



TURNING TO SPIRITUALITY

Hollywood star Salma Hayek reveals that Goddess Lakshmi inspires her to connect with her inner beauty

LEISURE P2



POLLS AMID COVID

JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy says the world wouldn't have ended if the Bihar polls were postponed

TWO STATES P7



'WASTE OF TIME'

Donald Trump rejected plans for a virtual debate with Democratic rival Joe Biden

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Agree! Roads are meant for processions, encroachments, games, animals, potholes, etc and not for protests!!

SHORT TAKES

7 Indian workers kidnapped in Libya

New Delhi: Seven Indians, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, were kidnapped in Libya last month and India is in touch with authorities in the African nation to secure their release, the Ministry of External Affairs said Thursday. The Indians were kidnapped at a place called Assherif September 14 when they were on their way to the Tripoli airport to catch a flight to India, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said at a media briefing. "The government is in touch with their family members."

Anubhav files defamation suit

New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal MP Anubhav Mohanty Thursday filed a criminal defamation suit against Odisha TV, its managing director Jagi Mangat Panda and chief editor Radhamadhav Mishra for allegedly publishing fake news against Mohanty at the Patiala House court in Delhi. Advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey, counsel for Mohanty, said that they have prayed before the court to issue summons, try and punish the above mentioned accused and issue directions to lodge FIR against the accused. The petition states that Panda and chief editor of OTV intentionally insulted, defamed and humiliated Mohanty.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	40182.67 ↑ 303.72
NIFTY	11834.60 ↑ 95.70
DOLLAR	73.37 ↓ ₹0.10
EURO	86.26 ↓ ₹0.18
GOLD	₹50,104 ↑ ₹56
SILVER	₹60,720 ↑ ₹301

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	30.0°C	33.8°C
TEMP. MIN	24.9°C	24.0°C
Humidity	98%	89%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky

'India's GDP expected to contract by 9.6% in FY21'

Indian economy could fare thrice as poorly as projected earlier in the wake of coronavirus-induced lockdowns and a decline in household income: WB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 8: The World Bank Thursday said that India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal which is reflective of the national lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms due to the Covid-19 pandemic, noting that the country's economic situation is much worse than ever seen before. The Washington-based global lender, in its latest South Asia Economic Focus report ahead of the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, forecasts a sharper than expected economic slump across the region, with regional growth expected to contract by 7.7 per cent in 2020, after topping six per cent annually in the past five years. India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent in the fiscal year that started in March, the World Bank said in the report released here. Regional growth is projected to rebound to 4.5 per cent in 2021, it said. Factoring in population growth, however, income-per-capita in the region will remain 6 per cent below 2019 estimates, indicating that the expected rebound will not offset the lasting economic damage caused by the pandemic, it said. The situation is much worse in India than we have ever seen before,



Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia told reporters during a conference call. It is an exceptional situation in India. A very dire outlook, he said. There was a 25 per cent decline in GDP in the second quarter of the year, which is the first quarter of the current fiscal year in India. In the report, the World Bank said that the spread of the coronavirus and containment measures have severely disrupted supply and demand conditions in India.

With the intent to contain the spread of Covid-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with effect from March 25, announced a nationwide complete lockdown that brought as much as 70 per cent of economic activity, investment, exports and discretionary consumption to a standstill. Dubbed as the world's biggest lockdown, it shut a majority of the factories and businesses, suspended flights, stopped trains and restricted movement of vehicles and people.

THUMBS UP TO SOCIAL MEDIA



80-year-old Kanta Prasad with his wife Badami Devi poses for a photograph at their residence, in New Delhi, Thursday. The elderly couple, who run a small eatery 'Baba Ka Dhaba' in Delhi's Malviya Nagar had been losing their livelihood due to the coronavirus pandemic, found some relief after their plight went viral on social media

STATE BEGINS PROCESS TO REOPEN RELIGIOUS PLACES

PRIESTS WELCOME THE MOVE, READY TO FOLLOW COVID-19 GUIDELINES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: After a gap of seven months, the state government has initiated the process to reopen temples and other places of worship. Chief Secretary Asit Kumar Tripathy directed the chief administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and other major temples under endowment to prepare an action plan for devotees to visit the shrines with strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines.

Tripathy has asked the district Collectors to consider the possibility of opening up places of worship for people of all religious faiths where compliance to the extant Covid guidelines is feasible. The Collectors have been asked to submit reports after consulting all stake holders within 10 days.

The state government has taken this move in the wake of the protest by sevayats (priests) of all major temples in the state. The priests had beat Ghanta demanding reopening of the shrines to sustain their livelihood.

"The Collectors will examine the matter and submit the report.

After getting their feedbacks, we will take appropriate decision," said Law Minister Pratap Jena.

Endowment Commissioner Chitaranjan Mohapatra said his department is ready to implement any direction given by the government for reopening of the places of worship.

Meanwhile, various religious organisations welcomed the government's move and opined that religious places can be opened for devotees following the Covid guidelines and regulations.

"As all things have been opened now, the government should allow reopening of the temples for our livelihood. However, at the same time, it should be ensured that Covid-19 does not spread due to this move," said senior servitor of Puri temple, Binayak Dasmohapatra.

A Bhubaneswar-based Muslim leader also favoured reopening of mosques and said there should not be any gathering before and after prayers.

"We are ready to follow all directions given by the government. If the government allows, we will follow social distance norms and people visiting our church will be asked to use masks and sanitizer before entering the premises," said Ayub Chinchani, pastor of Union Church, Bhubaneswar.

In March this year, the state government closed down all religious places including the Sri Jagannath temple in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak and is yet to reopen them. Only servitors are allowed inside the temples to perform the rituals.

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LJP patriarch Ram Vilas Paswan passes away

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 8: Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan died in a Delhi hospital Thursday evening. He was 74. The senior Dalit leader from Bihar had been unwell for a few weeks. His son and LJP leader, Chirag Paswan, tweeted, "Papa is no more in this world, but I know wherever you are, you are always with me. Miss you Papa."

Ram Vilas Paswan was the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Ram Vilas Paswan had been in active politics for more than five decades and was regarded as one of India's noted Dalit leaders.

He had been hospitalised for the last few weeks and was operated upon at a private hospital in the national capital. He had been suffering from a heart condition for a long time.

Ram Vilas Paswan had been part of the Narendra



Modi government since 2014 and was currently holding the portfolio of Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

"I definitely want it 100 per cent. When and how, we will see. It all depends on Chirag, maybe after two years, five years or in the future. I am giving a forecast today that in 20-25 years from now, it is certain that Chirag will be counted among the country's top leaders," Ram Vilas Paswan said.

"I have lost a friend, valued colleague and someone who was extremely passionate to ensure every poor person leads a life of dignity," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

NGT tells Khurda admin to identify illegal miners



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Miffed by the earlier response of the Khurda district administration, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has now asked the authorities to name the persons involved in blatant illegal mining of stones in the district.

This comes after the district administration furnished details on the compensation received from the defaulting mining players in the district. The NGT, after going through two reports of the special committees constituted to examine the issue, has asked the authorities to the rework on wider areas.

"We direct the Committee to examine and submit a report again on the identification of the persons running the illegal quarry and as to whether or not the unavoidable EIA process had been followed while permitting Sri Jagannath Temple Administration to mine in the area," the order said.

Many mined areas are said to belong to the Sri Jagannath Temple Administration. The NGT also indirectly accused the district administration of protecting the illegal miners. In its written order the NGT said, "In our considered opinion, the exercise undertaken by the government is an attempt to hoodwink the Tribunal in order to protect the perpetrators of the illegal activities."

"Although, the learned State Counsel had earlier submitted that the STF had been investigating the matter, no particulars have been furnished in support of such submission. It also surprises us to note that in the entire episode, the State PCB has remained mute spectator," the order of NGT said.

American poet Louise Glück wins Nobel literature prize

THE AWARD COMES AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF CONTROVERSY AND SCANDAL FOR THE WORLD'S PRE-EMINENT LITERARY ACCOLADE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stockholm, Oct 8: The Nobel Prize for literature was awarded to American poet Louise Glück Thursday "for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal."

The prize was announced in Stockholm by Mats Malm, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy.

New York-born Glück, 77, who is a professor of English at Yale

University, made her debut in 1968 with "Firstborn," and "was soon acclaimed as one of the most prominent poets in American contemporary literature," the Nobel Academy said.

Her poetry is "characterized by a striving for clarity," often focusing on childhood and family life, and close relationship with parents and siblings, it said.

It noted her 2006 collection "Averno," calling it "masterly" and "a visionary interpretation of the myth of Persephone's descent into



LOUISE GLÜCK

hell in the captivity of Hades, the god of death." The award, which includes a 10 million kronor (more than \$1.1 million) prize, comes after several years of controversy and scandal for the world's pre-eminent literary accolade.

In 2018 the award was postponed after sex abuse allegations rocked the Swedish Academy, the secretive body that chooses the winners, and sparked a mass exodus of members.

After the academy revamped itself in a bid to regain the trust of

the Nobel Foundation, two laureates were named last year, with the 2018 prize going to Poland's Olga Tokarczuk and the 2019 award to Austria's Peter Handke.

Handke's prize caused a storm of protest: a strong supporter of the Serbs during the 1990s Balkan wars, he has been called an apologist for Serbian war crimes. Several countries including Albania, Bosnia and Turkey boycotted the Nobel awards ceremony in protest, and a member of the committee that nominates

candidates for the literature prize resigned.

On Monday, the Nobel Committee awarded the prize for physiology and medicine for discovering the liver-ravaging hepatitis C virus. Tuesday's prize for physics honoured breakthroughs in understanding the mysteries of cosmic black holes, and the chemistry prize on Wednesday went to scientists behind a powerful gene-editing tool.

Still to come are prizes for outstanding work in the fields of peace and economics.



THE PRINCESS SWITCH SEQUEL COMING TO NETFLIX IN NOV

The sequel to *The Princess Switch*, the 2018 Christmas rom-com fronted by Vanessa Hudgens, will start streaming on Netflix from November 19. Hudgens played double role of an American baker named Stacy De Novo and Duchess Margaret from fictional European nation of Montenegro.

SANDRA OH TO HEADLINE HORROR MOVIE UMMMA

Killing Eve star Sandra Oh is set to star in upcoming horror feature *Umma*. The project, which has been acquired by Sony Pictures' Stage 6 Films, will be produced by Raimi Productions and Starlight Media, reported *Deadline*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
The day may start with a dilemma, but that's exactly how your skills will come into play. As evening approaches, you will be applauded for your outstanding performance. If Ganesha is particularly generous today, you may sign new agreements.

TAURUS
Priorities and money matters will line up impatiently to knock on your door (and desk). Your financial constraints will get an outburst today. People may be taken by surprise with the way you get poignant. You will also enjoy the higher accountability reposed on you, predicts Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today, you will get an opportunity to rejuvenate yourself with seamless energy. How? Ganesha's guess is that you will find — or at least you will believe that you have found — your purpose in life. It will keep you excited throughout the day, and maybe even for days to come. You may spend lavishly to improve your personal appearance.

CANCER
Ganesha believes that today you may have to take certain financial decisions at home as well as at work. If you are in-charge of a certain project, you will trust the judgement of those working on it, mostly because they have been hand-picked by you.

LEO
Motivating people through your own actions is one way; the other is to let your words do the talking. Both are equally effective, says Ganesha. With a bit of help from the stars, today, it is your words that shall hold more weight than your actions, as you make optimum use of your presentation skills.

VIRGO
It is quite possible that you will love financial challenges that are thrown at you, as they whet your appetite for success. You will come up with innovative ideas and improved methods of problem-solving. Ganesha assures you that your current business ideas will work wonders.

LIBRA
It sure is tiring to run with the herd. You may feel the desire to get away from the rat race at work today. Maybe it is the monotonous and stressful environment in office that is pushing you to your limits. But you may seek a new direction and lifestyle, one that is less taxing.

SCORPIO
You will live the day in two dominant shades, feels Ganesha. One part of your day will be tinted in nostalgia and thinking, while the other will be spent in making up for the time you lost while star gazing and ignoring your work.

SAGITTARIUS
You will discover a flair for flirting as you puppet words to your romantic will with ease and grace. Most of today will be spent in the company of a loved one, perhaps a picnic for two, or a day-long romantic date. Stay prepared for the worst as this may not necessarily blossom into a long-lasting relationship, warns Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
It will be one of those mundane days with nothing remarkable happening on any front. But don't be disheartened, advises Ganesha; planetary movements indicate there may be a change coming soon, most likely a good one. So, perk up and look forward to tomorrow.

AQUARIUS
You do have a way with words and today, you may succeed with your gift of the gab! But Ganesha says that your confused feelings may come in the way of your triumphant achievement.

PISCES
The fount of your creativity spurts today like there is no tomorrow. For lesser mortals, it takes inspiration, perspiration and a lot of desperation to come up with something creative. You, on the other hand, keenly remember the lessons from your past efforts, and use them today to scale new heights, says Ganesha.

For inspiration Salma turns to goddess Lakshmi

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Salma Hayek has revealed that when it comes to connecting with her inner beauty, she looks at goddess Lakshmi for inspiration. "When I want to connect with my inner beauty, I start my meditation focusing on the goddess Lakshmi, who in Hinduism represents wealth, fortune, love, beauty, Maya (literally meaning illusion or magic), joy and

prosperity. Somehow her image makes me feel joyful, and joy is the greatest door for your inner beauty," Hayek stated on Instagram, along with a picture of the goddess that she has posted. The post was an instant hit among Indians, as well as Hindi cine celebrities. Actor Varun Dhawan and fashion designer Manish Malhotra liked the post. Actress Bipasha Basu wrote:

"amazing". "Mam, you should come to India then you will find more inner peace," wrote an Indian fan. A user commented: "We Indians are happy that you believe in goddess Lakshmi for inner beauty. We love you too mam". Hayek will soon be seen in *The Eternals*, *The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard* and *Bliss*.

IANS



When kid Adnan met Big B

Mumbai: Singer Adnan Sami Thursday opened up on the time he met Amitabh Bachchan for the first time as a child. Sami posted an Instagram picture of the actor with him and his brother Junaid, clicked in 1982 when Big B was in Dubai. In the still, the actor wears shades and a white suit. "ThrowbackThursday..."

In 1982, as a kid, I met @amitabhbachchan ji along with my brother Junaid for the first time in Dubai... Who knew that 20 years later, I would have the honour of working with him... I guess his hand on my shoulder had a subliminal blessing."

Adnan wrote on Instagram. Sami would go on to work with Bachchan in 2002, for his pop hit, *Kabhi Naae*. The duo sang the song, as well as co-starred in the music video. The throwback picture has created a wave of nostalgia among social media users.

IANS

Avina on her new single with Gayle

New Delhi: British Indian singer Avina Shah has collaborated with Chris Gayle for a new dance track, but originally the West Indies cricket superstar wanted to do a remix of her 2018 track, *Playboy*.



I was really excited about the project," she added. Talking about the song *Groove*, she shared that it is a track she created long before the pandemic.

"A mutual friend thought it would be a great idea for us to do a song together. I was introduced to Chris over a phone call while I was in Greece recently. Our friend had shown him some of my previous songs and Chris liked the East-West sound in my music and originally wanted to do a remix of my track *Playboy*," Avina said. "We got talking about doing a song together and creating something different by adding the Caribbean flavour to my sound, by mixing India, the UK and Jamaica to create something unique. I don't think this has been done before in anything I've heard, so



A Myth of Devotion

BY LOUISE GLÜCK

When Hades decided he loved this girl he built for her a duplicate of earth, everything the same, down to the meadow, but with a bed added.

Everything the same, including sunlight, because it would be hard on a young girl to go so quickly from bright light to utter darkness

Gradually, he thought, he'd introduce the night, first as the shadows of fluttering leaves. Then moon, then stars. Then no moon, no stars. Let Persephone get used to it slowly. In the end, he thought, she'd find it comforting.

A replica of earth except there was love here. Doesn't everyone want love?

He waited many years, building a world, watching Persephone in the meadow. Persephone, a smellier, a taster: If you have one appetite, he thought, you have them all.

Doesn't everyone want to feel in the night the beloved body, compass, polestar; to hear the quiet breathing that says I am alive, that means also you are alive, because you hear me, you are here with me. And when one turns, the other turns—

That's what he felt, the lord of darkness, looking at the world he had constructed for Persephone. It never crossed his mind that there'd be no more smelling here, certainly no more eating.

Guilt? Terror? The fear of love? These things he couldn't imagine; no lover ever imagines them.

He dreams, he wonders what to call this place. First he thinks: The New Hell. Then: The Garden. In the end, he decides to name it Persephone's Girlhood.

A soft light rising above the level meadow, behind the bed. He takes her in his arms. He wants to say I love you, nothing can hurt you

but he thinks this is a lie, so he says in the end you're dead, nothing can hurt you which seems to him a more promising beginning, more true.

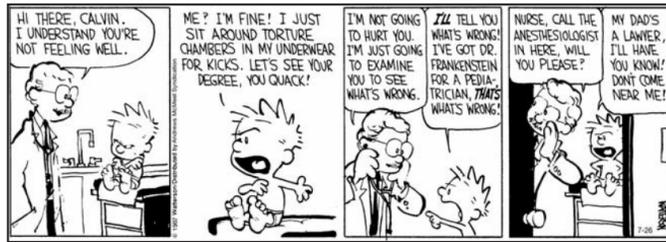
The Nobel Prize for literature for the year 2020 was awarded to American poet Louise Glück Thursday

FUN post

PEANUTS



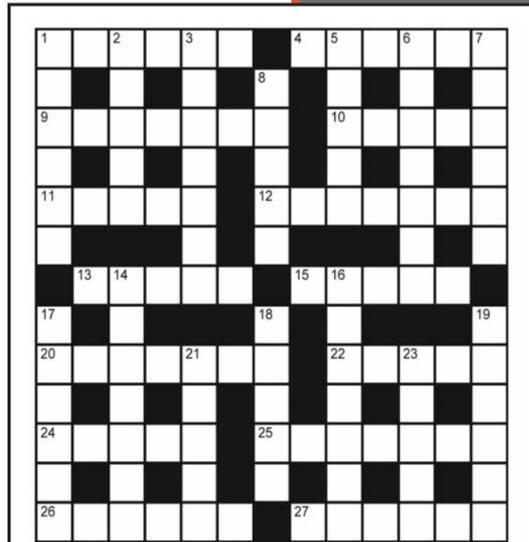
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



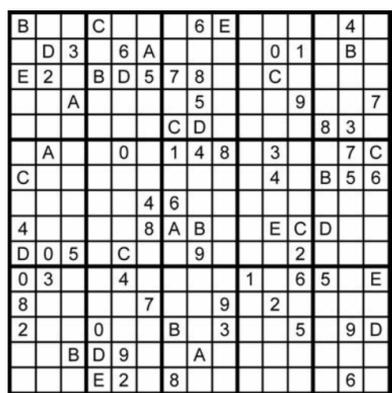
CROSSWORD



- Across**
1 Casual eatery
4 Cover stories
9 Music genre
10 Pound
11 Downy duck
12 5th letter of the Greek alphabet
13 Model wood
15 Worker's demand
20 Spiders' works
22 Auto accident
- Down**
6 Trinkets
7 On one's back
8 Vestibule
14 Canadian province
16 Agreements
17 Spotted wildcat
18 Theatre employee
19 Liederkranz, e.g.
21 Ruhr city
23 Grownup

SUDOKU

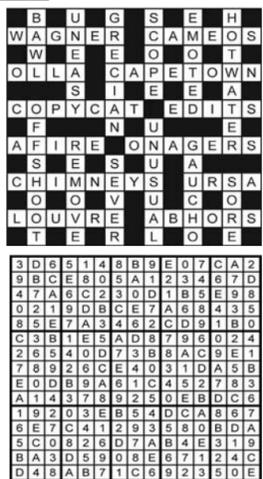
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

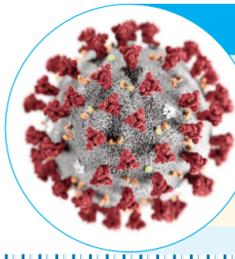


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



ANY TAKERS

A vendor carries balloons for sale at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	3,65,11,946	2,74,81,984	10,62,274
India	68,35,655	58,27,704	1,05,526
Odisha	2,44,142	2,16,984	974

Projects worth ₹8,796Cr to create 7,090 jobs

POST NEWS NETWORK

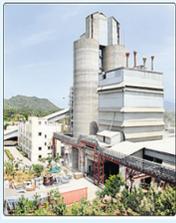
Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday inaugurated two industrial projects and laid foundation stone for 10 units in the state with a total investment of Rs 8796.61 crore. These units will generate employment opportunities for 7,090 persons in the state.

Out of the 12 projects, eight are micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and four are large projects in sectors ranging from healthcare, renewable energy, steel, IT, cement and food processing.

Naveen inaugurated Ramco Cement Limited's cement grinding plant at Haridaspur in Jajpur and Aditya Birla Renewables Limited's 25-KW solar power plant at Bijepur in Bargarh district.

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen said, "I am happy to note that our state continues its dominance as an attractive destination for the investor community despite the impact of Covid-19 across the world."

EMPLOYMENT BOOST



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Out of the 12 projects, eight are MSMEs and four are large projects in sectors ranging from healthcare, renewable energy, steel, IT, cement and food processing

These projects would create employment opportunities for over 7,000 persons

The projects being taken up for ground-breaking and inauguration today (Thursday) are in broad-based sectors including cement manufacturing, renewable energy, sea food processing, IT, ITES and others, said the Chief Minister.

The 12 projects are spread across all categories of investments – MSME and large industries. These projects will create more than 7,000 employment opportunities in the

state, Naveen added.

The industrial economy of the state which has been impacted by the pandemic is now on a revival path. "The new industries set up today will provide a new impetus to the confidence of the industry sector. All the concerned departments of the state government must work in a coordinated manner to expedite the establishment of industrial projects," he said.

1,219 sand mines to go under hammer

STATE'S REVENUE COLLECTION FROM SAND MINING UP BY 124% IN 2019-20 FINANCIAL YEAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The state government is going to auction 1,219 sand mines in a bid to enhance revenue collection which has dwindled due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The total number of sand sairat sources in the state has gone up to 1,859 with the addition of 450 new sources. Out of this, 640 sources have been auctioned for the current year.

Holding a high-level review meeting in this regard, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy Thursday directed the officials concern to expedite the process for auction of the remaining sources of sand. The Revenue department was asked to monitor auctioning of the sand sources regularly and keep up-grading the number of sources.



PICT FOR REPRESENTATION

Govt has decided to allow interstate transportation of surplus sand through competitive bidding

Tripathy directed the Revenue and Disaster Management department to make all sairat sources operational within a definite time frame for bridging the gap between

'demand and supply' of sand.

Tripathy also directed the officials to finalise development of i4-MS software for real-time monitoring of sand excavation and transportation, and, fix the timeline for its application. Further, the Chief Secretary directed them to make district-wise assessment of shortage or surplus of sand keeping in view the requirements in government and private sectors.

It was decided to allow inter-state transportation of surplus sands

through competitive bidding process. Tripathy further directed the officials concerned to strengthen enforcement activities for checking illegal lifting and theft of sand.

Revenue & Disaster Management secretary Bishnupada Sethi said the annual availability of sand for mining in the state has increased to 1,12,35,392 cubic metre. Out of this, the sairats with annual yielding capacity of 65,70,509 cubic metre have been operationalised so far, he said.

Revenue earned from the source in 2019-20 financial year has increased by 124 per cent as compared to the previous fiscal. Director of minor minerals, Bibhuti Bhusan Das, said, "The total revenue earned from sand in the year 2019-20 has increased to Rs 680 crore against the total revenue of around Rs 303 crore in 2018-19 – a growth of 124 per cent."

Army Major nabbed

Bhubaneswar: Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested a senior officer of Indian Army on charges of domestic violence. The arrested, identified as Soumya Ranjan Pati, is deployed as a Major at 120 Infantry Battalion here. According to sources, Pati's wife Tejaswini Mohapatra had lodged a complaint with Mahila Police here alleging assault. A case has been registered under Sections 307, 498 and 326 of IPC.

Brown sugar seized

Bhubaneswar: Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested two drug peddlers from the outskirts of Capital city and seized 50 gram brown sugar from their possession. The accused have been identified as Nilu Behera alias Baja, 23, a resident of Sisupalgarh and Sanjaya Sahu of Kaulsalayapur under Pipili police station of Puri district. A joint squad of the Quick Action Team of Commissionerate Police and Dhauuli police carried out a raid at Dhauuli Square and arrested the drug peddlers. Police also seized Rs 1,450 in cash and two cell phones from the accused.

573 Covid patients with comorbidities dead: Das

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: At least 573 out of 958 people who died due to Covid-19 till Wednesday were having other diseases like diabetes, blood pressure and heart related problems, said Health Minister Naba Kishore Das in a written reply to the State Assembly Thursday.

As per the statement, 277 patients were having diabetes, 237 were suffering from blood pressure and 59 with cardiac problems. Out of 277 diabetes patients, who died due to Covid-19, three were below 30 years, 136 in the age group of 30 to 60 and remaining 138 were senior citizens, he said.

Similarly, out of the 237 BP patients who succumbed to the killer

277 patients were having diabetes, 237 high BP and 59 heart diseases

virus, two were below 30 years while 86 were in the age group of 30 to 60 and 149 were above 60 years.

Likewise, out of 59 heart patients died due to Covid, only one was of below 30 years, 13 were in age group of 30 to 60 years while 45 were senior citizens, the minister said.

In 2019, he said, 6,297 persons had died due to heart diseases, 1,306 due to diabetes and 71 due to high BP. Moreover, deaths due to heart diseases, diabetes and BP during 2015 to 2019 were 42,095, 9,500 and 168, respectively.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



MeT predicts heavy rain from Oct 11

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: With a fresh low pressure area (LOPAR) likely to take shape over Bay of Bengal by Friday, the Meteorological Centre here has predicted rainfall of varying intensity in Odisha over the next few days.

This will be the ninth instance of the formation of LOPAR over the Bay of Bengal since the beginning of August.

To meet any eventuality, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) P K Jena has asked senior administration officials to be in a state of readiness.

As sea condition is likely to be rough, fishermen have been cautioned against venturing into the deep sea of the central Bay of Bengal from October 10, he said.

IMD's regional director H R Biswas said that a low pressure area is likely to form over north Andaman Sea and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal by Friday.

"It is very likely to concentrate into a depression over the central Bay of Bengal during the subse-



To meet any eventuality, SRC P K Jena has asked senior administration officials to be in a state of readiness

quent 24 hours. It is then expected to move west-northwestwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coast as a depression around October 11 afternoon or evening," he said.

Under its influence, rainfall of varying intensity will lash many parts of Odisha while heavy downpour may take place in several areas for around three days from October 11, the MeT Centre said.

Strong surface wind with speed reaching 45-55 kmph and gusting to 65 kmph may prevail over central Bay of Bengal during October 10 to 11 and along and off Odisha Coast adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal from October 11 to 13, it said.

While light to moderate rain or

thundershower is likely at most places over south coastal, south interior and north coastal Odisha from Friday, the MeT Centre forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in some areas of Gajapati, Ganjam, Koraput and Rayagada districts October 11. Heavy rainfall may batter one or two places in Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda and Nabarangpur districts.

Similarly, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Ganjam, Puri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhubaneswar, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur October 12 and 13, it said.

EXPLOSION AFTERMATH



Oil being taken out from the IOCL petrol pump near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, a day after a powerful explosion took place at the filling station

Fishing cat now ambassador of Chilika lagoon

RESCUE AND REHAB CENTRE FOR BIRDS, IRRAWADDY DOLPHINS, FISHING CAT AND OTTERS WILL BE SET UP INSIDE THE RAMSAR SITE

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Chilika Development Authority (CDA) has designated fishing cat as the new ambassador of Chilika, the oldest Ramsar site of the country.

The decision was taken at the concluding day of the week-long function organised to observe the Wildlife Week.

Fishing cat is a Schedule I species and deserves conservation measures of the highest accord in India like the tiger and elephant. Unfortunately, marshland and mangrove ecosystems, which are fishing cat habitat, are in decline. CDA will be according highest priority to conserving the habitat and its population in future.

Chilika has one of the country's largest extensive marsh-ecosystem spanning around 100sqkm.

Welcoming CDA's proposition, Tiasa Adhya, co-founder of Fishing Cat Project said, "Projecting fish-



FACE OF MARSHLAND

Fishing cat is a Schedule I species and deserves conservation measures of the highest accord in India like the tiger and elephant

Unfortunately, marshland and mangrove ecosystems, which are fishing cat habitat, are in decline

An estimation of fishing cat population will be done through camera trap in near future

ing cat as the face of marshlands will raise the profile of fishing cat and marshland ecosystems globally and nationally which are otherwise neglected ecosystems. Locally, it will nurture their value among multiple stakeholders in Chilika."

These marshes receive the maximum freshwater flow from the tributaries of Mahanadi and sea-

sonal rivulets. Analysis of long-term data collected by CDA showed that this area also has high fish abundance.

This is significant given that fish is the lifeline of Chilika sustaining 2 lakh fishermen families and globally threatened piscivorous mammals like fishing cat, smooth-coated otter and Eurasian otter. "Management interventions are

required to prolong the life of this marshland so that it can continue to provide for the globally endangered fishing cat, hundreds of precious birds that arrive every winter here and to the indigenous fishing community," said Partha Dey, co-founder,

Fishing Cat Project (TFCP).

CDA plans to manage the marshes with a socio-ecological approach involving local stakeholders and ecologists.

An estimation of fishing cat population will be done through camera trap in near future collaboratively by CDA, TFCP and the Indian wing of Fishing Cat Conservation Alliance (FCCA).

The results are expected in the first part of 2021 and will be first of its kind in estimating the apex predator of the coastal ecosystem.

The CDA also decided to have a rescue and rehabilitation centre for birds, Irrawaddy dolphins, fishing cat and otters with the help of Wildlife Trust of India inside the Chilika lagoon.

This centre will cater to a long-standing need for rescue and rehabilitation of the migratory birds and other flagship species of the lagoon, CDA sources said here Thursday.

Highway robbers' gang busted; 5 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The Commissionerate Police claimed to have busted a gang of highwaymen and arrested five dacoits in the city, Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Swagat Biswal, Swabhimana Das, Surya Kanta Mangaraj, Nibedana Saha and Smruti Ranjan Mandal. Acting on a tip-off, Sahid Nagar police conducted a raid in the area and arrested the five robbers.

The police seized three bikes, gold jewellery (a chain and two rings) worth Rs 10 lakh, six mobile phones, a laptop, a wrist watch and a sharp weapon from their possession. According to police, the gang targeted people on highways and looted them by attacking them with sharp weapons.

The twin city police had registered several cases and was on the lookout for the miscreants. A spe-



Three bikes, gold jewellery, 6 phones, a laptop, a wrist watch and a sharp weapon were seized

cial team was constituted to nab the desperadoes. Later, the arrest was made after raids.

Sources said the miscreants have several cases pending against them at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar police stations. Police have started questioning the arrested persons to find out possible involvement of more persons in the gang, sources added.

Virus caseload goes past 2.44L

16 FRESH FATALITIES PUSH ODISHA'S NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DEATH TOLL TO 974

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Odisha's Covid-19 tally mounted to 2,44,142 Thursday as 3,144 more people, including a ruling BJD MLA, tested positive for the infection, while 16 fresh fatalities pushed the state's coronavirus death toll to 974, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

As many as 1,825 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 1,319 fresh infections were detected during contact tracing, said the official, adding that Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, the legislator of Mahakalpada seat in Kendrapara district, is among the new patients.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, reported the highest number of new cases at 562, followed by Cuttack (243), Sambalpur (136), Angul (128), Kalahandi (124) and Puri (122).

Four fatalities each were reported in Khurda and Balasore districts, two each in Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj and Nayagarh and one each in Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts, the official pointed out.

Ganjam district has so far reported the highest number of coronavirus deaths at 221, followed by Khurda (159) and Cuttack (82).

Fifty-three coronavirus patients have succumbed to other ailments so far, the official said.

The state has so far tested 36.19 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 49,909 Wednesday, added the H&FW department official.

Meanwhile, 3312 Covid patients



Civic body and health officials visit home isolation patients in Cuttack

recovered from the viral infection, taking the total recoveries to 2,16,984, the H&FW department tweeted.

The Cuttack deputy commissioner of police (DCP), on the other hand, said that they have filed 186 people for not wearing masks and 723 people for violating social distancing norms in the Silver City in the past 24 hours.

Reviewing the Covid management in state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has lauded the commitment of Covid warriors who have been fighting the pandemic for the last eight months. The CM has assured compassionate assistance from state of government for the families of martyred Covid warriors.

IN PAST 24 HRS

With 3,144 including Mahakalpada MLA testing positive for Covid-19, Odisha's infection tally stands at 2,44,142

Khurda reported the highest number of new cases at 562, followed by Cuttack 243, Sambalpur 136 and Angul 128

Four fatalities each were reported in Khurda and Balasore districts, two each in Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj and Nayagarh and one each in Jharsuguda and Sundargarh

City records 309 fresh cases
The Capital city reported 309 new cases of coronavirus in the last 24 hours, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Thursday.

Of the fresh cases, 226 were local contact cases while the remaining 83 were quarantine cases linked with earlier positive cases, BMC tweeted.

Meanwhile, 317 Covid patients recovered from the infection in the capital city in the last 24 hours, the civic body pointed out.

With this, the cumulative number of positive cases in Bhubaneswar reached 24,537 while 20,888 patients have recovered from the disease in the city so far. The active cases of coronavirus stand at 3519 and 109 people have succumbed to the disease so far.

State streamlines payments to family of Covid martyrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The State Health and Family Welfare department Thursday issued a notification relating to payment to the kin of deceased Covid warriors who die on the line of action during the pandemic crisis.

The department in the notification said that the payments for the same would now be released through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for those who are claimed to be ineligible but deemed fit under state norms.

Earlier, the government had issued norms for providing financial assistance to the spouse, next of kin of Covid warriors who succumb to Covid-19 while in active line of duty.



"In order to instill a sense of confidence and security among all the frontline workers in the battle against Covid-19, the government after careful consideration is pleased to decide that the claims of Covid

Warriors held ineligible by Centre government and found eligible as per Odisha government norms shall be settled by CMRF," it said.

It also added, "Collector of the concerned district shall be the authorized person to settle the claims. Since approval of Central government on our proposal for settlement of claims of Covid warriors are still pending, in order to avoid double payment, the spouse/next of the kin of the deceased shall submit an undertaking to return the entire amount of settlement."

The notification said that all the administrative departments will scrutinize the claims and finalize the list of eligible claimants in respect of the Covid warriors pertaining to their departments as per this notification.

Education Min unveils buildings for two KVs

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 8: Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Thursday inaugurated newly constructed buildings of two Kendriya Vidyalayas through video conferencing in Odisha.

The minister inaugurated the building of KV Hanumangarh (Rajasthan) and KV Faridabad (Haryana).

Significantly, KV Nayagarh was established in the year 2010-11 and has been running in a temporary building from class 1 to 12. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Samiti constructed the building with a cost of ₹16.39 crore having all the modern facilities.

Similarly, KV Mahuldiha, Raigarangpur was established in the year 2016-17 and has been running in a temporary building from class

1 to 11. The KVS has constructed the building with a cost of ₹16.06 crore having all the modern facilities. At present, there are 62 KVs in Odisha.

While addressing the ceremony through video conferencing, Nishank said

around 4000 students will be benefited with these newly developed campuses in the states of Odisha, Rajasthan and Haryana.

The minister extended his warm wishes to the students, parents, teachers, principals and members of Vidyalaya Management Committee. He said that these new buildings equipped with modern facilities will further strengthen the teaching-learning process in the four KVs and open new scope for our students.

The minister also requested the state governments to expedite the process of land transfer for all such approved KVs which are running in temporary buildings.



केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन

Students' forum backs varsity Bill

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Orissa Research Scholars Forum assembled in front of Utkal University Gate in large numbers Thursday to express their gratitude and support to the state government for passing the University Ordinance, 2020.

Shudhanshu Sekhar Panda of Odisha Research Scholar forum said that all the student forums are supporting the Odisha University Amendment Act 2020 which was passed in Odisha Legislative Assembly October 6.

This amendment will be a medium to materialize the dreams of many research scholars and students to be recruited in various universities and colleges.

He said that it is really derogatory to think that the universities of our states are not getting placed in National University Ranking because of the unqualified educational personalities.

Bikash Kumar Nayak, another member of the forum said, "Considering all these discrepancies, our educational system was in need of rejuvenation. We are really glad that our government has brought this ordinance."

Boat ambulance service launched in cut-off region

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Oct 8: The much required boat ambulance service for the people of cut-off area, under Rajnagar block, was started Thursday.

Rajnagar MLA Dhruva Charan Sahu inaugurated the ambulance service at Gupti. The ambulance service will help the people of cut-off areas to reach Rajnagar CHC or the local hospital to get medicare.

An estimated 40,000 people of five gram panchayats (GPS) under Rajnagar block would be benefited by the service.

Rajnagar CHC Medical Officer Rashmi Ranjan Mohanty said the people of Talachua, Keruapala, Baghamari and Rangani GPs, and Iswarpur and part of Ghadamala GP, could avail the service. Floating jetties have been set up at Kothighat, Julusnagar and Gupti whereas another jetty is going to be set up at Gumura very shortly.

Boat ambulance will carry patients and pregnant woman from Kothighat, Gumura and Julusnagar to Gupti floating jetties and later they would go to hospital for getting treatment in ambulance to local hospital for treatment.

ECoR staff pledge to fight corona

Bhubaneswar: To encourage the people's participation under the campaign launched by Prime Minister and appealing to fight against coronavirus, East Coast Railway (ECoR) appealed its employees, rail users and passengers to unite to fight corona by wearing mask, washing hands frequently, following social distancing. To mark the occasion, General Manager ECOR Vidya Bhusan administered oath to its employees to be vigilant and bear in mind at all times, the risk to self and their colleagues from COVID-19.

HC nod to Biraja Rath Yatra in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 8: The Orissa High Court Thursday gave its nod to the nine-day long annual Biraja Rath Yatra to be held in Jajpur.

All the rituals, however, will need to be observed according to COVID-19 guidelines, said the HC.

Hearing two separate cases filed by Mukti Mandapa Sevayat Parishad of Maa Biraja Temple and Jajpur District Lawyers' Association, Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq and Justice BR Sarangi Thursday said that the Biraja Rath Yatra can start



from October 17 in Jajpur district.

The petitioners had urged the court to allow conduction of the Rath Yatra — scheduled to continue till October 25 — with strict adherence to the COVID-19 guidelines.

'Maa Biraja' is the only Goddess in India to have her own chariot festival, which can only be held at her shrine during Durga Puja, the petitioners had argued before the HC.

Notably, the Supreme Court had allowed the organisation of this year's Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath in Puri with strict adherence to the Covid-19 guidelines.

Woman's body found, kin alleges murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Oct 8: Bolgarh police claimed to have recovered a woman's body from a place close to Bolagarh-Ichhapur bridge under Bolgarh police limits here Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Rozita Bibi, wife of Zabar Khan of the locality. The body was sent to Khurda district headquarters hospital (DHH) for post-mortem, it was learnt.

Some locals first spotted the body and immediately informed the police as well as the deceased's

family. Meanwhile, her brother has lodged a complaint with the Bolgarh police alleging Rozita's husband had murdered her.

The couple had married eight years ago and has two children.

Registering a case on the basis of the complaint lodged by the deceased's brother, police have launched a probe. According to the police, it is too early to say definitively what has happened. "We are hoping the post-mortem report will provide us a clue to solve the case," a police officer said on conditions of anonymity.

Prime accused in murder surrenders

Bhubaneswar: One of prime accused involved in the murder of a confectioner few days back surrendered before the SDJM court here Thursday evening. The accused identified as Raj Kumar Behera of Sisupalgarh here. Meanwhile, police is yet to arrest the other absconding accused in the case. The investigating sleuths asserted that other accused persons will soon get arrested. Bike-borne miscreants including Raja attacked the victim Jambu Sahoo with sharp weapons when he was drinking tea near his stall Sunday afternoon. Sahoo sustained severe injuries and succumbed to the injuries at the place within few minutes. The entire incident was captured by the CCTV cameras installed in the nearby shops.

World Post Day: State houses India's oldest letter box

The Post Office at Kaipada, which was constructed way back in 1901, is situated midway between Kendrapara and Jajpur and is of the British era

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: World Post Day happens each year October 9, the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which started in 1874 in Switzerland.

According to historian Anil Dhir, the oldest letterbox of India is situated at Kaipada of Odisha. Constructed in the early 1901, the post office is a great landmark of the region. Its traditional value and charm is enjoyed by locals and tourist alike. Situated twenty meters from the main road, the post office has a small orchard of fruit trees and a huge pond that allures young and old alike.

The UPU was the start of the global communications revolution, introducing the ability to write letter to others all over the world. Since then, countries all over the world take part in celebrations to highlight the importance of the postal service.

Many things happen on this day. Post offices in some countries hold



special stamp collection exhibitions; there are open days at postal

World Post Day is celebrated every year October 9, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in Switzerland

measures and there are workshops on postal history. The UPU organises an international letter writing competition for young people.

Postal systems have been in operation for many centuries. From back way back in history, people sent letters to each other. These were delivered on foot or on horseback by special messengers. From the 1600s the first national postage

systems began springing up in many countries. These were more organized and many people could use them. Slowly countries agreed to exchange mail internationally. By the late 1800s there was a global postal service, but it was slow and complicated. The birth of the UPU in 1874 opened the way for the efficient postal service in existence today. In 1948, the UPU became an agency of the United Nations.

On the eve of the occasion, Orissa POST interacted with historians Anil Dhir and Shashanka Sekhar Dash who divulged interesting facts about India's oldest letter box which is situated in Odisha and about an online celebration of philately in the state.

"When I reached the place, many locals had lots to say about the post

office. What draws me to the letterbox is the royal insignia, clearly visible in spite of the years of painting that muted the florid and calligraphic details that it must have originally," said Dhir.

The post master's home is situated at the rear of the box. Interestingly, the letterbox was manufactured by W.T. Allen and Co. of London for British colonies between 1881 and 1963. Many of them are still found in villages of England.

Shashanka Sekhar Das said that an online Philatelist program will be conducted where philatelists across India will participate. "Nowadays, although post offices have turned into financial hubs, the basic interest of sending a letter to a loved one still excites me," said Dash.

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NUAPADA MAIZE GROWERS PEST-ERED

AWARENESS DRIVE



Forest officials and wildlife activists take part in an awareness drive to mark the World Wildlife Week in Bamara Forest Division in Sambalpur district

NO HOPE FOR GOOD HARVEST



The officer admitted that complaints about pest attacks are pouring in from various pockets while farmers are being made aware of the pest prevention

To tide over the Covid difficulties, farmers had laid focus on maize farming in the current year. Sadly, the pest (fall armyworm) has become a great cause of concern for them while the agriculture department has failed to come to their help at this time

Assistant agriculture officer Himansu Kumar Mohapatra said fall armyworm attacks the crop from the very beginning

Nuapada, Oct 8: After rain played havoc to crops, pest attack (fall armyworm) has started feeding on standing maize crops in many pockets of Nuapada district. Farmers, worried over unchecked spread of the pest, are hopeless about a good harvest this year, a report said.

Pest attack on maize is reportedly acquiring crisis proportions at Bhola, Jadamunda, Ganiari and Manigunda. The farmers are apparently hopeless about a good maize harvest due to pest attack this year.

overnight. They added that variation in temperatures is the reason behind pest attack.

Assistant agriculture officer Himansu Kumar Mohapatra said fall armyworm attacks the crop from the very beginning.

He admitted that complaints about pest attacks are pouring in from various pockets while farmers are being made aware of the pest prevention.

A great cause of concern for them while the agriculture department has failed to come to their help at this time. "Every day pests are spreading in hundreds of acres overnight. We have been struggling to deal with the crisis as we have no effective medicine at hand to contain their spread. Agriculture officials are not coming forward with an effective solution for it," rued some farmers of Bhola village.

Agriculture experts say, at the larvae stage, the worm causes damage to crops feeding on more than 80 plant species. After developing into a moth, it can fly up to 100 km

Locals up in arms against drinking water project

Viral video leads to suspension of cops

Work of Chakulia-Budhamara railway line to start soon

4th cop in Kandhamal succumbs to Covid-19

POST NEWS NETWORK

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Kendrapara, Oct 8: A drinking water project in Kharasota river in this district is facing sharp opposition from the residents of Aul and Rajkanika blocks as work on the project started Thursday, a report said.



posing in the cases filed against it in the NGT and Orissa High Court. They demanded that the government should stop the project and wait till final disposal of the cases.

Baripada, Oct 8: Two constables had to pay a heavy price for being sozzled under the influence of alcohol in Mayurbhanj district.

Baripada, Oct 8: The dream of Chakulia-Budhamara railway line is going to be realized as the railway authorities of South Eastern Railway have started their ground-work for the first phase of its construction, a report said.

Baliguda, Oct 8: COVID-19 has claimed another warrior in the form of a constable of Daringbadi police station in Kandhamal district Thursday.

The opposition of the residents stems from the fact that the project when implemented will destroy the agriculture and the bio-diversity of Bhitarkanika national park in the district. However, no untoward incident was reported during the period.

The project is being implemented by a Hyderabad-based consultancy at Barunadiha in Kharasota river under Rajkanika block at an expenditure of Rs 982 crore sanctioned by the state government in 2019. The project when implemented will provide drinking water facilities to 525 villages under Chandbali, Basudevpur, Tihidi and Dhamnagar blocks in Bhadrak district. The work started after AK Biswal, chief engineer of RWSS met the District Collector and SP and sought their cooperation in starting the project works.

Mayurbhanj superintendent of police Parmar Smith Purusottam Das suspended Kartik Chandra Patra and Kamal Mahanta, the two constables posted at Badasahi police station.

Once laid, this project will reduce the distance between Puri and Delhi by around 150 km. The railway line will provide an interchange option in addition to the existing Kharagpur-Tatanagar route. It will also reduce the distance for Odia passengers going to Mumbai. The work about the project was revealed from the letter (654) issued by deputy chief engineer of the SER.

While discharging his duty, the deceased, Bali Kanhar (53), had taken ill and later tested positive for COVID-19 September 20. He was admitted to Bismakatak Christian hospital. While undergoing treatment he breathed his last Thursday.

The agency started work on the project in police presence Thursday. On being informed, residents rushed to the site and opposed the work. They asked the agency to shift its construction equipment from the site. They alleged that the project will spell the death knell for agriculture and bio-diversity in Bhitarkanika National Park as it will dry up the fresh water in the river.

The tribunal directed the state government to depose in the matter and submit a report by October 5. However, the government is yet to depose in the case.

The SP's move came following a video that went viral in social media some days ago showing the two constables in an inebriated state. In the viral video, a drunken cop can be seen being not able to drive his car and losing control. He then calls in his friend to help him out. Minutes later, another constable, riding a bullet motorcycle, appears in the scene. He can also be seen in an inebriated state. While alighting from the bike, he falls down along with the bike, shattering the mirror into pieces.

The first phase of the work entails construction of the railway line of 50-km and 200 metres. About 70 per cent of the land required for the project is in Jharkhand while 30 percent is in Mayurbhanj district. Before start of the construction work, the railway authorities have asked the Kharagpur DRM to draw up an estimate for the construction of staff quarters.

Kandhamal district police brought the warrior's body to Baliguda police station where the deceased was accorded the honour of a COVID-19 warrior: Kandhamal SP Vinit Agrawal, Baliguda Sub-Collector Subhankar Mohapatra, Baliguda SDPO Manas Ranjan Barik and Baliguda IIC Prashant Kumar Behera offered their last tribute to the departed soul.

The residents led by the office bearers of Kharasota Nadi Suraksha Samiti questioned that why the state government is not de-

posing in the cases filed against it in the NGT and Orissa High Court. They demanded that the government should stop the project and wait till final disposal of the cases.

GIRL BRUTALLY ASSAULTED IN, 3 HELD

This railway line will facilitate communication among various parts of Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. SBP-ELECT-2020-T-111
Name of the Work: ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH EXTENSION AND RAISING OF PLATFORM TO HIGH LEVEL AT BELSONDA, ARANG MAHANADI, ARAND, BHIMKHOJ, KOMAKHAN, MURIBAHAL & RAHENBATA STATIONS OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 23,74,355/-
EMD: ₹ 47,500/-
Tender closing date & time: at 1530 hrs. of 29.10.2020.

Sale of expired food, beverages rampant in Angul despite raids

School watchman turns 'Baba' for a living

Punjab & Sind Bank

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IBD Branch, Kolkata, 14/15, Old Court House Street, Kolkata - 700 001
Phone : 22489313 / 22307578, Email : ibd.kolkata@psb.co.in

Angul, Oct 8: Packaged food items and soft drinks are allegedly sold in the district even after their expiry dates have gone. By doing so, businessmen are raking in the moolah paying little heed to consumers' health. A recent incident has given credence to the allegations.



not associated with the particular beverage. After checking, they came to know that the soft drinks they were gulping down had expired since August.

had already emptied their bottles. Later they complained of stomach ache. When confronted by the youths, the shopkeeper turned him down saying he never sells expired products. After protests, the shopkeeper allowed him to check other bottles and then it was found out that he had numerous expired soft drinks from that particular company.



As Ramchandra knows about plants and herbs, he decided to put that to use to sustain him and his family

A person had bought 10 bottles of a soft drink from a reputed national company from a milk booth located at a bus stand two days ago. Unfortunately, before leaving the booth he forgot to check the expiry dates. At a formal party, five youths started consuming the beverage. After finishing half the bottle, one of them felt a kind of weird taste

The bottle carried a manufacturing date of March 27, 2020 on it as the packaging date. The expiry date printed on it was August 27. All ten soft drink bottles had expired dates and three of the five youths

If this is the situation in Angul town, the one in rural pockets can well be imagined, locals said.

Malkangiri, Oct 8: The outbreak of COVID-19 has transformed lives all over the world. People have been forced to switch their professions to eke out a living. There have been numerous stories where persons belonging to the film industry sell vegetables to sustain themselves. Also engineers have turned to fish farming as their companies have closed down.

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5 including BoB ex-manager get 14-yr jail; ₹27L penalty

Engineer kidnapped, released in Kesinga

There is this case of a school watchman becoming an Ayurvedic practitioner in Malkangiri district due to COVID-19. He practices medicines at Duraguda village under Mathili block and is respectfully called a 'Baba'.

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab & Sind Bank, International Banking Division, Kolkata Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (second) Act 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with 5 (rule 3) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 20.07.2016 calling upon the borrower M/s. Jagwani Projects. Pvt. Ltd (Add : Corporate Office - 568, Block - N, Ground Floor, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata - 700053) & Guarantors (i) Shri Gordan Das Jagwani, S/o. Khilad Das Jagwani, Director (568, Block - N, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata - 700053), (ii) Shri Anil Kumar Jagwani, S/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, Director (568, Block - N, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata - 700053), (iii) Mrs. Lajwanti Devi Jagwani, W/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, Director (568, Block - N, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata - 700053), (iv) Shri Sunil Jagwani, S/o. Gordan Das Jagwani, Director (568, Block - N, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata - 700053), (v) Mrs. Savitri Devi Jagwani, W/o. Shri Paras Ram Jagwani (651, Block - O, New Alipore, Kolkata - 700053), (vi) Mrs. Jyoti Jagwani, Mortgagee (568, Block - N, Gangotri Apartments, New Alipore, Kolkata - 700053) & (vii) M/s. Transhimalayan Logistics Pvt. Ltd., Mortgagee (23/A/560, Block - N, New Alipore, Kolkata - 700053) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 13,34,35,008.51 (Rupees Thirteen Crore Thirty Four Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Eight and Paise Fifty One) inclusive of interest in Cash Credit account and Rs. 1,04,76,000/- (Rupees One Crore Four Lakh Seventy Six Thousand) in BG Total Rs. 14,39,11,008.51 (Rupees Fourteen Crore Thirty Nine Lakhs Eleven Thousand Eight and Paise Fifty One) as on 30.06.2016 with monthly rests and other Bank charges & interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The court convicted the then branch manager of Jharpokharia BOI, Girija Mishra, field officer Satyarupa Mohanty, supplier agents Bangali Jena, Sushant Jena and Satyananda Patra.

The five had swindled Rs 1.31 crore by forging documents of 131 persons in 2012-13 under Jalandihi Yojna. Under this scheme, water pumps are provided to farmers on subsidy. They were booked under various sections of IPC.

Kesinga, Oct 8: Miscreants kidnapped an executive engineer of rural development department in Jharsuguda at gunpoint after barging inside his official residence, late Tuesday night.

Every day one finds him on the balcony of his premises in red clothes surrounded by a large number of people. In front of him there are many packets containing various types of herbs, roots, leaves and many types of powders. Meet 'Baba Ramchandra' who ekes out his living by making and selling Ayurvedic medicines. Ramchandra Sodi is a resident of Tumusapalli village. He worked as a

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the Undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section [4] of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 5th Day of October, 2020.

FOCUS ASIA

POOR WAGES, AILING JAPAN



Too many men and women suffer from job insecurity and low wages, which almost certainly has contributed to Japan's low marriage and birth rates. And this, in turn, has kept the overall population in decline, putting a cap on economic growth

where women are concerned.

At the January 2014 annual gathering of the World Economic Forum, Shinzo Abe, Suga's long-serving predecessor, spoke boldly of making Japan "a place where women shine." And after 2015, his government often boasted that Japan's female labour-force participation rate had overtaken that of the US, reflecting its policies to increase public spending on child-care facilities. But with the cheap-labour strategy remaining in place and unaltered, the quality of women's jobs has not kept pace with their quantity.

As a result, the benefits from the educational gains that women have made since the 1980s have fallen short of potential. To be sure, a new generation of university-educated women who graduated in the 1990s and 2000s is coming of age, and some will soon take up more prominent positions. But labour-market conditions for the bulk of Japanese women remain highly constrained.

While this problem partly reflects persistent misogyny and rigid corporate attitudes, the main culprit is the cheap-labour strategy. Too many men and women suffer from job insecurity and low wages, which almost certainly has contributed to Japan's low marriage and birth rates. And this, in turn, has kept the overall population in decline, putting a cap on economic growth.

When he entered office last month, Suga promised to "create a Cabinet that works for people." To make that mean something, he needs to put the Japanese people at the very center of his national economic strategy. Japan desperately needs to develop and deploy the human capital embedded in its population, so that it can replace the 30-year-old emphasis on cheap labour with a restored vision of a high-wage, high-productivity society. Japan should be the Switzerland of Asia, not Asia's US.

Bill Emmott is a former editor-in-chief of The Economist. He is the author of 'Japan's Far More Female Future'.

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Japan's new Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga, has arrived with a suite of ambitious policy ideas, including plans to digitise government services and revive the country's regional banks. But he has yet to come up with an overarching theme that strikes a chord with the public. Here's an idea: he should declare that by 2030, Japan will be positioned to make the best possible use of its one and only natural resource — its people.

Back in the 1980s, when the rest of the world looked admiringly at Japan for lessons about how to run an economy, it was assumed that the key to the country's strength lay in its ability to tap a deep well of talent. After all, by that time Japan had become a high-wage, high-productivity, highly secure society with one of the world's best education systems. In exchange for loyalty, Japanese high-school and university graduates alike received lifelong training and development from their employers. But, of course, this arrangement applied only to half the population: men.

Four decades later, Japan still has a great education system, which has made radical improvements on gender disparities. In the 1980s, most Japanese women had to make do with a two-year junior-college education. Less than 15 per cent were enrolled in four-year university courses, compared to 35-40 per cent of boys. This "education gap" explains why Japan has so few female leaders to this day.

However, over the past 30-40 years, the share of Japanese girls leaving high school for a four-year university has risen to 50 per cent, compared to 55 per cent of boys. The pipeline of future female leaders is now much larger. Yet despite this massive expansion of Japanese "human capital" (education and talent), its effective deployment has lagged behind, even reversing in some respects, for both men and women. There is now an extraordinary mismatch between Japanese workers' educational achievements and employment.

The roots of this paradox stretch back to the 1990-92 collapse of stock and property prices, which caused

significant social and economic stress, and were soon followed by China's emergence as a source of competitive pressure. Since then, successive Japanese governments, egged on by big business, have departed from the legacy of high wages and high job security, in favour of a cheap-labour strategy.

In 1990, 80 per cent of Japanese workers were employed on permanent, highly secure contracts. But by 2019, nearly 40 per cent were on insecure short-term contracts, owing to the relaxation of labour regulations over the past three decades. Moreover, as the working-age population has declined, millions of women and retired people have been recruited to maintain employment levels. Among these cohorts, over half of the women and almost all of the retirees are on short-term contracts, with many earning the minimum wage (which is one of the lowest among OECD countries).

While this cheap-labour strat-

egy has helped support corporate profits, it also has emerged as the single biggest factor behind the country's sluggish economic growth in recent decades. Household consumption is chronically weak, because wages have failed to rise regardless of how tight labour-market conditions have become. And, because employers have little incentive to invest in the human capital of part-time, short-term employees, corporate spending on training and development has declined, and relative poverty rates have risen, putting Japan far closer to the US than to egalitarian countries such as Denmark in this respect.

The cheap-labour approach may have been appropriate as an emergency measure to avert mass unemployment after Japan's 1990 financial crisis, but it makes no sense as a long-term strategy for a highly educated, aging country at the technological frontier. Moreover, it is simply hypocritical



Bill Emmott

JAPAN NEEDS TO REPLACE THE 30-YEAR-OLD EMPHASIS ON CHEAP LABOUR WITH A RESTORED VISION OF A HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-PRODUCTIVITY SOCIETY. JAPAN SHOULD BE THE SWITZERLAND OF ASIA

Whenever in your life, you meet with a hardship; take it as a boon from the Divine's Grace and it will become so.

THE MOTHER



Don't cheat the honest

The Centre has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court agreeing to bear the loss of banks which may result from a proposed waiver of compound interest i.e. 'interest on interest' on loans up to ₹2 crore for most vulnerable category of borrowers for the six-month moratorium announced by the RBI in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak in the country. The government's decision has not come a day too soon. In fact, the Centre was forced to take this stand after a batch of petitions was filed in the Supreme Court with the later directing the government to take a stand on the issue without further delay. In the affidavit, the Finance Ministry said the concession would be given to eight categories, including housing, education, MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises), consumer durable, credit card dues, auto, personal and consumption loans, irrespective of whether a borrower availed of moratorium or not. The apex court is yet to give its ruling on the Centre's affidavit. The case is slated to come up October 13. Pending a final decision by the apex court, the Centre's affidavit begs many questions. First of all, it does not say anything on what will happen to those who went on paying their EMIs despite economic hardships caused by the coronavirus. The SC has also expressed reservations as the affidavit does not say anything on what it has done with regard to the Kamath Committee report. The RBI has accepted the recommendations of a committee headed by veteran banker KV Kamath set up to devise a resolution framework for stressed assets of banks caused by Covid-19. The panel has recommended financial ratios for 26 sectors which could be factored by lending institutions while finalising the resolution plan for a borrower. The Supreme Court also stressed the core issue of eliminating interest on interest for borrowers during the moratorium period for six months.

The Centre's affidavit has a lot of grey areas. We will wait to see how the Supreme Court goes about the case. The issue is a complex one. Waiver of interest will work out to a loss of around ₹7,000 crore by the banks. Who will bear this loss? There are no free lunches. The government raises money through taxes and eventually the cost will be borne by people. Every taxpayer will be made to pay to subsidise a borrower. While we appreciate the government's stand on bearing the loss of banks towards waiver of interest, it will be better if the government makes it clear as to how it is going to raise this money. It is also not fair to make every taxpayer to pay for loans up to ₹2 crore taken for various purposes including business and consumption. Pending a decision of the Supreme Court, it is important for the government to ensure that the disciplined borrower, who did not want to take the tax holiday announced by the RBI, does not feel cheated for taking the trouble of paying off the loans every month. In the past, the government has demonstrated such insensitivity when it waived off farm loans. Borrowers of farm loans, who did not pay even a single EMI, were treated on the same footing as those who went on paying off every EMI. When the waiver finally came everybody benefitted. Both the defaulter and the upright borrower were treated equally, but not equitably. This has been in vogue in India for ages. This is why farm loan taker never felt the urge of paying back as they knew sooner and later the government would announce a waiver of principal and interest. While defaulters were rewarded disciplined borrowers felt cheated. This time around, the government should not take this approach. We hope the top court will keep this aspect in mind while disposing the case. Failing this, people will lose all hopes on the system. People must not be taken for a ride for being honest. We hope the government keeps this in mind.

WISDOM CORNER

- Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods. **ALBERT EINSTEIN**
- The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men. **PLATO**
- Only laughter makes a man rich, but the laughter has to be blissful. **OSHO**

WORDSWORTH

Thumbarumba

A tumburumba is not a belly-dance to South American music, as a contestant in a words competition in Australia once suggested. Nor does it directly address the town of that name that lies south-west of Canberra in New South Wales, though some of its inhabitants must surely tumburumba without knowing that name for it. No, tumburumba is another name for thesis, one form of which is that curious trick of stuffing one word into the middle of another. Absolutely-lutely, a whole nother, fan-bloody-tastic and any-blooming-where are classic cases, though many of the most powerful examples include stronger language. For a reason buried in local linguistic history it's a verbal tic that Australians are fond of, who insert their favourite adjective, bloody, to great effect. The origin of the term is disputed, but who can sensibly decry the claim of this de-flaming-lightful poem to be the origin: "Howya bloody been, yadrongo, haven't seen yafer a week, And yer mate was lookin' for ya when ya come in from the creek. 'E was lookin' up at Ryan's, and around at bloody Joe's, And even at the Royal, where 'e bloody NEVER goes".

Martin Macwan

TO LEAVE THE QUESTION OF JUSTICE TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND JUDICIARY ALONE IS TANTAMOUNT TO PUTTING ALL EGGS IN A SINGLE BASKET

Thimbles and thumbs

Be careful. Arguing by analogy is a dangerous matter, especially when applied to etymology. There are many unetymological letters to be found in English words, of which the best known is the b in debt, which was added to reflect the word's source in the Latin debitu(m), something owed, even though the word is actually recorded from the Middle English period as dette. Another is doubt, in Middle English douten, ultimately from Latin dubitare, to waver in opinion, hesitate. Usually we can blame eighteenth-century grammar pedants for such changes, but in this case not — both debt and doubt began to be spelled with that intrusive and unnecessary b in the sixteenth century. The first example of debt cited in the Oxford English Dictionary is from the 1548 Book of Common Prayer: "To declare his debtes, what he oweth." It was the influence of Latin spelling that caused the changes, though as far as we know the bs were never pronounced. Another common cause of epenthesis has been shifts in pronunciation that have led to changes in spelling. For example, thunder has an added d (the Old English was þunor (the þ is the old character thorn, pronounced the same as the th in modern thunder). Empty has an epenthetic p, since the Old English was æmtig. (Modern cases of intrusive p include dreamt and hamster, though these aren't reflected in the way they're spelled because our orthography has long since become fixed.) In other English words an epenthetic b has been introduced after m. Often, the b was interpolated when the ending -le was added to a stem that ended in m (crumble from Old English cruma; other cases include bumble, bramble, fumble, jumble, mumble and nimble).

LOL

WIFE, MISTRESS

Story goes thus that an architect, an artist and an engineer were discussing whether it was better to spend time with the wife or a mistress. The architect said he enjoyed time with his wife, building a solid foundation for an enduring relationship. The artist said he enjoyed time with



his mistress, because of the passion and mystery he found there. The engineer said, "I like both."
"Both?" they asked.
Engineer: "Yeah. If you have a wife and a mistress, they will each assume you are spending time with the other woman, and you can go to the lab and get some work done."

SPECTRUM HATHRAS

State turning Nelson's eye on social evils

Hathras is the first case in independent India where the State has deprived the parents of a sexual abuse victim the right to respectfully cremate their child by forcefully burning the body, knowing full well that it is destroying crucial evidence. The right to a respectful burial has been awarded even to dreaded terrorists and those convicted in the heinous rape and murder of Nirbhaya. There is no point in asking the Head of the State to apologise.

The NDA had scored a double political goal to win over Dalits by laying apprehensions of the reinforcement of caste rule in the guise of Hindu Rashtra and the marginalisation of the Constitution by ensuring that the first citizen is a Dalit. And thus, they won most of the SC reserved seats of Parliament both in 2014 and 2019. Tragically, today, India is witnessing a caste contradiction at play, one where both the first citizen and the last, the victim of Hathras, are Dalits.

With 591 Dalit MLAs and 89 Dalit Members of Parliament across India, their silence on brutal incidents of caste violence including

Hathras definitely troubling. Is the power of political reservation hollow, as apprehended by Dr. Ambedkar?

In the case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, the powers at play were hell bent on proving that it was a case of murder when all the evidence pointed to a case of suicide; whereas in Hathras, the people in power are using all the armament in their arsenal to pass a judgement without trial, decreeing that there was no rape, even when all the evidences prove otherwise. The development is worrisome as the role of the State as reformative is gradually being usurped and replaced with the role of the State as an appeaser of dominant sections of society. The hope for justice dwindles when the minds of people in power are prejudiced. The only ray of hope in the case is the suo motu intervention of the Allahabad High Court.

We are witnessing a new model of governance when it comes to the question of caste. The silence of the political leadership in times of social turmoil and the aggressive defense of the administration as it quells civil dissent and unrest. However, this is not the case

when it comes to communal violence, where the State preferentially tilts towards its own larger constituency.

We are also witnessing a new development. Organising of the dominant castes with the connivance of politicians to defend their members, irrespective of these members being charged with heinous crimes of rape or murder. Such attempts promote organised-communal lust as can be seen in the rising number of gang-rapes including the Nirbhaya and the Hathras victim.

Four decades earlier, I witnessed in Gujarat villages a situation where dominant caste men felt they were at liberty to enter any Dalit home and do anything they wished with Dalit women. Since there was no protest, such sexual exploitation did not appear to be counted as 'rape cases'. The only difference we witness now is that such exploitative practices have become 'registered offences'.

The Manu Smriti justified the vulnerability of women and shudras as subjects. In South Africa, which has among the world's highest rates of sexual violence, only the rape of white women was prosecuted under

an apartheid system, while sexual violence against Black women was accepted as a part of life. With the change in the democratic structure of governance we have the strongest legislations in place to counter such inhumanity but have we won the war over prejudice? We cannot win this war unless we focus on prevention.

With the continuous increase in caste violence: from 3,662 cases in 1971 to 45,935 cases in 2019; and increase in the cases of rape — from 2,487 cases in 1971 to 32,034 in 2019, and the failure of the State and judiciary to prevent such crimes, we need to educate citizens from the school level onwards. With the State consciously restricting the space of voluntary organisations, the only visible road ahead to build a less violent society is voluntarism; which has been the successful strategy of all social movements including that of the Indian Independence struggle.

The writer is an activist and the founder of Navsarjan, a grassroots Dalit organisation fighting for human rights since the 1970s

THE BILLION PRESS

Women, safety

Sir, Rape is a heinous crime, yes, but rapes are committed by those who are as human as we are. The latest National Crime Report Bureau (NCRB) report reveals a woman is raped every 16 minutes in India, while she is gangraped and murdered every 30 hours here. Because of gender stereotypes, girls and women have a lower social status in the eyes of many men. When women say they were raped, we ask them why were they out so late or why they dressed in such a manner. We think the solution to rape is to lock up women and apply controls on girls. We fail to understand that rape happens because the rapist chooses to force himself upon his prey. It will not be enough to say boys will be boys. All our public outrage, candlelight marches and rallies against the rapist happen when a woman is killed by her rapist, but we refuse to support women when they speak up. Arm-chair protests done on social media will not bring about substantial behavioural changes. People often say stronger laws are needed. But, what is a strong law? Any law is effective only if it is implemented properly.
Manisha Mohapatra, CUTTACK

Blast at pump

Sir, A blast has happened in a petrol pump. Inquiry by the Fire department, police and other agencies will follow in normal course, but everything will continue as usual. The norms against establishing such stations near residential areas are often flouted by the authorities. Those running such units have good connections. The government should apply the rules strictly.
Sunil Pradhan, NUA PADA

Gopabandhu, Socialism

Sir, October 9 is the birth anniversary of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das who lived between 1877 and 1928. He was a humanist, philanthropist, social worker, social reformer, journalist, essayist and the freedom fighter. He advocated the cause of the poor in Odisha. He advocated equality. There are those who work hard from dawn to dusk, and there are those who sit back and enjoy the fruits of others' work. The wealth of the country is concentrated in a few hands, and bureaucrats and other corrupt elements in the society make more money through foul means. Law rarely catches up with such thieves. Gopabandhu are no more to be seen in the society of today.
Asit Mohanty, JAJ PUR



Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

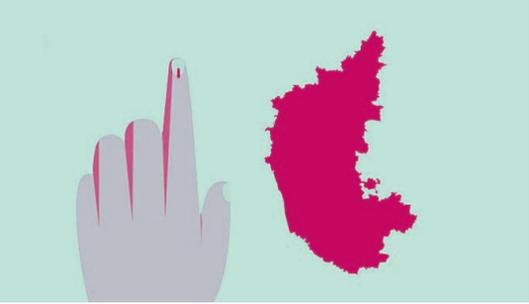
'Why hold polls amid pandemic'

Karnataka's Sira and Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly segments are going for by-polls November 3

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Oct 8: Expressing strong reservation over holding Bihar polls and by-election to 54 Assembly segments in various states amid the Covid pandemic, JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy Thursday said, "The world wouldn't have ended if the process was postponed."

He warned the Election Commission, Central and the state governments that they were playing with the lives of the common people, as it was difficult to maintain Covid-19 protocol like social



The world wouldn't have ended, if the election was postponed for three months? In Bihar President's rule could have been imposed for six months or by having the caretaker government

HD KUMARASWAMY | JD(S) LEADER



distancing during the poll process and campaigning.

Karnataka's Sira and Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly segments are also going for by-polls November 3.

"... in my opinion if the Election Commission, Central government and the state government had the common sense, holding legislative council polls, the by-election to 54 Assembly constituencies and elections to Bihar assembly now, was not necessary. Do you think it will be possible to hold elections?" Kumaraswamy asked.

Seeking to know how social distancing would be ensured during the campaign, the former Chief Minister told reporters here that politicians were playing with their own lives.

He pointed out that he had developed high fever after his recent visit to Sira constituency, and is now getting back to start the campaign work after recovery. "The world wouldn't have ended,

if the election was postponed for three months? In Bihar President's rule could have been imposed for six months or by having the caretaker government," he said.

Noting that by holding elections at such a time we are playing with the lives of the people, Kumaraswamy said, "No one is understanding."

"... we will have to go to villages, when we go there, people surround us, will all of them be wearing masks? They will not know things... we leave us (politicians) aside, who will give protection to common people, if something happens?" he asked.

"Have they thought about it? Why they declared this election, I don't know. We have to hold elections just for the sake of it," he added.

The by-elections had been necessitated for Sira following the death JD(S) legislator B Sathyanarayana in August while the Rajarajeshwari Nagar (RR

Nagar) seat fell vacant following the disqualification of Congress MLA N Munirathna under the anti defection law last year.

Apparently with an eye on sympathy votes, JD(S) has fielded Sathyanarayana's wife Ammajamma as its candidate in Sira, while in RR Nagar, the party has shortlisted three probables—party city unit chief R Praksah, RR Nagar President Bettaswamy Gowda and a leader from the Jnananbharathi ward Krishnamurthy.

Responding to a question about Congress leader Siddaramaiah repeatedly targeting him, the JDS leader said, "He (Siddaramaiah) is afraid of me. He is more afraid of JD(S) than BJP for the days to come..." "So, he repeatedly chants Kumaraswamy and also gives me an opportunity to chant his name, by talking about me."

"Even though I think not to talk about him, he rakes it up. Should he be facing BJP or Kumaraswamy during election? Looking at his statements, it is clear that he has little bit of fear about JD(S) and Kumaraswamy," he added.

Recently, both leaders had engaged in a political slugfest, with Siddaramaiah stating that JD(S) was not a political party, and that it would never come to power on its own.

Kumaraswamy had sharply reacted to this by reminding Siddaramaiah that he had flourished and became deputy CM in the JD(S) and is now speaking lightly about the party.

New train terminal soon to decongest Bangalore stations

Being built at a cost of ₹240 crore, the third railway terminal in the city boasts of a huge facade akin to the Kempegowda international airport and will be centrally air-conditioned

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Oct 8: A new train terminal in this tech city is nearing completion for decongesting the choked main city station and Yesvantpur station, an official said Thursday.

"The third terminal at Baiyyappanhalli in the city's eastern suburb is getting ready for commissioning soon. A few passenger trains towards Chennai and Howrah will depart from there when normal services are restored after Covid subsidies," senior divisional commercial manager Krishna Reddy told IANS.

The Covid-induced lockdown and restrictions to prevent the corona virus spread forced the state-run railways to suspend passenger services since March 25 for over two months till May.

Under Unlock 1.0 to 5.0, the South Western Railway (SWR) zone has been operating daily select intra-state and inter-state trains to ferry passengers, stranded at many places during the lockdown.

"As Krantiveera Sangolaya Rayanna (KSR) station in the city centre and Yesvantpur station in the city's north east region area are saturated with a number of trains originating or terminating during normal days, the new station with seven platforms will help us to shift



some services to the new terminal," said Reddy.

Being built at a cost of ₹240 crore, the third railway terminal in the city boasts of a huge facade akin to the Kempegowda international airport and will be centrally air-conditioned.

"With the metro rail service operating on the east-west corridor located at Baiyyappanhalli, which is parallel to the new terminal, passengers will be able to travel seamlessly from one to the other station or their platforms," said Reddy.

With increasing number of trains from all routes arriving or departing at short intervals, especially during the morning and night peak hours, platforms at the first two terminals have been unable to regulate their movement.

"Though all passenger trains have been suspended since the Covid-induced lockdown was en-

forced March 25 and extended further, testing of the yard was completed in the absence of traffic on the tracks," Reddy said.

The centrally air-conditioned third terminal will enable the zonal railway to operate more trains to Chennai and Mumbai regions.

"The yard has been remodelled with 18 lines, enabling us to operate eight passenger trains from seven platforms and have six stabling lines, three pit lines and one spare for a future pit line," said Reddy.

The terminal will also have five loco bay lines, one track machine siding, a sick line, a shunting neck, a parcel siding, an inspection car siding and two short stabling lines for more capacity for simultaneous operation of arriving and departing trains from Chennai and Mumbai towards Hubballi in the state's northwest region up to Goa.

'No' public entry in Hasanamba temple

SITUATED 183 KM TO THE WEST OF BANGALORE, HASSAN DERIVES ITS NAME FROM THE PRESIDING DEITY OF HASANAMBA TEMPLE



AGENCIES

Hassan, Oct 8: Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies minister K Gopalaiah Thursday announced that the state government was contemplating banning public entry in the famous Hasanamba temple in Hassan, which opens for just about ten days in a year.

Situated 183 km to the west of Bangalore, Hassan derives its name from the presiding deity of Hasanamba Temple.

Speaking to reporters here, Gopalaiah said, "The Hasanamba temple will open November 5 and only a few leaders and priests will be allowed to enter the temple. Public entry has been banned due to the rise in Covid cases in recent times."

He added that those who visit the temple November 5 including priests will have to undergo Covid tests.

The Minister said that Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa will inaugurate the temple opening and the state government will install huge LCD screens across Hassan city to enable the people to seek blessings from the deity.

The Goddess of Shakti, Hasanamba has chosen her abode in the heart of Hassan city.

Hasanamba gives 'darshan' to her devotees only once a year. Depending on the Hindu calendar, the duration varies each year. The temple only opens on the

Thursday following the full moon day in the month of Ashwija (usually late October-early November). The temple closes on the day of Balipadyami when the rest of Karnataka is celebrating Deepavali.

According to folklore, once when the seven Maatrakes (Brahmi, Maheshwari, Kaumari, Vyshnavi, Varahi, Indrani and Chamundi) came floating to the South of India, they were entranced by the beauty of Hassan and decided to make it their permanent abode.

Maheshwari, Kaumari, and Vyshnavi took up residence in the three anthills inside the temple, Brahmi in Kenchamma's Hosakote, while Indrani, Varahi and Chamundi chose the three wells in Devigere Honda.

A miracle happens when the flowers offered and the lamp lit the previous year is found intact on the opening day to strengthen people's belief in the Mother Goddess.

The structure seen at the entrance of Hasanamba temple is another temple dedicated to Lord Shiva locally called Siddheshwara. It is renowned for its self-manifested linga. There's also an interesting idol of a nine-headed Ravana playing the veena (a musical instrument) here.

The annual chariot festival also takes place on the day of closing the Hasanamba temple during Deepavali.

THE FAMOUS HASANAMBA TEMPLE IN HASSAN OPENS FOR JUST ABOUT TEN DAYS IN A YEAR
THE TEMPLE WILL OPEN NOV 5 AND ONLY A FEW LEADERS AND PRIESTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER IT
THE TEMPLE CLOSING ON THE DAY OF BALIPADYAMI WHEN THE REST OF KARNATAKA CELEBRATES DEEPAVALI

Kerala LoP protests with Sec 144 in place

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 8: With Covid protocols prevailing, Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala Thursday led a unique protest when he along with just four other leaders from the Opposition walked a kilometre and arrived at the state secretariat to demand the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Following the spike in Covid cases, Section 144 has been clamped across the state and assembling of more than five people has been banned and, hence, Chennithala along with UDF convenor MM Hassan, and three leaders of the alliance - CP John, Shibhu Baby John and TV Ibrahim arrived at the secretariat. They shouted slogans demanding the resignation of Vijayan and called him a liar.

Wednesday, the Enforcement Directorate filed a charge sheet in a PMLA court in Ernakulam into the money trail in the gold smuggling case. It was allegedly revealed that prime accused Swapna Suresh had met Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan six times in the company



Chennithala along with four other leaders from the Opposition walks a kilometre to arrive at the state Secretariat and demands Vijayan's resignation

He (Vijayan) has no moral right to continue as he is the one who has lied all the time with regards to Swapna Suresh. Now that he has been caught red-handed, he should quit

of now suspended top IAS official, M Sivasankar, who was Vijayan's secretary and also the state IT secretary.

Vijayan has all along maintained that he has no clue of who Swapna was and did not know of her getting a job in the Space Park of the IT department, which is headed by Vijayan.

Speaking to the media in front of the secretariat, Chennithala said Vijayan has lied.

"He has no moral right to continue as he is the one who has lied all the time with regards to Swapna

for Central schemes, with no contribution by the state government.

Kerala BJP President K Surendran said it's surprising to see huge advertisements put out by the Vijayan government in the media for the Central scheme 'Har Ghar Jal', renaming it 'Jal Jeevan Mission'.

"This is taking people for a ride as the entire money for this ₹800-crore scheme came from the Centre. Just have a look in the newspapers and the advertisement shows pictures of Vijayan and three state ministers. Under this scheme there is not a single paisa contribution by the state and there is not a word about the Centre or even a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is nothing but bluff by Vijayan who is trying to take the credit," said BJP's Surendran.

Of late there has been a huge media blitz by Vijayan where numerous projects are either commissioned or launched and in the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' advertisement also it's mentioned that this is a project under the 100-day programme of the Kerala government.

With two crucial elections coming up - local body and assembly polls - the Vijayan government is right now caught in a web of allegations such as the gold smuggling case and Life Mission which are being probed by various national agencies.

VIJAYAN'S MEDIA BLITZKRIEG

Meanwhile, the Kerala BJP Thursday slammed Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for taking credit

Kerala to take more time to reopen bars

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 8: Tipplers in Kerala, who liked to have their drinks in a bar, will have to wait for some more time as a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Thursday decided not to re-open the bars.

The bars in the state were closed after a nationwide lockdown following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

While the Excise department was keen to open the bars, Vijayan had said that with the Covid cases spiking in Kerala, it would not be prudent to open the bars.

Kerala had registered the first case of Covid-19 infection January 30 and now the number of positive cases has crossed the 10,000-mark to touch 10,606.

There are more than 500 bars including beer and wine parlours in the public and private sector in the state.

Growing pressure from the bar owners could be one of the reasons why the Excise department is keen to reopen bars.

The only solace for the private players came when for the first time, the state government allowed counter sale of liquor at the same



rates as the state run Bevco retail liquor outlets. Though there is no plan to reopen the bars but the counter sales will continue.

There are about 596 bars and 350 beer and wine parlours in the public and private sectors in the state.

According to reports, after dine-in services in restaurants were allowed, bar owners in the state approached the government to take measures to reopen their establishments. However, this was reportedly not well-received by many officials in the meeting with the CM, including Health Department and Police officials. Meanwhile, over-the-counter sales of liquor in bars will continue.

According to a Kerala Kaumudi

report, Excise minister TP Ramakrishnan had submitted a file to the Chief Minister stating that reopening bars while following strict regulations can be considered. But the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the state has shunned the recommendation. Kerala is the only south Indian state where bars are still shut. States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi have re-opened bars.

Reports also state that, despite the lockdown and bars being shut, Kerala recorded ₹520 crore worth of sales in liquor during the Onam season. Reportedly, this is ₹33 crore higher than last year's sale revenue during Onam.

IISc achieves breakthrough in treating skin cancer with heat

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Oct 8: Researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) said they have developed a non-invasive bandage made with magnetic nanofibres to treat skin cancer by administering heat to the tumour cells.

Skin cancer is caused mainly due to excessive exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun.

There are two types: Melanoma, which develops from pigment-producing cells in the skin called melanocytes, and non-melanoma, which develops from other skin cells, IISc said.

Though non-melanoma skin cancer is more widespread, melanoma is malignant and has a higher mortality rate, according to Bengaluru-based IISc.

Common treatments for skin cancer include surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy.

But these treatments and other conventional therapies have limitations. A promising alternative that has emerged to treat skin cancer is hyperthermia, which involves applying heat to the affected tissues. In recent years, researchers

have been working on developing ways of delivering heat to the tumour tissues so that cancer cells are targeted selectively and effectively, IISc noted in a statement Thursday.

One such technology is called magnetic hyperthermia, in which magnetic nanoparticles are used to heat the tumours by using an external alternating current magnetic field (AMF).

But it is difficult to achieve uniform heating of the affected tissues using such magnetic nanoparticles because of uncontrolled aggregation.

Besides, they can accumulate in the human body and induce toxicity. Now, researchers from the Centre for BioSystems Science and Engineering (BSSE) and the Department of Molecular Reproduction, Development and Genetics (MRDG) at IISc have developed a bandage with a unique blend of magnetic nanoparticles fabricated using a method called electrospinning.

It comprises nanoparticles made from an oxide of iron, Fe3O4, and a biodegradable polymer called polycaprolactone (PCL) pasted on a surgical tape.



The new agriculture reforms will bring ease of living for farmers, particularly those living in far-flung, remote and hilly areas
JITENDRA SINGH
UNION MINISTER

HELPING PLANTS

IIT Kharagpur has designed a robotic system capable of identifying the diseases plaguing plants through camera-captured image analysis



of the day quote

The three labour reform bills passed by the Parliament are black laws, which are against the interests of the working class



BALASABH THORAT
MAHARASHTRA REVENUE MINISTER

The mandate in the 2019 Assembly elections was for the BJP, but we got cheated. I assure BJP workers in Maharashtra that soon, all the three (ruling) parties will sit in opposition and the BJP will come to power on its own



J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

I think Muzaffarnagar riots are not to be forgotten by the people of western Uttar Pradesh and that is why I call upon all of you to be on guard against people who encourage riots. There is a need to expose these anti-development elements



YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Freedom of speech most abused right: SC

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, was hearing pleas of Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind and others alleging that a section of media was spreading communal hatred over Tablighi Jamaat congregation during the onset of COVID-19 pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: Freedom of speech and expression is the "most abused right" in recent times, the Supreme Court said Thursday and pulled up the Centre for its "evasive" and "brazen" affidavit on media coverage of the Tablighi Jamaat event earlier this year.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, was hearing pleas of Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind and others alleging that a section of media was spreading communal hatred over Tablighi Jamaat congregation during the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. "Freedom of speech and expression is the most abused right in recent times," the apex court said.

The bench observed this when senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for Jamaat, said the Centre in its affidavit has stated that petitioners are trying to muzzle freedom of speech and expression.

To this, the bench said, "They are free to make any averment in their affidavit, like you are free to make any argument you want". The bench was irked over the fact that instead of secretary of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, an additional secretary filed the affidavit which contained "unnecessary" and "nonsensical" averments with regard to media reporting in Tablighi Jamaat issue.

"You cannot treat this court the way you are doing in this case," said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian. The apex court sought an affidavit from the I&B secretary with details of steps taken in the past to stop motivated media reporting in such cases.

The bench has posted the matter for hearing after two weeks. During the hearing conducted through



video-conferencing, the bench said it has examined the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and section 20 deals with power to prohibit operation of cable television network in public interest.

"We want to tell you something, this power is exercisable to the TV programme but not broadcast signal. This act does not help. Government has filed affidavit in which it has said advisory has been issued," the bench observed. Dave referred to the power under the Cable Television Act and said many a times government has rightly exercised its power.

The bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that affidavit has been filed by the additional secretary and he has not addressed the allegations. "This is nonsensical averment made," it said, adding, "This is an evasive kind of affidavit". In August, the Centre had told the apex court that a Muslim body's attempt to obtain a blanket "gag order" on the entire media to prevent them from reporting Markaz Nizamuddin issue would effectively destroy the freedom of the citizenry to know and the right of journalists to ensure an informed society

IAF chief lauds air warriors' response

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hindon (Ghaziabad), Oct 8: The Indian Air Force has clearly demonstrated its resolve, operational capability and will to effectively engage with the adversary whenever the need arises, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said Thursday, and commended the air warriors for their prompt response in the recent standoff on the northern frontier in view of the bitter border row with China.

In an address on the occasion of the 88th anniversary of the IAF, Bhadauria also assured the nation that the force will evolve and be ever ready to safeguard India's sovereignty and interests in all circumstances.

Talking about security challenges in eastern Ladakh, the Chief of Air Staff commended the air warriors for their prompt response in the recent standoff, and talked about rapid deployment of combat assets at short notice to handle any eventuality. "We have clearly demonstrated our resolve, operational capability, and the will to effectively engage the adversary,



Rafale fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force during the 88th Indian Air Force Day celebrations, at Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad
PTI PHOTO

should the need arise," he said after inspecting the Air Force Day parade at the Hindon air base.

"I would like to commend all warriors for the quick response, in the recent standoff on our northern frontiers, when we deployed our combat assets at short notice to handle any eventuality, and provided proactive support to all the requirements of deployment and sustenance for the Indian Army," Bhadauria said.

The Indian and Chinese troops are engaged in a bitter border row for the past five months in eastern Ladakh and the IAF has made significant deployment in the region. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh greeted the IAF on its foundation day, and said the government is committed to enhance its combat capability of the force.

"The nation is proud of its men and women in blue and salutes the prowess of the IAF as it stands

ready to face challenges and deter adversaries. We remain committed to enhancement of IAF's combat capability through modernisation and indigenisation," he said.

In his address, the Chief of Air Staff also cautioned of the evolving "threat matrix" in the region, and said it mandates a greater need to have a strong air force to fight across domains and the entire spectrum of warfare.

"The evolving threat matrix in our region is becoming complex, ranging from aspirational adversaries with huge investments in military arsenal, to those collusively supported by nonstate actors, apart from growing sub-conventional threats emanating from terrorism and cyber space," he said.

Bhadauria said disruptive technologies and easy access to low cost options like drones are increasingly demanding greater attention to the sub-conventional domain.

The IAF also carried out a spectacular air display at the event, showcasing its vintage aircraft and modern fleet including the recently-inducted Rafale jets.

SHORT TAKES

Minor raped

Badaun (Uttar Pradesh): In yet another case of rape of a minor, a five-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly brutalised by her own uncle at Hazratpur village. In order to hide his crime, the accused tried to apply Mobil oil to stop the girl's excessive bleeding. The victim has now been admitted to a hospital for treatment. According to reports, the child was playing with her friends when the 35-year-old man took her to his house in the neighbourhood. The family later came to know about the incident when the minor started complaining of severe pain in her lower abdomen. She was taken to a doctor who confirmed rape.

Woman attempts self-immolation

Gurugram: A woman attempted self-immolation inside the office complex of the Commissioner of Police (CP) in Gurugram at around 2 p.m. Thursday. The incident took place on the second floor of the building, where the office of the CP is also located. The Commissioner was out on lunch break when the incident took place. The woman claimed that she took the step in protest against police inaction on a rape complaint filed by her on Sunday at the women's police station in Sector 51.

Widower in Punjab ends life

Chandigarh: Dejected over the death of his wife owing to cancer, a widower in Punjab hanged himself after killing his three minor children, police said Thursday. The incident occurred in Hamirgarh village in Bathinda district Wednesday evening. The accused was identified as Beant Singh, 35. His three children were in the age group of one to six years. Police said Singh, who earned his livelihood by driving a rehra (wooden cart), was depressed after his wife died in August.

Arms seized

Imphal: The police Thursday seized a cache of firearms and ammunition during house-to-house searches in Thoubal district of Manipur. Superintendent of Police Sarangthem Ibomcha Singh said, the operation was carried out in Lilong and Wangjing Tentha assembly constituencies of Thoubal district, where bypolls are scheduled to be held on November 7.

TRP manipulation racket busted, four held: Mumbai police chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 8: Mumbai police Thursday claimed to have busted a Television Rating Points (TRP) manipulation racket, adding four persons have been arrested in this case.

TRP is a tool to judge which TV programmes are viewed the most and also indicates the viewers' choice and popularity of a particular channel. Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh told reporters that Republic TV channel, facing flak over its attack on Mumbai police and Maharashtra government in the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, was also involved in the "false TRP" racket.

The Mumbai police crime branch, which unearthed the TRP racket, has arrested two persons, owners of two Marathi channels, for manipulating viewership ratings, Singh said. Another police official said two former employees

of Hansa agency, involved in the process to determine the TRPs, have also been arrested.

Singh said Republic TV channel is also involved in the TRP racket and those responsible will be arrested, be it a director, promoter or any other employee of the channel. Republic TV, in a statement, rubbished Singh's claims. Arnab Goswami, editor-in-chief of the channel, said the Mumbai police chief made false claims against Republic TV as the channel had questioned him in the Sushant Singh Rajput case investigation.

Goswami said the channel will file a criminal defamation case against the Mumbai police commissioner. BARC has not mentioned the channel even in a single complaint, he said, adding Singh should issue an apology and get ready to face the channel in court.

Singh said bank accounts of these channels are also being probed and people responsible

for the TRP racket are being summoned by police for further investigation. "Based on these TRP ratings, advertisers pay to advertise on these channels and it is a game of thousands of crore," Singh said.

Manipulated TRP ratings result in miscalculated targeted audience for the advertisers, he said, adding this results in losses of hundreds of crores of rupees because of such manipulations and fake statistics of TRPs. TRP is calculated on the basis of TV channel viewership in a confidential set of households.

Singh said those involved in the racket would bribe people in these households and ask them to keep some channels switched on, even when they weren't watching or not at home. The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) releases weekly rating points for TV channels in India and its officials are also being questioned in connection with the case, he said.

LJP releases first list, fields BJP turncoats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: The Lok Janshakti Party Thursday named its 42 candidates for the Bihar assembly polls with some BJP turncoats figuring in the list as Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan's party works to make the contest harder for the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U).

As the party released its first list of candidates, its president Chirag Paswan again gave a call to defeat the JD(U), claiming that a vote for the state's ruling party will amount to "destroying" Bihar. All these 42 seats are among the 71 constituencies going to polls in the first phase on October 28, the LJP said.

As expected, the LJP has fielded Rajendra Singh and Usha Vidya, two senior Bihar BJP leaders who joined it recently, from Dinara and Paliganj respectively. The LJP has announced that it will fight from the seats where the JD(U) is also contesting and that it will not take on the BJP. Though the party may contest from a few constituencies where



the BJP is also in the fray due to political reasons, but it will mostly avoid such a situation.

LJP sources said the party had given preference to upper caste and Dalit nominees in its choice of candidates. Thursday was the last day of filing for nominations for the first phase of the three-phase Bihar elections.

Hitting out at Kumar's leadership, Chirag Paswan had walked out of the NDA in Bihar and had claimed that a BJP-LJP government will come to power in this state after the polls.

The BJP has, however, worked to placate the JD(U) leader, maintaining constantly that he will be the state's chief minister again if the ruling alliance is voted to power for one more time.

Delhi gets 'green war room' to fight pollution this winter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai Thursday inaugurated a 'green war room' at the Delhi Secretariat to monitor steps being taken to bring down pollution levels in the city this winter.

The minister said a 10-member team has been set up under senior scientists Mohan George and B L Chawla to monitor the levels of primary pollutants, measures taken to curb pollution and status of complaints received through the 'Green Delhi' mobile application.

Satellite data related to farm fires in the neighbouring states will also be analysed in the green war room. There are multiple agencies work-

ing to deal with the problem of air pollution in Delhi. The 'green war room' has been set up to coordinate their efforts, Rai said.

The 'green war room' has three big screens - one is for monitoring primary pollutants such as PM2.5 and PM10, ozone, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and wind speed. Pollution levels at 13 hotspots in the city and the steps taken to bring them down will be monitored on the second screen.

The 13 pollution hotspots are Okhla Phase-II, Dwarka, Ashok Vihar, Bawana, Narela, Mundka, Punjabi Bagh, Wazirpur, Rohini, Vivek Vihar, Anand Vihar, R K Puram and Jahangirpuri. The third screen projects satellite data from NASA



and ISRO related to crop residue burning, the minister told reporters. According to data of the Punjab government, 169 farm fires were observed in the state on Wednesday

Overall, 1,692 "fire events" have occurred this season so far. In Haryana, authorities have reported 526 farm fires this season so far. The team will also keep an eye on

the mechanised sweeping of roads and sprinkling of water to prevent dust pollution. Rai said the control room will work towards ensuring stricter enforcement of guidelines to check dust pollution at construction and demolition sites, ready-mix concrete plants, and garbage burning.

"This anti-dust campaign will continue in mission mode till October 15 and strict action will be taken against the violators," he said. The minister added that daily reports on the number of complaints received and grievances redressed will be sent to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The national capital's air quality was recorded in the "poor" on Thursday and is likely to deteriorate

farther due to unfavourable meteorological conditions and spike in farm fires. The city recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 208 at 3 pm, which falls in the poor category. Delhi's air quality had turned poor on Wednesday, the first time in since June 29, with the Central Pollution Control Board recording a 24-hour average AQI of 215. It was 178 on Tuesday. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

High levels of air pollution in Delhi is a year-round problem, which can be attributed to unfavourable meteorological conditions, farm fires in neighbouring regions and local sources of pollution.



A heinous crime has been committed at Hathras, leaving a 20-year-old Dalit woman dead. Her body has been burned without the participation or consent of her family. She deserves justice not slander

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

UDDHAV THACKERAY TO CAMPAIGN IN BIHAR

Shiv Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will be campaigning for his party's candidates in the Bihar Assembly elections



of the day quote

Airlines may be permitted to operate maximum 75 per cent of their pre-COVID scheduled domestic flights if the passenger numbers continue to remain healthy during the next 7-10 days

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

The ongoing process of modernisation with induction of Rafale, Apache and Chinook will transform the IAF into an even more formidable strategic force. Confident that in the years to come, the Indian Air Force will continue to maintain its high standards of commitment & competence

RAM NATH KOVIND | PRESIDENT

As per the Union Home Ministry, the restriction on gathering of more than 100 persons at a political rally has been relaxed. But use of masks, sanitisers and social distancing will continue as usual

NAROTTAM MISHRA | MP HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Cop injured

Sukma: A police constable was injured in an attack by Naxals at a village in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Sukma district Thursday, police said. The incident took place in the morning hours, when a small action team of Naxals, dressed as civilians, stormed into Kongdam village under Errabor police station limits. Sukma superintendent of police Shalabh Sinha said. The ultras were trying to round up Constables Soyam Ramesh and Soyam Kanna, who had come to the village after the latter's father died recently, the officials said.

Women rescued

Latehar (Jharkhand): As many as 31 women who were suspectedly being trafficked to Chennai from Jharkhand in a bus have been rescued, police said Thursday. The women, who were lured with the promise of jobs in a factory in the southern metropolis, were rescued at Dadha village in Balumath police station area in Latehar district on Wednesday, an officer said.

Seven arrested

Indore: Seven persons were arrested for allegedly smuggling 117 kg of hashish, worth ₹6 crore in the international market, from Nepal, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) said Thursday. The contraband was being taken to Tamil Nadu when it was seized in Narsinghpur district of Madhya Pradesh by DRI officials, the central agency said. Acting on a tip-off, a drive was launched on Tuesday and Wednesday during which two cars were intercepted on a road in Narsinghpur district from which 117 kg hashish was seized," a DRI release said here.

Body found

Fatehpur (UP): The family of a 17-year-old girl has alleged that she was raped and killed in a village in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh, police said Thursday. "The body was recovered from a field in the village Wednesday night. Prima facie it appears she was strangled," Superintendent of Police Prashant Verma said. He said the family members have alleged that she was killed after she was raped, which can be confirmed only after the postmortem examination report comes. On a complaint by the family members, Aditya Raidas, 23, of a nearby village has been arrested and being interrogated.

BJP march in Kolkata turns violent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata/Howrah, Oct 8: Parts of Kolkata and adjoining Howrah resembled a battle zone Thursday as BJP workers and supporters clashed with police, hurling stones and blocking roads with burning tyres, to protest a string of killings of saffron party workers.

Clashes erupted at several places during the march called by Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the BJP, to Nabanna, the state secretariat, when they tore down barricades, officials said.

Police personnel in riot gear burst teargas shells, beat up agitators and used water cannons to break up the protests which are still raging in the two cities. Several BJP activists, including some senior leaders, were injured. It was still not known whether police personnel were also injured.

Thick plumes of smoke from dis-



Rapid Action Force personnel charge BJP activists during their march to State Secretariat (Nabanna) in protest over various issues in Howrah, Thursday

carded tyres that the protesters set on fire to block traffic blackened the sky and streets were littered with stones. Shops and other business establishments hurriedly

downed their shutters during the skirmishes.

Thousands of slogan-shouting BJP workers from Kolkata and Howrah began marching towards

Nabanna at around 12.30 PM. Parts of Howrah district witnessed much of the violence where BJYM national president and Bengaluru South MP Tejaswi Surya along with state president Soumitra Khan led a march from Howrah Maidan.

They were stopped at the Mallick Gate, prompting angry BJP supporters to attack police with stones. When the protesters tried to pull down the barricades, police burst teargas shells. Failing to quell the rampaging crowds of BJP workers, personnel of Rapid Action Force (RAF) baton-charged them, resulting in injuries to some of the protesters.

An unspecified number of agitators were detained. Police claimed they recovered a loaded pistol from one of the protesters. It also alleged BJP workers lobbed crude bombs at police, an accusation rejected by the saffron party as false.

Police used teargas, water can-

nons and batons to break up the protest at Santragachi which was led by the party's state secretary Sayantan Basu. The anti-riot police also used chemical-laced water cannons to disperse the violent protesters, officials said.

During the clashes, Raju Banerjee and MP Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato were injured. Banerjee was shifted to a hospital. Similar scenes were witnessed at the third protest march led by BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and national vice-president Mukul Roy at Hastings-Khidderpore crossing in Kolkata.

After BJP workers fought pitched battles with police, Vijayvargiya and Roy began a sit-in at the Hastings crossing. "We were holding a peaceful march but police action turned it into a violent agitation. The police and TMC goons attacked us. It's all happening because of the dictatorial attitude of Mamata Banerjee," Vijayvargiya said.

CHINMAYANAND DENIED ACCESS TO STATEMENT



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 8: The Supreme Court Thursday denied former BJP MP Swami Chinmayanand access to the statement of a complainant, who filed a rape case against him before a magistrate under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

A bench headed by Justice UU Lalit and comprising Justices Vineet Saran and Ravindra Bhat allowed the appeal filed by a law student, who is the complainant in the matter.

The bench noted that as per the judgment of the top court in 2014, a copy of the statement under Section 164 CrPC should be given to the investigating officer immediately and the contents of the statement should not be disclosed to any person till charge-sheet/report under Section 173 CrPC.

Thus, the top court has set aside the Allahabad High Court, which directed Chinmayanand be provided a copy of the statement made by the complainant in the case, who had levelled allegations of sexual harassment and rape against him.

In November 2019, the top court had granted an interim stay on the High Court order, which granted Chinmayanand access to the certified copy of the statement. The victim had challenged the High Court order and contended that the copy of her statement cannot be accessed before the filing of the charge sheet.

The victim had said that such practice would be contrary to law and may have a far-reaching effect in all cases of sexual offence against women. Chinmayanand was arrested by the SIT on September 21, 2019, and sent to jail.

Govt getting ready for Covid vaccine delivery

MASSIVE EXERCISE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: With the likelihood of a vaccine against coronavirus being available within months, the government has begun a massive exercise to map out cold chain storage facilities to ensure the vaccine is delivered quickly across the country.

A national expert group is talking to public and private sector entities in the pharmaceutical sector, food processing industry and agro businesses as well as food delivery start-ups to identify cold storages or fridges at the taluka level that can stock and distribute the vaccine, sources with direct knowledge of the discussions said.

A draft scheme for the vaccine distribution is likely to be released around the middle of next week, they said. At least one domestic and three foreign vaccines are likely to be available to India in the coming months.

Most of the vaccine candidates

will require a cold supply chain, with temperatures that can go well below zero degree Celsius, down to -80 degrees Celsius, though most need to be kept at between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius.

The sources said that majority of vaccine candidates are in liquid form except a few freeze-dried products. They are to be administered through intramuscular injection/ route and requirement will be a two-dose regimen.

The majority of vaccine candidates would be available in multi-dose vials (2.5, 10, 20, and 50 doses per vial). An estimation of cold chain space needed for vaccines has been made considering 18 per cent of the population would need to be covered within six months, they said, adding that both the current temperature ranges (+2 to +8 degrees Celsius and -15 to -20 degrees Celsius) have been considered for the scenario to account for adequate storage in either condition.

Sources said that majority of vaccine candidates are in liquid form except a few freeze-dried products

PM ASSURES SUPPORT

Afghan peace negotiator Abdullah Abdullah met Modi and briefed him about the ongoing peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban in Doha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday conveyed to Afghan peace negotiator Abdullah Abdullah India's commitment towards sustainable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and welcomed efforts towards a permanent ceasefire in the country.

Abdullah, accompanied by an Afghan delegation, met Modi and briefed him about the ongoing peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban in Doha. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said at a media briefing that the prime minister reaffirmed India's long-term commitment to further deepening the historical ties between India and Afghanistan.

He said Abdullah, the chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, appreciated India's developmental commitment of USD 3 billion, projects under which are benefiting Afghans across all of its 34 provinces. "The prime minister reiterated India's commitment towards sustainable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and wel-



comed efforts towards a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Afghanistan," he said.

Referring to talks between Abdullah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Wednesday, Srivastava said the Afghan peace process and related issues including increased levels of violence in Afghanistan figured in the meeting. Following the meeting, Abdullah tweeted that Modi assured him of India's continued support for the peace process in Afghanistan.

Abdullah arrived here Tuesday on a five-day visit as part of the efforts to build a regional consensus and support for the Afghan peace

process.

"Pleased to meet HE Narendra Modi @narendramodi, the Prime Minister of Republic of #India. In our friendly discussion we took stock of the latest developments on the #AfghanPeaceProcess, the talks in Doha, & India's support for the peace efforts," Abdullah said on Twitter.

"HE PM assured me of India's continued support for the peace process, & Afghanistan. I thanked him & the people of India for the invitation, & generous hospitality. I also thanked India for its principled position on the #AfghanPeaceProcess," he said.

Govt allows rallies in poll-bound states

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 8: In a modification to the reopening guidelines, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Thursday allowed political parties to hold rallies in 12 election bound states before October 15.

The order came in the wake of the announcement by the Election Commission of India to hold state elections in Bihar and bypolls in 11 states for Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies that are scheduled on October 28, November 3 and November 7.

In a notification, the MHA said that political gatherings can now take place before October 15 by keeping in mind open spaces.

The guidelines for wearing masks and maintaining social distancing must be strictly followed.

"In exercise of powers conferred under Section 10(2)(I) of the Disaster Management Act 2005, it is decided that the state governments concerned may permit political gatherings, outside the containment zones, beyond the existing limit of 100 persons on any date before October 15 in those Assembly or Parliamentary constituencies only, where elections are to be held," the order said.

The order also mentioned certain guidelines for closed and open spaces.

A maximum of 50 per cent of the hall capacity will be allowed in closed spaces with a ceiling of 200 persons. Wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, provisions for thermal scanning and use of hand sanitisers will be mandatory. In open spaces, keeping the size of the ground or space in view, strict observance of social distancing norms, mandatory wearing of face masks, and provisions for thermal scanning and hand wash must be followed.

REDUCING POLLUTION

Yogi brings immunity to air with herbal roads

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 8: There will be immunity in the air of Uttar Pradesh as the Yogi Adityanath government completes its plan to construct 175 herbal roads in the state.

More than 38,000 herbal and Ayurvedic plants of 30 species like Peepal, Neem, Tulsi, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Mentha, Lemon Grass, Bhringraj, Mui, Aonla, Brahmi, Tulsi, Anantmul, Gwarpath, Turmeric and other Ayurvedic and herbal plants have been planted alongside roads.

These have been planted on both sides of the roads to purify the air and reduce pollution. As

the project was one of the priorities of the chief minister, the PWD has completed the project within the stipulated time and one road each in the districts of the 18 divisions of the state has been developed into herbal roads. Every district has a minimum of two such roads.

These plants will provide raw material for the medicines and will also help in curbing the erosion of land.

PWD principal secretary, Nitin Gokaran said that these herbal plants will also help in coping with communicable diseases and strengthening the immunity of those travelling via these herbal roads.

STRICT VIGIL



Security personnel patrol in the old city area as traditional Chehallum procession was not allowed due to Covid-19 outbreak, in Lucknow, Thursday

NO OPTION

Covid blues: Raj artisans turn to other jobs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 8: The lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic has rendered lakhs of people jobless and artisans in Rajasthan are no exception.

The skilled artisans making exquisite jewellery in Jaipur are being forced to take up other jobs such as driving cabs or selling saris online to earn their livelihood as the jewellery market has nosedived with no buyers around.

An adept artisan making Kundan Meena jewellery, Jitendra Soni, said, "I have started driving cabs to earn enough for two meals. There are simply no orders for jewellery since March. With two sons, 12 and 14 and a wife and a father to look after, I am searching for a decent job



so that there is continuous income. I am tired as there is no job available. Also, driving cabs is not much of an alternative as no one wants to travel as of now."

"Till last year I was getting regular work, however, now, there are no orders. With gold prices surging,

people don't want to buy jewellery," he added. Manoj, another jeweller who has a manufacturing unit in Jaipur, has started selling saris online and is also getting into the property business.

"Ours is a family business of jewellery manufacturing. We used to

collect orders from the market and manufactured jewellery, however, now there are no orders and therefore we have to look for another profession."

However, we want to go back to the jewellery profession as there is no match to handcrafted legacy," he said. Gopal Soni, engaged in Kundan Meena work, is also searching for alternative work.

"Since March onwards, the kind of work we are getting is to repair the dismantled nose ring or earring. It doesn't suffice and hence we are searching for alternative avenues as no one knows when this crisis will end," he said.

Rajkumar Soni, another manufacturer engaged in Kundan Meena work says, "Many of our trained

artisans have left the city which is known as the Gem city and we don't know if they will ever return. The big jewellers who used to pass on orders to us have been residing in big farmhouses to protect themselves from Covid infection."

"In such a scenario who will place orders. The market is going down; recently four members of a jewellery maker's family hanged themselves, facing a cash crunch."

The Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) in its recent data disclosed that "During April-July 2020, Gems and Jewellery exports have declined by (-)50.36 per cent y-o-y to US\$4.11 billion as compared to US\$8.27 billion registered during the same period the previous year."



From now on, masks and protective gear have to be brought with us when we leave our house. We have to wear them all the time unless we are in a situation of continuous isolation
GIUSEPPE CONTE | ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

FB TO PAUSE POLITICAL ADS

Facebook said it will stop running political or social issue ads after the US polls close (November 3) to reduce chances of confusion or abuse



of the day quote

UNSC should not be misused with retaliatory intent to name innocent civilians as terrorists
YEDLA UMASANKAR | LEGAL ADVISER IN INDIA'S PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UN

We should have the small remaining number of our brave men and women serving in Afghanistan home by Christmas
DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

When the communication system is good, people will have the benefit of transporting goods. This will bring economic independence to the people and Bangladesh will be the hunger and poverty-free 'Shonar Bangla' as envisaged by the Father of the Nation
 SHEIKH HASINA | BANGLADESH PRIME MINISTER

Covid, China and jobs dominate VP debate

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 8: The much-awaited vice presidential debate between Kamala Harris and Mike Pence saw the duo sparring on US President Donald Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, jobs, China, racial tensions and climate change, less than four weeks ahead of the election.

Harris, the Democratic Party's vice presidential nominee described the Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic as the "greatest failure of any presidential administration in the history" of America as she opened the vice debate with a sharp attack on Vice President Pence, who leads the president's coronavirus task force.

Democrats flay Trump

The Democratic Party has criticised President Donald Trump for announcing "sweeping changes" to the H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme in decades without public scrutiny, saying it is clearly an attempt to score last-minute political points ahead of the November 3 presidential election.

Wednesday night's live debate at The University of Utah in Salt Lake City was a civil one between the two leaders, separated by plexiglass barriers, compared to last week's showdown between President Trump and his Democratic challenger and former vice president Joe Biden, which degenerated into insults and name-calling. Pence, did not interrupt as much as Trump last



week during the first presidential debate, but when he did Harris interjected: "Mr Vice-President, I'm speaking, I'm speaking."

During the 90-minute one-off debate before the November 3 presidential election, Harris, 55, and Pence, 61, stuck to their known campaign positions on major topics. Pence, who entered the debate as an underdog, was seen vigorously defending the actions of the Trump Administration during the past nearly four years.

Harris, who scripted yet another history, by becoming the first person of Indian descent to be on the stage of a vice presidential debate, charmed with her smiling face throughout while responding to answers to Pence with facts and figures with the same assertiveness as she started her career as a district attorney in San Francisco.

Harris slammed the Trump Administration for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic as the country is now the world's worst-hit nation. Pence, who is heading

the White House coronavirus task force, differed with her statement, asserting that Trump's plan saved hundreds of thousands of American lives, because with that time they were able to reinvent testing. "The reality is, when you look at the Biden plan, it reads an awful lot like what President Trump and I and our task force have been doing every step of the way."

"And quite frankly, when I look at their plan that talks about advancing testing, creating new PPE, developing a vaccine, it looks a little bit like plagiarism, which is something Joe Biden knows a little bit about," Pence said.

Harris also accused Trump of "betraying our friends and embracing dictators" as she attacked his "unilateral approach" to his foreign policy that led to America pulling out of the landmark Iran nuclear deal and making the country less safer. Pence alleged that Biden and Harris want to raise taxes, they wanted to bury the economy under a USD 2 trillion

Green New Deal. Harris deflected the questions on Green New Deal, to which the moderator said she had sponsored it in the Senate. However, she firmly asserted that former vice president Biden, would neither raise any taxes nor ban fracking if voted to power. The Green New Deal is a proposed package of US legislation that aims to address climate change and economic inequality.

Harris asserted that the US under Trump has lost its trade with China. "The vice president earlier referred to as part of what he thinks is an accomplishment, the president's trade war with China. You lost a trade war. You lost it. What ended up happening is, because of a so-called trade war with China, America lost 300,000 manufacturing jobs," she claimed.

"Lost the trade war with China? Joe Biden never fought it. Joe Biden has been a cheerleader for communist China over the last several decades," Pence responded.

Harris alleged that the Trump administration's perspective and approach to China has resulted in the loss of American lives, American jobs, and America's standing.

Harris accused the Trump Administration of not appointing a single Black among the 50 people appointed to the Court of Appeals for lifetime appointments. The US needs reform of the policing and criminal justice system, she said. Trump's challenger, Biden tweeted, "Kamala Harris, you made us all proud tonight."

Trump refuses to hold virtual debate with Biden

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 8: Donald Trump Thursday refused to participate in next week's presidential debate with his Democratic challenger Joe Biden, calling it a "waste of time" after the organisers announced that the second debate will be held virtually because of the president's diagnosis of COVID-19.

The nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates said that the second presidential debate scheduled in Miami October 15 will take the form of a town meeting, in which the candidates would participate from separate remote locations. It said the decision has been taken in order to protect the health and safety of all involved with the second presidential debate.

However, President Trump, who tested positive for COVID-19 and was admitted to a military hospital for four days for its treatment, refused to participate in the virtual debate. "I'm not going to do a virtual debate. I'm not going to waste my time at a virtual debate," Trump told Fox News in a telephonic interview soon after the independent and not-for-profit Commission announced changes in the format of the debate. Trump, who claimed victory over Biden in the first presidential debate, asserted that he expects to do the same in the Miami debate as well. Trump alleged that the Commission and everybody is trying to protect Biden. Reacting to Trump's remarks, Biden said, "I don't know what the president is going to do. He changes

34 WH STAFFERS INFECTED WITH COVID

An internal US government memo has revealed that at least "34 White House staffers and other contacts" have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in recent days, it was reported. The memo, dated Wednesday and obtained by ABC News, was distributed among senior leadership at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

his mind every second. For me to comment on that now would be irresponsible. I think that if I can follow the Commission's recommendations - if he goes off and has a rally, I'll - I don't know what I'll do." Trump's eldest son Donald J Trump Jr alleged that the Commission unilaterally changed the format of the debate because of the impressive performance of Vice President Mike Pence against Democratic Senator Kamala Harris at the vice presidential debate last night. Biden's campaign insisted that the Democratic leader plans to address the countrymen directly. "Vice President Biden looks forward to speaking directly to the American people and comparing his plan for bringing the country together and building back better with Donald Trump's failed leadership on the coronavirus that has thrown the strong economy he inherited into the worst downturn since the Great Depression," said Kate Bedingfield, Biden deputy campaign manager.

SHORT TAKES

Canada to ban single-use plastics

Ottawa: The Canadian government has announced that the use of single-use plastics will be banned across the country by the end of 2021. On Wednesday, Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson unveiled the list of the banned items from the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec, CBC said in a news report.

'Delta' heading towards US

Washington: After making landfall in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, hurricane Delta was now heading towards the US Gulf Coast, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said in its latest update. According to the update Wednesday night, a hurricane watch has been issued for areas stretching from High Island, Texas, to Grand Isle, Louisiana.

900 jobs in 3 UK airports at risk

London: Some 900 jobs were at risk at three UK airports after the coronavirus pandemic resulted in the "toughest summer ever", the media reported. In a statement Wednesday, the Manchester Airports Group (MAG) said 465 jobs were under threat at Manchester Airport, as well as 376 at London Stansted Airport and 51 at East Midlands Airport, reports the BBC.

Oil tanker fire case: SL indicts captain

Colombo: Sri Lanka Thursday indicted the Greek captain of an oil tanker, which carried crude oil from Kuwait to India and caught fire off the country's eastern Ampara coast, for causing an oil spill. The Panamanian-registered New Diamond was carrying 270,000 metric tons of crude oil from Kuwait to India when a boiler explosion in its engine room caused fire September 3.

WHO awaits China's nod

Beijing: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given Beijing a list of global experts to be part of the international investigation team to be sent to China to probe the origin of the coronavirus and is awaiting its approval. In May, the annual meeting of World Health Assembly (WHA) passed an unanimous resolution to probe the origin of the virus. China also backed the resolution.

George Floyd murder suspect released on bail

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, Oct 8: The former US police officer charged with the murder of unarmed black man George Floyd has been released from prison on bail.

Derek Chauvin posted a \$1m (£774,000) bond and was released on Wednesday morning, court records show, the BBC reported. The white officer was filmed pressing his knee on Floyd's neck for almost eight minutes before he died on May 25. Floyd's death led to global protests and calls for police reform, spurred by the Black Lives Matter movement. Chauvin was fired from his job and now awaits trial in March next year on charges of second-degree murder and manslaughter. Three other officers - J Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao - were also fired and charged with aiding and abetting murder.

All four officers accused in connection with the killing of Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, have now posted bail and are free until their trial next year. Chauvin had been at the maximum-security prison in Oak Park Heights, Minnesota, since late May.

In June, a judge set a bail of \$1.25m with no preconditions, or \$1m with conditions which include Chauvin not contacting Floyd's family, surrendering his firearms and not working in law enforcement or security as he awaits trial.

Taiwan scoffs at China's advice to Indian media

New Delhi has no formal diplomatic relations with Taipei, but both sides have close business and cultural ties

REUTERS

Taipei / New Delhi, Oct 8: China was accused by Taiwan of trying to impose censorship in India after its embassy in New Delhi advised journalists to observe the "one-China" principle after newspapers carried advertisements for Taiwan's national day.



Coming just months after deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops on the disputed Himalayan border between the two Asian giants, the controversy has flared at a time when Indian sentiments toward China are filled with antipathy and suspicion.

China's hackles were raised on Wednesday by advertisements placed in leading Indian newspapers by Taiwan's government to

mark the democratic, Chinese-claimed island's national day on Saturday.

The advertisement carried a photograph of President Tsai Ing-wen and hailed India, a fellow democracy, as a natural partner of Taiwan. China, which claims Taiwan and regards it as a wayward province, made its displeasure evident in an e-mail sent by its embassy on Wednesday night to journalists in India, including Reuters.

"India is the largest democracy on Earth with a vibrant press & freedom-loving people. But it looks like communist #China is hoping to march into the subcontinent by imposing censorship. #Taiwan's Indian friends will have one reply: GET LOST!" he said in a tweet.

India's government has carefully avoided upsetting China over Taiwan. But relations became fraught after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash with Chinese troops in June, and there have been calls from some Indian nationalist groups for a boycott of Chinese goods.

"The Chinese government behaves like a street goon, not like an aspiring super-power. It threatens us," said Nitin Gokhale, the editor of a defence and security website, after receiving the Chinese embassy's email.

FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS



Protesters add bicycles to the burning metro station during a rally in Jakarta, Indonesia. Thousands of enraged students and workers staged rallies across Indonesia Thursday in opposition to a new law they say will cripple labor rights and harm the environment

Teen becomes Finland's PM for a day

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Helsinki, Oct 8: A 16-year-old teenager, who actively campaigns on climate and human rights issues, became the Prime Minister of Finland for a day, as part of the country's incumbent leader Sanna Marin's fight to end gender gap, the media report.

On Wednesday, Marin stepped aside letting Aava Murto to take her position for a day during which the latter met politicians and highlighted women's rights in technology, the BBC reported.



This is the fourth year of Finland's participation in humanitarian organisation Plan International's "Girls Takeover" initiative, which

allows teenagers from countries from across the globe to step into the shoes of leaders and other sectors for a day. This year's focus is on promoting digital skills and technological opportunities for girls, with Kenya, Peru, Sudan and Vietnam among the countries holding their own swaps.

In a speech, Murto said: "It is a pleasure to be speaking here before you today - although, in a way, I wish that I did not have to stand here, that campaigns like the Girls Takeover were no longer necessary."

Symptoms poor marker for nCoV infections: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 8: Nearly 86 per cent of people who tested positive for COVID-19 during lockdown did not have any of the known coronavirus symptoms such as cough, fever and loss of taste or smell, a new UK study revealed Thursday.

The University College London (UCL) authors behind the analysis, published in 'Clinical Epidemiology', conclude that a more widespread testing programme is therefore needed to catch "silent" transmission.

"The fact that so many people who tested positive were asymptomatic on the day of a positive test result calls for a change to future testing strategies. More widespread testing will help to capture 'silent' transmission and potentially prevent future outbreaks,"

said Professor Irene Petersen, from UCL Epidemiology & Health Care.

"Future testing programmes should involve frequent testing of a wider group of individuals, not just symptomatic cases, especially in high-risk settings or places where many people work or live close together such as meat factories or university halls. In the case of university halls, it may be particularly relevant to test all students before they go home for Christmas," she said.

The researchers used data from the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey pilot study - a large population based survey looking at the association between COVID-19 symptoms and COVID-19 test results.

The data showed 115 (0.32 per cent) people out of the total 36,061



86% of UK residents who tested positive for COVID-19 during lockdown did not have the specific virus symptoms (cough, and/or fever, and/or loss of taste/smell), finds a new study by UCL researchers

Future testing programmes should involve frequent testing of a wider group of people

people in the pilot study had a positive test result.

Focusing on those with COVID-19 specific symptoms (cough, and/or

fever, and/or loss of taste/smell), there were 158 (0.43 per cent) with such symptoms on the day of the test.

Of the 115 with a positive result,

there were 16 (13.9 per cent) reporting symptoms and in contrast, 99 (86.1 per cent) did not report any specific symptoms on the day of the test.

"Pooled testing could be one way to help implement a widespread testing strategy where several tests are pooled together in one analysis to save time and resources on individual testing. This strategy would be an efficient way to test when the overall prevalence is low as negative pooled samples can quickly show a large group of people are not infectious," notes Prof Petersen.

The study also includes data on people reporting a wider range of symptoms such as fatigue and shortness of breath. Of the sample who tested positive, 27 (23.5 per cent) were symptomatic and 88 (76.5 per cent) were asymptomatic on the

day of the test. The authors believe the findings have significant implications for ongoing and future testing programmes.

"When considering SARS Cov 2 [Covid-19] testing it is important to consider the purpose of the test. A test done to indicate whether a person currently has virus levels that are likely to mean they are infectious, and not to rule in or rule out any presence of virus, does not require such a high sensitivity and cheaper rapid tests are more feasible," said co-author Professor Andrew Phillips, from UCL Institute of Global Health.

The study included data from a representative population sample of 36,061 people living in England, Wales and Northern Ireland who were tested between April 26 and June 27 and provided information of whether they had any symptoms.

business



The employment disruptions caused by the pandemic, rising automation and the transition to greener economies are fundamentally changing labour markets

SAADIA ZAHIDI | MD, WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

'YET TO TAKE FINAL CALL ON CHINESE VENDORS'

India is yet to take a final call on allowing Chinese companies to participate in the 5G network rollout, said Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, adding that security will be a "major concern" in 5G



of the day quote

The near-term outlook of global economy is adverse as the number of Covid cases remains high, and recurring outbreaks have been reported in many countries. Consequently, demand outlook of non-ferrous metals is negative, and sustainability of prices at current levels is doubtful

JAYANTA ROY | SENIOR VP AND GROUP HEAD, CORPORATE SECTOR RATINGS, ICRA

There is a surge in demand of Indian rice, spices and vegetables (in the US), including essential oils, soybean meal, cake and some extracts for medical use

MOHIT SINGLA | CHAIRMAN, TPCI

As we restart tourism from a zero base today across all verticals, we need revival policies in terms of GST correction, export status, infra status, industry status, secured refunds, SEIS. These are the fundamental enablers of putting tourism economy back on track

NAKUL ANAND | CHAIRMAN, FAITH

Moody's revises global steel sector outlook to 'stable'

The demand for steel is improving owing to resumption of production in important end markets and on a stronger global economic data, particularly in China

CAROL COWAN | SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, MOODY'S

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: Moody's Investors Service Thursday said it has revised its outlook for the global steel sector to stable on the back of recovery in demand worldwide. The agency had earlier cut the outlook for the global industry to negative. Moody's said it is changing "steel outlook" for all regions which include the US, Europe, Russia, Brazil and Asia to stable.

Moody's Senior VP Carol Cowan said the demand for steel is improving owing to resumption of production in important end markets and on a stronger global economic data, particularly in China. After shutdowns, production is now

ramping up in the automotive and industrial sectors.

Another factor contributing to demand is that the construction sector which is the largest consumer of steel



worldwide, has remained resilient throughout the pandemic and even picked up in countries with infrastructure-focused stimulus programmes such as China.

Also, the operating conditions for steelmakers are expected to continue to improve over the next 12 to 18 months, barring a resurgence of the coronavirus, Cowan said.

In May 2020, PM Narendra Modi announced a massive financial incentive for India, on top of the previously announced packages for a combined stimulus of ₹20 lakh crore.

On capacity utilisation of players, Moody's said the steelmakers' capacity utilisation is improving but the same remains well below pre-pandemic levels as the recovery lags in some regions and sectors.

The Moody's report further said in steelmakers' key end markets, PMIs are rising from low levels.

While its macroeconomic board forecasts a 4.6% contraction in G-20 economies in 2020, it also expects a 5.3% growth in 2021.

Many important steel-consuming regions will follow a similar pattern, with the exception of China, which will see a GDP growth of 1.9% in 2020 and of 7% in 2021.

Whereas, India's steel consumption will contract by around 10% in the 12 months to June 2021, from a year prior, largely because of an extremely weak June quarter this year amid the pandemic-led lockdown. However, the impact on steel-makers will be less severe because of their strong market positions and brand strength.

PM invites Canadian biz to invest in multiple sectors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday hard sold his government's latest labour and agriculture reforms, saying they will make doing business in India easier as also give farmers the right to choose their market.

With its vibrant democracy, political stability and business-friendly policies, India offers an unparalleled investment destination for foreign investors, he said in his keynote address at the annual Invest India Conference.

The conference is organised with a special focus on further strengthening business ties between India and Canada.

The government, he said, has implemented reforms in key sectors of education, agriculture and labour with a view to improving participation of the private sector.

"If you are looking to partner in the field of education, the place to be is India. If you are looking to invest in manufacturing or services, the place to be is India. If you are looking to collaborate in the field of agriculture, the place to be is

INVEST INDIA CONFERENCE



With its vibrant democracy, political stability and business-friendly policies, India offers an unparalleled investment destination for foreign investors

The government has implemented reforms in key sectors like education, agriculture and labour with a view to improving participation of private players

The FDI regime has been very well liberalised and the country has created a friendly tax regime for sovereign wealth and pension funds, Modi said

India," Modi said.

Stressing that "the India story is strong today and stronger tomorrow", the PM said, "We are proactively monetising assets across sectors - airports, railways, highways, power transmission lines."

He further said the FDI regime has been very well liberalised and the country has created a friendly tax regime for sovereign wealth and pension funds.

Referring to the coronavirus pandemic, Modi said, "India has adopted a unique approach posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have given relief and stimulus package for the poor and the small businesses. We have also used this opportunity to undertake structural reforms. These reforms ensure more productivity and prosperity."

The PM further said India is playing the role of pharmacy to the world and has provided medicines to around 150 countries so far.

Software services firm Tata Consultancy Services has reported a 4.9% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹8,433 crore for the September 2020 quarter, and also announced a share buyback plan of up to ₹16,000 crore.

SHORT TAKES

Gold prices rise by ₹82

New Delhi: Gold prices in the national capital rose ₹82 to ₹51,153 per 10 grams Thursday tracking gains in the global market, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed the trade at ₹51,071 per 10 grams in the previous day. Silver also gained ₹1,074 to ₹62,159 per kilogram from ₹61,085 per kg in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi were up by ₹82 on strong international gold prices," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

NirogStreet raises \$2mn funding

New Delhi: NirogStreet, a technology-led Ayurveda platform, Thursday said it has raised \$2 million (about ₹14.6 crore) in funding led by Wavemaker Partners and Amand Ventures. Existing investor Spiral Ventures has also participated in the pre-series A funding round, a statement said. The startup will utilise the capital for deeper penetration, strengthen technology platform and digitise supply chain, it added. The funds would also be used to strengthen the company's reach and offerings to the Ayurveda doctors, it said.

Reliance to sell gas to affiliates

New Delhi: In a major boost to firms such as Reliance Industries, the government has allowed affiliate companies to buy gas produced from non-regulated fields as part of giving complete marketing freedom. The government between 2016 and 2019 gave pricing freedom for all fields except those given to state-owned ONGC and Oil India Ltd on a nomination basis.

NMDC hikes iron ore prices

New Delhi: The country's largest iron ore miner NMDC has increased rates of the mineral by ₹200 to ₹3,450 a tonne with immediate effect. Iron ore is the key raw material used in steel making. Any change in its prices has a direct impact on the rates of steel. In a BSE filing, NMDC said it has increased the price of lumps or high-grade iron ore by ₹200 to ₹3,450 per tonne.

BoB gets two new regional heads

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Assistant General Manager (AGM) Bharat Bhushan joined as the new Regional Head of Bank of Baroda (BoB), Bhubaneswar Region-I. Prior to this posting, he was working as deputy regional head of the undivided Bhubaneswar Region. Over the years, he had been assigned various assignments both in domestic as well as overseas i.e. at branch, regional office, corporate office, overseas and corporate finance services branch, etc.

Bhushan has worked in Delhi, UP, Mumbai and Singapore in various capacities in a career spanning 21 years. He will emphasise on growth of CASA, quantitative credit including retail loans, agriculture and MSME credit, NPA management and digital banking.

On the other hand, AGM Anmay Kumar Mishra also took charge as the Regional Head of the newly created Bhubaneswar Region-II. The newly formed region spreads in nine districts in Odisha. Mishra has worked in various states across the country and has excelled in all his assignments with the last assignment being the Regional head of Raebareilly Region at UP.

Mishra will focus on growth of CASA, quantitative credit including retail loans agriculture and MSME Credit, NPA management, WMS, digital banking and social security scheme Odisha.



BHARAT BHUSHAN



ANMAYA MISHRA

Demand for DIY products rise in state during pandemic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The demand for Do it yourself (DIY) products and repairing kits has increased three times as compared to normal from state-based buyers during the pandemic, said a spokesperson of Snapdeal, the Indian e-commerce company.

He said that e-commerce firm Snapdeal sees a large volume of orders for apparel, small gadgets, and home hygiene products from Odisha-based buyers.

"During the pandemic, DIY products and repairing kits received huge demand. This is driven by the motive of being self-reliant during Covid-19. Household hand toolboxes comprising a range of screw drivers, pliers, vise grips, claw hammer, socket wrench, ratchet handle, hacksaw frame, tape measure, electrical voltage tester, electric tape were some of the most sought after products on Snapdeal," he added.

"According to the official, most



orders were placed by users from Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Balasore. Odisha has always been an important market for Snapdeal which delivers across 1,202 pin codes in the state. We have seen a sharp increase in shoppers from Odisha on Snapdeal in 2019," spokesperson said.

Snapdeal today announced its first sale of the festival season.

Snapdeal's "Kum Mein Dum" Diwali Sale will start from October 16 and will continue till October 20. Kum Mein Diwali sale will offer attractive deals on a vast selection of products covering kitchenware, kitchen appliances, home furnishing, home improvement products, fashion apparel including sarees, kurtis, suits and kids wear and fashion accessories like watches and wallets to name a few.

Auto component makers may remain subdued in Q2: Icr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 8: The performance of auto component makers is expected to remain subdued in the September quarter this fiscal over the year-ago period, but may witness significant improvement on a sequential basis, rating agency Icr said Thursday.

For 2020-21, it expects the revenue of auto ancillaries, except tyre segment, to drop by 16-20% following the double-digit decline during FY2020.

Tyre manufacturers, according to the release, are expected to perform better, with revenue decline likely to be in the high single-digit. The auto component industry was already impacted by muted demand in FY2020, with the industry witnessing 16 months of decline in volumes pre-COVID and was aggravated following the pandemic, the release said.

However, going forward, the industry is expected to register strong growth in FY2022, which will result in improved profitability and coverage indicators for most vendors, Icr said.

According to the rating agency, during the period FY 2014-19, most auto ancillaries have ploughed back their accruals to deleverage their balance sheet.

Icr also said that 28% of its rated auto component portfolio had availed moratorium, and the need for restructuring will be limited despite eligibility.

"ICRA Ratings has indicated that about 28% of its auto component portfolio has availed of the moratorium. Of this, 72% of the entities that availed moratorium are rated in the investment-grade (BBB category and above). They have availed moratorium primarily to conserve cash in an uncertain environment," Icr said.



'Jio to help India lead fourth industrial revolution'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: Having missed most of the first three industrial revolutions, India has its chance to lead the fourth industrial revolution through a convergence of its IT prowess, ultra-high-speed internet connectivity and affordable smart devices, billionaire Mukesh Ambani said Thursday.

The richest Indian man, who heads the nation's most valuable company Reliance Industries Ltd, said his group's telecom and digital unit Jio was conceived to provide the key ingredients needed to lead the fourth industrial revolution.

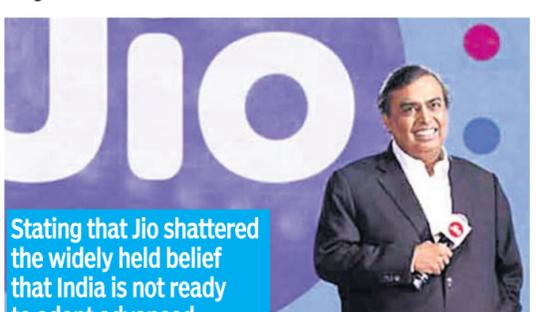
India missed the first two industrial revolutions and the changes brought about by them. During the third industrial revolution, where information technology came to prominence, India joined the race but still remained behind, trying to

catch up with the leaders.

"As we step into the fourth industrial revolution, India has the opportunity, not just to catch up with the leaders but to emerge as a global leader itself," he said at TM Forum's Digital Transformation World Series.

The fourth industrial revolution, he said, is driven by the convergence of digital and physical technologies such as digital connectivity, cloud and edge-computing, IoT and smart devices, artificial intelligence, robotics, blockchain, AR/VR and genomics.

"And the three foundational requirements needed to participate in this revolution are ultra-high-speed connectivity, affordable smart devices and transformational digital apps. Jio was conceived to enable this journey," he said. Before Jio, India was stuck with 2G technology. "Jio wanted to end India's data misery and unleash a digital revolution," he said. "We built a world-class, all-IP, future-proof digital network," he said. "We built a world-class, all-IP, future-proof digital network," he said. "We built a world-class, all-IP, future-proof digital network," he said.



Stating that Jio shattered the widely held belief that India is not ready to adopt advanced technologies, Ambani said the country will play a leading role in the fourth industrial revolution

work that delivers the highest speeds and the best coverage across India". While it took 25 years for the Indian telecom industry to build its 2G network, Jio built its 4G network in only three years.

"And to ensure widespread adoption of data, we launched with the lowest data tariffs in the world and made

voice services completely free for Jio users," he said adding JioPhone made smartphones affordable. "That provided a window to the world of limitless possibilities for over 100 million Indians in less than a year," he said. Jio also offered a bouquet of mobile apps and data at a dirt-cheap rate.

The result was Jio added 7 customers per second and India's monthly data consumption went up from 0.2 billion GB to 1.2 billion GB, a growth of 600%.

"Today, India consumes over 6 exabytes of data every month, more than 30 times pre-Jio levels, just four years ago," he said. "We have gone from 155th in the world to number one in mobile data consumption in just four years." Stating that Jio shattered the widely held belief that India is not ready to adopt advanced technologies, Ambani said the country will play a leading role in the fourth industrial revolution.

OPENERS, BOWLERS LIFT SRH ROYALS AIM TO HALT DC MARCH

AGENCIES

Dubai, Oct 8: Openers Jonny Bairstow (97, 55b, 7x4, 6x6) and skipper David Warner (52, 40b, 5x4, 1x6) decimated Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) bowling attack before Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) bowlers did their part to hand their side a comfortable 69-run win in their IPL encounter here, Thursday.

Chasing a massive 202, KXIP barely posed any threat to SRH bowling. However, West Indian Nicolas Pooran (77, 37b, 5x4, 7x6) was magnificent. At one stage it was looking like he will take KXIP home.

But, Warner gambled with Rashid Khan (3/12) giving the leggie his final over earlier (15th over) than expected. The move paid off as the Afghan spinner dismissed a dangerous-looking Pooran, who didn't get any support from the other end.

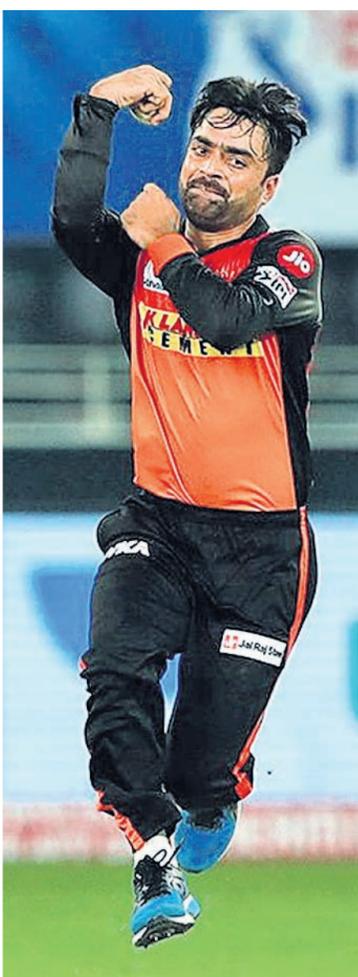
Apart from Pooran, only KL Rahul (11) and P Simran Singh (11) reached double figures. KXIP were bowled out for 132 in 16.5 overs after losing last seven wickets for only 28 runs. Besides Rashid, T Natarajan (2/24) and Khaleel Ahmed (2/24) also bowled well.

Earlier, KXIP made a brilliant comeback in the final five overs by taking six wickets but a 160-run opening stand between Bairstow and Warner still took SRH to an imposing 201/6.

KXIP bowlers did not have a clue how to get a breakthrough till the 15th over. At that stage, SRH were 160 for no loss. Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (3/29) then removed both Bairstow and Warner in the space of three balls in the 16th over before Arshdeep Singh (2/33) dismissed Manish Pandey for one in the next over to trigger a brilliant turnaround.

For a team who have been leaking a lot of runs in the death overs, it was a welcome change for KXIP to concede just 41 runs in the last five overs and take six wickets in the process. But the flying start provided by Bairstow and Warner ensured SRH cross the 200-run mark. Kane Williamson remained not out on 20 off 10 balls.

Bairstow was dropped on 19 in the fifth over by KXIP skipper Rahul off the bowling of Mohammed Shami and he made them pay for the mistake.



(FROM L): David Warner plays a shot towards long on; Jonny Bairstow drives through the cover region; Rashid Khan bowls against KXIP in Dubai, Thursday



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



runs from the Indian batsmen in the team.

Sharjah, Oct 8: Struggling to figure out their best eleven, Rajasthan Royals will need to come up with some quick-fix measures to snap their three-match losing streak when they take on a formidable Delhi Capitals (DC) unit in an IPL match here Friday.

The Royals were off to a flying start, winning both their games here but they have struggled to adjust to the bigger grounds of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, slipping to three successive defeats.

Now back to the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Royals will take inspiration from their two big wins here to turn things around against a dominant Delhi.

Led by Shreyas Iyer, Delhi have looked solid in all three departments, winning four out of their five matches. For Royals, time is running out as they still have not been able to find their best playing XI. While the return of Ben Stokes will give them hope but the England all-rounder is currently in quarantine and will be available only after October 11.

The sudden loss of form of skipper Steve Smith and Sanju Samson—who did bulk of the scoring in the first two matches, is as much a reason for their failure as the lack of

RR did try to rejig their line-up against Mumbai Indians by including young batsman Yashasvi Jaiswal and pacer Kartik Tyagi and Ankit Rajpoot in the playing XI but it didn't change their fortunes.

While Jaiswal was out for a second-ball duck at the top, Rajpoot went for 42 in his three overs but young Tyagi showed promise with his one for 36 on IPL debut. The good news for RR is the return to form of opener Jos Buttler, who scored a fine 44-ball 70 in their last game.

In bowling, Jofra Archer and Tom Curran have been left to do the heavy lifting, while spinner Rahul Tewatia has not been to produce the breakthroughs consistently.

DC, on the other hand, have been a well-oiled machine, boosting of a solid bowling unit which is well supported by the batsmen.

While skipper Iyer has been in good form, opener Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant have done their job well. Marcus Stonis too have produced two smashing fifties so far. On the bowling front, Kagiso Rabada has looked ominous with 12 wickets to emerge as the best bowler in the IPL so far. South African pacer Anrich Nortje too has delivered when the team needed him to.

BRIEF SCORES

Sunrisers Hyderabad 201/6 (Jonny Bairstow 97, David Warner 52, Kane Williamson 20 n o; Ravi Bishnoi 3/29, Arshdeep Singh 2/33) beat Kings XI Punjab 132 (Nicolas Pooran 77; Rashid Khan 3/12, T Natarajan 2/24, Khaleel Ahmed 2/24) by 69 runs.

Comments on KKR-CSK match

MS DHONI: Our bowlers did well to bring them down to 160-odd. As a team we should have achieved the target but the batsmen let the bowlers down. Rotation of strike is always important. You have to be slightly innovative in these scenarios. We did not adapt well

DINESH KARTHIK: There are some key players for every team. Narine is one for us. Least we can do is back him. Two-three poor games don't matter. Our batting is very fluid. I started at three, today I batted at seven. The way those guys batted at the start, they batted very well

VARUN CHAKRAVARTHY: Three years back, I used to come to the Chepauk stand and sit with the audience, crowd. I used to come just to see Dhoni batting. Now I bowled against him. It was a surreal moment for me

Today's Match

RR VS DC

AT 7:30 PM

TELECAST: STAR SPORTS

DJOKO TO TAKE ON TSITSIPAS IN SEMIFINALS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 8: Novak Djokovic overcame a bothersome left arm and an early deficit to reach the French Open semifinals for the 10th time.

The top-seeded Djokovic kept flexing and stretching that arm and got off to a slow start Wednesday night before he received massages from a trainer, righted himself and beat No. 17 seed Pablo Carreno Busta 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 to move closer to a second championship at Roland Garros and 18th Grand Slam trophy.

This was a rematch from the US Open last month, when Djokovic was defaulted for inadvertently hitting a line judge in the throat with a ball he smacked in anger. That went into the books as a loss and remains the only blemish on Djokovic's 36-1 record in 2020.



REUTERS

Paris, Oct 8: American fourth seed Sofia Kenin marched into her second Grand Slam final of the year with a commanding 6-4, 7-5 victory against Czech Petra Kvitova at the French Open Thursday.

The Australian Open champion, who will face Polish teenager Iga Swiatek Saturday, was the most aggressive player throughout the

Kenin-Swiatek face off in final



SOFIA KENIN (L) & IGA SWIATEK

REUTERS

match on Court Philippe Chatrier. Seventh seed Kvitova, in her first semifinal appearance at Roland Garros since 2012, was often forced out of position by her crafty 21-year-old opponent.

Kenin raced into a 4-1 lead as Kvitova showed some nerves after holding her first service game to love and, despite her Czech opponent finally getting into the groove, it was enough for the American to bag

the first set.

Twice Wimbledon champion Kvitova lost her serve to fall 3-2 behind in the second before breaking back for 5-5, only to drop serve again.

Earlier, Polish teenager Swiatek became the youngest player to reach the French Open women's final in 19 years when she crushed Argentine qualifier Nadia Podoroska 6-2, 6-1. Swiatek had too much poise and power for World No.131 Podoroska, who was looking to become the first qualifier to reach a final at a major in either the men's or women's singles draws.

"I'm kind of surprised, really. I always knew that if I would be in a Grand Slam final, it would be at the French Open," Swiatek said on court. "I wanted to play this match as a first-round match, I didn't want to think of it as a semifinal otherwise I would have been too stressed."

Swiatek, the youngest player to reach the women's final at Roland Garros since Kim Clijsters in 2001, raced to a 3-0 lead and never released her grip on the opening set despite a poor first-service percentage.

France rout Ukraine 7-1

Giroud scores brace in landmark match for Les Bleus



Olivier Giroud celebrates one of his goals against Ukraine, Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saint-Denis, Oct 8: On a night when youth and experience aligned, striker Olivier Giroud scored twice on his 100th appearance for France and teenager Eduardo Camavinga celebrated his first start by scoring an acrobatic goal in a 7-1 thrashing of Ukraine in a friendly game.

JIMENEZ LIFTS MEXICO

AMSTERDAM: Wolverhampton striker Raul Jimenez converted a penalty to give Mexico a 1-0 victory over the Netherlands in a friendly that marked Frank de Boer's first match as the Dutch coach. Jimenez scored from the spot on the hour mark after Nathan Ake had fouled him in an empty Johan Cruyff Arena. The Netherlands twice came close to equalizing in the 88th minute, but substitute Luuk de Jong headed straight at goalkeeper Alfredo Talavera and Memphis Depay smashed the rebound against the bar from close range. It was De Boer's first match in charge of the national team since succeeding Ronald Koeman, who quit to join Barcelona after two years of rejuvenating the Dutch squad.

GOALLESS STALEMATE

LISBON: With fans back in the stands, Portugal and Spain drew 0-0 in a friendly. The Portuguese federation filled five per cent of the capacity of the Jose Alvalade Stadium here. Fans were spread around the stadium and had to sit apart from each other. There had been high expectations surrounding the duel between Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona's teenage sensation Ansu Fati, but the 17-year-old Spaniard stayed on the bench throughout the match. Atletico Madrid forward Joao Felix nearly gave the hosts the win in stoppage time but whiffed a shot in front of the goal.

Giroud's brace moved the Chelsea striker onto 42 international goals, one more than Michel Platini in France's all-time scorers' list, which Thierry Henry tops with 51.

The 34-year-old Giroud gave the World Champions a 2-0 lead in the 24th minute following Camavinga's opener, with a superb left-footed strike from outside the box into the top corner. Wearing the captain's armband, he doubled his tally after the half-hour mark with a diving header from a rebound.

Ukraine fielded a depleted side and trailed 0-4 at halftime after Vitaliy Mykolenko scored an own goal as he

tried to clear the ball away five minutes before the interval.

Ukraine enjoyed a good spell after the break despite France coach Didier Deschamps bringing on Kylian Mbappe, and substitute Viktor Tsygankov pulled one back for the visitors. Corentin Tolisso, Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann completed France's win.

With his goal, the highly-rated Camavinga became the second youngest player to score with France, at 17 years, 11 months. Maurice Gastiger was just six months younger when he scored against Switzerland March 8, 1914.

Hamilton chases record; Schumi's son debuts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nurburg, Oct 8: Lewis Hamilton's bid to match the Formula One (F1) win record held by Michael Schumacher is back on, and he could achieve it in Schumacher's home country of Germany.

Hamilton was chasing a record-equaling 91st win two weeks ago in Russia before his race was ruined by penalties for breaching an obscure rule on where drivers can practice their starts before the race. His Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas took the win.

That sets the stage for Hamilton to try again in Germany. He'll have to do it in conditions which would have tested even Schumacher, who was nicknamed 'Regenmeister' or



MICK SCHUMACHER



LEWIS HAMILTON

Rain Master for his talent on wet tracks. Rain is likely on all three days and temperatures on race day may not reach 10 degrees (50 F).

F1 is back at the Nurburgring, one of the most storied circuits in the series, for the first time since 2013. Officially, the German Grand Prix is on hiatus this year, and this race—a late replacement on the coronavirus-affected calendar—is called the Eifel Grand Prix after a nearby mountain range.

As many as 20,000 fans could attend, making it the best attended race of the season apart from the Russian Grand Prix.

NEW GENERATION

It's been eight years since Schumacher's last F1 race, and now his son will officially be part of an

F1 race weekend for the first time.

Mick Schumacher, 21, will take over Antonio Giovinazzi's Alfa Romeo for the first practice Friday. That brings him another step closer to a full F1 drive, possibly even next season. He already has experience of the paddock from racing in Formula Two, where he leads the championship, and doing demonstration runs in his father's old F1 cars before races.

Mick has said he sees his father as his idol, but he's been keen to forge his own path. He started out in kart racing under the surname Betsch, his mother's maiden name.

Mick Schumacher's F2 title rival, Callum Iott, will also drive in his first official F1 session Friday, borrowing Romain Grosjean's Haas.