

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The first thing I'll do after being appointed in Pegasus probe panel? Well, it will be to stop using my phone!

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX		VARIATION	
SENSEX	61143.33	↓	206.93
NIFTY	18211.00	↓	57.40
DOLLAR	74.94	↓	₹0.02
EURO	86.93	↓	₹0.05
GOLD	₹47,797	↓	₹16
SILVER	₹65,093	↑	₹104

WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
TEMP			
MAX	30.7°C	31.2°C	
MIN	23.0°C	23.0°C	
Humidity	82%	81%	Forecast
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	Light rain very likely

SC panel to probe Pegasus

Apex court turns down Centre's plea to appoint expert panel on its own stating such course would violate judicial principle against bias

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Supreme Court appointed Wednesday a three-member panel of cyber experts to probe the alleged use of Israeli spyware Pegasus for surveillance of certain people in India. It said every citizen needs protection against privacy violation and mere invocation of 'national security by State' does not render the court a 'mute spectator'. A bench, headed by CJI NV Ramana, said that retired SC judge RV Raveendran will supervise the functioning of the technical committee, which will look into the 'truth or falsity of the allegations' and will submit a report 'expeditiously'. "We make it clear that our effort is to uphold the constitutional aspirations and rule of law, without allowing ourselves to be consumed in the political rhetoric. However, at the same time, the Supreme Court has never covered from protecting all from the abuses of fundamental rights," stated the bench, which also included justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli. The members of the technical committee named by the court are: Dr Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Dr Prabaharan P and Dr Ashwin Anil Gumaste. Finding material that 'prima



- JULY 18:** News outlets globally report spyware made by Israeli firm used for spying on journalists, activists and politicians in India.
- JULY 22:** Petition filed before the SC by advocate ML Sharma seeking court-monitored probe by SIT into the reports.
- JULY 27:** Journalists N Ram and Sashi Kumar move the SC seeking independent probe in the matter.
- AUGUST 5:** Supreme Court starts hearing the matter.
- AUGUST 16:** Centre files a short affidavit, claiming allegations were based on conjecture and unsubstantiated media reports.
- AUGUST 17:** Supreme Court issues notice to the Centre on the petitions.
- SEPTEMBER 13:** Supreme Court reserves order.
- OCT 27:** SC appoints committee of cyber experts to inquire into the matter.

facie merits consideration', the bench declined the Centre's plea to appoint expert panel on its own. It said such a course would violate settled judicial principle against bias. The matter would again come up for hearing in eight weeks, the bench stated. The bench took note of the vehement submissions of the Centre on na-

tional security and rejected it. "...This does not mean that the State gets a free pass every time the spectre of 'national security' the bench noted. "National security cannot be the bugbear that the judiciary shies away from, by virtue of its mere mentioning. Although this Court should be circumspect in encroaching the domain of national security, no omnibus prohibition can be called for against judicial review," the bench added. Quoting English novelist George Orwell, the bench said "If you want to keep a secret, you must also hide it from yourself." 'Orwellian' refers to a dystopian, totalitarian state which is destructive to the welfare of a free and open society. "Members of a civilized democratic society have a reasonable expectation of privacy. It is not the singular concern of journalists or social activists. Every citizen of India ought to be protected against violations of privacy. It is this expectation which enables us to exercise our choices, liberties, and freedom," the apex court order said. The top court said it was an extremely uphill task to find and select experts who are free from prejudices, are independent and competent, rather than relying upon any government agencies or any private entity. The apex court was hearing a batch of pleas seeking independent probe into the alleged Pegasus snooping matter. An international media consortium had reported that over 300 verified Indian mobile phone numbers were on the list of potential targets for surveillance using the spyware.

Physical classes of UG, PG students to commence from Nov

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: The Higher Education department announced Wednesday that physical classroom teaching of 2021-22 first year undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students (new admissions) in universities and colleges will commence from November 1 and November 15 respectively. In a letter to all universities and colleges, Saswat Mishra, secretary of Higher Education department said "Classroom teaching of first year UG and first year PG students (freshly admitted) for the session 2021-22 will start from 01.11.2021 and 15.11.2021 respectively in physical mode by following appropriate Covid-19 prevention protocols." The protocols that have to be followed are wearing of face masks always, frequent hand sanitisation and social distancing in classrooms, libraries and laboratories. Also spitting inside the campus has been completely prohibited. All institutions have also been asked to keep an isolation room as standby in case of emergency. The Higher Education department also said that hostel facilities will be available for students. Similar Covid-19 facilities will be followed in hostels also. Earlier, the Higher Education department had opened the universities and degree colleges to commence physical classroom teaching for PG first year and UG pre-final year students of 2020-21 from August 16. It should be stated here that the first round of admissions into PG courses in various universities in Odisha had started from October 23 as provisional allotment of seats (for first-round selection) was published October 22. The spot admission process for UG first year students ends October 28.



JSW Cement
The Leaders' Choice

1800 266 266 1 (toll free)

5TH LPG PRICE HIKE ON CARDS

■ Since July, the price of LPG has gone up by ₹90 for 14.2-kg cylinders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: As petrol and diesel prices were increased by 35 paise per litre each after a two-day respite, there was further bad news for LPG consumers. Sources said Wednesday that LPG prices may be hiked next week after under-recovery on the fuel widened to over ₹100 per cylinder. They said that the hike, including the quantum of increase, is dependent on government permission. If allowed, this will be the fifth increase in cooking gas rates across all categories — households using subsidised gas for cooking and heating purposes, non-subsidised fuel and industrial-sized gas since July. LPG rates were last hiked by ₹15 per cylinder October 6, taking the total increase in rates since July to ₹90 per 14.2-kg cylinder. The government last year eliminated subsidies on LPG by bringing retail prices at par with the cost through periodic hikes. But, unlike

CITY PRICES

PETROL	₹108.90 (+0.36)
DIESEL	₹105.47 (+0.38)

petrol and diesel, whose pricing has been decontrolled, the government has not announced deregulation of LPG rates. Currently, cooking gas costs ₹899.50 per cylinder in Delhi and Mumbai, and ₹926 in Kolkata. Petrol now costs ₹107.94 a litre in Delhi and ₹113.80 in Mumbai with the latest hike.



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

DSPL-210

Shri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

announces

New Smart Health Card with New Guidelines of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana





Ajay Kumar Das
4189872XXXX

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର Government of Odisha
ବିଜୁ ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା
Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

State Government will bear full cost of health services provided to all in Government facilities

Each beneficiary family will get health coverage of Rs.5 lakhs and additional Rs.5 lakhs for the women members of the family per annum in empanelled private hospitals

OIPR-10001/13/0065/2122

HEALTHY ODISHA, HAPPY ODISHA | TOLL FREE NO-104

FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com™
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181*

ARIES

Today will be an industrious day. The stars foretell that you may visit a historical place, or perhaps a museum. However, Ganesha says, you may need to pay a little attention to your health. If such is the case, it would be better to take the evening off for yourself.

TAURUS

Today, Ganesha sees your mind shifting from your professional affairs and drifting, time and again, towards your home and family. You are likely to return home early and get happily engrossed in discussing pressing domestic issues with your family members.

GEMINI

Today, you will have the required intentions and courage to propose your sweetheart. You will be dressed to kill, or rather to marry. You will make a favourable impression with the way you'll look tonight. You will be an open book to your future partner, which is likely to work in your favour.

CANCER

You can improve your finances with your mental capabilities. Ganesha says that you will get success in both private life and career. You will be entrusted many tasks and responsibilities.

LEO

If it's a fresh start that you have been looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesha. If you have already chalked out any plans for your future, today is the day to initiate the implementation. Remember Lions, though, that rushing blindly into anything is not the solution.

VIRGO

You will be in a very ambitious and conscientious mood today. Your actions will speak louder than words. You set the pace with your meticulous planning and careful execution. Ganesha says you may expect a lot of appreciation and recognition for your work coming from your boss and your colleagues.

LIBRA

Ganesha says today is a day where you will spend happy moments with your family members. You will feel happy and will get to spend some romantic time with your beloved. Your innermost feeling will be showcased in the internal thoughts of your life partner and both of you will be in tandem with each other today.

SCORPIO

You nearly emerge as a superhero today, as you have the knack of balancing home and work just perfectly. Intellectual discussions and brainstorming with peers would provide food for thought today. You may look forward to merry-making and soiree with family and friends in the evening.

SAGITTARIUS

Chances of you hitting a roadblock today are high. But remember the saying, 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going.' So don't succumb to pressure, advises Ganesha, but rise up to the occasion and show who's the boss.

CAPRICORN

Your accomplishments may take you on cloud nine today. Success may come easily to you, but don't try your luck too much, advises Ganesha. Make the most of today as tomorrow may not be the same as today.

AQUARIUS

You will be able to strike a balance between the emotional and rational side of your personality. You will find pleasure in your work and may successfully mix your personal life into your professional life. Financially, there are no major issues, but negligible matters may keep your mind occupied, feels Ganesha.

PISCES

You will be inspired to travel to a far off place or to a foreign land because of a very warm invitation. Some old friend or relative residing in a foreign land will get in touch and please you today. Ganesha says that today is a good day for those wishing to go abroad for some specialized study or work.



MEGAN THEE STALLION SET TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE

Grammy winning-rapper Megan Thee Stallion has revealed she's set to graduate from college. The rap star has taken to Instagram to reveal she's on the cusp of graduating, after studying in health administration at Texas Southern University.

SLEIMAN MORE THAN HAPPY TO BE PART OF MCU'S ETERNALS

Actor Haaz Sleiman was more than happy at world premiere of *Eternals*. Sleiman, who came out as gay in 2017, could scarcely believe he was on the red carpet for playing Ben, the husband of one of the title superheroes, Phastos played by Brian Tyree Henry.



Nitu was 'numb' over her Hollywood debut

Mumbai: Actress Nitu Chandra Srivastava is set to appear in the fourth instalment of *Never Back Down: Revolt*. She has represented India at the World Taekwondo Championships and now she is poised to take things further with her Hollywood debut with the Kellie Madison directorial.

The actress recently opened up about her feelings on getting the part in the film.

Talking about her response to the offer, Nitu said, "Being offered one of the lead roles in *Never Back Down: Revolt*, which is the fourth part of *Never Back Down* franchise by Sony Motion Pictures, was an overwhelming feeling. I don't know if I was excited

or numb, but I was quiet for a few seconds (she laughs)."

"I was as nervous as excited ahead of the trailer's release. However, many people have now watched it, and I'm glad that praises have started to flow my way with just a glimpse of my exceptional appearance in the trailer," she added.

Never Back Down: Revolt is an action film directed by Kellie Madison and written by Audrey Arkins. The Sony Motion Pictures Worldwide and Mandalay Pictures production also features James Faulkner, Michael Bisping and Olivia Popica. IANS



Kriti, Rajkummar get candid about on-screen chemistry

Mumbai: Actors Rajkummar Rao and Kriti Sanon, who are gearing up for the release of their upcoming family entertainer *Hum Do Hamare Do*, have talked about their on-screen chemistry in the movie. Kriti said: "Raj is a very giving actor, and that is his best quality as a co-star. When your fellow actor gives a spellbinding performance, where they literally tear up even when the camera is placed at you and not them, it means they think of the whole film and not just their role, which is something I really appreciate."

Hum Do Hamare Do is a wholesome family comedy

about a man who goes to hilarious lengths for love, as he ends up adopting a 'mum and dad'.

Rajkummar revealed: "Over the years Kriti has grown by leaps and bounds as a performer. She is very confident of her craft now, and that shows on screen. I remember Kriti flawlessly nailing even the most intense of scenes during shoot, which is a great sign of being an actor".

The film, starring Paresh Rawal, Ratna Pathak Shah and Aparshakti Khurana, will be streaming from October 29 on Disney+ Hotstar. IANS



K3G's 'Poo' set to make big debut

Mumbai:

Karan Johar's *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham (K3G)* is a film that an entire generation remembers fondly. While the mighty ensemble of Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Hrithik Roshan, Kareena Kapoor and Jaya Bachchan enthralled the audience with their work, the film's child artistes too are still remembered for their work.

Malvika Raaj, who essayed the character of young 'Pooja' or 'Poo' in the film is all set to make her big debut in an action entertainer after 20 years.

Titled *Squad*, the film will see the young actress performing some high octane action scenes.

The film also stars Rinzing Denzongpa, son of veteran actor Danny Denzongpa. She is excited about the film's story as she says, "I am really excited

for the film to reach the audience. The film revolves around a little Indian girl, who we rescue and bring back to our country amid all odds."

She also shared a few details of her character, as she said, "My character in the film is a sniper shooter. All I can say is that my character is very sharp but also a lot of fun! She lives life on the edge and can handle tough situations with a lot of ease."

The film, which became the first Indian film to be shot in Belarus, will be available to stream on ZEE5 from November 12. IANS



UP to get its first drive-in theatre on Diwali

The sound system will also be tuned to the frequency of the car's FM and audio will be played inside the vehicle, limiting all noise pollution, says Nitish Kanda, the promoter of the venture

Uttar Pradesh is set to get its first drive-in theatre on Diwali.

The drive-in theatre in Lucknow, which will be operational from November 2, is expected to draw big crowd on Diwali. The facility, with a capacity of 200 cars, has been set up in Sarojini Nagar area.

People can watch movies from the comfort of their cars while enjoying food and other amenities.

Lucknow-based commercial pilot and businessman, Nitish Kanda, 22, who started the venture, said: "This will be a new experience not just for the city but for the entire state as this is the first drive-in theatre in Uttar Pradesh. We have installed a digital LED screen with 40 by 20 ft dimensions which also works well in sunlight. For the time being, we will have evening and night shows."

The district administration and the municipal corporation have granted permission for the facility and tickets will be available both online and offline.

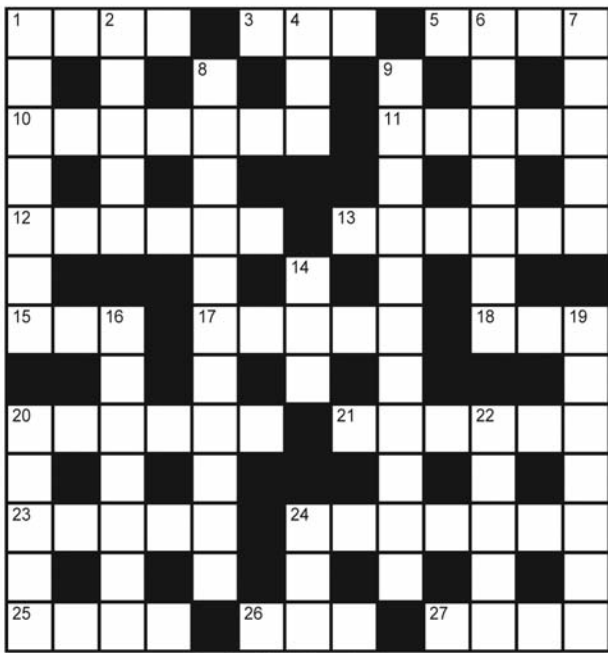
"The digital LED screen promises better picture quality over a projector. It also gives 180-degree equal view from all angles. The sound system will also be tuned to the frequency of the car's FM and audio will be played inside the vehicle, limiting all noise pollution," he added.

The concept is expected to receive much traction during Covid times since the drive-in theatre will help maintain physical distancing with cars in place of other forms of seating arrangements. IANS



FUN post

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Havana's home
- 3 Delivery vehicle
- 5 Guitar relative
- 10 Bravery
- 11 Intense
- 12 Charge with a crime
- 13 Glamour
- 15 Shoot the breeze
- 17 Destitute
- 18 Topper

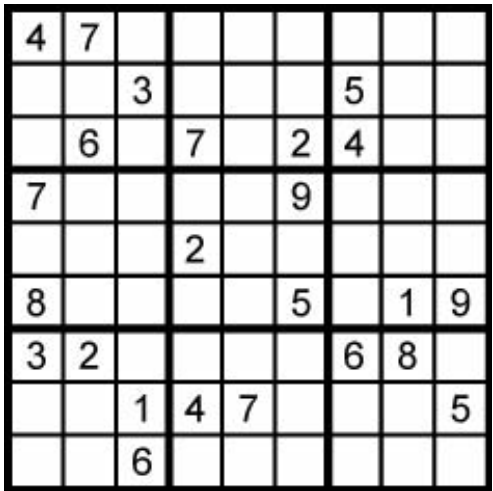
Down

- 20 Heir's concern
- 21 Songs of yesteryear
- 23 Fiend
- 24 Italian rice
- 25 Litter member
- 26 Overmodest
- 27 Blubbers
- 1 The sport of pedal pushers?
- 2 Tied up
- 4 Epoch

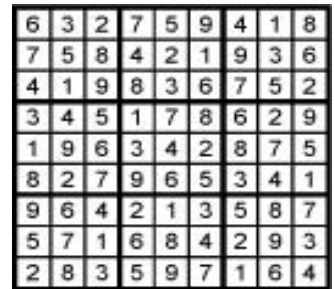
- 6 Out of the ordinary
- 7 Hostile force
- 8 Grabbing one's interest
- 9 A windshield has it (6,5)
- 14 Gusto
- 16 Cricket player
- 19 Tyrants
- 20 Pillow filler
- 22 Preface, briefly
- 24 Brazilian city, familiarly

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Daily Covid cases cross 500-mark again in state

Odisha had logged 433 new cases Tuesday, 425 Monday, 447 new cases Sunday, 441 Saturday, 467 Friday, and 524 Thursday, says Health department



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: Odisha Wednesday registered 549 new Covid-19 cases, 116 more than the previous day, as single-day infections crossed the 500-mark again in less than a week, a Health department official said.

The coronavirus tally rose to 10,39,818, while two fresh fatalities, including a teenager, pushed the death toll to 8,318, he said.

The state had logged 433 new cases Tuesday, 425 Monday, 447 new

cases Sunday, 441 Saturday, 467 Friday, and 524 Thursday.

Among the single-day infections reported Wednesday, 70 are children and adolescents in the age group of 0-18 years. Khurda district, which comprises state Capital Bhubaneswar, registered 296 cases followed by Cuttack (50). Seven districts did not report any fresh infection in the last 24 hours, the Health official said.

The coastal state currently has 4,673 active cases, and 10,26,774 people have so far recovered from

Novel coronavirus is still active and exists in the state as well as in the country. People should adhere to all Covid-19 norms

CBK MOHANTY | CHIEF OF DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

the disease. It has tested 2.17 crore samples for Covid-19 thus far, and the daily positivity rate stands at 0.76 per cent, he added. As many as 1,07,92,399 people have been fully inoculated in the state.

Meanwhile, Chief of Directorate of Medical Education and Training (DMET) CBK Mohanty said that people should not be under the impression that the pandemic has ended. "Novel coronavirus is still active and exists in the state as well as in the country. People should adhere to all Covid-19 protocols," he said.

SAI bags School of Eminence Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: SAI International School became the only school in Eastern India and amongst the top four schools in the country to receive A++ rating by Education World in the 'India Schools of Eminence Awards, 2021-22'.

The other three schools getting A++ rating were Dhurubhai Ambani International School (Mumbai), Heritage School (Delhi) and Indus International School (Bangalore). The schools were rated on 5 key parameters - infrastructure, teaching and assessment, external linkages, sports and co-curricular, and technology integration.

The award was received by SAI International Education Group Chairperson Silpi Sahoo at Bengaluru. Dedicating the award to Founder Chairman Late Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, Silpi said, "SAI International is not just a school. It is a centre for human transformation that our founder envisioned. His vision to see a better India through education is coming to life, and I pledge to dedicate my life to take his vision forward."

WASSUP TODAY

BHUBANESWAR

- Sale of special terracotta items, Ekamra Haat, 10am to 9pm

CUTTACK

- 2nd phase of loan coordination drive by state-level bankers' committee, Sarala Bhawan, 10am

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I Binod Kumar Agrawal, S/o. Om Prakash Agrawal, Village Junagarh, Dist. Kalahandi have lost the original Sale deed vide No. 372/1998/1 of Khata No. 225 on 16.10.2020 while I was travelling from Junagarh to Bhawanipatna by vehicle. I searched the same but unable to trace it out. Now I want to mortgage this property. If anyone have found the deed please contact us or to the Branch Manager, State Bank of India ADB, Junagarh within 15days.

Puri-Patna special till Nov last week

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: Keeping in view the demands of the commuters, the Railways has decided to extend services of the 08439/08440 Puri-Patna-Puri Special till the last week of November this year.

The 08439 Puri-Patna Special leaving Puri at 14:55 hrs every Saturday will run till November 27, 2021. In return direction, the 08440 Patna-Puri Special departing from Patna at 13:45 hrs every Monday will run till November 28, 2021.

Earlier, for the convenience of passengers, it was decided to revise the timings of Prashanti Special at Bangalore East and Bangalore Cant stations and provide additional stoppage of Howrah-Yesvantpur



Special at Krishnarajapuram station temporarily.

The 08463 Bhubaneswar-Bangalore Prashanti Special from Bhubaneswar will reach Bangalore East at 10:45 hrs and leave at 10:46 hrs instead of earlier arrival timings at 11:04 hrs and departure at 11:05 hrs. This train will also reach Bangalore Cant at 10:51 hrs and leave at 10:52 hrs towards Bangalore instead of existing arrival time at 11:09 hrs and departure time at 11:11 hrs.

Train runs in reverse to save woman, newborn

Ranchi: The Anand Vihar-Bhubaneswar Sampark Kranti Express ran backwards to its previous station to save a woman and her newborn. The train, en route to Bhubaneswar from Tata Nagar, ran back 2.5 km where a medical team from Railways rushed the duo to Sadar Hospital in Khamsahal. The woman, identified as Ranu Das was travelling to Jaleswar in Balasore district, delivered a baby girl, a Railways official said. The information was given to Tata Nagar Railway station and a decision was taken to run the train in reverse direction as the next stop, Hijli, was too far and it could have proved detrimental to the health of Ranu and her newborn.

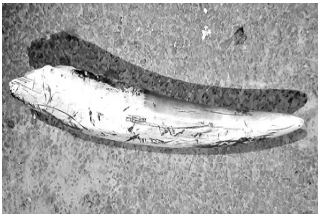
ELEPHANT TUSK SEIZED; 1 HELD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: A man was arrested from Angul district for allegedly being involved in wildlife crime and an elephant tusk was seized from his possession, police said Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the Special Task Force (STF) personnel of the state police Tuesday conducted a search operation in an area near Antulia under the Angul Forest Division and apprehended the person, a senior officer said.

The man, who hails from Hatasiunali under Ranibandha Police Station limits, is being interrogated, he said.



In the last one year, the STF has seized 18 leopard skins, 10 elephant tusks, two deer skins and 15kg of pangolin scales, and arrested 37 people for allegedly being involved in wildlife trafficking, the officer added.

Bear attacks tourist guide at Nandankanan safari



POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, Oct 27: Serving paneer to a bear at Nandankanan Zoological Park's safari here proved costlier for a tourist guide as he was attacked by the carnivorous animal Wednesday.

According to sources, the incident took place when tourists were enjoying a safari ride on a bus (OD02-AZ-2747) around 4:30pm.

"The ride had just begun when Tulu Behera, a guide from nearby Daruthenga village, saw a bear—Balia—sitting on the road. In a bid to entertain a few of his relatives in the bus, Behera asked the vehicle driver to halt. As the vehicle halted, Behera rushed to a corner of the bus, picked up a polythene bag containing paneer slices and

served it to Balia. Along with the bag, the bear bit Behera's palm," said an official.

Soon after, the bus returned and a profusely bleeding Behera was rushed to a nearby private health-care facility.

The incident has raised concerns about safety of the visitors on the zoo premises. It was alleged that the authorities' urge to earn more revenue from the zoo by way of privatising many of its facilities has compromised the visitors' safety.

Asked, Nandankanan deputy director Sanjeet Kumar said, "We'll have a meeting with the private agency, which has been managing the safari affairs, Thursday. We'll ask the agency to ensure visitors adhere to the prescribed norms on the safari premises."

1 held for illicit liquor sale

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulnakhara, Oct 27: Pahala outpost police Wednesday arrested a youth on charge of selling illicit liquor in the area.

The arrested has been identified as Anant Das, 21, a resident of Nakhara village under Ward No. 4 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). The police seized 10 litres of illicit liquor from the possession of Anant.

The arrest came after the locals alleged that there had been a significant rise in illicit liquor trade in Phulnakhara area.

Pahala outpost in-charge Stalin Biswal raided several places and nabbed Anant from Nakhara village Wednesday. The police registered a case (352/21) and sent the accused to court.

Biswal asserted that crackdown on illicit trade of liquor will continue in the area.



BMC notice to patho lab for fake certificate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Wednesday, issued a show-cause notice to a pathological laboratory here for issuing fake Covid-19 positive certificate.

In its notice to GenX Diagnostics at Saheed Nagar, the BMC, citing a report published in a vernacular daily, stated that the laboratory has issued a fake Covid positive certificate without following official procedures. The news mentions that one person submitted his Aadhaar card through WhatsApp and obtained the positive certificate without getting tested.

"The certificate was issued without going through the procedure

If the lab fails to reply within the stipulated period, it will be deemed that it has no explanation to offer

of obtaining the genuine sample and putting it to appropriate test," the notice read.

The civic body has directed the laboratory to show cause within 72 hours why its licence will not be cancelled for violating the provisions of Epidemic Diseases Act. If the lab fails to reply within the stipulated period, it will be deemed that it has no explanation to offer and accordingly actions will be taken against it, the BMC notice said.

50kg stale food destroyed in City

Bhubaneswar: In joint raids conducted by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and City police, about 40-50 kg stale and unhygienic food was destroyed along with 12 kg of polythene in Kolathia and SUM Hospital here, Wednesday. The BMC, under the South West Zone, fined 12 business units of Rs 22,000 for selling of unhygienic food items and using banned polythene carry bags. The fine amount collected for selling of unhygienic food was Rs 10,000 and for use of polythene carry bags, Rs 12,000 was collected from the units.

TRAINING CAMP



A cultural programme underway at a state-level training camp of Biju Chhatra Janata Dal, the student wing of ruling BJD, in Puri, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

AYUSH DOCS CALL OFF STIR OVER JOB REGULARISATION

The AOADA doctors, working under NHM, have been serving on contractual basis for the last 14 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: The All Odisha Ayush Doctors' Association (AOADA) Wednesday called off their non-cooperation agitation demanding regularisation of their services after the state government's assurance on the matter.

The AOADA doctors, working under the National Health Mission (NHM), have been serving on contractual basis for the last 14 years. The organisation members have been demanding regularisation of their services.

Apart from their 14 years of continuous services to people of Odisha, the doctors have played a significant role during Covid-19 and natural calamities. They had alleged that the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department has



approved the regularisation of services of paramedics like staff nurse, pharmacists and lab technicians under the NHM scheme while leaving them out.

AOADA joint secretary Bharati Lata Acharya said, "Our contribution during Covid crisis was immense. We were involved in screening, tracking and vaccination of people of Odisha. We played key role in assisting people during natural calamities. We have always prioritised our duty over our families and even our own lives. Ironically, we are not getting enough remuneration as

compared to others."

On their demand, president of AOADA, Khurda Manoranjan Sahoo said, "We have been working for more than 14 years. However, we are yet to get our legitimate wage. Many a times we have put forth our grievances to the higher authorities but nothing has come out. That's why, we have been staging an agitation since October 2 and today we are putting an end to our non-cooperation movement as the state government has promised to regularise services of Ayush doctors very soon."

FIRECRACKER BAN HC NOTICE TO GOVT, SPCB

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 27: The Orissa High Court Wednesday issued notices to the state government and State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in connection with a case pertaining to ban on sale and use of firecrackers during Diwali festival.

A division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice BP Routray posted the next hearing on the case to October 29.

The state government, through an order September 30, has banned the sale and use of firecrackers in Odisha.

Challenging the order, the All Odisha Firework Dealers' Association had filed a petition in the HC.

The court, however, rejected the plea on the ground that the association has not been registered with the authorities concerned.

Subsequently, a few firecracker traders, including Mahesh Store and Pramila Enterprises, had filed a fresh petition in the HC on the matter.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DaralAgency-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-Krupajali** Book Store-7978646669, **Jaydev Vihar-AK** Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, **Jagannath Mobile Point**- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, **Kanan Vihar**-Auro Electronics-8260697560, **Khandagiri**- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, **KIIT Road**-Jugad Jn-9338545031, **Laxmi Sagar**-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, **Lewis Road**-Spider Web-7809186415, **Metro Satellite City**-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, **Madhusudan Nagar**-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, **Maa Santoshi travels**- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, **Nayapalli**- The Cake Room- 7873660137, **Near Mayfair Lagoon**-Cookiemana-9439491273, **Nigamananda-Omm** Sai Travels-9668284823, **Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate**- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, **Net Square**- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, **Priyadarshini Market**-Astro Point-9938134346, **R.N. General Store**-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, **Sahid Nagar**- Maa Communication- 9437353424, **Sahini General Store**- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, **Satya Nagar**-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, **Samantapur**- Download Point-7504557743, **Sailashree Vihar**-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, **Saheed Nagar**-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, **Siripur**-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, **Sushree fashion**- Jagmara-9938714347, **Shree Vision**- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, **Unit-3**-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, **Unit-7**- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, **VSS Nagar**-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, **XIMB Square**-LD Books-9658061373.

TECH PANEL TO DECIDE FATE OF MIPs

JAJPUR FARMERS ARE HOPEFUL OF EXPANSION IN IRRIGATION NETWORK TO BOOST THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Oct 27: As irrigation is the key to growth of agriculture sector, the state and central governments have given thrust on boosting irrigation system. However, many minor irrigation projects have failed to deliver services to farmers in Jajpur.

Keeping in view the miserable condition of minor irrigation projects(MIPs) across the state, the government has formed a technical advisory committee (TAC) to look into the status of MIPs, explore their capacity expansion and extension of irrigational coverage.

It was learnt that the TAC will examine drawbacks, technical faults in construction of all the projects under minor irrigation department and suggest ways to remove bottlenecks.

Dams, tunnels, sluice gates and power houses will be examined by the TAC. Farmers have alleged that there have been big irregularities in construction of MIPs in Jajpur for which the projects are unable to meet the irrigational targets set by the government. They are hopeful that the



TAC will look into the irregularities and take necessary action.

As per information available from the minor irrigation department, there are 58 MIPs in 9 blocks in the district. The department has claimed that these projects irrigate 8,091 hectares of land.

However, in the current year, these projects have irrigated only 4,479 hectares, the department has said. The district has received fund to the tune of ₹3.50 crore for maintenance of MIPs in 2020-2021.

But it was alleged that such massive fund has not been utilised properly as contractors have allegedly

minted money by compromising with quality work. As a result, many MIPs are unable to deliver water in the targeted areas.

The MIPs at Bhangabandh, Mangalpur; Ranibandh, Dholapathar; Badajuri, Damashala, Gandanala and Bhalukipatala are among the projects which have failed to achieve their objectives. Canals of these projects are choked with siltation and weeds. Though the department is carrying out repair and maintenance at regular intervals, condition of these projects has not improved.

Farmers said, "In urgency, we are unable to get water from these projects to save crops. The hope that we have on MIPs to save crops during drought is vanishing. In case of drought, our economy is broken."

They observed that if the TAC works in the larger interest of farmers, capacity of MIPs can be expanded.

The TAC comprises the chief engineer of the water resources department, chief engineer of the planning and design department, top engineers of survey and investigation and monitoring wings. G.Ramkrushnan, executive engineer of the MIP, said the department takes steps to ensure targeted

The TAC will examine drawbacks, technical faults in construction of all MI projects under minor irrigation department and suggest ways to remove bottlenecks

Dams, tunnels, sluice gates and power houses will be examined by the TAC. Farmers have alleged that there have been big irregularities in construction of MIPs in Jajpur for which the projects are unable to meet the irrigational targets set by the government. They are hopeful that the TAC will look into the irregularities and take necessary action

As per information available from the minor irrigation department, there are 58 MIPs in 9 blocks in the district. The department has claimed that these projects irrigate 8,091 hectares of land

irrigation coverage of the projects. He denied allegation of irregularities in te MIP maintenance.

Jumbo tramples elderly man to death in Cuttack village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nischintakoili, Oct 27: An elephant strayed into Ramaranga village under Katikata panchayat in Cuttack district and trampled a 75-year old man to death, Wednesday. The animal later destroyed houses, shops and paddy fields and whatever came its way.

The deceased was identified as Bhagabata Behera. He was dweeding his backyard when the animal strayed inside. It tried to move out but found the gate closed. Later, it tried to go over the wall and was injured. As a result, it turned violent and picked up Bhagabata on its tusk and trampled him to death. The man made all efforts to run away but failed in his bid.

It was said that the animal

strayed into the area from Jajpur to Derabish block in Kendrapara district. It soon went on a rampage and pulled down the houses of two residents in Katikata Bazaar and damaged a number of shops. Later, it made its way from Katikata via Kentalo and Kulabadakhira village and then to an islet of Luna river.

On being informed, fire, forest and police personnel rushed to the spot and launched an operation to capture the animal but in vain. Police sent the body for post-mortem and registered a case of unnatural death following a complaint by his son, Nischintakoili police IIC Chinmayee Sahu said. Forest officials launched an awareness drive asking people to stay at safe places without being unnecessarily afraid of the animal.

CALL TO END CORRUPTION



Members of a theatre outfit enacting a short play on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week at Zilla School Square in Sambalpur

OP PHOTO

BJP stages stir over Mamita murder



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Oct 27: Members of the BJP Yuva Morcha staged protests in Balasore Wednesday against deterioration in law and order, flourishing drug trade, increasing cases of atrocities on women, police excesses and women trafficking in the state. They demanded action against the people involved in the gruesome murder of teacher Mamita Meher in Kalahandi.

Hundreds of BJP's youth wing activists derailed the SP office demanding ouster of Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra for his alleged links with Gobinda Sahu, the prime accused in the murder of Mamita Meher.

The agitating BJP workers clamoured for a CBI probe into the murder case to deliver justice to the family of the victim. They shouted slogans against the state government for protecting the minister

in the gruesome murder case.

The government is hampering the investigation of the murder case because of a nexus between police and some political leaders. "We demand justice for Mamita. We will intensify our protests across the state to pressurise the government for expulsion of the minister," they shouted.

Owing to alleged lethargy of the police and the administration, crime graph in the state is rising while mafia has no fear for laws, BJP workers alleged. They said they would continue with their protests across the state until the minister is removed.

They also alleged that mafia acquires government land and sand in various parts of the state while minor girls are being trafficked to Surat, Chennai and other cities of the country. The law and order has completely collapsed in the state, they alleged. Traffic came to a standstill in Balasore town for five hours as the protesters laid siege to OT Road.

Girl found hanging at hostel, kin cry foul play

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 27: In a shocking incident, a Plus II second year student was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in her hostel room at Sakma locality under Loisinga police limits in Bolangir district Tuesday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Asha Meher. The girl studying in Plus II second year was found dead in her room of the ladies hostel of a private college where she resided in.

The matter came to the fore after two other girl students spotted her body hanging from the ceiling of her room when they visited her Tuesday evening. They later informed the hostel in-charge, who then informed police.

"Two girl students had come to the hostel during snacks break. They first saw the girl hanging and then reported warden. The college authorities, in turn, informed local police and family members of the girl student," a spokesperson of the college said. Loisinga police rushed to the hos-

tel and launched a probe into the incident, which was underway. Police have registered a case in this connection and sent the body for post-mortem.

Meanwhile, family of the deceased student suspected foul play and alleged that it was a case of murder.

"This is apparently a murder. She has cuts on her fingers. Why somebody will cut nerves and then seal the wounds with black adhesive tape and then again hang self?" the brother of the girl questioned.

Loisinga police has found two handwritten notes from the girl's room. Actual reason behind the student's death can only be ascertained after the post-mortem report comes in, a senior official said.

"The girl student's body was recovered in the presence of a magistrate and her family members. We have found two handwritten notes that were kept in a shelf of her room. The notes will be sent for scrutiny," Bolangir sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Toofan Bag stated.

Hardcore Maoist Hidma indisposed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 27: Hidma, hardcore Maoist and commander of the dreaded rebel outfit Central Committee of Communist Party of India (Maoist), has fallen ill. He is undergoing treatment at an undisclosed location, a report said. According to reports, Hidma is undergoing treatment either in Andhra Pradesh or Telangana.

Madvi Hidma, popularly known as Hidma, is the youngest member of the Maoist outfit. He is allegedly responsible for various attacks on security forces including the one on a CRPF and DRG convoy in Bijapur of Chhattisgarh in which 23 jawans were killed.

He carries a bounty of ₹25 lakh for his capture. He was last seen at the last rites of Central Maoist leader RK alias Ramkrishna. He was sick then and later his health deteriorated. Acting on this tip-off, security officials have launched a search operation at various hospitals in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to nab him.

Kandhamal man shows way in ginger farming

BANGAR KANHAR BEGAN FARMING WITH ₹10 AND NOW EARNS ₹3 LAKH ANNUALLY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Oct 27: Most people in Phiringia block of Kandhamal district know about farmer Bangar Kanhar. He has carved out a name for himself in ginger farming. He earns in lakhs annually.

Bangar started ginger farming in a small way by investing only Rs10. By dint of his hard work and dedication, he has successfully taken his farming in three years to such a height that it earns him ₹3 lakh per annum.

The story of his ginger cultivation goes like this: Bangar's wife Bhanumati had gone to Phiringia local market three years ago. She had bought vegetables from the market. Among those was a bunch of ginger worth ₹10. She used a major part of the ginger in curries and buried the rest around a cow dung pit. Some days later, ginger sprouted and grew luxuriantly.

The family of Bangar took care of the ginger plants. The family first harvested 5 kg of ginger in 2018. Enthused, the family decided to take up the ginger farming in a bigger way in 2019.

In the current year, Bangar has harvested about four quintals of ginger.



He strengthened his financial condition by selling the ginger in the local markets. In fact, organically grown ginger has a good demand in the market. This ginger does not rot easily, he said. But there is a need for promoting some sustainable practices among farmers.

Kandhamal is famous for its turmeric variety. Many people have shown interest in organic ginger cultivation in some pockets due to good climate. Ginger cultivation usually begins in February and ginger matures in November or December.

Experts say, ginger can emerge as a

major alternative crop in a tribal-dominated block like Phiringia.

"Earlier, ginger was being sold for anything between ₹100 and ₹120 per kg. Due to pandemic-induced market situation, its price has come down," the family said.

However, his ginger is sought after by local people in the market. Bangar has a daughter, who is pursuing Plus Two. With earnings from the ginger farming, he bears the cost of her education. He wants his daughter to pursue higher studies.

He cultivates ginger, vegetables and mango in his three acres of land. "But lack of irrigation facility is a problem here. I have applied for a farm pond," he said. Now, he irrigates his farmland with the water from a nearby creek.

"If I get government help, I will expand the ginger farming," he said. Bangar is exploring farming of various other cash crops with best practices so as to introduce the viable crops in his farmland.

"Bangar's application for a farm pond has been approved. The pond will be dug soon," said Rashmiranjan Mohanta, BDO of Phiringia block.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CUTTACK N.H. DIVISION, CUTTACK

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Email ID: nhcuttack@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. 1 of 2021-22
Dtd.25.10.2021

Letter No. 1869

1. The Executive Engineer, Cuttack N.H. Division, Cuttack on behalf of Government of Odisha invites **Percentage Rate Bids in Single Cover System in Online Mode** for the construction of works as detailed in the table, from the class of eligible contractors as mentioned in Column - 4 (Four) registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class Registered with Central Government/MES/Railways/CPWD for execution of civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid. If successful, the bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the appropriate registering authority of the State Government of Odisha in appropriate class of eligibility before award of the work.

2. The bidders may submit bids for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Value of work put to Tender (Rs.)	Class of Bidder	Concerned Tender Inviting Authority (TIA)	Security Amount (Rs.)* Online	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.) Online	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
01	CDR to NH-55 such as Providing BM and SDBC from Km 286/725 to 287.137 Km and Extension of HPC at Km 337/560 and 338/750 Km and repair to Slab culvert at 339/679 Km for the year 2021-22.	Rs.10,94,093.00	"D" and "C"	Executive Engineer N.H. Division, Cuttack	Exempted against Declaration	Rs.6,000/-	3 (Three) Months
02	CDR to NH-20 such as Providing SDBC and depression filling with BM from Km 186/160 to 186/210 Km, Km 263/972 to 264/950 Km and Km 265/698 Km to 266/504 Km for the year 2021-22.	Rs.23,53,943.00	"C" and "B"	Executive Engineer N.H. Division, Cuttack	Exempted against Declaration	Rs.6,000/-	3 (Three) Months

3. The detailed Bid documents will be available in the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in from 01.11.2021 to 10.11.2021 for online bidding.

4. Corrigendum if required subsequently shall be available in above mentioned website only.

5. The authority reserves right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Sd./- (Er. Rakesh Kumar Rout)
Executive Engineer, N.H. Division, Cuttack
OIPR-34047/11/0001/2122

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

26th October to 1st November 2021

INDEPENDENT INDIA @ 75 : SELF RELIANCE WITH INTEGRITY

AN APPEAL TO CUSTOMERS

- Please do not pay anything over and above the legitimate charges.
- Please insist on receipt/ticket for payment made by you.
- If you come across any employee of the railway demanding bribe or indulging in malpractice, please send your complaint to **Sr. Deputy General Manager (SDGM), East Coast Railway, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751017, Telephone No. 0674-2300230, FAX No. 0674-2301328 and E-mail ID: sdgm@ecor.railnet.gov.in / website: <http://www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in>**
- Please sign the complaint and give proper address. All such complaints are investigated and appropriate action taken. In case you want to keep your name secret then kindly mention the same in your complaint and send the complaint in a closed / secured envelope, addressed to **The Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission, Satarkata Bhawan, Block-A, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023 duly superscribing "Complaint under the Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers" or "PIDPI" on the envelope.**
- The guidelines for lodging PIDPI (Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers) / **Whistle Blower** complaints is available on Vigilance webpage of East Coast Railway under **"Complaint Policy"** (<https://eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in> →About Us→HQ Department→Vigilance Department→Complaint Policy)
- If you have any complaint regarding Corruption in Railways, you can ring up & inform on Vigilance Helpline No. 8455885031.



EAST COAST RAILWAY
www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

PR-44/MZ1-22



In each heart, the Divine's Presence is the promise of future and possible perfections.

THE MOTHER

Wake-Up Call

Epidemiologists tell us that COVID-19 was not a 'black swan.' In our lifetime, there will be pandemics that are equally if not more severe. And when the next one comes, China, Singapore, and maybe Vietnam will be better prepared because they have learned from this terrible experience. Pretty much everyone else, including most of the G20, will be just as vulnerable as they were when COVID-19 hit.

But how can that be? After all, isn't the world still battling the worst pandemic in a century, which has now killed almost five million people and forced governments to spend \$17 trillion (and counting) to mitigate the economic damage? And haven't world leaders commissioned top experts to figure out what went so wrong and how we can do better?

The expert panels have now reported back, and they all say more or less the same things. The world does not spend enough on monitoring infectious-disease outbreaks, despite their potential to become pandemics. We lack strategic reserves of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical oxygen, or spare vaccine production capacity that could quickly be ramped up. And the international agencies charged with global health security lack clear mandates and sufficient funding, and are not adequately accountable. Simply put, no one is in charge of the pandemic response and so no one is responsible for it.

Moreover, knowing what we need to do is not the same as actually doing it. We seem unable to get our global act together to make the necessary pandemic-related decisions. Instead, policymakers may well end up implementing a series of half measures – in the G20, the United Nations, the World Health Assembly in Geneva, and via unilateral decisions by some countries – and try to fund them on the cheap. These steps will help, but they will never get the job done. Imagine putting a fire alarm on every second floor of an apartment building and hoping for the best.

Such an approach is difficult to comprehend. If the United States is happy to pay the cost of maintaining a strategic oil reserve with three months' supply, then surely it is also worth having a strategic reserve of production facilities for PPE, diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics. Similarly, the US military alone spends over \$5 billion a year to maintain 189,800 reserve troops, even though it hopes never to have to use them. Would it not be a good deal for the world to spend \$15 billion a year on preventing pandemics in order to avoid spending tens of trillions to respond to one?

Of course it would. So, what is holding the world back from doing what is needed to avert another COVID-19-type catastrophe? First and foremost, most political systems encourage a short collective attention span. Politicians and voters are done with pandemics. Now they want to focus on building back better, and the international agenda has moved on to other topics.

To be sure, national policymakers know they cannot just walk away from the pandemic, so they will delegate it to the World Health Organisation and other agencies. But only a year ago, many were vociferously complaining that these bodies were not equipped to do the job. The fact is that they have not even come close to defeating COVID-19, which is still raging in a majority of low- and middle-income countries, owing to the pathogen's dynamics and the slow pace of vaccination.

The global health agencies are nonetheless happy to take back this agenda, because most of them still believe that pandemic preparedness and prevention are strictly health-sector issues. But COVID-19 has made it clear that they are not. Heads of governments and finance ministers must take ownership of these matters alongside health officials.

Yet, after the unprecedented public spending of the past 18 months, finance ministers are under pressure to cut back. Programmes that involve spending more money now to avert some possible future crisis may look like easy targets. But downsizing them won't look so smart when the chickens come home to roost.

Lastly, there is bureaucratic resistance to an exercise that promises to consolidate or remake organisations and introduce new mechanisms to retrofit governance systems for purpose. Instead, they will cobble together a few improvements and declare success.

Is this a lost cause? After the tragic wake-up call of COVID-19, will the next pandemic catch us sleeping again? I believe not, but only if G20 heads of government recognise that pandemics are a national and global security threat and expend some political capital to shift the international health-security machinery from its current equilibrium. The bold changes the world needs will not happen unless global political leaders establish a vision. The upcoming G20 leaders' summit in Rome October 30-31 is the right moment to get it done.

The writer is President of the Center for Global Development.

©Project Syndicate

WISDOM CORNER

- “ One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star. ”
- FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE
- “ Talent hits a target no one else can hit; genius hits a target no one else can see. ”
- ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER
- “ To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment. ”
- RALPH WALDO EMERSON

WORDSWORTH

■ Placeshifting

This is the spatial analogue to timeshifting, which is the older and better established term for recording a TV programme to watch at a later time. When you placeshift, you instead redirect the TV signal from your cable box, satellite television connection or computer so you can watch a programme on a device somewhere else. That might be in another room in the house or on a mobile phone or a PDA (personal digital assistant) anywhere in the world. The term was invented in 2005 by Sling Media, the makers of the Slingbox, a personal video recorder that provides the service. Placeshifting is mainly restricted to specialist journals, but the concept is getting a lot of attention, not least from mobile operators who see it as a way to get their customers to use the currently under-exploited video facilities on their mobile devices. It is also being watched – but in a more negative light – by broadcasters, who are worried about matters such as copyright infringement. Like so many new technological ideas, it's the focus of a lot of hype at the moment, so it might yet turn out to be a solution to a problem that nobody thinks actually exists. It's quite clear that a wave of placeshifting technologies is on its way. The implications of such a wave at first seem to mean rough seas for wireless carriers. The spread of placeshifting will ultimately put wireless carriers on a crash course to compete with the full suite of video offerings from pay-TV and the Internet (The Online Reporter, 9 September 2006). With placeshifting, you can record the college football game you're missing on Saturday afternoon and then view it on your notebook PC that same night at a hotel hot spot. Once placeshifting becomes a reality for a PC/TV, however, digital entertainment systems will become more compelling (PC Magazine, 5 December 2006).

THE OPENING OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS ENRICHED MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHIFT PROFITS TO WHEREVER THE CORPORATE TAX RATE IS LOWEST

HOWSOEVER WE MIGHT BE AVERSE TO ENGLISH AS A COLONIAL BAGGAGE OF THE PAST, IT REMAINS THE GLOBAL BUSINESS LANGUAGE WHICH CANNOT BE DENIED NOR CAN BE WIPED AWAY

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, Rasulgarih Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

FOCUS GLOBAL INEQUITY

TAX THE RICH!

“The taxation system has tilted toward the rich, and away from the middle class, in the last ten years. It is dramatic, and I don't think it's appreciated. And I think it should be addressed.” So said the billionaire investor Warren Buffett 18 years ago. He illustrated his claim by surveying his office staff: although he was then the world's second-richest person, he was paying a lower percentage of his income in taxes than his receptionist was.

Since then, economic inequality has only gotten worse, partly because of the rise of tech stocks that are immensely valuable but do not declare dividends. In 2020, six of the 10 wealthiest Americans – Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Warren Buffett, Larry Page, Sergei Brin, and Elon Musk – were major shareholders of corporations that do not pay dividends. Together, they were worth \$500 billion, or 0.5 per cent of total US wealth.

Last month, a paper from the White House, co-authored by economists from the Council of Economic Advisers and the Office of Management and Budget, estimated that America's 400 wealthiest families, all of whom had wealth exceeding \$2 billion, paid federal income tax at an average rate of 8.2 per cent if gains in unsold stock are counted as income. The average American taxpayer paid 13.3 per cent of their income in federal tax.

The US budget deficit, as a percentage of GDP, is now at its second-highest level since 1945. In poll after poll, Americans say that they want the rich to pay higher taxes, which would reduce the deficit and improve equity as well. Yet Congress does not raise taxes on the rich.

Consider the egregious 'carried interest' loophole in the US tax code, which permits investment fund managers to pay lower tax on the fees they receive from their clients, as if those fees were capital gains, rather than income.



In 2020, six of the 10 wealthiest Americans – Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Warren Buffett, Larry Page, Sergei Brin, and Elon Musk – were major shareholders of corporations that do not pay dividends. Together, they were worth \$500bn

President Joe Biden has said that he wants the loophole closed, but tax reform proposals must pass through the House Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Richard Neal. In 2007 Neal, a Democrat, supported an unsuccessful attempt to close the loophole. Then he started receiving big donations from the corporate sector, including \$2.9 million for his 2020 campaign alone. Last month, the House Ways and Means Committee released its tax reform proposals. Closing the carried interest loophole was not among them.

The conclusion is inescapable: The United States is no longer a democracy. It is a plutocracy. But countries in which money has less influence on legislation are also struggling to tax the rich. The Pandora Papers, released earlier this month by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, shows how wealthy people in more than 200 countries and territories are keeping their assets offshore, many of them to avoid taxes.

Among them was Brazil's finance minister, Paulo Guedes, who has ultimate responsibility for raising the revenue his country needs, but who has moved nearly \$10 million of his own and his family's money to the British Virgin Islands. Andrej Babiš, the Czech Republic's Prime Minister when the papers were released, claimed that his decision to put assets into offshore accounts involved no wrongdoing. The electorate may have been skeptical: he subsequently lost a close election.

When leaders of the G20, which comprises the world's major advanced and emerging economies, meet in Rome this week, they are expected to endorse an agreement to tax large corporations at a minimum rate of 15 per cent. The aim is to end a 'race to the bottom' that has driven down corporate tax rates as countries compete to attract investment. But the agreement will be phased in over ten years and has significant exemptions. Even for corporations that do not qualify for an exemption,

the 15 per cent minimum rate is lower than most firms based in developed countries pay.

Is there anything else that the G20 could do about the tax inequity between the rich and most working people? The economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman of the University of California, Berkeley have suggested a wealth tax of 0.2 per cent annually on the value of all publicly listed corporations' stock. Such a tax, they note, is progressive, because the rich own a lot of corporate stock, and the poor own none. It is also difficult to evade, because the value of a corporation's stock is public.

Moreover, Saez and Zucman point out that a wealth tax would not affect the availability of corporate finance, because publicly traded companies can issue more stock (slightly diluting the value of existing shares) and pay the tax in kind to governments, which can then sell the stock on the market. Extending the tax to large private corporations would also be feasible, using standard methods of valuation.

The opening of the global economy over the past 30 years lifted hundreds of millions of people out of extreme poverty, but it also enriched multinational corporations, which have been able to shift profits to wherever the corporate tax rate is lowest. The G20 can take one step toward remedying that by accepting the proposed 15 per cent minimum rate, but that will leave untouched the wealth that comes from startups that are not making profits but still have soaring stock prices. The G20 countries can meet that problem by adopting a wealth tax along the lines Saez and Zucman recommend.

The writer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, is Founder of the non-profit organisation The Life You Can Save.

© PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM EDUCATION

NEP: Does it require a revisit?

The Union minister of education has recently announced that the new Education Policy (NEP) to teach professional courses like medical and engineering at graduate level through vernacular medium will start from the current academic session which is a mission project of the Narendra Modi government.

The bug of NEP started biting the NDA government since its inception but was formally announced in 2020 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech. We wonder why such an important policy decision was not announced by then HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar. Of course putting any plug in any socket is the hallmark of the Modi Cabinet. Therefore you find the law minister holding press conference on farmers' issue and the finance minister sermonising media on law and order.

It was also announced that to implement the NEP a committee will be set-up under the chairmanship of the secretary, Higher Education, Amit Khare, to achieve the Prime Minister's vision that students may pursue professional courses in their mother tongue.

To me this exercise appears like putting the cart before the horse. The ideal thing should have been that if a change in education policy is required, the suggestions should come from the academicians, students, bureaucrats and

other stakeholders like industry or educational institutions. Here, the vision comes from the PM and the bureaucrats are advised to implement it.

Providing technical education in regional languages requires teachers proficient in undertaking classes in the vernacular medium along with textbooks and reference materials in regional languages, besides technological assistance such as audio translation aids and other things.

The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) is providing publication grants towards the publications of university-level books in regional languages.

The National Translation Mission (NTM) is being implemented through the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore under which the textbooks of various subjects prescribed in universities and colleges are being translated in all languages of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. This is being done since 1961 without much success except in some liberal arts subjects.

Now let's examine the hazards of teaching professional courses in a dozen Indian languages enumerated in the Eight Schedule of the Constitution.

First, do we have standard textbooks in science subjects, leave alone professional subjects? The various terminologies of physics,

chemistry, engineering, medicine in English used internationally have a distinct meaning and which have been developed over roughly a thousand years. Can we teach the technical subjects translating them into a dozen vernacular languages?

Secondly, even if we award a half-baked degree of B Tech in Odia after three-four years, can the candidate find a job in companies like TCS, Infosys, Deloitte, and SAP? He/she will not find a job even outside Odisha in Tamil Nadu or Kerala. Finding a job abroad will remain a distant dream.

Remember in 1970s or early 1980s Odisha's boys and girls used to corner around 8 to 10 per cent of total posts in Civil Services in UPSC. When medium of instruction was changed to Odia at college level, there started a steady decline. A similar fate was faced by Allahabad University and Calcutta University also because they switched over to vernacular medium. The Communist government of West Bengal under Jyoti Basu discontinued English at primary and middle school level in 1980s. After almost 25 years, noticing a steady downward trend in quality of education, towards the fag end of the Communist rule they realised their folly and reintroduced English from primary school level upwards. However, despite introduction of Hindi medium in Bihar, the students through coaching classes

and private schools continued in English medium and cornered most of the non-technical government jobs at all-India level.

At the turn of the century, when software revolution invaded the whole world, Indians reaped the fruits because they had mastered the English language, the international language of commerce, which became the international link language of the IT revolution. More industrious and dedicated workers of Malaysia, Indonesia, and China were left behind in the software sector because their students had university education in their regional languages. Of late, they too have started learning English to remain competitive in the IT sector.

Howsoever we might be averse to English as a colonial baggage of the past, it remains the international business language which cannot be denied nor can be wiped away. Nationalism or vote bank politics should be kept aside for the sake of future generations of this country. Hence the much touted NEP needs to be revisited by a group of unbiased professionals and educationists not by the voice vote of Parliament where unfortunately intellectual input is steadily declining.

The writer is a former additional member, HR & Staff, Railway Board. Views are personal.

Gracious in defeat

Sir, Winning and losing is part of the game. The best thing is participation. Sport should remain above religion and politics. Sport is a cementing force that teaches us the values of humility, cooperation, fellow-feeling and tolerance. India's defeat against Pakistan in its first match of the T20 World Cup is disheartening. But, it is not the end of the world. Cricket is called 'the glorious game of uncertainties'. It is a gentleman's game. Let not cricket sow the seeds of communal hatred and jingoism. A defeated team may bounce back and prove its critics wrong. There were celebrations in some parts of the country after Team India's debacle. This is unfortunate and uncalled for. A team can't win all the time. There are ups and downs in every profession. A psychological coach should be appointed to boost the morale of Team India. We should stand by Team India at this critical juncture. Deriding and lampooning Team India for its defeat will only weaken its morale. One should be gracious in defeat. Our reach must exceed our grasp. Best of luck Team India, the country stands with you.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Energy transition

Sir, India's overdependence on fossil fuel makes it imperative to develop and sell zero or negative-carbon footprint products. Such an energy transition includes solar, wind, electricity and green hydrogen. Green hydrogen is a non-fossil fuel based clean gas that can substitute fossil fuel. India has ample opportunities in production of green hydrogen. In such a scenario, India needs to establish itself as a green hydrogen hub. Policy must be formulated to create demand for green hydrogen. A lot of things need to be taken into account for this. There must be integration of green hydrogen with existing industries. Green hydrogen purchase must be made mandatory for industries. Decarbonisation of other sectors must happen in tandem. There must be provision for domestic manufacturing of green hydrogen. Indigenous manufacturing of parts of the supply chain must be promoted. This will make the country self-reliant. It will also create job opportunities. As climate change is a global problem, any attempt to mitigate it is considered good for humanity. If India succeeds in properly channelising its efforts toward its transition to green hydrogen, the country will definitely become a global economic leader.

Venu GS, KOLLAM (KERALA)

Brown sugar worth ₹1.3 crore seized in Bhadrak, two held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 27: Continuing raids, police again seized 1.30 kg of brown sugar valued at Rs 1.3 crore in Bhadrak Wednesday. Police arrested two persons who supplied the contraband from Jaleswar area of Balasore.

Reports said, Bhadrak police were checking on mask wearing by commuters and bikers at Randia. They intercepted two people coming on a bike without wearing helmets and masks.

On seeing the police, the two ran away, leaving their bike. However, they were chased and caught by police. On checking, 1.30 kg of brown sugar was found in the bike and confiscated.

On being interrogated, the two revealed that they had procured the



Police were checking on mask wearing by commuters at Randia when they intercepted two bikers without helmets and masks

narcotics from Jaleswar and were transporting it to Ganijang. The police had also seized 3 mobile phones and a bike from the accused.

Addressing a presser, Bhadrak SP, Charan Singh Meena said, "Police started an investigation into the matter. The two were identified as Srikanth Pradhan and Arun Sethi of Ganijang."

He added that police were conducting a routine check, they noticed two accused trying to escape from

the spot and the cops on duty suspecting something fishy, chased the duo that led to the arrest and seizure of contrabands. They arrested duo will be produced in court.

It may be noted here that despite raids and seizure, drug peddlers and mafias have been carrying out their illegal trade in Jaleswar area of the neighbouring Balasore district. In the last few weeks, police and excise officials have made several seizure of the contraband.

Nayagarh beneficiaries allege corruption

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Oct 27: The names of eligible applicants who have been orphaned due to Covid-19 in Nayagarh district are not being enlisted under the state government's Ashirbad scheme and officials in charge allegedly demand bribes for enlistment, locals alleged Wednesday.

Allegedly, bribe to the tune of ₹1,000 is being demanded for enlisting the names. Applications are rejected in case money is not paid to officials. A written complaint in this regard was also made against the district child protection unit (DCPU) officer before Nayagarh Collector Poma Tudu by a number of locals Monday.

Denizens have demanded an inquiry into the issue along with stringent action against the official on being found guilty.

"My wife died August 8, 2021 due to Covid-19 while she was undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The district child protection officer



Satya Ranjan Das demanded ₹1,000 from me when I went to the unit's office and applied on behalf of my only daughter," Bina Nayak from Adipada village under Nuagaon block said.

"After I expressed inability to pay the demanded amount, Das returned my application saying that it was not filled properly. The application cannot be processed the official warned me. I am an uneducated person," Nayak added.

Seeking anonymity, another local woman said that she got her ap-

plication granted by paying a bribe of ₹1,000.

On being contacted, the CPO Das said, "I have never asked anyone for bribe. The allegations levelled by a man from Adipada village are baseless. When I said that I have not received any application in his name, the man applied again. However, it did not contain the requisite death certificate of his wife for which I returned the application."

So far, around 630 eligible beneficiaries have been registered



Artists staging a street play to raise awareness on Covid vaccination drive in a village under Muniguda block of Rayagada district

OP PHOTO

Wild elephant wreaks mayhem in Jaipur dist

AGENCIES

Jaipur, Oct 27: A wild elephant has strayed into some villages in Jaipur district and destroyed acres of sugarcane crops, locals said.

Residents of six villages in Rasulpur block said they had spotted the wild elephant in the early hours of Tuesday. The elephant from the Mahavinayak Reserve Forest in Jaipur apparently ventured into the human habitat in search of food.

People remained indoors in fear of the tusker, said Bijay Jena, a local said. Forest officials from Bairi and Tomka range reached the area Tuesday morning. They tried to drive it away from the sugarcane field by beating drums and flashing lights.

The wild elephant is in the sugarcane fields of Nunupur on Tuesday night and panic-struck villagers are burning tyres and wood in the night.

Over 50 Forest Department per-



sonnel are taking all measures to prevent the elephant from damaging houses and crops, Cuttack Divisional Forest Officer Sanjaya Swain said.

Electricity officials are resorting to power cuts in the area to prevent the elephant from entering human habitations, Swain said.

We are trying to drive it away from the area and take it to its natural habitat areas of Mahavinayak forest, the official added.

PUBLIC OUTREACH



As part of an awareness drive, police personnel interacting with local people about crime control and quick response at Chhatrapur in Ganjam, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

No power supply to 37 tribal villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

Raigarh, Oct 27: Both the central and the state governments are spending crores of rupees toward rural electrification. But many remote and tribal-dominated villages in Nabarangpur district are still in the dark. Electricity is still a dream for them. There are villages in Raigarh block where people still illuminate their house with oil lamps, a report said.

Gudripara village of Jodingan panchayat is a case in point. The village is on the borders of Chhattisgarh. The villagers are angry over lack of electricity and said they would give right reply to leaders in the coming elections.

It was learnt that there are 37 such villages under Raigarh block where electricity is yet to be provided.

As many as 50 families, mostly tribals, living in the village have



been awaiting electricity over years. They are upset over the difficulties they have to undergo without lighting facilities.

"Both the administration and the people's representatives have hardly paid attention to our de-

velopment and basic facilities like electricity. The electrification work in the village has not gone beyond installation of electric implements, boards and meters in houses. Elections come and go, but leaders only assure to do everything. In

reality, nothing is done for us," some villagers lamented.

As there is little hope for electricity, some people out of frustration have removed electric implements from their houses.

Villagers like Menganath Gand, Jugdev Gand, Dul Gand, Sadu Gand and Ramesh Gand said they have drawn the attention of the administration toward the need for lighting in the village, but to no avail. "Several other villages have been electrified. Our village has been left out. Elections are coming and leaders will get their replies," villagers rued.

As for the issue, junior engineer of the energy department, Pradip Kumar Choudhary said a proposal has been given to the administration to include the village in Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana.

He also said proposals have been sent for provision of electricity in 37 villages under this block.

Youth held for impregnating minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Oct 27: Police Wednesday arrested a youth on charge of impregnating a 12-year old girl on the pretext of marriage under Gochhapada police limits and Phiringia block in Kandhamal district.

The accused was identified as Ramprasad Kanhar, 22. He was arrested over a complaint lodged by the survivor's father. The survivor was taken for a medical examination and later shifted to a short-stay home. According to police, the survivor, a student of Class-VII came in contact with the youth and developed an affair with him. Later, Ramprasad lured her for physical relationship on the pretext of marriage.

The matter came to the fore after the family members, noticed change in the girl's behaviour, questioned her. The girl disclosed the matter before her family members. Later, her father lodged a complaint in the Gochhapada police station, October 9.

Apprehending arrest, Ramprasad fled the village. He was nabbed Wednesday when a tip-off alerted police about his moving in Phulbani town.

No end to plight of Bonda tribals in Malkangiri

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 27: The Centre and the state government have launched a host of schemes for the development of the primitive Bonda tribals in Bondaghat under Khairaput block of this district, a report said.

However, the tribe continues to live a life of drudgery and deprivation. The Bondas are a unique tribal community who live in isolated hill regions of Malakangiri district.

Reports said the tribals are especially known for their unique types of attires, food habits, habitats and traditional living. Tourists from within and outside of the country visit them to click their photographs and earn lakhs from it. Realizing this, the state government has banned foreign tourists from clicking photographs of Bondas without permission.

The Bonda population has sharply declined. To arrest the fall in their number, the Centre and the state government have taken a host of measures to bring them into the mainstreams. The government is providing them with good roads, healthcare facilities, drinking water, power and education facilities. Realizing the popu-

lation and cultural decline, the state government has formed the Bonda Development Agency (BDA) in 1977.

Various non-governmental outfits, tribal development agencies and voluntary outfits are working for their uplift. However, their problem is far from being resolved as they continue to fall prey to unscrupulous labour agents from Andhra Pradesh. These agents lure them to work in various units in the neighbouring state where they are invariably exploited.

The matter came to the fore after Bonda girls Sangeeta Kirsani, Nandini Kirsani, Muskan Kirsani, Padmini Kirsani and Shanti Batri of Badbel village under Andhrhal panchayat of Bonda hill narrated their ordeal before social activist Duryodhan Patra when he visited the village. Patra has filed a complaint in this regard before the district legal services authority which has been registered for a hearing.

Sangeeta and Nandini were students of Plus II first year in Gobindpalli College while Muskan, Padmini and Shanti were studying in Khairaput, Pangam and Kadamguda high schools respectively. They are now living in their villages as their schools and colleges have remained shut for Covid.



Students have online classes. However, they are unable to attend such classes due to lack of internet facilities in their villages.

This is not an isolated case as students living in over 30 villages in Bondaghat are unable to attend their online classes and whiling away their time due to lack of internet facilities in their villages.

Aware of the situation, the labour agents from Andhra Pradesh visit

the villages and lure the gullible tribals with money to send their wards with them to work in their state.

The labour agents reach the villages of Bondaghat passing via Ankadeli and Lamtaput in Koraput district. They pay some money to the parents of the young labourers as advance and traffic the boys and girls as young as 13 years to Andhra.

The agents prepare fake Aadhaar

The Bonda population has sharply declined in the district. To arrest the fall in their number, the Centre and the state government have taken a host of measures to bring them into the mainstreams

Realizing the decline in their population and culture, the state government has formed the Bonda Development Agency (BDA) in 1977

Labour agents are active in the villages of Bondaghat passing via Ankadeli and Lamtaput in Koraput district. They pay some money to the parents of the minor boys and girls as advance and traffic them to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh

cards of these youths before trafficking them to Andhra Pradesh. According to the tribals, many of the trafficked youths have died while working there. Still many of them have managed to come back after falling ill and died due to lack of treatment facilities.

Over 2000 youths and children have been trafficked to Andhra Pradesh and are engaged in various hazardous units. Recently, the

sisters of Padma Sisha and Shanti Batri died after returning from Andhra Pradesh. Their fathers died soon after.

In the absence of livelihood opportunities, Shanti also left for Andhra Pradesh where she found several Bonda girls of her area engaged in immoral activities. She came back and now lives with in her village with hardship.

According to Soma Kirshani of Badbel and Manda Batri of Andhrhal village, a majority of the girls are engaged in prawn processing units where they come in contact with toxic chemicals.

The tribals said the claim that students in 30 Bonda villages receive online education and teachers personally visit these villages to teach them is false. This correspondent tried to contact Malkangiri Collector over phone but failed to get his response as his phone was not connected.

Madan Mohan Paika, district labour officer (DLO), said he is yet to receive any complaint regarding trafficking of the Bonda youths to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

Narayan Das, district child protection officer (DCPO) replied in the same vein but assured to conduct a probe and take action on receipt of any complaint.

Kashmiri students probed for cheering Pak win

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Srinagar, Oct 27: Police have launched an investigation after several hundred students in Kashmir celebrated India's recent defeat to Pakistan in the ICC T20 Cricket World Cup, officials said Wednesday.

Around 300 students in two top Srinagar medical colleges gathered in two hostels watching the match Sunday and burst into celebrations when Pakistan crushed India in the high-octane contest in Dubai.

Videos of the students shouting 'long live Pakistan' went viral. Footage also showed thousands of people in the city and several other towns cheering on the streets and setting off firecrackers in support of Pakistan.

Tuesday, police opened two investigations under the Unlawful Prevention Activities Act (UAPA) and raided one of the hostels, but no one was detained, a police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"The videos are being closely scrutinised to identify cheerleaders who raised pro-Pakistan and anti-Indian slogans at the end of the match and indulged in anti-national activities," the officer said.



India has used the vaguely-worded UAPA legislation against thousands of Kashmiri residents, journalists and dissidents, according to activists.

It allows people to be held for six months – often rolled over – without being charged

Instead of trying to ascertain why educated youth choose to identify with Pakistan, GOI (Government of India) resorted to vindictive actions

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | EX-CM

and bail is virtually impossible.

In a separate similar incident, police detained six residents in the Jammu region of the territory for questioning after a video showing them supporting Pakistan's cricket team emerged on social media.

"Why is loyalty to the Indian cricket team being demanded from us? Is it a crime to cheer the victory of your

300 students in two top Srinagar medical colleges gathered in two hostels watching the match Sunday and burst into celebrations when Pakistan crushed India in the high-octane contest in Dubai

favourite side? Many of us are petrified for being charged under terrorism laws or even being arrested or dismissed from college," a medical student told AFP, while declining to be named.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti took to Twitter criticising the police action, saying "Instead of trying to ascertain why educated youth choose to identify with Pakistan, GOI (Government of India) resorted to vindictive actions."

Monday, a group of Kashmiri students in the northern state of Punjab reported being attacked after they celebrated Pakistan's victory, and an Indian schoolteacher in Rajasthan was dismissed after she posted celebratory messages on social media.

Will launch party once EC clears name, symbol: Amarinder Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 27: Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Wednesday said he will launch his new political party when the Election Commission clears the name and symbol, and claimed that many people from the Congress are in touch with him.

"I am forming a party. But I cannot tell you the name right now. When the Election Commission (EC) approves the name and symbol, only then I can tell you. Let us wait for the EC to approve," he said during his first press conference after resigning as the CM last month.

He also said that he will meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday to continue his efforts to resolve the issues of farmers who have been protesting against the Centre's three new agriculture laws. Singh had resigned as the Punjab CM amid a bitter power tussle with Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Responding to a question, Singh claimed many people from the Congress are in touch with him and that they will come out in the open when the time comes.



Obviously many people are with us. We are waiting for the opportune moment... If Rahul Gandhi needs to have back-to-back meetings with Punjab Congress MLAs, what does it mean?

AMARINDER SINGH | EX-PUNJAB CM

"Obviously many people are with us. We are waiting for the opportune moment. But I will not take their names as my supporters are already being harassed," he said. Asked how many MLAs are in touch with him, the former CM said, "If Rahul Gandhi needs to have back-to-back meetings with Punjab Congress MLAs, what does it mean?"

On not resigning yet from the Congress, he said, "I have spent 50 years in the Congress, how does it matter if I stay for another 10 days?" Singh had last week said that he would soon launch his own party, and that he was hopeful of a

seat adjustment with the BJP provided the ongoing farmers' stir was resolved in their interest.

He also asserted that he had never spoken of aligning with the BJP, and that all he wanted was seat sharing. "In military parlance, it means concentration of forces," he said while stating that he had, however, not yet talked to the saffron party in this regard.

The leader further said he had no intention of aligning with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), but only with breakaway Akali groups.

"To defeat the Congress, SAD and AAP, we all have to work as a joint force," he asserted.

Punjab calls special Assembly session on extra powers to BSF



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ludhiana, Oct 27: The Punjab Cabinet Wednesday approved summoning of the special session of the state Assembly November 8 to oppose the Centre's notification extending the jurisdiction of the BSF from 15 km to 50 km along the International Border.

A demand will also be made during the session to repeal the three farm laws.

The decision on the session has been taken after consensus on the issue at the all-party meeting held at Chandigarh October 25, an official statement said here.

In another decision, the Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi gave approval to the Punjab Anti Red Tape Rules, 2021 framed by the Governance Reforms and Public Grievances department.

The Act shall be applicable to all departments and their attached or subordinate offices including all units of local self-government, boards, corporations, public sector enterprises, societies, trusts, commissions or autonomous bodies

established or constituted by an Act of the State Legislature or whose expenditure is met from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

It shall also ensure that all the entities would mandatorily simplify their process to reduce the burden of compliances by at least 50 per cent within a period of six months of the commencement of this Act.

The Act would also provide for disciplinary as well as financial penalties against erring officials for violations committed under this Act, the statement said.

In a bid to promote ease of doing business in the state, the Cabinet also gave a go ahead to the amendments in Punjab Right to Business Act, 2020 for inclusion of expansion by existing Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the purview of the Act.

The amendment in the Act provides an enabling eco-system for self-declaration, exemptions, speedier approvals and inspections for existing MSMEs to expand and operate in the state.

The cabinet also allowed faceless assessment of GST and VAT.

NIA carries out raids on Jamaat activists in J&K



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Oct 27: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out raids Wednesday at around a dozen places involving the activists of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) organisation.

Police sources said the NIA sleuths assisted by the local police and the CRPF raided the premises of JeI activists in Budgam, Bandipora and other districts. Sources said these raids are part of the ongoing investigation being carried out by the NIA into the terror funding case.

Earlier, the NIA had searched 61 places in 10 districts of Kashmir and four districts of Jammu during raids August 8 and 9.

In February 2019, the Centre banned the JeI for five years under anti-terror laws on grounds that it was "in close touch" with militant outfits and was expected to "escalate secessionist movement" in the erstwhile state. A notification banning the group under the UAPA was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs after a high-level meeting on security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

'India will have whole of Kashmir someday'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 27: A top Air Force officer Wednesday said there was no plan 'at the moment' to capture Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), but expressed the hope that someday India will have the 'whole of Kashmir'.

Speaking to reporters at an event here to mark the 75th anniversary of the Indian troops' Budgam landing, Air Officer Commanding in Chief (AOC-in-C) of Western Air Command, Air Marshal Amit Dev, also said the people in PoK are not being treated very fairly by the Pakistanis.

"...All the activities which were carried out by the Indian Air Force and the Army (on October 27, 1947) resulted in ensuring the freedom of this part of Kashmir. I am sure that someday, the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir will also join this part of Kashmir and we will have the whole of Kashmir in years to come," he said.

However, when asked if the force has any plans to capture the PoK, Air Marshal Dev said there



was no plan at the moment.

"(The whole of) Kashmir is one, a nation is one. People on both sides have common attachments. Today or tomorrow, history is witness, that nations come together. We do not have a plan at the moment, but, God willing, it will always be there because people in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are not being treated very fairly by the Pakistanis," he said.

Indian troops had landed in

Kashmir October 27, 1947, a day after the then Maharaja Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession with India following the Pakistani tribal raids.

The AOC-in-C of the Western Air Command said the IAF faces many challenges, but the basic one is of technology.

"The rate of change of technology is so fast in the world today that we have to keep pace with that. If any nation which is to

(The whole of) Kashmir is one, a nation is one. People on both sides have common attachments. Today or tomorrow, history is witness, that nations come together. We do not have a plan at the moment, but, God willing, it will always be there because people in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are not being treated very fairly by the Pakistanis

AIR MARSHAL AMIT DEV | AOC-IN-C OF WESTERN AIR COMMAND

(drone attacks) ready, and it was deployed here as well. We are now increasing the deployment by further procurement. Drone challenge is a small challenge and we will be able to deal with that challenge as and when it comes," he said.

He said celebrating the 75 years of Budgam landing was a historic occasion.

"After the instrument of accession was signed, we moved in our troops quickly and Srinagar airfield was saved and thereafter we launched further offensive and pushed the Pakistani military, which came as Kabalis (tribals), further back."

"I am sure if the UN had not intervened, perhaps, the entire Kashmir would have been ours," he said.

He said the IAF and the Army carried many other small missions including the operations in Poonch after an airstrip was laid there in a short span of seven days, attacks at Srinagar airfield, in Skardu on ammunition dump, and in Leh.

Punjab to scrap 40,000 cases of VAT against industrialists, traders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ludhiana, Oct 27: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi Wednesday announced to scrap 40,000 pending cases of value-added tax (VAT), out of the total 48,000 cases related to the financial years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, against traders and industrialists across the state.

He was addressing a galaxy of industrialists, traders and prospective entrepreneurs on the second day of 4th Progressive Punjab Investors Summit on the theme of 'A story of Partnership, Delivery & Growth: Investors Reassured' here.

CM Channi said only 8,000 remaining cases will be settled amicably by asking the concerned traders/ industrialists to deposit only 30 per cent of the total outstanding tax liability, thus saving them from a lot of inconvenience caused to them on this count.

He announced that they will only have to deposit 20 per cent of the tax liability during the current fiscal and the balance 80 per cent by the next.

CM Channi said this industrial-friendly initiative will go a long way in boosting their morale to invest in a big way. He added that the state government will act as a facilitator to promote the industry at new heights of glory.

Assuring of the best air connectivity to boost economic activity in the region, CM Channi also announced to lay the foundation stone of upcoming greenfield (fresh) airport at Halwara (Ludhiana) November 15 and said that the prestigious airport will be completed within eight months.

Reiterating his government's firm commitment to create a conducive ecosystem for the ease of



doing business in the state, CM Channi assured the industry of fulsome support to make Punjab the frontrunner state not within the country but across the globe.

Listing the major initiatives to repose confidence among the industrialists and traders to give further impetus to industrial growth, CM Channi said the Punjab government has already okayed several pro-investor initiatives and concessions to boost trade and industry in the state.

He added that the state government has allowed faceless assessment of GST and VAT due to which the traders and industrialists now need not to present themselves physically before the taxation officers anymore.

CM Channi further said the mobile squad, earlier comprising 14 persons, has also been reduced to only four in the taxation department adding that institutional tax in vogue since 2011 also stands abolished for promotion of trade and industry in the state.

He also announced a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for the de-

faulters to be introduced in Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation (PSIDC), Punjab Financial Corporation (PFC) and Punjab Agro Industries Corporation (PAIC).

Likewise, the CM also said an amnesty scheme will also be introduced for the plot holders of the Punjab State Industries Export Corporation (PSIEC).

CM added that fixed charges on electricity connections for medium-scale industries have been slashed to 50 per cent.

He said Rs 150 crore will be spent on the up-gradation of the infrastructure in the industrial focal points. He also announced that the state government will soon simplify the procedure for change of land use to facilitate the entrepreneurs and industrials for setting up their ventures seamlessly.

Channi further said that to boost economic activity in the border districts of the state, the Punjab government will acquire requisite land for Patti-Makhu rail link and hand it over to the Ministry of Railways before ensuing budget.

Amarinder a spent cartridge: Sidhu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 27: Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu Wednesday called former CM Amarinder Singh 'a spent cartridge' and 'Jaichand' of state politics, prompting the veteran leader to ask if he was 'dumb'.

In a clash over social media, the former CM also said if Sidhu is bent on 'destroying' the state Congress, then he is making his task 'easier'.

Calling him 'Jaichand', a medieval ruler taken as a traitor, Sidhu accused Amarinder Singh of siding with the BJP and the SAD as the CM.

"There is no suffering that pity will not insult! Were you unceremoniously dumped for good governance? & 18 point agenda shoved down the throat of poorest performing CM of Punjab.. You will be remembered as Jaichand of Punjab's political history, you are truly a spent cartridge," Sidhu said in a tweet.

"Was it pity, that a 3 member committee was formed to make you accountable? Why were MLAs against you? Because everyone knew you have collided with Badals! All you want is to defeat me, have you ever wanted Punjab to win? Your 75/25 dealings with Badals and BJP are crystal clear," alleged Sidhu.

Sidhu also said the former CM had earlier too formed his own party but he could get just over 800 votes when he contested the elections.

"Last time you formed your own party, you lost your ballot, garnering only 856 votes. People of Punjab are again waiting to punish you for compromising on the in-



terests of Punjab," said Sidhu.

Reacting to it, Amarinder Singh slammed the former cricketer and said, "You do have the knack of putting your foot in your mouth @sherryontopp! The 856 votes you are mocking came even after I withdrew my nomination from Kharar since I'd won unopposed from Samana. So what does that show? Or are you too dumb to understand?"

"If I could get those 856 votes just because my name was on the ballot paper after I withdrew from contest, do I even need to spell out what happens when I actually fight? In fact, all Punjab knows I've won LS polls twice & assembly 6 times," said Amarinder Singh's media adviser quoted him as saying.

Amarinder Singh asked Sidhu to focus on his work instead of 'wasting time' attacking him all day long.

"Unless you've made up your mind to not rest till you've destroyed @INCPunjab. And if that's the case then you're only making my task easier," said Singh.

Meanwhile, Sidhu welcomed the convening of the Punjab Assembly session November 8.



“As globalisation advances and becomes more diversified, there will only be a greater appreciation of the inter-dependence and broader footprints that the Indo-Pacific expresses

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

RAMDEV GETS HC SUMMONS

The Delhi high court Wednesday issued summons to Ramdev on a lawsuit by several doctors' associations for allegedly spreading misinformation against allopathy amid the Covid-19 pandemic, saying that the plea was not frivolous and a case for its institution was 'definitely' made out



of the day quote

There would be no shortage of DAP fertilisers in the state with the arrival of six more rakes of it from the Centre



JP DALAL | HARYANA AGRICULTURE MINISTER

I had the privilege of visiting Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya yesterday. All I prayed for there was to channelise all my strength and resources in making it possible for as many people to visit Ram Lalla in Ayodhya as I can. I wish to be the Shrawan Kumar for the elderly and help them fulfil their ardent yearning to complete their Tirth Yatra



ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

There was no national security policy. India's honour had been lost. There were scams of ₹12 lakh crore and an impression had been created that Indian democracy will collapse



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

SC declines bail to Abu Salem

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday declined to entertain a bail plea by gangster Abu Salem serving life imprisonment in the 1995 murder case of Mumbai-based builder Pradeep Jain. A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, in its order, said: "This is an application filed on behalf of the applicant/appellant seeking bail during the pendency of the appeal. Having heard learned counsel for the parties and carefully perusing the averments made in the application, we are not inclined to grant bail to the applicant/appellant, accordingly, dismissed".

Army celebrates 75th Infantry Day

New Delhi: The Indian Army celebrated its 75th Infantry Day Wednesday with Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat, Army Chief General M M Naravane, and Colonels of the Infantry regiments laying wreaths at the National War Memorial here, the Defence Ministry said.

Schools, colleges to reopen in Delhi

New Delhi: After 19 months of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic, schools in the national capital will reopen from November 1 for all classes with 50 percent student strength, though classes will continue in the hybrid mode and no student will be forced to attend them offline.

Raj teacher held for rejoicing Pak victory

Jaipur: A Rajasthan school teacher who uploaded her WhatsApp status celebrating the victory of Pakistan in the T20 World Cup was arrested by the police in Udaipur Wednesday. Ambamata police have also seized the mobile of school teacher Nafeesa Ataari and started probes in the matter.

Two get death rap in five days

Jaipur: An Ajmer POC SO court has awarded death sentence to a man for raping and killing a minor girl in June. This order comes five days after an accused was found guilty and sentenced to death in a similar case.

16 houses gutted

Shimla: Sixteen houses were gutted and around 150 people were rendered shelterless after a massive fire broke out at a village in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district Wednesday, a disaster management official said.

PEGASUS ROW

Oppn welcomes SC order



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Supreme Court Wednesday formed an expert committee that has been tasked to probe allegations of breach of privacy over the Pegasus spyware controversy. Opposition leaders welcomed the top court's move.

Congress leader Randee Surjewala tweeted shortly after the Supreme Court announced the move, slamming what he called "pseudo nationalism". "Welcome the Supreme Court order setting up a special committee to examine the misuse of spyware #Pegasus despite the Modi government's embarrassing attempts to evade, avoid and divert attention in the name of national security," he tweeted.

Surjewala sought to draw parallels between Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration and British writer George Orwell's novel 1984.

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien retweeted journalist Arvind Gunasekar's tweet on the development and wrote, "BOOM. There you go. So the BJP (and not the

Opposition) were solely responsible for DISRUPTING THE ENTIRE MONSOON SESSION of #Parliament."

Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas of the CPI(M) welcomed the Supreme Court order directing an investigation by a team of experts. "The [Supreme Court's] directions to an expert committee to make recommendations to ensure the prevention of invasion of citizens' right to privacy... is a leap forward in the area of privacy protection," he said. Brittas, in a writ petition filed before the top court, had sought a court-monitored probe handled by experts.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram Wednesday said all the "casuistry" marshalled by the Centre has been "exploded" by the Supreme Court order on the Pegasus snooping allegations and asserted that the probe ordered by it would bring out the multiple violations of law by the government.

The Pegasus spyware row erupted on July 18 after an international consortium of media outlets and investigative journalists re-

“We were asking three basic questions -- who authorised Pegasus, which agency, which person authorised Pegasus as we all know Pegasus cannot be bought by a private individual, it has to be bought by a government; the second question was who was it used against and the final thing was, did any other country have access to information of our people

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

ported that the phones of Indian ministers, politicians, activists, businessmen and journalists were among 50,000 persons who were potentially targeted by Pegasus, Israeli company NSO Group's phone hacking software.

According to the consortium, Pegasus can switch on its target's smartphone camera and microphone, as well as access data on the device.

Responding to a petitions filed by lawyers, politicians, journalists and civil rights activists, the union ministry of electronics and IT filed a three-page affidavit on August 16 that refused to confirm or deny whether it had used Pegasus spyware to carry out a surveillance programme.

The Centre instead offered to set up an expert committee to look into the controversy and "dispel any wrong narrative spread by certain vested interests".

2013 HUNKAR RALLY BLAST

Patna NIA court convicts nine

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Oct 27: The Special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court of Patna Wednesday held 9 accused guilty of bomb blast during the NDA Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi's rally in Gandhi Maidan in 2013.

Narendra Modi came to Patna to address a gathering for the 2014 parliamentary elections.

The Hunkar rally was organized in Patna's iconic Gandhi Maidan October 27, 2013. While he was addressing the rally, serial bombs were exploded in which 6 persons died and over 80 were injured.

Initially, the case was probed by Patna police but was later taken over by the NIA. The quantum of punishment will be announced November 1.

NEW LAND BORDER LAW

India criticises China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: India Wednesday hit out at China for its "unilateral" decision to bring about a new land border law and said it is a matter of concern as the legislation can have implications on the existing bilateral pacts on border management and on the overall boundary question.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India expects that China will avoid undertaking action under the pretext of the law that could unilaterally alter the situation in the India-China border areas.

He said such a "unilateral move" will have no bearing on the arrangements that both sides have already reached earlier -- be it on the boundary question or for maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). "China's unilateral decision to bring about a legislation which can have implication on our existing bilateral arrangements on border management as well as on the boundary question is of concern to us," Bagchi said. He was replying to a media query on the matter: "Such unilateral move will have no bearing on the arrangements that both sides have already reached earlier -- be it on the boundary question or for maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)."

Last week, China adopted the new law on the protection and exploitation of the land border areas

ing on the arrangements that both sides have already reached earlier; whether it is on the boundary question or for maintaining peace and tranquillity along the LAC in India-China border areas," he said. Xinhua news agency reported last week that the law, which becomes operational from January 1 next year, stipulates that "the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China are sacred and inviolable".

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The tension escalated following a deadly clash in Galwan Valley June 15 last year.

Govt announces door-to-door vaccination

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Wednesday said 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign will be launched over the next one month for door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination in poor performing districts to enthruse and motivate people towards full vaccination against the deadly infection. "No district should be without full vaccination," he said during a national review meeting with health ministers of various states and Union territories (UTs), according to a statement by the health ministry. "Har Ghar Dastak campaign to start soon in the poor performing districts to enthruse and motivate people towards full Covid vaccination. Let us aim to cover all eligible with the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine by end-November 2021," he said. Mandaviya suggested states/UTs to initiate the campaign on November 2 on the occasion of Dhanwantri Jayanti.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: The wild Himalayan fig, commonly known as 'Bedu' in Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, may be used as a safer alternative to synthetic pain relievers like Aspirin and Diclofenac, according to a study conducted on lab rats.

An international team, led by researchers at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab, noted that the popular fruit in the Himalayan region also has many other medicinal benefits such as curing skin diseases and wound infections.

In the study, Psoralen helped to block an enzyme called 'Cyclooxygenase-2' (COX-2), which is also blocked by pain relievers such as Diclofenac while Rutin helped bind the mu-opioid, a major binding site in Morphine.

The research, published in the journal Plants, concluded that the wild Himalayan fig has potential analgesic effects at different doses in general and at a 400 milligrammes per kilogram (mg/kg) dose in particular.

"Wild Himalayan fig aka Bedu are an excellent and safe plant-based alternative to the synthetic pain relievers like Aspirin and Diclofenac,"



said Dvesh Tiwari, Assistant Professor at LPU, who led the study. "Our research is the first, to establish wild Himalayan fig as a natural pain reliever. Traditionally, this fruit was used for curing back-

aches in the rural areas. So far, there was no study available on the analgesic effects of Ficus Palmata," Tiwari said.

The authors of the study noted that the most widely used drugs for

HAPPY JOURNEY



Women travel on a tractor trolley in a rural area near Ghaziabad

PTI PHOTO

Defence invokes Aryan's constitutional rights

THE BOMBAY HC HAS ADJOURNED THE MATTER FOR TOMORROW AND WILL HEAR THE FURTHER ARGUMENTS IN ARYAN'S BAIL PLEA THURSDAY

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 27: Arguing strongly for bail, Aryan Khan's lawyers on Wednesday termed his arrest was "illegal" and invoked his constitutional rights even as the Bombay High Court adjourned the matter till Thursday afternoon.

Senior counsel and former Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi and senior counsel Amit Desai, representing Aryan and Arbaaz Merchant, while lawyer Ali Kaashik Khan Deshmukh appeared for Mumtun Dhamecha, concluded their argument before Justice N. W. Sambre.

Additional Solicitor General of India Anil Singh, along with Special Public Prosecutor Adwait Sethna, appearing for Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) will reply to their arguments at the Thursday's hearing.

"The arrest memo did not give the true and correct grounds for arrest - Article 22 of the Constitution is more important than Section 50 of the CrPC. It states that no person should be held without being informed about the grounds of arrest and the person shall have the right to consult a lawyer of their choice," said Rohatgi.

He contended that the courts were misled by the NCB to believe that large quantities of drugs were recovered from the accused and said that the agency had proceeded in sheer violation of Article 22. Pointing out that while "bail is the rule and jail is the exception", Desai argued that now it has become "ar-



NCB grills Wankhede for over four hours

In an unusual turn of events, a Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) vigilance team from New Delhi Wednesday questioned the agency's Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede for nearly four and a half hours at its Bandra camp office, a top official said. The team leader Gyaneshwar Singh said that they have collected lot of documents and other evidences from him and he has submitted his version in the matter. "If needed, we shall probe further and ask for more documents in the case," Singh said this evening. Simultaneously, he said the NCB vigilance team has requested the other two "Panch-Wintesses" "Prabhakar Sailji and Kiran Gosavi-ji" to appear before them to record their statements. "We have tried to serve them the summonses at their known addresses, but we could not do so. We appeal through the media. They should both appear before us in the next two days and record their statement - especially Prabhakar Sailji whose affidavit (October 23) has resulted in this enquiry," Singh said.

rest is the rule and bail is the exception" for the police.

He submitted that the first remand application of Merchant made no mention about the conspiracy and the court at that time was misled into believing that the accused were also charged under the NDPS Act's Sections 28 and 29.

"This is a direct infringement of Constitutional guarantees. We are all available to the agencies. Bail may be granted. There has been enough custody of the two

(Aryan Khan and Merchant), who are both residents of Mumbai," Desai said.

ASG Singh said that Thursday, he would try to complete his arguments within an hour.

Meanwhile, the accused trio -- Aryan, Arbaaz and Mumtun -- detained by the NCB October 2 after the high-profile raid on the luxury ship Cordelia Cruise - and then kept in continuous custody, will spend their 26th night in jail Wednesday night.

In message to China, India tests Agni-5 missile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: In a major boost to its military might, India on Wednesday successfully test-fired surface-to-surface strategic missile Agni-5 that can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000 km with a very high degree of accuracy, officials said.

The test-firing of the nuclear-capable missile was carried out around 7:50 PM from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, they said. "The successful test of Agni-5 is in line with India's stated policy to have credible minimum deterrence that un-



FILE PHOTO

The Agni-5 missile, which uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine, is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kms with a very high degree of accuracy

derpins the commitment to 'No First Use,' the defence ministry said in a brief statement. The work on the Agni 5 intercontinental bal-

listic missile project was started over a decade ago. People familiar with the development said it was the first user trial of the missile which can bring the northernmost part of China under its striking range.

The successful test-firing of the missile, built by the Defence Research Development Organisation's (DRDO), came in the midst of a lingering border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh. The first test of the missile was carried out in April 2012 while the previous one was reportedly conducted around three years ago.

Wild Himalayan fig may be used as pain reliever: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: The wild Himalayan fig, commonly known as 'Bedu' in Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, may be used as a safer alternative to synthetic pain relievers like Aspirin and Diclofenac, according to a study conducted on lab rats.

An international team, led by researchers at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab, noted that the popular fruit in the Himalayan region also has many other medicinal benefits such as curing skin diseases and wound infections.

In the study, Psoralen helped to block an enzyme called 'Cyclooxygenase-2' (COX-2), which is also blocked by pain relievers such as Diclofenac while Rutin helped bind the mu-opioid, a major binding site in Morphine.

The research, published in the journal Plants, concluded that the wild Himalayan fig has potential analgesic effects at different doses in general and at a 400 milligrammes per kilogram (mg/kg) dose in particular.

"Wild Himalayan fig aka Bedu are an excellent and safe plant-based alternative to the synthetic pain relievers like Aspirin and Diclofenac,"



said Dvesh Tiwari, Assistant Professor at LPU, who led the study. "Our research is the first, to establish wild Himalayan fig as a natural pain reliever. Traditionally, this fruit was used for curing back-

aches in the rural areas. So far, there was no study available on the analgesic effects of Ficus Palmata," Tiwari said.

The authors of the study noted that the most widely used drugs for

NATURAL THERAPY

Over a period of three years, the researchers studied the analgesic effects of extracts from the wild Himalayan fig, which were tested on experimental rats

Scientifically known as 'Ficus Palmata', the wild Himalayan fig contains two major components Psoralen and Rutin, the researchers said

reduction of pain and inflammation are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

However, analgesic drugs like opiates and NSAIDs are not believed to be useful in all cases due

to their low potency and adverse effects, they said.

Apart from LPU, the team included researchers from Kumaon University, Uttarakhand, Ganpat University in Gujarat, Sharda University in Greater Noida, Messina University in Italy and Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, both in Iran.

In the future, the researchers plan to carry human trials on the fruit for many other therapeutic potentials as this is a widely consumed wild fruit in the Himalayan region.

international

of the day quote

There should be serious readiness in the field of cyberwar and related bodies should not allow the enemy to follow their ominous aims to make problem in trend of people's life.

Today's budget does not draw a line under Covid. We have challenging months ahead. But today's budget does begin the work of preparing for a new economy post-Covid

I will leverage my existing relationships within Muslim-majority countries to protect the rights of religious minorities there. I will redouble efforts to broaden the coalition to hold China accountable for its horrific crimes against the Uyghurs and its repression of other ethnic and religious minorities

RASHAD HUSSAIN | AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE
NOMINEE FOR INT'L RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SHORT TAKES

11 dead, 12 hurt in Iraq IS attack

Baghdad: Up to 11 civilians were killed and 12 others were wounded in an attack by militants of the extremist Islamic State (IS) group in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, a provincial police source said. "The latest report said eleven people were killed and 12 wounded in IS attack in the al-Rashad village Tuesday," Alaa al-Saadi from the provincial police told Xinhua.

4 Pak policemen killed in attack

Islamabad: Four policemen, including an officer, were killed in an attack on a police vehicle in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, an official said Wednesday. The police personnel were on a routine patrol late Tuesday night when unidentified armed men riding on motorcycles sprayed bullets on their vehicle in the Wanda Mir Alami area of Lakki Marwat district of the province, Deputy Commissioner of Lakki Marwat district Iqbal Hussain told Xinhua news agency.

NZ expands vax mandate to 40%

Wellington: New Zealand's government said Tuesday it will expand a vaccine mandate to include thousands of workers who have close contact with their customers, including employees at restaurants, bars, gyms and hair salons. The changes will mean that about 40 per cent of all New Zealand workers will need to get fully vaccinated against the coronavirus or risk losing their jobs, up from about 15 per cent previously. Speaking with reporters, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she didn't believe the new rules were an overreach of government power.

Russia marks record Covid deaths again

Moscow: Russia hit another record for daily Covid-19 deaths Wednesday as authorities across the country moved to keep most people off work in line with a Kremlin order aimed at stemming the spread. The government coronavirus task force registered 1,123 deaths in 24 hours, the largest daily toll since the pandemic's start. The number brought the country's official coronavirus death toll to 233,898, by far the highest in Europe. The pace of infection remained high at 36,582, just slightly less than an all-time peak reported over the weekend.

POTUS urged against India sanctions

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5.5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding Trump admin's warning that it may trigger US sanctions under CAATSA

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 27: Two US senators have urged President Joe Biden to waive sanctions against India over its purchase of Russia's S-400 air defence system, saying such a punitive measure would endanger growing cooperation. India signed a \$5.5 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five of the surface-to-air missile systems for defence against long-time adversary Pakistan and China, with which it is locked in a standoff on their disputed border. But the proposed transfer has caused friction with the United States, which passed a law in 2017 under which any country engaged



India has made a down payment on the S400 systems and the first set of missile batteries is expected to begin deployment later this year. The United States imposed sanctions on Turkey for buying the same equipment last year. India has been cutting back on purchases of military equipment from Russia. India's defence deals with the USA have been increasing. These are positive trends, the senators said

elections, cyber hacking and bullying Ukraine.

India has made a down payment on the S400 systems and the first set of missile batteries is expected to begin deployment later this year.

The United States imposed sanctions on Turkey for buying the same equipment last year.

Cornyn and Warner, who are co-chairs of a Senate India Caucus, said they shared the administration's concerns about Russia but they warned of damage to cooperation with India if sanctions were to be imposed. We believe that the application of CAATSA sanctions could have a deleterious effect on a strategic partnership with India, while at the same time, not achieve the intended purpose of deterring Russian arms sales, they wrote.

Indian military cannot operate effectively without Russian equipment: CRS report

There has been a considerable drop in India's dependence on arms and equipments from Russia but the Indian military cannot operate effectively without Russian-supplied equipment and will continue to rely on its weapons systems in the near and middle terms, a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report has said. Many analysts in India and beyond conclude that the Indian military cannot operate effectively without Russian-supplied equipment and will continue to rely on Russian weapons systems in the near and middle terms, the independent CRS said in a report 'Russian Arms Sales and Defense Industry'. A graph showed that since 2015, under the Modi government, there has been a consistent drop in import of equipment from Russia. Noting that India's plan to purchase Russian-made S-400 air defense systems, in progress since 2016, could trigger US sanctions under Section 231 of CAATSA, the CRS said Indian planners appear to have concluded that alternatives to the S-400 offered by Washington -- the Patriot and THAAD systems -- lack the purported range and versatility of the Russian equipment.

with Russia's defence and intelligence sectors could face sanctions.

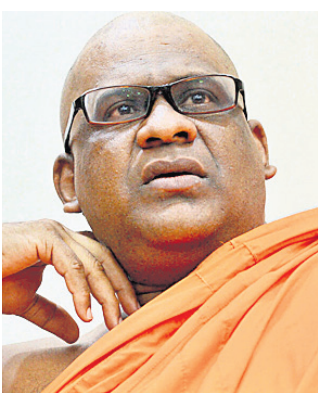
Republican Senator John Corny and Democrat Senator Mark Warner wrote a letter to Biden to Tuesday calling for a waiver on the grounds of national security and broader cooperation.

We believe there is a national security imperative to waiving sanctions, the senators said in their letter which they issued in a press release. They said they were concerned the transfer of the Russian systems would trigger sanctions against India under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which was enacted to hold Russia accountable for interfering in US

'ONE COUNTRY, ONE LAW'

Lanka Prez appoints task force led by controversial monk

THE 'ONE COUNTRY, ONE LAW' WAS AN ELECTION SLOGAN OF RAJAPAKSA IN 2019



AGENCIES

President Rajapaksa through a special gazette for the establishment of the 'One Country, One Law' concept, is headed by Galagodaaththe Gnanasara, the hardline Buddhist monk who became a symbol of anti-Muslim hatred in the country.

Gnanasara's Bodu Bala Sena (BBS) or the Forces of Buddhist Power, was implicated in the anti-Muslim riots in 2013.

The task force also has four Muslim scholars as members but no representation has been allowed for the minority Tamils.

It has been entrusted with the job of preparing a draft for the implementation of the 'One Country, One Law' concept, according to the gazette released Tuesday.

The final report is to be submitted by February 28, 2022 after monthly reports to President Rajapaksa on its progress.

Article 168 (1) of the Constitution provides that all existing law would be read subject to the new Constitution.

However, Article 16 (1) provides that all existing law shall be valid and operative, notwithstanding any inconsistency with the chapter on fundamental rights.

4 key issues to watch as world prepares for Glasgow summit

AGENCIES

Massachusetts, Oct 27: Glasgow sits proudly on the banks of the river Clyde, once the heart of Scotland's industrial glory and now a launchpad for its green energy transition. It's a fitting host for the United Nations' climate conference, COP26, where world leaders will be discussing how their countries will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change. As negotiations get underway, here's what to watch for: **Ambition**

At the Paris climate conference in 2015, countries agreed to work to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), aiming for 1.5 C (2.7 F). If COP21 in Paris was the agreement on a destination, COP26 is the review of itineraries and course adjustments. The bad news is that countries

aren't on track. They were required this year to submit new action plans -- known as national determined contributions, or NDCs.

All eyes are on the G-20, a group of leading world economies that together account for almost 80% of global emissions. Their annual summit takes place in Rome on Oct. 30-31, immediately before COP26 begins.

Some key G-20 countries have not submitted their updated plans yet, including India. Brazil, Mexico, Australia and Russia have filed plans that are not in line with the Paris Agreement. **Carbon markets**

One leftover task from the Paris conference is to set rules for carbon markets, particularly how countries can trade carbon credits with each other, or between a country and a private company.

Regulated carbon markets exist from the European Union to China,

CONTEMPT OVER CLIMATE



A performer from environmental campaign Ocean Rebellion dressed as PM Boris Johnson sets light to the sail of a small boat which reads 'Your Children's Future' during a protest on the banks of the River Clyde, close to the site of the upcoming United Nations COP26 conference on climate, in Glasgow, Scotland, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

Florida teens held for murder of classmate

AGENCIES

Miramar, Oct 27: Three Florida teens were arrested last week on murder, conspiracy and evidence tampering charges in connection with the brutal killing of a classmate, police said.

Dwight DJ Grant, an 18-year-old high school student who disappeared Oct 17, was found dead Oct 19 in Miramar, about 20 miles north of downtown Miami. Grant's body

was found in bushes behind the apartment complex where he lived, police told NBC South Florida.

In an arrest affidavit, police alleged that the three teens, 16 and 17-year-old girls and a 17-year-old boy, conspired together to lure Grant into a trap and worked together to facilitate the killing.

One girl allegedly held Grant down while the boy beat and stabbed him with a knife and sword while the other girl kept watch. Then, the

three teens allegedly worked together to dispose of the weapons and clean up the evidence of the killing.

The three teens arrested Friday and Saturday are not being named publicly because they are minors, police said. The motive for the killing was Grant allegedly having sex with an unnamed girl, which infuriated the 17-year-old boy because he had an emotional connection with her; police said an investigation of the teens' text messages revealed.

US ISSUES 1ST PASSPORT WITH 'X' GENDER MARKER

The United States has issued its first passport with an "X" gender designation -- a milestone in the recognition of the rights of people who don't identify as male or female -- and expects to be able to offer the option more broadly next year, the State Department said Wednesday



Saudi nod on assistance to Pak; PM thanks Prince

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 27: Saudi Arabia has agreed to provide USD 4.2 billion worth of assistance to cash-strapped Pakistan to support its economy, it emerged Wednesday after Prime Minister Imran Khan held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh this week.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry took to Twitter to announce the assistance which came just two days after Khan paid a three-day visit to the Gulf kingdom.

"Saudi Arabia's announcement supports Pakistan with 3 billion US dollars as deposit in Pakistan central bank and also financing re-



I want to thank HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman for supporting Pak with \$3 bn as deposit in Pak's central bank & financing refined petroleum product with \$1.2 bn. KSA has always been there for Pak in our difficult times incl now when world confronts rising commodity prices

IMRAN KHAN | PRIME MINISTER, PAKISTAN

financed petroleum products with 1.2 billion US dollars during the year," he said in a tweet.

Prime Minister Khan thanked Crown Prince Salman for the generous aid when Pakistan's economy was facing difficulties.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance Shaukat Tarin, addressing a press conference, said that the Saudi financial support package of USD 4.2 billion was for one year and would prove to be useful to lift pressure on the Pakistani rupee.

Sudan arrests 3 coup critics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cairo, Oct 27: Sudanese security forces detained three prominent pro-democracy figures overnight, their relatives and other activists said Wednesday, as internal and international pressure mounted on the country's military following its coup.

The arrests came as protests denouncing Monday's takeover continued in the capital of Khartoum and elsewhere, and many businesses shut in response to calls for strikes. Security forces kept up their heavy-handed response, chasing demonstrators in several neighbourhoods late Tuesday, according to activists who said some were shot and wounded. At least six people have been killed in protests so far, according to doctors.

The coup threatens to halt Sudan's fitful transition to democracy, which began after the 2019 ouster of long-time ruler Omar al-Bashir and his Islamist government in a popular uprising. It came after weeks of mounting tensions between military and civilian leaders over the course and pace of that process.

The African Union suspended Sudan - an expected move typically taken in the wake of coups. The AU Peace and Security Council tweeted the decision on Wednesday, saying it would remain in place "until the effective restoration of the civilian-led Transitional Authority," as the deposed government was known. The AU plans to send a mission to Sudan to hold talks with rival parties.

It's raining pledges

A cross section of the world will be in Glasgow for the conference, and they will be talking about pathways for reducing global carbon emissions to net zero and building greater resilience. From emissions-free shipping to aviation, from ending coal financing to green steel and cement, from platforms to reduce methane, to nature-based solutions, the two-week conference and days leading up to it will see a steady stream of commitments and new groups of countries, nongovernmental organizations and businesses working together. Keeping track and verifying achievements toward these pledges will be critical coming away from COP26. Without that, climate activist Greta Thunberg's "blah blah blah" speech thrown at delegates to a pre-COP meeting in Milan a few weeks ago will continue to echo around the world.

beating back greenwashing.

Also, expect to see pressure for countries to come back in a year or two with better plans for reducing emissions and reports of concrete progress.

Climate finance

Underpinning progress on all issues is the question of finance.

Developing countries need help to grow green and adapt to climate change, and they are frustrated that that help has been on a slow drip feed. In 2009 and again in 2015, wealthy countries agreed to provide \$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing nations by 2020, but they haven't reached that goal yet.

With one week to go, the UK Revealed a climate finance plan, brokered by Germany and Canada, that would establish a process for counting and agreeing on what counts in the \$100 billion, but it will take until 2023 to reach that figure.

Done badly, greenwashing will undermine confidence in pledges made by governments and companies alike.

Another task is determining how countries measure and report their emissions reductions and how transparent they are with one another. This too is fundamental to



and voluntary markets are spurring both optimism and concern. Rules are needed to ensure that carbon markets actually drive down emissions and provide revenue for developing countries to protect their resources. Get it right and carbon markets can speed the transition to net zero.

of the day quote

I would like to tell investors what PM Modi has already said. Please come and manufacture in India, set up industry here. The country provides a safe investment environment as you would find in your own countries

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS MINISTER

There is still demand to shift from feature phones to smartphones. JioPhone Next is like building a phone beyond the English-speaking community and going local, doing it in a way that many more people can take advantage of a smartphone

SUNDAR PICHAI | CEO, GOOGLE

While chasing higher asset growth and returns, (MFIs) lenders should not throw caution to the wind. Any slip-up through adverse action of MFIs may undo the tremendous progress achieved over the decades and the sector can ill afford to do that

M RAJESHWAR RAO | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

SHORT TAKES

Paytm to hike IPO size to ₹18,300cr

New Delhi: Digital financial services firm Paytm will increase its initial public offer size to ₹18,300 with company's biggest shareholder Alibaba group firm Ant Financial and existing investors including Softbank deciding to dilute more stake in the company, sources said. The company had plans to raise a total of ₹16,600 crore by issuing fresh equity worth ₹8,300 crore and another ₹8,300 crore through an offer-for-sale. With existing shareholders deciding to dilute more equity, the offer-for-sale will go up by ₹1,700 crore to ₹10,000 crore.

All UPI transfers on PhonePe free

Bhubaneswar: PhonePe, India's leading digital payments platform, clarified that all UPI money transfers, offline and online payments (across UPI, wallet, credit and debit cards) on the payment app are free, and they will continue to be free for all users. Company's statement said "PhonePe does not charge for these transactions, and will not be doing so in the future also. For Mobile Recharges, PhonePe is running an experiment where a small section of users are being charged a processing fee of ₹1 for recharges of ₹51-100, and ₹2 for recharges above ₹100."

Kamath to head ₹20,000cr NaBFID

New Delhi: The government Wednesday announced the appointment of veteran banker K V Kamath as chairperson of the newly set up ₹20,000 crore development finance institution NaBFID to catalyse investment in the funds-starved infrastructure sector. Parliament had in March cleared the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021 to support the development of long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing in India.

Adani to exit Myanmar project

New Delhi: Adani Ports said Wednesday it was abandoning plans to build a container terminal in Myanmar, weeks after applying for a US licence for the project, saying it believed it did not violate sanctions. The company is expected to fully exit the investment in the strife-torn south Asian nation between March and June next year, it said.



The customers can get call or message from the fraudster claiming to be from a bank/financial institution and asks for account details or an OTP to unblock/renew the existing bank account. I urge you to pay heed and proceed with care and do not to share any financial or personal information

GOPAL VITTAL | CEO, AIRTEL

SEMICONDUCTOR CRUNCH

Maruti Suzuki's profit hopes upended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India Wednesday reported a 66 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at ₹487 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2021, impacted by the ongoing semiconductor shortage and increase in commodity prices.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹1,420 crore in the second quarter of last fiscal, Maruti Suzuki India said in a statement. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at ₹20,551 crore in the second quarter, as compared to ₹18,756 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Total vehicle sales were down 3 per cent at 3,79,541 units in the second quarter, as against 3,93,130 units in the corresponding period last fiscal, it said. Domestic sales were at 3,20,133 units in the second quarter, as against 3,70,619 units in the year-ago period.

Exports were, however, the highest ever at any quarter in the company's history at 59,408 units in the second quarter, as compared to 22,511 units in the same period last



fiscal. An estimated 1.16 lakh vehicles could not be produced owing to the electronics component shortage mostly corresponding to the domestic models, the company said. Maruti Suzuki India further said it had more than 2 lakh pending customer orders at the end of the quarter for which it is making all efforts to expedite deliveries.

"This quarter was also marked by an unprecedented increase in the prices of commodities like steel, aluminium and precious metals within a span of one year. The company made maximum efforts to absorb

input cost increases offsetting them through cost reduction and passed on minimum impact to customers by way of car price increase," it said adding as a result there was a drop in its net profit.

In the first half of the fiscal year ended September 30, the company sold a total of 7,33,155 units with domestic sales at 6,28,228 units.

Exports in this half year were at 1,04,927 units as compared to 32,083 units in the same period last fiscal, the company said, adding overseas shipments in the first half this year exceeded the full year sales of last year.

'EVs only after 2025'

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India will launch electric vehicles in the country only after 2025 as demand for such vehicles at the moment is less and it would like to sell around 10,000 units a month whenever it enters the electric mobility space, company Chairman RC Bhargava said Wednesday. Addressing a virtual conference on the company's second quarter earnings, he said under the current circumstances a lot of things in the EV ecosystem such as batteries, charging infrastructure and electric supply are done by other parties and therefore the costing is not in the hands of the company. Also with fuel prices going up, car market leader Maruti Suzuki India is intensifying its focus on more CNG offerings of its models. Stating that launching an EV would depend on market conditions, Bhargava said at present it is difficult to predict the pricing of electric vehicles, batteries, how the infrastructure is built up and the costing is not at all in our hands.

Small LPG cylinders, financial services through FPS proposed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Centre Wednesday said it plans to allow retail sale of small LPG cylinders as well as offer financial services through fair price shops (FPS) as part of its measures to enhance the financial viability of these outlets.

These issues were discussed in a virtual meeting with state governments chaired by Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey Representatives from the ministries of electronics and IT; finance; and petroleum and natural gas also attended the meeting.

Officials from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) as well as CSC e-Governance Services



India Limited (CSC) were also present. After the meeting, the Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry said in a statement: "Proactive measures to be taken to enhance financial viability of FPS...plan of retail selling of small LPG cylinders through FPS in the anvil." Representatives from oil mar-

Q2 RESULTS

Bajaj Auto Q2 PAT rises 71%

New Delhi: Bajaj Auto Ltd Wednesday reported a 71 per cent jump in consolidated profit after tax at ₹2,039.86 crore for the second quarter ended September 2021, aided by an exceptional item gain and growth in exports. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of ₹1,193.97 crore in the same period last fiscal, Bajaj Auto Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated total income stood at ₹9,080.50 crore in the quarter under review, as against ₹7,441.66 crore in the year-ago period. "The resultant gain in fair value of ₹501 crore is shown as an exceptional item in consolidated profit after tax of Bajaj Auto Ltd," the company said.

CBol net profit jumps 55%

Mumbai: Public sector Central Bank of India (CBol) reported an over 55 per cent jump in net profit at ₹250 crore for the quarter ended September, FY 2021-22. The lender had posted a net profit of ₹161 crore during the same quarter of the previous fiscal. However, total income of the bank during July-September period of 2021-22 was down at ₹6,503.39 crore, as against ₹6,762.36 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing. Net interest income rose 5.99 per cent to ₹2,495 crore, as against ₹2,354 crore earlier. Net interest margin (NIM) improved from 3.21 percent to 3.36 percent on a year-on-year basis, registering an improvement of 15 basis points, it added.

GOOGLE LOGS RECORD \$18.9BN PROFIT

Alphabet, the parent company of Google, has posted an all-time record revenue of \$61.9 billion for the July-September quarter, along with record profits at \$18.9 billion. Google Services revenues were \$59.9 billion, up 41 per cent, and Google Search and other advertising revenues of \$37.9 million in the quarter were up 44 per cent



Form 26AS info list to include foreign remittances, MFs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: The income tax department has expanded the list of high-value financial transactions which would be available to taxpayers in their form 26AS by including details of mutual fund (MF) purchases, foreign remittances, as well as information in ITRs of other taxpayers.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) October 26 issued an order under Section 285BB of the I-T Act expanding the scope of information reported in new Form 26AS.

Additional information prescribed includes foreign remittance made by any person through an authorised dealer, breakup of the salary with deductions claimed by the employee, information in ITR of other taxpayers, interest on Income Tax Refund, information published in Statement of Financial Transactions.

Also, off market transactions reported by depository registrar and transfer agent, information about dividend of mutual fund reported by RTA, and information about purchase of mutual fund reported by RTA too would be included in Form 26AS.

The CBDT authorized "Director General of Income-tax (Systems) to upload information...in her/his possession, in the Annual Information Statement in Form 26AS in the electronic filing account registered by the assessee in designated portal, within three months from the end of the month

Form 26AS is an annual consolidated tax statement that can be accessed from the income-tax website by taxpayers using their Permanent Account Number

in which the information is received by her/him."

The Budget 2020-21 had introduced a new Section 285BB in the I-T Act, to revamp Form 26AS to an 'Annual Information Statement' which apart from TDS TCS details, would contain comprehensive information of specified financial transactions, payment of taxes, demand refund and pending completed proceedings undertaken by a taxpayer in a particular financial year that has to be mentioned in income tax returns.

AMRG & Associates (Director - Direct & International Tax) Om Rajpurohit said the additional information to be loaded on the Annual Information Statement in Form 26AS would promote ease of faceless digital assessments.

Even though additional tax contributions from taxpayer's would be insignificant, cumulative effect would be noteworthy. This change will push all the taxpayers towards a precise and accurate self-declaration of income earned, Rajpurohit added.

Govt directs ministries to clear Air India's dues

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Centre Wednesday directed all Union Ministries and Departments to clear Air India's dues immediately.

An office memorandum from the Finance Ministry's Department of Expenditure said: "Recently, the Government of India has decided to disinvest Air India, and the process of disinvestment of Air India and Air India Express is ongoing."

"Air India has stopped extending credit facilities on account of purchase of air tickets. Therefore, all Ministries or Departments are directed to clear Air India's dues immediately. Air tickets from Air India, may be purchased in cash till further instructions."

In 2009, the Centre had mandated that Central government of officers travel via Air India for all official purposes including availing of LTC. Earlier, a Letter of Intent was issued to the Tata Group. After

On Monday, conglomerate Tata Group entered into a share purchase agreement with the govt for buying out the latter's stake in national carrier Air India, Air India Express, and AISATS

the SPA, Tata Group would need to fulfill the conditions precedent in the agreement before taking over the airline. The rest of the transaction is expected to be completed by December.

Tata Sons' subsidiary Talace emerged as the highest bidder for the national carrier under the divestment process. Talace had quoted an enterprise value of ₹18,000 crore for 100 per cent equity shareholding of the Centre in Air India along with that of Air India Express and AISATS.

BPCL collaborates with Deloitte for digital transformation

BPCL chose Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP as their technology partner to help build, design and implement various customer-focussed digital initiatives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: Privatisation-bound Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd has picked Deloitte India to implement an ambitious digital transformation project that aims to enhance the customer experience across all touchpoints by providing a single view of products and services across business units.

"Project Anubhav" has been well received by customers and other stakeholders making an impact in the initial phase of deployment, the company said in a statement.

"These various initiatives will enable customers and other stake-

holders to interact with each of BPCL's six business units of retail, industrial and commercial (I&C), LPG (liquefied petroleum gas), lubricants, gas, and aviation," it said.

"To attract, acquire, and retain customers, BPCL is aiming to provide a unified, consistent and touchless self-service experience to its 8.5 crore families consuming cooking gas, over 10,000 I&C customers, and over 1.2 crore vehicle owners who tank up every day at BPCL's fuel stations," the statement said.

With a single view of the customers across business units and through the power of data, the oil

and gas major would be able to understand trends and consumption patterns and drive customer solutions across business units.

In view of the much-needed consolidation, Deloitte India designed and validated high-fidelity wireframes and clickable prototypes for a mobile app 'Hello BPCL' as the one-stop-shop for BPCL's products and services.

The real success of this transformation is that we are now able to provide a single view of our products and services to our customers and at the same time provide a tamper-proof system that delivers quality and trust to our



customers and business partners.

"These technologies and innovations will build operational scale, strengthen our market share, and

add to our continued growth trajectory," said, Arun Kumar Singh, chairman and managing director of BPCL.

11 ATHLETES RECOMMENDED FOR KHEL RATNA, WHILE 35 FOR ARJUNA AWARD

Pramod, Neeraj in contention

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 27: Odisha superstar para shuttler Pramod Bhagat and Tokyo Olympics gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra are among 11 athletes, who are recommended for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award, the country's highest sporting honour, Wednesday.

Pramod, the reigning World Champion, became the first para shuttler to claim the yellow metal for India. It was a historic moment considering badminton was making its debut at the Paralympics. The World No.1 won the gold in SL3 category at the Tokyo 2020.

Neeraj, on the other hand, became only the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold at the Tokyo Games. It was also the first medal for the country in athletics at the Summer Games.

Olympics silver medallist wrestler Ravi Dahiya has also been recommended for the Khel Ratna, along with boxer Lovlina Borgohain, who won a bronze at the



Games, seasoned hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and woman cricket Test skipper Mithali Raj. Iconic

Sunil Chhetri also became the country's first footballer to be selected for the honour.

Shooter Avani Lekhara and Manish Narwal, javelin thrower Sumit Antil and Krishna Nagar, who all have won a gold each in the Tokyo Paralympics, completed the list of those recommended for the Khel Ratna.

Last year, five athletes were picked for the award while four were selected after the 2016 Rio Games.

The announcement of the national sports awards was delayed in order to consider the performance of the para athletes in the Tokyo Paralympics (August 24 to September 5).

The committee also picked 35 athletes for the Arjuna award, eight more than last year's number of awardees.

Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan, para TT player Bhavina Patel, para shuttler Suhas Yathiraj and high jumper Nishad Kumar are among those selected for the Arjuna award. Members of the men's hockey team that won a historic bronze in the Olympics will also receive Arjuna award.

Nishant enters 2nd round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belgrade, Oct 27: Debutant Nishant Dev (71kg) became the seventh Indian boxer to enter the second round of the AIBA men's World Championships with a confident 5-0 triumph over Hungary's Laszlo Kozak here Wednesday.

Dev will next fight Mauritian Mervin Clair, who got a bye in the first round, and his victory maintained the unbeaten run of the country's pugilists at the ongoing showpiece.

Dev's win was a perfect start to the day for the country after Sumit (75kg) and Narender Berwal (+92kg) advanced to the second round of their respective categories with fine victories late last night.

Sumit defeated Jamaican Damon O'Neill 5-0 while Narender faced some stiff challenge from Poland's Oskar Safaryan before recording a 4-1 win.

Sumit will face Tajikistan's Abdumalik Boltaev in the next round, while Sierra Leone's Mohamed Kendeh awaits Berwal.

Four others, including Asian medal winners Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) and Deepak Bohria (51kg), had made the second round of their categories earlier in the tournament.



Later this evening, Varinder Singh will take on Karen Tonakanyan of Armenia in his 60kg opening bout. Govind Sahani (48kg) and Lakshya Chahar (86kg) are the other two Indians who will be seen in action Wednesday night.

Chahar will face Korea's Kim Hyeonkyu. Sahani, on the other hand, will fight it out against Ecuador's Billy Arias in a round of 32 contest. All three are making their debuts at the global showpiece.

With more than 600 boxers from over 100 countries in fray, a lot of competitors will have to win at least three bouts in some categories to get to the quarter-final stage.

The gold winners at the showpiece will walk away with a prize money of USD 100,000. The silver medallists are to be given USD 50,000, and both bronze-medallists will be awarded USD 25,000 each. The total prize purse stands at a whopping USD 2.6 million.

Srikanth fight ends in agony at French Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Oct 27: Kidambi Srikanth suffered a heartbreaking defeat against top seed Kento Momota to make a second round exit but India's mixed doubles team of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa advanced at the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament, here Wednesday.

The Rio quarterfinalist played his heart out to match the Japanese and also held two-point lead towards the end of the decider but ended up losing the men's singles second round 18-21, 22-20, 21-19 in 79-minute match.

Srikanth had lost to Momota

last week also at Denmark Open but he produced a much better display here and came agonisingly close to outwitting the two-time world champion only to fall short in the end.

Rankireddy and Ponappa, the World No.24 pair beat Denmark's Mathias Thyrrri and Mai Surrow 21-19, 21-15 in 37 minutes. They are likely to face second seeded Indonesian pair of Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti next.

After an even contest in the first two sets, the decider started with a high intensity as Momota made it 11-10 at the break. The Indian moved to 19-17 but a couple of errors cost him the match.

FIFA F4S PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 27: In an initiative never before, the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) launched India's first ever FIFA Football for Schools Programme, Wednesday. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik virtually launched the event.

Football for Schools (F4S) is an ambitious world-wide programme run by FIFA, which aims to contribute to the education, development and empowerment of around 700 million children. It seeks to make football more accessible to both boys and girls around the world.

Inaugurating the programme, an outcome of partnership between FIFA and KISS, Patnaik said, "Investment in sports is investment in youth. And investment in



youth is investment in the future. Such collaboration to incorporate football activities into the education system will make football more accessible to both boys and girls at the grassroots."

The launch ceremony was virtually graced Dr. Nik Gugger, Member of Parliament, Switzerland

and Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA. Sports & Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Achyuta Samanta (Founder, KIIT & KISS), AIFF general secretary Kushal Das and Youri Djorkaeff, CEO of FIFA Foundation were among the dignitaries in attendance in person.

England outplay B'desh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Abu Dhabi, Oct 27: England dished out a thoroughly clinical display with both the bat and the ball to steamroll Bangladesh by eight wickets in a Super 12 match of the T20 World Cup here Wednesday.

Explosive opener Jason Roy (61, 38b, 5x4, 3x6) anchored the paltry 125-run chase with a splendid half century to make his 50th T20I appearance memorable as England cantered home in just 14.1 overs to give their net run rate a huge boost.

David Malan (28 n o) and Jonny Bairstow (8 n o) finished off the chase, which saw Jos Buttler (18) got out after providing England an impressive start along with Roy. With two wins in a row, England now lead Group 1 table with four points.

Earlier, England bowlers capitalised on a fine start given by off-spinner Moeen Ali (2/18) to restrict Bangladesh to a paltry 124/9. Opting to bat, Bangladesh were sloppy and failed to apply themselves as they lost wickets at regular intervals.

Chris Woakes (1/12) got rid of in-form Shakib Al Hasan to reduce Bangladesh to 27/3 in first six overs. However, experienced Mushfiqur Rahim () and skipper Mahmudullah () steadied the ship with a 37-run stand before Liam Livingstone (2/15) dismissed the duo one after the other in his successive overs.

Pacer Tymal Mills (3/27) later wreaked havoc at the death. Late cameos by Murul Hasan (16), Mahedi Hasan (11) and Nasum Ahmed (19 n o) helped the Asian side go past 120-run mark.



Mutual Funds ke risk aur returns dono ko samjho.

Apne Mutual Fund Distributor ya Investment Advisor se baat karke jaanein ki Mutual Funds aapke liye kyun Sahi Hai.

• Visit mutualfundssahihai.com

Follow Mutual Funds Sahi Hai on:    

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Sahi Hai

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajagat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajagat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha;Phone:7894447142(Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159