



FORTHRIGHT SARA

Actress Sara Ali Khan calls co-star Varun Dhawan a brat and a copycat who also filches 'shayari'

LEISURE P2



CONFIDENT AIMIM

Buoyed by Bihar poll results, the AIMIM is now looking to foray into UP & West Bengal

TWO STATES P7



TALL CLAIM

Sputnik V vaccine is 92% effective at protecting people from COVID-19, claim Russian authorities

INTERNATIONAL P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Political parties which placed large orders with us want us to send the bills to the pollsters

CENSORSHIP GOES ONLINE

Digital news portals, online films & content providers now under I&B Ministry

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 11: The government brought OTT platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video besides other online news and current affairs content under the ambit of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Wednesday. The move gives it power to regulate policies and rules for the digital space. So far, there was no law or autonomous body governing digital content in India.

According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat and signed by President Ram Nath Kovind, the decision has been taken in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution, by amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 and it will come into effect immediately.

With this, the Information and

Digital authoritarianism?

The likes of Netflix and Amazon Prime will now be subject to the same censorship rules as that of television

The decision came in less than a month after the SC sought the Centre's response on a PIL for regulating OTT platforms

Eight video streaming services had earlier signed a self-regulatory code, which the Centre refused to support



Broadcasting Ministry has the power to regulate policies related to news, audio, visual contents and films available on online platforms.

The decision came in less than a month after the Supreme Court sought the Centre's response on a PIL for regulating the Over The Top (OTT) platforms by an autonomous body.

Now, the OTT platforms, which were

hitherto unregulated, are expected to come under rules and regulations. In January 2019, eight video streaming services had signed a self-regulatory code that laid down a set of guiding principles for content on these platforms.

The code adopted by the OTTs prohibited five types of content, including those deliberately and maliciously dis-

respects the national emblem or national flag, any visual or story line that promotes child pornography, any content that maliciously intends to outrage religious sentiments, content that deliberately and maliciously promotes or encourages terrorism etc.

In their plea in the Supreme Court, advocates Shashank Shekhar Jha and Apurva Arhatia sought a proper board for the monitoring and management of online content.

Lack of legislation governing OTT and streaming platforms is becoming evident with each passing day and every new case that is filed on these grounds. "The government is facing heat to fill this lacuna with regulations from the public and the judiciary; still the relevant government departments have not done anything significant to regularise these OTT and streaming platforms," the plea said.

1800 266 266 1 (tollfree)

Nitish will be CM, no confusion: BJP

AGENCIES

Patna, Nov 11: The NDA made a comeback in Bihar after it won 125 seats out of the total 243 in this year's assembly election. Out of its constituents, the BJP won 74 seats and was the biggest contributor to the alliance's victory.

Bihar deputy chief minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sushil Kumar Modi thanked the people of Bihar for giving National Democratic Alliance (NDA) another chance. He also made it clear who is going to be the chief minister. "Nitish Kumar will remain the chief minister, that was our commitment," he told a website.

Later, speaking to news

'DYNASTY, DEMOCRACY CAN'T GO HAND-IN-HAND'



Merit should be the basis of progress, not entitlement and family run parties, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi while thanking the people for BJP's victory. "I don't just want to thank them for supporting us, but for participating in the democratic process," he said.

agency ANI, Modi said there were few chief ministers in Indian politics who the people trusted for the fourth time.

"I thank the people of Bihar that they expressed their faith in NDA for the fourth time," he said.

SIX OF FAMILY FOUND DEAD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patnagarh, Nov 11: Six members of a family were found murdered at Sanrapada village under Patnagarh police limits in Bolangir district, police said Wednesday.

They were found dead in their house in the village. The deceased were identified as Bulu Jani, his wife, two sons and two daughters. The body bore injury marks.

The family of Bulu Jani was collecting and selling honey in the village and nearby areas for the last 10 years, the Patnagarh IIC Priyanka Routray said.

On the other hand, Bolangir Superintendent of Police Madkar Sandeep Sampat said, "Prima facie, they have been murdered with sharp weapons."

New policy on electronics to woo investors, employ youth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: To attract large-scale investment in the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector, the state government has drafted a new Electronics Policy promising subsidy on power consumption, land and stamp duty among others.

The Electronics and IT department has come up with the draft policy in an aim to position Odisha as a leading destination for the electronics industry by providing leading infra-

structure and policy initiatives coupled with a skilled workforce and adoption of innovation.

This will create large scale employment in the state thereby contributing to overall growth.

The government has established a semiconductor characterization lab at IIT, Bhubaneswar to facilitate development of ESDM industry.

An Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) has been setup over an In this background, the government has unveiled the draft of new policy, which promises to provide 100

- Significant power tariff subsidies for ESDM units
- One-time recruitment assistance of ₹10L/unit
- Special incentives on employing local youths

per cent exemption on power duty for a period of 7 years.

It has also offered power tariff subsidy of 50 per cent to micro ESDM unit, 40 per cent to small, 25 per cent to medium and 10 per cent to large-scale units set up in the state.

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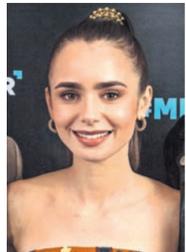


PAK ACTOR BILAL WISHES TO BE DIRECTED BY VISHAL BHARDWAJ

Pakistani actor Bilal Abbas Khan feels Indian filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj has an amazing understanding of cinema, and hopes to work with the filmmaker. "I wish to be directed by Vishal Bhardwaj. He is my all-time favourite," said Khan.

COLLINS ENJOYS HER STATUS AS CHARLIE'S FIANCEE

Actress Lily Collins says she is currently enjoying her status as a fiancée. Collins got engaged to filmmaker Charlie McDowell in September. She stars in the new series *Emily In Paris* and the show has earned mixed response.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
A plain Jane day. Work goes on as usual, and there is progress. But as Ganesh says, it's an ordinary day. Hum, whistle, doodle, and sip your green tea. While day dreaming, start planning your dream home.

TAURUS
In all probability, you will discuss certain sacred issues with your beloved today, predicts Ganesh. In the evening, you will be possibly visiting holy places. You had better make up for the lost time to finish pending work in the afternoon.

GEMINI
The idea of being with your family will keep you motivated throughout the day. In business, your inquisitive approach will do you a lot of good. In fact, you will have the proverbial Midas touch — whichever venture you put your hands on will turn into a glittering success.

CANCER
Today, you will strictly follow your plan book. All Ganesh needs to do to predict your day is take a peep into the book. However, this is only one of those rare days when things go according to plan. You are likely to keep your views to yourself, and will hardly betray what's on your mind.

LEO
Most battles are fought and won inside our head. Hence, Ganesh urges you to maintain a positive outlook today. The stars grant you the ability to double your efforts, and allow your imagination to take flight and chart new routes to success.

VIRGO
A cocktail of business and pleasure is on the house today. Parties will run till dawn. You will also take the correct route to success by making important decisions. People will stand to gain if they involve you in their do, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
"Efforts made are never in vain, even when they may seem otherwise". Let this be your motto for the day. Today may not seem to be the most productive day, especially when it comes to interviews.

SCORPIO
The day just went from bad to worse today, says Ganesh. Troubles are coming in faster and thicker than a locust swarm. But keep a leash on yourself, says Ganesh, and steer clear of it all. Take criticism in your stride today and pay attention to what is being said, not who is saying them.

SAGITTARIUS
Hedge your bets carefully, says Ganesh. Solving problems will come naturally to you. But, beware, as you may face the music from certain disgruntled individuals. Worry not, and keep the spring in your step.

CAPRICORN
Ganesh can hear the wedding bells. There is all the likelihood that you will find your perfect match today and will let him/her know about your feelings, says Ganesh. Your family means the world to you and you will be more expressive about this today than you have been in the past few years.

AQUARIUS
Meditate, and tune in to your inner sanctum. As you do this, you will realise you don't need others' advice all the time. Your boss will cooperate with you, while your loved ones will encourage you. An exciting date should close the day on a lovely note, says Ganesh.

PISCES
You will need broad shoulders to deal with the added responsibilities which will be heaped on your plate today. And while the work will be draining, the satisfaction of a job well done will more than ease your stress.

VAANI DISCOVERS FLIP SIDE OF BEING BUSY

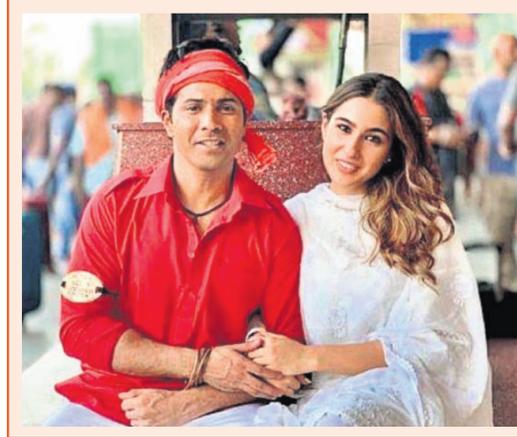
Mumbai: Actress Vaani Kapoor has three high-profile films lined up for release over the coming months, and she admits there is a flip side to it. "I haven't met my parents and sister in ages and I have been living in a hotel room for months, but I guess that's the new normal for us actors. We have to create a bio bubble around us so that work can continue, and we can keep making films that entertain the audience," said Vaani. "I have been living out of my suitcase for months now and I will be

doing so over the coming months, too. Honestly, I'm not complaining because I have been fortunate enough to be working even in the midst of a pandemic," she added. The actress recently concluded shooting for the spy thriller *Bell Bottom*, co-starring Akshay Kumar, in the UK. She has the romantic film *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui* opposite Ayushmann Khurrana coming up, besides the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer *Shamsher*. **IAWS**



Rajkumar doesn't re-watch his works

New Delhi: Critically acclaimed actor Rajkumar Rao is proud of his filmography, but he says he does not watch his past works again in order to analyse his performances. Last month, the 2013 biographical drama *Shahid*, which fetched him a National Award, turned seven. Asked what he sees when he looks back at his work, Rajkumar said: "I feel proud that I am part of such films that people will know me of, because of this filmography. I don't really re-watch my performances, but if I see bits here and there, I always feel that I could have done it better." "Also, you grow in life, you become more mature and understand the changes, so yeah that feeling always comes," added the actor, who has impressed audiences with films such as *Trapped*, *Newton*, *Bareilly Ki Barfi* and *Stree*. He is now looking forward to the release of his social comedy *Chhalaang*. **IAWS**



VARUN IS A BRAT, COPYCAT: SARA

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan calls Varun Dhawan a brat and a copycat. She also alleges her Coolie No. 1 co-star filches 'shayari'. Sara posted a string of pictures on Instagram, which seems to have been taken from the promotions of their upcoming film. In the images, the two young stars flaunt checkered ensembles. Sara captioned her post with trade-

mark 'poetic' elan: "Varun Dhawan is a brat. Shayari chor, copycat. Don't worry I have more tricks in my hat I'm the OG poetess- you forgot that! @varundvn." *Coolie No. 1* is directed by Varun's father David Dhawan. The film is a remake of the Govinda-Karisma Kapoor original the director made in 1995. In the remake, Varun and Sara reprise the lead roles. **IAWS**

Dhanteras-2020

Light up celebrations gifting statement jewellery

CLASSIC TEMPLE JEWELLERY IS A MUST-HAVE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON. TRADITIONAL TO THE CORE, THESE STAND OUT AMONGST A CROWD OF BLING AND SPARKLE FOR THEIR RICH LOOK

of elegance and sophistication. Ideal for at-home festive celebration, work meetings or parties, opt for a classic pearl pendant for simple and chic festive look.

COCKTAIL RINGS
A bold, bejeweled cocktail ring makes for the perfect accessory and why not buy it on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras. Be it rainbow-hued or a classic stone of your choice, choose one which compliments your personality.

New Delhi: Dhanteras, the festival of wealth and prosperity marks the onset of Diwali festivities. Begin the festive cheer by gifting yourself or your loved one a statement jewellery piece that lights up their celebrations. From gold and silver bars or coins to pearl pendants, coloured gemstone bangles and bracelets, antique temple jewellery or contemporary styles, choose from a wide variety of items, to make the day even more auspicious for your loved ones and bring home the joy of Diwali. You can shop for safely through the comfort of your home. Check out the top picks:



GOLD/SILVER COINS AND BARS
Bring love and luck to your home this festive season with a wide collection of varied gold and silver coins and bars. These are believed to bring good vibes to your loved ones and your home if bought on Dhanteras, while at the same time being a good investment for your family.

COLOURED GEMSTONE BANGLES
While diamonds seem to be the preferred choice, coloured gemstones are becoming quite popular. You can pick from a variety of bangles and bracelets embellished with coloured gemstones like ruby, emeralds and sapphires to mix and match with all your outfits through the festive season.

PEARL PENDANTS
Pearls never go out of fashion, they can instantly elevate your ensemble by adding the perfect amount

ANTIQUE TEMPLE JEWELLERY
Classic temple jewellery is a must-have for the festive season. Traditional to the core, these stand out amongst a crowd of bling and sparkle for their rich look. Choose from a range of jhumkas, necklaces and traditional sets.

MULTI-LAYER NECKLACES
Stay on top of trends by picking a multi-layer necklace. It not only accentuates your outfit, but works for both traditional and Western attire.

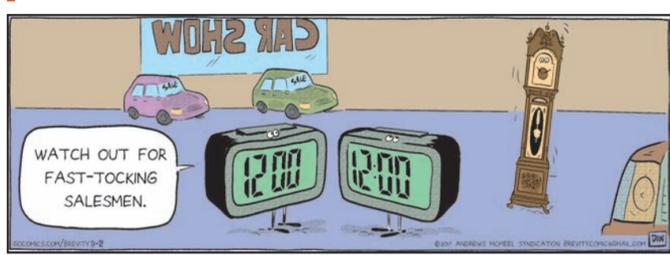
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

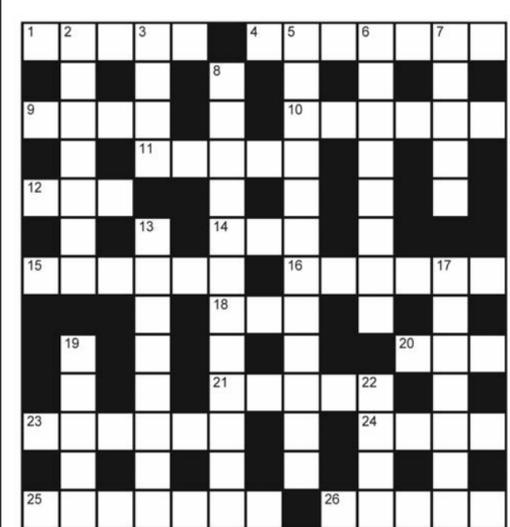


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Strumming instrument
 - 4 Artists' workrooms
 - 9 Cup part
 - 10 Ship holder
 - 11 Breakfast sizzler
 - 12 Cygnet's father
 - 14 Frigid
 - 15 Lenin's successor
 - 16 Tablecloths and such
 - 18 Off-road vehicle, briefly
 - 20 Ornamental vase
 - 21 Redhead's dye
 - 23 Mauna Kea locale
 - 24 Rich soil
 - 25 Nursery item
 - 26 Prominent
 - 3 Doorpost
 - 5 Dracula's hangout
 - 6 Young pochard
 - 7 Olfactory sensation
 - 8 Occasionally (4,2,1,5)
 - 13 Book addendum
 - 17 Tell tales
 - 19 Game bird
 - 22 Choir member

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

P	T	P	S	F	S
F	A	U	A	R	R
B	A	L	M	A	R
N	A	E	E	J	
M	A	S	S	A	G
N	E	B	O	O	O
C	R	W	O		
S	O	M	E	H	A
N	L	O	I	N	O
A	D	J	O	I	N
A	T	E	S	Y	E

SUDOKU

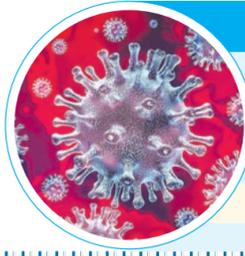
9	6	3	A	5	1	8	E	7	4	D	2	B	0	C
1	2	8	C	3	0	4	9	5	A	B	7	D	6	E
5	4	D	7	2	8	6	B	1	0	E	C	A	9	3
B	0	7	E	9	D	A	3	C	1	8	6	4	2	5
A	C	E	4	B	6	2	D	0	9	5	3	8	1	7
7	9	6	B	4	C	D	1	3	8	A	E	2	5	0
D	5	A	2	8	9	E	C	6	7	1	0	3	8	4
4	1	B	0	E	3	5	2	A	6	9	7	C	8	
8	E	C	6	D	7	B	0	4	3	2	5	1	A	9
0	3	2	5	1	A	7	6	4	8	9	0	6	E	D
2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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



STIR OVER PRICE HIKE

AIDWA activists hold a demo at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, to protest the rise in prices of essential commodities



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	5,20,59,906	3,65,41,128	12,83,594
India	86,35,754	80,11,844	1,27,615
Odisha	3,05,000	2,92,477	1,469

India moving from tax terrorism to tax transparency: PM

NEWLY-BUILT ITAT AT CUTTACK WILL PROVIDE MODERN FACILITIES TO MILLIONS OF TAXPAYERS, SAYS PRIME MINISTER MODI



The newly-inaugurated Income Tax Appellate Tribunal office-cum-residential complex in Cuttack

Naveen happy about new ITAT building

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed his happiness over the inauguration of the ITAT office-cum-residential complex at Cuttack Wednesday.

"I understand this is the third building complex for ITAT benches in India, and first in eastern part of our country. It may be recalled that the Cuttack Bench was established way back in 1970, with active involvement of Late Biju Patnaik. The Odisha government has always been supportive of the development of ITAT, Cuttack Bench, which includes provision of free land for this complex. In last 50 years, the Cuttack Bench of ITAT has been playing an important role in disposal of cases."

Patnaik also said, "With the new infrastructure and IT facilities of E-courts, I believe, we will have quick disposal of Income Tax Appeal cases not only from Odisha but also cases belonging to Ranchi, Patna and Guwahati Benches."

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Wednesday, expressed satisfaction that the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) is upgrading its benches for virtual hearing and said that Cuttack bench of ITAT would provide modern facilities to millions of taxpayers in eastern and north-eastern part of the country.

The Prime Minister, while inaugurating office-cum-residential complex of Cuttack Bench of ITAT through a videoconference, said that this bench would help in disposing of all the pending cases in this region.

He stressed that more and more use of technology, especially in judiciary, has started giving more convenience to the citizens.

"The country is moving from 'tax terrorism' to 'tax transparency'. This change has come due to the approach of Reform, Perform and Transform. We are performing with clear intentions and at the same time transforming the mindset of the tax administration," Modi said.

He also said that when the difficulties of the country's wealth creators are reduced and they get pro-

Modi attributed zero tax on income up to ₹5 lakh as a huge benefit being given to the youth of lower middle class

tection, their trust grows in the country's systems. He added the result of this growing trust is that more and more partners are coming forward to join the tax system for the development of the country. The Prime Minister said the thought process in the government is to trust the income tax return completely after being filed. "As a result of this, 99.75 per cent of the returns filed in the country today are accepted without any objection."

Modi attributed zero tax on income up to ₹5 lakh in the country as a huge benefit being given to the youth of lower middle class. He added that the new option of income tax given in the Budget this year, has simplified the lives of the taxpayers. He said ease of doing business has improved in the country as a result of reducing the burden of disputes by increasing the limit of appeal from ₹3 lakh to ₹50

lakh in ITAT and to ₹2 crore in Supreme Court.

The newly-built office-cum-residential complex at Cuttack is spread over an area of 1.60-acre land allotted by the state government free of cost in 2015. The total built-up area of the office complex is 1938 sq mtrs over 3 floors including, inter alia, the spacious court room, ultra-modern record room, well-equipped chambers for the Members of the Bench, library room, well-equipped modern conference hall, with sufficient space for the litigants, bar room for lawyers and chartered accountants, the ministry said.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO MEET TODAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

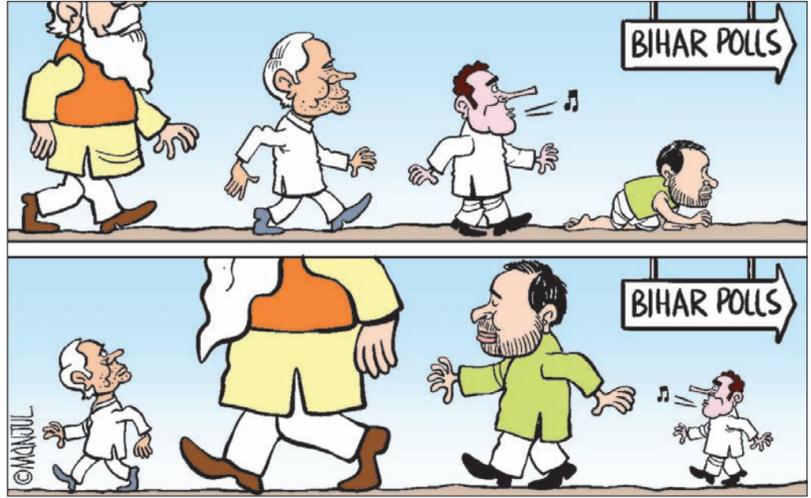
Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The Council of Ministers will meet Thursday evening to give shape to the Supplementary Budget 2020-21.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the Supplementary Budget is now a must as a revised estimate of the annual budget and the outlay may be less than last year's estimate.

The state had presented a Supplementary Budget of ₹8126 crore last year.

After the Council meeting, the State Cabinet meet will be held to clear some important proposals and Bills ahead of the winter session of Assembly begins from November 20.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



BMC stares at ₹10-crore revenue loss

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) is reportedly set to lose around ₹10 crore in terms of ad space revenue as agencies have expressed their inability to pay the rental owing to Covid-19 pandemic.

The civic authority, which owns the rights to put up advertisements on government land, earns a major share of its annual revenue from advertisement licence fee for placing advertisements on hoardings and billboards on private land too. However, with little or no revenue since March, requests of cancelling rent have poured in from the parties.

"We are looking ahead of about ₹8-10 crore rebate for agencies. Normally, we earn ₹16-18 crore through renting ad space. This constitutes about 15 per cent of the BMC revenue. However, looking at the losses incurred during pandemic, we are still in talks for the future course of action," said BMC Deputy Commissioner Srimanta Mishra.



An empty billboard in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

The state capital has about 760 hoardings rented to about 20 agencies. Out of these, about 600 are owned by BMC itself. With a minimum charge of ₹180 per sq ft, the civic authority is also said to charge the highest rates in comparison with other cities in the state.

"The lockdowns forced people to stay indoors. There was no presence of passengers at bus stands, railway stations and airports. As a result, most corporate houses and small business organisations had slashed funds for advertising campaigns. Consequently there was almost 95 per cent drop in hoarding

displays across the state," said Sujit Sahoo, president of Outdoor Advertising Agencies Association of Odisha (OAAAO).

Sujit also stated that only 100 outdoor advertising properties out of the total 16,500 across Odisha were booked during the lockdown. Although revenue has started trickling in with gradual lifting of restrictions, the agencies have requested the BMC to waive advertising fee at least for the lockdown as salaries to employees and other rents are still pending.

Meanwhile, sources have said that if the concessions are to be

COVID HITS AD SPACE LICENCE FEE

The civic authority, which owns the rights to put up advertisements on government land, earns a major share of its annual revenue from advertisement licence fee for placing advertisements on hoardings and billboards on private land too

However, with little or no revenue since March, requests of cancelling rent have poured in from the parties

Only 100 outdoor advertising properties out of the total 16,500 across Odisha were booked during the lockdown

placed, the civic authority will be looking ahead for one of the biggest losses in its annual revenue. The BMC, which had auctioned ₹19 crore advertisement rights to two parties in February this year, will still lag in earning profits from advertisement owing to pandemic.

Oppn to introspect drubbing in bypolls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The opposition parties have accepted their defeats in the recently conducted byelections in Tirtol and Balasore and talked about introspecting about their lacunae.

Congress party admitted that they failed to make adequate strategies to woo the voters but accused the BJD and BJP of using money power to influence voters.

Party leader Tara Prasad Bahinipati said, "Congress, of course, has been defeated. We will introspect. We are in touch with the Odisha in-charge. We will see why our magic is failing. There were good candidates and rallies. We were unable to splurge money at the scale what BJD and BJP did. Many BJD and BJD members made camps in the poll-bound areas. We failed in our strategy."

The BJP said the party suffered drubbing due to the stronghold of the regional party in Tirtol. The saffron party, however, attacked the Congress and claimed that it had been slowly losing its significance.

State BJP president Samir Mohanty said, "We fought the election with full vigour. The polls have given a clear-cut message that the Congress party in the state has lost its strength. It is now between BJP and BJD. The Congress has become powerless. In Balasore, we were able to garner good number of seats. In Tirtol, the BJD had a stronghold."

The BJD said the victory was because of the faith posed by the citizens on the regional party and its development works.

Party leader Pratap Jena said, "We won the two seats despite a good competition. We are satisfied with our performance. This was a victory of development and a good leadership."

Nov 18 date for mediation over Varsha-Anubhav spat

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Supreme Court mediation centre has decided to hold negotiation between Kendrapara Lok Sabha MP Anubhav Mohanty and his wife Varsha Priyadarshini November 18.

According to the SC mediation centre, the mediation is fixed for November 18 at 3pm through videoconferencing. The apex court mediation centre has asked both counsels to inform their parties about the session.

The couple would explore possibilities of amicable settlement of their marital discord during the meeting at the Supreme Court mediation centre.

Earlier, Anubhav's counsel Ashwini Dubey had said that after a discussion with Varsha's counsel, they had decided to hold mediation November 15 at the Supreme Court mediation centre.

The apex court is likely to take up the matter for hearing December 8.

Significantly, the SC had October



FILE PHOTO

16 asked the couple to explore possibilities of mutual settlement. A bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy had heard the transfer petition filed by Varsha and asked the couple to appear before the Supreme Court's mediation centre here.

The bench had observed that the couple are high profile personalities of Odia cinema and asked them to explore possibilities of amicable settlement.

Earlier, Varsha had moved the apex court seeking transfer of the divorce petition filed by Anubhav at Patiala House court to the Family Court in Cuttack.

It is to be mentioned here that the BJD MP had filed the divorce pe-

tion in Patiala House Court here July 7 and submitted that since the date of wedding, the marriage between them have not been consummated due to the 'selfish behaviour' of Varsha.

In the petition, the MP submitted that his wife Varsha stayed with him only for 18 months from the date of marriage and the said phase of married life was a period full of cruelty, tyranny, misery, harassment and suffering for him and his family members at the hands of his wife.

The actor-turned-politician was married to Varsha in February 2014. He contended that his wife never treated him as her husband and always tried to give him the mental and physical agony.

He contended that Varsha has been living separately since May 2019 and both of them are not having cordial relations with each other.

Similarly, Varsha had also filed a domestic violence case at the SDJM Court in Cuttack August 7 accusing Anubhav of physical and mental torture.

FRESH CURBS ON WEDDING PROCESSIONS IN CAPITAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Denizens here may have to wait long for a grandeur wedding as marriage processions such as Baraat and Vidai have been restricted by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) expecting a second wave of Covid-19.

In an order issued by the civic authority, all marriage processions have been prohibited. Moreover, the order also reduced people attending the function to 100 which was earlier 200. While the BMC will form squads to check any violation, the order is set to take effect from November 25.

"The owner of the Kalyan Mandaps (convention/marriage halls) shall provide details of the function along with permitted number of participants to BMC prior seven days of the function. In closed space, only 50 per cent of the total accommodation capacity will be allowed," the order stated.

Moreover, the order also mentioned that the host of the function will have to provide thermal screening of the guests at entrance



of the venue and ensure that senior citizens, pregnant women, children below 10 years age and persons having fever or any other symptoms do not take part in the event.

Meanwhile, the civic authority also stated that only 50 people will be allowed to join funerals. People SARI/ILI like symptoms will not be allowed to participate. In case presence of such individuals is mandatory, they are advised to participate by standing as far as possible.

"The new orders have been issued taking into consideration the second wave of infection during winter season. It shall be responsibility of the host of the function and the management of kalyan mandaps to adhere to the guidelines. They will be liable for penal action if found of violation," BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary said.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	43593.67 ↑ 316.02
NIFTY	12749.20 ↑ 118.10
DOLLAR	74.83 ↑ ₹0.06
EURO	87.77 ↑ ₹0.06
GOLD	₹50,050 ↓ ₹451
SILVER	₹62,019 ↓ ₹1,025

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	31.0°C
TEMP MIN	22.0°C	20.2°C
Humidity	93%	76%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky

NASA gives wings to Odisha space enthusiasts' dreams

POST NEWS NETWORK



The students selected for NASA Rover Challenge

OP PHOTO

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: A team of school students from Odisha has been selected by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to participate in 'NASA Rover Challenge' to be held in Huntsville, Alabama in April next year.

The NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge, which is organised every year, features an engineering design challenge to engage students worldwide in the next phase of human space exploration. The competition challenges high school and college students to create a vehicle designed to traverse the simulated surface of another world.

ROVER CHALLENGE

The NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge, which is organised every year, features an engineering design challenge to engage students worldwide in the next phase of human space exploration

The competition challenges high school and college students to create a vehicle designed to traverse the simulated surface of another world

The competition is all set to be held from April 15 to 17 at the US Space & Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama

Student Astronomy Team (NaPSAT) comprises of school students - the first school team from India to participate in the competition.

"We got a mail November 6 that our team is selected to represent India at NASA in the human exploration rover challenge 2021," said Rishikesh Amit Patnaik who is part of the team. "We applied for the competition in October and sent our project report regarding rover and STEAM engagement activity," he added.

The team comprises of nine core members - Rishikesh Amit Nayak, Anjishnu Pattanayak, Shreyash Vikas Mishra, Ankan Mondal, Nitesh Patanaik, Dati Danda Pani Patra, Kailash Chandra Barik, Tanvi Mallik and Kanuri Varshini. They are involved in design, bot driving,

mechanics, presentation, management and marketing, all under the able guidance of the founding members and educators of Navonmesh Prasar Foundation.

The competition is set to be held from April 15 to 17 at the US Space & Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama.

Rover challenge reflects the goals of NASA's Artemis program, which seeks to put the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024.

The NaPSAT is an interdisciplinary team of space enthusiasts across disciplines, who are engaged in projects ranging from the design of space systems, rovers, rockets, satellites and astronomy to participate in various international events.

State logs 15 fresh Covid deaths

Odisha's coronavirus caseload stands at 3,05,000 as 1,220 more people test positive for the infection

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: State's Covid-19 tally rose to 3,05,000 Wednesday as 1,220 more people tested positive for the infection, while 15 fresh fatalities pushed Odisha's coronavirus death toll to 1,469, an official of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department said.

As many as 703 new cases were reported in quarantine centres, while 517 infections were detected during contact tracing, the official said.

Khurda district, under which Bhubaneswar falls, registered the highest number of new cases at 134, followed by Sundargarh (119) and Cuttack (96), said the official.

Four fresh fatalities were reported in Balasore, three in Cuttack, two each in Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara and one each in Angul, Khurda, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts.

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

Khurda district has so far reported the highest number of coronavirus fatalities at 254, followed by Ganjam (232) and Cuttack (123), the official pointed out.

Odisha has so far tested over 50.77 lakh samples for Covid-19, including 49,160 Tuesday, the official said, adding the coastal state's positivity rate stands at 6.01.

Twin cities record 88 cases
The Capital city Bhubaneswar, meanwhile, recorded 59 Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Wednesday.

The civic body added that as many as 75 Covid-19 persons recovered from the viral infection in



Numbers vis-à-vis national data



A personnel of Odisha Police donates plasma at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack (Pic: @odisha_police)

SCOURGE OF CORONAVIRUS

Khurda registered the highest number of new cases at 134, followed by Sundargarh (119) and Cuttack (96)

Four fresh fatalities were reported in Balasore, three in Cuttack, two each in Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara and one each in Angul, Khurda, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh

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State has so far tested over 50.77 lakh samples, including 49,160 Tuesday

Odisha's positivity rate stands at 6.01

the period, taking the total recoveries in Bhubaneswar to 28,928.

The Capital city has so far witnessed 185 Covid deaths and 29,896 cases, the BMC said.

The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), on the other hand, said that 40 persons in its jurisdiction tested positive for Covid-19, Wednesday.

At least 48 persons who had earlier tested positive for Covid-19 recovered in the past 24 hours, the CMC said Wednesday. The Millennium City has so far recorded 77 Covid fatalities and 15,385 cases.

WFH advisory
The H&FW department has advised people to stay indoors and opt for 'work from home (WFH)'

so as to minimise chances of contracting the virus. The department has framed a set of Dos and Don'ts for those working from home.

"Don't work from the sofa or the bed. Take a break and stretch every 40 minutes. Walk for at least 30 minutes when you are on call. Ensure you have good back support and avoid looking down on the screen," the department tweeted.

Naveen throws open Odisha Eco Retreat 2020 for booking

The event will held at five places—Konark, Hirakud, Bhitarkanika, Daringbadi and Satkosia from Dec 8

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Riding on the success of its debut with Marine Drive Eco Retreat at Konark a year back, State Tourism department's flagship three-month festival Wednesday was declared open to bookings by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Naveen also unveiled its logo in a special function held in a virtual platform. The Eco Retreat Odisha is slated to open from December 8 this year and run till February 28, 2021.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that last year, a benchmark was set in luxury glamping with a phenomenal success at the Marine Drive Eco Retreat at Konark. "This time, we have scaled it up to five unique locations—Konark, Hirakud, Bhitarkanika, Daringbadi and Satkosia," he said.

The Eco Retreats will offer tourists an excellent opportunity to discover Odisha's diverse tourism offerings, in style, Naveen added.

In a note of assurance to tourists from across the country during Covid times, the Chief Minister said that all stakeholders in tourism and hospitality sector across the state have been provided training for strict compliance of Covid-19 protocols.

Consistent with Odisha's stellar



On the screen, CM Naveen addresses the delegates and declares open the booking for the Eco Retreats, Wednesday

The Eco Retreats will offer tourists an excellent opportunity to discover Odisha's diverse tourism offerings, in style

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

management of Covid-19 pandemic, the Eco Retreats will be in complete compliance with guidelines and standard operating procedures prescribed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, he further said.

Patnaik urged the respective district administrations to take ownership of the execution of the Eco Retreats.

Raising hope for the pandemic-affected tourism and hospitality sector, he expressed confidence that the Eco Retreats will provide the much needed fillip to Odisha Tourism and help it revive during this difficult time.

Tourism Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi said that the impact that Marine Drive Eco Retreat had created is massive which echoed at the Tourism Minister's Conclave in January 2020.

Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy, who also attended the event, said that the Eco Retreat model ticks the right boxes in terms of environmental sustainability, technological leverage, teamwork, timeliness in near-perfect compliance with the good governance framework of 5T and will be transformative for each location's tourism-oriented future.

Tourism secretary Vishal Dev, in his presentation, gave a glimpse of the experiences awaiting tourists at each of the five unique locations.

One can book luxury tents at the sites by logging into integrated portal ecoretreat.odishatourism.gov.in.

'No' member of transgender community should beg: Govt

SSEPD dept recently conducted a review meeting of the Sweekruti scheme, meant to provide skill development and livelihood options for the vulnerable section of the society

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The state department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) has planned to conduct skill mapping of the transgender community and engage them in various government schemes.

The department aims to put a halt to the begging activities where many members from the community are said to be indulging at several traffic junctions, temples and

other areas and include them in livelihood options.

The department recently conducted a review meeting of the Sweekruti scheme especially meant to provide skill development and livelihood options for the vulnerable section of the society. The meeting was attended by the SSEPD officials, traffic police department, the community members and other advocacy groups working with them.

The department has decided that all the transgenders would be covered with Aadhaar and those left out should be covered with the government enrollment through special drives. The officials have been asked to ensure that the community members are not seen begging in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

The authorities have been asked to ensure their skill mapping; skill training and connect them with livelihood training to bring them into the mainstream. Authorities have directed the police department and the municipal

corporations to hand over the persons found begging and send them to the former to ensure their rehabilitation.

"Officials will take up skill upgradation mapping followed by selection of trade for such training. The official may link existing skill providers in the twin cities for skilling of the transgenders. In case of such skill upgradation, facilities are not readily available, they will arrange for the same. Skill mapping of transgender persons through personal interface should be completed within 15 days and thereafter the officials should submit the same to the District Social Security Officers (DSSOs) concerned," the minutes of the meeting said.

The officials in the districts have been asked to ensure Self Help Groups (SHGs) of the community also ensure regular organisation of job fair for them. Special corpus has also been fixed for their training and rehabilitation.

CLEANING THE MESS



Twin city Commissionerate Police personnel bust a fake spices manufacturing unit in Malgodown area of Cuttack, Wednesday. (Inset) The packaged spices

Close 18 jails in state: Prison dept tells Govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: In view of low occupancy rate in jails of Odisha, the Prisons department has sought the permission of the state government to close 18 jails in the state.

Director General of Prisons department Santosh Upadhyay said there are many jails in the state which were made during the British rule in the state.

Giving an example, he said that the jail at Pallahara has the capacity to house 58 inmates; however, even half of the capacity is not used.

There are many jails including Madanpur-Rampur in Kalahandi and ar Sohela in Bargarh that face a similar condition.

"As video-conferencing facilities are available in nearby bigger jails, it would be easier to produce the inmates of the closed jails before the courts concerned," Upadhyay added.

CLASSIFIED LOST

Lost of Original CBSE 10th SLC-cum-Marksheet of Bhagyashree Mishra bearing Roll No. 6110464 & Regd. No. B115/53122/0016 and original Birth Certificate of Soumyaranjan Mishra. Contact No. 9437031591, 7326965249.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit bearing Notary Public, Cuttack on 04.11.2020 I, Jitendra R Singh, F/o. Kusum Singh have changed my minor daughter name Aishwar Singh to Kusum Singh for all purposes. Kusum Singh, Sagadiasahi, Professorpada, P.O.-Collegesquare, Cuttack.

HOW DID SHGs TIDE OVER LOCKDOWN BLUES

THE STATE GOVT'S URBAN WAGE EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE HELPED THE INFORMAL WORKFORCE IN ODISHA'S 114 URBAN LOCAL BODIES INVOLVING WOMEN SHGs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: The women members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed under Mission Shakti were able to earn livelihood when the pandemic was wreaking havoc all across due to state government's Urban Wage Employment Initiative, a report said.

The pandemic has led to crisis in urban livelihoods with slowdown in service sectors, layoffs in product manufacturing units, disruptions in supply chains and loss of job of workers engaged mostly in unorganised production and service sectors.

This has resulted in high scale migration of jobless workers to their native places jeopardising local economies.

To address the challenge, the state government had announced a new scheme Urban Wage Employment Initiative (UWEI) to

help the informal workforce in the state's 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) involving women SHGs.

The unique livelihood convergence model under UWEI mandates that Mission Shakti women Self Help Groups (SHG) act as the implementing partners (IPs) in execution of all works.

Housing & Urban Development department is the nodal department for supervision of the scheme. For the very first time, Mission Shakti urban SHGs are engaged as implementing partners specifically in works.

The work under UWEI includes desilting of drains, construction of rainwater harvesting structures, plantations, recycling and reuse of waste, beautification of city through wall painting and murals. So far, 6837 SHGs have been engaged as IPs in execution of work with contract value/wage component amounting to ₹62.08 crore across the state,



official sources said here Wednesday

The SHGs have received ₹70.93 lakh as supervision charges. The SHGs as implementing partners have provided 3.82 lakh man-days with a total wage value of ₹52.09 crore, electronically transferred to the bank accounts of beneficiaries.

On average each Mission Shakti SHG is getting ₹6712 as supervi-

sion charges under this initiative. Urban Wage Employment Initiative has benefitted the urban poor labourers in this crucial time by providing employment in the same ULB while strictly adhering to health advisories with regards to Covid-19 pandemic issued by the government.

"Our SHG has executed the work of morm tapping on a new earthen road. This has truly helped them to meet their daily household expenses and ensure food security of their family," said Sujata Samal

secretary of Sri Jagannath SHG, Rairangpur NAC, Mayurbhanj.

"During the pandemic, when most people lost their employment due to the economic slowdown, our SHG was able to provide work to around ten persons of our ward while earning income for all SHG members through supervision charges.

This is one of the most effective solutions to combat unemployment during this pandemic," said Ranu Prava Mohanty president of Nandini SHG, Phulbani.

Our SHG has executed the work of morm tapping on a new earthen road. This has truly helped them to meet their daily household expenses and ensure food security of their family

SUJATA SAMAL | SECRETARY, SRI JAGANNATH SHG, RAIKANGPUR NAC, MAYURBHANJ

During the pandemic, when most people lost their employment due to the economic slowdown, our SHG was able to provide work to around ten persons of our ward while earning income for all SHG members through supervision charges

RANU PRAVA MOHANTY | PRESIDENT, NANDINI SHG, PHULBANI

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Token hurdle for farmers in Bargarh

Ganja smuggling: Properties worth ₹4.59 cr confiscated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Nov 11: Even as paddy procurement for the khariff season started in Bargarh, many farmers in the district faced problems arising out of the mandatory token system introduced by the administration for disposing paddy, a report said.

Pointing out that tokens have been made compulsory for them for sale of paddy at the mandis, farmers alleged that many of them had failed to get tokens. It may be noted here that there had been protests by farmers in western Odisha against the token system.

The report said the administration has opened 185 mandis in the district since November 9. But procurement will start in Sohela, Melchhamunda, Gaisilet and others from November 15, said an office holder of the Bargarh Zilla Chasi Sangathan Samwaya Samiti. "Even if mandis are opened,



farmers will not be able to sell their paddy till November 15. Due to token system, farmers have to suffer a lot," lamented Kishore Debata, secretary of the farmers' body. Laxman Pradhan, a farmer, said,

PADDY PROCUREMENT

The report said the administration has opened 185 mandis in the district since November 9. But procurement will start in Sohela, Melchhamunda, Gaisilet and others from November 15, said an office holder of the Bargarh Zilla Chasi Sangathan Samwaya Samiti

LAXMAN PRADHAN, A FARMER, SAID, "MANY OF US HAVE HARVESTED PADDY BUT HAVE NOT RECEIVED TOKENS WHILE MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE GOT TOKENS HAVE NOT YET HARVESTED THEIR PADDY. THIS MESS HAS BEEN CREATED DUE TO THE APATHY OF THE ADMINISTRATION"

The farmers who have harvested paddy have not received their tokens while many who have got tokens have not yet harvested their paddy."

He alleged that such a mess has been created due to the apathy of the administration.

As farmers started facing problems in getting tokens, a delegation of farmers deliberated on the issue Wednesday and has decided to take up the issue with the Collector.

Some farmers had brought their paddy to Kalapnai mandi Tuesday. The staff of the mandi did not allow them to enter the premises as they did not have tokens.

Upset over it, the farmers cre-

ated a ruckus. The staff had to open the gate of the mandi. "This problem has come up at several other mandis too. After harvest, farmers are in a hurry to sell their produce at the earliest. What is the use of opening mandis when tokens have not been issued to eligible farmers," farmers lamented.

They pointed out that the token system will slow down the procurement process, giving advantage to middlemen and traders to buy paddy at low prices from needy farmers.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Nov 11: In a major breakthrough, Nabarangpur police confiscated properties worth around ₹4.59 crore and 14 bank accounts of three siblings and their kin engaged in inter-state ganja smuggling, Wednesday.

The accused included three siblings and five of their kin. The action was taken following an order by the competent authority of Kolkata office of the Union Ministry of Finance. This is the highest ever freezing of properties by the state police under the NDPS Act.

A police team led by Papadahandi SDPO Aditya Sen and comprising Kosagumuda and Kodinga IICs visited the houses of the accused and stuck the property attachment notices on their walls

The accused were identified as Prabhakar Mali, Anirudh Mali and Ramesh Mali of Panarguda village under Kosagumuda police limits in the district. Police have arrested Prabhakar while Ramesh and Anirudh are absconding.

The breakthrough came after cases on ganja smuggling were registered against the siblings at Kosagumuda police station and Papadahandi police station as well as in Borigumma police station in



The action followed an order by the competent authority of Kolkata office of the Union Ministry of Finance. This is the highest ever freezing of properties by the state police under the NDPS Act

the neighbouring Koraput district.

Police said the accused were involved in smuggling contraband to various locations in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

The accused assisted by their kin used to bring the contraband

from Koraput and Malkangiri districts and smuggled them to various locations.

The attached properties were held in the name of the three siblings and kin Bansidhar Mali, Muralidhar Mali, Madhusudan Mali, Kumari and Nilendri Mali.

The properties include four buildings, 4.82 acre land, a bullet motorcycle, a scooter, a car and two tractors whose value added up to ₹4.77 crore.

₹9.76 lakh in the bank account was also seized while tracing the illegal cash transaction of ₹4.59 crore linked to 14 bank accounts. The breakthrough came after SP Nitin Kusalakar formed a special team and directed a probe into ganja smuggling. The team conducted a probe for over a month and recommended confiscation of the properties.

Congress warns of agitation

BARGARH: Amid displeasure of farmers over compulsory token system for paddy procurement, Congress in Bargarh district has warned of an agitation Wednesday. Congress leaders alleged that the farmers who have harvested paddy have not received tokens while procurement has started. The party alleged that token system had created a mess in the system. A delegation of Congress leaders led by district unit president Nihar Ranjan Mahananda submitted a memorandum to Collector Jyotranjan Pradhan. Congress leaders said that tokens should be issued to farmers the day they come with their produce to the mandis.

ANDHRA PEOPLE REMOVE SIGNBOARDS IN POTTANGI

BORDER ROW



POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Nov 11: Even as border dispute with Andhra in Koraput district is yet to be resolved, the neighbouring state at times stokes the war by making encroachment bids on Odisha side.

Reports said, people of Sunabeda in Sambai panchayat under Pottangi block often get into confrontations with the people of Bitrugunda, Kalaput, Dekapar, Badlambaguda and Nitamba in Vishakhapatnam district over borders.

The district administration had

put up signboards on the outskirts of Sambai panchayat on the Andhra-Odisha borders.

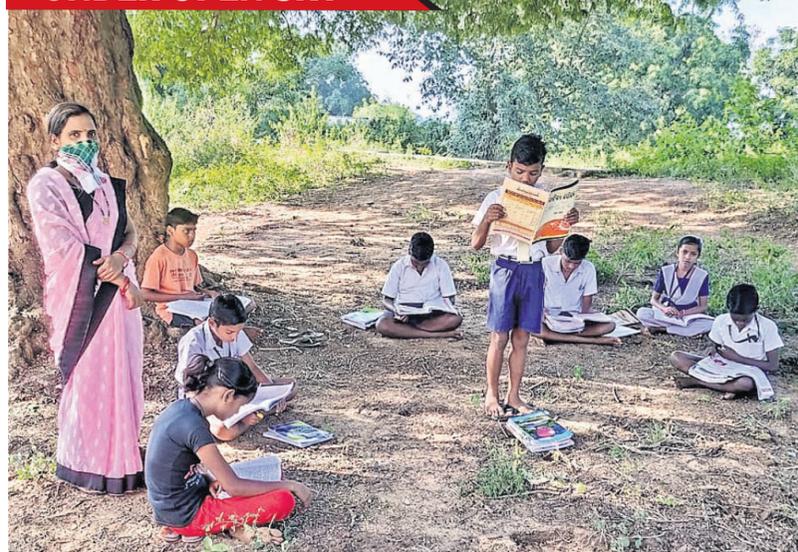
Next day, the people of the above-said villages removed the signboards.

People of Sunabeda village told the media about the incident. It was learnt that the signboards were removed immediately after MLA Cheti Falguna visited the five villages.

Over years, people of Sunabeda have been at loggerheads with people of the five villagers over the farmland and nearby hills.

It was alleged that the district administration of Koraput and Vishakhapatnam have not taken any steps to resolve the border dispute. Jagatijyoti Pang, chairperson of the Pottangi block said people of Sunabeda have to live amid fears of routine confrontation with the people of the neighbouring state.

UNDER OPEN SKY



As part of doorstep education during the pandemic, a teacher teaches kids under a tree in Naktideula area of Sambalpur district, Wednesday

Man gets 20-yr jail for impregnating minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Nov 11: A local court sentenced a man to 20 years of imprisonment for raping a minor girl. The court of the additional district and sessions judge awarded 20 years of imprisonment and slapped a fine of ₹50,000 while hearing the case on Tuesday.

According to the case diary, Ajay Sikdar of MV-6 village in the district kidnapped the survivor of Khadenga Sahi under Balimela NAC limits in the district to Vishakhapatnam and raped her in 2016 for a period of time.

Later, the family members rescued the minor from Sikdar's custody and brought her home. The survivor's father then lodged a complaint against Sikdar in Orkel police station after learning the minor was pregnant. The then SI Santosh Barik arrested Sikdar and produced him in court. Twenty-seven witnesses recorded their statements in the court.

After four years, he was sentenced 20 years imprisonment by the judge.

Kanpur project: Oustees agree to shift shrine for dam work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua/Joda, Nov 11: Thakurani Shala, a place of worship for tribals of Basudevpur under Champua sub-division in Keonjhar, needs to be shifted to make space for the ongoing work of Kanpur major irrigation project. However, displaced people of the area were unwilling to relocate the shrine as their religious sentiments were attached to it.

The administration held a meeting with the oustees here Wednesday. The administration said the displaced have agreed to relocate the shrine.

Reports said, the meeting was chaired by Champua sub-collector Pratap Preetimaya and was attended by PD(R&R) Kushal Chandra Nayak, SDPO Dillip Chandra Bag, Barbil tehsildar Alok Kumar Patel and other officials.

At the meeting the officials assured the displaced people to find



an alternative place for the deity. The locals have identified three places for the shrine. The officials visited the three places.

The villagers also demanded a school building, playground, a community hall. The officials assured them of looking into their other demands. It may be noted here that a 122-metre spur of the Kanpur irrigation project had been facing hurdle due to Thakurani Shala.

The sub-collector said steps will be taken to meet the demands of the

displaced people. However, he added that special assistance as sought by the displaced is under consideration of the government.

The villagers said that though they had been trying to prevail upon the administration about their demands since 2017, nobody was listening to them.

"We now have faith in the assurance of the sub-collector and agreed to shift the shrine elsewhere," said Ganeswar Patra, a villager.

2 of family killed, as many injured in attack in Burla

POST NEWS NETWORK

Burla, Nov 11: A brother duo was killed and two of their family members were critically injured after miscreants attacked them Tuesday night at Central Line area of Burla in Sambalpur district. According to sources, the miscreants were armed with sharp weapons and sticks. They came in a car and attacked Bulu Bisoyi and his brother Muna Bisoyi. They did not spare their father and mother, who were also present in the house.

After being attacked with sharp weapons, Bulu died on the spot. Three others sustained critical injuries and were admitted to VIMSAR in Burla. Later, Muna succumbed to injuries in the hospital, Burla police sources said.

Police seized the body and launched an investigation. The police have detained four persons in this connection. The exact cause behind the attack has not been ascertained so far. Past enmity is suspected to be the reason for the clash. The post-mortem will be conducted Wednesday morning.

ITI LIMITED (A Govt. of India Undertaking) M-5/26, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar - 751013 Phone: (0674) 2567225/2567229 Enquiry is invited for Engagement of Security Agency for ITI Limited, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Due date: 20.11.2020, at 14.30 hrs. For details please visit the website www.itiltd.in / www.eprocure.gov.in . CRM, ITI Ltd., Bhubaneswar	आई टी आई लिमिटेड (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) एच 5/26, आचार्य विहार, भुवनेश्वर - 751013 फोन: (0674) 2567225 / 2567229 आई टी आई लिमिटेड भुवनेश्वर ओडिशा में सुरक्षा एजेंसी नियोग हेतु निविदा अंतिम तारीख 20.11.2020 (14.30 घंटा) Website: www.itiltd.com / www.eprocure.gov.in . सि एच एम, आई टी आई लिमिटेड, भुवनेश्वर
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WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROURKELA (R&B) DIVISION, UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA
 No.B-392- email id - eeppwdrkl@gmail.com
Government of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.: 29/ 2021-21 Dated: 04.11.2020

- Number of works: Total 2(Two) number of Work
- Estimated cost: Rs. 73.258 lakhs to Rs.87.535 lakhs
- Period of completion: Seven(07) to Nine(09) calendar months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: 16.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
- Last date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 27.11.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of Bid: 03.12.2020 at 11.30 A.M.
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Engineer, (R & B) Division, Rourkela, Uditnagar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"
Sd./- Executive Engineer, R & B Division, Rourkela
 OIPR-34068/11/0013/2021

Kalahandi's 'gully boy' to sing for Odia film

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Nov 11: Migrant worker-turned singer Duleshwar Tandi from Kalahandi district who is popularly known by his stage name 'Rapper Dule Rock' will sing for the upcoming Odia film whose music director is Prem Anand.

The songs of Duleshwar will be recorded Wednesday evening at Smruti Studio of Tankapani Road in Bhubaneswar. A song titled as 'Jio wala anti' which the youth is to sing has been penned by lyricist Subrat Swain, the music director Anand informed.

Sundargarh girl Swarnarekha and popular Odia singer Ashutosh will also render their voices along with



Duleshwar, the source added.

Notably, Duleshwar is very popular on YouTube as well as social media. The boy hailing from a remote tribal

Duleshwar Tandi, popularly known as 'Rapper Dule Rock' will sing songs with music direction by Prem Anand

household became an overnight sensation across the state a few months back and was highly appreciated by netizens for his self composed song

'Suno sarkar'.

Famous Hindi film music director Vishal Dadlani, actress Swara Bhaskar, Sonu Mohapatra and several others including Barkha Dutta had appreciated this viral song. Dadlani had also given him an offer to sing in one of his Hindi films.

A science graduate from Borda village, Tandi used to wipe tables and wash plates at a restaurant in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. He had gone there to help his father treat his ailing mother.

After his father's death, he had to return home. Moved by the plight of migrant labourers during lockdowns, he accorded their sufferings a place in his raps and instantly touched a chord with the people of Odisha.

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED
 (A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR
 e-Mail: eeolicdivn.bbsr@gmail.com, Tel.: 0674-2391847
e-Procurement Notice
 Bid Identification No. 1962/2019-20 Dt.02.11.2020
 No. CAD-724: The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Bhubaneswar on behalf of ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED, BHUBANESWAR invites Percentage Rate Bids in Online mode for installation of Medium Deep Tube Wells including supply of materials in complete shape from reputed Contractors/Firms with valid licence within the State issued by P.W.D./R.W.S.S./P.H.E.D./Irrigation/M.I. Dept. having their Mud Rotary/Combination Rig and in the profession of Ground Water Exploration, Drilling and Installation of Medium Deep Tube Wells (Approximate upto 100 Mtr. Depth). The proof of registration & experience from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid.

Pkg No.	Name of the Dist.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD to be Deposited (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Completion Period
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Khordha	Drilling and Installation of 06 Nos. of 200 mm dia Medium Deep Tube Well at different location	2318239	23182	6000/- + 5% GST on reverse charge basis vide Challan No. 21AAAC0586G1ZF of OLIC	Civil C & B Licence	90 Days

- Date & time of Publishing : 16.11.2020 at 10.00 A.M.
- Date of seeking clarification : Upto 24.11.2020 (10 A.M. to 5 P.M.)
- Closing date and time : 26.11.2020 at 5.00 P.M.
- Opening Date & Time : 27.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

The details of tender are available in the Government tender website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in and other related documents are available in the DTGN for bidding. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender will be available in the said website.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, L.I. Division, Bhubaneswar
 OIPR-32155/11/0014/2021

FOCUS AMERICA

THE FOUR-YEAR REPRIEVE



He may not know it yet, but the most important question President-elect Joe Biden faces is how Trump managed to win an even larger number of votes than he did four years ago, despite his lies, corruption, and disastrous handling of the pandemic. Unless he addresses it, a rude awakening awaits the Democratic Party in 2024

to speak against violence, the Democrats became susceptible to charges of moral grandstanding and denigrating the values of the heartland. For others, continued support for Trump merely confirms how entrenched racism and bigotry are, and the Democratic Party's urgent need to fight them.

In terms of economics, many observers, including some centrist Democrats, believe the party turned off conservative voters by moving too far to the left. True to form, Republicans fanned the fears of high taxes, job-killing environmental policies, and socialised medicine. In both major US political parties, the quintessential American myth of the lone entrepreneur who does best when government does the least is still alive and well.

On the other side of the argument, progressives argue that Biden campaigned on proposals that were hardly radical by the standards of other developed countries. He was, after all, determined to frame the election as a referendum on Trump, not as a test of support for an alternative agenda. Perhaps Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren, with their greater emphasis on jobs, economic security, and redistribution, were more in tune with the aspirations of most Americans.

Given that the election was held in the midst of an increasingly deadly pandemic, it is also possible that voting patterns were driven by a mix of health and economic considerations, only loosely related to these debates. Some Democratic Party insiders believe that voters may have been concerned about the economic costs of the lockdowns and more aggressive COVID-19 policies advocated by Democrats. If so, the above arguments are largely moot.

In sum, it is clear that the election does not resolve the perennial debate about how the Democratic Party and other centrist parties should position themselves on cultural and economic issues to maximise their electoral appeal. But neither does it fundamentally alter the challenge these parties face. Political leaders on the left need to fashion both a less elitist identity and a more credible economic policy.

As Thomas Piketty, among others, has noted, parties of the left have increasingly become the parties of educated, metropolitan elites. As their traditional working-class base has eroded, the influence of globalised professionals, the financial industry, and corporate interests has risen. The problem is not just that these elites often favour economic policies that leave

middle and lower-middle classes and lagging regions behind. It is also that their cultural, social, and spatial isolation renders them incapable of understanding and empathising with the worldviews of the less fortunate. A telling symptom is how easily the cultural elite dismiss the 70-plus million Americans who backed Trump in this election by portraying them as benighted people who vote against their own interests.

On economics, the left still lacks a good answer to the burning question of our time: Where will good jobs come from? More progressive taxation, investments in education and infrastructure, and (in the United States) universal health insurance are critical. But they are not sufficient. Good, middle-class jobs are becoming scarce, owing to secular trends in technology and globalisation. And COVID-19 has deepened the polarisation of labour markets. We need a more proactive government strategy directly targeting an increase in the supply of good jobs.

Communities where good jobs disappear pay a price that goes beyond economics. Drug addiction, family breakdown, and crime rise. People become more attached to traditional values, less tolerant of outsiders, and more willing to support authoritarian strongmen. Economic insecurity triggers or aggravates cultural and racial fault lines.

It is up to the parties of the left to develop programmatic solutions to these deep-rooted economic problems. But technocratic solutions can go only so far. A lot of bridge building needs to be done to overcome the fissures for which cultural elites are largely responsible. Otherwise, the Democrats could be in for another rude awakening four years from now.

The writer, Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, is the author of Straight Talk on Trade: Ideas for a Sane World Economy.

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Dani Rodrik

EVEN THOUGH BIDEN IS BASICALLY A CENTRIST, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM HAS MOVED CONSIDERABLY TO THE LEFT - AT LEAST BY AMERICAN STANDARDS

As Joe Biden eked out a victory in the US presidential election after a few suspenseful days, observers of American democracy were left scratching their heads. Buoyed by polls, many expected a landslide for the Democrats, with the party capturing not only the White House but also the Senate. How did Donald Trump manage to retain the support of so many Americans - receiving an even larger number of votes than four years ago - despite his blatant lies, evident corruption, and disastrous handling of the pandemic?

The importance of this question goes beyond American politics. Centre-left parties everywhere are trying to revive their electoral fortunes against right-wing populists. Even though Biden is temperamentally a centrist, the Democratic Party platform has moved considerably to the left - at least by American standards. A decisive Democratic victory would have been a significant boost to the moderate left's spirits: perhaps all it takes to win is to combine progressive economic policies with attachment to democratic values and basic human decency.

The debate is already on about how Democrats could have done better. Unfortunately, their narrow victory does not yield easy lessons. American politics revolves around two axes: culture and economics. On both sets of issues, we can find those who fault Democrats for going too far and those who fault them for not going far enough.

The culture wars pit the country's socially conservative, predominantly white regions against metropolitan areas where so-called 'woke' attitudes have risen to predominance. On one side we have family values, opposition to abortion, and gun rights. On the other, we have LGBT rights, social justice, and opposition to 'systemic racism.'

Many who voted for Trump viewed Democrats' support for this year's street protests against police brutality as condoning violence and tarring the nation as a whole with the broad brush of racism. While Biden was careful

SPECTRUM REHABILITATION

A safe retreat from the war on drugs



Tlaleng Mofokeng

THE THREAT OF PUNISHMENT AND DISCRIMINATION DOESN'T DRIVE PEOPLE TO QUIT OR AVOID DRUGS, BUT RATHER TO HIDE THEIR USE, INCLUDING FROM THEIR DOCTORS

While the world has been fixated on the results of the presidential election in the United States, less attention has been paid to another outcome of last Tuesday's vote: significant steps toward decriminalisation of drugs in several US states. One state - Oregon - is now set to abolish criminal penalties for possession of small quantities of all illegal drugs, from heroin to methamphetamine. This approach should be applauded - and adopted far more broadly.

According to 2018 data, about 269 million people around the world use illicit drugs, including 11 million who do so by intravenous injection - a method that carries additional risks. Nearly half of those who inject drugs are living with hepatitis C, and a staggering 1.4 million are living with HIV. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in 2017 alone, more than a half-million people died as a result of drug use.

This is an entirely preventable tragedy, fuelled by the cruel and counter-productive approach exemplified by the so-called war on drugs. Launched in the 1970s by US President Richard Nixon, drug possession today is a criminal offense in most countries, and users face severe social stigma. The war logic is simple: the risk

of harsh punishment will act as an effective deterrent, causing drug use to diminish. But this isn't what happens at all. Despite increasingly punitive approaches, global drug sales and use continue to increase, causing more overdoses, HIV, hepatitis C, and tuberculosis.

The threat of punishment and discrimination doesn't drive people to quit or avoid drugs, but rather to hide their use, including from their doctors. By discouraging those who use drugs from engaging with health systems, criminalisation and stigmatisation - as well as racism, which compounds drug-related discrimination - contribute to negative health outcomes for individuals and communities that extend far beyond the drugs themselves.

There is a better way. Rather than attempting to force people to forswear all drug use, we should be attempting to minimise its negative impact on their health and well-being. So-called harm-reduction interventions include needle-exchange programmes, whereby people can access sterile needles and syringes; drug-consumption rooms, where people can safely use drugs without risking an overdose; opioid agonist therapy, such as methadone replacement; and housing and employment initiatives. Decades of research and prac-

tice prove that harm-reduction interventions work and are cost-effective. For example, opioid agonist therapy decreases the likelihood of overdose. And needle-exchange programs substantially reduce the spread of hepatitis C and HIV among people who inject drugs, thereby helping to decrease transmission overall. In Portugal, HIV rates have plummeted since possession of all drugs was decriminalised and harm-reduction interventions were ramped up almost 20 years ago. The good news is that, as the latest report from Harm Reduction International (HRI) reveals, significant progress has been made in the provision of such services. Over the last few decades, 86 countries have implemented needle and syringe programmes, and 84 provide some form of opioid agonist therapy. But much more remains to be done.

As the HRI report shows, there are still enormous gaps in access to harm-reduction services, even in places that offer them, such as Australia, Canada, and Western Europe. For example, there are few services tailored to women and gender non-conforming people. And harm-reduction services consistently fail to meet the needs of the groups that have borne the brunt of punitive drug policies for decades, such as people of African descent

including African-Americans and indigenous people around the world.

According to HRI, progress in expanding access to harm-reduction programmes has been stalled for more than five years. As long as limited resources are being allocated to law enforcement, rather than harm reduction, significant further gains will remain elusive. When people who use drugs suffer and die, they are often reduced to statistics and dismissed as 'criminals' or 'lowlives.' But they are our friends and families, neighbours and colleagues. They are human beings, who have a right to health, equality, and respect, regardless of their gender, sexuality, race, nationality, legal status, or drug-use habits or histories.

If Covid has taught us anything, it is that the health and well-being of all are interconnected. Only an approach to drug use based on public-health imperatives and human-rights principles - and that protects the most vulnerable among us - can end a war that never should have been fought.

The writer is a member of the Commission for Gender Equality in South Africa and UN Special Rapporteur on the Right-to-Health.

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“ The best way to express one's gratitude to the Divine is to feel simply happy. **”**

THE MOTHER



Concentration camps

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has categorised all industries based on a Pollution Index - which calculates the effect they have on water, air and land and the health of people - Red, Orange, Green and White. Red category industries include slaughterhouses, hazardous chemical industries and firecracker factories. They are the most polluting. The Red and Orange category industries need to meet stringent minimum standards for operation and waste disposal. They get Consent to Establish, as well as Consent to Operate, only after detailed inspections, and these are renewed constantly. Any violation of guidelines attracts penalties as environmental compensation.

Each category below Red has less and less norms to follow, and their monitoring is easy - and in some cases almost absent. The Animal Husbandry department has no process of inspection and hardly any inspectors. In any case the inspectors don't know what to look for, as they are mostly illiterate flatterers who have never been asked to read any law, or given any forms to fill out. So, even if they go to a poultry or a dairy farm they have no idea of what to do. They simply take their hafta and go away. A poultry or a dairy doesn't need any consent to set up wherever they want.

The result has been large scale pollution of land and water by these two industries. Hens are kept in small cages one on top of the other and faeces from the top layer dip into all layers below. These are called battery cages. The germ filled faeces in battery cages become poisonous for both bird and man. In order to keep these birds alive in such intensive and filthy environs, the farm owners regularly administer antibiotics. Dairies use antibiotics and hormones (poulties alone use 70 per cent of all antibiotics in the country) illegally, as well as the water, and faeces run-off makes sure that all land and water around get huge doses of it. Consequently, every human, vegetarian or non-vegetarian, becomes immune to all medicine. Hormonal imbalances lead to cancer.

Both industries create methane which creates a heatwave locally. Due to filthy conditions of both, millions of flies are bred and these, and the smell of these establishments, make it difficult for anyone to live for miles around. There is no method of disposal of carcasses and these are simply thrown into nearby water bodies, or left in piles on common land. Basically, the industrial animal rearing sector got away with running unregulated filthy concentration camps, gravely compromising the health and safety of animals, workers employed there, and people living in vicinity.

Despite every indicator that these industries are extremely harmful and should be in Red or Orange category, the poultry industry was classified as Green category and dairy as Orange/Green depending on its size. Both Green and White categories get away with little or no regulation or monitoring. Earlier, CPCB exempted poultry farms upto 1 lakh birds from any regulation and even the ones where more than a lakh birds were crammed, were classified as Green. Finally someone had to challenge this. Gauri Maulekhi of People for Animals and advocate NG Jayasimha challenged this categorisation in the National Green Tribunal. Gauri has worked for years on poultry issues and has found it one of the most cruel industries on earth. She is leading the fight to bring reforms into this breeding and slaughter industry. The petitioners contended that poultry and dairy farms actually have huge hidden costs in terms of environmental damage and public health impact. Unfortunately, there was no law in India till now to regulate these establishments.

In September 2020, the NGT ruled that all dairies have to be brought under Orange category immediately, and poulties can no longer be under Green category. In January, the NGT will decide whether poultry has to be Orange or Red. What does this mean? It is now mandatory for all dairy and poultry establishments to obtain a Consent to Establish, and Consent to Operate, from the State Pollution Control Boards. Any place where more than 5,000 poultry birds or any number of cattle are kept for industrial production of eggs, meat or milk, will have to follow minimum standards prescribed by the CPCB, which now has to make rules - for the first time!

A report from FAO says livestock production contributes to the world's most pressing environmental problems - global warming, land degradation, air and water pollution, and loss of biodiversity. The Tribunal took into account research conducted by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute which said, "Poultry production is associated with a variety of environmental pollutants, including oxygen-demanding substances, ammonia, solids and, besides, the poultry attracts flies, rodents, dogs and other pests that create local nuisances and carry diseases. Poor management of manure, litter and waste water etc. adversely affects the living in the vicinity. Odour is generated from fresh and decomposed waste products such as manures, carcasses, feathers and bedding litter. Furthermore, intensive poultry production may be responsible for greenhouse gasses, acidification and eutrophication."

Dairy farms are the single biggest reason for areas in Delhi to get flooded during the lightest of rains. The storm drains are clogged by the illegal dung disposal from 10 huge dairy colonies where buffaloes are housed in basements, first, second and third floors. These animals are treated like milk machines and tied with a two-foot chain for their entire lives. Due to lack of sunlight and exercise, they develop fungal infections and their hides turn pink. They only get to walk a few steps - on the day they are being taken for slaughter.

It is the duty of every Indian to contribute to both, preserving the environment and preventing abuse of animals. If there is a dairy or a poultry farm in your neighbourhood, please enquire if they have obtained Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from the State Pollution Control Board. If not, write to the Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board and ensure that such establishments meet minimum standards for solid and liquid waste disposal, bio-waste disposal, density of animals, hygiene requirement in the facility. This will ensure that our groundwater, the air we breathe and the products we consume are not corrupted by contaminants, pesticides, antibiotics, and deadly pathogens. The relief to the animals that suffer in these concentration camps will be your gift to them.

To join the animal welfare movement contact gandhim@nic.in, www.peopleforanimalsindia.org



Maneka Gandhi

Poultry and dairy farms have huge hidden costs in terms of environmental damage and public health impact

WISDOM CORNER

- To see the right and not to do it is cowardice. CONFUCIUS
- Courage is grace under pressure. ERNEST HEMINGWAY
- There are no facts, only interpretations. FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

WORDSWORTH

Vamp

It has nothing to do with vampires, but its origin is almost equally weird. The word comes from the medieval French avant-pied, literally "before the foot", in reference to the forepart of the foot, in particular the part of hose or stockings below the ankle. It became corrupted in English to vampe, said as two syllables, and then vamp. (In 18th century the old pronunciation was revived through a fashion for short stockings that covered only the foot and ankle, which were called vampeys.) It seems in mid-17th century the word came to be used for anything that had been patched up or refurbished, as in the old phrase to vamp something up for repairing or improving something. This is more commonly now found in the verb to revamp, an American term invented in the 1850s from this existing sense of vamp.

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

Open schools in tribal areas

Sir, It seems, there is no possibility of regular classroom teaching in Odisha shortly. Reportedly, the Andhra experience in opening classrooms for students has forced the Odisha govt to reverse its decision to open schools. Online education undoubtedly has been proved ineffective in our state while the long lockdown break from education has affected the learning of children in rural and tribal areas. Many of these children are mainly first generation learners. They lack resources to learn at homes. There is no peer pressure as well on the students to study. It appears these students have forgotten what they had learnt. Therefore, there should be an attempt to open schools in a gradual manner in tribal areas where covid cases are nil or low. Education is as important as economy. **Gourang Charan Parida, PURI**

Ban exit polls

Sir, Exit polls are not exact polls. They have been again proved erroneous in recent Bihar Assembly elections where RJD-led Mahagathabandhan was predicted to come to power. But, NDA has shined again in Bihar. Exit polls are not always correct. They are not dependable and they create sensation and illusion in the minds of voters. In a democracy, there is no place for whims and caprices. Exit polls should be banned as they are undemocratic, unconstitutional, improper and incorrect. Exit polls are an anathema to democracy. **Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR**

Status quo in Bihar

Sir, Apropos "NDA scrapes through", Orissa POST, November 11, despite the distress caused by the lockdown, which led to hundreds of thousands of Bihar migrants returning home, there is a fundamental trust that a large segment of the citizens have in PM Narendra Modi. Make no mistake, if Modi had not been the face of the alliance, it would have been difficult for the NDA to retain its base. Economic distress is on popular agenda. Tejashwi Yadav ran an energetic campaign focused on 'economic justice' and emerged a key leader. The fact that promise of government jobs became an agenda of competitive politics is a reflection of how young voters are seeking reforms that can generate employment. But while this triggered disillusionment and voters wanted change, the nature of change was equally important. And this is where Yadav failed to reassure the electorate that his tenure will be different from his father's that was fraught with anarchy. Unconvinced of the nature of change, voters stuck to the status quo. **N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

Buoyed by Bihar results, Owaisi aims big

THE AIMIM LEADER IS OFTEN CRITICISED BY CONGRESS AND OTHER PARTIES AS THE 'B-TEAM' OF BJP DENTING ANTI-SAFFRON PARTY VOTES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 11: Buoyed by the results of Bihar Assembly elections, the AIMIM which bagged five seats is now looking to spread its wings to states such as Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Addressing reporters here Tuesday night, AIMIM's president Asaduddin Owaisi said the party will fight for justice in the eastern state's Seemanchal region.

Reacting to allegations that his party was dividing anti-BJP votes, Owaisi said he was running a political party that has a right to contest on its own. "You mean we should not fight elections. You (Congress) went and sat in Shiv Sena's lap (in Maharashtra). If anyone asks why did you fight the elections... I will fight in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and will fight every election in the country... Do I need to ask anyone's permission to fight the polls," he said when asked whether the party would contest in any other state.

He however, did not clarify whether the party would contest



You (Congress) went and sat in Shiv Sena's lap (in Maharashtra)... I will fight in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and will fight every election in the country... Do I need to ask anyone's permission to fight the polls

ASADUDDIN OW AISI

on its own or in alliance with other parties. "AIMIM will fight in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Time only will tell with whom we will ally," Owaisi added. Attacking Congress leader from West Bengal, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for reportedly calling AIMIM as "vote cutter" in the Bihar polls, Owaisi sought to know what he has done for the welfare of Muslims in his constituency. "... Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has to respond why the condition of Muslims is so bad in his own constituency. He has to say what he did for Muslims," he said. "AIMIM will

fight the polls in West Bengal... AIMIM is coming to Bengal," he added.

Owaisi is often criticised by Congress and other parties as the 'B-team' of BJP denting anti-saffron party votes. Owaisi-led AIMIM seems to have cut big time into the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan vote in the Seemanchal region in the third phase of the polls, according to poll pundits. The Hyderabad MP-led party was in the fray in 20 seats in Bihar elections, a majority of which went to polls in the third phase November 7, as part of the Grand Democratic Secular Front

that has four other parties, including Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samta Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party. The party's victory in five seats has become inconsequential in terms of lending support in case of hung assembly as NDA emerged as the clear winner. When asked if his party will support Mahagathbandhan in case of a shortfall of majority, Owaisi did not give a direct answer saying, "Why should I speculate, when the final results are out then a decision will be taken." Results of Bihar Assembly polls were not completely declared when the question was posed. According to statistics provided by the Election Commission of India, AIMIM got 1.24 per cent of over 4 crore votes polled. The party unsuccessfully contested in Bihar Assembly polls in 2015 and secured less than 0.5 per cent votes. AIMIM also unsuccessfully contested in UP Assembly polls in 2017. Besides Telangana and Bihar, AIMIM has two MLAs and one MP in Maharashtra.

MOBILE POLICING



Police personnel ride new bikes during a rally to prevent human trafficking under the Nirbhaya Scheme, in Bangalore, Wednesday. Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa (unseen) unveiled 751 two-wheelers that are presented to the police department.

PTI PHOTO

Telangana may go for drone policing

Hyderabad already has the highest number of surveillance gadgets in the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 11: Emphasising on the use of cutting edge technologies for better policing, Telangana Minister for IT and Industries KT Rama Rao Wednesday advised the state police to use drones as a first responder from the department to a crime scene.

Speaking at the launch of Cyberabad Command Control and Data Centre, the minister also asked health department officials to coordinate with state police to integrate ambulance movement with the police systems so that less traffic routes are indicated for passage to hospitals.

"My request (to police) is to talk to DGCA (director general of civil aviation) for drone policing... in select areas. The moment the SOS



The moment the SOS button is pressed, the drone should go as first responder...if you use a drone it can reach in one minute (to the spot). It can scare the crime perpetrators. Police personnel can go (to crime spots) as second responders

KT RAMA RAO | TELANGANA MINISTER FOR IT & INDUSTRIES

button is pressed, the drone should go as first responder...if you use a drone it can reach in one minute (to the spot). It can scare the crime perpetrators. Police personnel can go (to crime spots) as second responders," Rama Rao said.

Lauding the Telangana police's efforts in maintaining law and order, Rama Rao said there are neither curfews nor communal tensions in Hyderabad for the past several years.

Quoting a survey, he said the capital has over five lakh CCTV cameras installed - both government and private - making the city with highest number of surveillance gadgets in the country.

Rama Rao said that as per Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's instructions, 10 lakh CCTV cameras will be installed in the city.

What helped BJP win Karnataka by-polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 11: Meticulous organisational work at the ground level in Sira where the party had been traditionally weak, and fielding of 'very capable' candidate in Rajarajeshwari (RR) Nagar, ensured victory for the BJP in the by-polls to two Assembly segments in Karnataka, says State BJP general secretary N Ravikumar.

A key strategist for the party for the November 3 elections, he said in Sira the party had to begin from scratch, while in RR Nagar things were a bit easy as people there had recognised the work done by the candidate.

In RR Nagar, part of Bangalore Urban district, N Muni Rathna scored a hat-trick, winning by more than 58,000 votes, while it was history of sorts for the BJP as it recorded its first ever victory in Sira with Dr C M Rajesh Gowda securing the seat by a margin of over 13,400 votes. "I was the in-charge (in Sira), we had to start from scratch. On September 1, I had gone there from that day on-



wards till the polls, other than a brief period during the assembly session, we gave our time there. We reached out to 264 booths, held meetings, and gathered 50-500 activists in each booth," Ravikumar told PTI.

The party did the groundwork meticulously by creating booth and WhatsApp committees, iden-

tified where it can get lead and where not, and held meetings to convince people to give the BJP a chance, he said. "Organisationally we worked very well...we have built a base in Sira," he added.

Bagging Sira is a major gain for the BJP. With its negligible presence in the constituency where Congress and JD(S) are traditional rivals,

the party had not polled more than 24,025 votes there in the past. After winning K R Pet and Chikkaballapura assembly seats in the December 2019 bypolls, the BJP has been working hard at making further inroads in the old Mysuru region, where the party has been traditionally weak. With the win in Sira, the J P Nadda-led party has increased its tally in the region.

Ahead of the bypolls, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa had announced the setting up of a Kadugolla Development Corporation to aid the economically backward community, which has a considerable presence in Sira.

Speaking about RR Nagar verdict, Ravikumar said the party did not have any doubt about winning there as it had a very capable candidate.

Pointing out that Muni Rathna had worked for the people of the constituency at the height of COVID pandemic, the BJP leader said he gave food kits, 25 kg rice for each poor household in the constituency.

'Will bring in policies to introduce Hindu practices of wellness'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 11: Emphasising on learning the Hindu way of life and adopting ancient practices of wellness, Karnataka Health Minister K Sudhakar said he will bring in policies to introduce a holistic and comprehensive healthcare system in the state.

In an interview to PTI, Sudhakar, who is a medical practitioner, said, "One should learn the Hindu way of life. One should go back to our ancient practices so far as wellness is concerned." "I am moving ahead to introduce this (ancient practices of wellness) in Bangalore and Karnataka in a holistic and comprehensive manner. I am bringing in new policies," he said.

Sudhakar further said he would stress on prevention of diseases such as diabetes, cancer, hypertension etc. To a query on the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sudhakar said the health sector was "neglected" all these decades. Lamenting that the spending on public healthcare by all the previous governments had taken a backseat, he said this is an area where he would like to focus. "We need to build a robust healthcare system, especially when primary and secondary healthcare should be robust. We should focus more on prevention of a disease," Sudhakar said. Asked whether Ayurveda was of any help during the pandemic, the minister said he was not armed with any medical evidence to prove

that it works the way allopathy does. "I don't know whether Ayurveda and Unani have the same protocols as allopathy, but I know for a fact that Ayurveda is a great science, very ancient science, which works. All diseases cannot have the same protocol of treatment," he added. The infection and mortality in Karnataka has come down drastically from over 10,500 fresh cases and over 200 deaths a day to somewhere between 2,000 and 2,500 infections and 20 to 30 deaths a day.

Asked how it was reduced, the minister said after eight months with the virus, the medical world has developed a line of treatment after many trial-and-errors. "Since it is almost eight months now, a structured and specific treatment protocol has been achieved," he said. He added that Karnataka had used technology to the optimum level by setting up a war room, tele-ICU connecting all the ICUs across all the districts of the state to ensure uniform treatment protocol. The serological survey with a sample size of 16,700 people conducted in Karnataka indicated that about 1.93 crore people in the state had a brush with the virus. Responding to a query whether Karnataka was close to herd immunity, Sudhakar said it was quite natural to develop it. "It is quite natural to develop it. This sample size is not very big. In a big dynamic country like ours, the spread of coronavirus is a reality. So more positive cases is a reality but herd immunity has to happen finally but we cannot predict when," he pointed out. Herd immunity, also known as population immunity, occurs when a high percentage of the community is immune to a disease and making its spread from person to person unlikely.

Telangana continues to record more Covid recoveries

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 11: Telangana continues to see more recoveries from Covid-19 than the new cases. According to the health department, 1,745 people recovered from the infection while 1,196 new cases were detected during the last 24 hours.

The new infections pushed the overall tally to 2,53,651. Five more people succumbed to the virus during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 1,390. The state's fatality rate stands 0.54 per cent against the national average of 1.5 per cent.

The health officials said 44.96 per cent deaths were due to Covid-19

and 55.04 per cent due to comorbidities.

The cumulative recoveries have now gone up to 2,34,234. The recovery rate now stands at 92.34 per cent, slightly lower than the national average of 92.7 per cent.

Greater Hyderabad reported less than 200 cases. With 192 cases it continues to record the highest number of new infections. The cases in districts also showed a downward trend. Rangareddy district saw the second highest number of cases at 121 followed by Medchal Malkajiri (101), Nalgonda (89), Bhadradr (Kothagudem) (81), Karimnagar (73), Warangal Urban (51) and Khammam (42).

The state now has 18,027 active



cases, of which 15,205 are in home or institutional isolation.

According to a media bulletin by the health department, a total of 44,635 samples were tested during the last 24 hours and out of them 41,600 were conducted in the gov-

ernment-run laboratories.

There are 18 government and 47 private laboratories conducting RT-PCR/CBNAAT/TRUENAT tests. There are also 1,076 Rapid Antigen testing centres run by the government. The cumulative num-

ber of tests rose to 47,29,401. Samples tested per million population surged to 1,27,066.

Out of the total 2,53,651 positive cases so far, 70 per cent (1,77,556) were asymptomatic and 30 per cent (76,095) symptomatic. The data shows that 63.92 per cent of those tested positive so far were aged between 21-50 years. As many as 22.91 per cent were aged above 51 years. The positive cases include 13.18 per cent who were below 20 years.

The bed status in 61 government-run hospitals treating Covid patients shows that 7,339 out of 8,561 beds are vacant. In 225 private hospitals, 6,981 out of 8,581 beds are vacant.

Sunflowers from Bangalore bloom in Uganda

The University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore transferred its hybrid seed know-how to the East African country

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 11: Indian sunflowers are blooming in Uganda, thanks to University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore (UAS-B) transferring their hybrid seed know-how to the East African country, an official said Wednesday.

"We have recently transferred the germplasm technology of hybrid sunflower variety (KBSH-53) to Uganda, as another variety (KBSH-41) is already popular in the African country," the university's Research Director Y.G. Shadakshari told IANS here.

The seed know-how was transferred under an agreement between the two countries through the National Bio-diversity Authority at Centre and the state.

With modified equatorial climate, Uganda is a landlocked country around Kenya, Sudan, Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania in East-Central Africa. "Uganda has shown interest in our variety of sunflowers, whose edible oil is used for cooking a variety of dishes. Seed varieties KBSH-53 and KBSH-78 were developed as part of the agreement. The new variety (KBSH-53) will be used for cultivation after



it is cleared through field tests," said Shadakshari.

Once the Ugandan regulator certifies the Indian variety, its seeds will be given to the local farmers for growing the sunflowers, which bloom and blossom facing the sun.

"The sunflower sector in Uganda made a significant contribution to its economy, as is evident from 2017 data, when 2.4 lakh hectares of land was used for growing the edible flowers," recalled Shadakshari.

Sunflower is used to make assorted oils, animal feeds and its seeds are used as snacks. "Though sunflowers are popular in India as cooking oil and animal feed, its seeds are

used for snacks in Uganda, where the demand for the Indian variety has been growing," asserted Shadakshari.

As the maturity period of sunflowers is 120-150 days after sowing and planting, the farmers have to factor the growing period for harvesting the crop, but the new variety KBSH-53 can be harvested within 85-90 days. It is also pest resistant.

"Sunflowers grow best on well drained, high water-holding capacity soil with a neutral pH 6.5-7.5. The optimum soil classification for them is loam, silty loam and silty clay loam soils," the director pointed out.

He added that the University has not de-

manded any royalty from them, instead it has issued a licence for a fixed sum to allow them to use this technology for a period of five years.

Another UAS-B scientist on the condition of anonymity said that the technology had to be transferred due to cultivation of sunflower drastically came down from somewhere about 50 lakh hectares about a decade ago to mere 1.7 lakh hectares but still Karnataka is the largest sunflower growing state in the country.

"Over the last one decade, farmers who were sowing sunflower have migrated to other profitable less work intensive crops like cotton and maize, as a result of this the UAS-B could not supply the required quantity of seeds that were in demand by Uganda," he explained.

Uganda's seed procurement demand was annually about 350 to 400 quintals as sunflower farmers switched over to other crops, the university thought it was appropriate to transfer its seed technology to Uganda.

Sunflower production performance on reduced agricultural capacity soil, such as those affected by salinity, drought or wetness is not ideal, the director added.

national



The duration of the third peak of the spread of COVID-19 in the national capital is longer than those of the previous peaks. But it may subside in the next few days
SATYENDAR JAIN | DELHI HEALTH MINISTER

GUJARAT TO REOPEN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

The Gujarat government Wednesday decided to reopen higher secondary schools and colleges in the state from November 23 subject to adherence of Covid-19 guidelines



of the day quote

I deeply appreciate your (Nitish Kumar) friendship, as well as the hospitality you have shown to me during my visits to Bihar, especially to Bodh Gaya, which have been quite regular in recent years



DALAI LAMA | TIBETAN SPIRITUAL LEADER

Maharashtra and Bihar are different states. It has already been decided that Nitish Kumar would be the CM there. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an announcement to this effect and the BJP is committed to it. Nitishji will be the CM of Bihar (again)



DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | BJP LEADER

Good governance leads to progressive state. People of Bihar have reaffirmed their solidarity for NDA alliance. My hearty congratulations for NDA alliance in the state. Best wishes for the People of Bihar



K PALANISWAMI | TAMIL NADU CM

India, China move forward to resolve dispute

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: Moving forward to resolve the border dispute, a three-step disengagement proposal including restoration of status quo ante as of April this year in Eastern Ladakh is under consideration between India and China. However, no decision has taken place about the trouble at Depsang Plains.

The "constructive engagement" between both the countries happened during the eighth military commander-level talks held on November 6 in Chushul. "Both the countries have agreed to work on a three-step disengagement proposal, including de-escalation of troops, but nothing has happened on the ground as of now," said a senior government official.

The ninth round of talks is likely to happen this week but the dates are not yet decided, the officer said. The first step of disengagement is withdrawal of tanks from forward locations at the Line of Control in Eastern Ladakh.



In the second step, Indian troops will come back to the Dhan Singh Thapa post located on Finger 3, one of the spurs along the Pangong Lake, and the Chinese troops to Finger 8. In the third step, the Indian Army will withdraw from all the 13 critical heights and territories, including Rezang La, along the southern bank of Pangong Lake which gave India an edge over China.

On August 30, India had occupied critical mountain heights on the southern bank of the Pangong Lake like Rechin La, Rezang La, Mukpari, and Tabletop that were unmanned till now. India has also made some deployments near Blacktop. The movement was carried out after the Chinese tried to make a provocative military move. Now, dominance at these 13 peaks

allows India to dominate Spangur Gap under Chinese control and also the Moldo garrison on the Chinese side. Soldiers of both the countries remain exposed to minus 20 degrees Celsius temperatures so both the countries have agreed to withdraw troops on immediate note. "Every day 30 percent of troops will be withdrawn," a source said.

The progress of disengagement would be verified with the help of drones and delegation meetings. China had changed the status quo at the LAC at various places, moving inside Indian territory. India has objected to it and is taking up the matter with China at all levels.

On June 15, as many as 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops were killed in a violent clash in the Galwan Valley. The Chinese aggression started increasing along the Line of Actual Control and more particularly in Galwan Valley since May 5. The Chinese side transgressed in the areas of Kugrang Nala, Gogra and north bank of Pangong lake on May 17 and May 18.

Not satisfied, says Bihar Cong Chief

The Congress contested on 70 seats in Bihar under the umbrella of the Mahagathbandhan and managed to win just 19 seats

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Nov 11: Facing criticism over its lower strike rate, Madan Mohan Jha, Congress state president of Bihar admitted he isn't satisfied with the party's performance in the Bihar assembly elections.

"We fought together with RJD and left parties. We helped each other but were unable to reach at magical figure of 122. So, we are not satisfied with the numbers," Jha said.

He alleged a conspiracy was devised to defeat candidates of the Mahagathbandhan. "In at least 20 constituencies, the CM himself applied pressure on returning officers for recounting. Our candidates were in a close fight with NDA candidates. But the CM hijacked the mandate," Jha said.

"I want to ask the Election Commission why recounting was done only on those seats where Mahagathbandhan had won the election. In Hilsa, our candidate Shakti Singh had won with a margin of 600 votes. The returning officer delayed giving him a certificate and went for recounting. As a



result, he lost to the JDU candidate with a slim margin of 12 votes. In Muzaffarpur, the returning officer even congratulated the Mahagathbandhan candidate and then he lost the election after recounting," Jha said.

"Why did the Election Commission not initiate recounting on seats where we demanded," asked Jha. The Congress contested on 70 seats in Bihar under the umbrella of the Mahagathbandhan and managed to win just 19 seats. Since its strike rate is extremely low compared to the 2015 assembly election, the party is facing criticism inside the Mahagathbandhan. In 2015, the Congress had contested on 41 seats and managed to win 27 seats. "We will do self-analysis on the 2020 results and address the gap accordingly," added Jha.

ARNAB GETS INTERIM BAIL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: In a major relief for Republic TV editor Arnab Goswami, the Supreme Court Wednesday granted him interim bail in a 2018 abetment to suicide case. The top court noted that it is deeply concerned if courts do not preserve human liberty and if constitutional courts do not protect liberty, then who will?

A two-judge bench comprising Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Indira Banerjee noted that if somebody does not like a TV channel then that person should not watch it. I myself prefer to cuddle up with a good book, he added.

Arnab and two others were arrested last week in connection with the suicide of architect Anvay Naik and his mother. The bench, pulling up the Maharashtra government over Arnab's arrest, said the victim is entitled to a fair investigation and the investigation should go on, but if the state targets individuals on this basis then let a strong message go out.

Chandrachud told the Maharashtra government counsel, "Our democracy is extraordinarily strong. The point is that governments must ignore this...the Chief Justice has said something very significant. He said we expect responsibility on all sides."

The bench said Arnab must cooperate with the probe, and the release of the accused must not be delayed and asked them to furnish bonds of Rs 50,000. Arnab had moved the top court challenging the Bombay High Court order which turned declined to entertain his plea seeking interim bail and the reopening of the case.

Justice Chandrachud insisted if constitutional courts did not interfere, "We are travelling the path of destruction undeniably". Senior advocate Harish Salve, representing Arnab, submitted before the court, "Is Arnab Goswami a terrorist? Are there any murder charges on him? Why can't he be given bail?" Senior advocate Kapil Sibal appeared on behalf of Maharashtra government. Senior advocate Amit Desai, appeared for Maharashtra police and Senior advocate C.U. Singh represented the victim's family.

SHORT TAKES

Delhi cops seize firecrackers

New Delhi: The Delhi police has arrested 30 persons on charge of selling firecrackers and seized 2,793 kg firecrackers during its drive against the sale and bursting of crackers ahead of Diwali, official sources said Wednesday. Also, 10 cases were registered regarding bursting of firecrackers and two persons arrested in this regard. Delhi police has set up flying squads at district level to check sale by licensed or unlicensed sellers. The SHOs have also formed special teams to prevent bursting of firecrackers before, during, and after Diwali. The beat staff would ensure that no bursting of firecrackers took place in their respective areas.

J&K corona tally crosses one lakh

Srinagar: Total coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir crossed the one lakh mark as 507 more persons tested positive Wednesday, with 433 more recoveries recorded in the Union Territory. An official bulletin said 181 new cases came up in Jammu division and 326 in Kashmir division. So far, 1, 00,351 corona cases have been detected in J&K, of which 93,313 have recovered.

Criminal arrested

New Delhi: The Delhi Police have arrested a criminal carrying a cash reward of Rs 6 lakh on his head. Hashim alias Baba was arrested as he came out of his girlfriend's house in Subhash Park in Delhi, the police said Wednesday. "A trap was laid around the house in Suabash Park in Shahadra. At about 5.45 am, Hashim Baba was seen coming out of the house of his girlfriend and moving towards his motorcycle parked in front of the house. When he was about to start the motorcycle, sensing police presence, he opened fire upon the advancing police team. After a brief exchange of fire, Hashim was apprehended," said DCP Special Cell, PS Kushwah.

Snatcher held

New Delhi: A serial snatcher who had earlier escaped from Kerala Police custody has been arrested by Delhi Police Crime Branch from the national capital, a senior police officer said Wednesday. Accused Mahfooz was arrested from Gokalpuri in north-east Delhi.

GEARING UP



A shopkeeper arranges decorative lights at a stall ahead of Diwali in Jammu, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

Army Chief to review security

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: Amid border tension with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane is on a two-day visit to force formations in Uttarakhand to review the security situation and operational preparedness. As winter sets in, the troops braving harsh weather are deployed at various heights in Uttarakhand bordering China.

General Naravane will be staying at Joshimath Cantonment, one of the important military stations of Indian Army today and would be interacting with senior officers," said a senior Army officer. The officer also said that Naravane on Thursday would be visiting forward locations and interacting with troops. India and China are engaged in an eight-month-long standoff at the LAC. Despite several levels of dialogue the deadlock has not ended. Lately, however, there are constructive engagements between both the countries with



Nepali Army at an investiture ceremony. His visit to Nepal would be seen as an attempt to reboot relations with Nepal, based on modern tenets of diplomacy. Last month, General Naravane along with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Sukna Corp in Darjeeling district in West Bengal. The Sukna Corp is tasked to protect India's borders with Bhutan and China. Both the defence minister and the Army chief visited forward areas and interacted with troops.

three-step proposal of disengagement under consideration. Last week, the Army chief went to Nepal for two days to strengthen bilateral relationship between both the countries that was on an edge lately. Naravane visited Nepal between November 4 and November 6 where he met his Nepalese counterpart Gen Purna Chandra Thapa, Nepal's President Vidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. He was also conferred the honorary rank of general of the

'Air pollution causes 40% deaths in patients with chronic illnesses'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: Noting that air pollution is a silent killer, Randeep Guleria, Director at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), said that it contributes to up to 40 per cent deaths in patients with chronic illnesses and neonatal fatalities.

"The global burden disease published in Lancet shows that in 2019, air pollution was the fourth leading cause of mortality and third for disability-adjusted life years. Air pollution is a silent killer which makes it difficult for the policymakers to understand," he said. "We must focus more on the chronic effects of pollution such as diabetes, lower respiratory tract disease, lung cancer, stroke or neona-



tal deaths - there is enough data to say that around 20 to 40 per cent of deaths in these diseases are caused by air pollution," Guleria said.

He was speaking at the second Good Air Summit organised by the

Integrated Health & Wellbeing (IHW) Council. Guleria also said that more than smoking tobacco, pollution contributes to developing diseases such as lung cancer, COPD and heart disease. "These are acute ef-

fects," he added. The AIIMS chief also shared that within a few days of spike in air pollution levels, the influx of patients increased in the hospital's OPDs. "Experience in AIIMS shows that whenever there is a spike in air pollution, the number of patients in OPDs increases in the next 5-6 days," Guleria said.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, also attended the summit. Accepting that pollution is a sensitive issue and a serious challenge, he expressed hope that the newly-constituted Commission for Air Quality will reduce pollution in the national capital.

"We introduced the idea of measuring air quality and brought the concept of AQI. The Sameer app of the Central Pollution Control Board

provides hourly update of the national Air Quality Index (AQI). I am hopeful that the Commission for Air Quality Management will reduce pollution further," Javadekar stated.

Meanwhile, Kamal Narayan, CEO, IHW, complained that air pollution did not receive the kind of response it required either from the government or the citizens, despite being an evident health emergency.

"The data from 'State of Global Air 2020' shows that 1.67 million or 17 lakh people die annually due to air pollution that comes to around 4,700 deaths per day. Which means around half a million more people fell prey to air pollution last year than the number of lives claimed by Covid-19 virus till date, globally. However, despite being a super-killer and an evident health emergency, air pol-

lution did not get the emergency response either from the system, or from the people," he said.

Commenting on the issue, Swatanter Kumar, retired Supreme Court judge and former chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), said that protection of the environment is a constitutional obligation of both the government and the citizens.

"Protecting the environment is a constitutional obligation for the citizens and a constitutional duty of the governments. We don't need more laws but better implementation of the existing frameworks. We need holistic, pragmatic and practical solutions for intergenerational equity and examine the sources of cleaner energy as well," he said.

Virtual harassment up

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 11: More and more women teachers are complaining of increasing virtual harassment during online classes.

Women teachers are complaining that young men have started appearing in the computer windows and some of them even play porn clips during the classes. "It is clear that some girl students are sharing their login id and password with these boys who intrude into the online classes. The boys come bare-chested, wearing shorts, and pass lewd remarks," said a woman teacher.

Similar instances have been reported in, at least, two women degree colleges and one girls' school in Lucknow. Classes were suspended in the institutions for some time. "We have identified the girls who shared their login id and password with outsiders and have issued a strict warning to them. We have not reported the matter to the police because we do not want the girls to be shamed,"

said a senior faculty member of one of the colleges.

The college authorities in all three cases, have warned the girls that they would be rusticated if they shared their login id and password with their boyfriends or brothers.

Neha (name changed), a B.A first year student, however, said, "We should not be blamed for any intrusion. It is so easy to hack into online classes and the college officials are blaming us. Why would any girl student invite trouble by sharing login id with the boys?"

Universities and degree colleges in the state have been closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic and online teaching is continuing in almost all educational institutions. Meanwhile, a well-known cyber expert said that schools and students had embraced technology during pandemic but they did not know how to remain safe. For instance, students do not change the default passwords given to them. Also, they lack knowledge about security settings, he added.

New strategy for Kerala local polls

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 11: The Kerala Cabinet led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Wednesday gave the nod for floating an ordinance which will tweak the Kerala Panchayati Raj Act to enable those who are Covid positive or in quarantine to cast their vote in the upcoming local body elections.

The polls would be held in three phases on December 8, 10 and 14 and all such people will be able to vote in the final hour on polling day

from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Postal votes will be allowed for those who are Covid positive and under quarantine but they will have to apply three days before polling. As on date, the state has 78,694 active Covid cases.

Elections would be held to 1,199 local bodies which include 941 gram panchayats, 152 block panchayats, 14 district panchayats, 86 municipalities and six corporations. The total electorate stands at 2,71,20,823 which includes 1,29,25,766 males, 1,41,94,825 females and 232 trans-genders.



Every citizen expects the elections to be held freely and objectively without any interference. Only when that expectation is fulfilled then democracy in this country will have a healthy future which everyone should realise

MK STALIN | DMK PRESIDENT

BACK ON TRACK

After almost eight months of suspension due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the suburban railway services resumed its operation in West Bengal Wednesday



of the day quote

The BJP has repeated its performance of the 2017 Assembly polls and 2019 Lok Sabha elections. These are clear indications that the party will perform well again in the upcoming 2022 Assembly elections. I thank the people for coming forward to vote



YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

I have given assurances to some which I know and they also know it. Whom all I have assured that they will be made ministers will surely be inducted into my cabinet, no matter what comes



BS YEDIYURAPPA | KARNATAKA CM

While Vijayan's office is engaged in smuggling and other dubious deals, Balakrishnan's son is doing business in drug trafficking. Now after they have been caught red-handed, they are using their party as a shield and misleading their cadres to protect their wrongdoings



RAMESH CHENNITHALA | LEADER OF THE OPPN IN THE KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SHORT TAKES

Man ends life

New Delhi: A man allegedly shot himself dead inside his car in Chhawla area of Dwarka in Delhi Wednesday afternoon, police said. Ravinder, in his early thirties, was found dead with a gunshot wound to his head and a pistol by his side, following which police was called around 12.30 pm.

2 criminals held

Chandigarh: Two criminals, wanted in a case of shootout in Haryana's Sirsa district, were arrested Wednesday with illegal arms, police said. Three illegal pistols and 12 cartridges were recovered from the accused, Amandeep alias Khalnayak and Rakesh alias Chotu, both from Sirsa district, a Haryana police spokesman said here. They were wanted in a shootout near a temple in Sirsa on September 2, 2020," he said.

Man surrenders

New Delhi: A 26-year-old man allegedly strangled his sister-in-law to death over a dispute and then surrendered to police in northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar area, officials said Wednesday. The incident took place Tuesday afternoon. According to police, Rohit, a resident of Karawal Nagar, came to the DCP office around 3.30 pm on Tuesday and said he has killed his sister-in-law. The body was lying in his house. "The Station House Officer (SHO) along with other staff members of the Karawal Nagar police station went to the spot and found the body of a woman there," Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Ved Prakash Surya said.

One arrested

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested one person from Karnataka, who was part of several media groups of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) handlers in their effort to recruit individuals for sleeper cells and for furthering terrorist activities. An NIA spokesperson said that the agency has arrested Sayyad M. Idris, a resident of Uttara Kannada in Karnataka, on Tuesday in connection with its probe into the LeT online recruitment case. The official said that Idris was part of various social media groups run by LeT handlers in their effort to recruit individuals for sleeper cells of LeT and for furthering terrorist activities.

CRACKER BAN ORDER

Life more important than festivals: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, November 11: The Supreme Court refused Wednesday to interfere with the Calcutta High Court order banning the use and sale of firecrackers in West Bengal on Kali Puja to curb air pollution, saying preservation of life was more important amid the coronavirus pandemic.

A vacation Bench of Justices D.Y.Chandrachud and Indira Banerjee said though festivals were important, but "life itself has been in imperil" amid the pandemic. The bench said the high court knew the local condition better and it should be allowed to do the needful.

The apex court was hearing an appeal filed by one Gautam Roy and the Burrabazaar Fireworks Dealers Association, challenging the high court order last week banning the use and sale of firecrackers during upcoming festivals, including Kali Puja and Chhath Puja, to curb pollution. Kali Puja will be celebrated on Saturday.

"We are all battling for life in this situation and all of us have elderly people in our home," it observed. "We are in a situation where, at this time, preservation of life is more important and the high court knows what is required at the ground level."

It added that the high court had taken care of the interest of citizens, especially senior citizens who may have comorbidities. The high court had directed that the ban would also be in force during the Jagaddhatri Puja, Chhath and Kartik Puja, adding that the guidelines - which were in place during Durga Puja, such as no



The apex court was hearing an appeal filed by one Gautam Roy and the Burrabazaar Fireworks Dealers Association, challenging the high court order last week banning the use and sale of firecrackers

entry to pandals - would also be in effect.

It had lauded the state government for effectively implementing the court-directed guidelines during the Durga Puja and asked the police to ensure that the norms are strictly enforced on the other festivals as well. Fifteen people will be allowed in the Kali Puja pandals having an area up to 300 sq metres, and 45 in the bigger ones, the court had said, while disallowing procession during immersion.

COVID: Delhi HC raps AAP govt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Delhi High Court Wednesday pulled up the AAP government over the rising Covid-19 cases in the national capital, and said "the public gatherings in narrow lanes would result in being the superspreaders of the virus".

"Covid-19 cases are becoming rampant and no household has been left out from its effect. We thought that corrective measures would be taken and the needful would be done by the Delhi government, however, the Delhi government is relaxing the said norms," said a division bench of the high court, Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad said.

"During the festive times, the people are out in large numbers



which would be a cause for the spread of Covid-19. As a matter of fact, this gathering in narrow lanes would result in it being the superspreaders of the virus," the court said further.

The observations were passed while the court was hearing a Public

Interest Litigation filed by advocate Rakesh Malhotra seeking increasing the Covid-19 testing numbers in the national capital and getting speedy results. While the matter was being heard through video conferencing, petitioner Rakesh Malhotra informed the

court that he himself 'tested positive for Covid-19 earlier this week and is currently on oxygen support in a nursing home'.

"I tried my best to get a bed in a nearby hospital, but it was not available following which I had to shift in a nursing home," Malhotra said. Following Malhotra's submissions, the bench praised his efforts that even after suffering from the virus, he joined the hearing to assist the court. "The petitioner is one amongst the many who is not being able to find a bed in the hospital," said the court expressing concern.

The court has now asked the Delhi government to file a status report explaining the steps taken by it to control Covid-19 cases observing the rise in the infection in the last two weeks.

JOY IN THE AIR



Children visit Arignar Anna Zoological Park after it reopened for visitors, amid the coronavirus pandemic, in Chennai, Wednesday

LEOPARD KILLS 11-YR-OLD BOY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh), Nov 11: An 11-year-old boy was mauled to death by a leopard near the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) in Lakhimpur Kheri district.

The boy had gone to collect fodder in the Banshibeli village when he was dragged away by the leopard on Tuesday. Sanjay Pathak, field director, DTR, along with range officer Anil Shah rushed to the spot and confirmed after seeing the marks that it was an adult leopard.

According to reports, the boy, Ankit Kumar Gautam, was collecting fodder near a cane field when a leopard lurking in the field pounced on him. It dragged him inside the cane field. The boy's partially eaten body was found later by the villagers.

This is the third such killing of a child in the village since September 13. Another child was injured but rescued. After a series of attacks, the forest department had placed two cages in the area to trap the animal. However, on October 29, a minor leopard was trapped instead of the one that killed the children.

Experts from the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the forest department have installed 15 camera traps in the area to monitor the adult leopard. Anil Patel, divisional forest officer, said, "All the three children, aged between 11 and 13 years, were possibly killed by the same leopard. This animal has been spotted on numerous occasions near the cage but it never enters inside it to kill the bait."

"This suggests that the big cat was caged before. Now, tranquilizing it seems to be the only way out to stop the killings. We are planning to prepare a temporary 'machaan' for further operations. We will seek permission of the principal chief conservator of forest for tranquilizing this leopard."

Earlier, on October 10, a 13-year-old boy, Sikandar Lal, was injured by a leopard in the Pathakpurva village, near Bahraich range. A 12-year-old boy was mauled to death by a leopard in the Banshibeli village near the Dudhwa forest range in Dhaurahra area of the district in September. Then, an 11-year-old boy of the Chamaranpurva village was also killed on September 13.

Nadda turned the tide for BJP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: Within 10 months of becoming the 11th national president of the BJP, J.P. Nadda has proved his leadership potential by leading the party to a spectacular success in several states simultaneously.

Whether it is Bihar, with a majority of 125 seats for the NDA, or the party's glorious success in Gujarat, a clean sweep in Karnataka and by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Telangana, Nadda's efficient strategy was evident everywhere.

In Bihar, Nadda was able to work wonders through holding a series of meetings. In the 26 assembly constituencies where he had meetings, he succeeded in helping the NDA candidate win in 20 seats.

The results of Bihar are also special for Nadda since the Himachal Pradesh native grew up in Patna.

Party leaders say Prime Minister Modi's 12 rallies played a key role in the NDA victory in Bihar. The issues raised by Prime Minister Modi were taken to the public through a fool-proof strategy evolved by President JP Nadda.

Nadda further strengthened the party's penetration into the peo-



ple's minds through 'Brand Modi'. According to party leaders, the party's massive mandate in during the pandemic shows the people's confidence in Prime Minister Modi.

The BJP's victory in the elections in adverse circumstances shows that the Modi wave hasn't yet abated.

Nadda completely threw himself into the Bihar elections. He reached every nook and corner of the state during the election by travelling about 4,000 kilometres across Bihar to create a favourable environment for the party.

Through these visits, he was taking the feedback of grassroots workers. Wherever some shortcomings were discovered, he made a strategy to rectify it.

Finding a leader from Delhi in

every nook and corner of Bihar infused enthusiasm among the grassroots workers.

The BJP National President launched a campaign to provide food and ration to crores of people capitalising on the strength of an organization spread across the country. The party also arranged slippers for migrant labourers who were barefoot.

Since Bihar is one of the states from where workers migrate, Nadda's campaign sent out a very positive message among poor voters.

In Bihar, party leaders consider the service done during the pandemic as the secret behind the NDA's victory and the BJP's rich haul of seats.

68% Bihar poll winners facing criminal cases

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: A total of 163 (68 per cent) out of the 241 winners in the Bihar Assembly polls have declared criminal cases against themselves in the poll affidavits, with RJD topping the list with around 73 per cent, Bihar Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

Of the 163 MLA-elects, 123 (51 per cent of total affidavits analysed) have serious criminal cases pending against them, including those related to murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping and crimes against women.

In the 2015 Assembly elections, 142 (58 per cent) MLAs had self-declared such cases against them in their affidavits. This time, the ADR had analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 241 of the 243 victorious candidates. The ADR did not say anything on such details of remaining winners.

The results of the three-phase elections were declared on Wednesday early morning after

counting that went on for over 20 hours. Out of the 123 winners, 19 have murder cases, 31 attempt to murder and eight crimes against women against their names.

Among the major parties, 54 (73 per cent) of the 74 winners from Tejashwi Yadav-led Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) have pending criminal cases, followed by 47 (64 per cent) out of 73 from BJP, 20 (47 per cent) out of 43 from Janata Dal-United, 16 (84 per cent) out of 19 from Congress, 10 (83 per cent) out of 12 from Communist Party of India-Marxist Leninist Liberation, and five (100 per cent) out of 5 from Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen.

A total of 44 (60 per cent) out of 74 RJD winners, 35 (48 per cent) out of 73 from BJP, 11 (26 per cent) out of 43 from JD-U, 11 (58 per cent) out of 19 from Congress, eight (67 per cent) out of 12 from CPI-MLL and 5 (100 per cent) out of 5 from AIMIM have serious criminal cases pending against them.

Pak shells three sectors along LoC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 11: Pakistan Wednesday continued with its ceasefire violation in the same three sectors of the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, where they had been attacking for the past day.

At about 9.15 a.m., Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along the LoC in Shahpur, Kirni and Qasba sectors, Defence Spokesman Devender Anand said. "The Indian army is retaliating befittingly," he said. Pakistan violated ceasefire in these three sectors on Tuesday as well.

Since the beginning of this year, Pakistan has been violating with impunity the bilateral ceasefire agreement signed by the two countries in 1999.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, November 11: The BJP, which had managed to retain power in Gujarat with a slender majority in the 2017 Assembly polls, has now improved its position ahead of the 2022 state elections by winning all eight seats in the bypolls held last week.

The bypoll results announced Tuesday has especially consolidated Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani's standing in the saffron party as well in the state politics. By bagging all eight seats, the BJP has increased its count further to 111 in the 182-member House, while the Congress's tally has come down to 65.

In the 2017 Assembly polls, the saffron party's tally was 99, which was 16 less than 115 that it had won in the 2012 election. For the first time,

the BJP's count had slipped below the 100-mark since it formed its maiden government on its own in 1995. The Congress had made handsome gains in the 2017 polls by winning 77 seats.

However, after that, the BJP had increased its numbers in the House by winning subsequent bypolls. Speculations were rife in 2017 that the BJP might replace Rupani with some other leader. However, the party did not do so.

Eight Congress MLAs had resigned before the Rajya Sabha elections held in Gujarat earlier this year, and five of them, who were given tickets by the BJP, their new party, won on Tuesday.

Despite switching sides, voters of their constituencies reposed faith in these five leaders and sent them to the Assembly. After the results, Rupani declared that the bypoll

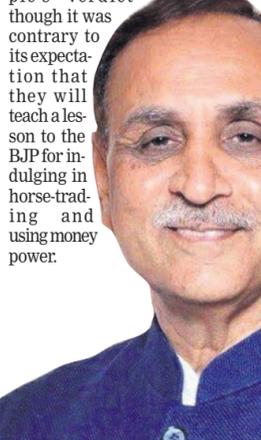
win was a "trailer" for the 2022 state assembly elections.

He said that the party has received support from various communities like Patels, tribals, Kolis as the bypolls were held in the seats dominated by these communities. After its stellar performance in 2017 Assembly polls on the back of Patidar quota stir, the opposition Congress was hopeful that the numerically-strong community will support it in the bypolls held on November 3.

However, the party failed to retain the two seats Morbi and Dhari where the Patidar community has a strong presence. On the two tribal seats of Dang and Kaprada as well, the BJP won with a huge margin.

The Congress expressed disappointment over the outcome of the bypolls. Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda said the

party accepted the people's verdict though it was contrary to its expectation that they will teach a lesson to the BJP for indulging in horse-trading and using money power.



The bypoll results has consolidated Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani's standing in the saffron party as well in the state politics. By bagging all eight seats, the BJP has increased its count further to 111 in the 182-member House

international



We can stop a second wave of COVID-19 in New York City, but we have to act now
BILL DE BLASIO | MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY

THAI MONKS ORDERED NOT TO JOIN PROTESTS

Thailand's Buddhist governing body Wednesday ordered monks not to join protests that have been taking place for months against Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and to demand curbs on King Maha Vajiralongkorn's powers



of the day quote

Yesterday, (Tuesday) the report about the painful case of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick was published. I renew my closeness to the victims of every abuse and the commitment of the Church to uproot this evil



There may be changes in the US government and personnel, but we are confident in the continued development of Taiwan-US relations



Millions of refugees were being forced to stay in host countries by pressure or intimidation and that host states were enticing them financially while benefiting from international aid for them



SHORT TAKES

Indian student found dead

Sharjah: A 21-year-old Indian engineering student was found hanging from the ceiling fan in his family apartment in Sharjah's Al Rolla, police said. The deceased identified as Jyot from Dubai was found dead on the night of November 2. The student is believed to have committed suicide, a police official told Gulf News.

Pak battling nCoV resolutely

Islamabad: Pakistan Wednesday claimed it has been fighting the Coronavirus "resolutely and successfully" and is adopting all possible measures to "strengthen the existing health system". This was stated by Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood while delivering remarks at vice ministerial-level video conference on Covid-19 response, Geotv reported.

8 dead in coal mine mishap

Beijing: At least eight miners have died following a coal mine accident last week in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, rescuers said Wednesday. Rescue work was finished Tuesday as the last four bodies were retrieved and pulled out of a coal mine shaft operated by the Qiaoziliang Coal Industry Co. Ltd. in Tongchuan City, according to the rescue headquarters on the site.

Bahrain PM dies

Manama: Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa died Wednesday in a hospital in the US, the country's royal court said. He was 84. "The Royal Court mourns His Royal Highness... who passed away this morning at Mayo Clinic Hospital in the United States of America," the Bahrain News Agency said Wednesday, without elaborating.

46 kids rescued

Canberra: Australian police said that they have rescued 46 children and arrested 14 men after a probe into an international child abuse network. The victims were allegedly subjected to crimes including sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation, the BBC reported. The investigation also led to three arrests in the US and had identified suspects in Europe, Asia, Canada and New Zealand, authorities said.

Sputnik vaccine is 92% effective: Russia

AGENCIES

Moscow, Nov 11: Russia's Sputnik V vaccine is 92% effective at protecting people from COVID-19 according to interim trial results, the country's sovereign wealth fund said Wednesday, as Moscow rushes to keep pace with Western drug-makers in the race for a shot.

Russia's results are only the second from a late-stage human trial, following on swiftly from data released Monday by Pfizer Inc and BioNTech, which said their shot was also more than 90% effective.

While experts said the Russian data was encouraging and reinforced the idea the pandemic could be halted by vaccines, they warned that the results were only based on a small number of trial volunteers who had contracted COVID-19.

The analysis was conducted after 20 participants developed the virus and examined how many had received the vaccine versus a placebo. That is significantly lower than the 94 infections in the trial of the vaccine being developed by Pfizer and BioNTech.

To confirm the efficacy rate of its vaccine, Pfizer said it would continue its trial until there were 164 COVID-19 cases. The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which has been backing Sputnik V's development, said the Russian trial



would continue for six months. Alexander Ginsburg, director of the Gamaleya Institute which developed the vaccine, said the interim results demonstrated that Sputnik V was effective and mass vaccinations would be rolled out in Russia in the coming weeks. European stocks and US stock futures extended their gains slightly after Russia's announcement though the reaction was far more muted than after Pfizer's results. China's Sinopharm, which is running large-scale late-stage clinical trials for two COVID-19 vaccine candidates, said on Wednesday that its data was better than expected, though it did not give further details.

Successful vaccines are seen as a crucial to restoring daily life around the world by helping end the pandemic that has killed more than 1.26 million people, shuttered businesses and put millions out of work. However, experts said knowledge

Plasma jets may kill Covid within seconds

Plasma jets may kill the novel coronavirus on surfaces such as metal, leather, and plastic in as little as 30 seconds, according to a study which suggests that plasma could promise a significant breakthrough in the fight against the spread of COVID-19. Plasma is one of the four basic states of matter and can be created by heating a stable gas or subjecting it to a strong electromagnetic field.

about the Russian trial's design was sparse, making it hard to interpret the data. Scientists have raised concerns about the speed at which Moscow has worked, giving the regulatory go-ahead for the shot and launching mass vaccinations before full trials to test its safety and efficacy had been completed.

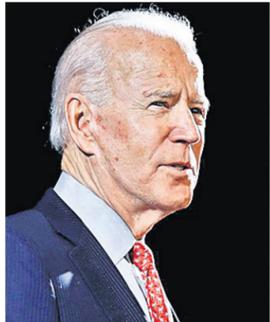
"This is not a competition. We need all trials to be carried out to the highest possible standards and it is particularly important that the pre-set criteria for unblinding the trial data are adhered to avoid cherry picking the data," said Eleanor Riley, a professor of immunology and infectious disease at the University of Edinburgh.

Biden plans move into WH as Trump clings to hope

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 11: US President-elect Joe Biden will further lay the groundwork for his new administration Wednesday as President Donald Trump pursues a flurry of longshot lawsuits challenging the election results in an effort to cling to power.

Trump has declined to concede, instead lodging unsupported charges of election fraud that have gained



Prez defies poll loss

A week after losing the US election, President Donald Trump remained shut up in the White House Tuesday, pushing an alternate reality that he is about to win and blocking Democrat Joe Biden's ability to prepare the transition. "WE WILL WIN!" the Republican president tweeted, adding: "WE ARE MAKING BIG PROGRESS. RESULTS START TO COME IN NEXT WEEK. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" The message referred to Trump's unprecedented decision for a US president to dispute a lost election, refusing to concede to his opponent and mounting a string of flimsy court challenges in states where Biden won.

little traction. Judges so far have tossed out lawsuits in Michigan and Georgia brought by Trump's campaign, and legal experts say the litigation has little chance of changing the outcome of the November 3 election. Trump's refusal to accept defeat, even as world leaders congratulate Biden and look to their future relations, caps a tumultuous four years in office with the United States deeply polarized, ravaged by the coronavirus and torn by racial division.

But Trump's supporters, who as of the latest count gave him more than 72 million votes compared to Biden's 77 million, have delighted in his combative style and shat-

tering of norms. Trump has eschewed a public concession or the pledge of cooperation typically offered by outgoing presidents.

"It's an embarrassment, quite frankly," Biden told reporters Tuesday. "How can I say this tactfully? I think it will not help the president's legacy." Trump's fellow Republicans have largely stuck with him, saying he has a right to contest the result. Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick said Tuesday he would pay up to \$1 million from his campaign account to people who come forward with evidence of voter fraud.

But privately, some say Trump must soon produce significant evidence or exit the stage.

Covid kills 15K US mink

Global health officials are eying the animals as a potential risk for people after Denmark last week embarked on a plan to eliminate all of its 17mn mink



REUTERS

Chicago, Nov 11: More than 15,000 mink in the United States have died of the coronavirus since August, and authorities are keeping about a dozen farms under quarantine while they investigate the cases, state agriculture officials said.

Global health officials are eying the animals as a potential risk for people after Denmark last week embarked on a plan to eliminate all of its 17 million mink, saying a mutated coronavirus strain could move to humans and evade future COVID-19 vaccines.

The US states of Utah, Wisconsin and Michigan - where the coronavirus has killed mink - said they do not plan to cull animals and are monitoring the situation in Denmark.

The USDA said it is working with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state officials and the mink industry to test and monitor infected farms. The United States has 359,850

mink bred to produce babies, known as kits, and produced 2.7 million pelts last year. Wisconsin is the largest mink-producing state, followed by Utah.

Sick mink in Wisconsin and Utah were exposed to people with probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases, the USDA said. In Michigan it is still unknown if the mink were infected by humans, according to the agency.

In Utah, the first US state to confirm mink infections in August, about 10,700 mink have died on nine farms, said Dean Taylor, state veterinarian.

Coronavirus testing has been done on mink that die and randomly on the affected farms, Taylor said. Like people, some mink are asymptomatic or mildly affected, he said.

In Wisconsin, about 5,000 mink have died on two farms, State Veterinarian Darlene Konkle said.

Michigan declined to disclose how many mink have died, citing privacy rules.

Myanmar opposition demands poll re-run

REUTERS

Yangon, Nov 11: Myanmar's main opposition Wednesday demanded a re-run of a parliamentary election and called for military help to ensure fairness as partial results put Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling party on course for another commanding victory.

The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) called on authorities to hold another contest as soon as possible "in order to have an election that is free, fair, unbiased and free from unfair campaigning".

The USDP challenge came as the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) party looked set for its second successive election sweep, with wins in more than 80% of seats so far declared, with about a third of the results announced.

The NLD won 130 of the 158 declared seats in the bicameral legislature compared with 15 for the USDP. The NLD needs 322 seats to form the next government and has already claimed victory in Sunday's contest. The NLD won by a similar margin in the last election in 2015, which was the first vote since the end of nearly 50 years of strict military rule and quasi-military rule. A big win would be a welcome boost to Suu Kyi. The ballot was seen as a referendum on her fledgling democratic government, which is hugely popular at home but its reputation abroad has collapsed due to accusations of genocide against the country's Rohingya Muslim minority, which it denies. Several dozen pro-USDP demonstrators gathered on Wednesday in the capital, Naypyitaw, carrying signs with slogans calling for a new and fair election.

PICTURE PERFECT



A girl poses for photographs in front of autumn leaves covering the facade of a house in London

REUTERS

China's ByteDance files petition against Trump's TikTok ban order

AGENCIES

San Francisco, Nov 11: ByteDance, the Chinese parent company of video-sharing app TikTok, filed a petition late Tuesday with a US Appeals Court challenging a Trump administration order set to take effect Thursday requiring it to divest TikTok.

President Donald Trump in an August 14 order directed ByteDance to divest the app within 90 days, which falls Thursday. The Trump administration contends TikTok poses national security concerns as the personal data of US users could



be obtained by China's government. TikTok, which has over 100 million US users, denies the allegations.

In the petition filed with the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, ByteDance said it is seeking a court review of the di-

vestment order, claiming that the order and a finding by a US agency that TikTok represented a security threat were unlawful and violated rights under the US Constitution. ByteDance, which has been in talks for a deal with Walmart Inc and Oracle Corp to shift TikTok's US assets into a new entity, also said it is requesting a 30-day extension on the August 14 divestment order, so that it can finalize terms of the deal. One big issue that has persisted is over the ownership structure of the new company, TikTok Global, that would own TikTok's US assets.

HK's pro-democracy lawmakers to resign en masse

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong, Nov 11: Hong Kong's pro-democracy lawmakers announced Wednesday they would resign en masse after four of them were ousted from the semiautonomous Chinese territory's Legislature in a move one legislator said could sound the "death knell" for democracy there.

The resignation of the 15 remaining pro-democracy lawmakers will ratchet up tensions over the future of Hong Kong, a former British colony that has long been a regional financial hub and bastion of Western-style civil liberties but over which China's government has increasingly tightened its control. A new national security law imposed by Beijing this year has

alarmed the international community.

The mass departure will also leave Hong Kong's Legislature with only pro-Beijing lawmakers, who already made up a majority but can now pass bills favored by Beijing without much opposition.

The lawmakers told a news conference they would submit their letters of resignation on Thursday. The announcement came hours after the Hong Kong government said it was disqualifying the four legislators - Alvin Yeung, Dennis Kwok, Kwok Ka-ki and Kenneth Leung.

The ousters came after China's National People's Congress Standing Committee passed a resolution this week saying that any lawmaker who supports Hong Kong's inde-



pendence, refuses to acknowledge China's sovereignty over the city, threatens national security, or asks external forces to interfere in the city's affairs should be disqualified. "Today we will resign from our

positions because our partners, our colleagues have been disqualified by the central government's ruthless move," Wu Chi-wai, the leader of the pro-democracy camp, told reporters. During the news conference, the

lawmakers held hands and chanted, "Hong Kong add oil! Together we stand!" The phrase "add oil" is a direct translation of a Chinese expression of encouragement.

"This is an actual act by Beijing ... to sound the death knell of Hong Kong's democracy fight because they would think that, from now on, anyone they found to be politically incorrect or unpatriotic or are simply not likable to look at, they could just oust you using any means," lawmaker Claudia Mo told reporters.

In recent months, Beijing has increasingly clamped down on Hong Kong, which it took back control in 1997, despite promising at the time to leave the territory's more open legal and economic systems intact for 50 years until 2047. Beijing imposed a national se-

curity law in June that some have labeled draconian after anti-government protests rocked the city for months last year, and it has used it to crackdown on opposition voices.

In response, the US leveled sanctions on several officials, including Hong Kong's pro-Beijing leader, several Western countries have suspended their extradition treaties with the territory, and Australia and Britain offered Hong Kongers easier paths to settle in those countries.

Britain said Wednesday that the decision to remove the lawmakers raises further concerns. "This campaign to harass, stifle and disqualify democratic opposition tarnishes China's international reputation and undermines Hong Kong's long-term stability," Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said in a statement.

business



CPI inflation is expected to come about 7.5% with food inflation at around 9%, as supply constraints continue to put pressure on vegetables and fruits prices
M GOVINDA RAO | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR, BRICKWORK RATINGS

'RBI BUYS NET \$8.17BN IN FX MARKET'

The RBI Wednesday bought a net \$8.17 billion in the foreign exchange (FX) market in September, well above the \$5.30 billion it purchased the previous month, a monthly bulletin showed. It bought \$13.32 billion and sold \$5.15 billion in the market in September



of the day quote

We've not yet overcome the coronavirus crisis. The economic recovery remained fragile due to the rapid rise in new infections. Further developments depend on how the pandemic can be contained and how other economies abroad fare

LARS FELD | CHAIRMAN, GERMAN COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS

The economy will decline by around 10% this year. The public debt is likely to rise to around 204%-206% of the GDP as a result

THEODORE SKYLAKAKIS | ALTERNATE MINISTER FOR FISCAL POLICY, GREECE

The pandemic has dealt a sharp revenue shock to the state governments in the current fiscal year. Some states are assessed to report revenue deficits as large as the entire financing envelope available to them, implying severe cuts in capex may be on the anvil

JAYANTA ROY | GROUP HEAD, CORPORATE SECTOR RATING, ICRA

Market cap-to-GDP ratio likely to improve in FY21

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 11: The market cap-to-GDP ratio of India is likely to recover in the current financial year (FY21) to 80 per cent, after a drop in FY20, said a report by Motilal Oswal Institutional Equities. The "BULLS & BEARS (November 2020): India Valuations Handbook" noted that in the last financial year, the market-to-GDP ratio fell to 56 per cent from 79 per cent in FY19. "Market cap-to-GDP ratio has



The report, said that India's share in world market-cap is at 2.3 pc, below its historical average of 2.5 pc

been volatile as it moved from 79 per cent in FY19 to 56 per cent (FY20 GDP) in Mar'20 to 80 per cent now

(FY21E GDP) -- above its long-term average of 75 per cent," it said. The report, however, said that

India's share in world market-cap is at 2.3 per cent, below its historical average of 2.5 per cent. Over the last 12 months, world market cap has increased 9 per cent (\$7.3 trillion) while India's market-cap has remained flat. It further said that the Nifty is trading at 12-month forward return on equity (RoE) of 13 per cent, below its long-term average of 13.8 per cent. Last month, India was among the positive-performing markets globally. In October, markets in

Indonesia (up 5 per cent), followed by India (4 per cent growth) and MSCI EM (Emerging Markets) (up 2 per cent) closed higher in local currency terms. On the other hand, Russia (down 9 per cent), UK (5 per cent) and the US (down 3 per cent) were the major laggards. "Indian equities are trading at 24X FY21E earnings. Brazil is the only market trading at a premium, while other key markets continue to trade at a discount to India," it said.

CCI approves 7.73% stake buy by Google in Jio Platforms

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 7.73% in Jio Platforms by Google. This was announced by the CCI in a tweet Wednesday.



Google had announced that it has signed an agreement to invest \$4.5 billion (Rs 33,737 crore) in Jio Platforms Ltd, taking a 7.73% stake in the company, pending regulatory review in India. This is the first investment from the Google For India Digitization Fund, which aims to accelerate India's digital economy over the next five to seven years through a mix of equity investments, partnerships and operational, infrastructure and ecosystem investments. Google and Jio Platforms have entered into a commercial agreement to jointly develop an entry-level affordable smartphone with optimisations to the Android operating system and the Play Store. "Together we are excited to re-think, from the ground up, how millions of users in India can become owners of smartphones. This effort will unlock new opportunities, further power the vibrant ecosystem of applications and push innovation to drive growth for the new Indian economy," Google had announced.

EU accuses Amazon of antitrust violation



AGENCIES

London, Nov 11: The European Commission has reached a preliminary conclusion that Amazon has illegally abused its dominant position as a marketplace service provider in Germany and France, breaching EU antitrust rules by distorting competition in online retail markets. In addition, the Commission also opened a second antitrust investigation into Amazon's business practices that might artificially favour its own retail offers and offers of marketplace sellers that use Amazon's logistics and delivery services (the so-called "fulfilment by Amazon or FBA sellers").

"Amazon may have used sensitive data on a big scale to compete against smaller retailers," said Executive Vice President Margrethe Vestager, in charge of the competition policy. "We must ensure that dual role platforms with market power, such as Amazon, do not distort competition," she said in a statement on Tuesday. The Commission took issue with Amazon systematically relying

on non-public business data of independent sellers who sell on its marketplace, to the benefit of Amazon's own retail business, which directly competes with those third party sellers. In a statement, Amazon said it will "continue to make every effort to ensure it has an accurate understanding of the facts".

"No company cares more about small businesses or has done more to support them over the past two decades than Amazon," the company said. "There are more than 150,000 European businesses selling through our stores that generate tens of billions of Euros in revenues annually and have created hundreds of thousands of jobs."

The Commission said that its preliminary findings showed that very large quantities of non-public seller data are available to employees of Amazon's retail business and flow directly into the automated systems of that business, which aggregate these data and use them to calibrate Amazon's retail offers and strategic business decisions to the detriment of the other marketplace sellers.

Cabinet approves PLI scheme for 10 sectors

The concerned sectors will include electronic products, automobiles and auto components, pharma, telecom and networking products, textile, food products

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 11: To give an impetus to the manufacturing sector, the Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a mega production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for 10 sectors. The total outlay has been pegged at ₹1,45,980 crore. Announcing the decision, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the scheme would entail an expenditure of about ₹2 lakh crore.

Accordingly, the scheme is expected to attract foreign players, boost production, increase exports and generate employment in the country. Earlier, the Centre had rolled out a similar scheme for the electronics manufacturing sector, particularly for mobile phone manufacturing, to curb increasing imports. The concerned sectors will include advanced chemistry cell battery, electronic products, automobiles and auto components, pharma, telecom and networking products, textile, food products, white goods and speciality steel.

Post the announcement, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted: "Strengthening our vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Govt under PM@NarendraModi' approves Production Linked Incentive scheme for 10 Sectors. Revolutionising Make in India, this



will help create jobs, promote exports and make India the factory of the world."

An official statement said: "The PLI scheme will be implemented by the concerned ministries or departments and will be within the overall financial limits prescribed. The final proposals of PLI for individual sectors will be appraised by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and approved by the Cabinet.

"Savings, if any, from one PLI scheme of an approved sector can be utilised to fund that of another approved sector by the Empowered Group of Secretaries. Any new sector for PLI will require fresh approval of the Cabinet."

The statement added: "The Prime Minister's clarion call for an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' envisages policies for the promotion of an efficient, equitable and resilient manufacturing sector in the country. "Growth in production and exports of industrial goods will greatly expose the Indian industry to foreign competition and ideas, which will help in improving its capabilities to innovate further." In addition, it said that promotion of the manufacturing sector and creation of a conducive manufacturing ecosystem will not only enable integration with global supply chains, but also establish backward linkages with the MSME sector in the country.

SHORT TAKES

'One nation, one salary for bankers'

Chennai: Four unions in the banking sector Wednesday jointly announced that their three year wage talks finally resulted in a written agreement with Indian Banks' Association (IBA). In a joint circular issued to their members the 4 unions - All India Bank Employees' Association, National Confederation Bank Employees, National Organisation of Bank Workers and Indian National Bank Employees Federation said the 11th Bipartite Settlement on revision of wages and improvement in service conditions of bank employees has been signed with IBA.

PVs' sales up over 14% in Oct

New Delhi: Festive season boost along with low base and pent-up demand accelerated domestic passenger vehicles' sales in October on a year-on-year basis. As per the industry data released on Wednesday, passenger vehicles sales rose by 14.19% in October. The category includes sub-segments of cars, utility vehicles and vans. Accordingly, 3,10,294 passenger vehicles were sold in the domestic market from an off-take of 2,71,737 units sold during the like period of 2019.

SpiceJet narrows Q2 net loss

New Delhi: Airline major SpiceJet Wednesday reported a significantly narrower net loss in the traditionally weak Q2 despite travel restrictions. On a standalone basis, the net loss reduced to ₹112.6 crore from a loss of ₹462.6 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal.

Toyota halts production

New Delhi: Toyota Motor Corp has been forced to halt production at its car plant in southern India after members of a workers' union went on a sit-in strike within the premises, the automaker said Wednesday. "Due to the current volatile atmosphere and to protect the safety of employees, Toyota Kirloskar Motor is forced to declare a lock-out until further notice," a spokesperson for the automaker's India unit said in a statement.

Nalco registers net profit of ₹107cr in Q2 of FY21

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: Despite the challenging business environment, National Aluminium Company Limited (Nalco) registered a net profit of ₹107.45 crore in second quarter of current financial year. During the quarter, the revenue from operations has been ₹2,375 crore, registering 72 per cent growth over Q1 of FY21. In the first quarter of FY21, revenue from operations was ₹1,381 crore.

On half-yearly basis, the company has registered a net profit of ₹124 crore as against ₹70 crore for the corresponding period of previous year. On production front, Nalco



has achieved bauxite production of 17.04 lakh tonnes and alumina hydrate production of 4.87 lakh tonnes while metal production was 1.06 lakh tonnes during the quarter.

During the quarter, the leading manufacturer and exporter of alumina and aluminium in the country, achieved strong growth in export, reg-

istering sales of 58,574 metric tonnes (MT) of aluminium compared to 16,305 MT in corresponding period last year. The total alumina sale during Q2 was 285,718 MT.

During the H1 FY21, the company achieved a three-fold jump with export of 93,730 MT in aluminium compared to 30,561 MT in the corresponding period last year.

Nalco CMD Sridhar Patra said, "The year began with unforeseeable challenges, which has affected the entire world. Nalco collectively rose to the challenge and braved all odds to overcome the sluggishness in the market and get the business operations back on track amidst the pandemic."

Lyflink startup connects patients with doctors

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 11: City-based telemedicine startup Lyflink enables access to teleconsultations via video-audio calls, and chat through its website and mobile app and now it is also setting up digital clinics in rural Odisha to ensure easy healthcare delivery.

Dr (Major) Sarthak Patnaik founded the telemedicine startup in 2017 with Kamini Parmar-MBA Finance, Harish Kumar-IIT Rorkee & Soumya Patnaik.

Patnaik said, "The startup offers two mobile applications — the Lyflink patient app, which is used by patients to search doctors and book appointments, and the Lyflink doctor app that enables doctors to manage appointments, patients,

and clinics. Patients can search and choose a doctor from across the country, select the preferred mode of consultation, upload health reports, describe their issues, pay the consultation fees online, and connect with the doctor and get a prescription in 10 minutes."

Lyflink partners with diagnostic centres where patients are referred for tests during teleconsultations. These diagnostic centres automatically update results on the apps, allowing the doctor and the patient to take the treatments further.

The startup is also setting up digital clinics in rural areas where it is working with health kiosks. At present, four digital clinics have been set up across Odisha in Saintala, Binka, Begunia and Surya Nagar.

ByteDance to rake in \$27bn ad revenue by year-end

REUTERS

Hong Kong/Beijing, Nov 11: TikTok-owner ByteDance is on track to generate at least 180 billion yuan (\$27.2 billion) in advertising revenue in China this year, which will cement its no. 2 spot in China's digital ad market, two people with knowledge of the matter said.

The company's overall revenue goal for 2020 is around \$30 billion, Reuters previously reported, so the latest figures mean it is performing in line with its plan.

While TikTok is what ByteDance is best known for globally, the app contributes little to the Chinese company's revenue overall. It relies on Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok, for nearly 60% of ad revenue, followed by news aggregator Jinri Toutiao for 20% and

long-form video platform Xigua for under 3%, according to one of the sources. ByteDance declined to comment.

The group is one of only a few Chinese companies with global reach, but it is currently battling plans to force it to divest TikTok's US operations because of Washington's national security concerns over the data of more than 100 million US users.

STRENGTH AT HOME

ByteDance overtook Baidu to become China's second largest digital ad player in the first half of 2019 with 23% (\$7.6 billion) of the total digital ad spend in the country, according to consultancy R3, with Alibaba Group in first place, raking in \$10.9 billion or 33%.

The gap between ByteDance and Alibaba has narrowed this year, ac-



The company's overall revenue goal for 2020 is around \$30 billion

While TikTok is what ByteDance is best known for globally, the app contributes little to the Chinese company's revenue overall

ording to the second source. Although ByteDance did not disclose ad revenue for 2019, Reuters

has reported it generated total revenue of \$16 billion last year. As ByteDance pursues its global

ambitions, it is also looking to step up investment in three main areas at home next year - e-commerce, search and longer-form videos, the source said.

It plans to invest around 10 billion yuan, including the value of traffic and advertising support to partners, on Xigua next year; its longer form video app, with the aim of increasing the number of daily active users to over 100 million, the first source said.

Douyin's e-commerce platform, one of the fastest-growing sectors within the company, is projected to hit around 150 billion yuan in gross merchandise value (GMV) this year, according to both sources, who declined to be named as the information had not been made public.

The final numbers will be adjusted at the end of the year to

take account of key campaigns around events such as year-end sales, which haven't been officially launched yet, the people said. Douyin held its first major shopping festival on Wednesday, in tandem with Alibaba's mega shopping event Singles' Day.

Douyin's rival Kuaishou, which filed for a Hong Kong initial public offering last week, reported total revenue and e-commerce GMV for the first half of this year of 25.3 billion yuan and 109.6 billion yuan respectively.

In the search arena, ByteDance launched Toutiao Search for the Chinese market last August to take on China's search engine Baidu.

It has since hired experts including former Baidu executives to improve its platform's architecture and range of search results.

Bumrah's form in ODIs a concern

ROHIT BACKED FOR T20I CAPTAINCY

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 11: India should embrace split-captaincy and put Rohit Sharma in charge of their T20 squad, several former cricketers said after the opener led Mumbai Indians to a fifth IPL title Tuesday. Virat Kohli leads India across formats, while Rohit usually deputises for him in limited-overs cricket.

Rohit top-scored with a fluent 68 as Mumbai crushed Delhi Capitals in the final to cement their position as IPL's most successful team. Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore, who are yet to win an IPL title in 13 seasons, were eliminated in the playoffs.

"If Rohit Sharma doesn't become India captain, it's their loss, not Rohit's," former opener Gautam Gambhir told the ESPNcricinfo website. "Rohit has won five IPL titles, he is the most successful captain in the history of the tournament. It would be a shame if he is not made the white-ball captain after this. Because there's nothing



more Rohit Sharma can do." Gambhir, who led Kolkata Knight Riders to two IPL titles, said Rohit was a significantly better captain than Kohli in these formats.

"Why can't you have split captaincy? It's not a bad idea. I'm not suggesting Kohli is a terribly bad captain but both got the same platform and you can judge who's better. For me, Rohit Sharma stands out as leader."

Former England captain Michael Vaughan felt delegating T20 captaincy to Rohit would help reduce Kohli's workload.

"I honestly believe that the Indian team will be better off in Twenty20 cricket being led by Rohit Sharma," Vaughan told Cricbuzz website, citing split-captaincy examples in England and Australia.

"Virat Kohli is superhuman. Giving away one aspect of his captaincy will free him up to be the 50-over leader and the Test match leader."

Former India opener Virender Sehwag also described Rohit as "the best captain in the format" on Twitter.

Maini finishes 2nd in British F3 C'ship 2020

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Nov 11: Kush Maini has finished second in the 2020 British F3 Championship, improving on his third-place finish in 2018. The Indian picked up three race wins and nine podium finishes, missing out on the title to American Kaylen Frederick.



Maini had taken the championship lead after his first win of the year at Brand's Hatch and he continued to stay on top with a win at Donington Park. However, he ran into troubles in the next two rounds in which time Frederick gained on him. The American eventually took the lead and had a 13-point advantage heading into the final round at Silverstone Sunday. Maini finished with 448 points to Frederick's 499 while Ulysse De Pauw was third with 398. He had started his championship campaign on a three days' notice from his team Hitech GP.

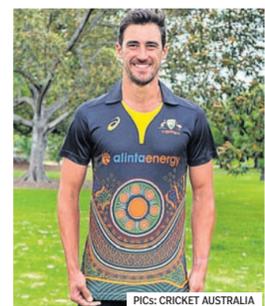
Oz's indigenous jersey for India T20Is

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Melbourne, Nov 11: The Australian men's cricket team will wear an indigenous jersey for the upcoming three-match T20I series against India beginning November 27, the design of which was unveiled by Cricket Australia Wednesday.

The shirt continues the storytelling of the first ever Australia team to tour overseas when in 1868, a group of Aboriginal cricketers played 47 matches in the UK having made a three-month journey.

The jersey has been designed by Kirrae Whurrong woman Aunty Fiona Clarke, great great-granddaughter of Grongarrong (Mosquito), who was one of the members of the team that played in England in 1868, designed the original Walkabout Wickets artwork that will feature on the front



of the playing shirt.

It has been co-designed by Courtney Hagen, Butchulla and Gubbi Gubbi woman and Cricket Australia's Indigenous Engagement Specialist.

The artwork represents past, present and future Aboriginal cricketers, with the large circle repre-

senting Lord's and the smaller circles signify the team's various meeting places during that tour.

India's tour of Australia will commence with the three ODIs. That will be followed by the three T20Is before facing off in the four-Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

GURJANT HOPES TO PROVE HIS METTLE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 11: Forward Gurjant Singh, who was part of the Indian men's team for the FIH Hockey Pro League earlier in the year, feels a little more accuracy in his game can help him be a regular in the team.

"Playing against top teams like Belgium and Netherlands was a great exposure for me. I feel there is more that I can do in order to improve and execute my

role to perfection. These next few months will be important for me and I hope I can prove my mettle ahead of the Olympic Games," Singh said.

The team's core probable group has been living in a bio-secure environment at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) facility since August this year after a six-week break.

The forward further emphasised that this period has given him an opportunity to learn from his seniors and also understand the areas which

he needs to pay more attention.

"I think as chief coach Graham (Reid) says, we need to make the most of the situation and utilize this time off competition to introspect about our own game. I have in these past months tried to pin point the areas I am not up to the mark and I have also been speaking to other forwards in the group about right positioning and timing. Players like Sunil, Akashdeep, Ramandeep have all been quite helpful in this regard," he said.



are fewer overs.

"If the batsman halts his run-scoring for three-four overs, the entire game is finished. In 50 overs, you have time. Batsman can adjust. You can endure a spell of 4-5 overs without scoring much. In T20, the batsman has to try to hit every ball," he said.

The batsmen, which included Australians, have managed to see him off in the last six ODIs. He conceded runs at 5.10 which is decent but slightly more than his career economy rate of 4.55 while his average - balls per wicket - was 287, way too high than his career average of 24.43.

A look at two of his best spells this season - 4/14 vs DC in Qualifier 1 and 4/20 vs RR in a league en-

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