

## OPINION 6

LAKHIMPUR KHERI—  
WAS IT AVOIDABLE?

## WORLD 8

NEW CHAPTER OPENED IN AF,  
WORLD RELATIONS: TALIBAN FM

## SPORT 12

DC SET 136  
TARGET FOR KKR

BHUBANESWAR, THURSDAY OCTOBER 14, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

## the pioneer

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I'M VERY  
HEADSTRONG:  
MALAIKA  
10 VIVACITY

## India headed for jab milestone

73% population  
given at least 1  
dose, 30% both;  
100 cr Covid jab  
record likely soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is likely to achieve the ambitious target of administering 100 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine within the next few days even as it has allowed export of stocks to other countries, sources in the Union Health Ministry said.

"As on date, 73 per cent of the total population have been given at least a single dose of the vaccine, close to 30 per cent have received both doses, and we are following up with States to increase the vaccine administration. There are 8 crore doses kept ready for use by the States," said the Ministry sources.

On Tuesday, the emergency use of Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine for the 2 to 18 age-group was also approved.

As per the Union Government data, India has administered over 95.89 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

"There is no shortage of vaccines, it has, however, been noticed worldwide that there tends to be a saturation once 70 per cent of the population are covered. So, efforts are on to cover the remaining population and counter any vaccine hesi-

tancy. As for the availability of vaccines, the production for October alone is about 28 crore doses. Of these 22 crore doses are of Covishield, 6 crore of Covaxin and 60 lakh of the DNA vaccine," the sources said.

In the meantime, India reported 15,823 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, 10.5 per cent higher than Tuesday when the country saw the lowest daily rise in Covid cases since early March with 14,313 infections. India also reported 226 deaths due to coronavirus.

India's total Covid infection tally has reached 3,40,01,743 while the death count has increased to 4,51,189. A total of 13,25,399 tests were conducted, taking the number of cumulative tests conducted so far to 58,63,63,442.

Meanwhile, news agency

IANS quoted eminent scientist and biochemist Prof G Padmanaban as saying that India may require the third dose of Covid vaccine by the middle of next year as breakthrough cases even after full vaccination have been prevalent, even though mostly mild.

Prof Padmanaban, who is chancellor of Central University of Tamil Nadu and a Padma Bhushan recipient, said that his opinion of a third dose is based on "scientific understanding".

"In an infection by the Delta variant, which is widespread, there is a six-eight fold drop in the potential of antisera from vaccines to neutralise the variant compared to the wild type (used for vaccination-spike or whole virus).

"Nobody still has a clear



answer to how long the protective antibodies will last, it has been variably estimated to be between six months and one

year. If the virus has not weakened by itself, by that time, there is the possibility for a re-infection," he said.

## Doctors fear Covid surge in Bengal over protocol violation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■  
KOLKATA

Kolkata seems to be failing where Mumbai succeeded in the rigorous implementation of the corona protocol during Ganesh festival. With lakhs of frenzied pandal hoppers hitting the Kolkata streets amid pandemic times, the doctors of the eastern metro fear a revival of the disease in Bengal soon after the Durga Puja.

The administration's lenient execution of the corona protocol framed by the



Calcutta High Court tends to push up the fear. Dr RK Patra, a senior physician, warned, "If the positivity percentage goes

beyond 5 per cent, then the administration will certainly have to think about re-imposing lockdown in some way or

the other". This even as a senior doctor of the Calcutta Medical College, the oldest such hospital in Asia, said how before Maha Panchami day the infectivity rate in Bengal was in the vicinity of 1.75 per cent which had crossed 2.53 by the end of Maha Saptami day.

While the infectivity rate remain more or less static, it is showing upward swing in Kolkata and adjacent North 24 Parganas which forms the part of greater Kolkata, thanks to the increasing crowd of pandal hoppers who have been cramming the sidewalks.

## India slams China protest of V-P visit to Arunachal

## AP inalienable part of India, says New Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday slammed China for its objection to a recent visit to Arunachal Pradesh by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, asserting that the State is an "integral and inalienable" part of India.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Chinese objections to the visit of Indian leaders to a State of India "does not stand to reason and understanding" of Indian people.

"We have noted the comments made today by the Chinese official spokesperson. We reject such comments. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India," the MEA Spokesperson said.

Bagchi was responding to a question on comments in Beijing by a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry objecting to Naidu's visit to Arunachal Pradesh over the weekend.

"Indian leaders routinely travel to the State of Arunachal Pradesh as they do to any other State of India. Objecting to the visit of Indian leaders to a State of India does not stand to reason and understanding of



Indian people," he said.

China has been objecting to visits of Indian leaders to Arunachal Pradesh in its bid to use the issue as a bargaining leverage with New Delhi for boundary negotiations. Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as a part of South Tibet which is contrary to the ground position.

The fresh war of words between the two sides came three days after the 13th round

of military talks on the 17-month eastern Ladakh stand-off ended in a stalemate.

The 13th round military talks were held amid pinpricks in Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh as also propaganda warfare online by People's Liberation Army (PLA) to demoralise the Indian delegations for the confabulations on Sunday.

"Further, as we have mentioned earlier, the current situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas has been caused by unilateral attempts of the Chinese side to alter the status quo in violation of the bilateral agreements," Bagchi said.

"Therefore, we expect the Chinese side to work towards early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh while fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols rather than trying to link unrelated issues," Bagchi said.

On Monday, a day after the 13th round of military talks, Indian Army said the "constructive suggestions" made by it were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor it could provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

The Chinese PLA's Western Theatre Command, however, said India insisted on "unreasonable and unrealistic demands, adding difficulties to the negotiations."

## Lakhimpur Kheri violence 'condemnable' but lopsided attention dangerous: FM

PTI ■ BOSTON

The Lakhimpur Kheri violence, in which four farmers were killed, is "absolutely condemnable," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, emphasising that there are issues of such nature happening in other parts of India equally which should be raised "when they happen and not when it suits others" because there is a BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh.

Sitharaman, who is on an official visit to US, was responding to a question during a conversation at Harvard Kennedy School on Tuesday about the killing of four farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri and arrest of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra.

She was asked why there is no word on this from Prime Minister, senior Ministers and why there is a "defensive reaction" when somebody asks questions about such things. "No, absolutely not... It's nice of you to have picked up that one incident which is



absolutely condemnable, every one of us say that. Equally there are instances happening elsewhere, is my concern. India has issues of such nature happening in very many different parts of country equally. I would like you, and many others, including Dr Amartya Sen, who all know India, to raise it at every time when it happens, not just raise it when it suits us because it's a State where BJP is in power, one of my cabinet colleagues son is in probably trouble, and also assume that it's actually them who did it and not anybody else.

## NIA arrests 9 in J&amp;K for terror conspiracy

## Of those, 5 held during searches in Srinagar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday said it has arrested nine persons, including five during the searches conducted in Srinagar, in the Jammu & Kashmir terrorism conspiracy case.

The five arrested accused persons are Md Haneef Chiralu (Srinagar) Hafeez (Budgam), Owais Dar (Pulwama), Mateen Bhat (Shopian), and Arif Farooq Bhat (Srinagar).

The arrests came close on the heels of searches at 16 locations in Kashmir on Tuesday. The NIA had registered the case on Sunday. During the searches, the agency seized several electronic devices, incriminating jihadi documents, and records of suspicious financial transactions.

The case relates to the



conspiracy for conducting violent terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir and other major cities by the cadre of proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), and their affiliates Al Badr, The Resistance Front (TRF), People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF) and Mujahideen Ghazwat-ul Hind (MGH) among others.

The agency had on Tuesday conducted searches at 16 locations in Srinagar, Pulwama, and Shopian districts and arrested four accused persons. The arrested accused are Waseem Ahmed Sofi of Chattabal, Srinagar, Tariq

Ahmed Dar of Shergarhi, Srinagar, Bilal Ahmed Mir alias Bilal Fufu of Parimpora, Srinagar, and Tariq Ahmed Bafanda of Rajauri Kadal in Srinagar.

The agency was pursuing a case on the intelligence input regarding hatching of conspiracy both physically and in cyberspace for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir and other major cities of India, including New Delhi, by the cadres of proscribed terrorist organisations LeT, JeM, HM, Al Badr and similar other outfits and their affiliates such as the TRF and PAFF among others, the NIA said in a statement.

## Upswing

## State adds 615 Covid cases, 7 deaths

68 kids among infected

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as the festive season is under way, the State on Wednesday registered a comparatively-increased cases of 615 new Covid-19 in 24 districts and State pool, with which total tally rose to 10,33,288. Among freshly-infected were 68 children in age group of 0 to 18 years. In last 24 hours, 62,675 samples were tested and test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.98 per cent. The active cases stood at 5,203.

Notably, the State had reported 529 new cases on Tuesday. Out of Wednesday's new 615 cases, 357 were from quarantine and 258 local contacts. Khordha district reported day's highest 323 cases followed by Cuttack with 72, Mayurbhanj 28, Sambalpur 19, Puri 15, Baleswar 12 and Kendrapada 10. The districts which recorded below-10 cases were Jajpur nine, Jagatsinghpur and Sundargarh eight each, Bhadrak seven, Angul and Koraput four each, Bargarh, Ganjam, Keonjhar, Nayagarh, Nuapada three each,

## 184 infections in Bhubaneswar

**BHUBANESWAR:** The State capital on Wednesday reported 184 new Covid-19 cases, with which total tally in city increased to 1,15,203. There were now 3,636 active cases. Of fresh cases, 134 were local contacts and 50 were from quarantine. Notably, the city had recorded 234 cases on Tuesday. Two more patients succumbed to disease in city, pushing total death toll to 1,039. However, 182 more patients recovered, increasing total recoveries to 1,10,507.

Jharsuguda two and Boudh, Dhenkanal and Rayagada one each. Besides, 76 cases were reported from State pool. Seven more patients succumbed to disease in last 24 hours, mounting total death toll to 8,268 in State. Khordha and Cuttack districts reported two deaths each and Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Sundargarh one each. So far, 10,19,764 patients have recovered in State.



Wishes its readers a Happy Dussehra

The offices of *The Pioneer*, Bhubaneswar edition will remain closed on October 14, 15 and 16 on account of Dussehra and Durga Puja. The next issue will appear on October 18



## CAPSULE

## MANMOHAN SINGH ADMITTED TO AIIMS

**New Delhi:** Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was admitted to the AIIMS here Wednesday evening after he complained of weakness following a fever, sources said.

## INFLATION RISES 5.4% FROM YEAR AGO

**Washington:** Consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent last month, slightly higher than August's gain and pushing annual inflation back to the highest increase in 13 years.

## PM unveils ₹100L cr master plan to give Gati to economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a ₹100 lakh crore national master plan — PM Gati Shakti — for multi-modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

The plan targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time, Modi said, adding it would lend more power and speed to projects by connecting all concerned departments on one platform. The infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and States will be designed and executed with a common vision.

Modi said "taxpayers" money in the past was "insulted" through a lethargic approach to development work, with departments working in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches PM Gati Shakti, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Wednesday

PIB

silos and there was no coordination on projects. Development, he said, is not possible without quality infrastructure and the Government has now resolved to develop it in a

holistic manner. Gati Shakti joins different departments for the coordinated development of projects from road to railways, aviation to agriculture, the PM said.

## Low pressure to form in Bengal Bay in 24 hrs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday said a low pressure area is likely to form over east-central Bay of Bengal (BoB) and neighbourhood during next 24 hours. It may reach south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coasts during the subsequent 24 hours.

Under its influence, rainfall intensity is likely to increase in east India and adjoining central India from October 15. "A cyclonic circulation lies over east-central Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood extending up to mid tropospheric levels.

Under influence of this cyclonic circulation, a low pressure area is likely to form over east central Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood during next 24 hours," the IMD said. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and

reach south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coasts during subsequent 24 hours. Under its influence, light to moderate rainfall at most places with isolated thunderstorm (wind speed 40 to 50 kmph) and heavy falls very likely over Andaman and Nicobar Islands during next five days. Rainfall intensity very likely to increase over east India and adjoining central India from October 15," the weather office said.

Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon has withdrawn from Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir, Subarnapur, Nuapada, Boudh, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts, most parts of Angul and Kandhamal districts, and some parts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts, the Regional Office of IMD here said.

## Pandian reviews Puri stadium work

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Secretary to Chief Minister SVK Pandian on Wednesday visited the Puri stadium project site and supervised the ongoing works.

Pandian reviewed the project's progress and directed to expedite the completion. He mentioned that it is the dream of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to make Puri a world-class heritage city with all suitable amenities.

Pandian also discussed about development of sports in Puri, which has a strong culture of akhadas and there is a lot of scope for development of sports like wrestling, weightlifting, bodybuilding, yoga, gymnastics and boxing. He asked officials to explore whether



the akhadas would be supported for sports development. He further directed that a residential cricket academy and a wrestling academy be established in the new sports complex, which is being constructed with a budget of Rs 40 crore. The project is a part of the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme, which intends to transform Puri into a world-class heritage city.



# Union Min Tudu feels humiliated by OAS officers

Offers them black dresses in retaliation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Bishweswar Tudu has said he would offer black dresses to the agitating OAS officers of Mayurbhanj district for exposing their “anti-people” activities and for humiliating an elected people’s representative.

Tudu, a BJP leader, said this while reacting over the Mayurbhanj OAS officers black badge protest against him accusing him of abusing an OAS officer with filthy language over allotment of a room in the Circuit House at



Baripada. The OAS Association also alleged that Tudu resorted to rude behaviour and “derogatory remarks” towards State Government officials during his recent visit to Mayubhanj. However, Tudu rejected the allegation and claimed that he was deliberately given a substandard room

while a special suit was allotted to a State Government tribal department officer. “This is a clear breach of privilege for a Union Minister. Above all, I am the MP of Mayurbhanj district,” he said.

While the OAS Officers Association alleged that Tudu used un-parliamentary language against one of its members prompting them to start the black badge protest, Tudu claimed that the officials are giving a false impression to hide their “anti-people activities”.

Association president Rudra Narayan Mohanty, who is the Additional District Magistrate of Mayurbhanj, alleged that the Minister abused him on October 9. “The Minister on 9 October, 2021 had rung the ADM, Mayurbhanj at about 4.26 pm and asked about the repair of Circuit House, Mayurbahnj.

The ADM, Mayurbhanj politely replied that the annual repair and maintenance is going on in the Circuit House. The Hon’ble Minister then used un-parliamentary language, scolded the ADM & collector, Mayurbhanj. His language was so obscene and uncalled for which cannot be written in the proceedings (of a meeting),” the association said in a statement.

At a meeting on Monday, the district officers also resolved to wear black badges in protest against “such unwarranted behaviour” and communicate it to the State OAS Association with a request to bring the matter to the notice of the Governor and the Chief Minister. Asserting that he did not misbehave with anyone, Tudu, however, said he has expressed displeasure as there has been no progress in the implementation of certain wel-

fare schemes for tribal people in Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts. “When I visited Mayurbhanj district from where I have been elected to the Lok Sabha, the officials allotted me a substandard room in the Circuit House just to humiliate me. Instead, an officer in the State ST & SC Department was given a special suite,” Tudu said.

On the officers’ black badge protest, he said he is going to meet the agitating officers. “I will offer all of them a pair of black dresses each.

They should wear black dresses and people should know about their black deeds,” Tudu said, adding that he would take up the matter with the State’s Governor. There have also been allegations that Tudu had misbehaved with other officers in the recent past. “The MPs should fight for the rights of the people. When it comes to developmental activities, one should take all stakeholders into confidence and work as a team,” senior BJP MP Suresh Pujari said.

Director, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries India Pvt Ltd Shusuke Suto are to inaugurate a centre for Japanese language, Centre of Excellence, Internship and Mitsubishi CSR Programme for Sports at KIIT and KISS here on Thursday in a hybrid mode. This is a one-of-its-kind facility in Odisha. The Japanese language centre would promote understanding and appreciation of Japanese language and culture, particu-

larly among students and further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries. Under the internship arrangements, Mitsubishi Group, a 150-year old multinational company, will accept KIIT students, who have achieved a certain level of proficiency in the Japanese language, as interns. The Mitsubishi Group will also extend support to Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) students as part of its CSR activities. The initiative of the Embassy of Japan, Mitsubishi Group and KIIT & KISS will provide a new impetus to the people-to-people exchanges between Japan and India even as the two countries are set to celebrate the start of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, said KIIT & KISS founder Prof Achyuta Samanta.

## Japanese language centre to open at KIIT, KISS

INAUGURATION TODAY

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Ambassador of Japan to India Satoshi Suzuki in the presence of India’s Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla; Chairperson & Managing Director, Mitsubishi Corporation India Pvt Ltd Yoji Taguchi; and Managing

## TN CM Stalin writes to Naveen on NEET exam

Kanimozhi hands over letter to Patnaik

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

DMK Deputy Leader in Lok Sabha Kanimozhi Karunanidhi met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Naveen Nivas here on Wednesday. Kanimozhi handed over a letter of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin to Patnaik and explained about the problems faced by students from rural areas and from poor households in clearing NEET examination. In his letter, Stalin has drawn atten-



tion of Patnaik regarding problems faced by students of rural base in clearing NEET examination and need to make exam inclusive. Patnaik had earlier raised this issue with Union

Government and stressed importance of making the national examinations inclusive and suggested to Centre to take steps in this regard covering NEET, IIT and UPSC exams.

## State now collects ₹10K cr revenue per month

By September 30, 46% of budget estimate for revenue mopped up

TATHYA ■ BHUBANESWAR

The overdrive for collection of revenue has enabled the State Government to mop up nearly Rs 10,000 crore on an average per month.

In September, 2021, the State Government collected Rs 9,805 crore and maintained the growth trend, officials admitted. The State Government’s latest report on revenue says revenue is experiencing positive growth of more than 25 per cent. While it was targeted to

collect Rs 1, 25, 600 crore during 2021-22 by September 30, the State Government has been able to collect Rs 57, 628 crore, nearly 46 per cent of the budget estimate for revenue collection. The total revenue receipts include own tax, own non-tax and share and grants from the Center was Rs 1,06,891 crore in 2020-21.

While nearly Rs 20,000 crore more revenue was expected, trends show that there will be more collection, said officials. While the State’s own tax revenue and own non-tax revenue collection is on the rise, grants and share tax from Center has fallen sharply, the officials said.

So far as own tax revenue is concerned, the State Government has been able to

collect Rs 11,753 crore, registering a growth of nearly 31 per cent and nearly 47 per cent of the budget estimate target. While the revenue collection is on the rise, expenditure by several development departments marked a sharp hike.

But spending on infrastructure is not picking up, which causes worry, they said. The Agriculture Department has topped the list of spending with 49.96 percent of the budget estimate.

Expenditure in the primary sector has been stressed more by the State Government as the farm sector needs more fund infusion during the post Covid scenario. However, the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department (FARD) sector

has not been able to match the spending level of agriculture, though the primary sector has more scope to spend funds that would help improve income of farmers.

The Food Supply and Consumer Welfare, which is implementing the National Food Security programme, has been able to spend 45.73 per cent of the budget estimate.

The social sector spending is on the rise with departments like Women and Child Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Co-operation, Social Security, Disaster Management performing well, though Industry and MSME sectors have not risen up to the expectation.

Official sources said that the State Government is harp-

ing on more spending in the infrastructure sector. This is done to boost the State’s infrastructure development and pumping of more funds to the people’s projects. Spending during the first six months of the current fiscal is Rs 50,465 crore against Rs 42,510 crore spent during the corresponding period of previous year. The percentage of budget utilisation is 34.7 per cent as compared to the 30.10 percent of the previous year.

The programme expenditure during April-September 2021 is Rs 24, 233 crore as compared to the Rs 19,266 crore during the corresponding period of previous year. The percentage of budget utilisation is 31.5 as compared to 25.3 per cent the previous year.

## Scribe son’s death: Two suspects surrender at Phulbani

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR/ PHULBANI

In a major breakthrough in the death case of journalist Navin Das’ son Manish Anurag, two persons suspected to be involved in the incident surrendered before the Phulbani police on Wednesday.

As per reports, a team of the Commissionerate police had already picked up one suspect from Phulbani on Tuesday. Speaking to reporters, Phubani SDPO Mahendra Murmu said, “The suspects are being interrogated and a police team from Bhubaneswar was on the way to question the duo.” The two suspects were identified as Mrutyunjay Mishra and Dinesh Mohapatra from Peonpada and Amalapada, respectively, in

Phulban. The Commissionerate police on Tuesday detained one of the two persons who allegedly accompanied Manish in a car on Saturday night. The police have also seized the Maruti Ciaz car in which the trio travelled. Notably, the preliminary postmortem report of the deceased stated that he had died of suffocation.

Notably, the body of Manish was recovered under mysterious circumstances from a pond at Patrapada in the capital city on Sunday afternoon. He had reportedly gone missing from a location under Infocity police station on Saturday. It was also alleged that Manish had been abducted by two persons in a car from the Infocity area. The abductors had also allegedly made a ransom call to his family members.

## Youths vandalise Cong Bhawan

Internal feud in Youth Congress suspected; PCC president orders probe, suspends watchman

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Unidentified miscreants on Wednesday morning vandalised the Congress Bhawan at Master Canteen Square here. Though the reason behind the incident was yet to be ascertained, it was suspected that internal squabble in the Youth Congress (YC) might have led to the violence. A group of youths broke into the office of



Youth Congress and smashed chairs, tables and other furniture. A Youth Congress leader, Nihar Ranjan Behera, said, “The people involved in the violence are yet to be identified. Some Youth Congress workers were dissatisfied with the style of functioning of State unit president Smruti Ranjan Lenka. We believe it might be their handiwork.” Lenka is often unreachable to the youth members of the party at the office. It is difficult for the ordi-

nary members to meet the top leadership often to convey the latter about the problems they are facing at the grassroots,” alleged Behera. Meanwhile, Pradesh Committee president Niranjana Patnaik entrusted responsibility to Bhubaneswar district Congress Committee president Biswajit Das to conduct a probe into the incident and submit a report. Besides, Patnaik suspended the Congress Bhawan watchman for negligence in duty.

## Odisha to adopt PM Gati Shakti

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha Government on Wednesday decided to adopt the PM Gati Shakti scheme for seamless multimodal connectivity of integration of various infrastructure projects in the State. A meeting in this connection was held here under the chairmanship of Odisha Commerce and Transport Minister Padmanabha Behera. The Minister reviewed various infrastructure projects in the State and suggested taking advantage of getting integrated with the PM Gati Shakti, the national Master Plan for seamless multimodal connectivity of integration of various infrastructures like roads, ports, aviation, energy and telecom. With integration, the logistic cost for the manufacturing sector, allied sector and exports would be reduced, ensure quick turnaround time, increase competitiveness and help the goal of achieving 1 trillion dollar economy of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. IPICOL MD and IDCO ED Bhupinder Singh Poonia, Paradip Port Trust Chairman PL Harandh and NHA officials were present. Notably, Prime Minister Modi launched the PM Gati Shakti scheme in New Delhi on the day.

## In Koraput Denied mobile games, 13-yr-old boy kills self

KORAPUT: An addiction to mobile phone has led to the death of another child in Odisha as a 13-year-old boy ended his life after his family did not allow him to play games. The shocking incident has been reported from Gautam Nagar in Koraput town. The deceased, identified as Manohar, son of one Shrinivas Rao, was a Class-VIII student of the St Xavier’s High School. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he had been attending online classes on mobile phone. But eventually, he became addicted to mobile phone games and used to be reprimanded by his parents

for this. On Tuesday, when his parents snatched the mobile phone from him while he was glued to it, the teenager turned totally upset. In a fit of rage, he locked himself in a room and hanged self from the ceiling with a saree. After a while, his family members broke open the door to find him hanging from the ceiling. They rushed him to the Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital here in a critical condition. Later, doctors declared him dead. On receiving information, local police reached the spot and initiated an investigation into the incident.

HITTING THE BULLSEYE

## Parliamentarians only public servants, can’t expect VIP treatment



BISWARAJ PATNAIK

Not long ago, France’s President Emmanuel Macron and Sweden’s Prime Minister Stefan Löfven were seen travelling by public transport bus during the European Social Summit. Swedish politicians use public transport all the time because they feel proud to be part of the crowd.

More interestingly, Sweden does not offer luxury or special privileges to its political dignitaries. Without official cars or private drivers, Swedish ministers and MPs travel in crowded buses and trains, just like the citizens they represent. Still more interestingly, they have no right to parliamentary

immunity and they can be tried in law courts like any other person for abusing authority. No one is even entitled to a private secretary waiting at the door. Their bare-bones parliamentary offices are as small as only 86 square feet. By any remote chance, if any political biggie dares to spend public money on taxi journeys, instead of riding the train, they end up soon as public villains on news headlines.

Even the Speaker of Parliament gets a travel card to use the public transport systems. Only the Prime Minister has the right to use a car from the security forces on a permanent basis. Swedish parliamentarians live in tiny apartments where they get clothes washed and ironed at community laundries.

Still, ordinary people think they are given undue luxury because until the end of the 1980s, all parliamentarians slept on sofa beds in their own offices. Most significantly, no one in public life earns an obscene multi-digit salary. The take-home pay of a member of the ‘Riksdag’ (Parliament) is

only twice that of an elementary school teacher. Sweden is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Yet, the non-salaried Swedish councillors have no office space, not even a cubicle. They work from home.

Sweden’s experience subverts the unhinged concept that politicians should be accorded reverential treatment worthy of a higher caste consisting of ladies and gentlemen, who are more illustrious than the average citizen.

Sweden is a healthy, happy nation that treats its government officials and political representatives as ordinary citizens. It’s a country without “excellencies” and other formal, mostly stupid, titles. It’s a society that abolished the use of formal pronouns in the 1960s and where everyone is called simply “you”.

In Swedish system of values, nobody is above anybody else. The political executive is expected to live in conditions similar to that of the ordinary people who elect them. The Swedish ministers including the Prime Minister are often

times seen pushing shopping trolley in supermarkets in Stockholm. The Mayor of Stockholm standing in a queue at a bus stop or the Speaker of the Parliament sitting in an underground train is common sight.

Free from major social imbalances, Sweden, not surprisingly, is a safer and less violent country. Most importantly, the elected politicians are expected to remain in regular touch with people to know the day-to-day realities of citizens. Politicians are just not allowed to place their personal interests above or ahead of those of the people.

The Swedish society demonstrates that political power can be exercised only for public relief and happiness and that too within the boundaries of decency. Coming back to India, in a shocking instructional note by the Civil Aviation Minister to all airport authorities have been categorically told to provide VIP treatment to Member of Parliament for their air travel. In a letter sent only a day ago, the Union Government has asked all air-

lines, airport operators and aviation security regulator to ensure compliance with the ‘protocol/courtesy/support’ to MPs at all Indian airports. These include spot confirmation of seats and in case of fully booked flights, giving them first seat cancelled.

The letter clearly indicates that the Government wants no MP to not face ‘any issues’ or inconvenience during air travel as they are larger than the people who sent them to make laws. The MPs from now on are to be helped by the duty manager and senior staff of the airport with check-in formalities, apart from all efforts being made to reserve their seats in the front row.

The airport operators including Government-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) have to provide MPs access to reserved lounges along with free tea, coffee or expensive bottled water. Airlines have also been further directed to pass on travel details to the airport directors so that necessary assistance is extended to MPs through the identified protocol officer. The wish

list includes advance notice on flight delays, priority for check-in, boarding and security clearances, besides lounge access and complementary snacks. Many Indian parliamentarians are despicable and beggarly creatures simply because the majority of them come from bad background. The minority noble ones remain helpless because their voices are silenced down on purpose.

The latest anti-public arrangement is being made because some lawmakers expressed displeasure about the treatment routinely meted out to them by most private airlines which didn’t care to know their colossal status. Hence, the special instruction letter to all airport authorities. Coincidentally, this occurred immediately after the Tatas lapped up the Air India burden a couple of days ago.

In 2010, when the UPA Government was pressing for austerity measures, the MPs gave themselves a huge monthly salary hike from Rs 15,000 to Rs 50,000. The constituency allowance too was doubled to

Rs 45,000. Currently, all these are a huge burden on the ordinary citizen. Now that the BJP headed by Narendra Modi is ruling India, the prevailing vulgarly big privileges should be withdrawn forthwith rather than more like airport pleasure be granted to the servants of the greatest democracy on the planet.

Hoodlums, insensitively rich crooks with money grabbed through criminal or unlawful activities or plain pinheads without the power to think clearly have been made MPs.

No wonder, such creatures take grand pleasure selling away school seats, other tightly-kept quotas and eat up cuts from LAD funds without compunction or sense of guilt apart from scores of daylight robbery jobs pulled without fear or shame. There is disturbing news of MPs having placed relatives as private secretary to eat up the 40-50 thousand-rupee monthly salary granted by the parliament. The unworthy Indian parliamentarians invariably go beyond their entitled limit of phone, electricity and

water expenses without ever paying up even after being thrown out. There was also news that MPs owe Rs 14-15 crore to the Government-owned ITDC hotels for accommodation and fun. MPs have been known to have gone on make-believe study tours on the exchequer’s money at a time when the Government was following an austerity measure due to acute shortage of funds. Such ‘robbery adventures’ were possible until times when the internet and smart phones had not shown up.

But now that all this is available for only a penny, smallest of the small misadventure by the ruling gang is being captured in minutes, and provoking the public to convert plain displeasure into furious rebellion at a frighteningly rapid pace.

The Union Government guys and girls must learn from the Swedish counterparts some divine basics of democracy to survive for a reasonably respectable period. Or else, doomsday will not be far off. The Civil Aviation Minister better beware!



# Politics heats up as gazette notice out for ULB polls

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the issuance of Gazette notification on Municipal Laws, political atmosphere in the State has heated up as all huddles are cleared for the delayed urban elections in the State.

The poll was delayed due to Orissa High Court's order to limit the reservations within 50 per cent. Now, Administrators are managing the urban local bodies (ULBs).

Following pressure by various political parties and court's order, the State Government is readying to go for the urban polls, said Congress legislator Mohammed Moqim. "We welcome the decision. The reservation process should be carried out in a fair manner," he said.

Similarly, BJP general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan said the State Government has been forced to go for the polls. "The Government, under pressure, has taken this step and we will continue to pressurize the Government till the poll has not been conducted," he said. On the other hand, BJD law-

maker and former Mayor of Bhubaneswar, Ananta Narayan Jena said the urban elections will be conducted as per process," he said. Paving way for the delayed urban polls, the Law Department has issued the Gazette notification on Odisha Municipal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 to keep the overall reservation in various urban local bodies (ULBs) up to 50 per cent.

Necessary amendments have been made to the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950 and the Odisha Municipal Corporation Act, 2003, Law, Urban Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Pratap Jena said.

Now, the maximum limit of reservation of seats has been kept at 50 per cent for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Class Citizens in all urban local bodies (ULBs) of the State, said the Minister.

The Government will first give priority to ST and SC population in the reservation and the remaining seats, if left, will be reserved for backward class citizens with a maximum ceiling of 27 per cent, sources said.

# 2nd special tourist train to Gujarat in Nov

Boarding points at B'pur, Khurda BBSR, Cuttack, Talcher, Angul, S'pur, J'suguda on Nov 29

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) at Bhubaneswar launched a special tour package "Pilgrim Special Tourist Train" for western India.

After successful operation of its 1st Pilgrim Special Tourist Train towards Varanasi, Gaya and Prayagraj, the second pilgrim special tourist train will cover Dwaraka, Somnath Temple, Nageswar, Bet Dwaraka, Ahmedabad and Statue of Unity in November.

The package will start from Visakhapatnam on November 28 and will end on December 8 for 10 nights and 11 days. The train will provide boarding points at Brahmapur, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Talcher Road, Angul,

Sambalpur and Jharsuguda in Odisha. Tourist and religious destinations like Statue of Unity, Dwarakadhish Temple, Nageswar Jyotirling, Somnath Jyotirling, Kirti Mandir, Akshardham Temple will be covered in the package.

For Single occupancy, the package cost will be ₹10,400 in Standard package (Sleeper Class) and ₹17,330 in Comfort package (AC-3 Tier). The package includes night accommodation (Dormitory for Sleeper Class and 3 Star Hotels for AC 3 Tier), sightseeing, veg meals for breakfast and dinners/lunches, tour escorts and unarmed security arrangements, travel insurance and parking and toll charges, etc.

Apart from this, IRCTC Regional Office at Bhubaneswar also offering most affordable domestic air packages to various parts of India like Kashmir, Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and south India, viz., Rameswaram, Madurai, Kanyakumari and Trivandrum etc. These packages will be available on group departures and customised basis on requirement.

# Teacher crunch hits school edu in S'garh district

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Giving priority on primary and secondary education, the State Government has introduced many schemes including 'Mo School Abhiyan' which is a welcome step.

But for quality education and good result along with infrastructure development, good and adequate numbers of teachers are also required. Unfortunately, Sundargarh district cuts a sorry figure on both fronts.

According to sources, though a large number of teachers' posts are lying vacant in different high schools of the district, the Government has not taken any step to fill the vacancies. Instead, it has been making some hollow assurances. Even out of 208 schools, 85 schools have no headmasters. Sources said while in 17 schools headmaster of OES-II rank is needed to be posted, such headmasters are found only in five schools while the post of headmaster is lying vacant in 12 schools. Similarly, while Senior SES headmasters are required in 191 schools, only 118 schools have such

headmaster and the post is vacant lying vacant in 73 schools. To run the school smoothly it is required to have at least one teacher each in PCM and CBZ respectively. But many schools are running without a single PCM teacher or CBZ teacher or both. While 266 PCM teachers are required across the district, there are only 164 PCM teachers. Similarly, while 243 CBZ teachers required, 136 teachers are working and 107 posts of such teacher are lying vacant. That is why on many occasions the arts teachers are forced to take mathematics and science classes in many schools.

From this the quality of education can be well assessed. Even in arts stream while 516 teachers are required, 310 teachers are working. Against a requirement of 42 TI teachers, there only 24 in place and against a need for 43 TM teachers, 28 are working. Similarly, in place of 199 Classical Teachers, 126 are working. Only 70 Hindi teachers are working while 188 of such teachers are needed. There are 123 PETs against 183 sanctioned posts.

## ADDRESSING SOLID WASTE ISSUE

# Kids show the way in Keonjhar, Kalahandi

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Children are taking small steps in their own villages to address the issue of solid waste. Child committees are enforcing a ban of single use plastics and polythene, and installing dustbins for garbage dump Bamboo dustbin structures covered with recyclable cement bags were inaugurated on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 02 by the Village Development Committee and families were



advised strictly to put their plastic and polythene waste there in Pentadihi village in Keonjhar district. They youths from Village Development Committee organised an awareness meeting where they decided to make garbage dumping bins with locally available materials.

Similarly, in Maligaon and Digribandh villages in Kalahandi district, the members of the committee organised an awareness drive on

harmful effects of plastic and polythene, made dustbins and handmade garbage dump with sticks fencing for their villages. This ensured that plastic bags, biscuit wrappers, sachets etc. do not move around in the village and are safely contained in one place for further disposal. Saindri Naik, a Village Development Committee member, says with pride, "A year ago, the roads in Digribandh were littered with garbage and polythene bags.

This attracted flies, and the polythene bags choked our drains. Most importantly, our cattle used to swallow polythene bags along with leftover food materials which used to cause choking. Now, our village has become clean and comparatively safer for our cattle, thanks to efforts of the children. It feels better to walk around village without polythene bags of various colours strewn around."

# IN NABARANGPUR 6-yr-old boy killed in tiger attack

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

In a shocking incident, a six-year-old boy was killed in a tiger attack in Nabarangpur district on Tuesday. According to sources, Narendra Markam of village Turudi under Raigarh block in district had gone with his family to Shiva temple situated in village Shihawa in Chhattisgarh, 26 km away from their village Turudi. At this point of time, suddenly the tiger came out of the forest, appeared before them and attacked them.

While everyone was running to save their lives, Narendra's son Amit was trapped by tiger, which dragged boy away to the nearby forest and disappeared. Soon after that, local denizens and police left for searching for Amit but found his dead body. As this was first incident in which a life was lost in a tiger attack, it has caused panic in the area.

# ₹50L ganja seized in Gajapati, 1 held from Bihar



PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

The R Udayagiri police on the instructions of Gajapati SP Jayaram Satpathy conducted a raid and seized nine quintals of ganja on Tuesday. They also arrested a person in this connection though three others managed to escape from the spot. The arrested youth was identified as Sonu Paswan of Rohtas district in Bihar. Getting infor-

mation, a police conducted the raid in a dense forest between Pateiguda and Anuguru villages and recovered the contraband packed in 24 gunny bags. The contraband was to be trafficked to Bihar.

The market value of the seized contraband is more than Rs 50 lakh. The SP said the drive against contraband trading would be further intensified in the district.

## INBRIEF

**OCTOGENARIAN DIES IN BULL ATTACK IN KENDRAPADA**  
Kendrapada: In an unfortunate incident, an octogenarian, Dhruvacharan Mohanty, a resident of Khardasahi under the Kendrapada Sadar police limit, died when two bulls were fighting with each other and he was standing on the roadside of the Chandol market. He was being shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital but died on the way.

## HC JUDGE MOHAPATRA VISITS J'SUGUDA COURT



Jharsuguda: Justice KR Mohapatra of the Orissa High Court on Tuesday visited the Jharsuguda court and held discussions with court staffs. Later, he held talks with Jharsuguda District Bar Association members about their problems. A guard of honour was given to him in the presence of bar association president Trinath Gual.

## 'DRKURE' BRINGS HOME HEALTHCARE

Bhubaneswar: Health service at doorstep: the concept has been developed by renowned doctors and specialists to cater to the basic health needs of the citizens of Odisha. The healthcare at home is delivered through the app 'DrKure', which includes consulting a doctor through online, clinic or home visit, home sample collection, medicine delivery, physiotherapy, nursing care, nutritionists advice, ambulance service besides remote health monitoring of a patient through smart health devices. "The home healthcare service is available to individuals and also includes corporate care for employees. The app service is limited to Bhubaneswar now and will be gradually extended to other key cities of Odisha," said Chief Medical Officer Dr Archana Mallick.

## 1,200 KGS FM WASH, 450 LITRE ID LIQUOR DESTROYED



Champur: As much as 1,200 kg of FM wash and 450 litres of ID liquor were destroyed at Bolani in Keonjhar district on Tuesday. A raid in this connection had been conducted being led by Excise Inspector Chandan Mandal, Barbil police station OIC Gobinda Naik.

## JSPL TRB MINES GETS ENVIRON EXCELLENCE AWARD



Rourkela: The TRB Iron Ore Mines of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) at Tensa of Sundargarh district has been conferred with the Kalinga Environment Excellence Award-2020 for its exemplary sustainable environmental practices. State Assembly Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro presented the award to Pramod Kumar Patra, vice-president and unit head of TRB Mines in Bhubaneswar. Naveen Jindal, Chairman, JSPL, has congratulated the JSPL team at Tensa for winning the award.

# No-tobacco drive: Bhadrak MP urged for support

PNS ■ BALESWAR

An appeal has been made to Bhadrak MP Manjulata Mandal by the Coalition for Tobacco-Free Odisha (CTFO) to seek her support as a parliamentarian to support the campaign to curb tobacco in India. The CTFO, a State-level network of women and child rights organisations, activists and experts, has been campaigning across country to make India tobacco free and create a platform for individuals, organisations and campaign groups working on women, child, and youth rights collectively to deliberate and



act on tobacco control; thereby broadening tobacco control movement in India. The process calls for formulating effective strategies around tobacco control to support national policy objectives including bidi taxation by

bringing women and child rights organisations, civil society groups, domain experts, policymakers and parliamentarians together from across the country, said a core team member of CTFO Odisha chapter Ubachak Mohanty.

# ₹25L brown sugar recovered in Puri

5 arrested; 4-wheeler, bike, ATM cards seized

SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA PURI: In a crackdown on drugs and narcotics sales, police seized 250 grams of brown sugar and arrested five persons in this connection here on Wednesday. The brown sugar was worth ₹25 lakh. Police also seized a four-wheeler, a bike, 11 mobile phones, two bank ATM cards besides ₹5,000 in cash from drug peddlers. The held were identified as Dhirendra Sahu (40), Subrat Khuntia (23), Madhab Mandal (28), Aditya Narayan Swain (30) and Suraj Parida (21). While first three and 5th accused hail from Khandagiri, the 4th one is from Banpur of Khordha district.

# J'suguda Durga Puja begins adhering to Covid norms

Puja Committees perform Ghata Puja instead of elaborate celebrations

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA

Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community, began on Monday with Maha Sashthi puja in temples, homes and in public, featuring temporary stage decorations in Jharsuguda, Brajrajnagar, Belpahar and Bandhbahal in the district, following Covid-19 safety guidelines. The district administration has banned immersion procession, religious ceremonies like dandiya nights and other cultural programmes. Sources said some puja committees have cancelled celebrations and some

have decided to do a 'Ghata Puja' (worshipping an urn symbolising goddess) this year. The rules remain that height of the idols be less than four feet and front portion of pandal be covered.

That apart, not more than seven persons be allowed inside pandal to perform puja formalities of Maa Durga. The idols should be immersed in a special pond created for purpose. "We are working as per instructions of administration. Devotees are being sanitized at all entry points and nobody is being allowed inside pandal without masks," said Om Shri Puja Committee, Sarbahal, general secretary, Raju Panigrahi. The committee organisers one of most visited Puja Pandals in Jharsuguda



industrial town. This year Kalibari Durga Committee will mark its 63rd Puja celebration. TK Roy Chowdhury, a senior member of Kalibari Durga Puja Committee, said, "We would be following all Covid protocols during the celebrations. We have decided to drop a lot of elements of celebration this year. There wouldn't be any loud music and Sindur khela on Vijayadashami this year. There would be only one priest and only seven devotees would be allowed in the pandal at a time." Superintendent of Police BC Dash said pandals should be spacious and overcrowding should be avoided. Organisers should also arrange for adequate masks and sanitisers.

# Being human a choice we make everyday



DISHASHREE SWAIN

As humans, we've always had two different facets of fear; the evolved fear and the learned fear. At first, they seem as though they're not associated in the least; yet with repeated stimulus and exposure to fear, the learned and the evolved facets of our fear fuse and are hardwired into the central part of the amygdala. When we see a crime being reported on the news, we get hardwired

to getting anxious in regard to a certain 'bad guy'; what we forget to realize is that it was the delinquency that we are afraid of rather than the person who committed it.

Now, the question arises-what exactly is this delinquency? What kind of atrocity are we afraid of being subjected to? Our fear centre is constantly triggered, leading to apprehension. What else could we call these anxieties? Racism? Sexism? Hostility toward youth? Islamophobia? Anti-Semitism? Domestic violence? Sexual harassment? Gun violence? Mass shootings?

It has been noted time and again that nature is an experimenter. It has been constantly experimenting over billions of years- and as a conclusion, it has relinquished every single creature that hasn't adapted to the ceaselessly changing atmosphere. As humans, we've been

bestowed with a higher echelon of intellect and pragmatic conceptions and that's very true; however, it doesn't mean we can't be discarded by nature if we fail to put up with it's frequently changing spheres.

If we step out of the primitive clunker of our brains into the supercomputer-like dynamic thinking system that we have been blessed with and pull a long, hard look at the current situation, admit it or not, we find that it's humans who've brought the disastrous situation upon ourselves.

The problem has been our own consciousness all along. We're living and experiencing life in separation, and this separation driven consciousness has its own repercussions, and we see it in the world; we are, in the form of the present situation. If evolution weren't significant, our actuality would be incoherent. Even being crafted

by God, we need what we perceive and comprehend by science to have bearing on the natural world we call ours. We need to thrive and blossom.

For the first time in the history of the world, we are gaining dominance over our own evolution; the question remains as to whether we choose to make a world where nice people finish first, where love and kindness are priorities, or continue to let the greedy prosper with bank accounts in the billions and trillions.

Looking at a more technical aspect of evolution, let's take up the example of the very computer I'm using to write at this moment; it is the very symbol of hope for what we may achieve, and shows us how far we've come from being apes trying to figure out how the hammer works. Our environment dictates our social evolution, our social evolution

determines our biological evolution. So, there's this urgent need to develop a loving and kind environment that supports populations, that enables our brains to prosper in healthy ways, promoting our empathy, logic, self control and ability to be a member of a socially complex species.

Nature has programmed us to nurture for good reason. It is time we paid more attention to the subtle positive environmental forces of love, cooperation and trust. To stay in survivalist-type Darwinism is a lock-in to a fear paradigm, to accept the shift of focus onto empathy, love, trust and nurture, is to lock-in to a love paradigm. And this is our choice for dystopia or utopia, hell or heaven.

(The writer is a Standard-X student, DAV Public School, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar)

# No benefits under schemes Ganjam villagers seek Sub-Collector's help

**BRHAMAPUR:** Hundreds of people belonging to Nuapada gram panchayat under Chikiti block in Ganjam district met the Brahmapur Sub-Collector on Monday and submitted a memorandum to him protesting against non-inclusion of their names under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and the old age pension scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). The villagers under the leadership of social activist Hrushikesh Nayak had earlier also submitted a similar memorandum to the Chikiti BDO, but there was no response. They have alleged that local the Sarpanch has not recommended their names though they are eligible under the schemes. Because of their ignorance and innocence, some middlemen are cheating them, they resented.

PNS

# Youth's body found: Banspani rly stn ransacked; 4 RPF personnel injured

PNS ■ CHAMPUA

On Tuesday, a warlike situation prevailed at the Banspani railway station under in Keonjhar district after a body of a local youth, Laxman Patra, was found in the railway station.

Train movement under Chakradharpur division was disrupted from 8 pm to 2 am. Laxman had gone to the station where he was picked up by RPF, eyewitnesses said. Later, his body was found at the Railway station.

Alleging that RPF personnel had beaten him to death suspecting him to be a thief, the villagers stormed into the station and ransacked the office

building, waiting hall and ticket counter. The infuriated mob also dismantled the signal box. Besides, they attacked the RPF personnel. At least, four RPF personnel along with a SI were seriously injured. Three of them identified as PN Paswan, SK Singh and Pankaj Kumar have been admitted in the TMH Hospital, Jamsheedpur. The condition of SK Singh was critical.

Later, the authorities took the situation under control and train traffic resumed after emergency repairing. Laxman's family members have lodged an FIR in the Joda police station that Laxman was beaten to death by RPF. The RPF has also filed a counter FIR.







MID-SEA DRUG BUST CASE

# Aryan Khan played role in procurement: NCB

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday alleged that Aryan Khan, the accused in the mid-sea drug bust case, had a role to play in the illicit procurement and distribution of drugs and that he was in touch with some persons linked to an international drug network, even as a Special Court adjourned the hearing on bail pleas of Aryan and others for Thursday after partly hearing the arguments.

On a day when the arguments on the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan and other accused in the case remained inconclusive, the NCB upped the ante by making a sensational allegation: "There is material on record to show that Khan was in touch with some persons abroad who appear to be a part of an international drug network for illicit procurement of drugs. The investigation is still in progress".

During the inclusive arguments, Aryan's senior lawyer Amit Desai, Advocate Taraq Sayed, who appeared for Arbaaz Merchantt, lawyer Ali Kashif Khan Deshmukh, who represented Munmun Dhamecha and Advocate Raman, who appeared for

Mohak Jaswal put up their side of arguments, pressing for bail for their clients. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, appearing for NCB, opposed the bail pleas.

The Special court is hearing the bail pleas of Aryan and four others -- -Arbaaz Merchant, Mohak Jaswal, Nupur Satija, and Munmun Dhamecha. Special judge under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) VV Patil adjourned the hearing on the bail applications for 11 am on Thursday.

Twenty-three-year-old Aryan and four others --- Arbaaz, Mohak, Nupur and Dhamecha – were among the eight persons arrested by the NCB on October 3, a night after the NCB officials busted a rave party and seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of MD (Mephedrone), 21 grams of Charas, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy) and Rs 1.33 lakh in cash from Goa-bound cruise ship off the Mumbai coast here.

The total number of arrests in the sensational drug bust case has gone up to 20, with the arrest of a foreign national Okara Quazma and a local person Shivraj Harihan.

Earlier, in its affidavit filed before the court, the bail applications made before Special Judge, the NCB stated:



that the material collected during investigation had primarily revealed that "Khan has played a role in so far as illicit procurement and distribution of contraband is concerned".

Rebutting the contention of Aryan's lawyers that since the offences arraigned against Khan are Sections 8(c), 20(b), 27, 28, 29, 35 of the NDPS Act and that since no Narcotic drugs or psychotropic substance has been recovered from him, the bar against grant of bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act would not apply, the NCB told the court: "The role of one of the accused cannot be dissected from another. Even if there is no recovery of small substances, the accused are involved in conspiracy".

The NCB also told the court : "Aryan (Khan) and Arbaaz (Merchantt) have been associated in close collaboration with each other which is sufficient to attract offences under Section 29 NDPS act. It is so far apparent that Aachit and Harijan (two

other arrested accused) supplied charas to Khan and Merchantt".

"All ingredients of crime that are preparation, intention, attempt and commission are present for this applicant. The allegation of false implication is untrue and misleading as there is sufficient material in the form of WhatsApp chats, pictures, etc," the NCB affidavit stated.

"A bare perusal of the panchnama clearly reveals that Khan and Merchant were apprehended at the international cruise green gate Mumbai. So the investigation becomes imperative as to how the accused were to enter the cruise without a Classic MV Empress card," the NCB told the court.

Making a strong case for his client, Aryan's lawyer Amit Desai read out from the panchnama and said: (Arbaaz) Merchant admitted that he is consuming charas with (Aryan) Khan. On asking (Aryan) Khan, he also said he consumes charas. The substance was sealed. Then, a combined search was carried out. They found 6 gms of charas from Merchant. The first fact which is relevant is on their own panchnama, there is no recovery of possession. There is no debate on this, it is admitted and undisputed".

Desai went onto tell the court that

the NCB had seized a small quantity from Merchant. "The starting point of information is use, sale and consumption, but there is recovery from three persons so far but no recovery from me (Aryan)".

At one stage of arguments, Desai said: ".... there is an active drug chain, the prosecution) says. We see illicit trafficking in this reply throughout. They dump it all on (Aryan) Khan. And I am sure they know that it is a serious offence. In the NDPS Act, illicit trafficking is a term of law. It is not a casual term.

"The NCB, which knows the NDPS Act inside out, should know what is illicit trafficking. This boy has been charged with illicit trafficking. In SC terms, it is'inherently absurd," Desai argued.

"There is no recovery against him, and they are saying there is recovery from Dhamecha and Gomit etc. Nothing from this boy, he was not even on the cruise and they say illicit trafficking!.... They are talking about cultivation, sale, purchase, there is nothing against him! And this is a responsible agency... They are saying illicit trafficking and the only provision which deals with that is Section 27A," Desai told the court.

## Maha Cabinet supports reservation in promotions in Govt jobs

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra Cabinet on Wednesday decided to support reservation in promotions in government jobs after taking into account a report that has established under representation of SCs, STs and other reserved categories in higher posts.

An official statement said the cabinet, at its meeting here, decided to support the policy of reservation in promotions for state employees from reserved categories and will put forth the government's stand accordingly before the Supreme Court, where the matter is pending.

An additional affidavit will be submitted by the state government in the Supreme Court which will underscore the state's stand on the reservation in promotions issue, said an official.

The Cabinet discussed a report prepared by chief secretary Sitaram Kunte on the current representation of SCs,

STs and backward communities in higher posts in public jobs.

The report has stated that there is not enough representation of these communities in senior positions in the State cadre and thus the Maharashtra government has decided to support the demand of reservation in promotions, the official said.

The report and its findings will be mentioned in the affidavit that is proposed to be submitted in the apex court, he said. In early May, the General Administration Department issued an interim order removing reservation in promotions for public servants belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes and Special Backward Classes categories.

However, following strong protests, the state government later issued a circular staying the interim order. **PTI**

## Karunakaran’s daughter Padmaja alleges betrayal by Cong leader

**KOCHI:** Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of former Chief Minister late K Karunakaran has lambasted T N Prathapan MP for 'backstabbing' her during the 2021 Assembly election from Thrissur.

In a complaint to the Congress High Command, Padmaja, who lost narrowly to P Balachandran of the CPI by a thin margin of 946 votes, has alleged that a group led by Prathapan worked to ensure her defeat in the election as part

of rampant groupism in the party.

"Though I had lost the 2016 Assembly election from Thrissur, I stayed put in the constituency and worked for the Congress. It was because of the track record the party decided to field me from Thrissur. Many Left supporters had voted for me despite the efforts by a group led by Prathapan who represents Thrissur in the Lok Sabha," Padmaja had said in the complaint.

Interestingly, the Congress, which has strong presence in Thrissur district lost in 12 out of the 13 Assembly constituencies in the district. Padmaja has named six persons, all local leaders, who plotted against her. "I was denied permission to board the vehicle in which Priyanka Gandhi was holding a road show in my constituency," said Padmaja. All those named by her in the complaint were one-time acolytes of her late father Karunakaran. **PNS**

## Double life term for Sooraj in Uthara case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Sooraj, who got his wife Uthara killed by inducing a homicidal snakebite was sentenced by a Kollam Court to double imprisonment and fine of ₹five lakh . He was also slapped with two more imprisonment terms, 10 years and seven years respectively in two other cases of causing hurt by means of poison and destroying evidence. The sentences will run consecutively which means that Sooraj would have to remain in prison for the rest of his life.

Additional Sessions Court Judge M Manoj pronounced on Wednesday that he agreed with the contention of the prosecution that it was a rarest of the rare case and the maximum punishment is being awarded to the accused. Public prosecutor G Mohanraj told the media after the sentencing that it was Sooraj's age that saved the accused from the gallows.

The judge concurred with the prosecution's argument that it was the first time in the State wherein a living animal was used to murder a person.

Sooraj had married Uthara, a physically challenged girl after taking hefty dowry and decid-

ed to bump her off so that he could walk way with the properties worth crores, gold and brand new car.

The Court had on Monday found the accused guilty of offences under Section 302, 307,328 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). This is the very first case in the entire country where a man has been found guilty of murder using a snake.

Although two similar cases have been reported in the past, both the cases resulted in the acquittal of the accused as their guilt could not be established. However, in the instant case, the Police had successfully cracked the case using a dummy reptile and recreating the entire crime scene.

Manimeghala, mother of Uthara, told reporters that she was unhappy with the verdict as the accused deserved nothing less than capital punishment. "Let us wait for the full copy of the verdict. We will definitely press for death penalty because we have to make the lives of our daughters safe and secured," she said.

Kerala has been witnessing an unprecedented increase in the number of dowry related deaths over the last few years.

## Kerala: Covid cases keep on increasing

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Government's claims that the Covid-19 cases in Kerala are coming down suffered a setback on Wednesday as 11, 079 new cases were diagnosed out of 89,995 samples tested during the last 24 hours.

The day also saw 123 patients succumbing to the pandemic which took the death toll to 26, 571 till date.

Government doctors in Ernakulam said the hike in the number of patients is a matter of concern as the State is in a celebration mood with Navrathri and Vijaya Dashami festivities adding to the fervour. Temples are reporting reasonably good crowds and this has upset the rhythm of peoples movement.

Traffic snarls have returned to all thoroughfares across the State as shopping has picked up everywhere.

Test Positivity Rate also shot up to 12.31 per cent. Needless to say, parents and teachers are worried about the increase in the number of persons tested positive with Covid-19.

## President Kovind to celebrate Dussehra with jawans in Drass

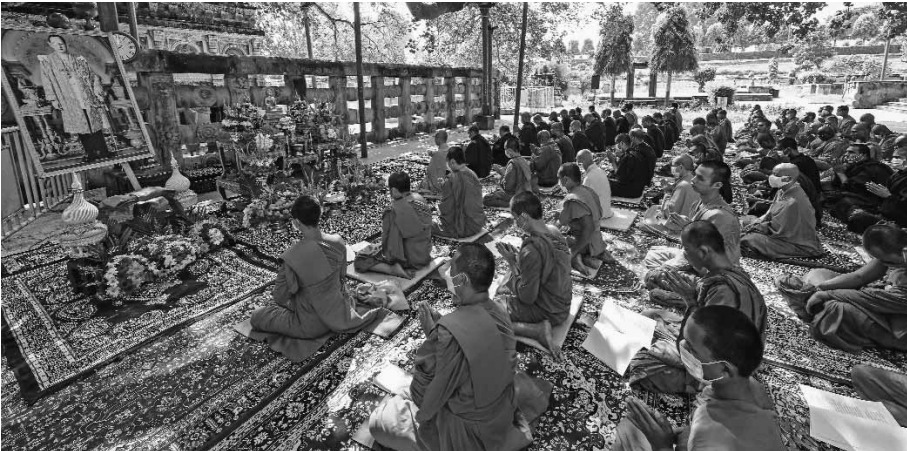
**New Delhi:** Breaking away from the tradition, President Ram Nath Kovind will celebrate Dussehra this year with jawans in Ladakh's Drass area.

Traditionally, the president has been participating in Dussehra celebrations in the national capital.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communiqué issued on Wednesday, the president will visit Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir on October 14 and 15. On Thursday, the president will perform Sindhu Darshan puja at Sindhu Ghat, Leh, the communiqué said.

He will also interact with troops at Udhampur (J-K) in the evening.

On October 15, Kovind will pay tributes at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass and interact with officers and jawans.Dussehra will be celebrated on Friday. **PTI**



Buddhist monks from Thailand offer prayers on the memorial day of Thailand's late king Bhumibol Adulyadej at Mahabodhi temple, in Bodh Gaya on Wednesday

PTI

## Seven UP districts among 10 best performing aspirational ones

**Lucknow:** In what comes as a shot in the arm to the Yogi Adityanath government, as many as seven districts of Uttar Pradesh made their way into the top 10 best-performing aspirational districts in the 'Delta Ranking' released by government think tank NITI Aayog for August, 2021.

A government spokesman said in Lucknow on Wednesday that as many as 112 districts across the country had been included in NITI Aayog's 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme assessed on incremental progress made across 49 key performance indicators (KPIs) under five broad socio-economic themes -- Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development and Infrastructure.

Siddharthnagar, Bahraich, Sonbhadra,

Shravasti, Fatehpur, Chitrakoot and Chandauli districts of Uttar Pradesh have been placed among the top-10 districts. The ranking was released by NITI Aayog through its real-time monitoring dashboard <http://championsofchange.gov.in>.

The Delta ranking signifies the efforts undertaken by the state government and respective district magistrates to develop and improve under-developed districts.

Working on the set standards of NITI Aayog, Fatehpur achieved second place in development in the entire country, followed by Siddharthnagar third place, Sonbhadra fourth, Chitrakoot fifth, Bahraich seventh, Shravasti eighth and Chandauli ninth.

Among the eight aspirational districts of UP, Chitrakoot and Bahraich have excelled on the standards of NITI Aayog. **PNS**

## 11 more die of Covid in WB

**Kolkata:** The Covid-19 toll on Wednesday rose to 18,935 after 11 more people succumbed to the disease, while 771 fresh cases pushed the tally to 15,78,482, a bulletin released by the state health department said.

North 24 Parganas accounted for four deaths, followed by three in Kolkata.

Of the 771 new cases, 203 were recorded in Kolkata and 128 in North 24 Parganas.

At least 775 more patients recuperated from the infection, thus taking the total number of people who have recovered from the disease to 15,51,890.

West Bengal currently has 7,657 active cases. The positivity rate stands at 2.74 per cent. **PTI**



People get themselves registered in order to get a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at a free vaccination camp at Kajupada, in Mumbai on Wednesday

PTI

## Yogi: UP an emerging economy, has best investment opportunities

**Gorakhpur (UP):** Uttar Pradesh is changing and it is an emerging economy in the country, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday.

"In about 44 schemes in the country, UP is number one," he said, and added that the state has the best investment opportunities.

"We all have to work jointly to establish it among the leading economies in the country," Adityanath said after inaugurating the Mahant Avaidyanath Mahavidyalaya in Jungle Kaudia block here.

"Uttar Pradesh is changing and it is an emerging economy in the country," the chief minister added.

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma and Minister of State Neelima Katiyar, along with MPs and MLAs of the area, were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister unveiled a 12-foot bronze statue of Mahant Avaidyanath and also inaugurated the monogram of the college.

The environment of security in the state "is the best in the country", Adityanath said.

"Over the last four years, 30,000 female police personnel are guaranteeing the safety of

women and girls in the state," he said.

The Chief Minister claimed that the state has successfully prevented the spread of the coronavirus.

"Earlier during festivals, the coronavirus spread was at its peak but we successfully prevented its spread," he said. Attacking the opposition Chief Minister said, "During the previous Governments, roads were not wide, power supply was erratic, poor were not getting rations and the guarantee of security to women was not there."

"When work is done with good intention, the result is also good. Earlier, farmers' produce was not purchased but now, farmers are getting the price of their produce at several purchase centres, and the government is sending the payment directly into their accounts," he added. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gorakhpur is becoming a hub of education and health services, Adityanath said.

"Within a month, the AIIMS will be inaugurated by PM Modi, and in Gorakhpur, Ayush University is being established," he added. **PTI**





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Bailed out

After its decision to ban Chhath puja, the Delhi Govt writes to the Centre seeking guidelines

Politics, as expected, mars the festival season, more so in Delhi. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party are locked in a fistfight over people's participation in the Chhath Puja, scheduled for November 10. Both have deliberately dragged the "uttaranchalis" -- people of Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh -- into the imbroglia. In 2020, when the country was under the deathly spell of the COVID-19 pandemic, politics took a back seat as the Union and State Governments banned the public celebration of all festivals. Neither the AAP nor the BJP or any of the fringe religious outfits thought of politicising the festivals. This time around, the pandemic situation has improved, and politics has reared its head once again. It began with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee on September 29 ordering a complete ban on the sale and bursting of firecrackers till January 1, 2022.



Rajasthan and Haryana followed suit though Uttar Pradesh is still silent on the issue this year. As the fireworks issue is directly linked to pollution, parties saw little scope for deriving political mileage. The Supreme Court, too, said it could not endanger people's right to life by allowing the use of crackers containing chemicals.

The Delhi Government followed up the cracker ban with an order that the Chhath Puja will not be allowed in public places, public grounds, riverbanks, and temples. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) cited the pandemic and advised

the people to celebrate it at home. Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal chaired the DDMA meeting in which, apart from Delhi ministers, AIIMS Delhi, senior officers of NITI Aayog, ICMR, and the NDMA were present. Strangely, the same DDMA lifted restrictions on large gatherings for Ramleela and Durga Puja, though with safety protocols in place. Crowds were allowed at these events if they adhered to social distancing and other COVID appropriate norms. The BJP, which was agreeable to the Delhi Government permitting crowds at Ramleela; however, protested the ban on Chhath Puja. It raised the bogey of "uttaranchali" people of Delhi and lodged several protests. As politics heated up in the national Capital, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, wrote to the Centre asking it to issue Chhath guidelines. Perhaps aware of the political implications of angering the sizeable population of "uttaranchalis" in Delhi, Sisodia recalled that Chhath is a historic festival and sought Central guidelines in order to facilitate these people to celebrate it. Did he forget, conveniently, that his Government had banned the celebrations and that the meeting was attended by the Lt Governor and Central COVID task force members? Or was he obliquely shifting the responsibility to the Centre? In any case, the safety guidelines during festivals have long proved ineffective because they are illogical. There is no way of a crowd maintaining social distancing, for instance.

### PICTALK



Devotees at the Sri Govindaraja Swamy temple, in Tirupati

PTI

## Blood and gore

Kashmiris wake up to ferocity again after two years of silence in the Kashmir Valley

Autumn, the golden season of Kashmir that paints the Valley in the shades of chinar's fallen leaves, is turning 'red' this season. The rustling of fallen chinar leaves has been overshadowed by the 'bloodletting' in different parts of Srinagar. Palpable tension is in the air. The targeted killings of members belonging to minority communities a few days ago, has once again triggered a fresh wave of insecurity among the larger population of Kashmiri migrants and non-locals staying in different parts of the Valley to earn their livelihood. A large number of them have immediately shifted their families to safer locations in Jammu and are waiting for the situation to return to normalcy before rejoining their duties. After the abrogation of Article 370, the overall security scenario in Kashmir Valley seemed to be improving. The Union Territory administration was focusing on hard selling 'Kashmir' as the favorite tourist destination. However, the recent targeted killings in the Valley have raised questions over the safety and security of locals as well as tourists.

It has also triggered outrage from the Opposition leaders who blamed the Centre administration for not being able to curb such attacks.

The year started with the killing of a famous Punjabi jeweller in the heart of Srinagar. It was followed up with the killing of the son of a Dhaba owner in a high security zone. The trend continued and in response, top commanders of different terrorist outfits were neutralised. Adopting a shift in their strategy, the Pakistan-based terrorist groups are employing 'hybrid terrorists' to disrupt the stability and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the forthcoming Assembly polls. Majority of these hybrid terrorists are not on the radar of the security forces, making their job more difficult to track down their footprints. With the recent killings of Makhan Lal Bindroo, a street vendor from Bihar's Bhagalpur, school teacher Deepak Chand and principal Supinder Kaur in the Valley, the terrorist handlers have attempted to create a communal divide aimed at triggering a fresh round of exodus. We have to fight these beasts. Whether this violence is a statement by the much dreaded Taliban remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency has detained over 500 people after civilian deaths in the area. The culprits will eventually be held; however, in the meantime, the Kashmiriyat must speak up for the victims.

# Lakhimpur Kheri— Was it avoidable?

A protest must have a specific purpose and an endpoint resolution of conflict. It cannot be an open-ended exercise free of any stipulations



VIVEK GUMASTE

The Lakhimpur Kheri incident in which 8 people lost their lives during the farmer's protest was a colossal tragedy that was avoidable. Paradoxically, it was also a calamity waiting to happen. A political cauldron of noxious ingredients had been brewing for some time. Dogged stubbornness and thoughtless provocative utterances had heightened the tension; the bottled-up frustration of a jaded and over-stretched protest was waiting to explode. A frontal collision was inevitable.

The spark came on October 3 when a cavalcade of Union Home Minister of State Ajay Mishra allegedly ploughed through a group of protesting farmers killing four of them. Angered by the killing it is alleged that the protestors went on a rampage. dragged the BJP members out of cars and mercilessly beat 4 of them to death.

Details of this gruesome incident are murky. As per an FIR lodged by Jagjit Singh, a farm protestor, "We were holding a peaceful protest at Maharaja Agrasen Inter College ground...when the Union MoS for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish came in an SUV along with two other four-wheel vehicles, with arms and weapons, at a high speed. Ashish Mishra, while sitting on the left side of the Mahindra Thar car, fired shots and crushed people while moving forward."

This version is contested by Ajay Mishra who claims, "Stones came flying at the vehicle when it was on the way to receive the chief guest, the driver lost balance...and some could have died in that accident. My driver and three BJP workers who were in the vehicle were chased and attacked with rocks, sticks and swords...they were lynched."

He had earlier denied that his son was at the scene of the incident. Which of these two conflicting versions is true is difficult to ascertain at this stage. However, a series of sequential videos that surfaced online suggest that pelting of stones was the initial trigger for this mayhem.

Nevertheless, a proper enquiry is warranted so that the guilty may be tried and punished

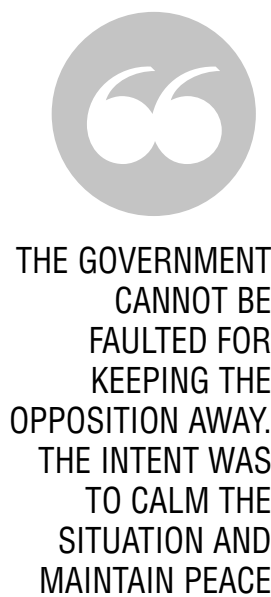


as per the law. Accordingly, CM Yogi Adityanath has announced a judicial inquiry headed by a retired judge to look into the incident.

In parallel with a call for an enquiry, however, a dangerous and mischievous narrative is being played out in certain sections of the media that is disturbing and concerning; a partisan description that tends to favor one side over the other and places a premium on one set of lives in comparison to the other - all with an intent to put the Government in the dock for an offence, the culpability of which is yet to be determined.

A well known newspaper avers: The BJP Government has a playbook...vis a vis popular protest...Let the issue fester, and try to tire out the protesters, while actively seeking to delegitimise them, by labelling them "anti-national" and calling them other names. Then, if matters escalate, bring out the barricades and the force. Treat it like a law-and-order issue in a police state, and don't let leaders of the Opposition come to the site of the protest or the violence, to do what is surely their job as politicians and people's representatives.

First to invoke presumptuous theories to pre-deter-



mine guilt in a sensitive case like this devious. Second, by using the phrase, 'bring out the barricades and the force' to describe the BJP's modus operandi, the editorial has sealed the BJP's guilt without a trial. Such statements uttered without evidence are reckless and misleading.

Additionally, the Government cannot be faulted for keeping opposition leaders away. The intent was to calm the situation and maintain peace. In fact, it was done at the behest of farm leader Rakesh Tikait who feared that the politicians were there to exploit the situation as indicated by some news reports.

Coming to the million-dollar question: Was this incident avoidable? Dissent and protest are an integral part of democracy. However, one must also realise that protest is only a means to an end and not an end in itself. A protest to be valid must have a specific purpose and an endpoint resolution of conflict. It cannot be an open-ended exercise free of any stipulations. A prolonged directionless protest becomes a fertile ground for frustration, violence and even killings as illustrated by this incident; anti-social elements are also

likely to take advantage of the situation.

Justice Khanwilkar of the Supreme Court on October 1, when responding to a farmer's outfit seeking permission to hold a protest in Jantar Mantar rightly posed this question to the farmers "You are saying you want to protest, protest what? The Act has been stayed by the Court. The Centre has said it will not be implemented." Referring to the deaths in Lakhimpur, the honorable judge had also stressed the lack of accountability: "When such events happen, no one takes responsibility."

And this is not the first time that violence has overtaken the farmer's protest - January 26 is still fresh in our minds. The farmers' protest has outlived its utility. Prolongation inadvertently provided a fertile milieu for this ugly altercation. With a little good sense, it could have been avoided. It is time to call off the protest to prevent more Lakhimpurs. Concomitantly, all those guilty for each of the 8 deaths, whoever they may be, must be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

(The writer is an academic and political commentator. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### IT'S ALL FAIR IN POLITICS

Sir — The old adage 'all is fair in love and war' perhaps should go now with an addition — 'all is fair in love, war and politics' — given that politics after the independence has undergone a sea-change vis-a-vis its broad objective of leading the country in the right direction, safeguarding its boundaries and serving all its people and their political leanings. Ironically, this comprehensive goal has narrowed down to a mere *raison d'être* of attainment of power — be it either by hook or crook — harboured by the political parties who shrink from doing what is right for various political reasons.

With the Assembly polls in six States drawing closer, the tempers are higher and the political activities getting more hectic in the most politically significant Uttar Pradesh, in particular, where the ruling regime is busy with the damage limitation exercise following the recent Lakhimpur Kheri violence. The incident could not have come for all the Opposition parties at a more opportune time as they have found a common plea to castigate in union the Government in a bid to brighten their respective electoral prospects in the upcoming elections. In politics, with scenes changing kaleidoscopically has become a new norm and any prediction may fall on stony ground.

Azhara Khan | Rampur

### SOFT DRINKS ARE HARD ON HEALTH

Sir — Amitabh Bachchan once disclosed at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad about him not advertising for cola drinks after a student drew his attention towards the harmful ingredients in such drinks. Even the cola companies voluntarily stopped selling colas in schools worldwide in view of increasing obesity in school-going children. The Indian Government should not only ban advertisements but also ban the sale of colas. Earlier, too, soft-drink manufacturers were asked to remove an oil from their products which was found to be harmful for health. It is noteworthy that such drinks are prohibited in Parliament canteens.

## Vaccine on the way



If the Drugs Controller General of India accepts the recommendation of the Subject Experts Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) to grant the emergency use authorisation for Covaxin among children in the 2-18 age group, it will mark a new phase in the process of vaccinating the population against COVID-19. Vaccinating the paediatric population will take the ongoing nationwide immunisation drive one stage further. The green signal which the Drug Controller is currently considering, if (and when) given, will

make Covaxin the first COVID-19 vaccine anywhere in the world for administering to children as young as 2 years. Scientific rigour should determine if India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine proves to be safe and effective in children as in adults. The clinical trials data must be placed in public domain so as to instil confidence in the general public, especially parents, that children can be inoculated with Covaxin against COVID-19. It is understood that Covaxin now recommended for children and adolescents is the same as the one currently being used among adults. It must be confirmed that Covaxin is equally good for children despite their distinctness in terms of anatomy and physiology by virtue of them being children. Clinical trials data that the vaccine has produced similar results in children and teenagers in the process of growing up and grown-ups must be sound enough to ensure that no risk is taken.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

It is time that the Union Government, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and soft-drink manufacturers introduce healthier options which not only replace cola-drinks in India, but also dominate global-market by breaking the monopoly of harmful cola drinks in tune with ambitious 'Make in India' vision. Children should also be made aware of healthier drinks like *lassi*, *chhachh*, coconut water etc. It may be recalled that almost half a century back, a famous rose-drink manufactured by a private confectionary company registered at Gwalior was a popular drink for persons of all ages.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

### RESPECT IS GREATER THAN WORSHIP

Sir — A murderer takes a life, but a rapist destroys a life. "Sexual intercourse done by a man with a woman without her valid consent is rape" as defined under the Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. Sexual assault is the most heinous crime against women. The aftermath of rape

drags a woman towards a life of fear, depression, suicidal complex and social stigma. Rapes have increased manifold as per the statistics given by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). According to it, one rape is reported every 15 minutes. Even children are not spared which is such a shame on humanity.

There are various reasons behind the increase in such cases. Women are not safe outside and not even inside their own home. The sluggish judiciary is an important reason where many victims and survivors must wait for years for a glimpse of justice. Through education, gender sensitisation and legal awareness is possible, which are indispensable to control crime against women. In a country where we worship goddesses in different avatars, women, too, should be loved, cared, respected and protected.

Swagatika Sahoo | Raghunathpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUNDBITE

Nevertheless, I congratulate Fadnavis. Because of him I remembered that I was the CM for four times.



NCP president —Sharad Pawar



VT-4 Tank is another symbol of Pakistan-China strategic cooperation and defence collaboration. Its introduction will boost our capabilities.

Pakistan Chief of Army Staff —Qamar Javed Bajwa

I did a lot of research at my level for *Rashmi Rocket*, apart from what was going on at the scripting level.



Actor —Taapsee Pannu



My advice to Rishabh Pant is to play with freedom and have that air of arrogance and confidence.

Former Australia cricketer —Shane Watson

Only two or three per cent of farmers in Punjab are part of the agitation. Most people in Punjab are peace loving.



BJP national general secretary —Dushyant Gautam





## FIRST COLUMN CHANGING INNOVATION LANDSCAPE IN INDIA

India needs a futuristic approach to trigger innovation at the base of the pyramid



MOHIT **GAMBHIR**

Innovation in India has always been human centric. We innovate to resolve the problems of mankind, and to create a better life for the common people. Today, the scope of innovation and entrepreneurship spreads across all facets of life. Students, researchers and intellectuals are actively pursuing innovation and entrepreneurship as career options. India should move from coveted innovation to the open innovation model. Open Innovation model is a futuristic approach to instigate the innovation and entrepreneurship at the base of pyramid — at the level of society and educational institutions. The growth of new India can only be achieved by making open innovation pervasive and fuelled by the right kind of training, skill upgradation, reskilling, and apt infrastructural support at school and institutional level. As an interventional initiative, Ministry of Education has established an innovationcell at the All-India Council for Technical Education in 2018. Since then, the Ministry



of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) has taken multiple policy and program initiative to establish the world's biggest open innovation model at global stage. The Cell works on four pillars of excellence: Policy intervention; handholding of HEIs and schools, faculty and students; impact assessment and facilitating national and international platforms for Indian and global students. Initiatives like the Innovation Council in higher educational institutes has been purposed to streamline the ground level ecosystem and handholding of ideas from students.

The beginning of Smart India Hackathon, Toycathon, Singapore-India Hackathon, ASEAN India Hackathon between 11 countries, SAMADHAN Challenge, Ideathon for pandemic, Drug Discovery Hackathon, and Innovation Contest has set the foundation for world's biggest open innovation model and it is scaling at a rate where India could assimilate its new age innovative and aspirational human resource. As India is working relentlessly towards a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, it must look for alternative career opportunities in term of innovation and entrepreneurship. Inculcating the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in our youth is a challenging job and it cannot be simply achieved by flooding the market with investment opportunities, subsidies and grants. It requires a keenly calibrated system of innovation management, especially championing open innovation management at school and higher education level. For impact assessment, MIC has started Atal Ranking for Institution's on Innovation Achievements to measure the major indicators at the higher educational institute level. At industry and ecosystem level, NITI Aayog has started India Innovation Index on the line of Global Innovation Index by adapting non-traditional approaches for measuring innovation such as patents per million of population, publication in scientific journals, percentage of GDP spending on research. Empirical evidence suggests that innovation enables social welfare. Health innovations like penicillin use, transplants, and artificial limbs have saved and improved the quality of life of millions. Satellites, television and radio technologies are being used for the welfare of farmers and in disaster management. Modern farming equipment, fertilizers, Grameen Bank, microfinance and crop insurance schemes have raised agricultural productivity, improving food security and freeing up labour which can participate in other industries.

Nothing can progress without innovation and everything of today exists because of yesterday's innovation and invention. We need to innovate to accommodate evolving situations and needs and prepare a wonderful place to live in, not only for us but for our future generations as well.

*(The writer is Director in the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The views expressed are personal.)*

# Extending sympathies to the new laureate

Abdulrazak Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa



BALAKRISHNAN **SATYAM**

The French poet, Rene Proudhomme, who was the first Nobel Literature laureate in 1901, wrote in his famous 'The Broken Vase': Thus often does the hand we love, barely touching the heart, wound it. Then the heart cracks by itself and the flower of its love dies.

He's speaking of a delicate and vulnerable aspect of us, and how easily it can dry up. Literature has always been about sensitivity and sensitization. It nourishes and rekindles the soul to fellow feeling. In the hurly-burly of our daily lives, and competitiveness and ambition, and the pursuit of profit, we are indifferent to the outcome for others, to their sentiments, or even their deprivation. There is an inherent conflict among us as we focus on our goals, and marginalise others whose interests don't hold concern for us.

But there are witnesses compiling every injustice, recording every protest, and kindling people's memories about glory and decline. A few of these observers serve not only to voice the experience of the victims, but give us insights on how humanity at large can live more sensitively. Their words stir us, find their way inside to lash at our conscience, and refocus our thinking on what it is to be essentially human.

Another Frenchman, especially famous for declining the Nobel prize for Literature, Jean Paul Sartre, declared: 'Hell is other people'. There is a constant challenge to try to understand and empathise with others, further aggravated by differences in language, custom, and traditional beliefs. It is here that writers often build bridges by establishing commonalities and explaining away differences.

As the celebrated 1950 Literature laureate, Bertrand Russell, said at the Stockholm Concert Hall, "...sympathy is a genuine motive, some people at some times are made somewhat uncomfortable by the sufferings of some other people. It is sympathy that has produced the many humanitarian advances of the last hundred years."

There are many literary prizes, so how is the Nobel Prize for Literature different, apart from perhaps, having the largest bounty? Because it is given out at the same time as awards in sciences — it accords the same prestige and acclaim to novelists, poets, and futurists as is enjoyed by biochemists, astrophysicists and developmental economists.

It also reflects the Nobel Foundation's outlook of recognizing a broader contribution to modern human heritage. Rudyard Kipling was the youngest to win it at 42, but generally the prize recognises much older writers with eight or more books behind them. In terms of sheer number of copies sold, and cultural impact, Harper Lee could have been considered for her 'To Kill A Mockingbird', but that's not how this prize is awarded — for one, that was her only novel, till she



THERE ARE MANY LITERARY PRIZES, SO HOW IS THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE DIFFERENT APART FROM, PERHAPS, HAVING THE LARGEST BOUNTY? BECAUSE IT IS GIVEN OUT AT THE SAME TIME AS AWARDS IN SCIENCES — IT ACCORDS THE SAME PRESTIGE AND ACCLAIM AS IS ENJOYED BY BIOCHEMISTS, ASTROPHYSICISTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL ECONOMISTS

*(The writer is a Creative Director, advertising faculty, and an amateur epistemologist. The views expressed are personal.)*



published a sequel several decades later with nothing in between.

The committee has also not looked towards any trailblazing authors in the sci-fi category despite it being the fastest evolving genre as technology itself has been racing at the speed of Moore's Law. What the jury does seem to endeavour to do is to cast its net far and wide to ensure authors from many corners of the world are considered.

Possibly the most interesting reference to Zanzibar in the world of literature was in 1968, when Brunner wrote an imaginative sci-fi novel titled, "Stand on Zanzibar". The book's title refers to how large an island could hold the planet's population if everyone had to get just enough standing space. Brunner's speculation was that the Isle of Man (about 600 sq. km) wouldn't suffice in the future and that by 2010, it would take a Zanzibar (about 1600 sq.km) to hold everyone. The theme of his Hugo award-winning novel was overcrowding, which is a common urban fear when there is an influx from faraway lands.

Which brings us to this year's Literature laureate, Abdulrazzak Gurnah, born in Zanzibar in 1948. Being on an important trade shipping route in the Indian Ocean, besides Bantus, there are people of Omani, Yemeni, southern Iranian, and even Indian descent. At the same time, it has been known as a hub of the slave trade where Arabs sold natives from Malawi and Mozambique to visiting ships.

When the Zanzibar Revolution of 1964 overthrew the traditional oppressors, Gurnah fled as a teenager and started his life anew in the British Isles. So, he has experienced how complex and burdensome our identities can be.

In the early pages of his novel 'Desertion', he says about a character, Hassanali: "He could not disguise his anxiety and people who had known him all his life knew this about him, and made a joke out of it. They said it was something to do with his jinsi, his ancestry. Indian people are cowardly, they said, hopping about like nervous butterflies. His father was not timid. He had been a hothead in his youth, who sang and danced and raced the streets with anyone, and he was the Indian in his jinsi. It was God who made him like this, nothing to do with jinsi, and who was he to argue."

Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity — as a Tanzanian (Zanzibar opted to merge with Tanzania after the Revolution) — and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa. He has taught in Nigeria, which also has ethnic as well as acute communal strife. And he's known since his mid-teens what it is to adapt to life in a European culture.

As the last few years have caused waves of migrants out of West Asia and North Africa, and very recently, Afghanistan — the travails of the uprooted and the kinds of baggage they bring into their new places of residence will

be in the spotlight.

Exiles who had to flee from their native lands are already distrustful of fate, and suffer to some extent from PTSD. Their attention is split between what's still going on in the places they have departed from, and the challenges in their new environment. They haven't the preparation that a graduate student has had before he or she lands up overseas on a good campus. Such exiles find themselves usually in less friendly locations than a university. Gurnah has been lucky in that regard.

The expatriate experience is very different depending on one's age at arrival, line of work — whether a specialist in demand or unskilled, level of affluence, and aptitude for networking. Openness towards the way of life in the adopted country does help in integrating better, and gaining acceptance. An exile could have a sense of betrayal of their native culture when they move closer to a sense of belonging in their land of arrival.

In the future, we might think differently about the elements of identity, given the limitations that our instinctive ones about language, ethnicity, creed, and district have. We'll then identify Literature laureates less by language of writing or nationality and instead emphasise their literary genre and individuality more. We'd then also be narrowing the 'gulf between cultures and continents' that the Nobel citation refers to in 2021.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT



LIES WERE SPREAD ABOUT SAVARKAR. IT WAS MAHATMA GANDHI WHO ASKED HIM TO FILE MERCY PETITIONS. —UNION DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH



THE BJP IS PRESENTING DISTORTED HISTORY. IF THIS CONTINUES, THEY WILL MAKE SAVARKAR THE FATHER OF THE NATION. —AIMIM CHIEF ASADUDDIN OWAISI

# Healthcare infrastructure needs a check-up

Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised and harmonised to truly transform the healthcare infrastructure



HARSH **VARDHAN**

Reports of shortages of hospital beds, ventilators, medical equipment and doctors and nurses to cope with growing cases of COVID-19 infections have thrown into sharp focus the need to accelerate digital transformation of healthcare infrastructure worldwide.

Modern medicine has been enriched by genomics, telemedicine, virtual reality for surgery and many biopharmaceutical advances. But behind the many medical advancements, true digital transformation of health infrastructure — hospitals, blood and vaccine banks, centres for dialysis, ambulatory surgery, imaging and radiology — is slow. Unlike for other sectors, digital transformation to

enable Internet of Things (IoT), 5G connectivity, and artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) is much more complex for healthcare.

Healthcare infrastructure innovation has been and remains curtailed by three main issues: firstly, compliance with regulatory standards at national and international levels; secondly, multiple forms of medical data, from patient records to X-rays, CT scans and other analogue or digital data; and thirdly, reluctance to change which prevents a clear digital dashboard to allow administrators to respond, plan and predict in real time.

Many hospitals with sophisticated equipment have yet to fully capture and update medical records to enable clinical



ical decision support and real-time hospital workflow, let alone combine them seamlessly with long-term care and disease management.

How can planners and administrators improve information technology (IT) infrastructure to prepare for a true digital transformation for the healthcare sector? Several key steps can kick-start or accelerate the process. The first is to build or enable real-time data

capture at every touchpoint of healthcare hardware. This means installing sensors, and embedding IoT and high-speed communication throughout each facility down to the last piece of equipment.

The second is to break down information silos once and for all. Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised, harmonised and shared, from patient records, X-rays and CT scans to data on the functioning of each piece of equipment and machinery within the infrastructure.

This roadblock has eluded decades of effort by IT consultants and systems integrators. A protocol of "golden data" in a common format will enable visibility of the entire healthcare enterprise.

Third, the same visibility can facilitate interoperability of different healthcare systems — electronic patient health records can be analysed alongside COVID-19 infection trends and the demand for vaccines and the cold-chain infrastructure needed to store or deliver them.

Fourth, healthcare assets, be it CT scanners, operating rooms or ventilators, have to be tracked on usage and location levels. This can help predict breakdowns, plan for maintenance and help the next shift of medical staff to locate them.

Fifth, such tracking will support more vital C-suite decisions such as scenario planning which can calibrate potential equipment shortage, availability of spares, and service-level agreements with

suppliers with hospital manpower planning. By standardising protocols for maintenance — helped by cloud-enabled real-time data — productivity will improve.

Sixth, there are lessons to be drawn from a concept known as inventory technical management practised by MRO service providers. Those who are more digitally enabled have upscaled to the next level — flexible pooling of inventory to prevent duplication and to share hardware more intelligently.

Finally, the guardians of healthcare hardware can take tentative steps in AI/ML without sacrificing medical outcomes. These include sensors that can monitor health data of each patient more frequently than checks by nurses, and the

use of chatbots to allow nurses or junior doctors to ask questions when certain patient symptoms occur or to check when a piece of equipment needs to be sent for servicing.

Through AI/ML, healthcare hardware can be "trained" to self-correct. It can learn prescriptive maintenance through protocols that can predict failures and recommend actions to take. Over time, each major piece of equipment can instruct itself on when to prepare for maintenance, the possible risks, and the pre-emptive measures it should take.

Covid-19 has triggered a once-in-decades shift in the thinking behind healthcare administration. It is time for the hospital to get out of the sick bed and embrace digital transformation.

*(The writer is President and Head of ERP Solutions, Ramco Systems. The views expressed are personal.)*



end in the Qatari capital. In his address, Muttaqi further said that the full implementation of the US-Taliban 2020 Doha agreement can address any problem between the two countries, adding that the Taliban wants a political system in Afghanistan that can respond to domestic needs.

"What we want in Afghanistan is a political structure as such that responds to our country's needs and at the same time is able to fulfil its responsibility at the international level," TOLO News quoted the Minister as saying.

When asked about reforms, women's education

"You should not seek your demands through putting pressure... The previous government had international support. Now you are asking for all the reforms in two months.

"Schools for boys and girls were closed before us because of Covid. When Kabul fell to our hands, all schools were closed already. Schools in provinces were closed already. We have started reopening the schools," Muttaqi said.

The Minister claimed that under the Taliban Government, the Covid situation in the country has been controlled "very well", surprising doctors, TOLO News reported.

**INDO COTSPIN LTD**  
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(Haryana), India

**NOTICE**

Pursuant to Regulation 29 of the Securities Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 26th October, 2021 at the registered office of the Company inter alia to consider and approve and take on record Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter/half year ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

**CIN: L17111HR1995PLC032541**  
**EMAIL: [rajpalaggarwal2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rajpalaggarwal2000@yahoo.com)**  
**[info@indocotspin.com](mailto:info@indocotspin.com)**  
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	<b>Director</b>
	<b>DIN :00456189</b>



# Inflation rises 5.4% from year ago

## MATCHING 13-YEAR HIGH

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent last month, slightly higher than August's gain and pushing annual inflation back to the highest increase in 13 years.

The consumer price index rose 5.4per cent in September from a year ago, the Labor Department said Wednesday, up slightly from August's gain of 5.3per cent and matching the increases in June and July, which were the highest since 2008.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core inflation rose 0.2per cent in September and 4per cent compared with a year ago. Core prices hit a three-decade high

of 4.5per cent in June.

The unexpected burst of inflation this year reflects sharply higher prices for food and energy, but also new and used cars, hotel rooms, clothing, and furniture, among other goods and services.

Covid-19 has shut down factories in Asia and slowed U.S. Port operations, leaving container ships anchored at sea and consumers and businesses paying more for goods that don't arrive for months.

Higher prices are also outstripping the pay gains many workers are able to obtain from businesses, who are having to pay more to attract employees. Average hourly wages rose 4.6per cent in September from a year earlier, a healthy increase, but not enough to keep up with inflation.

Gas prices jumped 1.2per cent last month and have

soared more than 42per cent compared with a year ago. Electricity prices rose 0.8per cent in September from August.

Supply chain disruptions continue to drive new car prices higher, which rose 1.3per cent last month and are up 8.7per cent from a year ago, the largest 12-month increase since 1980. A shortage of semiconductors has restrained vehicle production and left fewer cars on dealer lots.

The rapid price increases have raised pressure on the Federal Reserve, which has pegged its benchmark interest rate at nearly zero to spur more borrowing and spending. Yet inflation is far above its target of 2 per cent. Chair Jerome Powell has repeatedly said that the price gains should "abate" next year, bringing inflation closer to the target.

# Market on a roll: Indices capture new peaks; log 5th straight gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity gauges Sensex and Nifty on Wednesday climbed to new record highs, stretching their winning run to the fifth consecutive session, as investors continued to lap up auto, power and infra shares.

After scaling a lifetime intraday high of 60,836.63 during the session, the 30-share Sensex settled 452.74 points or 0.75 per cent higher at 60,737.05 - its all-time closing high.

Similarly, the Nifty rallied 169.80 points or 0.94 per cent to a new closing peak of 18,161.75. It also touched an intra-day record of 18,197.80.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, zooming over 5 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, ITC, L&T, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel and Titan.

On the other hand, Maruti Suzuki, HUL, Nestle India, Axis Bankand SBI were among

the laggards.

Sectorally, BSE auto, utilities, momentum, industrials and power indices rallied up to 3.46 per cent, while realty index ended in the red.

Broader midcap and smallcap indices surged up to 1.56 per cent.

"Auto stocks led by Tata Motors propelled the Nifty to new highs of 18200 with good support from infra and metal stocks on the launch of the Master Plan for Infrastructure Development and Multi-Modal Connectivity," S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities, said.

As the street awaits earnings today from big IT names, Tata Group stocks hogged the limelight despite profit-taking in late afternoon trade, he added.

Sustained rebound in financials and Reliance Industries supported broader indices.

# Rupee recovers 15 paise to 75.37 on weak dollar, lower crude prices

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Wednesday rebounded by 15 paise to close at 75.37 against the US dollar following a rally in domestic equities and weak American currency in the overseas markets.

In addition, lower crude prices and a benign retail inflation in September also supported the rupee sentiment, forex dealers said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened strong at 75.29 against the greenback.

During the session, the domestic unit swung between 75.19 and 75.51.

On Tuesday, the rupee had closed at 75.52 against the dollar.Retail inflation fell to a five-month low of 4.35 per cent in September from 7.27 per cent in the year-ago period as prices of vegetables and other items declined.

## BRIEFS

**PETROL, DIESEL PRICES RISE ON HOLD**  
**New Delhi:** Petrol and diesel price rise remained paused again on Wednesday much to the relief of consumers faced with an unprecedented increase in auto fuel prices for the past one month that has taken retail rates to record high levels across the country. Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol continues to be sold at ₹104.44 per litre and diesel at ₹93.17 per litre, the same levels as Tuesday.

**RELIANCE BOOSTS GREEN ENERGY PUSH**  
**New Delhi:** Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries will buy a German maker of photovoltaic solar wafers and signed a deal with a Danish firm to manufacture hydrogen electrolyzers as the oil-to-retail conglomerate acquired end-to-end technology for its multi-billion-dollar clean energy portfolio. Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNE SL), a unit of the nation's most valuable company, will acquire NexWafe GmbH for 25 millioneuros (Rs 218 crore). Reliance said in a late stock exchange filing on Tuesday. It will also license Stiesdal A/S's technology for the hydrolysers, it said in a separate statement.

**TAKE FUEL WIN CAR CAMPAIGN**  
**New Delhi:** Hindustani Petroleum Corporation Ltd has launched "HPCL Aao Car Le Jao" Campaign for customers to have the opportunity to win car, bikes, laptops, LED TVs, smart phones, fuel vouchers on fueling from over 30 petrol pumps of HPCL in East Delhi, South Delhi and New Delhi. The campaign started on Wednesday will continue till until first week of January 2022.

**TIE-UP TO FACILITATE LARGER REACH FOR HOMEBUYERS**  
**New Delhi:** Online real estate company Housing.com has announced a tie-up with the country's largest community management app MyGate to enable users of MyGate Homes to simultaneously list their properties on Housing.com and at the same time, it would help Housing.com to expand its customer base.

# Gati Shakti to mark paradigm shift in governance: KM Birla

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Wednesday said that PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for infrastructure "embodies and combines" some unique features that mark a paradigm shift in governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday unveiled ₹100 lakh crore Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost

the economy.

"To me, Gati Shakti embodies and combines some unique features that mark a paradigm shift in governance," Birla said while participating at the event.

Using the most modern technology, Gati Shakti brings all stakeholders on one platform, he added. "Such breaking of silos within the government is indeed a dream come true for all of Industry," he said, adding that the platform approach also increases transparency all around and helps resolve bottlenecks quickly.

# Centre for Trauma Studies and Innovation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IDFC FIRST Bank on Wednesday announced the launch of India's first Centre for Trauma Studies and Innovation (CTSI), in association with Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health (BALM).

The initiative, that was launched on World Mental Health Day, aims to address the need to look at mental health from a trauma lens, besides also creating awareness about mental wellbeing. Through this initiative, the Centre for Trauma will create curriculums and facilitate trauma-related courses for healthcare professionals at both urban and grassroot levels.

# UN, World Bank, IMF in need of urgent reforms: FM

**Boston:**Institutions such as United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund need to be urgently reformed as they no longer speak for countries whose issues have remained unattended for decades, Nirmala Sitharaman said.All these organisations will have to look at reforming themselves, she said here at Harvard Kennedy School on Tuesday. During the conversation with Professor at Harvard University , Sitharaman said "while reforms in countries are happening in different stages, these global institutions have remained the way they have been for the last several decades."

# Fertiliser subsidy of ₹8,655 cr in rabi season to benefit farmers, industry: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rating agency ICRA has termed the Government's decision to provide a special one-time package for extra subsidy on DAP fertiliser as positive for farmers as well as the industry, and said the availability of key nutrients will improve in the coming months.

On Tuesday, the government announced a net subsidy of ₹28,655 crore on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the October-March period of this fiscal to ensure that farmers get nutrients at affordable prices during the rabi sowing season.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for P&K fertilisers for October 2021 to March 2022.In a statement, the rating agency said the Centre has approved a special one-time package for pay-out of additional subsidy for DAP and three most consumed NPK grades.

The subsidy rates under the NBS scheme have been kept unchanged from the announcement made in May 2021. However, an additional pay out of ₹438/bag (₹ 8,760 per tonne) for DAP and ₹100 per bag (₹2,000 per tonne) for

the three most consumed NPK grades has been approved, it added.

"The step is positive for the farmers and the industry as it will ensure farmers get access to fertilisers at a reasonable retail price and the industry also does not face losses on account of the elevated international prices of fertilisers and key inputs," ICRA said.

The additional subsidy has been approved only for four grades of fertilisers out of the 24 fertilisers covered under the NBS scheme and has become effective from October 1, 2021.

# Wipro's consolidated Q2FY22 YoY net profit up 18.9%

IAANS ■ MUMBAI

IT major Wipro on Wednesday reported 18.86 per cent year-on-year growth in its consolidated net profit for the second quarter of FY22.

The net profit attributable to equity holders of the company rose to ₹2,930.7 crore during the period under review from ₹2,465.6 crore during the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

Its revenue increased 30.12 per cent during Q2FY22 to ₹19,667.4 crore from ₹15,114.5 crore from the like quarter of FY21.

Managing Director and CEO Thierry Delaporte said: "The Q2 results demonstrate that our business strategy is working well."

"We grew at over 4.5 per cent organic sequential growth for a second quarter in a row, resulting in a 28 per cent YoY growth in the first half of this financial year."

Besides, the company gave a positive outlook for the quarter ending December 31, 2021.

The company expects revenue from IT Services business to be in the range of \$2,631 million to \$2,683 million, translating into a sequential growth of 2 to 4 per cent.

In addition, the company's earnings per share for the quarter rose to ₹5.36 (\$0.071), an increase of 23.8 per cent YoY.

# Govt scraps basic customs duty on crude palm, soya, sunflower oil to cool down cooking oil prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday scrapped basic customs duty on crude varieties of palm, sunflower and soybean oils as well as cut duties on refined edible oils to ease retail prices of cooking oils and provide relief to consumers during the festive season.

Edible oil industry body SEA said the retail prices of cooking oils, which are ruling at a very high level, could now come down by up to Rs 15 per litre.

The cut in import duty and cess, effective from October 14, will remain in force till March

31, 2022, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in two separate notifications.

Agri infrastructure development cess (AIDC) has also been reduced on crude palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil.

Crude palm oil will now attract AIDC of 7.5 per cent, while the cess will be 5 per cent each for crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil. Earlier, the cess was 20 per cent, while basic customs duty was 2.5 per cent.Post reduction, the effective customs duty on crude palm oil will be 8.25 per cent. The effective duty on crude

soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil will be 5.5 per cent. Earlier, the effective duty on these three crude items was 24.75 per cent each.

The basic customs duty on refined varieties of sunflower, soyabean, palmolein and palm oil too has been slashed to 17.5 per cent each from 32.5 per cent. Refined versions do not attract AIDC.Commenting on the development, Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) Executive Director B V Mehta said: "The government has slashed import duties on edible oils because of high retail prices in the domestic market and the festive season."

# Coal dispatches to power plants being enhanced: Joshi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday said cumulative coal supplies to thermal power plants crossed 2 million tonne on Tuesday and dispatch of the dry fuel is being enhanced to the plants.

Various power plants are grappling with fuel shortages and efforts are being made to increase fuel supplies.

"Happy to share that cumulative coal supplies to thermal power plants from all

sources including @CoalIndiaHQ recorded more than 2 million tonnes yesterday. We are increasing coal dispatch to power plants further to ensure sufficient coal stocks at power plants," Joshi said in a tweet.

According to a Coal India official, supplies to power stations have already touched 1.62 million tonne a day in the past two days, with total offtake rising to 1.88 million tonne per day, compared with the month's average of 1.75 million tonne.

# Infosys Q2 Net up 11.9%, raises revenue outlook on strong deal pipeline


PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Infosys Ltd, India's second-largest IT services company, on Wednesday reported better-than-expected 12 per cent rise in its second-quarter net profit on more contracts from global businesses, a reason that also led to it raising its annual revenue outlook.Net profit in July-September at ₹5,421 crore, or ₹12.88 a share, was 11.9 per cent higher than ₹4,845 crore (or ₹11.42 a share) net profit in the same period a year back.

The net profit, which is 4.4 per cent higher than the pre-

ceding June quarter, came on the back of broad-based growth across verticals and geographies, strong revenue contribution from the Daimler deal, and higher adoption of digital transformation by clients.

The firm raised its forecast for annual revenue growth to 16.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent in the fiscal year to March 2022, from 14 per cent to 16 per cent growth predicted in July. This is on the back of expectations of winning more contracts from global businesses expanding their digital offerings during the Covid-19 pandemic.



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CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

**R.O. No. 761 Tender Notice Dt. 13.10.2021**

Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G) Dhaliapur Power House, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No.: 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25/EE/M&G/DLR/2021-22

Name of work (i) Annual Maintenance of Hydro-Mechanical Part of Unit-A. (ii) Annual Maintenance of Hydro-Generator of Unit-A. (iii) Repairing and Over hauling of Various size Gate valves of Unit-A (iv) Repair and overhauling of Thrust bearing oil cooler and Rebabbiting of LGB of Unit A (v) Replacement of Guide Vanes Bearing housing G.M. bushes of Unit-A


Estimated cost : Rs. 12,88,400/-, Rs. 6,45,400/-, Rs. 4,61,100/-, Rs. 13,72,960/-, Rs. 7,13,880/- (GST Extra).

Date of availability of bid document on website: 14.10.2021

Last date for submission of tender: 08.11.2021 upto 16:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"** Executive Engineer (M&G)



**AXIS BANK**

**Retail Asset Centre:** Axis Bank Ltd SCO 12, Sector-14 Gurgaon Haryana, Asset Centre at A-356, First Floor, Meera Bagh, New Delhi

**Also at:** Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301

**Corporate Office:** 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025, **Registered Office:** 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

**POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd., under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession	3. Amount in Demand (Rs.)
1. Mr. Hari Singh Rajora S/O Dayal Rajora B-30, CGHS, Park View Apartment Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar West Delhi, Delhi-110087 <b>Also At:</b> Mr. Hari Singh Rajora S/O Dayal Rajora Proprietor of Svashtik Plastic Plot No.-B-51, PVL Bazar Tikri Kalan West Delhi-110041	Society Built-Up Freehold MIG Flat Bearing No. B-30, On 2nd Floor, In The Lay Out Plan of Liberal Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd. Known As Liberal Apartments, Zone G-17, Situated At Rotak Road, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087.	1. 19-April-2021 2. 08-10-2021	1. 19-April-2021 2. 08-10-2021	Rs.70,52,812/- (Rupees Seventy Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve Only)
2. Mrs. Manju Rajora, W/O Mr. Hari Singh Rajora B-30, CGHS, Park View Apartment, Paschim Vihar, Sunder Vihar West Delhi, Delhi-110087	All That Piece And Parcel of Flat No. 02 (LIG Category), On Ground Floor In Block No. B-13, In The Layout Plan of Housing Estate At Pkt-5, Sector-35, Rohini, Delhi.	1. 20-May-2021 2. 08.10.2021	1. 20-May-2021 2. 08.10.2021	Rs. 12,58,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Only)
1.Mrs. Roshni W/O Sh. Beg Raj House No. 35, 3rd Floor, Sector-2, Pocket-7, Rohini Near Gopaji Chole Bhature, Delhi-110058 <b>Also At:</b> Mata Chanan Devi Hospital C-1, Janakpuri, Near C-1 Red Light New Delhi-110058	2. Mr. Deepak S/O Sh. Ram Darshan House No. 35, 3rd Floor, Sector-2, Pocket-7, Rohini Near Gopaji Chole Bhature, Delhi-110058 <b>Also At:</b> C/O Rakesh Kumar Sachdeva BC-14, Mianwali Nagar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087	1. 20-May-2021 2. 08.10.2021	1. 20-May-2021 2. 08.10.2021	Rs. 12,58,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Only)
1. Mr. Sunil Kumar Baxla S/O Mr. Michael Baxla House No. A-4, C/138, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058 <b>Also At:</b> Pamposh (Part) Pamposh Rajgaur, Sundargarh, Orissa-770034 <b>Also At:</b> Steel Structure Design & Detailing Pvt. Ltd. Wz-10, 2nd Floor, Asalatpur, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058 <b>Also At:</b> Flat No. 8 C, 2nd Floor, Pocket No. C, Sector-3 Dwarika, Delhi-110075	Flat No. 8 C, 2nd Floor Pocket No. C, Sector-3 Dwarika, Delhi-110075.	1. 19-April-2021 2. 08.10.2021 3. Rs. 5,76,258/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight Only)	1. 19-April-2021 2. 08.10.2021 3. Rs. 5,76,258/- (Rupees Five Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Eight Only)	

The above-mentioned Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Date : 14-10-2021**  
**Place : Delhi & NCR**

**Sd/-**  
**Authorized Officer,**  
**Axis Bank Ltd.,**



## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 20-25 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Built:** Medium, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **ID Mark:** Earing in Right ear and bracelet in Right hand was found dead in Yamuna River Near Old Wazirabad Bridge Barrier, Wazirabad, Delhi on 02.10.2021.

In this regard a DD No. 24-A, Dated 02.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi**  
**DP/1588/N/2021(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23810076, 8750870131**



## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** was found on 04.10.2021 at Mor Sarai Road, Near Khandan, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 86 A dated 04.10.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Kotwali, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

**Name: Unknown, Age: About 30-35 Years, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Camel (Matmela) T-Shirt and Black Track Suit Lower.**

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
**Police Station Kotwali, Delhi**  
**DP/1579/N/2021 (UIDB) Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121**



## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 35 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Built:** Normal, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue Sando & Grey Colour Jeans, was found dead in Yamuna River Near Ghat No. 12, Jamna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 01.10.2021.

In this regard a DD No. 35-A, U/s 174 Cr.PC Dated 01.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi**  
**DP/1583/N/2021(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123**



## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Ravi, S/o: unknown, R/o: unknown. Age:** about 20-25 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Gray Colour T-Shirt and Gray Colour Lower, who was found at Divider footh path, Old Chandrawal near Parasnath Building, Civil Lines, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 45A, Dt. 08.10.2021 has been registered at P. S. Civil Lines, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**Sd/- SHO**  
**P. S: Civil Lines, Delhi**  
**Tel. No. 011-23815444**



# EXPLORING HERITAGE AND FOLK MUSIC

SPIC MACAY has been giving a glimpse into the rich cultural legacy and art forms over the years. TANMAYA DAS finds out the true essence of Indian culture by exploring what has changed in the post-pandemic world

Having your day started with mesmerising folk music and traditions may help you to appreciate the charm of Indian history and culture. To gain some insights on Indian values, I attended an online series of programs, organised by SPIC MACAY, ANUBHAV-3, where more than 14,000 students have participated in several workshops globally. The seven-day online sessions and workshops are helping people to understand the core values of rich classical music and Indian heritage. The event will continue till October 15.

#### ◆First day

The first day of the event started with the line-up of yoga and meditation sessions on *nada* yoga or meditation on sound. After *shramadaan* (donation of labour) as a part of selfless service to society, the screening of Oscar-winning film *Gandhi* by Richard Attenborough was shown, followed by a discussion on the movie with Professor Gita Dharampal of Heidelberg University. In the afternoon, a holistic lunch was organised where participants were advised to eat sattvic food. Then, an orientation programme was held, in order to brief the students on the cultural extravaganza. In the evening, the early holistic dinner was prepared to help the students to wake up early the next day. The first day concluded with the two classical music concerts by Indian vocalists Sheik Mahboob Subhani, Kaleeshabi Mahaboob (*nadaswaram*) and Begum Parveen Sultana.

#### ◆Second day

The second day marked the beginning of five-day classical dance, music and craft workshops by eminent Gurus, for selected students.

The day started at 4 am or brahma *muhurta* with yoga and meditation sessions on *naad* yoga by Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, who descends from a 20 generation-long line of *dhrupad* musicians from the Dagar *gharana*. In tranquil succession, the session of hatha yoga began under the guidance of Amit Shamnani, which began with the visualisation of the ultimate source of energy to boost the concentration power, which was followed by the Surya namaskar session.

After the yoga sessions, participants were asked to perform *shramadaan*. The students were urged to do household chores and cleaning before having a holistic and sattvic breakfast from 7 to 8:45 am. After the holistic breakfast, the first intensive was to give an unparalleled platform to the participants to deeply inquire into art-forms of their interest, vis-a-vis with maestros and legends of their respective fields. The yoga series was followed by 150 workshops conducted simultaneously by eminent artists, spanning art-forms of classical music, dance, painting, and crafts where more than 15,000 students across the globe attended 150 workshops. More than 750 schools and colleges from India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan, S Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, UAE, are participating. Students will attend Carnatic and Hindustani classical music, all eight classical dances, folk music and dance, traditional paintings, theatre led by established artists. Next followed the *nidra* session, where the students were instructed to stay in the yogic posture of rest and calm down their senses and minds, listening to the soothing voices and instructions. For 15 minutes, the participants were guided into a relaxed state of mind, post which they were



rejuvenated, full of energy and mindfulness. The afternoon session saw a wonderful performance by acclaimed folk singer Shri Prahlad Singh Tipaniya, a performer of Kabir bhajans in *malavi* folk tradition (Madhya Pradesh). Along with his entourage of proficiently adroit instrumentalists.

Next in schedule was the thought-provoking theatre performances that proffered a vivid reflection of society, which was brilliantly exemplified by Padma Shri awardee, Dr Neelam Mansingh. Commemorating the interim of events in the evening, participants were dismissed to consume their holistic dinner of sattvic food in preparation for the closing events of the evening.

Later, the Indian instrumentalist Bhajan Sopori ran his dexterous fingers all across the century of delicately suspended strings of santoor. The euphonious reverberations of *ragas marwa* and *puriya kalyan* pierced into the hearts of every listener, evoking an array of emotions by the sleight of each *swar*'s rhapsodic hand.

The second day was concluded with a sattriya dance performance of Ganakanta Bora, who gracefully took centre stage, as he mesmerised



the audience with his inescapably masterful expressional emittances, conveying a plethora of abstract emotions without a word escaping his jowl.

#### ◆Third day

The third day started with a blissful nada yoga session by Padma Shri awardee, Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar (*dhrupad* vocalist), who taught the students to master *mandra*, *saptak*, and *kharaj* through raag bhairav. This was followed by the traditional *hatha* yoga sessions by Amit Shamnani from Bihar School of Yoga, to instil vitality. It started with mantra *ucharan* and ended with pranayama, *nadi shodhan* and *prarthan*.

At 6 am, a meditation session started to calm down the restless senses. Later, the audience was blessed with *Gurbani* Live from Sri

Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple). The next session was Shramdaan and after breakfast, the students joined more than 150 intensive/workshops by various master craftspersons, masters, Gurus of classical music, dance and other forms of art from all over India.

Post lunch, a *yog nidra* session was conducted by the founder of SPIC MACAY, Dr Kiran Seth, who guided the students to lay in the yogic posture of rest (*savaasana*), to relax and meditate on their senses and calm down their minds, listening to his soothing voice and instructions.

The afternoon session opened up with legendary puppeteer, Dadi Pudumjee. He is the founder of Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust and president of UNIMA. The theme revolved around introducing and educating the students about the nuances of puppetry. An interesting part of the discussion was about how puppets are known in the world around us.

The afternoon session concluded on a calm and serene note with an enlightening talk by Sister Shivani of the Brahma Kumaris movement. Her pearl knit words revolved around the need to kill the Ravana within us, reflecting on the habits and thoughts of humans.

The evening session commenced with a Bharatanatyam recital by the most graceful Padmashri Malavika Sarukkai. The wisdom in her words about her ideology and passion for her art captured the audience. Later on, the beauty of auspicious veena played by Suma Sudindras, who is the recipient of Karnataka's highest civilian award, Rajyotsava Award, along with Charulatha Ramanujan on violin, Anoor Ananthkrishna on Mridangam and SN Narayanamurthy on Ghatam, set a mystical aura for the last concert of the day.

#### ◆Fourth day

The fourth day again began with a meditation session at Brahma muhurta followed by *shramadaan*, holistic breakfast, workshops, lunch and yoga *nidra*. The afternoon was followed by several lectures around whirling dervishes (Turkey), gregorian chants (France) and Gurbani.

The evening sessions featured live concerts by Umayalpuram K Sivaraman (Mridangam) and Abhishek Raghuram (Carnatic Vocal), along with the symphonies of Abhishek Raghuram with K Sivaraman, the awardee of Madras Music Academy's Sangeetha Kalanidhi on Mridangam. The audience was enthralled by the enriching aalaaps paired with the soulful violin by HN Bhaskar and Kanjira by Sundar Kumar. It was followed by a live concert by the Dhrupad and torchbearer tradition of Rudra Veena instrument, Ustad Bahauddin Dagar, who is the recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi award.

#### ◆Fifth day

After Brahma *muhurta* followed by meditation and yoga, the participants had candid discussions with gurus, and together they delved deep into the aspects of life and learning the art-forms.

In the afternoon, the music brought peace in the environment with whirling dervishes, which is a part of sema ceremony and the participants are properly known as semazens. The physiological goal of the whirling is for the dervish to 'empty' himself of all distractions. The

session was insightful with the talks of Mr Fahri Özçakil, the dervishes' spiritual leader, who spoke about its significance. The Indian Ambassador to Turkey Mr Sanjay Panda also spoke on the occasion about similarities in Sufi traditions in India and Turkey.

Next on the list was the Gregorian chant, which is the central tradition monophonic, an unaccompanied sacred song in Latin of the Roman Catholic Church. Professor Igor Reznikoff, a well-known specialist in ancient music/early Christian chant, shared some insights. Finally, a Gurbani session by Bhai Gurdev Singh, a hazoori ragis from Harminder Sahab (Golden Temple), enthralled the afternoon.

The evening sessions were graced with live concerts by Padmabhushan Dr L Subramaniam, followed by a Koodiyattam presentation, a traditional performing art-form in Kerala, by the very learned Kapila Venu.

#### ◆Sixth day

After the regular yoga, *gurbani*, *shramadan*, workshop sessions, the evening will be followed by mesmerising presentations of Hindustani and classical music. Musicians, such as Ashwini Bhide Deshpande (Hindustani vocal), T V Sankaranarayanan (Carnatic vocal), Sudha Raganathan (Carnatic Vocal), Prabhakar Karekar (Hindustani vocal) and Ritwik Sanyal (*dhrupad*).

#### ◆Seventh day

On the last day, after breakfast, interactions with sculptors about the art installation, and lunch, there will be a virtual heritage tour of the Taj Mahal by the historian Ram Narayanan. The next on the list will be a holistic dinner followed by some western classical music.

During the sessions, the students have been kept away from the usual distractions of the world that is bombarded with too much knowledge and information. Participants are advised to go on a social media and TV fast and slow down to savour, understand, and introspect, to derive their outlook of Indian heritage and its ethics.

## Adjusting with the new normal

KANCHAN RAI suggests ways to turn your work-related stress and anxiety into accomplishments



accommodates their additional task efficiently. Employees should keep in mind that saying a no is not the problem, but over-committing and not being able to deliver might create a bad image and affect their overall performance.

#### \*Talk it out

Venting out what you feel is important. There would be times when you feel a certain way, and letting it out will only help you get clarity. It eases you out and helps eliminate the feeling of isolation.

Socialising also helps reduce physical and mental exhaustion. As it is rightly said, "A problem shared is a problem half-solved".

#### \*Let's bond

To know more about whom you work with and spend almost nine hours of your day with them, it is important to initiate a conversation with your colleagues during lunch or tea-breaks. The topic of conversation need not be related to work, but just a casual talk to break the ice can do the charm. This forms a

sense of comfort and ease amongst the co-workers and also helps to create a friendly working environment.

#### \*Create a to-do list

Simple hacks like making to-do lists will help you understand the amount of work you have and need to accomplish. The list should be in the order of priority, so all the tasks can be completed on time with utmost efficiency. This can help to be more organised and enjoy the work instead of stressing over the deadlines.


#### \*Take appropriate breaks

One should take enough breaks during their work hours. A break as simple as a brisk walk can do wonders as it releases natural mood-boosting painkillers called endorphins. It keeps the mind fresh and helps to be more focussed during work. Breaks not only assist in de-stressing and relaxing your mind but also monitors stress-levels. It increases productivity and re-charges you for the rest of the work-day.

All these mental health ailments have a deeply-rooted seating in your mind. Though these simple practices might not completely eradicate them, they can surely make you feel comfortable and improve your mood. By imbibing these effective measures, one can convert their stressors into accomplishments successfully.

(The author is the founder of Let Us Talk and a mental and emotional well-being coach.)

## TRENDBLAZER




### 'WOMEN SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT'

Actress **MALAIKA ARORA** is going to be in the judge-panel along with Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur in the upcoming dance reality show, *India's Best Dancer*.

The fitness enthusiast expressed, "I believe independence is the core of my being. I am very happy and fortunate to meet people who give me the right backing and the right push to do something."


"I am very headstrong like that. And, I think all women should be emotionally and financially independent," she added.



### fairtalk

BANI J


'The way I'm living my life right now is my happily ever after. I have people that I care about and who reciprocate. We can express love and appreciation for each other. I train whenever I want. I travel, spend time with people I love, create projects that I care about and be a part of those that fulfill me creatively, which I think is the best thing in the world.'



### dailytalk

DHEERAJ DHOOPAR

'TV shows cater to a different segment of audience. It eventually makes you a household name, whereas OTT projects have a good scope in experimenting with great content and storylines. In OTT, as an artist, one has freedom when it comes to acting, story or direction. TV is the toughest sector. A lot of hard work is involved to be a success.'



### EX-SUPERMAN IS NOT IMPRESSED

Actor **DEAN CAIN**, who played Superman in *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*, from 1993 to 1997, is unimpressed by the news that the superhero Clark Kent's son, Jon Kent, will be bisexual.

He shared, "They say it's a new direction, I say they're bandwagoning. Robin came out as bi. The new Captain America is gay. My daughter in *Supergirl* was gay."

"If they had done this 20 years ago, perhaps, that would be bold or brave. Brave would be having Superman fighting for the rights of gay people in Iran where they'll throw you off a building for the offense of being gay," the ex-Superman added.





Officers and councillors of the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh engaging in a competitive round of tug of war



Demonstration of the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)



Safaimitra Amrit Samman Samaroh on Gandhi Jayanti



An improvised water park for children at New Indira Colony during the celebrations

# AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV AT CHANDIGARH

To mark the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements, the Government of India announced the initiation of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India. It will also focus on India's vision, aspiration of India's youth and what India will be in the next 25 years.

This celebration is steadfast to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey but also hold within them the power and potential to enable Prime Minister Modi's vision of enabling new India, fuelled by the spirit of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

## Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Chandigarh

In accordance with the nation-wide celebrations for the Mahotsav, the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh conceived a week-long urban campaign from September 28 to October 3, 2021 under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations at Chandigarh focussed on citizen participation and engagement, for transformation into a Janandolan, a citizens' movement, where small changes, at the community level will translate into significant changes at city level and consequently enlarging gains on the national canvas.

The week-long event showcased the accomplishments and ongoing development activities under the auspices of various

urban missions including Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Swachh Bharat (Urban) Mission, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) by mobilising support from various stakeholders such as civil society organisations, youth, women, social activists, urban and environment crusaders, resident and market welfare associations and other government agencies. Public sector undertakings including banks and corporations came forward with their kind and budgetary support under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to rejoice the spirit and essence of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, thereby promoting JanBhagidari and mass citizen engagement.

During the week-long celebration, the programmes and activities which were conceived by the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh under the vibrant and vivacious mentorship of Anindita Mitra, commissioner of the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh were:

## Inaugural of 22 cities & 75 Hours Placemaking Implementation

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign was inaugurated and opened to the public by Dharam Pal, adviser to the administrator of UT of Chandigarh on September 28, 2021 in the presence of Ravi Kant Sharma, the Mayor of Chandigarh, Nitin Kumar Yadav (IAS), home secre-

tary of Chandigarh Administration, Vijay Namdeo Zade (IAS), finance secretary of Chandigarh Administration and Anindita Mitra (IAS), the commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh at Community Park, New Indira Colony, Manimajra, Sector -13, Chandigarh.

The physical transformation involved construction of a public toilet, painting of the water body into an interactive play area for kids, connecting neighbouring school with the park through a tabletop crossing, repair and painting of planters among others. To ensure public participation, events like morning yoga session for locals, a game of kabaddi for men and women, a drawing competition among school-going children, plantation drive at Herbal Garden, tug of war for children, officers and councillors, a magic show and puppet show for children, various quizzes, antakshari and camel ride were organised.

The Implementation witnessed participation of more than 10,000 people from the vicinity. The key aim behind choosing New Indira Colony for the event was to promote urban vivacity to areas on the outskirts of the city which inhabited the marginalised and economically weaker section community.

## Kachra Alag Karo Amrit Diwas

Kale Ram, a *safai karamchari* was appointed as the brand ambassador of Swachhta Mission

in the city and various awareness and sensitisation activities through skits and *nukkad-natak* on waste segregation at source were organised on September 29, 2021. Colour coded waste collection compostable bags were distributed to citizens at Maloya, Ram Darbar and Maulijagan.

## Saarvjanik Shauchalaya Safai Jan Bhagidari Amrit Utsav

Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh, in a special maintenance drive during this period, revamped 26 public toilets throughout the city which were handed over to Resident Welfare/Market Associations and other operating agencies by the respective area councillors in their wards in the presence of municipal officials on September 30, 2021. A new toilet block in Sector-17 was inaugurated by the Mayor of Chandigarh.

Keeping in mind the input from citizens, a QR code for getting feedback from the public on amenities were also affixed to the revamped toilets.

## Cycle2Work

The Cycle2Work campaign aims at getting people out of their cars and convincing them to shift their daily habits in favour of a more sustainable and healthier commute.

Leading by example, the officers and employees of Chandigarh Smart City Limited and Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh cycled to their workplaces on October 1, 2021. Badges were affixed to encourage the employees and a selfie frame

was installed in the office premises to create a buzz around the concept.

## Felicitations of waste entrepreneurs and Waste-To-Art exhibition

A *Waste-To-Art* exhibition was also organised on October 1, 2021 at Sector 17, Plaza by inviting local civil society organisations, self help groups (SHGs), school going students, corporates. In the exhibition, Rock Garden, Kala Sagar, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, NULM women SHGs have displayed various articles and models prepared by them using waste, which has demonstrated RRR — Reuse, Recycle and Reduce strategy of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

A special event was also conceived to felicitate city based waste entrepreneurs who have demonstrated state of the art models prepared out of waste by the Mayor of Chandigarh.

## Showcasing of Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)

To empower citizens with knowledge about the 'smart' initiatives being taken up in the city, the Chandigarh Smart City Ltd team demonstrated the ICCC platform with integrated traffic control system, e-challan system and live monitoring by surveillance cameras to the public.

A live demonstration on the functioning of ICCC was given to councillors, media representatives and students on October 1, 2021 and a video presentation on

ICCC and other initiatives of CSCL was given to citizens on October 2 and 3, 2021, at Municipal Corporation premises and Sector 17 Plaza respectively.

## Safaimitra Amrit Samman Samaroh

While commemorating the 152<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and his vision for sanitation, this event was held on October 2 and 3.

During this event, 5150 *safaimitras* were felicitated. On October 2, the Mayor of Chandigarh felicitated the *safaimitras* and in the closing ceremony, felicitation was done by Banwari Lal Purohit, Punjab's Governor and Chandigarh's administrator.

## Freedom to cycle — cycle rally on October 3

A 7.5 km long bicycle rally was organised to wrap up the celebrations of the 75 glorious years of India's independence. The rally was flagged off by Banwari Lal Purohit at Sukhna Lake. The rally witnessed massive participation from the cycling enthusiasts of the city. The highlight of the event was the sheer diversity of the participants in terms of gender and age-groups. The rally ended at Shanti Kunj, Sector-16 where the 'junior bicycling champions' were felicitated by Anindita Mitra, commissioner of the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh and CEO of Chandigarh Smart City Limited.

POWERGRID, a Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India under its CSR initiative in Northern Region-I undertook a project for the supply and installation of PSA Type 2x50 Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr oxygen generation plant with bottling facility at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Sector-38, Gurugram, Haryana.

On October 7, 2021, Madhu Azad, the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, inaugurated the facility in the presence of A K Mishra, the executive director of NR1, Bodhiraj Sikri, the deputy chairman of Haryana's CSR trust, Dr Yash Garg, the district commissioner and Vishram Kumar Meena, ADC.



Rahul Mithal took over as the chairman and MD of RITES Ltd. (NSE: RITES, BSE: 541556), the leading transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering firm, on October 7, 2021.



RITES felicitates Mithal, who has over 31 years of experience in the Railway sector. He has worked at various key positions in Indian Railways and Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR).

Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, R K Singh congratulating PFC on being accorded the 'Maharatna' status by Government of India in the presence of Alok Kumar, the secretary of Power, R S Dhillon, CMD of PFC and senior MOP and PFC officials



Dr Sudhir Mishra, distinguished scientist and director general of BrahMos at DRDO and the CEO & MD of BrahMos Aerospace was conferred the honorary degree of 'Doctor of Science' by Shri Ramswaroop Memorial

University at the varsity's first convocation ceremony on 11th October 2021, held at Lucknow-Deva Road (Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh). He has 36 years of R&D experience in the area of missiles technology, production technology, technology management and defence diplomacy and has contributed immensely in India's quest to achieve excellence in missile technologies by developing several breakthrough-technologies. His technical expertise and contribution has resulted in the realisation of several DRDO Missile Programmes.

Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC presents `1,560.93 crore, the final dividend of `3,054.45 crores for FY 2020-21 for the Government of India, to R K Singh, Minister of Power and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in the presence of Alok Kumar, the secretary of Power, Vivek Kumar Dewangan, additional secretary and Ashish Upadhyaya, additional secretary & FA from Ministry of Power, A K Gautam, the Finance Director,



## Fino Payments Bank signs actor Pankaj Tripathi as brand ambassador

Fino Payments Bank Limited (FPBL), a fintech for emerging India customers will now work with actor Pankaj Tripathi as its brand ambassador.

During the two-year engagement effective 1st September 2021, Pankaj Tripathi will be the face of Fino Payments Bank's marketing campaigns across various platforms. He will work with the brand in promoting its products and services representing through Fino's ever present and friendly neighbourhood local banker - Hamesha available!

"This is Fino's first ever opportunity to have a brand ambassador, a milestone in itself", said Darpan Anand, Sr. Divisional Head Fino Payments Bank. "We are extremely pleased to have Pankaj Tripathi, a celebrated artist, as our brand ambassador. Pankaj's personality resonates our brand values and we believe the association will go a long way in not only achieving the desired top of the mind brand recall but also in bringing about a paradigm shift in consumer behaviour towards the adoption of digital banking."

Sharing his thoughts on associating with Fino Payments Bank, Pankaj Tripathi said, "When I heard about Fino's

"Fi-kar No-t'approach I was instantly connected to it as that is how I have lived my life. I owe my success perhaps to this way of thinking and that's why I immediately agreed to associate with the brand. I want to thank Fino Payments Bank and the agency for choosing me as the face of Fino brand that I could so relate to. I wish them the best of future."

"The most important step on who would personify the brand, is the match between the brand's attributes and those of the celebrity", said Anand Bhatia, CMO, Fino Payments Bank. "Pankaj Tripathi brings to the table a pan India connect and an appeal that is in sync with Fino Payments Bank's values of being grounded, real, sincere, honest, competent and hardworking. His clear focus on creating social awareness through his endorsements connects well with Fino's socially inclusive business, making him a perfect brand fit. He is a self-made man, just like our self-made bank."

Pankaj Tripathi will be the face of Fino's first 'Fikar Not' campaign conceptualised to allay the fears, especially confidence issues associated with the banking process. Fino believes its cus-

tomers should not have any 'Fikar' or worry when doing banking. In fact 'Fi-kar NO-t' is in its name!

## Bridging India and Bharat - brand concept

Pankaj Tripathi's success story of a small town guy making it big on his own blends well with the aspirations of Fino's target group. FPBL's target segment, the emerging India customer's someone who has low levels of financial literacy, technology use, lacks financial inclusion and typically does not have access to basic banking services.

Fino's merchants serve the banking and financial needs of this segment by offering assisted services through the phygital delivery model. They not only address the pain points of the customers but also help them migrate from offline activity to online activity.

## POWERGRID Rated 'Excellent' for FY 2019-20 in MoU with Ministry of Power

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Ministry of Power, Government of India has been rated 'Excellent' (Score 96.29) in Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for FY 2019-20 signed with Ministry of Power (MoP). MoU Score and Rating for FY 2019-20 of CPSEs have been recently released by the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance.

POWERGRID's score under MoU FY 2019-20 is highest among CPSEs under administrative control of MoP. The MoU included targets related to various parameters such as Financial, Physical, Human Resource Management, Project Execution, etc. Apart from this, special emphasis had also been given to targets related to Technology Upgradation, Innovation and programs for Leadership Development of Women Employees.

POWERGRID has been consistently rated 'Excellent' under MoU since first MoU for FY 1993-94.

As on September 30, 2021, POWERGRID has 262 Sub-stations and about 1,70,700 ckm and 4,51,350 MVA of transformation capacity. With the adoption of latest technological tools and techniques, enhanced use of automation and digital solutions, POWERGRID has been able to maintain average transmission system availability >99%.



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## Jaa Devi Sarva-Bhutessu Vrtti-Ruupena Samsthitaa

Salutations to the female divinity manifest in our activity and intent

Serving Odisha on the track to A Trillion-Dollar economy Resource-rich Odisha has the potential to leverage its mineral wealth and propel the State economy to greater heights. Fortunately, a robust policy framework along with stable government and sound governance ring true for the state and rationalized natural resource exploration would transform into Better Everyday for the people of this region. Odisha government scores high on transparency and ensuring peace in the region with focus on growth enablers such as infrastructure, health and nutrition. To aid this effort, we as Industry leaders have joined in with technology innovations for minerals and metals.

Post Covid 19, we are operating in the same reality as the people of our country and the state of Odisha. To reenergize the economy, we are demonstrably making efforts to pump in investments, empower the people and nurture the communities we are part of for a Better Everyday. With the world transitioning toward a low carbon economy, environmental issues and emphasis on long term perspective have made us embracer of the sustainability advantage.

JSW family wishes joyous Durga Puja celebrations complete with fun and festivity to the valued readers of Orissa Pioneer!

thereby reducing carbon footprint. We aggressively de-silo sustainability by integrating it across all our operations. Complete compliance to all statutory regulations is a prerequisite for us and a case in point is our proposed 12 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Paradip. The project is set to shift the socio-economic reality of the port city soon and would usher in a Better Every day for the people of this region. Empowerment, engagement and ensuring zero harm to our internal and external stakeholders is preembedded in our integrated management system.

Our 5 C values of Confidence, Courage, Commitment, Compassion and Collaboration are manifest in the community we work with in Odisha. With Focus on Corporate Social Responsibility, JSW has come forward to shape the dream of Better Everyday through its contributions toward strengthening Public Health delivery system, water and sanitation measures and strengthening education infrastructure in its mining project area and proposed ISP site.


JSW Foundation and Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) are leading concerns of JSW group and Sports is high on our agenda. Special initiatives are being taken up to tap the sporting potential of Odisha especially in the districts of Keonjhar & Sundergarh. High Performance Sport Centres at locations across the state are in the making for a Better Everyday.



# Shardul Thakur replaces Axar Patel in India's main squad for T20 World Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fast bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur on Wednesday replaced Axar Patel in India's squad for the T20 World Cup to be held in the UAE and Oman from October 17.



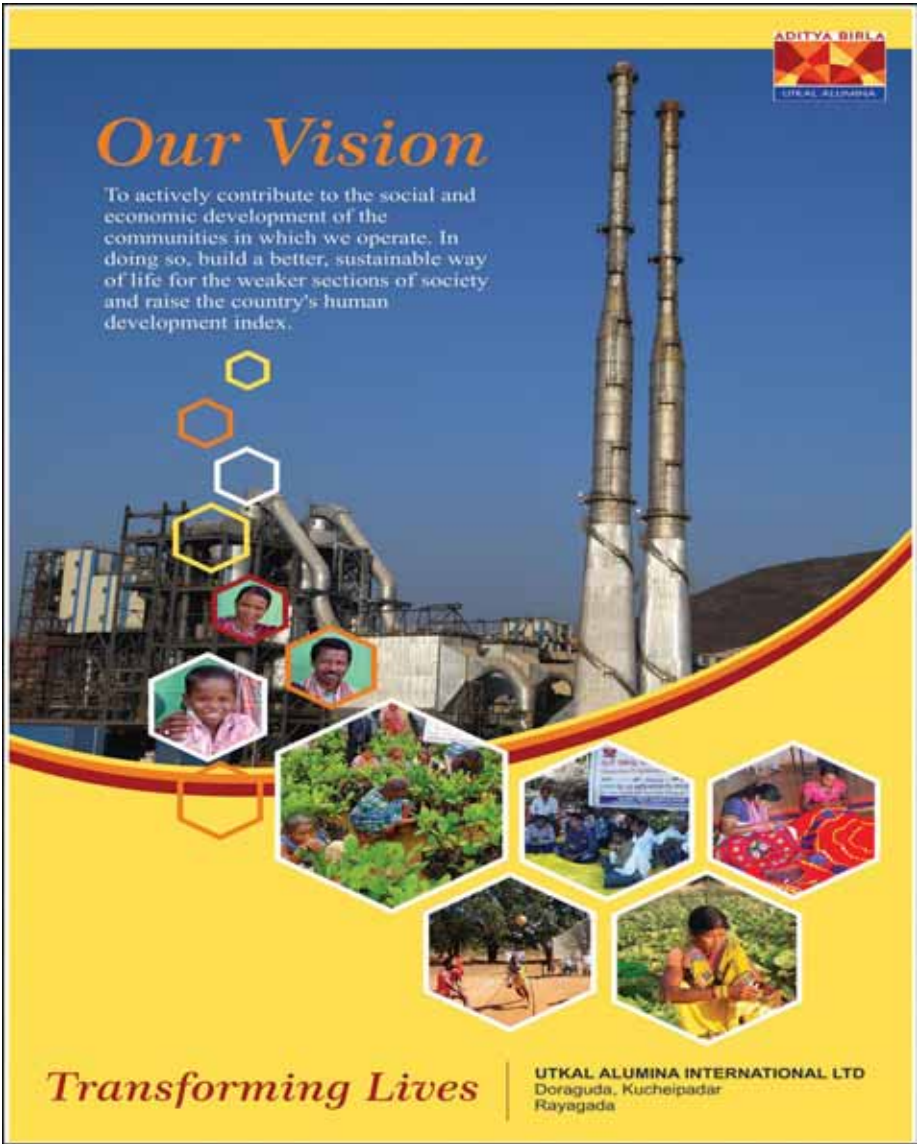
The 29-year-old Thakur has impressed with his 18 wickets in the ongoing IPL for Chennai Super Kings. With this, India completed the announcement of its final squad for the marquee tournament. Teams are allowed time till October 15 to finalise changes. "The All-India Senior Selection Committee after a discussion with the team management has added Shardul Thakur to the main squad. All-rounder Axar Patel, who was part of the 15-member squad will now be on the list of stand-by players," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

With pace all-rounder Hardik Pandya not bowling during the IPL because of fitness issues, the selectors wanted a cover for him. The Mumbai Indians star's workload management is a major concern for the team management.

"The selectors felt that they were one pacer short and also with Hardik Pandya not bowling, they needed an all-rounder in the main squad," a source close to the selection committee told PTI. "Axar remains in stand by and if Ravindra Jadeja gets injured, he will again be back in main team. Till Jaddu (Jadeja) plays, Axar won't be required."

As reported by PTI, the selectors also included Harshal Patel among the net bowlers for the Indian team.

"The following cricketers will join the team bubble in Dubai and assist Team India in their preparations: Avesh Khan, Umran Malik, Harshal Patel, Lukman Meriwala, Venkatesh Iyer, Karn Sharma, Shahbaz Ahmed and K. Gowtham," the statement said. Among the stand-by players, Railways leg-spinner Karn Sharma, who is part of the CSK right now, was a surprise inclusion. Considered a close confidante of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has been roped in as mentor of the national side for the World Cup, Sharma is retained year after year by CSK without playing too many matches as it is believed that he has been the franchise's "Lucky Mascot".

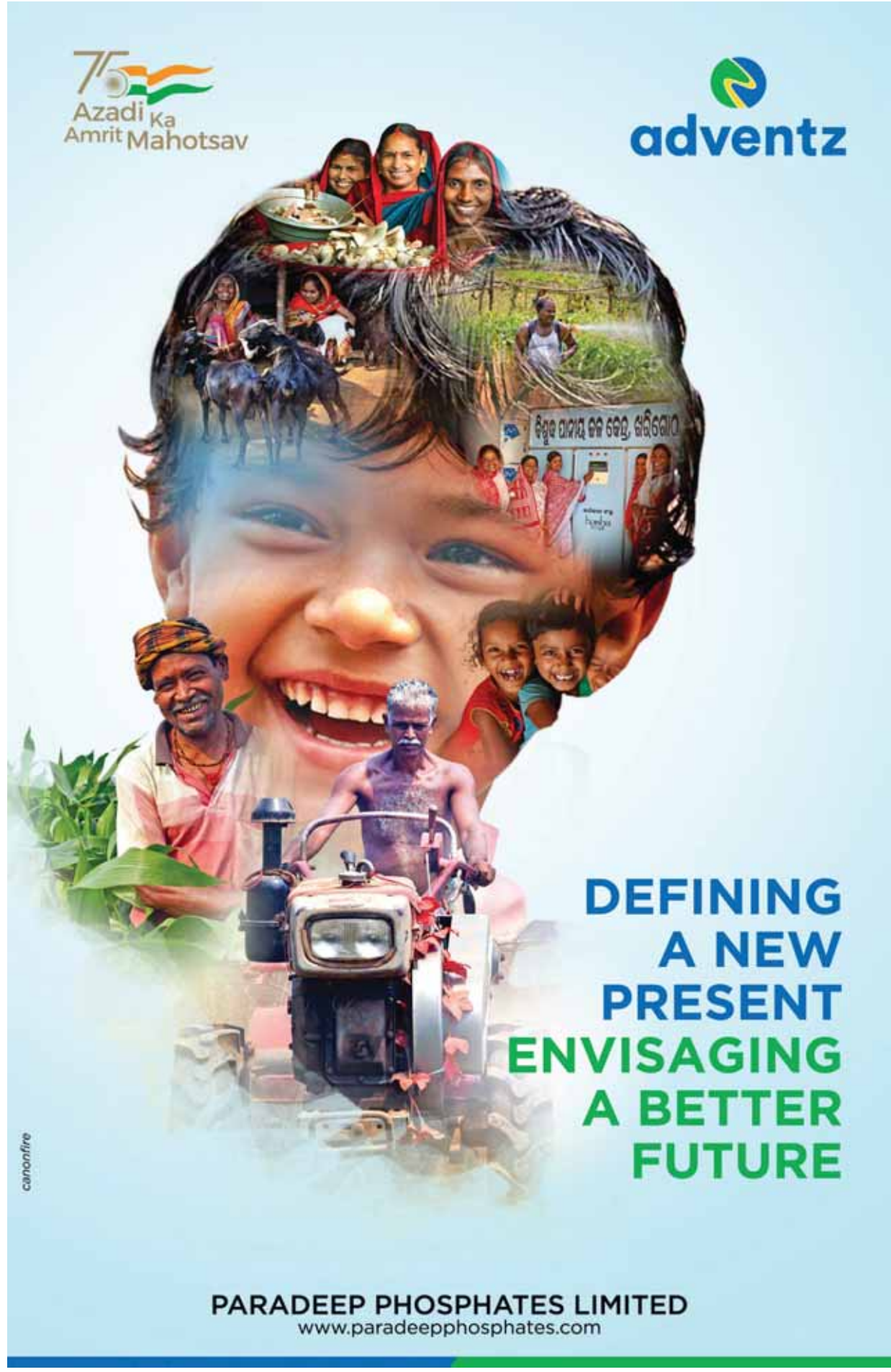


### Our Vision

To actively contribute to the social and economic development of the communities in which we operate. In doing so, build a better, sustainable way of life for the weaker sections of society and raise the country's human development index.

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### The Aditya Birla Group: Enriching Lives, Enabling Growth

A \$46 billion MNC, the Aditya Birla Group is in the League of Fortune 500. It is anchored by an extraordinary force of 1,20,000 employees, belonging to 42 nationalities, spanning 36 countries. Nearly 50 per cent of its revenues flow from its overseas operations.

Hindalco, UltraTech Cement, Grasim Industries, Essel Mining and Industries, Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail, and Aditya Birla Capital operate in Odisha, driven by a 12,000 strong workforce. Its investment in the state exceeds ₹30,000 crore.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR COMPANIES ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY WORK IN ODISHA (2020-21)

We reach out to more than 5 lakh people annually in 6 districts of Odisha.

Touch 2,15,000 lives across 212 villages.

##### HEALTHCARE

400 Awareness Camps on Covid-19; Over 5 lakh masks, soaps, sanitisers distributed in the villages. Running of the 22-bedded state-of-the-art Utkal Hospital at Tikiri in Rayagada district with Multi-Disciplinary Healthcare Services. Also recognised as Covid Hospital & Covid Vaccination Centre.

An IT-enabled Vision Care Centre at Aditya Aluminium servicing more than 10,000 people.

Over 755 medical camps organised benefitting more than 75,000 people.

Immunised 40,000 children.

##### EDUCATION

Assigned 100 teachers to 85 primary schools and provided study material to 4,200 students.

Organise computer literacy programmes every six months.

Set up a centralised midday meal kitchen in Keonjhar district in partnership with the Odisha Government. Midday meals given to 30,000 children every day.

Solar Lamps given to 1 lakh school children.

Through the NGO Swabhimana, we support the differently abled children.

##### SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Kitchen Gardens empowered 500 families.

In partnership with the Government, implemented commercial vegetable farming in 178 acres of 480 farmers under 'Project Samridhi'.

More than 155 SHGs formed, empowering 2000 women.

Worked in collaboration with the NABARD on project Wadi for tribal farmers in 424 acres and 68 goat rearing units for landless families.

Introduced Lemon grass cultivation project (with aromatic and medicinal value) in 165 acres of 131 farmers in 16 villages.

30 SHGs are engaged in Project Saksham, a sustainable livelihood initiative at Utkal Alumina.

##### INFRASTRUCTURE

Constructed a 50,000 kilo liter overhead tank to supply drinking water to residents of Champua subdivision in Keonjhar district.

Constructing and maintaining approach roads and internal concrete roads, drains, check dams, borewells, water harvesting structures and river steps.

Maintaining bathing ghats, culverts, playgrounds, health centres and community halls.

Aditya Birla Group has ploughed in ₹20 Crores to help make a difference to the lives of the underprivileged in Odisha.

**Because We Care.**

**ADITYA BIRLA GROUP**  
Engage. Uplift. Empower