will keep strict vigil on every activity inside the jail through the drone cameras.

The jails in the state will also have a video wall system to under which a large display with several video screens fixed together to form a ‘single logical screen’ for better surveillance of jails. It will be launched in a phased manner next year.

The directorate is also introducing cashless transactions in

Four booths including one for women prisoners will be opened at Jharpada Special Jail and Chaudwar Circle Jail

The booths will have bio-metric system to record the thumb impression of the prisoner willing to call from the booth

Each inmate can talk for only 5 minutes by paying Rs 5. The call will be cut off automatically at the expiry of the duration

various jails in a passed manner. Inmates using smart cards will purchase goods from jail canteens as per the prescribed ceiling every month.

Sources at the Prisons Directorate claimed that 20 body-worn cameras are being procured to be used in Jharpada and Choudwar jails on pilot basis.

Naveen felicitates Balasore man with unique records

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Lieutenant Colonel Laxmidhar Bhuyan Monday called on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at his residence here. Bhuyan, a native of Bangur village in Balasore district, has several world records for his performances in skills like longest time hitting on hips by heels on headstand and blindfolded 100-metres run carrying Indian flag in semicircular track.

Naveen appreciated his fabulous feats and awarded him Rs 10 lakh.

It may be mentioned here that on Army Day, January 15, 2021, Bhuyan had performed 13,725 times hitting on hip by heels on headstand Yoga position for 1 hour 7 minutes and 10 seconds despite his 20 per cent disability.

He has entered his name in several prestigious books of records such as Guinness Book of World Records, International



Naveen appreciated the fabulous feats of Lieutenant Colonel Laxmidhar Bhuyan and awarded him Rs 10 lakh

Book of Records, Asia Book of Records, India Book of Records, Limca Book of Records, Best of India Records and Golden Book of Records.

He also holds eight world records in ‘blindfolded 100-metres run with national flag in semicircular track in just one minute’, followed by ‘blindfolded climbing of 20 feet ladder in 5 seconds’ and ‘blind folded nonstop 13,986 times hitting on hips by heels on headstand on top of 20 feet ladder’.

PRARAMBH: CP's answer to kidnapping, elopement



Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash, Kandhamal MP and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi, actor Rahul Bose and Additional Police Commissioner Rekha Lohani at the event

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The Commissionerate Police (CP) Monday launched a special initiative Preventive and Restorative Assistance for Rescued Adults and Minors in Bhubaneswar (PRARAMBH) to create awareness among vulnerable groups to stop rampant elopement and kidnapping cases involving minor girls in City.

Addressing the media, Commissioner of Police Saumendra Priyadarshi said, "As we found majority of the kidnapping cases dealt by City police to be incidents of elopement, we decided to sensitise the vulnerable groups. We also identified the families down the economic ladder as the most vulnerable group in view of the girl elopement cases."

Priyadarshi also asserted that extensive use of social media platforms makes girls the most vulnerable as they get carried away and make mistakes, and later get sexually, socially and economically exploited.

"Elopement of minor girls has major social consequences. The girl

The Commissionerate Police will launch campaigns on social media and various media platforms to bring awareness among young girls and boys under PRARAMBH

The cops will visit different slum areas in City to sensitise parents of minors to keep strict vigil on their wards

Similarly, workshops will be organised at schools and colleges to sensitise students for 'responsible use of social media'

is minor and there is a danger of her landing in an exploitive place. Secondly, the future career/family life of the girl gets affected, and the boy on the other hand is treated as criminal," informed a press statement issued by twin city police.

The Commissionerate Police will launch campaigns on social media and various media platforms to bring awareness among young girls and boys under PRARAMBH. The cops will visit different slum areas in City to sensitise parents of minors to keep

As we found majority of the kidnapping cases dealt by City police to be incidents of elopement, we decided to sensitise the vulnerable groups. We also identified the families down the economic ladder as the most vulnerable group in view of the girl elopement cases

SAUMENDRA PRIYADARSHI | TWIN CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER

strict vigil on their wards.

Similarly workshops will be organised at schools and colleges to sensitise students for 'responsible use of social media'.

This apart, cops will continue to provide counselling and assistance to the rescued victims of elopement as well as their family members.

The Kidnapping and Man Missing Cell opened at the DCP of fice will be strengthened. Priyadarshi informed media that the cell managed to rescue 241 missing girls and disposed of 295 kidnapping cases in the last six months.

A helpline number, 2545445, was launched by the Commissioner through which any minor and her family members can seek police help in kidnapping and elopement cases. The victims and family can contact police on the number between 10am to 5pm every day.

PRARAMBH has been launched with the assistance of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), and SN Mohanty Foundation. Commissioner Priyadarshi thanked Achyuta Samanta, Kandhamal MP and founder of KISS, and famous Hindi movie actor Rahul Bose for helping City police form and deploy the initiative.



Members of the youth wing of state Congress stage a demonstration near Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday, condemning the skyrocketing fuel prices

MeT issues orange alert for Balasore, Mayurbhanj

PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Parts of Odisha braced for heavy rain as a low-pressure area (Lopar) formed over Gangetic West Bengal Monday.

Fisherfolk have been advised not to venture into deep sea off the Odisha coast till Tuesday as squally weather with wind speed of 40-50 kmph and gusting up to 60 kmph is likely to prevail over north Bay of Bengal.

Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation in the morning, a Lopar formed over West Bengal and adjoining north Odisha, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said in a release.

It issued an orange alert of heavy to very heavy rainfall at one or two places over Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts till 8:30am Tuesday.



The Met office warned of rise in the water level in Budhabalanga and Subarnarekha rivers. Heavy showers are expected at one or two places in the districts of Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Deogarh and Jajpur till 8:30am Tuesday, the department said.

Heavy showers are expected at one or two places in the districts of Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Deogarh and Jajpur

Tuesday morning, there is a likelihood of downpour at one or two places in Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts.

The MeT also forecast thunderstorms at some places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khurda, Puri, Ganjam, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Angul districts till Tuesday.

Class VIII reopening guidelines issued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The School and Mass Education (S&ME) department Monday wrote to the headmasters of all schools to strictly follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and guidelines laid down for reopening of Class VIII from October 25 for the academic year 2021-22.

As per the SOPs, the headmasters have been asked to intimate the District Education Officers (DEOs) about the sanitisation of schools a day before the opening.

Similarly there will be no classes for the first two days as teachers and managing committee members would be holding discussions with the students.

There will be special examinations October 27, 28 and 29 and attempts will be made to develop amiable environment in schools. Classes will be held from 9 am to 12:30 pm, the notification read.

To ensure social distancing and queue management inside and at the entrance of the premises, specific markings on the ground with a gap of 6 feet will be done.

There must be adequate soap (solid/liquid) and running water in all washrooms and toilets. Hand sanitisers for the teachers, students and staff will be mandatory in each classroom.

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

- Launch of book 'Amruta Sandhani Manoj', National Archives, Unit-IV, 3.20pm.
- Laxmi Puja, Durga Puja Mandap, VSS Nagar, 3.30pm onwards

Programmes/announcements for wassup today may be sent to opwassup@gmail.com for record, it must also carry the sender's mobile number for our verification, but not for publication.

Cops to recreate crime scene

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Infocity police Monday brought on remand the three accused involved in the murder of Manish Anurag Das, son of senior journalist Navin Das. Earlier, the JMFC court had granted permission to take the trio on a 4-day remand for further probe.

DCP Umashankar Dash in a presser asserted that Manish was killed by his friends in a scuffle during the wee hours October 10



tions on the claims of Commissionerate Police regarding his son's murder. Recently, DCP Umashankar Dash in a presser asserted that Manish was killed by his friends in a scuffle during the wee hours October 10.

However, Das in his weekly YouTube programme castigated police for failing to take any action

Medical O₂ plant launched at Rly Central Hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Vidya Bhushan Monday inaugurated a 600-litre capacity oxygen generation plant at Railway Central Hospital, Mancheswar here.

This oxygen plant will make ECoR Central Hospital self sufficient in supply of the life saving gas, required for Covid and other serious patients. The ECoR General Manager also dedicated 24 oxygen concentrators that would be used at Mancheswar Central Hospital and Divisional Railway Hospitals at Khurda Road, Waltair and Sambalpur.

Shortage of medical oxygen was a major issue at various locations in the country during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Keeping this in view, the oxygen generation plant has been established for self-sufficiency in Railway hospitals.

Seasonal tickets back in 7 more spl trains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: For the convenience of daily commuters, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has reinstated monthly season tickets (MSTs) and quarterly season tickets (QSTs) in seven more pairs of passenger special trains.

These trains are 08431/08432 Puri-Cuttack-Puri Special, 08412/08411 Bhubaneswar-Bhadrak-Bhubaneswar Special, 08461/08462 Cuttack-Paradeep-Cuttack Special, 08454/08453 Cuttack-Bhadrak-Cuttack Special, 08404/08403 Puri-Khurda Road-Puri Special, 68050/68049 Bhadrak-Kharagpur-Bhadrak Special and 08004/08003 Bhadrak-Howrah-Bhadrak Special.

Earlier, ECoR had reinstated MSTs and QSTs in 08428/08427 Puri-Angul-Puri Special, 08456/08455 Khurda Road-Kendujhargarh-Khurda Road Special, 08522/08521 Visakhapatnam-Gunupur-Visakhapatnam Special, 08528/08527 Visakhapatnam-Raipur-

Visakhapatnam Special, 08263/08264 Titlagarh-Bilaspur-Titlagarh Special and 07266/07265 Visakhapatnam-Kakinada Port-Visakhapatnam Special. Now passengers can avail MST and QST facilities in 13 pairs of Special trains.

Passengers will not be allowed to travel in other Special trains with MSTs and QSTs except the above 13 pairs of trains.

ECoR loads record 66 coal rakes at Talcher

The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Monday carried 65 rakes of raw coal and one rake of washed coal from Talcher loading point to country's various states. It was the highest ever loading in a single day from a single station. The coal supply was initiated to manage power crisis in different power plants across the country and to ensure uninterrupted power supply to consumers. Last Sunday, ECoR had loaded 2.6 lakh tonne of coal towards Delhi, Punjab, UP, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh from Talcher loading point.

2 Odia girls chosen for prestigious UK scholarship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Bringing laurels to the state, two girls from Odisha have been selected for the UK government's coveted Chevening Scholarship for higher studies in prestigious universities like Cambridge and Oxford in England.

Hailing from Bhubaneswar, Neelima Mishra and Preeti Pratishruti Dash are the two among 24 students from across India who have been selected by the UK government for their international award scheme. Aimed at developing global leaders, the highly competitive scholarship is funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Its recipients are personally selected by the British

Embassies from around the globe and are awarded an all-expense paid education grant.

"I'm extremely grateful for being selected to avail such opportunity and would like to credit DV Swamy (IAS) and my professor CP Kala, who recommended my name. I'm also thankful to my mentors Navneet and Sumit, former Chevening scholars, for helping me during my preparations. Lastly, nothing would have been possible without constant encouragement and morale boost from my husband, family and friends," said Neelima.

An avid environmentalist, Neelima, who is a consultant to the Odisha government, has earlier left the country's shores while on an expedition to the Arctic Circle



to understand the impact of climate change. Pursuing MPhil in Environmental Policy at the prestigious Cambridge University, Neelima aims to bring a broader understanding of the environmental changes happening in Odisha and creating awareness on waste management.

Selected after rigorous review

Neelima, who is a consultant to the Odisha government on environment, has earlier left the country's shores while on an expedition to the Arctic Circle to understand the impact of climate change

Preeti, an assistant professor of Law at National Law School, Bangalore in her different researches has highlighted the need for change in laws regarding death penalty, crime against women and sexual harassments at workplace

shape inclusive policies on criminal law in India. An assistant professor of Law at National Law School, Bangalore, Preeti in her different researches has highlighted the need for change in laws regarding death penalty, crime against women and sexual harassments at workplace.

"Amidst the raging media trials, it's important to impart judicial processes against the accused that gives due regard to substantive requirements of sentencing. I am grateful to be selected for the Chevening scholarship and I aim to advocate the need for granting fair trials and availability of legal procedures for minorities in India," said Preeti, who is pursuing her Masters in Criminology at Oxford University.

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

Nayagarh: Parties eye Zilla Parishad zone 17

Political activities have intensified after the notification of the draft list for seat reservation of the Panchayati Raj elections a few weeks back

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Oct 18: The post of Zilla Parishad (ZP) chairperson in this district has been reserved for women in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category. In 2017, however, the seat was reserved for women from the general category.

In fact, political activities have intensified after the notification of the draft list for seat reservation of the Panchayati Raj elections a few weeks back.

The ZP Zone 17 in Nuagaon has also been reserved for ST women. All political parties have set their sight on this ZP seat as the ST woman candidate who will be elected will have the maximum chance to become the

chairperson. Other elected women candidates can also become the chairperson, but the one elected from the Nuagaon ZP seat has the maximum chance.

Workers and frontline leaders of Biju Janata Dal (BJD), Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress are all working on strategies to boost their poll prospects in the in ZP seats reserved for women in the upcoming three-tier panchayat elections.

The government has set October 25 as the deadline to receive complaints from people and leaders regarding the draft list of reservation of ZP chairman post for ST women. Similarly, the last date for complaints regarding the women-reserved seats has been fixed for Monday. All the parties have been eagerly waiting for the publication of the final list of seat reservation.

There are 24 ZP zones in the district. Of them, three seats have been reserved for the SC category, two for ST, six for OBC candidates and 13 are unreserved. The 12 ZP seats have been reserved for an equal number of men and women candidates.



An artisan working on a silver tableau ahead of the Lakshmi Puja at Ganesh Bazaar in Dhenkanal, Monday

OP PHOTO

Woman strangles alcoholic hubby

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharbandh, Oct 18: A woman allegedly strangled her husband to death following a fight over regular consumption of liquor by the latter at Kusumdarha village under this police limits in Bargarh district, Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Sadashiv Bariha, 47, and the accused as Samari Bariha, 40. On being informed, Jharbandh IIC Anil Kumar Pradhan reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. The woman was taken to the police station and interrogated in this connection. She was arrested after she confessed her crime. A case was registered in this connection over a complaint filed by the deceased's brother.

Police said that Sadashiv had promised not to consume liquor again. However, he again returned home drunk Sunday which led to a fight between the couple. The two soon came out on the road and fought with each other. Suddenly, Sadashiv fell down on the road and failed to get up. Seething with anger, Samari strangled his neck with a napkin and dragged him to a distance, which ultimately led to his death.

Women in Mayurbhanj most vulnerable

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 18: Violence against women is on the rise in tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district as it accounts for the highest number of cases such as witch hunt, gangrape, murder, minor rape, bridal torture and a host of others, a report said.

Things have come to such a pass that miscreants are not sparing any women when it comes to unleashing their atrocities and ferocity against the fairer sex. Girls as young as three year old and even elderly women over 50 and 60 years of age are subjected to sexual harassment like rape. As a result, protection of women has become a matter of concern in the district.

The increasing cases of violence against women have sparked concern but hardly anything has been done to stem the rot. This is happening despite the Centre and state taking a host of measures for protection of women. Despite a spike in crimes against women, the administration and the state government have hardly taken any effective measures to protect them from the perpetrators.

During the last three years, the district has become infamous for registering the highest number of cases of murder and rape of women

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN



THE DISTRICT HAS 32 POLICE STATIONS AND A WOMEN AND CHILD DESK IS FUNCTIONING IN EVERY POLICE STATION. HOWEVER, THIS HAS NOT HELPED IN CONTROLLING CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

IN THE LATEST INCIDENTS, A GIRL STUDENT WAS GANGRAPE IN A JUNGLE NEAR KALMA SQUARE UNDER BAISINGA POLICE LIMITS FRIDAY LAST, WHILE A WOMAN WAS GANGRAPE BY TWO YOUTHS ON THE PRETEXT OF GIVING HER A LIFT ON THEIR BIKE UNDER RARUAN POLICE LIMITS ON THE SAME DAY

RAPE CASES REGISTERED IN 2019, 2020 AND TILL JUNE 2021 WERE 203, 258 AND 145 RESPECTIVELY. OUT OF THEM, MINOR RAPES CASES WERE 117, 102 AND 73 RESPECTIVELY IN 2019, 2020 AND 2021

117, 102 and 73 respectively in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Similarly, 86, 104 and 57 women were murdered in these three years respectively. Among them, five, seven and six were dowry murder cases respectively.

On the other hand, torture cases of women for dowry were 167, 197 and 149 respectively in these three years. Torture of women in other cases were 162, 294 and 185 during the period. It is apprehended that rape cases may rise to 300 if the total number of women who were raped is taken into account in last six months. This year, no case of women trafficking has been registered in any police station, while it was four and five respectively in 2019 and 2020.

Badasahi MLA Sanatan Bijuli blamed the incompetence of the state government for the spike in crimes against women. He said that tribal women are the major victims of these crimes due to free flow of country liquor and rising unemployment problem among the youths. Hemant Das, district president of Congress, said the state government should first fill up the vacant posts in police stations and carry out awareness drive on mass scale to protect the women from such crimes.

Bandh in Nuapada over ‘violation’ of OBC rights



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Oct 18: Accusing the state government of violating constitutional rights of backward classes, members of the Zilla OBC Manch in this district observed a 12-hour bandh Monday.

The Manch had given a bandh call from 6am to 6pm alleging that the state government has slashed the reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the upcoming panchayat elections from 27% to 2.8%.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Panchayati Raj department had published the draft list for reservation of Zilla Parishad president posts for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and women in all the dis-

tricts of the state October 16.

The Zilla Parishad president posts of four districts - Angul, Keonjhar, Khordha and Gajapati - have been allotted to the Other Backward Classes as per the notification of the draft list issued by the Panchayati Raj Director.

As per provisions in the relevant laws, the public can submit objections or suggestions within 10 days of the notification of the draft list on allotment of reservations ie by 5.30pm of October 25 via email to dir-pr.od@gov.in or prsec.or@nic.in.

The notification has stated that the state government on the basis of objections/suggestions received within the stipulated period will take a final decision on the draft list on reservations.

DEATH OF A RIVER

Communities unite to revive Sukapaika

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The disappearing Sukapaika river has left a mark on the health and well-being of the people living around it. Not only the fisher folk, but also thousands of farmers are now unable to sustain agricultural activities, caught between water scarcity, flooding and stagnation.

Water level in the region has depleted considerably with the drying of the river. Almost all the ponds, wells and tube wells, which used to draw water throughout the year, go dry by January. With the freshwater flow disrupted, salinity is increasing in the land and water bodies rapidly.

The water from wells and tube-wells here is unfit for consumption due to excessive iron and arsenic content. On the other hand, according to Ananta Mallick (66), a farmer of Narada Goudagaon village, every year more than 1,000 acres of farmland in this area remain submerged for about a month-and-a-half during the rainy season as there is no drainage channel. The crops decompose in the stagnant water.

“We are sick of water weeds (hyacinths) that cover the stagnant water on the riverbed like a thick mat. They have not only turned the water into a breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies, but also a habitation of poisonous snakes,” said Sd Sajid Ali (48) of Praharajpur.

Roshan Rath, reckoned anecdotally that he hears of at least 10 cases of snakebite every year.

Raising concerns over the growth of hyacinths on the river bed, Prasad K Dash, a scientist of Odisha Biodiversity Board, said these invasive species are an indicator of bad ecological health. Hyacinths create an environment conducive for the growth of pathogens, insects and mosquitoes by obstructing sunlight



that is vital for aquatic life. He maintained that it is difficult to get rid of the weeds and freshwater flow may prove beneficial.

Encroachments

As these multi-faceted ripple effects were unfolding, encroachment was growing along the river.

“Unscrupulous people have erected brick kilns, developed ponds and other structures including houses on the riverbed,” said Sajid Ali. “Many people have even acquired 99-year lease pattsas through illegal means.” The patta land on the river would amount to more than 500 acres along the entire length of the river, he added. Activists and journalists who have tried to raise the issue met with silence.

RTI activist Prashant Pradhan, a native of riparian Kamarpada village in Dharina panchayat, had applied to the Kishan Nagar tahsildar under the Right to Information Act in 2003 and then again in 2010 about the legal standing of these leases. However, he is yet to get any response. Sushant Jena, a correspondent of a vernacular daily, had also sought to know the encroachment status on the Sukapaika river bed under the RTI in 2019 and then recently in June 2021. He also hasn't heard back.

In January 2020, over 8,000 villagers signed a petition asking to construct a sluice gate near Ayatpur to restart the flow of the river; this was submitted to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, said Sisir Das (65), a senior advocate and the legal advisor of the Sukapaika Bachao Abhiyan (SBA), who resides in Praharajpur. They moved the state Human Rights Commission in August 2020, citing the drastic impacts on the health and livelihood of around 10 lakh people. They had also moved the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in January 2021 under Sections 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the NGT Act, 2010 appealing the tribunal to direct the Government of Odisha to reopen the river mouth, according to Sisir.



board, but they are aware it's going to be a difficult fight and close to home. The villagers have warned that they will take to the streets if the government fails to revive the river with immediate effect. They have already lost too much.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, UPPER INDRAVATI RIGHT CANAL DIVN. NO.-I
At/P.O.: Mukhiguda, Dist.- Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 766026
e-mail address: eeuricd1@gmail.com

No. A-521

1. Type of Work : Canal & Building works
2. Total No. of Works : 16 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.21.30 lakh to Rs.07.84 lakh (excluding GST)
4. Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar Months
5. Class of Contractor : 'D', 'C' & 'B'

Procurement Officer	e-Procurement No.	Bid Amount	Availability & Submission of Bids Online
Superintending Engineer, Upper Indravati Right Canal Division No.-I, At/P.O. - Mukhiguda, Dist. - Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 766026	SE, RCD-I-12 (01-16)/ 21-22 Dt. 11.10.2021	Rs.21.30 lakh to Rs.07.84 lakh (Excluding GST)	From 22.10.2021, 10 A.M. to 01.11.2021, 05.00 P.M.

Date of Opening of Bid: **Dt.02.11.2021 at 10.00 A.M.** in the O/o. the Superintending Engineer, UI Right Canal Division No.-I, Mukhiguda, Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN - 766026.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, UI Right Canal Division. No.-I, Mukhiguda, Kalahandi

OIPR-32193/11/0004/2122

No. O-839
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NIMAPARA
No.- Tender Online-Divn.NPR-06/2021-22

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Mail ID: ee_nimapara@yahoo.co.in
Date: 11.10.2021

e-Procurement NOTICE


1. Name of the work : Road Works for the year 2021-22.
2. Total No. of Projects : 03 (Three) Nos. of project.
3. Estimated cost of projects : Varies from Rs.2.65 lakh to Rs. 15.03 lakh
4. Class of contractor : "B" Class & "A" Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
A) Estimated Cost more than Rs.40.00 lakhs and upto Rs. 300.00 lakhs. "C" Class & "B" Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
B) Estimated Cost more than Rs.20.00 lakhs and upto Rs. 40.00 lakhs. "D" Class & "C" Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
C) Estimated Cost upto Rs. 20.00 lakhs
5. Mode of Submission of tender : Tender should be submitted online only in website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
6. Period of Completion : As per TCN
7. Other details.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date, time & venue of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nimapara	Tender Online - Divn. NPR- 06/2021-22	28.10.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	08.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.	06.11.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nimapara
OIPR-25099/11/0005/2122

The great are strongest when they stand alone; a God-given might of being is their force.

SRI AUROBINDO



Unfriendly Neighbourhood

What has been happening in Bangladesh since the commencement of Durga Puja was only waiting to happen following the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban. The day the religious bigots captured Kabul and the Afghanistan government abjectly surrendered to them, it was clear to the international community that Moslem fanatics across the globe would regroup and advance their skewed religious-political agenda. What is surprising is that the zealots, as a Bangladesh minister has identified the mastermind of the frenzy in the country, could strike so early when the Taliban are still trying to get legitimacy of their rule through international recognition. Though the Bangladesh government has acted fast and taken steps to douse communal passion, it is rather strange that there was apparently no intelligence feedback about such a backlash. Already five people belonging to the Hindoo minority population have lost their lives, over a hundred sustained injuries and reports of homes being ransacked and molestation are pouring in. In the context of the Taliban's re-emergence, it was only natural for a credible administration in the subcontinent to be extra cautious during religious festivals involving millions of people such as Durga Puja. Obviously, the Bangladesh government was caught unaware that a conflagration of such magnitude would be engineered by vested interests "with foreign links".

Now, the Bangladesh administration has deployed paramilitary forces in 34 of 64 districts, which only shows how the perpetrators widened their network before orchestrating the communal violence. According to one report, the incident of alleged sacrilege in Cumilla that triggered the frenzied attacks was the handiwork of zealots who sneaked into a puja pandal when the security guard was asleep, did the mischief, took a photograph and made the image viral. Bangladeshi media reported that on October 17 alone, at least 20 homes belonging to Hindoos were torched in Rangpur city's Pirganj neighbourhood. Tension in the area mounted following allegations that a Facebook post of a man belonging to the minority population hurt majority sentiments. The incident occurred a day after some 10,000 protesters – many of them carrying banners of Islamist political parties – took to the streets outside Dhaka's main mosque. The crowd chanted "Down with the enemies of Islam" and "Hang the culprits".

Temples in Chandpur's Hajiganj, Chittagong's Banshkhali, Chapainawabganj's Shibganj and Cox's Bazar's Pekua were attacked and Hindoo devotees thrashed. According to a spokesman of the minority population, at least 80 makeshift temples had been attacked. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met leaders of the Hindoo community and assured them that no one, whatever his/her religious affiliation, would be spared and the culprits would be "hunted down." These are reassuring words indeed as is her exhortation to the Indian government to make sure nothing happens on this side of the border that may strengthen the hands of the trouble-makers in her country. Her Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud said the trouble had been engineered by the Jamaat-e-Islami with support from the Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). He also hinted at a foreign hand.

In the port city of Chittagong, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council has announced a sit-in and hunger strike from October 23 in protest against the attacks on Hindoos. The protests will take place at Dhaka's Shahbagh that became an iconic venue for mass movement in the recent past, and Chittagong's Andarkilla. A six-hour bandh was observed by this organisation in Chittagong October 17.

The speed with which the communal frenzy was organised does indicate a well planned strategy. Whether there was a 'foreign hand', as alleged by a minister of the Bangladesh government, is difficult to ascertain. However, it is not difficult to understand that the reference of 'foreign hand' being made is to Pakistan, which has aided and abetted the Taliban for the past two decades to regroup and finally capture Afghanistan. By creating religious disturbance causing a serious law and order problem in Bangladesh, Pakistan would be like killing two birds – India and Bangladesh, as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has good relationship with the Indian government – with one stone. It has long been nursing the wounds of the formation of Bangladesh carved out of its eastern territory. Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League are stumbling blocks to its goal of propping up a puppet government in Bangladesh. The emergence of the Taliban has come as a boon for Pakistan as Islamist groups in Bangladesh have got a shot in their arm. The current communal attacks are the first tell-tale manifestation of this design.

The Government of India has to take careful note of the change in the atmosphere all around the neighbourhood. A casual glance at a map of Asia will show to anybody who cares to see that there are no friendly nations around us anymore. The only non-Moslem nations on our borders namely Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Nepal have all entered into deep pacts with China. Seemingly, on the surface, their relation with China is primarily economic but when scrutinized properly, all of them turn out as strong military-economic packages. Therefore it can be stated that India's internal politics has now gathered international ramifications. Apart from garnering votes for temporary political successes, India's present day leadership and the politics they play out, based on hate and persecution, seems to have had an undesirable impact on foreign policy that could take decades to shake off. Only time will tell how deep the wounds run.

WISDOM CORNER

I now tried a new hypothesis: It was possible that I was more in charge of my happiness than I was allowing myself to be.

MICHELLE OBAMA

Unsuccessful people make their decisions based on their current situations. Successful people make their decisions based on where they want to be.

BENJAMIN HADRY

If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint and that voice will be silenced.

VINCENT VAN GOGH

LOL

FBI INTERVIEW

The FBI had an open position for an assassin. After all the background checks, interviews and testing were completed, they had narrowed the field down to 3 possible agents. For the final test, the FBI agents took one of the men to a large metal door and handed him a gun. "We must know that you will follow your instructions no matter what the circumstances." "Inside the room you will find your wife sitting in a chair... we need you to kill her". The man said, "You can't be serious. I could never shoot my wife." The agent said, "Then you're not the right man for this job. Take your wife and go home." The second man was given the same

instructions. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about 5 minutes. The man came out with tears in his eyes, "I tried, but I can't kill my wife." The agent said, "You don't have what it takes. Take your wife home." Finally, the last man was given the same instructions, to kill his wife. He took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard, one after another. They heard screaming, crashing, banging on the walls. After a few minutes, all was quiet. The door opened slowly and there stood the man, wiping the sweat from his brow. "Some idiot loaded the gun with blanks," he said. "I had to strangle her to death".

FOCUS GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX, 2021

SPECTRE OF HIDDEN HUNGER



The GHI 2021 report brings out how COVID-19 has affected healthcare services, immunization, treatment of malnutrition and antenatal care. While the effect of the pandemic on child nutrition has not yet been comprehensively measured, estimates suggest sizeable impact

Prof SN Mishra

INDIA'S NUTRITION CHALLENGE REQUIRES BETTER CONVERGENCE, HIGHER EMPATHY AND COMBATING HIDDEN HUNGER WHICH IS A PRECURSOR TO MYRIAD HEALTH HANDICAPS LATER ON

SPECTRUM IMMUNIZATION

How much EPI has expanded in India?

Dr Satyajit Pattnaik

STARTING WITH VACCINE AGAINST SIX DISEASES, NOW OUR UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME PROVIDES FREE OF COST VACCINES AGAINST 12 VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

Dr Satyajit Pattnaik

STARTING WITH VACCINE AGAINST SIX DISEASES, NOW OUR UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME PROVIDES FREE OF COST VACCINES AGAINST 12 VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

In 1974, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched its "Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)" against six most common, preventable childhood diseases, viz. diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis and measles. "Expanded" in the WHO definition meant adding more disease controlling vaccines in the immunization schedules, extending coverage to all corners of a country and spreading services to reach the less privileged sectors of the society. The Government of India launched its EPI in 1978. In this article we will see how much has EPI "expanded" in India as per the objectives of WHO.

Let us first discuss the initiation and addition of new vaccines to the immunization basket. In 1978, EPI was launched in India with vaccines against six diseases, viz. tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis and typhoid. In 1985, EPI was renamed as Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) with addition of vaccine against measles and removing typhoid vaccine. Thus the total numbers of diseases covered remain the same, six. After that new vaccines were slowly added to the immunization schedules; Hepatitis-B (2002), Japanese

encephalitis (2006), Haemophilus influenza (2011), Rotavirus (2016), MR which included rubella vaccine for the first time (2017) and recently vaccine against pneumococcal pneumonia (2021) was launched in a phased manner.

So starting with vaccine against six diseases, now our UIP provides free of cost vaccines against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases. Most of these new vaccines were added in the last 15 years. This is indeed a commendable job. There is scope for further expansion and addition of new vaccines, especially since the Indian Association of Pediatricians (IAP) recommends vaccination against 20 vaccine preventable diseases. Many of these additional vaccines for children are available in the private market. We hope to see government including some of these vaccines in the National Immunization Schedule for free vaccination of all children.

The second objective of "expansion" was intended to extend the vaccine coverage to all parts of the country. Almost all vaccines are being provided to all parts of the country in a phased manner. Despite steady progress, routine childhood vaccination has not reached all children. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) – 1992-93,

the proportion of "fully vaccinated" children in the country as a whole was just 32%. This has steadily increased to 42% (NFHS-II in 1998-99), 43.5% (NFHS-III in 2005-06) to 62% (NFHS-IV in 2015-16). Although the full data for NFHS-V (2019-20) is still not out, it is expected that this figure will go up considerably. But there is a significant regional variation in "fully vaccinated" children. Almost all southern and eastern states have figures above national average. But most western and north-eastern states have figure much below national average. Even within the states there are variations with some districts having very low proportion of "fully vaccinated" children.

Coming to the third and final aim of expansion to all sections of the society, especially the less privileged. A study done by Basant Panda (IIPS, Mumbai) showed that there is considerable variation in different regions as well as among various wealth quintiles. In the southern region, 63 per cent of children from the poorest wealth quintile were fully immunized compared to 36 per cent in North Eastern region. There is a significant narrowing of the gap between rich and poor children in each vaccination over time. But in

spite of this, the richest children are 1.5 times likely to be fully vaccinated in comparison to poorest children. Moreover, the children from urban areas were reported to be better immunized as compared to their rural counterparts. Although the gender difference in immunization is still there in favour of boys, the gap has considerably narrowed almost to the point of convergence.

The Government of India launched Mission Indradhanush (MI) in 2004 to target underserved, vulnerable, resistant and inaccessible population. In October 2017, MI was upgraded to Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI), which aimed to reach 90% full immunization coverage in districts and urban areas with persistently low levels. Subsequently IMI 2.0 and 3.0 were undertaken to improve the immunization coverage among the unvaccinated. Such targeted campaigns along with strengthening routine immunization activities will improve the coverage and achieve the aim of "expansion" of EPI.

The writer is a Professor of Community Medicine, GEMS Hospital, Srikakulam (AP). Views are personal.

Renewable energy

Sir, Coal crisis is currently plaguing the country and it has severely affected Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi where some of the thermal power plants have already been shut down. The reasons for coal shortage in India are not difficult to find. First, due to increasing prices of coal in international market, India has reduced its imports. Secondly, though import of the coal was falling, its production did not go up because coal is now in the hands of big corporates. Thirdly, the Ministry of Power had issued a statement that some states did not have sufficient coal stock with them before the onset of the monsoon. According to data made available October 4, of the 135 thermal power plants, coal stock in 108 was critical or super-critical. In the next few days, we may have severe power cuts in Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. In this situation, we need to reduce our dependence on coal and switch to renewable energy. Solar energy, wind energy, hydro energy, tidal energy, geothermal energy, and biomass energy need to be explored and promoted. Some time back, the Union Minister for Renewable Energy had announced that the country had crossed a new milestone of 100 GW renewable energy capacity. Unfortunately, all the natural resources are now in the hands of the corporates. Had it been in the hands of the government, the minister could have handled this problem.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Time to bleed blue

Sir, The most entertaining and richest T20 league concluded with super exciting drama and this time in a two-phased manner. Undoubtedly, the IPL is one of the toughest and most popular sports tournaments in the world. We mocked, we trolled, and we fought with each other for our favourite IPL teams. Now we are straight into another exciting and most probably the most important T20 tournament, which is the seventh edition of T20 World Cup. Now the Indian stars, who sweat out for different franchises during the IPL, will be seen wearing deep blue jerseys and trying their best to bring the trophy back home for the second time and look to end the eight-year wait for an ICC trophy. Now the time has come for us to forget the rivalries we saw in the last few weeks and back our team. Now it's time to support our nation, it's time to bleed blue.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

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

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

Health workers carry Covid swab samples on passenger boats

POST NEWS NETWORK

Krushnaprasad, Oct 18: The state government has strictly laid down a number of norms to ensure that people stay safe during Covid-19 pandemic.

However, its own Health department is ignoring the norms and putting the lives of others at risk.

The matter came to the fore after healthcare workers from Krushnaprasad block of Puri district were seen carrying Covid swab samples of patients on a regular passenger boats in Chilika lake despite the Health department hiring a special boat for the purpose.

It is apprehended that the passengers might contract the virus if any of the swab samples test positive for Covid-19. It is alleged that by carrying the swab samples in a passenger boats a section of un-

scrupulous Health department officials are siphoning off the money allotted for hiring a special boat.

This has sparked sharp resentment among the residents as they condemned by the Health department for carrying the swab samples in a passenger boats instead of special boat hired for the purpose.

Reports said that the Health department had engaged a special boat for carrying patients and medical accessories from Krushnaprasad block during the pandemic period as boats are the only means of transport in the area.

The boat has been hired to ensure safety and convenience of the health workers in transporting medicines, medical accessories as well as patients. The boat used to ferry the health workers from Satpada to Janhikuda and health workers in Chilika Nuapada under

Krushnaprasad block used the boat to carry out the necessary works.

This apart, the special boat was properly cleaned and sanitised every time before the health workers boarded it. It was learnt that the boat was disengaged from the duty sometime back. This has forced the health workers to use the passenger boat.

A health worker on board the boat carrying the swab samples said on the condition of anonymity that he has been instructed by the officials to carry the samples to Satapada on a common boat as the special boat has been disengaged from service. Efforts to contact the medical officer of Nuapada community health centre in Chilika over phone proved futile.

A passenger expressed concern on the issue stating he is scared to sit near the health worker carrying the swab samples.



Key posts in Keonjhar forest div lying vacant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 18: Protection of the mines and forests in Keonjhar district is being seriously affected owing to the absence of Range officers in Barbil and Champua forest ranges under the Keonjhar Forest Division of this mineral-rich district. While these posts have been lying vacant for last one month, the Deputy Ranger of Champua range has been given the additional charge of Barbil range. This is creating hurdles in the operations.

As per reports, mineral and timber smuggling has turned into a daily affair in Champua and Barbil forest ranges adjoining the Jharkhand border. Thus the Forest department has been focusing on these forest ranges. Elephant herds from Jharkhand continue to take lives and destroy livelihoods in this area round the year. Consistent

Elephant herds from Jharkhand continue to take lives and destroy livelihoods in this area round the year

man-animal conflicts have resulted in loss of lives of both elephants and humans. The regular movement of elephants in large numbers has been a headache for the Forest department, especially in the absence of enough officials.

Last year, many timber and mineral ore-laden vehicles were seized and mafia arrested by conducting raids in these two ranges having a dense forest cover. But during the last couple of months, no raids have been conducted in this range, the unhappy locals said. It is not at all convenient for a single Deputy Ranger to carry

out the responsibilities of two forest ranges. Environmentalists have, thus, demanded recruitment of range officers, transfer of officials who have been in the same office for long years and filling up of all the vacancies in these forest ranges. Due to lack of proper surveillance, illegal mining is rampant inside the forest, while smuggling of timber is a common affair. As a result, the government is incurring huge losses and, at the same time, the forest is being destroyed.

When contacted, Dhamdhir Dhanraj, Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar forest division, said that mines in this area are of much importance for industries. Jumbo menace has also been consistent throughout the year in these ranges. He said that he has written to the Forest department for immediate fresh recruitment to these vacant posts.

Bomb attack on Keonjhar MLA: Prime accused held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 18: The Keonjhar Town police Monday arrested Raghunath Panda, the prime accused in the alleged bomb attack on Keonjhar Sadar MLA Mohan Charan Majhi's car October 10.

It is pertinent to mention here that five persons were arrested in this regard. The five have been

identified as Pratap Rout, Bidyadhar Parida alias Buta, Manmohan Das alias Muna, Sarat Chandra Jena alias Mitua and Sikhul Sheikh.

BJP legislator Majhi had a narrow escape when the miscreants hurled bombs at his car. Town police had seized two crude bombs and a motorcycle. The five were booked under Section 307 of Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Explosive

Substances Act, 1908 and Arms Act.

Two persons came close to Majhi's car riding on a motorcycle and consecutively hurled two bombs at the vehicle. The MLA was going to a place near Mandua in Keonjhar after attending a public meeting.

"I reached the meeting venue at around 11.00 am and the miscreants hurled bombs at my car at around 11:50 am. After hurling a bomb, the

PLEDGE FOR CLEANLINESS



Women taking a pledge to keep their surroundings clean while taking up a cleanliness drive at MV-16 village under Tandapalli panchayat in Malkangiri district, Monday

Elderly woman walks 3km to get old-age pension

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, Oct 18: In a heart-wrenching incident, an elderly woman Monday had to cover a distance of three kilometers just to collect her old-age pension from Badanai panchayat office under Champua block in Keonjhar district.

The woman beneficiary, identified as Gula Pradhan, is unable to stand properly and has hunched forward due to old age. The plight of the woman can break anyone's heart.

According to sources, the elderly woman resides at Gaudasahi



She walks with the support of a three-foot-long wooden stick. Every month, she receives a

pension of Rs 500 from the state government under the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD).

The local administration has a provision to hand over the pension amount to the beneficiaries' homes for the people who are very old and critically sick. However, the elderly woman walked all the way to the panchayat office all by herself this month, the source added.

On being contacted, Badanai sarpanch Himanshu Sekhar Sae

said, "The elderly woman was previously being handed over her pension money of Rs 500 either by panchayat extension officer (PEO) or the panchayat office peon."

"At times, the elderly woman's son comes and collects pension from panchayat office. Today, she could not give a convincing answer as to why she came by walking such a long distance," the sarpanch stated.

However, necessary arrangements were made soon and the aged beneficiary was handed over her pension, the sarpanch added.

MISSING TEACHER CASE

Accused school prez flees custody

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 18: The president of the school managing committee, who is a key accused in the missing lady teacher case, was detained five days ago for his alleged involvement in the matter. However, he escaped from the custody of Titlagarh police in Bolangir district late Sunday night.

The accused has been identified as Gobinda Sahu and president of Sunshine English Medium School at Mahalinga locality under Sindhekela police limits of Kalahandi. According to reports, he had gone to the toilet on the pretext of washing his hands and fled from the Titlagarh police barrack where he was detained for interrogation over missing of the teacher Mamita Meher.

According to an official, the lady teacher Mamita has been missing for the last 11 days. The



victim's family earlier alleged that Sahu is involved in her disappearance. Acting on an FIR lodged against him by the lady teacher's brother Bunty, police had detained Sahu.

In the FIR, Bunty had alleged that Sahu was operating a sex

The accused has been identified as Gobinda Sahu and president of Sunshine English Medium School at Mahalinga locality under Sindhekela police limits of Kalahandi

racket in the school which his sister had vehemently opposed and warned to expose. Sahu also used to force women employees in the school to keep illicit relationship with him.

Sahu was detained under the supervision of an officer and four armed policemen. Three policemen were suspended Monday by Bolangir SP Kusalkar Nitin Dagudu on charges of dereliction of duty.

Body of missing security guard recovered

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 18: A security guard posted at Balimela hydro-electricity project, who was missing for the last two days, was found dead Monday.

The deceased security was identified as Manas Pattnaik posted at the project site by a consultancy agency. His body was recovered from the powerhouse canal in Chitrakonda area.

Manas was working with the OHPC security services. His family members had lodged a complaint in Orkel police station regarding his missing and sought the police to trace his whereabouts.

After this, Orkel police launched a search operation. Some locals informed the police about Manas' bike which was parked near a canal.

Korakunda Fire personnel reached the spot on being informed by the Orkel police and launched a search operation. In the morning, locals spotted his body floating in the canal and informed the police.

ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING

COPS RESCUE 26 MIGRANT LABOURERS, NAB 2 AGENTS

EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM KHAPRAKHOL AREA LEAVE FOR ANDHRA PRADESH, TELANGANA AND TAMIL NADU TO WORK AS MIGRANT LABOURERS AT VARIOUS HAZARDOUS UNITS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khaprakhol, Oct 18: Khaprakhol police rescued 26 bonded labourers, including 11 women and a minor, and arrested two middlemen during raids at two places under this police limits in Bolangir district Sunday night.

In the first case, a team of police personnel on patrolling duty at Harishankar Square intercepted a jeep and rescued 11 migrant labourers from the vehicle. All the rescued labourers are residents of Chabripalli village under Bhanpur panchayat. A middleman Rajendra Kathar was also arrested and produced in court, while the vehicle was seized.



Similarly, while patrolling, another team intercepted a jeep at Kapsipali village and rescued 15 migrant labourers of Lakhna village in Nuapada district from the vehicle. A middleman Kharas Majhi, 45, was arrested and produced in court, Khaprakhol police station IIC Ramakant Sahu said.

As per reports, all the labourers had been paid in advance by the two middlemen and were being trafficked to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to work in brick kilns and other units.

Sunday, as many as 42 bonded labourers, including 15 women and three minors, were rescued by Kantabanji Police from a railway station while they were waiting to board a train to neigh-

boursing Andhra Pradesh. The police also arrested a middleman from the spot.

Notably, every year thousands of people from Khaprakhol area leave for Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu to work as migrant labourers at various hazardous units. There they are made to work without being paid wages and forced to live on insufficient food. Many of them manage to return home, while some who are not so fortunate, die while working in these units. The state government and Centre have launched and implementing various projects like MGNREGS to check migration. However, all these have failed to check rampant migration from the district.

WILL TO TRIUMPH



Visually impaired persons taking out a rally as part of International White Cane Day, October 15 in Berhampur, Monday

OP PHOTO



After nCoV, dengue cripples Delhiites

Delhi has recorded the first death due to dengue in 2021 Monday morning

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 18: The national capital has reported the first death due to dengue this year, while the number of cases of the vector-borne disease has mounted to over 720, according to a civic body report released Monday.

Of the total count of dengue cases recorded in Delhi this year, 382 have been reported this month till October 16.

The total number of cases this year till October 9 had stood at 480. So, 243 fresh cases have been logged in one week.

The number of cases reported for the January 1-October 16 period in the previous three years were 395 (2020), 644 (2019) and 1020 (2018), according to the report.

A total of 1,072 cases and one death was logged in the entire year in 2020, according to the report released by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, the nodal agency for tabulating data on vector-borne diseases in the city.

The number of deaths due to dengue in years preceding 2020 had stood at two (2019); four (2018); 10 (2017); and 10 (2016), according to the official tally maintained by

the SDMC.

The 382 cases reported in October till date are by far the highest number of cases recorded in a month this year.

The month-wise distribution of dengue cases in 2021 stands as January (0), February (two), March (five), April (10) and May (12), June (seven), July (16) and August (72), as per the report.

In September this season, 217 cases were logged, the highest count for the month in the last three years. Last year, 188 dengue cases were reported in the entire month of September, and 190 in 2019. In preceding years, the corresponding figures had stood at

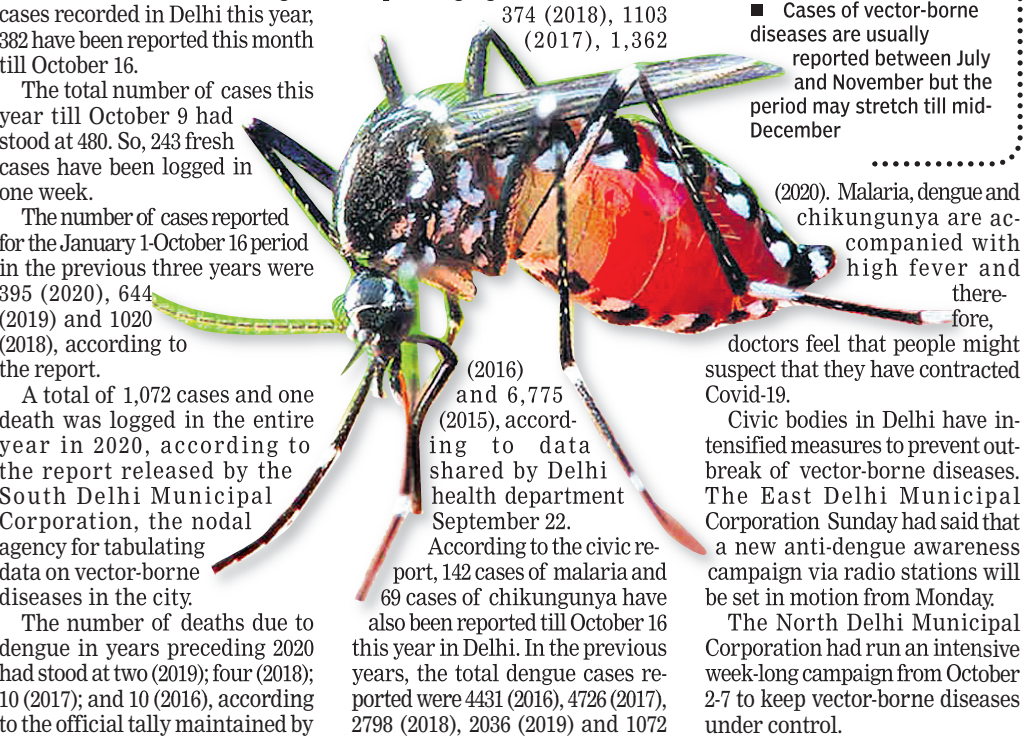
374 (2018), 1103 (2017), 1,362

FRESH HEADACHE

■ According to the report on vector-borne diseases released Monday, one death due to dengue and a total of 723 dengue cases have been recorded this season till October 16, which is highest case count since 2018 for the same period

■ Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water, while those of malaria thrive even in dirty water

■ Cases of vector-borne diseases are usually reported between July and November but the period may stretch till mid-December



(2020). Malaria, dengue and chikungunya are accompanied with high fever and therefore, doctors feel that people might suspect that they have contracted Covid-19.

Civic bodies in Delhi have intensified measures to prevent outbreak of vector-borne diseases. The East Delhi Municipal Corporation Sunday had said that a new anti-dengue awareness campaign via radio stations will be set in motion from Monday.

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation had run an intensive week-long campaign from October 2-7 to keep vector-borne diseases under control.

Wettest Oct in Delhi since 1960

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

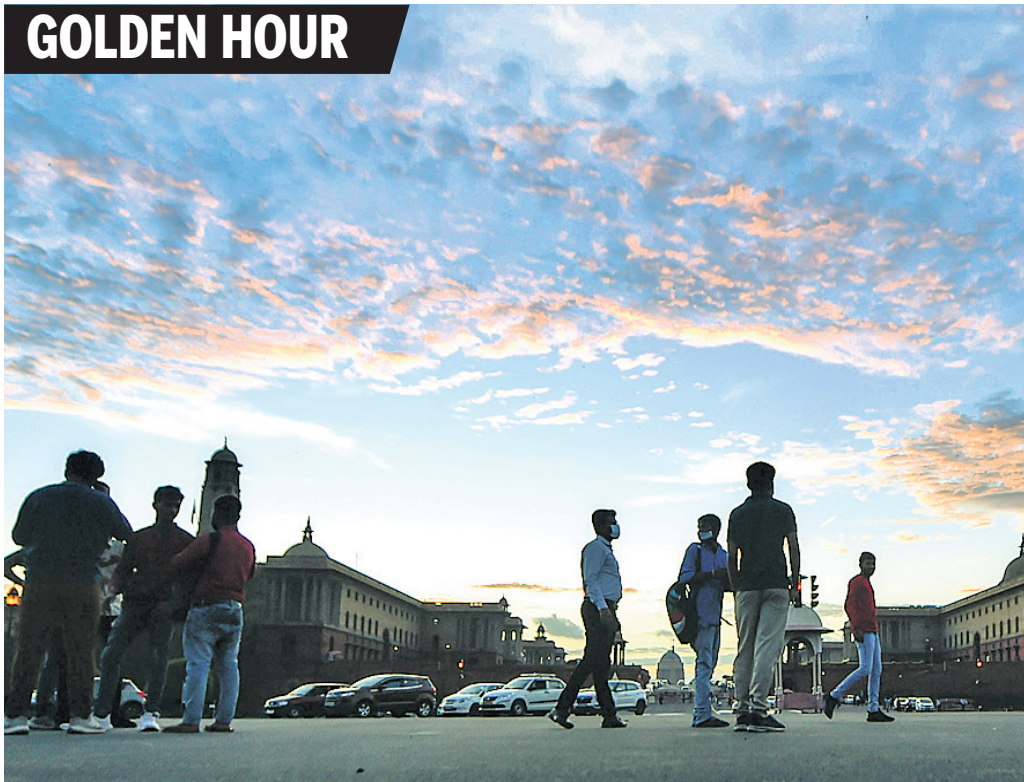
New Delhi, Oct 18: The month of October this year has been the wettest in the city since 1960, when the national capital had recorded 93.4 mm of rainfall.

This year, 94.6 mm of rainfall has already been recorded in the city in October.

According to data shared by the India Meteorological Department, the month of October in 1910 had recorded 185.9 mm of rainfall, 238.2 mm of rainfall in 1954, 236.2 mm of rainfall in 1956 and 93.4 mm of rainfall in 1960. In 2004, 89 mm rainfall was recorded in October.

On Sunday, the national capital recorded 87.9 mm of rainfall, the fourth highest in a day, according to data. In 1910, Delhi had recorded 152.4 mm of rainfall on a single day in October while 172.7 mm of rainfall was received in 24 hours in 1954. In 1956, the national capital had recorded 111 mm of rainfall in a single day.

GOLDEN HOUR



Clouds hover over the Raisina Hill in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

BANGLADESH VIOLENCE

Intel alert in all Bengal border districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 18: The West Bengal government has alerted its district administrations, particularly those bordering Bangladesh, against the misuse of social media and circulation of fake news related to the recent spate of attacks during Durga puja in the neighbouring country, and urged them to take measures to maintain law and order; a top official said Monday.

All state agencies have been asked to be on toes to combat any attempt to create disturbances anywhere in Bengal amid the ongoing idol immersion ceremonies and observance of Fateha-Dwaz-Daham, he said.

"The government has asked dis-

Some people are spreading wrong information that bombs were hurled at Puja pandals and damage was done, giving (the incidents) communal colour and trying to disturb peace in the area. Strong legal action will be taken for spreading such wrong and misleading information

ASANSOL-DURGAPUR POLICE

trict administrations, especially those bordering Bangladesh, to exercise caution against fake news circulation on the violence and vandalism in the neighbouring country. All agencies have been

told to keep vigil and thwart attempts to create tension," the official added. A similar word of caution was also issued to senior police officers by Additional Director General (Intelligence Branch).

"Since 13.10.21, social media platforms have been flooded with posts of vandalism of Durga Puja pandals in Bangladesh. Centering these issues, districts along Indo-Bangla border have become hyper sensitive and the leaders of different Hindu fundamentalist organisations of India pro-active."

"You are requested to sensitise you officers and men under your control and keep sharp vigil to avoid any untoward incident," the message by the ADGP said. On Sunday, the West Bengal Police

Public figures appeal to Hasina to take action

Prominent public figures in West Bengal, including educationists, theatre personalities, writers, film actors, directors, political leaders have issued an appeal to the Sheikh Hasina government to track those involved in the vandalism at Durga Puja pandals in Bangladesh and punish these elements

had retweeted posts by the Asansol-Durgapur police and Purba Medinipur SP, warning people with the intention of spreading misinformation of severe consequences as brawls were reported over multiple issues in the two areas.

No major impact of stir in Eastern, SE Rlys

An Eastern Railway spokesperson said that more than 100 demonstrators gathered at Saktigarh railway station in the Howrah-Bardhaman chord line section of West Bengal and blocked train movement for a little over an hour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 18: Protestors belonging to Left parties Monday resorted to 'rail roko' stir at some railway stations in support of the nationwide agitation by an umbrella union of farmers demanding the dismissal and arrest of Union minister Ajay Mishra for his alleged involvement in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

An Eastern Railway spokesperson said that more than 100 demonstrators

gathered at Saktigarh railway station in the Howrah-Bardhaman chord line section of West Bengal and blocked train movement for a little over an hour.

"The agitation took place from 10.10 am to 11.15 am. There was no



Representational image

damage to any railway property," he said. The spokesperson said that four trains were delayed owing to the agitation. The Samyukti Kisan Morcha (SKM), which is leading the agitation against the Centre's three farm laws, gave a call for a six-hour-long 'rail roko' across the country in protest against the

Lakhimpur Kheri violence in Uttar Pradesh that led to the death of eight people.

An official of South Eastern Railway said that demonstrators carrying banners and flags resorted to sloganeering at Tatisilwai in Ranchi division and Roxy in Chakradharpur division of

Jharkhand. "However, train movement was not affected," he said.

There was no impact of the agitation on the SER's operations in West Bengal, he said. Demonstrations and sloganeering were also reported from Mallarpur in Birbhum district and Buniadpur in Dakshin Dinajpur district.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Delhi government kicked off its month-long 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign across 100 crossings in the city Monday to reduce vehicular emissions.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai visited the ITO crossing and appealed to the public to extend their support to make this fight against pollution a success.

Vehicular emissions and dust are significant contributors to the air pollution of any city, the minister said.

"This is a public campaign. We all will have to fight together to beat pollution. I appeal to the public to follow the campaign," he added. Rai said pollution levels were within safe limits in September. The spike in pollution levels in winters is due to the change in weather and the cases of stub-



To reduce vehicular pollution, the Delhi government has started a 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign from today (Monday). Data by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) shows that if people follow the exercise of switching off engines at traffic signals, pollution can be cut down by 13-20 per cent

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

DELHI: MAJOR FIRE INCIDENT AVERTED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: The seminar room in the seven-storey Emergency Block of the LNJP Hospital where a fire was reported in the early hours on Monday was locked when it had happened, and alertness and presence of mind shown by the staff of the facility averted a major incident, a senior official said.

The 1,500-bed facility is the largest hospital run by the Delhi government, and also the nerve centre of the city's battle against the coronavirus pandemic.

"The incident took place around 12:30 am and some of our staff saw smoke coming out of the seminar room, which was locked. Showing alertness, they opened the room immediately and used small fire extinguishers to put it out as much as possible, until the fire tenders arrived," a senior official of the hospital said in a statement.

The fire had broken out in the seminar room. No casualty was reported, Delhi Fire Service officials said earlier in the day.

Unesco report highlights pathetic condition of WB schools

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT ON SCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY, WEST BENGAL IS RANKED THIRD WITH TOTAL 1,10,000 VACANCIES CUMULATIVELY IN PRIMARY, UPPER PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Oct 18: With more than 1 lakh vacancies for teachers in several schools, mostly in rural areas, across West Bengal, a report by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) has highlighted the pathetic condition of the schools in the state.

According to the report on school education in the country, West Bengal is ranked third with total 1.10.000 vacancies cumulatively in primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools.

The report also says that of these total vacancies, 69 per cent are in the rural areas. Uttar Pradesh with 3,23,000 and Bihar with 2,20,000 vacancies are ranked first and second, respectively. Bengal's education department sources said that the indication of this pathetic state of affairs first became evident a couple of years ago when the Union



Representational image

Human Resources Ministry rewarded some queries on the student to teacher ratio in the schools of the state.

"At that point of time, it was revealed that the number of vacant teachers' posts for four important subjects in the science stream,

namely mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology in the state, had already reached an alarming stage then.

During the Covid-19 lockdown when the students had to depend mostly on the internet, the connectivity in the schools of West Bengal were severely low

The number of vacant teachers' posts were 3,123 for mathematics, 1,795 for physics, 1,787 for chemistry and 2,178 for biology," said a department official on the condition of anonymity.

The problem is even more pathetic because the state government has been pulled up by the Calcutta High Court on the question of teachers' recruitment.

The recruitment in primary, upper primary and secondary section has been in question because there have been allegations of nepo-

tism and corrupt practises in the recruitment pattern.

As several cases of teachers' recruitment are pending before the court, the problem of filling up the vacancies hardly shows any signs of dying down.

Not only in cases of teachers' recruitment but there are several other areas where the state has performed abysmally low.

During the Covid-19 lockdown when the students had to depend mostly on the internet, the connectivity in the schools of West Bengal were severely low.

According to the Unesco report, only 9 per cent of the schools mostly in the urban areas have net connectivity making it obvious that the students in the rural areas were left out of the online class facilities during the lockdown period.

Tripura with 3 per cent, Meghalaya with 4 per cent, Chattisgarh with 5 per cent and Bihar with 6 per cent ranked below West Bengal.

As the acknowledged hero of the Kuwait war where he led the US to a swift decisive victory, there was a clamour for him to run for President as the Republican candidate in 1996 against Clinton, but he declined saying that he had no passion for politics and did not hear a "calling" to seek the office.

The Iraq invasion under the younger Bush was in fact a negation of the Powell Doctrine and the US paid a colossal price for it.

of the day **quote**

The challenge I will face, and the teams are also watching in the ministry, is the way the fuel prices are leading to a big crest. This uncertainty is a big element for me

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

The advent of 5G technology opens whole new opportunities to address challenges of urban growth and provide end-to-end solutions to support sustainable creation of smart cities, in the future

ABHIJIT KISHORE | CHIEF ENTERPRISE BUSINESS OFFICER, VI

Investments continue to be robust across the solar sector. This will end up as one of the best years for solar financing since 2010. As the push toward the energy transition picks up speed worldwide, solar is benefitting enormously

RAJ PRABHU | CEO, MERCOM CAPITAL GROUP

SHORT TAKES

Diesel sales fall in Oct by 9.2%

New Delhi: India's gasoil consumption fell in the first half of October from the same period in the previous year, preliminary sales data showed. Diesel sales by the country's state fuel retailers came in at 2.4 million tonne during Oct 1-15, a decline of about 9.2% from last year and down 0.9% from the same period in 2019, the data showed. October gasoline sales were up 8.3% from the same period in 2019 and rose by 2% from September, the data showed.

RBI slaps fine of ₹1cr on SBI

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monday imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 crore on the country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) and a ₹1.95 crore fine on Standard Chartered Bank for the violation of various guidelines. Fine levied on SBI for non-compliance with the directions contained in 'Reserve Bank of India (Frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs) directions 2016'. These monetary penalties have been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the statement said.

Axis Mutual Fund unveils new offer

Bhubaneswar: Axis Mutual Fund announced the launch of their new fund offer - 'Axis AAA Bond Plus SDL ETF 2026 Maturity FoF'. The benchmark index has a maturity date of April 30, 2026. The fund of fund (FoF) is an extension to the 'Axis AAA Bond Plus SDL ETF - 2026 Maturity' which was launched in May 2021. The offering aims to provide passive long-term debt investment solution for investors with a 5-year investment horizon. The FoF will deploy its assets predominantly in the underlying ETF which invests across AAA corporate bonds and SDLs.

HP brings all new Chromebook PCs

Bhubaneswar: A leading tech giant, HP announced its latest Chromebook laptop, the first AMD powered HP Chromebook, in India. The latest notebook HP Chromebook x360 14a caters to the needs of the students aged 4-15 years, to help them stay connected, motivated, and creative whether at home or in the classroom. The new model comes with extended battery life of up to 12 ½ hours (HD) and fast charging facility.



Further efforts toward investment liberalisation aided by structural reforms could help deepen India's integration in global value chains and its post-pandemic recovery

ALFRED SCHIPKE | SENIOR RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHINA, IMF

India takes up high oil prices with OPEC

Petrol and diesel prices have shot up to record highs across the country after relentless price increases since May



International benchmark Brent crude has rallied to \$85.67 per barrel, which was \$19 per barrel in April last year as demand evaporated with most nations clamping lockdowns

- Most countries has begun the transition towards cleaner fuels such as electric-powered vehicles and hydrogen
- Oil exporters such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq provide a 30-day credit period, that is, payment for oil bought has to be made in 30 days. India wants this period to be raised
- India is 85% dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and relies on overseas shipments to meet 55% of its gas requirement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, has told Saudi Arabia and other OPEC nations that high oil prices will hurt the nascent economic recovery the world is witnessing after the devastating pandemic and that they have to price oil at reasonable levels, a top official said Monday.

India, which imports almost two-thirds of its oil needs from West Asia, has told crude oil producers, including the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), that high oil prices will hasten the transition to alternate fuels and such rates will be counter-productive for the producers, the official said.

"Oil prices have to strike a balance between the interests of the producers and consumers. Right now they are really high because the demand is more than the supplies," the official, who wished not to be named, said.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has in recent weeks flagged the issue of high oil prices to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, the US, Russia and Bahrain, the official said.

Puri, in his meetings with the Secretary-General of OPEC and

his counterparts in Saudi Arabia and other nations, conveyed India's serious concerns over crude oil price volatility.

He conveyed India's strong preference for responsible and reasonable pricing which is mutually beneficial for consumers and producers, the official said.

It is the only nation that is seeing growth in oil demand on a sustained basis and without it the producers will also suffer, the official said. Not just price, India also wants better commercial terms like optional volumes in yearly supply contracts and larger time to pay for oil bought.

State-owned oil firms have term contracts -- guaranteeing a fixed volume of oil in a year - with national oil companies of West Asian nations for the import of crude oil. They want favourable terms like the inclusion of optional quantities in term contracts and enhancement of credit limit to oil PSUs in the crude oil import.

India is again likely to raise the issue of high oil prices when global leaders meet for the India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK later this week. Saudi and UAE oil ministers besides the OPEC secretary-general are expected to participate in the meeting.

AMID COAL CRUNCH



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), the leading coal producer, Sunday, dispatched over 5.47 lakh tonne of coal to consumers, breaking its own record of 5.45 lakh tonne within a fortnight.

The company dispatched the highest ever 103 rakes of coal to the consumers, with 65 rakes coming from Talcher coalfields while 38 rakes were supplied from

Oilmeal exports down 36% in Sept

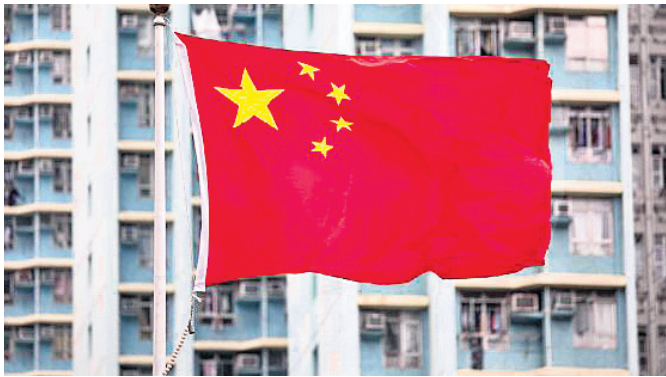
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 18: Export of oilmeal, used as animal feed, declined 36 per cent year-on-year to 1.83 lakh tonne in September on account of the domestic shortage of the oilmeal products, industry body SEA said Monday.

To meet local shortage the government has allowed the import of genetically modified (GM) soyameal, and it should give some relief to the poultry industry, it said in a statement. Oilmeals are used as animal feed in poultry and other sectors. Oilmeal exports stood at 2.87 lakh tonne in September 2020.

According to the latest data released by the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA), soyameal exports declined sharply to 5,831 tonne in September this year from 68,576 tonne in the year-ago period. India is currently outpriced for export of soybean meal and unlikely to revive till we have the new crop in October-November, the industry body said. Export of castor seed meal declined to 34,881 tonne from 45,483 tonne a year ago. Similarly, the export of rape-seed meal declined to 62,725 tonne in September this year from 1,40,830 tonne in the year-ago period, while that of rice-bran extraction shipment rose to 80,188 tonne from 32,068 tonne.

CHINA'S Q3 ECONOMIC GROWTH FALLS TO 4.9%



AGENCIES

Beijing, Oct 18: China's GDP grew by 4.9 per cent in the third quarter, down from 7.9 per cent in the second, confirming the slowdown of the world's second-largest economy which was under pressure from the crisis-hit property sector, curbs on energy and tardy recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Early to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, China's economy in the first few months this year staged impressive recovery but caught up in numerous headwinds, including a property sector slump, power crisis, increasingly weak consumer sentiment and soaring raw material costs.

Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the third quarter (Q3) grew 4.9 per cent year on year, slower than the growth of 18.3 per cent in Q1 and 7.9 per cent in Q2. The Q3 belied surveys of predicting five per cent growth. Releasing the Q3 data, spokesman of the National Bureau of Statics (NBS) Fu Linghui said that consumption contributed around 64.8 per cent to China's economic growth in the first three quarters of the year.

"We must note that the current uncertainties in the international environment are mounting and the domestic economic recovery is still unstable and uneven," Fu said.

"The overall national economy



maintained the recovery momentum in the first three quarters... however, we must note that the current uncertainties in the international environment are mounting, and the domestic economic recovery is still unstable and uneven," the Hong Kong-based South China Morning quoted Fu as saying.

According to the official data, China's retail sales of consumer goods went up 16.4 per cent year on year in the first three quarters this year. The country's retail sales of consumer goods totalled around 31.8 trillion yuan (about USD 4.9 trillion) in January-September period as per the data.

China's value-added industrial output went up 11.8 per cent year on year in the first three quarters, while fixed-asset investment went up 7.3 per cent year on year during the period. The country's surveyed urban unemployment rate stood at 4.9 per cent in September, 0.5 percentage points lower than the same period last year.

During the January-September period, China added 10.45 million new urban jobs in the first three quarters, achieving 95 per cent of the target for the whole year, the NBS data showed.

Rains, festive season, high fuel costs shoot up vegetable prices

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 18: The delayed withdrawal of monsoon, coupled with flood situation in various parts of the country, soaring fuel prices and the festive season demand have all set the prices of vegetables, especially essentials such as onion and tomato, to shoot up within a week or so.

The Centre has claimed it is keeping tab on the prices and even announced that it has maintained a buffer stock to moderate prices and ensuring minimal storage loss.

The prices were relatively stable till about last month and the rates were comparable to that of the same time last year. However, with floods in several parts of south India in September and early October led to supply shortage.

For instance, according to state wise 'Wholesale Prices Monthly Analysis for Onion' for the month of October 2021 shows that in Delhi, the rate of onions in this month is ₹2,970.62 per quintal, compared to ₹1,711.18 per quintal in September 2021, which is a whopping 73.6 per cent increase. However, the rate in October 2020 was ₹3,161.94 per quintal, which is minus 6.05 per cent compared to current month price.

Vegetable rates rarely soar in just one area or one metro. The price rise is almost all the time pan-India, especially for the metro cities. The government also claimed that till October 12, a total of 67,357 MT has been released in major markets such as Delhi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Patna, Ranchi, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Kochi and Raipur.

BIZ BUZZ

Tata Motors launch sub-compact SUV Punch

New Delhi: Automobile major Tata Motors Monday launched sub-compact SUV 'Tata Punch' with a starting price of ₹5.49 Lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). According to Shailesh Chandra, President - Passenger Vehicles Business Unit (PVB), Tata Motors: "With Punch, we have created an entirely new category altogether to address a growing need for small-in-size cars with a true SUV character." As per the company, Tata Motors Design Studios in India, UK, and Italy collaborated to design this vehicle. The vehicle built on the proven and modern Agile Light Flexible Advanced (ALFA) Architecture is available both in 'Manual (MT) and Automatic' (AMT) transmission options. It is powered by 'New Gen 1.2L Revotron B56 Engine' latest 'Dyna-Pro' technology. In addition, the vehicle has an ARAI certified 'Fuel' efficiency of 18.97 km per litre on 'MT' and 18.82 km per litre on 'AMT'.



Startups raise \$10.9bn in funding during July-September



Mumbai: Indian startups received a record funding of \$10.9 billion across 347 deals in the third quarter of 2021, according to a PwC India report. This is twice the amount of funding received in Q3 of the calendar year 2020 and an approximate increase of 41 per cent compared to the second quarter of 2021. An increase in funding activity was witnessed across all sectors in terms of value and volume. However, FinTech, EdTech and SaaS are the top three hot investment sectors in the calendar year 2021 (CY21), together accounting for approximately 47 per cent of the total funding activity, the report - Startup Perspectives - Q3 CY21 - said. In the first three quarters of 2021, investments worth \$4.6 billion in the FinTech space were recorded, which is an increase of approximately three times from \$1.6 billion in 2020. Investments worth \$2.5 billion for 53 deals closed in the FinTech segment were recorded in the third quarter of CY21 alone across various stages of investment, it said.

MCL scales record high in supply

Ib Valley coalfields.

MCL CMD PK Sinha congratulated the officers and workers for their consistent and coordinated approach to maximise coal supply to consumers. "It's all your determination and hard work that has made unachievable achievable. Coal Indians in MCL have always remained at the forefront to face the challenges and achieved newer milestones in the pursuit of energy security to the nation," said Sinha.

Asserting that MCL has sufficient coal stock to feed the consumers, CMD said, "For the month of October, the coal production, dispatch and overburden (OB) removal at MCL have registered a growth of 26.5 per cent, 34.3% and 71.7% respectively as against same period during last financial year."

Recording an impressive double-digit growth during the current fiscal, MCL has produced 78.5 million tonne coal, register-

ing a growth of 12.16%, while dispatched 89.65 million tonne dry fuel to the consumer, as against 74.33 million tonne supplied during the same period last year.

Overburden (OB) removal at MCL has also registered a significant growth of 22.2% at 101.02 million cubic meters during the current fiscal. This would ensure sufficient availability of exposed resources to extract coal and meet the market demands.

POST PANDEMIC

Investment in clean energy to tackle job crisis

THE PANDEMIC WIPED OUT ABOUT 255 MILLION FULL-TIME JOBS LAST YEAR AND WORKERS GLOBALLY LOST INCOME TOTALLING ABOUT \$3.7 TRILLION, ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 18: As the world grapples with rising heat and more extreme weather, as well as an employment squeeze, going green offers the chance to tackle both problems at once, researchers said.

Investing in clean energy can help economies recover from the slowdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic as it will add more jobs than backing fossil fuels, researchers said Monday.

Green investments can be an important part of recovery packages, lead to job creation and positive economic outcomes, and help address climate change, said a report from the World Resources Institute (WRI), a US-based think-tank.

Yet in a bid to spur growth after millions lost work during coronavirus lockdowns worldwide, governments are spending more on carbon-heavy industries that neither address climate change concerns nor offer stability to workers, it warned.

Analysing more than a dozen studies conducted over the past decade, the WRI report projected that \$1 million in green investments would create more near-term jobs than the same amount invested in roads and fossil fuels.

But the quality of jobs created in climate-positive sectors must be protected by ensuring fair wages and working conditions, the report stated, calling on governments to engage with labour unions and employers on the issue.



"Investing in climate is not a cost but an economic opportunity," said Joel Jaeger, lead author of the WRI report.

Industries reliant on fossil fuels have garnered \$334 billion in government investment compared to

\$276 billion for renewable energy and public transport, according to data from Energy Policy Tracker cited in the report.

PANDEMIC GAINS

Climate-friendly industries have

already offered work and better wages during the pandemic, the report added. For example, electric-vehicle manufacturing in China has attracted people due to higher pay, and in Pakistan, a state investment of \$135 million in tree planting and forest protection created 85,000 daily wage jobs in the last year.

More broadly, investing in solar photovoltaic equipment manufacturing creates 1.5 times as many jobs as the same amount spent on fossil fuel production, while for wind power the figure is 1.2 times, showed the studies analysed by WRI. Installing solar panels or retrofitting a building to make it more energy efficient are labour-intensive activities that have the potential to create more jobs, re-

searcher Jaeger said.

Communities and workers dependent on fossil fuels should be re-trained and offered alternative ways to make a living as the world shifts to clean energy while ensuring the quality of jobs created in renewable energy, the report urged.

We need to avoid a race to the bottom where the falling costs of green technologies are achieved by cutting wages, job security or working conditions, the report said.

Backers say the shift from coal, gas and oil to green energy will create millions of new jobs, making up for those lost in dirty sectors. But the transition faces political hurdles as well as opposition from people whose livelihoods depend on fossil-fuel mining and extraction.

Norrie, Badosa triumph

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian Wells, Oct 18: A handful of tennis' superstars skipped the coronavirus-delayed BNP Paribas Open. A rash of upsets sent other big names packing, too. Left standing at the end as champions were two players ranked outside the Top 25.

Britain's Cameron Norrie beat Nikoloz Basilashvili 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 Sunday, giving the tournament its first men's winner ranked outside of the Top 25 since 2010.

Paula Badosa of Spain edged Victoria Azarenka 7-6(7-5), 2-6, 7-6(7-2), becoming just the third woman to win in her Indian Wells debut.

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, Naomi Osaka and Serena Williams were among those skipping the tournament that was delayed two and half years because of the coronavirus. The two-week event was hit with a rash of upsets, including top seeds Daniil Medvedev and Karolina Pliskova.

That cleared the way for the up-



CAMERON NORRIE



PAULA BADOSA

and-coming Norrie and Badosa to claim the biggest titles of their young careers. They earned USD 1.2 million each.

Norrie, ranked 26th, had the only two breaks of the final set and won when Basilashvili's backhand sailed long on match point. Basilashvili, ranked 36th, was the first player from the former Soviet

republic of Georgia to reach an ATP Masters 1000 final.

Norrie, Ivan Ljubicic in 2019, Alex Corretja in 2000 and Jim Courier in 1991—all were ranked 26th—won the title while ranked outside the Top 25 since the tournament moved to Indian Wells in 1987. Larry Stefanki was ranked 143rd when he won in 1985 at nearby La Quinta.

Badosa joined Bianca Andreescu in 2019 and Serena Williams in 1999 in winning the title in her first appearance. It was Badosa's second title of her career, having won in Belgrade earlier this year.

Badosa and Azarenka struggled for over three hours, trading back-to-back service breaks five times. The last time Azarenka broke for a 5-4 lead in the third, and Badosa broke right back for a 5-all tie.

Badosa missed a backhand that allowed Azarenka to hold at 6-all. Badosa dominated the tie-breaker, racing to a 6-2 lead. Azarenka dumped a forehand into the net to give Badosa match point.

Badosa cracked a forehand winner, then collapsed at the baseline. She lie face down, crying and shaking, before getting up. Azarenka came around the net and hugged the 23-year-old Spaniard.

Badosa came into the tournament ranked 27th. Badosa is projected to rise to a career-best 13th in Monday's WTA Tour rankings.

Batters lift India in practice tie



KL RAHUL



ISHAN KISHAN

Dubai, Oct 18: KL Rahul's (51, 24b, 6x4, 3x6) brutal yet elegant fifty sealed the second opener's debate while his opening partner Ishan Kishan (70 ret'd., 46b, 7x4, 3x6) also grabbed the opportunity as India warmed-up nicely with a

seven-wicket win over England in the opening practice match ahead of the T20 World Cup.

India chased a target of 189 with an over to spare. In a game where result was secondary, Rahul's touch would have certainly made skipper Virat Kohli pleased as punch. Kishan did his case no harm once

Rahul was gone.

India in the first game ticked some boxes that includes two senior pacers Jasprit Bumrah (1/26) and Mohammed Shami (3/40) hitting the straps straightaway with some fast and accurate deliveries. The third angle to this 'triangle'—Bhuvneshwar Kumar (0/54), however, went for runs.

Kohli (11) didn't score much but that would be least of concerns for the Indian team. Rishabh Pant (29 n o) smashed the bowlers, while Suryakumar Yadav (8) did look a bit scratchy. Hardik Pandya scored an unbeaten 16.

Earlier, England posted 188/5, mainly due to Jonny Bairstow (49, 36b, 4x4, 1x6), Moeen Ali (43 n o, 20b, 4x4, 2x6) and Liam Livingstone (30). Besides the pacers, R Ashwin (0/23) bowled brilliantly despite being wicketless, while leggie Rahul Chahar (1/43) went for runs.

BRIEF SCORES

England 188/5 (Jonny Bairstow 49, Moeen Ali 43 n o; Mohammed Shami 3/40) lost to India 192/3 (Ishan Kishan 70 ret'd., KL Rahul 51) by 7 wickets.

Fati shines in Barca's victory over Valencia



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Oct 18: Ansu Fati is quickly becoming Barcelona's go-to player in the absence of Lionel Messi. The 18-year-old Fati made his first start for Barcelona after a long injury layoff Sunday, scoring a goal and earning his team a penalty as the Catalan club halted

their losing streak by rallying to beat Valencia 3-1 in La Liga.

Memphis Depay and Philippe Coutinho also scored for Barcelona, who handed debut to Sergio Aguero, as it moved to seventh place, five points behind leaders Real Sociedad and with a game in hand.

Fati returned to action last month after being sidelined for more than 10 months due to knee injury, coming off the bench in three matches before getting his first start Sunday and giving fans more hope that the club can rebuild around him after Messi's departure to PSG.

Barcelona were coming off two defeats before the international break—0-2 at Atletico Madrid in the league and 0-3 at Benfica in the Champions League. They had won only once in their last six matches in all competitions.

News in brief

ADITYA, PANKAJ, LAXMAN SEAL VICTORIES

MUMBAI: Three Indian cueists, including national champion Aditya Mehta and Pankaj Advani, claimed successive victories in their respective first two round-robin 'Y' Camp (1st leg) matches of the GSC World Snooker Qualifiers here Monday. Aditya started in rousing fashion as he uncorked a 94-break in the first frame and went on to outshine Neeraj Kumar (RSPB) 4-0 (114(94)-14, 60-53, 67-22, 61-09) in his opening best-of-7-frame match late Sunday night, a release said. In the second match, Aditya faced a bit of resistance from Telegana's Himanshu Jain before managing to script a 4-3 (108 (53)-14, 39-69, 97-34, 26-66, 55-68, 72(72)-8 and 59-46) win. Pankaj, India's most illustrious cueist and owner of 24 World crowns, scored his first win defeating Himanshu Jain 4-2 (91-17, 67-73, 66-61, 37-68, 101-36, 83-06).

WINTER GAMES FLAME LIGHTING DISRUPTED

ANCIENT OLYMPIA: Three activists protesting human rights abuses in China broke into the archaeological site where the flame lighting ceremony for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics was being held Monday and ran toward the newly lit torch holding a Tibetan flag and a banner that read "No genocide games". The protesters climbed over a fence to enter the grounds and attempted to reach the Temple of Hera, where the ceremony was being held. They were thrown to the ground by police and detained. "How can Beijing be allowed to host the Olympics given that they are committing a genocide against the Uyghurs?" one protester said, referring to the treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China's northwest region of Xinjiang. The flame was lit at the birthplace of the ancient Olympics in southern Greece under heavy police security.

FENCER BHAVANI WINS IN FRANCE

NEW DELHI: Fencer Bhavani Devi, who made history at the Tokyo Olympics by becoming the first Indian to compete in the sport at the Games, has won the Charlellville National Competition in France in the individual women's sabre event. The 28-year-old fencer tweeted about the same. "Won the Charlellville National Competition, France in the Women's Sabre individual. Many thanks to coach Christian Bauer, Arnaud Schneider, and all teammates. Congratulations to all for a great start of the season," she tweeted after winning the competition. At the Tokyo Olympics, she won her round of 64 match 15-3 against Tunisia's Nadia Ben Azizi before going down to eventual bronze-medallist, Manon Brunet of France in the round of 32. She is currently ranked 50th in the world.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 18: Johannesburg-born seamer Curtis Campher (4/26) became only the third bowler to claim four wickets in four balls in T20Is as a superior Ireland beat Netherlands by seven wickets in their first round Group A T20 World Cup match here Monday.

Campher did what only two people could do before him in T20Is before him, joining Lasith Malinga and Rashid Khan.

Thanks to Campher's exploits with the white ball, Ireland bundled out Netherlands for 106 after the Dutch had decided to bat. Ireland chased down the target with as many as 29 balls to spare at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium. Gareth Delany (44) and Paul Stirling (30 n o) were the significant contributors with the bat for the Irish team.

Earlier, bowling the 10th over, the 22-year-old Campher left the Netherlands innings in disarray when he dismissed Colin Ackermann, Ryan ten Doeschate, Scott Edwards and Roelof van der Merwe off successive balls.

Netherlands were in all sorts of trouble at 51/6 after Campher's multiple blows but opener Max O'Dowd (51) battled on amid the slide at the other end. Pacer Mark Adair (3/9), too, returned with excellent figures.



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