



NO INHIBITION

Actor Taapsee Pannu, who doesn't talk about her personal life, has opened up on her love link

LEISURE P2



FIRECRACKER BAN IN T'GANA

Banning firecrackers in state, Telangana HC observes "the lives of the people are most important"

TWO STATES P7



BIDEN IGNORES TRUMP

Joe Biden will press on with building his governing team, ignoring Trump's refusal to accept defeat

INTERNATIONAL P10

Agri Marketing Ordinance re-promulgated

THE BJD GOVERNMENT OPPOSED THE CENTRAL FARM LAWS IN BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN THE LAST SESSION, BUT APPROVED A NEW ORDINANCE BASED ON THE CONTROVERSIAL MODEL ACT OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Despite opposing the farm laws enacted by the Centre, the Odisha government has now decided to re-promulgate the Agriculture Marketing Ordinance, as the first Ordinance issued by the government is about lapse. The move comes as a surprise in the midst of the nationwide stir by farmers against the Centre's farm laws.

Significantly, the BJD had opposed the new farm laws in both Houses of Parliament during its last session, but its new Ordinance is more or less based on the Centre's model Act of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. A copy paste of the Central laws, the second ordinance of the state government, christened the 'Odisha Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020, was approved by the state Cabinet Thursday.

Though the state government had promulgated the first Ordinance May 13 this year, it did not bring the Bill in the last session of the Assembly fearing a backlash by farmers in the state. "The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of

Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, desired to bring reforms in agriculture marketing sector in the country and it has unveiled a draft model law entitled as 'the Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017'. But, due to Covid-19 pandemic the state government desires to bring the second Ordinance to give immediate benefits to the farmers," state government said in a press statement issued Thursday.

Interestingly, the state government has not touched the controversial contract farming law. The issue was incorporated in the first Ordinance, dropped from the Ordinance passed Thursday. Earlier, the state government has brought the Odisha Agricultural Produce and Livestock Contract Farming and Services (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020, along with the Agriculture Marketing Ordinance.

Briefing the media on the decisions taken by Cabinet, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy said, "The Cabinet decided to re-promulgate Odisha Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020, to provide competitive rates to the farmers for their produces. It will ben-



ODISHA CABINET DECISIONS

- As per the new Ordinance, the regional markets will be converted as state and national markets
- The Ordinance will also ensure abolition of fragmentation of market within the state by removing the concept of notified market area
- The government has also decided to repeal 215 Acts mostly Appropriation Acts of the state enacted in between 1950 and 2011
- State targets to procure record amount of 71 lakh MT paddy during this Kharif season

efit the farmers of our state."

There are 66 regulated marketing committees (RMCs) in state apart from a strong private market, he said, adding, "The regional markets will be converted as state and national markets."

This Ordinance will also bring private investment on construction of new godowns, sorting, grading, packing, scientific storage and warehousing, he said.

the Kharif Marketing Season 2020-21. This time, the government has set highest ever target to procure 71 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy. Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare secretary VV Yadav said target has set to procure 54 lakh MT of paddy during Kharif crop season and 17 lakh tonee in Rabi crop season. He said the department minister can enhance the target, if required.

The government has approved tender worth ₹461.25 crore for construction of Jagannath Ballav Pilgrim Centre, market complex and extension of Shree Setu along the Musa river in Puri town. The government has set a deadline to complete the projects in 30 months, the Chief Secretary said.

The proposal to alienate government land and acquired land for Heritage Security Corridor around Jagannath Temple in Puri in favour of the Shri Jagannath Temple Managing Committee free of premium has been approved by the panel.

Tripathy said the government has also decided to repeal 215 Acts mostly Appropriation Acts of the state enacted in between 1950 and 2011. These Acts will be placed before the Assembly for repeal.

MORE P3

SERO SURVEY

Over 46% residents of Cuttack exposed to nCoV

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The recently conducted sero surveillance of Cuttack city has revealed that close to half of the studied population in the Silver City are exposed to Covid-19 infection.

This data was furnished by the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, which along with the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) conducted the serological (antibody) test of the community as well as people from high-risk groups like such as health workers, policemen and media personnel.

CMC Commissioner Ananya Das said that the overall sero prevalence for the city stood at 46.39 per cent. It was said to be higher for the high risk group and lower for the community participants. The sero survey was undertaken in 25 clusters/wards, where 60 households were randomly picked for the study.

The study also analysed the samples of 640 persons from high risk groups. RMRC Director Sanghamitra Pati said that while 56.4 per cent from the high-risk groups were found to be exposed to coronavirus, the total prevalence of the virus among the community was 41 per cent. She further said, "The

main objective of the survey is to know the collective immunity of the community in an area against the virus. We found that there was no differentiation between males and females when it comes to exposure. However, we saw more young people were exposed to the virus. Around 90 per cent of the exposed persons were asymptomatic."

The CMC Commissioner, however, asked the people to take special measures and comply with the Covid-19 safety norms to ensure that they are able to protect themselves during Diwali.

"The survey hinted that we have got good immunity against the virus. However, we cannot be complacent and we need to continue protecting us from the virus. I would like to appeal to the people of Cuttack to practice all preventive measures to keep themselves away from the disease, Das said.

The sero survey is conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) through its regional partners. The survey measures the antibodies developed in human bodies against the virus which are formed after they are exposed to the virus recently. It does not tell about current infection about their exposure to the virus in the last few weeks and months.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Goddess Lakshmi will not be visiting us this Diwali. Else, we would have won the election!

Night temp to fall by 3°C across state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Thursday said the night temperature will come down by 3°C to 4°C in many places across the state. The minimum temperature will remain almost normal Thursday, but it will fall by 3-4°C thereafter.

There will be dry weather in the state during this Diwali, it said. The lowest minimum temperature of 15.5°C was recorded at Daringibadi, while it was 17°C at Angul, 17.4°C at Sonepur, 17.5°C at Malkangiri, 18°C each at Koraput & Baripada, 18.2°C at Bhawanipatna, 18.5°C at Talcher and 18.6°C at Bolangir. Capital city Bhubaneswar and Cuttack registered minimum temperatures of 22.5°C and 21.2°C, respectively.

'DEAD' BOY RETURNS HOME ALIVE

Govt told to pay ₹5 lakh damages to 2 'accused'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has directed the state government to pay ₹2.5 lakh each to two persons who were accused of 'murdering' a minor boy and put behind bars in connection in 2016.

The two were arrested and sentenced to imprisonment for allegedly murdering a minor boy in Paikamal area of Bargarh district. However, the 'victim' was later found to be alive.

Elaborating on the case Thursday, counsel of the two convicts, Biswapriya Kanungo said that when a minor boy of Paikamal area went missing from December 7, 2016, his family members lodged a complaint with the police. Acting on the complaint, Paikamal police arrested Halu Gurla and Raghav Naik of Paikamal as the mobile phone of the missing minor was recovered from them December 24, 2016.

Later, under pressure from the investigating officer and IIC Prakash Kumar Karna, Gurla and Naik acquiesced that they had murdered the boy and dumped his body in Jeera river. Subsequently, the police regis-

tered a murder case against them and sent them to jail.

Meanwhile, the minor boy, who suffered from some mental disorder and was believed to have been murdered, returned home in 2018. On his return, the boy said that he was in Kolkata between 2016 and 18.

When the 'accused' received the news of the boy's return, they moved the OHRC alleging that they were wrongfully imprisoned and sought action against the then investigating police officer.

While hearing the pleas of the 'accused', the Commission directed the state government to pay compensation worth ₹2.5 lakh each to them. The OHRC further directed that amount shall be collected from the investigating officer Karna. The Commission also directed the Home Department and DGP, Odisha, to ensure the execution of the order within two months.

The OHRC also reprimanded ex-IIC Karna and the then SDPO of Paikmal for their careless and negligent approach and directed the state government to ensure that all police officials undergo a month's special training on human rights.

State approves ₹11.2K cr Supplementary Budget

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Council of Minister headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday approved Supplementary Budget for the year 2020-21. According to sources, the total outlay of the Supplementary Budget would be around ₹11,270 crore, which will be presented before the Assembly November 20.

The state had presented a Supplementary Budget of ₹8,126 crore last year. Despite the

Covid-19 crisis, the state is going to present an enhanced Supplementary Budget to ensure sufficient allocation for health and social sectors. While almost an allocation equal to last year will be granted for administrative expenses, the lion share (around ₹10,000 crore) is likely to be allocated for programme expenditure and disaster response as the state has notified Covid-19 pandemic as a disaster. The outlay of Annual Budget 2020-21 was ₹1.50 lakh crore.



BRISK BIZ

Visitors at the concluding day of the terracotta exhibition 'Murtika' at the Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

PICTURE BY BIKASH NAYAK

Technical recession in India for first time

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 12: India has technically entered into a recession with a likely contraction in its GDP during the July-September period, according to a report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

RBI's Economic Activity Index estimates that India's GDP growth for the second quarter of the current financial year was negative and the GDP contracted by 8.6 per cent during the quarter. "India has entered into a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history with Q2:2020-21 likely to record the second successive quarter of GDP contraction," it said.

The contraction is ebbing with gradual normalisation in activities and expected to be short-lived.



The RBI report said that at a time when global economic activity is besieged by the outbreak of the second wave of Covid-19, incoming data for the month of October 2020 have brightened the near-term outlook for the Indian economy and stirred up consumer and business confidence.

"Since the assessment of the performance of the Indian economy in the first half of 2020-21 that was presented in the Monetary Policy Report of October 2020, several developments point to a window of respite opening up and an unshackling of economic activity from the grip of Covid-19 as the festival season sets in," it said.

China loses its eye in India's N-E with ULFA-I commander's surrender

When ULFA-I commander Rajkhowa surrendered before the Indian Army, there was a decade-long story of deception and persuasion and at the heart of this operation was a Military Intelligence officer

AGENCIES

New Delhi/Shillong, Nov 12: In a major setback to insurgency in the north-east, a deputy commander-in-chief of United Liberation Front of Assam Independent - ULFA (I) - surrendered along with his four bodyguards, a culmination of nine years of persistent efforts in this regard by a young officer of the Military Intelligence.

Official sources said that Drishti Rajkhowa, also known as 'Major Rabha' or 'Drishti Asom' from the banned insurgent organisation, surrendered late Wednesday night at the Red Horns Division of the Indian Army.

Rajkhowa, an RPG expert re-



sponsible for several attacks in the northeast, is a close confidant of ULFA (Independent) commander-in-chief Paresh Baruah who has been hiding in China. Rajkhowa was the commander of 109 Battalion

of ULFA (I) until 2011 when Baruah promoted him as his deputy.

This surrender has caused a severe blow to Baruah, ULFA (I), its cadres and the organisation's nefarious design in the region, the

sources added.

On the directions of his chief, Rajkhowa became the mastermind behind gun-running in north-eastern states and even in Bangladesh, sources said. He was hiding in Mymensingh city of Bangladesh, around 120 km north of Dhaka.

One of the primary suppliers of firearms to various insurgent groups, he used to frequently shuttle between Garo Hills in Meghalaya and Bangladesh for this purpose, sources said. He was regarded as an honorary leader by the Garo insurgents.

Rajkhowa has survived many encounters, with the last one as recent as October 20 this year. Sources said that his surrender before the

Army is a great success for the Central government, given its persistent efforts to eradicate insurgency in the region.

The sources pointed out that the surrender is a result of the hard work, dedication and nine years of sincere efforts put in by the MI officer and swift planning by the Military Intelligence.

The young MI Captain had got in touch with the dreaded insurgent in 2011 and maintained his communication channel with him despite multiple transfers. All these years, the officer ignored his personal safety and encouraged the insurgent to surrender and come into the mainstream and facilitate it for others too, the sources said.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	43357.19 ↓ 236.48
NIFTY	12690.80 ↓ 58.40
DOLLAR	75.12 ↑ ₹0.18
EURO	88.13 ↑ ₹0.46
GOLD	₹50,675 ↑ ₹506
SILVER	₹62,865 ↑ ₹324

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	30.8°C	30.6°C
MIN	22.5°C	21.2°C
Humidity	96%	71%
Rainfall	Trace	Nil

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky



ACTING IS A VERY STRANGE THING TO DO: REBECCA HALL

Iron Man 3 actress Rebecca Hall finds acting a strange thing to do. "Acting is all about being a (different) person. So I don't see where the exploration of my job and the exploration of me begins," Rebecca said.

CUOCO RECALLS FILMING INTIMATE SCENES WITH EX-BOY FRIEND

Actress Kaley Cuoco found filming sex scenes with former boyfriend, actor Johnny Galecki, a tricky affair. Cuoco shared that she began dating Galecki at the start of the hit sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*, and broke up two years later, reports *people.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181*

ARIES
You are edgy today. Something may be bothering you, and this keeps you cautious for most part of the day. Ganesh suggests that you make the most of your evenings if invited to parties and other social events. Things may turn around for the good.

TAURUS
In all probability, today you will discover that your family is the foundation of your success, predicts Ganesh. Your dearly loved spouse may try to spice up the relationship in the afternoon and you will be more than willing to reciprocate, expects Ganesh.

GEMINI
A great evening with your sweetheart will be the highlight of the day. It will be one of the better days in business; you will be able to earn enough money to save for the future. In the evening, you may have to spend a little extra, says Ganesh.

CANCER
This is a favourable day for you. Ganesh sees the chance of a gain from womenfolk. Surprisingly, your work will be finished without any pre-planning. Ties with bosses and colleagues will be steady without any ups and downs. Some of your dreams may be realised.

LEO
Today is one mushroom that may turn out to be unpalatable, says Ganesh. The stars indicate that this day shall be smeared with quite a few unsatisfactory moments, especially in the afternoon. A certain sense of wildness and volatility shall dominate your actions today.

VIRGO
You are Alexander this day - undefeated and unassailable. But Ganesh sees you on a wild goose chase for most of the day today. Unwittingly, you may invite unwarranted stress related to an ongoing assignment.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that today may not be a great day for you professionally as higher ups in your office may try to block your path to success. You will have to spend more time doing work and this will mean spending less time with your family. Ganesh says never forget the sacrifices your family members have made for your success.

SCORPIO
Being gregarious may just catch your fancy today, says Ganesh. At work, you will remain fussy about assignments and deadlines. Socially, whom you choose to be with will decide who you are, suggests Ganesh. Evening will be spent in the pleasant company of loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS
The fire within you is set to flare - professionally and personally. It won't be difficult for you to convince people of your intentions. But Ganesh advises you to seek counsel from your superiors and predecessors before you dive into anything.

CAPRICORN
Many a time, we emulate others or get inspired by certain thought-provoking actions which explains most of the initiatives we undertake. Your actions today will be inspired too, says Ganesh. However, later in the day, you are likely to get into arguments that may drag you into legal disputes.

AQUARIUS
You will most likely play a peace envoy today, sorting out conflicts with diplomacy, your own as well as others'. Don't ignore any offer on the career front, as it may be the best thing to happen to you! The evening brings romance, says Ganesh, but also a lovers' tiff.

PISCES
Today is a day devoted to matters of the heart as well as your heart. So, while you will probably be busy during the day keeping tabs on the refurbishments you have planned for your residence, the evening should probably see you in a romantic setting murmuring sweet nothings to your soul mate, says Ganesh.

Taapsee opens up on her relationship

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu usually prefers not to talk about her personal life, but she has opened up about relationship with Danish badminton player Mathias Boe saying they share a stable, nice and happy equation with no baggage.

"I've not gone out and talked about him (Mathias Boe) because I've noticed that whenever I've spoken about him the headlines become more about him than me, and that overrides my professional life. I've been pretty much open. The families know about it as well. I met him during a badminton match. I was a spectator and he was

a player. We ended up chatting on Twitter a bit and then we met each other. Since then, it's been stable, nice, happy, calm. No baggage, no burden relationship," she revealed.

The actress has an interesting line up of films including *Haseen Dillruba* and *Rashmi Rocket*. Born and brought up in Delhi, Taapsee said that since childhood she chased excellence in everything. IANS

Adah to have a working Diwali

Mumbai: Actress Adah Sharma will be having a working Diwali because she will be busy shooting for her next film in Mussoorie.

homemade chocolate modaks but this time I won't be celebrating at home," Adah said.

"I will be shooting for my next Bollywood film during Diwali in Mussoorie. I've also shot a short film for Diwali which will be releasing soon," informed the actress, who has *Commando 3* lined up.

Adah recently used her social media presence to help a flute player who has been struggling to make a living on the empty streets ever since the pandemic and lockdown. The actress, who has almost five million followers on Instagram, posted a clip on the video-sharing platform that captures a melodic tune played by a flute player. IANS

Actor Asif Basra commits suicide

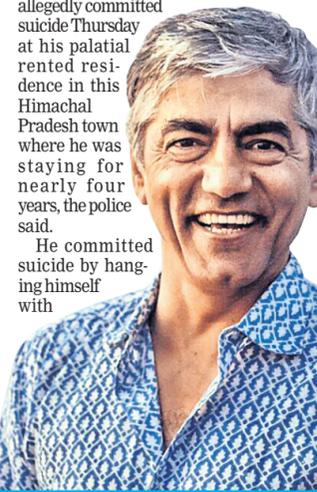
Dharamsala: Actor Asif Basra (53) allegedly committed suicide Thursday at his palatial rented residence in this Himachal Pradesh town where he was staying for nearly four years, the police said.

He committed suicide by hanging himself with

a leash of his pet dog, Superintendent of Police Vimukt Ranjan revealed. As per the police, just before the alleged suicide, he had returned from a stroll in the locality along with his dog.

No suicide note has been recovered. It has been learnt that Basra, who was under depression, was staying here with a British woman.

Known for his character roles in films like *Black Friday*, *Parzanai*, *Jab We Met* and *Kai Po Che*, among many others, Basra was last seen in the Hotstar TV series *Hostages*. IANS



working diwali. For me that's the best kind of diwali! If I'm home I eat

Ludo: Storytelling needed to be crisper

The film's 150-minute runtime could have been trimmed to a couple of hours while the sluggish pace of the movie prevents the stories from coming alive

Ludo is brilliant as a concept, engaging in execution, but mostly mediocre in output. It is a film that ensembles four intertwined stories of love and relationships, and the idea is to spread out a narrative with a twist of irreverence and wry humour.

Anurag Basu, hand that rolls the dice, has been among mainstream cinema's most interesting storytellers over the recent past. With Ludo, he structures a narrative that

would remind you of his 2007 anthology *Life In A...Metro*, although the stories and the flavours of the two films are wholly different.

The innovation that Basu attempts with his new dark comedy is to create out a four-pronged narrative that moves much like the board game from which the film draws its name. These are plots that move concurrently and, like a game of ludo, end at a common point. Basu, in fact, also colour-

codes his four stories, with the dominant passion of each tale being defined by a particular colour on the ludo board - red, blues, green or yellow.

The first of these stories is about a ventriloquist Aakash (Aditya Roy Kapoor) and rich girl Ahana (Sanya Malhotra). Aakash discovers a viral video of a casual sexual encounter they once had. He sets off to warn the girl, only to find she is about to get married. In the second story, Rajkumar Rao plays Alok Kumar or Aalu, petty local tough and Mithun Chakraborty clone who ends up spending most of the film trying to rescue the husband of

Cast:
Abhishek Bachchan, Rajkumar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi, Aditya Roy Kapur, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Sanya Malhotra, Asha Negi
Direction:
Anurag Basu

Pinky (Fatima Sana Shaikh), the object of his one-sided affection since they were kids.

Abhishek Bachchan toplines the third story as Bittu the goon, whose dream of uniting with his estranged little daughter (Nayat Verma) meets a bizarre twist of fate. The last story involves a hapless

store salesman (Rohit Suresh Saraf) and a South Indian nurse (Pearle Maaney), who are in dire need of money and end up with an unexpected and dangerous fortune.

The four stories find a point to converge in the world of gangster Sattu bhaiya (Pankaj Tripathi), who has own little misadventure in store.

Basu does a good job setting up the tales but his storytelling process needed to be crisper. The film's 150-minute runtime could have been trimmed to a couple of hours. The



FILM REVIEW

sluggish pace means none of the stories wholly come alive. Overall, as the stories head towards the film's climax, Basu's storytelling tends to go out of control. AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

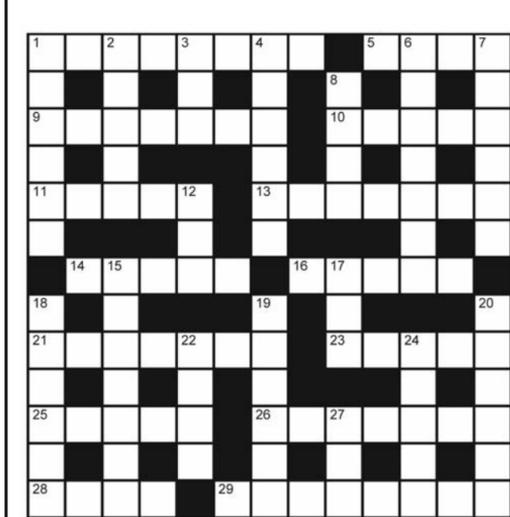


BREVITY



FUN post

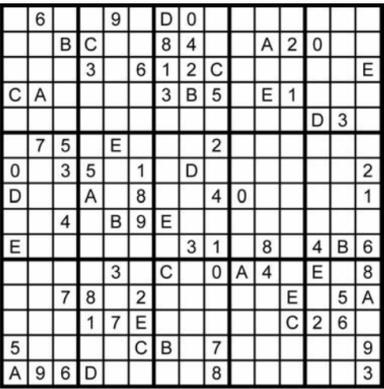
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Australian parrot
 - 5 Seaweed substance
 - 9 Time of day
 - 10 Damp
 - 11 Marriage and others
 - 13 Ambrosias
 - 14 River feature
 - 16 Former capital of Japan
 - 21 Post-mortem
 - 23 Airline employee
 - 25 Killer whales
 - 26 Breathing apparatus
 - 28 Assistant
 - 29 Venetians
 - Down**
 - 1 Stone fruit
 - 2 High point
 - 3 French friend (4,3)
 - 4 Some are vital
 - 6 Olympic athlete
 - 7 Root vegetable
 - 8 Stylish
 - 12 Drunkard
 - 15 Inveigled
 - 17 Canine cry
 - 18 Chinese temple
 - 19 Young swan
 - 20 Coral reef islands
 - 22 Sit for a photo
 - 24 Cocoon contents
 - 27 The sun

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



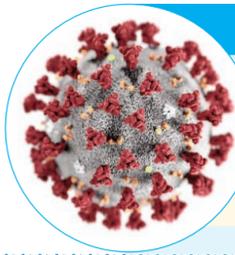
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



KALI PUJA PREP

An artisan decorating a clay idol of Goddess Kali in Old Town area of Bhubaneswar, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	5,26,85,639	3,68,12,360	12,93,331
India	86,64,725	80,42,996	1,27,864
Odisha	3,05,986	2,93,741	1,483

Oppn for early ULB polls; BJD says matter sub judice

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The opposition parties in the state Thursday demanded conduct of elections to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) after the completion of by-polls in Tirtol and Balasore Sadar Assembly constituencies. They also alleged delaying tactics on part of the ruling dispensation.

Odisha BJP leader Prithviraj Harichandan said, "It is speculated that the elections to the ULBs would be conducted in 2021. The state government must make preparations for the conduct of the same. The Election Commission should also come out with the dates of the polls."

He also added, "We have already seen some elections across the state during the Covid-19 pandemic. Now, the elections for the ULBs should also be conducted. It has been hanging in balance for several months. Extending the ULB polls for indefinite period is undemocratic. The state loses revenue and central aid could not be utilised due to this."

The State Election Commission



SEC says process can start only after delimitation and reservation issues are resolved which are under the ambit of the state govt

(SEC), however, said that the process can start only after delimitation and reservation issues are resolved which are under the ambit of the government.

"There are three stages of elections to ULBs - delimitation of the region, preparation of the electoral roll and conduct of elections.

Delimitation of wards and reservation come under the jurisdiction of the state government. The duty to prepare electoral roll and conduct of elections come under the purview of the Election Commission," SEC Secretary Rabindra Nath Sahu said.

"After the delimitation and reservation processes get over, the next phase of election related things will be taken care of by the Election Commission. The voter list preparation and conduct of election might be possible within four months," he added.

BJD leader Ananta Narayan Jena said that the process can start only after a legislation in the Assembly and nod of the Supreme Court.

He said, "There were some legal issues involved in it. The matter of reservation is now sub judice in Supreme Court. Now, the matter will be taken up in the Assembly through legislation. Delimitation process can start after some amendments. The government is ready for the polls after the court gives the nod. There is no question of violation of rules for deliberately delaying the elections."

Identify people's issues: Naveen to party workers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday asked party workers to visit panchayats and wards to ascertain the problems faced by the people and inform him about their needs.



Naveen was addressing party leaders and workers of Tirtol and Balasore Assembly constituencies through virtual mode after winning both the seats in recently concluded bypolls.

He thanked the voters for blessing party candidates. He said efforts will be made to fulfill all promises made by the party during the poll campaign. Naveen reiterated that his party believes in work rather than speech. He thanked all the voters especially women who came out for exercising their franchise despite Covid pandemic.

Bhub first city in India to receive ISO 9001 certificate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The state capital became the first city in the country and second in world to receive the ISO-9001:2015 certificate for effective Faecal Sludge & Septage Management (FSSM) services.

International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) is a method that certifies a management system, manufacturing process, service, or documentation procedure that has all the requirements for standardisation and quality assurance.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) received the certificate on its management of faecal waste after completion of audit and became the first in the country to do so. Meanwhile, Jhenaidah Municipality of Bangladesh is the first in world to receive the certificate.

"This is testament of the concerted efforts for constantly improving the faecal management of the city. We have undertaken a series of initiatives to achieve this.



The ISO 9001 certificate to BMC

BMC is the first ULB in the state to pass and adopt FSSM Regulation 2018 in the state which has been published in the Gazette of Odisha," said BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary.

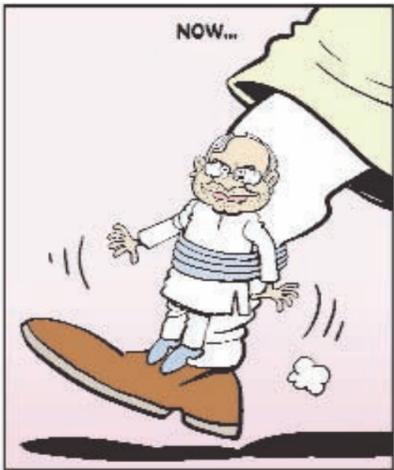
He also mentioned that registration of private operators and

Effective steps were taken to check illegal disposal of sludge by cesspool operators

private cesspool vehicles rewarding them with incentives greatly helped in achieving the objective. The BMC had earlier declared that first 50 vehicles coming forward for registration will be fitted with GPS devices free of cost. As a result, 29 cesspool vehicles operated by private operators in the city have been registered with BMC and fitted with GPS device for monitoring purpose.

Moreover steps were taken to check illegal disposal of sludge by cesspool operators. Enforcement squads were formed that imposed penalties on several operators for illegally disposing the sludge at roadside drains. Affordable cesspool services to the urban poor residing in slums were rolled out to all 67 wards in partnership with CFAR.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



OHRC solace for Balasore oustees

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has instructed the tehsildar of Remuna in Balasore district to provide homestead land to several daily wagers before evicting them from a plot at Shrikrushnapur village where the victims have been staying for 50 years.

The district administration had November 6, 2020 asked the poor families to leave the place within six days on the pretext that the land would be used for road construction purpose.

The victims have been staying in makeshift houses on the said plot after the district authorities demolished the same in January this year.

The OHRC remarked that the

order by the district authorities to vacate the land is unfortunate as the petitioners are the worst-hit during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Hearing a petition filed by another rights activist Pradipta Kumar Pradhan, the OHRC warned the district administration against the eviction of the families without providing an alternative suitable and habitable land to them. The rights panel also asked the victim families to submit applications to the tehsildar for land and other benefits under various government schemes within seven days of the delivery of the order.

It urged the administration to begin the developmental work only after making adequate arrangements for the poor families.

भारत सरकार / Government of India
वस्त्र मंत्रालय / Ministry of Textiles
विकास आयुक्त (हथकरघा) का कार्यालय
Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms
उद्योग भवन, नई दिल्ली / Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi

No. 3/2/2020-DCH/P&E/Award दिनांक / Date 10th November, 2020

CORRIGENDUM
Subject: Extension of date for submission of applications for handloom awards (Sant Kabir Award, National Award, National Merit Certificates) for the year 2019-reg. Please refer this Office Advertisement No. 41102/11/0005/2021 which was published Pan India on 01.09.2020 in various National/Regional Newspapers wherein applications are invited for various categories of Handloom awards (Sant Kabir Awards, National Awards & National Merit Certificate including Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay Award) with the last date of submission of application was 16.11.2020. It is notified that the last date for submission of applications for the above handloom awards for the year 2019 is extended upto 31.12.2020. All other terms and conditions will remain same. For detailed information please visit the website www.myhandlooms.gov.in & www.handlooms.nic.in.
Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi
davp 41102/11/0006/2021

Pharmacists, radiographers to be regularised

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: The state Cabinet Thursday approved proposals of Health and Family Welfare department for regularisation of contractual pharmacists and radiographers, who have worked continuously for a period of six years.

The government has decided to regularise those contractual pharmacists and radiographers who have been duly recruited through several societies/schemes for working in different health care facilities only against the posts approved/sanctioned by the government.

Similarly, the period of 10 years will be counted from the date of regularisation for promotion.

For new recruitments to these posts, there shall be a

Pharmacists and radiographers worked for six years on contract would be regularised

written test carrying 100 marks comprising objective type (multiple choices) questions and the examination shall be of 2-hour duration. The upper age limit has been reduced to 45 from 50.

The government has decided to change the nomenclature of staff nurses, assistant matrons, matrons and chief matrons to nursing officers, assistant nursing superintendents, deputy nursing superintendents and nursing superintendents, respectively. The

Cabinet has appointed retired IAS officers Bibhuti Bhusan Patnaik and Sudhanshu Sekhar Rath as members of the OPSC.

The panel has given in-principle approval to the decision taken by H&FW department and Empowered Group of Ministers on Covid management including fixation of charges for various hospitals, said H&FW additional chief secretary, PK Mohapatra.

Nod was given to a 3-km flyover on Joda-Bamebari highway through Joda town with a cost of ₹144.11 crore, which will be met from DMF fund. Similarly, the Cabinet has decided to provide government guarantee of ₹2,600 crore to Gridco to avail loan at an interest rate of 2 per cent.

To attract the eligible doc-

tors available in other states outside Odisha to meet the present requirement, the government has amended the Odisha Medical & Health Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2017.

As per the amended rule, if a candidate has not passed middle school examination (Class 7th) in Odia as a language subject, he/she will be allowed to pass the examination conducted by Board of Secondary Education (BSE) within four years of joining in the service.

If, a candidate outside the state has not registered his name under the Odisha Council of Medical Registration, he/she will get himself registered as per the provisions of the said Act before issue of the appointment order.

Khurda eyes top rank in cleanliness survey

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Nov 12: Khurda municipality has launched a campaign to improve garbage disposal system in the district headquarters town and secure the top position in Swachh Survekshan-2021.

The municipal body has launched the 'Swachha Khurda Sustha Khurda' (Clean Khurda Healthy Khurda) campaign to secure the top position in the cleanliness survey among towns having less than 50,000 population in the East Zone. The district headquarters town was earlier ranked 64th in the East Zone in the cleanliness survey.

"We have prepared a master plan to secure the top position in the Swachh Survekshan-2021. An awareness campaign has been launched in Khurda town. We have pasted posters, put up hoardings and engaged awareness vehicles to sensitise people on the issue,"



A banner for creating awareness on proper disposal of garbage said municipal executive officer Shwetapadma Satpathy.

Satpathy claimed that they have urged people and shopkeepers to segregate garbage and keep them in separate trashcans. The civic body has deployed several vehicles to collect garbage from the households and shops, she said.

The municipal authorities have urged the locals not to dump garbage and debris on the streets. They have also banned the sale and use of plastic bags. "People must not keep bricks, sand and other construction materials on the

streets. Any violation in this regard would invite penalties," Satpathy said.

With over 47,000 people inhabiting in Khurda municipality area, the town generates 14 to 16 tonnes of garbage every day. Of them, while 40 per cent comprises dry wastes, the remaining 60 per cent is of wet type.

The Housing and Urban Development department has set up a micro composting centre at Mukundprasad to convert the wet garbage into manure.

Khurda municipality sanitation expert Debashis Baral said the civic body has engaged a private agency to collect garbage from 22 wards of the town. "Around 200 sweepers, six tractors, equal number of battery-operated vehicles and 30 tricycles have been engaged to collect garbage from the town. Now, we are collecting a monthly users' fee of Rs 30 from each household for proper disposal of garbage," Baral added.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS AUTHORITY
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Website: www.plantauthority.gov.in

PLANT GENOME SAVIOUR AWARDS 2018-19 and 2019-20
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THE AWARD: - A maximum of five awards in a year, each consisting of cash of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Only), a citation and a memento.
WHO CAN APPLY: - A community of farmers duly forwarded by a body who are engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of landraces and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation and the material so selected and preserved has been shared with others for varietal improvement.

2. PLANT GENOME SAVIOUR FARMER REWARD/ RECOGNITION
THE REWARD: - A maximum of 10 rewards comprising of citation, memento and cash amount of Rs 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only).
THE RECOGNITION: - A maximum of 20 recognitions comprising of citation, memento and cash amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only).

WHO CAN APPLY:- Farmers application duly forwarded by a body engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of landraces and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation and the material so selected and preserved has been used as donors of genes in varieties registerable under the PPV&FR Act, 2001. (Certificate from concerned institute to be attached)

HOW TO APPLY: - Application form and detailed guidelines may be downloaded from the website of the Authority www.plantauthority.gov.in or may be obtained in person or by post on any working day from the office of PPV&FR Authority, New Delhi or its offices at Ranchi, Guwahati, Palampur, Pune and Shivamogga (Please see the address from website) between 9:00A.M to 5:30 P.M. Applications may be submitted either in Hindi or English. There is no application fee. Only complete form with supporting document(s) is to be submitted.

APPLICATIONS TO BE FORWARDED THROUGH: Chairperson/Secretary of the concerned Panchayat, Biodiversity Management Committee or concerned District Agricultural Officer or Director of Research of concerned State Agriculture University or concerned District Tribal Development Office. However in case of applications for plant genome savior community awards it can also be forwarded through concerned Zonal Project Director, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Now director -Agriculture Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI)-ICAR.

Last Date of Submission: The duly filled in application forms along with supportive information, evidence/documents/details/proof of the claims made should reach the following address within 3 (three) months from the date of publication of the advertisement.

UK Dubey
Deputy Registrar
Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare,
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India,
S-2, 'A' Block, NASC, DPS Marg, Opp. Todapur, New Delhi -110012.
Contact No :011-25842846; E-mail: uk.dubey@gov.in davp 01146/11/0001/2021

State logs 986 new infections, 14 deaths

'SKILL INDIA' TRAINING FOR MIGRANT WORKERS STARTS

3 lakh workers from across six states including Odisha will be benefitted

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 12: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has begun skill training of 3 lakh migrant workers from the identified 116 districts across Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

According to the ministry, the initiative aims to empower migrant workers and rural population in the post-COVID era through demand-driven skilling and orientation under Centrally Sponsored and Centrally Managed (CSCM)—component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2016-2020. MSDE is rolling out the programme across these districts for skill training within 125 days in collaboration with concerned district Collectors.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the aegis of MSDE, is executing the training programme through



Representative pic

1.5 LAKH MIGRANT WORKERS ARE BEING TRAINED UNDER SHORT TERM TRAINING PROGRAMME

ANOTHER 1.5 LAKH MIGRANT WORKERS ARE SLATED TO BE CERTIFIED UNDER RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING SCHEME

existing training providers and project implementing agencies operating under PMKVY 2016-20 or state schemes. 1.5 lakh migrant workers are being trained

under Short Term Training (STT) programme, and another 1.5 lakh migrant workers are slated to be certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) scheme.

Stressing upon the need to promote skilling and entrepreneurship for rural development, Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said, "Rural development through skill empowerment is a fundamental element of Skill India mission as 70 per cent of the total workforce comes from rural India. The vision of making rural workforce attuned with the changing needs of the industry requires seamless synergies among various partners in the skilling ecosystem. We need to realign ourselves and complement each other on the pressing need for creation of industry-relevant jobs at regional levels to offset the after-effects of workforce migration."



Twin city police commissioner Sudhanshu Sarangi, Cuttack's Covid observer Sourav Garg and district collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani at the Covid-19 review meeting in the Silver City, Thursday

COVID & ODISHA

Khurda reported the maximum number of new cases at 112, followed by Cuttack 81 and Sundargarh 80

Three deaths were recorded in Khurda, two each in Nuapada and Sundargarh, while one patient each in Bargarh, Balasore, Cuttack, Kalahandi, Kendrapara, Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur succumbed to the virus

Over 51.22 lakh sample tests have been conducted in the coastal state, including 45,819 Wednesday

The positivity rate stands at 5.97

Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur: As many as 53 Covid-19 patients

have died in the state due to co-morbidities, said the official.

With Diwali in mind, ECoR vigilant on transport of crackers

Passengers can call Help Line Number 182 to report any incident concerning carrying crackers on train



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Carrying of inflammable and explosive objects like crackers, gas cylinders, acid, petrol and kerosene among others in passenger carrying trains during train journey is a punishable offence under the Railways Act, 1989 and the offender may get an imprisonment up to 3 years. To make the train journey safer, East Coast Railway (ECoR) has urged passengers to be careful and not to carry and also not let their co-passengers carry inflammable or explosive objects while travelling in passenger carried trains.

As Diwali is approaching, East Coast Railway has geared up its machinery to prevent carrying crackers in Passengers and Mail/Express Trains. Carrying inflammable items during train journey is strictly prohibited. East Coast Railway has advised all its three Divisions, i.e. Khurda Road, Sambalpur & Waltair to launch a Special Safety Drive to keep a strict vigil on carrying inflammable items in trains for the safety of the passengers during Diwali celebrations.

If any passenger is seen carrying inflammable items, the co-passengers are requested to inform on-duty Railway Staff like Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel, TTEs, Coach Attendants, Guards of the train, Station Managers, to save the train passengers from danger, a report said. Passengers can call Help Line Number 182 to report any incident concerning carrying crackers on train. Steps have been taken by the Security Department of East Coast Railway to make the train passengers and Rail Users aware of the dangers of carrying crackers and explosive substances.

Apart from this, random and surprise checks will also be undertaken by deputing Railway Staff in coordination with Government Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Civil Defence Volunteers and special attention will be given to check parcels or luggage loading in Parcel Vans. These apart, Train Escorting teams and Meri Saheli Teams have also been advised to keep sharp watch on the inflammable items in the trains and at the stations.

PREP ON FOR INT'L SAND ART FESTIVAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Konark, Nov 12: The district administration has started preparations for the International Sand Art Festival that would be organised on Chandrabhaga beach here from December 1 to 5.

Puri Collector Balwant Singh, Superintendent of Police (SP) Akhileshwar Singh, district Tourism Officer Sarojkanta Pradhan and other senior officials Thursday inspected the place identified for the sand art festival.

"There would be at least 20 stalls at the festival to display sand arts. Male, female and differently-abled artists from different places across the country will participate in the sand art competition," said an official of the district administration.

According to him, the festival would be organised with strict adherence to the Covid-19 guidelines.

"People will have to go for prior registration for visiting the festival. There would be adequate measures to check gatherings at the festival. Adequate parking facility would be arranged for the visitors," said the official.

Puri admin for observance of 'Paya Shraddha' outside shrine

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Nov 12: The district administration has marked a place, about 150 metre outside the Srimandir, to facilitate observance of 'Badabadia Daka' and 'Paya Shraddha'.

The administration took the decision as the temple is closed for devotees since March 20 last to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Every year, hundreds of devotees through the 12th century shrine, the abode of Lord Jagannath, on the occasion of Deepavali to pay respect to their ancestors by lighting jute sticks while standing on the 'Baisi Pahacha' of the temple.

Manufacturing and sale of firecrackers have been banned by the state government and devotees were

advised to burn diyas at their homes. The temple managing committee members Wednesday visited the 'Chakrakot Jaga' where the servants were preparing the dress for the Trinity's Nagarjuna Besha scheduled to be held November 27 next.



DEEPAVALI AMID PANDEMIC

The Unit-II Market Building witnesses a rush as people check out clay lamps and other decorative items at Unit-I market in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, ahead of Deepavali. The festival of light will be a low-key affair this year owing to the Covid-19 pandemic which has already taken the sheen off many festivities

OP PHOTOS



Vigilance raids on crorepoti clerks of Jajpur, Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Vigilance sleuths Thursday carried out simultaneous raids at the offices and residences of two clerks engaged in Jajpur and Bhubaneswar respectively on charges of amassing assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

In the first case, the sleuths of the anti-corruption wing of the Odisha Police raided the residence of Udayanath Jena, a senior clerk at the Office of the Sub-Collector in Bhubaneswar; at Sundarpada in the Capital city. This apart, the officials also raided Jena's native place at Kendrapara's Rajnagar and his office room in Bhubaneswar.

Following the raid, the Vigilance department claimed to have stumbled upon assets worth over Rs 1.32 crore belonging to Jena.

In the second case, the Vigilance sleuths raided the residential complex belonging to Ratnakar Mohanty, a junior clerk at the Office of Sub-Registrar in Jajpur's Dharmasala, over 'amassing' disproportionate assets. The officials also raided Mohanty's single-storied building at Jaraka, Hotel Akash at Jalasukha, a market complex and a building at Shanti Bazar, house of his relative at Chandapur under Dharmasala police limits and his office room in Jajpur district.

The anti-corruption wing has calculated Mohanty's assets to be over Rs 1.29 crore.

Criminal gives cops a slip in Silver City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 12: A dreaded criminal gave the cops a slip on the pretext of relieving himself outside the police station. The incident took place at Cuttack Sadar police station in the district late Wednesday night.

The accused was identified as Juga Khan, a resident of Cuttack.

According to police officials, Khan was arrested by the cops for his alleged involvement in an extortion case and brought to Cuttack Sadar Police Station for interrogation.

He asked for toilet facility in the police station. The cops, however, did not have one. They sent Khan with a constable to a place behind the police station. Taking advantage of the situation, Khan hoodwinked the constable and ran away. Senior police officials said that an operation was underway to nab the miscreant soon.

Notably, multiple cases of extortion, attempt to murder and loot are pending against Khan in various police stations across Odisha.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, date 27.10.2020 that I Pratima Samantaray age about 44 years, D/o. Naba Kishore Prusty of Khalisahi, Nayagarh that my name has been wrongly written Kuni Prusty on H.S.C.E. Certificate, now I have changed my name Kuni Prusty to Pratima Samantaray. So I will be known as Pratima Samantaray for all purpose.

Experts brainstorm on care leavers' welfare

THE PROGRAMME WAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF ODISHA STATE CHILD PROTECTION SOCIETY, UNICEF ODISHA AND ODISHA SKILL DEVELOPMENT MISSION AMONG OTHERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Several government officials, development partners and other stakeholders held a first-of-its-kind virtual brainstorming session for care leavers to deliberate on the issue of enhancing young care leavers' transitions from institutional care to independent living.

A social media platform was also inaugurated by the officials to disseminate information for the group. A group named-Odisha Care Leavers Association was started on Facebook

to engage with the care leavers. The event was organised Wednesday by the state department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti.

The state government claimed that this was one of the rare programmes organised by the care leavers' group who are referred to the kids who come out of institutional care to lead their life independently. The programme was also attended by Odisha State Child Protection Society (OSCPS), Unicef Odisha, Odisha Skill Development Mission and others.



The deliberations were focused to ensure that care leavers are equipped with the knowledge, skills,

resources, and support networks that facilitate their smooth transition from the institutional care sys-

tem to independent living.

Anu Garg, WCD & MS Secretary shared the state prospective on after care. She elaborated the state prospective to support care leavers in their journey. Aravind Agrawal, Director, OSCPS in introductory remarks explained about the recent initiatives in policy for the betterment of children in need and welcomed the participants. More than 250 numbers of young adults who left Child Care Institutions after attending 18 years of age participated in the programme.

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FOCUS POLITICS

AMERICA'S ALLIANCES AFTER TRUMP



Over the past three years, Trump has sowed strategic chaos, and his foreign policy, if one can call it that brought new meaning to incoherence. President-elect Joe Biden will be better almost by default. But has Trump changed America so much that the world cannot count on it ever being normal again?

security guarantee. Even with Biden in charge, the currently testy political relationship between South Korea and the US (which walked out on the earlier base talks) means negotiations won't be easy. In Japan, formal talks began last month, and the government has until March 2021 to renew its agreement. Trump's defense officials told their Japanese counterparts to expect the same treatment as South Korea. Biden will certainly change that script as well. But Japan's new Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga, likely still expects arduous negotiations, albeit without the take-it-or-leave-it attitude that raised questions about the durability of America's security guarantees.

engagement more generally. Biden will ditch the unconstrained unilateralism. But even with a new approach, the damage Trump has done won't be repaired easily, or alter views among European leaders that the continent increasingly will need to fend for itself.

this year, Trump repeatedly threatened to withdraw US forces from both countries unless they paid more for what he called American protection. Biden will have to work hard to restore Japanese and Korean trust as he seeks to renew these agreements.

Trump's treatment of US allies in Asia has given Europeans ample warning to be prepared for more deterioration in the security relationship. Despite the North Korean nuclear threat and China's growing power, Trump tried to turn America's crucial alliances with South Korea and Japan into pay-as-you-go relationships. Fortunately, Biden understands what Trump doesn't — that US defense pacts with those two countries have underpinned East Asia's stability for 70 years and paid off handsomely for the US. Trump viewed both relationships as "bad deals," and Biden will need to persuade Americans to turn away from his transactional diplomacy.

In fact, South Korea and Japan already share mutual defense costs, and have underwritten the US military presence in Northeast Asia for decades. South Korea pays more than 40% of the operating costs of US forces stationed there; it also covered 92% of the US command's \$10.7 billion move to new facilities outside of Seoul, and it purchases billions of dollars' worth of US military hardware. For its part, Japan provides \$2 billion per year to support 54,000 US troops; it purchases 90% of its military hardware from US companies, and it has furnished \$19.7 billion (77% of the total costs) for the construction of three major bases.

For nearly a year, Trump administration officials have demanded that their South Korean counterparts quadruple their country's current \$1 billion in financial support. Add to that leaks describing possible US troop withdrawals and the announcement in July that 12,000 US forces would leave Germany. Clearly, Biden's administration will need not only to devise a new negotiating strategy, but also to reboot the US se-

A simple return to treating allies like allies should go a long way for Biden. Trump demonstrated no concern for his policy's political fallout in Seoul and Tokyo, or for its impact on the political fortunes of South Korean President Moon Jae-in and former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In the interest of security, both leaders tried to pander to Trump's "stable genius" over the last three years, with little to show for it but domestic political embarrassment. Biden's election undoubtedly brought sighs of relief in Seoul and Tokyo.

Sadly, Trump's malignant legacy will survive his departure. With everything from health care to climate change begging for Biden's attention, foreign policy is certain to take a backseat to domestic priorities. For US allies, patience will remain a virtue. Righting the wrongs of the Trump years will take time. As he has said at least since 1990, Trump wanted to reshape America's defense arrangements and radically alter its role in the world. Trump may be a pathological liar, but he kept his word on this issue.

Kent Harrington, a former senior CIA analyst, served as national intelligence officer for East Asia, chief of station in Asia, and the CIA's director of public affairs.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Kent Harrington

AMERICA'S ALLIES SHOULD BE FORGIVEN IF THEY ARE CONFUSED ABOUT WHERE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IS HEADED

America's allies should be forgiven if they are confused about where American foreign policy is headed. Who isn't, given the go-it-alone recklessness of Donald Trump's presidency? Over the past three years, Trump has sowed strategic chaos, and his foreign policy, if one can call it that brought new meaning to incoherence. President-elect Joe Biden will be better almost by default. But has Trump changed America so much that the world cannot count on it ever being normal again?

Not only did Trump pursue a love affair with North Korea's nuclear-armed dictator and remain smitten with Russian President Vladimir Putin — a man waging political war on the West. He also championed Brexit and bad-mouthed America's European allies, when he was not undermining them outright. At the annual Munich Security Conference in 2020, French President Emmanuel Macron and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier both acknowledged that Trump had fundamentally damaged the transatlantic alliance. Their message was clear: If Trump won a second term, the historic partnership that has long constituted the geopolitical "West" would never be the same. Prudent world leaders were doubtless preparing for even more instability and uncertainty had Trump been re-elected.

France and Germany, of course, have many reasons to disagree with the United States, be it on trade relations, Macron's outreach to the Kremlin, or both countries' relatively less confrontational approach to China. Macron, who last November called NATO "brain dead," has made no secret of whom he holds responsible for the alliance's decay and the broader sense of disarray among US partners and allies.

But in Paris and Berlin, as elsewhere in Europe, the reaction to Trump was not just about his bullying, trade tactics, or divisiveness. Europeans saw his administration charting a course that rejected the transatlantic security relationship and its central role in US global

SPECTRUM EDUCATION

Why aren't all girls in school

At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, participants promised to advance the rights of women and girls everywhere. Part of that promise, set out in the historic Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, was to ensure education for all girls. A recent study by UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report examines whether the promise has been kept.



Manos Antoninis

OF THE 59 MILLION PRIMARY-SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD WHO WERE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL IN 2018, 12 MILLION — 75% OF THEM GIRLS — HAD NEVER SET FOOT IN A CLASSROOM

A quarter-century after the conference and coming just after the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, the good news is that 180 million more girls are enrolled in primary and secondary school than in 1995, and that more girls than ever are staying in school and graduating. There is good news in tertiary education as well: three times more women are studying at university in this generation than the last. Outcomes matter as much as access. Here, there has been significant progress. In more than 50% of middle- and high-income countries, girls perform just as well as boys in mathematics, and outperform them in 25% of these countries.

But the poorest girls are still left behind. Of the 59 million primary-school-age children around the world who were not attending school in 2018, 12 million — 75% of them girls

— had never set foot in a classroom and were unlikely ever to do so. In over 20 countries, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa, hardly any poor rural girls will graduate from upper secondary school.

For the most marginalized, schools are still unsafe environments where verbal and sexual harassment, abuse, and violence prevail. In many places, high pregnancy rates very often keep girls out of school, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. While the prevalence of early pregnancy fell by one-third among girls aged 15-19 between 1995 and 2020, early pregnancy rates remain high — especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where one-quarter of 18-year-old girls are already mothers.

It is also essential that comprehensive sexuality education is introduced in all schools. This type of counseling not only helps students resist peer pressure to engage in or accept violence, but also leads to a reduction in early pregnancies. There has been some promising progress in the last few years, such as Sierra Leone's decision in March to overturn a ban on pregnant girls' school attendance. But two countries still enforce a ban on pregnant girls and young mothers in education: Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania.

Other barriers are less serious but hold girls back as well. Consider Rabia Nusrat, who wanted to study engineering ever since she was a child in Pakistan. Despite her parents urging her to select a less male-dominated subject, she insisted and now is the first in her family and community to complete a degree in engineering in Pakistan. But not all girls are equally persistent, and the reality is that not enough teachers and career counselors have the training to help correct the gender imbalance in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In OECD countries, only 14% of the top-performing girls in science or mathematics are expected to work in science and engineering, compared to 26% of top-performing boys.

School textbooks also perpetuate gender norms that hold girls back. Often, the text and images portray women in traditional homebound roles and less prestigious occupations, while men are depicted as powerful leaders. Such archaic stereotypes have no place in contemporary teaching materials and should be removed.

The UNESCO report also highlights the importance of having more women in leadership positions in the teaching sector. Teaching is a feminized profes-

sion, which perpetuates gender-unequal norms regarding labor-market opportunities. Still, the glass ceiling is a reality even here. In 48 middle- and high-income countries, there is a gender gap of 20 percentage points between teachers and head teachers in lower secondary schools. Female leadership does not automatically translate into improvements for girls, but female leaders can change social and gender norms through legislation and policies and by acting as visible role models for girls.

Next year, the world's governments will sign a new declaration on the rights of a new generation of women at the Generation Equality Forum. Education deserves a central position in this new declaration, because girls continue to be more likely to face the worst forms of exclusion — especially as Covid-19 threatens to push inequalities to extremes.

It is important to celebrate the progress that has been made so far. But we also need to remember how much remains to be done in order to achieve true gender equality in and through education.

Manos Antoninis is Director of the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report.

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WISDOM CORNER

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed.

MICHAEL JORDAN

Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.

MARY KAY ASH

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

CHINESE PROVERB

WORDSWORTH

Believe you in me

It's a puzzling way of speaking because we don't use English in that way anymore. My knowledge of formal grammar being more than a bit shaky, I went for information to Professor Geoffrey Pullum, co-author of the Cambridge Grammar of the English Language, the 1800-page volume that is the standard work. Because English doesn't add endings to words to show how they are being used in a sentence, word order is crucially important. Today, virtually all sentences that make a statement have to be put in the order subject-verb-object (SVO): "The man pats the dog". That makes clear who is doing what to whom. "The dog pats the man" has a quite different sense. At one time, however, English used to allow verb-subject-object (VSO) in certain situations, mainly imperatives. The 1611 King James version of the Bible has many examples: "And he went out to meet Aes, and said unto him, Hear ye me"; "Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me"; "For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live"; and "Lay ye them in two heaps at the entering in of the gate until the morning." In every case, you or ye is the subject, but it comes after the verb it's attached to. Believe you me belongs in this set. It seems odd to us today because English language rules forbid us to construct such expressions. We can't naturally say "Take you care of yourself, now!" for example. An oddity, however, is that believe you me is relatively modern. The Oxford English Dictionary's first example is from 1926. I've only been able to improve on that by six years — it turns up in the USA in 1919 as the title of a novel by Nina Wilcox Putnam. For further help here, I turned to Benjamin Zimmer, at the University of Pennsylvania, an ace at researching historical word usage. He tells me that there are earlier examples, but that nearly all of them are in verse, where the phrasing is useful for scansion. He has been able to find only three examples in prose from the nineteenth century. What seems to have happened is that a once-standard phrase that had been lurking in the language for generations suddenly became much more popular and widespread around the 1920s. What we have here is a revitalised fossil, a semi-invented anachronism.

LOL

Sounds from river

A black guy is walking through the woods, he starts to hear a sounds. It goes ching chong wu. So he starts to walk to hear he heard the sound. Soon enough he comes across a Chinese guy and a river. The black



guy asks was that noise. The Chinese guy says, every time I throw a quarter in this river it tells me a name of an old relative. See watch, Chinese guy throws a quarter, ching chong chun. The black guy says let me try. He throws a quarter in and the river says, chimpanzee.

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

Who to blame?

Sir, Once a major main source of revenue for the state government, the Jamsola unified check gate bordering Mayurbhanj in Odisha-Bengal-Jharkhand is now a dilapidated site where building worth Rs100 crores was earlier used as offices and residential quarters are now the hub of illegal activities. During heydays the government used to earn revenue to the tune of Rs16-20 crore annually. The Finance department was administering the operations at Jamsola check gate along with the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes. The Motor Vehicles, Forest, Excise and Supply department's also had their offices and officials at Jamsola, but since the roll out of GST online, these officers they were withdrawn. Unfortunately, none of the departments took any initiative to make alternative use of the land and buildings at the site. They could have been used as educational institutions, university campus, other public offices, hospitals and dispensary for greater public use, but have been left at the mercy of encroachers. While this is a huge wastage of public funds, the Finance department often asks people and various departments to take austerity measures. This is an example of the double standards of our officials.

Janaki Ballav Dash, MAYURBHANJ

Wings clipped

Sir, Over the years, exit poll experts have lost face due to incorrect predictions. Like the game of cricket, politics is also proving to be a game of glorious uncertainty. Bihar Assembly results have once again proved why these exit polls have lost their sheen. After a neck-to-neck tussle between the Mahagathbandhan and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the latter inched forward to gain a wafer thin majority. BJP has bagged more seats than the Janata Dal (United). Even before the election, it was assumed the BJP would overshadow a beleaguered Nitish Kumar. It has won more seats in Bihar than in the last Assembly election. On the contrary, Nitish Kumar has lost seats, and is a junior partner to the BJP now. Now that Kumar's power has diminished, the party may struggle to survive among the more dominant regional and national parties that will be calling the shots. It all depends on how Nitish Kumar is able to sustain the backroom assault of the BJP. Kumar, once a self proclaimed Narendra Modi-baiter, is as good as his work. His pro-people image stood him in good stead on earlier occasions; as his efficiency dwindled his popularity took a plunge. Nitish Kumar will become the Chief Minister for the fourth time, but the BJP will surely clip his wings.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



T'gana HC says no firecrackers

"MUCH AS THE FESTIVALS MAY BE IMPORTANT AND MAY SERVE SOCIAL PURPOSE, NONETHELESS, THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE ARE MOST IMPORTANT," OBSERVES THE HC

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Nov 12: The Telangana High Court Thursday ordered the state to ban sale and use of firecrackers.

It directed the authorities to give wide publicity through electronic and print media to the ban and submit a report to it November 19 on the steps taken by the government to check usage of firecrackers.

The court passed the orders on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by P. Indira Prakash, a High Court lawyer who sought a ban on firecrackers in the larger public interest in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

The government has been asked to take steps to shut shops selling firecrackers immediately. It asked the authorities to prohibit sale and purchase of firecrackers and those found violating the orders should be penalised.

The petitioner had argued that the pollution from the firecrackers would lead to further spread of the Covid-19 threat. He submitted to the court that the condition of people already infected by virus would deteriorate and may even result in death due to increase in the level of air pollution from the



smoke. He said children and senior citizens will be more vulnerable.

Prakash also voiced the apprehension that use of firecrackers posed a new risk this year as people are using sanitisers as part of Covid-19 precautionary measures. "Since sanitisers are inflammatory, even a small spark could lead to fires," he said.

The petitioner said at a time when there are fears of second wave of Covid-19, the use of firecrackers during Diwali can add to the dangers. He argued that maintaining social distancing during the celebrations will not be possible.

THE HC POSTED THE CASE FOR NEXT HEARING NOVEMBER 19, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO FILE AN ACTION TAKEN REPORT

IT IS THE BOUNDEN DUTY OF THE STATE TO ENSURE THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE ARE PROTECTED AND PROMOTED IN A MEANINGFUL WAY, THE COURT OBSERVED

Prakash, however, clarified that he filed the petition for ban on firecrackers only for the current year in view of the pandemic.

The High Court posted the case

for next hearing November 19, when the government has to file an action taken report.

Meanwhile, residents are searching for a safer option.

Fireworks Dealers Association of Telangana was quick to reassure citizens that most crackers available this year would be green. "Our stock comes from Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu, where manufacturing has been happening on the lines of Supreme Court guidelines from a year before. Almost 70-80 pc of city's stock will be green this year," said J Manik Rao representing the association.

Seconding this, Venugopal from Bhagwati Fireworks in Rajendranagar said, "All crackers we have are green this time. There are several options available that will be non-polluting."

However, other experts cast doubt on the claim that the eco-friendly crackers were widely available. Shaik Basha, who heads National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in Hyderabad, said: "Green crackers might have permeated about 30 pc of the city market. With the NGT and apex court insisting on their use, there will be a slow transition to this eco-friendly option."

1015 FRESH COVID-19 INFECTIONS IN T'GANA

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Nov 12: Over 1,000 new Covid-19 cases were recorded in Telangana during the last 24 hours while three more persons succumbed to the virus.

With 1,015 positive cases, the state's Covid tally jumped to 2,54,666 while fresh fatalities pushed the death toll to 1,393. The state's fatality rate stands 0.54 per cent against the national average of 1.5 per cent.

Health officials said 44.96 per cent of deaths were due to Covid-19 and 55.04 per cent due to comorbidities. The state continued to see more recoveries than new cases. As many as 1,716 people recovered from the virus during the last 24 hours ending 8 p.m. Tuesday.

With this the cumulative number of recovered cases mounted to 2,35,950. The recovery rate now stands at 92.65 per cent, slightly lower than the national average of 92.8 per cent.

The daily count of positive cases dropped to below 200 in Greater Hyderabad. Rangareddy saw second highest number of cases at 98 followed by Medchal Malkajigiri (97), Bhadradi Kothagudem (80), Nalgonda (57), Khammam (48), Karimnagar (46), Sangareddy (42)



The state continued to see more recoveries than new cases

As many as 1,716 people recovered from the virus during the last 24 hours ending 8 pm Tuesday

and Warangal Urban (41). The state now has 17,323 active cases, of which 14,694 are in home or institutional isolation. According to a media bulletin by the health department, a total of 40,603 samples were tested during the last 24 hours and out of them 37,671 were conducted in the government-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 number of tests rose to 47,70,004. Samples tested per million population surged to 1,28,157.

Out of total 2,54,666 positive cases so far, 70 per cent (1,78,267) were asymptomatic and 30 per cent (76,399) 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.

Gaming event adapts to Covid, gives 'free' access to all sessions

The four-day online event, 12th edition of India Game Developer Conference, will be held across four virtual rooms from 3 pm onwards each day beginning Nov 17



AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Nov 12: The 12th edition of India Game Developer Conference (IGDC) will be virtually held from November 17 owing to Covid-19 pandemic with free access to all sessions.

The four-day online event will be held across four virtual rooms from 3 pm onwards each day, the organisers announced Thursday.

The unique event titled 'For the industry, by the industry' is driven entirely with volunteers from across the Indian gaming industry and with active support from companies in the ecosystem.

It has already attracted a strong line-up of more than 100 speakers across eight major tracks, 50 exhibitors in the e-expo floor and the popular Investor-Publisher connect has attracted more than 30 investors and publishers.

"Given the pandemic situation, IGDC decided to go with an all-digital experience. We also viewed this as an opportunity to attract an ever-wider audience who can attend this conference virtually, not just from India but from all parts of the world, thanks to the strong support we have received from industry sponsors, we have made access to this conference free for everyone," said Rajesh Rao, Convenor, IGDC 2020.

For a lot of aspiring game developers, this is a great way to participate without investing in travel and accommodation, he added.

"Going virtual has created new pathways to access, network and connect with game developers' community, discover great games being developed and played, benefit from gaining insight into running a successful game development business, search for openings to build your game development career; applaud the accomplishments of games that disrupt the eco-system and most importantly inspire and get inspired," he said.

Seasoned grandmasters like Ernest Adams will provide a work-

IGDC will host its popular IGDC Investor-Publisher Connect 2020, which will be a virtual invite-only forum for investors and publishers to meet with companies bringing unprecedented innovation in the Indian gaming ecosystem.

This year the highly anticipated BYOG (Build Your Own Game) game jam was held virtually with IGDC simultaneously receiving 87 finished entries till the deadline which was three times more than 2019.

shop on the 'Fundamentals of game design' while successful Indian game developers such as Arvi Teikari will talk about their journey with the award-winning game 'Baba is You'. The art track has a workshop on character creation by Naresh Das, Art Director at EiTri studio and a VFX talk by Daniel Santalla.

The schedule of events and other details are available on <https://inddiagdc.com/2020>.

The conference is free for all, thanks to the strong industry support with Unreal Engine/Epic Games as the sponsors of IGDC 2020 along with MPL, Facebook, Google, Unity, Hyper Hippo, Gametion, Nazara, Lakshya and Yegsnome.

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This year the highly anticipated BYOG (Build Your Own Game) game jam was held virtually with IGDC simultaneously receiving 87 finished entries till the deadline which was three times more than 2019. The number of participants also increased by nearly 50 per cent jumping from 200 in 2019 to 313 in 2020.

Siddaramaiah & Shivakumar 'gave' us Deepavali gift: BJP

Saffron party leaders take swipe at Karna unit of Cong saying that the leaders of the grand old party were busy in showing one-upmanship throughout the election process



AGENCIES

Udupi/Bangalore, Nov 12: State BJP leaders, including state unit president Nalin Kumar Katil and Revenue Minister R Ashoka, Thursday acknowledged that BJP's clean sweep in the bypolls to RR Nagar and Sira is nothing but a Deepavali gift from Karnataka opposition leaders Siddaramaiah and state Congress chief DK Shivakumar to the BJP.

Speaking to reporters in Udupi, Katil said that Congress leaders' infighting was evident on the grass-roots and its own party leaders helped BJP register victories in the just concluded twin assembly bypolls.

"Karnataka leader of opposition Siddaramaiah ensured that N. Munirathna wins in RR Nagar just to show Shivakumar his place," he said. Endorsing Katil's views, state Revenue Minister R. Ashoka said that both Congress leaders (Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah) were busy in showing one-upmanship throughout the election process.

"From the word go, the BJP received ground swelling support from Congress workers in RR Nagar.

SISODIA'S MOHALLA CLINIC PROMISE FOR SILICON CITY

Meanwhile, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has announced that the Aam Aadmi Party would contest the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike elections with the poll promise of improving the city's health infrastructure.

Interacting with the media after inaugurating the first Mohalla Clinic set up by the AAP Karnataka unit here, Sisodia said that his party would set up similar neighbourhood clinics across the city as it had done in the national capital.

He added that the party intended to contest all municipal wards and hoped to replicate its successful flagship programmes implemented by the Delhi government.

"If our party comes to power in Bangalore, our first and foremost priority is to set up such Mohalla Clinics across the city," he said.

The Delhi Deputy CM said that his party had laid emphasis on education, resulting in government school students in Delhi getting into IITs, as well as healthcare.

The AAP leader claimed that the



Mohalla Clinics are admired the world over because of their neatness, hygiene, free treatment and tests.

Sisodia said that the government's job is not to make money, construct buildings after buildings, extort money or look for a cut in the public works.

"The government's job is to come up with programmes like Mohalla Clinics and good government schools, as in Delhi, which has never been done before," he said.

Being the in-charge of this constituency, I knew that the BJP would win by more than 40,000 votes and my prediction has come true," he said. He further added that after re-

alising that he would lose in RR Nagar, Shivakumar lent us all the support in Sira and as a result of this, the BJP won there for the first time in decades.

Covid cases cross 8.5L in Karnataka

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Nov 12: With 2,584 new cases in a day, Covid tally in Karnataka crossed 8.5-lakh to 8,53,796, including 30,743 active cases since the pandemic broke in the southern state in mid-March.

"Recoveries also crossed 8-lakh to 8,11,581, with 2,881 patients discharged Tuesday across the southern state, while 23 succumbed to the infection, taking the death toll to 11,453 till date," said the state health bulletin Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Bangalore registered 1,665 fresh cases, taking its Covid tally to 3,53,146, including 17,872 active cases, while recoveries rose to 3,31,296, with 1,091 discharged over the last 24 hours.

With eight deaths reported in a day, the city's death toll rose to 3,977 to the date.

Of the 824 patients in the intensive care units (ICUs) across the state, 424 are in Bangalore hospitals, 40 in Mysuru, 38 in Kalaburagi, 32 in Tumakuru and 25 in Chamarajanagara.

Out of 1,10,518 tests conducted Tuesday, 27,908 were through rapid-antigen detection and 82,610 through RT-PCR method. Positivity rate for the day was 2.33 per cent and fatality rate 0.89 per cent.

Meanwhile, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the operator of Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore, has made an appeal to its passengers to use the bio-waste bins, deployed at various locations across the airport, to dispose of their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). As part of its measures to contain the spread of the virus, BIAL said it has set up 139 bio-waste bins of different sizes, across the airport premises, to ensure bio-waste is disposed of responsibly and ethically. The airport authority also stressed said that food, bottles and other waste items must not be thrown into these bio-waste bins. Currently, used PPE is found strewn across the airport campus, posing a health hazard to both passengers as well as the staff, the airport said in a statement.



AGENCIES

Microsoft, NASSCOM to skill 30K T'gana youths in AI

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Nov 12: Microsoft and NASSCOM will skill 30,000 youths from Telangana in Artificial Intelligence under 'March to Million' initiative, for which the Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) and Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) have partnered with the two organisations.

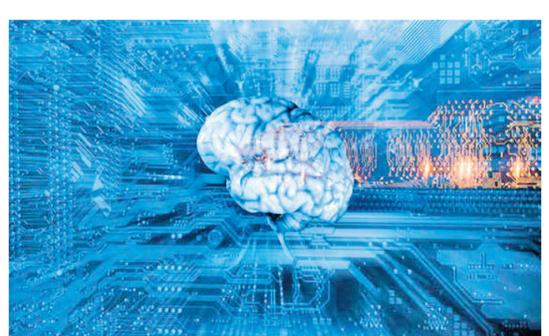
The initiative, which aims at skilling one million youths in AI by 2021, was launched Thursday.

AI Classroom Series course introduces students to the concepts of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Data Science. It helps students enhance their employability by acquiring the skills that the industry requires. The sessions

will commence from November 23.

"The industry today, irrespective of the domain, requires smart technology-backed solutions that reduce resource utilisation and enhance productivity. We need the youth of Telangana to be skilled in these areas. I am glad that TASK and TSCHE have partnered for this initiative. The students of our state must make use of this opportunity to skill themselves in these emerging technologies," said Industry and Information Technology Minister KT Rama Rao, who had announced 2020 to be the year of Artificial Intelligence.

"I appreciate Microsoft and NASSCOM FutureSkills for bringing this initiative to Telangana. The world of technology is evolving very fast and we need our students to be a part



of this technology revolution. An initiative such as this will help upgrade the talent pool in our state and enhance Telangana's appeal to global organisations for making

said the programme gives learners the flexibility to learn at a pace and time convenient to them.

Dr Rohini Srivathsa, National Technology Officer, Microsoft India, said the digital transformation of India is driving demand for tech-enabled jobs across every industry and with it the need for digital skills. Technologies like AI are becoming enablers for every business today, making the need for creating an AI-ready ecosystem vital for India's economic development and social value creation.

Amit Aggarwal, CEO IT-ITES Sector Skill Council NASSCOM and Co-Architect, NASSCOM FutureSkills, said that digital skills like AI are in demand across all sectors and within roles that traditionally did not require them.

The IT exports in Telangana rose by 18 per cent in 2019-20, propelling the state to the second position in India based on IT exports. The 'March to Million' project is another major step towards creating an AI-ready talent pool in Telangana, thereby strengthening the IT ecosystem in the state, said the IT Department.

We need the youth of Telangana to be skilled in these areas. I am glad that TASK and TSCHE have partnered for this initiative

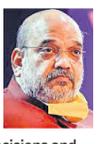
Technologies like AI are becoming enablers for every business today, making the need for creating an AI-ready ecosystem vital for India's economic development

KT RAMA RAO | INDUSTRY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MINISTER, TELANGANA

DR ROHINI SRIVATHSA | NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, MICROSOFT INDIA

of the day quote

Some people in the country see negative in everything and anything, even if it is positive and complain about the Modi government's decisions and see it as failures. But recent results of elections in 11 states have sent out a clear message that the 135 crore people of India are standing like a rock with Prime Minister Narendra Modi



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Despite being in the same camp, Chirag Paswan made all efforts to ensure NDA's defeat in the elections, which didn't happen



JITAN RAM MANUHI | FORMER BIHAR CM

Coal imports to Goa may even reduce to 8 million tonnes annually in the coming years



PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

SHORT TAKES

Three killed

Mathura (UP): Three people including a woman were killed and six others injured as the car they were travelling in crashed into a goods carrier on the Yamuna Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district, police said Thursday. The accident happened on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday at the 136 kilometre milestone of the highway falling under Baldeo police station area, police added. While two persons including the lady died on the spot, the third person succumbed to injuries in a private hospital in Agra, Inspector S K Tomar, SHO of Baldeo police station said.

Smriti recovers

New Delhi: Union minister Smriti Irani Thursday said she has tested negative for COVID-19. Irani had on October 28 announced that she had tested positive for COVID-19. "I have tested negative for COVID. Would like to extend my grateful thanks to everyone for their good wishes and prayers," Irani tweeted.

Drug peddler held

Gurugram: The Gurugram police have arrested a drug peddler and seized 11 kilograms of marijuana worth Rs 75,000. The accused was nabbed Wednesday and he reportedly brought the contraband from Taurau in Nuh district, the police said on Thursday. He has been identified as Manoj of Sadhrana village in Gurugram. The police said that the accused had been involved in the trade of contraband substances over the last two months. During questioning, the culprit confessed that he bought the contraband from his aide for Rs 75,000 and sold it in the city after dividing it into small packets.

Three arrested

Bangalore: The Bangalore police have arrested three owners of chemical units of Rekha Chemicals and Rekha Chemical Corporation Wednesday where a major fire had broken out causing huge loss of properties valued more than Rs 3 crore. The arrests were made in connection with a major fire that broke out at a chemical unit located in Bapujinagar near Hosaguddadahalli in West Bengaluru and the fire department took more than six hours to douse the fire on Tuesday. The police arrested owners for conducting their business from a thickly populated residential locality and without obtaining any requisite permission from Karnataka Pollution Control Board, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and Fire and Emergency Service departments.



After clinching the Bihar assembly polls, West Bengal will be the prime focus for BJP where it has set a target of winning more than 200 out of the total 294 seats in the state elections due in April-May 2021

KAILASH VIJAYVARGIYA | BJP LEADER

ANDHRA ALLOWS GREEN CRACKERS

At a time when many states have banned the bursting of firecrackers for Diwali, Andhra Pradesh has allowed only green crackers to be burnt for two hours



Will try to ensure supply of S-400 to India: Russia

LAST MONTH, INDIA AND THE US INKED THE LANDMARK BECA AGREEMENT THAT WILL PROVIDE FOR SHARING OF HIGH-END MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, GEOSPATIAL MAPS AND CLASSIFIED SATELLITE DATA BETWEEN THEIR MILITARIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 12: Russia Thursday said it was working "very hard" to advance the supply of the S-400 surface-to-air missiles to India even though the delivery of the first batch of the weapons system is scheduled by the end of next year.

At an online media briefing, Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin also said that both sides are working on a mutual logistics support agreement and close to seal a multi-billion dollar deal under which an Indo-Russian joint venture will produce 200 Kamov Ka-226T attack helicopters for the Indian armed forces. Asked whether the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) signed between India and the US will have security implications in operation of Russian-origin platforms by the Indian armed forces, Babushkin



did not give a direct reply, but said Moscow's defence ties with India are immune to any "restrictions and foreign interference". "We are watching quite closely the relations in strategic areas between India and other nations including the US, of course. But at the same time we are absolutely sure that whatever ties India is developing with other nations, they would not be at the expense of Russia's interests," he said. Last month, India and the US inked the landmark BECA agreement that will provide for sharing of high-end military technology, geospatial maps and classified satellite data between their militaries. "As far as our defence cooperation with India is concerned, it is immune to any restrictions and

foreign interference, because it reflects national interests of both countries and we are proceeding with a great sense of confidence to the future progress in our ties," Babushkin said. On the S-400 deal, he said: "The deadlines remained unchanged at the moment. The first batch is expected to be supplied by end of 2021 but we are working very hard for an earlier supply."

In October 2018, India had signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding warning from the Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanction.

In view of the evolving security scenario in its neighbourhood, India recently requested Russia to explore the possibility of advancing the supply of the interceptor-based missile systems which can destroy incoming hostile aircraft, missiles and even drones at ranges of up to 400 km.

Last year, India made the first tranche of payment of around USD 800 million to Russia for the missile systems. The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system.

Babushkin said the Kamov helicopter deal and another one to manufacture 700,000 AK-47 203 rifles in India under a Indo-Russian joint venture were in the final stages of conclusion. In October 2016, India and Russia had finalised a broad agreement to set up joint venture between Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and two Russian defence majors for procuring 200 Kamov Ka-226T choppers for Indian armed forces.

According to the understanding, 60 Kamov-226T helicopters will be supplied to India in fly-away condition, while 140 will be manufactured in India. Russia had agreed to ensure transfer of technologies to India as part of the pact.

Yogi to launch 'Mission Rozgar'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 12: After Diwali, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is preparing to launch 'Mission Rozgar' which will provide employment to the unemployed or those who have lost their jobs.

The government has set a target of employing over 50 lakh youths in the state from November 2020 to March 2021.

Through this campaign, youth will get a chance to apply for jobs in the government departments, councils, corporations, etc.

With the help of the government efforts, many new opportunities for the private sector will also be created. Finalising the action plan of 'Mission Rozgar', Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari said, "Under Mission Rozgar, a programme will be organised to create more employment and self-employment jobs in various departments, organisations, voluntary organisations, corporations, councils, boards and various local bodies of the state government.

An employment help desk will be created in every department and organization. It will inform the youth of availing the benefit of employment programs related to the respective departments. The chief secretary said that a database of employment will be prepared in the state.

In this regard, an app and a web portal is also being developed by the Directorate of Training and Employment.

Data related to employment will be updated every fortnight on the portal.

Under the administrative departments, all the directorates, corporations, boards, commissions, etc. will nominate a nodal officer to keep everything on track.

The entire 'Mission Rozgar' campaign will be conducted through Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner (IIDC) and a high-level committee headed by the chief secretary will monitor the campaign monthly.

In every district, there will be a committee under the chairmanship of the district magistrate who will prepare an action plan at the district level for jobs and careers.

KAMRA FACES CONTEMPT CHARGES OVER SC TWEETS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: Attorney General K.K. Venugopal said Thursday that it is time that people understand that attacking the Supreme Court unjustifiably and brazenly will attract punishment.

The observation was made by the AG while granting consent to initiate contempt proceeding against stand-up comedian Kamal Kamra for his tweets against Supreme Court for granting bail to Republic TV Editor in Chief Arnab Goswami in a 2018 abetment to suicide case. "I find that today people believe that they can boldly and brazenly condemn the Supreme Court of India and its judges by exercising what they believe is their freedom of speech," Venugopal said.

The AG said that the tweets by Kamra were not only in bad taste, but clearly crossed the line between humour and contempt of court. Shrirang Katneshwarkar, a final



year law student from Aurangabad, had written a letter to the AG to initiate contempt proceeding against Kamra for 'scandalising' the Supreme Court.

In the letter, he had attached the alleged tweets where derogatory content was published against the top court. Katneshwarkar sought proceedings against Kamra under criminal contempt of the Supreme Court as per Section 2 (c) (i) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

The AG observed that in one of the tweets, a picture was shared

where the Supreme Court building was dressed in saffron colour, and a flag of the ruling party had replaced the tricolour. "This is gross insinuation against the entirety of the Supreme Court of India that it is not an independent and impartial institution, but a court of the ruling party, the BJP. All these in my opinion constitute criminal contempt of court," said the AG in his response.

The AG said the other tweets were also highly objectionable, and it is for the top court to decide whether they constitute criminal contempt. "Under the Constitution, the freedom of expression is subject to the law of contempt and I believe it is time that people understand that attacking the Supreme Court unjustifiably and brazenly will attract punishment under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971," said the AG while granting consent to initiate contempt proceeding against Kamra.

BIG CATCH



Government Railway Police personnel arrested three animal smugglers and recovered 208 turtles from them, at Mirzapur railway station in Mirzapur, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

NCB QUIZZES GABRIELLA FOR 6 HOURS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 12: For the second consecutive day, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Thursday grilled South African model Gabriella Demetriades for six hours, while her boyfriend, actor Arjun Rampal, is likely to be questioned Friday, official sources said.

Gabriella, 33, was also questioned for over six hours on Wednesday as part of the NCB's ongoing investigations into the Bollywood-drugs mafia nexus which is under a scanner since the past three months.

Rampal has been separately summoned by the NCB and he is likely to report to the agency office on Friday, though officials remained tightlipped on the issue. The summons to Rampal came in the wake of the October 19 arrest of Gabriella's brother, Agisialos Demetriades in a drugs-related case.

Besides another at least 20 persons, including actress Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik, several narcotics suppliers, drug peddlers have been arrested while some Bollywood personalities have been questioned.

Rhea, however, had obtained bail. The developments this week started with the Sunday raid at the home of veteran Bollywood filmmaker Firoz Nadiadwala's in Juhu and the arrest of his wife Shabana, who was granted bail on Monday.

The ongoing NCB action is the outcome of the probe into the celebrity drugs angle that has emerged prominently after the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput June 14.

Cong seeks new faces in MP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: After losing the MP bypolls, the Congress is seeking fresh faces in the Gwalior-Chambal region to counter Jyotiraditya Scindia who has proved his mettle. The party could win only 9 out of 28 seats in the bypolls.

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath has asserted that he won't leave state politics and is not keen on returning to national politics. Nath said at a party meeting in Bhopal, "Those who say that he will leave the state must realise I will serve Madhya Pradesh till I am alive. We will fight and win."

Politically Kamal Nath, who is the state President, wants to quell all speculation about leaving the state and to stall any move of him being replaced from the state president's post. But the real challenge for the Congress is to regain its hold in the Gwalior-Chambal region where



The real challenge for the Congress is to regain its hold in the Gwalior-Chambal region where the exodus of the MLAs led to the fall of the government.

The exodus of the MLAs led to the fall of the government.

The Congress has to find a new leader in the area, said a party insider. "People thought after the departure of Scindia ji the Congress would end. But a new Congress has stood up." The Congress has the double challenge to counter Scindia's

popularity in the area as well as the BSP which has damaged the Congress in the Bundelkhand region. Phool Singh Baraiya who lost by less than 200 votes from Bhandar seat could be a good bet for the party as he has been former state chief of the BSP. The Congress is indicating it may provide opportunities to fresh faces in the state.

In Madhya Pradesh, 25 out of 28 seats that went to poll were necessitated after 'Operation Kamal' which toppled the Kamal Nath government followed by former Congress legislators joining BJP. The BJP won 19 seats out of 28 here. Interestingly, out of 22 former Congress leaders-turned BJP candidates, 15 emerged victorious. The BJP won a greater number of seats, even when the margins are as low as 161 as was the case of Raksha Santram Saronia, who defeated popular Dalit leader Phool Singh Baraiya in Bhandar.

A happy Diwali for Sunder

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: This Diwali is the happiest one for Sunder, a rescued male elephant, after a span of seven-years of his solitary confinement and routinely abused life at a temple in Kolhapur, a city on the banks of the Panchaganga river in Maharashtra.

Sunder's life wasn't so joyful before 2014. He lost his joyful free life in 2007 when he was given as a gift to the temple in Kolhapur as a very young elephant. When PETA India learned about Sunder's plight, he had an injured eye, a hole in his ear, and scars all over his body from the cruelty he had endured.

Following appeals from hundreds of thousands of PETA India supporters, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of PETA India, and in 2014, Sunder was

moved to his new home at the Bannerghatta Biological Park, where he can walk free, swim, and socialise with other elephants.

"Sunder's rescue from chains and beatings is one which we hope will lead to freedom for more captive elephants used in circuses, for rides, and in other ways, who are still suffering," says PETA India CEO Dr Manilal Valliyate. "Now 21 years old, Sunder is thriving in his new home, where the rest of his life will be as sweet as this treat." "It's our privilege to have Sunder as part of our Bannerghatta Biological Park family. He is truly a gentle giant who loves the company of other elephants as well as his keepers," says Vanashree Vipin Singh, IFS, chief conservator of forests and executive director of Bannerghatta Biological Park.

Anti-electrocution cells to protect elephants in Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 12: The West Bengal government has decided to constitute multi-departmental anti-electrocution cells to protect wild elephants in the state, officials said on Thursday.

The decision in this regard was taken during a recent meeting in north Bengal between officials of the Power and Forest Departments, they said. The cells will comprise officials of the Forest Directorate, the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL), district administration and police, besides local panchayat members, they said.

"The cells will formulate preventive and mitigation strategies and monitor measures to prevent setting up of illegal electric fences. "During the meeting, it was also



decided to identify and raise the height of sagging high-tension lines and cover certain electric poles near elephant corridors with barbed wires to prevent the pachyderms from leaning against them," Chief Wildlife Warden V K Yadav said. Necessary vehicular support

will be provided to the cells by the Forest Department or the WBSEDCL and each cell will have its own WhatsApp group for better coordination, he said.

The Forest Department will identify corridors frequented by the elephant and the WBSEDCL will insulate the low-tension lines passing through such corridors with aerial bunched cables, Yadav said.

The department will also set up electric fences with "low-voltage pulsating current" to prevent the elephants from wandering into human settlements, he said.

The WBSEDCL will thoroughly check why the circuit breakers for the high-tension feeder lines did not trip after elephants came in contact with them in the past, another official said.

The tea garden managements may not be encouraging the setting

up of illegal electric fences but there are several such fences near labour colonies that cause electrocution of the elephants, he said.

The Forest Department will identify tea gardens adjacent to elephant corridors and the cells will ensure that the managements of the estates erect only low-voltage fences, the official said.

As per the department, 25 elephants have died due to electrocution in north Bengal in the last five years, of which nine incidents took place this year.

"The principal cause of deaths of elephants was found to be unauthorised extension of low-tension domestic power lines on the periphery of the forests and the use of electric fences," Yadav said. Copies of the recommendations made at the meeting have been forwarded to the top state officials.

of the day quote

India suffers when decisions are taken under the burden of ideology, ignoring national interest and the unity of the country
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

The police administration will constitute three new police battalions in the state
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

A special court should be formed to deal with the Nandyal suicide case. The officials responsible for this joint family suicide should be dismissed from service
N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU | TDP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

History-sheeter arrested

Rampur (Uttar Pradesh): The Rampur Police have arrested a wanted history-sheeter, Shafaque a.k.a. Gatua from Tanda tehsil with 1.1 kg of charas. According to police officials, Shafaque, who was arrested on Wednesday, had earlier been booked under the charges of robbery and murder in Delhi-NCR. Circle Officer (Suar) Dharam Singh said, "Shafaque a.k.a. Gatua is among the district's top 10 criminals. He was arrested from near the Eidgah in Tanda, and 1.1 kg charas and a .315 calibre country-made gun was recovered from his possession, along with three live cartridges."

Woman charred

Kolkata: An elderly woman was burnt to death and her nephew severely injured when a fire broke out at a slum in Kolkata's Kalighat area in the early hours of Thursday, fire brigade officials said. The fire broke out at Potuapara slum, a century-old potters' neighbourhood at Kalighat, at a stone's throw from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's residence. Victim Diva Pal's nephew Rajib Pal received serious burn injuries and was admitted to a hospital, police said. According to fire brigade sources, four fire engines were pressed into service to douse the fire. The cause of the fire is yet unknown.

1 killed, 2 hurt

Kolkata: One person was killed and two others injured in a shootout between two factions of ruling Trinamool Congress early on Thursday morning in West Bengal's West Burdwan district, police sources said. The incident took place following a clash in the Khakhosjowara colliery area on Wednesday night over coal-handling dispute. The sources said Dharambir Nuniya was killed by miscreants from the rival group. Two others injured during the shootout were admitted to a private hospital in Durgapur.

Four arrested

Thiruvananthapuram: Four Iranian nationals were taken into custody by the Kerala Police from a hotel here. The police later found out that the four were part of a 24-member gang involved in robberies in financial institutions, not just in Kerala but across major cities in the country. The four were picked up by the police on Wednesday night. The police uploaded the pictures of the four Iranians in the official group of the Kerala Police. And soon, the police officials from Alappuzha district attached to the Chertala Police station identified them as criminals.



A question mark hangs over DMK president MK Stalin contesting the next Assembly polls as the case against him in the Supreme Court has begun
K. PALANISWAMI | TN CM

UP TO PROMOTE SANSKRIT IN A BIG WAY

The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is planning to promote the Sanskrit language in a big way. The government is working on the modernization of the Sanskrit language schools and their upgradation



FESTIVE SPIRIT



A worker sprays colour on a clay idol of Goddess Kali at Kumartuli, ahead of Kali Puja in Kolkata, Thursday
PTI PHOTO

INS Vagir launched in Mumbai

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 12: Union Minister of State for Defence Shripad Y Naik Thursday launched the fifth of the Indian Navy's Kalvari Class submarines under the ongoing Project-75 Scorpene programme at the Mazagaon Dock Ltd (MDL), officials said here.

The new submarine was named 'Vagir' by Naik's wife Vijaya S Naik. The launch ceremony was conducted through videoconference from Goa in the presence of top naval officers and other dignitaries, including officials from the Naval Group, France.

After the launch, 'Vagir' will be fitted with various equipment for the Harbour Acceptance Trials. Speaking on the occasion, Naik lauded the stellar role of MDL in the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives of the Centre. He also appreciated the deep emotional bonds between ships and submarines and the crew which builds and man them as a "unique aspects of the Navy and shipyards". After comprehensive and rigorous set of tests and trials for over a year, the fully combat-worthy submarine capable of operations in all modes and regimes of deployment shall be delivered to the Navy.



Dignitaries present on the occasion included Vice Admiral SR Sarma (Chief of Material and CWP&A), Vice Admiral SV Bokhare (Inspector General Nuclear Safety), Vice Admiral RB Pandit (Chief of Staff Western Naval Command), senior officials of the Ministry of Defence and the Indian Navy.

Two submarines of Project-75 programme at MDL - Kalvari and Khanderi - have already been commissioned into the Indian Navy. The third submarine of the P-75 is undergoing the final phase of rigorous sea trials, the fourth Vela has commenced sea trials, the fifth 'Vagir' was launched on Thursday, while the sixth and last one is being readied for boot together. Leading the nation's indigenous warship building programme, the MDL has till date constructed varied ranges of combat platforms like Leander and Godavari class frigates, Khukri class corvettes, Coast Guard OPVs, 1241 RE class missile boats, Delhi and Kolkata class destroyers, Shivalik class stealth frigates, SSK submarines and the P-75 submarines under its belt. Recently, the MDL went in for an IPO which was oversubscribed 157.42 times.

Increase COVID testing: Vardhan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala/Imphal/Aizawl, Nov 12: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has asked four north-eastern states - Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram - to increase testing on high risk groups and vulnerable population to check the spread of Covid-19, officials said Thursday.

According to the officials, Harsh Vardhan, during a meeting via video conferencing with seven states, including the four northeastern states, said that active cases are on the rise in Manipur and higher positivity in the state is indicative of hidden transmission.

"With 70 per cent of cases concentrated in Mizoram capital Aizawl, the state is witnessing a rise in active cases. Tripura and Meghalaya too are witnessing higher deaths (37 per cent) in the active age groups (45-60 years), which are preventable," the Health Minister said. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan during the meeting asked the states to focus on three areas - the need to suppress and break the chain of transmission, keeping mortality rate to less than 1 per cent and the need for prolonged behavioural change.

Pak violates ceasefire

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, Nov 12: For the third consecutive day on Thursday Pakistan resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation in three sectors of the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch district.

Colonel Devender Anand, defence ministry spokesman said at about 9 a.m. Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Shahpur, Kirmi and Qasba sectors of Poonch district. The spokesman said Indian army retaliated befittingly. Pakistan has violated ceasefire on Thursday for the third consecutive day in these three sectors of the LoC.

Pakistan has been violating with impunity the bilateral ceasefire agreement signed by the two countries in 1999.

Woman ends life after death of her rape accused

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur (UP), Nov 12: In a bizarre turn of events, a young widow, who had accused a constable of raping her, ended her life by suicide after the accused cop died in a road accident.

The woman, a resident of Dibiypur, was married to a man from Etawah. After her husband's death, she returned to her parents' house in Aurriya. She lived in a rented accommodation in Brahm Nagar locality where she came in contact with constable Jitendra. Jitendra was posted at Devkali police outpost in Aurriya. She alleged that she was repeatedly raped by the constable on the pretext of marriage and had lodged a complaint at Dibiypur police station after Jitendra refused to marry her. The constable was suspended thereafter.

On November 4, the constable was going to his hometown on a two-wheeler when he was injured in an accident and died during treatment at the hospital on November 9. On Thursday, the local people heard some commotion from the woman's house and reached there only to find her hanging from the door frame. The local police were informed and her body has been sent for post mortem.

Farmers' unions to hold talks on new laws

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Nov 12: Thirty farmers' unions Thursday unanimously decided to attend a meeting called by the Union government in the national capital on Friday to amicably end the more than 40-day deadlock over the Central farm laws.

However, the farmers were categorically clear in saying that they would not compromise with the new farm laws and would stick to their demand to revoke them to save their livelihoods. The meeting has been called by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.

"It (calling meeting) is a good initiative, but we are firm with our opposition against the black farm laws implemented by the BJP government in the Centre and there would be no compromise on this issue," Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) President Harmeet Singh Qadian told the media after a five-hour long meeting here.



Government in the Centre and there would be no compromise on this issue," Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) President Harmeet Singh Qadian told the media after a five-hour long meeting here.

er both. Adopting a tough posture, Qadian said "If the talks fail (on Friday), the farmers in thousands would reach Delhi on November 26 on tractors-trailers to lodge their protest against the draconian laws."

He also said that the farmers would burn 'mashaal' to mark a black Diwali. Earlier, the talks had failed as the farmers said that at least the Union Agriculture Minister should have been present in the meeting.

Punjab's economy, which comprises 75 per cent of the farming community, is facing acute power shortage with cuts lasting up to five hours in many parts following shutting down of all five thermal facilities owing to running out of coal stocks in the wake of non-planting of goods trains in the state for over a month now.

India needs 1.7 bn Covid vaccine doses for adult population

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: The key vaccines India is banking on are from Oxford/AstraZeneca, Novavax and J&J and the earliest efficacy data is expected by the end of November-December 2020 and in the best case, vaccines can be rolled out in January 2021.

According to a research by Credit Suisse, India needs about 1.7 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses to vaccinate majority of its adult population. It targets to administer 400-500 million doses by July 2021.

Credit Suisse said there is sufficient capacity for vaccine manufacturing (more than 2.4 billion doses) and various components like vials, stoppers, syringes, gauze, alcohol swabs, etc.

The bottleneck is cold storage infrastructure (especially refrigerated vans) and by using a part of the capacity of current immunisation programme (600 million doses) and the cold chain infrastructure of the private sector (250-300 million doses), potential vaccinations can reach 550-600 million doses annually. Manpower required for administering the vaccine will be less than 1 lakh.

Aurobindo's large viral vector vaccine facility (300 million doses) should be ready by March-April 2021. The pricing in export markets could be higher than in India and profitability could be at Rs 20-25 per dose and, therefore, on a 300 million dose capacity, Aurobindo could benefit from a potential EBITDA of Rs 6-7.5 billion (or 12-15



per cent of FY22E EBITDA). Cadila also has facility for 100 million doses but it is for DNA vaccine and, therefore, would not be able to manufacture vaccine from global

Diagnostic companies (Metropolis) should also benefit from an increase in demand for antibody tests (both before and after vaccination) but their pricing can sharply come down. Higher vaccination will impact volumes of Covid-19 treatment drugs. Cipla and Cadila have benefited the most from the sale of Covid-19 treatment drugs (especially Remdesivir) in 2Q FY21 and the volume should substantially reduce in FY22 on increasing vaccination.

The key vaccines India is banking on are from Oxford/AstraZeneca, Novavax, and J&J as the temperature range of these vaccines is about 2-8-degree Celsius (vs -20-degree Celsius for Moderna and -70-degree Celsius for Pfizer). The key bottleneck is likely to be cold storage capacity. The Covid-19 vac-

nation will have to use a part of the infrastructure of the current immunisation programme (27,000 cold chain points catering to 600 million doses) and would need support of the private sector too.

Organised private cold chain companies can at best handle 250-300 million doses (bottleneck is refrigerated vans rather than storage). Further, the reach of private sector cold storage doesn't extend to the hinterland and for that another solution needs to be devised.

"Overall, with bottleneck on cold chain infrastructure, we estimate annual vaccinations may be just around 550-600 million doses. Skilled manpower required to administer 550-600 million doses is less than 1 lakh which should not prove to be a bottleneck," the report said.

international



China has once again broken its promises and undermined Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy
DOMINIC RAAB | BRITISH POLITICIAN

FB EXTENDS POLITICAL AD BAN IN UNITED STATES

Facebook Thursday extended the ban on political ads for another month in the US as President Donald Trump refuses to concede his defeat and is using claims of election fraud to dispute the Joe Biden win



of the day quote

Especially those who have already served a prison sentence can pose a massive threat to our security. This is a major intervention, but in my view a necessary step to minimize the threat risk



SEBASTIAN KURZ | CHANCELLOR OF AUSTRIA

The creation of an absolutely secure facility for controlling strategic nuclear forces, among others, is nearing completion. It will have a very high safety margin



VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

Russia will reopen its trade mission in the Syrian capital of Damascus by the end of this year



MIKHAIL MISHUSTIN | RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

22 killed in road mishap

Peshawar: Twenty-two wedding guests were killed when the rickshaw they were riding in fell into a canal in northwestern Pakistan, police said Wednesday at the end of a recovery mission. The three-wheeler was overloaded with 29 people when the accident happened Monday, near the city of Dera Ismail Khan.

New Covid case in White House

Washington: Another White House staffer has tested positive for coronavirus, US media reported Wednesday, the latest case among Donald Trump's administration since last week's election. Political director Brian Jack's diagnosis came over the weekend, after he attended a November 3 election day event at the White House, CNN and the New York Times reported.

Saeed aide jailed for 32 yrs

Lahore: A Pakistani anti-terrorism court Wednesday handed down 32 years imprisonment to the terrorist of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) terror group in two terror financing cases. The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) also convicted two other JuD terrorists, including the brother-in-law of Saeed, in terror financing cases.

Strict Covid-19 rule in S Korea

Seoul: Violators of face mask mandate in South Korea may face fines starting Friday as the country seeks to better combat the Covid-19 pandemic. The move follows an end to a 30-day grace period for the implementation of the country's revised infectious disease control and prevention act, which requires people to wear face masks on mass transportation and in public places, Yonhap news agency reported.

Matter of concern

London: Amid the spike in air pollution in Delhi-NCR, a new study has found that early-life events, such as the exposure to air pollutants, increase the risk of chronic lung disease in young adulthood. The findings, published in the European Respiratory Journal, add to the growing evidence that chronic lung disease in adulthood can be traced back to childhood.

Biden ignores Trump, builds team

AGENCIES

Washington/Wilmington, Nov 12: President-elect Joe Biden will press on with building his governing team Thursday, ignoring President Donald Trump's refusal to accept defeat.

New records for coronavirus infections and hospitalisations ensured that the transition will be dominated by the response to the pandemic, which has accelerated since the November 3 election. Trump remains in office until Biden's inauguration January 20.

On Wednesday, Biden, who has shrugged off Trump's challenge to his victory, named long-time adviser Ron Klain as his White House chief of staff, his first major appointment. Attention is now expected to shift to Biden's picks for cabinet posts, though aides have so far given few clues about when announcements will be made.

On foreign policy, Anthony Blinken, a diplomat and longtime confidant, is seen as a possible choice for Secretary of State or National Security Adviser.

Whoever is chosen for Treasury Secretary will have to cope with a recession and joblessness, as well as serving as the fulcrum to address wealth inequality, climate change and other issues.

Klain, who served as President



Barack Obama's "Ebola Czar" in 2014 during an outbreak of that virus in West Africa, is expected to take a leading role in the Biden administration's response to the nationwide spike in COVID-19 cases.

The United States set records on Wednesday with more than 142,000 new coronavirus infections and nearly 65,000 hospitalizations, according to a Reuters tally. The death toll rose by 1,464, approaching the levels reached during a catastrophic first wave early this year.

In Klain, Biden brings in a trusted and experienced operative who also served as Vice President Al Gore's top aide during Bill Clinton's administration.

"He was always highly informed

and his advice was always grounded in exceptional command of the policy process, the merits of the arguments, and the political and justice context," Gore told Reuters.

As Biden's chief of staff during the 2008-2009 financial crisis, Klain helped oversee the implementation of the \$787 billion Recovery Act that boosted the then-cratering economy.

Meanwhile Trump has focused on efforts to overturn the election's results in closely contested states, despite presenting no evidence of irregularities that could affect the outcome, and a skeptical reception from judges.

Trump team hunts for proof of fraud: During a Pennsylvania court

hearing this week on one of the many election lawsuits brought by President Donald Trump, a judge asked a campaign lawyer whether he had found any signs of fraud from among the 592 ballots challenged. The answer was no. "Accusing people of fraud is a pretty big step," said the lawyer, Jonathan Goldstein. "We're all just trying to get an election done."

Trump has not been so cautious, insisting without evidence that the election was stolen from him even when election officials nationwide from both parties say there has been no conspiracy.

On Wednesday, Trump took aim at Philadelphia, the Democratic stronghold that helped push President-elect Joe Biden over the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the race. The president accused a local Republican election official, Al Schmidt, of ignoring "a mountain of corruption & dishonesty." Twitter added a label that said the election fraud claim is disputed. Trump loyalists have filed at least 15 legal challenges in Pennsylvania alone in an effort to reclaim the state's 20 electoral votes. There is action, too, in Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and Michigan.

In court, his lawyers must walk a precarious line between advocating for their client and upholding their professional oath.

US warns of more sanctions on China

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 12: The United States Wednesday warned of further sanctions against China, which it said 'flagrantly violated' Hong Kong's autonomy after the ousting of four pro-democracy lawmakers.

"Beijing's recent actions disqualifying pro-democracy legislators from Hong Kong's Legislative Council leave no doubt that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has flagrantly violated its international commitments," said Robert O'Brien, US national security adviser. He added that the United States would continue "to identify and sanction those responsible for extinguishing Hong Kong's freedom."

On Monday, the United States imposed sanctions on four more officials accused of curbing freedoms in Hong Kong while vowing accountability over China's clampdown in the city. Edwina Lau, head of the National Security Division of the Hong Kong Police Force, was among the officials who will be barred from traveling to the United States and whose US-based assets, if any, will be frozen.

Wednesday's statement from the US national security adviser in



Beijing's recent actions disqualifying pro-democracy legislators from HK's Legislative Council leave no doubt that the CCP has flagrantly violated its international commitments
ROBERT O'BRIEN

Donald Trump's outgoing administration came in response to the ousting of four of Hong Kong's pro-democracy lawmakers by the city's pro-Beijing authorities. Hong Kong's other pro-democracy lawmakers reacted by saying they would all quit in protest, reducing the semi-autonomous city's once-feisty legislature to a gathering of Chinese loyalists.

British nurse charged with murders of 8 babies

30-year-old named as Lucy Letby also faces 10 attempted murder charges



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, Nov 12: Police in the northwestern English city Chester said Wednesday they had charged a nurse with eight counts of murder and ten of attempted murder against babies at a local hospital.

A 30-year-old named as Lucy Letby was arrested Tuesday and charged with the crimes once prosecutors gave the go-ahead, Cheshire police said in a statement.

The charges relate to "a number of baby deaths and non-fatal collapses at the neonatal unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital" between June 2015 and June 2016, they added.

Letby is being held in custody ahead of a first appearance before magistrates in nearby Warrington Thursday.

She had previously been arrested but released without charge in 2018 and 2019.

Scientists discover 'hidden' gene in nCoV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 12: Researchers have discovered a new "hidden" gene in the novel coronavirus which may contribute to its unique biology and pandemic potential, an advance that may lead to the development of new therapeutics against the deadly virus.

According to the scientists, including those from the American Museum of Natural History in the US, knowing more about the 15 genes that make up the coronavirus genome could have a significant impact on developing drugs and vaccines to combat the virus.

In the current study, published in the journal eLife, the researchers described overlapping genes - or "genes within genes" - in the virus which they believe play a role in the replication of the virus within host cells.

"Overlapping genes may be one of an arsenal of ways in which coronaviruses have evolved to replicate efficiently, thwart host immunity, or get themselves transmitted," said study lead author Chase Nelson from the American Museum of Natural History.

"Knowing that overlapping genes exist and how they function may reveal new avenues for coronavirus control, for example through antiviral drugs," Mr Nelson added.

The research team identified a new overlapping gene - ORF3d - in the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 that has the potential to encode a protein that is longer than expected.

They said ORF3d is also present in a previously discovered pangolin coronavirus, indicating the gene may have undergone changes during the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 and related viruses.

Manila submerged by Typhoon Vamco

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Manila, Nov 12: Typhoon Vamco, the third powerful cyclone to batter Philippines in 11 days, made landfall, unleashing fierce winds and intense rains that triggered landslide, rockslide and flash floods in regions ravaged by Super Typhoon Goni early this month.

Vamco also felled trees and caused a massive power outage in large parts of Manila and many provinces on Wednesday night, Xinhua reported.

At least one man died due to the typhoon, and three fishermen were reported missing, the country's disaster agency said.

Many areas in Metro Manila and provinces in the Bicol region, as well as in the central Luzon and northern Luzon, were inundated, state-run People's Television Network footage showed.

GET WELL SOON



A woman kisses her relative through a plastic sheet installed in a special 'hug room' at a Covid care home in Castelfranco Veneto, Italy



Footage also showed farmers begging in the flooded road of Polangui town in Albay province after Typhoon Vamco destroyed their crops. The networks also posted a picture of a dog and a man rescued in San Mateo town in Rizal province, east of Manila.

The Philippine Coast Guard rescued 122 families in Cavite province. Rescuers used rubber boats to reach stranded people. In Marikina City in Metro Manila, several families were evacuated to safety after the river swelled to a dangerous level. Soldiers also helped in the rescue

operation. Marikina Mayor Marcelino Teodoro told radio DZBB that the city is overwhelmed as floods reached the rooflines of several houses.

Distressed flood victims called the local radio stations or posted on social media to appeal for help.

Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Vamco caused "huge damage," adding the typhoon flooded low-lying areas and "blown off structures."

Vamco, packing sustained winds of 130 km per hour and gusts of up to 200 km per hour, is blowing away to the South China Sea.

Typhoons and tropical storms regularly hit the Philippines from June through December, claiming hundreds of lives and causing billions of dollars in damages.

One of the country's worst, Typhoon Haiyan, killed over 7,000 in the central Philippines in November 2013.

NK slams global N-watchdog as 'marionette' of west

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

United Nations, Nov 12: North Korea has accused the UN agency responsible for regulating atomic energy of being a puppet of hostile countries after a new report said the isolated nation's nuclear weapons stockpile was breaking international law.

Pyongyang has gradually built an atomic stockpile after abandoning the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003, and has tested several nuclear bombs in the years since.

Since Kim Jong Un took over from his father as the country's supreme leader, North Korea's military has made rapid strides in its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, and has been subjected to increasingly strict international sanctions as a result.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, whose inspectors have not been allowed into the country for more than a decade, said Wednesday that Pyongyang's weapons programme was "deeply regrettable."

North Korea's nuclear activities "remain a cause for serious concern," said agency chief Rafael Mariano Grossi in a report to the UN General Assembly.

Pyongyang's ambassador to the UN hit back later in the same forum, telling other diplomats that the IAEA's report was "grossly distorted."

"The IAEA is no more than a political tool of the Western countries," he said, adding that the body was "a marionette dancing to the tune of the hostile forces" against North Korea. Nuclear talks between North Korea and the US have been deadlocked since the collapse of a summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Hanoi early last year.

'People may be tired but nCoV not tired of us'

AGENCIES

Paris, Nov 12: People are becoming weary of the coronavirus pandemic but should remain vigilant and continue to take precautions while the world awaits a vaccine, World Health Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Thursday.

Eleven months into the pandemic that has killed more than 1.2 million people, derailed economies and turned daily lives upside down around the world, he said relying on promising but as-yet unproven vaccines was a risky bet. "We may be tired of COVID-19 but it is not tired of us. European countries are struggling but the virus has not changed



significantly, nor the measures to stop it," Tedros told the Paris Peace Forum. A recent resurgence in coro-

navirus infections has led many countries to adopt new lockdown measures to contain the spread of

the virus and protect their creaking healthcare systems.

On Monday, US drugmaker Pfizer and German partner BioNTech SE said a vaccine they are developing was 90% effective against COVID-19, based on initial results from its large, late-stage trial. The results need to be confirmed by safety data.

"A vaccine is needed urgently, but we cannot wait for a vaccine and put all our eggs in one basket," Tedros said on Thursday, repeating a call for any COVID-19 vaccine to be shared fairly with poor countries.

\$500MN TO BE PLEDGED FOR COVID VACCINE ACCESS AT PARIS PEACE FORUM: Several countries and foundations are set to pledge more than

\$500 million Thursday for a global pool aimed at ensuring equitable access to coronavirus tests, treatment and vaccines for all nations, organisers of a French forum said.

The third edition of the Paris Peace Forum, which seeks to address governance issues with concrete projects, takes place Thursday and Friday in the French capital and is dedicated to finding ways to ease and get out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It takes place as the number of cases is rising rapidly across Europe and beyond. It also comes just days after American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech reported highly promising results for their vaccine candidate, raising hopes globally.



The Covid-19 shock has triggered extraordinary fiscal policy responses from governments in advanced economies, including the US, Europe and Japan, facilitated by a large expansion of their central bank asset purchase programs
MADHAVI BOKIL | VICE PRESIDENT (SENIOR CREDIT OFFICER), MOODY'S

PAYTM REGISTERS 2X GROWTH

Fintech major Paytm Thursday said it has recorded 2x growth in the digital gold transactions during the last six months with average order value going up by 60%. The company has also announced the launch of its high-value transaction product feature, wherein users can buy Paytm Gold worth up to ₹1 crore in one go on the app



of the day quote

It's a question of economic rationality, not to embrace something that you know you'll have to write off in 15 or 20 years, but you have on the balance sheet for 40 years



WERNER HOER | PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

FM Nirmala Sitharaman's measures to boost economy failed to cheer investors. FMCG sector gained a little as these measures would support the rural economy, while fertiliser stocks gained on announcement of subsidy for farmers



SIDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD - RETAIL RESEARCH, MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

We do not anticipate overall reduction in housing prices. Rates are already low and margins are low. But, the income tax relief will allow those developers who are facing liquidity challenges to clear their unsold inventories by reducing prices



JAXAY SHAH | NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, CREDAI

FM adds Diwali sparkle to economy

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 12: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced 12 fresh stimulus measures under the Atmanirbhar 3.0 stimulus package, amounting to ₹2.65 lakh crore. The fresh stimulus package, which has been in the works for more than three months, focused on helping stressed sectors, middle income groups, MSMEs and more.

The new measures are mostly focused on generating employment and boosting labour-intensive sectors like real estate and manufacturing. Nirmala Sitharaman also announced a fresh scheme to incentivise new employment under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana. The existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme



has also been extended till March 31, 2021.

The additional stimulus takes the nation's total virus relief to almost ₹30 lakh crore, or 15% of gross domestic product, Sitharaman told reporters in New Delhi Thursday. That equals the total spending envisaged in the government's Budget for the year to March.

Micro, small- and medium-sized businesses across 26 sectors will be eligible for a credit-guarantee program, and will get a one-year moratorium on loans and four more years to repay the amount, Sitharaman said.

She counted a production-linked incentive programme worth ₹1.46 lakh crore for manufacturing units, already approved by the government, as part of 12 sup-

Sitharaman listed 12 measures under the new Atmanirbhar 3.0 stimulus package. The total outlay of the new package is over ₹2.65 lakh crore

port measures unveiled Thursday. An additional outlay of ₹1,800 crore will be made toward an affordable urban housing programme, she said.

Sitharaman also announced the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana' to incentivise creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid-recovery phase. The employment scheme effective from October 1 will be applicable to eli-

₹65,000 crore for subsidised fertilisers

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday announced that the Central government will provide ₹65,000 crore for subsidised fertilisers for farmers for the upcoming crop season. As per the government, the increased supply of fertilisers at subsidised rates will help 14 crore farmers. Fertiliser consumption, which was 499 lakh metric tonne in 2016-17, is expected to increase to 673 lakh metric tonne in 2020-21.

gible new employees joining the EPFO-registered establishments and for those who exited these concerns during the Covid pandemic (March 1-September 30, 2020) and drawing monthly wages of less than ₹15,000.

Under the scheme, the Central government will subsidise the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contributions for two years. The Centre will provide 12 per cent of the contributions of both employers and the employee for establishments with up to 1,000 employees. In the case of establishments with over 1,000 employees, the Centre will only subsidise 12 per cent of the employees' EPF contributions.

Retail inflation jumps to 7.61 pc in October

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 12: Driven by rising food prices, retail inflation inched up to 7.61 per cent in October, remaining above the comfort level of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the government Thursday, inflation stood at 7.27 per cent in September 2020. It was 4.62 per cent in October 2019. The rise in general inflation was mainly on account of elevated food prices.

As per the data, the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) rose to 11.07 per cent in October, up from 10.68 per cent in the previous month of September.

The RBI, which mainly factors in retail inflation while arriving at key policy rates, has been mandated by the government to keep inflation at 4 per cent (+, - 2 per cent).

'Do not expect RBI to cut rates in Dec'

New Delhi: India's annual retail inflation in October quickened to 7.61 per cent from a year ago as food prices surged ahead of the festive season, government data showed Thursday. Analysts in a Reuters poll had forecast consumer prices to rise to 7.30 per cent in October, compared to 7.27 per cent in the pre-

vious month. Sakshi Gupta, Senior Economist, Hdfc Bank, Gurugram said, "CPI inflation spiked to 7.6 per cent in line with our forecast. Food continues to play spoilsport. Going forward, we expect inflation to moderate somewhat

October inflation is close to our estimate and above consensus, on seasonal supply-side drivers fuelling the food component. This comes on the back of broad-based rise led by perishables and protein products

RADHIKA RAO | ECONOMIST, DBS BANK, SINGAPORE

December onwards. We do not expect the RBI to cut rates in December.

However, we continue to see a window of opportunity for some rate action in H1 2021 before the RBI adopts a prolonged pause."

Radhika Rao, Economist, DBS Bank, Singapore said, "October inflation is close to our estimate and above consensus, on seasonal supply-side drivers fuelling the food component. This comes on the back of broad-based rise led by perishables and protein products. These are magnified by pandemic-related pressures as well as price cum tax rigidity in commodities, generalising it to other components."

Sreejith Balasubramanian, Economist - Fund Management, IDFC AMC, Mumbai said, "October CPI of 7.6 per cent was above our estimate of 7.3 per cent, owing to even-higher generalised food price sequential momentum. Price pressures have been high not just in perishables, but also in pulses and other protein-based items such as egg, meat and fish."

SHORT TAKES

Allcargo Logistics creates history

New Delhi: Integrated logistics provider Allcargo Logistics has achieved a rare feat of successfully managing one of the largest over-dimensional cargo (ODC) movements in India by moving a 76-metre long super container from L&T Hazira in Gujarat to IOCL Paradip in Odisha. The nine super ODCs comprising heavy equipment such as glycol field stripper, vacuum effect evaporator and MEG column were delivered from the manufacturing yard in Hazira to the project location in IOCL Paradip.

FASTag crosses 2 cr users-mark

New Delhi: State-run NHAI Wednesday said that FASTag users in the country have reached 2 crore mark, registering a growth of 400 per cent in a year. This has increased the total toll collection to ₹92 crore per day which is a "substantial increase" in the daily toll collection from ₹70 crore per day a year back, a statement said. "FASTag is contributing to nearly 75 per cent of the total toll collection as of now," it said.

SA's jobless rate reaches record high

Pretoria: South Africa's unemployment rate struck a record high of 30.8% in Q3, a big jump from the previous quarter when figures were distorted by lockdown restrictions that prevented people from job-hunting, the statistics agency said Thursday. The agency only classifies people as unemployed if they are actively looking for work, which meant the unemployment rate was artificially low.

Arvind Fashions gets new MD, CEO

Mumbai: The Board of Directors of Arvind Fashions has appointed Shailesh Chaturvedi as the MD & CEO of the company with effect from February 1, 2021. He has been appointed for a period of five years, the company said in a regulatory filing. "On recommendation of Nomination and Remuneration Committee, the Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting November 12, 2020 has appointed Shailesh Chaturvedi, as MD & CEO of the company for a period of five years starting February 01, 2021," it said.

IndianOil campaigns green festive season



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: In a bid to promote environment protection, Indian Oil Corporation has launched an initiative TreeCheers. Under this initiative, the Corporation will plant a sapling on behalf of patrons who refuel their new vehicles from IndianOil petrol pumps between November 12-16, 2020. In addition, IndianOil is also offering them complimentary membership for its loyalty programme, Xtra Rewards, with bonus reward points.

Customers driving into any IndianOil petrol pump with a new vehicle (4/3/2 wheelers) will be greeted at the forecourt by an IndianOil customer attendant, who will request for their basic information viz. mobile number, name, and vehicle details.

They will then receive an SMS registering them for #TreeCheers. Once the sapling has been planted, a follow up message will be sent informing them about the details of the sapling planted. Customers will also be able to download their badges recognising their green contribution, from a link provided in the SMS.

IndianOil Chairman SM Vaidya said "We hope that this unique initiative of planting a sapling for every new vehicle on road will mobilise individuals to do their bit for a greener tomorrow. Every effort counts."

India's GDP likely to shrink by 8.9% in 2020: Moody's

REUTERS

Bangalore, Nov 12: Moody's Investors Service said Thursday it expects India's economy to shrink by 8.9% in the 2020 calendar year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to an earlier forecast of a 9.6% contraction.

The revision comes as a rise in novel coronavirus cases slows in the world's second-most populous country, and economic activity picks up after a 23.9% contraction in April-June, when consumer spending, private investments and exports collapsed during one of the world's



strictest lockdowns.

"The steady decline in new and active (COVID-19) cases since September, if maintained, should enable further easing of restrictions. We, therefore, forecast a gradual improvement in economic activity over the coming quarters," Moody's said in a note.

In September, Moody's had forecast the economy to shrink by 9.6%

The revision comes as a rise in Covid-19 cases slows in the country with the economic activity picking up after a 23.9% contraction in April-June

in the 2020 calendar year. Separately, Goldman Sachs upgraded India to "overweight", citing a domestic macro recovery. It said Indian equities were most "positively sensitive to the improving prospects of a vaccine".

KHIMJI ROLLS OUT DHANTERAS OFFERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 12: Khimji Jewellers, one of the leading brands of Odisha, have come up with some exciting offers to ensure that the buyers get the best deal in these challenging times. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Khimji Jewellers decided to enliven festive season with amazing 'Dhanteras Dhanotsav Offer' across all items.

The jewelry brand is offering flat 20 per cent off on diamonds and 6.3 per cent off on total value of gold jewellery. Also in Silver, Khimji is offering flat 50 per cent off on making charge of silver jewellery and 15% off on MRP of silver jewellery.

Khimji have extended their offer period up to November 22, keeping in mind that adhering to the norms

of social distancing will have an impact on the footfall and density of customers visiting the store. Also, the first likely wedding season starts soon, enough for customers to take advantage of this extended offer period.

Director of the Khimji Group Mitesh Khimji said, "We are glad that things are looking better all over the world right now. The Dhanteras season means so much more to all as it represents prosperity, glory and positivity. We wanted to give another reason for our audiences to celebrate happily this year and therefore, have come up with 'Dhanteras Dhanotsav Offer' on our gold, silver and diamond jewellery. I hope everyone enjoys a prosperous Dhanteras and have a safe and happy Diwali".



BIZ BUZZ

Fuel demand rose 2.1% in October



New Delhi: India's fuel demand rose 2.1% in October compared with the same month last year. Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, totalled 17.78 million tonnes, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed. Sales of gasoline, or petrol, were 4.5 percent higher from a year earlier at 2.65 million tonnes. Cooking gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sales increased 2.6% to 2.42 million tonnes, while naphtha sales surged 17.1% to 1.30 million tonnes. Sales of bitumen, used for making roads, were 58.4 percent up, while fuel oil use edged up 13.2% in October.

Chai Sutta Bar inaugurated in City

Bhubaneswar: The first ambience café-cum-cha' bar Chai Sutta Bar (CSB) was inaugurated at New Jagamara Road, near Airport road side, Khandagiri in City, Narayan Sethi, the franchise owner inaugurated the cafe for business. The store offers seven types of special flavoured tea for the tea lovers along with the widest range of flavoured tea, coffee and shake. CSB was founded in 2016 and now has 200 outlets across the world. The franchise owner believed that CSB's special tea is 'Kulhad Cha' that aims to promote the potter industry. CSB aims to provide customers, the best possible ambience as its core concern rather than just their varieties of tea as product.



INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY LOGS POSITIVE GROWTH IN SEPT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 12: India's industrial activity showed signs of a rebound as September growth in factory output touched positive note for the first time in current financial year; official data showed Thursday.

Even on a year-on-year basis, the growth remained higher and in the positive territory.

As per the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the contraction in factory output in earlier months turned in a growth of 0.2 per cent in September 2020.

The IIP had been in the negative territory in all of the previous months of FY21, registering growth of (-) 8 per cent in August, (-) 10.77 per cent in July. The fall was much sharper during the lockdown periods in the months of April-June. However, the IIP for August has also been revised to (-) 7.4 per cent.

'Global oil demand unlikely to get vaccine boost until 2021'

While noting that OECD countries had modestly drawn down their crude oil stocks for two months in a row by September, the IEA said that storage levels were still not far from peaks in May at the height of the pandemic

REUTERS

London, Nov 12: Global oil demand is unlikely to get a significant boost from the roll-out of vaccines against COVID-19 until well into 2021, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Thursday, a view that curbed oil price gains since vaccine progress was announced earlier this week.

"It is far too early to know how and when vaccines will allow normal life to resume. For now, our forecasts do not anticipate a significant impact in the first half of 2021," the Paris-based IEA said in its monthly report.

"The poor outlook for demand and rising production in some coun-



tries...suggest that the current fundamentals are too weak to offer firm support to prices."

Brent crude fell 0.8% to \$43.46 a barrel in early London trade, snapping three straight days of gains.

While noting that OECD countries had modestly drawn down their crude oil stocks for two months in a row by September, the IEA said that storage levels were still not far from peaks in May at the height of the pandemic.

It cited a resurgence of Covid-19 infections in Europe and the United States and renewed lockdown measures for revising down its outlook for global oil demand for 2020 by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) compared with its last estimate.

The picture was partly brightened by improved expectations for China and India, where the IEA raised its demand forecast.

Still, the forecast assumed no new waves of the pandemic.

Plans by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies such as Russia to boost output by 2 million bpd from January would mean supply would outweigh demand, the IEA warned.

Draws on oil storage would halt in the first quarter of 2021 if the producer group carried through on its plans to taper their production cut pact.

"Unless the fundamentals change, the task of re-balancing the market will make slow progress," the IEA said.

The IEA revised up its prediction for demand growth in 2021, which will still represent a drop of 3 million bpd below pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

TEAM INDIA ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA



Indian team members pose for a group photo ahead of their departure from Dubai to Sydney, Wednesday

Oz include Pucovski, Green for India Tests



CAMERON GREEN (L) and WILL PUCOVSKI

MELBOURNE: Australia have included youngsters Will Pucovski and Cameron Green in their 17-man squad for the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India.

Sean Abbott, Mitchell Swepson and Michael Neser are other players who have found a place in the squad and could be in line for a Test debut when the four-Test series begins December 17 in Adelaide.

In line with the white ball squad, right-arm pacer Pat Cummins will be the sole vice-captain of the Test squad under Tim Paine.

Cricket Australia has also chosen a 19-player Australia 'A' squad to play India 'A' and India in four matches at Drummoyne Oval and the Sydney Cricket Ground which includes nine players from the Test squad and Paine.

Virat Kohli-led Team India will begin the title defence of the trophy with the pink-ball Test in Adelaide from December 17. It will be followed by Tests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26), the Sydney Cricket Ground (January 7) and the Gabba (January 15).

THE SQUAD: Sean Abbott, Joe Burns, Pat Cummins, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, Tim Paine (c), James Pattinson, Will Pucovski, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, Matthew Wade & David Warner;

THE 'A' SQUAD: Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Joe Burns, Jackson Bird, Alex Carey (wk), Harry Conway, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Travis Head, Moises Henriques, Nic Maddinson, Mitchell Marsh (subject to fitness), Michael Neser, Tim Paine, James Pattinson, Will Pucovski, Mark Steketee, Will Sutherland & Mitchell Swepson.

Sydney, Nov 12: The Indian men's cricket team arrived here Thursday for a lengthy series against Australia beginning November 27.

Virat Kohli's men, in their customised PPE kits and masks, had departed from Dubai Wednesday night after taking part in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Along with the Indian contingent, the Australian players who were part of the IPL, including the likes of Steve Smith and David Warner, have also reached the city. The players will now undergo mandatory two-week quarantine.

The tour will commence with the three ODIs at the Sydney Cricket Ground (November 27 & 29) and Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 2). That will be followed by the three-match T20I series at Manuka Oval, Canberra (December 4) and the SCG (December 6 & 8).

After that, the teams will participate in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy beginning with the pink-ball Test at the Adelaide Oval from December 17. It will be followed by Tests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (December 26), the SCG (January 7) and the Gabba (January 15).

disadvantage but it has given a major boost to its rivals 'Fox Sports'. Channel 7, a free-to-air, holds the rights for the four-match Test series while Fox Sports, a pay channel, has the rights to broadcast the two white-ball series – three T20Is and as many ODIs. Both channels will, however, be able to broadcast the first Test, a pink-ball affair to be played at the Adelaide Oval, where Kohli will play.

The BCCI Monday granted Kohli paternity leave, allowing him to return home after the first Test to be with wife Anushka Sharma who is due for delivery around that time.

It will mean that while Fox Sports will get to broadcast 14 days of cricket with Kohli – six white-ball series games, a warm-up match, and the day-night Test – Channel 7 will broadcast only the five-day first Test featuring one of the best batsmen in the world. Channel 7 will have to broadcast the remaining 15 days of Test cricket sans talismanic Indian.

Kerry Stokes, chairman of 'Seven West Media', which owns Channel 7 was quoted by 'The Age' as saying in the company annual general meeting, "Our company loves cricket. We couldn't be more excited about cricket, the people who play it and the games and watching Australia represent us at the middle of the oval."

Stokes told investors at Seven's virtual AGM that CA administrators have let them down. "It is outside the oval and at the administrative offices where we have some issues. The company paid a lot of



Shikhar Dhawan comes out of Sydney Airport, Thursday

money – a record amount of money – for a quality product and that hasn't been delivered to us, and nor have they offered us anything in return to make up for what they haven't delivered, and will continue to push your company's rights to achieve a fair outcome," he said.

According to reports in the Australian media, both channels, Channel 7 and Fox Sports had built their promotion on Kohli who is one of the top selling sports personalities in the world.

"Football superstars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo and basketball icon LeBron James are the only international athletes on earth with a bigger marketing and social media footprint than 'King Kohli', and his 'limited time only' summer has now put a premium on every game he plays on Fox," a report in The Australian newspaper said.

"Both networks have based their summer promotion almost entirely on Kohli, and while Channel 7 will now have to re-cut their advertising to reflect the fact he's missing the last three Tests, including Boxing Day, Fox Sports will double down on ramming home the fact they're the home of a megastar with a social media reach of more than 100 million people."

It may be noted that Channel 7 has been involved in a dispute with Cricket Australia and had threatened to pull out of a USD 450 million deal.

The dispute emerged after the channel sought a cut in annual fees as the BCCI forced a change in the tour schedule, bringing the two white-ball series to the start of the season and Tests to the back-end, with only one Test before Christmas and the final two Tests running through second and third week of January when the holiday season ends and many people are back at work.

Vaughan backs AUS in Tests vs Kohli-less India

NEW DELHI: Former England skipper Michael Vaughan feels Australia will 'quite easily' win the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India as talismanic batsman Virat Kohli will not be there for the final three matches of the four-Test series.

Kohli's wife, actor Anushka Sharma, is due for delivery in January and the batting mainstay

had asked for leave from the BCCI. And Monday, the BCCI announced that the skipper has been granted paternity leave and that he will return to India after the conclusion of the first Test against Australia to be played at the Adelaide Oval from December 17.

"No Virat Kohli for three Tests in Australia...The right decision

going to be at the birth of his first child...but it means Australia will win the series quite easily IMO... #JustSaying," Vaughan said in a tweet.

Kohli will, however, feature in three ODIs and as many T20Is which will be played before the first Test – a pink-ball fixture – of which the Indian skipper will be a part of.

Maradona shifted to rehabilitation facility

Buenos Aires, Nov 12: Argentine football great Diego Maradona was released from hospital Wednesday and taken to a recovery clinic where he can be treated for alcohol dependency, his doctor told reporters.

The former Napoli and Boca Juniors player had emergency surgery eight days ago for a subdural haematoma, a blood clot on the brain.

Maradona was kept in for longer than expected due to withdrawal symptoms caused by his sudden abstinence from alcohol.

His physician told reporters the 60-year-old coach of Gimnasia y Esgrima finally left hospital on Wednesday evening in an ambulance accompanied by

family members.

He was headed to a rehabilitation facility in the north of Buenos Aires and will spend time there recovering from his alcohol problems. "We always need to look after Maradona and particularly right now," Leopoldo Luque said.

Maradona's lawyer had said earlier he was in good health and willing to fight his disease. "Diego is whole and wants to undergo rehabilitation," Matias Morla told reporters. "The good thing is that Diego is together, Diego is solid."

The hospital stay was the latest in a string of health scares for the charismatic and controversial Maradona who won the World Cup with Argentina in 1986 and is considered one of the greatest soccer players of all time.

No 14-day isolation for athletes

Tokyo, Nov 12: Athletes arriving in Tokyo for next year's Olympic Games, postponed from 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, will be exempt from the 14-day isolation period Japan has imposed on anyone arriving from overseas to help stop the virus spreading.

Olympic organisers said Thursday details still need to be worked out, but measures for athletes are likely to include coronavirus testing within 72 hours before arriving in Japan. But they warned decisions on spectators from overseas have yet to be made, saying a 14-day quarantine was "impossible".

"Athletes, coaches and Games officials that are eligible for the Tokyo Games will be allowed to enter the country, provided significant measures are made before



they get to Japan," Tokyo 2020 Chief Executive Officer Toshiro Muto told a news conference.

Muto was speaking after a meeting between officials from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the na-

tional government and Tokyo 2020 organisers on infection prevention procedures during the Games.

He said a decision on foreign spectators would be made next year, depending on pandemic developments. "By next spring, we will be coming up with a plan for spectators, including non-Japanese spectators," he said. "It is impossible to set a 14-day quarantine period for foreign spectators, so tests before and upon arrival are needed."

Japan has held several recent test events, including a four-nation gymnastics meet last weekend, in which spectators have been admitted, but these were limited to residents of Japan.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) head Thomas Bach is due in Japan for a three-day visit next week, at which Muto said he expected details of coronavirus counter-measures would be ironed out.

Hamilton set for 7th F1 world title



Istanbul, Nov 12: Lewis Hamilton can match Michael Schumacher's record seven world championships and overtake the former Ferrari great as the most successful Formula One (F1) driver of all time in Turkey Sunday.

The Mercedes ace, who has a record 93 race wins, will be champion again at the Istanbul Park circuit if his team mate and sole title rival Valtteri Bottas fails to score eight points more.

The 35-year-old Briton leads Bottas by 85 points, with 78 remaining to be won after Turkey when the season heads to the Middle East for a closing triple header in Bahrain and Abu Dhabi.

That means a second place would be enough even if Bottas wins, providing the Finn does not take the bonus point for fastest lap. At its simplest, Hamilton just has to beat Bottas – something he has done 10 times in 13 races so far this year.

Hamilton, who already holds records for most pole positions,

podiums and points finishes, has only twice finished out of the top three in 2020 with a worst result of seventh. He is on a record run of 46 successive scoring finishes.

Mercedes won the constructors' title for an unprecedented seventh year in a row at Imola in Italy November 1 and are assured of a seventh successive drivers' crown as well.

Hamilton, who has yet to sign a contract beyond this season, may feel differently Sunday. The title race is the focus but Turkey's first race since 2011, as a replacement to fill out a championship depleted by the COVID-19 pandemic, will be welcomed by all.

The circuit, with its Turn Eight triple left-hander, was always a driver favourite even if crowds were small. They will be non-existent this weekend, with the race behind closed doors due to the pandemic.

The battle to be best of the rest behind Mercedes and Red Bull is also on a knife edge, with only a point separating third placed Renault, McLaren and fifth placed Racing Point.

Van de Beek saves Dutch day

Amsterdam, Nov 12: The Netherlands drew 1-1 at home to Spain in a friendly Wednesday after Donny van de Beek cancelled out an earlier strike from Sergio Canales.

Netherlands' Manchester City defender Nathan Ake was forced off early in the game with a muscle injury while Spain's Jose Gaya also came off in the first half, after a clash of heads with Hans Hateboer.

Canales struck his first goal for Spain to open the scoring in the 19th minute, latching on to a pass from Alvaro Morata and firing low into the net. Manchester United midfielder Van de Beek levelled early in the second half, beating Spain's keeper Unai Simon at the near post.

Luis Enrique's side had dominated the first half of the match between the 2010 World Cup finalists but the Netherlands bossed the sec-



No change in schedule for 2021 WT20 in India

New Delhi, Nov 12: The ICC has confirmed that the next T20 World Cup will be played in India as per original plans. The 16-team tournament is scheduled for October-November next year.

Apart from Test playing nations Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and West Indies, the tournament will also feature its newest qualified members Papua New Guinea besides Namibia, Netherlands, Oman and Scotland.

"As of now, the original plan to hold the tournament in India stays in place," said an ICC spokesperson.

Back-to-back editions of the T20 World Cup were supposed to be

held in Australia in 2020, and India in 2021. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 edition was postponed to 2022 with the 2021 edition staying in India as per the original schedule.

The ICC had, in August, confirmed that this year's T20 World Cup will be played in Australia in 2022. India had hosted the previous T20 World Cup, back in 2016 which was won by West Indies.

The sport's governing body has said that it will take necessary precautions for COVID-19 if the crisis does not abate.

"The BCCI will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the health and safety of everyone concerned in this showpiece event is taken care of," said BCCI secretary Jay Shah as per an ICC media release.

Spain's defenders to get back.

Luis Enrique fielded an experimental side ahead of upcoming UEFA Nations League matches against Switzerland and Germany, leaving captain Sergio Ramos and fellow World Cup winner Sergio Busquets out of his lineup, although Ramos came off the bench late on.