

SRK TURNS 55
Wishes poured in on social media from across the world for Shah Rukh Khan who turned 55 Monday
LEISURE P2



COUPLES WORRIED
Inter-faith couples worried after Adityanath says his government would make strict law to curb 'love jihad'
TWO STATES P7



NZ GETS GAY DEPUTY PM
PM Jacinda Ardern unveiled a cabinet that includes New Zealand's first openly gay Deputy PM
INTERNATIONAL P10



IRREGULAR by MANJUL
Difficult to say why Covid cases are down, sir. But it can't stop you from taking credit for it.

25 DEAD IN ATTACK ON KABUL VARSITY

Kabul, Nov 2: Gunmen stormed Kabul University Monday as it hosted a book fair attended by the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, sparking an hours-long gun battle and leaving at least 25 dead and wounded at the war-torn country's largest school.



Afghan police arrive at the site of an attack on Kabul University. Gunfire erupted at the varsity early Monday and police have surrounded the campus.

The ministry's spokesman, Tariq Arian, would not break down the casualty numbers for the attack at the campus in the Afghan capital, though local media reports were saying there may be as many as 20 killed. Arian also said there were three attackers involved in the assault, all of whom were killed in the ensuing firefight.

Samim, a university student, told journalists he saw militants armed with pistols and Kalashnikov assault rifles firing at the school, the country's oldest with some 17,000 students. He said the attack happened at the university's eastern side where its law and journalism faculty teach. Afghan media reported a book exhibition was being held at the university and attended by a number of dignitaries at the time of the shooting.

While Afghan officials declined to discuss the bookfair, Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency reported Sunday that Iranian Ambassador Bahador Aminian and cultural attaché Mojtaba Noroozi were scheduled to inaugurate the fair, which would host some 40 Iranian publishers. Iranian state television reported the attack occurred, but did not offer information on its officials.

As the sun slowly set over the Afghan capital, there were few details though the Taliban issued a statement denying they took part in the assault.

The attack came as the insurgents are continuing peace talks with the US-backed government. Those negotiations, taking place in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, aim to help the U.S. finally withdraw from America's longest war, though daily bloodshed continues and an Islamic State affiliate launches its own attacks on Shiites in the country.

Last month, the Islamic State group sent a suicide bomber into an education center in the capital's Shiite dominated neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi, killing 24 students and injuring more than 100. The Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan has declared war on Afghanistan's minority Shiite Muslims and have staged dozens of attacks since emerging in 2014.

"Unfortunately, there are casualties," Arian said as the assault unfolded, without elaborating. Ahmad

India's October factory growth at decade high

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 2: India's factory activity expanded at its fastest pace in over a decade in October as demand and output continued to recover strongly from coronavirus-related disruptions, but firms cut more jobs, a private survey showed.

CENTRE RELEASES ₹6K CR TO STATES

NEW DELHI: The Finance Ministry Monday said it will transfer ₹6,000 crore as the second tranche of GST compensation shortfall to 16 states and three Union Territories -- including Odisha, Maharashtra, Bihar, Assam, Pondicherry and Delhi. The Centre had October 23 transferred ₹6,000 crore to 16 states and two UTs of Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir.

Asia's third-largest economy is healing after shrinking a record 23.9% in the April-June quarter. The Indian government has removed most restrictions imposed to control the spread of the virus, though infections continue to climb and now number over 8 million people.

"Companies were convinced that the resurgence in sales will be sustained in coming months, as indicated by a strong upturn in input buying amid restocking efforts."

The Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 58.9 in October from September's 56.8. The reading was the highest since May 2010 and above the 50-level separating growth from contraction for the third straight month.

Both output and new orders, which tracks overall demand, grew at their sharpest rates in more than 12 years and foreign demand expanded at its quickest pace since December 2014.

"Levels of new orders and output at Indian manufacturers continued to recover from the COVID-19 induced contractions seen earlier in the year," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

But firms cut staff for the seventh month in a row, a streak not witnessed since the survey began in 2005, signaling a quick recovery in the consumer-driven economy may be a distant possibility.

SC turns down Babri judge's plea to continue his security

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Supreme Court Monday denied extending the personal security of special judge S.K. Yadav, who retired after delivering the verdict in the Babri demolition case.

A bench headed by Justice RF Nariman, after a brief hearing in the matter, said: "We do not consider it necessary to continue the security for him." Yadav had asked for continuing his personal security in view of the sensitivity of his last case. He had written a letter urging the top court to continue his personal security. The bench said after going through the letter it does not see the merit in extending his security.

A Special CBI court hearing the Babri mosque demolition case of December 6, 1992, acquitted all the 32 accused saying it was spontaneous and not a planned move. On September 30, in the verdict, Yadav had observed that the evidence against the accused was based on newspaper reports. Those acquitted in the case included former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani, former Union Ministers MM Joshi, Uma Bharti, among others.

Balasore, Tirtol bypolls today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The office of the Chief Electoral Officer has made all arrangements to ensure smooth and safe voting for the bypolls to Tirtol and Balasore Assembly seats, Tuesday. Voting will start at 7 am and end at 6 pm.

Briefing media here, CEO Sushil Kumar Lohani said in view of prevailing Covid-19 situation, only healthy polling personnel have been deployed for the bypolls and all polling personnel have been screened.

Polling personnel have been provided with face masks, face shields, sanitizer, PPE kits and gloves while polling booths will be frequently sanitized Tuesday with sodium hypochlorite solution, he said. ASHA workers have been deployed to scan body temperature of all voters coming to cast votes, he said, adding, arrangements have been made for facilitating hand washing and sanitisation of voters. If any voter is found running high temperature or with Covid symptoms, they will be segregated and allowed to cast his/her vote at last hour.

The polling personnel will provide a hand glove to each voter for the right hand. The number of booths has gone up from 198 to 346 in Balasore while the number has gone up from 265 to 373 in Tirtol. Additional booths are mostly located in the same building where the original booth was located. However, due to lack of space, such booths in 12 locations of Balasore and five in Tirtol have been located in nearby buildings, the CEO said. Similarly, the number of voters listed per each booth has come down to 1,000 from 1,500 to avoid crowding in booths. He said 3,500 polling personnel, 800 ASHA workers and an equal number of volunteers will be deployed for smooth conduct of polls.

As many as 86 polling stations in Balasore and 155 polling stations in Tirtol have been identified as sensitive, he added.

Late sitting MLA Madan Mohan Dutta's son Manas Ranjan Dutta is contesting from the BJP in Balasore while Swarup Das and Mamata Kundu are contesting from the BJD and the Congress respectively. For Tirtol segment, Bijay Shankar Das, son of former MLA Bishnu Charan Das is contesting from the BJD while the BJP has fielded Rajkishore Behera and the Congress has fielded Himansu Mallick for the seat.



Facility to help crack cybercrimes unveiled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: In a bid to effectively check the growing number of cybercrimes in the state, DGP Abhay Monday inaugurated a Cyber Complex in Bhubaneswar.

Termining cybercrime as a big challenge before the state police, the DGP said investigation of such cases needs more efficiency. The state police has lined up many initiatives in this regard to be taken in a phased manner. "Our first step would be to get a maximum number of police personnel trained to deal with cybercrimes. I have already discussed this with the National Police Academy. We hope to organise eight training camps this year with the help of the National Digital Crime Resource and Training Centre at the NPA," Abhay said.

Training for the first batch of the personnel commenced at the cyber complex here from Monday. The training camp will be held in Sambalpur during the later part of this month. Two

training programmes will be held in December. The state police has set a target to impart training to around 200 cops with the help of the NPA, NDCRTC training wing of Hyderabad through eight such cyber training camps by next year.

The DGP informed the media that the cybercrime police station operating in Cuttack has been relocated to Bhubaneswar. There are four cybercrime police stations in the state. In future the state police will train at least one person from ever police station to deal with cybercrime. The Social Media Cell of the Odisha Police will also start functioning from the complex in next six months. Judicial officers dealing with cybercrimes would be imparted training at the complex for better prosecution and conviction.

The cyber complex will comprise 'cyber police stations of CID CB, CCPWC (cybercrime prevention against women children) lab-cum-training centre'. A social media analysis cell will also be established here.

AIR HEAVY ON HEAD



A hawker carrying plastic balls looks for customers on a street in New Delhi, Monday. The pandemic has rendered thousands of people across businesses jobless.

SC stays EC bar on Kamal Nath as star campaigner

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Supreme Court Monday stayed the Election Commission order which revoked the "star campaigner" status of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for model code violation during the campaign for bypolls in 28 Assembly constituencies in the state.

The counsel appearing for the EC told a bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde that Nath's plea has become infructuous as the campaigning has ended and the voting is to take place Tuesday. "We are staying it," said the bench which also comprised two other judges.

The apex court was hearing Nath's plea challenging the October 30 order of the EC revoking his star campaigner status. While a political party pays for the expenditure of its star campaigner, the candidate concerned bears the expense of other campaigners.

The top court also issued notice to the EC seeking its response on Nath's plea. "Issue notice. Until further orders, there shall be a stay of order dated October 30, 2020 issued by Respondent No.1 - Election Commission of India," the bench said in its order.

Besides seeking quashing of the EC order, the senior Congress leader has also sought framing of appropriate guidelines for speeches during campaigning by star campaigners or campaigners. "Keeping in mind the right to freedom of speech and expression and concept of democratic elections,"

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who along with senior counsel Vivek Tankha appeared for Nath, said the matter has not become infructuous and the EC had not issued any notice to the former Chief Minister before passing the October 30 order. "How can you determine who is their leader? It's their power not EC's power," the bench asked EC's counsel.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VIARIATION
SENSEX	39757.58	↑ 143.51
NIFTY	11669.20	↑ 26.80
DOLLAR	74.56	↓ ₹0.04
EURO	86.92	↓ ₹0.46
GOLD	₹50,880	↑ ₹181
SILVER	₹61,560	↑ ₹695

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP: MAX	33.4°C	34.5°C
MIN	24.6°C	23.0°C
Humidity	93%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

Man to reunite with kin after 20 years in Pak jail



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Nov 2: Over 25 years back Birju Kulu of Jangateli village in Rajgangpur block of Sundargarh district went missing in mysterious circumstances. At that time, Birju was working in a Ranchi hotel. Later his family was devastated when they heard Birju was in a Pakistani prison.

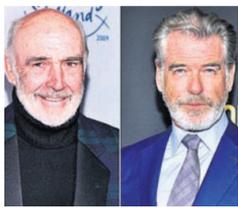
Apparently, Birju was mentally unstable when he went missing. He somehow reached

Amritsar and from there crossed the border. He was promptly arrested and sentenced to 20 years in prison for entering Pakistan without proper documents. Charges of espionage were brought against him and being mentally unstable he could not even present his case properly. He was lodged in Lahore prison during his entire term.

Birju completed his sentence in October and was handed over to Indian authorities at the border October 26. Currently he is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Amritsar as he tested positive for COVID-19.

Birju's family had given up all hopes of seeing him again. So they were in for a pleasant surprise when Sundargarh district administration officials informed them about Birju's whereabouts. His elder sister is the only person alive in his family. She managed to talk with her brother over a video call and is eagerly waiting for his return. Birju's parents had died when he was in Pakistan.

"We have received information about Birju's release from a Pakistani jail. We know he is in Amritsar undergoing treatment. We have got in touch with him. We will facilitate his return to his village once he is discharged from the hospital," said Biswajit Mohapatra, ADM, Sundargarh.



RARE VIDEO SHOWS BROSAN PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONNERY

An old video of Pierce Brosnan paying tribute to Sean Connery, at a 2007 gala hosted to commemorate the latter, is once again doing the rounds of social media.

MAYADHAR CLASSES FELICITATE TOP NEET SCORERS

Mayadhar Classes, founded by renowned educationist and physicist Mayadhara Sahoo, honoured students who have excelled in the All India NEET entrance examination this year. Soumya Satpathy, Subhakanta Sahoo and Divyajyoti Panda were the top scorers.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
If you are involved in monetary matters, today you will find yourself weighing the benefits. A loan that you have applied for may be sanctioned. Look at a range of choices, says Ganesha, and you will end up feeling very happy about it.

TAURUS
This day you will have an urge to take a trip, be it a small one. Ganesha sees you enthusiastically making detailed plans and arrangements, arranging for funds and getting in touch with all those you desire to take along.

GEMINI
You will feel blue and out of sorts today. You will feel that you are all alone in the world, emotionally. Your repressed desires and your philosophical streak will come to the fore today and will influence your dark mood, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will get a surprise gift or good news from your friends or relatives. You will enjoy with your family. You will get the affection and co-operation of family members. Happiness and rapport in domestic life is indicated. Ganesha's grace is upon you.

LEO
Most of your time will be spent at the work place. You will excel in all your tasks today. Professional relationships will be marked by co-operation. You will have cordial relations with your colleagues.

VIRGO
Avoid all kinds of prejudice and do not allow intolerance to enter your mind today, advises Ganesha. In all likelihood, you will look around yourself in search of love and affection. You will do well to keep negativity at bay as otherwise it may cow you down.

LIBRA
Ganesha says those of you who are married or in love will experience a good time today. As you spend more time with your life partner by going out for a drive or for dinner, you will come closer to them. Today is a day full of joy, vigor and happiness for you.

SCORPIO
Today, there may come up situations which may test your patience, predicts Ganesha. However, it would be wise to sit and sort out all the differences with your colleagues or family members or your partner.

SAGITTARIUS
As Ganesha foresees, you will be religiously inclined today. Listening to soft, instrumental music will soothe your nerves. You also feel like going back to school days and dig into detective and suspense stories of Nancy Drew or Hardy Boys. It was fun being kid, isn't it?

CAPRICORN
You'll kick start the day in high spirit which will take everyone by surprise. You will shift gears at work so that you can perform more efficiently and productively. Such a change will boost your confidence as you will see the positive results for yourself.

AQUARIUS
You are already overloaded with work. On the top of it, people around you will conveniently put their share of load on your back, and you will take it most of the times. You, however, will not get bogged down by the additional responsibilities.

PISCES
You are going to be very emotional today. You will be able to express your love to your wife or other loved ones in a very unique and dramatic way. It is not a good day for putting forth marriage or love proposals, and if you do it could be disappointing.

Shah Rukh turns 55: Friends, fans greet actor

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan turned 55 Monday, and wishes poured in on social media from friends, colleagues and fans across the globe.

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana expressed his love for Shah Rukh Khan saying the latter taught him how to love.

"Aapko dekha... aapse pyaar kiya. Pyaar kaise karte hain, aapse seekha. Aap jaise banne ki koshish kar rahe hain. Par aap jaisa koi ho hi nahin sakta," he wrote alongside an image of him standing next to SRK.

Actor Rajkumar Rao, who calls him big fan of SRK, took to Twitter and shared a throwback clip of him rehearsing with SRK on the superstar's hit song, *Chaiyya Chaiyya*.

"Happy birthday @iamsrk sir. From dancing on your songs in all my school functions to standing outside your house for hours and to sharing stage with you and having such wonderful conversations with you. It's always such an honour: I love you a lot and will always pray for your good health and happiness," Rajkumar tweeted.

Cose friend and actress Juhi Chawla declared she would plant 500 trees. "I plant 500 trees for #ShahRukh on his birthday for #CauveryCalling. From co-star, co-producer to co-owner... dotted with much laughter and some tears, it's been a long and eventful journey," she tweeted.

Actresses Anushka Sharma and Shilpa Shetty, who made their debut opposite SRK in *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi* and *Baazigar* respectively, have also wished him on social media.

"A very happy birthday to my first hero, my Baazigar. I pray you always get all that your heart desires and a lot more, because you deserve all of it, Shah," Shilpa wrote.

Anushka praised SRK for his 'wit'. "To your wit, charm, intelligence and openheartedness! Have a legendary birthday Shah Rukh," Anushka conveyed.

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan shared a still from their song *Marjaani* and wrote: "Happy birthday King Khan... Let's always have fun dancing. You are the warmest, most gracious superstar we have... Keep soaring @iamsrk." IANS

Rapper Big Deal releases anthem dedicated to SRK



Bhubaneswar: Rapper Samir Rishu Mohanty, who also goes by the stage name 'Big Deal', paid tributes to super star Shah Rukh Khan on his 55th birthday. Samir released a rap video titled 'Shah Rukh Khan Flow' on the occasion. It is a kind of fan anthem by the singer to 'King Khan'.

'Big Deal' is quite a popular name in the music circle. He is popular for his rap renditions like 'MU Heli Odia', 'One Kid with a Dream' and 'Khusi Ta'. He said that from childhood he has been a huge fan of Shah Rukh Khan. "I would dance and sing to many of his songs and wanted to be like him when I grew up. I had a difficult childhood where I was discriminated against and picked on for looking different. Somehow, I felt that if I became like the actor, I would be loved the way SRK is adored and liked," Samir said.

"Somehow, I felt I would fit in and not be an outsider by being like Shah Rukh Khan because everyone loved SRK so much. This is my token of appreciation in the form of a song, a dedication to Shah Rukh Khan for inspiring me. The song is also dedicated to Samir Bangara and Sushant Singh Rajput," he added.

In the video to mark SRK's 55th birthday many other successful persons spoke about their love for the actor. Among them were Dancer Harihar Das and Master Chef winner Abhinav Nayak. The album cover which is a graffiti art is done by Radskull.

Earlier, 'Big Deal' Rapper had released the music video 'Khusi Ta' which talks about various development works in Odisha. The video was directed by Nila Madhab Panda. PNN

AMRITA AND ANMOL WELCOME A BABY BOY



Mumbai: Amrita Rao and Anmol Sood had taken to their respective social media accounts to announce that they are all set to embrace parenthood. And now, good news is that they have become proud parents of a baby boy.

The couple has released a statement and said, "Amrita Rao and RJ Anmol welcomed a baby boy this morning. Both the mother and baby are healthy and doing well. The family is ecstatic and both Amrita and RJ Anmol thank

everyone for their wishes and blessings."

And talking about Rao in an interview, Sood said, "I am feeling on top of the world right now. Look at the luck and the destiny in which I completely believe in. These are things which we do not plan..."

Speaking about pampering his wife during pregnancy, Anmol said "Amrita is a princess

so she deserves to be treated like that. There's nothing new, that's the way I have been treating her from day one."

For Anmol and Amrita, the lockdown has been a blessing in disguise. "Who gets the opportunity to be together 24 hours a day at such a time! Talking about dealing with the pandemic, we didn't move out at all and were very strict and particular about that aspect," he said.

And when Rao was asked about her pregnancy, this is what she had said, "It's like reliving our childhood."

Amrita also admitted that Anmol has been pampering her a lot. "Anmol reads a chapter from the Bhagvad Gita to baby and me every night." The duo has also found their perfect song,

Jeevan Ki Bagiya Mehkegi, with one line in particular, Thoda Hamara, Thoda Tumhara, Aayega Firse Bachpan Hamara." IANS

Tiger reveals how to burn cake calories

Mumbai: Bollywood action star and fitness enthusiast Tiger Shroff has shared how he burns cake calories in a new video on social media.

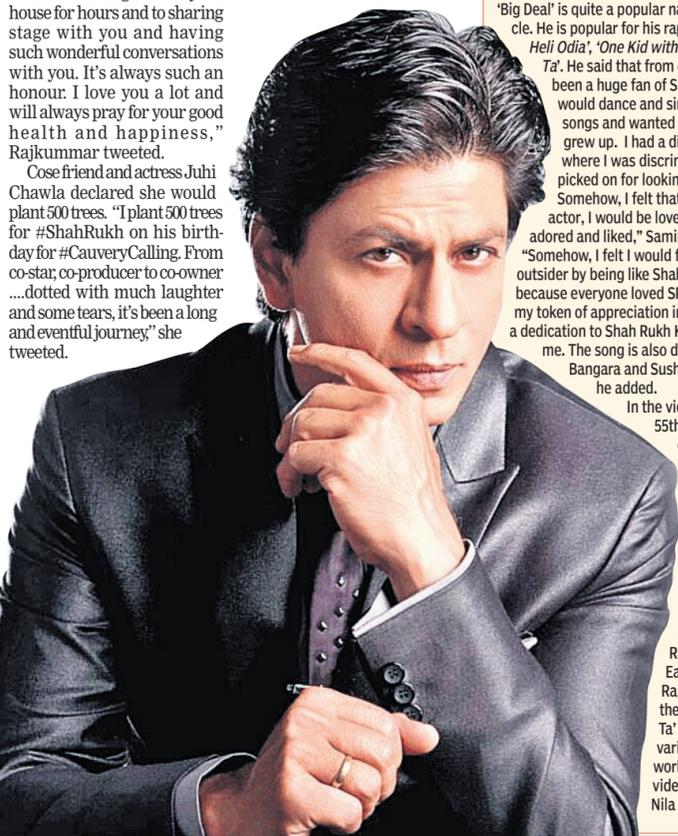
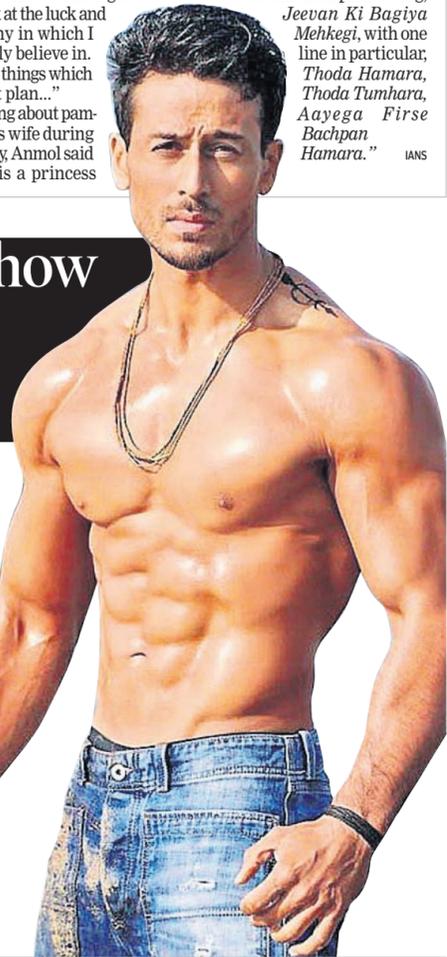
Tiger posted a string of videos on Instagram. In the clips, he is seen doing high jumps.

The *Baaghi* star captioned the second clip as "burning that (cake emoji) off."

In the third video, where he is seen racing other men. 'Nice try boyzz,' he wrote.

Tiger will soon start working on the action drama *Baaghi 4*, as well as the sequel to his debut film, *Heropanti*. He will be shooting across 25 countries in all for the two films. The shooting of *Heropanti 2* is expected to start in December.

Baaghi 4 will be directed by choreographer-turned-film-maker Ahmed Khan, who earlier helmed *Baaghi* and *Baaghi 3*. IANS



PEANUTS



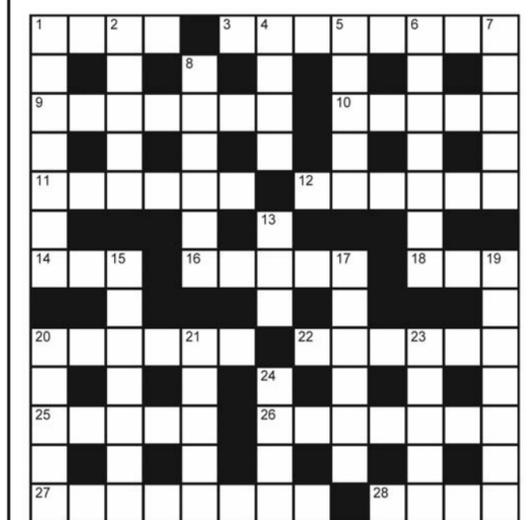
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Water under the bridge
 - 3 Flowers
 - 9 Arabian desert sight
 - 10 Seating request
 - 11 Ladybug
 - 12 Outcome
 - 14 German resort
 - 16 Geologic period
 - 18 "C'__ la vie!"
 - 20 Assert without proof
 - 22 Sidestepped
 - 25 Penniless
 - 26 Pinatubo, e.g.
 - 27 Bullfighters
 - 28 Entreats
 - 5 Fifth wheel?
 - 6 Not clear
 - 7 Used a broom
 - 8 Sylphlike
 - 13 Constrictor
 - 15 Theatre sign (4-3)
 - 17 Shacks
 - 19 Tiresome
 - 20 Scrapbook
 - 21 Avarice
 - 23 Horse-carts
 - 24 Concluded
- Down**
- 1 Gruesome
 - 2 Eagle's nest
 - 4 Periscope part

SUDOKU

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

0				8	7			6	C
	3	B	5			A	2	4	1
			9						0
B		D	A	6				9	3
1	8		3	6	5	C	7		
D		8	2				9		A
	7					3	D	8	
		8		9			4	1	
3	6			9				7	
C	0	B	D		6	5	E		4
			5	D	C	A	7		E
8	1	B				2	E	0	C
	6	A		B			4		3
2	D	0	6				1	3	
		E			1				6

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

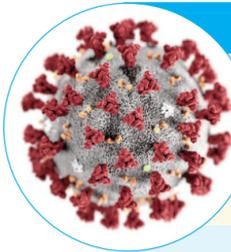
6	C	D	2	B	8	9	E	1	5	A	3	7	0	4
E	5	A	9	4	0	3	8	C	7	6	D	2	1	B
3	9	B	D	1	C	A	7	2	0	E	4	6	5	8
2	0	7	5	3	6	4	8	D	1	9	8	E	A	C
4	8	1	E	7	A	0	6	5	2	B	C	D	9	3
D	4	0	8	5	7	C	1	3	6	2	E	9	B	A
7	A	8	4	C	D	E	9	7	B	5	0	3	2	6
5	B	3	1	E	3	D	0	8	4	1	6	A	7	9
0	2	9	C	8	3	7	A	6	E	D	8	1	4	5
B	1	6	7	A	4	D	3	9	C	0	5	8	E	2
A	7	4	0	D	1	B	5	E	8	3	2	C	6	9
8	D	5	6	2	E	1	C	4	A	7	9	B	3	0

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



DIWALI AHEAD

A roadside vendor puts up clay idols of Goddess Laxmi and Lord Ganesh on display ahead of Diwali at Naya Sarak in Cuttack, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	4,70,47,589	3,38,79,987	12,07,947
India	82,51,427	75,72,250	1,22,849
Odisha	2,93,214	2,79,091	1,340

₹3.16 crore spent in 8 years; no end to Vansadhara dispute

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Vansadhara Water Dispute Tribunal (VWDT) constituted to adjudicate Vansadhara river dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh (AP) has incurred a whopping ₹3.16 crore expenditure till December 2019 but the matter remains unresolved.

The Union government had constituted the tribunal following the direction of the Supreme Court to resolve the Vansadhara river water dispute between the riparian states. The cumulative expenditure incurred by the tribunal till December 2019 stands at ₹3.16 crore and the budget allocation for the year 2019-20 is ₹5.11 crore.

Odisha had challenged AP's actions of constructing barrages on the river citing submergence of several acres of land in Odisha.

The tribunal had delivered its order December 17, 2013 allowing AP government to construct a side weir along with the ancillary works as proposed and has, inter alia, directed for constitution of a three-member Supervisory Flow Management and Regulation Committee of river Vansadhara.

Odisha has filed a special leave petition (SLP) against the said order before the Supreme Court and the same is pending for hearing. The tribunal has submitted its report (3 volumes) with the decision on the issues referred to it.



BONE OF CONTENTION

Cumulative expenditure incurred by VWDT till December 2019 stands at ₹3.16 crore and the budget allocation for the year 2019-20 is ₹5.11 crore

Odisha had challenged AP's actions of constructing barrages on the river citing submergence of several acres of land in Odisha

The tribunal had delivered its order December 17, 2013 allowing AP government to construct a side weir along with the ancillary works

Further, Justice Ghulam Mohammad, member of VWDT in Hyderabad. In order to fill the post, the Centre appointed Justice Pratibha Rani,

Judge of Delhi High Court as member of the tribunal in 2018. The VWDT heard the submission of the parties January 22, March 5-6, April 3-4-5 in 2019. In the meantime, Odisha had filed an application July 8, 2019 seeking modification of order dated April 5 of same year. The tribunal took up the matter for hearing July 9 and directed the parties to complete the pleading.

Significantly, September 23, 2019, the tribunal dismissed the application filed by Odisha and directed for listing the matter January 10, 2020. Odisha has also filed two petitions in the SC challenging the order of the tribunal and also opposed the joint survey for Neradi

barange as directed by the tribunal. The apex court is yet to pass any order in the petitions.

Mahanadi tribunal cost @ ₹86,000

Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal, which was constituted in 2018 to adjudicate the river water dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh, has incurred an expenditure of ₹86,000 till December 2019. This excludes the fee paid to lawyers by both states. The Mahanadi river dispute case is still pending with the tribunal.

barange as directed by the tribunal. The apex court is yet to pass any order in the petitions.

Over 3L health workers enrolled for vaccination

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Even though no specific timeline is set for availability of Covid-19 vaccine, the government has started preparedness for the vaccination programme and over 3 lakh healthcare professionals of the state have been registered for the purpose.

According to data available with the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department, 3, 02, 708 health workers from 3,463 healthcare institutions (both government and private) have enrolled themselves for the vaccination drive. With this, around 98 per cent frontline health and Anganwadi workers have been registered for the programme.

Following the direction of Union Health Ministry, the state government has started preparation for the database of healthcare workers. The H&FW department had asked the state unit of the Indian Medical Association, AYUSH Association, Nursing Association, Paramedic Workers' Association and Private Hospital Owners' Association to submit details of their employees to district Collectors, Municipal Commissioners or Chief District Medical Officers (CDMOs) for enrolment in the database.

Online booking process for Kalyan Mandaps begins

Bhubaneswar: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Monday, began the online booking process for Kalyan Mandaps under its jurisdiction. BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhury said, "The Kalyan Mandaps will start operating with strict adherence to the government's COVID-19 guidelines." Chaudhury further directed the denizens of the city not to violate any Covid-19 guidelines as the BMC squads will ensure strict vigilance to check whether social distancing is followed or not at the venues.

Five coal mines go under hammer

PNN/ AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 2: The much-anticipated auctions for commercial mining of coal started Monday with five coal mines put on the block.

According to the Union Coal Ministry sources, the mining blocks put on auction generated wide interest from bidders who had submitted their bids for various blocks on offer.

Hindalco has put the highest bid for Chakla mine in Jharkhand, while Vedanta was the highest bidder for Radhikapur West mine in Odisha.

Aurobindo Realty and Infrastructure was the highest bidder for Takli Jena Bellora North and Takli Jena Bellora South in Maharashtra.

Yazdani International and JMS Mining were the highest bidders for Marki-Mangli II (Maharashtra) and Urtan (Madhya Pradesh) coal blocks, respectively.

A Coal Ministry statement said that first day of auction of coal mines for sale of coal saw strong and healthy competition among the bidders.

The ministry had launched the

Hindalco has put the highest bid for Chakla mine in Jharkhand, while Vedanta put it for Radhikapur West mine in Odisha

auction of coal mines for commercial mining June 18, pursuant to a two-stage forward auction process, comprising initial offer and final offer, wherein the bidders have to bid for the percentage revenue share over the reserve price.

In all the mines auctioned, the final offer received is above 10 per cent signalling strong demand of coal mines in the market, it said.

All the five blocks will generate an annual revenue of ₹1,556.68 crore for the states, the ministry said. The blocks put on auction by the ministry generated wide interest from bidders who had submitted their bids for various blocks on offer.

The ministry had launched the

THRUST ON PVT INVESTMENT TO GIVE HANDLOOMS A SPIN

State decides to transform Balijury Haat in Bargarh district into the largest open ground cloth market in Asia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The state government has decided to transform Balijury Haat in Bargarh district into the largest open ground cloth market in Asia with modern amenities and all types of market linkages in an attempt to give a fillip to the handloom sector.

This decision was taken at a high-level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy on digital mode, Monday.

Taking an area-wise review of the Ikat designs, Tripathy directed the handloom officials to transform state's best products into global brands through addition of high design, affluent colours, towering quality and supreme prominence. The benefit of such interventions should go the weavers and artisans, he said.

He asked the department of Textiles, Handlooms & Handicrafts to scale up international visibility through organisation of expo-exhibitions at various prominent places and star hotels.

Further, the Chief Secretary emphasised on mobilising private sector investment in development of the



CREATING A GLOBAL BRAND

Taking an area-wise review of the Ikat designs, Tripathy directed the handloom officials to transform state's best products into global brands through addition of high design, affluent colours, towering quality and supreme prominence

- ▶ The Chief Secretary emphasised on mobilising private sector investment in development of the handloom sector
- ▶ The size of handloom market in the state has now been enhanced to ₹600-700 crore
- ▶ Meritorious students to be provided chances for internship and scholarship

handloom sector.

It was decided in the meeting that internationally reputed designers like Rta Kapoor Christie, Abraham Thakore, Rakesh Pratap Singh, Anjali Kalia and Bibhu Mohapatra would be invited to get involved in promotion of state designs.

The size of handloom market in the state has now been enhanced to ₹600-700 crore. The Chief Secretary directed the officials to multiply

the turnover in coming years.

Tripathy directed the department secretary Shubha Sharma to identify 'good performers' from among the officers and technical experts in the department and entrust them with responsibility of working out aspirational business models apart from selling those with prospective private partners. Sharma was advised to interact with the technicians and artisans and brace them up for higher ends.

Aahaar centres in City reopen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: As part of 'Unlock 6.0' guidelines, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) ordered resumption of services at all the 12 Aahaar centres here from Monday onwards.

While five Aahaar centres were already functioning, the remaining seven started functioning, Monday, as state government ordered further relaxations in Unlock 6.0 guidelines. This will be the first time that all Aahaar centres will resume services since March when the government had ordered all municipal commissioners and collectors to shut down the centres.

"Since most of the Aahaar centres attracted huge footfalls we were forced to shut down the eateries. However, as the city is observing fewer cases than earlier it was decided to allow operations at all the Aahaar centres. Covid guidelines will strictly be followed in all centres," said a senior BMC officer.

The re-opening of subsidised meal scheme at these Aahaar centres has come as a relief for many denizens belonging to lower-income group.



Women self-help group members serve cooked food at an Aahaar Centre in Master Canteen area of Bhubaneswar, Monday. The centre, along with a few others in the Temple City, reopened after remaining shut for nearly seven months due to Covid-19 pandemic

Man gets back baby boy after police intervention

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 2: Yasev Maharana's happiness knew no bounds as he held his baby boy in his arms for the first time ever since his delivery, nearly 20 days ago.

According to sources, Maharana, a resident of Petin Sahi in the Millennium City, got his pregnant wife—Suchismita Maharana—admitted to the Obstetrics & Gynaecology department of SCB Medical College and Hospital here October 11 as the expectant mother



With no apparent solution in sight, a hapless Yasev approached several social activists for help

complained of labour pain. Sources said that Yasev's world virtually came crashing down as his

■ The newborn's mother Suchismita died a few hours after delivering a baby boy through caesarean section October 13

■ Since it was a premature delivery, the doctors decided to keep him under observation at the sick newborn care unit of SCB for around eight days

wife died a few hours after her delivery. "Suchismita died a few hours

after delivering a baby boy through caesarean section October 13. The newborn was premature. So, doctors decided to keep him under observation at the sick newborn care unit of SCB for around eight days. Things, however, turned otherwise as the hospital authorities did not hand over the newborn to his father even after the completion of the observation period," said a source.

With no apparent solution in sight, a hapless Yasev approached several social activists for help. It was only Monday when for-

mer corporator of Cuttack Municipal Corporation's Ward 22, Anita Nayak along with 10 social activists, came to his rescue.

Nayak and the activists held discussions with the SCB authorities, but to no avail. Later, they approached the Mangalabag police which held discussions with the SCB higher-ups with requisite documents proving the blood relation of the father-son duo.

Finally, the SCB authorities discharged the newborn in the afternoon.

NTPC board okays buyback of 197.8mn equity shares

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Public sector power giant National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) board, Monday, approved the buyback of 197.8 million equity shares for ₹2,275.74 crore.

"The board of directors of the company in a meeting held November 2, 2020 has inter-alia approved... buyback of the fully paid up equity shares of the company of face value of ₹10 each," NTPC said in a BSE filing.

The board approved the proposal to buy back 19,78,91,146 fully paid-up equity shares at a price of ₹115 per unit for an aggregate consideration not exceeding ₹2,275.75 crore, the filing said.

The company has fixed November 13, 2020 as the record date for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of shareholders for buyback of equity shares.

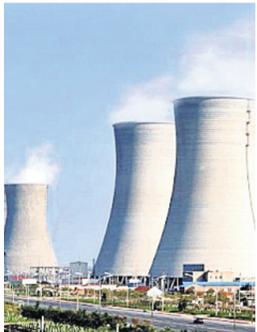
Last month, market regulator Sebi had granted exemption to NTPC from certain buyback norms for the proposed merger of its wholly-owned subsidiaries with the parent company.

In October, NTPC had filed an application with Sebi to seek exemption from the strict enforcement of the buyback norms.

The application had been necessitated on account of a scheme of amalgamation providing for the merger of NTPC's wholly-owned subsidiaries with itself.

In November 2019, NTPC's board of directors approved a scheme of amalgamation providing for the merger of Nabinagar Power Generating Company Ltd and Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Ltd with NTPC.

For this, the company proposed to explore the possibility of buying



THE BOARD APPROVED THE PROPOSAL TO BUY BACK 19,78,91,146 FULLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES AT A PRICE OF ₹115 PER UNIT FOR AN AGGREGATE CONSIDERATION NOT EXCEEDING ₹2,275.75 CRORE

THE COMPANY HAS FIXED NOVEMBER 13, 2020 AS THE RECORD DATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING THE ELIGIBILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS FOR BUYBACK OF EQUITY SHARES

back its equity shares from the existing shareholders on a proportionate basis through the tender offer route, subject to the requisite approval.

Sebi had considered NTPC's application and noted that the proposed buyback, as per NTPC, will be in the interests of investors as the shareholders of the company will benefit from return of surplus cash through the buyback programme.

State's Covid-19 toll at 1,340

Odisha's coronavirus caseload mounts to 2,93,214 with 1,389 fresh cases

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) tally in state mounted to 2,93,214 with 1,389 fresh cases Monday, while nine more fatalities pushed the death toll in Odisha to 1,340, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, his wife and five other family members are among new coronavirus patients and undergoing treatment at a private hospital here, said the official. Of the fresh cases, 798 were reported from different quarantine centres and 591 detected during contact tracing.

Khurda district, of which Bhubaneswar is a part, registered the highest number of new cases at 142, followed by Cuttack and Sundargarh at 101 and 100 respectively.

Taking to Twitter, the H&FW department said, "Regret to inform the demise of nine COVID positive patients while under treatment in hospitals."

Sundargarh recorded three new fatalities, and one each succumbed to the infection in Khurda, Puri, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Kandhamal and Sonepur.

As many as 53 other coronavirus patients have also died due to comorbidities, said the official.

Over 46.45 lakh sample tests for 231, followed by Ganjam at 230 and Cuttack at 112.

As many as 53 other coronavirus patients have also died due to comorbidities, said the official.



OF INFECTIONS & DEATHS

Khurda district, of which Bhubaneswar is a part, registered the highest number of new cases at 142, followed by Cuttack and Sundargarh at 101 and 100 respectively

Sundargarh recorded three new fatalities, and one each succumbed to the infection in Khurda, Puri, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Kandhamal and Sonepur

Of the 1,340 COVID-19 deaths reported so far, Khurda accounted for 231, followed by Ganjam at 230 and Cuttack at 112.

As many as 53 other coronavirus patients have also died due to comorbidities, said the official.

Three minors swept away while bathing in canal, one missing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 2: In an untoward incident that occurred in the wee hours of Monday, three minors were swept away while bathing in Kendrapara Canal near Birupa River at Jagatpur in Cuttack.

Two of them were rescued by alert locals and frantic search for one more is still underway.

The three minors were known to be Pranab Choudhary (Class VI student of Kalinga Public School, Choudwar), Shakti Rout (Class VIII student of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Nimpur) and Swarup Jena (Class VII student of Bharatiya Vidya Niketan, Jagatpur). The trio lost their balance while bathing in the canal.



Some locals who were also bathing in the canal noticed the minors drowning. Immediately, the alert locals rescued both Pranab and Shakti. However, Swarup is still untraceable.

On being informed, Jagatpur fire personnel and an ODRAF team launched a frantic search for the three minor boys.

SEEKING BLESSINGS



Devotees seek blessings of Lord Shiva outside a temple in Cuttack on the first Monday of holy month of Kartik

One more arrested in Sarua land scam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch (CB), Monday, arrested one more person in the fraudulent land transaction scam involving OTV, a regional electronic media house.

The accused has been identified as Sibaprasad Srichandan, an agent of Odisha Infratech Pvt Ltd which is accused of purchasing land at Sarua in Khurda belonging to some Scheduled Caste persons by fraudulent means.

Earlier, the EOW sleuths had arrested Manoranjan Sarangi, the Chief Financial Officer of OTV and one of the directors of the accused firm in the case (No-8/20).

Notably, the state government had asked the CB to probe the matter after some Dalit cast persons from Sarua village along with an ex-employee of the Ortel communication alleged that the accused firm had purchased the land flouting the prescribed norms.

Central govt exploited state, alleges Kanungo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Since the BJP took over the charge of government at the Center in 2014, the central government has exploited the state, alleged senior Congress leader Panchanan Kanungo.

Addressing a presser here Monday, Kanungo alleged that the state exchequer has borne a loss of huge fund to the tune of around Rs 72,000 crore during past six years of the Modi government.

"Naveen Babu and his party have openly supported every move of Modi government during past few years, no matter how harmful and anti-people those were," he alleged.

Whether it is demonitisation or the GST, the Farmers' Bill or the coal



auction and the Citizenship Amendment Act, the two parties worked together, he said, adding, "The greatest example of the alliance is sending a BJP leader from Odisha to the Rajya Sabha."

Listing out some major loss to the state due to BJP government at Center, the Congress leader said the state yet to get about Rs 800 crore of GST compensation for the year 2019-20, which is the constitutional right of Odisha.

Besides, the state has not received the GST compensation of Rs 3647 crore from Centre for the period of April and July 2020. But, it is unfortunate that the state has given his consent to go for loan without making any demands before the Center.

Similarly, the Centre has not revised the coal and iron ore royalty. As a result, the state has lost nearly Rs 16,000 crore. In addition, the state is losing about Rs 8,000 crore a year for cess collected for the National Clean Energy Fund, he claimed.

The Modi government stopped the KBK scheme and reduced the state's kerosene quota, but the BJP government has remained silent, he alleged.

Youth Congress protest price hike

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Youth Congress workers led by its state president Smruti Ranjan Lenka Monday protest here at the Master Canteen square against the price hike of essential items including vegetables.

The party activists held a rally from the Congress Bhawan to Master Canteen square, wearing garlands made of vegetables and raised slogans against the state government and the Centre for the uncontrolled price hike of essential commodities during this Covid-19 pandemic situation. They burnt effigies of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mark their protest.

"During the time of Covid pandemic when people are struggling to survive, the steep hike in the



Members of youth Congress demonstrate at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Monday, condemning the skyrocketing price hike of essential commodities

prices of essential commodities and vegetables has added woe to the miseries of the common man. But, neither the Centre nor the

state government is taking any step to ease the life of people," said Lenka.

Instead of adopting measures to control the price hike, both the governments have engaged in blame game, he said.

The recent statement of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain on onion price hike is highly condemnable, Lenka said.

In one hand the BJD has supported anti-farmer and anti-people policies of the Centre while in other hand, the minister saying the price hike is the impact of the new law of Centre, the Congress leader said.

The state government's potato and onion missions have failed and the cold storage facilities have failed to benefit the farmers. Both Centre and Odisha government are hoodwinking people, he added.

CVOs sensitized on preventive vigilance in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The state vigilance directorate Monday organised a state-level workshop at state vigilance academy here to sensitize the Chief Vigilance officers working in various departments of the state government and the state run public sector undertakings.

The sensitization programme has been organized on the occasion of the closing day of the national Vigilance Awareness Week from 27th October to 2nd November, 2020.

The CVOs have been directed to keep vigil on internal functioning in their respective organizations to prevent any illegal activities. The Director of vigilance, Debasis Panigrahi who inaugurated the workshop urged the participants to 'strengthen the internal Vigilance mechanism' and stressed on to follow various guidelines issued by the Central Vigilance Commission on Preventive vigilance issue.

He also highlighted the interlinking of anti-corruption, transparency, development and good governance efforts. As many as 52 CVOs of various Departments of State Government and State run Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) participated in the workshop. Meanwhile, investigating officers, various vigilance units of the state were awarded for their significant performance. Bhubaneswar Vigilance division was adjudged as the best unit of Odisha.

SAFETY FIRST FOR CITY SCHOOL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Over 150 million children have been affected world over due to COVID 19. In the wake of it, schools are planning a re-opening under the strict guidelines of the Center and the State Governments.

For SAI International, the matter of grim concern is the safety of the children and they will not miss a single step in ensuring safety of the children. Going ahead with this, the school will issue a consent form to be duly signed by the parents allowing their wards to attend physical school. The School will be working in a blended format both offline and online classes will ensure 100%

learning to the children.

Maintaining social distancing in the classrooms by having flexible, staggered and reduced timings is planned. Sanitization in between and before and after a class will be mandatory.

Asking only a certain percentage of the students to attend the school depending on the enrolment, rotation on alternate days, or every two days in a week and combining with home assignments could be another mechanism.

Alternatively, there could be a weekly class-wise timetable for attendance. All classes need not attend school every day. Odd-Even formula for classes can also be considered.

Running school in two shifts in



case of high enrolment schools can also be considered by reducing time duration of school hours per shift, such that the school is able to manage with the same set of teachers in the overall school hours.

Different gates are to be allocated for different classes during the entry and exit to avoid crowding up. A separate isolation room in the

school and the hostel with equipped infrastructure like oxygen cylinders, trained nurses and doctors on call will be kept handy in case of emergency situation ambulance parents to be informed and reach to the nearest hospital in an ambulance.

In the hostel, the beds are to have adequate distance to avoid contact.

An arrangement for a regular visit of Counselor teacher or a Counselor needs to be ensured to take care of any mental or emotional health issue of the students.

Water, sanitation and waste management facilities may be ensured along with compliance of environmental cleaning and decontamination procedures.

FOR A CAUSE



Members of All Odisha Performing Artists' Association demonstrate seeking reopening of cultural organisations in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PLUS III ADMISSIONS

Spot admission dates announced

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: State's Higher Education department Monday announced that spot selections for degree colleges for the academic year 2020-21 will start November 9. A notification has already been issued in this regard.

Students who had submitted the CAF online, but could not deposit the CAF fees and those who had submitted the CAF online, deposited the CAF fees and were selected, but could not take admission will be eligible for spot admission.

However, new applicants will not be entertained, the department said in the notification.

The department will release va-

cant seats both subject and category-wise November 9, 2020 in the websites like www.dheodisha.gov.in and www.samsodisha.gov.in.

The applicants can submit their application forms in 'drop box facility' from November 10 to November 13, 4.00pm. The list of shortlisted candidates for admission will be published by respective colleges on their notice board by 3.00pm November 17.

The selected candidates can deposit their admission fees by logging into SAMS website from 11.45pm, November 21. The admission of the students at the respective colleges where they have been selected will be done between November 23 and November 27, 6.00pm.

The higher education department had earlier released first and second selection list September 28 and October 23 respectively.



FILE PHOTO

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All is not well in Hatibari leprosy home

INMATES ALLEGE OF SUB-STANDARD FOOD BEING SERVED TO THEM

POST NEWS NETWORK
Sambalpur, Nov 2: The Issac Santra leprosy home at Hatibari in this district is allegedly mired in severe irregularities as inmates are complaining of poor quality food being served to them, a report said. The inmates alleged that they are not getting breakfast as per provisions but are instead served with rice and a preparation of boiled gram (chana) everyday which they do not find palatable. The quality of food served to them and the timing are not in order.



There were 456 inmates in 2005 which has now come down to 160

ALLEGATIONS GALORE

APART FROM QUALITY, QUANTITY OF FOOD IS ALSO COMPROMISED

A PRIVATE AGENCY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CATERING BUT THE AUTHORITIES NEVER SUPERVISE THEIR WORK

THE LEPROSY HOME AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO STOPPED PROVIDING NON-VEGETARIAN FOOD LIKE MEAT SINCE MARCH DESPITE RULES MANDATING NON-VEGETARIAN FOOD TWICE A WEEK

served late.

This apart, what they get in lunch is only rice, gram curry and dalma which they do not find palatable. In evening, they are also served with same watery dal and rice.

The inmates alleged that the rice served to them is of sub-standard quality and gives out a pungent smell. The leprosy home authorities have also stopped giving then non-vegetarian food like meat since March despite the rule mandating non-vegetarian food twice a week.

The inmates who are suffering

from old-age problems along with leprosy are also not being given nutritious food.

Notably the leprosy home was established at Hatibari as part of leprosy eradication programme of the government in 1957. Eminent physician, Gandhian and social worker Dr Issac Santra who is known for his contribution to leprosy eradication programme was the founder of this leprosy home.

The leprosy home is situated over 560 acre of land having 10 ponds, fruits and flower gardens. The state government is providing all fa-

ilities to this leprosy home. The Governor of Odisha is the head of this leprosy home which is managed by Hind Kushtha Nibaran Sangh. This leprosy home was once a shelter of leprosy patients from in and outside the state. However, the number of inmates has reduced with passage of time. There were 456 inmates in 2005 which has now come down to 160 inmates.

When contacted, Sashi Bhushan Patel, chief district medical officer (CDMO) said that he will order for a probe into the charges and will take appropriate steps.

FARMERS' STIR



Farmers demanding claim settlement of 2019-crop insurance stage a hunger strike outside the district Collectorate in Bolangir, Monday. The farmers hailing from Belpada and Jurabandh panchayats in Bongomunda block of the district demanded crop insurance money of Rs 50,000 per hectare of farmland as they suffered crop loss due to drought-like condition in 2019 kharif season

OP PHOTO

Admin identifies 155 sensitive booths in Tirtol Assembly seat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Nov 2: In view of the polling for 102-Tirtol (SC) Assembly constituency seat which is to be conducted November 3, Jagatsinghpur district administration Sunday evening stepped up security arrangements leaving no stones unturned for the purpose. Jagatsinghpur district administration has identified 155 of the total 373 booths in Tirtol Assembly constituency segment to be sensitive, informed District Collector Saroj Kumar Mishra at a presser here. The central forces will be deployed in all sensitive booths under Tirtol Assembly constituency segment and webcasting will be done in 37 booths. Micro observers will be mobilised in 40 booths and CCTV cameras will be installed at the remaining booths, Mishra added.

Notably, around 800 ASHA workers and equal number of volunteers are to be engaged at the polling booths in Tirtol and Balasore Sadar Assembly constituency segments to ensure Covid-19 compliance, Chief Electoral Officer Odisha Sushil Kumar Lohani said Sunday.

Two hurt, 5 held over poll-related violence

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Nov 2: Two persons were injured due to pre-poll violence in Chandipur area of Balasore district, late Sunday night. While one of the two victims was identified as panchayat samiti member Lokanath Dalei, the identity of the other person is yet to be ascertained.

The victims were admitted to the Balasore DHH initially but as their condition deteriorated, the two were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for treatment, Monday. According to a source, after the conclusion of campaigning for the by-poll in Balasore Sadar Assembly Constituency, the police asked politicians and journalists of other districts to leave the area as part of Election Commission's guidelines. However, workers of one contesting party had received information that some members of another party were staying in a hotel in Chandipur area. As it is against the Model Code of Conduct, the workers rushed to the hotel before a dispute between the two groups turned violent. Following the clash two persons



BALASORE BY-POLL

One of the two victims was identified as panchayat samiti member Lokanath Dalei

Identity of the other person was to be ascertained

The two were admitted to the Balasore DHH initially but as their condition deteriorated, they were shifted to SCBMCCH

including a politician were critically injured.

Chandipur Police detained five persons Monday morning in this connection and a probe was underway. Notably, Balasore Sadar and Tirtol Assembly constituencies go into by-election November 3.

Gun, Maoist literature seized from Kandhamal woods

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Nov 2: Security personnel seized a country-made gun, live bullets, batteries and some Maoist literature from Baibali forest under Raikia police limits of Kandhamal district Monday after an exchange of fire with Maoists for past two days.

However, the ultras managed to escape taking cover of the dense forest cover. This was stated here by Kandhamal SP Vinit Agarwal while addressing media persons, Monday.

Acting on tip-off about presence of Maoists in Baibali forest, the security personnel launched a combing operation. The rebels fired at the security personnel after noticing them in the forest. The security personnel immediately retaliated which went on for two days October 30 and 31.

The Maoists could not withstand the pressure and fled the scene. Later, the security personnel conducted a search operation and recovered a gun, ammunition and other Maoist-related materials from the forest, the SP informed.

He further said around 20-25 members of Odisha State Committee of CPI (Maoist) were present in the forest during the combing operation.

Ex Rajya Sabha MP Bhagirathi Majhi passes away at 66



Bhagirathi Majhi

AGENCIES

Baripada, Nov 2: Former Rajya Sabha member Bhagirathi Majhi died at a hospital in Baripada Monday following a brief illness, family sources said.

Majhi, 66, is survived by wife, a daughter and two sons, they said. He was undergoing treatment and breathed his last at a Covid Hospital at Bankisole, said Dr NR Das, the nodal officer of the hospital. Majhi was elected to the Rajya Sabha as a BJP nominee. He was the member of the Upper House of Parliament from March 24, 2006 to July 1, 2010.

He also served as the president of Baripada Urban Cooperative Bank from 2004 to 2006. Majhi had joined politics after working for several years with a public sector bank. Odisha Revenue Minister Sudam Marndi and several other dignitaries mourned the demise.

4 dead in two road mishaps

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar/Boudh, Nov 2: In two separate incidents of road mishap in Keonjhar and Boudh districts, at least four men died and 25 were severely injured Sunday evening.

In the first incident, two drivers were killed after their trucks had a head-on collision on national highway (NH-20) near Biragobindpur Chhak of Anandapur in Keonjhar district. On being informed Ghasipura police recovered the mortal remains and sent them to a nearby



Representative pic

hospital for post-mortem. The police have launched a probe in this connection.

Identities of the drivers are to be yet to be ascertained, police sources informed.

Another incident of road mishap

was reported from Boudh district. Two persons were killed and 25 were injured after the vehicle in which they were travelling in rammed into an SUV.

The fatal road mishap occurred at Kiakata Chhak on Angul-Boudh border area Sunday late night. The deceased are drivers of the two vehicles.

The injured were rescued in critical condition and sent to Boudh hospital for treatment. Later, they were shifted to VIMSAR Burla as health of eight of them deteriorated further.

Ailing female jumbo dies in front of calf

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Nov 2: After fighting a 24-hour-long battle, an ailing female elephant finally breathed her last Monday at the Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary in Angul district.

According to forest department officials, during patrolling in the forest they spotted the ailing pachyderm. The officials also came across a calf aged around one-and-a-half-years near the mother.

The forest officials examined the female elephant and found it sick. Later, a veterinary team reached the spot and started treating the animal. The doctors administered the female elephant with 30 bottles of saline, vitamins and antibiotics. However, all their efforts failed.



The elephant managed to get up on its wobbly legs for a brief period Monday morning. She nudged the calf with her trunk as a gesture of love and then collapsed again. It was a heart-wrenching moment for all those who were present at the spot. Satkosia Divisional Forest Officer

(DFO) Ramaswamy P said that the female elephant was suffering from some serious ailments. All efforts to save the pachyderm proved futile, he added.

The baby elephant has been rescued and kept under observation, another official informed.

DOCS ROUGHED UP IN BARIPADA, DHENKANAL

TENSION RUNS HIGH AT PRM HOSPITAL IN BARIPADA AND DHENKANAL DHH AS PATIENTS' KIN ASSAULT SUPERINTENDENT, DOCTOR



IN BARIPADA: Baikunthnath Mohapatra, superintendent of the medical college, tries to placate the irate family members of the deceased but gets beaten up on the charges of death due to medical negligence



IN DHENKANAL: Doctors and other staff members of the DHH launch an indefinite cease-work strike Monday after an assistant surgeon was attacked over the death of a patient

The doctors will continue the cease work till the culprits are arrested, but will treat patients in need of emergency care. There has been regular demand for establishment of a police outpost on the hospital premises

DR. PRADYOT BEHERA | SECRETARY, ODISHA MEDICAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

the hospital Sunday evening. After a thorough examination, assistant surgeon Tusharkanta Rath declared him as brought dead.

Irked over the death, Nayak's family members and friends abused and assaulted the doctor and supporting staff and even ransacked the properties in the out-patient department of the hospital. An FIR in this connection was lodged at Dhenkanal Town Police Station.

Secretary of Odisha Medical Services Association (OMSA) Dhenkanal, Dr Pradyot Behera, said that the doctors will continue the cease work till the culprits are arrested, but will treat patients in need of emergency care.

He further said that there has been regular demand for establishment of a police outpost on the hospital premises of the DHH. Besides, the matter should be taken seriously in accordance with the Epidemic Diseases Act.

medical negligence, Monday. According to reports, the girl Supriya, 17, daughter of Sunaram Patra of Rangamatia village under Shyamakhunta block in Mayurbhanj district was admitted to the hospital October 30 as she was suffering from Thalassemia. However, she breathed her last while undergoing treatment Sunday night.

Her father alleged that she died due to medical negligence as blood transfusion could not take place when it was required. On the other hand, the concerned doctor said she was suffering from fever and blood was to be transfused after recovery.

Tension ran high at the hospital over the death of the girl as her kin staged dharna by placing the body in front of the main gate. They also locked the main gate creating inconvenience for patients and attendants.

Baikunthnath Mohapatra, superintendent of the medical college, was trying to placate the irate family members of the deceased when they shoved him and beat him up on the charges of death due to medical negligence.

They relented after additional sub-collector Prakash Chandra Behera and Sadar SDPO KK

Hariprasad announced a financial assistance of Rs 10,000 from the district Red-Cross fund and action against the concerned doctor.

Policemen have been deployed on the hospital premises to avoid any untoward incident. In the second case, doctors and other staff members of district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Dhenkanal launched an indefinite cease-work strike Monday after an assistant surgeon was attacked over the death of a patient, the previous day.

Reports said, one Narendra Nayak of Khamar Sahi was admitted to

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-272
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
BARGARH CANAL DIVISION, BARGARH
Email ID: eebargarh-eicwr.od@nic.in

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. CDT-03/2020-21 (ONLINE), DATED 29.10.2020

- Nature of Work : Repair of Aqueeduct
- Nos. of Works : 01 (One) No.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 12.21 lakhs
- Period of Completion : As per D.T.C.N.
- Date & time of available of Bid : Dt. 05.11.2020 at 10.00 A.M. to document in the portal Dt. 15.11.2020 upto 05.00 P.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt. 15.11.2020 upto 05.00 P.M.
- Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 16.11.2020 at 10.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Bargarh Canal Division, Bargarh, At- Canal Colony, P.O./Dist.- Bargarh, Email ID: eebargarh-eicwr.od@nic.in

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
Bargarh Canal Division, Bargarh
OIPR-32008/11/0002/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-268
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
TELENGRI HEAD WORKS DIVISION
At/P.O.- Ambaguda, Dist.- Koraput
Phone & Fax: 916854-246769, e-mail ID: thwd.ambaguda@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. - EE-THWD-06/2020-21 (I & II)

- No. of Works : 2 (Two)
- Approx. Estimated Cost : (I) Rs.96.23 Lac & (II) Rs.52.74 Lac
- Eligibility of the bidders : (i) Electrical H.T. Contractor for SI. No. - I, (ii) Registered & Licenced agencies carried out similar nature of work for SI. No. - II.
- Period of Completion : 3 (Three) Calendar Months each
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : 04.11.2020 (10.00 A.M.) to 21.11.2020 (05.30 P.M.)
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 21.11.2020 (05.30 P.M.)
- Date of opening of the bids Online : 23.11.2020 (12.30 P.M.)
- Name & address of the O.I.T. : Executive Engineer, Telengri Head Works Division, At/P.O. - Ambaguda, District: Koraput

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer
Telengri Head Works Division, Ambaguda
OIPR-32164/11/0003/2021

There is nothing mind can do that cannot be better done in the mind's immobility and thought-free stillness. When mind is still, then truth gets her chance to be heard in the purity of the silence.
SRI AUROBINDO



WOMAN

From Hathras in North India to Poland in Europe, women, in general, seem to be going through a tough period in human history. Not that history has any other period known or recorded that had given that gender a kinder treatment. Recent past, especially the second half of the 20th century, had managed to convince many that a time had come when bigotry and masochism may be forced to take a back seat and gender equality, a long sought goal of womankind, may truly appear. Impressions gained ground that all the feminist movements across the world would not go waste and modern man was willing to collaborate in the change that would make society a more equitable place for human beings to live in.

When hope runs high, disappointment chases faster. Come the second decade of the new century and the world was plunged into a bigger crisis. Democratic nations previously governed by, often, weak-kneed but popular leaders suddenly saw these leaders being thrown into the garbage bin. These soft-shelled leaders found themselves replaced by despotic and authoritarian individuals who painted themselves as the single key to solve all the disorders in society. The issue of women's equality, obviously enough, was one of the serious disorders that needed to be handled with utmost haste. The country that championed freedom and democracy for well over a century and acted as the global police that troubled every undemocratic government across the world, suddenly saw an orange-haired President called Donald Trump who never hesitated to openly abuse any woman, from the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to a small-time female correspondent who dared ask him inconvenient questions. And the USA not only tolerated such ugly behavior but appreciated this macho attitude and might actually even gift that President a second term.

In India too, the situation seems to have worsened lately. Take the recent case of the Kerala Pradesh Congress chief Mullappally Ramachandran. While addressing an Opposition protest meeting against the Left-led UDF government, he referred to a woman candidate put up by the ruling coalition as a 'prostitute'. Mullappally, a former Union minister, berated the Chief Minister for fielding a woman of such character and went on to say that any woman with self-respect, if raped, should die. There is nothing new in Mullappally Ramachandran's shocking, misogynist remarks.

Victim blaming is not only the most common traits of sexual offenders in India, but also of politicians and ministers for past several years.

It is difficult to forget the notorious remarks of Mulayam Singh Yadav who, in 2014, said boys will be boys and equated rape with boyish mistakes. Senior politicians like Sharad Yadav went even further and opposed strict punishment against stalkers saying he himself used to do that kind of 'mischievous' in his younger days.

Similarly, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, commenting on an incident in 2013, had said that rape is mainly prevalent in urban 'India' due to western influence and such crimes against women do not happen in rural 'Bharat'. Records of the National Crime Bureau prove that rural India has immense numbers of atrocities on women that mostly go unreported or uninvestigated. The Hathras rape and murder was just one amongst thousand others that the media does not bother to report.

Many others like Azam Khan of Samajwadi Party, Gopal Shetty and Harish Dwivedi of BJP and Kamal Nath of Congress are some of the politicians to make such anti-women comments of late. They do it blatantly and many lap it up in this country as they feel that is the truth. Rural folks in India, even women, are known to claim that 'clapping can only be done with both hands', implying the victim must have played an active role in instigating the rapist to not only rape her, but also murder her later.

Victim blaming is the rule rather than the exception for Indians, not just politicians. Such statements coming from lawmakers and even senior police officers often embolden the sexual offenders.

It's because of this and many similar reasons that in countries like India, women think twice before going to the police station to report sexual harassment. Even the cops are often reluctant to register FIR and instead lay the blame on the victims.

Self-blame is one of the biggest reasons why women are reluctant to report their experiences and even hide them from friends and family. This habit is caused by acceptance of victim blaming by the culture of the society and non-existent principles of the male-dominated societies where women are tutored not to voice their opinion on such matters.

Women often feel as if they are the ones at fault if such an incident occurs. Embarrassment to face society is a common reason why women refuse to report such offences. Honour is made out to be the greatest virtue for women. This falsely prohibits them to not report such abuse. In countries such as India, where a woman is taught about honour while her close relatives are sexually violating her on a regular basis, the elder women of the family also do not cooperate and oppose such exploitation. Instead, it is drilled in to the girl child's head that her family's honour must be considered more important than her life. This scares women to report incidents of abuse from within the family because by reporting them, they believe they are not only dishonouring their family and relatives but they will have no one else to turn to. In other cases, women who do wish to speak out are often silenced either by their own families or even the police as reporting such cases, they are told, would only result in bringing further shame to them and their clan.

India recorded an average of 87 rape cases daily in 2019 and overall 4,05,861 cases of crime against women during the year, a rise of over 7% from 2018, according to the latest government data released on September 29, 2020.

A total of 32,033 cases of rape were lodged in 2019, which was 7.3% of all crimes against women during the year, the data showed.

Not just in India but in several countries callous politicians being allowed to take decisions on behalf of women are putting their interest ahead of the interest of the people they represent.

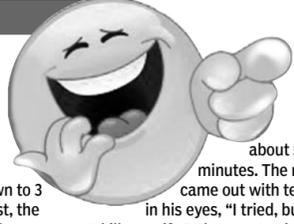
In Poland, about one hundred thousand protesters took to the streets in the capital, Warsaw on Friday against the country's constitutional tribunal which declared earlier this month that abortions in instances where a foetus is diagnosed with a serious and irreversible birth defect were unconstitutional. Poland already has some of the most restrictive abortion laws in Europe. Similar protests have been witnessed in the US not too long ago.

It's important to not only elect politicians who would champion women's cause and fight for their rights in order to bring about a real change in society, but Indian women themselves have to change their opinions and attitudes towards other women if a stable evolution is to take place towards a more gender balanced environment.

LOL

FBI RECRUITMENT

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



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

FOCUS LEADERSHIP

THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

At certain moments in history – often after substantial social progress has discomfited certain segments of society – an individual appears on the political scene claiming to stand for something grand and new. Skilled in the arts of self-presentation and emotional manipulation, he (it is always a man) captures the hearts and minds of millions with his macho bluster. In due time, a personality cult forms around him. And though he has threatened or used violence in his ascent to power, he enjoys the support of the faithful, who see him as the savior who will bring order to a disordered world.

This description of the archetypal strongman fits many current leaders. And, from Jair Bolsonaro's Brazil and Recep Tayyip Erdo an's Turkey, to Vladimir Putin's Russia and the United States under Donald Trump, they include those governing some of the world's most geopolitically important countries.

Since Trump took office in early 2017, the US has experienced an erosion of democracy and witnessed the unfolding of authoritarian leadership. The imminent presidential election is thus a referendum on the new illiberal direction America has taken under a president who has mainstreamed far-right extremism and pursued a foreign policy built on transactional alliances with murderous despots around the world.

Any election can hold surprises, as Hillary Clinton's unexpected defeat in 2016 showed. Yet an existential dread surrounds the 2020 election, which has brought previously unthinkable possibilities to the fore. Trump has repeatedly signaled that he might refuse to concede defeat, and many worry that he will foment political violence if the outcome doesn't go his way. The mere possibility of these scenarios is symptomatic of a degraded democratic political climate, and clear evidence of how far Trump's authoritarian re-making of American political culture has already advanced.

Some pundits, like the conservative New York Times columnist Ross Douthat, scoff at the description of Trump as a strongman. They see the former reality-TV star as too weak and clownish to



At certain moments in history – often after substantial social progress has discomfited certain segments of society – an individual appears on the political scene claiming to stand for something grand and new

inflict serious damage on American society, even if he is re-elected. Using deeply-entrenched illiberal regimes like Putin's Russia as a measure, these skeptics focus on what Trump has not done. He hasn't shut down opposition media or established total control over the judiciary and other institutions, so what's there to worry about?

But that is a misleading comparison. Every modern authoritarian leader started in a society with greater liberties, and gradually carried out a process of state capture. Especially in the twenty-first century evolution, rather than revolution (or a military coup), has been the mode by which freedom is replaced with despotism. Moreover, without a sober look at what Trump has accomplished, we won't be able to understand how we got to this perilous point, or what to expect in the coming weeks, months, or years, in the event that Trump wins re-election.

The history of the US presidency is a poor guide for interpreting Trump's actions, starting with his relationship with the Republican political elites who have stuck by him through sex and corruption scandals, impeachment, and appalling mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, we must look to models of authoritarian "personalist rule," whereby power is concentrated in one individual whose own political and financial interests usually prevail over na-

tional interests. Under these regimes, loyalty to the leader and his allies, and participation in his corruption, rather than expertise or professional experience, are the primary qualifications for government service.

Trump's success in domesticating the political class is all the more notable when one considers that most other despots founded or had already risen to prominence within their own parties. Erdo an, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, and Benito Mussolini, for example, had an established power base long before they started their autocratic power grabs. Trump had no such ready-made political vehicle for his ambitions. But in the space of just a few years, he has succeeded in transforming the Republican Party into just another personal franchise.

Republicans, for their part, seem to regard Trump as a means of realizing their own long-frustrated aims (defending white Christian hegemony, deregulating large swaths of the economy, and cutting taxes for the wealthy). But whatever their reasons, they rallied behind him in such numbers and with such fervor as to transform the Grand Old Party.

For this election cycle, the party offered no policy platform, and instead issued an eerie statement of unconditional "support for President Donald Trump and his Administration," illustrating the climate of fear and intimidation

that now reigns within the party. Republicans have been reduced to fighting the strongman's battles, smearing his enemies, and protecting him against any and all forms of accountability, including impeachment earlier this year.

This authoritarian leader-follower relationship reflects a fundamental shift in the GOP's political culture that Americans will have to reckon with regardless of the election's outcome. A host of recent comparative studies show that the Republican Party is no longer a mainstream democratic organization in either its rhetoric or its actions. It is now closer to the parties of Orbán and Erdo an than to the British Conservatives or Germany's Christian Democrats.

In fact, long before Trump appeared, the GOP cheered on by a robust right-wing media universe, had been spurning its previous commitments to democratic notions of mutual tolerance and bipartisan governance. But Trump has legitimized the extremist elements that were once confined to the party's fringes. As White House senior adviser Kellyanne Conway tweeted just after Trump's inauguration, in response to the outcry over his order barring travelers from Muslim-majority countries, "Get used to it. @POTUS is a man of action and impact. Promises made, promises kept. A shock to the system. And he's just getting started."

Intentionally implemented without warning, the travel ban threw the country into a state of chaos, giving the public and federal employees alike a visceral introduction to an administration that, with the full support of the GOP, had declared war on its own people. Over the next four years, Trump and his followers would separate immigrant children from their families, deploy federal forces against peaceful demonstrators, unleash a massive disinformation campaign, and dismantle or derail countless government agencies.

Only by accepting the reality of the authoritarian turn in American politics can further democratic erosion be combated. Whatever the outcome of the election that task remains.

The writer is a Professor of History and Italian Studies at New York University.

SPECTRUM US ELECTION 2020

The fall and fall of America



Jagdish Rattanani

THE WORLD'S MOST-WATCHED ELECTION IS TODAY, NOVEMBER 3, WITH JOE BIDEN IN THE LEAD BUT POLLSTERS ARE STILL UNSURE IF HE WILL MAKE IT TO THE WHITE HOUSE

The world's most-watched election is today, November 3, with Joe Biden in the lead but pollsters are still unsure if he will make it to the White House. The prospects of Donald Trump's victory are bleak but not many are ruling out a repeat of the kind we saw four years back, when Hillary Clinton, the then favourite according to most pollsters, lost the Electoral College even though she got more votes overall than Trump.

Latest reports have it that in Pennsylvania, a key battleground state and the place he was raised; Biden had a teeny five-point lead. Pennsylvania voted Trump in the last election by a difference of 0.72%, the narrowest seen in 172 years! A small set of people, therefore, will eventually decide who becomes President. Twists and turns such as these bring to mind the words of historian Will Durant, who wrote, "History is largely the battle of a few minorities, the winner of which is then lauded as the victor by the majority." In sum, this is not an election

where the outcome is as clear as it is in the minds of many we might think of as "right-thinking individuals" who worry that Trump is unfit for any office, let alone the office known by the acronym of POTUS.

That is only a partisan endorsement of a candidate based on local priorities but one cannot deny that there is a lot else that's cuckoo about America today. The entire election drama is fascinating in that it provides some insight into the working (or the unravelling) of democracy in a nation that is acknowledged as the only super power of the globe today. Wild ideas have gained currency, fringe has gone mainstream, decency is at a discount and reasonableness is discarded as unreasonable.

Consider the conspiracy theory that goes by the name QAnon, which has found surprising support and gone from being a fringe movement to some force in the election. Trump has refused to condemn the far right movement, responding to a question by almost playing

along, "If I can help save the world from problems, I'm willing to do that." One report said at least 19 House Republican candidates who have supported QAnon are on the ballot. The QAnon "theory" holds that America is run by a parallel State that works with cannibalistic elites and Satan-worshipping paedophiles, and President Trump is the only one who can stop them. In the conspiracy are linked of course Biden, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, liberal Hollywood stars, and business magnets – almost everyone who questions Trump and supports the Democrats. The story line carries juicy and wild details that can trap the uninformed but the wilder it gets, the faster it appears to spread.

This is the price to be paid when almost an entire generation of citizens has grown on a diet of modern-day entertainment-laced debate that ignores the substance and over emphasises the form. What is one to expect when presidential outcomes can be decided based on the sound bite and the

headline, or the appearance of a candidate, or based on debates that are like an elaborate attention-grabbing drama? As candidates speak in a much-hyped event called The Presidential debates, television keeps up the charade with ridiculous minute-by-minute tracking of moods, swings and the so-called pulse of the "undecided".

In the 1985 book "Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business", the author Neil Postman writes: "When a population becomes distracted by trivia, when cultural life is redefined as a perpetual round of entertainments, when serious public conversation becomes a form of baby-talk, when, in short, a people become an audience and their public business a vaudeville act, then a nation finds itself at risk..." The warning is apt, for America, and equally for India.

The writer is a journalist and a faculty member at SPJIMR THE BILLION PRESS

Diverting attentions

Sir, Demonstrations are being organised in different parts of India against French President Marcon. Those who are taking part in these demonstrations, perhaps forget that they are being used by some fanatic religious-oriented people and this is likely to further increase attacks on innocent Muslims by right wings. In fact, none of these demonstrations condemned the bigots who beheaded Samuel Paty in Paris and killed three others in a church in Nice. All were against insult to the honor of the Prophet. In the past, Jesus and also Lord Rama were criticised, but no one was beheaded for this. There are many things that we do not like and those must be avoided. It is ridiculous that many demonstrations are being organized against Marcon in Pakistan too, but not a single person raised his/her voice against unemployment or skyrocketing prices, which are the real problems of the masses there. Both Turkey and Pakistan are facing deep economic crunch and are unable to find ways to resolve it. So is not it correct that both Erdogan and Imran Khan trying to divert the attention from the real issues faced by their people?

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Farmers' rights

Sir, The 111-page "Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Fifth Order 2020," of the Centre has removed and amended several laws in Jammu & Kashmir. New regulations are largely governed by the Jammu & Kashmir Development Act, 1970. The word "permanent resident" is now obsolete. However, it cannot be said that there will be a spate of purchases in the Union Territory, the paradise on earth, going by its prevalent atmosphere. There can be no real estate proliferation without the buyers guaranteeing themselves of their safety and security. In the past, the real grouse of the people of the former state was the lack of robust infrastructure to match its beauty. The meager infrastructure did not correspond to the overall growth of J&K. Political opinions may be brushed aside, but not the genuine grievances of local farmers. The farmers fear their agricultural lands are up for grabs. The Centre should clear the air on this because amended laws provide for the government or an officer appointed by it, to give permission to agricultural land owners to sell, gift, exchange or mortgage their lands to non-agriculturists without the need for the latter to give proof of domicile.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Inter-faith couples worried over Yogi's 'love jihad' remark

Couples from different religions apprehend the misuse of the provision by the police and assert that it would also tantamount to infringement of their right to religion

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 2: Days after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that his government would make a strict law to curb 'love jihad', several couples from different religions apprehended the misuse of the provision by police and asserted that it would also tantamount to infringement of their right to religion.

Referring to the Allahabad High Court's remark that "conversion just for the purpose of marriage was unacceptable," Adityanath had Saturday said that the state was working to bring a strict law against 'love jihad' and warned that those involved in 'forced conversions' would be sent on 'Ram Naam Satya' journey.

"Fringe outfits that function as moral police, in particular, will go berserk and the state police will also get an excuse to target inter-faith couples. I have personally faced this



harassment when I got married to Sneha. Even the police targeted us and we would have been stoned to death if a local politician had not come to our rescue," said Irfan Khan, who married Sneha Srivastava in 2018 in Prayagraj. The couple, both software engineers, thereafter moved to Jamshedpur.

Another inter-faith couple, Aslam and Adhya, who are planning to marry in December with their families' consent, are also apprehensive.

"After we got engaged two months ago, some Hindu activists came to my house and asked my parents to give a written complaint against

Aslam. They said they would 'set right these Muslims'. Now our parents want us to shift the wedding destination outside the state because we do not want trouble at the venue," said Adhya. The couple is now looking for their wedding in Rajasthan or Goa. All relatives have been informed.

Shafiq and Tisha are another couple who are wary of the implications of the proposed law. Both are in a relationship and plan to marry next year.

"It took us three years to convince our parents but now they are very apprehensive about our welfare. It is not easy for them to shift to another place at their age but they have nevertheless asked us to find alternate jobs before we get married. As soon as we get the jobs, we will go for a low-key wedding," said Tisha who works in a telecom firm and so does Shafiq.

Trouble mounts for Vijayan's ex-aide

Agencies like the Customs, the NIA, the CBI and Income Tax are having a hectic time in Kerala since July 5 when the gold smuggling case surfaced, followed by the probe into the pet project of Vijayan: Life Mission

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 2: Bad times continue for M. Sivasankar, the former secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, after the Vigilance and Anti Corruption Bureau (VACB) Monday named him as the fifth accused in the 'Life Mission' case.

At a time when various agencies are probing the gold smuggling case, Vijayan received another shock when it surfaced that Swapna Suresh played a key role in the Life Mission project (building homes for the homeless with the help of sponsors on government land) in Thrissur. She was paid a huge commission by the builder for the funds that came from the UAE-based char-



ity organisation, Red Crescent.

The VACB probe team has named the three prime accused in the gold smuggling case as the other accused in the Life Mission case as well and submitted its report to the Vigilance court here Monday. The three are Swapna Suresh, P.S. Sarith and Sandip Nair.

A team of VACB officials is all set to question Swapna Suresh, (presently in judicial custody in the gold smuggling case), in the Life Mission case, and it would be the first time a Kerala agency would be taking her statement.

Leader of opposition Ramesh Chennithala reacting to the VACB naming Sivasankar as the fifth accused, said, "Finally, for the first time a state agency has registered a case in the various allegations that have surfaced. If Sivasankar is the fifth accused, then Vijayan is the first accused," said Chennithala.

Swapna Suresh has been questioned by the NIA, ED and Customs. Sivasankar is already in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate after he was arrested by the ED October 28 for his close links with the prime accused in the gold smug-

gling case. The Vijayan government was rocked by the gold smuggling case in July, which led to the arrest of Swapna Suresh. Later, when it came to light that she was very close to Sivasankar, the Chief Minister first removed him from the post and later suspended him from service.

It was on a complaint by local Congress legislator Anil Akkara that the CBI registered a case and started a probe, but the state owned Life Mission approached the Kerala high court asking for a stay on the ongoing CBI probe. The court granted a partial stay of two months and told the CBI that while it can go ahead with the probe, officials of Life Mission should not be questioned till the court's final orders.

RAMESH CHENNITHALA | LEADER OF OPPOSITION

A Keralite sworn in as NZ minister

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 2: Keralite Priyanka Radhakrishnan Monday became the first Indian to be sworn in as a minister in New Zealand as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern unveiled her new cabinet.

The 41-year-old has been sworn in as the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector.

Radhakrishnan, born in Chennai and brought up in Singapore, has her roots at Paravur, Kochi, where her grandfather was a medical professional as well as a Communist.

A two-time MP from Auckland, she reached New Zealand to pursue her higher studies, following which she became a Kiwi national hailing from Christchurch and since 2004 she has been in active politics with the Labour Party.

She shot into prominence and became a household name in Kerala during last Onam when she came live with Ardern to extend her greetings on the occasion.

Radhakrishnan continues her love with Malayalam songs and she said her most admired singer



Priyanka Radhakrishnan shot into prominence and became a household name in Kerala during last Onam when she came live with the New Zealand PM to extend her greetings on the occasion

is none other popular Keralite playback singer KJ Yesudas.

Maya rules out BSP-BJP alliance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 2: Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati asserted Monday that her party would never enter into an alliance with the BJP in the assembly or the Lok Sabha elections, highlighting that the ideology of the two parties were 'opposite'.

Her clarification came amid speculation over her last week's statement that the BSP would vote for the BJP or any other party's candidate to ensure defeat of the Samajwadi Party contenders in future elections, including those of the Uttar Pradesh legislative council and the Rajya Sabha.

Mayawati alleged that the SP and the Congress were misusing her recent statement so that the Muslim community distances itself from the BSP.

"The alliance of the BJP with the BSP is not possible in any polls in the future. The BSP cannot contest with the communal party," she said in a media briefing.

"Our ideology is of 'sarvajan sarva dharma hitay' (benefit of everyone and all religions) and is opposite to the BJP's ideology," she said. "The BSP cannot enter into an alliance with those having communal, casteist and capi-



The BSP cannot enter into an alliance with those having communal, casteist and capitalist ideology

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

talist ideology."

Mayawati said she would rather take 'sanyas' (retirement) from politics than ally with such parties. "I will fight on all fronts with the communal, casteist and capitalist forces, and not going to bow before anyone," she added.

The BSP leader reiterated that her party would ensure the defeat of the SP's second candidate in future Uttar Pradesh legislative council polls.

"Our party will support the can-

didate of any party, including the BJP, which is strong to defeat the second candidate of the SP," she said. "I stand by my earlier statement, which is misused by the SP and the Congress for political gains so that the Muslim community distances itself from the party."

She accused the SP and the Congress of trying to ensure that Muslims did not vote for the BSP in the bypolls to seven assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, adding that they would not be successful in this endeavour.

"Everyone knows that the BSP is a party of an ideology and movement, and I never compromised it even when I formed the government with the BJP," Mayawati said, adding that she had "sacrificed" her government but never harmed the Muslim community.

"There was no Hindu-Muslim riots in my regime. History is witness to it. Under the SP and the Congress governments, there were many Hindu-Muslim riots," she said.

Mayawati underscored that she gave adequate representation to the Muslims when her party was in power, as she also pointed out that the party had given tickets to two candidates from the community in the by-elections.

Munawar Rana booked over remarks on France killings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 2: An FIR has been registered against Urdu poet Munawwar Rana for allegedly defending the recent killings in France over a caricature of Prophet Muhammad, police said Monday.

Rana had made the controversial comments in an interview to a news channel after three people were killed in a knife attack at a church in Nice last week. A few weeks ago, an assailant had decapitated a French middle school teacher who showed caricatures of Prophet Muhammad for a class on free speech.

The case against Rana has been lodged at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow Sunday under various IPC sections, including 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings), an officer said.

The poet has also been booked under IPC Section 505 (statements conducing public mischief) and Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, the officer said.



Police have lodged the FIR taking cognisance of the TV interview and a probe is on, the officer said.

In a purported video clip of the interview that went viral on social media, Rana can be heard saying: "If anyone makes such a bad cartoon of my father or mother, then I will kill him." Asked if he is supporting the entire incident, he said: "I will kill him..."

When contacted by PTI, Rana said the comments were misconstrued and it was made in the context of India. "If anyone makes an indecent and vulgar picture of our gods and goddesses - Lord Ram, Goddess Sita and Saraswati, and the person making it is a Muslim or anyone else, I will kill such person as he is spreading hatred," he said. "And it requires immense courage to kill a person hailing from your family or community."

India's first solar-powered miniature train launched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 2: A solar energy-driven miniature train, billed as the country's first of its kind, was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village here by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Monday.

The train, which would be an attraction for children especially, was part of a string of projects totally worth Rs 60 crore taken up to elevate the facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards.

Vijayan also dedicated an 'Urban Park' and a swimming pool at the eco-friendly tourist village, located on the outskirts of the state capital where the Veli Lake meets the Arabian Sea.

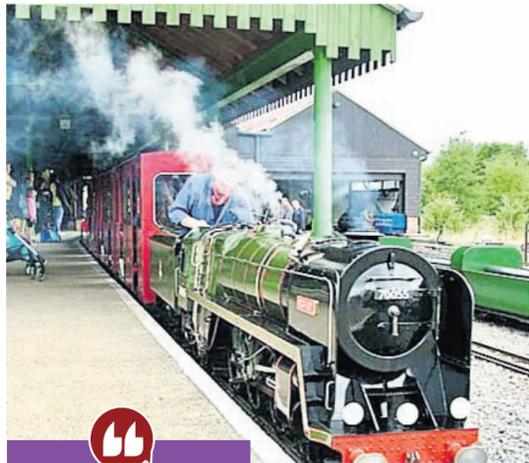
The miniature rail has all the features of a fully-equipped rail system, including a tunnel, station and a ticket office. The train has three bogies that can accommodate around 45 people at a time.

"The eco-friendly solar-powered 2.5 km miniature railway will enable visitors to enjoy the beauty of nature. The Rs 10 crore project is the first of its kind in the country," the Chief Minister said in his online address.

Artificial steam spouted by the engine of the train, modelled after the vintage steam locomotive, will stir nostalgic feelings.

The station house was also designed in a traditional style. The surplus energy generated by the system will be routed to the Kerala State Electricity Board's grid, Vijayan said.

A tourist facilitation centre, con-



The eco-friendly solar-powered 2.5 km miniature railway will enable visitors to enjoy the beauty of nature. The Rs 10 crore project is the first of its kind in the country

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | CM

vention centre and Art Cafe are also to be opened at Veli soon. The convention centre will have an art gallery, digital display facility to feature major tourism and cultural centres of the state and an open air theatre.

These world-class facilities will impart a new look to Veli, the Chief Minister said.

Tourism Minister Kadakampallu Surendran, who presided, noted the government had allotted around Rs 120 crore for tourism sector. Of these, administrative sanction has been given to Rs 60 crore worth projects at Veli itself. This showed the government's determination to transform Veli into one of the most attractive destinations for tourists, he said.

Among the projects at Veli, Rs 20 crore worth of works have been completed, and other schemes were progressing, he said adding the tourist facilitation centre will be opened in January.

The urban park entailed a budget of Rs five crore and the swimming pool Rs 2.5 crore.

Turning a new leaf: This UP district has moved from hooch to honey

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Barabanki, Nov 2: Barabanki district, once the largest producer of the best quality opium, drifted to illicit liquor trade over the past one decade when opium farming was hemmed in by too many restrictions.

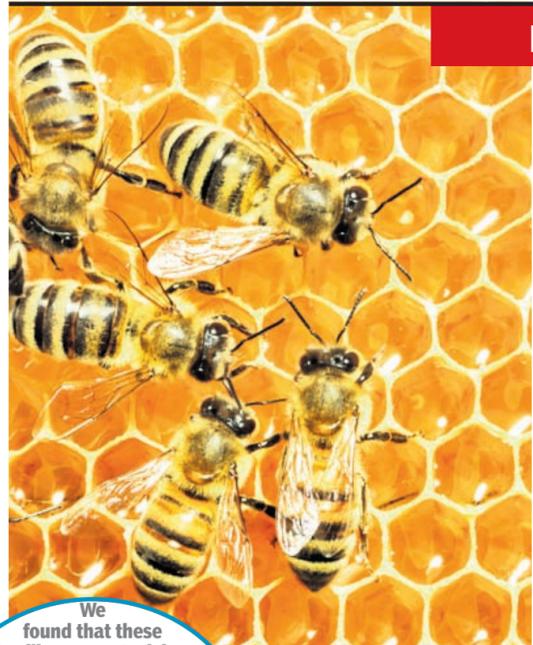
Located about 27 kilometres from Lucknow, Barabanki is now turning from hooch to honey.

More and more farmers and unemployed youth are being encouraged by the police and the administration to take up apiculture (bee-keeping).

Arvind Chaturvedi, Superintendent of Police, Barabanki, initiated efforts in Chainpurva village to provide an alternate source of income to the villagers, especially to families that depended on earnings from the sale or manufacture of spurious liquor.

"We found that these families were stuck in a cycle that revolved around illicit liquor. Despite police action and jail sentences, the family members remained a part of the cycle due to lack of suitable alternatives. We decided to find new opportunities for these people," Chaturvedi said.

The SP and other district officials held several meetings with the villagers and suggested that they take up bee-keeping as an alternate vocation. The officials made efforts to make people realize that they could earn a respectable living from bee keeping and secure a better future for



BEE-KEEPING

ONCE THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF THE BEST QUALITY OPIUM, BARABANKI DRIFTED TO ILLICIT LIQUOR TRADE OVER THE PAST ONE DECADE

MORE AND MORE FARMERS AND UNEMPLOYED YOUTH ARE BEING ENCOURAGED BY THE POLICE AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE UP APICULTURE

THE FAMILIES ARE CURRENTLY BUSY IN MAKING 'DIYAS' (LAMPS) MADE OF BEES' WAX FOR DIWALI. THEY ARE ALSO MAKING DECORATIVE DIYAS USING BEES' WAX. THE RAW MATERIAL FOR MAKING THE DIYAS IS BEING PROVIDED BY PROGRESSIVE FARMERS OF THE DISTRICT WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN APICULTURE

We found that these families were stuck in a cycle that revolved around illicit liquor. Despite police action and jail sentences, the family members remained a part of the cycle due to lack of suitable alternatives. We decided to find new opportunities for these people

ARVIND CHATURVEDI | SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

themselves.

"We selected 84 families of the village which were linked to the hooch trade. In these families there are 32 widows who lost their husbands due to consumption of spurious liquor in the past years. These families were provided basic training of bee keeping and in two months, they are now ready to take up the vocation," the SP said.

The families are currently busy in making 'diyas' (lamps) made of bees' wax for Diwali. They are also making decorative diyas using bees' wax. The raw material for making the diyas is being provided by progressive farmers of the district who have been involved in apiculture. The police officials are buying these diyas for family and friends. The SP said that they would continue to assist the families in bee-keeping until they become completely self-reliant.



The central government is prepared to make any law and create infrastructure to ensure the safety of women
G KISHAN REDDY | UNION MINISTER

DELHI SHIVERS

The national capital recorded a minimum temperature of 10.8 degrees Celsius Monday morning, the lowest this season so far, according to the India Meteorological Department



of the day quote

We have been saying it again and again that stubble burning is a major reason behind severe levels of pollution in Delhi around Diwali, but the BJP and the Congress say the share of farm fires in Delhi's pollution was just 4 to 6 per cent, whereas statistics show it has increased to 40 per cent

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

The state Health Department must expand contact tracing of coronavirus patients to 15 people per case amid apprehension of the second infection wave

AMARINDER SINGH | PUNJAB CM

When our party comes to power it will pass a law like the one passed by the Kerala government stipulating minimum support prices (MSP) for vegetables

MK STALIN | DMK PRESIDENT

Manjhi demands probe into Paswan's death

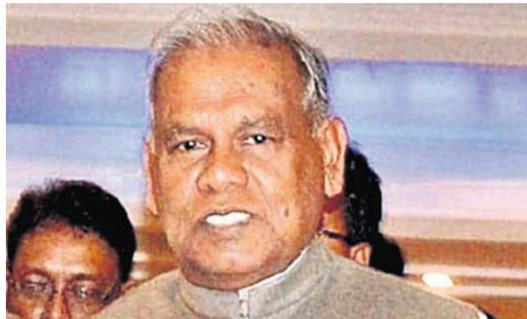
CHIRAG PASWAN, IN AN ANGRY RETORT TO MANJHI, SAID THE FORMER CHIEF MINISTER SHOULD ASK PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ABOUT THE ISSUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 2: NDA ally HAM created a flutter Monday with its leader Jitan Ram Manjhi demanding a judicial inquiry into the death of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan while pointing an accusing finger at Chirag Paswan, prompting the LJP chief to claim it was a "plot" by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to discredit him when election was under way.

Chirag Paswan, in an angry retort to Manjhi, said the former Chief Minister should ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the issue. Paswan jr. said Modi used to call him up every day to inquire after his late father when he was sick and hospitalised, sometimes to even inform him about the LJP founder's condition after talking to doctors attending to him.

"I request the prime minister to order a judicial probe into the death of Ram Vilas Paswan to unravel the dubious role of Chirag Paswan in the matter," Manjhi said. HAM spokesman Danish Rizwan also wrote a letter to Modi backing the



demand while citing a video of Chirag rehearsing before issuing a video message a day after the death of his father where he was purportedly seen joking with the people present and even talking about the texture of his hair.

Chirag Paswan accused Nitish Kumar of "scripting a plot to settle political scores with him" and instigating the HAM to rake up an emotional issue to blunt the LJP's campaign to prevent him from becoming the chief minis-

ter once again. Manjhi wanted to know who ordered the hospital to not issue regular health bulletins of Paswan, who was "such a big leader". Manjhi also claimed people were prevented from meeting the Dalit leader when he was hospitalised. Chirag Paswan had informed people about the death of his father through a tweet on October 8. Manjhi claimed it was being speculated that the LJP leader had died 2-3 days ago. "When he had tele-

QUAD NATIONS SET FOR NAVAL DRILL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 2: The 'Quad' countries - an informal security forum comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia - are all set for annual naval drill Malabar Exercise in the Indian Ocean Region beginning Tuesday.

In a message to China on getting a wider footprint in the Indo-Pacific region, India had invited Australia to take part in the drill to which it has agreed. "The 24th edition of the Malabar naval exercise is scheduled in two phases in November 2020," said Indian Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal.

The officer said that Phase 1 of the exercise involving participation by the Indian Navy, United States Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, and Royal Australian Navy is set to be held off Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal from November 3 to November 6. Phase two of the drill is scheduled to be conducted in the Arabian Sea in mid-November 2020. The Malabar series of maritime exercises commenced in 1992 as a bilateral between the Indian and US

In a message to China on getting a wider footprint in the Indo-Pacific region, India had invited Australia to take part in the drill to which it has agreed

navies. Japan joined in 2015. The 2020 edition will now witness the participation of Australia in this joint maritime exercise.

Phase one will witness the participation of Indian Navy units with USS John S McCain (Guided-missile destroyer), Australian Ship Ballarat (long range frigate) with a MH-60 helicopter, and Japan Maritime Self Defence Ship Onami (Destroyer) with a SH-60 helicopter. The Indian Navy participation in phase one will be led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding, Eastern Fleet. Indian Navy units participating in the exercise include destroyer Ranvijay, frigate Shivalik, Off Shore Patrol Vessel Shakanya, Fleet Support Ship Shakti and submarine Sindhuraj.

SHORT TAKES

Five killed

Dhanbad (Jharkhand): Five members of a family, including two children, were killed after their car rammied into a stationary truck in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district Monday, police said. The incident took place at Latani in East Tundi police station area early in the morning when the Pakur-bound vehicle was coming from Bihar's Gaya district, a police officer said.

4 Naxals held

Simdega (Jharkhand): Four Naxals belonging to the banned People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) outfit have been arrested in Jharkhand's Simdega district and arms and ammunition seized from their possession, police said Monday. Acting on a tip-off, police personnel conducted a search operation in Kanarowan forest in Bano police station area Sunday and arrested the four Naxals, Superintendent of Police Shams Tabrez said.

Youth rescued

Thane: Thane police in Maharashtra rescued an IT professional held captive in nearby Palghar district for a ransom of Rs 4 lakh and arrested seven persons, an official said Monday. Abhishek Gupta (20) was at work on Saturday when one of his friends, identified as Nargis Mohammad Javed (20), called him in the afternoon to an eatery in Vasai, Thane police ACP (Wagle Estate Division) Jayant Bajbale said.

Body found

Gorakhpur: The body of a school teacher was found on the side of a road near Padri Tiwari village in Uttar Pradesh's Deoria district Monday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Ram Balak Chauhan (28), who was a resident of Padri Vanmali village in the district, they said. Police said that a passerby informed them about the body.

Man gets lifer

Gaya: A special court here Monday awarded life imprisonment to a man after convicting him on charges of kidnapping, raping and murdering an eight-year-old girl in 2018. Additional district and sessions judge-cum-special POCSO court judge Ashutosh Kumar Upadhyaya held Chhotu Rawani guilty of kidnapping, raping and murdering the minor girl, sentenced him to life imprisonment and also slapped a fine of Rs 5,000.

Rare congregation to pacify anger of Kullu gods

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), Nov 2: Devotees look for divine intervention to pacify the anger of gods and goddesses over not allowing them to participate in the just concluded weeklong Kullu Dussehra festivities in Himachal Pradesh amid the coronavirus pandemic outbreak.

For this, a rare congregation of deities has been called at the historical Lord Raghunath temple here November 16 to religiously request them to forgive the mere mortals for 'first-of its-kind' restrictions imposed on them during the festival that dates back to 1637. "Many deities expressed their anger for not allowing all the deities to mark their presence during the festival," Maheshwar Singh, chief representative of Lord Raghunath, Kullu Valley's chief deity, said Monday.

"So we have decided to invite all the gods and goddesses, whosoever is participating in the Kullu Dussehra festival, for the Jagati Puch on the Annakat festival (November 16) to pacify their anger and request them not to do any harm," he said.

Singh, the scion of the erstwhile Kullu estate, said, "After the abolition of the princely states, the district administration has been inviting the deities for the Dussehra festival. But for reli-

gious issues, we are authorised to invite them and obey their orders."

As per tradition, events like 'Jagati Puch' - a grand convention of gods and goddesses - are held only in extraordinary situations. It was called last in September 2014 to decide to go through a high court order prohibiting animal slaughter at religious ceremonies.

Before that, it was called in February 2006 to decide the fate of a Himalayan Ski Village project promoted by Alfred Ford of Ford Motor Co. For the Jagati Puch, the invitation is sent to oracles who speak for the gods - and they publicize what they claim to be divine verdicts.

Singh said that over 200 deities are expected to 'assemble' in the Lord Raghunath temple. He expressed anger over the way restrictions like Section 144 was imposed by the Kullu administration to prevent the assembly of deities and their followers during the Kullu Dussehra that culminated October 31.

Going by the tradition, the chariot of chief deity Lord Raghunath is wheeled out by tens of thousands of devotees from the historical temple in Sultanpur here on the first day of Dussehra or Vijay Dashami, the day when the festivities end in the rest of the country.



FESTIVE ART



A woman gets her hand adorned with mehndi ahead of Karva Chauth festival in New Delhi, Monday PTI PHOTO

Deepika's manager 'untraceable'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 2: Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone's manager Karishma Prakash, who is being probed by the Narcotics Control Bureau in a drugs-related case in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput's death, has been "untraceable" after she was summoned by the NCB for questioning, officials said Monday.

An NCB source said that as Prakash failed to appear before the NCB or reply to the summons, the agency has now handed over the summons to her mother and owners/colleagues of Kwaan talent agency. "It is true that Prakash has gone untraceable after being summoned for questioning," an NCB official related to the probe said.

The fresh summons were issued after the NCB recovered 1.7 gm of charas and some bottles of CBD oil from her premises last month

The official said that she was asked to appear before the NCB on October 27. The official, however, said that it was not verified if the employees of Kwan Talent Management have been summoned for questioning.

The fresh summons were issued after the NCB recovered 1.7 gm of charas and some bottles of CBD

oil from her premises last month. Earlier Deepika and Prakash appeared before the NCB for questioning once. Besides Deepika, the NCB has also questioned Bollywood actor Shradha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan in connection with a drugs-related case to Sushant's death. The NCB has also seized the phones of these three actors and sent them to the forensic department.

The drug law enforcement agency had registered a case on the request of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after some alleged chats discussing drugs came to the fore in August. Sushant was found dead in his flat June 14. Besides NCB, the CBI and ED are probing separate cases in connection with the death of the late actor.

Ex-SPG officers to now man PM during state visits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 2: Security cordon around Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is known for frequent travels, has been tightened. A police officer who worked with the elite Special Protection Group (SPG), and had been responsible for Prime Minister's security, will now exclusively man the outer cordon which so long was the responsibility of the state police.

Lack of coordination and understanding the exact detailed requirement of SPG has been an issue behind the changes made in Prime Minister's security. The other reason was amendment in the SPG Act, 1998 leading to cut down in manpower.

Source said that directives have been issued wherein it was stated: "Police officers with SPG experience be drafted for supplementing Prime Minister's security during the PM's visit to the states." The directions stated that "SPG to shoulder only the Prime Minister's close proximity protection responsibility while other protective duties should be handled by the state using former SPG and other trained personnel".

Further, directives also stated that a month-long trainers' course should be held for police officers on deputation to SPG, immediately prior to their repatriation to their parent organisations. "After repatriation, they should impart training to officers of their parent organi-



zations," the source said. Senior IPS officer Arun Kumar Sinha, a 1987 batch IPS officer of Kerala cadre, has been working as the chief of the SPG since March 2016. Last year in December, the Appointments Committee of the

Cabinet gave extension in deputation tenure of Sinha from March 19, 2020 to July 30, 2021.

Last year, the central government had amended the SPG Act, 1988. As per the amended law, the SPG security cover will be provided only to the Prime Minister and to former Prime Ministers for a period of five years after leaving office.

The SPG will give security to the former Prime Minister and his immediate family members residing with him at the residence allotted to him for five years from the date he ceases to hold the office. Last year, the central government had replaced the SPG cover of Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Rahul Gandhi - the

family of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated by LTTE terrorists on May 21, 1991 - with Z-plus security provided by the Central Reserve Police Force.

After amendment in the Act, the SPG had ordered a repatriation of over 200 personnel to their respective forces. The elite organisation with an estimated strength of about 4,000 commando-trained personnel is now operating with about 60 per cent of its sanctioned strength to secure Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The SPG was raised in 1985 and its complete strength is brought on deputation from various Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), state police units and central intelligence agencies.

Onion costliest at ₹100/kg in Bangalore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Onion, a politically-sensitive commodity, remained costliest in the retail markets of Bangalore at Rs 100 per kg Monday despite Karnataka being the third-largest producer of the kitchen staple in the country, according to government data.

The lowest price quoted was Rs 35/kg in only two cities - Udaipur in Rajasthan and Rampurhat in Birbhum district of West Bengal - out of the 114 cities where price trends are monitored on a daily basis by the government. The average all-India daily price of onion was ruling as high as Rs 70/kg Monday.

Consumers even in the growing regions are paying elevated rates for the key kitchen item. Despite Maharashtra being the top onion producing state in the country, retail price of the commodity in Mumbai was a hefty Rs 77/kg.

A similar situation prevailed in Delhi, one of the major consuming markets, where retail prices were firm at Rs 65 per kg, in Kolkata at Rs 70 per kg and Chennai at Rs 72 per kg on Monday, as per the government data.

Retail prices maintained by the government are normally lower by Rs 10-20 per kg than the trade data as prices differ depending on the quality and locality.

of the day quote

The consultation process is over, the decision (re-opening of schools) will be made tomorrow or day after



PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

The youth are saying that people who are 'jumlebaaj' (indulging in rhetoric) will be thrown out. In the coming future, the youth will be ruling the era



AKHILESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY CHIEF

If you were a voter in Bihar, do they tell you about unemployment, jobs, new industries, MSP for food grains, crop insurance, flood relief, women's safety etc?



P CHIDAMBARAM | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Schools reopen in Assam

Guwahati/Agartala: The educational institutions in Assam reopened Monday after more than seven months, while the other northeastern states are yet to decide on the resumption of classes in schools on a regular basis, officials said. Tripura Education Department Director Uttam Kumar Chakma told IANS that 50 per cent teachers and staff are coming to the schools across the state since October 15 and the students of Class IX to XII are allowed to come to the schools for counselling by the teachers with the permission of their parents.

Vehicle collision leaves six dead

Bahraich (UP): Six people were killed and nine others injured when a van carrying them was hit by an unidentified vehicle in Payagpur area here, police said Monday. Deputy Superintendent of Police, TN Dubey, said the van was carrying 16 people. The accident took place Sunday night when the victims were returning to their native place Lakhimpur after visiting the Kichhauchha dargah.

Hry bans sale of imported crackers

Chandigarh: The Haryana government Monday declared possession and sale of imported firecrackers as illegal and punishable in the state. The Deputy Commissioners have been directed to be vigilant and take strict action against the sale and distribution of imported firecrackers, an official statement said. In addition, they have also been asked to ensure that there is no storage of imported firecrackers by conducting the inspection of all establishments.



Rajasthan will be the first state in the country to enact a law to make it compulsory to wear masks for protection against coronavirus

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJ CHIEF MINISTER

TARUN GOGOI PUT ON VENTILATOR SUPPORT

A week after his discharge from a hospital post-COVID-19 recovery, former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi has been admitted to a state-run facility again and put on ventilator support as his health condition has deteriorated



GREAT EXPECTATIONS



A farmer sorts paddy in a field, in Nadia district, Monday

PTI PHOTO

AL-QAEDA CONSPIRATOR HELD FROM WB



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: A madrasa teacher who was allegedly working as an al-Qaeda conspirator to carry out terror attacks in India was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from West Bengal, an official said Monday.

Abdul Momin Mondal, 32, of West Bengal's Murshidabad, was arrested Sunday, a spokesperson of the NIA said. On September 11, a case was registered pertaining to anti-national activities by a group of 10 Jihadi terrorists inspired by globally proscribed terrorist organisation al-Qaeda, he said.

The group was planning to carry out anti-national and terrorist activities at different locations in India, the NIA spokesperson said. Mondal, who was working as a teacher in Raipur Darur Huda Islamia Madrasa in Murshidabad, was found to be involved in a series of conspiratorial meetings convened by the members of the al-Qaeda module, the official said.

He was also trying to recruit new members for the group and was raising funds for furthering its terrorist activities, the NIA spokesperson said. His house was searched and digital devices were seized, he said. So far, 11 accused have been arrested in connection with the case.

Mondal was produced before the district court in Murshidabad which granted his transit remand for transporting him to New Delhi. Further probe into the case is underway, the spokesperson added.

Raj assembly passes three Bills to counter Centre's farm laws

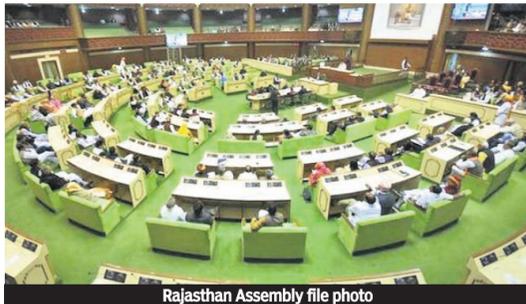
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 2: The Rajasthan assembly Monday passed three bills by voice vote to counter the farm laws enacted by the Centre recently.

The BJP MLAs staged a walk-out ahead of the voice vote. Replying to a debate on the farms bills, Rajasthan Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal said that entire country is against the farm laws enacted by the Union government.

"I can say it with guarantee that all three farm laws will have to be withdrawn just like the Land Acquisition Act," Dhariwal said. Defending the central laws, Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said the Centre's farm laws were not introduced in Parliament all of a sudden.

Kataria said the laws were made after taking into account recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, which talked about one



Rajasthan Assembly file photo

nation, one market; contract farming; and abolition of indirect mandi taxes. The Congress has brought the bills in the Rajasthan Assembly just to make their leaders in New Delhi happy, he said. "If someone has worked to bring a change in farmers' life, it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Kataria said. Following the debate, the House passed the Essential

Commodities (Special Provisions and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2020; Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2020; and Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation and Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2020 by voice vote.

VIJAY MALLYA EXTRADITION

SC seeks status report on proceedings within 6 weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Supreme Court Monday asked the Centre to file status report in six weeks on the confidential legal proceedings pending in the United Kingdom on extradition of fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya to India.

The Centre had October 5 told the apex court that Mallya cannot be extradited to India until a separate "secret" legal process in the UK, which is "judicial and confidential in nature is resolved".

A bench of Justices U U Lalit and Ashok Bhushan asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to file status report in the matter in six

weeks and posted it for hearing in the first week of January next year.

The bench also refused to accept the plea of advocate E C Agarwala, appearing for Mallya in the apex court, seeking discharge from the case.

The Centre had last month said it is not aware of the secret ongoing proceedings against Mallya in the UK as the government of India is not party to the process.

Mallya, an accused in bank loan default case of over ₹9,000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher Airlines, is in the UK since March 2016. He is on bail on an extradition warrant executed three years ago by Scotland Yard April 18, 2017.

90 pc of J&K land cannot be sold to outsiders: Govt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 2: The government has repealed 11 land laws that existed in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir replacing the old, regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws with a set of modern, progressive and people-friendly provisions.

The new land laws will not only afford protection to over 90 per cent of the land in J&K from being alienated to outsiders but will also help revamp the agriculture sector foster, rapid industrialisation, aid economic growth and create jobs in J&K. This was stated by the Principal Secretary, Information and government spokesman, Rohit



Kansal at a press conference in Jammu Monday. Kansal made these comments while interacting with the media on a host of issues related to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Fifth Order, 2020.

Elaborating, Kansal remarked that the repealed laws were made to

serve the old agrarian-based economy and were required to be modified for modern economic needs. Besides, they were beset with ambiguities, contradictions and redundancies and in many cases, were clearly regressive. For instance, a number of laws had contradictions leading to scope for discretionary interpretation and re-seeing.

An official statement said the Prohibition of Conversion of Land and Alienation of Orchards Act, 1975 not only prohibited alienation of orchard lands; it surprisingly restricted creation of new orchards too. Similarly, the old Agrarian Reforms Act prohibited the selling of land distributed to tillers even after 44 years.

30 cities to face water risk within three decades: WWF

About 30 Indian cities including Jaipur, Indore, Amritsar, Pune, Srinagar, Kolkata, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kozhikode and Vishakhapatnam among many others have been identified as cities that will face increasing water risks in the next few decades

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 2: Thirty India cities, including Jaipur, Amritsar, Kolkata, Mumbai, Kozhikode could dramatically face increased water risks - unless urgent action is taken to mitigate and adapt to climate changes, a World Wide Fund study says.

With water crises already plaguing many of the world's cities, the WWF's new water risk scenarios estimate that hundreds of millions of people in cities across the globe could be at danger. Globally, populations in areas of high-water risk could rise from 17 per cent in 2020 to 51 per cent by 2050. The list includes cities such as Beijing, with



China accounting for almost half the cities, besides Jakarta, Johannesburg, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Mecca and Rio de Janeiro. About 30 Indian cities including Jaipur, Indore, Amritsar, Pune, Srinagar, Kolkata, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kozhikode and

Vishakhapatnam among many others have been identified as cities that will face increasing water risks in the next few decades. "The future of India's environment lies in its cities. As India rapidly urbanizes, cities will be at the forefront both for

India's growth and for sustainability," Sejal Worah, Programme Director, WWF India, said.

"For cities to break away from the current vicious loop of flooding and water scarcity, nature-based solutions like restoration of urban watersheds and wetlands could offer solutions. This is our chance to re-evolve and re-imagine what the future of the cities could be," Worah said.

The Smart Cities initiative in India could offer an integrated urban water management framework combining urban planning, ecosystem restoration and wetland conservation for building future-ready, water smart and climate resilient cities. Urban watersheds and wetlands are critical for main-

taining the water balance of a city, flood cushioning, micro-climate regulation and protecting its biodiversity. The future of our cities and sustainability lies in the efficiency in closing the loop by integrating water supply, demand management.

Private sector companies and financial institutions also have a vital role to play in reducing water risk to their operations and assets as well as cities, which are the main engines of sustainable economic growth. Launched in October, the new climate and socio-economic pathway-based scenarios for 2030 and 2050 are available in the WWF Water Risk Filter - the leading online tool for assessing, valuing and responding to water risk.

'In last 45 yrs, monsoon withdrew late 28 times'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Monsoon has retreated late from the country 28 times in the last 45 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data suggests, pointing to a shifting weather pattern.

From 1975-2020 monsoon has retreated four times (1978, 1979, 2001 and 2008) from the country October 15, its normal withdrawal date until last year.

The normal date for the onset of monsoon over Kerala is June 1. According to the revised monsoon schedule from this year, it usually covers the entire country by July 8. This year the southwest monsoon made an onset over Kerala June 1 and covered the entire country by June 26, 12 days ahead of its nor-



mal date of July 8. The withdrawal was late. It retreated from west Rajasthan and parts of Punjab September 28, 13 days after its normal withdrawal date.

The withdrawal date was revised from this year to September 17 - earlier the withdrawal date was September 1. It withdrew from the rest of the country October 28, 13 days after its normal withdrawal date. Earlier, the withdrawal date was October 15 which has now been revised to October 17.

international

of the day quote

The one-month lockdown for England announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson this weekend could be extended as Britain struggles to contain a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic



MICHAEL GOVE | SENIOR UK CABINET MINISTER

All the stars are aligned in the wrong place as you go into the fall and winter season, with people congregating at home indoors. You could not possibly be positioned more poorly



ANTHONY FAUCI | US INFECTIOUS DISEASES EXPERT

I think it's very important that everyone be able to vote without any hindrance, without any intimidation, without any obstacles



KAMALA HARRIS | DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

SHORT TAKES

Hindu homes attacked in B'desh

Dhaka: Three homes of Hindu residents in Bangladesh's Cumilla city were vandalised and burned over rumours of an alleged Facebook post slandering Islam, a media report said. The attack took place Sunday in the city's Muradnagar area, reports bdnews24. The police arrested two people, including the headmaster of a kindergarten school in Purbo Dhour, on charges of hurting religious sentiments, Qamruzzaman Talukder, OC of Bangra Bazar Police Station, said.

French schools

Paris: French schools reopened Monday for the first time since the beheading of a teacher who opened a class debate on free speech by showing students caricatures of the prophet of Islam, in mourning and under tight security for a national homage. Samuel Paty was killed October 16 outside his school in suburban Paris by an 18-year-old refugee of Chechen origin to punish him for showing the caricatures published by the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, which triggered a newsroom massacre by extremists in January 2015.

WILL TRUMP SUCCEED IN RETURNING TO WHITE HOUSE?

Of the total 535 Electoral Votes, 270 are required for being elected as the President of the United States, even if the popular national vote is less

By the closing hours for polling October 31, more than 90 million Americans, comprising almost 43% of total registered voters nationwide, had cast their votes earlier with three days left until Election Day November 3. The votes cast thus far represent about 66% - almost two-thirds of more than 136.5 million ballots cast in 2016 presidential election. Simultaneous elections for 35 seats of the US Senate as well as 435 seats of the US House of Representatives are also being held November 3, along with the US presidential election. That makes the US Congress play a very decisive role in electing the next incumbent to the Oval Office by serving as an Electoral College. In the meanwhile, preliminary media reports indicate President Donald Trump fast improving his position in the battleground states as well as swing states.

ROLE OF US CONGRESS
The US Congress plays a pivotal role in the election of the US President through Electoral College that comprises 100 members of the American Senate and 435 elected members of the House of Representatives. Of the total

535 Electoral Votes, 270 are required for being elected as the President of the United States, even if the popular national vote is less. In the 2016 presidential election, Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton had polled more popular votes than her Republican rival Donald Trump and her inability to garner 270 Electoral Votes paved way for Donald Trump to the Oval Office.
Under the prevalent circumstances, Republicans controlling 53 seats are in majority in the US Senate, to be followed by Democrats who have 45 seats and two seats are held by the independents. Simultaneous elections for 35 seats of the Senate are being held November 3 along with presidential election. Of these 35 seats for which elections are being held, 12 are Democratic-controlled and 23 are Republican-controlled. According to some experts and media reports, of the 12 Democratic-controlled seats, Democratic Party is said to be strong on 10 seats, whereas of the 23 Republican-controlled seats for which election is being held, Republican Party is strong on nine seats. The remaining 14 Republican-controlled seats can be partially grabbed by the Democrats, especially in view of the

forthcoming support for the Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden from some Republican quarters that seem to be disenchanted with the performance of President Donald Trump.
Simultaneous elections for all the 435 seats of the House of Representatives are scheduled to be held November 3 along with presidential election. Nevertheless, as of October 2020, Democrats having 232 seats had the majority in the House relative to 197 seats of the Republican party. There is one Libertarian member and five seats are vacant in the outgoing House. Interestingly, the Democrats who had been in minority in House of Representatives since the 1990s, gained majority in the aftermath of the 2018 general election.
Since pathway to the Oval Office passes through the Electoral College by winning 270 Electoral Votes, many experts are sanguine about Joe Biden helping the Democrats improve their tally in the Senate and the House of Representatives to help him garner required magic number of 270. In any case, it is not going to be an easy win either for Donald Trump or Joe Biden. However, a large chunk of political pundits in the US feel that Donald

Trump's hectic campaign in the swing states and battleground states is likely to give him an edge over his rival Joe Biden with prospects of his being reelected. Nevertheless, the ultimate winner will have tremendous impact on global and regional developments vis-à-vis the United States as well as it will also influence relationship between Washington and New Delhi to some extent.
CHALLENGES AHEAD
A suite of challenges, both domestic and external, await the new incumbent in the Oval Office. Nevertheless, an understanding of the legacy of the first presidential term of President Donald Trump, both in domestic and external realms, is a key to unfold the magnitude of challenges awaiting the new President, in case Donald Trump is defeated and in the eventuality of re-election of President Trump, he will be called upon to drastically improve upon his legacy to which he perhaps may seemingly be disinclined.
Reports pouring in American media in recent times make it discernible that experts and political pundits are both appreciative and critical of Trump's domestic policies during his first term.

They are appreciative of his economic policies, especially making good on his pledges to cut taxes and regulation that helped in engendering jobs, nevertheless without achieving the levels of economic growth that were promised. Trump is criticised for his handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, for his lack of interest in education, housing, transportation, trade and immigration etc. Terming Trump's trade policies as a 'mixed bag', that entailed improving on NAFTA while flailing on China, some critics opine that Trump's economic legacy was determined by his inability, or reluctance, to control the pandemic, or deliver the kind of stimulus that the occasion demanded.
In the realm of foreign policy, Trump's legacy of first term evokes a mixed reaction from the experts and pundits alike. Trump is said to have delivered on some of his flashiest pledges, made during the 2016 campaign, such as re-evaluating Washington's relationship with NATO, unilateral abandonment of nuclear deal with Iran, unilateral withdrawal from INF Treaty along with withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and US withdrawal from WHO etc. Trump has also fulfilled

his promise of bringing US troops back home from "forever wars", to some extent, notwithstanding the fact that some of his promises have failed to materialise.
If Trump is re-elected in the November 3 election, then there is little doubt of his carrying the baggage of his legacy of the first term forward with suitable amendments that the occasion may demand. Nevertheless, in the eventuality of his defeat by Democratic rival Joe Biden, the new incumbent's greatest challenge would be to control the pandemic and make available vaccine as early as possible and look for delivering further stimulus, if possible, to tone up the economy. Some experts also suggest that new administration will also be confronted with the herculean task of restoring America's global standing and trustworthiness in the comity of nations. Besides, the new administration will also be tasked with damage-control in America's relations with its European allies, the Middle East, Latin America and East Asia along with Africa.
By Dr Anil Singh, who is currently in Washington to cover the US presidential election.

US POLLS 2020

On last day, Trump and Biden scour battleground states for votes

WITH ONE DAY TO GO, DEMOCRAT JOE BIDEN HOLDS A COMMANDING NATIONAL LEAD OVER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AMID DEEP VOTER CONCERNS ABOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Biden leads Trump by 10 points

Washington: 2020 Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden leads US President Donald Trump by 10 percentage points nationally, according to a new poll. Biden's support stands at 52 per cent to Trump's 42 per cent among national registered voters, the NBC News and Wall Street Journal poll showed as Election day is just a day away. This final pre-election poll found that Biden was ahead of Trump by six points, 51 per cent to 45 per cent, in 12 combined battleground states, namely Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

African-American community in the Pittsburgh area before being joined for an evening drive-in rally in Pittsburgh by singer Lady Gaga. Biden also made a detour to bordering Ohio, spending time on his final campaign day in a state that was once considered a lock for Trump, who won it in 2016, but where polls now show a close contest. Biden has wrapped up the campaign on the offensive, traveling almost exclusively to states that Trump won in 2016 and criticising the President's response to the coronavirus pandemic, which has dominated the late stages of the race. Biden accuses Trump of giving up on fighting the pandemic, which has killed more than 230,000 Americans and cost millions of jobs. Polls show Americans trust Biden more than Trump to fight the virus.

AGENCIES

Opa-Locka, Fla. /Wilmington, Del., Nov 2: US President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden scour battleground states for votes on the last day of the campaign in their long, bitter race for the White House. The Republican Trump trails Biden in national opinion polls ahead of Tuesday's Election Day. But the race is seen as close in enough swing states that Trump could still piece together the 270 votes needed to prevail in the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the winner. Trump, aiming to avoid becoming the first incumbent President to lose re-election since fellow Republican George HW Bush in 1992, Monday held rallies in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and two in Michigan. He won those states in 2016 against Democrat Hillary Clinton, but polls show Biden is threatening to recapture them for Democrats. Trump wrapped up his campaign in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the

same place he concluded his 2016 presidential run with a post-midnight rally on Election Day. Biden, running mate Kamala Harris and their spouses spent most of Monday in Pennsylvania, splitting up to hit all four corners of a state that has become vital to the former Vice President's hopes. Joe Biden held rallies with union members and members of the

NEW ZEALAND GETS GAY DEPUTY PM

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Wellington, Nov 2: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern unveiled what she called an "incredibly diverse" Cabinet Monday that includes New Zealand's first openly gay Deputy Prime Minister and a foreign minister with a Maori facial tattoo. The centre-left leader revamped her ministerial line-up in the wake of a landslide election victory, saying her second-term priorities were responding to Covid-19 and promoting economic recovery. Ardern appointed Grant Robertson as Deputy Prime Minister, making him the first openly gay person to hold the role. Women and the Maori community

are also strongly represented in the 20-member Cabinet, including new Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta, who has a moko kauae - a traditional Maori tattoo on the chin. Keralite Priyanca Radhakrishnan became the first Indian to be sworn in as a Minister in New Zealand as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern unveiled her new Cabinet. The 41-year-old has been sworn in as the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector While expressing pride at her Cabinet's diversity, Ardern also said appointments were made on merit. "It is both a Cabinet with huge merit and talent, which also happens to be incredibly diverse," the 40-year-old said.



SOULS TO POLLS MARCH



A Bahamian dance troupe leads a Souls to the Polls march toward an early voting center at Model City Branch Library in Miami

Thousands protest against Indonesia's new jobs law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jakarta, Nov 2: Thousands of workers in Indonesia on Monday continued their protests against the country's new jobs law that critics say will erode labor rights and weaken environmental protections. The Confederation of Indonesian Trade Unions, or KSPI, said thousands of workers from cities in West Java and East Java provinces representing 32 labor unions were taking part in mass rallies near the Presidential Palace and Constitutional Court in Jakarta. Protests were also to take place in other parts of the country, including Yogyakarta, Banda Aceh, Medan and Makassar. "The demands are to cancel the Job Creation Law and continue to see increases in the minimum wage in 2021," KSPI President Said Iqbal said Sunday.



After years of separation from our parents, my wife and I are applying for dual US-Russian citizenship
EDWARD SNOWDEN | US WHISTLEBLOWER

PRINCE WILLIAM KEPT COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS A SECRET: REPORT

Britain's Prince William kept his positive coronavirus test in April a secret in order to not "worry anyone" around the time his father, Prince Charles, was also self-isolating after his own Covid-19 diagnosis, UK media reports claimed Monday



OLI-PRACHANDA RIFT

PM Oli hints at splitting ruling party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 2: Rift has resurfaced in Nepal's ruling Communist Party following a meeting between Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and his opponent Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda", with the premier hinting at splitting the ruling party, a senior party leader said Sunday. Oli and Prachanda resolved their differences in September by agreeing to a power-sharing deal, ending the months-long dispute in the party. The party's internal dispute which had surfaced after the dissident group leaders, including Prachanda and senior leader of the party Madhav Kumar Nepal, demanded Oli's resignation from both as the party's chairman and



as Nepal's prime minister after he accused the dissident leaders of conspiring against him to topple his government. Oli, who met the party's executive chairman Prachanda, Saturday hinted towards splitting the party, a senior leader of the party said. Prachanda and Oli held the meeting after a gap of nearly two weeks, in which the prime minister told Prachanda that "if we cannot walk together, let's walk on our own."

Another minor girl abducted, converted in Pakistan's Sindh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Karachi, Nov 2: While Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan claims that his government is ensuring the safety and security of the minorities, cases of forced abduction and conversion continue to surface from across the country. In a latest incident, the Sindh High Court granted bail to at least three men, accused of abducting a 13-year-old Christian girl, who was later forcibly converted to Islam and married off to a 44-year-old man. Arzoo Masih is said to have married a Muslim man, Syed Ali Azhar, after converting to Islam. Masih's parents filed a case with the police authorities, which resulted in the arrest of Azhar's brothers, Syed Shariq Ali and Syed Mohsin Ali, along with his friend Danish over their suspected involvement in the abduction and the forced conversion. However, a petition was filed in the Sindh High Court (SHC) October 27 by Arzoo, seeking protection from her parents and stating that she has converted to Islam and married Arzoo on her own free-will. The petition has been filed with a Karachi judicial magistrate seeking protective custody of 13-year-old Arzoo, asking the court to direct the police to recover the girl and produce her before the court. As per details of the petition, the family has also called for Arzoo to be put into custody of a child protection institute, as they fear she is currently being subjected to sexual violence. "Arzoo is 13 years old and have a NADRA (National Database Regulatory Authority) birth certificate to prove it. NADRA infor-



In a latest incident, the Sindh High Court granted bail to at least three men, accused of abducting a 13-year-old Christian girl, who was later forcibly converted to Islam and married off to a 44-year-old man

mation says she was born July 31, 2007," claimed the parents of Arzoo. The petition has been filed under rules 5, 8, 9 and 10 of the Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Rule, 2016, Section B of the Child Marriages Restraint Act, 2013 and Section 100 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Raja Masih, the father of Arzoo, said that she was kidnapped from her home, adding that he had filed an FIR October 13. "I later found out from the police that Arzoo had been married off to Syed Ali Azhar, who presented a Nikkahnama (Muslim marriage authorised paper), free-will affidavit and a Sanad-e-Islam certificate," he said. On the other hand, the abductor and the husband of Arzoo claims that she is 18 years old and has willingly converted to Islam in order to marry him.

business



The continuance of real sector problems, partly policy-driven in the most recent period such as demonetisation, has aggravated the banking situation
CHAKRAVARTHY RANGARAJAN | FORMER GOVERNOR, RBI

UK, US CONFIDENT TRADE TALKS 'ON TRACK'

Britain and the United States are confident that ongoing trade talks are heading towards a comprehensive agreement, the British trade ministry has said. The two sides have now finished their fifth round of talks aimed at securing a trade deal which in Britain is seen as one of the big prizes on offer after the country left the EU in January



of the day quote

Germany has done spectacularly well over recent months but as the lockdowns begins to impact not only on Germany but its main export market it will take the edge off the recovery

PETER DIXON | ECONOMIST, COMMERZBANK

We are being extra vigilant (on surrogate advertising by liquor brands) because the IPL is one of the biggest marketing platforms in India. We are looking at advertising across media - print, OTT, digital

MANISHA KAPOOR | SECRETARY GENERAL, ASCI

With hospital safety concerns exposed due to Covid, the consumer demand of home healthcare solutions is expected to rise significantly in the next few years

KUSHAL BHATNAGAR | ENGAGEMENT MANAGER, REDSEER

SHORT TAKES

RIL shares tank nearly 9%

New Delhi: Shares of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Monday tanked nearly 9% after the company reported a 15% drop in second quarter net profit. The stock tumbled 8.62% to close at ₹1,877.30 on the BSE. During the day, it tanked 9.46% to ₹1,860. On the NSE, it declined 8.61 per cent to close at ₹1,877.45. The company's market valuation also eroded by ₹1,19,721.68 crore to ₹12,69,437.32 crore on the BSE.

Oct jobless rate rises to 6.98%

New Delhi: India's unemployment rate in October rose to 6.98% from 6.67% in September, according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The novel coronavirus has infected nearly 8.2 million people in the world's second-most populous nation, hitting large parts of the economy. Economic activity has resumed after the government eased pandemic lockdown restrictions.

Tata Motors sales rise 27%

Mumbai: Homegrown auto major Tata Motors on Monday reported 27% growth in its total domestic sales to 49,669 units in October. The company had sold 39,152 vehicles in October 2019, Tata Motors said in a statement. Passenger vehicle sales during the previous month surged 79% to 23,617 cars as compared to 13,169 units in October 2019. Total CV sales grew 2% to 28,472 vehicles in October as against 28,002 vehicles in the year-ago period, Tata Motors said.

HDFC Q2 profit halves to ₹4,600 cr

Mumbai: Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd's profit after tax declined by more than half to ₹4,600 crore on a consolidated basis in the quarter ended September 30, 2020. The company had reported a profit after tax of ₹10,389 crore in the year-ago quarter. It said during the quarter ended September 30, 2019, ₹8,000 crore pertained to profit on loss of control of a subsidiary, GRUH Finance.

GST SHORTFALL

Centre releases ₹6K cr to 16 states, three UTs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Finance Ministry Monday said it will transfer ₹6,000 crore as the second tranche of GST compensation shortfall to 16 states including Odisha and 3 Union Territories.

The Centre had October 23 transferred ₹6,000 crore to 16 states and 2 UTs of Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir. In the second tranche of transfer, Union Territory of Puducherry has been included.

"The Ministry of Finance, Government of India, under its 'Special Window to States for meeting the GST Compensation Cess shortfall,' will be releasing an amount of ₹6,000 crore as second tranche to 16 States and 3 Union Territories today," the ministry said in a statement.

This borrowing was done at an interest of 4.42 per cent, which is lower than the cost of borrowings for the states and UTs, thus benefiting them, it said.

"Ministry of Finance has facilitated loans of ₹12,000 crore till date under the Special Window to States/UTs," it added.

21 states and 3 Union Territories till date, have opted for the Special Window and the loans raised by the Centre would be released on a back-to-back basis to states/UTs, in lieu of GST Compensation Cess releases.

The loans have been released to the following states and Union Territories - Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh,



THE FINANCE MINISTRY SAID THAT THE CENTRE WOULD BORROW FROM THE MARKET TO PAY THE GST COMPENSATION SHORTFALL OF ₹1.1 LAKH CRORE TO STATES, AND THEN ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY TO ARRANGE BACK-TO-BACK LOANS TO STATE GOVERNMENTS

Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry.

Last month, the Centre gave in to the demands of opposition ruled states to borrow and fund the GST compensation shortfall.

The Finance Ministry said that the Centre would borrow from the market to pay the GST compensation shortfall of ₹1.1 lakh crore to states, and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to state governments.

This arrangement will not reflect in the fiscal deficit of the Centre and will appear as capital re-

ceipts for state governments.

The Centre had in August proposed two options to states: borrow ₹97,000 crore (on account of GST implementation) from a special window facilitated by the RBI or the complete shortfall of ₹2.35 lakh crore (including ₹1.38 lakh crore due to COVID) from the market. The options have since been revised to ₹1.10 lakh crore and ₹1.83 lakh crore, respectively.

On Sunday, the Finance Ministry said GST collections in October stood at over ₹1.05 lakh crore, crossing for the first time the ₹1 lakh crore mark since February this year.

NO PLAN FOR SHARE BUYBACK AS OF NOW: IOC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), India's top oil company, has no plans to buyback shares as of now but will consider if there is a mandate, its Director (Finance) Sandeep Kumar Gupta said Monday.

Chasing a record ₹2.1 lakh crore target from disinvestment proceeds, the government has asked over half a dozen cash-rich PSUs to repurchase shares to help shore up its finances amid the coronavirus pandemic.

On a conference call with analysts and investors, Gupta said the company hasn't been asked by the government, its majority owner, to do a buyback.

"We don't have any immediate plans for a share buyback," he said.



Analysts said the government appetite for buyback in IOC is low because its holding in the company is at about 51.5%. The government wants to retain at least 51% stake in strategic PSUs such as IOC.

The government is reportedly planning to ask Coal India Ltd, electricity generator NTPC Ltd, miner NMDC Ltd, MOIL Ltd, KIOCL Ltd, and Engineers India Ltd to buy back shares this year. The government, being the largest shareholder in these companies, will benefit from the transactions by tendering the equity it holds in return for cash.

Huawei bats for China chip plant amid US sanctions: Report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, Nov 2: As its production and operations face significant challenges due to trade restrictions imposed by the US, Huawei is reportedly pushing for setting up of a dedicated chip plant in China which can help reduce dependence on foreign technology for running its core telecom infrastructure business.

Shanghai IC R&D Centre, a chip research company backed by the Shanghai Municipal government will run the plant, the Financial Times reported Sunday, citing people familiar with the matter.

The project is reportedly focusing mainly on chips needed for the infrastructure business, not the smartphone business.

The plan is to start with low-end 45nm chips and acquiring expertise for developing 20nm chips in two years so that its 5G telecoms equipment business can continue even in the face of US restrictions, said the report.

While Huawei and IC R&D Centre did not confirm the plans, Chinese newspaper Caixin reported on the project last month.

Huawei late last month said that it generated a revenue of 671.3 billion yuan (\$98.57 billion) in the first three quarters of this year, an increase of 9.9% over the same period last year.

The results showed that restrictions imposed by the US slowed down growth of the Chinese technology giant as during the same period last year, the company reported revenue growth of 24.4%.

Huawei said that amid Covid-



The plan is to start with low-end 45nm chips and acquiring expertise for developing 20nm chips in two years so that its 5G telecoms equipment business can continue amid restrictions

19, its global supply chain faced intense pressure and its production and operations face significant challenges.

"The company continues to do its best to find solutions, survive and forge forward, and fulfill its obligations to customers and suppliers," Huawei said in a statement.

"Moving forward, Huawei will leverage its strengths in ICT technologies such as AI, cloud, 5G, and computing to provide scenario-based solutions, develop industry applications, and unleash the value of 5G networks along with its partners," it added.

The US government this year announced new export controls aimed at limiting Huawei's access to semiconductor technology.

Honda's two-wheeler sales surge by 2% in Oct

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Signalling increased positivity in market, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. (HMSI) closed October, 20 with positive Yo-Y sales growth for the third consecutive month in FY'20-21.

After breaching the 5 lakh unit sales level in September, Honda total two-wheeler sales closed at a higher level of 5,27,180 units with a 2% growth over 5,17,845 units sold in October, 2019.

Buoyed by increase in demand during the festive season, amidst slew of its new BS-6 models now available in the market, Honda's domestic two-wheeler sales were up 1% to 494,459 units in October 20 compared to the 4,87,819 units sold in the same month last year.

Parallely, backed by increased demand of its models in other markets and exports of its first BS-6 motorcycle to Europe, Honda registered 9% growth in exports to 32,721 units in Oct'20 (compared to 30,026 units in Oct'19). Honda started the exports of its first BS6 motorcycle to Europe with the next generation 125cc motorcycle - SP125 to



Europe, via the CKD route.

Director (Sales & Marketing) of HMSI Yadvinder Singh Guleria said, "Ending October, nearly 100% of our network is opened and charged up post recording Yo-Y increase in retails during the first 2D's of festival (Durga Puja and Dusshera)."

Our newly launched H'ness-CB350 has garnered great response in a short span of time. In less than 1 month of start of sales of our debut 350cc mid-size motorcycle, our production is booked till November, even as new bookings continue to rise."

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Nalco gets new director

Bhubaneswar: Manasa Prasad Mishra took over as the new Director (Projects & Technical) of the Navratna CPSE National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). Prior to the present assignment, Mishra was serving in the company as Executive Director of Smelter and Power Complex at Angul. After graduating in Mechanical Engineering from UCE Burla (now Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology), Mishra began his career in NALCO as Graduate Engineer Trainee in 1984. During his association of over three decades with NALCO, Mishra has served in various capacities in Production and Business development and has contributed significantly in execution of various projects and plant operations, before his elevation as Executive Director (S&P) in April 2019.



Udayabhaskar becomes state's new Nabard chief

Bhubaneswar: C Udayabhaskar assumed charge as Chief General Manager (CGM) of Nabard, Odisha Regional Office with effect from November 1, 2020. Bhaskar is a Post Graduate in Public Administration and has more than three decades of experience in the developmental sector and finance functions of Nabard and hitherto worked in different offices of Nabard.



MCL's new CMD takes charge

Bhubaneswar: Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) PK Sinha now took the additional charge as CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited. A mining engineering graduate from NIT, Raipur and M. Tech from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, Sinha has a diversified experience of more than 37 years in opencast and underground mining in Coal India, as he has held many important positions. Prior to joining NCL as CMD, Sinha was the Director (Technical) in South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL), Bilaspur.



Punjab National Bank observes Vigilance Awareness Week

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Punjab National Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone observed Vigilance Awareness Week from October 27, 2020 to November 2, 2020 based on the theme "Vigilant India Prosperous India" for the year 2020.

The Bank conducted various activities during the week. The awareness week was launched with the administration of integrity pledge by the Zonal Manager Ashwani Kumar to all the staffs of Zonal Office. The messages from honourable President, Vice President, Prime Minister and the Central Vigilance Commissioner were also read out on the occasion.

A quiz competition on vigilance subject and a drawing competition based on the theme of the current year was also organised. The topic of the debate was "prevention is better than cure-how relevant it is to a vibrant banking system."

The staffs participated in the events wholeheartedly. The bank also donated hand sanitiser machines and masks to various government organisations in the state.

'Indian data centre market to touch \$5bn by 2025'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 2: As digital adoption grows amid the pandemic across the spectrum, the data centre industry in India is likely to touch \$1.2 billion in the fiscal 2020 and is expected to log a rapid 25-30 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) to reach \$4.5-\$5 billion by fiscal 2025, a new report said Monday.

The Indian data centre industry, which accounts for 1-2 per cent of the global pie, is estimated to have clocked a modest CAGR of 15-20% since fiscal 2016 to touch \$1 billion in fiscal 2019, according to a Crisil Research report.

The data centre growth rode on a sharp increase in internet penetration from 30% in fiscal 2016 to 55 per cent in fiscal 2019.

"Also, on account of Covid-19, data consumption has seen sharp 38% rise on-year in the first quarter of the financial year 2021," the

findings showed. The growth drivers include an exponential surge in data being generated and a growing need for local data storage in line with the government's thrust on data localisation.

The data centre industry has been largely concentrated in top four cities, with Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai accounting for 60 per cent of total data centre sites and more than 75% in terms of IT load capacities.

In terms of IT load capacities, Mumbai alone accounts for over 40 per cent of total installed capacity, given the availability of required infrastructure in terms of adequate linkages with global cable landing stations, reliable power supply, broadband connectivity and skilled manpower.

"Some state governments already have incentives in place for the data centre industry. For instance, Maharashtra and Telangana are



offering incentives in land and electricity along with a special single-window clearance for permissions to set up data centres," the report mentioned.

However, the report expects the share of top 4 cities to decline marginally in the next five years as lack

of space and higher rental costs along with improved infrastructure availability in next rung cities leads to some larger hyperscale data centres being set up in those cities.

The industry capacity, which stood at 360MW in fiscal 2020, is ex-

GOING DIGITAL

The Indian data centre industry is estimated to have clocked a modest CAGR of 15-20% since fiscal 2016

The data centre growth rode on a sharp increase in internet penetration

The data centre industry has been largely concentrated in Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai accounting for 60% of total data centre sites

pected to expand more than three-fold to reach 1,100-1,200MW by fiscal 2025 "on the back of \$4-5 billion investments announced over the past three years for both brown-field and greenfield expansion of projects".

The increase in data volume, said

high growth in e-commerce, increase in usage of social media, greater preference for over the top (OTT) platforms, the government's impetus to the Digital India initiative and rapid digitalisation of services across industries (Industry 4.0 and 5G).

"Data localisation norms initiated by the government and regulators, that mandates storage of sensitive data within India, which, in turn, would support development of local data centers," it added.

According to Nasscom, as of fiscal 2020, more than three-fourth of the total IT infrastructure spends was concentrated towards captive and co-location based operating models.

By fiscal 2025, however, the share of infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) in IT infrastructure spends is forecast to increase to more than 40%.

DC, RCB ENTER PLAY-OFFS

CM inaugurates 3 sporting facilities

CHHATRAPUR TO GET SYNTHETIC-TURF HOCKEY TRAINING FACILITY

AGENCIES

Abu Dhabi, Nov 2: Delhi Capitals (DC) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) qualified for the play-offs after the Shreyas Iyer-led side sealed a comfortable six-wicket victory over Virat Kohli & Co. in their IPL encounter here, Monday.

DC finished their league campaign in the second place with 16 points, meaning – they will play the first qualifier against table toppers Mumbai Indians (18 points) Thursday in Dubai.

Meanwhile, RCB also made it into the play-offs. They will play either Kolkata Knight Riders (14 points) or Sunrisers Hyderabad (12 points) in the eliminator in Abu Dhabi, Friday. SRH need to win their final league match against MI to claim the final play-off spot. If they win, they will have 14 points, same as KKR. However, they are way above KKR in net run-rate which will help them through.

Come to the match, DC notched up the 153-run target in 19 overs. Experienced Indian duo Shikhar Dhawan (54, 41b, 6x4) and Ajinkya Rahane (60, 46b, 5x4, 1x6) were excellent for the winning side, adding 88 runs for the second wicket after the early departure of Prithvi Shaw (9). Shabaz Ahmed (2/26) bowled well for RCB.

Earlier, young Devdutt Padikkal (50, 41b, 5x4) shone again with a half century before DC roared back to restrict RCB to 152/7. Padikkal shared a 57-run stand with skipper Virat Kohli (29) for the third wicket.

DC pulled things back brilliantly in the middle overs. Pacer Anrich Nortje (3/33) was the pick of the



ANRICH NORTJE



AJINKYA RAHANE



SHIKHAR DHAWAN

bowlers for DC, while Kagiso Rabada (2/30) and Ravichandran Ashwin (1/18) also bowled well.

	KL RAHUL (KKIP) 670 runs 14 matches	
	KAGISO RABADA (DC) 25 wickets 14 matches	

The powerplay overs yielded 41 runs for the loss of one wicket. Nortje struck twice in the 16th

TEAM	M	W	L	N/R	NRR	PTS
MI	13	9	4	0	1.296	18
DC	14	8	6	0	-0.109	16
RCB	14	7	7	0	-0.172	14
KKR	14	7	7	0	-0.214	14
SRH	13	6	7	0	0.555	12
KKIP	14	6	8	0	-0.162	12
CSK	14	6	8	0	-0.455	12
RR	14	6	8	0	-0.569	12

over to get rid of Padikkal and South African all-rounder Chris Morris for a duck. AB de Villiers (35) was yet again in sublime touch and raised a 33-run stand with young Shivam Dube (17), but the duo couldn't power RCB to a bigger total.

BRIEF SCORES
RCB 152/7 (Devdutt Padikkal 50, AB de Villiers 35; Anrich Nortje 3/33, Kagiso Rabada 2/30) lost to DC 154/4 (Ajinkya Rahane 60, Shikhar Dhawan 54; Shabaz Ahmed 2/26) by 6 wickets.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday inaugurated three world-class sports facilities marking a watershed day for Odisha sports infrastructure.

The facilities are – International Standard Multisport Indoor Stadium at Hinjilicut, Indoor Hall in Chhatrapur and Shooting Range in Kalanga Stadium, Bhubaneswar.

Inaugurating the facilities on virtual platform, Patnaik said the state would be launching many more grassroots programmes across all the districts. He also announced that a synthetic-turf hockey training facility would be constructed in Chhatrapur.

Hinjilicut Indoor Stadium is spread over 1.5 acres of land with a seating capacity of 300. It has playing courts for badminton, volleyball and basketball, besides facilities for yoga, gym and physiotherapy. The Chhatrapur Indoor Hall is equipped with three wooden floored badminton courts of International standard.

The shooting range at Kalanga Stadium, managed by Aditya Birla and Gagan Narang High Performance Centre, will have a 22-lane 10-meter range and renovated 50m range. The range can cater to 60 athletes each day for training.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that as part of the 5T initiative, the state has a focus on complete transformation of sports sector in the state. "We will continue to support sportspersons in their endeavor to achieve excellence," he added.



Gagan Narang (L) and Tusharkanti Behera (Minister of Sports & Youth Services, E&T) during the inauguration of shooting range (inset) at Kalanga Stadium, Monday

PHOTOS: I & R DEPT.



Khel Ratna winner Narang, who has been mentoring promising shooters for some years now while running the Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation (GNSPF), was delighted with the development.

"Today opening of the 10m range in Odisha is a massive milestone for all of us. We have conducted talent hunt programme here and I can say that this state has more talent than what meets the eye. 75 kids have been selected," he said.

"The best thing about this facility is accessibility for able athletes and special programmes have been designed for them. It's the right time for start preparation for the 2028 Olympics," the 37-year-old champion shooter added.

Among other things, the facility will feature an air conditioned

range with 22 targets (10 electronic targets and 12 electrical manual targets), training capacity for 60 shooters per day. The range will also be equipped with adequate weapons and consumables, besides performance analysis equipment.

In another development, sprint-queen Dutee Chand has been awarded an out-of-turn promotion in the Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC), Patnaik said, months after the athlete and the state government got embroiled in a controversy over financial assistance.

"Out-of-turn promotion has been given to Dutee Chand in OMC in recognition for her sporting achievements," Patnaik said.

Sindhu bids adieu to COVID-19 negativity, fear & uncertainty

MI stand between SRH, play-off spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: World Champion PV Sindhu created a stir Monday by posting 'I Retire' on social media only to follow it up with a lengthy statement declaring that she would actually be saying goodbye to 'the negativity, fear, and uncertainty' triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Olympic silver-medallist, who is currently in London to work on her nutrition and recovery needs at the Gatorade Sports Science Institute, started her rather stunning post by saying that the "Denmark Open was the final straw. I Retire".

"...I'm writing today to tell you that I'm done...Not being able to represent India in the Denmark Open was the

last straw," Sindhu's note stated.

"Today, I choose to retire from this current sense of unrest. I retire from this negativity, the constant fear, uncertainty. I choose to retire from a complete lack of control over the unknown," she said. "Most importantly, I choose to retire from substandard hygiene standards and our lackadaisical attitude towards the virus."

The star shuttler, who last competed at the All England Championships in March, is targeting a return to action when the world tour comes to Asia in January.

"This pandemic has been an eye-opener for me. I could train hard to fight the toughest opponents, tooth and nail, right till the final shot of the game. I have done it before, I can do it again.

"But how do I defeat this invisible virus that has the entire world in a fix? It has been months at home and we still question ourselves every time we step out," she wrote.

Sindhu said the reason why she started the post with a shocker like 'I Retire' was to ensure that maximum people take note of the message she was trying to convey on dealing with the virus.

"I might have given you guys a mini heart attack; unprecedented times require unprecedented measures. I guess I needed to get you guys to sit up and take notice. So will I for the Asia Open? I refuse to give up without putting a solid fight. I refuse to give up without conquering this fear. And will carry on doing so till we have a safer world," she concluded.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Nov 2: Riding high on momentum, resurgent Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) will back themselves to topple the mighty Mumbai Indians (MI) and qualify for the IPL play-offs here Tuesday. Thanks to their healthy run-rate, a win against Mumbai Indians should be enough to send Sunrisers into the final four.

After taking a tough call to leave out the dangerous Jonny Bairstow from the playing eleven, Sunrisers have managed to find out the 'right' balance. Wriddhiman Saha has made an instant impact as David Warner's opening partner and the inclusion of Jason Holder has given them an all-round option.

Pacers Holder and Sandeep Sharma were extremely impressive, both upfront and at the death, in the last game Royal Challengers



Bangalore. Add left-arm pacer T Natarajan and trump card Rashid Khan to their bowling attack, it makes up for a well rounded attack. Sunrisers are not just riding high on momentum, they are also a team, full of confidence, having outplayed Delhi Capitals and RCB in their previous two outings.



Sunrisers also know there is little scope for error against formidable outfit like Mumbai Indians, who seem to be on course for an unprecedented fifth IPL title.

In the absence of injured skipper Rohit Sharma, MI steamrolled RCB and DC in their previous encounters, becoming the first team



to qualify for the play-offs.

Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah have looked menacing with the swinging new ball and ever so frugal with the old. Kieron Pollard has been impressive with his captaincy in Rohit's absence. With Indian team not picking Rohit for the Australia tour, there is no official update on his recovery from a hamstring injury he suffered two weeks ago.

The nature of surface in Sharjah has changed drastically with low-scores replacing 200-plus totals, which was the norm at the start of the tournament.

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